

» Village Voice «

November 2011

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.122

We will remember them

I could hear the silence. Standing in Wootton Bassett, now Royal Wootton Bassett, the sudden hush took shape and meaning as the hearse carrying the last soldier to be repatriated through RAF Lyneham came into view. I was there on August 16th to make a programme for Premier Christian Radio. I spoke to the Mayor, Paul Heaphy, to Royal British Legion rider Ian McLoughlin who had ridden all the way from Newport South Wales. I had stood in the rain as the C17 Globemaster flew overhead into Lyneham.

Over lunch I met a war poet, Sally Blackmore, who had come from Surrey to be there. Her son is in the army and has been to Afghanistan three times. "I went to Wootton Bassett because I felt to honour one soldier was to honour all of them," she told me later. "I was standing opposite where the family would be and I had told myself I wouldn't look at them. I could so easily see myself in the place of the mother. I didn't want to intrude on their grief. I couldn't imagine how they could stand up through that, where they could find the strength. One of the things that made me shiver was the sight of the young officers behind me. When I looked in their eyes, I could see what I see when I look into the eyes of my son, their immense pride and respect. I found that most moving. A young soldier took a young child by the hand and led the child to the hearse and helped the child put a flower on top, and that for me was one of the most emotional things."

Here in Hinxworth we will mark Remembrance Sunday with a Communion Service in Saint Nicholas Church at 9.45 am, followed by the ceremony and two Minutes' silence at the War Memorial. The collection in church will be given to the Royal British Legion to help their work with service veterans and their families. There will be coffee afterwards in the Three Horseshoes. Please join us if you can. Whatever we think of war, our servicemen and women deserve our respect and support.

Patrick Forbes

Superfast Broadband Survey

Many thanks to the Hinxworth residents who took the time and trouble to complete the survey. There has been a 50% response along with additional emails from a number of residents outlining their particular broadband problems. A meeting is now in the process of being arranged with James Heslam, Economic Development Officer, Hertfordshire County Council to analyse the survey findings and discuss the way forward for Superfast Broadband for Hinxworth.

Needless to say you will be notified of any further developments as they happen via the Village Voice.

Les Whitfield, Chairman, Hinxworth Parish Council

Watch out for suspicious vehicles

On 17th October two residential properties in Station Road, Ashwell were burgled during the day. The incidents occurred between 1000 hrs and 1300hrs. There are limited lines of enquiry at this stage but a witness in the area saw what has been described as a "Fairly new looking Transit van" prior to the offences being committed.

Can we ask you all to be aware of suspicious vehicles over the coming weeks and report anything to us straight away. It really helps us if you are able to record index numbers and make/model/colour of any vehicles and also a description of any driver/passenger. We will be working hard to arrest the offenders in these incidents so any information helps. Please ring us on the new non emergency number of 101 or in an emergency 999.

Hertfordshire Police



Ashwell School Fireworks Night

Ashwell School's Fireworks Night this year will be held on Sunday 6th November at Hinxworth Recreation Ground. Gates open at 4.45pm for refreshments, including Crumps-Dogs and bar (mulled wine, beer, soft drinks). The fireworks start at 5.45pm – so children will be home in plenty of time for baths and early to bed – ready for school on Monday morning! Tickets are available from the school office; a family ticket (2 adults + 3 children) costs £10 in advance or £12 on the gate (or £4 per adult, £2.50 per child).

10 village supper tickets left

Last Call for Village Supper tickets Saturday November 19th - only about 10 remaining, get them now or miss the event of 2011!

Available now from Sylvia, 12 Francis Road, £12.50 each. Cheques to H+E VHMC

Daffodil planters wanted!

Saturday 12th November from 10 am. We have about 500 bulbs to plant around the Village Hall and need some help! Coffee, tea and biscuits provided; please bring the family. Meet at the VH – everyone very welcome and gardening tools too!

Ashwell Christmas Fair

Come to Ashwell Christmas Fair in St. Mary's Church on Saturday, 3rd December from 9.30 – 1.00pm. Arts and Crafts, Cakes and Cards, Presents and Prizes. The Choir will sing carols, and seasonal refreshments will be on offer. Proceeds to the Church Restoration Appeal.

Home security facts and figures

Households with no home security measures are around ten times more likely to have been victims of burglary than households where there were simple security measures such as deadlocks on doors or window locks, 25.0% compared with 2.3%. More than 13% of the population wish they knew more about home security. Nearly 9% of sheds are left unlocked or unsecured throughout the UK. For a comprehensive set of recommendations for home security, see PC Paul Marina's article on the back page.

PALS is worth a try

If it is true that the NHS handles a million cases every day then the fact that some things go wrong might be expected. When they do, to whom do you turn? At most NHS hospitals there is a place where you can enquire, complain, or praise the service you have received.



Volunteer Marion Foley is ready to help

PALS, the Patient Advice and Liaison Service, was introduced across the NHS in England in 2002. At the Lister Hospital in Stevenage, their office is immediately on your right as soon as you walk in through the main entrance.

leave with a smile on their face

I went to find out more. I met PALS officer Heather Dean who told me "Hopefully we can sort out patients' problems before they go to a formal complaints procedure. We advise and liaise with different departments, wards, doctors and then report back to the enquirer. Often people want to come in and just talk, because they are cross, angry, and once we've chatted, sometimes we don't even have to action things. Mostly people go out with a smile on their face, however angry they are when they come in."

try anonymous comment cards

"We're accessible. We're normally here from nine until five, Monday to Friday. It's somewhere where people can come and be heard and be listened to and hopefully we can sort their problems out for them." What about the patient who worries about complaining in case the complaint comes back and bites him or her - 'She's a troublemaker I'll put her operation off even longer?' "Comment cards, which are available on every ward or by the lifts, are anonymous. The patient fills them up, we send them off to the department concerned and they reply to us."

"A lot of the problems we encounter have to do with lack of communication. People don't know what is happening. We can sort it out, tell them, reassure them and they're fine. We had a man in this morning with a medical records problem. He had a set of temporary records and they needed to be put together in a permanent set. I had to get the medical records manager on to that and it was all sorted out."

feedback helps NHS

"Sometimes we contact the ward or department concerned and they say to us, 'why on earth didn't the patient talk to us first?'" A PALS leaflet urges patients or relatives to speak directly to the Ward Sister or Matron to try to resolve any problems. Sometimes staff may seem to be too busy to be distracted by questions or complaints and the patient may then come to PALS. It may be that older people don't like to complain. But the only way the NHS will improve is with good feedback, and PALS plays its part in that.

PALS can be reached on the following numbers: Lister Hospital Stevenage 01438 784 779; QEII Welwyn Garden City 01707 369 045. Out of hours there is an answering machine ready to take calls. In the event of a complaint not being satisfactorily resolved using PALS, then write to the Chief Executive, Nick Carver, Lister Hospital, Coreys Mill Lane, Coreys Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 4AB.

Patrick Forbes

please don't miss copy deadline

Please send all copy and pictures for December's Village Voice to Patrick Forbes, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth, Herts. SG7 5HL, by November 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

**Don't forget to visit Farrowby Farm
New Inn Road, Hinxworth**

Travelling Nativity



Christmas will soon be upon us and through Advent we have a Travelling Nativity which will visit your your home if requested. The idea is to remind the children and adults of the birth of Christ and to welcome him into your home, You keep it overnight then pass it on to someone else and the set is returned to the Church in time for Christmas.

book their visit now

If you would like the Nativity to visit please get in touch with Yvonne Tookey on 01462 742439 or pick up a form from St Nicholas Church, These will be available from Sunday 13th November.

Learn about Hertfordshire

If you've ever wondered about the coal-tax markers that stand at the side of some of Hertfordshire's roads, or perhaps about the roads themselves and how old they are, we have answers for you. Do you know where to find medieval graffiti, or ice houses, or the sites of ancient settlements in Hertfordshire? – we can show you.

Almost every aspect of the county's history is explored in the Historical Atlas of Hertfordshire, edited by David Short, now available from University of Hertfordshire Press, price £25.

"The best of the county atlases yet to appear, by some way" – Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia."

The Atlas contains contributions from over fifty historians. In more than eighty articles, each with its own full-colour map, the book gives insights into many different aspects of the county's history from its earliest geological formation to the twenty-first century. For anyone with an interest in the history of the county, this fascinating book is a must-have.

Buy it direct from University of Hertfordshire Press, call Gill Cook on 01707 284654, or order it from any bookshop or online book retailer. For more information, see our website, www.herts.ac.uk/uhpress.

Homespun evening at WI

An enjoyable homespun evening was enjoyed by the committee when the members took over running the meeting to give the committee a rest. Yvonne Tookey was the president for the evening, and started off the proceedings with a light hearted quiz, won by Linda Huber. A ploughman's supper was provided and delicious homemade paté, pickles and tomatoes were enjoyed by all. After supper a Beetle Drive was organised by Marion Bridgewater and after much jollity and cries of "I've got a body or I've got a head", the winner was announced as Sylvia Scales and the wooden spoon was won by Maureen Sore.

Thursday November 10th: Annual Meeting, the meeting where the committee are elected, 7.45pm Village Hall Hinxworth.

Carol Cheney

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

Hinxworth Parish Council

Meeting held on Thursday 6th October. Present:- Mr L. Whitfield, Chairman, Mr A. Cullen, Mr D. Osmond, Mr E. Sore, Mr P. Watler, Mrs W. Kitchener, Clerk. Hinxworth Allotment Group Members:- Jo Johnson, Betty Thorn.

The main issues discussed are as follows:-

Superfast Broadband: A flyer including a survey response will be delivered to every household in Hinxworth over the weekend 8/9 October. Responses to Les Whitfield by the 12th October.

The Allotments: The H.A.G. members attending required further clarification from the Parish Council regarding the allotmentees initial deposit and rent, deposit returns and the vetting of prospective allotment holders. The annual rent of £30.00 was due on September 1st. Two allotment holders have yet to pay. Licence agreements were signed and agreed by the Parish Council for Chris Ball (Ashwell) Chris Price and Jan Woodward (Hinxworth). The Parish Council agreed to fund £50.00 as a goodwill gesture for the allotments for the installation of water facilities.

Planning: Planning Application 08/02805/1HH The Chestnuts High Street: The Councillors agreed unanimously to "no objection" to this application. Planning Application 11/01347/1 The Land behind the Cottages in the High Street: N.H.D.C. notified the Parish Council they had requested the application "be sent away" for reconsideration. Planning Application 11/01397/1HH Fir Trees Chapel Street: The Parish Council agreed unanimously they had "no objection" to this second application.

Highways: Vehicle Turning Circle by the Village Hall: Jamie Sells Contracts Manager N.H.D.C. has confirmed this area and any other kerb area in Francis Road will be surveyed on October 7th for a road and kerb clean in the near future.

Recreation Ground: Picnic Tables: David Osmond reported the two picnic tables on the recreation ground need replacing. The Archery Club have kindly offered to fund the replacement of one of the tables. The other table if found to be in a dangerous condition will be removed.

Any Other Business: Knights Templar School: The Parish Councillors agreed unanimously in favour of The Governors' View – as detailed "The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team favour Option Three" in respect of the letter signed by Andrew Pickering Headteacher and Graham Kinsley Chair of the Governing Body dated September 2011 and sent to parents.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday November 3rd 8.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Wendy Kitchener Clerk Hinxworth Parish Council

Harvest Festival Hinxworth



pictures: Carol Cheney

Sunday October 2nd was the sort of wonderful Autumn Day that only England can give us when she's in the mood. With warm sunshine on our backs some of the parishioners of Hinxworth and Edworth gathered at the allotments to give them a harvest blessing and to sing the first verse of "We plough the fields and scatter". We then proceeded to the Three Horseshoes Car Park, where another verse was sung, followed by a few words from our vicar Chris Ball. On we went to our next stop which was at the church gate. Looking over the fields we sang the third verse, and then sang it again as we proceeded in to church to meet up with other members of the congregation and to hold the Harvest Festival Service. This was the first year that the allotments have been blessed and let us hope they have a fruitful harvest next year and that the weather is kind to us all.

Carol Cheney

Archers triumph again

Hinxworth Archery club celebrated another successful summer season with our recurve archers finishing in first place in the Hertfordshire County Summer League, the fifth time in six years.

Our Compounds were also unbeaten but came second on aggregate scores only 28 points behind leaders Hertford. The Longbows lost only one match but finished second on aggregate scores.

best of 365 in postal league

Even greater successes were to yet to come as our recurve team finished at the top of division 1 in the Nationwide Summer Postal League, the highest recurve score recorded. Not to be outdone, our compound bow team won division 6 in their grouping with the highest score of any team in the whole competition. A total of 365 teams from all over Britain took part. To sum up, little Hinxworth Archery Club proved yet again that size does not matter, but spirit does!

David Osmond

Alternative Christmas cards

Last year the Alternative Christmas Card Scheme in Hinxworth and Edworth raised over £1200 for the two charities concerned. At a time when many charities are feeling the draught of the recession, it would be great if a few more villagers would join in so that we could do even better this year. The idea is that those taking part donate the money that they would otherwise have spent on buying and sending Christmas cards to their Hinxworth and Edworth friends to either, or both, of the charities we support. Any amount is gratefully received. Just before Christmas, a simple Christmas card bearing a greeting and the names of all the participants will then be delivered to every house in these two villages.

helping local and third world causes

This year for our home charity we will support the Garden House Hospice, Letchworth. Our second charity will be Toybox. Toybox is a Christian charity committed to helping children living or working on the streets, and those at risk of doing so, principally in Latin America. It works to get children off the streets and into education and care before they are eight years old.

please do it soon

All I really need to know initially, and preferably by early December, is the names of those who wish to participate (janetfair@btinternet.com or telephone 01462 743137). Then I'll need to collect the money in before the end of the year. Just put your contribution - cash or, preferably, cheque(s) - in an envelope and drop it in to me at "Cammocks", Chapel Street, Hinxworth. Cheques should be made out to Garden House Hospice or Toybox. You may, of course, wish to divide your money between both charities. If your contribution is in the form of cash, do please remember to write your name on the envelope and which cause(s) you would like to support. Better still, if you are a UK taxpayer and can make your contribution through Gift Aid, do let me know: it is of real benefit to the charity concerned. All you need to do is fill in a short form which can be downloaded from the relevant websites, or I can supply it. The charity will then reclaim another 25p for every £1 you give and it doesn't cost you a penny extra! Meanwhile, remember – you don't need to buy so many Christmas cards!

Janet Fair

Dates for your diary

November 3rd Hinxworth Parish Council Village Hall 8 pm
November 6th Ashwell School Fireworks, Hinxworth recreation ground
November 10th Hinxworth & Edworth WI agm Village Hall 7.45 pm
November 12th Daffodil planting Hinxworth Village Hall 10 am
November 13th Remembrance Sunday, 9.45 am St Nicholas Church
November 19th Village Supper, Hinxworth Village Hall - see page 1
November 30th "History of British Food" talk Ashwell URC hall 8 pm
December 4th St Nicholas Church Patronal Festival service 10.15 am
December 3rd Ashwell Christmas Fair, St Mary's Church 9.30 am - 1 pm
January 14th WI Astrophotography meeting – everybody welcome
July 14th 2012 Masquerade Ball. Hinxworth Village Hall

On the beat

with PC 431 Paul Marina
Alarming News

We have received a number of calls from concerned house holders who have been contacted by telephone by an Alarm Company trying to sell them Alarms. The salesman say that Police do not respond to audible alarms and then they imply they are working on behalf of or with the Police's consent.

I would like to make it clear that Police do respond to audible alarms and this company has nothing to do with the Police. If anyone can give me any contact details for this or any other company that is carrying out a similar scam please contact me. I would very much like the chance to have a chat with them.

letting thieves into your home?

Leaving keys for thieves? It may sound crazy but seven per cent of homes have a key concealed outside their front door. Burglars know this so don't leave them the means to let themselves in.

hook, line and sinker

Ten per cent of people leave keys in doors and windows most of the time. These are easily fished out using a crude hook and line device, through a cat flap or letter box, allowing thieves to walk right into your home and help themselves. Got it? Use it There's no point having the securest locks, doors and windows if you don't use them. Opportunistic burglars will make the most of that 'one time' you leave your back door unlocked.

Window shopping

Nine per cent of sheds are left unlocked or unsecured throughout the UK, outbuildings are also vulnerable to crime. Get a sturdy padlock, and hang a net curtain or put frosted film over shed windows to stop thieves window-shopping for bikes, golf clubs and tools.

Anybody home? Don't leave tell tale clues that you might not be home, like a build up of milk bottles, parcels or post. Cancel deliveries and ask a neighbour to do a quick check of your home every couple of days. Ask your neighbour to bring in your wheelie bin on collection day if you are out at work.

when the clocks go back

Long dark nights in the winter prevent natural surveillance. Install timers to switch lights or radios on and off automatically if you're not home. If you're going out, draw the curtains and leave some lights on.

keep it clean

Faulty fence work, loose gates, rubbish in the front garden; all give the impression that your home could be an easy target. A well cared for property and garden provides another psychological barrier to the burglar, so trim hedges, repair woodwork and brickwork and keep it tidy. And remember to put away anything that can be used to gain entry including tools, ladders and DIY debris.

personalise your possessions

If the worst happens and your belongings are stolen, it can help their recovery if you've marked them with a personal identifier. Permanent U.V. marker pens are a cheap and effective way of marking property such as laptops and televisions. UV Pens are available from us.

contact us

November's surgery will be held in the Parish Room, Ashwell 10.30 am until 12 pm on Saturday November 12th.

My phone number is 01438 757924. Ring 101 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.

Church Services - November

November 6th 10.15 am Family Service St Nicholas, Hinxworth
November 13th 9.45am Remembrance Eucharist St Nicholas
Hinxworth followed by ceremony at War Memorial. See page 1
November 20th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St Nicholas, Hinxworth
November 27th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St Nicholas, Hinxworth
9.30 am Holy Communion St Vincent, Newnham

Soup Lunch

November's Soup Lunch will be on Friday 11th in Hinxworth Village Hall from 12.30 pm until 2 pm.

Seeing stars

Ever wanted to take a picture of the sky at night? The WI is hosting a talk about Astrophotography for the January meeting on Thursday 14th. Everybody welcome. The meeting starts at 7.45pm. Thursday 14th January 2012.

Christmas Puds

Homemade Christmas Puddings by Sylvia. Please provide your own bowl, £3 per lb. Orders taken now on 01462 742505.

Christmas Sale

'Get in the mood for Christmas'. Tea, coffee and mincepies, homemade goodies for sale. Saturday 26th November 10-12 noon in Hinxworth Village Hall.

In Praise of Love

By Sir Terence Rattigan Thursday 17 - Saturday 19 November 7.45pm Knebworth Village Hall

KATS Autumn production is a fitting celebration of Sir Terence Rattigan's centenary year. This celebration of love, misunderstanding and joyful family reconciliation is played out against the unlikely background of the terminal illness and chequered history of Lydia, heroine of the Estonian Resistance. A must-see for Rattigan fans and everyone who has ever loved.

Tickets £6.50, concessions £5.50 Box office Colin Macleod 01438 235375.



NOT HERE

Ashwell Tree Festival
Christmas Refreshments
Ashwell URC 10/11 December

Saturday	10.30 am - 5 pm
Sunday	12 noon - 5 pm

Sponsoring
CHRISTMAS TREE

Macmillan thanks



A big thank you to everyone who came to the Village Hall to join Hinxworth's Coffee morning held in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. A fantastic £500 was raised for this very worthy charity.

We would like to say a big thank you to all of you who donated so generously in terms of help, money, delicious cakes and wonderful raffle prizes. We really couldn't have done it without you.

Michele Jarman and Annie Cullen

£1000+ Disco

Big thank you to my family and the Friday night gang for all their hard work in organising and making the 70's disco such a fantastic night. Thank you to all those who helped out on the night and with the clear up the following day. Our singer Uche Eke was absolutely brilliant and even donated half his fee back to breast cancer. Our resident DJ Les kept everybody dancing all night. In total we raised £1023. With the takings from the car show which I helped to organise in Letchworth garden Square shopping centre the following weekend, the grand total I have to take to ACT (Addenbrookes Charitable Trust) at Addenbrookes next week is £1837.42. I hope everybody enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

Helene Donohoe

Ps If anybody found a camera silver Samsung camera its mine I lost it somewhere between midnight and the clear up the following day. Luckily a friend had taken some photos.

perhaps here?



'A History of British Food' talk by Meril Deal URC Hall 8pm
Wednesday 30th November 8pm. Tickets from Ashwell Post Office £3