

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



August 2021 40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council
www.elmstedpc.org.uk

Hastingleigh Parish Council
www.hastingleighpc.org.uk

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

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

ECP Hon Sec

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Evington Community Choir

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Mrs H Ransley 01233 750949

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585



August

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

As I sit and write this editorial on an extremely hot day it is supposed to be "Freedom Day" but with Covid cases still rising, I will still be wearing my mask in busy places.

We had two photos sent in for the front cover. Jean Ashford took one from the back of her horse Joey near to the telephone exchange and Derek Hart sent one in of his two sheepdogs cooling off during shearing (page 15). Please remember to send photos in portrait and not landscape.

There is a beautiful photograph from Great Holt in the centre showcasing Delphiniums and The Bowl Inn has updated their advert with the opening times.

As ever, please send in articles and photographs to be included. I have a few old postcards and hope to be able to do a "then and now" section.

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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.

Editor: elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk
Advertising: advertising.communitynews@gmail.com
Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com
Or write to: The Secretary, 1 Bowl Field, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HT.

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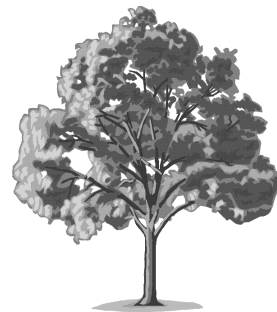
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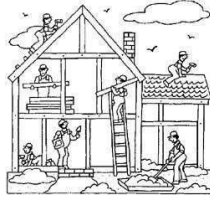
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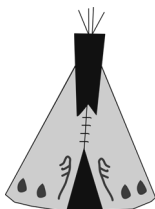
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

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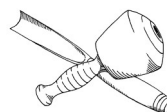
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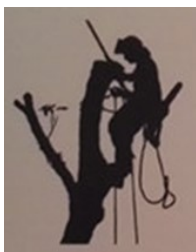
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In The Garden

August is harvest time on the farms and, traditionally, school holidays centred round the month so the children can be at home to help. Can be useful in the garden too if persuaded to help with a watering can or, more likely, a hosepipe if the weather is hot! August is typically the hottest month of the year and watering of precious plants may be essential. "Grey" or stored water is the first choice, saving the cleanest and best mains water for drinking and cooking. Water butts to collect roof water are a valuable resource and for our eighteenth century cottage we have an original underground brick tank, rendered to make it waterproof, that holds some 4000 litres of roof water. Before the 1930s when the mains started to be laid up in these hills it was the sole source of water for this house, for we have no garden well. In times of need we lower a submersible pump down into it to pump water for the garden.

If you have Wisteria, this is the month to prune it together with summer flowering shrubs such as lavender once they have finished flowering. Lavender especially benefits from a good tight prune to stop it becoming straggly. Other flowering plants can still be deadheaded to extend their flowering time.

Soft fruits such as red and black currants, gooseberries and the like can be summer pruned as their fruiting period ends and, as the summer raspberries finish fruiting the old canes can be removed leaving the new growth to grow on ready to be trained for the following year's fruit. The first autumn fruiting raspberries may well start producing a harvest this month which, with luck can go on for a long time.

Late August is a great time to sow hardy annuals for a good early showing next year. Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanu*) is one of my favourites with its dark blue daisy-like flowers from spring to mid summer – hence its name as it grew amongst cereals in the fields before herbicides finished it off. Pot Marigold (*Calendula officinalis*) will also make a pretty showing although the slugs adore it too. Others to try are Flax (*Linum grandiflorum*), Honesty (*Lunaria annua*)

and Love-in-a-mist (*Nigella daascena*) although once you have Love-in-a-mist in your garden you may never need to sow it again as it is delightfully self seeding. I love it. All these can be sown direct into the soil in drills or broadcast although, personally, I prefer sowing into modules for planting out a little later.

Prune climbing and rambling Roses that do not repeat flower or produce attractive hips, once the flowers have finished. Pinks and Carnations can be propagated by layering – peg the stems down with a bit of wire. Softwood cuttings of deciduous shrubs such as Forsythia, Caryopteris, Lavender and Rosemary can all be done this month. Most softwood cuttings are nodal so cut about 5 – 10 cm just below a leaf joint where there is a concentration of hormones that will stimulate root production. Remove the lower leaves and pinch out the soft tip and dip the base of the cutting in hormone rooting powder before making a hole in some potting compost and inserting the cutting with the first pair of leaves just above the surface. Place this in good but not direct sunlight with a plastic bag over the top to conserve moisture (removing it for a while to ventilate twice a week) and make sure the compost is moist. Roots should be evident after 2 to 4 weeks when the baby plants can be re-potted individually and gradually hardened off.

Fred

Walking Group

Five of us, plus Maurice the dog, met at the hall at 6pm for our monthly walk on the 14th July. We went down to the church, through the towering bean plants, thankful that it was a dry evening. Passing the church, we climbed the hill up to Kingsmill down, with time to admire the view from the top. We then came back down the road and back to the village via the Pilgrims lane, at a leisurely pace. It was a pleasant little walk and it was good to feel the warmth of the sun on our backs as we went up the hill.

The next walk will be another evening ramble, on the 8th September, meeting at the Hall at 6pm.

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I.

I've been reading the reports from our Institute's meetings from 1991, and would like to share with you some of what I found. April's speaker told of his visit to Mount Everest, showing slides of mountain scenery, ornate monasteries and wild flowers. His group walked for 24 days and slept under canvas at night. July's meeting was held in Hastingleigh Church as the church warden, Arthur Marsh, had agreed to give members a guided tour of the church. Mrs. Nancollas presided over the meeting in the back pews. Members were interested to learn that the door on the north side of the church was always left open during baptisms so that the Devil would get out! September's meeting was a knitting evening. Members were shown a continental way of casting on, 'with varying degrees of success'. The competition was for a knitted square, and as most entrants had knitted extra squares, Mrs. Traynor had volunteered to sew them into a blanket. There were events planned at both local and county level, including a concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Barbican, a Group Quiz, a financial conference, a four day trip to Luxembourg and the European Parliament in Strasbourg, a competition for dolls to be dressed in national costumes and a workshop on how to make hanging baskets.

We hope to be back meeting in the Hall very soon. As I write this, we are arranging a committee meeting to work out how to keep our meetings Covid secure using the Hall guidance. We will be in touch with members to let you know our start date, and once we're up and running again, we'd love to see anyone who would be interested in joining us.

Fiona Steward

Bodsham School News

As we begin our summer holidays it's always important to reflect on the year just gone. And in this unprecedented and historic year it seems there is more to reflect upon than ever! I am astounded to think about how our school community have had to adapt and change with often little notice, learn new ways of working and being, and develop resilience to all the new 'normals'. Our children have flourished despite all the ups and downs and deserve much praise and congratulations, and the staff have supported and guided them through this territory, unfamiliar to all. Everyone deserves their rest now, to recover from the ever changing life at school, and gather renewed strength for whatever our next school year will bring. So it is with pride and admiration that I wish our school and wider community a restful holiday.

Paul Newton, Executive Headteacher

Evington Community Project CLUB

The winning numbers for the July 2021 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 74

2nd Prize: No: 105

3rd Prize: No: 113

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

There is one number left for the 2021 draw. If you would like to purchase this number, please contact Robin on 01233 750236 or Tracey on 01233 750415 or email evingtoncommunityproject@gmail.com

The Evington Hall

Re-Opening

We are pleased to announce that the hall will be re-opening to our Regular User groups from 19 July 2021. We hope to be able to welcome bookings from ad hoc hirers from 01 January 2022.

All hirers need to visit the website where the Hall's updated policy and procedure documents are available, along with interactive booking forms - one for regular users and one for ad hoc hirers.

<http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk/>

These documents outline the Hall trustees' responsibilities to hirers and the hirers' responsibilities to trustees during any hire period. By signing a booking form the hirer undertakes to comply with all our terms and conditions and to adhere to our policy and procedure documents.



Sheep dogs cooling off during shearing.
Photo from Derek Hart

Evington Gardeners

Delightful Delphiniums

The gardening society was invited by David McFarland to visit his garden at Holt Lodge, Bodsham, on the 7th July, an invitation that was accepted with alacrity given the lack of activities over the past year. David's speciality is delphiniums and we were looking forward to a spectacular display. Due to covid restrictions, it was an informal visit, with the garden open between 4 and 6 pm, and he regretted that he would not be able to serve refreshments. On the morning before our visit, he rang to say the weather had caused damage to his delphiniums, but, that we were still welcome.

We thought the weather could not have decimated all the delphiniums, and anyway, there would be the rest of the garden to enjoy. We were not disappointed, and although lots of the stems had been broken by the wind, there were still many more still upright to create a magnificent display of flowers with a variety of beautiful, delphinium colours. The broken stems had been collected and put in vases and some of us were able to bring some home. The roses, both in the rose garden and the borders were also stunning, as were all the other areas of the garden. It is a beautifully manicured garden in a lovely setting, and we were lucky to have visited on a pleasant evening, when the weather was kind.

Thank you to David, we really appreciated the chance to see such a wonderful garden.

HR



Holt Lodge

Wye PPG

73 Years of the NHS. Then and Now

The NHS celebrated its 73rd birthday on Monday 5 July, just as Kent and Medway recorded administering 2 million doses of the Covid vaccine since the first batches became available just over six months ago. Perhaps, at this point, it is worth reflecting on the momentous changes in health, life expectancy and the evolving Health Service that have taken place since 5 July 1948, when antibiotics had only recently become generally available.

The establishment of the NHS was the boldest of the ventures made during the period of reconstruction after the Second World War. The Act which brought it into being was passed in an atmosphere of controversy and there has been continuing criticism of its working since. However, whatever its shortcomings, the establishment of NHS was a powerful recognition by the community that the maintenance of health and treatment of sickness are public responsibilities and services should be free to all. 73 years on, these remain the core underpinning principles of the service.

At the time, the thinking was that if you could improve the health of the nation by eliminating disease, then there would be less need for doctors rather than more. In fact, we quickly learned that the opposite is true. Helping people to live longer means that health needs are infinite, but we only have finite human and other resources to tackle the increasingly complex range of health and related issues that confront us. The pandemic has brought this fact home, with painful impacts on all aspects of delivery of health and welfare services and, in particular, the need to provide online socially distanced rather than the face-to-face interactions that were largely the norm before. Both patients and medical staff have found the abrupt transition extremely difficult and frustrating. The relationship between doctor and patient, described in 1953 as 'the true basis of the family doctor's life and often his chief reward' has increasingly been under threat over the last 18 months.

The pressing need now is for doctors and patients to renegotiate that relationship by seeking constructive ways forward that avoid leaving many patients feeling frustrated and anxious and doctors feeling overwhelmed by the backlog of treatments and a demanding programme of vaccine roll out which looks likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

We are all in this together.

Judith Timms, PPG Chair.



So They Do Say...!

The press has reported the public's opposition to the importing of chlorine washed chicken from the USA. Pre-packaged salads are washed in chlorinated water in the UK and our local water supply also contains added chlorine. (The Spectator)

USA in 2021: There have been over 220 mass shootings so far this year. 17,000 people have died as a result of firearm crimes.

When recycling cardboard, it must be kept dry. If the cardboard becomes wet, the fibres swell and it is then discarded by recycling plants as worthless. Thousands of tons of wet cardboard and paper which people imagine they have dutifully recycled, is binned by local councils. Only put it out for collection when the weather is dry.

When putting out material for recycling, any food left on, or in, packaging, will contaminate a whole truckload of otherwise, 'recyclable' waste. (The Spectator)

About five thousand people in the USA and two hundred people in the UK choke to death on food each year. Americans are five times more likely to asphyxiate while eating than Britons. (The Press)

Before 1917, car tyres were white, the natural colour of rubber. They were later dyed black to prevent sun damage.

Putting milk in your cup before the tea makes it taste creamier.

TW

Farming Notebook

I usually use this article to keep you informed as to what is happening on the farm. So, what is going on? Absolutely nothing!

We are enduring day after day of dull, dank, mild and generally miserable weather. Any appearance of the sun is fleeting at best. Nothing is ripening. We are already ten days late in desiccating the oilseed rape which sets the clock ticking. Usually two to three weeks after the spray, the crop is ready for harvest. I am not aware of anyone that has started harvest. Winter barleys are often ready at the beginning of July, particularly on the lighter chalk soils, but not this year.

Apart from the delay, I am concerned that the lack of sunshine will have an impact on the specific weight of the cereals. Yield is made up of the number of ears per square metre, the number of grains per ear and the weight of each grain. It is the latter that will suffer. Not only will the grains not fill as they should due to lack of sunshine, but also the plants as a whole are under an unprecedented pressure from fungal diseases which love this weather. Some wheat varieties have completely broken down to yellow rust. And Septoria, which is spread by rain splashing the fungal spores over the leaves, is now spreading onto the flag leaves. It is fortunate that we decided to put on a late fungicide to protect the ears and flag leaves and hopefully protect yield. To give some idea of the importance of specific weight - the weight of a volume of grain measured in Kg/Hl (Kilogrammes per hectolitre) – in 2020 our average was 82Kg/Hl. The minimum standard for feed wheat is 72Kg/Hl and for milling wheat it is 76Kg/Hl. In 2021 I am expecting that our average will be around the feed wheat minimum levels. This is a 14% yield reduction just because of the “summer” weather. The number of ears per square metre are the same, the number of grains per ear are the same, the size of the heap in store will be the same, but the weight will be 14% less.

On the bright side, the oilseed rape looks good, and we should be able to burn it off early next week. The spring oats too look

promising. All our cereals entered for seed production have passed their field inspections. Our seed potatoes have also passed the second statutory field inspection. For all the seed crops it is always a great relief once field certification has been achieved, and financially significant too.

Just over two weeks ago the potatoes had their first field inspection. At that time we did a couple of digs to see what was happening underground. The roots were showing the first signs of “hooking”. This is when the end of the root forms a hook and begins to swell. The beginnings of a tuber, or “tuber initiation”. Yesterday we did another dig and found 10-12 well developed tubers per plant with the largest being already 50mm in diameter. Phenomenal growth in just two weeks... We will now start our regular test digs to monitor tuber growth so that we can accurately assess when the crop needs to be topped to stop further growth. Elizabeth, ably assisted by Molly will dig 2x 2 metres of each variety, and then sieve and weigh each size fraction to establish potential yield and predict a topping date. The nearer we get to the optimum size range, the more frequent the digs.

All the cattle look very well, and are still navel deep in grass. Hopefully all the cows will now be in calf. The bulls are still running with the cows and will be ever vigilant if they sense a cow “bulling”. This will only happen if for some reason the cow did not take in its last cycle or perhaps the embryo aborted. So far I have not noticed any cows returning to the bull, so fingers crossed...

The calves are growing rapidly. Their mums have plenty of milk, and all the youngsters are now very used to visiting the creep feeder for a little snack. The creep is a feed hopper which allows only the calves free access. It is kept topped up at all times to allow ad lib feeding. As the calves grow it is surprising how frequently we have to fill the hopper.

On a political level, I was pleased to read that the UK government have grown weary of the EU not allowing the import of any seed potatoes from the UK, whilst we have allowed the EU free access to our market since January. No more. As of today no imports from the EU will be allowed. Let us hope that this will focus a few minds and

good sense will prevail. While on the subject, it might be worth mentioning that the French and other neighbouring EU countries are trying to stifle movement of goods from the UK with mountains of paperwork, whilst access to the UK remains much as it was before Brexit. All this adds cost and causes delay. What is good for the goose....?

I have just finished watching the series of “Clarkson’s Farm” on Amazon. Despite the entertainment of the programme and the characters involved, it has been a very positive portrayal of farming. I think the PR for our industry has been very good and worth a decade of BBC’s Countryfile. Mr Clarkson conveyed the frustration of incessant rain, the despair of complete loss of a crop due to a pest attack, the emotional rollercoaster of new life in the lambing shed and taking barren ewes to the abattoir, and all for a wage of 40p/hr! At the end of it all he said despite the ups and the downs and the long hours it was the happiest he had ever been. I know how he feels....



Library Van



The mobile library van is now
due to come on
Tuesday 3rd August
9.45 to 10.15 at Hall. Books
have to be pre-ordered and
returned in a plastic bag.

<u>Date</u>		Church Services
01/08	First Sunday	9:30 –Petham – Communion
08/08	Second Sun-day	9:30 –Waltham – Communion
15/08	Third Sunday	9:30 – <u>Elmsted – Communion</u>
22/08	Fourth Sunday	9:30 –Hastingleigh – Communion
29/08	Fifth Sunday	10:30 – Benefice service at Wye
<p>All communion services are for all four congregations to worship together.</p> <p>Please do not attend if you are at all unwell</p> <p>All are subject to it being considered safe for our church services to continue - For up to date service info after the magazine goes to print, visit the Wye Benefice website.</p> <p>https://www.wyebenefice.org.uk</p>		

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

	St Mary's	St James
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Aug 14 th Aug 21 st	Dr & Mrs Lawson Mrs Day	Mrs Gregory Mrs Fagg
Aug 28 th Sept 4 th	Mrs Morris Mrs French	Mrs Denny Mrs Healy

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
 mailto: revlorrainelawrence@icloud.com. Churchwardens: Roz Bacon
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