

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

November 2017

40p

November

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

A FELLOW villager with children was bemoaning our lack of commemoration of the Gunpowder Plot here on the Downs. I agreed.

There is no blaze to be had in our villages and not even Wye Crown is to be lit up this year (cancelled for want of volunteers, apparently).

It's a shame. Unlike the commercialisation of Hallowe'en there is nothing about the 1605 affair that is anything but a tradition that lies within these islands.

Sadly, this is often the way of traditional village celebrations and similar events; free things need people with free time to make them happen - thus the call to arms on **page 19** is even more pertinent.

A commemoration that we hope will never fade will be held at the War Memorial in Hastingleigh at 10.50am on 12th November.

The Editor

- The magazine committee will be holding open house at its AGM in Evington Hall on Thursday 30th November at 7.30pm. Please come.

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Submissions

The Community News takes no responsibility for misleading advertising or incorrect editorial supplied to and printed by us in good faith.

Note: The next issue is a combined December and January edition. All contributions for January need to be sent by Dec 15th. Thanks.

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Or write to: The Secretary, 1 Bowl Field, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HT.

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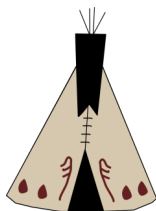
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

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Ramblings from the village walkers



A successful landing at Sparrows Bridge

EVERY year we take it in turns to lead the monthly walk and this month it came round to Jean again.

Each year she has tried to take us over Sparrows Bridge but has been thwarted by the weather – not today.

Route: from the back of Wye Church across the fields to Wye Court Farm and onto Sparrows Bridge which crosses the Great Stour and leads to a footpath across the railway.

After safely crossing the railway we crossed a field where we had to negotiate a tractor spreading fertiliser! After crossing a small tributary of the Stour we came to the site of an airfield used during the First World War.

Opened in 1916 as a training base for the Royal Flying Corps, the No 20 Reserve Squadron moved there from Dover and were later joined by No 51 and No 66 Reserve Squadrons, mainly flying biplanes – Avro 504 and RE 8s.

Training carried on after the war until 1919 when the land was returned to agricultural use.

We then returned to the village via Bramble Lane, admiring the pretty houses in Havillands and noticing the rather plain new ones on the site next to Pointers.

Jean treated us to her delicious scones and cake with that all important cup of tea.

Thank you Jean. Why not join us next month when Derek & Janet will be leading us astray!



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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute



Minutes from last month's meeting

WE met on Thursday the 5th of October at the Evington Hall. Twelve members attended, and we also welcomed a guest.

We had a crafty evening this month. Mrs Margaret Palmer presented an 'easy cake icing and flower' workshop.

After we had completed our business for the evening – discussing our Carol Concert at Christmas, the plans for our Group meeting at the end of the month and our meal out for our December meeting – we settled down at tables while Mrs Palmer showed us how to make roses and Christmas roses with potato paper (if I remember correctly).

The 'petals' were cut out of the paper, then trimmed and dampened slightly in order to mould into the correct shape. These roses turned out with varying degrees of success!

After our speaker had finished

and we'd had our cup of tea, we admired other member's attempts.

The flower of the month was won by Mrs Helmer.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday November the 2nd at 7.30pm in the Evington Hall. This will be our Annual Meeting, where we will discuss our business and accounts for the year, and afterwards we will have a bring and share supper.

Fiona Steward

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Parish council news

Hastingleigh Parish Council

THE Clerk had been in contact with the landscape gardener who will be undertaking the maintenance of the pond.

Unfortunately, due to the vegetation having been cut back by a parishioner, the maintenance is unable to be undertaken until the vegetation has grown back sufficiently for the aquatic friendly weed killer to be effective.

The whole project is, therefore, on hold until the spring when the spraying, digging out and laying to seed can be completed.

- Cllr Gardener is to look into duckweed removal.
- Cllr Gardener is to fit a turn screw to the village notice-board.
- The Clerk had circulated all correspondence.
- The Councillors had been circulated with information about registering assets of community value.
- An articulated lorry had driven down Tamley Lane earlier in the week.
- What would happen to the telephone box now that the telephone has been removed? The Clerk will contact BT to ask.

- The Clerk was asked to communicate with Elmsted Parish Council to ask if they would be prepared to take on the maintenance of the war memorial on alternative years.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 14th 2017.

Elmsted Parish Council Meeting

THE replacement noticeboard in Bodsham has been erected The District Councillors have offered to pay for this.

The car park upgrade at the Village Hall has been completed. Cllr Carey suggested that the Village Hall could use some sensor lights for when the hall is in darkness, Cllr Carey offered to assist with this project financially.

Planning Applications - The Parish Council discussed 2 Planning applications:

Y17/1030 – new vehicular access at Evington Park, other comments had been received with regard to the visibility and the archaeological nature of this site.

Cllr Burge is to respond on behalf of the Council accordingly.

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Planning, pot holes, patients...

Y17/1018 – Car barn at Orchard Cottage, the Parish Council has no objections to raise regarding this application.

District/City Councillors - Cllr Carey reported that because of the planned Garden Town at Otterpool, Shepway is one of the only areas in Kent that do not have to find additional land for building on.

The Government has a "Housing infrastructure fund". Shepway has applied to this fund for a grant of £250million towards the infrastructure at Otterpool, meaning the surgeries and schools etc could be built ahead of the housing. The Government is after 10 projects over the country as a whole. Traffic notices have now been made for the 50mph restriction on Stone Street to enable turning in to Thorn Lane and Curtis lane.

Over 50% of residents' Council Tax is spent on Social Services, this is an increase of over 15% in

just over a decade. The number of elderly people in Kent is due to increase further in the future.

The health service and County Council are both under pressure because of this and are working towards establishing a transfer of care package to enable the hospital patients to return home as soon as they are able.

Cllr Carey suggested that pot-holes need to be reported as the number of problems reported is data that is used when prioritising work.

If pot holes are reported, white-lined and not filled then contact Pauline Rockett with the report number.

The next meeting is on December 14th at 7.30pm.

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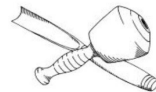
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The Parish upon the Hills

WELL, here we are again, another autumn upon us and Christmas hurtling towards us with alarming speed!

I'm not a big fan of Hallowe'en but at least it has slightly delayed the arrival of Christmas in our shops.

When you work in the church, it's really hard to avoid the subject of Christmas until it seems festively, and seasonally appropriate, as Services and events have to be planned well in advance.

Advent is a wonderful time of year for taking stock, counting one's blessings, reflecting on happier/sadder/busier/quieter times, and thinking about loved ones who are still with us and those who no longer are.

Times of preparation and looking forward are really important to all of us, they give us a chance to prepare in all sorts of personal and practical ways.

Also, looking forward to something can really heighten our experience of it. Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas, from the Latin *adventus* is often used to think about the second coming of Christ.

For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives, or, the three comings of Christ: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time. The season offers the opportunity to share with all, the longing for peace and reconciliation.

For most of us, in the reality of modern family life it tends to mean, frantic busyness for parents, chocolate countdowns for children, and much too much pressure to spend money we don't have on things we don't need!

Please don't think I'm down on Christmas, I love it, love the decorations, the celebrations, the sloppy songs, the beautiful Carols, the dressing up, (I'm hoping to have a new Christmassy outfit for the 24th Nativity) and the joy it can bring.

The presents, not so much. Something small and silly to raise a smile is more than enough for me, oh dear that must mean I'm getting old!

BUT, more than anything else, Christmas is a time of sharing, so let's all try and find someone to

Advent of a time for sharing

share it with. Look out for neighbours we know might be alone and invite them in. Give a small gift to someone who might otherwise not receive one.

Smile at complete strangers and wish them a Happy Christmas and enjoy their smile of surprise.

Why? Because more than anything else, Christmas is about love. God's love for all of us, our love for

each other, and our response to that love.

I'm sorry, I know this is sounding a bit gushy, but it's easy to be so busy we don't have time to pause and think.

This Christmas means our family has been here almost three years, and now we are blessed by my parents joining us, and I would like to say, how much we love being here, love getting to know all of you and making this part of Kent our home.

So I know it's a bit early yet, but A Happy and Loving Christmas to you all, from all of us, and my 'Boss'.

**Rev Lorraine Lawrence,
Associate Priest**

More pews news

THE following has been prompted by *History Enthusiast's* column concerning the installation of pews in Elmsted Church (September Issue). You may wish to include the following in the next issue.

Church records reveal that the present pews were installed in 1877 as part of the major restoration of St James' Elmsted to replace the box pews.

Guttering was also included; indeed a great deal more was done, and the congregation worshipped in

the school room at Bodsham until completion. It was a re-ordering of the furnishings as well as vital repairs, the former influenced by the 19th Catholic Revival of the Victorian era.

St James the Great, giving it its full title, was reopened for worship on Friday 31st May 1878 by the Bishop of Dover.

The estimated cost of the restoration was £1,236. A more detailed report of the work is in Elmsted's Church Guide.

Rodney Pearce

Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills		
5 Nov	First Sunday	9:30am at Elmsted – all four Churches (Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham) Communion
12 Nov	Second Sunday	10.45am Remembrance Service Waltham; 10.45am at Memorial in Hastingleigh then Evington Hall - Hastingleigh and Elmsted; 10.45am Petham Remembrance service.
19 Nov	Third Sunday	9:30am Waltham Communion; 11am Hastingleigh Communion; 11am Petham Family Service (No Communion); 6pm Elmsted Choral Evensong
26 Nov	Fourth Sunday	9:30am Elmsted Communion; 11am Hastingleigh Communion; 11:00am Petham Family Communion
		Note – Elmsted evensong on 3 rd Sunday is at 5PM during the winter (when the clocks change)

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:		
Oct 28	Mrs Young	Mrs Browning
Nov 4	Mrs Courtney, Mrs Jerrom	Mrs Jeffrey
Nov 11	Mrs Bacon	Mrs Hursey
Nov 18	Mrs Geering	Mrs Pearce
	Mrs Sharp	
Nov 25	Dr and Mrs Lawson	Mrs Healy
Dec 2	Mrs Day	Mrs Denny

<p>Priest-in-charge: The Rev Ravi Holy: The Vicarage, Wye 01233 812450 ravi.holy@wyebenefice.org.uk Associate priest: The Rev Lorraine Lawrence (with special responsibility for Hastingleigh, Elmsted, Petham, Waltham): The Vicarage, Hastingleigh, 01233 750987 or 07894 4034409 lorraine_lawrence@btinternet.com. Churchwardens: Mrs Bacon 01233 750327, Mrs Ten Hove 01227 700460. United Wye Benefice 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk</p>		
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They mingle not with their laughing comrades
again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

**In remembrance
of those on the
Hastingleigh
and Elmsted
War Memorial**

1939—1945

- Pte GF Bartlett
- L Cpl RC Wraight

1914—1918

- Sgt FW Banbury
- Pte WS Bushell
- Pte FW Read
- 2nd Lt H Lloyd
- Pte H Birchett
- Pte S Hopkins
- Pte BH Lucas
- L Sgt A Croucher
- Pte G Hayward
- Cpl AH Else
- 2nd Lt FW Tappenden
- Sgt T Ward
- Gnr AW Plunkett

On other memorials

- John Mepsted, step-nephew of H Birchett, lived at the Bowl as a child, was killed in India , 1917.
- Gnr A Norrington, whose parents lived in Hastingleigh, nephew of H Birchett, died at sea off Sicily, 1942.
- L Cpl John Shrubsole, born in Hastingleigh, died France, 1915.
- Spr FT Kennett, of Hastingleigh, died France, 1918.
- Pte AF Thornby, born in Hastingleigh, died Germany, 1917.
- Pte HG Thornby, born in Hastingleigh, died of wounds in England, 1918.

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Diary dates

From the Evington Hall website:
www.evingtonhall.org.uk

Nov

1	Wed Coffee Morning	10.30
1	Wed Community Choir	19.00
2	Thur Art Group	09.30
2	Thur W.I.	19.30
7	Tue Toddler Group	09.30
8	Wed Community Choir	19.30
9	Thur Art Group	09.30
10	Fri Whist Drive	19.00
12	Sun Walking Group	14.00
14	Tue Toddler Group	09.30
14	Tue Library Van	09.45
14	Tue H. Parish Coun	19.30
15	Wed Community Choir	19.00
16	Thur Art Group	09.30
18	Sat ECP Film Show	16.00
21	Tue Toddler Group	09.30
21	Tue Gardeners	19.00
22	Wed Community Choir	19.00
23	Thur Art Group	09.30
24	Fri Prep for Bazaar	all day
25	Sat Christmas Bazaar	14.00
28	Tue Toddler Group	09.30
28	Tue Library Van	09.45
29	Wed Community Choir	19.00
30	Thur Community News	19.30

Dec

2	Sat London trip	08.00
5	Tue Toddler Group	09.30
6	Wed Coffee Morning	10.30

Book for shopping trip to town

EVINGTON Community Project is organising a trip to London on **Sat 2nd December.**

The coach will leave Evington Village Hall at 8.00am and travel to London's South Bank. The coach will return from South Bank at 6pm.

The cost is £10 per adult (children under 16 travel for free). To book your seat, please call Tracey on 01233 750415 or email :

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Coffee and Donations

OUR November 1st Coffee morning is a special one to encourage support for the Christmas Bazaar which will be on November 25th at 2pm. There will be cakes for sale and a raffle.

Bazaar gifts

DONATIONS of gifts and goods for the Christmas Bazaar Tombola are to be handed to Robin Helmer 750236, Shelia Burrage 750375, Kate Day 750495 or Nicola Phipps 750221 before 24th Nov, or dropped off at the Coffee Morning on 1st Nov at the Village Hall. Thanks for your support.

Top drive ends

OUR milk bottle tops collection is now ceasing—the granddaughter has moved on to greater things.

They were delivered to a lady in Horsham, who sells them to a manufacturer in Portsmouth, who grinds them into pellets. They are then made into playground equipment.

We will not be collecting any more after 14 December. Thereafter put them in your council recycling. Thanks. **Alan Ramsay**

Suspicious white transit van

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PLEASE keep an eye out for a white transit van, registration LF11 ZXT, believed to be linked to a number of burglaries / suspicious incidents in rural villages in the Canterbury area.

The occupants are often offering garden furniture for sale. Any sightings of the vehicle should be referred to the Police by phoning 101.

There have been several reports of the White Transit Van both in Elmsted and Bodsham, one resident described them as very intimidating.

100 Club

THE latest winning numbers for the Evington Community Project 100 club are:

1 st Prize:	No. 60
2 nd Prize:	No: 7
3 rd Prize:	No: 12

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Coffee Mornings



At Evington Village Hall

The first Wednesday of the month at 10.30am is Coffee Morning at the Hall, where anyone is welcome to attend, have a cup of coffee, a biscuit and chat with friends. At the same time raising money for Hall Funds.

Since 2005 Coffee Mornings have been run by local volunteers, to name a few: Maggie Chapman, John and Peggy Hewes with the help of Jenny Denny, Bunty Healey and Patrick.

However, these volunteers have decided to hang up their coffee making aprons, put their feet up and take a well-deserved rest!

Thank you for all your efforts over the years in keeping the community spirit alive in the village, especially after the local shop closed.

So now we are looking for new volunteers to keep the Coffee Morning tradition going. The duties include:

- ♦ Getting the hall ready: putting out tables and chairs.
- ♦ Getting the kitchen ready: making teas and coffees.
- ♦ Clearing up at the end of the morning!

If you are interested in helping, please contact:

Robin Helmer - 01233 750236, Shelia Burrage - 01233 750375, or Nicola Phipps - 01233 750221.

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Memories of Dolly's penny post

IT was a chance remark by Jennie Denny of High Lodge (formerly Helchin) in Elmsted that started things off. She recalled the late Harry Archer of Elmsted saying that his wife Dorothy when a child, used to collect pennies from people wanting to pass through the gate at Helchin which she opened and closed.

Dorothy Archer nee Lucas was born in 1908 and from the 1911 census lived at Helchin with her father Alfred. So this dates her experiences from about 1914 onwards.

The 1840 tithe map shows a proper road from Elmsted church ending at Helchin. Thereafter the map just shows a dotted line down to Evington crossroads.

The OS map of 1907 still shows no proper road down to the crossroads but the 1930 map does.

Yvonne Helmer of Hastingleigh confirms her mother Dorothy Archer was known as a child as "Dolly" Lucas. And she did collect pennies from people wishing to travel down the hill from Elchin Lodge to Evington.

There was a gate across the road below the house and she re-

ferred to it as a "toll gate". At that time the hill was known as Elchin Hill, the house was Elchin Lodge and the nearby wood was known as Elchin Wood. This is marked on the 1916 Estate Map.

This map also shows the route down to Evington as a proper road passing through high banks around the sharp bend. After discussing this with John Argar of Elmsted, he says that there were quite a few gated roads in those days, not necessarily toll gates or toll roads.

He remembered one in Maxted Street. It was just on the north side of Upper Maxted Street Farm and the gate post was on the corner of its garden.

If a child was to open the gate for a pony and trap and then close it again then he or she would most likely be given a coin. The gates were there so that livestock could be prevented from straying too far.

He didn't have any knowledge of a toll gate [at Helchin] but that's not to say there wasn't one, so Yvonne is probably right.

Until 1909 the Honywood family owned the land surrounding Helchin down to their home at Evington and beyond.

Enquiries were made with Sir Filmer Honywood. He has intimate knowledge of Elmsted from his father's recollections and is also keeper of his family's records.

He writes, "I seem to

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remember seeing white painted fencing on either side of the western end of the road from Hastingleigh close to the old Evington gate lodge; and my late father told me that the road ran through the park.

"It would certainly have been necessary to have access by trap or carriage between Evington, Helchin, and Elmsted Church during the many years when Helchin was used as the Dower House [by the Honywood family]; but Highway Law is complicated, and for however long the roads and tracks may have been used by local people and the general public, they could only be dedicated for such use by absolute owners of the land.

"This could not have occurred until after my Grandfather and uncle Courtenay broke the entail - before which there would only have been a life tenancy. Presumably Lord Ashburton [who bought the Honywood estate in 1909] or his agent decided to impose a small charge to show that there was no dedication and to persuade the County to adopt the maintenance of the roads."

Fortunately there are two photos dated 1929 taken from at the top of the bank in the garden of the Helchin dwelling. The road seems newish as does the fencing. There are no trees and in one there are two or three horses or ponies. It shows the high banks and sharp bend mentioned by Yvonne. Yvonne

further comments, "On an old map a dotted line could mean it was an unfenced road, which would make sense of there being gates at certain points, where there were fenced sections.

"Looking at the first photograph it would appear that the top section of Elchin Hill was fenced, whereas further down towards Evington Corner no fence is visible.

"This also ties in with what my mother used to say about 'running down the road to open the gate', she indicated this was beyond the sweeping right-hand bend. The more I think about it, the more I think John is right about the gate on Elchin Hill being a stock gate, rather than an official toll."

So Yvonne's mother Dolly being at a vantage on the hill could have spotted a horse rider, pony and trap or a horse and cart coming up from the crossroads and ran down the hill in the hope of getting a few pennies for opening the gate.

There is also another undated photo with a pencil note saying, "Mrs Eley, Up Park, Hastingleigh". In it is a woman with a baby by a gate across the road with pedestrian access at today's Evington Lodge. So perhaps "Up Park" was its name then, and it is Mrs Eley and her baby in the picture.

My thanks to Jennie, Yvonne, John and Sir Filmer.

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Garden of ex-Beatle George hits right note

GARDENS of Intrigue was the title of Mrs Berkeley's talk on the 17th October which was intriguing in itself when a picture of George Harrison MBE came on the screen.

I thought, 'Oh dear, she has got the wrong talk, we did not want pop music!'

Then came a picture of George Harrison's house, Friar Park, and we really were intrigued. Mrs Berkley described it as a wedding cake but it was even too ornate for that.

Friar Park was built by Frank Crisp in 1889. This 120-room mansion belongs in a fairy tale.

After a quick look at the extensive gardens, we were off on a lightning tour of various others: Shrublands, Alton Towers, Trackham, Plas Newydd and some of the various styles: topiary, parterre, Japanese, herb etc.

Then there was a quick history of gardening in Britain from Roman

times to the present day and a pop over to Italy and famous gardens there. Then we were back to Friar Park and the gardens that had been abandoned and overgrown when George bought it in 1970.

He worked on it with enthusiasm for 30 years and we toured the various parts but spent most time on the three-acre Alpine garden complete with a 30-foot model of the Matterhorn and 4,000 different plants.

George often worked in the garden at midnight. "Best time to garden by moonlight, you can't see the weeds," the old saying goes.

The talk finished with pictures of strange 19th-century garden tools and we had to guess their use.

On 21st November we shall be presented with Gardening in the Shade. On 12th December is the Christmas Party with Trevor and his Studio Players. **BMG**

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Pilgrim Matt has tale to tell

Matt Lamburn, a frequent visitor to Elmsted and Hastingleigh, is a keen walker and 'pilgrim' who walked the North Downs Way last summer.

IN summer 2016, I walked the Pilgrims Way from Winchester to Canterbury as a personal journey of spiritual reflection and physical endurance; a journey that has had a profound impact on my life.

Undertaking a pilgrimage has been revived somewhat in recent years, with the renowned Camino de Santiago hosting nearly 280,000 pilgrims in 2016 alone! The reasons are varied, be they spiritual, cultural or simply because one enjoys a long walk.

But the purpose of pilgrimage has remained the same; it is a time to put aside the daily cares of our lives and to truly feel that we are part of something greater... something special.

The Pilgrims Way follows ancient tracks from the Winchester

Cathedral across Hampshire, through Surrey and over the beautiful landscape of Kent to arrive at the Christ-Church Gate of Canterbury Cathedral almost 130 miles later.

After the death of Thomas Beckett in 1170AD, Canterbury became one of the most important pilgrim destinations in North Western Europe.

Previously, the city was known as being the starting point of the Via Francigena, the overland route to Rome, which successive archbishops took to receive their mantle of office from the Pope.

But following the death of Thomas Beckett, Canterbury now had a shrine and, perhaps more importantly, spiritual status of its own with which to draw good pilgrims in.

My journey was made alone during a full and glorious English summer. Having always had a learning to the "spiritual" side of life, I was surprised at how quickly I became accustomed to life on the road and appreciative of the opportunity I had given myself to simply walk, enjoy the countryside in all its glory and to quietly and steadily contemplate the greater mysteries that surround us: who are we? Why are we here? And what's it all about?

Following the route, which takes one through open fields, old oak forest, high downlands and charming villages, I embraced the

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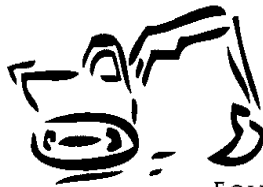
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Moved to tears at end of the road

landscapes through which I passed and opened myself to the deeper meanings of this journey.

As might be expected, along the way one passes churches, chapels and even a fine Benedictine Abbey just outside Winchester, ensuring the presence of Christ and his places of worship are never far away.

I have fond memories of resting a while in the cool interiors of churches along the route, reminding myself that what had started out as a pleasant way to spend a week's holiday was opening my eyes to another world.

After six and half days, averaging 20 miles walking per day, I

passed under the West Gate of Canterbury... looking dishevelled, tired and hobbling through the city, past curious shoppers, to arrive at the ChristChurch Gate... surprised to find tears in my eyes and a deep satisfaction in my heart.

Taking a pilgrimage changes a person; the challenge, toil, endurance and strength of character that is developed through walking long distances enriches our spirits with a sense of accomplishment and perhaps allows us to take back to our everyday lives a greater sense of patience and forbearance... knowing that we will get there through simple perseverance.

It wasn't long before 'pilgrim fever' took over again and I found myself boarding a plane for Italy to walk from La Sanctuarina della Verna to the holy city of Assisi.

This trip was inspired by a new-found love and respect for that most vagabond of saints, Saint Francis; perhaps that is a tale for another time.

Market dates

THERE are all kinds of great produce in season and it's the time to start choosing what the family would like for a Christmas roast. Why not order it fresh for the big day?

If so, why not shop at Wye Farmers Market—4 Nov and 18 Nov. The market is held on the first and third Saturday of each month, 9am – 12noon, around The Green in the centre of Wye. We hope to see you there.

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