

Village Voice

March 2007

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.66

Farewell to Cyril

Cyril Demarne O.B.E., Hinxworth's oldest inhabitant, died at his home in the early hours of Sunday January 28th, just 10 days short of his 102nd birthday.

Cyril's life was involved in fire fighting. In 1925 he joined the fire brigade in West Ham and during the war was heavily engaged in fighting the terrible fires in London caused by German bombing. During this time he was promoted first to Company Officer then Divisional Officer and then finally to Chief Fire Officer and in 1952 received his O.B.E. He retired in



Cyril with Sofia Jarman

1955. However, Cyril's experience was too good to waste. So in 1956 he moved to Australia to become Senior Instructor of the Fire Service Training School in Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport until 1964. During this period he travelled widely throughout Australasia and developed the aviation fire departments of Norfolk Island and Papua New Guinea. Under secondment to the International Civil Aviation Organisation, he set up and ran the Civil Aviation Centre at Beirut Airport until retiring in 1967. In 1930 Cyril married Alice who died in 1986. He leaves two daughters, Jo and Margie, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

a real gentleman

Cyril's funeral took place on February 9th at Cambridge Crematorium and a memorial service was held in St. Nicholas Church, Hinxworth on February 22nd led by Rev. Simon Chambers. At this service there was a Guard of Honour from the Fire Service and an estimated 120 people packed the church. Patrick Forbes, Reggie Fair and John Mills gave short reflections on Cyril's life. Patrick remembered Cyril's faithfulness, his regular church-going, his generous and positive spirit, his visit to Ashwell School last year, his love of life. Reggie remembered Cyril's participation in village life, his talks, his visits to soup lunches, and laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday, his presence reminding us of the debt we all owe to the Civilian Services who bore the brunt of the blitz, saving people and buildings and sustaining the nation's morale. "Cyril has set a magnificent example of what can be achieved in really old age. He was a real gentleman, invariably well turned out, with a great sense of duty and generous of spirit, kind, friendly and welcoming."



Guard of Honour. Picture - Dylan Mills

proud, confident, a good father in law

John Mills remembered Cyril, "Dad, Grand-dad, uncle, great uncle, father to Jo and Margie, and "Sir" as he was known to his other family, the firefighters, the troops as he called them. He was a proud man, very confident - his convictions were very firm indeed. Concerned at the lack of any memorial to the firefighters he asked John to sculpt one.



*I'd love to help dear - but I really must finish this sermon...
...my theme's the '200th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery!'*

Man shortage at Pilates

So far only three men in Hinxworth have taken up the challenge of getting fit and healthy through attending the Pilates classes run by Linda Butler. Linda has been running these classes for a couple of months now in the newly refurbished village hall and told me that they are not just for females, as some may think. "In my classes I help people with their core strength and flexibility. Many men work out at the gym and develop superficial muscle strength, but Pilates works from the core muscles out, producing overall strength with flexibility and balance. These are all key features of good movement."

David Osmond is a beginner at the classes and agreed with Linda that the classes are good for "anybody, men or women", and although he thinks the women are more supple he's trying to keep up! David is the co-founder of the Hinxworth Archers and he hopes that Pilates will help him to be more supple and flexible.

confidence and sexiness

Men, in particular, often suffer from repetitive strain injury as a result of sitting for long periods at the computer with the head pushed forward from the shoulders and towards the computer screen and the hands on mouse and/or keyboard in what Linda describes as the "reptile pose". Back, neck, shoulder, arm or hand pain often results and Pilates can help alleviate and cure this pain - a fact which our editor found out! "As well, a man walking towards you with his head and body held high and strong definitely shows confidence and sexiness!" said Linda

challenge for men

Top athletes all practice Pilates. Linda and her colleagues have worked with high level national professional rugby and soccer teams, boxers, tennis and golf players, and Steve Redgrave's rowing team. Classes are held on Mondays at 12 noon, 4.45pm, and 6pm for 1 hour each, in Hinxworth village hall. So, gentlemen, there's the challenge.

Katie Scales

Party date change

Party in the Park has been moved from June 30th to June 23rd. Any bands still not signed up, please contact Sylvia Scales on 01462 742505.

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"He wanted a public acknowledgement of what those men and women did during the war." Cyril was immensely proud of everything to do with the Fire Brigade. "And," said John, "by the way, he was a very good father in law."

Grapevine by Mark Jarman

When the snow fell in Hinxworth a few weeks ago, I was reminded of a journey I made almost exactly a year ago from Verona to Alba, with the buyer for Thresher. Crossing northern Italy in winter can be a tricky business, especially in the dark. We'd left Verona a little after 7 pm and the thick fog which descended within minutes lasted all the way to Alba. We woke the next morning to the magical sight of vineyards covered in a fresh layer of thick snow.

From a wine perspective Italy is a difficult country to become acquainted with; most of its grape varieties are rarely found anywhere else in the world and are only grown in specific regions. Add this to the fact that most of the wines are named after their region such as Valpolicella or Chianti, and learning about the grape varieties becomes even more of a challenge. But get past this, and you will uncover vinous gems that justify Italy's place as one of the world's great wine producing countries.

a country of three parts

The first step in starting to understand this country is accepting that it isn't one country when it comes to wine – it's actually a number of very distinct regions producing a myriad of different styles. Think of it simply as the north, the south and the bit in the middle. In this Village Voice we're going to look at the north and tackle the rest in later editions.

barbera and nebbiolo

The snow which I experienced in my visit last year was a reminder of the influence the proximity the mountain ranges have on all the vineyards of northern Italy. Alba is a pretty town in the region of Piedmont or "foot of the mountains". The town is famous for hazelnuts, being the home of Ferrero Rocher and "Nutella"! Fortunately it also makes amazing red wines from mainly two grape varieties: Barbera and Nebbiolo. We'll start with Nebbiolo as this is the aristocrat of the region and the grape responsible for making both Barolo and Barbaresco. Ideal wines to go with rich casseroles and roasts; you should be able to pick up a bottle of this elegantly rich wine with its firm tannins and black cherry fruit character for between £5 and £10. Barbera d'Alba is named after the town and is a little lighter in style and often better value. Also look out for Nebbiolo d'Alba (Nebbiolo from Alba) which is generally cheaper and often just as good as Barolo.

look out for classico

Head east across to the vineyards that surround the picturesque lakes and the bustling city of Verona and you're in Valpolicella and Soave country. These are familiar names to most UK wine drinkers but sadly, often associated with average quality wine served in average quality Italian restaurants. This is a pity as the wines can be delicious; always look out for the word "Classico" on the label which means the wine comes from a sub region producing grapes of better quality. Soave is made from the native Garganega variety while Valpolicella comes from a blend of three; the predominant one being Corvina. Now this is a great variety and undergoes an amazing transformation when left to partially dry before fermentation to produce a true veronese gem called Amarone, literally translated as "Big bitter"! Don't let the name put you off – the wine is rich and concentrated with the wonderful aroma of dark cherry fruit, and a hint of smoke. On the palate it is full bodied and complex, powerful yet with bright acidity and firm tannins. Amarone is delicious with full flavoured meats and particularly hard cheeses such as Cheddar. Not the cheapest wine I'm ever going to recommend, as a good one will set you back at least £10, but it's worth it if you're looking for a treat for a cold evening before our British winter finally gives way to Spring!

Congratulations to Janet Fair, the lucky winner of 6 bottles of wines from the Climbing vineyards in Orange, New South Wales. Thank you to all who took part and raised over £100 for *Children with Leukaemia*.



Save our Church pews

I have signed a petition to save our church pews. I am at a loss to know why the pews are to be discarded in favour of chairs! The move to replace the pews in our ancient church with chairs has not been generally known until recently. Some reasons given are that the pews are uncomfortable, that they are in need of restoration, that they are only Victorian, that more concerts could be held there. But there is not a need for chairs. Our old churches were built to the glory of God - not for the comfort of the congregation. Money could be better spent on restoring the pews rather than buying costly chairs. What is wrong with Victorian? I have attended several concerts sitting both in the pews and on chairs, and sitting in the pews didn't detract from the performance, in fact it added to the atmosphere. Take a cushion! Future generations would probably lament the replacement of the pews and wonder what on earth we were thinking of. They will not thank us for spoiling the peaceful charm of our lovely church.

Church is for all

The church is there for all the villagers of Hinxworth and Edworth not only for regular churchgoers, and, as a very concerned member of the Church of England I ask the P.C.C. to reconsider their action in this matter.

Audrey Hayden.

Village Voice asked parish priest Simon Chambers to comment.....

One of my responsibilities is the somewhat strangely named 'cure of all souls' within the parishes. Very few would deny that there is something within us that is our very essence, something that defines exactly who we are, and from that comes our thoughts, feelings and actions. The Christian faith calls this part of us our souls. And I am given the charge, from the church, of the 'cure of all souls'. So I am here equally for the souls of church members as well as for non-church members. Of course for those who I regularly meet, I am able to gain a feeling for their needs and the 'health' of their souls. For others, who I only meet infrequently there can be more complexities in their lives which are unknown.

jumping to conclusions

So I have to confess that I was rather disappointed and saddened that there seems to be an unhealthy debate going around the village about the future of pews and chairs in the church. Saddened, because it appears to be pulling-apart village life that has in the past seemed wholesome and good. Disappointed because I worry that several people may have jumped to conclusions without being aware of the subtleties of the debate.

The Church Council and I, together with the Diocesan Advisory Team, have been looking at the spiritual future of the church. This debate is wider than just the pews and is rightly taking some time to consider all the important historic, practical and spiritual issues. We recognise that the building is more than just a meeting place; for those who just pop-in during the week, or just walk past, it is the place of encounter with God, and it speaks of the stability of faith at the heart of a changing world. But faith that is not alive is dead, and Jesus came so that we might know him and have life, and have it abundantly (John 10.10). Certainly no decision has been made about any changes within the church whether that is about chairs or pews or any other aspect, and it will be important that our church speaks on a spiritual level to all. It may be that the end result of our discussions is to change nothing.

let's talk about it

However, it may be that we are inspired by God's spirit and challenged to encounter God in new and maybe uncomfortable ways. So if you feel that your spiritual needs are not being met by the church then do come and speak with me, and if you would like to know about the present discussions do talk with myself or members of the Church Council. I pray that we can restore again that peace and love that is at the heart of our faith, and at the heart of our church here in Hinxworth and Edworth.

Simon Chambers

Hinxworth Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on February 1st 2007 in the Village Hall

Cyril Demarne O.B.E. It is with deep regret the Parish Councillors heard of the death of Cyril Demarne, Hinxworth's oldest resident. The Councillors extend their condolences to his family.

Cllr Howard Marshall and Ms. Grace Crawford NHDC Scrutiny Review Committee attended the Meeting. The Chairman welcomed them to the meeting and invited Howard Marshall to speak about the purpose of the Scrutiny Committee and its relevance to the Parish Councils. Howard Marshall explained the Scrutiny Committee had the brief to oversee the activities of the District Council, its policies and its relationship with the Parish Councils. Therefore at meetings with Parish Councils within NHDC it is hoped to report back to the NHDC Cabinet their findings. This should enable NHDC to be updated on the views and needs of the Parish Councils. He invited the Councillors to comment. The Chairman felt Hinxworth Parish Council had a very good relationship with NHDC. The Departments always answered queries promptly and were helpful in following up any action required. Funding via the PACIF Award had allowed the refurbishment of the Village Hall. Being a small rural village, the difficulties were mainly general and often resolved locally. Howard Marshall thanked the Councillors for their input and would forward a copy of the Report that will be sent to 'Cabinet' in the near future. Both he and Grace Crawford then left the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the minutes: Telephones: The Parish Council requested the residents in the Village, via the November, December and January issues of the Village Voice, to report the difficulties they were encountering with their telephone service to them. This would allow the Council to address the issue with BT as an elected body to encompass the Village as a whole. With no response from the residents, the Councillors were therefore surprised to see that certain residents had taken this on board without notifying the Council. Such action undermines the democratic procedure and dilutes the effectiveness of the Parish Council who represent all the residents of the Village.

Village Hall: Programme for Refurbishment: The Parish Council are waiting to hear the date of the meeting between Eades Hotwani, Conamar, Geoff Burrows and the Parish Council. Harry King will represent the Parish Council. He asked the Clerk to forward him the list of the additional costs to be resolved at the meeting.

Village Hall Management Committee: At their meeting on January 17th it was agreed they would provide the Parish Council with a draft Business Plan by the next Parish Council Meeting on March 1st. The Parish Council will take on board the Health and Safety regulations and are in the process of obtaining the details. The VHMC has requested the Parish Council to repair the road and the Car Park at the Village Hall. The Councillors agreed this should be done, but due to the lack of funds, this will have to be done from either the VHMC. obtaining a grant or from future fund raising.

Planning: The Cottages, High Street: The Parish Council has received notification from NHDC Planning Department they have 'No Objection' to the 'Reduction in height of one silver birch tree by approx. four metres; reduction in height of one eucalyptus tree by approx. six metres. On behalf of Dr. & Mr. R Hadley.

Finance: Current Parish Council Funds: Hertfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils have approved an additional grant of £675.00 for the purchase of, or update of computer equipment. This is part of their initiative to provide all Parish Councils with such equipment.

Recreation Ground: The Tennis Court: The persons entitled to use the tennis court during the 2006/2007 season still remain as in the previous minutes. **Youth Activities:** Harry King has met with Stuart Izzard of NHDC. He will survey the needs and make recommendations for the equipment required for the Recreation Ground. He expects to

continued columns 3 & 4

Hinxworth & Edworth WI



Hinxworth and Edworth W.I. celebrated their 70th Birthday in February. 27 members and their guest enjoyed a buffet supplied by Casino Catering. The birthday cake, made by Jerry Keep, was cut by the President Carol Cheney, ably assisted by our newest member Judith Churchill and our longest serving member Caroline Smyth who has been a member for 57 years. Our guest speaker was Peter Chapman retired headmaster of The Knights Templar School in Baldock. He gave us a very interesting and humorous potted history of his days as a school boy, university student, early teaching years and finally as a headmaster.

bikinis dusted down

The Institute is holding several fund raising events this year, they include a cheese and wine evening a fashion show and a cake and provisions stall at Biggleswade Market. The committee decided that the chocolate party idea should be put on hold as the summer months were approaching and the bikinis were being dusted down.

Marion Bridgewater

continued from columns 1 & 2

report back to Harry King as soon as possible.

Highways: Pot Holes/Condition of Roads: Do not forget please it is necessary for all road users to contact the Hertfordshire Highways Fault Line – 01438-737320 to report a fault. Please when ringing ask for a log number of the call. **Parking on the Grass Verge in Francis Road:** Having received no response to their letter to Mr. Lacey, the Parish Council contacted NHDC. They in turn contacted North Hertfordshire Homes who now own the land adjacent to No 28 Francis Road. Having visited the site the North Hertfordshire Homes official has instructed Mr. Lacey he is not allowed to park on the grass front verge of the bungalow. It is hoped a hard standing for parking can be built at the side of the bungalow in the near future. **New Inn Road:** The Clerk has contacted Cliff Barnaby of Hertfordshire Highways regarding the continuing flooding of New Inn Road in the Thorns Farm area. **Chapel Street:** The Parish Council has been notified of flooding at the top of Chapel Street by the public walkway on the area that used to be the road leading to Manor Farm. Again the Clerk has contacted Cliff Barnaby who is investigating the problem.

Any Other Business: Annual General Meeting: A further reminder - it is to be held in the Village Hall on March 22nd 2007 at 8.00 pm. The meeting is to be held earlier this year due to the Elections in May.

Date of the next meeting: on Thursday 1st March 2007 8pm in The Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Some Hinxworth residents may have noticed the flag at the War Memorial was not raised on a Statutory Flag Day, Queen Elizabeth's Succession, February 6th. This was due to the lock jamming. The Parish Council wishes to thank Roy Watler who was kind enough to repair it.

Wendy Kitchener, Clerk to the Parish Council

On the beat

with PC 431
Paul Marina



Have your say

This year the Neighbourhood Policing model will develop further with the formation of Locality Panels. The panels will be representative of the Community as a whole, and will have a say in the way we police your area. The panel members will meet with the Police on a regular basis and agree upon local priorities. It is expected that there will be no more than three priorities set at any one time.

contact me with your views

The groups will include Parish Councillors, District/County and Neighbourhood watch representatives and other local groups and individuals. The Meetings will be held locally and each panel will decide on the frequency of meetings. I would like to think that with the regular contact that I have with parish councils and other local groups we are already achieving a high level of consultation, and the new panels will formalise the process and provide an audit trail. If you have any views on what would make a difference to you in the way we police or would like to be involved as a panel member I would be grateful to hear from you.

larger newsletter offer

I do publish a larger newsletter sent via e-mail. If you would like to receive this please e-mail me with your name address and phone numbers and I will put you on the distribution list.

mobile police station

The Mobile Police Station will be parked outside Ashwell Post Office on Thursdays March 8th and 22nd from 8.30 am until 10.30 am.

contact us

Our Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer is Vee Halimana on 01462 425010, email novuyo.halimana@herts.pnn.police.uk. Our Secretary and Community Safety Coordinator is Angela Clark on 01462 425033. Our Crime Prevention Officer is Mark Montgomery on 01462 425043. My phone number is 01438 757924 for mid to long term problems. Ring 0845 33 00 222 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.

paul.marina@herts.pnn.police.uk

tracy.kennedy@herts.pnn.police.uk 01438 757935

Cello & Piano Recital

Catherine Wilmers and Ilga Pitkevica will perform works by Beethoven and Brahms at Friends Meeting House, 42 South View, Letchworth on Saturday March 3rd at 7.30 pm. Tickets £12, £9 concessions. The concert is to raise money for a bakery in Liati Soba in Ghana. Phone 01462 730490.

copy date

Please send all copy and pictures for April Village Voice to Patrick Forbes, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth SG7 5HL, email fool1@tiscali.co.uk by March 20th.

Ashwell Flea Market

It's that time of year again, time to spring clean, to empty attics, get rid of stuff you don't really want or need but for which someone would give their all. St Mary's Ashwell will be holding their annual Flea Market on Saturday April 14 from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm.

The Church will be open for donations on April 12 from 2 until 4.30 pm, and on April 13th from 10 am until 4 pm. No clothes or electrical goods, please, or items too big for a car boot sale. So no elephants or electrical granny frighteners if you please.

Church Services

Sunday 4th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sunday 11th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sunday 18th 9.15 am Family Service, St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sunday 25th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, Hinxworth
9.30 am Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham

Soup Lunch

Join us on Friday March 9th in Hinxworth Village Hall from 12.30 pm until 2 pm.

Village Walk

The next village walk will be on Friday March 23rd. Meet at 10.30 am at The Three Horseshoes,

Yoga Classes

I hope to be starting a new Yoga class on Friday afternoons in Hinxworth if we can get enough people to join in. A lovely teacher is looking forward to creating a class where we can work on different aspects of the exercise for health, fitness and body shape as well as relaxation and stress relief. What better way can there be to end the week and start the weekend? All welcome, any age and stiffness! If you would like to come, phone Kate Webber on 01462 742488

Mannequin wanted

Female preferred, any condition but must have all limbs and head. Cash paid, please phone Kate on 01462 742488.

Carpet Bowling

After the article about carpet bowling in last month's edition of Village Voice, investigations have been going on to find out what is required to enable us to go ahead with this. We now need to know how many are interested in playing on a regular basis. I have arranged for an informal meeting to be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th March at 8.00pm and I look forward to meeting all of you with a like mind.

John Tookey

Mothering Sunday

Come to our Mothering Sunday Family Service on March 18th at 9.15 am in St Nicholas Church, Hinxworth. The service will be followed by breakfast in the Church. So give Mum a treat and bring her to Church for breakfast and a surprise or two. We look forward to welcoming you all.

Dear Editor,

'Next time you park please be aware other people use the road including delivery drivers. Between you and a delivery opposite, the road was blocked. I'm just glad nobody's house was on fire or an ambulance required - Hinxworth Householder!' This note was pinned underneath the windscreen wiper of my car on Tuesday February 13th outside Fir Trees, Chapel Street.

bus wide gap

I feel I ought to respond on two fronts. Firstly, one could have actually driven a bus through the space that was left between my car and the one on the opposite side of the street. I suggest therefore that the fault lay with the delivery van that plugged the gap.

sad reflection

Secondly, the fact that the note was anonymous is a rather sad reflection upon the reality of village life and the attitude of some of the people who have 'bought into' the rural idyll. At the risk of sounding sentimental I can safely say that if this incident had occurred 20 years ago then the note writer would have just knocked on my door and voiced their concerns!

Jamie Crocker

Weimaraner contact

We are looking for anyone in Hinxworth Village or surrounding villages who may have taken on a young weimaraner before Christmas as we believe he was sold to someone in this area. We still have the registration forms for him and we just want to know that he is well as we miss him dearly. We had to give him away due to personal reasons and were told we would be informed how he is getting on. We need to find the new owners as the dog is still registered in our names with the Kennel Club. If anyone can help please contact Sue or Sean on 01462 712476 or 07967 877352 Thank you.