

On The Beat

New crime prevention event targets rural communities

Around 70 local farmers, landowners and game keepers recently attended a new kind of rural crime prevention event in North Herts. Hosted by the Herts Police Rural Operational Support Team (ROST), the National Farmers Union (NFU) and officers from the Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team, the event took place at Hyde Hall Farm in Sandon, on Thursday 16th of February. "Following a number of thefts from farms in the area at the end of last year, in which a tractor, quad bikes, trailers, a caravan and other plant had been stolen from locations around Baldock and Royston, we decided to organise an event in which farmers and landowners had access to specific crime prevention advice and help, all in one place," explained PCSO Chris Brabrook from the Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team.

"We were delighted by the number of attendees, who came from all over the North Herts area," said Tim Armstrong from ROST. "The feedback from the event has been positive. It also allowed us to catch up with our rural community, chat through any issues and share learning. Hopefully the attendees have learnt plenty to put into practice back on the farm, yard or community space people they wish to protect."

You can report information online, speak to an operator in our Force Communications Room via our online web chat or call the non-emergency number 101.



Be a friend and ask your mates to stop using their mobile phone at the wheel

Police are recruiting the public to encourage their friends not to use their mobile phone at the wheel to potentially save their life and yours. In March 2022, new laws around using handheld mobile phones at the wheel came into force. It is now illegal to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving for virtually any use, including looking through playlists, taking photos or playing games. A device can be used handsfree if secured in a cradle, allowing sat nav use. If you break the law, you can get a £200 fine and six points on your licence. If you are taken to court, you could face a £1,000 fine (£2,500 if you're driving a lorry or bus) and a ban from driving. Officers will be carrying out more checks in Hertfordshire enforcing punishments if necessary.

Local Crime

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

No Reported Crime of Note

Useful Information

Your local Neighbourhood Police Teams website:

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

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

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

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

Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team Tel – 01438 757935



Items for Sale

I am moving in April and have a large amount of curtain fabric for sale, this is left over from my business. I'd like to offer this to someone in the local area. If this may be of interest to you please do get in contact. My number is: 07879450805.



Iris Todd



On Sunday 14th May from 11am to 5pm the historic village of Ashwell opens its doors and gardens to welcome visitors for the 38th year of this 'open village' event. This year's theme is 'A Day in the Country' so, in addition to the much-loved tour of open gardens of many shapes and sizes there will be a range of country-themed activities, displays and talks to see and do.

What's On? The programme - which is available in advance from www.ashwellathome.org.uk and announced throughout the day by the village's very own Town Crier, includes: Stunning Gardens, Country Life Exhibition, Free Workshops, Live Music, Morris Men/ Tudor dancing, Theatre Performances, Craft Workshops, Walks and Talks, Arts and Crafts displays....and many other attractions including a visit to the village lock-up (no longer in use!) and the village museum and Ashwell Banger Challenge themed cars display! Refreshments will be available throughout the day with great value lunches from ploughman's to hot dogs & burgers, and delicious tea, coffee & cake (including cream teas!) at venues around the village including the school, Parish Rooms, recreation ground, URC and Village Halls

This is a fundraising event and proceeds will be distributed to Ashwell Village Museum, Ashwell Primary School and St Mary's Church. For more information visit www.ashwellathome.org.uk

• Village Voice •

April 2023

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.259



Always Marry An April Girl

A short poem by Ogden Nash (19/8/1902 – 19/5/1971). An American Poet, best known for his light hearted poetry.

Praise the spells and bless the charms,
I found April in my arms.

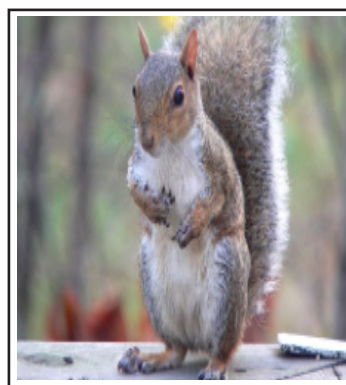
April golden, April cloudy,
Gracious, cruel, tender, rowdy;
April soft in flowered languor,
April cold with sudden anger,
Ever changing, ever true --
I love April, I love you.



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

'Keep the Squirrels Happy' Campaign

A local Wildlife Initiative. Starting April 2023. Exercising in and around our villages. Please walk, cycle and run slowly. Protect our wildlife. Several concerned residents have written to us at Village Voice recently to enlist our help with a new 'Save our Squirrels from Distress' campaign. It has been reported that the local squirrel population is being frightened by the excessive speed of joggers, cyclists and walkers.



The campaign guidelines state that joggers should not run faster than 6 km an hour, cyclists should dismount immediately upon spotting a squirrel in their intended path and walkers should slow to a strolling pace. Give the squirrels their own safe space...! Responsible exercising by well informed villagers and visitors can really help the mental health of our squirrels.

Get Your Charlie Chicks Whilst Stocks Last!

Treat yourself to a cheerful chick filled with a Crème Egg. Guilt free, knowing every penny you give is helping the patients at GHHC. Available from the 3 Horseshoes Pub, Hinxworth and 8 The Barns, Edworth.

This campaign has raised, on average, £10,000 a year with every penny donated to the care of patients, families and carers facing life limiting illnesses in our community. More info about the campaign you can go to their website <https://www.ghhospicecare.org.uk/supporting-us/ways-to-support/charlie-chicks>.



Katrina Hoskins

Work underway on new soft play in North Herts

Little ones, prepare to have the time of your lives as work has started on a brand new soft play facility at North Herts Leisure Centre on Baldock Road. Hours of entertainment await children of all ages with a range of fun and physical activities including monkey bars, cargo nets, rope bridge, log ramp climber and small and large slides. There will also be seating and refreshments as well as provision for parties.

The new facility, which gained overwhelming support in a public consultation last year, will convert two of the four squash courts and changing rooms located in the same area.

The soft play facility is due to open in April. When the Village Voice hear any further details we will give you more information...

Parish Council Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2nd MARCH 2023 AT 7.00 PM.

Present: Mr N Tiffin (Acting Chairman), Mr A. Dawson, Mr B. Higgins, Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Richard Cobb and Tony Lloyd

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

Members of the Public: Patrick Forbes and Simon Marlow (for the Village Hall item).

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 2nd February were agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Nick Tiffin and seconded by Tony Dawson.

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

3. Correspondence: Nothing to report.

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

5. Planning: Planning Consultations:

Application 23/00441/S73 Farrowby Farm, New Inn Road. The Parish Council has no objection to this application

Application 23/00409/FPH The Paddock. High Street. The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

Application 22/01449/FP Land North East Side of the High Street. The Parish Council has received a decision notice regarding this application.

6. Highways: Traffic Calming Feasibility Study: Steve Jarvis reported further calming measures in the High Street are hopefully to start to be financed in 2024/25 budget after the usual public consultations. The Councillors thanked Steve Jarvis for his help.

Chapel Street: The Parish Councillors have noted there are closure signs in place in Chapel Street. It appears there has been no notification regarding what work is to be carried out.

Update on Chapel Street from Steve Jarvis on March 6th. This will be for cleaning the drains. There are often problems as these gullies/drains are blocked by parked vehicles. So an experiment of road closures is taking place which gives Hertfordshire Highways the right to remove any vehicle, if necessary, that is blocking a gully/drain. Then replacing the vehicle back in its position. Apparently Chapel Street has been chosen as one of the locations.

Pothole: There is a large pothole on the Hinxworth/Edworth road. This being in Bedfordshire David Smyth is to be contacted as Chairman of Edworth Parish Meeting if he would kindly notify Central Bedfordshire Highways Authority.

7. Village Hall: Solar Panels: Simon Marlow addressed the Councillors with regard to solar panels being installed. A discussion took place as to the possible benefits of this project. Steve Jarvis volunteered to investigate any grants/initiatives that may be available from Hertfordshire County Council or other organisations.

Nick Tiffin notified the meeting that the Village Hall Management Committee are responsible for the Village Hall and therefore he will notify the Chairperson Helen Donohoe for them to follow up and report back.

8. Recreation Ground: The Repair to the Gate Entrance to the Recreation Ground: A further quote is still awaited.

9. The Tennis Court: Nothing to report.

10. Allotments: Nothing to report.

11. Any Other Urgent Business: May Local Elections May 4th: Please note any Village resident who is interested in putting their name forward as a candidate for election to the Parish Council and requires further information the website www.north-herts.gov.uk/elections-and-voting provides further details.

Speeding Initiative: Tom Tyson informed the meeting that a "County Speed Watch" initiative is being discussed for the Villages in North Herts. It will involve a local residents/group either from Hinxworth or a village collective group being issued in recording excess speeders with speed guns to catch offenders. To date Barley and Weston Villages are participating.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 30th March 2023 in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Wendy Kitchener (Clerk)

Bring photo ID to vote in May

Don't forget: to vote at a polling station in the local elections on Thursday 4 May, you will need to show photo ID.

Flooding in the Recreational Ground

We are all used to seeing some flooding on the Rec but this March has seen a significant increase. Be sure to wear your wellies (and a bring dingy) if you are planning a visit!



Photo submitted by Lucy Wade

Church Services For April

Sun 2nd Apr	09.15	Palm Sunday Service	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Fri 7th Apr	13.00	'Light Lunch' followed by 1pm Reflective Service	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 9th Apr	09.15	Easter Day Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 9th Apr	09.30	Easter Day Communion	St Vincent's, Newnham
Sun 16th Apr	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 23rd Apr	10.00	Family Communion for St George's Day	St George's Edworth
Sun 30th Apr	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth

Other services for Holy Week, including daily communion services and a special service for Maundy Thursday are taking place at St Mary's, Ashwell. Do see flyer or internet for details.

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

Hinxworth And Edworth WI

The March meeting was a very entertaining evening. First though Anki welcomed members and guests to the evening and then went thru the initial WI notices and announcements, apologies etc and reminded everyone that their subs will be due in April. That done the meeting was handed over to the members as this meeting was organised and run by the members with the committee taking a back seat. Sylvia had agreed to talk to us about their family holiday in the (almost) North Pole. Bob and Sylvia had prepared a really good slide show and gave an excellent commentary about their amazing adventure showing us frozen lakes, enormous snow drifts and ice caves. Truly a holiday to remember. The members had also provided a cheese and wine buffet to finish off a very good evening. A big thank you to the members and to Sylvia and Bob. The next meeting (April 13) is all about yoga with the option to "have a go" at the end. New potential members are always really welcome to come to any of our meetings to see what it's like. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month starting at 7.30pm. For more details email ankiandchris@live.co.uk

Chris Hook

Ashwell and Bassingbourn Patients Group

APPOINTMENTS SURVEY - UPDATE

Many thanks to all those who responded. We have had nearly 400 responses, many with comments. We shall of course publish the findings in due course and use the information gained with the aim of improving our service.

One thing that everyone, including the surgery staff, are very critical of is our telephone system which is inadequate and the cause of much frustration and irritation. We were led to expect NSH funding for a more efficient set-up and some practices have indeed benefitted from this initiative. Sadly the cash ran out and to everyone's disappointment we remain stuck with what we have got. We remain hopeful that there will be a new funding round but cannot say when this might happen. This is of little comfort I know but at least patients will better understand why things are as they are.

We have however recently been successful in streamlining the "welcome" message on our phone system and, via the service provider, have arranged some modifications to the technology which we hope will make phone access to Reception quicker and more reliable. All being well this should be a great improvement.

Peter Chapman

Church Roof Fund Update

Fantastic progress is being made. Please continue to support the fundraising appeal. Donations can be made using www.JustGiving.com/pccstnicholashinxworth or by cheque, payable to 'PCC of St Nicholas Hinxworth'. Thank you for your support!

Alec Stephenson

The Three Horseshoes Update

The ever-popular Quiz night is back on Wednesday 19th April. Come along to compete with your neighbours and friends!

Come in for your Easter Sunday Lunch.....booking is recommended.

Wise Words for April

"Well-appareld April on the heel, Of limping Winter treads."

Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet: Act I
Scene 2



COMMUNITY LUNCH HINXWORTH & EDWORTH VILLAGE HALL Friday 14th April



Price includes selection of homemade soups, breads & desserts plus tea / coffee

Once again it was just marvellous to see so many lovely people at the lunch. Thank you everyone for braving the cold weather and coming along. The soups on offer were as always quite delicious - thank you so much to the splendid soup makers. All profits go to charities of our choice so let me have your suggestions for donations. The next Community Lunch will be Friday 14 April between 12.30 and 2pm in the Hinxworth Village Hall. Looking forward to seeing everyone then.

Chris Hook

The 'Shoes' Golf Society

It's that time again! Dust off your clubs, find your shoes and join us for our friendly get-together!

Friday 2nd June at Wyboston Lakes Course

First Tee-Off: 10.30am to 11.30am Coffee/Tea/Bacon Roll from 09.30am.

£95 Per person Includes:

- * ROUND OF GOLF + BACON ROLL, TEA/COFFEE
- * 3 COURSE MEAL AT THE SHOES (6.00 pm sit down)
- * LIVE BAND
- * GOLF TROPHY/PRIZES @ 5pm
- * CHARITY RAFFLE



LIMITED TO 24 GOLFERS!!

HANDICAP GIVEN ON DAY !!

(Club handicap to be given if available)

CLOSING DATE : 28 TH APRIL 2022

If interested, please complete form behind the bar and pay in full to Gerry. If you would like your partner or friends to join you in the evening for the meal (£35 per person), please give details on form including any dietary needs.

If you need a Golf buggy please contact Simon on 07483 814973 or book direct with the club.

Simon Cheshire