

# Patients Group Update

## NOTES FROM OUR DECEMBER MEETING

- Access for appointments at Ashwell Surgery is no longer restricted, as it has been for infection control reasons.
- Telephone system is recognised as having limitations. Replacement options are being investigated. The introductory message is being modified.
- The Primary Care Network to which we belong with surgeries in Baldock and Letchworth is funding an additional staff member to coordinate activities at PCN level such as vaccination delivery. Our clinical team has been strengthened by the appointment of a Physician's Associate and a new nurse. We are also extremely fortunate to enjoy the services of two dedicated locums as these are a very rare commodity. Many practices are having difficulty in recruiting any.
- Flu vaccinations have gone well and we expect to exceed our target.
- The government's aim to expand the delivery of Covid vaccinations will put pressure on our centre. Our surgery would be willing to offer such vaccinations but is awaiting the go ahead.
- The contribution of pharmacies towards the vaccination programme was acknowledged as welcome and very beneficial.
- There was discussion about medication reviews for patients with repeat prescriptions. These are carried out daily by the duty doctor, with alerts also raised by the IT system. We now enjoy the services of a Clinical Pharmacist, funded through the PCN, who is involved in these reviews. This will free up time for doctors to concentrate on other areas. It was suggested that it would be helpful if patients were notified that a review had taken place but that no change was deemed necessary.
- Regret was expressed about the loss of the ear syringe service. This is due to the withdrawal of government funding. It is possible however to get this treatment at Sollershott Surgery in Letchworth funded by the PCN. Enquire at our Reception for details.
- Members reported that in certain areas leaflets about a medicine delivery service had been received.
- Clarification was sought about the frequency of diabetic checks. We have two specialists in this area, Dr Hasham and Nurse Laura Fisher. They keep a close eye on our diabetic patients and determine how visits are planned.

**Peter Chapman on behalf of the Ashwell & Bassingbourn patients Group (ABPG)**

*A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of the staff at Ashwell and Bassingbourn Surgeries, Matt Jarvis & Kate Prince.*



Photo by Patrick Forbes

## Parish Council Minutes Online

Parish Council Minutes can be found on the Hinxworth Parish Council Website. Go to: [www.hinxworth-pc.org.uk](http://www.hinxworth-pc.org.uk) for more information.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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## 70's Disco

A big thank you to all those who strutted their stuff at the 70's disco, and helped to make the do a success.

We raised about £478 for the village hall. Big thank you to Liz Oliver for her kind donation.

**Helen, Debbie, Joe, Steph and Julie - VHMC**



## Fusion Dance in the Village Hall

Street Dance and Freestyle Disco is now taking place in the Hinxworth Village Hall. This runs in two groups, for 4-8 year olds and 9-12 year olds. Spaces are available so get in touch for a trial and more information. Contact [fusionmissmaisy@outlook.com](mailto:fusionmissmaisy@outlook.com).

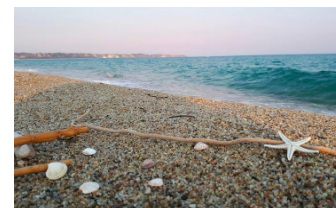
## Wise Words

### The Starfish Story

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking up and gently throwing things into the sea. Approaching the boy, he asked "young man, what are you doing?" The boy replied "throwing starfish back into the sea. The tide is going out and if I leave them here they will die."

The man laughed and said "don't you realise there are miles and miles of beaches with hundreds and hundreds of stranded starfish?" "You can't make any difference."

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it back into the water. Then smiling at the man he said: "I made a difference to that one."



## Festive Fizz Winner

The winner of the Festive Fizz competition was Anna Dawson. Congratulations and we hope you enjoy your bubbles over the break! Thank you to everyone for taking part. Watch out for some more raffles & quizzes in the future....

## Kids Corner....Picture This!

The Village Voice is running a competition for the children of our villages to capture 'winter in a photograph'. Perhaps this can be used as a Christmas card next year, or maybe it will make the front page of next month's Village Voice!

There will be a small gift for each contribution and a prize for the winner. Please email entries to [villagevoice3@gmail.com](mailto:villagevoice3@gmail.com) by the 20th January 2022.

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# Village Voice



January 2022

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.244

## Thank You for Your Support

A big thank you to Richard and Chantal Floyd for their continued support in printing the Village Voice, which they have done every month since 2013. Also many thanks to Dick Cobb, Cathy Sutton, Patrick Forbes and Fiona Hughes for delivering this each month.

Patrick Forbes has been part of the Village Voice since the first edition, this is over twenty years ago! He still distributes to some of the village and we think it's time for a well earned rest! If you can help with distribution and would have some time to take over from Patrick please get in touch via email at [villagevoice3@gmail.com](mailto:villagevoice3@gmail.com).

Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Village Voice! And finally, here's an interesting New Year fact for you all.....



Today, all of our names for the months of the year can be traced back to Ancient Rome. January comes from Janus, the name of a dual-faced Roman god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings; he was said to be perpetually both looking backward into the year that had just ended and forward into the year that is to come.

# BIG BREAKFAST 2022

Please join us for breakfast  
and help support  
Hinxworth & Edworth WI

venue: **Hinxworth Village Hall**

date: **Sunday 23rd January**

time: **10am - 12:30pm**

**£7 for delicious Big Breakfast**  
**£3.50 for half portion Breakfast.**  
**£3.50 Continental breakfast option**

**Enquiries and Tickets From**  
**Hilary or Jan**  
**Tel: 07825 046640 / 07890 410752**

supporting Hinxworth & Edworth WI

**Copy Date:** Please send all copy/pictures for February edition by January 20th. Email: [villagevoice3@gmail.com](mailto:villagevoice3@gmail.com)

## Advent Windows Returned

After last years 'trimmed down' Advent Windows it has been fantastic to see so many people coming to admire the beautiful windows of 2021. At the time of writing normal service has resumed and we hope that this remains the case for the rest of Advent. It's been great to have so many of our new neighbours joining in too! As always, a massive thank you to everyone for their time, hospitality and effort to keep this Hinxworth tradition going.



## Christmas Card Grand Total

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Hinxworth and Edworth Alternative Christmas Card Scheme. We raised £1210 in total - £865 for the Garden House Hospice and £345 for Mind. Thank you to Marianne Osmond who organised the layout of the card; Viv Hughes for allowing us to use her watercolour; Phillips Digital Print for printing the card; and to Richard Floyd who has generously sponsored the card.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas & New Year.

Rachel Giles

## Church Services for January

Sun 2nd Jan	10.15	All Age Epiphany	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 9th Jan	09.15	Parish Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 16th Jan	09.15	Parish Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 23rd Jan	09.15	Parish Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 23rd Jan	09.15	Holy Communion	St Vincent, Newnham
Sun 30th Jan	09.30	Candlemas Benefice	St Mary's, Ashwell

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## On the Beat

### Winter safety on the road

Motorists are urged to adapt their driving & check their vehicles for winter road conditions. Shorter daylight hours increase the risk of collisions.

As part of their new Rural Road Safety Campaign, officers in North Herts are appealing to those who walk, run or ride on the roads, to always wear high visibility clothing. "Hi vis clothes, such as fluorescent or reflective items, should always be worn if you run, ride or walk on the roads, but at this time of year they are essential," said Chief Inspector Jon Roche.

### Local crime information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Criminal Damage, Radwell – Overnight on 5th November a vehicle was parked in Radwell Lane, Radwell. The vehicle was written over in permanent marker with abusive language, the owner was unable to remove the pen causing permanent damage. 41/86577/21

Fly – Tipping, Bygrave – Between the 12th and 15th November a large quantity of house hold rubbish was tipped on the edge of the field near to the dairy farm. No witnesses for this and the offenders drove away. 41/89494/21

Theft, Hamiltons, Hullocks Pit, Newnham – On 24th November expensive Christmas decorations were loaded into a red transit van and stolen. 41/92512/21

Burglary, Ashville Trading Est – At 21.30 on 25th November, three offenders forced a hole into a wall and entered the property. The offenders were disturbed and made off. A vehicle was stopped by police later that evening and the offenders were arrested. 41/92650/21

## Hinxworth & Edworth WI

The December meeting of the Hinxworth and Edworth WI was a very jolly occasion and much enjoyed by all the members. Obviously the theme of the meeting was Christmas but something a little bit different. Anki (WI president) took centre stage and entertained us with stories and customs of her childhood Christmases growing up in Sweden. In Sweden Christmas trees are set up usually only a couple of days before Christmas and decorated with flowers such as poinsettia, red tulips, and red or white amaryllis and Swedish homemade crackers. Advent Stars are placed in windows and lit up. The stars are often white and might be made of straw, wood or metal as well as paper. Unlike us here in the UK the main celebration meal and the exchange of gifts takes place on Christmas Eve. The 'Secret Santa' way of giving gifts might have also started in Sweden from when there was a tradition where you would knock on the door of a friend or neighbour and then leave a small gift, the gift would have a little motto/riddle with it, to help people work out who had left the gift.

Following Anki's instructions we all made quite credible crackers popping a chocolate inside. The evening was rounded off with a version of Secret Santa, mulled wine and mince pies. A great evening! The next Hinxworth and Edworth WI meeting will be on Thursday January 13 2022 at 7.30pm. We are a really friendly bunch of ladies of all ages and welcome new members. Look forward to seeing you all.

Chrisi Hook



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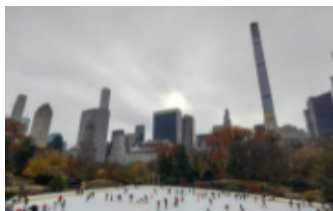
## Travellers Tales, Christmas in New York

We were finally able to enjoy our long awaited short break to New York in early December! The city was readied for Christmas with festive shop windows, street trees dressed in fairy lights and buildings decorated; the pavements had oversized Christmas sculptures illuminated at night.

We walked a lot, taking in the atmosphere on 5th Avenue, Times Sq, Broadway and Central Park. We even had breakfast in Trump Tower- Unfortunately not Breakfast at Tiffany's as the cafe closed for renovation...!

NYC is famous for its beautiful Art Deco buildings and interiors but sadly some of them have been pulled down to make way for new glass skyscraper buildings; this has taken away some of the "soul" of the city. Those remaining were still beautiful, though, and were wonderful for us to see. Our most memorable moment was a visit to the Neue Galerie to see the portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I by Gustav Klimt.

**A note from the editors,** tickets are now on sale for Klimt, The Immersive Exhibition. This is coming to London next summer. Go to [www.secretldn.com](http://www.secretldn.com) and search Klimt for more information and tickets.



Susan and Martin Shaw



## News from The Three Horseshoes

We would like to wish all our friends, customers and neighbours a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year. Big thanks to all of you for your support throughout the last year, which has been difficult for so many of us. We couldn't have made it through without you all.

Here are some dates for your diaries in January – book early to avoid disappointment:

19th Jan	Quiz Night
25th Jan	Burns Supper
28th Jan	Fish Friday

### Follow us online...

We will be posting our upcoming events monthly on Facebook & Instagram as well as the Village Voice. So follow us at Facebook – The Three Horseshoes, Hinxworth and Instagram – [threehorseshoeshinxworth](https://www.instagram.com/threehorseshoeshinxworth) to look out for more on our fun packed year ahead.

We look forward to seeing you all soon. Love and best wishes...

Gerry, Julie and all the Staff at The Three Horseshoes

## Soup Lunch

A big thank you to all the support at the December Soup Lunch. It was really wonderful to see so many people. As I'm sure you know, all profits from these lunches are donated to charities of our choice and thanks to all of you a donation of £50 was made to The Salvation Army. If you have a favourite charity please let me know for future donations.

The next Soup Lunch will be on Friday 14 January 2022 12.30 to 2pm. On offer will be a choice of soup, bread roll, choice of pudding and tea or coffee - marvellous value at the new price of £4.00. Look forward to seeing you all then.

Chrisi Hook

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# Sir Oliver Heald, My Life as Your MP

I was delighted to be asked to write an article for Village Voice about my life as an MP and about local issues.

I have lived in Royston for 40 years with my wife Christine and we brought up our 3 children there. I was a barrister based at Fenners Chambers in Cambridge from 1979 and enjoyed representing people in the courts. I was first elected to parliament for North Hertfordshire in 1992. I have often canvassed in Hinxworth and attended events. As MP I try to do three things: first to help local residents with any problems or issues; secondly to try to protect and enhance our area and thirdly to use the platform of being an MP to be involved in the great national issues of our time.

Local residents in Hinxworth often message me by email raising issues such as planning concerns, the need for buses or road repairs. I was delighted to be able to tell one local resident about the new Herts Lynx on demand villages' bus service. I also hold surgeries in the main towns, although at present I do some by telephone instead depending on Covid levels.



Our area is very beautiful with the constituency covering the four towns of Letchworth Garden City, Baldock, Royston and Buntingford and also 42 villages and hamlets. Protecting our local environment is very important. I champion development which is sensitive to this and makes the most of our heritage whether that of market towns or Garden City features such as many trees, commons and allotments and the Green Belt. I also like to highlight good regenerative agriculture using 'no till and low till' technologies to improve soil health.

As our area has 8 chalk streams, the nearest to Hinxworth being the Upper Rhee in Ashwell and the Ivel in Baldock, I am a founder of the All Party Group on Chalk Streams and am pressing for a catchment based approach to river quality.

I continue to raise other important local issues such as improving local hospitals and the need for a satellite radiotherapy facility in our area. At present cancer patients often have to go to London for their radiotherapy. This campaign is finally making some progress and it has been decided that one in either Stevenage or Luton will be part of proposals to build a new cancer centre at Watford. Of course, this still needs a decision to fund it and I am pressing Ministers and the local commissioners of the NHS.

More details of my campaigns and initiatives are on my website [www.oliverheald.com](http://www.oliverheald.com)

Nationally, I have been a Minister in 3 different Prime Ministers' Governments and have been able to change the law to help protect pension scheme members, to tackle benefit fraud, to improve the working of the courts, to tackle financial fraud better and to deregulate for our businesses to succeed.

At present, I am the lead in the House of Commons on setting up the UK-EU Partnership Parliamentary Assembly. I was also a member of the British delegation to COP26 in Glasgow as I am a Nature Based Solutions Champion in the Conservative Environment Network. It was fascinating to meet people from all over the World who were also keen on using nature's tools to store carbon and move towards Net Zero.

I often speak in parliament on legal and constitutional issues, as I am a former Solicitor General, one of the Law officers who advise the Government and appear in court for the Government. It is important to uphold the Rule of Law.

Being an MP is a busy life with Monday to Thursday in London often sitting in the Chamber until 10.30pm. There are breakfast and evening meetings to attend, usually briefings on important topics such as the latest on Covid, but also on other proposals to change the law in various ways. Sometimes there are media interviews. Constituents often visit parliament in normal times, but Covid restrictions are reducing this to mainly school parties, but it is always good to meet the students and answer their questions. On Fridays and weekends I am mainly in Royston and around the constituency.

Anyway, I wish everyone in the Village a very Happy New Year and hope we can live a more normal life again.

**Sir Oliver Heald, MP for North East Hertfordshire**

## A Gentle Plea from St. Nicholas

As many of you know St. Nicholas Church is open every day for visitors, private prayer and those who love ancient buildings. Everyone is very welcome. We strive to keep our little church looking it's best and well cared for and fresh flowers enhance that feeling.

Over the past couple of years several members of the congregation who helped with the flowers have either moved from the village or are no longer able to help. This is where the plea comes in:

It would be wonderful if any Village Voice reader would like to volunteer to be added to the flower rota. It is not an onerous task and you do not have to be a flower arranger so please don't feel intimidated by some of the beautiful arrangements that sometimes appear. A simple vase of garden flowers on the window ledge can be equally effective. The rota works on a two weekly basis Friday or Saturday with a tidy up/water as necessary in-between.

If you are interested please contact Viv Hughes for further information. Tel. 01462 743227. Email. [hattricks@btconnect.com](mailto:hattricks@btconnect.com).

Thank you from St. Nicholas.

**Viv Hughes**

*Be at War with your Vices, at Peace with your Neighbours, and let every New-Year find you a better person.  
Benjamin Franklin*

Quote submitted by Simon Marlow

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