

# ELMSTED With HASTINGLEIGH

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY

## Community News

*St. James The Great  
Elmsted*



*St. Mary The Virgin  
Hastingleigh*

DEANERY OF  
WEST BRIDGE

NOVEMBER 1998

25p

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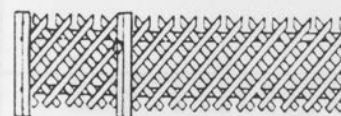
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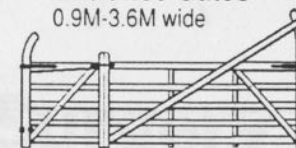
### Palisade Fencing

1M & 1.2M high



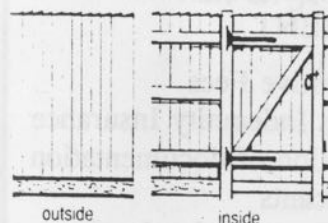
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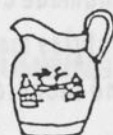
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ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, HASTINGLEIGH**

*Parish Priest*

The Revd Richard Bateman, AKC  
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Tel: 01227 700440

*Assistant Curate*

The Revd Paul Filmer  
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ELMSTED

*Churchwarden*

Mrs J Browning  
Tel: 01233 750238

*Hon. Secretary PCC*

Mrs A Nichols  
Tel: 01233 750272

HASTINGLEIGH

*Churchwardens*

Mr A Marsh  
Tel: 01233 750355

Mr Terry Mose  
Tel: 01233 750346

*Hon. Secretary PCC*

Mrs P Young  
Tel: 01233 750520

*Community News Editor*

Mrs S Burrage  
4 The Bowl Field, Hastingsleigh  
Tel: 01233 750375 Fax: 01233 750470

*Advertising Manager*

Mrs S Hayden  
Tel: 01233 750426

*Closing date for material:*

15th of the month prior to publishing

Stoney Ridge  
Waddenhall Lane  
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Tel: 01227 700440

Dear Friends

As news can travel quickly through the villages, the announcement of my resignation will be widely known. Both Ann and I have been encouraged and moved by the letters and messages we have received.

It was not a hasty decision nor has it been taken without seeking proper help and advice but in the situation it seemed the only decision left to take. Both Ann and I have so appreciated the friendship that we have enjoyed over the years and at this moment we are both very sad. Over the past six months there has been such a willingness to find new ways of sharing together in the care and outreach to the community that the Church is called to serve. I know that my successor will have prayerful and loving support.

My recent experience has reawakened old questions about the Church, her ministry and her authority, which I now need to address. I will be spending the next few months reading, reflecting and praying and I have been fortunate in having the Franciscan Centre as a base. There is always much to learn and there will be ways that my life may need to change. My greatest blessing has been that faith in the ever present God has been deepened and provides me with a firm ground on which to stand.

This means however, that although Ann and I will continue to live at Stoney Ridge and value your continued friendship and prayers, I will not be licensed to take services or preach either in the Benefice or in the Diocese. It will be my personal loss not to celebrate the Eucharist, to preach and to minister as this has given me such joy. In the circumstances I believe that this is necessary if there is to be the time for reflection.

I would like to conclude with a prayer that has been constantly on my lips and in my heart, which has become familiar to many people.

*Remember O Lord, what thou has wrought in us and not what we deserve and as thou hast called us to thy service, make us worthy of thy calling, though Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Yours in His service

Richard Bateman

## FROM THE EDITOR

In the run up to the new millennium it seems to be a time for looking back over the passing one. In recent issues it has been interesting to read of peoples' recollections of events in the parishes; so, if anyone else has any memories they would like to recall and share please pass them to me for publication.

The community policing initiative in the area unfortunately did not last very long – we seem to have lost our contacts from both Shepway and North Weald districts.

However, I am pleased that Hastingleigh Parish Council has agreed to the reporting of their meetings and this month the minutes are quoted in full, but in future the main issues arising will be summarised. I hope that the same will be possible for Elmsted.

Finally, a reminder that the next magazine will cover the months of both December and January so please let me have items and dates for events in these months by 15<sup>th</sup> November.

SB

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank the staff, parents and children for the gifts on my leaving Bodsham School as cook. I will miss the helpfulness and kindness of the staff and of course the children - lunchtimes were never dull! Bumps, cuts and illnesses were always explained by the children and most with all the gruesome details!

It was hard work, especially on the knees (!) but great fun.

Thank you once again and best wishes to you all.

With fondest regards

Liz Turrell

## SUPPER TALK

'Supper Talk' in November is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at BULLTOWN HOUSE.

Please notify numbers for catering by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November to 750238 or 813711.

These evening are informal, social and fun.

The discussion is 'low key'. Phone me for details re topic and give it a go!

June Browning

## TO THE EDITOR

As the monthly typist I would like to thank our Editor for all she does for the community and send her all our love and best wishes for her forthcoming stay in hospital. We all look forward to seeing you 'up and about' again Sheila in the very near future.

AHN

To the Editor,

The Village Fête Committee recently raised money to improve the amenities and to tidy up the Village Pond area. In contradiction to our efforts, vandals have disfigured it. As any walker will confirm, they carry maps with them and are most unlikely to be interested in the hideous disfigurement under the tree. The quicker it is removed to a more suitable site such as opposite the Village Shop, or to the Council tip, the better.

Perhaps a preferable position would be at the side of the footpath outside Little Coombe?

Trevor Wye



## FOOTPATH WALK

With the slow growth of decimalization, it was perhaps appropriate that there were ten of us turned up for the October footpath walk. There had been substantial amounts of rain thrown down from above in the preceding fortnight (indeed it was still raining on Sunday morning) so we counted ourselves fortunate that the sun came out in the afternoon and the clouds merely provided interesting patterns in the sky.

We set off from Elmsted Church to Whatsole Street by road, then took the footpath to Hastingleigh Church and on to Mill Farm and Bodsham School before finding our way back to Hill Street and across the field to the road up to Elmsted Church again.

The mild weather meant that full autumn colours had not arrived, just hints here and there, but when the sun came out the countryside was lovely, still dressed in green with the browns of cultivated fields in bold blocks. After the rains it seemed as though all was washed and brushed ready for our inspection. We looked and saw it was good! What I found surprising was the variety of flowers we came across – not in the profusion of spring and summer but attractive if one kept ones eyes open. I remember, for example, buttercup, daisy, dandelion, herb robert, speedwell, field madder, scarlet pimpernel, pink clover, mouseear, campion, heartsease, ground ivy and several members of the hawkbit family. There were others I cannot remember or did not recognise. And then there were the fungi.....!

The next walk is on the 8<sup>th</sup> November starting at 2pm from Evington Hall and will be led by Eric and Avis Ball. See you there.

GE

## HASTINGLEIGH STORES

If anyone would like to 'play shop' to help out over holiday cover or in emergencies PLEASE contact Garry at the shop.

## WHIST DRIVES

At our first Whist Drive of the season we only had 13 people (!) but were assured it would not be unlucky as we were not all on one table at the same time. If you are interested in playing cards please come along, we try to make this a social, friendly evening. Our next one will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November (not 13 again!) at 7.30pm in Evington Hall. Whist Drives have been part of village life for many years so let's try to keep them going.

JB

## EVINGTON GARDENERS SOCIETY

I realise that as our meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month writing reports for the Community News presents problems. Perhaps the easiest way out is to list the winter programme:-

17 <sup>th</sup> November	Design for a small garden	Mrs J Bryant
8 <sup>th</sup> December	What's up? A look into space	Trevor Wye
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Parsonage Farm, Elham	John Palmer
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Our Church	Arthur Marsh
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Madeira in the Spring	Mrs M Micklewright
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Brogdale Home Trust	Mrs Marion Bellerby

All meetings start at 7.30pm

Jean and I as joint secretaries are keen to attract new members so we hope that the programme having a broader interest may help.

The Society entered 2 teams in the Village Quiz, suitably named 'The Slugs' and 'The Snails', hoping that we might enjoy the same success that they enjoyed in our gardens this summer but it wasn't to be but a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

MWB



# Coffee

## EVINGTON HALL COMMITTEE

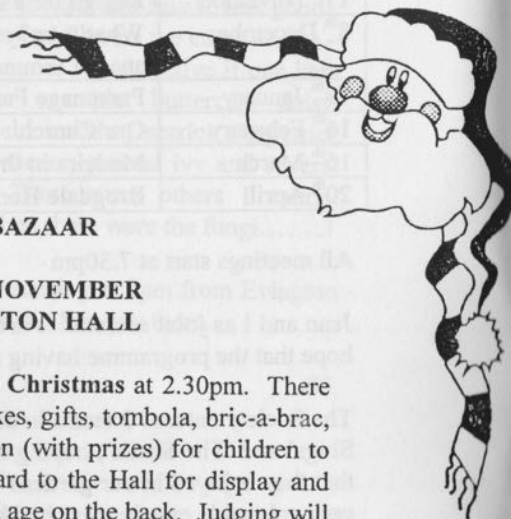
**COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
10.30AM AT EVINGTON HALL**

As usual the Hall Committee will be holding a coffee morning in preparation for the Christmas Bazaar. Entry is free but the committee hopes that you will bring a contribution for one of the stalls at the Christmas Bazaar, in particular the Gift Stall and the Tombola. There will be a raffle, home made cakes and plants on sale at the coffee morning and an ideal opportunity for a social 'get-together' to renew acquaintances and meet old friends.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
2.30PM AT EVINGTON HALL**

The Bazaar will be opened by **Father Christmas** at 2.30pm. There will be a variety of stalls including cakes, gifts, tombola, bric-a-brac, plants, books, games and a competition (with prizes) for children to design a Christmas card; bring your card to the Hall for display and judging on the day with your name and age on the back. Judging will be in two age groups: 5-7 years and 8-11 years. The committee hopes that the Bazaar will be as successful as in past years to help towards financing the refurbishment of the kitchen.



SB

## MINUTES FOR MEETING OF HASTINGLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL ON THE 8TH OCTOBER 1998

### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

A reply had been received from Kent County Council explaining that the Road Watch was carried out with the intention of checking speeds through the village. A letter had been received from Wye Parish Council thanking Hastingleigh Parish Council for their support on the building of another bridge, a letter had also been received from the Parish Paths Partnership informing us that the map was now completed.

### 2. Footpaths

Cllr Pell reported the following problems on the following footpaths  
AE186 094 459 - Footpath is ploughed up to the hedgeline  
AE226 089 458 - 089 455 - Footpath not re-instated and was ploughed 4 weeks ago and is now growing.  
AE225 088 461 - 090 466 - Not in correct place  
AE106 086 465 - 086 468 - Still blocked  
AE228 102 445 - Blocked  
AE228 090 452 - bend - Blocked

It was agreed that we should send a letter to Mr Tuson of the Public Rights of Way Office stating these details and also a copy of our letter should be sent to the landowners.

### 3. Private hedges in the area

It had been brought to the Council's attention that local residents are having trouble when pulling out of junctions where a hedge is overhanging their view.



#### 4. Blocked Drain in Tamley Lane

The drain from the corner of Tamley Lane to the Pond is reported to be blocked and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Kent Highways requesting that they unblock this drain.

#### 5. Moving of the Parish Paths Map

It was agreed that, following complaints over the positioning of the Parish Paths Map, we would move the map to an alternative location.

#### 6. Housing

Cllr Pell reported on the housing strategy meeting he had attended,

#### 7. Police Forum

Cllr Gardener reported on the Police Forum meeting he had attended,

#### 8. Any Other Business

Cllr Chapman reported on the Parish Forum meeting she had attended, items included that a suggestion had been made for an overall insurance to be paid which included each parish rather than the parishes paying their own, the cinema being built over in the Eureka Business Park and the appointment of 2 people to organise the transport for people to get to the cinema from the town areas. Cllr Pell reported that this Parish Forum would be changed and would have a Chairperson that is a member of a parish and the parishes themselves will be asked for their opinions, any items for the agenda should be handed in before 16 October for the meeting which will be possibly held on 9 November at Kinsnorth Hall. The items for the agenda are:

- 30mph speed limits in rural areas
- Ashford Borough Council's Recycling Policy
- The payment of Parish Clerks
- Precepts changing to grants

Kent association of Parish Council's will be holding their AGM on 31 October, an all day event and each councillor had a copy of the Annual Report so that they could pass comment.

Cllr Pell reported that the Kent Festival had been a great success earlier this year so another Festival is to be held next year and the Council have been given a form that can be filled in for Hastingleigh's fund-raising events to be published in the Festival Guide.

Cllr Pell reported that Ashford has a Joint Transportation Committee that meets in Ashford, they are looking for another volunteer to become a member of this committee because of a member retiring from the committee.

Cllr Pell also reported that Ashford Borough Council is currently discussing introducing parking zones in and around Ashford.

It was agreed that a copy of the minutes from each Council meeting should be printed in the Parish Magazine.

The Next Meeting is planned for 10 December 1998

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

## HASTINGLEIGH WITH ELMSTED WI

At the October meeting members discussed and voted on the Half-Yearly Council Meeting resolution that Executive Committee members who had served ten years should not be re-elected for at least two years.

A map to show the location of the Marden garden open on 4<sup>th</sup> October had been received from the President and some of our members hoped to visit.

The WI had agreed to fund a team for the Quiz Night in aid of Hastings PCC.

One of our number is hoping to go to the Denman College day visit which is due to take place next February.

Members were encouraged to put forward their names for the committee at November's Annual Meeting.

Marion Collins gave a report on the Group Meeting at Challock.

The evening ended with a happy, nostalgic interlude in the company of Angela Edwards and Doris Rowland and their entertainment 'Do You Remember When?'.

Their presentation and the way they passed the different subjects between them was very slick and professional. Among the many memories they evoked were carpet beaters, heavy hand-turned wringers, liberty bodices, tin baths in front of the fire with water warmed in the copper, stone hot water bottles or perhaps a wrapped brick heated in the oven and going to bed by candle light with strange shadows dancing on the walls. Their definition of a senior citizen was very amusing and very apt and the list of words that had changed their meaning since the 1930's was surprisingly long. Everyone was very appreciative but perhaps Angela and Doris got as much satisfaction from the looks of amazement and disbelief on the faces of our younger members who had never heard of blue-bags and bolster cases and were horrified at the thought of life without 'mod. cons.'. For most of us a trip down memory lane but for some a living history lesson. Edna Young gave a very well deserved vote of thanks.

Eileen Parrett won the Flower of the Month and also the competition for a Photograph of an Event. Lydia Duckworth won the raffle.

Members are reminded that articles are needed for the Trading Stall at the November meeting and also to bring a few refreshments for a Bring and Share supper.

EP

## GUILD OF ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY

At the Coffee and Craft Morning held on September 19<sup>th</sup> in the Evington Hall, the sum of £307 was raised from sales and subscriptions.

CGB

## SUNDAY SEEKERS

**Just a reminder** – Knitted woolly hats are required for every 'shoe box' we fill for orphans in Eastern Europe and the Sudan by November 19<sup>th</sup>. These should be given to Pam Cameron on 750284.

PC

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING AT ST JAMES

This was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October and became a 'multi' service. An offering of the bounty of the harvest by the children, a family service, the Baptism of Sophie Wright tucked into the middle of the service, donated refreshments afterwards and finally a sale of the Harvest produce.

The Church was packed and Paul Filmer led us as a true professional.

The children wanted to raise a goodly sum for their adopted orphanage in Kenya with the sale of produce (£86). By adding the collection of £80.50, plus £21 from a 'begging bowl' at a previous service and a £20 donation a grand total of £207.50 will be sent to the Testimony of Faith Home at Eldoret in Kenya.

WME



## SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

### St Mary the Virgin, Hastingsleigh

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 7 <sup>th</sup> before Christmas REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	10.50am Revd A Soar	Memorial and afterwards in Evington Hall
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 6 <sup>th</sup> before Christmas	9.30am Revd J Hewes	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 5 <sup>th</sup> before Christmas	11.00am Revd P Filmer	Holy Communion (ASB)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November Advent Sunday	10.30am	BENEFICE SERVICE Elmsted

### St James the Great, Elmsted

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> November All Saints	9.30am Revd P Filmer	Family Service
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 7 <sup>th</sup> before Christmas	10.50am Revd A Soar	Remembrance Service Hastingsleigh Memorial
* Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 6 <sup>th</sup> before Christmas	5.00pm Revd R Bateman	Sung Evensong
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 5 <sup>th</sup> before Christmas	9.30am Revd R Bateman	Holy Communion (ASB)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November Advent Sunday	10.30am Revd R Bateman	BENEFICE SERVICE Sung Eucharist (ASB)

\* Please note change of time during winter.

Mid-week communion 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November at 8.15am..  
Sunday Seekers 15<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am, Evington Hall.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### NOVEMBER

5 <sup>th</sup>	Art Group	Evington Hall	9.30am
	WI Meeting	Evington Hall	7.30pm
	Supper Talk	Bulltown House	7.30pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning	Evington Hall	10.30am
8 <sup>th</sup>	Footpath Walk	Evington Hall	2.00pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Art Group	Evington Hall	9.30am
13 <sup>th</sup>	Whist Drive	Evington Hall	7.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Seekers	Evington Hall	9.30am
17 <sup>th</sup>	Evington Gardeners Society	Evington Hall	7.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	Art Group	Evington Hall	9.30am
25 <sup>th</sup>	Chiropody Clinic	Evington Hall	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Art Group	Evington Hall	9.30am
28 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Bazaar	Evington Hall	2.30pm

## FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTA

	ELMSTED	HASTINGLEIGH
November 7 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Nichols Mrs Jakeman	Dr & Mrs Lawson
November 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Fletcher Mrs Pearce	Mrs Bracher Mrs Young

## ANTIBIOTICS

Antibiotics have attracted a lot of media attention recently. This autumn, there has been a Department of Health report which looked at the problem of bacterial resistance to antibiotics and what we, doctors and patients, can do to prevent it.

When asked what is the most important medical development this century, many people will answer antibiotics. These drugs, which kill or stop the reproduction of bacteria which cause infections, have been developed over the last 45 years. In fact, many infections were on the decrease before this time as the result of public health measures such as clean water, good hygiene and better housing. However, the success of antibiotics in certain infections has gradually led to the popular idea that they can cure any infection. Sadly this is not the case, they have no effect on viruses, the cause of the common cold, many sore throats and influenza or flu.

Bacteria are very cunning. They breed so fast that they can evolve or develop new characteristics in a matter of days or weeks, whereas for us humans it takes several thousand, possibly millions, of years. Unlike higher life forms, they can pass genetic material to one another enabling them to hand over information such as how to get around antibiotic X or Y. This means that after a course of antibiotics the friendly bugs that live in your gut may have the knowledge of how to resist that antibiotic which they can pass to less friendly bugs in the future. Gradually bacteria learn how to resist many of the available antibiotics, leaving us with super-bugs which are extremely difficult to treat. Developing a new antibiotic costs many millions of pounds and takes years.

What can we do to help? Most prescriptions for antibiotics are written in general practice. In the past, many have been for simple, non-life threatening infections and so, GPs have been asked to do the following: not to prescribe antibiotics for simple coughs, colds or viral sore throats; to limit the length of the courses of antibiotics and not to prescribe them over the telephone. Our drug prescribing habits are monitored every quarter and over the last year, the doctors at Wye surgery prescribed between 37% and 47% less antibiotics than the average Kent GP. This has been the pattern for many years but none of us can be complacent. However, this does mean that if you are given antibiotics you must take the whole course as prescribed and, of course, you should not give your antibiotics to other people.

And so, remember: "Antibiotics cure serious diseases

- not colds, coughs and wheezes..."

If you are unwell and are not sure, you should see your doctor but you may only receive advice on how to treat the symptoms while your body fights off the infection.

Roz Waller  
Wye Surgery

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*present their 1998*

# ADVENT CONCERT

The Church of St Mary & St Ethelburga  
LYMINGE

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 1998  
at 6.00pm

Retiring collection in aid of Broadstreet House and Church funds.

Cantores Dominicae forthcoming events:-

Concert - Sandgate Parish Church, 3pm Sunday 15th November

Carol Service - Hinxhill Parish Church, 3pm Sunday 20th December

Collections at both the above events in aid of the Church of England Children's Society



### KENT POLICE WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY.

This article will be my sixteenth and unfortunately my last article as I am leaving the Weald for pastures new. My colleagues and I continue to enjoy the overwhelming support of the Parish Councils and residents in the area and this is part of our strength. We have focused our attention on many issues of concern and have been successful in many cases. Some though continue, that does not mean we will stop trying. As I leave though I must remind people of substantial crime reductions that have been achieved during this period. These would have been thought impossible only few years ago. These achievements are being consolidated upon and though further cuts are becoming ever more difficult it does not stop us working to our limits to achieve these goals.

As we approach the end of the 20th century the speed of change can be unsettling. There are though unprecedented opportunities for the police, in the field of technology, DNA tracing, Electronic Tracking systems, and mobile C.C.T.V., to name but a few. These are bringing success to previous impossible problems and situations. The Police service has had to embrace these changes and though you may have lost the comfort of a familiar approach or presence we are having unprecedented success against the criminal. When they say that they are being targeted we reply "Yes you are!", and this will continue until you change your ways or go to prison."

I wish you all well. I have been proud to represent the Weald Police at many gatherings and recognise that I am leaving an Area that is policed by many dedicated officers. I am certain that their determination together with your efforts and the Weald will continue to be a safe and beautiful place to live.

**Kent Police and the Community, - A Partnership.**

**Dave Pollard. Inspector.**

### COMMUNITY POLICING (SHEPWAY DISTRICT)

By the time you read this there may be no Community Police Officer for your area.

All Parish Councils have been informed and if you have not yet heard or seen the Press Release the decision to withdraw Community Officers was made in order to implement the Crime and Disorder Bill which will have implications on how we police communities in the future.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 15 months in the area and have got to know a few of you.

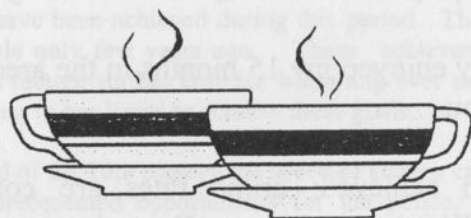
Much has been achieved; crime rates are considerably down, Neighbourhood Watch and Country Eye schemes are now extensive across the area and a good liaison has been built up between the Police and the Community.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement in the past. I hope to have some contact with you in the future.

Finally:- I completed the Three Peaks Challenge in 10 hours and the total amount raised for the Kent Air Ambulance was in excess of £4,000.

Best wishes,  
Richard Lester

**Coffee Morning**  
**SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER**  
**10.30a.m.**



**EVINGTON HALL**  
**HASTINGLEIGH**

Please bring any contributions for the  
GIFT STALL to the Coffee Morning

**Raffle**



**CHRISTMAS**  
**BAZAAR**  
**SAT 28<sup>TH</sup> Nov.**  
**2-30pm**  
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New Moonrise - end September 1998

Single, sweet, new concave Moon;  
The evening clouds scud  
And play across your smile  
Little knowing that in a while  
Your slender honied comb will rise  
To light a million gardens  
For nature's watching eyes.

An old, late, loping crow  
Seeks a tranquil roost;  
Day's horizons disappear;  
The plover cries, though not through fear,  
Although a wailing vixen sounds;  
A distant chilling preamble  
To her deadly noctal rounds.

A part of me is happy,  
A greater part is sad,  
As October's change of season  
Rings a subtle death, with reason;  
Leaves bid adieu to mother tree,  
Trembling acorns bid au revoir -  
Oh, Moonsome breeze breathe hope on me.



BM  
10/1998

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We require a qualified hairdresser to visit the Day Centre, hours to be discussed.

For more information on both these vacancies, please ring Mrs Sheila Woods on 01303 862364.

Hearing aid batteries

Batteries and replacement tubing are available every week morning from 9am to 12 noon. If you are having problems with your hearing aid, see Beverley - she's our fully trained expert.

Just a reminder! Our Annual Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1998 from 10.30am to 12.30pm, at the Day Centre. There will be Christmas goodies, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, books and small gifts on sale. Please come and support us.

Mrs Sheila Woods  
Area Organiser



## HYMN WRITER OF THE MONTH

James Montgomery, b. Irvine, Ayrshire 4 November 1771. d 1854.

HYMN 196      Songs of Praise the angels sang  
Heaven with Alleluias rang  
when creation was begun,  
when God spake and it was done.

James Montgomery became an important link in the story of English hymnody whose contribution (400 hymns) followed in the tradition of Isaac Watts (also born in November and whose 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death is celebrated this month) and the Wesleys. Indeed, it has been remarked upon that Montgomery is one of our greatest lay hymn writers – lay in the sense of not being ordained.

James' father was a minister in the Church of Scotland who with his wife spent a large part of their ministry as missionaries in the West Indies. The majority of James' school years were therefore spent apart from his parents at a school in Yorkshire run by the Moravians, a notable Christian influence in his life. From earliest years he displayed a gift for writing. However, his circumstances did not provide for any higher education, and after schooling he became a shop assistant at Mirfield before removal to Sheffield in 1792 to work for a Mr Gales, a bookseller, auctioneer and editor of the 'Sheffield Register'. Here Montgomery stayed for the rest of his life. A rather dull prospect, what? Yet this prosaic setting gave Montgomery his literary opportunity. The Sheffield Register was a Radical paper, so much so that Gales had to leave the country for fear of prosecution. Montgomery stepped in as editor, changed the name to the 'Sheffield Iris' but retained its radicalism and made the paper highly successful. As politically daring as his master he served two brief prison sentences, one through upholding the storming of the Bastille. Within a busy and far from dull life he devoted time to reflect and celebrate his firm Christian faith in poetry and hymns. Among the well known are 'Angels from the realms of glory' appearing in the 'Sheffield Iris' on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1816; 'Hail to the Lord's anointed' (142); 'Stand up and bless the Lord' (201) and the one already quoted. In all, Hymns A & M New Standard retains seven.

Montgomery's place in the history of hymnody is coupled with Thomas Cotterill (1779-1823), vicar of St Paul's Sheffield. Cotterill was himself a hymn-writer, but became prominent in the public eye as a compiler of hymns. Throughout the second half of the eighteenth century and until the early part of the nineteenth century hymn singing in Anglican churches, apart from the metrical psalms, was much opposed since it was considered contrary to the spirit of the Book of Common Prayer, although the practice was tolerated with Wesley and the early evangelicals outside normal church services. When Cotterill introduced into his Church his 'Selection of Psalms and Hymns' it produced a furious upheaval. The then Archbishop of York, Vernon Harcourt, supported the use of hymns within Anglican worship and came to Cotterill's

aid by suggesting that the book be re-edited under his supervision and dedicated to him. Cotterill invited the aid of Montgomery in this task who contributed several of his own. When the revised book was published in 1819 bearing the approval of the Archbishop of York, it marked the gradual acceptance towards the inclusion of hymns within the Church of England.

RP

(Hymns quoted in this article are printed under Copyright Licence 45631)



### A CHRISTMAS FAIR

Wednesday, 18th November 1998

10-2pm

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## ashford access group

Working to improve access for disabled people in the Ashford Borough  
and promote "Access For All".  
From the Chairmans Office

Dear Friends,

Sept., 1998,

Another busy month - our membership continues to grow - we now total 47, including 32 disabled persons, whilst in the Statutory Sector, and after a meeting with Inspector Dave Pollard - you may have seen some of his Magazine reports on Community Policing - we now have Ashford Police Station as a Member Organisation. We now have 5 Member Organisations in the Voluntary and Statutory Sectors, effectively giving us an affiliated membership in excess of 1,000. So you could say we are truly representative of a pretty good percentage of Ashford Borough.

I attended 3 important meetings in one week: the 22nd. was the A.G.M. of The Wheelchair Users Group South East, held in Dover, where one of the speakers was Pat Meakins, from our Council Housing Department, who gave an enlightening talk on Accessible Housing in the Borough. ( more copy for my January Newsletter ). The next day saw me at our Civic Centre, for a working lunch with the Chief Executive, Alan Baker and the Managers of appropriate Service Departments, together with representatives of other Voluntary Organisations. I made quite a few new good contacts here and renewed the acquaintance of old friends. Friday 25th. saw me at Headcorn for the A.G.M. and Annual Conference of the Kent Stroke Support Association. Several interesting speaker presentations were made, with the afternoon being used for " Workshops ", where we learned a lot more from the morning's expert speakers.

Final arrangements have been made for our Open Meeting, on the 24th. October at St Teresa's Catholic Church Hall, Barrow Hill, Maidstone Road, Ashford.. Plenty of accessible car parking available and light refreshments available on arrival. Start time is 10.30am. Please be there, if you can. The meeting opens with speakers from two Ashford based organisations.

Remember, a 'phone call or short note will enable me to send you our descriptive Information Leaflet

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Hastingleigh Parish Council	Clerk	Mrs Tracey Block Tel: 750415
Evington Hall	Caretaker & Bookings	Mrs A Ball Treestumps, Hastingleigh Tel: 750231
Evington Hall Committee	Hon. Sec	Mrs S Brooke Tel: 750354
Evington Cricket Club	Hon. Sec	Mr S Wood Tel: 628510
Evington Gardeners' Society	Hon. Sec	Mrs J Bowes Tel: 750310
Evington Players	Hon. Sec	Mrs S Boxall Tel: 750206
Art Group	Contact	Mr G Etheridge Tel: 750233
Bridge Group	Contact	Mr G Etheridge Tel: 750233
Cantores Dominicae	Chairman	Mr J Nichols Tel: 750272
Footpath Walks	Contact	Mr G Etheridge Tel: 750233
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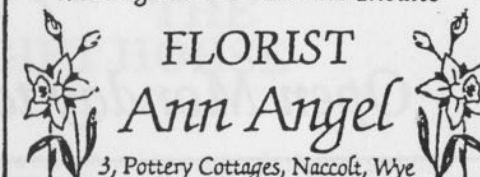
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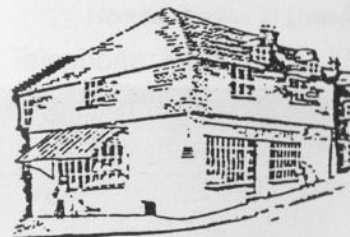
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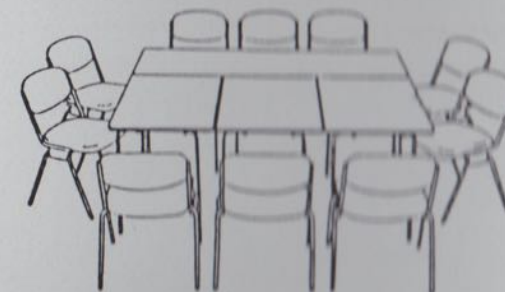
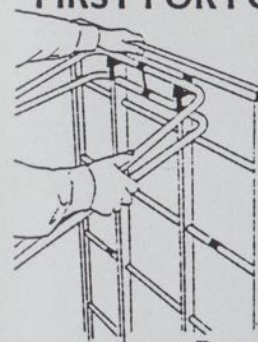
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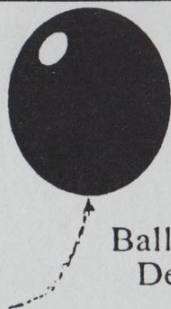
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