Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



St James the Great Elmsted



St Mary the Virgin Hastingleigh

May 2019

40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council

Hastingleigh Parish Council

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

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 L Lawrence 01233 750987

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 H French 01233 750483

Mrs S Boxall 01233 750206

Mrs H Ransley 01233 720152

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585

Mrs V Kerry 01227 700843



May

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

As I write this, we are having a mini heatwave, enticing us into the garden and even managing to eat outside in the evening.

It was with deep sadness that I heard the news that Ron Blown had passed away. He was a well-loved character of the village and will be sorely missed, our thoughts are with his family. The Bowl Inn is currently closed whilst the family, understandably, take some personal time.

There are a number of events coming up this month, do come along and support them if you can. The annual Spring Fair is taking place on the football field on May 6th, where there will be a number of stalls and attractions, fun for all the family. On 26th May, Elmsted Church will be putting on lunches and teas.

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.

General Builders and Property Maintenance









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References available

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

Great Ormond Street Hospital

astingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 4th of April 2019 at the Evington Hall.

We discussed various items of business before our speaker, gave us a talk entitled Great Ormond Street Hospital. GOSH has been open for 167 years, and is a registered charity which raises money to help it go above and beyond the provision of the NHS. Its motto is 'The child, first and always', and extraordinary things happen every day at the hospital. It was founded by Dr Charles West, at a time when 1 in 3 children died before the age of 5 years old. The hospital opened on Valentine's Day, 1852, with just 20 beds. It had a shaky start as people were worried about spread of infection. Charles Dickens was a friend of Dr West and published an article about GOSH, praising it and asking for support. Queen Victoria

was its first royal patron, pledging £100, and gave it respectability. In 1875, GOSH moved to a new state of the art building with 100 beds. J. M. Barrie, the author of Peter Pan, gave GOSH a lasting legacy; the copyright to Peter Pan, which gives the hospital any copyright fees gained from the use of Peter Pan in productions and other uses. GOSH produces life saving research and advances; from open heart surgery in children (1962) to stem cell research to pre-natal surgeries (2018). The hospital is bright, light and colourful, with private rooms for the 300,000 admissions per year, 30% of which are under 4 years old. Donations help to provide family accommodation, medical equipment, and a dedicated play team, all of which help to make the children and families to feel more relaxed and part of the process, not just patients.

The Flower of the Month winner was Jean Bowes, with a verbena.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 2nd May at 7.30 p.m., and will be a meal out, due to Evington Hall being used as the polling station for local elections.

Marie Wenham



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In The Garden

Spring flowers are a delight

s usual early April was marked by the Blackthorn Winter; whenever that white flower appears in our hedgerows you can guarantee that for 10 days or more, just as you feel spring ought to get going, the weather will turn cold. I know it sounds like an old wives' tale but I have never known it fail. And this year was a good one, if you will forgive the term. Such was the turn of the weather that it was difficult to remember that in February we had such a warm spell that we had two meals outside in the garden.

Well, that cold (and amazingly dry) weather held things back but the useful part was that the grass didn't need so much cutting. May be I was too ambitious with early sowings in the greenhouse but it almost became overfull and I dared not put the tender plants outside. Then, shortly after mid month things did at last warm up and cheered everyone up too.

Now we are into May and the spring flowers have no excuse for not delighting the sight and scent with their abundant blooms. Forget-menots, honesty and grannies' bonnets (or aquilegia, if you will) which, if allowed to seed, will fill the garden with fullness and plenty. With your flower beds filling out bare soil diminishes and this will smother many of the weeds leaving less work to do with the hoe. As a child I used to pick the phlox flowers to suck the sweet nectar from the base of the flowers. Dicentra reliably re-appears year after year and the late flowering tulips, early alliums and camassias this month should allow the riot of a true cottage garden to come to the fore.

In the kitchen garden our store of over-wintered main crop potatoes, onions and shallots is almost gone. The leeks, such a reliable crop, have done us well and, although we are still harvesting from them we are choosy now as the seed heads start to rise giving a tough core. These can be cut out with care but not for long before the toughness of the plant goes right through. My favourite main crop carrot has become Oxhella and, while we are able still to lift some of these – not for long. Purple sprouting broccoli is nearly over with just one more picking, but we have cauliflowers yet to head up. These are of indeterminate origin as we needed some emergency replace-



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Paul 07940983052 paul s harris@sky.com

In The Garden cont.

ments as the earlier ones died off in the heat wave of 2018 with temperatures in excess of 32 degrees C that the brassicas hated.

The first lettuces are now growing well as long as the slugs can be dealt with - more of that another time – and the first potatoes are

showing strongly as are the autumn and spring sown broad beans.

We are in the throes of having to replace quite a lot of our gooseberry, blackcurrant, redcurrant and raspberries simply due to the passage of time - 30 plus years for the life of these plants seems not unreasonable.



Fred

'So they do say...!'

From the Daily Telegraph, March 2019:

Sir – Under legislation passed in 1666, all burials were to be in woollen shrouds, primarily to protect the wool Murray Brazier, Chelmsford, Essex industry. A payment to the parish allowed a shroud of different material to be used.

The use of a wool shroud would be recorded in the parish register. The shroud would make all dead the same come Judgment Day. Unless the family could afford a coffin, funerals entailed a reusable parish coffin and the corpse was interred directly in the ground.

TW (With thanks to S.P.)

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Evington Gardeners

More garden impact for less effort

The March meeting of the Gardener's society opened with Barbara thanking Trevor, who for many years, together with the Studio Players, has entertained the gardeners with a musical soiree for their December meeting. This event has been much appreciated by the society. Thank you, Trevor.

She then introduced the speaker for the evening, Alison Marsden, who gave a talk entitled More Garden Impact for Less Effort, although she did stress that this did not mean zero effort! Ms Marsden is a garden consultant, who teaches social and therapeutic gardening in adult education.

This was an interactive meeting with audience participation promoting thought processes. The concept of "less effort gardening" was introduced, with the limiting factors,

ie time, strength and expertise, and the solutions, ie tools and techniques, focus, and design and planning. The "focus" solution was interesting. How much more gardening can you get done if you focus on one job and do not allow yourself to be distracted by other tasks!

The main focus of the evening was design and planning and we then looked at two slides of two different flower borders, one high impact and high maintenance and the other high impact but requiring far less effort to manage.

These slides were a good illustration of the importance of design and how plant choice is crucial to the principle of maximum visual impact for minimum effort maintenance, ensuring continuous seasonal interest, colour and no bare earth.

We were then presented with a garden plan and asked to discuss the pitfalls, which served to highlight the importance of personal preferences in garden layout and planting.

Barbara also reminded members that plant donations are needed for the plant stall at the May Fair.

HR

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Footpath Group

A walk in Bonnington

n Sunday 14th April a group of walkers left the snowy slopes of the downs for a leisurely walk in the more temperate climate of Bonnington. Eight of us walked along well-marked footpaths through the crops and into the woods, shepherded by Freya, who did her best to keep the group together. It was a beautiful day in spite of the chill North east wind and we were grateful for the shelter of the trees.

We followed the path through the bluebells and anemones, emerging on to the road above the new estate of Aldington Meadows, where the prison used to be. We then went into Poulton Wood, a conservation project run by the Canterbury Oast Trust, following well defined paths through the carefully managed woodland. A

small dedicated team of staff and volunteers, are involved in traditional coppice management, nature studies, woodcraft, horticulture and general conservation activities. Poulton Wood was a haven of tranquillity, despite all the families and dogs, who, like us, were out enjoying the spring sunshine streaming through the delicate green of the new leaves.

We went back down the hill, across the fields and home for refreshment, where solutions to Britain's current political problems were discussed over tea and cake.

The next walk will be on 12th May, 2pm from Evington Hall.

HR



Club

The latest winning numbers for the Evington
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1st Prize: No. 23 2nd Prize: No: 51 3rd Prize: No: 9

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News From Bodsham School

aster at Bodsham school sees a variety of activities for the children and community to celebrate spring. The children (with the help of some talented staff) put on the annual 'SpringSing' at Elmsted church where parents got to enjoy musical performances from the school to Star Wars characters were on choir, singing from all the year groups and individual instrumental performances from our talented youngsters - A very seasonal celebration of music.

The Owls class have been studying the Vikings this last term and opened their own Viking museum for a day where the other students and families were encouraged to come and look at their work. The children worked hard researching at school and at home and then chose their own ways to present their information using models, writing, ICT presentations and even stop-motion animations. It was a truly impressive display and the students really knew their subject. Excellent work by the Owls class!

The last week of term included Bodsham's traditional egg rolling event and egg decorating competition. All the children brought in hard boiled eggs to roll and competed with their class mates to roll their eggs closest to the finishing post. Eggselent sportsmanship was shown by all and winners were awarded a chocolate egg. The egg decorating competition always shows the children's creativity and eggs decorated as all sorts of things from Harry Potter show for all to see and Mr Newton found the judging almost impossible as all the eggs were so impressive.







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URGENT APPEAL FOR HASTINGLEIGH VILLAGE CHURCH!

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 Denny, 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 detail, is enclosed with this magazine; and there will be a stand at the village Spring Fair on 6th May, showing the plans. If you know of anyone outside our villages who might be interested in contributing, please let me know.

Roz Bacon, Churchwarden 01233 750327 roz.bacon@btinternet.com





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SPRING FAIR

Monday 6th May, 2019

From 12.30pm on the Football Field, Hastingleigh

Raffle - Tombola - BBQ
Beer Tent - Teas - Cakes
Evington Gardeners' Plant Stall
Coconut Shy - Face Painting
Maypole Dancing
Art Exhibition in Evington Village Hall
Evington Community Choir
Traditional Sideshows
and many more attractions

(No dogs allowed on the field, only assistance dogs)

Sponsored by the local Parish Council

Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills					
05/05	First Sunday	09.30 - Waltham - Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham.			
12/05	Second Sunday	08.00 - Waltham - BCP Communion 10.00 - Bodsham School - Messy Church 11.00 - Petham - Communion			
19/05	Third Sunday	09:30 Waltham Communion 11:00 Hastingleigh BCP Communion 11:00 Petham Family Service 17.00 Elmsted Choral Evensong			
26/05	Forth Sunday	11:00 Hastingleigh Communion 11:00 Petham New Family Communion			

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers: St Mary's St James'					
Apr 27th	Mrs Morris	Mrs London, Ms Flitney			
May 4th	Mrs French	Mrs Francesconi			
May 11th	Dr & Mrs Lawson	Mrs Wright			
May 18th	Mrs Day	Mrs Thrupp			
May 25th Jun 1st	Mrs Boxall Mrs Pell	Mrs Jeffrey			

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

Diary Dates - May					
Wed	1st	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30		
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00		
Fri	3rd	W.I. Workshop	10.00 - 13.00		
Mon	6th	Spring Fair (Football Field)	12.30 - 17.30		
Tues	7th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00		
Wed	8th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00		
Thurs	9th	Elmsted PC Meeting	19.30 - 21.00		
Sun	12th	Footpath Group	14.00		
Tues	14th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00		
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15		
		Hastingleigh PC Meeting	19.45 - 22.00		
Wed	15th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00		
Tues	21st	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00		
Wed	22nd	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00		
Sun	26th	Elmsted Church Lunches & Teas	12.00 - 16.00		
Tues	28th	Library Van	09.45 - 10.15		
		Joint Annual Parish Meeting	19.30 - 21.30		

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

Guild of St John of Beverley for the Deaf

A note for your diary

Annual BBQ will take place at the Village Hall

on Saturday, 22nd June 2019 from 5.00 until 8.00 pm



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Nature Notes

From February

n 24th February, Red Admirals, Brimstones, Small Whites; all on the wing. Almost unprecedented. Global warming brings wonderment as well as woes. It will be interesting to know if these butterflies can re-settle in some Ivy or wooded place and let Winter blow over them.

Large Bumblebees noisily coursing the beds in search of nectar from the Hellebore and early Daphne. Honey bees

already out and busy on the Camellias. Jackdaws fighting over holes in trees. The rabbits have bred early too. The young bolters about one-third grown, already the black ones and the brown ones. There was little Myxomatosis last year in these hills but there is another silent new virus decimating populations in the UK.

Wood pigeons return in large waves from raiding the Oilseed Rape, keeping under the wind. As the sun comes out the House Sparrows start talking in the eaves; a wild cacophony of chatter. I wonder what they are saying – it seems full of hope. They are worthy of our care, down in such numbers since the 60's and 70's.

BM

Police Contact

There is now a general number that can be used to contact the Rural Liaison Team in our area

07980 978202

There is further information available on the notice board in the Evington Hall



Crundale Country Fair

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WYE PPG

Would you like to join the Wye Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)?

he group meets bi monthly at the Surgery and we are always on the look out for new members. Since 2016 it has been a contractual requirement for English practices to establish a PPG and to make reasonable efforts to ensure that its membership is representative of the practice population. Wye Surgery has over 8000 patients and the present group is particularly in need of younger members, who can reflect the health needs of children, young people and families.

PPGs are usually made up of volunteer patients, the practice manager and one or more GPs from the practice. They meet on a regular basis to discuss the health services on offer and how improvements can be made for the benefit of both patients and the practice. In addition to the regular meetings there are occa-

sional special meetings. Last year there was also a very well attended Health Information Day held at Wye Village Hall as part of National PPG Awareness week and we are planning another in October.

Our PPG has been in existence since 2010 and was organised by Dr. Roz Waller, with Alan Billington as its first Chair.

Wye Practice, like many others, is owned and run by the Partners. The current partners are Dr. Jolyon Miles, Dr. Allan Fox and Dr. Nick DiBasio. They own the premises and have a contract with the NHS to provide core services to their patients. In order to fulfil this contract, the Surgery employs salaried doctors, nurses, other healthcare professionals and administrative staff.

The PPG and the Surgery work together to build a mutually beneficial relationship that breaks down barriers and shares



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PPG cont...

information.

The main objectives of the group are-

- to contribute to the continuous improvement of services
- to foster improved communication between the practice and its patients
- to help patients to take more responsibility for their health
- to provide practical support and

help to implement change.

Our next meeting will take place between 6-8 pm on Tuesday 4 June at the Surgery. We also have a virtual email group of over 80. If you think you might be interested in joining, please let the surgery know, contact me on 07932 735138 or just come along to the next meeting. You will be very welcome.

Judith Timms PPG Chair.

Joint Annual Parish Meeting

This year Elmsted Parish Council and Hastingleigh
Parish Council have decided to have a joint
Annual Parish Meeting which will be held on
Tuesday 28th May 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

This is an opportunity for the residents of the 2 parishes to review what has been happening in the villages over the past twelve months, and look forward to the year ahead.

We would be pleased to see you there.

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Farming Notebook

t is Easter time and, although you would be forgiven for thinking it is still very wintery with the keen north easterly winds, snow showers and hail, it really is a sign that Spring is here. Easter, which is late this year, is a Christian festival which celebrates a new beginning. All around the countryside is bursting into life. The hedges are becoming greener by the day, the oilseed rape is flowering, the grass is growing, calving is in full swing, the trees are showing the first signs of new green leaves, and the bees are venturing out of their hives. We are also celebrating "worm week"!

Dr Jacqueline Stroud of the Rothamsted Research Centre started the study of earthworm numbers last year and plans to make it an annual event. Farmers up and down the land are invited to dig a trench and then sift the soil to find the earthworms. The resulting counts and numbers of the different types of earthworms are centrally collated and give a national soil health status. Worms fall into three categories. Surface, topsoil and deep burrowing worms. All

are vital for a healthy soil, and the more worms the better...
What is their role in a healthy farming soil?

Improvement of soil structure. The roots of plants very often follow the route of a worm burrow as a means of reaching nutrients and water. Also the worm casts can help bind soil particles together to form aggregates which stabilise the soils. Improve nutrient availability. The worms digest crop residues and break them down, releasing the nutrients held within such as Nitrogen and Sulphur. These nutrients and the organic matter residues are not only used by plants but also the soil micro bacteria.

Improve drainage. The deep burrowing worms form vertical burrows which allows surface water to percolate through to the sub soil. How can we help?

It is important that we keep an eye on our soils and try to avoid compaction. Where compaction does occur we try to loosen it when the soil conditions will allow fracturing. Trying to fix the problem if it is too wet will only make matters worse. Keeping the crop residues, and root mass near to the surface of the soil allows the surface and topsoil worms to work their magic. After harvest we try to mix all the organic matter within the top 5 to 7.5cm of soil. This allows for free movement of the worms and also aids the soil bacteria.

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Farming Cont...

As a mixed farm we apply organic manures to the soil as well as returning all the crop residues. The result is a soil with good organic matter levels. This in turn encourages a healthy worm population. Worms are the unsung heroes of the soil. We do our best to help them flourish.

Spring oats and beans were planted into near perfect conditions at the end of March, and are now well emerged. The main dressing of fertiliser has been applied to the winter wheat crops. And now we begin planting of the potatoes. Conditions are good, even if the soils are still colder than I would like. As always, it seems that nature conspires to make sure that there are as many public holidays as possible during the planting period! We will certainly clash with Easter, but hopefully will be finished before the May bank holiday...

There has been much activity in the potato grading shed. The late flurry of orders were all needed "yesterday". The store still has our input seed, that being the seed we are going to plant, but other than that is pretty much empty. The grain store too is emptying rapidly. The last of the herbage seed is being collected tomorrow. That only leaves a big pile of wheat that is sold for May/June. The new born calves have been turned out with their mums onto

some nice fresh grass. Even though still chilly it is dry and with full tummies the youngsters are fine. We have put a few bales of straw out for shelter, but the cows love playing with them, and it is not long before they fall apart. At least it gives the cows and calves somewhere to snuggle in to.

Calving has gone very well so far. The cows have calved themselves and all have looked after their babies with no help needed from us. The calves have been of a good size, with good birth weight. We are very pleased with the progeny of the Hereford bull that we used last year. All the calves have the typical markings of the breed. Brown or black body, white face and white socks. It will make the job of making a matching pen of stores for the spring sales next year very easy.

The cows are fed a few waste potatoes out on the grass, and whilst they are busy eating the calves take the opportunity of sprinting around chasing each other. A lovely sight. Spring really has arrived....

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