

## On the Beat

### Residents warned of ATM fraud

Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning residents to be vigilant when using cash machines, after reports of thefts after bank cards were retained by the machines. As well as all the usual precautions you take when withdrawing cash, like shielding the keypad, when typing in your PIN, you should always examine the machine before use. If anything looks out of place or it has any parts which appear to have been added, do not use it and report your suspicions to the bank. If the machine fails to return your card or any cash you have withdrawn, you should contact the police on our non-emergency number 101 and your bank to inform them.

### Advice for securing your home while on holiday

Everyone should be able to enjoy a holiday without fear of becoming a victim of crime. But, unfortunately, it could be the opportunity a burglar is looking for. Burglars will look for signs of an unoccupied home, like unopened letters at the front door, bins not put away or drawn curtains during the day. Making it appear that your home is occupied can be the most effective deterrent against burglary.

If you are away for a longer period of time in the summer months, ask your neighbour to cut your grass. This helps to show that the house may be occupied. You could also ask someone you trust to help give your home the lived-in look by opening and drawing the curtains, taking in any free newspapers and moving your mail away from the letterbox. Visit the crime prevention pages for further advice on securing your home. If you witness any suspicious activity in your local area, please call 999 straight away.

To receive police messages about a range of topics including burglaries, scams and missing people in your local area, sign up to OWL (opens in a new window) or download the 'OWL crime alerts' app from your app store.

### Warning after residents lose money in Whatsapp scam

Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning residents to be wary of Whatsapp messages which appear to be from relatives asking for money to be sent to them. Parents have been receiving messages claiming that their child's phone has broken and are in need of urgent financial assistance. Fourteen reports have been made during June with total losses of more than £13,000. Detective Sergeant Mark Fava, from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: "Remember that on Whatsapp (like emails and phone calls) people are not always who they claim to be. If you get a message from a number you do not recognise, claiming to be someone you know and asking for money or personal information, it is best to pause and check that they are who they claim to be. We advise asking them to call you or meet you in person before acting on their request." If you believe that you are a victim of fraud please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 to report, using a different phone to that used to communicate with the fraudsters. If a fraud is in progress or someone's life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

### Local Crime: G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Theft, Ashwell Road, Bygrave – Between 6th and 7th May posters campaigning against a local solar farm were stolen.

Theft of Motor Vehicle, Dick Smiths Walk, Ashwell – Overnight on 26 th June a Red Mercedes ML320 was stolen from the location by unknown means.

**Copy Date:** Please send all copy/pictures for the September edition by August 20th. E: villagevoice3@gmail.com

## Wise Words

Reflections on the Covid lockdowns, which were just yesterday but now seem so long ago...



### When Just The Tide Went Out by Max Boyce MBE

Last night as I lay sleeping, when dreams came fast to me  
I dreamt I saw Jerusalem beside a tideless sea  
And one dream I'll remember as the stars began to fall  
Was Banksy painting Alun Wyn on my neighbour's garage wall

And dreams like that sustain me 'til these darkest times have passed

And chase away the shadows no caring night should cast  
But times like this can shine a light as hardship often can  
To see the best in people and the good there is in man

And I remember Swansea with nobody about  
The shops were closed like Sunday and just the tide went out

And I remember Mumbles with the harbour in its keep  
And the fishing boats at anchor that trawl the waters deep  
And I heard the seabirds calling as the gulls all wheeled about  
But all the town was sleeping now and just the tide went out.

And when these days are over and memories remain  
When children painted Rainbows and the sun shone through the rain

And the doctors and the nurses who stretchered all the pain  
And I hope the carers never see a time like this again

And I prayed last week for Boris, who knocked on Heaven's door  
And I thought of voting Tory, which I've never done before  
And though the sun is shining I've no immediate plans  
So I'll write a book on 'Staying In' and 'Ways To Wash Your Hands'

And now more days of lockdown, and weeks of staying in  
I'm running out of vodka and I've started on the gin  
And my neighbours are complaining, I've heard them scream and shout  
With the sound the bins are making when I take the empties out

And when all this is over, and our fragile world survives  
And I hope that God is caring now for the ones who gave their lives

And I pray we'll find an answer, for my faith is cast in doubt  
And God draws back the heavens and all the stars come out

And now more days of lockdown, 8 weeks of staying in  
I'm running out of vodka and I've started on the gin  
And my neighbours are complaining, I've heard them scream and shout.  
With the sound the bins are making when I take the empties out

And I'll remember mornings with nobody about.  
When the shops were closed like Sunday, and just the tide went out

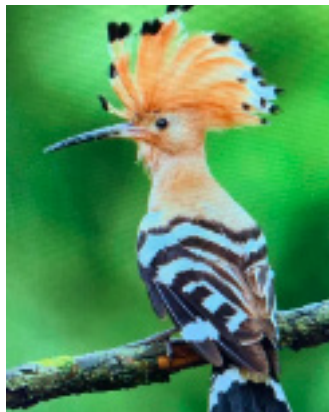
# • Village Voice •

August 2022

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.251

## 'Hinxworth Hoopoe' In The National Press



The Hinxworth Hoopoe caused quite a stir in the churchyard and the paddocks next door..! You may have seen the many people around that area and cars parked on the High Street.

Thanks to Sue Wilson, Suzanne James, Noah Bailey and Peter Hoskins for sending in lovely photographs of the bird and to Simon Marlow for providing the following explanation:

"Earlier today (June 21st) somebody noticed a hoopoe in church meadow. Word soon got round and when we walked through the churchyard earlier this evening there were a large number of twitchers with binoculars and cameras with the modern equivalent of telephoto lenses.

The hoopoe is an African bird that can often be seen in southern Europe - Spain, Portugal and Southern France in particular - but it's very rare here apparently."

One of the many 'twitchers' who visited was heard to say "Hinxworth is certainly a lovely village. If I were a hoopoe, I think I would have chosen to stop there too!"

Suzanne and her horses allowed people access on foot to the paddocks to take pictures, and put a donation bucket in place. All proceeds are going towards the church roof restoration fund.

At the time of writing the Village Voice the Hoopoe had sadly flown to pastures new but what a lovely visit it was! For more pictures please go to 'Our Hinxworth' Facebook page where a folder for all of the photographs will be available.

**Bird on the roof lands £500 for rural church**  
An African bird has come to the rescue of a 14th century rural church by inspiring visitors to donate £500 towards its roof restoration fund.  
When the Eurasian hoopoe landed next to St Nicholas's, in Hinxworth, Hertfordshire, bird watchers came to view.  
The bird has mohawk feathers on its head and black and white wings.  
"The road was getting blocked with cars so we opened the church car park, and then we opened up the toilets," Revd Christine Campbell, the Rector of St Nicholas's, told the *Church Times*.  
"We didn't charge a fee. We just put a donations box out." She said that £500 was raised in six days.

**Snippet from 'The Church Times' submitted by Merilyn Higgins**

**Other articles have been in 'The Guardian' and 'The Telegraph' - search online to find them!**

**Hinxworth is famous!!!**

## Sunflower Update

How are your sunflowers coming along? Hopefully the green-fingered among you have seen your seedlings turn into mature plants with a large flower by now. They should be at their best around the end of July. Some being grown on Hinxworth allotments are already over 6ft tall (see below).



The competition was launched earlier in the Spring to show support for Ukraine, whose national flower is the sunflower.

Don't forget to send a photo of your prize bloom to Village Voice to stand a chance of winning a bottle of champagne. If any children would like to take part there will be a separate prize for their best entry too.

**Tony Lloyd**

## Cycling For Our Hinxworth Ukrainian Families

Afshen Abbasi, a keen cyclist, recently rode the 100 miles from Hitchin Market Square to Brighton Pier to raise money for the 2 Ukrainian families who are living in Hinxworth. The trip took a total of seven and a half hours. At the 90th mile Afshen had to climb the South Downs before descending to Brighton. The views from the top of the Downs were spectacular with the sea ahead and beautiful countryside all around - well worth the effort!

The 100 mile ride was, according to Afshen, a "piece of cake" compared to having to carry his bike, with his back pack on, up 12 flights of narrow stairs in the hotel that his friend had booked for them in Brighton!



"That very nearly killed me" he said "and I very nearly killed him!!". On a serious note, Afshen paid tribute to the wonderful, generous support he received from work colleagues, friends and fellow villagers. "I couldn't have done it without them - so thank you everyone who contributed". Finally he said "Everyone can do a little and all those little things end up making a big difference to people's lives". Well done Afshen!

**The Sunday Telegraph**

**The Guardian**

**CHURCH TIMES**

## Parish Council Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th JULY 2022 AT 7.00 PM.

**Present:** Mr N. Tiffin (Vice-Chairman), Mr A. Lloyd, Mr A. Dawson, Mr B. Higgins, Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

**Other Councillor present:** Steve Jarvis, County Councillor.

**Apologies:** Richard Cobb (Chairman). Tom Tyson, District Councillor.

**1. The Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting of 2nd June 2022 were agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Tony Lloyd and seconded by Nick Tiffin.

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

**3. Correspondence:** A letter has been received from Gordon and Audrey Hayden thanking the Parish Councillors for the picture of the War Memorial presented to Gordon for his winding of the War Memorial Clock for forty years. This was presented to him at the duel celebrations of the 100 years of the War Memorial and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on June 5th.

**4. Finance:** Current Parish Council Funds: The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Proposed by Nick Tiffin and Tony Dawson. The payments this month include a rebate of £250.00 to Hinxworth Archery Club against this year's subs to help with new members.

**5. Planning:** Land North East Side of the High Street - 22/01449/FP – This Parish Councillors agreed their response to this application was to maintain a “neutral” position. Subsequent to responding to NHDC the Parish Council has received a copy of a letter from CPRE providing details of their objection to the application. Both of the above can be viewed on the NHDC Planning website.

**6. Highways:** New Inn Road/Ashwell Road: The hedges and vegetation at the side of these roads are overgrown and need cutting back. Likewise the gullies in Hinxworth Village and the surrounding area require clearing. Steve Jarvis is to follow-up.

The Entrance to St Nicholas Church: The area of ground just off the highway at the entrance to the church is in need of repair. This is the responsibility of Hertfordshire Highways. Steve Jarvis is to arrange for the repair to be carried out in the form of tarmac.

The Chicane at the Northern End of the Village: Steve Jarvis reported the design for this is underway.

**7. Village Hall:** The Parish Council have received information from the organisation “London Hearts” [tia@londonhearts.org](mailto:tia@londonhearts.org) that there are funds available for the purchase of defibrillators. The Village Hall Management Committee are to be notified as they may wish to obtain an additional defibrillator for the Village Hall. Details have been forwarded to Helen Donohoe Chair of the VHMC.

**8. Recreation Ground:** Play Area Inspection: The annual inspection has been booked with NHDC for later in the year.

The Gate/Pedestrian Entrance: The Councillors have still to obtain quotes for the work to prevent mud at the entrance in the winter months.

**9. The Tennis Court:** Nothing to report.

**10. Allotments:** Water Availability: Tom Tyson had informed the Parish Councillors Baldock Allotments Group had recently installed water to their Ivel Springs site. A response is awaited from Tom Tyson to whom Hinxworth Parish Councillors should contact. Hopefully this would be a cheaper option as it has to be noted a bore hole to supply water to the site could cost anything between £30k and £40k.

New Allotmenters: Two plots have been vacated and subsequently taken on by two new members.

**11. Any Other Urgent Business:** The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The celebrations which took place in Manor Farm Barn were a great success. The Parish Councillors convey their thanks to David and Rosemary Smyth for the use of the Barn. Likewise, they wish convey thanks to all of those who attended and those involved organising the event.

The Wooden Bench at the end of Francis Road and the High Street: This is in a state of collapse. Tony Lloyd agreed to look at as to what can be done, if anything, to repair it. If necessary, he may have to remove it. This bench has been well used and the Parish Councillors hope it could be replaced in the near future.

Ukrainian Event: Bryan Higgins reported the event held at Caldecote Manor was well attended and a great success. The funds raised were in the region of £2500.00. Additionally and for information the Parish Council has posted on its' website details provided by the Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group (MSG) regarding our Ukraine guests and to how the County is facilitating this.

**12: Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 1st September 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The

meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

## Church Services For August

Sun 7th Aug	09.15	Family Service	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 14th Aug	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 21st Aug	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 28th Aug	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 28th Aug	09.30	BCP Communion	St Vincent's, Newnham
Sun 4th Sept - Early Notice	09.15	'Thanksgiving' for 700th Anniversary	St Nicholas, Hinxworth

## Commemorative Medal For Jubilee

On the 28th June Hinxworth's resident London Fire Fighter Steve Mills joined his colleagues of 'Red Watch' Paddington to visit City Hall for their presentation of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal (pictured on right below). This special commemorative medal has been awarded to all serving frontline members of the police, fire, emergency services, prison services and Armed Forces. Acting as a token of the nation's thanks, the Platinum Jubilee Medal follows a long history of awarding medals to mark Royal Jubilees, with the first one awarded to mark the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign in 1887.

Linda Huber



On left, Steve Mills (middle) pictured at City Hall with the Lord Mayor of Westminster and London Fire Brigade Borough Commander. On right, the Jubilee Medal

## Ashwell & Bassingbourn Patients Group

### NOTES FROM JULY MEETING

The body which oversees our surgeries has changed from the East and North Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). We are now under the auspices of the Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB). We are working on an Organisation Plan which shows who does what in our practice which should be helpful for patients.

We are seeking to appoint an additional doctor although recruitment is challenging. Our new Operations Manager will be joining in August.

There have been problems with our eConsult system. It is currently only accessible between 7 and 9am. It was recommended that this should be publicised to patients. However, it is possible to contact the surgery at any time via email. Incoming emails are checked twice daily and responses are usually swift. There is a form on the surgery website: [ashwellsurgery.co.uk](http://ashwellsurgery.co.uk) under "Contact the practice" or you can use: [ashwell.surgery@nhs.net](mailto:ashwell.surgery@nhs.net)

Mask wearing is still advised. Cases are rising locally and nationally as are hospital admissions. So it is better to be cautious to protect yourself and others.

We are still waiting for our new phone system to be installed. We hope this won't take too long as it is recognised by everyone that our present system is not fit for purpose.

It is hoped that we can offer covid vaccinations locally when the next phase is launched. This would obviously be handier for our patients.

A patient has been in touch asking whether we offer social prescribing. The answer is yes – but! In collaboration with practices in Letchworth and Baldock we are able to fund a shared post. We have even had people in that post but sadly they have not stayed. So it's a case of watch this space.

Another patient has suggested that we publicise where to go for minor injuries. The answer is the QE II hospital in Welwyn Garden City.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has resumed surgery inspections so we await the call. We are shortly due to have a Health and Safety inspection.

All of us on the Patients' Group wish our patients a lovely, healthy summer!

**Peter Chapman**

### Pottery Classes For Beginners

Coming to the Village Hall and available on a first come, first serve basis, after which you will be on the reserve list, only 10-12 places available. 6 Classes running from Tuesday 20th September – until 25th October. If you are interested contact Helene Donohoe on 07890 212194 for more information.

**Joe Perricone**

### Soup Lunch Update

Apologies to everyone for cancelling the July Soup Lunch at short notice but it really was too hot for us to enjoy a bowl of soup. No Soup Lunch in August so the next one will be September 9th at 12.30 to 2pm. Have a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

**Chrisi Hook**

## Hinxworth and Edworth WI July Meeting

The July WI meeting is always an outdoor meeting and we are usually lucky with the weather as we were this year when we held our meeting outside the Oak Room at St Nicholas Church Hinxworth. It was a lovely evening with members, partners and friends attending. Anki opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests to the lovely venue. After a quick run through of WI news etc quiz sheets were handed out to everyone. Patrick had compiled a set of questions for us all about the church. It was really good to take a closer look at the church and find out about its history as we wandered round trying to find the answers. The evening was most pleasantly rounded off with a glass of wine and a marvellous selection of strawberry cakes, scones and meringues all made by the committee.

**Chrisi Hook**

### Coffee & Cake To Support the Roof Fund

The monthly coffee morning to support the Church Roof Fund is on the first Saturday of the month is continuing, the next one being on 6th August from 10 to 12.30.

If you think you can help us out on any of the days and/or make a cake it would be very much appreciated (please email [hattricks@btconnect.com](mailto:hattricks@btconnect.com)).

**Viv Hughes**

### The Three Horseshoes - Dates For Your Diary

The Three Horseshoes presents Boozy Blues @ The Shoes. Taking place on Sunday 21st August at 1pm with Chris Lord and her Blues Express, for more information go to: [www.chrislord.org.uk](http://www.chrislord.org.uk).

Quiz Night this month is on Wednesday 17th August. Martin's Angels are the team to beat. Come and give them a run for their money!

Our new summer Sunday menu is running until the end of August. Have a peek at our menu on Facebook.

### Happy 700th Birthday To St Nicholas'

St Nicholas was built 700 years ago this year. To celebrate this huge milestone, we are having a village celebration including;

Best dog in the village, tug of war, children's treasure hunt, brass band, pony rides, BBQ, have a go bell ringing, bar and much much more .....

All welcome, join us on Saturday 3rd September 2022 2pm – 6pm in the Grounds of the church



### Brain Teasers And Word Search Winners!

Thank you to everyone for the participating in last month's challenges!

The winner of the 'Brain Teaser Challenge' was decided by the first correct entry out of the hat and the winners were Simon and Frances Marlow. Well done to them!

For the 'Word Quiz' we challenged you to find as many different words as you can from the word Semiquincentennial. The winners by a country mile with 93 words were Pete and Katrina Hoskins. Many congratulations!