

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

July 2019

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



July

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

Summer is now officially here, although I'm not sure the weather has quite caught up. The local fauna are very busy caring for their young, we have a number of fledglings in the garden, and even had resident baby rabbit for a short while. Bodsham School is holding its annual Summer Fair on Saturday 6th July (p19), there will be lots of stalls, singing, dancing and there will also be a couple of children's authors holding reading sessions at the fair, do come along and support your local school. Hastingleigh Church has started its building works but still needs donations to complete the work (p15). The coffee morning will be special this month as the choir from Bodsham school will be singing, and raising funds for the new IT suite. The Wye volunteer car service has been resurrected, see page 23 for more details. 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.

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: elmstedwithhastingleigh-

news@yahoo.co.uk

Advertising: shepandali@hotmail.com

Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com

General Builders and Property Maintenance



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small projects - large projects - emergencies

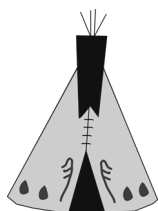
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

Three pound husband

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 6th of June at the Evington Hall.

Seventeen members and five visitors attended.

We started the meeting with our speaker Mrs. Prue Anderton, talking to us about her 'three pound husband'. Her first marriage had ended unexpectedly in 1971, leaving Prue on her own with three young children. Her mother saw an advert for a dating agency, where the fee was £3. This was an expensive venture for her, as her wages at the time were £11. Mrs. Anderton then regaled us with stories of the men she met. One man gave her the most boring evening of her life, the next told her she should wear hot pants on their date (she didn't) and another took her to a Berni Inn and the food – steak, ice

cream and an Irish coffee - was the best thing about the evening. Eventually, she got a call from Ted, who proposed on their third date. They married after six months together. They already had three children each and had another two together, spending many happy years until he died three years ago.

After a cup of tea and delicious home-made biscuits, we discussed various items of business. We heard the results of the Spring Fair fundraising chocolate tombola – thank you to everyone who supported us - and we finalised arrangements for our trip to the delphinium festival at Godington House this month. We are planning on bringing back our social half hour at our meetings, and we started this month by an indoor curling match. None of us players had done this before and there was great hilarity and extreme competitiveness – a most enjoyable time.

The flower of the month was won by Mrs. George

The competition was won by Ms. Riley.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday July the 4th at 7.30 p.m. in the Evington Hall, when our speaker will be Rosemary Crippen, talking to us about 'Bags, beads and embroidered books'.

Any new member would be made most welcome.

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The Evington Hall

Chairman's Report 2018/19

The last year has again seen further improvements to the Hall. The interior lights have been upgraded to LEDs and the external lights that illuminate the car park have been replaced with sensor controlled LED floodlights. We are very grateful to Folkestone and Hythe District Council and Kent County Council for grants towards these. In a similar vein, thanks are due to Ashford Borough Council for providing us with a grant towards the cost of repainting the Hall.

Our Solar Panel project came to fruition during the last 12 months, kindly led by our project leader, Will Day. We now have 10.2 KWh of Solar panels fitted to the South facing roof plus 3.24 KWh of batteries. Together, these should provide enough electricity to power the hall "free of charge" for most of the year, thus reducing our electricity bill. We should

also benefit from the "Feed-In Tariff" whereby our panels feed in to the National Grid and we get paid for the electricity our panels generate. Amazingly, 100% of the cost of this project (£16,699) came from donations from local residents / organisations and associated Gift Aid claims. On behalf of the Trustees, I should like to thank everyone who helped in this way.

The Evington Players have replaced the old Stage Lighting system with an ultra-modern programmable multi-coloured system which they have gifted to the hall and for which we thank them.

Thanks are also due to Paul and Robbie Boxall for continuing to keep our windows and gutters in a sparkling condition and to John & Jill Argar for continuing to dispose of the Hall's rubbish.

The Hall website continues to be well used and provides users with easy access to bookings, the Hall calendar, etc. I should like to thank Shelley and Sue for their ongoing involvement with this.

Our two main fund raising activities, the Christmas Bazaar and the Jumble Sale were, yet again,



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The Evington Hall Cont...

successful events and these, along with the regular Coffee Mornings, Whist Drives and Trevor Wye's Christmas Musical Evening, have helped to keep our rents as low as is practically possible.

Special thanks are due to Bunty Healey, Jenny Denny, Bridget Gunn, Lorraine Lawrence and Sue Lawson for managing the refreshments at the monthly Coffee Mornings.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the members of the Executive Committee and all the Trustees of the Hall for their support during what has been such a fantastic year for the Evington Hall.

Robin Helmer, Chairman
9th April 2019

‘So they do say...!’



Queen bees mature quickly due to being fed with royal jelly. She flies only once in her lifetime, her nuptial flight. For the rest of her life of about 4 or 5 years she lays more than 2000 eggs every day, interrupted only by short winter breaks.

A jar of pure honey had printed on its label, ‘*Best before Nov. 2019*’.

In fact, it should keep for about three thousand years.

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In The Garden

Dealing with slugs

After such a long cold and dry spring (save February when in a warm spell we ate a couple of meals outside!) the weather at last broke in June and the rain came tumbling down. During April and May the ground was so dry we had no cause to worry about slug damage but, as we expected, the rain brought them out in force. And How! Where they had been all that time is almost a mystery.

Slug damage can be the bane of a gardener's life. The trouble is simply that slugs tend to like the things that we like. Flowers such as hostas, marigolds, dahlias and larkspur are joy to a slug, they can power towards them licking their lips with delight. On the other hand if we grow geraniums, alliums, asters phlox and dianthus for example the slugs will virtually leave them alone. So that's one

tactic; if you have access to the internet you can search for what plants – flowers, vegetables and herbs that slugs like or detest and, to some extent your planting can be guided by this.

Natural predators are ground beetles, hedgehogs, toads, centipedes and frogs and we can do what we can to encourage them into our garden. As far as possible avoiding the use of herbicides and pesticides will encourage biodiversity and allow the ground based creepy crawlies to flourish and have a go at your slugs and snails. A nearby pond will encourage frogs and toads and a well built hedgehog house and plenty of dried leaves for winter hibernation will be a start to encourage them into your garden. So no feeding in the winter while they are hibernating but from warmer spring days they can be attracted to cat food (so might stray cats!) and meal worms. Thrushes will eat both slugs and snails, breaking the shell of the latter using a stone as an anvil.

When all is said and done though you may not have enough predators to keep the numbers at bay. This is when you may have to become the predator. The now old fashioned use of metaldehyde

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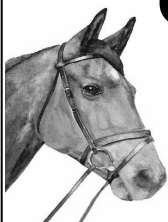
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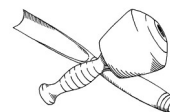
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In The Garden Cont...

slug pellets will be rightly banned from the spring of 2020 as this poison poses an unacceptable risk to birds and other wild life. The Jan/Feb issue of Which? Gardening calls into question the claims that ferric phosphate slug pellets, which are approved for use by organic growers, are really safe for pets and wildlife. The chelating agents they contain and particularly one called EDTA is particularly toxic to earth worms. We all love earthworms, don't we?

Slug traps that contain bait that can attract slugs and they fall in and cannot get out. Beer is an effective bait and the slugs drown or, some say, are killed by the alcohol. I have other more useful uses for beer and my alternative is adding to 1.5 litres of warm water, 4 tablespoons of flour, 2 teaspoons of sugar and 1 good teaspoon of dried yeast. Mix up well and allow to stand for about 6 hours before use to allow the yeast to develop. Simple traps can be made from used yoghurt or cream cartons, making holes with a knife (not a

job for the children) about 50mm from the bottom so that when placed on the ground with bait inside ground beetles don't get inside and die instead of eating your slugs. Some say this exercise can make things worse as slugs can be attracted from 100 metres away and you can end up with more slugs in your garden than you started with.

Other approaches use copper tape or strips or wool pellets as barriers both of which I have found helpful. Good luck; all in all I think slugs are going to be around for a long time

Fred



Club Draw

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

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2nd Prize: No. 10
3rd Prize: No. 78

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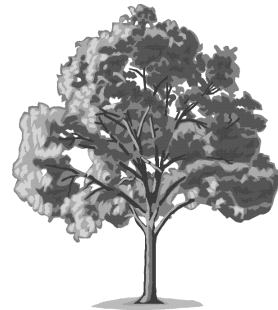
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Nature Notes

June

We had a first at home at the end of May. I saw my first ever Dingy Skipper butterfly which suggests we must have a colony, however small, in our wild flower meadows. It slightly resembles its name - it is very small drab brown and grey and difficult to see. She will lay her eggs on Bird's - foot Trefoil which we have allowed to re-establish over 25 years in huge clumps in its stunning yellow pea-like blooms all across the fields. One has a small vignette of how meadows and common land heath might have looked around here 150 years ago. Also on the wing is the exquisite Small Copper butterfly which performs like the mini-Ferrari of the down lands.

The Magpies and Jackdaws have made the most of an early dry Spring and the young are all fledging with a cacophony of

cackle. The song thrush also shepherds its brood off the nest with surprising commotion . The first Spotted Flycatcher has returned. Taking vantage on a slim exposed branch it darts and drops or rises to catch unsuspecting flies. He will have amassed significant Air Miles travelling from southern and central Africa.

It has been a strange and drawn out Spring. The nights are quite cold and some butterflies like the Blues , which over winter as caterpillars then fatten up in April and hatch in May/June, have never really got going - unless something more sinister is afoot.

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Beginning in May, if you go down to St. Mary's church at Hastingleigh, you will notice that building is starting on its north side.

For a number of years, the Church Council has thought that there should be a loo at the church (as it is so far to a public toilet), and we want to make it easier for less able people to get into the building.

Our church architect, George Deny, has worked tirelessly with Ashford Borough Council, the Church and Archaeological authorities to get this permission, and now we are ready to start building. When finished, the church will have toilet, kitchen and, most importantly, disabled access, thus greatly increasing our ability for

everyone to use the church, and for a wider range of events, not just services. We have managed to raise enough money to start the project, but we need help with raising the rest, so that we don't have to dip into our Fabric Fund. Any amount, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated.

An appeal leaflet with more details was enclosed with the May magazine. If you know of anyone outside our villages who might be interested in contributing, please let me know.

Roz Bacon, Churchwarden
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roz.bacon@btinternet.com

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Evington Gardeners

An evening orchid walk

On Tuesday 21st May, a small group from the Gardeners' society, led by Jean, went over to the Bonsai bank in Denge wood, for the annual evening orchid walk. It was a warm and pleasant walk through the woods to reach the bank. We were too late for the early purple orchids but the lady orchids were in full bloom and

growing in abundance, as were the unassuming twayblades.

There were also a few helleborines just coming into bloom. Twayblades, identifiable by the two basal leaves and a spike of yellow-green flowers which resemble little people, and broad leaved helleborines both belong to the orchid family but are less distinctive in appearance and easy to miss when out walking through the woods. The butterfly orchids were in bud but not showing colour yet.

The next event on the Gardeners' calendar is the BBQ on 14th June. In July a visit to Pheasant Barn, Oare, has been organised.

HR

Village Breakfast

Thank you

Thanks to all who supported the
village breakfast.

£100 was raised for the
St Mary's Church Appeal Fund.

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Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills		
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14/07	Second Sunday	08.00 - Waltham - BCP Communion 10.00 - Bodsham School - Messy Church 11.00 - Petham - Communion
21/07	Third Sunday	09:30 Waltham - Communion 11:00 Hastingleigh - BCP Communion 11:00 Petham - Family Service (no communion) 18.00 Elmsted - Choral Evensong
28/07	Fourth Sunday	11:00 Hastingleigh - Communion 11:00 Petham - Family Communion
<p>Priest-in-charge: The Rev Ravi Holy: The Vicarage, Wye 01233 812450 ravi.holy@wyebenefice.org.uk Associate priest: The Rev Lorraine Lawrence (with special responsibility for Hastingleigh, Elmsted, Petham, Waltham): The Vicarage, Hastingleigh, 01233 750987 or 07894 034409 lorraine_lawrence@btinternet.com. Churchwardens: Mrs Bacon 01233 750327, Mrs R Doyle 01227 700296. United Wye Benefice 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk</p>		
This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:		
St Mary's		St James'
Jul 6th Jul 13th	Mrs Bowes Mrs Helmer	Mrs Fox Mrs Leutner
Jul 20th July 27th	Mrs Morris Mrs French	Mrs Green Mrs Calcutt
Aug 3rd Aug 10th	Dr & Mrs Lawson Mrs Day	Mrs McFarlane Mrs Hewson

Diary Dates - July

Tues	2nd	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
Wed	3rd	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	4th	W.I. Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Tues	9th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
		Hastingleigh PC Meeting	19.45 - 21.00
Wed	10th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Tues	16th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
Wed	17th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Tues	23rd	Library Van	09.45 - 10.15

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

All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated

Elmsted Church

Lunches & Teas

Bodsham School and St James the Great church would like to extend their thanks to everyone who helped and to all of the visitors who came and enjoyed a wonderful array of lunches, desserts, cakes and beverages.

So many visitors came and enjoyed the afternoon. The weather was kind to us, with

many sitting outside, enjoying the wonderful music from Leon Haswell, chatting with friends and taking the opportunity to cheer up their gardens by buying some of the plants on offer.

The event made £1,480 which will be divided equally between the school and church.

The event will be held next year on **Sunday 31st May, 2020.**



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Appeal Fund

WYE PPG

Wye Volunteer Car Service

Do you need a lift to travel to a health related appointment?

There are times when all of us may appreciate a bit of help with transport, either because we are unable to drive through illness, injury or disability or because we do not own a car. Buses can be unreliable and taxis very expensive. If so, help is at hand.

For some years, patients of Wye Surgery benefited from a volunteer car service run by Graham Duddy, but since his retirement some months ago, there has been no replacement and the service fell into abeyance. Now, however, the service is up and running again, thanks to a team of local volunteers and to Robin Pelham-Reid who has kindly offered to coordinate the drivers.

The service is available to all those who live within the Wye parish boundary or just outside it

and it is free to those who use it. It covers medical and related appointments such as visits to Wye Surgery or to a dentist, physiotherapist, chiropodist or osteopath in the area. It does not cover hospital appointments at the William Harvey or other hospitals, as the waiting times are uncertain and the car parking very difficult.

The availability of help to travel to the Surgery could mean that patients may be able to take advantage of appointments offered at relatively short notice. Hopefully, it may also help people to keep scheduled appointments, rather than risk losing their slot because of transport difficulties.

The service can be accessed via Robin Pelham-Reid. His landline number is **01233 812298** and his mobile number is **07880 800938**. If you can give him as much notice as possible, so that he can locate a driver, it would be appreciated. He would also welcome hearing from anyone who is interested in or willing to give a little time to join the team.

Judith Timms
PPG Chair

Parish Upon The Hills

Summer is a comin' in.

Or so says the title of a 13th century round by that famous composer, "Unknown"!



I remember learning it in the advanced, (still not that good) recorder group at primary school.

As kids, summer seems endless and wonderful, and when we look back from adulthood, it is also, strangely, always sunny. And the best thing about them was that nothing in particular happened. We didn't have organised lessons, child minding, excursions, holiday clubs, etc. Just loads and loads of time.

Such a wonderful, underrated thing, spare time. Adults complain when children say, "I'm bored!" Yet boredom, or at least the time to be bored, is something most adults would give a lot to have.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not going all nostalgic on you, and claiming life was better when I was young, or children today ... or any of that stuff. There are a myriad of reasons why life is different, not better or worse, just different. However I think it is the case that most people these days would consider themselves, 'Time Poor!' The other day, whilst taking a wedding, this poem was read and I found myself thinking about it afterwards in relation to life in general. I'm sure most of you have heard it many times before. It goes;

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Parish Upon The Hills Cont...

So where am I going with this? Well time has become a very precious commodity and as such we feel guilty if we are not busy or productive in case we are wasting it. But we need time to be human. To stop and chat to a lonely neighbour, to watch a bird build a nest. Time to appreciate how beautiful this world we live in is, and what an amazing blue the summer sky is. Time to see an elderly person across the road or give directions to a lost traveller. Most of all, time for each other. Time to cuddle a small child, to admire or hug a new baby. Time to listen to the wonderful sound of children playing in the school yard, carried on the wind. To wake at five in the morning for a comfort break and thrill with joy because you heard a cuckoo for the first time in years and think how marvellous the dawn chorus really is, and be glad that your spouse didn't mind you waking them up too, because they hadn't heard a cuckoo for ages, either! Most of all, time to stop and be glad your alive, to thank God for all that is wonderful and cry for all

that is not. To search our souls for the reasons we do what we do.

Are we happy with our lives, and if not, could we change things so that we are? Is time passing us by while we hope or strive for something we don't have, rather than finding the joy in what we do have? I know that many of the people reading this would not necessarily count themselves as Christians, but whatever you chose to believe, for me, knowing that life has a purpose makes a difference, and as someone said to me recently, "You Christians think you have all the answers!" Well, I think everyone likes to think we have all the answers, they're just different answers! So make sure your answers are ones you are happy with, make sure your questions are the ones you want to ask, and most of all, take time to enjoy contemplating life in all its rich variety.

Rev. Lorraine Lawrence



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Village Correspondent

June Browning has, for many years, been the correspondent from Hastingleigh, Bodsham and Elmsted for the Local Kent paper; unfortunately she has had to retire. At the moment no one has taken her place. We are missing out on free advertising for various events in the Villages!

If you feel you could be the correspondent do please contact: -
kmgvillages@thekmggroup.co.uk

Generally, I think it would be a case of looking at the dates on website or in the Magazine and sending them on.

We owe June many thanks for doing this for so long.

July Coffee Morning
in Evington hall at 10:30 will
have a performance by
members of
Bodsham School Choir.
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The school PTFA will be collecting
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Farming Notebook

After three to four weeks of dry conditions, the weather broke and we have had several days of good steady rain. Many local farmers have come out with the same comment..."it will do far more good than we will". Very true.

The potatoes emerged four weeks after planting and looked good and even. The rains came just at the right time. And now, with moisture and warm soils, it is easy to believe that you can see the crop growing. But with these ideal growing conditions comes the increased risk of potato blight infection. We are being very cautious and have reduced our fungicide spray intervals. It is vital that every new leaf is protected. If blight was to come in, it would spread very quickly and could be devastating. The Irish potato famine of the mid 1800s was caused by potato blight. The subsequent complete destruction of Ireland's staple food led to unimaginable hardship.

We had a team of Ministry (DEFRA) Plant Health inspectors checking all of the potatoes. I am pleased to report that all the seed

stocks have passed their first inspection. The second and final field inspection is due at the end of June, by which time the crop will have met across the rows and be one enormous canopy of green leaf and white or pink flowers.

It is not only the potatoes which have been inspected, but also the spring beans and all of the wheat. The spring oats and grass seed are not quite ready just yet. All these crops are grown for seed and all need a thorough visual inspection to ensure purity and uniformity. Vigour and germination tests will be carried out after harvest.

We are again hosting the variety trials day for Zantra and First Crop Seeds. Isolation strips and walkways have been mown through the crop to allow visitors a good look and enable comparisons between varieties to be made. It is staggering how fast a wheat plant will grow after mowing. It has become a weekly task to trim pathways to keep them clear. One area of the field was planted with grass in the autumn last year to provide a car parking area, and somewhere to erect the hospitality tents. We have already taken one crop of silage off this grass, but with the rains it looks as though we may have to take another one in the next couple of days to keep the area tidy. The scourge of arable cropping is blackgrass. Fortunately we have very little, but even what we have must be

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Farming Cont..

removed as the problem will only be much worse next year if ignored. Some say that one plant can produce a million seeds, and these set and shed before the drilled crop is ready for harvest. Our trial field had a light infestation of blackgrass. The only control is to hand rogue the weed. One enterprising farmer's daughter from Romney Marsh saw an opportunity and employs a large group of rougers. Originally the gang was made up of the wives of Gurkhas stationed at Hythe barracks, but latterly it is families of Romanians. They stick at the task all day and painstakingly pull every grass plant by hand until the field is clear. They do a fantastic job. What will we do after Brexit ??

During the rain showers we have been very busy in the potato sheds. Every single bin has had to be stacked outside to empty the cold store. In the next few days a contractor is going to spray an extra 55mm of foam insulation over the inside of the entire barn. Although already insulated, we were persuaded that the extra layer would reduce our energy consumption significantly and that the investment would soon be paid back....

Also, the whole potato grader and sizing units are being given a thorough overhaul. It is easy to forget how old some of the components are. Maintenance now will, we hope, lead to a trouble free harvest.

At the beginning of June our new, yet to be named, Hereford bull was introduced to his girls. There was a great deal of noise and mutual interest....Fingers crossed for a good crop of healthy calves next spring.

We have selected a few cows for AI (Artificial Insemination rather than Artificial Intelligence!!) as we felt the herd was a bit too big for the young bull to cover on his own. These cows were in the next door field to the rest of the herd. It must be true what is said about the grass being greener on the other side of the fence... The AI cows fancied the bull, the bull ignored his cows and fancied the AI cows. Would the fence hold? All was fine and everyone remained where they were supposed to be and the bull wandered off with a little gaggle of cows. I did double check the fence later that Sunday evening and, armed with a puller, hammer and a bucket of staples, decided to re-tension the barbed wire just in case...

Time is marching on. Harvest is only a few weeks away. Still so much to do...

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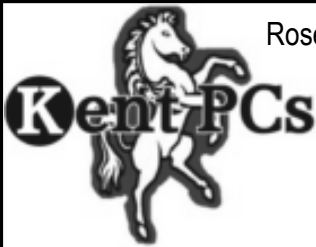
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