

Hinxworth Art Society



Many years ago, a group of enthusiasts met and formed the Hinxworth Art Society. They met every Wednesday in Hinxworth and Edworth Village Hall, and once a year put on an exhibition of their handiwork, work of a very high standard. They have had visiting tutors and video sessions.

In the last two years Covid has forced the Society to cancel all meetings and only recently have they started to meet again. Not everyone has returned and so the Society is looking for new members. Why not come to the Village Hall, Francis Road, Hinxworth SG7 5HL any Wednesday from 10 am until 12 pm, meet the members, bring your painting materials, and discover a warm welcome?

I joined recently and already I have started painting and have been offered encouragement and some professional help in my burning ambition to draw and paint trees which look like trees and not the work of a spider suffering nightmares.

We look forward to seeing you and making you very welcome.

Patrick Forbes

Easter Draw Winner!

Congratulations to Geoff Wakefield (Frances Rd) the winner of the Easter Extra Wine draw - Geoff has won 2 bottles of Wine Society wine - a delicious white Burgundy and a Claret.

Many thanks to James (newly moved into Temple Cottages in Chapel Street) I met him wandering around Chapel Street with his BBQ tongs in hand and asked him to draw the winning ticket for this month's wine from my small brown Village Voice raffle bag!

Come On - Dig Out Your Yoga Mat!

Hinxworth is lucky to have an excellent yoga group, with lessons from Liz Oliver, every Wednesday 7pm-8pm in the Village Hall. Come along and join in, even if you haven't tried yoga before. It's great fun. Men and women are welcome.

Text Liz for further details and join our WhatsApp Group - 07846 797230.

Elaine Olson Williams



Our Local Wildlife Trust

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust believe that wildlife should be able to thrive alongside our everyday lives and that everyone is better off when they have access to nature. We are a local conservation charity working to protect wildlife and help people connect with nature.

We help people experience the wildlife on their doorsteps and take action to protect it. To find out more information about events, local wildlife, how you can protect wildlife or to join/support the Trust, go to www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk.



On The Beat - Useful Information

Hare coursing falls by almost a third after borderless success

The crackdown on rural crime comes after Hertfordshire Constabulary teamed up with six other police forces in September. Over the past six months this has helped with the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR), the seizure of dogs and the sharing of all interactions and movements of people suspected to be involved. The move also supports the ongoing national initiative against hare coursing - Operation Galileo. As a result, incidents across the seven force areas fell from 2044 in 2020-2021 to 1415 in 2021-2022, a drop of 31%. Anyone who sees hare coursing taking place is asked to contact police immediately on 999.

Bike safety campaign launches across Hertfordshire

As the weather improves, we see an increase in motorbikes and bicycles on our roads. Police are encouraging riders to ensure their bikes are roadworthy before heading out. Police also want to educate other road users on the rules when it comes to bikes and motorbikes, including changes to the Highway Code about positioning of cyclists and the hierarchy of road users. For more details about these changes, visit the Gov.uk website.

Operation Gnome

Spring is here and Hertfordshire Constabulary is launching its annual crime prevention campaign, Operation Gnome, to provide advice to help residents make their homes, gardens and outbuildings more secure.

These are some of the ways you can make your garden and outbuildings more secure: Always lock your shed, secure your rear garden gates, Burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use, ensure boundary fences are secure and in good condition and remember to lock your garage door securely. Spiky plants along garden boundaries are good additional deterrents!

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

On the 4th March between the hours of 1600 and 1200 on the 5th March a property in Station Road, Ashwell was burgled. Offenders gained access to the rear of the property and broke a panel in the rear door. They entered the property but nothing was stolen. If you have any information call 101 and quote crime reference 41/17922/22.

Overnight from 8th March – 9th March, a property in High Street, Hinxworth was subject to an attempted theft of copper piping. It is believed offenders approached via fields at the back of the property. If you have any information call 101 and quote crime reference 41/19304/22.

And Finally - Don't Forget

- To start growing your sunflowers to join in with the 'grow-along' in support of Ukraine. More details to come soon...
- You can try Archery for free on Saturday 14th May, from 2pm - 4pm on the Hinxworth Recreational Ground.
- Events are taking place in Ashwell - Ashwell at Home on the 8th May and the Ashwell Music Festival from the 18th. See last month's Village Voice for more info.
- You can confirm your place at the Hinxworth Jubilee Street Party on the 8th June by emailing Sylvia Scales (sylviamedia@gmail.com).



• Village Voice •

May 2022

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.248



Hinxworth Welcomes Ukrainian Guests

Very soon three Hinxworth families will be sharing their homes as hosts to mothers and children from Ukraine. The national emblem of Ukraine is the sunflower and we hope that the wider community in Hinxworth and the surrounding villages will bring some sunshine to the lives of these women and children who have suffered so much.

Those of us who are hosting have worked in partnership with the Baldock Action Aid Ukraine, who are a group of volunteers who set themselves up to respond to the crisis. They located members of the Ukrainian community in Baldock to look at the best way of supporting refugees. Its objective became clear that seeking refugees for hosts that live in the area and putting a package of support round the host and guest was the best way forward.

To ensure we can give a good experience to both guests and hosts, BAAU are currently agreeing to an optimum number of 20 hosts set in clusters across North Hertfordshire. These clusters will be linked to befrienders who will support the hosts with the guests in varied and creative ways. There will be a meeting after the guests arrive to address expectations of both hosts and guests and no doubt these will change over time but The Baldock Action Aid Ukraine will keep in regular touch.

Every war is different and for the Ukrainians seeking refuge in the UK, the difference is they have left their husbands, partners, adult sons and brothers in Ukraine and they want to return to their home. As a community, we need to try and understand what their needs are and how to respond. We might not get in right to start with but we will pull on all the help and expertise that is offered; we need to be ready to assist with everything - phone SIM cards, education, clothing, driving lessons, finding jobs, learning English, funding membership of sports clubs or transportation for medical, dental or counselling appointments, friendships for the adults and playmates for the children. These are just starting ideas and as our guests become more settled there will surely be other things that are needed. Host families will also need both practical and moral support!

The Ukrainians who come to North Herts and Hinxworth will arrive here with very few material possessions and will be traumatised and disorientated. We urgently need your help.

How you can help our Ukrainian guests

Our group, Baldock & Ashwell Action Aid Ukraine, is made up of volunteers of local people including Ukrainian families already living here. We aim to support and aid hosts and their guests - through the journey here and by helping both families once they're together. We have a marvellous dedicated hosting team managing this and are building a support network offering befriending to our visitors and a break to their hosts. Being a host is a wonderful 'gift' but this is not possible for most. However, there are many other ways you can help.

Could you be a befriender? Finding some time to entertain a family, an adult or the children, allowing them to get a quiet break in a different setting, taking them for a local tour of nature reserves, a shopping trip or further away for a day out.

Could you host an afternoon or evening 'tea party' or a barbeque? A small foursome or serve more than a dozen?

Can you donate financially? We are waiting for a new bank account to be set up by Lloyds Bank. If you wish to make a donation in the meantime please contact either Elaine Olson-Williams (elaine.olson-williams@mhllp.co.uk) or Vivienne Reed BAAU Lead Co-ordinator on 07815 308 124. You will be able to donate cash at one of our events, at our stall when we attend the Wednesday Market in Baldock during the Summer, or the Baldock Festival in May.

Are you able to donate good condition clothing for women and children of all ages and sizes? We will request specific items as and when we need them posting lists on our Facebook page and that of a donation friendly group like 'Waste not Baldock' or 'Baldock Beats Waste' whose members are naturally focused on 'reuse' and are generous.

Join us at events organised to increase awareness of our group and its aims and raise invaluable funds to allow us to support the needs of Ukrainian families here. We're benefitting from a Grand National event at The Bushel, Ashwell and a Garden Fete in late April in Letchworth. More will be announced so watch out for posts on our Facebook page.

Do you have a special talent you could offer? If you have a special skill or a hobby, could you spend an hour or three showing or teaching our visitors? Such as drawing, a sport, music, coding, chess, drama, dancing, pottery, bird watching, or just walking your pets. If you are a professional marketer/blogger/coder/IT specialist - could you improve someone's computer literacy?

Can you speak Ukrainian/Russian and English? Could you assist with interpretation and filling in official forms? Or a language teacher that could help our visitors learn or improve their English?

Can you supply a service free to our Ukrainian guests? Such as a hairdresser, beautician, an ophthalmologist or a dentist giving a free check-up or treatment to adults or children. Driving instruction for young or older adults, or maybe you could pay for them to have lessons!

Could you offer employment to a Ukrainian or assist them in getting work? Their visas permit our visitors to work. If you're a local employer or a recruitment agent, can you help? Maybe you're a builder or hairdresser that could offer an apprenticeship style role.

Thank you for helping us welcome Ukrainians to our special part of the country at their time of need. The BAAU has set up a hardship fund to assist with grants. Elaine Olson-Williams is chairing this committee and, in conjunction with several other local volunteers, will be responsible for the group finances and grant awards. These will be wide ranging - from beds to travel costs from Poland and other countries to the UK. If you can help in any other way at all, or have any ideas for community activities, please make contact via villagevoice3@gmail.com or make direct contact with any of the host families below.

- Simon and Frances - Hillside Cottage
- Jan and Elaine - Chapel House
- Liz and Tom Oliver - 2, High Street



Parish Council Minutes

DRAFT - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3rd MARCH 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 Councillor present: Tom Tyson, District Councillor.

Apologies: Steve Jarvis, County Councillor

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 3rd February 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: Email from Les Whitfield:- An email has been received from Les Whitfield regarding the minutes of 6th Jan 2022 which report on Planning Application 21/03121/FP: Land Adjoining Christy's Yard. Mr Whitfield suggests that the minutes are factually incorrect. The Chairman will respond.

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

5. Planning:- North Hertfordshire District Council Planning Application 22/00547/PNQ. Marshfield Barn, New Inn Road, Hinxworth, SG7 5HB. The Parish Council has received this Planning Application. They have until March 24th to respond to NHDC.

6. Highways: Parking on the Pavement at the North End of the High Street. It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Councillors that some of the residents are parking across the pavement in this area making it difficult for pedestrians. The Chairman is to write to the residents notifying them of this concern.

7. Village Hall: Water Heaters. A new water heater has been installed.

8. Recreation Ground: The Gate/Pedestrian Entrance. Due to the wet conditions over the past months this area has become a quagmire. The Parish Councillors therefore have decided to get this rectified by having the area dug out and then filled in with suitable material.

The Archery Club: The agreement commencing April 2022 will be ready for signature within the next few weeks.

9. The Tennis Court: Nothing to report.

10. Allotments: Nothing to report.

11. Any Other Urgent Business: The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Plans for the Street Party in the Close on June 5th are underway. Sylvia Scales is taking bookings. To date there has been forty six bookings. Tony Lloyd is to order the "bunting" ready for the day.

Unknown "Tommy" for Hinxworth: This has now been ordered by Richard Cobb.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting, Thursday 7th April 2022 in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Parish Council Minutes Online

Parish Council Minutes can be found on the Hinxworth Parish Council Website. Go to: www.hinxworth-pc.org.uk for more information.

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

Happy 700th Birthday, St Nicholas Church

This year our beautiful Church of St Nicholas is 700 years old. The main body of our church, the nave, was built in 1322 and almost certainly stands on the site of an earlier church. Unsurprisingly St Nicholas Church is grade II* listed.

Fittingly we are organising a 700 year birthday party for a splendid building that has stood at the heart of our community for seven centuries. On Saturday 3rd September from 2pm – 6pm there will be a Bell Ringers BBQ held in the church grounds. It is a whole village event, a celebration of the fantastic community in which we live, and all are welcome. As well as have-a-go bell ringing, there is a Salvation Army brass band, children's treasure hunt, history of the church exhibition, races around the church and a top dog in the village competition. To raise much needed funds to repair the church roof and tower there is a bar, hot dogs, hamburgers and other delicious treats for sale.

As well as the Bell Ringers BBQ, Coffee Morning & Cakes will be served in the Oak Room on the 1st Saturday of each month, starting on Sat. 1st May, all proceeds to the repair fund.



Alec Stephenson and Imogen Bentley outside the Church

To help estimate numbers, please could you let me know if you are coming by emailing sonjab@btinternet.com or put a note through my door at 2 Christys Yard or catch me in the pub.

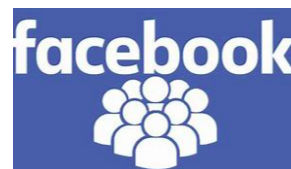
Let's have a wonderful celebration of both our beautiful ancient church and our fantastic community.

Sonja Bentley

Virtual Updates On Facebook Groups

Stay in touch virtually on our local Facebook Groups. These include information about local events, businesses and general 'goings-on'. You can search for the following;

- Our Hinxworth
- Edworth Community



Please note if you were previously a member of 'Hinxworth, Our Village' you will need to join the new group as the original no longer exists.

An Interesting Fact About May



Did you know that May used to have a very different name in Old English. Back then, the month was referred to as Thrimilce or the "month of three milkings." This was when livestock were often so well fed on fresh spring grass that they could be milked three times a day.



Any donations for jubilee or summer themed raffle hampers would be gratefully received. Please drop off to Helene Donohoe at No2, Francis Road. Thank you!

Hinxworth & Edworth WI

Anki opened the meeting and welcomed everyone - in all 18 members present. Several members who could not attend the meeting had sent their apologies and these were read out. Various matters arising from the last meeting were dealt with quite quickly as we were all keen to get on with the meeting proper. This meeting was organised entirely by the members rather than the committee so a real treat for us committee members to be able to sit back and relax. Jan Raynham took over from Anki and introduced the speaker for the evening - Steve Hatton giving a talk entitled Long Lost Family. His talk gave us all an insight into the struggles he had when he endeavoured to find out about his heritage and all his many far flung relatives from way back. Not a task for the faint hearted as it seemed to involve a lot of work and a lot of reading of old parish records etc but he said it was worth it in the end and very interesting. At the end of his talk there were many questions from the members before Jan stood up to thank him. The members provided some lovely plates of food for us all to enjoy and then the committee were each presented with a lovely gift from all the members. It was a really pleasant evening and thanks to all the members and Jan Raynham for organising.

The next meeting is the AGM - the 12 May at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome so please do come along and see what we do. You are sure of a warm welcome.

Chris Hook

Soup Lunch

It was wonderful to see so many people at the Soup Lunch on Good Friday and how lovely to be able to sit outside at the Oak Room in the church grounds. Many thanks to our vicar Chris Campbell. We raised £100 for the church funds and this has already been handed over so thank you everyone for your support.

The next Soup Lunch will be Friday 13 May and will be in the village hall as usual from 12.30 to 2pm. Looking forward to seeing you all then.



A glorious day for Soup Lunch at St Nicholas

Chris Hook



Church Services for May

Sun 1st May	10.15	All Age Communion	St George's, Edworth - Bishop of Bedford
Sun 8th May	09.15	Parish Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 15th May	09.15	Parish Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 22nd May	09.15	Parish Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 29th May	10.45	Benefice Communion	St Mary's, Ashwell (no Hinxworth Service)
Sun 5th June	09.15	Family Service for Pentecost & Jubilee	St Nicholas, Hinxworth

Please note: Rogation Blessings at St Vincent's, Newnham on 22nd May. Please contact Chris for more information (chris@revcc.uk).

The Three Horsehoes Dates for May

New Menu – Launching Tuesday 10th May - Look out for our exciting new spring menu

Quiz Night – Wednesday 18th May – Get your thinking caps on

Fish Friday – Friday 27th May – Christy's finest home cooked fish dishes

Julie Methven

Recycle Your Electrics

Up to 40 million electronic devices are stored at home. The good news is it's really easy to recycle unwanted electrical items with the UK's dedicated 'Recycle Your Electricals' campaign.

Please have a look in your drawers and cupboards for anything with a plug, battery or cable. Help us all make the most of the valuable materials in them, including gold, aluminium and copper. Local recycle centres can be found at....

Tesco, Baldock - Letchworth Recycling Centre - Argos, Letchworth - Argos, Hitchin - Homebase, Biggleswade

Wise Words



"Be yourself - everyone else is taken"

Oscar (Fingal O'Flahertie Wills) Wilde 16/10/1854 – 30/11/1900