

On The Beat

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Theft of Number plates, Slip End, Ashwell - Between 22 nd October and 2nd November offenders have gained access to the property by breaking a fence panel. The offenders have broken a lock to a caravan and have taken items including number plates.

Theft of Number Plates, Station Road, Ashwell - On 14 th November between 11.30 and 18.30 the vehicle was parked on station road. The offender has stolen number plates from the front and rear of vehicle.



Photos submitted by Russ Lewis

Increase in Scarlet Fever and Group A Streptococcus (GAS) cases

Key Information shared by James McManus, Director of Public Health,

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs and symptoms of scarlet fever. Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include

- ☐ a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with
- ☐ a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel which is rough to the touch
- ☐ On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will still have a rough, sandpapery feel.

Please Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called group A streptococci. These bacteria also cause other respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). While still uncommon, there has been an increase in invasive Group A strep cases this year, particularly in children under 10 and you will have seen the recent media reports of some tragic deaths as a result of iGAS. Sadly, Deaths do occur each year due to iGAS however this year has seen a slight increase which could be related to the increase in scarlet fever cases.

Currently, there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating. The increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing. There are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, children can on occasion develop a bacterial infection on top of a virus and that can make them more unwell. As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- ☐ your child is getting worse
- ☐ your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- ☐ your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- ☐ your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher

☐ your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty

☐ your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- ☐ your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- ☐ there are pauses when your child breathes
- ☐ your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- ☐ your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

Wise Words

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours and let every New Year find you a better person”

“How many observe Christ's birthday ! How few, his precepts! O 'tis easier to keep holidays than commandments”

Healthy Hub - Happy Healthy New Year!

Healthy Hub is a one stop shop providing information, advice and support to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. A team of professionals are on hand to help you every step of the way. We provide lifestyle support for you and your family including mental health, physical activity, weight management, breastfeeding, parenting skills, coping with cancer, Carers and smoking cessation.



We want you to know that you are not alone; we can link you to services and support teams, currently offering remote support over email or through the contact us section. For further information go online and search 'Healthy Hub Stevenage'.

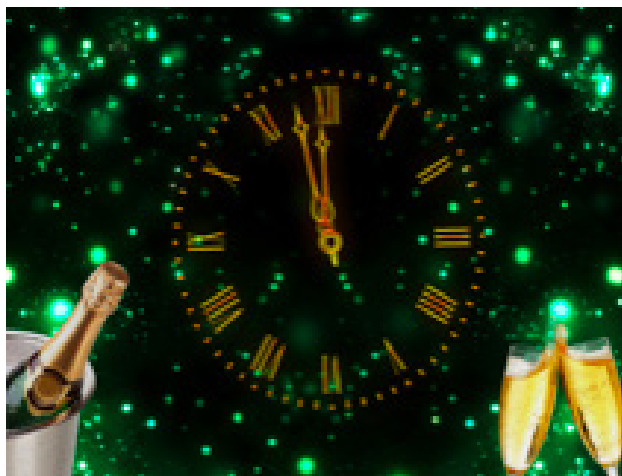
Copy Date: Please send all copy/pictures for the February edition by January 20th. E: villagevoice3@gmail.com

• Village Voice •

January 2023

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.256



A Poem for the New Year

'Ring Out, Wild Bells' written by Lord Alfred Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

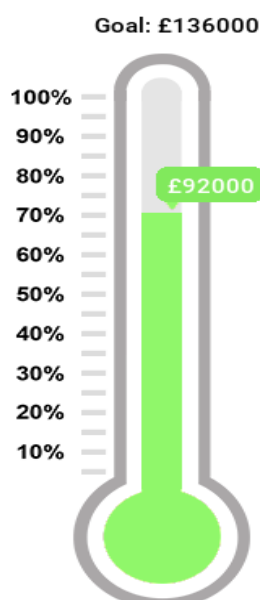
Snowy Scenes...

Thank you for the wonderful photos sent in to the Village Voice capturing the December snow scenes across Hinxworth and Edworth. We have shared these throughout this edition...



Photo submitted by Jan Olson Williams

Church Roof Fund Update



We would like to keep the Village updated on the current situation with fundraising for the 'Church Roof'. We will use the thermometer (left) to illustrate progress against our target each month.

Our target is £136,000 and we have raised £92,000 so far - a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us to get this far! This does leave us with a shortfall of £44,000 which we hope the Village will continue to support us to reach in the coming months and into 2023.

Alec Stephenson

Parish Council Minutes

Present: Mr R Cobb (Chairman), Mr A. Lloyd, Mr A. Dawson, Mr B. Higgins, Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr N. Tiffin (Vice-Chairman), Tom Tyson District Councillor.

Other Person Present: Steve Jarvis County Councillor,

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 3rd November were agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Tony Dawson and seconded by Tony Lloyd.

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

3. Correspondence: High Street Parking: There have been two responses to the letter from the Chairman regarding the High Street parking. Both were positive along with all the residents ensuring they do not park on the pavement. The Chairman thanked the residents for their co-operation. Nevertheless it has been pointed out to the Chairman that the High Street residents are concerned about the heavy farm vehicles going at speed through the Village at Harvest time. The Chairman will address this issue with the farmers involved.

Boundary Changes: The Chairman has received an email from the District Councillor Tom Tyson regarding the boundary changes. These can be viewed on the following websites for Hinxworth residents information and comment if necessary. Have your say on new ward boundaries proposed for North Herts Council | North Herts Council (north-herts.gov.uk) and Search: Councillors criticise proposed Baldock ward changes | The Comet .

Trees in front of the Bungalows in Francis Road: District Councillor Tom Tyson has emailed the Council that, Settle, the company responsible for the area have asked their contractor to inspect and quote for the work for completion in early 2023.

4. Finance: Current Parish Council Funds: The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Proposed by Dick Cobb and Tony Dawson. For information a payment of £1500.00 has been made to Hertfordshire County Council as a contribution towards the "Traffic Calming" feasibility study. Steve Jarvis confirmed this study is well under way.

The Precept 2023/2024: This is to be held over to the next Parish Council meeting when all Councillors should be present.

5. Planning: Planning Consultation 22/02934/FP at Thorns Farm. The Councillors agreed to no objection to this application.

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

Ashwell Road by the Church: The flooding and collapse of the road near the Church in the past few days has been reported to Hertfordshire Highways by Tony Lloyd. Due to the urgency of the work Steve Jarvis will follow-up.

7. Village Hall: Nothing to report.

8. Recreation Ground: The Repair to the Gate Entrance to the Recreation Ground: A quote has been received from North Hertfordshire Construction and further quotes will be obtained prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

The Children's Play Area. The play area item handle that requires replacing has been sourced and received by Tony Lloyd. He plans to fit this in the near future.

9. The Tennis Court: Nothing to report.

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

11. Any Other Urgent Business: St Nicholas Church Restoration: The Parish Council has been notified work has commenced and fund raising for the project is still ongoing.

The Defibrillator: After its' update the original is now back in place.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 5th January 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Wendy Kitchener (Clerk)

Church Services For January & Roof Update

Sun 1st Jan	10.45	Benefice Communion	St Mary's, Ashwell
Sun 8th Jan	09.15	Holy Communion for Epiphany	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 15th Jan	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sat 21st Jan	09.30	Prayer Breakfast for Christian Unity Week	URC Hall, Ashwell
Sun 22nd Jan	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 22nd Jan	09.30	BCP Holy Communion	St Vincent's, Newnham
Fri 27th Jan	12.00	Lunchtime Prayers to Mark Holocaust Day	St Mary's, Ashwell
Sun 29th Jan	09.15	Benefice Communion	St Mary's, Ashwell
Sun 29th Jan	16.00	Christingle Service	St Mary's, Ashwell

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



Here's a picture of the latest scaffolding at St Nicholas. Soon into January we're expecting some internal scaffolding to be erected too, at which point we may well just have our services in the chancel (up the front end of church, near the altar); but we're hoping that services will mostly continue as normal!

Chris Campbell

Alternative Christmas Card

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2022 Hinxworth and Edworth Alternative Christmas Card Scheme. We raised a fantastic £1305 - £885 for the Garden House Hospice and £420 for the British Red Cross. Thank you to Marianne Osmond who organised the layout of the card; Andy Hartree for the photo used on the card; Phillips Digital Print for printing the card; and to Richard Floyd (Floyd Automatic Tooling Ltd) who has generously sponsored the card. With best wishes for 2023.

Rachel Giles

Hinxworth and Edworth WI Dec Meeting

The last WI meeting of 2022 was a really festive occasion and very well attended by members and guests. Chrisi opened the meeting promptly at 7.30 and welcomed everyone. Apologies were read out, Minutes of the last meeting signed and various matters arising were discussed. She then handed over to Jan Y and Hilary who had organised a Christmas wreath making activity. Everyone was provided with all the 'ingredients' to make a festive wreath to take home. With Jan and Hilary's help members got started and set about making their own wreath adding ribbons, baubles, holly etc to make some really spectacular creations. There was also a buffet, mulled wine, tea and coffee on offer and members helped themselves during the evening as they made their wreaths. As you can see from the photo the wreaths all looked so festive. The evening was rounded off with a Secret Santa and raffle.

The next WI meeting will be on 12 January 2023. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



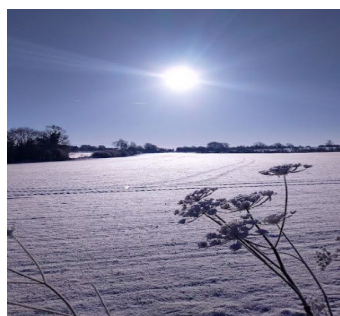
Chrisi Hook

Community Soup Lunch Update

It was so wonderful to see so many people at the lunch on Friday and thank you all for making the effort on such a cold day. As ever a choice of delicious soups and puddings were on offer. A big thank you to Friday's soup makers and helpers and also to all the soup makers and helpers over the year. If anyone would like to volunteer to make soup once in a while please let me know - the more the merrier.

Over the last two or three lunches we have made some good profits thanks to your generosity so donations totalling £250.00 have been made to the Salvation Army (£100), The Friends of Garden House Hospice (£50), The Leprosy Mission (£50) and Cancer Hair Care (£50). Thank you everyone. Next Community Lunch will be Friday 13 Jan 12.30 - 2pm. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Chrisi Hook



Photos submitted by Sylvia Scales

Ashwell & Bassingbourn Patients Group

Notes from November Meeting

Elaine Douglass has joined the group and together with Tessa Cathcart represents Bassingbourn. Elaine is also Chair of Bassingbourn Parish Council.

We welcomed Dhaval Patel (our relatively new village Pharmacist in Ashwell) to our meeting. He was able to outline the long list of services he can provide, many of which complement those offered by our surgery. He is also preparing an information sheet for patients. We were hoping that Caroline Meehan from Bassingbourn Pharmacy would also join but work pressures prevented this. We will re-invite her.

We are still seeking to appoint an additional GP but recruitment is challenging nationally.

Bad news regarding our creaking telephone system. The promised NHS funding has dried up. There is talk of further money but we will just have to wait and see.

The online booking service "eConsult" is being replaced by a new and more flexible service. It can be accessed via the website as before.

Our Practice Manager, Katie Prince, has begun work on "A Patient's Guide" to our surgery which should be very helpful to patients. She also intends to carry out a survey on the question of appointments in the New Year. Patients' Group members will be involved in both of these initiatives.

There was discussion about Reception arrangements at Ashwell. Neither patients nor staff are happy with having to ring the bell for attention. Katie will give the matter some thought.

Dr Jarvis explained that "extended hours" consultations were available at Sollershott Surgery in Letchworth. This is a joint venture between our surgery and those in Baldock and Letchworth. Access to services at Sollershott is via one of our doctors or nurses. Of particular interest is the earwax removal service which is free.

We wish all our patients a happy and healthy New Year.

Peter Chapman



Photo submitted by Jan Olson Williams

The Three Horseshoes

Burns Night on Wednesday 25th January - Come and enjoy our traditional Burns night supper and Scottish piper. Bookings being taken now. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Tuesdays - We have decided to change some hours and close the kitchen on a Tuesday from January. The Bar will be open at 5pm as usual. We hope this doesn't cause any inconvenience. No other hours have changed.

Thank you all again for your support and friendship over the past year. Happy New Year to you all from Gerry, Julie and our wonderful Three Horseshoes Team.