





### Family Friendly All Age Services this Christmas.

Sunday December 3rd, PETHAM church.
Advent Service, 4.00pm.

Sunday December 17th, PETHAM church. Nativity service, 11.00 (rehearsal 10.00 Saturday)

Sunday December 17th, ELMSTED Church. Family Carols with tea and stained glass window building.

Sunday December 24th, HASTINGLEIGH Church.
Traditional Nativity Service with Rehearsal and church
decorating on Friday 22nd at 10.00.

### **SEASONAL THANKS**

Evington Community Project will be holding the annual seasonal morning of mulled wine and mince pies.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December in Evington Village Hall from 10.30am – 12.00pm

We will also be holding an additional draw of the 100+ Club with four additional Prizes! Come along and see if you are a winner.

### December & January

### in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

A BIG thank-you to Year 5 at Bodsham Primary School for their efforts in providing a selection of seasonal artwork for our front cover.

Deciding which was the best design was a hard choice for the judges and the winning artist is Chloe Buckland, aged 10. Ava Costick, aged 10, and Finley Richardson, aged 9, were runners-up.

As well as a striking cover, this edition has some features that I hope will pique your interest: historical memories and maps are still issuing from Elmsted, page 19; there's a lovely piece about the Community Choir, page 7; and, at last, a letter page 9.

Views on the subject of the letter, and on any other, are welcome and will be treated in the strictest confidence if requested.

Which leaves just enough space to wish readers Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the *Community News* committee.

The Editor

### **Contents**

The Walkers	3
<b>Gardening Society</b>	5
<b>Community Choir news</b>	7
Letters to the Editor	9
Parish Upon The Hills	11
'So they do say'	12
Church services	13
Cleaning & flowers	<b>15</b>
Diary Dates	16
Village news 16 &	17
The WI	<b>17</b>
History	19
Wye Surgery News	29

### **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.

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# Ramblings from the village walkers



### Five brave cold winds for views and ewes

IVE walkers left the Evington Hall amid light cloud, sunny intervals and a blustery wind straight from the arctic.

We walked towards the pond and then along Tamley Lane where we turned right, followed the footpath to the crossroads and turned left along the road towards New Barn.

We picked up the North Downs Way and continued to the top of the Devil's Kneading Trough, enjoying the fine views from the top of the hill.

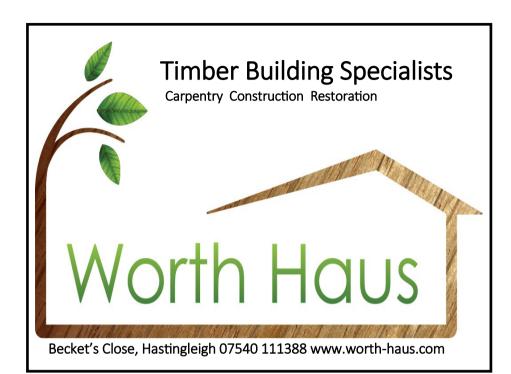
We then turned right behind the Crown restaurant, down through the wood, along a short piece of road by Robertsdane, up the hill to Staple Lees and back to Rayshalay for cake and a

cuppa. A total of 4.5 miles. On the way we saw a sheep with its head stuck in the fence. I phoned the farmer who later told me that it had freed itself by the time he had come to inspect it.

We also saw Chestnut
Mushrooms and Toadstools,
Hawthorne and Holly in full berry and mixed woodland
planting. It felt as though Autumn is coming to an end.

 Our next walk on December 10th will start from Bulltown at approximately 1.45pm.

Those walking should meet at the Hall at 1.30pm when transport sharing will be arranged. RH



### **Wye Beauty**

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# Learning to plant in the shadows

### Report from the Gardeners' Society

T the November meeting the Evington Gardeners' society welcomed Janine Doulton to present a talk entitled Gardening in the Shade.

Mrs Doulton is an RHS judge who specialises in narcissi, and who has experience of gardening in shaded locations.

The presentation came about because she is frequently asked about which plants grow well under trees.

Her slide show featured clear photos of different varieties of both ordinary and more unusual plants, ranging from shrubs to perennials, grasses and bulbs, together with valuable information concerning soil type and conditions and some very useful propagation and management tips.

She also gave helpful suggestions as to which nurseries, local and

further afield, from where plants could be obtained. The show ended with a few slides entitled slides for inspiration, most featuring Sissinghurst gardens, showing shade-loving plants in situ, under trees.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Party on 12th December at 7:30pm, with music by the Studio Players and Trevor Wye, followed by cheese and wine.

**Helen Ransley** 

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# Social side of singing



### 'What the choir means to me...'

ARLY in my life in Scotland, at a time when the world-famous Glasgow Orpheus Choir was at the height of its fame, to be able to sing in a choir was my dearest ambition.

My mother had a fine singing voice which, sadly, I did not inherit and, although I loved music and could hold a tune (sort of) my voice lacked power, so I never achieved my dream, despite auditioning every year for the annual school productions of Gilbert & Sullivan Operas.

Apart from singing in two very amateur choirs at Christmas in my journeyings around the world, I had almost given up hope until, at a low point in my life, a kind friend introduced me to the Evington Community Choir, which has brightened my week ever since.

Not only have I made new friends, but I come home each week invigorated and humming all the

tunes. We have even been invited to sing in public, at Christmas, at the Hastingleigh Village fete, in the rain, and recently, at a Ruby Wedding.

Without Celia's expertise, patience and good humour, so ably assisted by Chris, none of this would have been possible.

They have both brought a special kind of happiness into our lives.

So, if singing in a choir appeals to you, please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at Evington Village Hall. **PM** 

 The Evington Community choir will be appearing on Advent Sunday at Petham Church and the new term begins on January 3, 2018, do come and join us for fun and friendship, especially if you think you can't sing.

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## Letters to the Editor

The minutes of Hastingleigh Parish Council published in November's *News* has prompted a response from one of our readers.

Part of the report regarding the pond stated: "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 Editor received an email about this matter and, on request of the sender, has kept it anonymous.

ITH reference to November's *News* to 'a parishioner' interfering with the village pond:

For years I have cut back overhanging branches which have obscured the road signs as well as cutting back nettles and patching bare spots with grass seed.

I have also periodically cleaned the village road signs including the approach roads and the signs at the pond. I worked on the pond at the end of September in



exasperation because it had become a disgrace during the summer months, a fact commented on by several residents.

Why was the pond allowed to get into such a mess during the summer? Was this unkind comment in the council meeting a tactic to cover up incompetence?

With reference to your contractor's inability to remove the weeds: why wasn't the weed removal done in the summer when they were in full growth? My gardening expert suggested that this job is best done at this time. Perhaps the Council should get professional advice in future?

If the Council would rather the pond be left to a contractor to clean up, I would have thought a letter or phone call asking me to stop any further work would have been kinder.

A Parishioner

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## The Parish upon the Hills

CAN'T believe it's nearly Christmas already! It seems like only a few days ago that Nikki, the children and I were lying by a pool in the Costa Del Sol. How did that happen?!

And yet last Christmas seems like ages ago. Possibly because this time last year, the church was still a building site and we were having our weekly services in Wye School (a.k.a. the Free School) and our daily service of Morning Prayer in the old college chapel.

in church in time for The Big Day and thanks to B.W. May (who must ing-up, we're going to try somebe the best builders in England having finished the job ahead of schedule and under budget!) we were.

Our first service in the reordered - and much warmer church was on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December and we were really looking forward to showing off the new, movable pews and taking advantage of the flexibility, they afford us at our biggest service of the year, the Crib as any character from the nativity

service on Christmas Eve. And if you were there, I hope you agree that it was a huge success.

We set up a stage in the middle of the church on which some of the children enacted a living crib scene (so not quite a nativity play because we had older children as narrators telling the story).

Anyway, that was lovely but we then had to get the church back into its normal setting for Midnight Mass so this year, to Clearly, we wanted to be back give everyone a break while also preserving the fun factor of dressthing different.

> We're using the Bible Society's 'Pop-up Nativity' which is called The Greatest Journey and is modelled on the popular children's story 'We're Going On a Bear Hunt'.

> So, lots of opportunity for interactivity both in terms of pantomime-style call and response and dressing up. So please come

### All welcome in fancy dress

story (angels, shepherds, donkeys etc) or, this being 2017 (nearly 2018) anything else that takes your fancy: Princess Elsa or Iron Man and children are encouraged to wear costumes too!

Meanwhile, we will be singing the classic Christmas carols and any children or young people (or, indeed, adults) who would like to be part of the orchestra are welcome to fill in one of the forms which you can pick up from the church. Please also note that this year the service will be starting at the slightly earlier time of 4.30pm.

So, I hope to see you there or at one of our other Christmas services but whether I do or not, may God bless you and your family this Christmas and throughout 2018.

Ravi Holy

## 'So they do say...'

ANY years ago, there was a gravedigger at work at St Mary's. On approaching him to ask whose grave it was, he stopped digging, pushed his cap back on his head, looking a little sheepish.

'Well no one has actually died, as such,' he said. 'Then, why?'

'Well, you see I'm not actually a gravedigger. I do this to 'elp out, like '

'So, how do you know when to prepare a grave?'

'Y'see, I can't just come any old time and start digging. I need lots of notice so's I can get time off my job.

'There's a chap in your village who warns me that I need to prepare a grave. It seems that when someone is very ill, he tips me the wink, 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): 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

## Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills

Dec		
Dec 3	First Sunday	4.30pm Petham - Group Advent for all four churches with Evington choir, hand bell ringers, School singers, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
Dec 10	Second Sun- day	8:00am Waltham - BCP Communion. 10:00 Bodsham School - Messy Christmas.11am Petham - Communion
Dec 16	Saturday	10am Petham – Rehearsal for Nativity the following day
Dec 17	Third Sunday	11am Petham -Nativity Service, with rehearsal the day before at about 10am. 3pm Elmsted - family Craft and Carols. 4pm Waltham - traditional Carol Service.
Dec 24	Fourth Sun- day	4pm Hastingleigh - Nativity, fun for the whole family. 11pm Waltham - midnight mass.
Dec 25	Christmas Day	10am Petham- Family Communion. 10am – Hastingleigh - Communion
Dec 31	Fifth Sunday	10:30am – Wye - Benefice service for all Wye Benefice churches
Jan		_
Jan 7	First Sunday	9:30am – Hastingleigh – Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham
Jan 14	Second Sun- day	8am - Waltham – BCP Communion, 10.00 Bodsham School - Messy Church 11am - Petham - Communion
Jan 21	Third Sunday	9:30 Waltham Communion 11am Hastingleigh Communion 11am Petham Family Service (No Communion) 5pm Elmsted Choral Evensong
Jan 28	Fourth Sun- day	9:30 Elmsted Communion 11am Hastingleigh Communion 11am Petham Family Communion

See Page 15 for the cleaning and flower rota.

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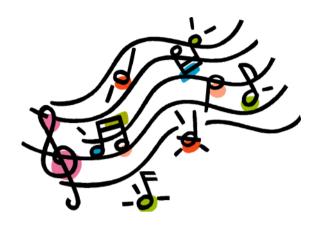
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### THE BOWL INN



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Cleaning and flower rota				
	St Mary's	St James'		
Nov 25 <sup>th</sup>	Dr & Mrs Lawson	Mrs Healy		
Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs Day	Mrs Denny		
Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs S Boxall	Mrs McFarlane		
Dec 16th	Mrs Pell	Mrs Hewson		
Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs Bowes	Mrs Fox		
Dec 30th	Mrs Helmer	Mrs Leutner		
Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Morris	Mrs Green		
Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Waters	Mrs Calcutt		
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Hewes, Mrs Healy	Mrs London		
Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Perez, Mrs French	Ms Flitney, Mrs Francesconi		

### Diary dates

From www.evingtonhall.org.uk

#### Dec

5 Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
6 Wed	Coffee Morning	10.30
6 Wed	Community Choir	19.00
8 Fri	Whist Drive	19.00
10 Sun	Walkers meet	13.30
12 Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
12 Tue	Library van	09.45
12 Gard	eners' party	19.30
14 Thu	Elmsted PC	19.30
16 Sat	Prep for concert	09.00
16 Sat	Music and dinner	19.00
23 Sat	ECP Thanks	10.00
Jan		
1 Mon	Walkers	11.00
	Coffee Morning	10.30
	Community Choir	19.00
4 Thu	Art Group	09.30
4 Thu	WI meeting	19.30
9 Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
9 Tue	Library van	09.45
10 Wed	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	19.00
11 Thu	Art Group	09.30
16 Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
	eners' Society	19.30
	Community Choir	19.00
18 Thu	Art Group	09.30
23 Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
23 Tue	Library Van	09.45
	Community Choir	19.00
25 Thu	Art Group	09.30
27 Sat	Jumble Sale	14.00
30 Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
31 Wed	Community Choir	19.00

## Thanks from hall committee

ON behalf of the Hall Committee I would like to thank everyone who donated items for the stalls at the Christmas Bazaar.

Our next major fundraising event for the hall is the jumble sale On Saturday Jan 27<sup>th</sup> and offers of jumble will be much appreciated (contact Sheila Burrage 01233 750375).

Due to regulations please be aware that we cannot sell electrical items or cope with large articles. **SB** 

### Advertise with us

Get your business advertising seen in 200 households in the Hastingleigh and Elmsted areas through this magazine.

Contact Ali on: shepandali@hotmail.com

## Tickets left for 'Cinders'

EVINGTON Community Project has reserved tickets at this year's Folkestone Community Theatre production of *Cinderella* at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on Saturday 30th December at 2pm.

The ticket price (heavily subsidised by ECP) is £10 for adults and £5 for children 15 and under. To book tickets, please contact Sue Boxall on 01233 750206 or email:

<u>sueboxall@btinternet.com</u>.Tickets are limited so please book asap.

## Christmas market at Wye

IF you want your Christmas produce fresh from the fields then don't miss the special Christmas market at Wye Farmers' Market on Dec 23. The previous market is on 16 Dec 9am - 12pm.

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.

THE latest winning numbers for the ECP Project 100 club are: 1<sup>st</sup>: 64, 2nd: 103, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 78

### Women's Institute

E met on Thursday the 2nd of November at the Evington Hall. Fifteen members attended, and we also welcomed a guest.

Our November meeting is our Annual Meeting where we hear reports for the past year from our Treasurer and our Secretary.

The President, Mrs Argar, also read her report for the year, and included her thanks to us, the members.

We then voted for President for the next year. It was an even split and Mrs Argar decided that she would like to step down as President, so your correspondent is delighted and honoured to take that position.

November is when we always have a Bring and Share supper. As usual, we had a great variety of dishes to enjoy, while we caught up on each other's news.

Our December meeting will be a meal out, and our next meeting in the Evington Hall will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of January at 7.30pm where any new members will be made most welcome.

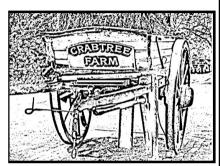
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## The road from Wye to Stone St

THERE is a private estate map of The George pub in Elmsted dated 1698.

The pub is in Stone Street and just north of it is today's Misling Lane. However that road in 1698 was described as "From Wye: The Road to Stone Street".

On later OS maps at this Tjunction were windmills either side of Stone Street.

A 1686 map of "Eveington Leeze" (the area either side of today's road from Evington Lodge to Hastingleigh pond) shows a thoroughfare running east from the other side of the pond to the road from Hastingleigh church.

The map states that it was the "Kings Heigh Way to Wye". Today it is a byway. Tracing this road from The George through Elmsted to Wye has proved interesting.

The direct route from Misling Lane is across the valley to Hill Street but no lane or track to Hill Street is evident from any published map. It must therefore have gone along Maxted Street down and up the hill to Whatsole Street.

The road past the church only went to Helchin so the route must have been along Whatsole Street to Whatsole Street Farm. From there is (now) a little used overgrown way sometimes called Smugglers Lane.

It goes down to the road to Kingsmill. It crosses this road and goes along the road to Hastingleigh church and connects on the right with today's byway to Hastingleigh pond as marked on the 1686 map.

Getting to Wye from
Hastingleigh in those days was not a simple matter. Where the road from Hastingleigh met the road from Brabourne to Waltham a choice had to be made. Do you:

A) turn left and go down a steep hill and go along the lower road beneath the Downs past the road to Brook to the road to Wye?

**B**) go to the next crossroads and use the road to Cold Blow and go down a steep hill to the lower road? **C**) carry on to the top of the

### **General Builders and Property Maintenance**



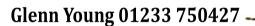






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Downs and go down another steep hill?

The Andrews & Dury map of 1769 was used by Hasted in his Kent History. Although nicely presented roads were in many respects only indicative. This is apparent from the Government's official Ordnance Survey Engineers' field drawings of 1789 which show that for the options above:

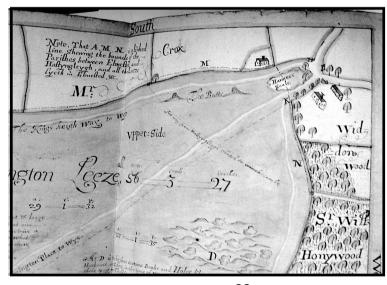
A long detour and no evidence of a connecting road from the Brabourne road to the lower road.

This road deteriorates after Cold Blow to an unmarked track.

This road goes down the hill to the ZigZag Farm entrance. At this point was a junction. One road went left up past Wyncot to the top of the Downs. The other road went straight on and curved also to the top of the Downs. From here the map then shows a double dotted track down the hill past the junction to Brook and Crundale down to Wye. This is considered to be the direct route because in addition, the 1840 Hastingleigh Tithe Map drawn by an official surveyor at the point where Wye parish met the Hastingleigh boundary, were the words "From Wye."

In past times rural roads were nothing more than dirt tracks that turned to mud in the winter and baked rock hard in the summer. Either way, movement along these roads was difficult and at certain times of the year, practically impossible.

Laws from 1555 compelled every parish to look after the roads that ran through their area. However as very few villagers travelled they were not particularly interested



Hastingleigh pond can be seen in the top right of this map.
Note: South is at the top of the map.

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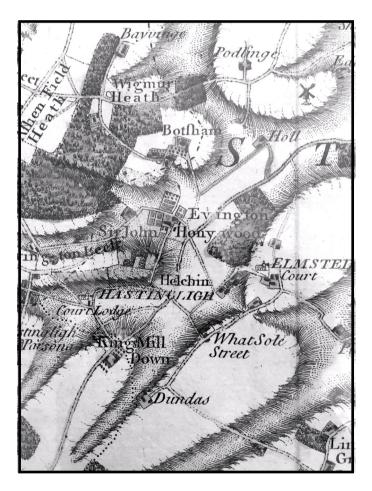
For personal attention And free estimates (01227) 709376 (07973) 480241 in doing this task as it seemed to offer them no benefits.

1910 titled "Wye, going-up the Downs".

It is narrow and not tarmaced but seemed in good condition. For Elmsted the parish council in their 1895 meeting estimated that they needed £105 15s 11d for maintenance of roads. Roads were overlaid Giants Grave". with tarmac later in the 1900s.

Route C) passes the Wye Crown which commemorates the coronation of However there is a postcard of King Edward VII in 1902. Nearby the 1840 Wye Tithe Map shows "Roman Camp" and "Giants Grave". The 1872 OS map shows a cross with the words "British Camp - site of" and "The Giant's Grave (Tumulus)". The 1907 OS map shows the crown, a cross, "Caves, Earthworks - site of" and "The

**History Enthusiast** 



Following memories of a childhood at Helchin in last month's News, Chris Calcutt of Elmsted has sent in an image of a map dated 1769 which shows the Helchin Hill road but clearly shows some other roads that either no longer exist at all or are now just footpaths. (Apologies for the quality)

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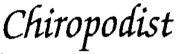
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## The Bowl Inn Hastingleigh Christmas Opening Times 2017

Sunday 24th December- 12 until 10pm

Monday 25th December- 12 until 3pm

Tuesday 26th December- 12 until 3pm

Wednesday 27th December- Closed

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December- 5 until 9pm

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December- 5 until 9pm

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December- 12 until 10pm

New Year's Eve (Fancy Dress- Movie stars)

5pm until late

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January- Closed

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January- Closed

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January- 5 until 9pm

All other opening times are as normal Please contact us on 01233 750354 for further enquiries

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Christmas Eve - 12 noon to 10pm

Christmas Day - Closed

Boxing Day – 12 noon to 7pm

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December – 4pm to 10.30pm

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December – 4pm to 10.30pm

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December - 12 noon to 10.30pm

New Year's Eve - 6pm to 2am, tickets £10

New Year's Day - Closed

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## Goodwill for lonely and elderly

### From Wye Surgery

HRISTMAS is portrayed as the season of goodwill and social gatherings. The television shows advertisements of happy families gathered together, romantic couples.

But what if that isn't your reality? What if, especially during the cold weather, you don't go out, your family don't live close by, or you don't have family and friends who visit?

Loneliness and social isolation can feel worse at Christmas than at other times. This can have a physical as well as an emotional impact on people.

There have been many research studies looking at the effect of loneliness and social isolation on people of all ages and results have shown some shocking conclusions:

Lonely people had a 50 per cent increased risk of early death compared to those with good social connections, the increased mortality risk is comparable to that from smoking and loneliness is about twice as dangerous as obesity. Social isolation im-

pairs immune function and boosts inflammation, which can lead to arthritis, Type II diabetes, and heart disease.

Loneliness has doubled, 40 percent of adults in two recent surveys said they were lonely, up from 20 percent in the 1980s.

What are the practical implications of these studies? We are more likely to stay healthy if we have social support from loved ones, friends and acquaintances.

There are many organisations which provide support and advice for people feeling lonely but often the first step to accessing support is the hardest.

So, what can each of us do to help? Many of us are aware of a neighbour who doesn't go out to activities, doesn't have many visitors and maybe is house-bound.

Could you spare a few minutes to knock on their door to say 'Hello', offer to accompany them to an activity or visit from time to time?

If we ourselves are feeling isolated, be brave and pick up the phone! Age Concern in Ashford (01233 668765) is there to help, as is the Parishes Visiting Team (01233 813 360).

Stay well and well connected this December.

Penny Haynes Chair, Wye Surgery PPG

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or call: 01227 709156

### The Lord Whisky Sanctuary Fund (Registered Charity No: 283483)

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Join us at Park House for a very special Christmas Celebration with the Capralama Farm Reindeer.
Saturday 23rd December at 2pm
Crib Scene and Carols with Hon. Pasteur Anne Oakley

Admission by donation—Mince Pies & Mulled Wine

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given homes to our animals this year.

We would also like to thank our loyal supporters and friends, new and old, for their support throughout 2017.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing you all again in 2018

Our first event of 2018 will be our Fur, Feather & Exotic Exhibition on Saturday 24th February, 10am-4pm at Boughton-under-Blean Village Hall.

Visit our website at www.lordwhisky.co.uk
Follow us on Facebook: The Lord Whisky Sanctuary Fund Kent

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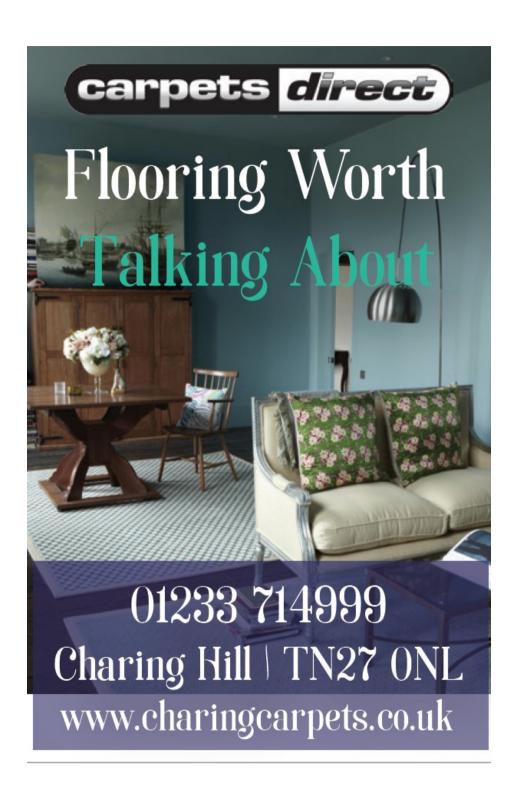


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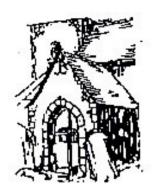
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# Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council

Hastingleigh Parish Council

Evington Hall (Bookings)

**Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec** 

**ECP Hon Sec** 

**Evington Gardeners Hon Sec** 

**Evington Community Choir** 

Art Group

Footpath Walks

Mr D Harris 01233 813711

Women's Institute

Mrs J Bowes 01233 811875

Parent and Toddler Group Mrs N Phipps 01233 750221

Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh **Mr G Block** 01233 750415

Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted **Mr J Argar** 01233 750311

**Tracey Block** 01233 750415

**Tracey Block** 01233 750415

**Shelley** 07401 908249 bookings@evingtonhall.org.uk

Mrs N Phipps 01233 750221

Mrs S Boxall 01233 750206

Mrs J Pearce 01233 750382

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585

Mrs V Kerry 01227 700843



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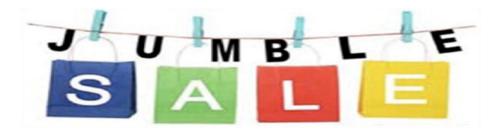
Tickets - 01233 750375

The doors will open at 6.30pm No admissions once the music has begun.

All proceeds in aid of The Guild of St. John of Beverley for the Deaf and Evington Hall

### **Evington Village Hall**

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Evington Village Hall Hastingleigh

SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018 2pm



Any offers of jumble to Sheila Burrage 750375