

Village Voice

February 2011

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.113

Thieves target sheds

Thieves broke into sheds around High Street Hinxworth during daylight hours on January 4th and 5th. Contents were stolen in one of these incidents. It may be that further sheds have been broken into since this news was reported.



nasty shocks and crocodile tears

Burglar alarms, good quality padlocks and lighting may help deter these villains. One resident said, "I wouldn't advise them breaking into my premises, they will get a very nasty shock indeed." We then fell to discussing the finer legal points about keeping crocodiles to guard domestic premises, and the consequent difficulties in identifying the unfortunate burglars who risked breaking in. "Unfortunate? – they deserve anything they get," came the response. Should you need advice about security contact our police community support officers, Chris Brabrook and Amy Rainbird on 01438 757935.



Today's hymns are based on last week's trend in petrol prices...

Your sanity may be at risk

When you open your internet mailbox and find that there is yet another warning of the latest computer virus, your sanity may be about to be tested yet again. Village Voice has been on the receiving end of such messages for years now, and taking our "Little Society" responsibilities seriously, we have reported them from time to time. The most recent one regarding emails headed "Here you have it" or "Just for you" or "Here it is", seemed sufficiently serious for us to put it on the front page of this edition of Village Voice. And just before we went to press, an eagle eyed Matthew at our kindly printers, Wormald Burrows, phoned to say it was just one more notorious hoax. Which explains a few swearwords and a hasty re-write of the story. It's not our computers that are at risk, it's the editor's sanity. But then that's been in doubt for some while!

Are your brain cells ready?

Guys – it's that time of year again for us all to be thinking about this year's Multi-venue quiz. Quiz@home 2011 will be taking place on Saturday April 2nd and we really want the fifth one to be the best ever – after all, it is in support of our wonderful Village Hall.

So..... we need as many hosts/hostesses as possible. Remember, our communal quiz pits one household against another – the more households we have, therefore, the more exciting will be the evening.

Our quiz is a social event – a community event – a fun event. Be part of it and offer to be a host/hostess. All you have to do is make contact! Please do and we will explain all – it really is so simple. We can be reached on 01767 315094 or royal_penguin@hotmail.com Looking forward to hearing from you – Happy New Year to all.

Heather and Michael Baim

Funds for the Village Hall..for tables

With the help yet again from Andrew Young the Village Hall Management Committee has received £300 towards the purchase of small tables for the Hall. The funds will be available in the near future.

Many thanks, Andrew – it makes all the form filling in worthwhile!

Wendy Kitchener

...and a metal detector for lost arrows

Andrew Young also offered a grant of £107 to Hinxworth Archery Club to enable us to buy a metal detector to help us find arrows in the long grass. We think the offer was made in view of our league successes reported in Village Voice. The village has done rather well with grants from North Herts District Council with Andrew Young's help.

David Osmond

Sing-along to the Sound of Music - postponed from last year.

Make this a date for your family, come in costume or not! And, while watching the film, show you really do know all the words to 'A few of my favourite things' or 'doh a deer' and the others and help us raise funds for the Village Hall. A glass of wine for mum and dad and juice for the kids and all for £5 or £2:50. And the date? Here it is in large print for the hard of hearing: Saturday March 26th 7pm at the Village Hall.

Happy New Year! A bit belated but those of us who gathered at the pub on New Year's Eve had not only fabulous food but a great night as well.

Thanks once more to Margaret and Gerald who welcomed us and treated us royally.



Summer Outing 2011 Hampton Court

Wednesday 27th July 2011. Coach and entry to Hampton Court please contact me on 742505 for details and to register interest. Last year we sold out before the trip was even advertised so book early.

Sylvia Scales

Don't miss our next deadline Feb 20th

Please send all copy and pictures for March Village Voice to Patrick Forbes, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth, Herts. SG7 5HL, by February 20th. Village Voice is published by Forbes Services Ltd and can be read at www.hinxworth.info Email address for all copy and pictures is fool1@patrickforbes.plus.com

Hinxworth and Edworth WI

Books and Chocolate, can you imagine any thing better on a cold winter evening? This was the image given to us by our speaker Jill Farrington on Thursday January 13th. She read extracts from books, the main theme being chocolate, starting with Discovery of Chocolate and including a book by Annie Murray, a family saga giving great insight into the Cadburys of Bournville. Between each reading she passed around plastic boxes of Green and Black's chocolate. First the 70% dark chocolate, then with the next book came the very bitter 90% dark chocolate followed several books later by Galaxy, Cadbury's Milk and lastly White Chocolate, It surprised us to find how many books have the theme of chocolate running through them, whether it be the adventures and discovery of chocolate, or recipes containing it. It was a most enjoyable talk even if it did ruin our New Year diets.

Tai Chi unwrapped

Thursday February 10th, 74th Birthday Party, Village Hall Hinxworth, 7.30p.m. Please note the earlier time. For members and invited guests, Bring and Share supper. Entertainment: Re-Vitalise Tai Chi with Andy Spragg. Members and guests will join in and try Tai Chi.

Carol Cheney

Scores miss Burns Feast

Shame you missed Burns Night at the Three Horseshoes! You missed a splendid feast. The Cock-a-Leekie soup was a triumph, the haggis, neeps and tatties a culinary masterpiece with a nip of whisky to accompany them. And to top it all, the dessert, Cranachan, a traditional Scottish recipe of oatmeal, double cream, Drambuie and raspberries. Delicious. Sorry you weren't all there to help us enjoy it.

Just think - you could have advertised your stuffed antelope here for free. Ring 01462 742015.

St Valentine's Day



The Three Horseshoes in Hinxworth is putting on a special Valentine's Day dinner on Monday February 14th. "Three courses and a glass of pink bubbly, or any other colour bubbly you like," said Margaret Platten of The Shoes. And all for just £25. Best to book, though, by ringing The Three Horseshoes on 01462 742280. Go on, do it soon and surprise the one you love.

Friends of Ashwell Museum 2011

Thursday February 17th Coach Trip to The British Museum London. Monday March 14th AGM at Ashwell School. Sunday May 8th Ashwell at Home. Tuesday June 28th Coach Trip to Bletchley Park. Saturday September 17th Coach Trip to London. Wednesday 19th October Part 3 Archaeology of Ashwell. Wednesday 30th November A History of British Food.

We look forward to your support at any of these events. Further details will be published nearer the time but do contact any of the committee if you would like information. For booking any of the trips please contact Karyn Mills on 01462 742155 or Hilary Masham on 01462 742416.

Dates for your diary

February 4th Hinxworth Parish Council Village Hall 8 pm
February 10th Hinxworth & Edworth WI, Village Hall 7.30 pm
February 17th Coach Trip to British Museum, London
March 4th Sing along to the movie "Grease" Ashwell Village Hall 8 pm
March 14th Friends of Ashwell Museum AGM at Ashwell School
March 17th Red Nose Safari Supper, see March Village Voice
March 18th Red Nose Day - raising money for Comic Relief
March 26th Sound of Music - Hinxworth Village Hall
March 31st Parish priest Chris Ball licensed 8 pm St Mary's Ashwell
April 2nd Multi-venue quiz - see front page
April 16th & 17th Hinxworth Art Society Spring Exhibition
July 16th 8.30 pm Ashwell Playgroup Summer Ball, St Mary's Ashwell
July 27th Village Outing to Hampton Court, 01462 742505 for details

Bob Price - a genuine good bloke

St Nicholas Church Hinxworth was packed to the roof with an estimated 230 people to celebrate the life of Bob Price. Christina Price paid tribute to him with these words, "It seemed as though we disagreed on most things. It was a standing joke with our close friends and relatives. And yet in truth we shared the same standards and beliefs and together we made a good team. We have four brilliant kids to prove that.

Bob was a fighter. He played the game to win. And he expected the same from everyone around him. That's why he made such a good leader, from captaining a football team to being a much respected boss. He made people think they could do just that little bit better.

Bob had strong ideals. He hated laziness and wasters. But good honest hard working people, no matter what their occupation,

gained his full respect. Bob always seemed to know the right thing to do. His one great aim in life was to be a good role model and provider for his family. And of course he did that well.

He was extremely patriotic and proud to be British. Its history, landscapes and wildlife always amazed him. And of course this followed through to sport where he was always an avid Brit supporter.

punch up led to friendship

He was fiercely competitive when he played sport too, where his emotions often ran high. One of his best and oldest friendships was formed when they shook hands in the bar after having a punch-up on the football pitch where they'd been playing for opposing teams.

Bob's bravery and determination to win shone through right to the end, and would have humbled us all. But he underestimated his opponent this time. This one didn't play by the rules.

loved and respected

When I first introduced Bob to my parents, my Dad was suitably impressed, and summed him up as a good bloke. And I think that's how Bob would have liked to be remembered, plain and honest with definitely no frills. And loved and respected by us all, a genuine good bloke.

And I was proud to be his wife."

Help Jackie climb Kilimanjaro



Jackie Lee's mother Jen Allen lives in Edworth and is keen to help her daughter in her attempt to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Jackie needs to raise £3995 by February 11th when she leaves for Tanzania. She has been training on 17 mile walks, encouraged by stepfather Vic Allen. If you can help in any way contact Jen on 01767 313378 after 6 pm or at weekends, or on her mobile 07762 379566. Please help if you can. Thank you.

The Art Society's AGM took place on 19th January. It was a well attended event with a lively discussion. It is fair to say that the members clearly enjoy each other's company, both whilst painting and discussing issues.

bargain membership

The Society's finances are in good health and as a consequence it was decided to **reduce** the annual membership fee. It is now just £45 – a real bargain for approximately 43 morning painting sessions of 3 hours each. This also includes refreshments and sometimes a visiting tutor to offer advice. If you want to brush up on your painting skills – water colour, pastels, acrylic, or oils - or want to try something new, why not come along to the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm? You will be made most welcome.

book this date now

The Society's Spring Exhibition will be in Hinxworth Village Hall on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April. More information in the next issue of Village Voice.

Annie Hull

Sense in Switching?

At a time of rising energy prices on-line comparison can help you save money. Switching energy supplier on-line is easy. A switch usually takes effect within six weeks and can result in annual savings of up to £100 a year.

green tariff best for the planet

Comparison sites can help you compare customer satisfaction ratings, penalties for leaving contracts, capped price options and dual fuel discounts. A green electricity tariff is the best for the environment and usually costs extra.

To switch you need to know the name of your existing supplier(s) and either the cost of your energy for the last year or, for improved accuracy, the number of kilowatthours used.

You won't be able to change suppliers if you are in debt to your present supplier. The Home Heat Helpline on 0800 33 66 99 can help in this situation.

Even if you are happy with your current supplier, you may still be able to save money by moving to direct debit and on-line account management.

For more information visit www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/saving

Gordon Glass

At the Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday 6th January. Present were Mark Jarman, Yvonne Tookey, Paul Watler and the Clerk, Wendy Kitchener. Apologies were received from Simon Marlow and Les Whitfield.

The planning application for Bury End Farm was agreed.

true grit - only on access roads

Following last month's request to Highways to include Francis Road in the gritting schedule, the Parish Council has been notified that only access roads to the Village are gritted.

Regarding the overhanging Hedges in the high street, a site meeting has been arranged with a Highways officer from the County Council.

The full minutes are published on the village website at www.hinxworth.com the month following the meeting.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday February 4th 2011 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Adrienne Gumm

Book-keeping Service

Taking care of your paperwork so you can take care of your business

Tel: Hinxworth (01462) 743979

E-Mail: adrienne.gumm@tiscali.co.uk

Meandering Maggie

This is our dog Maggie, I'm sure you've all seen her around. Maggie joined our family when we sadly lost our other Spaniel, Tilly on Christmas Day a few years ago. Tilly loved me, she went everywhere I went and she never left my side. Maggie loves me, but sadly her love is not confined to me alone, Maggie loves everybody, she doesn't feel it necessary to stay by my side when there are so many other lovely people to talk to.



rabbits enjoy eating electric dog fence

It was quite a shock to realise that we would have to take some drastic measures to persuade Maggie stay at home, because Maggie is sure that the whole of Hinxworth is her garden and every person is her friend, and her drive to be free and explore the world is a temptation that she finds difficult to resist. Of course we did do some training, and for a while she became my shadow, but soon the wonders of the world tempted her again so we took the drastic step, at huge expense, and massive effort and put up a dog fence. This fence is designed for farm dogs like Maggie where ordinary garden fencing is not appropriate. It's simply a wire that goes around our whole property, including under the drive. Maggie wears a very expensive radio collar and when she goes near the wire she gets lots of warning bleeps, the closer to the wire she gets the more it bleeps and if she crosses the wire she gets a mild electric shock. Not as simple as it sounds. To run the wire around our property, under hedges, around trees etc took days. Then we discovered that rabbits like to eat the wire. When that happens we get a warning bleep in the house to tell us that the fence is not working and we have to scan every inch of the thin wire to find where the pesky bunnies have eaten it. In the summer when the hedge is thick and the grass is long, this takes forever, but the fence is easy enough to repair, and each time where we can, we rethread it a bit higher in the hope that the rabbits won't reach it.

she thinks she's the village dog

However if Maggie sees a particularly tempting pheasant, or a nice man or lady walking by, or even better a whole load of walkers she will brave the electric shock and join them on their walk, trotting along happily with them with no thought for the worried owner she leaves behind. Maggie is not bound by the usual rules of dog ownership and loyalty; she believes that she is the village dog. And if someone drives into our drive to drop off an envelope and they leave their car door open, well that's even more fun for Maggie. She just loves car rides and she will happily sit on the passenger seat; she doesn't mind if she's a bit muddy and she'll then look at the driver with an excited expression on her face wondering where they are going to take her.

please don't invite her in for a meal

I would like to thank the nice people who have called me to say that they've got Maggie, and I'm so sorry that so far I'm still having to persuade her to stay at home. If you leave her alone, when she's finished exploring she will come home for dinner. Please never feed her, or she'll see no reason to come home at all! Thankfully as a horse rider I notice that we have some very nice drivers around here, but I am concerned that she'll cause an accident, so if you have time I am grateful for the call. But rest assured I will continue to find new and persuasive methods of convincing her that her home is Thorns Farm and that I am her owner. Until then, you might notice that she's tied up a bit more often. Don't feel too sorry for her, she is loved very much and it's a way that she can safely enjoy being outside which is where she loves to be.

Kate Webber



On the beat

with PC 431 Paul Marina

Winter Weather Help

Whilst winter conditions persist, can I please remind you how difficult it is for many elderly people to get out and about in this weather, particularly those who rely on public transport or usually walk to the shops. Since footpaths are icy, many may feel understandably anxious about walking even as far as the bus stop.

ask if they need help

Relatives may be unable to reach family members, because of road conditions etc. and this can be a big worry for them as they might be unable to help. If you do have elderly persons within your watch area, you might like to consider politely asking them if they need any help and if you are going to the supermarket yourself, perhaps you could either offer them a lift or ask them if they'd like to give you a shopping list of items they need which you could pick up for them whilst you're there.

Police Surgery

February's surgery will be held in the United Reformed Church Hall, Ashwell High Street 10.30 am until 12 pm on Friday March 4th

contact us

My phone number is 01438 757924. Ring 0845 33 00 222 if you have suffered a crime or need Police within a couple of hours. 999 for immediate response if you have just suffered a crime and for hare coursing.

PC 431 Paul Marina. North Herts Rural.

paul.marina@herts.pnn.police.uk 01438 757924

chris.brabrook@herts.pnn.police.uk 01438 757935

Amy.Rainbird@herts.pnn.police.uk 01438 757935

Bedfordshire Police Contact

For readers in Edworth, in emergency dial 999, otherwise ring 01234 841212, Bedfordshire Police HQ switchboard, manned around the clock.

Cards raise over £1200



Many thanks to everyone in the forty-seven households who contributed to the 2011 Alternative Christmas Card Scheme in Hinxworth and Edworth. We raised over £1,200 for the two charities we supported.

gift aid produced £250

On your behalf I have been able to send over £600 to the Herts and Beds hospice for children - Keech Hospice in Streatley - and about £350 to Mercy Ships. As so many of you were kind enough to give through Gift Aid, the two charities will be able to claim between them a further £250 of your hard-earned income tax from the Inland Revenue department of Her Majesty's Government.

thanks all round

Special thanks are due, to Marianne Osmond who so kindly gives of her time and talents to produce the card each year, to Judy King for her delightfully whimsical choirboys and to the kind people who delivered it to every household in Hinxworth and Edworth in the week before Christmas.

Janet Fair

Church Services - February

February 6th 10.15 am Family Service St Nicholas Hinxworth
February 13th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St Nicholas Hinxworth
February 20th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St Nicholas Hinxworth
February 27th 9.30 am Holy Communion St Vincent Newnham

Soup lunch returns

February's soup lunch will be in Hinxworth Village Hall on Friday February 11th from 12.30 pm until 2 pm. Same fantastic value and amazing conversation. Don't miss it.

Thank you one and all

Dear Editor,

I would like to say thank you to everyone who sent me and my family all the kind and sincere cards and messages of condolence.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped me on the day of Bob's funeral from Dick Cobb, Andy Hartree and Alec Stephenson who did such a grand job squeezing well over 200 people into our church, and all those who helped make sandwiches and served tea.

The true spirit of Hinxworth showed itself that day. Which is why Bob loved it here so much. I would also like to thank Patrick who was a great help and comfort to Bob in the weeks prior to his death, and who conducted such a fitting service for him.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Price

PS. Thank you too to all those who donated £503.97 to the Garden House Hospice and £233 to our own St Nicholas Church in memory of Bob.

SingalongaGrease

Ashwell Playgroup invites you to sing along to the movie Grease on Friday March 4th in Ashwell Village Hall at 8 pm. Fancy dress optional, bar open throughout the evening. Tickets £5 will be on sale this month. For further information and tickets, contact Karyn Mills on 01462 742155 or Beth Lievesley on 01462 743997.

summer dance

Summer dance on Saturday 16th July 8.30 pm in St Mary's church Ashwell with music, bar and canapés, dress to impress. Tickets will be on sale from May at £15 each. Further details will be published nearer the time. Get this date in your diaries now. It could be the social event of the season.



A feast of fundraising events is planned for next month's Red Nose Day, Friday March 18th. Events kick off the night before with a Safari Supper on Thursday 17th, St Patrick's Day. Then on Friday there will be a coffee morning in Hinxworth Village Hall 10 am until 12 noon with stalls and a Bucket of Fun. A Comic Relief soup lunch will follow from 12.30 pm until 2 pm.

There will be a party and disco for young people aged up to eight years old in Hinxworth Village Hall from 4 pm to 6pm.

In the evening The Three Horseshoes is hosting a Red Nose pub quiz from 8.30 pm.

If you could help in any way with any of these events, please ring Michele Jarman on 01462 743453, Annie Cullen on 01462 742102 or Patrick Forbes on 01462 742015. More details in March Village Voice.

Newnham Ladies who lunch

Last summer several Newnham friends decided to get together for lunch on the third Wednesday of the month. We would take turns to make a light meal, perhaps try out a new recipe and definitely have a natter.

having fun

Then the snow came, followed by flu and then Christmas! So in 2011 we have started off again. "Gosh it's 4 pm! How time flies when we're having fun!"

Please wish us well in these difficult times.

Sheila Rosendale

Brilliant idea, Sheila. Congratulations. Readers, why not start something similar in your village? - Editor.