



A Lighthearted Look at Much Loved Carols

"Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road, got to keep on plodding onwards, with your precious load..."

The RSPCA has issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry. Also in the guidelines are permitted feeding breaks, and at least one rest break in a four hour plodding period. The 'Little Donkey' has expressed his discomfort at being labelled 'Little'; and would prefer to be simply referred to as 'Mr Donkey'. Comments upon his height or otherwise are considered to be a breach of his equine rights.



"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose, if you ever saw it, you would say it glows, all of the other reindeer laughed and called him names, they never let Rudolph join in any reindeer games"...



Under the Equal Opportunities Policy, it is inappropriate for persons to comment upon the ruddiness of Mr R Reindeer's nose. Name-calling contravenes our Anti Bullying policy and the exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from games is discriminatory; disciplinary action will be taken against anyone perpetrating this offence. Sanctions may include a ban on hanging up stockings or participating in Christmas dinner.

"Dashing Through The Snow On A One Horse Open Sleigh, Over Fields We Go - Laughing All The Way.."

A Risk Assessment must be submitted before any member of the public boards an open sleigh. This should review whether a single horse is sufficient, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions. To avoid offending non-participants and complying with noise restrictions, it is required that only moderate laughter is used.



Farmers On Christmas Lights Tour

Saturday 17th December, from 6 - 7.30pm. A date not to be missed! The Farmers on Christmas Lights Tour is back for 2022, bringing you a huge dose of festive cheer tractor-style a week before Christmas in aid of Garden House Hospice. Over 100 tractors and farm vehicles covered in Christmas lights and decorations will once again be taking part, driving through Baldock, Letchworth and Hitchin in a sight that is sure to put a smile on the faces of everyone young and old. Thousands turned out on the streets to support the farmers last year and we know their return will be extremely popular! Check the Garden House Hospice website for details of the route: <https://www.ghhospicecare.org.uk/events/farmers-christmas-tour-2>

Our Newest Reader!



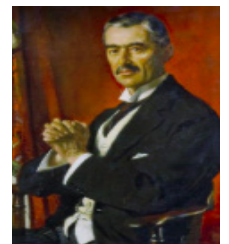
Congratulations to Amy and Matt Flint, Edworth, on the birth of their daughter Esme Iris, Friday November 11th, weighing 6.4 lbs



Wise Words

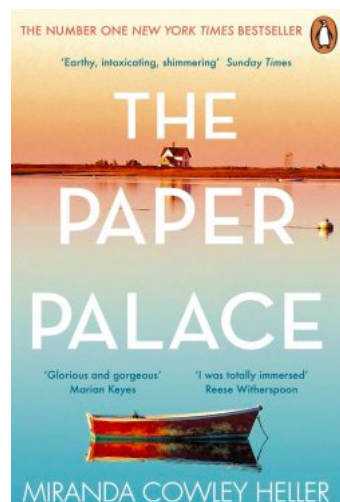
"What is the use of supporting your own Government only when it is right. It is just when it is in this sort of pickle that you ought to come to our aid."

Neville Chamberlain
(1869-1940)



Book review: The Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller

Before anyone else is awake, on a perfect August morning, Elle Bishop heads out for a swim in the glorious freshwater pond below 'The Paper Palace' – the gently decaying summer camp in the backwoods of Cape Cod where her family has spent every summer for generations.



As she passes the house, Elle glances through the screen porch at the uncleared table from the dinner the previous evening; empty wine glasses, candle wax on the tablecloth, echoes of laughter of family and friends. Then she dives beneath the surface of the freezing water to the shocking memory of the sudden passionate encounter she had the night before, up against the wall behind the house, as her husband and mother chatted to the guests inside.

So begins a story that unfolds over twenty-four hours and across fifty years, as decades of family legacies, love, lies, secrets, and one unspeakable incident in her childhood lead Elle to the precipice of a life-changing decision. Over the next twenty-four hours, Elle will have to decide between the world she has made with her much-loved husband, Peter, and the life she imagined would be hers with her childhood love, Jonas, if a tragic event hadn't forever changed the course of their lives.

Tender yet devastating, The Paper Palace is a masterful novel that brilliantly illuminates the tensions between desire and safety; the legacy of tragedy, and the crimes and misdemeanours of families.

• Village Voice •

December 2022

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.255

The Advent Windows Return

Once again the Advent windows are returning to Hinxworth. Each evening from 7pm a new festive creation will be revealed. Come along to join in the festive spirit and enjoy some Christmas cheer. A big thank you to Sharon Dawson for getting this event organised, and to all of our villagers taking the time to prepare and share their window!



15th	16th	17th	18th	19th
7 Homefield	6 Christy's Yard at 6pm	2 High Street	Temple Cottage, Chapel Street	2 Christy's Yard
20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
Middle Farm, Chapel Street	Hamsteworde, opposite New Inn Rd	Chapel House, Chapel Street	Cantlebury, Chapel Street	The Three Horseshoes



Carols By Candlelight

After a disruption caused by Covid restrictions we have reinstated this popular event. A new script is ready, song-sheets dusted off and refreshed with the addition of new carols, and granny's tried and tested recipe for mince pies is taking our families by storm!

Come and help us celebrate the count up to Christmas with a glass of mulled wine at the church of St Mary Magdalene, Caldecote SG7 5LD, on Saturday, 10 December at 3.30 -4.30pm. However, owing to a bijou size of the church the number of tickets is limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are £10.00 from <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/559010/>. As before, we guarantee free parking and disabled access. We hope to see you in Caldecote on the 10 th December.

Grazyna & Mat from Caldecote Church Friends

Alternative Christmas Card

If you would like to participate this year in the Alternative Christmas Card Scheme in Hinxworth and Edworth I have set up a Just Giving page for the Garden House Hospice (www.justgiving.com/Rachel-Giles11) and for the British Red Cross (www.justgiving.com/Rachel-Giles12). Please put the names of all the people in your household including surname (and address if new to the scheme), and tick the box saying "happy to share contact details with Rachel Giles" so that I can include all the contributors names in the Christmas card. If you prefer not to use Just Giving please put your contribution in an envelope with your name and address. Cheques can be made payable to "Garden House Hospice Care" or "British Red Cross". Please drop donations to me at Bury End Farm, Ashwell Road, Hinxworth. The closing date to be included on the card is Monday 5th December.

Rachel Giles

The Christmas Ball - Reminder

The Christmas Ball is coming soon! If you are coming along, please note that the bar will be cash only - no cards will be accepted. Please remember to avoid disappointment on the night.

Helene Donohoe

Love Came Down At Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti (English Poet - 5th December 1830 – 29th December 1894)



Did you know that Christina Rossetti also wrote the words to the well known christmas carol - 'In the bleak Midwinter'

The Village Voice Editors (Karen & Jan) would like to wish all of our Readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Parish Council Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM.

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

Other Persons Present: Steve Jarvis County Councillor, Tom Tyson District Councillor.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 6th October were agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Nick Tiffin and seconded by Tony Lloyd.

2. Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda: The Defibrillator: This has now been removed for updating. A temporary replacement is in place the only difference being this has a red security lock that has to be broken before use. The original defibrillator should be returned within a couple of weeks.

3. Correspondence: An email has been received from Sylvia Scales. She has the following three main concerns:-

The first relates to the pavement in High Street. Residents park their vehicles across the pavement restricting the ability of pedestrians being able to use it for its purpose. The Chairman reported that other residents had approached him regarding this issue. Richard Cobb will write to the residents.

The second is the trees in the area in the front of the bungalows to Village Hall require cutting back as they are obscuring the street light. The trees are not owned by the Parish Council. Tom Tyson agreed to arrange. Also could there be an additional footpath path from the Village Hall to the bungalows? Due to Planning and cost considerations this is not a viable proposition for the Parish Council.

Thirdly a path by the gate entrance area to the Recreation Ground is in need of repair. Nick Tiffin is to obtain a quote from North Hertfordshire Construction.

Richard Cobb will reply to Sylvia.

4. Finance: Current Parish Council Funds: The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Proposed by Nick Tiffin and Tony Lloyd.

The Precept 2023/2024: To be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

5. Planning: Nothing to report.

6. Highways: Pothole: The large pothole at the junction of New Inn Road and the High Street. This has now been reported to Hertfordshire Highways.

7. Village Hall: Nothing to report.

8. Recreation Ground: The Repair to the Gate Entrance to the Recreation Ground: As noted in 3 above, Nick Tiffin is to obtain a quote from North Hertfordshire Construction.

The Children's Play Area. It has been noted dogs have been roaming in this area. A "NO DOGS" sign is to be purchased.

Additionally one of the play items has a handle that requires replacing. Tony Lloyd will purchase and fit a replacement.

9. The Tennis Court: The posts holding the nets in place have now been purchased. These will be installed in the Spring of 2023.

10. Allotments: Water Availability: The investigation is still ongoing.

Allotment Rents 2022/2023: Most rents have now been received by the Parish Council.

11. Any Other Urgent Business: Remembrance Sunday: This will take place on Sunday November 13th.

Harry King: The Parish Councillors wish to extend their best wishes to Harry for a full recovery and to return home from hospital in the near future.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 1st December 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Wendy Kitchener (Clerk)

Church Services For December

Sun 4th Dec	09.15	Patronal Festival	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 4th Dec	16.00	Carol Service	St Vincent's, Newnham
Sun 11th Dec	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 11th Dec	17.00	Carol Service	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 27th Nov	09.30	BCP Holy Communion	St Vincent's, Newnham
Sun 18th Dec	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sat 24th Dec	23.30	Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass	St Vincent's, Newnham
Sun 25th Dec	09.15	Christmas Family Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 1st Jan	10.45	New Years Day, Benefice Communion	St Mary's, Ashwell

There is also a short service of Evening Prayer at St Nicholas most Wednesday afternoons at 4pm, all welcome.

Work Has Started



The scaffolding is up and work is now underway on the new Church roof. A big thank you for your support on this so far, please do continue to help with the fund raising efforts if you can.

Services this side of Christmas should be 'unaffected' and will be going ahead 'as usual'.

Chris Campbell

Arts And Crafts Raising Funds For The Roof

Over £500 was raised towards at Church Roof Fund at the Arts & Craft event. A big thank-you to everyone involved.

Patrick Forbes shared the picture (right) taken by Sue Birch (from Ashwell) who asked him not to smile! Words failed him!

Patrick Forbes



Hinxworth And Edworth WI

A very well attended November meeting. As usual Anki (president) opened the meeting by reading out apologies from those members unable to attend, updating the meeting with Federation news items and signing off the Minutes of the previous meeting. Unfortunately the speaker for the meeting was unable to attend due to illness but nevertheless we still managed to have a good meeting - with a last minute arranged chocolate tasting. What could be better! In total eight samples of different brands of chocolate were passed round for us to taste and rank in order of preference. The samples ranged from supermarket own label to top premium brands. At the end of the tastings the scores were totalled - there was no real winner as everyone liked all of the samples and would happily have eaten all or any of the samples. Great fun though. The meeting finished with a very welcome cup of tea and a presentation to Jan Youngman of flowers and more chocolates as a thank you to her for being such an outstanding WI secretary for many years. Jan is stepping down as secretary but will remain as a member of the WI. Our final meeting for this year will be on Thursday 8 December 7.30pm in the village hall. Look forward to seeing you all then.

Chrisi Hook

Community Lunch (formerly Soup Lunch)

Another wonderful lunch so well attended. As ever three delicious soups on offer, puddings, tea and coffee all for only £4.00. A good profit was made so keep on letting me have your suggestions for local charities so that I can make the donations to those dearest to us. We have renamed the monthly soup lunch to Community Lunch to embrace not only Hinxworth and Edworth but all the local villages too. The lunch is open to everyone in the community and all profits are for charities of your choice. The next Community Lunch will be Friday 9th December 12.30 to 2pm. See you then.

Chrisi Hook

Ghostly Goings-On

On the morning of Sunday 30th October, the rain stopped just in time for Hinxworth's Archery Club to hold their Halloween Horror Fun Shoot on the Rec. Much looked forward to after the enforced break of two years, sixteen Club members shot at a suitably themed target.



The winner of the shoot was Neil (pictured left), one of our top archers, who handicapped himself by shooting a bow home-made out of a tree branch.

Kath Scott

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

On The Beat

Free cybercrime prevention advice sessions

Organised and delivered by Cyber Protect officers from our Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, the sessions will be providing practical tips for avoiding the most common types of cybercrimes. At these free of charge, drop in events, there will also be talks given by Trading Standards, Crime Reduction, Neighbourhood Watch Liaison and Cyber Protect officers. Victim support service Herts Beacon will also be in attendance. The event will take place locally at - Letchworth Library, (Wednesday 18 January 10.45am-4.45pm). Similar events will continue on a three-month rolling basis, details of which can be found on the Hertfordshire County Council website.

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

Theft of trailer, Ashwell - Over night on 11th October a 4x4 vehicle arrived at a property on Station Road, Ashwell. Males got out of the vehicle and hitched a trailer onto the 4x4 that belonged to the victim and made off.

Theft of Horse Box, Hinxworth – Overnight on 12th October a horsebox was stolen from Hinxworth.

Outbuilding Burglary, Ashwell - Overnight on 15th October an outbuilding was targeted in Gardiners Lane, Ashwell. The offenders had conducted a messy search and made off.

The Three Horseshoes Update

<i>Christmas Hours</i>		
	Bar	Kitchen
Christmas Eve	12.00-23.30	12.00-15.00 17.00-21.00
Christmas day	12.00-14.30	Closed
Boxing day	12.00-15.00	Closed
27th-30th	Normal hours	Normal hours
New years eve	12.00-15.00	12.00-15.00
Ticket only	19.00-01.00	
New years day	12.00-15.00	Closed
2nd-5th January	Closed	Closed
Friday 6th	Normal hours	Normal hours

<i>Christmas Menu</i>	
<u>Starters</u>	
Brie & Cranberry Parcels <small>on a bed of leaves (V)</small>	
Butternut Squash Soup <small>Served with chunky sourdough bread (GF) (VE)</small>	
Prawn Cocktail <small>Fresh salad with chunky sourdough bread (GF)</small>	
<u>Mains</u>	
Traditional Turkey Roast <small>All the trimmings (GF)</small>	
Braised Blade of Beef <small>Served with Horseradish Mash, Vegetables & Gravy (GF)</small>	
Butternut Squash Wellington <small>All the trimmings (GF) (VE)</small>	
Pan Fried Cod <small>With asparagus and butter bean stew (GF)</small>	
<u>Desserts</u>	
Christmas Pudding <small>Served with brandy sauce</small>	
Ferrero Rocher Gelato <small>With crushed biscuits (GF)</small>	
Salted Caramel Cheesecake <small>Served with ice cream (VE)</small>	
Cheese Board (+£4) <small>Three cheese selection, with crackers and chutney</small>	
<i>Pre Order Only</i>	
<i>3 courses</i>	
<i>£28</i>	

New Years Eve At The Three Horseshoes!

Come along to celebrate New Year with a fancy dress theme of Vicars and Tarts! The fun starts from 7pm, £15 per ticket which includes a glass of Prosecco at midnight, a DJ and a Buffet. Pop into the pub to buy your tickets in advance.