

Ashwell and Bassingbourn Patients Group

We had a long discussion about the recent resignation of all the GP partners at one of Biggleswade's surgeries. This has also arisen at two of our local Herts practices. In the latter cases both have continued to function thanks to support from other N Herts surgeries but the prospect of such occurrences are alarming. The fact is that newly qualified doctors are reluctant to take on the financial and managerial responsibilities of partners, preferring to work as salaried GPs. And they are in short supply in any case.

However, good news for our surgery. We have at long last managed to recruit a female doctor. Dr Geraldine Odor, who did the final part of her medical training at Ashwell. This means we now have 4 permanent GPs plus a long-term locum doctor. In addition we currently have 3 registrars – qualified doctors who are completing their GP training. All of which is excellent news for patients. Sadly we are losing Nurse Laura – we wish her well for the future. Our nursing team, led by Nurse Sarah, should be up to strength shortly. And after a period of shortages in Reception, we expect to be fully staffed by the end of January. We continue to urge the surgery to restore a Receptionist at the window in Ashwell surgery.

Sadly, not much to report on the telephone situation. We were expecting a new system funded by the NHS but the money ran out apparently. There will possibly be a new funding round but for the moment we shall have to hang on – in all senses of the word!

Econsult (online booking service) has been replaced by Accurix. At present it's not clear how to access this via the website. We have urged the surgery to make this pathway more obvious to users. There is to be a new, more user-friendly message on our phone system.

Our surgery is committed to maintaining good relationships with our village pharmacies.

Work on the "Patient's Guide" has been suspended until the survey has been completed. We are carrying out a survey about appointments. This is available on the surgery website under "Administration", on certain Parish Council and other websites and on paper in our pharmacies.

Our next meeting will be in March.

Peter Chapman



Opportunities Available to Volunteer with Reengage

The cost of living crisis and rapidly rising energy prices mean that many of us are facing tough challenges and choices. But for countless people aged 75 and over, with very limited options to increase their income, the challenges can feel overwhelming, particularly for those navigating them alone.

At a time when having a support network is crucial, many older people are having to cut off their social connections to save money and this social isolation can have a devastating impact on their mental health and wellbeing. Nobody should have to see human contact as a luxury they can't afford and so it's essential we continue to develop and expand our free services for those who need them. Our legendary tea party and activity groups offer vital human contact and an opportunity to feel part of a family, plus for some, a warm space and something to eat. Of course, there are those who feel uncomfortable about leaving their homes or are unable to do so. Last year over 2,000 older people benefitted from our free call companions service, including 85-year-old Ian.

"It means a lot to have someone to chat with every week. My family keep in touch, but it's nice to talk to someone who isn't in the family. It gives one the sense of being valued by society. The person who calls me has become a friend and I'm not someone who's ever been particularly good at making new friendships. After the calls I always feel a sense of relief that somebody out there values my company."

Can you help? We need more people to join our national network of 11,000 volunteers offering the hand of friendship to older people during the current cost-of-living crisis and beyond. If you would like to become part of this rewarding community, please have a look at our volunteering vacancy map for available opportunities. You can find out more about the different volunteering roles on our website and one of our volunteers recently told us that "It's rewarding to feel you are helping a vulnerable person feel less isolated." At the time of publishing there were ten available opportunities available for volunteers including help with driving and hosting. If you think you may be able to help go to: www.reengage.org.uk

• Village Voice •

March 2023

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.258

Hinxworth Traffic Calming a Step Closer

Traffic calming measures to increase road safety in Hinxworth have moved a step closer following a joint initiative between Hinxworth Parish Council and Hertfordshire County Council.

After years of discussion, plans have finally reached the drawing board and may begin to come to fruition as early as this coming year.

Following on from a feasibility study partly funded by the Parish Council to the tune of £1,500 the County Council has produced draft plans for a three-stage project.

Stage 1: A Gateway Feature at either end of the village roughly where the 30mph signs are now. This would be a visual signal to drivers approaching the village with white gates either side of the road displaying the Hinxworth village sign and 30 mph limit, plus distinctive “dragon’s teeth” road markings on the approach to the Gateway. It is possible that this initial work could be carried out in the coming financial year.

Stage 2: Two chicanes further into the village, exact location still to be decided, with give way signs giving priority to traffic leaving the village. This may have to wait until further funds are available and is likely to be subject to a consultation process with affected residents.

Stage 3: Possible speed cushions in the High Street at locations still to be decided between the two chicanes. Again, this work may have to wait for funds to become available.

Hinxworth Parish Councillors met our County Councillor Steve Jarvis and County Council Officers Gary Henning and Graham Taylor to study the draft plans and hold a site meeting to discuss the best locations for the various traffic calming measures so as to optimise their effectiveness while keeping inconvenience to residents to a minimum. Present were Richard Cobb, Nick Tiffin, Tony Lloyd, Tony Dawson and Bryan Higgins. Parish Council Chairman Richard Cobb said after the meeting: “This work has been on our wish list for many years and the progress we have made is significant. We would like to thank our County Councillor Steve Jarvis for his help in getting us to this point. I think we can now all look forward to the High Street becoming a safer place.”



Pictured left to right: Graham Taylor, Hertfordshire Highways Design Team, Gary Henning, Hertfordshire Highways Assistant Manager, Steve Jarvis, Hertfordshire County Councillor, Nick Tiffin, Tony Dawson and Richard Cobb, Hinxworth Parish Councillors

A Pause to Rest, a Place to Rest Your Paws

At last Francis Road has a new place to sit!

After the previous one fell apart, literally, the WI approached local business LeisureGrow and asked if they would be willing to provide a new bench. The bench duly arrived, was assembled, had a new plaque to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and was installed. You might be surprised to know that this seemingly small effort involved no less than 5 people and 3 garages!

Thanks are due to LeisureGrow for their kind generosity; Brett and Tania (representing LeisureGrow in the photo), Mark Howson, Jan Youngman, Bob and Sylvia Scales and Marion Willan and Yvonne Tookey.

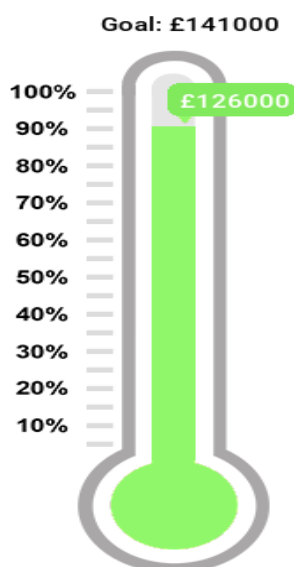


Pictured above, Brett and Tania (from LeisureGrow), Jan Youngman, Bob Scales, Marion Willan and Yvonne Tookey.

So next time you are out for a walk whether with your furry friend or not, take a moment to sit down and admire the view.

Sylvia Scales

Church Roof Fund Update



Our target has increased to £141,000, this is due to extra spending for work on the parapets.

So far we have received £126,000 so have a shortfall of £15,000 which we hope to reach in the coming months and into 2023.

Thank you for your continued support and donations.

Alec Stephenson

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

Parish Council Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2023 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 Persons Present: Steve Jarvis County Councillor, Tom Tyson District Councillor.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 5th January 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 Lloyd.

5. Planning: Planning Consultation 22/03168/PNQ Farrowby Farm, New Inn Road. The Parish Council has received the decision notice for NHDC regarding this application.

6. Highways: Traffic Calming Feasibility Study: The Councillors met on January 23rd with the Hertfordshire Highways and Steve Jarvis to discuss the Traffic Calming project planned for the Village. This proved a very constructive meeting with a plan to enable the project to commence in the next financial year. This project will be split into two parts, with speed cushions and other calming measures coming in 2024/25 after the usual public consultations. The Councillors thanked Steve Jarvis for his help.

7. Village Hall: Nothing to report.

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

The Children's Play Area. It is some years since this area was upgraded. The Councillors intend to review the play equipment to see if any further equipment, if funds were available, could be installed.

Annual Grass Cutting of the Recreation Ground: DJ Granger has submitted a quote to renew his contract for the 2023/24 season. The Councillors agreed to accept the quote. Proposed by Dick Cobb and seconded by Tony Lloyd.

Archery Club: The agreement for the 2023/24 season is being drawn-up ready for signature. Dick Cobb is to liaise with David Osmond.

9. The Tennis Court: Nothing to report.

10. Allotments: Nothing to report.

11. Any Other Urgent Business: Nothing to report.

Annual Parish Meeting: A provisional date of March 30th was agreed by the Councillors. As the meeting would normally take place on the first Thursday of the month, which would have been April 6th in this instance, and with Good Friday being April 7th and then with the Easter holiday being on that weekend, the Parish Councillors thought it prudent to bring the APM meeting forward by a week. The members of other meetings expected to take place on the same day will be notified for their agreement 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.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd March 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

As you are no doubt aware voter ID will be required for all local elections from 4th May 2023 and any national elections from October of this year (please refer to the Electoral Commission's webpage: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id?gclid=aw.ds> for further information).

Wendy Kitchener (Clerk)

Church Services For March

Sun 5th Mar	09.15	Family Service	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 12th Mar	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 19th Mar	09.15	Mothering Sunday Family Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 26th Mar	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 26th Mar	09.30	BCP Holy Communion	St Vincent's, Newnham

Hold the date - Sunday 3rd September

On Sunday 3rd September in the grounds of our lovely St Nicholas Church we are having a Hinxworth & Edworth Village BBQ and Family Fun day. Plans so far include brass band, bouncy castle, dog show, pony rides, BBQ, bar, tug of war, treasure hunt and lots of fun. More information closer to the event. In the meantime hold the date!



Photo from last year's Tug Of War

Sonja Bentley

Community Soup Lunch Update

A great Community Soup Lunch in February. Lots and lots of you turned up and made it a real community lunch. It was wonderful to see so many people. As always some tasty soups on offer - all three flavours equally popular and the soup pans were soon empty. Thank you as always to the soup makers and to everyone who helped - in the kitchen and clearing and tidying the hall afterwards. A good profit was made and all this money - £150 - has been donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to help the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently in times of crisis such as this one overseas. Thank you again to everyone for being so generous.

The next Community Lunch will be on the 10 March 12.30 to 2pm. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Chris Hook

Charlie Chicks.... Coming Soon!

The ever-popular Charlie Chicks will be back this year, look out for them on your travels. Once again these will be sold to raise money for the Garden House Hospice.



Hinxworth and Edworth WI Dec Meeting

The February meeting of the WI was a lively affair with lots of members attending and their guests adding to the mix. The Reverend Chris Campbell was our guest speaker and gave us an amusing incite into her life and her transition from maths teacher to priest hence the title of her talk "Pythagoras to Parables". She included some very amusing anecdotes in her talk and was inundated with questions both during and after her presentation. Chris is a lovely lady to chat to and showed infinite patience with us as we bombarded her in this way. Chris' talk was followed by a buffet supper and refreshments. February is also our WI birthday and Jan Youngman had made a beautiful red velvet cake for the celebration.

The next meeting is on 9th March at 7.30pm. and is also an open meeting so everyone is very welcome. This meeting is organised by the members who are providing cheese and wine as refreshments and Sylvia Scales is giving a talk about her very recent once-in-a-lifetime family trip to Svalbard - the North Pole no less - so really looking forward to that.



Chrisi Hook

The Three Horseshoes

Quiz Night - Wednesday 15th March

Come and test your general knowledge with our quiz master Dan.

Mothers Day - Sunday 19th March

Treat your mum to one of our amazing Sunday Roasts. Book early to avoid disappointment.

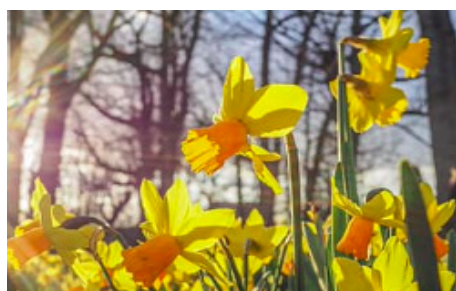
New Menu - Our new Spring menu is coming in March. Come and enjoy some new flavours or some of your traditional favourites.

As always we do not wish to offend anyone and will keep you updated with events that might cause more traffic or noise in the village. We appreciate your continued support and hope to see you all at our events.

Wise Words

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

Charles Dickens (7th Feb 1812 - 9th Jun, 1870), Great Expectations



"Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour."

Ralph Waldo Emerson
(25th May, 1803 –
27th Apr, 1882)

A Warm Welcome to Hinxworth !

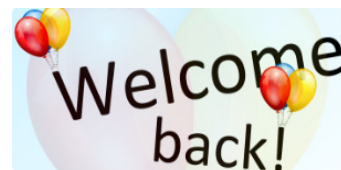


Hello to Phil and Tori Cevitt who have recently moved into Homefield from Letchworth. They were attracted to Hinxworth for village life and love going to the pub in their spare time. Phil is "big into football" and supports Liverpool F.C.

They say that "everyone has been very friendly and welcoming so far". They are really looking forward to meeting lots of other people in the village in the coming days.

Phil works in London and Tori is a Data Analyst.

Joe, Abby, Leo (4yrs) and Alice (2yrs) Vallely have moved to Pooh Corner in The Close. They had previously lived in Ashwell for 7 years.



Both Joe and Abby grew up in Hinxworth before moving away for education and work; they are delighted to be back here as the village holds many happy memories for both of them.

Plus Granny Chris is now just around the corner to help them out! Joe works as a Chartered Surveyor. Abby is a Sister in Intensive Care at Addenbrookes. She also runs the baby and toddler group in Ashwell.

If you've recently moved to Newnham, Edworth or Hinxworth we would love to hear from you and to give you a mention in Village Voice. Please drop us an email to villagevoice3@gmail.com

Little Villagers come to the Village Hall



A new weekly group has started in the Hinxworth & Edworth Village Hall for parents & carers and their little ones. There'll be coffee & tea (maybe baked goods but don't hold me to that), a chance to chat and get to know other families in the area with a focus on sensory & heuristic play. Suitable from newborn to pre-school age.

Friday 9.30am-11.15am drop in, stay & play sessions with no need to book. £3 per child per session, cash or card reader on the day.

As with any new group, the first few sessions will be about learning what works best in the space etc. for the children so I'm very open to suggestions. I really appreciate your support and hope to bring something enjoyable & helpful to families in the village and surrounding areas.

Lizzie Cree

