

» Village Voice «

January 2018

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.196

Happy New Year to all our readers



This brilliant snow scene featuring St George's Church, Edworth, was captured by Edworth photographer Peter Hoskins, to whom we are most grateful.

Patrick's first 50 years as priest Gwen Bowen, Newnham's poppy seller



photo by Brenda Smith

Patrick Forbes was ordained priest on December 17 1967 by the Bishop of Bath and Wells in St. John the Baptist Church, Yeovil. Exactly 50 years later over 80 friends and relations celebrated this anniversary in St. Nicholas Church, Hinxworth. A memorable sermon was preached by Christina Rees CBE, a friend for nearly 40 years. The last hymn featured two trumpets played by Tim Welch, Patrick's trombone teacher, and Louie Goldscheider. from Ashwell. Patrick and Annette moved to Hinxworth in August 1998.

After the service there was a delicious bring and share lunch in Hinxworth and Edworth Village Hall. During the lunch in the beautifully decorated hall, kind words were spoken by Andy Hartree, who presented Patrick with a generous cheque and a framed photograph of St. Nicholas Church. Patrick thanked one and all for their kindness, friendship and generosity and said he would continue to do what he could.

Congratulations to Gwen Bowen from Manor Bungalow, Newnham, who has been selling poppies for the Royal British Legion for the last 49 years. We meant to run this story and photograph in last month's Village Voice, but we didn't, and the editor has been disciplined. Apologies to Andrew Gillborn who both took the picture of Gwen and sent it to Village Voice.

Andrew presented the certificate to a delighted Gwen on November 10. The citation read, 'In sincere appreciation and recognition for 49 years of loyal and dedicated assistance to the Poppy Appeal freely given and without which our services could not continue.' Gwen told Village Voice, "I always enjoy collecting for the Poppy Appeal."



Card scheme raises £1075 + £212

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2017 Hinxworth and Edworth Alternative Christmas Card Scheme. We raised £1075 - £760 for Macmillan Cancer Support and £315 for the British Red Cross. Gift Aid will mean a further £212 can be claimed by the charities.

thanks to all concerned

Thank you to Marianne Osmond who organised the layout of the card, artist Ann Fraser, and Richard Floyd who generously arranged its printing. Thank you also to Janet Fair who started the Alternative Christmas Card in 2004 and ran it so successfully.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Rachel Giles

Ashwell School Head's first year



Simon England has been Head at Ashwell School for one year, arriving on January 1 2017. I asked what had attracted him to Ashwell. "I was at a school in Cheshunt. I had been living in Bassingbourn for eight and a half years and travel to and from Cheshunt became impractical. So being able to improve the quality of life by living closer to the work was one of the draws. This school is slightly smaller than what I'd been used to, and as this is my first headship, it seemed a good sized school. Having looked around, I just fell in love with it. We have two children, aged five and seven who both go to Bassingbourn School."

one form entry

"In my first year here, there has been a huge change around the pupil admission numbers and classing structures. We no longer have mixed age classes. There is one form entry from the nursery stage, and year groups right through the school. We have had some changes in staffing. We have three new teachers in since September. There is ongoing work on curriculum delivery and pupils' attainment progress, alongside all of the building work. All of the roofs are being renewed, both the pitched roofs and the flat roofs. Soffits, fascias and doors are being replaced, long overdue. With the help of the Henry Colbron Trust we're developing the outside areas for the children, an outdoor classroom, a nurture and wildlife garden, the bug hotel. This will be the setting for some of the science curriculum as well as a place for children who don't want the hustle and bustle of a football pitch during break time."



school is part of the community

"Being a head has been a huge challenge, maintaining the pace and morale of the staff, the pace of change within education, and managing the finance effectively with all the difficulties around school funding mentioned in the media. The biggest change for me is how much a part of the community the school is, which is very different from where

I was before. It's been great getting to know about community events, Ashwell at Home, the Ashwell Show. It's been really exciting to have the school as part of that."

rounded education

"The best thing about this place is the school and the village environment and the close relationships which are so committed. The school has a tradition of a broad range curriculum full of rich opportunities. While we want the best standards, the school is not driven purely by standards. We want a rounded education with room for the children to have hobbies and interests, whatever they are, drama, swimming, music anything at all. I think it's an exciting time for the school and the village and I can't wait for all the building work to finish when we'll have a school that looks nearly new."

Patrick Forbes



the bug hotel

Blast from the Past!

As a child when I lived in Hinxworth I can remember being told about the severe winter of 1947 by my parents, before I was born. It went on and on; brilliant hard sunshine by day and hard frosts by night, but no let up for weeks. My mum remembered that the road from Ashwell to Hinxworth was blocked and nothing could get through. It became so bad that, at its worst, bread supplies from Ashwell were brought to Hinxworth across the fields by tractor.

water from standpipe

We lived in a cottage called Elmhurst which I believe is now Kingsmead. As we had no running water my dad had to take his buckets over the road to the stand pipe just along from The Three Horseshoes, and fill them up there. It didn't take long for them to freeze over inside the so-called kitchen, and the ice had to be broken before any water could be used.

rescuing Wooz the cat

Dad, along with other men in the village, wasn't able to get to work, so I believe they had to take shovels and spades and go snow clearing. The story of the dramatic rescue of my parents' cat 'Wooz' at this time has always stayed in my mind and was something of family folklore. She fell into a snowdrift in the garden and couldn't get out. Piteous howling indicated where she was and Dad had to get his shovel and lay it across the snow to the hole where she was so that she could clamber out and walk across it to his waiting arms!

rag rugs kept out draught

To keep warm in the evenings my parents used to sit round the one temperamental fire making rag rugs, which they would have over their knee as they worked on them to keep out the draught, and a big sheepskin rug that Mum had obtained while in the Land Army in Devon during the war, thrown over them in bed at night.

Angela Camp (née Barton)

HYP and angels celebrate



picture: Alec Stephenson

December's HYP took place in the Church as we prepared for the carol service. Everyone worked hard on their lines and went on to give a great performance at the service. The kids were rewarded with a visit to the Hartrees for a Christmas film with popcorn and treats. Thank you Jane, Andy and Gus. We are planning an outing in January - further details to follow.

Karen Mills

The carol service, organised jointly with Hinxworth and Edworth WI featured over 30 hand knitted angels which adorned the tree in St. Nicholas Church. After the service the angels flew to the tree in the Village Hall in time for the WI's Christmas meeting, after which they were distributed to the members.

Mortier's Fine Ceylon Tea - the perfect tea for 2018 Phone: 01462 743241

Hinxworth Parish Council

Note of a meeting of Hinxworth Parish Council held on Thursday
December 7 in the Village Hall at 8 pm.

Present: Mr R. Cobb, Chairman; Mr R. Lewis; Mr E. Sore; Mr N. Tiffin; Mrs W. Kitchener, Clerk. Other persons present:- Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor. Apologies: David Osmond.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 2 November were agreed by the Parish Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

2. Finance: The Precept 2018/2019: The Parish Councillors agreed unanimously to no change to the precept for 2018/2019. Therefore it will remain at £10,370.

3. Planning: Planning Application ref: 17/02759/1HH High Street House, High Street, Hinxworth, Baldock SG7 5HQ. Hinxworth Parish Councillors agree unanimously to no objection to the above planning application. Planning Application ref: 17/01865/1PN Manor Farm, Chapel Street. Change of use of building from Agriculture to B1/B8 use.

Further to the above application, and the subsequent objections by the Parish Council in relation to this change of use as recorded in the Parish Council minutes in October 2017, the Parish Council has been notified by a Hinxworth resident, of concern regarding an incident on the afternoon of November 22 of a lorry carrying a portacabin to Manor Farm becoming stuck trying to turn into Chapel Street.

4. Highways: Further to the meeting held on October 16 and recorded in the minutes of November 2017 the following items have been resolved:- hedges: all the hedges on the access roads into the Village have now been cut back. The Councillors conveyed their thanks to Gary Henning for his help in this matter. Likewise they again thank Sam Wallace for his help in cutting back hedging along the Ashwell Road. Potholes: It is unlikely any further funding for repairs will be available until the new financial year. Drains in the High Street/Homefield Area: subsequent to the October 16 meeting Hertfordshire Highways have identified a likely problem with these drains and are to investigate further. The "Smiley" Face Speed Sign: this is to be addressed further in the new financial year. The Chairman thanked Steve Jarvis for his help in resolving the above issues.

5. Recreation Ground: the Car Park Barrier: the Parish Councillors will review in the New Year. **The Playground Inspection Report:** to be carried out this month. **Hinxworth Archers:-** the annual renewal agreement for their use of the recreation ground to be discussed at the January Parish Council Meeting.

6. The Tennis Court: the surface of the tennis court is likely to need some maintenance in the future. The Parish Councillors intend to review the situation after the winter months.

7. Any other urgent business: Steve Jarvis - Hertfordshire County Councillor's Report:- The Local Plan: this is now moving forward. The report is likely to go to the Inspector within the next few months. Discussions are under way with Hertfordshire Highways regarding the roads and how the increased volume of traffic will be dealt with.

Hinxworth Parish Council website: Russell Lewis is to liaise with Joe Perricone to ensure all legislative regulations are met and then to finalise the implementation of the website.

Remembrance Day:- The Parish Councillors wish to convey their thanks to Tony Marchini regarding the High Street being cleared and cleaned, using his road sweeper, for the service on the day.

8: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday January 4 2018 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Wendy Kitchener - Clerk, Hinxworth Parish Council

Dates for your diary

January 4 Hinxworth Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7 pm
January 11 WI meeting Hinxworth & Edworth Village Hall 7.30 pm
January 12 Soup Lunch Hinxworth & Edworth Village Hall 12.30 -2 pm
January 20 copy deadline for Village Voice

River's Story



River is a rescued dog now living with us in Hinxworth and who began his life in Ireland in 2006. Little is known of his detailed background except that he was dragged from the river at Castlemaine, Co. Kerry in July 2013. He was found in an exhausted condition bleeding heavily from a shoulder wound. By searching the internet for information on River we found an interesting blog exchange on the Irish Animal Heaven Animal Rescue, AHAR, rescue facebook page from the actual time he was found.

"dog in urgent need of help"

AHAR June 26, 2013 at 5.19 pm - "URGENT: is there anyone near Castlemaine area, Kerry? There is a dog in urgent need of help, he has been shot and is lying at the side of the road. I have details of where he is/was. Please anyone in area? Call *****"

Josie O'Shea posted soon after, "Hi all, the dog has been seen by the vet, he is at present being transported to Milltown vets, he doesn't seem to have been shot, but lost a lot of blood and covered in silt he was pulled from the water and hard to see with the mud. Vet says he is in shock, will need to bring his blood pressure up and is now on the drip, so prayers now he will pull through."

AHAR June 26, 2013 "Dog should be ok. Vet thinks he has not been shot but has a neck wound. He had to be pulled from the river. Going on drip at vets now. An English setter. Many thanks to Amy and Liam and to anybody else who responded. Great work."

River's a bolter...

There followed several dozen messages of prayers and support for this unfortunate dog and within a couple of days of vet care he was declared fit. His microchip gave his age as 7 and only the name of his breeder who had no record of where or to whom he was sold. He was given the name of "River" and sent to the U.K. for adoption and a new life. After about a year with a family in West Sussex, River was sent back to a local rescue centre near Brighton and labelled as a "bolter" due to his habit of running off. Having kept English setters for many years we took care of him in July 2014.

...but he is happy

At first he seemed fearful and suspicious but gradually overcame his fears to become a loving family dog. His years as a working dog in Ireland are still deeply embedded in his character and he longs to join in and run with the pack in search of game, but he is happy!

hurrah for volunteers

Hinxworth is now home to other animals with similar unfortunate backgrounds. These animals owe their lives to the wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly to save them and give them a decent future with new owners who will care and love them.

David Osmond

On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook
Burglary Awareness

As Christmas approaches, the Constabulary tends to see an increase in burglaries across the county and this includes North Herts. To prepare for this seasonal trend, North Herts Detective Inspector Mike Keane, who leads the district's Local Crime Unit, has written to 500 residents in Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and Royston to warn them about burglary risks and to give them crime prevention advice. The 500 people who have been written to live in current 'hotspot' burglary areas and locations where addresses were targeted last Christmas.



we're doing all we can

Detective Inspector Keane said: "I do not wish to alarm people and would like to reassure local residents that I and North Herts' Chief Inspector Julie Wheatley are doing all we can to use all available resources to tackle this seasonal increase in burglaries, identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

burglars do their research

"Offences can happen during the daytime and evenings when occupants are not at home. Entry to properties has been gained via both front and rear doors. Last year, on occasions, considerable damage was caused, so offenders were not covert in their actions. I also believe some offenders spend time in the area prior to offences being committed, often taking time to research the streets and levels of activity.

be more vigilant

"In the lead up to Christmas we will be increasing our high visibility and covert patrols. I'd like to urge residents to be more vigilant. You are best placed to know when something looks out of place in your neighbourhood. If you suspect a person is in your neighbourhood to commit a crime or you see a vehicle in suspicious circumstances, please don't hesitate to contact us, so officers can attend and determine whether the person/vehicle is there lawfully."

advances in home security technology

Mike added: "Residents can also help us in the fight against burglary by securing their homes. There have been some great advances in home security technology and the costs are coming down all the time. Whilst it is still important to remember to secure windows and double-lock PVCu doors, by lifting the handle and turning the key to engage all the safety features, there are now security cameras and lighting that can help to make your home even safer.

"Criminals will always prefer to target unoccupied homes. If you give your home a lived in look, by using a timer switch to turn on a light, radio or TV, when it gets dark then criminals are more likely to avoid your home."

call us if you....

If you see anyone behaving suspiciously around your street, please report it to police via the non-emergency number 101 straight away. If, however, you feel could be witnessing a burglary or any other crime in action, please dial 999 immediately.

Hertfordshire Constabulary would also recommend residents consider the following crime prevention advice to further secure their homes:

- **Ensure doors are double locked at all times. Keep windows closed and locked.**
- **Consider installing a door bell camera, internal camera and/or monitored burglar alarm.**
- **Install 'dusk to dawn' external lighting and use timer switches in your home to control internal lights, radios and a simulated TV.**
- **Keep keys and valuables secure and out of sight.**
- **Ensure boundary fences are secure with side gates locked. Keep tools and ladders in a locked shed.**
- **Join Hertfordshire's Neighbourhood Watch for alerts and advice at www.owl.co.uk**

Church Services

December 31 9.15 am Parish Communion St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
January 7 10 am Family Service St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
January 14 9.15 am Parish Communion St. Nicholas Hinxworth
January 21 9.15 am Parish Communion St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
January 28 Parish 9.15 am Communion, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
9.30 am Holy Communion, St. Vincent, Newnham

Childminder

Jeannie Day B.A. (Hons) Ofsted Registered Childminder with full/part time vacancies available in Ashwell. Please contact me on 0771 952 052 or 01462 743346 for further information.

copy date

Please send all copy and pictures for February's edition by **January 20** to Patrick Forbes, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth SG7 5HL. e-mail to villagevoice3@gmail.com Thanks.

Soup Lunch

January's Soup Lunch will take place on Friday January 12 in Hinxworth and Edworth Village Hall from 12.30 pm until 2 pm.

The Three Horseshoes New Year

New Year's Eve 12 pm - 7 pm, food 12 pm - 3 pm

New Year's Eve **7 pm - 1 am - tickets only**

New Year's Day 12 pm - 3 pm, bar open, kitchen closed

January 2, 3, 4: closed

January 5 open as usual

Be prepared, say Police



Motorists and pedestrians are advised to take care in cold weather. Advice is being issued as the temperature drops over winter. Side roads and unsalted pavements may be dangerous and difficult to navigate. Take care and allow extra time for journeys. The Constabulary is advising motorists of the potential dangers of freezing ice and snow. Side roads, in particular, could still be difficult to negotiate as thawing snow turns to ice. Unsalted pavements may also be dangerous.

common sense precautions

Superintendent Richard Liversidge, who is based within the Force's control room, said: "Hertfordshire is in for some very cold weather this month and next and I would ask that everyone travelling around the county take some common sense precautions. This includes ensuring you have adequate clothing and footwear for the harsh weather conditions."

"The temperature could drop below freezing which could lead to black ice on roads and pavements. Please take care and allow extra time for your journey. Indeed, if your journey isn't important then consider making it later."

Hertfordshire Police contact

chris.brabrook@herts.pnn.police.uk 01438 757935

Ring 101 if you have suffered a crime or need police within a couple of hours. 999 for immediate response if you have just suffered a crime and for hare coursing.

Bedfordshire Police Contact

For readers in Edworth, in emergency dial 999 or 112 from your mobile. Non emergencies ring 101, or 112 from a mobile.

Farrowby Farm for fine festive foods throughout 2018