



On The Beat

Keep your vehicle secure this spring. Drivers are being advised to make sure their cars and vans are secure following an increase in thefts of and from vehicles in the county. Thefts of vehicles have increased by nearly 22 per cent this year and thefts from vehicles have also increased by more than eight per cent this year, compared to the same period last year.*

Most of the items stolen were left in vehicles whilst they were unattended, or thefts of catalytic converters, which are still being targeted for the precious metals they contain.

Detective Superintendent Nev Hanks, said: "Many of the thefts reported occurred when the vehicles were left unlocked, so leaving valuable items on display in a vehicle will encourage opportunistic thieves to check if a vehicle is secure. Removing any items which may encourage a thief, such as bags, boxes, coats or loose change is an easy way to make your vehicle safer. I would also urge the public to follow our advice, remain vigilant and report suspicious incidents in their neighbourhood, particularly where people are trying to get under cars in public car parks or on public roads. If you see this happening, please call 999 immediately."

Local Crime

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham & Caldecote

* Theft of a Vehicle, Claybush Road, Ashwell – Between 17 th to the 20th February a motor home that was stored on farmland just outside Ashwell village was stolen by unknown means. 41/14577/23

* Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Mill Street, Ashwell – Overnight 24 th to 25th February a vehicle that was parked in the street had both number plates stolen. 41/15876/23

* Outbuilding burglaries, Ashwell – On the 27 th February four properties were targeted for outbuilding burglaries. At one of the locations Police were called and found a male on site in the process of stealing items. This male was arrested and found in his possession were keys to a van. This van was located and searched. Police found items connected to three of the burglaries and the offender has been charged. 41/16893/23, 41/16953/23.

Help SCRAP fly-tipping

As we start to spring clean our homes and gardens, residents are encouraged to help #SCRAPflytipping by following the guidance below when paying for help with any clearance of rubbish:

- Suspect all waste carriers. Don't let them take your rubbish until they provide proof of registration. Note their vehicle's registration plate
- Check that a waste carrier is registered on the Environment Agency's website
- Refuse any unexpected offers to have your rubbish taken away
- Ask how your rubbish will be disposed of - seek evidence of this



Paperwork must be obtained: a proper invoice, waste-transfer note or receipt, including a description of the waste being removed and the waste carrier's contact details.



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



Village Voice



May 2023

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.260

Friends of St Nicholas



A new chapter in the life of our 700-year-old parish church begins today with the relaunch of The Friends of St Nicholas – a group of villagers dedicated to raising money to maintain this historic building.

The move follows an amazing fund-raising campaign to pay for much-needed repairs to the church which, had the work not been carried out, would have almost certainly led to its closure on safety grounds.

Thanks to the generosity of local residents and grants secured by various church organisations the work, costing an estimated £141,000, is almost complete, although there is still a shortfall of around £13,000.

Essential work has been carried out to repair the leaking roof, the stone parapet and crumbling south window which holds up the bell tower.



Now that the most urgent work has been carried out, Hinxworth Parochial Church Council is determined to ensure that the fabric of the building is protected for future generations and has further work planned which will be ongoing and is currently unfunded.

To this end they are reviving the Friends of St Nicholas, a body of supporters whose regular contributions helped pay for the upkeep of the church in the past.

The idea sprang from a suggestion at Hinxworth's Annual Parish Meeting when Geoff Burrows, a church warden, appealed to villagers to help safeguard the future of the building.

The Church of St Nicholas dates back to the early 14th Century and its upkeep has always been the responsibility of the village. In the Eighties a BBC radio appeal by the author and former Hinxworth resident Monica Dickens raised enough to restore the bells and tower.

Later, Gordon Hayden raised funds through the Friends of St Nicholas and, more recently, the Oak Room was built thanks to fund-raising by Eric Sore and the late Barry Huber.

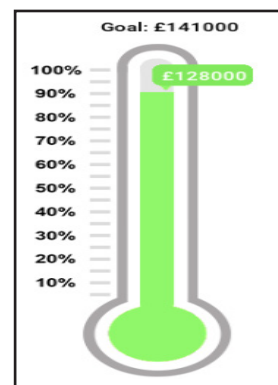
Geoff Burrows said: "St Nicholas is the soul of our village and most people are unaware that the upkeep is the responsibility of the village alone. There is no other source of income. The church was built 500 years before the Battle of Trafalgar. It was built by villagers and has always been maintained by villagers. This is the most prosperous era in those 700 years and we cannot allow it to fall into disrepair. If finances remain as they are the church will eventually have to close. No baptisms, weddings or funerals."

To become a Friend of St Nicholas, all you need do is commit to a modest monthly payment. If you would like to offer your help in organising the Friends, please contact Alec Stephenson at alecstephenson@btinternet.com

Inside this edition of Village Voice you will find a form with all the details of how to become a Friend of St Nicholas. Thank you for your help.

Tony Lloyd

Church Roof Fund Update



So far we have received £128,000 and have a shortfall of £13,000 which we hope to reach in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support and donations.

"The Annual Parishioners' meeting for the church takes place on Wednesday 3rd May at 4:15 pm in the church.

If you would like to get involved and have views on the way it is organised and managed please come along.

Alec Stephenson

Village Hall Quiz Night

The Village Hall Quiz Night takes place on **Saturday 29th April from 7pm**. Entry is £4 per person, with a maximum of 6 people in a team. Cash prizes for the winning team! Don't forget to bring your own drinks and snacks along. To book your team call Helen on 07890 212 194 or Debbie on 07446 957 556. Come along to support your Village Hall.

Helene Donohoe

Parish Council Minutes

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on March 30th 2023. The draft minutes from this meeting are too long to publish in the Village Voice, if you wish to view these please refer to the Parish Council Website which can be found at: www.hinxworth-pc.org.uk.

Wendy Kitchener (Clerk)

Ashwell and Bassingbourn Patients Group

NOTES FROM OUR MARCH MEETING

We are now fully staffed in our admin department. We are also in a very good position regarding medical staff. We enjoy the services of 4 permanent GPs plus a regular locum doctor and a Physician's Assistant. In addition we have 2 Registrars (qualified doctors who are completing their GP training). We also have a nurse and 2 Health Care Assistants. This should be good news concerning appointments and is reassuring in these times when health professionals are in such short supply nationally.

We are currently processing the results of our survey about appointments. This produced 369 completed returns which have produced a wealth of data about patient preferences. The next stage will be to produce a commentary and an action plan. Not surprisingly a major criticism arising from the survey was the telephone system which, as patients and staff agree, is not fit for purpose. However there have been some technical improvements recently which we hope will enable the queue to move quicker and avoid people being cut off. If patients experience issues with the system please let the surgery know stating your name, phone number, type of incident and date/time so we can pass on specific details to the phone company. In the meantime we are still awaiting possible news about funding for a new system from the NHS.

A list of Patients' Group representatives is being posted on surgery notice boards.

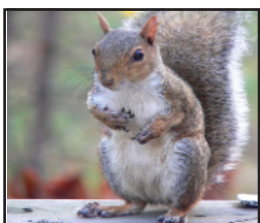
Peter Chapman

Church Services for May

Sun 7th May	09.15	5th Sunday of Easter, Family Service	St Nicholas', Hinxworth
Sun 7th May	18.00	Festal Evensong to mark Coronation & Music Festival	St Mary's Ashwell
Sun 14th May	09.15	6th Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion	St Nicholas', Hinxworth
Sun 21st May	09.30	7th Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion	St Nicholas', Hinxworth
Sun 28th May	09.15	Pentecost, Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 28th May	09.30	BCP Communion	St Vincent's, Newnham

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

Did You Spot The April Fools Joke?



As much as we all love our local squirrel population - some of you may have spotted that one of the front page stories from last month's Village Voice was an April Fools joke.....we hope that you enjoyed it!

Coronation Celebrations

As the Coronation Bank Holiday approaches, we are sure that you are all planning lots of fun events and activities with family, friends and neighbours.



Please do send in pictures of any local celebrations to the Village Voice so that we can publish these next month. Email us at: villagevoice3@gmail.com

Wise Words in Coronation Month

"You have, ladies and gentlemen, to give this much to the Luftwaffe," said the Prince of Wales. "When it knocked down our buildings, it didn't replace them with anything more offensive than rubble. We did that."

King Charles III

Britain's best known architecture critic..!



'Big Help Out' Launches For The Coronation



#TheBigHelpOut takes place on Monday 8 May to coincide with King Charles' Coronation. Thousands of organisations – big and small – will be getting together to mark the occasion by giving everybody the chance to try volunteering for themselves and make a difference in their community. If you are interested and would like more information, go to: www.thebighelpout.org.uk

The North Herts Lottery

Do you know about the North Herts Lottery? Have you played yet? Tickets cost just £1 each with a 1 in 50 chance of winning an exciting prize, from three extra tickets, to the jackpot of £25,000 – that's a better chance of winning than the National Lottery or Health Lottery!

There is a draw every Saturday night when a six-digit winning combination will be picked. From every £1, half (50p) goes directly to local good causes, 20p goes to prizes, 20p goes to our independent lottery management company Gatherwell to administer it, and 10p comes to a general council good causes fund – we have nearly £5,000 so far in the pot which is ringfenced for community work.

Go to www.northhertscommunitylottery.co.uk for more information.

COMMUNITY LUNCH
HINXWORTH & EDWORTH VILLAGE HALL
Friday 12th May



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

Lots of you lovely people came to the April Community Lunch. As always three absolutely delicious soups on offer - all so tasty it was difficult to choose which one to have. Over the last two months the lunch has shown some good profit so £200 has been donated to Hinxworth Church to go towards the roof repairs. Thank you everyone for your on-going generosity. As always a huge thank you to the wonderful soup makers who always make this such an appetising event. The next Community Lunch will be Friday 12 May 12.30 to 2pm so a date for your diaries. See you all then.

Chrisi Hook

Hinxworth and Edworth WI

The April meeting was chaired as usual by Anki (President) and she started the meeting off promptly at 7.45. There was a good number of members at the meeting and Anki welcomed everyone. Apologies were read out from those few members who were unable to attend plus one or two other points of business were also discussed. We also discussed the WI outing which scheduled for August. After some chatter amongst all the members the date of August 4 was agreed upon. Further details to follow over the next few months. Members were also reminded that the annual WI subscription fee is due by the end of April. Anki then introduced the speaker for the evening - Judy Duddridge - to give us a talk and demo on yoga and some easy to following yoga techniques. She explained the benefits that yoga provides — relaxation, stretching, and strengthening and took us through some of the more simple methods that we could all do at home. It was a very good evening and totally relaxing. The evening concluded with the picking of the raffle winner and the three winners of the calendar competition. The next meeting will be on the 11 May. If you would like to know more about our WI please contact Anki at ankandchris@live.co.uk or talk to any WI member. Look forward to seeing you all next time.

Chrisi Hook

Don't Forget Your ID

Elections are taking place across England on 4 May. Did you know that to vote at a polling station you will now need ID? Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence photocard; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo..

An Unexpected Visitor



An early evening visitor to Chapel Street - Caught on Camera!

Photo submitted by Elaine Olson-Williams

Hinxworth Art Society Needs You

Hinxworth Art Society was founded over 20 years ago. We meet in Hinxworth Village Hall, Francis Road, every Wednesday morning from 10 until 12. We need new members as Covid halved our numbers. I joined a few months ago believing I had not an artistic bone in my body. In the last month I have made a three dimensional sculpture of a villainous individual and painted him with acrylic paint.

This last meeting I discovered that painting could be done with a child's balloon as well as with conventional brushes. It may not make the Royal Academy's summer exhibition but I have never had such painting fun in my life. You'll see a picture of this below.

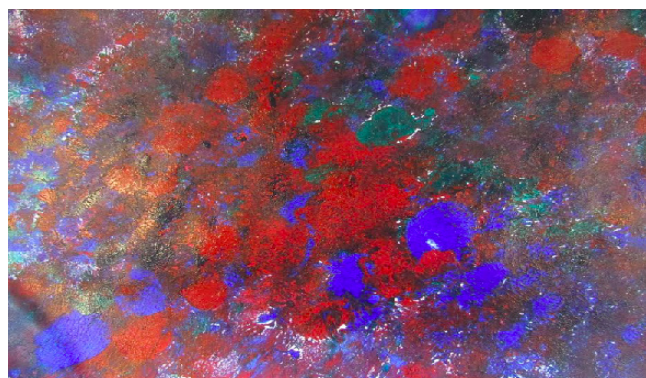


Photo of Patrick's Balloon Painting

Why not join us for a morning and see what you think? An introductory visit will cost you nothing and we will welcome you with coffee, tea and chocolate biscuits, surely an offer you can't refuse!

Patrick Forbes

The Three Horseshoes Upcoming Events

Lots of events are coming up at the Three Horseshoes, pop in to find out more information or to make a booking. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Guest Chef Night – A taste of New Orleans: 13th May

Golf Day: 2nd June

Guest Chef Night – A taste of Italy: 24th June

Gin and Jazz: 23rd July

Boozy Blues: 20th Aug

Car Show: 24th Sep

Quiz Night: Every third Wednesday of the month

Julie & Gerry Methven