



Christmas Gingerbread

a recipe to bring you cheer



Ingredients:

- 2.5 tbsp warm water
 - 100g light brown sugar
 - 1/2 tsp allspice
 - 1.5 tbsp each of treacle and golden syrup
 - 1.5 tbsp each of ground ginger and cinnamon
 - 125g butter cut into small chunks
 - 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
 - 260g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- You will also need some cookie cutters of your choice (I used gingerbread men and Christmas trees!)

Method:

1. Put the water, sugar, spices, treacle and golden syrup into a saucepan and stirring regularly bring slowly to a gentle simmer.
2. Take it off the heat and add in your chopped butter, stirring continuously until the butter is melted.
3. Put your bicarbonate of soda into a large bowl and add your heated spice mixture, stir well until combined then add in your flour and mix until you have a smooth and firm dough - if the dough is very sticky add more flour in small amounts being careful not to let it get too crumbly.
4. Place the dough in between two sheets of cling film and roll out and place in the fridge to chill for 30 minutes. Preheat your oven to 180 degrees.
5. Place the dough onto a lightly floured surface and roll out to 0.5cm thick. Choose a cutter of your choice and cut your shapes.
6. Line a baking tray with grease proof paper and place your shapes. Bake for 12-15 minutes until the edges are slightly golden.

7. Take out of the oven and allow to cool completely before decorating with your choice of toppings ! I have used a royal icing and icing sugar to dust mine, but you can be as creative as you want here.

Christmas Church Services

Christmas Church Services this year are going ahead, however people are asked to be mindful of the current restrictions

24th Dec 11:30 pm Midnight Mass, St Vincent, Newnham

25th Dec 10:00 am Communion service with carols, (Please remember due to current restrictions there is no signing)

St Nicholas, Hinxworth.

3rd Jan 10.15 am Family Service, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

10th Jan 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

17th Jan 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

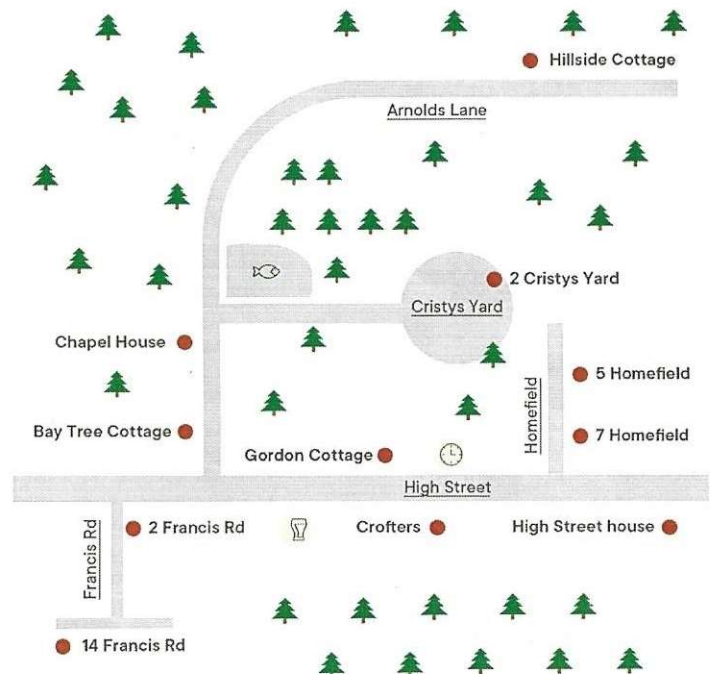
24th Jan 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

9.30 am Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham

31st Jan 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

Hinxworth's Advent Windows reminder

Just a little reminder Hinxworth's Advent Windows can be viewed from 6pm on 23rd December.



On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook



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

Warning as delivery scam hits Christmas shoppers

- Fraudsters are sending scam delivery messages
- The messages claim that they have a package for the victim
- Recipients are asked to visit a scam site to reschedule the delivery

Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning residents to stay vigilant following reports of scam text and email messages which appear to be from parcel delivery companies. The messages appear to be from couriers like DPD and Royal Mail, stating that they have tried to deliver a parcel and asking you to click a link to reschedule the delivery. The link directs you to an authentic looking website, which asks for your full name, address, date of birth and mobile number. Upon completion of the form, you are then asked to enter full credit card details. So far there have been no reported losses to victims in Hertfordshire.

Detective Inspector Rob Burns, from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: "This scam is very convincing with Christmas a few weeks away and many people are shopping online and waiting for their orders to be delivered. "It's important to check the details in the messages and make sure it is genuinely related to an item you have ordered. Does the message use your name, rather than to an email address? Does it mention the goods or company you have ordered items from? If in doubt do not click the link and contact the vendor directly via their website.

"Please help us to raise awareness by talking about this with your friends and family, especially if they are vulnerable or elderly."

Visit www.actionfraud.police.uk or for advice on avoiding scams.

Your local Neighbourhood Police Teams website

<http://snt.herts.police.uk/Teams.aspx?TeamID=G01>

Useful Links

<http://www.herts.police.uk/>

<http://www.doglost.co.uk/>

<http://www.stolenhorseregister.com/>

Festive Message from the Team

This year's Festive Safety message is to stay safe whilst shopping, at home or on the roads. We provide some important information to help you stay safe this Festive Period.



Shopping Saftey

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. You can find more information about online safety in the PDF at the bottom of this page.

Home Saftey

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?



Hinxworth & Edworth WI

December Meeting

The members of the Hinxworth and Edworth WI December meeting was held on the 10 December and had a seasonal theme. A splendid turnout of members this time – it was great to see so many familiar faces popping up on the screen. Sylvia took charge of the meeting and quickly went through some standard WI announcements etc and the minutes of the last meeting. The members were full of praise to Sylvia for all her hard work in keeping the WI very much alive and kicking in the village since March and the initial lockdown. Sylvia's enthusiasm and drive has inspired us and enabled us all to keep in touch, not just through the monthly meetings but also via a Whats-App WI group, newsletters, emails and latterly the book swap which was a great success (plus the bonus of a delicious mince pie for all those swapping books). Hopefully, the book swap will become a regular fixture next year.

We then moved on to our Secret Santa which was great fun with everybody unwrapping their presents and wondering who had given what – some very lovely gifts were unwrapped, and this kicked off the meeting nicely. Next we had a light-hearted question and answer game on 'how well do you know?' when members were asked to answer true or false to various statements about their fellow members. It was surprising what we all found out about each other – but don't worry ladies your secrets are safe!

Sylvia then welcomed Sarah Slater as the speaker for the evening. Sarah is a guide lecturer at Hampton Court Palace and has been a popular speaker at previous meetings, so we were all pleased to see her again. Her talk this time was about the Ghosts of Hampton Court Palace and was very interesting and well presented. Sarah told us for instance that it would appear that sightings and unexplained happenings have been recorded at Hampton Court Palace for at least the last few hundred years, there are recordings of ghosts being seen way back in history in both the Elizabethan times and the Stuart times right through to present day so a very haunted palace. Indeed, she said that the palace was supposedly the most haunted palace in England and has at least two queens that haunt the galleries and stairs. More than one hundred incidents have been recorded and she suspects that many more have been observed but not recorded. A good meeting to end this strange and challenging year. We all look forward to next year and hopefully one day going back to meeting in the village hall. In the meantime, keep logging on to Zoom for the monthly meetings.

The next WI meeting will be 14 January 2021. A very good Christmas to everyone.

Chrisi Hook

Feeding the birds over the winter months

- Help birds in winter by placing fat blocks in wire cages. Balls in plastic nets are not recommended as birds such as woodpeckers can get their tongues caught
- Create your own fat blocks by melting suet into moulds such as coconut shells or logs with holes drilled in
- Alternate different recipes to entice a range of birds; peanut cakes for starlings, insect cakes for tits and berry cakes for finches
- Put out finely chopped bacon rind and grated cheese for small birds such as wrens
- Although fat is important, do also provide a grain mix or nuts to maintain a balanced diet

- Sparrows, finches and nuthatches will enjoy prising the seeds out of sunflower heads
- No-mess mixes are more expensive but the inclusion of de-husked sunflower hearts means there is less waste. Inferior mixes are often padded out with lentils
- Use wire mesh feeders for peanuts and seed feeders for other seed. Specially designed feeders are needed for the tiny niger seed, loved by goldfinches
- Feed placed on a wire mesh held just off the ground will entice ground-feeding birds such as robins and dunnocks
- Thrushes and blackbirds favour fruit. Scatter over-ripe apples, raisins and song-bird mixes on the ground for them



Alternative Christmas Card

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2020 Hinxworth and Edworth Alternative Christmas Card Scheme. We raised a fantastic £1406 - £911 for the Garden House Hospice and £495 for Letchworth Food Bank. Thank you to Marianne Osmond who organised the layout of the card; Gordon Hayden for allowing us to use his painting; Phillips Digital Print for printing the card; and to Richard Floyd who has generously sponsored the card.

With best wishes for 2021.

Rachel Giles

Three Horseshoes

Christmas & New year

Sadly, it is a big change for many of us this year. We will not be open again until 2021.

Takeaways

We will be continuing with our takeaway service from Thursday 7th January. This will be available Thursday to Saturday from 5.30 to 8pm and Sunday 12.30 to 4pm. We will remain doing these hours until we get to reopen again. At which time we will let you know if there are any changes to times.

We would once again like to thank each and everyone of you for your custom, support, and most of all friendships during what has been a very testing year.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

Gerry and Julie



The Three Horseshoes

Takeaway Menu

Buttermilk Chicken Burger 12.9
Chicken breast soaked in buttermilk with a good dusting of our own crispy coating, sweet chilli mayo served with rosemary fries

The Shoes Burger 12.9
2 x 3.5 oz steak burger, smoked streaky bacon, emmental cheese, jalapenos, guacamole, fresh lettuce served in a toasted bun with rosemary fries

8 oz British Sirloin Steak (gf) 18.0
Served with a grilled tomato, oven roasted mushrooms, garden peas & rosemary salted Chips
Add peppercorn or blue cheese sauce 1.5

Steak Manwich 14.5
Rump steak cooked how you like it. Sliced into medallions and topped with rosemary sauted mushroom and melted smoked cheddar on a toasted ciabatta. Served with fries

Beer Battered Cod 12.9
Landlord beer battered cod served with rosemary salted chips, mushy peas, tartare sauce & lemon wedge

Ham & Eggs (gf) 10.9
Hand carved honey roasted ham served with 2 free range eggs, rosemary salted chips & peas

Steak & Ale Pie 12.9
Served with mashed potatoes, market vegetables and gravy

Roasted Aubergine (ve) 12.9
Stuffed with sweet peppers, tomato, oregano and garlic, with peri peri sweet potato wedges

Homemade Chicken Kiev 13.5
Stuffed with rosemary, thyme and garlic butter served with baked cherry tomatoes and chunky chips

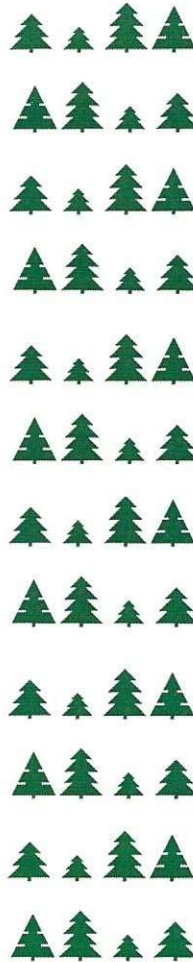
Trout with Prawns (gf) 13.9
Panfried on a bed of roasted new potatoes, tender stem broccoli and garlic, lemon and herb sauce

Pan Fried Seabass (gf) 12.0
Served with crushed new potatoes and spinach fondant with todays market veg

Homemade Chicken, Ham & Leek Pie 12.9
Served in a pie dish with a puff pastry top, with mash and todays market vegetables

For gluten free please advise when ordering

All food is prepared in our kitchen where nuts and cereals containing gluten and other allergens are present and our menu descriptions do not include all ingredients. If you have a food allergy or intolerance, please let us know before ordering and we will advise you accordingly.



Christmas and New Year Waste collections	
Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 25 December	Tuesday 29 December
Monday 28 December	Wednesday 30 December
Tuesday 29 December	Thursday 31 December
Wednesday 30 December	Saturday 2 January
Thursday 31 December	Monday 4 January
Friday 1 January	Tuesday 5 January
Monday 4 January	Wednesday 6 January
Tuesday 5 January	Thursday 7 January
Wednesday 6 January	Friday 8 January
Thursday 7 January	Saturday 9 January
Friday 8 January	Monday 11 January
Monday 11 January	Tuesday 12 January
Tuesday 12 January	Wednesday 13 January
Wednesday 13 January	Thursday 14 January
Thursday 14 January	Friday 15 January
Friday 15 January	Saturday 16 January
Collections will return to normal Monday 18 January 2021.	
<small>Please ensure your refuse and recycling containers are on the boundary of your property by 7am on the day of your collection.</small>	

Sunrise and Sunset over Hinxworth

If you have any local pictures please send them in.

Sunrise

Sunset



Community support

Thank You from the Wade Family

We would like to say a huge thank you to all villagers who stepped out onto the High Street on Friday to bid a last farewell to Mike. We were overwhelmed by the response and Mike would have been so proud. Also a huge thank you for the many messages and flowers. Thanks too to those who have contributed to the chosen charities. The love shown in our wonderful community has been a big comfort to us at this very difficult time.

For any who missed the charity link and who would still like to, donations can be made at:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/Mike-Wade>

Thanks again,

Lucy, Harry, Jack & Sarah.



Copy Date: Please send all copy / pictures for February edition by January 20th to E-mail: villagevoice3@gmail.com