

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

September 2020

40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

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Hastingleigh Parish Council

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bookings@evingtonhall.org.uk

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ECP Hon Sec

Mrs S Boxall 01233 750206

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Mrs H Ransley 01233 750949

Evington Community Choir

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585

Footpath Walks

Mr D Harris 01233 813711

Women's Institute

Mrs J Bowes 01233 811875

Parent and Toddler Group

Mrs L Lawrence 01233 750987

Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh

Mr G Block 01233 750415

Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted

Mr J Argar 01233 750311



September

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

As we start to enter Autumn, schools are returning, and a return to a bit of normality is occurring.

Page 19 has some gorgeous photos of colour from our readers gardens. The Ride and Stride for Churches is taking place 12th September, page 15. There is still time to donate to the gift for Pete the Postie, see page 12 for more details. A mystery circle has been noted in a field near Evington Place (page 21), can you shed any light on what it might be?

As always letters, articles and comments are very welcome.

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Submissions

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

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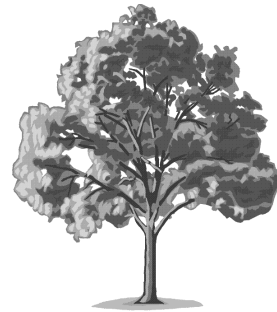
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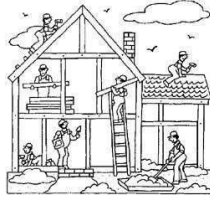
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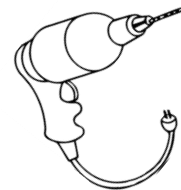
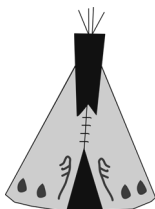
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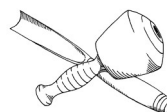
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Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI

Some interesting facts about the history of the Women's Institute (information taken from the W.I. website).

Why was the W.I. named the Women's Institute?

The W.I. was the women's branch of the Farmer's Institute, hence the name Women's Institute. The name 'Institute' was a term given to permanent organisations with educational purposes.

Why was Jerusalem chosen as the W.I.'s anthem?

Choosing Jerusalem as the W.I. anthem came as a result of a letter to the former W.I. membership magazine "Home & Country", prior to the 8th Annual General Meeting in 1924. Grace Hadow, Vice-Chair at the time, suggested its use after attending "Exhibitions or Council meetings at which the whole assembly joined in singing Sir Hubert Parry's setting of Blake's Jerusalem." She pointed out that many W.I. members "would like to sing the song at the upcoming Annual Meeting."

After an impressive "performance" of Jerusalem at the AGM, the NFWI ran a competition for an 'Institute song' which ended in Jerusalem being chosen as the official Institute's song.

Jerusalem had been used by the National Union of Suffrage Societies in the 1918 celebrations of women's enfranchisement, and many of the leaders of the NFWI, including Grace Hadow, had been part of that struggle to win the vote for women. By singing Jerusalem, the WI is marking its links with the wider women's movement, and its commitment to improving the conditions of rural life.

Which Members of the Royal family have joined the W.I.?

Queen Mary invited Madge Watt, who founded the first W.I. in Great Britain, to form a W.I. at Sandringham, and the Queen became its President. This tradition was followed by future members of the Royal family. HM Queen Elizabeth II became a W.I. member in 1943 when

she was still Princess Elizabeth; her Mother was President of Sandringham W.I. Her Majesty The Queen is still President of Sandringham W.I. HRH The Countess of Wessex is a member of Bagshot W.I., Surrey. HRH The Duchess of Cornwall is a member of Tetbury W.I., Gloucestershire. HRH Princess Anne is an Associate Member.

Due to the current climate, we are unable to meet at the moment but are holding virtual competitions for flower of the month. The Flower of the Month joint winners for August were Barbara George (Rose) and Sue Lawson (Lily).

Marie Wenham

Pete The Postie Update

Anyone still wishing to contribute towards the retirement collection for Pete, can you please drop it off at Quackers, The Street, Hastingleigh before Sunday 13th September.

We have a card and if we are not there when you drop off your donation, please leave your address and we will pop round with it for you to sign.

We have collected over £400 so far and have been in contact with Julia, Pete's wife, and she has suggested we get him a reclining garden chair and some iTunes and Amazon vouchers. We are in the process of arranging a date when Pete and Julia can come up to the village so those who have given can say a personal goodbye and thank you.

If you would like to attend, can you please email us on sueboxall@btinternet.com so we can let you know when and where this will take place.

Sue & Paul

EVINGTON COMMUNITY PROJECT



CLUB

The winning numbers for the April 2020 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 58

2nd Prize: No: 57

3rd Prize: No: 45

The winning numbers for the May 2020 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 19

2nd Prize: No: 62

3rd Prize: No: 102

The winning numbers for the June 2020 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 89

2nd Prize: No: 38

3rd Prize: No: 62

The winning numbers for the July 2020 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 25

2nd Prize: No: 98

3rd Prize: No: 94

The winning numbers for the August 2020 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 93

2nd Prize: No: 40

3rd Prize: No: 42

Next draw to be held virtually on **Saturday 12th September at 11am.**

Many thanks to all of the 100+ Club Members for your support.

In The Garden

Overall it seems to me that plants this summer are earlier than usual. We have had immense heat from time to time and, even for this corner of southeast England the lack of rain is having its effect. Despite our generous storage of roof water we have, from time to time, resorted to the hand held hose from the mains supply to help some of our plants along. Obviously Kent has had sufficient rainfall to avoid any hosepipe bans.

September heralds the beginning of the autumn and I hope as temperatures decline you will be rewarded with an Indian Summer – such a delightful time.

This year we attempted to establish a new raspberry bed, half summer fruiting (Cascade Delight) and half autumn fruiting (Polka). Despite planting the new canes early while the soil had abundant moisture about 40% of the canes did not grow and so few raspberries this year but my point is that in August we had the summer and autumn fruiting types coming together. The few we have picked taste delicious and I hope, with time, the bed will fill out with new canes and we shall be rewarded with abundance.

Potatoes have done exceptionally well, first early Arran Pilot, then Charlotte (a firm favourite here for its flavour that was introduced to us by friends who had a house in Brittany long before it was known in the UK) and finally Desirée, an early main crop and a good keeper. And no blight this year and hardly any slug damage. Marvellous. In addition to an abundance of tomatoes in the greenhouse two plants of F1 Crimson Crush were planted in a sunny spot outside as it is claimed that this variety shrugs off blight. Well they are good and no blight but, as I said above, this is not a 'blight' year. Will certainly try it again.

Brussels sprouts and savoy cabbage for the winter are looking good and have been joined by purple sprouting broccoli and curly kale, the last two sown in June and planted in July hoping that they won't grow too tall. In recent years I have become aware that brassicas do not like high temperatures, particularly over about 32°C

(and this year we have been up to 36°C). The first time that happened they were obviously in distress and I didn't know what to do, so they were sprayed with water to cool them. Have you ever smelled cooked cabbage while they are growing? Now, with advanced warning of a heat wave we cover the brassicas with fine net or horticultural fleece as a sunshade and make sure they have extra water at their roots. These beds have a frame covered with an anti-butterfly netting so attaching the shading was not too difficult.

Herbaceous perennials can be divided this month as long as there is sufficient moisture in the soil and, if you are of a mind, you can collect seed from perennials and hardy annuals. If you have a pond it is a good idea to net it to prevent the coming leaf fall from fouling the water. A good time to plant spring flowering bulbs such as crocus and daffodil.

Japanese anemones should be in full flower this month with rudbeckias and asters and late flowering Echinacea Purpurea for colour. Verbena can be left to set seed and if we get some winter frosts the old flower heads can look stunning. Michaelmas daisies reliably make a good showing and different colours massed together rarely clash. Clematis Tanguitica with its yellow lantern like flowers is one of my autumn favourites and can also be found growing wild as a hedgerow plant on these hills.

Fred

Cyclists and Walkers

Why not get on your bike (or walk) for the Friends of Kent
Churches on

Saturday 12th September.

Get some sponsors and help the up keep of our amazing old churches. It's fun to take your bike down onto Romney Marsh, where there are some very interesting churches and nearly all offer hospitality; or cycle the churches in Canterbury if you don't fancy our hills.

Sponsor forms and details from Roz Bacon 01233 750327,
roz.bacon@btinternet.com

Hastingleigh's Finest Day

Kentish Express June 1956

Free beer and plenty of it for everyone over 18 years added to some spirited celebrations at Hastingleigh in which Elmsted people joined. Festivities began on Coronation Eve with a party in the Parish Room for all the over 60's who sat down to a spread of ham, tongue and salad, with fruit salad, trifle and jelly and drank the Queen's health in port. Afterwards there was entertainment organised by Mrs Newport of the Bowl Inn.

On Coronation Day, the Bowl Field was the focal point for all villagers. After a fancy dress parade, with the Coronation theme much in evidence, there were sports and then schoolchildren had their tea in the village hall.

Maypole dancing brought back memories of other Coronation days to the elderly folk who came to watch and who were pleased to see that children of today still keep alive the dances of bygone generations.

Mrs Miskin, chief guest, proposed the toast of Her Majesty. Mr G Tappenden, deputising for Comdr. N.C.M Findlay, thanked the organisers. Four over 70's who entertained were Will Mills, Fred Pritchard, Harry Carey and Alf Southen.

BIGGEST PARADES

One of the largest fancy dress parades seen in the village was judged by Mrs Massie, Mrs J Forge and Capt. Peter Tappenden (deputising for Comdr. Findlay). Winners : 1. Michael Young (Beefeater), 2. George and William Griggs (E & R), 3. Shirley Stokes and Donald Ferguson (Jack & Jill); special prizes, Jack Luck (pirate) and Johnny Thorpe (tramp) and Christine Lilley.

Elmsted beat Hastingleigh in Tug-of-war by two clear pulls. Teams: Elmsted, J Argar, F Brown, N and W Wood, P Durnford, W Hardistry, C Smith, G Gardiner and Col. A Massie (coach). Hastingleigh, D and N Wood, A Pearson, T Lockwood, T Young, D Ferguson, D Powell,

R Marsh and B Bowes (coach). Mr S Puttock was umpire. For the winners there was a pint of beer each and half a pint for the losers.

SPORTS RESULTS

Flat race, 14-15 years 1. E Young, 2. D Young, 3. D White. 11-13, 1. P Hoare, 2. J Thompson, 3. M Hill. 8-10, 1.K Young, 2. J Durnford, 3. B Young. 5-7, 1. B Chisholm, 2. R Lockwood, 3. P Hill. Under 5, 1. P Lockwood, 2. S Stokes. **Slow bicycle race**, 1. R Luck, 2. D White, 3. M Hardistry. **Wheelbarrow race**, 1. M Hill & J Luck, 2. J Thompson & P Cahill. **Sack race**, 1. LWillott, 2. P Griggs, 3. A Lockwood. **Potato race**, 5-7 years 1. R Lockwood, 2. B Chisholm, 3.P Hill. **Ladies three-legged race**, 1. E Young and S Thompson, 2. W Stokes and K Pollard. **Farmyard race**, 1. Lockwood and Bryant 2. K and M Pollard. **Tilting bucket**, T Young and M Bowes, 2. D Young and B White. **Tossing the sheaf**, R Marsh. Mr T Lockwood was sports organiser.

PALACE CAKE

There was tragedy in the pigeon race, one of the 42 birds released flew straight into a telephone wire and was killed.

A large iced cake, weighing over 19lbs, was given for competition by Mr G P Tappenden and made in his bakery by Miss Eileen Bartlett. It was a magnificent model of the front of Buckingham Palace and the Mall complete with miniature soldiers and trees. The winner was Mrs Hawke and the competition raised £10 towards the new hall fund.

Schoolchildren in fancy dress gave a display of maypole dancing arranged by Mr & Mrs Yates.

Teas for everyone were served under cover. Villagers crowded into the hall in time to hear the Queen's speech and port was handed round for a Loyal Toast proposed by Comdr. Findlay.

Those who still had enough energy joined in a dance in the hall, the last event before the midnight finale at New Barn Hill. A very large crowd walked nearly a mile out of the village to the highest point where a gigantic bonfire was lit. From the hill a chain of other bonfires could be seen stretching across the countryside. A fitting finish to one of the brightest days the villagers remember.

Church Services

<u>Date</u>		
06/09	First Sunday	9:30 – Hastingleigh– Communion
13/09	Second Sunday	9:30 – Petham – Communion
20/09	Third Sunday	9:30 – Waltham -Communion
27/09	Fourth Sunday	9:30 – Elmsted – Communion
Please do not attend if you are at all unwell		

All services are for all four congregations to worship together, and all are bring your own bread, (and wine if you would like).

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):
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Sept 12 th Sept 19 th	Mrs Boxall Mrs Pell	Mrs Gregory Mrs Pay
Sep 26 th Oct 3 rd	Dr & Mrs Lawson Mrs Day	Mrs Denny Mrs Healy

Garden Colour



Wye Surgery PPG

COVERD 19 has dramatically changed our lives and the 'new' normal now looks like being the norm for the foreseeable future. Although COVID inpatient numbers have fallen nationally from a peak of 19,000 to around 900 at the beginning of August, COVID remains in general circulation, with a number of local and national outbreaks across the country and the risk of a further lockdown in Ashford.

Having pulled out all the stops to treat COVID patients over the last few months, health services are now attempting to return to near normal non-COVID healthcare, making full use of this window of opportunity before the return of winter pressures and a possible second wave of infection. Many regular clinics are now operating again and patients are encouraged to catch up with treatments and interventions which may have been delayed during the last few months. Covid safety precautions are now well established both at the surgery and at the William Harvey Hospital. Patients are required to wear masks and will have their temperature taken before entering. If you think you may have the virus, you can arrange a test by dialling 119 or via nhs.uk/coronavirus.

The seasonal flu vaccine will be available towards the end of September and all eligible vulnerable groups are urged to have their injections as soon as possible, in order to avoid the double whammy of simultaneous covid and flu.

Just as surgery staff have had to adapt to the crisis situation, so have patients and we have all been on a steep learning curve, not least in adapting to our first PPG meeting via Zoom and to the on line systems and virtual appointments, which suit many people well, but which will always be difficult and less suitable for some patients to negotiate. Surgery staff are available to help people navigate e-consult.

Lock down, job furloughing, economic uncertainty and home schooling have put pressures on every generation and there are particular concerns about people with disabilities or mental health

issues. It important that everyone continues to be able to access medical care and that systems are reviewed and refined to identify those in danger of falling through the on-line cracks.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the surgery staff who have managed to maintain clinical services in these unprecedentedly challenging circumstances.

Judith Timms (PPG Chair)

A Mystery And The Ice House

Some of us have noticed a strange circle in the fields above Evington House. It was more visible earlier in April and May than now (or during snow), but RR and I were given permission to look at it. Walking to it revealed it is about 18 metres in diameter and the ground is very slightly raised all round the edge of the circle. Has anyone got any theories on this? I gather it is called “the Bandstand” by some.

The Ice House, which served Evington Place before electricity and refrigeration arrived, was in the bank on the north side of the road and is shown on one of the early maps. It was therefore as near the house and kitchens as possible, where cool drinks, ice creams and sorbet desserts would be prepared; servants having carried the ice in wooden boxes insulated with sawdust and cork, and lined with tin or zinc.

What is surprising about Evington Ice House is that most ice houses were near sources of fresh water from where the winter ice could be taken. Where was the ice taken from at Evington?

Some ice houses were specially constructed above ground and others were built into a hill. The ice was insulated, against melting, with straw or sawdust and would remain frozen for many months.

RB

Farming Notebook

It is raining! Who would have thought six months ago that rain would be noteworthy?

Only a month ago we were waiting for our harvest to begin. We expected it to be an early harvest after the prolonged dry and hot weather, but never dreamed that cereal harvest would be completed by the 10th August. It has been unbelievably hot and dry and once the combine started it never stopped. We were into the rape on 31st July and then went straight into the wheat. Almost without exception the crops came in dry. The biggest issue was the temperature. Some of the wheat was coming in at 38 degrees C. Keeping the stored crops ventilated has been essential. A large mass of wheat at 30 degrees will soon deteriorate. The fans have been running continuously just to keep air movement through the crop. Daytime temperatures have rarely dropped below 30 and even at night 20 degrees has been the norm so not much cooling has been achieved yet.

After the long, wet winter, we were completely out of straw for bedding. Almost all of our wheat straw has been baled this year and now the barn is once again full. We will not need it all, but the straw was so dry it seemed like a good idea to make the most of the opportunity. The added bonus was that the straw was carted and put under cover before the rain.

Usually we bale the “thrashed” hay behind the combine on the grass seed crop. This year was no exception. But it was still too green to bale before a forecast shower. Had it got wet any quality would have been lost so we decided to bale it and wrap it to make “thrashed” haylage. It will make a really good winter feed and it can be stored outside, leaving more space for straw in the barn.

As expected, yields are down across the board. The grass seed was slightly lower than hoped mainly because we could not graze it in the autumn. Sheep nibbling the young grass makes it tiller and then the sward thickens. The thicker the sward the more seed heads there are and hence higher yields. The less said about the rape the better...

Wheats have come in 10-15% lower than average. This seems to be quite normal across the southern half of the country with poorer or heavier land suffering more. This did not stop one idiot farmer on the Isle of Sheppy going to press in the Farmers weekly claiming yields that would have broken the world record!! Absolutely no one believes him and all it has done is give grain merchants the opportunity to drop the prices offered for wheat on the back of a "bumper harvest"!

Once the fields have been cleared we have put our subsoiler through the tramlines and the headlands to try and repair some of the damage done by the very wet winter. Some of the tramlines are more like tank traps than wheelings for the sprayer. Areas due to be planted with rape and grass have had the subsoiler through the whole field to get some structure back. It is so dry that I have decided not to plant the small seeds until we get some significant rain.

We await the beans and potatoes. The spring beans looked quite promising. Growing well and with abundant flowers. Two consecutive days in mid May where temperatures reached 34 degrees put a stop to any further flowering. At those temperatures the plant shuts down and starts to put its energies into filling the pods that it has already set. As we are not on Sheppy, I do not expect any yield records this year...

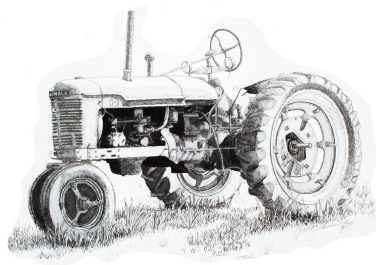
The potatoes have all been topped and are now setting their skins. This welcome rain will help soften the parched soils and allow any clods to break down. This will aid the harvest due to start at the beginning of September. Another benefit of the rain is that it will start to cool the ground and the still buried potatoes.

The cattle continue to thrive on the scorched pastures. They look well and continue to feed their rapidly growing calves. The calves also have access to supplementary feed and are making the most of it. We will take the two bulls away in the next few days and give them a rest. Hopefully their job is done for another year. The one thing about the hot weather is the abundance of horse flies. They are a pest and the cattle really do not like them. It is quite usual for the cattle to huddle together in large groups often standing top to tail. This makes the best use of swishing tails not only keeping the flies

moving at the back end of the cow but also from the head of its neighbour. Clever.

Well the rain has eased off. It feels beautifully fresh outside after such long periods of muggy days and nights. I may think about getting the rape planted....

W Wilson-Haffenden



‘So they do say.!

‘Some people don’t die. They go on a cruise instead’. John Sergeant
‘Stop dying at once, and when you get up, get your bloody hair cut’! Lt Colonel Daniel Wintle to his critically ill Batman who obeyed the order.

‘My aunt died at precisely 10.47 am. and the old grandfather clock stopped precisely at this time. It fell on her.’ Paul Merton

‘There’s nothing like a morning funeral for sharpening the appetite for lunch.’ Arthur Marshall

‘Well, thank you, Rector. It was a lovely funeral. We must have one again some time.’ Audrey Forbes-Hamilton. *To the Manor Born.*

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