

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

November 2018

40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council

Tracey Block 01233 750415

Hastingleigh Parish Council

Tracey Block 01233 750415

Evington Hall (Bookings)
(www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

Shelley 07401 908249
bookings@evingtonhall.org.uk

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

Mrs H French 01233 750483

ECP Hon Sec

Mrs S Boxall 01233 750206

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Mrs H Ransley 01233 720152

Evington Community Choir

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585

Art Group

Mrs V Kerry 01227 700843

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



November

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

Autumn is here, despite the warm weather spell, with leaves, conkers and chestnuts littering the ground. It's a busy time and there are a number of events coming up. Bodsham School is running open days for children starting school in 2019, see page 9. On the 11th November there will be an extended Armistice Day celebration this year to commemorate the end of the Great War, see page 19. Elmsted church are having their annual clean-up day on 17th November and are asking for volunteers to help, page 9. A young member of the village slept outside with his fellow scouts and cubs to raise money for Porchlight, see page 15 for donation details. We have received a letter commenting on our status as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, an interesting viewpoint, do you agree? Or do you see it differently? Do let us know.

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Submissions

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

Please provide any promotional or editorial content in Word format rather than pdf. For length, grammar and style issues the Editor reserves the right to edit it.

Editorial: elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk

Advertising: shepandali@hotmail.com

Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com

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

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small projects - large projects - emergencies

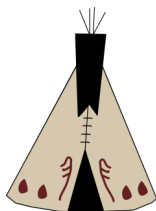
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

'Wrinkles don't matter'

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 4th of October at the Evington Hall. Sixteen members attended.

Our speaker this month was Mrs Helen Kendall-Tobias, and her talk was entitled 'Wrinkles don't matter'. Mrs Kendall-Tobias is a style consultant and gave us an entertaining talk of how people through the ages have tried to hold back the years, some with more success than others. Ideas included enamelling the face, covering the skin with egg whites, and even patting the face with a wooden spoon. She showed us photos of some Hollywood stars at the beginning of their careers and how they look now. Some were blessed with good genes, some had good plastic surgeons who knew when to stop, and

others had plastic surgeons who appeared to take their patient's money when they should have stopped. No names mentioned here! Sophia Loren was mentioned, however, as a great example of making the most of her assets, although her pink and green lenses in her glasses may not suit everyone! She told us to embrace our faces and our age, and to wear colour. We should eat food with colours from the rainbow, exercise, don't smoke, only have a moderate amount of coffee and alcohol each day, and to have 85% dark chocolate daily - but only two squares.

After her talk, we covered several items of business, discussed future events, and our speakers and competitions for next year.

The flower of the month was won by Mrs. James.

The competition was won by Mrs. May.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 1st of November. 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.

Wendy Riley and Fiona Steward

theWI
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Dr Fox

‘Ask My GP’

One of the commonest complaints I hear in our pared down underfunded primary care system is ‘I just can’t get through to anyone’.

Why not try the ‘Ask my GP’ system on our website, www.wyesurgery.co.uk? Just click on the Ask my GP tab, put your details in and answer some simple questions. This will be sent to one of our GPs, read and answered within 24 hours (except at weekends) and either the query dealt with or if you need to be seen, one of our care navigators will contact you and book a convenient appointment.

I reproduce, with permission, the comment from a patient in Ely, at a practice using the same system, that says it all from a patient viewpoint;

"This new system will make the most enormous improvement to NHS healthcare and waiting lists at both Health centres and A and E that there has been for many years. The many advantages are obvious and predictable. It will greatly enhance the chances of speaking directly to your GP as soon as

possible IF the patient has a potentially serious, or possibly life-threatening condition and even more important will allow the GP more time to read a carefully thought out email of the condition the patient is worried about.

It will also allow the GP to filter out timewasters, or people expecting Antibiotics for a virus, with the expectation that it is all they need and completely missing the whole point of why and where they are prescribed and therefore further reducing the effectiveness of antibiotics and the increasing resistance of viruses to them.

As a result, the waiting times for an appointment will be more responsive to the apparent severity and urgency of the individual patient's condition and allow the GP to carefully analyse and make informed decisions on priorities regarding urgency, or non-urgency of face to face appointments.

Expectations and confidence amongst young parents in their local health centre will gradually rise, rather than immediately adding to the long list of worried people turning up and waiting in line for hours at A and E always wanting immediate attention from hospital staff who neither know them, or are aware of particular people who worry, perhaps too much, about their children's possible health problems.

Given the constant and continuing



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Dr Fox Cont.

limitations and financial constraints on the NHS in general, and healthcare centres in particular, this will prove to be one of the most considerable improvements to the healthcare system there has ever been! Great idea, hope every other NHS medical centre follows your lead.

Kind regards, Andrew Tiley'
So why not give it a try?
Stay well.

Dr Allan Fox
Wye Surgery and Private GP
Healthcare



Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI invite you to a



Crafternoon



to raise funds for **Mind**

at Evington Hall on Sunday 9th December 2018 at 2pm
Christmas themed crafts for both children and adults
Craft not your thing? Come along for tea and cake

Talk on the First World War

Thanks to all who attended this very interesting talk by
Brigadier David Reece and gave so generously.
£280 was raised and divided between the Royal British Legion
and St. Mary the Virgin Church.
Keep a look out for further talks.

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Monday 5th November 11am
Monday 12th November 11am
Wednesday 21st November 11am
Thursday 29th November 2pm
Friday 7th December 2pm
Friday 11th January 2019 11am

**Please notify the office if you would like to come and
visit us!**

**Telephone 01233 750374
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Executive Head teacher - Mr P. Newton**

**Elmsted Church Clean-Up
Saturday 17th November**

It is the annual Elmsted Church clean-up on
Saturday 17th November from 10am.



Can anyone spare half an hour to help with the dusting
and sweeping of the church?
We would be most grateful.

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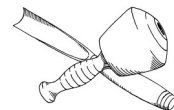
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From The History Enthusiast

History of Parish Councils - Part 2

As mentioned in part one, people in want were looked after by the parish and undertaken in rotation by worthy men who administered relief such as money, food, and clothing. The money was raised by a local Poor Rate which varied according to how much land was owned. The Poor Rate was the main tax on the parishioners for the support of the less fortunate in their parish.

The Relief of the Poor Act 1782 aimed to organise poor relief on a county basis where adjacent parishes could set up poorhouses between them. These poorhouses were intended to help only the elderly, sick and orphaned. The able-bodied poor were to be provided with poor

relief in their own homes.

Under this Act the majority of Kent parishes provided accommodation of some kind for their poorer inhabitants. This could take many forms with houses being rented or purchased by the parish in which to house individual families. Alternatively they could have arrangements with other parishes to send their poor to a group poorhouse in one particular parish. One such local agreement was between the parish overseers around Elham to use a poorhouse there. It included Elmsted and Hastingleigh who joined in 1808.

But the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 replaced these arrangements by handing responsibility from parishes to Poor Law Unions. Parishes were then grouped together into local union areas. Elmsted and Hastingleigh respectively came under the Elham and the East Ashford Unions.

For Elmsted the new Elham Union Workhouse was located at Etchinghill, Lyminge. The first inmates were admitted in June 1836. The workhouse buildings were taken over by Kent County

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History Enthusiast Cont.

Council in 1930 and became known as the Elham Public Assistance Institution. At a later date it was also known as Lyminge Institution and St Mary's Hospital. The only remaining building is the Chapel which is privately owned.

For Hastingleigh the East Ashford Union Workhouse was at Willesborough. The first inmates were admitted in April 1836. The workhouse buildings were taken over by Kent County Council in 1930 and became known as the East Ashford Public Assistance Institution. At a later date it was also known as Willesborough Institution and Willesborough Hospital. The remaining buildings are now privately owned.

Under this new system the parishes under the Elham Union eventually became part of the Folkestone and District Area. And those under the East Ashford became part of the Ashford and District Area.

The workhouse evokes the grim Victorian world of Oliver

Twist. In today's terms workhouses sound unsavoury but they were a refuge against poverty offering permanent shelter, food, clothing and employment. Although the workhouse system in Britain became the most well developed of any in the world, a number of other countries did have workhouses or other institutions providing care and relief for the poor and destitute.

Would anyone want to go into a workhouse? No. If they were starving and homeless would they have been grateful that the workhouse existed for them? Probably yes. No doubt readers will have their own views.

For more information go to:

For Kent: <http://>

www.kentworkhouses.uk

National: <http://>

www.workhouses.org.uk/intro/

General: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Workhouse>

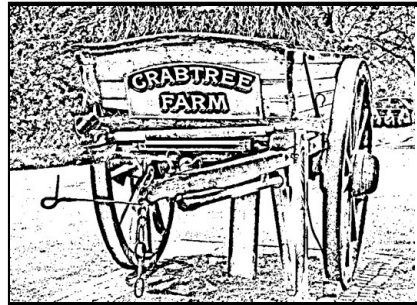


History Enthusiast

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‘So they do say...!’

Ivy is the only plant in Europe to have roots above ground to fix itself firmly to the bark of a tree and will keep on climbing until it reaches the crown. The ivy vines encircling the bark on their way up can grow as thick as a small tree.

It was formerly thought that ivy caused no harm to a tree but it

has been shown conclusively that when it covers the whole tree, branches die and eventually the tree gives up. Like boa constrictors, they can squeeze the life out of a tree.

Honeysuckle prefers smaller and younger trees to climb and in the process causes the tree stem to twist under the strain. Those twisted stems were then cut and dried and later marketed as those curious walking sticks seen in town markets.

TW

Raising awareness and money for the homeless



On Friday 12th October, I slept outside on a cardboard box to raise funds and awareness for homeless people through Porchlight.

I joined 3000 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts across Kent and slept at Singleton Environment Centre for the night with other members of my Cub pack.

If you would like to sponsor me for this, please feel free to drop any money off to Theo c/o The Briars, Hastingleigh or through:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/AshfordScoutsGreatCardboardSleepout>

All funds go to **Porchlight**.

Thank you, Theodore Block (age 7)

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Evíngton Village Hall Committee

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 24th November

2pm

Evíngton Village Hall
Hastíngleigh

Tombola

Raffle

Gifts

Cakes

Games and more!

Visit Father Christmas

Evington Village Hall Committee

COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY 7th NOVEMBER

10.30AM

EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

HASTINGLEIGH



**PLEASE BRING ANY DONATIONS FOR THE XMAS BAZAAR
WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE 24TH NOVEMBER**

COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF THE GREAT WAR

Hastingleigh and Elmsted Parish Councils are pleased to invite you to an extended commemoration of the end of the Great War.

The usual Armistice Day service will take place at the War memorial/Hall in the morning of Sunday 11th November.

Later that evening, in line with National events:

18.50 – Gather at Elmsted Church

18.55 – The Last Post

19.00 – Beacon lighting (by kind permission of the Jakeman family)

19.05 – Bell ringing – The Nation rings

19.45 – Soup, rolls and tea served at the Village Hall with information about each of the fallen soldiers named on the War Memorial and some War-time songs

20.30 - Candles extinguished at the War Memorial, war poem and the last post.

We hope to see you there!



Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills

04/11	First Sunday	09.30 - Hastingleigh - Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham
11/11	Second Sunday Remembrance Sunday	10.45 - Waltham 10.45 - Hastingleigh & Elmsted War Memorial 10.45 - Petham <i>Please note there is no messy church this month</i>
18/11	Third Sunday	09.30 - Waltham - Communion 11.00 - Hastingleigh - Communion 11.00 - Petham - Family Service (no communion) 17.00 - Elmsted - Choral Evensong (Note service time change for the winter)
25/11	Fourth Sunday	09.30 - Petham - Family Communion 11.00 - Hastingleigh - Communion

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 034409 lorraine_lawrence@btinternet.com. **Churchwardens:** Mrs Bacon 01233 750327, Mrs R Doyle 01227 700296. **United Wye Benefice** 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

St Mary's		St James'
Oct 27th	Dr & Mrs Lawson	Mrs Healy, Mrs Denny
Nov 3rd	Mrs Day	Mrs Pearce
Nov 10th	Mrs Morris	Mrs MacFarlane
Nov 17th	Mrs French	Mrs Hewson
Nov 24th	Mrs Boxall	Mrs Gregory
Dec 1st	Mrs Pell	Mrs Pay

Diary Dates - November

Thurs	1st	W.I. Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Fri	2nd	W.I. Workshop	10.00 - 13.00
Tues	6th	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
Weds	7th	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Fri	9th	Whist Drive	19.00 - 22.00
Sat	10th	Film Night	16.00 - 23.00
Sun	11th	Footpath Group	14.00
Tues	13th	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
		Hastingleigh Parish Council	19.45
Weds	14th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Tues	20th	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
		Evington Gardeners'	19.30 - 22.00
Weds	21st	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Sat	24th	CHRISTMAS BAZAAR	14.00 - 16.30
Tues	27th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
Weds	28th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00

The above dates are taken from the Evington Hall website calendar
(www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated

NOVEMBER COFFEE MORNING

Our coffee morning on 7th November is a special one thinking ahead to the Christmas Bazaar, as well as coffee and biscuits there will be a cake stall and a raffle.

The hall committee would be pleased to receive items suitable for stalls (tombola, raffle, gift) for the Christmas Bazaar which will be held on Saturday 24th November.

News From Bodsham School

Conker Fun

As November arrives we reach the end of our first term at Bodsham. The children are well settled in to their new classes and our reception children have settled into school life.

Our very own Bodsham conker tree and beautiful views have brought daily reminders that autumn is well and truly here. We have celebrated our harvest festival at Elmsted church with wonderful performances and prayers by the children, and a time to think about love and showing love to others with harvest offerings. The children have also been thinking more in their school worship about God's world at harvest time and the need to look after it by recycling and 'upcycling'.

A further celebration of autumn is being held on October

29th after school, when the PFA are running an exciting new fund-raising event called "Bodsham's gone conkers", making use of the beautiful conkers that fall onto the playground. The exciting afternoon will include a conker trail around the school, crafts, games and delicious food. A fun filled occasion for all!

The start of the school year has seen the school receive two awards to recognise the opportunities the children receive in both sports and music. Both the 'School Games Gold Award' and the 'Music Mark Award' have been presented to Bodsham and really do show the extra hard work the teachers put in to ensure our children can engage in these activities. A huge thanks in particular to Mrs Allen and Mrs Billingsley.

As always the school and the PFA are working hard to raise funds for much needed equipment and improvements within the school. Events are planned as often as possible to try to raise money and all offers of help or donations are always gratefully received. At the moment the schools ICT suite is in desperate need of replacing and obviously this is going to cost a lot to do. If

Bodsham School Cont.

anyone thinks they might be able to help in any way with funds towards this then please do get in touch. On a slightly

smaller scale, the teachers have made requests for Pritt stick style glue. As you can imagine, the children get through a lot of this and there is always a need for more!

Bodsham Parents and Friends
Association



Letter to the Editor

The Kent Downs - in an Area of Outstanding...?

At the beginning of October, what seems to have been untreated human excrement was spread in the field adjacent Tamley Lane. The smell was disgusting and lasted nearly two weeks and made it almost impossible to be in the garden or to open windows. On the 13th, a noisy tractor worked during the evening until at least 11pm making it difficult for those who go to bed early to sleep. A complaint has been lodged with the Parish Council to see what action can be taken.

At the end of September, road litter was collected towards Wye between the Village and the

crossroads and turning right to the Reservoir. Amongst the litter were 58 bottles, 47 of which were 'high energy' drinks such as are used by cyclists. A complaint was made to 'British Cycling' and it was pointed out that their website

(<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/>) only mentioned confectionary wrappers and not drinks bottles. After several letters to the Board of Management, they have now altered the wording on their website to include plastic bottles. The day after this collection of rubbish, a large group of cyclists passed through the village leaving 3 more high energy bottles within a distance of 500 yards.

Should we ask for the wording on our signposts to be amended to: An Area of Outstanding Human Excrement and Cycle Litter?

Pro bono publico

*Please send any comments to the Editor
elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk*



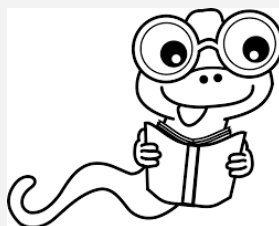
Club Draw

The latest winning numbers
for the Evington
Community Project 100 club
October draw are:

1st Prize: No. 79

2nd Prize: No: 80

3rd Prize: No: 23



Library Van

The Library van will be
parked in the village hall
carpark on Tuesday 13th and
Tuesday 27th November 09.45 -
10.15.

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Footpath Group

14th October

Five brave walkers left the Evington Hall amid heavy cloud, the threat of rain and a warm South Easterly wind. Being the 40th Anniversary of the North Downs Way, we thought we had better include a section of this National Trail in our walk, which we did - from Cold Blow to the Devils Kneading Trough. Our walk was 4 miles and along the

way we saw two llamas, numerous sheep and cattle and a dead squirrel. Along the route, the leaves were beginning to turn orange and brown, a sure sign that Autumn is around the corner. We were very lucky as it didn't start to rain until the end of the walk.

Our next walk is on 11th November.

RH



ECP Presents
A Double Film Show
Saturday 10th November
Evington Hall

4.00 pm	Doors Open
4.30 pm	An Animated Family Film
from 6.15 pm	Fish & Chips etc. freshly cooked at the Hall 8.15 pm A Modern Musical

For information and bookings please contact Robin
ecpinfo@btinternet.com



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Wye Patient Participation Group

Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing is a way of linking patients in primary care with sources of support within the community. In layman's language this means your GP recommending an activity or organisation that may have health benefits for you. Three good examples of this are the Tuesday walking group which meets each week, the Wednesday Tai Chi class in Luckley House and the Community Lunch, also currently at Luckley House. The Friday Tai Chi class will begin when the village hall refurbishment is complete.

Recent research, and the TV programme *Trust Me I'm a Doctor*, have measured the effect of various activities in producing "feel good" chemicals. Top of the list was singing in a group, followed by walking, cycling and dancing. It has long been recognised that exercise is helpful in combating depression but now the research found that these activities help with pain management and long term problems too.

The NHS, in its Five Year Forward View stressed that developing innovative approaches to delivering healthcare are integral to the long-term future of the National Health Service. As early as 1999, the white paper "Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation" was advocating that the NHS should make better use of community support structures and voluntary organisations. In 2006 the Department of Health advocated the introduction of social prescriptions for those with long-term conditions, and NHS England has since announced the appointment of a national clinical champion for social prescribing. With the current Secretary of State for Health also promoting access to non-clinical interventions that take a more 'holistic view', support for social prescribing is significant at the policy level.

Coping with long term conditions can feel isolating and lead to low levels of well being. Social activities have measurable benefits, including fewer visits to hospital and patients reporting feeling happier. We are fortunate that, here in Wye, there are so many activities and organisations in the village.

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Evington Gardeners

Yvonne welcomed members to the first meeting after the summer and introduced this month's speaker. Mr Harmer has an MA in garden history, and the subject of his dissertation was *La Chaire*, which has since been published as a book. His presentation, entitled *La Chaire*, the lost garden of Jersey, traces the history of the garden, situated at Rozel Bay, in the north west corner of Jersey. The garden, described as "Eden with the roof off", featured in the TV series *Hidden Gardens*, presented by Chris Beardshaw, in the early 2000s.

The garden was created by Samuel Curtis, a Victorian plant collector and producer of one of the earliest botanical magazines. He wanted a showcase of imported plants and created a garden at Glazewood in Essex, but after a harsh winter wiped out his Australian collection, he needed to find a location with a more hospitable climate. Rozel fitted all his criteria, a sheltered spot, in a steep valley on volcanic soil and virtually frost free weather. He constructed 'plant pockets' on the steep slopes, filling them with manure and soil, to accommodate his plants, and by 1855, the garden had become a visitor attrac-

tion, known as 'Italy in Jersey', containing a rare collection of acacias.

The work was continued by the garden's second owner, Charles Fletcher, who kept diaries of his progress. The garden went into decline in the 1940s, having been stripped of its important plants during the German occupation of the Channel Islands. The derelict remains of this once significant garden were rediscovered in the early C21st, when the State of Jersey promised a substantial amount of money for the restoration of the garden. The offer was withdrawn after considerable local opposition to the practicalities of a tourist site in this difficult to access location.

The house is a hotel, and the derelict gardens have public access, but bear signs warning of the dangers within. The planting pockets, crumbling steps, ponds, pump house and water tank, and gates can still be seen, along with a few of the plants from Samuel Curtis's collection and some metal plant tags.

Through his research of *La Chaire*, including tracking down living relatives, Mr Harmer gave us a fascinating insight into the lives of the people involved in the garden stressing the importance of photos, postcards and diaries.

Barbara thanked Mr Harmer for an interesting evening. The next meeting will be about the gardens and grounds of Canterbury Cathedral on 20th November.

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Farming Notebook

Positive news and good progress ... Our TB test was clear and autumn planting is complete.

For us the beginning of Autumn is not really a time of the calmness as expressed in that wonderful Keat's line "The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". It is a frantic time. Potato harvest, seed-bed preparation and planting of the winter crops all happening at once with the days getting ever shorter. It is a key time to get the main crops of wheat and oilseed rape well established for the year. And this year a TB test was thrown in for good measure! Fortunately, being in a low risk area our tests come around only every four years. Some farmers in the west of the country in high risk areas endure six monthly intervals. Often being unable to sell or move animals while results are awaited. It must be a nightmare for them.

Nerves abounded when the day arrived. On day 1 for the injections and day 4 for the readings of our TB test.

Our cattle gates and holding pens are set up a bit like the Ikea shopping experience where one

animal follows calmly the one in front. But the wily Sussex cattle are a breed renowned for a very stubborn streak, and often just refuse to move. That means some gentle pushing/heaving from behind is involved, but a moving 600kg of recalcitrance is fairly tiring for us herdsman! On Day 4 an inspecting vet from the "Powers that be" turned up to check our vet was doing the job correctly. More stress and along with the cattle we looked slightly warily at her, but all was fine.

Fortunately our own vet is highly efficient and even had time to carry out some pregnancy checks on key cows. Some of the older girls are scanned and if not in calf, they are kept until their current calves are weaned later in the year and then they sold to go into the food chain. Our cows normally stay with us for many years, but need to go whilst still suitable for meat production, it is all part of the farming cycle.

In the fields weather and machinery hiccups have held up progress. After drilling the crop we roll the seed bed. Firstly this consolidates the soil improving soil /seed contact and makes less room for slug activity. Secondly we can apply a granular herbicide, which is very effective against the problem weeds of blackgrass and wild oats. Blackgrass is becoming the scourge of cereal farms. Once established it can literally take over vast areas of fields and choke

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Farming Cont.

out any cereal crop. It also produces millions of seeds making the problem worse for subsequent years. The only prevention we have is to stop the grass before it emerges from the soil. Once established there is nothing we can do to stop it... Timely pre-emergent application of herbicide can be very effective. As the tiny grass shoot pushes up towards daylight it encounters a very thin barrier of the graminicide and dies.

We have built our own granule applicator on our rolls. There is a hopper with a metering system which is controlled by the forward speed so that the correct dose is applied. A fan blows the granules down tubes to spreader plates, spaced every 0.5 metre, just above the ground and directly in front of the rolls. This ensures that the herbicide is immediately incorporated into the soil surface forming the desired protective barrier.

But after only one field the granular applicator stopped working. The drive motor was over-heating. Investigations began, with a lot of screwdrivers, spanners and time ... The motor was replaced. Same problem. Advice from the manufacturer suggested changing the spacers in the metering system. Still no good. We tried a new cassette body. The problem persisted. All the while

days were passing and the critical window of opportunity was fast closing... Eventually a service engineer was dispatched from Spalding in Lincolnshire to try and get to the bottom of the problem. The only thing left to change were the metering rollers.

By now all the cereal planting was complete and the first field of wheat was already emerging. Luckily the weather held and with long days, working well into the dark we started to catch up.

As the rain clouds darkened and first spots fell we finished rolling the last field... Result!!! What a relief.

Hot weather earlier in the year has created grass and forage shortage for some farmers. We had extra land down to grass, having put grass seed into the rotation. That meant we had extra cuts of silage in May and September as well as the threshed hay baled after the combine in August. That makes a very good additional feed for the cows in the late autumn, when the grass growth is limited. So despite lower yields of forage all round, our larger area will buffer us against shortage. Talking to one of our local dairy farmers he told me that he does hold over some forage from the previous year for this eventuality. Not quite the seven years of plenty stored for seven year of famine as in biblical tales, but a little reminiscent perhaps. The cows are enjoying ad lib

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Farming Cont.

threshed hay to supplement the autumn grazing.

We have been surprised by two cows who decided to give birth last week. We had assumed they were empty as they did not calve in the spring. They must have been caught by the bull whilst in the yards in

January. Both calves are of a good size and enjoying the late autumn sunshine.

With the new arrivals, completion of the potato harvest, finishing drilling, getting the rolling done, and having a negative TB test, there is a real feeling of relief, satisfaction and exhaustion all rolled into one. A good feeling...

W Wilson-Haffenden

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