

## It must be Christmas

Smiley face speed sign, pot holes filled it must be Christmas.

This is news that the Smiley face speed sign is now in place and does seem to be slowing traffic entering Hinxworth. Herts county council have also filled a large number of pot holes in Hinxworth High Street, if only temporarily until the Spring.



## New Inn Road Closure

Hinxworth Parish Council has received the following notification:- Surface Dressing preparation in New Inn Road,

Repairs to sections of the road surface will be carried out under road closure from between the A1 and the village High Street. This is due to take place from between 11th - 13th January, 09.30am to 4.00pm and 07:30am to 6:00pm weekends. Please refer to yellow signboards on your street for exact dates and timings. Note further details can be found on the Hinxworth Parish Council website [www.hinxworth-pc.org.uk](http://www.hinxworth-pc.org.uk)

REMEMBER: You can report potholes on the following website:- [www.Hertfordshire.gov.uk/faults](http://www.Hertfordshire.gov.uk/faults). Or phone:- 0300-123-4047 and ask for a report number for reference.

*Wendy Kitchener, Clerk, Hinxworth Parish Council*

## Christmas Card Scheme

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2018 Hinxworth and Edworth Alternative Christmas Card Scheme. We raised £1200 in total, £850 for the Garden House Hospice and £350 for Barnardo's. Thank you to Marianne Osmond who organised the layout of the card; HYP for the card design; Phillips Digital Print for printing the card; and to Richard Floyd who has generously sponsored the card.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Rachel Giles ([rachel@gilesunlimited.co.uk](mailto:rachel@gilesunlimited.co.uk))*

## Judy King 1931 - 2018

Readers will be sad to learn of the death of Judy King, formerly of Arnolds Lane, Hinxworth, in the Lister Hospital on December 4th following a fall at home in Ashwell. Her funeral for her close family was held on December 19th. Plans are being made for a memorial service in St. Nicholas Hinxworth on March 2nd at 2.30 pm. We send our sympathy to her family and friends.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Patrick Forbes*

## A New Years Message

Dear Friends,  
Another year has gone and a new year started. I just don't know where they go. When I was young they seemed to last forever. It used to seem to be an interminable wait from one birthday to another or from one Christmas to the next and now they just absolutely fly past!

The beginning of a new year always seems to be a time for reflection, to review how things have gone in the past year and to think about the future. I suppose that is the reason for the popularity of all those New Year's resolutions we make every year on the first of January and promptly break on the second.

I have made my share, from stopping smoking, to losing weight, to taking regular exercise, etc. Incidentally, I finally gave up smoking not as a result of a New Year's resolution, but after a birthday present of a course of acupuncture from my wife. Not everybody's idea of a jolly birthday present!

Over the years I must have tried all of the popular resolutions and equally I have failed. There is always a feeling of letting yourself down when it goes wrong. So I now no longer beat myself over the head with New Year's resolutions. I don't persuade myself to try and do something that deep in my heart I know I have no intention of doing. I suspect that one of the reasons that I have failed so consistently is because most of my resolutions have been selfish, they were always to do with me, being slimmer, fitter, healthier. There is nothing wrong of course with any of these, they are all laudable ambitions, even if we so often fail to achieve them. So now on New Year's day, I don't have a resolution in the accepted meaning of the word, but I do have a sort of secret resolution.



Each year I promise myself that I will try to be a kinder person. More understanding, more forgiving, more tolerant. I don't tell anybody (until now) so that when I fail and I always do, there is no one saying "well that didn't last long, but I never thought it would." Instead I soldier on with the same intention for the whole year, rather than forgetting about it at the first failure as I used to do with my old style resolutions.

So if you are like me, doomed to fail at conventional resolutions, try the alternative. Just try to be a kinder person this year, a better neighbour, a better friend, a more tolerant father or mother, a more understanding boss or a more helpful employee. You won't always succeed, but you may be surprised at how often you do. And watch out, because it may be habit forming!

With every blessing and a Happy New Year to you all

*Robert Evens, Rector of Ashwell with Hinxworth and Newnham*

## On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook



### Festive Message from the Team -

This year's festive safety message is to stay safe whilst shopping, partying, at home or on the roads. We provide some important information to help you stay safe this festive period.

#### Shopping Safety

Stay safe on the high street this Christmas with our shop safe tips and information. The festive period is traditionally the busiest time of the year for shopping and unfortunately, there are those who exploit the festive period for the wrong reasons but it only takes a few simple preventative measures to discourage criminals and stay safe.

Keep safe online this Christmas with our online safety tips and information. More and more people use online shopping to purchase their Christmas presents as well as taking advantage of sales and events like Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It's important to take a couple of precautionary steps when purchasing goods online to keep safe and avoid being targeted by criminals.

It is also important that people understand the dangers of social media and that what you post online, stays online.

#### Party Safety

With the festive season, many people will be out celebrating in pubs and clubs and their Christmas nights out so we want to provide you with some key information to help you stay safe.

Make sure to stay with friends, stick to your plans, have travel arranged and be careful of what you drink. Don't leave drinks unattended and stay away from drugs, new psychoactive substances or other controlled substances.

#### Home Safety

Keep your home safe this Christmas with our home safety tips and information.

A few simple steps such as leaving a light on when you're out, keeping presents and valuables out of sight, opening and closing curtains at the appropriate time of day and not advertising on social media when you are out helps to keep criminals away.

#### Road Safety

During the winter months ensure your car is ready for the season change in weather - are tyres, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and windows free from defects and clean?

Be aware of changing road conditions, don't put yourself and others at risk.

Drink driving – don't risk it, if you are out partying be aware of your alcohol consumption.

Beware the morning after: you could still be over the limit the day after drinking. Sleep, coffee and cold showers don't help you to sober up – time is the only way to get alcohol out of your system. There is no excuse for drink driving: alcohol affects everybody's driving for the worse. It creates a feeling of overconfidence, makes judging speed and distance more difficult, and slows your reactions so that it takes longer to stop. 'Only going down the road' is not an excuse: a large proportion of all drink drive crashes occur within three miles of the start of the journey

#### Hertfordshire Police contact:

email: [chris.brabrook@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chris.brabrook@herts.pnn.police.uk) Tel: 01438 757935

Ring 101 if you have suffered a crime or need police within a couple of hours. Ring 999 for an 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.

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## Experienced Cleaner

Available for cleaning, my name is Henri and I live locally. I have over 14 years experience. £12 per hour. Reference available upon request. Tel. 07582992979

*Henri Sheldrick*

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## Soup Lunch

Soup lunch will be on Friday 18th January in Hinxworth Village Hall from 12.30 - 2pm. Everyone is welcome so come along for some lovely homemade soups and cakes.

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## What's on at the Three Horseshoes

**Christmas Eve** Carol singing and Santa's grotto 6pm

**New Years Eve** Throw back party. Fancy dress optional, with hits from the 60's 70's and 80's plus buffet

**Geoff and James Chef Night** Saturday 12th January, Geoff and James will be taking over the kitchen as our guest chef's.  
*Bookings being taken now*

**Pub Quiz Night** Wednesday 17th January, £2.00 per person, 8pm start.

**Burns Night** Friday 25th January, Traditional Burns Night menu, with Scottish piper  
*Bookings being taken now.*

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## New Years' Day Cleanser

To settle your stomach and soothe your head after the indulgence of the Christmas festivities, try this beetroot cocktail on New Years' Day.

1 Fresh Beetroot, peeled and diced	500mls Tomato juice
1 teaspoon horseradish	4 measures of gin
Worcestershire sauce	1/3rd glass of red wine
Tabasco	Celery stick
Celery salt	Ice
Black pepper	

Add diced beetroot and horseradish to a blender and whizz to a purée, loosening with a little tomato juice if necessary. Strain into a jug. Add the rest of the tomato juice to the jug and season with celery salt and black pepper. Add Worcestershire sauce and Tabasco to taste. Stir in the wine. Measure the gin into cocktail glasses, add ice and pour over the beetroot/tomato mix. Slice the celery stalk in four, lengthways and cut to size. Pop the celery into each glass to stir.



For those who would prefer an alcohol free pick-me-up, this is equally comforting without the gin and wine.

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# Hinxworth Parish Council

Parish Council meeting minutes 6th Dec. 2018 village hall.

**Present:** Richard Cobb (Chairman), Mr D. Osmond, Mr E. Sore, Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk). Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor

**Apologies:-** Russell Lewis, Mr N. Tiffin

**1.** The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 1st November were agreed by the Parish Councillors and signed by Chairman Richard Cobb. Proposed by Eric Sore and seconded by David Osmond.

**2. Matters arising not on the Agenda:** Nothing to report.

**3. Correspondence:** The Chairman has received details from PCSO Chris Brabrook of the speed of vehicles passing through the Village. These are historical and the Chairman is now awaiting further information from PCSO Brabrook on the best way forward in dealing with this problem.

**4. Finance:** Current Parish Council Funds: The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Proposed by David Osmond and seconded by Eric Sore.

The Precept: The Parish Council has been notified by NHDC that they will require the figure for the financial year 2019-2020 by 18th January 2019. The precept therefore will be discussed the next Parish Council meeting on 3rd January when all Councillors should be present. Wendy Kitchener will notify NHDC of this be in the interim.

**5. Planning:** Nothing to report.

**6. Highways:**

The Smiley Face Speed Sign for the Village: This is now in place. The Councillors wish to convey their thanks to Steve Jarvis and Gary Henning for their help in this matter.

The "Community Drive Safe Scheme" application for funding has been made by Nick Tiffin and acknowledged by the Scheme co-ordinator. It is therefore now hoped the application will be successful.

Data from the Speed Sign will be down loaded to provide the Councillors with the current information on vehicles speeding through the Village. Wendy Kitchener is to contact Gary Henning for his advice on when and how this data can be down loaded and forwarded to the Councillors. Likewise to obtain the likely cost of providing this information. The Councillors are in agreement the Parish Council will meet such costs.

**Salt Allocation 2018/19:** The application made to Hertfordshire County Council for 34 bags of 20kg of salt for use during the winter have now been delivered. The Councillors wish to convey their thanks to Roy Watler for arranging storage at Marshfield Farm and to overseeing the delivery. Eric Sore reported he had filled the four salt bins in the Village ready for the use by the Villagers as and when necessary.

**7. Village Hall:**

David Osmond reported the Village Hall Management Committee were working hard preparing for the "Christmas Extravaganza". This took place in the Village Hall on December 8th.

**8. Recreation Ground:**

The Entrance to the Recreation Ground from the Car Park: There is an ongoing problem with the transporting of the gate to the Recreation Ground therefore the Councillors have agreed to contact David Granger for him to purchase and install the gate. Wendy Kitchener is to arrange.

The Annual Play Area Inspection: This took place on November 23rd. The report has now been received detailing the areas of concern. Most of these are very low or low risk. Eric Sore will check the area along with the findings of the report. The Councillors will then arrange a working party to rectify the points raised.

**9. The Tennis Court:** David Osmond is to check the court and the net to see if there are any issues that require attention.

**10. The Allotments:** Nothing to report.

**11. Any Other Urgent Business:** Nothing to report.

**12: Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday January 3rd 2019 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

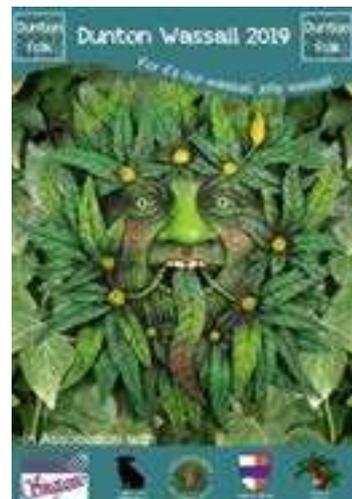
Wendy Kitchener, Clerk, Hinxworth Parish Council

## Dunton Folk - Wassail

Saturday 5th January 2019 - starting at 6.30pm

The 2019 Wassail (our eighth!!) will be held on Saturday 5th January starting at 6.30pm in the farmyard at Church Farm, Dunton. Take the road to the left of the March Hare pub (if you are looking at it). This is Church Street and Church Farm is at the end of this road, just behind the church.

Our wassails are very much community affairs with a number of village groups involved with the event. We have soup and hot dogs from Dunton Community Garden, mulled cider from Franklin's Cider, Dancing from Letchworth Morris Men and Bedford Morris Men, vocal entertainment from Singtastic (Dunton's very own choir), a mummers play from the Brafront Guizers and a traditional music session in the March Hare pub.



Who would think you could have so much entertainment in one evening? Wrap up warm, bring a torch, a saucepan lid and a wooden spoon. Once we have hung toast soaked in cider in the trees in the orchard and sung a couple of wassail songs we toast the apple trees then make as much noise as possible to encourage the trees to bear as many apples as possible next year.

Wassail! Wassail! All over our land!

*Note: The orchard-visiting wassail refers to the ancient custom of visiting orchards in cider-producing regions of England, reciting incantations and singing to the trees to promote a good harvest for the coming year.*

## Take it Home

Whilst I applaud responsible dog owners using poo bags to clear up their dogs deposit, it is not acceptable for a minority of dog owners to then litter countryside footpaths with used bags, maybe in the expectation that someone else will remove it. Hanging used poo bags on hedges may be a novel way of depositing them, but totally unacceptable. TAKE IT HOME!

Alan Murray

# Ashwell Mummers

18th January 2019 will see our 18th Christmas tour of Ashwell, starring The Dragon. As usual, Ashwell Mummers will perform in each of the three pubs on 18th January 2019 as well as in Wolverley House and at The Waggon & Horses in Steeple Morden. Over the years, we have sent more than £4,000 to the North Herts Sanctuary.

There are up to 10 characters in the cast (though the play can be performed with as few as 5) and this year we will have 9 of them, including such famous characters as Devil Doubt, Big Head and Humpty Jack. St George, as usual, will perform a heroic task by slaying the dragon (star of the show) at all 5 venues.

If you'd like to know more about Ashwell Mummers, or the various Mummers Plays we perform, or if you would like us to perform at an event you are organising, please get in touch.

Ian Chandler - 743091

## Ashwell Mummers

Will be performing their

**Christmas  
Mummers**

**Play**

**starring**

**\* The Dragon \***

**On Friday 18th January  
2019**

**\* All proceeds to the North Herts Sanctuary (homeless shelter) \***

**... at the following times**



**7.30 pm Bushel & Strike**  
*(children welcome)*

**8:00 pm Wolverley House**

**8:45 pm Waggon & Horses**  
*Steeple Morden*

**9.30 pm Three Tuns**

**10.00 pm Rose & Crown**



Note: A Mummers' play is a traditional English folk play, of a type often associated with Christmas and popular in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The plot typically features Saint George and involves the miraculous resurrection of a character.

## Church Services

6th Jan 10.15 am - Family Service, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
13th Jan. 9.15 am - Parish Communion St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
20th Jan. 9.15 am Parish Communion St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
27th Jan. 9.15 am Parish Communion St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
9.30 am Holy Communion St. Vincent, Newnham

# Ashwell Patients' Group

## Appointment News

Our surgery (Ashwell and Bassingbourn) is associated with the 10 other medical practices in North Herts and together they are offering additional appointments outside normal opening hours. This means it is possible to see a doctor or a nurse between 6.30pm and 8pm on weekdays, 8am - 4pm on Saturdays and 8am - 12 noon on Sundays. If you want an appointment at one of these times you must book in advance through OUR surgeries in Ashwell and Bassingbourn in the usual way. You cannot simply turn up. Please note that these appointments will be available at Sollershott Surgery, 44 Sollershott East, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3JW and NOT at our own surgeries. When you make one of these bookings you will be asked to consent to your medical records being shared with the "extended service" at Sollershott. This sharing will only be valid for that particular appointment and only lasts for one week. If you do not give this consent, you will be unable to use this service. One of our patients has reported using the service and being extremely pleased at how it worked. Note that even though you may not live in North Herts, as long as you are a patient at either Ashwell or Bassingbourn surgeries, you are entitled to use the scheme.

Remember that we do offer additional appointments on Tuesdays from 7.15am and on Thursdays up to 18.50.

## Good News for Us

We are delighted that our surgeries are fully staffed with well qualified professionals. Sadly this is far from the case elsewhere. We regularly hear of surgeries including local ones with vacancies they find hard to fill. According to a recent survey carried out by The Royal College of General Practitioners almost a third of the doctors surveyed said they would not be working in general practice in 5 years' time with stress and retirement cited as the most common reasons. The alarming conclusion of the College is that more than 350 practices in England alone could face closure as a consequence. Let's make sure we appreciate the good fortune we currently enjoy in our locality!

## Politeness

We are disturbed to hear reports of patients being rude and short-tempered in their dealings with surgery staff. Whilst it is understandable for people to feel frustrated occasionally when they can't be seen as quickly as they would like, the surgery can only operate within the limitations of availability of medical staff. Every effort is made to ensure that patients are dealt with as quickly and as appropriately as possible. So we appeal to our patients to recognise this and to remember to treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.

Having said all that, our surgery staff report that the vast majority of our patients are delightful to work with. Let's make that 100%.

## Missed Appointments

There are still quite a lot of these meaning that doctors' and nurses' time is wasted and that other patients are denied appointments. So please remember to cancel your appointment as early as possible if you realise you can't make it. This is very easy to do. It's the first option that you hear when you ring the surgery.

## And Finally - Good Health to One and All

All of us on the Ashwell Patients' Group and staff at our surgeries wish everyone a happy and healthy 2019.

**Copy Date:** Please send all copy and pictures for February's edition by January 20th to Mike Wade.  
E-mail to: [villagevoice3@gmail.com](mailto:villagevoice3@gmail.com)