Hinxworth Christmas Bazaar

Welcome, Holly and David

Holly Thame and David Xuereb moved to Honeysuckle Cottage, High Street, Hinxworth in the first week of December 2013. “We were living in Dunstable for six months, having moved there from Newbury. David had just got his new job as a chemist with Johnson Matthey in Royston in March. I’m a social worker with Hertfordshire County Council, in a project with families with multiple and complex needs living in Welwyn, Hatfield, and Stevenage. I’m based in Stevenage but the area I cover is Welwyn.”

research in village voice

“We definitely wanted to live in a village,” said David. “We needed to be roughly equidistant from both our places of work, so we started looking between Stotfold and Ashwell. I had actually driven through Hinxworth a couple of times and thought it looked a really nice place. Holly did a lot of research on the internet.” “We found Village Voice when I was researching Hinxworth and it sounded like a lovely village with so much going on, a real kind of community,” said Holly.

eventing by bicycle

David wanted to know if Hinxworth had a football team. Alas no, not yet. He plays a lot of football with his work-mates. Holly is interested in petanque, Pilates and yoga. She enjoys cooking and baking. “It’s my way of relaxing after work.” David and Holly are thinking of getting a couple of bicycles so they can explore the area. “We like walking, going out and exploring at weekends.”

“Everyone’s been really welcoming,” said David. They had both been to the Three Horseshoes for the Santa Drive in December where David was the overall winner, collecting a prize of a tower of boxes full of goodies, chocolate, biscuits and Pannetone.

Patrick Forbes

Three Horseshoes opening times

Christmas Eve - Open All Day - Food 12-3, 6.30 - 9.30
Christmas Day - 12-3 - Drinks Only
Boxing Day - Food 12-4, 6-10 Drinks Only
New Year’s Eve opening as normal
New Year’s Day open all day, food until 4 pm

Thank you to all our contributors, distributors and especially our printers, Wormald Burrows Partnership, and Richard Floyd Engineering.
Calling all men over 65

Abdominal Aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening

The aorta is the main blood vessel that supplies blood to your body. It runs from your heart down through your chest and abdomen. In some people, as they get older, the aorta in the abdomen can become weak. It can then start to expand and form what is called an aortic abdominal aneurysm. The condition is most common in men aged 65+. The condition can become extremely dangerous. However, if detected early enough, AAA can be monitored and treated, greatly reducing the chance of the aneurysm causing serious problems. The easiest way to find out if you have an aneurysm is to have an ultrasound scan of your abdomen. The procedure only takes a few minutes, is painless and you will be given the results immediately. You can book an appointment for an AAA scan by ringing the following number, 01727 897719. You will need to provide your NHS number when making your appointment. As people generally experience no symptoms, sufferers don’t know there is a problem …… until maybe too late. So do take advantage of this free service. To find out more, visit the website aaa.screening.nhs.uk

Peter Chapman

Friends of Ashwell Village Museum

We all hope everyone had an enjoyable festive period and trust you are now able to look forward to joining us in the various events we are planning during 2014. Our first event will be the AGM on Wednesday March 19th. This will be at Ashwell School at 8pm. Sarah Talks will update everyone on progress and results of the Ashwell Archaeology that has been ongoing. Admission to this is free and all are welcome.

visit Greenwich

Our first coach trip of 2014 will be on Tuesday April 1st. We will be going to Greenwich, London. The coach will leave Ashwell Post Office at 9am and Greenwich at 4pm. Cost £17

Sculptor John Mills

On April 23rd we will meet in the URC Hall for a talk by John Mills, our own celebrated sculptor. He will talk about his work particularly with reference to his well-known monuments such as the Women at War in Whitehall. This will be a ticket event starting at 8pm.

Ashwell at Home as most already know is on Sunday May 11th. We always look for support on that day.

Peterborough and Flag fen

Our second coach trip will be on Thursday June 26th. We will leave Ashwell Post Office at 9am. We will go to Peterborough and then on for a guided tour of Flag Fen and then return to Peterborough. For those who just want to spend the day in Peterborough, the cost is £18. If you wish to spend the morning with us at Flag Fen, which is an amazing archaeological site the cost is £23. We should be back in Peterborough early afternoon giving us time to shop or visit the Cathedral etc before returning to Ashwell.

Imperial War Museum

Our final coach trip will be on Thursday October 2nd. We will visit the Imperial War Museum in London. If you are unaware we have timed this visit to coincide with the refurbishment of the First World War Galleries with this being the centenary or the outbreak of WW1. Cost £17.

If you wish to discuss any of these events or book for the coach trips, please contact Karen Mills 742155 or Hilary Masham 742416.

Karen Mills

Happy New Year to our readers

Hinxworth and Edworth WI

Christmas Party

On Thursday 12th December, Hinxworth and Edworth Women’s Institute held their Christmas Party in the Village Hall. Our president Heather Baim opened the meeting with a couple of items of business and then welcomed approximately 40 members and their guests to the gathering.

what are we in for?

This year it had been decided to have our entertainment before our meal, and Heather introduced The Biggleswade Women’s Institute Choir, 20 ladies of various ages but most with grey hair came on to the stage, and I thought ‘Oh dear, what are we in for this year?’ We were in for a surprise. They had an electric piano which their conductor played well, and started off their recital with a song with audience participation. This got the majority of us on our feet. This was followed by songs from the shows most of which we could sing along to. A Christmas carol was sung, the favourite of most people Silent Night and the performance finished with The Sound of Music song My Favourite Things, which most people know. The last verse was the one written by and sung by Julie Andrews on the occasion of her 79th birthday, and it starts “Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting”. If anyone wants the words, I can provide them. I can only say the choir was great especially as they have only been up and running for a year.

The evening continued with a buffet meal with each member bringing a least one dish. The committee provided chicken casserole, beef stew, and lasagne and vegetarian lasagne. The dishes the members provided ranged from a variety of salads, savoury cheese-cake and paté to a magnificent table of desserts (eat your heart out, master chef) including pavlovas, cheese cakes and trifles.

a successful evening

After we had eaten, the raffle was drawn and we sang Happy Birthday to John Tookey. It was agreed that the evening had been a success and the meeting closed at 10pm.

mystery speaker

Next month’s meeting will be on January 9th January 2014, when subscriptions of £34.70 will be due. I can’t remember who the speaker will be as the new programmes have not been given out yet, but the meeting will be at the usual time of 7.45pm in The Village Hall, Hinxworth. Any new members are most welcome. All you new villagers come and meet your neighbours, we can be a jolly crowd and you might just enjoy it!

Carol Cheney

Burns Night Supper

Ashwell Primary School. Saturday 25th January. 7.30pm for 8pm. 3 course supper including a “wee dram”. Scottish Music & Dancing. Address to the Haggis. Traditional Speeches and Piper. Ticket price £16.50.

This is a popular event with limited spaces so please book early and notify us if you want to book a group table. Call 01462 74269/742297 for tickets or email michellejwoods@hotmail.com.

Michelle Woods

Happy New Year to our readers
2013 was a busy year for Richard and Lyn Stark of the English Caravan Company of Newnham. Tivi, their original teardrop caravan featured in the second 'Ade in Britain' series on ITV. Tivi also appeared in Heal’s shop window in London’s Tottenham Court Road for six weeks during their spring promotion. Their caravans have also been seen with Alan Titchmarsh, with Laurence Llewellyn Bowen, on Channel 4, ITV’s ‘Good morning’ and ‘Sunday Brunch’.

best looking mobile
They built a Classic Teardrop with a genuine wood burning pizza oven. In September last year, amongst entries from all over Europe, it was awarded the title of ‘Best Looking Mobile 2013’ by the British Street Food Awards. It was an amazing achievement and with the event held at a fantastic venue in London it became quite a memorable weekend. More recently, they have had many enquiries asking if their caravans can be used in a commercial role, i.e. as catering trailers. They have also converted classic English vintage caravans into catering trailers.

we keep rescuing caravans
When I visited them they were finishing off work on Ermintrude, a caravan which used to belong to the nanny of Jimi Hendrix’s drummer Mitch Mitchell. Then they were going to finish work on their toy hauler, a small caravan which would accommodate a motorcycle. Once at your destination, take the motorbike out, and the toy hauler becomes a caravan again. How many caravans do Richard and Lyn have, I asked. “Six, we keep rescuing them,” said Lyn. They are also working on converting one into a mobile bar for weddings and other events.

clear of cancer
“Everything has been on hold for six months because I had breast cancer,” said Lyn. “From the 28th of February to the 28th of August, it was chemo, operations, all sorts, then we got the all clear. It’s been a bit of a year. We slept at night with all these ideas fizzing through his head. “Not a lot,” he replied. “We both bounce ideas off each other,” said Lyn.

A Caring County
Our latest volume of Hertfordshire history, just published, is “A Caring County?: Social Welfare in Hertfordshire from 1600” and gathers together new research into aspects of care for the sick, poor, elderly and vulnerable in Hertfordshire across four centuries. Focusing on towns and villages across the county, including Ashwell, Cheshunt, Hertford, Pirton, Royston and St Albans, the book asks how well Hertfordshire cared for its needy.

madhouse to medical care
With chapters on madhouses, workhouses, certified industrial schools, the Foundling Hospital, pensions and medical care, the book covers a broad range of topics. It seems that Hertfordshire was relatively nimble and sensitive in discovering and treating its people’s needs and evidence is beginning to emerge that it was in essence a ‘caring county’.

Co-edited by Prof. Steven King, Director of the University of Leicester Centre for Medical Humanities, and Gillian Gear of the Hertfordshire Association for Local History (HALH), the book’s chapters have each been written by a local researcher, making this an unusually collaborative volume. The painting on the cover of the book is Our Village Nurse by Sir Hubert von Herkomer. Painted in 1892, the painting was purchased by Bushey Museum and Art Gallery with the help of the Art Fund and is a portrait of Bushey’s nurse of the time making her house calls. Sir Hubert helped raised funds to pay for Bushey to have its own village nurse.

where and how to buy it
You can buy the book direct from University of Hertfordshire Press (call Gill Cook on 01707 284654) priced £16.99, or order it from any bookshop or online book retailer. For more information, see our website, www.herts.ac.uk/uhpress.

Dates for your diary
January 2nd 7 pm Hinxworth Parish Council meeting, Village Hall.
January 11th 12.30 - 2 pm Soup Lunch Hinxworth Village Hall
January 20th Village Voice copy deadline
January 25th 7.30pm Burns Night Supper, Ashwell Village School, see page 3 February 1st, 7.30pm Hinxworth Quiz Night, see this page
Match 15th - Crooner and Hollywood Glam evening
July 13th Newnham Parish Lunch

Don’t miss the Quiz Night…..
Hinxworth Village Hall on Saturday 1st February, 7.30pm. Teams of 6. Tickets £7.50 per person, includes sandwiches, available from Victoria Scales 01462 742505, 12 Francis Road.

Hinxworth Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of Hinxworth Parish Council held on 5th December. Present: Mr D. Osmond Acting Chairman, Mr A. Cullen, Mr E. Sore, Mr P. Watler, Mrs W. Kitchener, Clerk.

Recreation Ground: Stotfold Junior Football Club: This continues to work well. Should the Club require to use the Recreation Ground for the next season the Councillors agreed to discuss the matter at a later date. Play Area Inspection: North Herts District Council has confirmed they are awaiting the report prior to it being forwarded to the Parish Council. The Tennis Court: The Councillors agreed the court net should be removed during the winter period.

The Allotments: The Licence. The Parish Councillors asked the Clerk to forward each of them a copy of the current licence to ensure the wording is correct prior to the requested amendment. The Entrance Road/Area: The Parish Councillors agreed this area requires some maintenance. Paul Watler has kindly volunteered to level, make good and seed the area. The Parish Councillors agreed to funds being made available for the purchasing and the placing large stones in the area to stop the churning-up of the ground.

Any Other Urgent Business: Annual Accounts: To be discussed further at a later meeting. Web-Site: Andy Cullen and Wendy Kitchener to discuss. 

A Caring County

Patrick Forbes

Don’t miss the Quiz Night…..
Hinxworth Village Hall on Saturday 1st February, 7.30pm. Teams of 6. Tickets £7.50 per person, includes sandwiches, available from Victoria Scales 01462 742505, 12 Francis Road.

.....or the Soup Lunch
January soup lunch is Friday January 11th 12.30pm to 2pm, Hinxworth Village Hall. From January the cost will be £3 for a choice of soups, a choice of puddings and tea or coffee, good conversation, great value.
On the beat
with PC 1277 Nic Musto
Hertfordshire Police
contact
Nicholas.musto@herts.pnn.police.uk 01438 757986
chris.brabrook@herts.pnn.police.uk 01438 757935

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 hate courting.

PC 1277 Nic Musto, North Herts Rural

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

Distraction burglars hit Hertfordshire
Police in Hertfordshire are urging residents to be vigilant to bogus callers after an incident in St Albans. Police suspect the two offenders responsible could commit other offences in the county. The victim, a woman in her 70s, was approached at her door by a young looking man and woman who said they had lost their ball in her garden and asked to have a look for it. The victim took the woman into her garden whilst the man searched the property and removed jewellery and cash.

Detectives believe this couple have committed similar offences in London, Bedfordshire and Thames Valley. Detective Sergeant Alex Tyrrell from Operation Manhunt said: “We know this couple are offending in neighbouring counties and we’re starting to see offences in Hertfordshire. Whilst we have an investigation going on, we need people to be vigilant to this crime, and to this couple. They look young, and tend to use the lost ball excuse to get into someone’s home but they are also known to say they need a cup of sugar or need to borrow something. I would urge people to identify their older family members, friends and neighbours who may be vulnerable to this crime and pass on this vital safety advice.”

Not sure? Don’t open the door!
If you are not expecting anyone and you don’t recognise them, don’t let them into your home. Try to communicate with the caller without opening the door and ask them to return at a time when you have someone you trust with you.

Call 999 if you suspect a crime is in progress or you believe someone is acting suspiciously around your neighbour’s property.

Hannah Georgiou, Neighbourhood Watch

Watching films just got cheaper!
Nearly all our DVDs have been reduced in price so you can now borrow films for just £2.00 a week from your library. Only the latest new releases cost £3.00 for a week and this applies to DVDs which have been released in the previous 3 months.

big feature films and tv series
So you can watch one of the big films of 2013 like Argo, The Hobbit, Iron Man 3, Jack Reacher, Life of Pi, Les Miserables, Skyfall, Star Trek or Wreck-it Ralph for only £2.00. Or catch up on your favourite TV series such as Call the Midwife, Downton Abbey, Homeland and Sherlock Holmes.

We also have Disney and other children’s films, classic adaptations of Jane Austen, Dickens and Shakespeare, superheroes, spies and villains, dramas and romances, films in other languages — something for everyone!

Treat yourself over the holidays and indulge in some quality viewing in the comfort of your own home. Have a look at the online catalogue and choose what you’ll be watching this Christmas.

Herts libraries

Church Services
December 29th 10.45 am Parish Eucharist St Mary’s Ashwell
January 5th 10.15 am Family Service, St Nicholas, Hinxworth
January 12th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
January 19th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
January 26th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
9.30 am Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham

Caldecote Church Friends
2013 has been a good year for the church of St Mary Magdalene in Caldecote, the tiny village near Ashwell.
Caldecote Church Friends were not able to have their usual Fuchsia Festival and therefore relied on the Heritage Open Days in September as their major fundraising event. Committee member, Clare Finimmore, rallied some of her fellow professional musicians to perform a Live Music Marathon in the church over two days. This was a huge success and raised £1500.00.

Then came the ever popular ‘Carols by Candlelight’ on December 7th. Once again, a most enjoyable occasion. Tickets were all sold out in October. Councillor Andrew Young lead the proceedings, and guests listened to Christmas readings, with John Rowlands from Ashwell accompanying the carols on the harmonium. At the interval, committee members and helpers served home-made sausage rolls, mince-pies, and mulled wine which were much enjoyed. Reverend Chris Ball, priest in charge at Ashwell, gave a blessing, and Hugh Mulholland, Chairman of the Friends, thanked everyone who had made the evening such a success.

Caldecote Church Friends are over halfway to their target of £20,000, which is what it will cost to repair the dilapidated tower roof – the last major work to be carried out for the foreseeable future.

Peter Robbins

Keeping communities warm
Two free, practical guides to help rural communities keep warm and cut bills this winter are now available. The Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth community guides have been produced by Community Development Action Hertfordshire’s (CDA Herts) national body, Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), in partnership with Calor Gas.

how to get help
The Energy Efficiency guide explains how families can make simple changes at home – such as insulation, draught-proofing, and low energy light bulbs – to reduce bills. It shows how volunteer ‘energy champions’ can help people in their neighbourhoods by passing on tips and pointing householders towards sources of professional advice. And it explains how eligible households may be able to get help with improvements to their homes, such as boilers or loft insulation, through Government initiatives such as Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation.

a good place to start
The Affordable Warmth guide focuses on how communities can help households to stay warm and avoid falling into fuel poverty. It explains how the most vulnerable households can get help from the Government towards their heating bills. It includes case studies of work carried out by members of the ACRE’s national Network of rural community councils, such as bulk oil buying schemes. Kate Belinis (CDA’s CEO) said: “With winter upon us, many families will be thinking about how they can cut their energy bills. These guides are a good place to start, with plenty of advice and ideas.

Download these free guides at http://tinyurl.com/kvf5t3

Don’t miss copy deadline
Please send all copy and pictures for February’s Village Voice to Annie Cullen, 1 Christy’s Yard Hinxworth, Herts. SG7 5EH. E-mail to villagevoice3@gmail.com by January 20th. Village Voice, published by Forbes Services Ltd, can be read at www.hinxworth.info