

# Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

*St James the Great  
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin  
Hastingleigh*

June 2018

40p



# Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

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Hastingleigh Parish Council

**Tracey Block** 01233 750415

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**Mrs S Boxall** 01233 750206

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

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**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 N Phipps** 01233 750221

Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh

**Mr G Block** 01233 750415

Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted

**Mr J Argar** 01233 750311



# June

## in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

**S**ummer appears to be on the way, with the days lengthening well into the evening. The weather has been mostly sunny and was beautiful for the Spring Fair. Thank you to everyone that came and supported the Fair, which raised £1641.49. A big thank you must also go out to those that ran the stalls and set up the event. The WI supper was a success with fun had by all and far too much eaten! Thanks to the ladies of the WI who provided the food and decorated the hall for the evening. Our Parish upon the Hills is calling for ideas on different ways of reaching out to people, see page 9 and 11 for a thought provoking read. The annual summer BBQ will be held at the hall on the 16th June, please come along for a fun evening. 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: [elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk)

Advertising: [shepandali@hotmail.com](mailto:shepandali@hotmail.com)

Secretary: [secretary.communitynews@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.communitynews@gmail.com)

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

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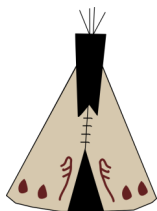
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# Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

‘Look Good, Feel  
Better’

**H**astingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 3rd of May 2018 at the George in Molash.

The May meeting is a meal out due to the hall often being used as a Polling Station in May.

15 members attended, and an enjoyable meal was had by all.

We discussed various items of business, including finalising the menu for the village meal on the 18th May. We also discussed this year's WI resolution which is 'Mental Health Matters'.

The charity the Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI are raising money for this year is 'Look

Good, Feel Better'. This is a charity which helps people to face cancer with confidence. They help women and teenagers to manage the visible effects of cancer treatment. The charity holds free confidence boosting skincare and make-up workshops and masterclasses across the UK for any women undergoing treatment for any type of cancer. If you would like to find out more, visit their website for more information:

[lookgoodfeelbetter.co.uk](http://lookgoodfeelbetter.co.uk)

As the meeting was a meal out there was no Flower of the Month winner or competition winner.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 7th June at 7.30 p.m., in the Evington Hall, where we will be having a talk on Buttons by Ms Alison Ellman-Brown. Any new members will be made most welcome.

Marie Wenham

The logo features the text 'theWI' in a large, green, sans-serif font, with 'the' in lowercase and 'WI' in uppercase. Below this, the words 'INSPIRING WOMEN' are written in a smaller, green, all-caps, sans-serif font.

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# From the Gardeners' AGM

**O**n Tuesday 17th April, Evington Gardeners' Society held their Annual General Meeting at the village hall, which was well attended.

The chairman reported that it had been a year of mixed fortunes for the committee, as Jane Pearce and Chris and Jack Luck have moved away from the area. Fortunately for the society, this was not until the end of the summer season. They will be greatly missed as they played a huge part in the running of the society and we wish them well for the future. Thank you, Chris, Jane and Jack for all your hard work and support over the years.

Lorraine Lawrence, Charles Lawson and Helen Ransley have been welcomed on to the committee.

Stan mentioned the fair number of speakers throughout the year, who have made the monthly meetings interesting and entertaining. We also had a couple

of trips out organised, and the evening outing to Tram Hatch garden, Charing, gave us an insight into another beautifully maintained private garden, followed by tea and cake in their spacious function room. Unfortunately, due to extremely wet weather conditions, the outing to Winchelsea open gardens had to be cancelled.

Other activities during the year included a successful plant stall at the May fair, the annual dinner in September at the Black Horse, Monks Horton and the Christmas party in December at the village hall, with entertainment courtesy of Trevor Wye and the Studio Players, followed by cheese and wine. Many thanks to Trevor for making the evening an enjoyable event. The annual BBQ, held at Staple Lees was also well attended and was another enjoyable event, in pleasant surroundings, for the society. Thank you, Barbara.

Stan then thanked the committee for all the effort they have put in over a busy year in which all members have been involved. There are also many people who help behind the scenes who deserve recognition for their help. Thank you to them and to Robin who is always there helping in the background.



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## Gardeners' AGM Cont.

There is another full programme scheduled for the coming year, including a visit to the Salutation Gardens in Sandwich and an evening outing to Rock Cottage, Bilsington, our thanks to Yvonne and Barbara for making this happen.

Our next event is the plant stall

at the May fair on May 7th. Jean will also lead an evening walk to look at the orchids, details to be published later.

At the end of the meeting, Derek thanked Stan for his immense contribution to the society as chairman and the members showed their appreciation. The business of the evening was followed by cheese and wine and social chat, and a raffle.

HR

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## 'So they do say...!'

**I**n the past few hundred years, people unexpectedly died during the night and though it was thought strange, it did not seem uncommon for this to happen without explanation.

Hedge cutting and general maintenance of trees was, and still is common for farm folks who in the past then burnt the branches both during the day and at night, to keep the house warm. They didn't realise that elder wood, when burnt, releases cyanide poison into the air. The

leaves, twigs, branches, seeds, and roots of Sambucus plants can contain cyanidin glycoside. The plant is considered toxic with the most poisonous parts contained mostly in the bark, leaves and stems.

From Celia Congreve's poem (1930):

*Beechwood fires are bright and  
clear*

*If the logs are kept a year,  
Chestnut's only good they say,  
If for logs 'tis laid away.*

*Make a fire of Elder tree,  
Death within your house will be...*

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# Parish Upon The Hills

**W**ell here we are, winter is finally over and spring appears to have sprung. (Hopefully we'll have a better summer this year!) Whenever I am out and about I still count my blessings that God called me to such a beautiful part of the country. But it's easy to see God in this gorgeous place, but how do people who live in really difficult areas find beauty in their surroundings?

The secret is to look for God on the inside. How is he there in wars torn areas, refugee camps and famines?

People with big hearts and kind souls, that's where he is. Those who are prepared to step out of their comfort zone and easy lives, to go to such places, put their lives at risk, and give their hearts to others. They radiate care and love, and have a real inner beauty. God can be seen in their hearts and actions, and found in the most sur-

prising of places. In the love we show each other, the smile of a stranger, and the kind actions of a giving heart. A simple act of kindness from an unexpected source, can brighten the darkest of lives.

Being a Christian is an act of faith. I can prove Jesus existed, and I can research his life in historical texts. There are records of his life in many other places than the bible. Was he the Son of God? Well he said so, so if we do not accept that as truth then he was either a liar or a mad man! A liar does not fit with his life and works as he lived out what he said and taught, and a mad man would not have been able to sustain his ever growing following, so what stops so many of us from accepting this truth?

I think the answers to that question are as varied as the people who are asking it! For many I think perhaps it is fear or reluctance to change! The idea that if I hold to be true all that which I have heard about "this Man" then I must change is scary. Also, surely being expected to go to church every Sunday morning is enough to

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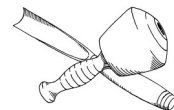
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## Parish Upon The Hills Cont.

put anyone off! Isn't it?

Change is uncomfortable for most of us and this is true of those within church, as well as those outside. We all like what we are used to.

So, when we do 'try' church, the chances are we won't find a 'good fit'!

So, my challenge to the reader is; "if you could design a church service to suit you, what would it be like? Cafe church, a space for questions, something no one else has done? I would really love to know, and offer such a service. I would even consider a group like agnostics anonymous which runs in Wye.

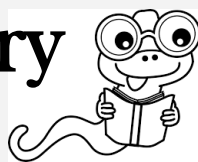
Whatever we are with God and each other, we should always be ourselves, or the best version of that we can manage, because that's the person God loves, and try to see the good (or God) in all those around us. The good in our neighbours, our surroundings, our lives. Look for what is best in even the darkest of situations and remember that most of the people around us don't have

their 'stuff' anymore together than we do! They are probably just as insecure, shy, self doubting and easily knocked back as we are. Smile, even when you don't feel like it and see how many people smile back. See the beauty in all things and try not to take your happiness at someone else's expense. If we really did "Love our neighbour the way we would like to be loved" then we would see God all around us and the world would be a little more like heaven than it currently is.

So let me know what you think and what you would like to see happen in your little bit of this beautiful part of Kent?  
God Bless,

Lorraine x

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# Evington Hall AGM

## Chairmans' Report

**D**uring the last year, improvements to the Hall have continued in that our Car Park, which was in a bad state and in urgent need of repair, has been completely resurfaced. The work was carried out, free of charge to the Hall, by Quinn Estates and we must thank them and John Argar, Chairman of Elmsted Parish Council, for facilitating this project. The Hall Executive Committee have commissioned Mrs Fox of Elmsted as a gardener which has taken the pressure off those kind volunteers, especially Sheila, Jean and others, whom we thank for looking after the garden for many years. Thanks are also due to Paul and Robbie Boxall for keeping our windows and gutters in a sparkling condition and to John & Jill Argar for disposing of the Hall's rubbish. In October of last year, Oliver Block, who had taken on the cleaning of the Hall in 2015, handed in his notice. We are very pleased that Angela Dray, a resident of Hastingleigh, has taken on this role.

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.

I would also like to mention how pleased we were to see Bodsham School once again using the Hall for their Nativity Production last year. We hope that the School will continue to use the Hall for their Year 6 Leavers and Nativity productions long into the future. Another new regular user of the Hall is the "Bop Shop", a dance session for Mothers and Toddlers. This is run as a subsidiary of the Toddler Group and, by all accounts, is doing well. On the subject of the Toddler Group, we are delighted to hear that their numbers have increased considerably during the past year, to the extent that they asked the Hall for additional small chairs and tables, which the Hall with financial help from a local resident donor, were pleased to provide.

Our two main fund raising activities, the Christmas Bazaar and the Jumble Sale were, as ever, successful events. 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 John

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## Evington Hall Cont.

and Peggy Hughes, Bunty Healey and Jenny Denny for managing the refreshments at the monthly Coffee Mornings. Sadly, John and Peggy felt it was time for them to retire from their Coffee Morning duties in December last year and we know they will both be missed. However, we are very pleased that Jenny Green, Bridget Gunn, Lorraine Lawrence and Sue Lawson have very kindly stepped in to help Bunty Healey and Jenny Denny keep this important monthly event alive.

Sadly Sue Lawson, our long serving Secretary for over 18 years, had to retire in September last year due to poor health. However, we are delighted to learn that Sue is feeling much better following her operation and is wishing to remain as a Hall Trustee. Thanks are due to Nicola Phipps who stepped in as Temporary Secretary. Whilst on the subject of service to the Hall, I would also like to thank Sheila Burrage for her incredibly long service of 44 years as Treasurer of the Hall. Sheila has decided to step down tonight but again, the good news is that she would like

to remain a Trustee.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Sheila, Sue, Nicola and all the Trustees of the Hall for their support during the year and for all of you and others who use and help keep this fantastic Community Asset in such good condition.

Robin Helmer, Chairman



## Club Draw

**T**he latest winning numbers for the Evington Community Project 100 club March draw are:

1st Prize: No. 53  
2nd Prize: No. 34  
3rd Prize: No. 100

## Magazine Articles

**P**lease ensure that all articles for the magazine are submitted by the **15th** of the month.

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<b>Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills</b>		
3/6	First Sunday	09.30—Petham—Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham
10/6	Second Sunday	08.00—Waltham – BCP Communion, 10.00—Bodsham School—Messy Church 11.00—Petham – Communion
17/6	Third Sunday	09:30—Waltham Communion 11:00—Hastingleigh Communion 11.00—Petham Family Service (No Communion) 18.00—Elmsted Choral Evensong
27/5	Fourth Sunday	11:00—Hastingleigh Communion 11:00—Petham Family Communion

<b>This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:</b>		
	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>St James'</b>
May 26th Jun 2nd	Mrs Morris Mrs French	Mrs McFarlane Mrs Hewson
Jun 9th Jun 16th	Mrs Boxall Mrs Pell	Mrs Jeffery
Jun 23rd Jun 30th	Mrs Young Mrs Jerrom Mrs Courtney	Mrs Wright Mrs Thrupp

# Diary Dates - June

Fri	1st	W.I. Workshop	10.00 - 13.00
Tues	5th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
Wed	6th	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	7th	Art Group	09.30 - 12.00
		W.I. Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Tues	12th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Hastingleigh P.C Meeting	19.45
Wed	13th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	14th	Art Group	09.30 - 12.00
Sat	16th	The Guild for the Deaf BBQ	16.00
Tues	19th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
Wed	20th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	21st	Art Group	09.30 - 12.00
Fri	22nd	Gardeners' BBQ	19.00
Tues	26th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
Wed	27th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	28th	Art Group	09.30 - 12.00

***All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated***

Library van at the hall carpark on Tuesday 12th and 26th June

**Priest-in-charge:** The Rev Ravi Holy: The Vicarage, Wye 01233 812450 [ra-vi.holy@wyebenefice.org.uk](mailto:ra-vi.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](mailto:lorraine_lawrence@btinternet.com). **Churchwardens:** Mrs Bacon 01233 750327, Mrs Ten Hove 01227 700460. **United Wye Benefice** 01233 813793 [www.wyebenefice.org.uk](http://www.wyebenefice.org.uk)

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# From the History Enthusiast

Places or things that  
existed or have  
changed over time

## **Evington Mansion or Court later Evington House or Place**

**D**uring the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) the early deeds of this place mentioned that it was named after the Evington family. It came into the hands of the Gay family and then the Honywood family. (Hasted's History of Kent)).

An inventory of about 1585 gives its accommodation as (beds in brackets): Hall, Great Parlour, Little Parlour, Chamber over Hall (2), Chamber over Parlour (2), Chamber over Little Parlour (1), [? Mens] Chamber (3), Buttery Chamber (4), Hall Place, Buttery, Cellar, Kitchen, Larders, Back House, Out House, Brew House, Brew House Loft, Milk House and Wheat Loft.

Eventually it had to be replaced. Hasted, on page 311 of vol iii in his

first edition, says this, "... the church stands on a hill in the middle of [Elmsted] ... lower down in the bottom is Evington-court, a good house of brick and sashed, to which the present Sir John Honywood has added much, and laid out the park-grounds round it ...". The Honywood family occupied this property until 1900 when it was leased to the Earl of Guilford. The house and its estate was sold to Lord Ashburton in 1906. Leased to Lord Robertson c.1909. Sold to Sir William Crundall in 1916. Leased to Colonel and Mrs Irby. A Mr Richard Price later offered it for sale in 1935. Removal of the roof and partial demolition took place in 1938. The remainder of the house was later pulled down leaving only the brick-vaulted cellars.

Sir Filmer Honywood comments that the addition of a third storey, is believed to have followed damage by fire in 1812 in which Elizabeth Charlotte Honywood died (an infant daughter of Sir John Courtenay Honywood 5th Bt, and his wife Mary). I imagine that only urgent repairs were carried out

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## Places or things that existed or have changed over time

### Cont.

immediately, as the estate finances had been under official administration until John Courtenay came of age and following the death of his father. There is a memorial plaque to "The remains" of Elizabeth Charlotte in Elmsted Church.

### The Ice House

Situated opposite the site of the demolished Evington Place on the side of the hill towards Bodsham. Probably used by the Honywood family as a cool storage place. Shown on the first edition of the 25" to 1 mile OS map of 1872 but was marked as disused on the 1898 map.

Sir Filmer Honywood comments that the Ice House was definitely in use by the family until around the 1890s when chunks of ice were placed in it during each winter.

### Tithe Barn next St James's Church

Probably the site of Elmsted's

St James's Church Fair which from early times was held there every 25th July. Demolished in the 1960s. Rachel Gibbs, nee Youard once of Elmsted Court in an earlier article remembered Mrs Sheddon the owner putting on plays there. John Argar remembers his grandfather saying that he played his fiddle there.

My thanks to John, Rachel and Sir Filmer

History enthusiast

## ECP Spring Fair

**A** very pleasant afternoon was spent at the Spring Fair in the glorious sunshine on May Bank Holiday Monday. Thank you to all of you who attended, a very fine sum of £1641.49 was raised.



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# Farming Notebook

**I** am pleased to report that, at long last, that we are progressing well with potato planting. Still a few days more to go but the end is in sight.

Although we started planting only a few days later than normal the extraordinary weather has intervened. After a damp April we then had a mini heat wave with soaring temperatures which almost baked the soil surface and made seedbed preparation a challenge. We started to plant and made the most of the conditions. All was going well until the “beast from the east” arrived. I have never seen anything like it.... Depending on where you happen to live, between 2 and 3 inches of rain fell in 18 hours. Everything stopped and it was all hands to the pumps, literally. Drains were inundated, the house started to flood, and fields developed large lakes. Fortunately, no lasting damage was done, and the fields drained quickly. The newly planted potatoes looked in a very sorry state. The soil had washed badly, even exposing the seeds in some places, and then the surface dried into a hard cap. The

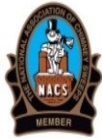
hills were saturated and cold. Not an ideal environment for a seed potato! Soil temperatures in the baulks are rising and are now 18 degrees C at 150mm depth. Hopefully the seeds will now shoot and push their way upwards, through the crust, and emerge.

We lost a week because of the torrential rain and had to start from scratch creating suitable soil conditions. Recently planting conditions have been excellent and as a result I am happier with the later sown crop than the earlier ones. But we are now three weeks late completing planting.

With the improving forecast it was decided to mow the herbage seed for silage. There was a heavy crop from the very leafy grass. To improve the quality the crop was turned three times to help the wilting process. The bales have now been wrapped and stacked, and the field cleared. Nitrogen and some growth regulator will be applied as soon as I have a tractor available. The grass will now produce a seed (the last lehead in about three weeks' time and this will develop, self-pollinate, and produce the crop which we will harvest at the end of July.

Other crops are moving through their growth stages very rapidly. The oilseed rape has almost finished flowering and the small seed pods

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# Farming

## Notebook cont.

are clearly visible. The winter barley is now in ear. And the winter wheats have their flag leaves af) fully emerged. The flag leaf is often referred to as the “engine room” of the crop as it is from here that all the sugars are produced which will fill the grains. The leaf has a much bigger surface area than any other leaf and is well suited to maximising the use of the sun’s energy. We take great care of the flag leaf as any damage from disease can seriously reduce yield.

Spring beans and the spring oats are now growing well after a late start.

Calving has come to an end for now. There are a few cows who are not due until July.

All the cattle are now out on grass and looking very content. The calves have been de-horned (although many were found to be “polled” or hornless - a genetic trait that we think has come from the bull), double tagged, and, in the case of the males, castrated.

Over the next few days we intend to bring the cows into the yard to have a bit of a sort out. Some of the cows are not suitable to run with the bull again, for a variety of reasons. These animals, with their calves will

be moved to outlying fields, far away from temptation, for the summer.

As there is plentiful grass at the moment we have kept all of last year’s heifer calves. A few are big enough, and are suitable replacements for the herd, to be able to run with the bull this summer. The rest will be kept together and have a further assessment later on. Some may be put to the bull in the winter with the Minnis cattle.

There is some irony that at a time of year when there is so much to do outside I have spent days and days locked in the office trying to fill in my Basic Payment Scheme forms on line before the 14th May deadline. It could be assumed that after 27 years of form filling under differing acronyms, Integrated Agricultural Compensation Scheme, Single Payment Scheme and now BPS, it would be routine. I am sure it would be if Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rural Payments Agency and the Rural Land Registry didn’t keep on moving the goalposts and changing the rules. In the last few years arable farmers have to meet target Environmental Focus Areas. These could be nitrogen fixing crops such as peas or beans. An easy choice for us. This year we cannot do this, but we can count hedges. The RLR helpfully provided maps on which were marked our hedges. Every

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## Farming cont.

single field was wrong!! One 1.5 Ha field was split into eight parcels for no apparent reason. It looked like a shattered mirror! (It had been correct for 26 years!!!)

So, I had to apply for hedges, adjacent hedges, and trees in line, even ones that did not appear on the maps on the BPS forms. Then I have had to fill in a RLE1 form for each field with the correct hedges marked, wrong hedges deleted, and correct boundaries reinstated. With maps and forms together, the package was over 80 pages of A4 and had

to be sent as a small parcel! DEFRA have announced that they will process all RLE1 forms submitted before 11 July before they process the BPS forms. I still have not been paid for 2017 (due from 1st December 2017). There is not the faintest chance that anyone will get paid on time for 2018. Apart from spending 30% of the agricultural budget on admin, DEFRA probably will be fined for late payments. You really could not make it up.....

Now at least I can get back out of the office, and enjoy a glorious evening.

W Wilson-Haffenden



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