

Some contributions to the Hinxworth Art Exhibition



Exhibits submitted from John W Mills, 'Women of the War' Sculpture then clockwise from 'George the Giraffe' by Angela Fenn, 'Child on the Beach' by John Haskins, 'Fused Glass' by Geoff Everitt and 'Human Pottery' by Jan Raynham.

Summer Fun!

Outdoor pools in Hitchin and Letchworth

Hitchin Swimming Centre and Letchworth Outdoor Pool both have heated 50 metre outdoor pools and smaller heated pools for toddlers and younger children. The pools also offer:

Grassed areas for sunbathing

Cafés providing refreshments and snacks

Concessions for families, multi-swim tickets and swim memberships

Private hire options for functions and pool parties

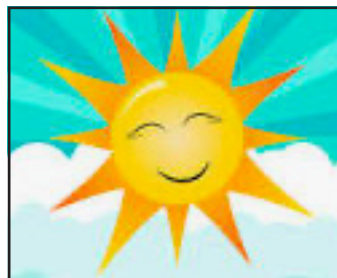
2023 opening dates - Letchworth Outdoor Pool is open from 13 May to 24 September 2023. Hitchin Outdoor Pool is open from 27 May to 10 September 2023.

Splash parks

Four local splash parks open from 10am to 6pm, seven days a week during summer. These can be found at Howard Park in Letchworth, Bancroft Recreation Ground in Hitchin, Priory Memorial Gardens in Royston and Avenue Park in Baldock.

Splash pad dates for 2023

- Splash pads are open from Saturday 29 April to Friday 15 September 2023.



The Thrifty Fifty for the Summer Holidays!

Herts County Council have published some ideas to get you through the Summer holidays. Their top ten suggestions are below, if you are interested or want more information on the rest of the activities you can go to: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk>. Have fun!!!

1. Complete the Summer Reading Challenge
2. Visit Herts Archives
3. Listen to an Audiobook through the Borrowbox app
4. Visit a local museum
5. Picnic in the park
6. Attend a Family Fun Event with Herts Family Centres
7. Pick your own fruit at a local farm
8. Make your own playdough
9. Go bird watching
10. Have an arts & crafts day
11. Walk a canal path
12. North Hertfordshire Museum
13. Spend the day at a Splash Park
14. Take part in a Junior Park Run
15. Join an event with Herts Wildlife Trust

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

• Village Voice •

Aug 2023

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.263

Family Fun Day Returns!

The wait is nearly over. Only a few short weeks until the St Nicholas Family Fun Day and Village BBQ on Sunday 3rd September in our beautiful church grounds. All welcome!



We have a bar, BBQ, dog agility games (all pooches welcome), brass band, live music, bouncy castle, treasure hunt, bell ringing, tug of war, cake stallI could go on and on but best to come along and see for yourself. Still looking for Mums & Dads to help supervise the bouncy castle on the day. Call me if you can help Sonja 07910 540455.

Sonja Bentley

The Bells are Ringing Again!

The St Nicholas Church's autumn event which took place last September motivated some impressive enthusiasm in local potential ringers. A group (mainly women) have now come together to learn and experience bell ringing in the church.

This new wave of enthusiasm has inspired the resurrection of the regular 8pm Wednesday practise here in Hinxworth, where we also welcome five learners from Ashwell on a regular basis. There are six bells in St Nicholas' church and the group are working hard to improve their skills. It is great to see such vibrant enthusiasm in the team (pictured below).



Pictured above, The Bell Ringing Group

The group are still looking for two or three recruits - come along to the autumn event in the church to have a try and see whether you would like to join this new group.

Paul Watler

The Story of your Church's Roof & the Future

During the years of 2021 and 2022 the church roof was beginning to leak after heavy rain. The roof was a plastic type covering with a projected life of 28 years. This covering replaced the stolen lead roof 48 years ago and was well past its sell by date. Rather than continually repairing the leaks it was decided with advice from the church's architect that a new roof should be installed. At the same time it was noted that a window on the South side of the tower was in danger of collapse and needed urgent repairs. The project for the roof and window was initiated in late 2022 and the requisite permissions and a funding campaign was started, with a start date on 21st November 2022 when the scaffolding around the building was erected.

The initial budget for this project was £132,000 but other problems were uncovered as the project progressed, the eventual costs increased to £147,000, this has been achieved due to tremendous efforts by all concerned. The church already had funds amounting to £53,222. The rest was provided by local companies £21,000, Garfield Weston Foundation Trust £10,000. The Beds Herts Historic Churches Trust £10,000, St Albans Diocese £3,000, The Benefact Trust £3,250, The National Churches Trust £20,000 and £26,528 from individual donations and organised events. The Village owes a massive well done and a thank you to all donors and organisers who have made this massive achievement possible!

Thank you to each and every one of you!



The current situation is that the steel roof has been completed and the repairs to the parapets and new cross on the East roof apex are done. The scaffolding around the main building of the church has been removed. Some experts who looked at this commented that the workmanship was of a very high standard. The window on the South tower is still work in progress but should be finished as you read this.

While the construction continues bell ringing has started again, see other Page One article!

Looking ahead: The church is now opened daily by our team of volunteers from around 9:00am to about 4:30pm. The food bank box is available for donations, in plastic bags please, to ease-carrying to the Preen Reuse Centre in Biggleswade or the one in St Mary's Church Ashwell.

We are hoping to hold a 'Thank You' service in the near future. Details to follow soon!

Alec Stephenson

Parish Council Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 6th JULY 2023 AT 7.00 PM.

Present: Mr N.Tiffin (Chairman), Mr R. Cobb (Vice- Chairman), Mr T Lloyd., Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

Other person present: Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor

Apologies: Tony Dawson, Tom Tyson District Councillor.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 31st May were agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Dick Cobb and seconded by Nick Tiffin.

2. Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda.

Incident in the Village: The Parish Council have been made aware of an assault in the High Street on Tuesday 27th June. This appeared to be over a traffic right of way when passing the school bus (road rage) which was parked to allow the children coming home from the school day to exit the bus. This assault was witnessed by many including the school children exiting the bus. Although this is not a Parish Council matter the Councillors are all clear they do not wish to see this kind of behaviour in the village (or anywhere else). The bus had full CCTV equipment which is now been handed over to the local police, who were called to the incident. The police will consider the next steps to be taken towards the suspected individual who caused the assault. The Parish Council will be writing to Chief Constable of North Hertfordshire Constabulary expressing their concern over the incident, especially with the local children having to witness such events.

3. Correspondence: Defibrillator Registration: The Department of Health have requested the registration of all defibrillators installed though out the country. Dick Cobb reported he had already registered Hinxworth's defibrillator when it was installed some years ago.

Hertfordshire County Council- Rural Strategic Plan: At this point in time having reviewed the plan, there is no area at present in Hinxworth other than Place Farm and Marsh Farm, that has been identified for further development.

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

Annual Accounts: The exemption certificate having been signed by the Chairman for 2022/23 (Richard Cobb) and the Financial Officer Responsible (Wendy Kitchener) and has been forwarded PKF Littlejohn LLL (Ref: SBA Team) 1 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HD. The accountants responsible for overseeing the Smaller Authorities (England). All other relevant documents for the Annual Accounts of 2022/2023 have been signed and will be posted on the Hinxworth Parish Council website. Should any resident of Hinxworth require any details or clarification of the current accounts/audit please contact Wendy Kitchener by email wggk@btinternet.com or by telephone land line 01767-313766 or mobile 07483822343.

The Parish Councillors convey their thanks to Jayne Whitfield for completing the external audit of the accounts.

5. Planning: Planning Consultations: Application 23/01232/FP Place Farm, New Inn Road. The Parish Council agreed in principle to "no objection" to this application subject to Hertfordshire Highways approving the new access to Barn A from the farm track/road.

6. Highways: Traffic Calming Feasibility Study: Steve Jarvis reported stage one funding has been approved. The installation of the traffic calming verge gates is therefore likely to begin in the autumn

7. Village Hall: Nothing to report.

8. Recreation Ground: The Archery Club: A request has been received from the Archery Club for them to install coloured brushes to define the archery boundary lines. The Parish Councillors agreed to this request but require to know how many will be installed and where. Also the Councillors need to ensure they would not be a problem to other users of the Recreation Ground.

9. The Tennis Court: The Net Posts: These have now been installed.

10. Allotments: The Allotment Group: The Parish Councillors again discussed the sustainability of the allotments going forward as it is now thirteen years since the Allotment Group was set up. It has been agreed the Allotment Group at their next planned Committee meeting should come forward with suggestions of how they see the way forward and what is required to make this viable and productive. The Parish Councillors look forward to the proposals in due course. Dick Cobb is now to arrange a meeting with the allotmenters and report back at the next Parish Council meeting on September 7th.

11. Any Other Urgent Business: Nothing to report.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 7th September 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Wendy Kitchener (Clerk)

Church Services For August

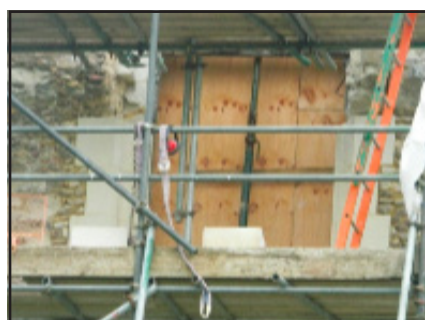
Sun 6th Aug	09.15	Family Service	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 13th Aug	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 20th Aug	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 27th Aug	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 27th Aug	09.30	BCP Communion	St Vincents, Newnham

Every Wednesday afternoon at 4pm we have a gentle Evening Prayer service at St Nicholas, lasting about 15 minutes.

Church Tidy-Up

Volunteers are required for a clean up in the churchyard and a clean in the church on Saturday 12th August from 10 to 12. We are also looking for someone in the village to organise a voluntary cleaning team for the church on a monthly basis. Professional cleaners are no longer engaged to save costs so we are hoping that a community group will pull-together to help. Please contact Alec Stephenson at alecstephenson@btinternet.com if you can help.

Alec Stephenson



Picture submitted by Alec Stephenson shows a 'close-up' of St Nicholas' South Window's progress, showing the new stones.

Hinxworth and Edworth WI July Meeting

The July meeting for the WI is always the Garden Meeting. In Anki's absence Chrsi started the meeting by firstly saying thank to Jacquie and Richard Grimmer for opening their garden up to the WI for this event. Chrsi then went on to welcome the members and their guests (26 people in total) and quickly took the members through a few outstanding WI items. Formalities finished members and guests went off to explore, admire and marvel at the wonderful garden, full of shrubs, flowers, trees and ducks. Also plenty of places to sit and luckily for us summerhouses and gazebos offering shelter from the rain showers. The evening was very nicely rounded off with smoked salmon savouries, finger sandwiches and strawberry desserts, wine, tea and coffee. It was a lovely meeting and a great way to finish the season until September when the next meeting will be on the 14th September at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome and we look forward to seeing everyone in September. Have a lovely summer.

Chrsi Hook

Community Soup Lunch

A bit of a different lunch this month - a Cheddar Cheese Ploughmans followed by three delicious desserts. It proved to be very popular and was a sell out - thank you to everyone for such support this time and also throughout the last few months. We have raised lots of money for charity - some donations made to local appeals like the village church and other donations made to charities suggested by you. This month it was suggested that a donation go to "Home Instead (North Herts)" who are fund-raising for an emergency lift chair. One hundred pounds is on its way to them. All profits from the Community Lunches go to charities of our choice so more of your suggestions please. The next lunch will be September 15 12.30 - 2pm in the village hall. Keep an eye on the Facebook page nearer the time for details.

Chrsi Hook

Ashwell & Bassingbourn Patient's Group

NEWS OF OUR SURVEY ABOUT APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to inform patients that our report on the findings from the survey carried out earlier this year is nearing completion. Indeed by the time you read this it may well have been published. It will be available on the surgery website (<https://ashwellsurgery.nhs.uk>), so please keep looking. We also intend to make paper copies available in our 2 surgeries and in our pharmacies. The results of the survey have given us much food for thought.

We hope that you will find our report both informative and useful.

Peter Chapman, Chair

On The Beat

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

Theft of Motor Vehicle, Radwell – On 7th June at 18:30 the victim was showing his for sale car to a potential buyer. The offender asked the victim to fetch a cloth from the house. As the victim returned to his property the offender got into the vehicle and drove away.

Arson, Claybush Road, Ashwell – On 5th June between 17:40 and 18:15 an arson occurred at the site of a childrens nursery. Staff had packed up and just left site. The fire service was called at 18.15 to put out a fire on site where sheds had been set on fire.

The Three Horseshoes....What's On?

Lots of fabulous events are on their way to the Three Horseshoes in August and September, be sure to book your tables early to avoid disappointment!

12th August

Guest Chef Night - Ramsey's
Greek Kitchen



20th August

Boozy Blue's

24th September

Car Show



30th September

Guest Chef Night - with Mucca
Cambridge

Quiz Night

Every third Wednesday of the
month



Hinxworth Art Exhibition

A massive Thank You to all those who took part in the Village Hall Art Exhibition on 9th July. 90 people walked through the door to see works of art from famed local artist John W Mills, John Haskins from Shefford, Chantelle Pui from Stevenage and the members of Hinxworth Art Society (HAS). Joining them were artists from Ashwell, Northill and Hinxworth village. As well as paintings and sculptures, there were photos, pottery, fused glass, silver jewellery and a photographic show by Roger Bradshaw.

Thank you to Viv Hughes and the ladies for organising and serving the teas and cakes.

Please see below & go to Page 4 to enjoy some of the art that was on display.

Helene Donohoe, VPMC Chair

