

# Village Voice

June 2002

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No. 009

## Edworth win pub quiz



Edworth swept to victory in the annual Hinxworth quiz night at the Village Hall on Friday May 10th. Their team, the Edworth Eggheads, put together for the evening, came top in a closely fought contest, with 93 points. The Bury End team 'Who the Dickens' were second with 92, with 'Quality Crumpet' (WI members and Village Voice's editor) third with 90 points. The evening, attended by around fifty people, raised £150 for Village Hall funds. Anne and Andy Sawford (pictured above) received the shield from Village Hall chairman David Osmond. Other members of Edworth's victorious team were Ray and Wendy Kitchener and Chantal Floyd. "Winning was a sheer fluke," said Anne with just a touch of modesty. "We didn't train at all."

## Newnham Jubilee Celebrations

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Newnham will be helping to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee with an evening event. At 8.30pm we will be meeting in the village hall where hot dogs and baked potatoes will be available for those who require sustenance for the evening ahead. At around 9.30pm we will then take a casual stroll along the Baldock Road and up through the Drying Barns, on the sharp bend, to the top of the hill by the trigonometrical point. Here we will be lighting a bonfire at 10.15 pm and Newnham will help form a nation-wide chain of beacons organised by RABI, the charity that supports farming families.

For those who are not keen on the walk to the top of the hill a few cars will be allowed to travel to the top. After the beacon has been lit we will enjoy a firework display and then a casual torch-lit downhill walk back to the village hall.

Everyone is welcome to join us and all we ask is that you come prepared for the evening stroll with a donation of either a large firework or a few smaller ones and a torch to light your way back down the road. Contact Phil Gilbert on 01462 742197 for further details.



*'I know it's the Queen's Jubilee, but I think the choir has found singing 'Zadok the Priest' a bit hard going!'*

## If at first.....



In New Inn Road close to the village there is that nasty corner where, if we get a bit more rain than usual, it sulks into a flood. Why does it flood? Someone, long long ago, probably in the 70s or 80s, filled in not just one village pond but two quite near to that nasty corner. Trouble was the ponds did not go away, they just sprang up defiantly in the middle of the road and we all saw the result at its worst in the wet winter of 2000/2001. The local council have certainly been willing. They've come to cure the flood many times - but sadly, their efforts have mostly been ineffective. Now we have this latest effort. It looks more serious than previously, judging by the heavy equipment. We live in hope. **A New Inn Road resident** (name and address supplied).

### Jubilee pictures needed

June's Village Voice hopes to concentrate on local celebrations of the Queen's Jubilee. Please send your best pictures to Village Voice, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth SG7 5HL by June 6th. Thanks.

# Dorothy Clarke

1914-2002

## an appreciation

I first met Dorothy more than half a century ago when I saw this large lady behind an equally large teapot serving tea with a cheerful smile to thirsty cricketers. I quickly established a friendship with her and Maurice that has stood the test of time.

Dorothy wasn't the gardener that Jen is but she loved flowers. "I love all flowers," she would say, "provided they are pink." In her bedroom she lay surrounded by pink walls, with a pink bedspread and sometimes a pink nightie.

Her life was totally bound up with Hinxworth. She was born in 1914. Her maiden name was Street, another well-known Hinxworth name. She was born in the house next to 'The Three Horseshoes' and lived in six different village houses. The schooling she received was entirely at the old Hinxworth village school. It is quite a surprise to learn that Maurice came from as far away as Guilden Morden. At the time of their marriage, in the Second World War, Dorothy had been doing war work in Stotfold, to which she travelled on her bike.

## trifles second to none

Hers was a happy marriage, particularly when they moved with their young daughter to Marshfield Farm on the Ashwell Road. Dorothy would sometimes help Maurice in the fields, sorting out and bundling up the vegetables. She was fully involved in village life, a great supporter of the Women's Institute, or as she and Maurice preferred to call it, the Women's Destitute. A committee member for many years, she regularly made a splendid cake for the annual WI Birthday party. I am told that her trifles were second to none. She also served for some years on the Village Hall Management Committee.

St Nicholas church was, until fate intervened, an important part of her life. She was a regular worshipper and would recall with joy childhood days when, with other girls, they would decorate the window sills at Easter with wild primroses displayed in jam jars.

Maurice's death from cancer when he was barely 60 was a bitter blow, compounded by having to leave Marshfield where he was a tenant. Eventually she moved into 5 High Street, her home for the next twenty five years.

## blessed by daughter Jen

When her life was returning to something like normality she suffered a stroke so severe that she was in hospital for 8 months, returning home to a life ruled by wheel chair and zimmer frame. She never complained, even when confined to bed, facing life with remarkable equanimity, unassuming and kind. She was blessed by her daughter Jen who gave up her florist's business in London to care for her mother.

Confined to the ground floor, television became Dorothy's link to the outside world. Sporting programmes were her favourite, and of these Test matches were the most important. Dorothy would criticise the players. "Our bowlers are not as effective as Brian Statham or Fred Truman. Our batsmen don't seem to have the skills of a Len Hutton or a Peter May," I heard her exclaim. Her criticisms were well informed and justified.

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## Hinxworth dog walkers



Hinxworth has its very own dog walking service, dreamed up by Beth Price and Nichola Watler. They are ready to walk any Hinxworth dogs Mondays to Fridays between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm. "I like walking dogs," said Nichola, aged 11. There is no charge for this service. If you would like to have your dog walked, ring Nichola on 01462 742247 or Beth on 01462 742403.

## Toddlers' Service at St Nicholas, Hinxworth

The next toddlers' service at St Nicholas, Hinxworth will be at 2pm on Thursday June 6th. All ages welcome, refreshments afterwards.

## Church Picnic on July 14th

There will be a Church Picnic Tea and Gift Day in the grounds of St Nicholas Church from 2.30 pm on Sunday July 14th, Bastille Day. There will be stalls, a raffle, fun for all and cream teas. All welcome. This will replace the annual bellringers' barbecue which will not take place this year due to illness and a shortage of bellringers. Offers of help to Yvonne Tookey, please, on 01462 742439.

Of those she thought rather obtuse she would say, "they don't know whether they are on foot or on horseback." Even Jen didn't escape the odd sharp comment. What mother doesn't occasionally disagree with her daughter? Such controversy was rare and usually ended with laughter. Most of us will remember her smile and ready laugh.

## a lovely and much loved old lady

People said of the Queen Mother that she was a lovely old lady and that her death marked the end of an era. Dorothy too was a lovely and much loved old lady whose death marks the end of an era in Hinxworth. In her childhood many villagers were related to each other. Most men worked on the land while ladies ran the households and looked after the children. Hinxworth was different then, no television aerials, few cars, no commuting to work, an era few can recall. Dorothy's memory remained sharp and she contributed some of the anecdotes in the delightful Hinxworth Millennium Book.

## thank God for her

Dorothy died peacefully in her own bed in her own house, not fifty yards from where she was born. We thank God for a much loved and respected lady and thank God for her and for the privilege of being numbered amongst her friends.

Reggie Fair

# Ten years on

Geoff and I plus Leo the dog, arrived at Bury End in brilliant sunshine and after hacking a path through the jungle, moved into a very forlorn cottage. Not many minutes later our arrival was heralded by a thunderstorm complete with hailstones and what we now know to be the obligatory power cut. What had we come to? However, it was not long before our neighbour Victor Garling invited us 'round the back' for a cuppa. Lynne welcomed us with "let's have a glass of wine" and so it was, after several refills, that we returned to Bury End Cottage with its shaggy roof and eye-brow windows winking at us, and I thought, "yes I think we are going to like it here."



By the end of September '92, our elder daughters had married, the garden had been cleared to reveal a tiled path, a cobblestone wall and a tennis court and I had joined the W.I. The death of Monica Dickens, a one-time inhabitant, on Christmas Day of that year, renewed interest in the cottage and the following year saw a steady stream of fans.

## Geoff's 'pyjama protest'

During the intervening years to 2002 we have made a great many new and special friends, quite a few when retrieving Leo from his many walk-about. Our social life has centred mainly in and around the village. I was privileged to have been President of the W.I. for three years especially through the Millennium year, and having had a hand in the village celebrations and the acquisition of the new village hall chairs. The cottage had a smart new hair-do in 1995, watched attentively by Penny, our first red and white Setter.

The garden now supports a large pond with numerous wild life and several other additions. In the last few weeks the transformation with the new windows has made the restoration almost complete. Seven years ago Henry (puppy dog) came into our lives followed two years later by Hannah. In 1997 Geoff became a minor celebrity with his 'pyjama protest' and in 1999 he joined the Hinxworth Archers' 'Band of Merry Men & Women'.

## friendship, love and support

Our ten years in Hinxworth have been some of the happiest. Of course there have been sad times, but the friendship, love and support shown by the villagers on such occasions was overwhelming.

With only ten years under our belt, compared to some, we are relative newcomers, but we have never been made to feel that way. Now with Tim, Beverley and family also living and working in the village and the arrival of our sixth grandchild, are we making a take-over?

## another ten years of Village Voice?

This Jubilee year brings more celebrations to enjoy. Geoff and I look forward to many more happy years here and hopefully will be able to write more of the same in Village Voice in 2012.

Oh! and by the way, "yes we do like it here."

Viv Hughes

# New Chairman for Newnham Village Hall



This month saw the Annual General Meeting of the Newnham Village Hall Committee and the election of a new Chairman. Philip Gilbert, a resident of the village for the past three years and a previous committee member, was elected to the position during the meeting.

After having become involved with the Village Hall through organising several fund raising events, Phil commented that he was happy to have been elected Chairman and that there was a lot of enthusiasm in the village for the continuation of the Hall as a focal point. As Newnham has no other public meeting place Phil feels that the Village Hall provides an ideal means for everyone to meet, particularly during the long winter evenings. Plans have already been made to utilise the building to the full in the future and new events will be made public shortly. Phil would like to welcome the new committee members and thank the outgoing Chairman and Secretary, Richard Wainright-Lee and Tracey Bowen for their sterling efforts. A special mention also goes to Mrs Farr who also supported the Village Hall for many years. If anyone does wish to contact Phil direct he can be reached on 01462 742197 after 6.30 pm.

## Handel at The Place

Wednesday June 5th at 8.00 pm

Sophie Barber – violin, Ursula Leveaux – bassoon, Simon Marlow – piano, perform the violin sonatas by Handel - gems of the baroque style and the beauty, poise and elegance of 18th century England.

Tickets £10.00 (£8.00 concessions). The Place, 18-20 Leys Avenue, Letchworth Garden City 01462 670788

## Conscience

King David and King Solomon led very merry lives  
With many, many lady friends and many, many wives.  
But when old age crept over them with many, many qualms  
King Solomon wrote Proverbs, and King David wrote the Psalms!

Dr James Ball Naylor (USA 1860), contributed by John Sale

### Welcome!

Welcome to Alec and Margie Stephenson who have moved into Peele Patch, The Close, Hinxworth from Lower Caldecote.

### Free copies of Which?

Vanessa Hawes has 2 to 3 years' worth of Which? magazine which she will give to anyone wanting them. Phone 01462 742054.

### June 16th celebration

June's family service at 10 am on June 16th at St Nicholas Church, Hinxworth will have the theme of 'celebration'. It coincides with a 40th and a 23rd wedding anniversary and there will be all manner of celebratory drinks and eats after the service. All will be most welcome.

# Hinxworth Parish Council

At its meeting on May 2nd the Council welcomed its new Parish Clerk, Wendy Kitchener. There was some discussion about the Code of Conduct which had to be signed by all councillors by July 2nd. Clarification was needed on the wording and Dr Hoffman said that he would sign the Code reluctantly.

There had been no reply to Tony Lloyd's letter to TXU Energi regarding compensation for residents affected by the recent interruption of the electricity supply. The Parish Clerk would pursue the matter. Another bid is to be made for lottery funding for the Village Hall. A sum of £3,500 was being ring-fenced as a reserve. Councillors agreed to give an additional £30 to the Village Hall Management Committee in connection with the Jubilee tapestry.

Dog fouling was still a problem on the recreation ground. Owners of offending dogs would be told firmly but politely that they could be prosecuted. Further signs could be placed around the village.

Some hedges were encroaching on the High Street and Simon Marlow would speak to those residents concerned. Inadequate road maintenance of Chapel Street had led to injuries and the Highways Authority would be notified of their responsibility.

Flashing speed signs could be installed if funds were available and trials being conducted in other areas were successful. Following the receipt of a letter from the Land Registry offering to pay £1000 for initial legal advice in the matter of the ownership of Bury End Pond, action was agreed which would hopefully bring a satisfactory outcome.

**Next meeting: Thursday June 6th 8pm in the Village Hall**

## New Parish Clerk



Wendy Kitchener from Edworth is Hinxworth's new Parish Clerk. Wendy and Ray moved from Hitchin to The Old Farmhouse just East of the A1 three years ago. "I've never done anything like this before," she said, "but I thought it would be a way of getting to know the people and the area better. People round here are very community minded and I want to be involved with the community too." She was born in Letchworth and spent her early years in Bygrave and so she knows the area. She was financial manager for St Albans City and Hemel Hempstead Hospitals and now works part time in Hitchin.

## Newnham Summer Lunch

Newnham's Summer Lunch will be held at The Hall on Sunday June 30th at 1 pm (outdoors, weather permitting). There will be stalls and swimming. Tickets £9 from Sue Bain on 01462 742284 and Audrey Whalley on 01462 742517.

## Teddy Bears' Picnic

The annual Teddy Bears' Picnic Tea in aid of the Pasque Hospice, Luton will be held from 5 pm onwards on Wednesday July 3rd at Orchard Bungalow, Edworth. There will be pony rides, bring and buy and a raffle. Admission to include tea is £2.50 for adults, £1.50 for children. This event raised £250 last year. It would be great to beat that total this time round.

## Bell ringers needed

Dear Patrick,  
Can you help us to recruit some more bellringers for Hinxworth? We have too few to organise the annual bellringers' barbecue and without help we won't be able to ring regularly. Volunteers please ring me on 01462 742247.

Paul Watler.

# Church services

Sunday 2nd 10 am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, Hinxworth  
Thursday 6th 2 pm Toddlers' Service, St Nicholas, Hinxworth  
Sunday 9th 10 am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, Hinxworth  
Sunday 16th 10 am Family Service on the theme of celebration St Nicholas, Hinxworth followed by appropriate refreshments  
Sunday 23rd 8.30 am Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham  
10 am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas, Hinxworth  
Sunday 30th 9.45 am United Benefice Service, St Mary's, Ashwell

## Hinxworth and Edworth WI

bring back small abattoirs

On 9 May Sylvia Scales succinctly explained the Annual Resolutions. There were two main topics. The first proposal was to urge the Government to reintroduce small local abattoirs in order to avoid stress to animals when travelling and to decrease the risk of disease. This would also make locally produced meat more readily available and farmers would not be dependent on supplying the big supermarkets. We agreed that this would be a very worthwhile resolution.

food import controls

The second one for discussion was to urge the Government to introduce stricter controls on the importation of food into the UK. Although agreeing that controls are of vital importance we felt that possibly there are enough controls in place already, but that stricter enforcement would be the answer rather than more controls which may not be implemented. Voting on this was divided and it was agreed to leave the final vote to our delegate at the annual meeting.

As light relief after pondering on such important issues the Drama Group performed some songs from the shows. From the performers' point of view I can report that the audience looked happy!

and next - hearing dogs for the deaf!

At the next meeting on 13 June Miss E. Arendt will speak on 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'.

Annette Forbes

## ARC Coffee morning

The Ashwell and Hinxworth branch of the Arthritis Research Campaign is holding a Coffee Morning - Bring and Buy on Friday July 12 from 10 am until 12 pm in the Parish Room, Swan Street, Ashwell (next door to the Ashwell Museum). There will be a raffle, cakes, plants, garden produce. Everybody welcome.

## Hinxworth Hanging

The Hinxworth Jubilee Tapestry will be formally unveiled at the Jubilee Barbecue on Monday June 3rd by Parish Council Chairman Harry King MBE. The design of the tapestry was inspired by Tom Marlow and worked by some 20 or more Hinxworth villagers.

## Village Walk

Ten adults and four dogs enjoyed May's Village Walk along Green Lane and back to the Three Horseshoes. Some of us had never discovered Green Lane running from Dunton towards Ashwell. There was much to see and the walk was gentle and enjoyable, rounded off with an excellent bar lunch at our favourite pub.

The June walk will start from the Three Horseshoes on Friday June 14th at 10.30, all welcome.

Copy date shock horror

Due to 40th wedding anniversary arrangements, copy for July's Village Voice will need to be with the editor by **June 5th**. Mrs F says these things don't happen all that often, and she does need a break.