

» Village Voice «

April 2016

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.175

Everest broadband faster.

It's official, Ashwell and Hinxworth's horse-drawn broadband is the second slowest in the UK according to consumer broadband advice site Cable.co.uk. Using its accumulated speed test data, the company has identified the five slowest UK towns and villages where broadband speeds are slower than Mount Everest, and the five fastest, with average speeds between five and seven times those measured in California – home of Silicon Valley.



Miserden in Gloucestershire has an average broadband speed of 1.30Mbps, the slowest in the country. The area with the second slowest average broadband speed in the UK is the village of Ashwell (1.39Mbps). Comparatively, visitors to the Mount Everest base camp can access minimum speeds of 2Mbps via a satellite broadband connection. In December 2015, the government confirmed that everyone in the UK would be guaranteed minimum broadband speeds of 2Mbps.

Rickmansworth gets 77.27 Mbps

Residents of Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire recorded an average broadband speed of 77.27Mbps, with one user reporting a whopping 195Mbps. This is 55 times faster than the average broadband speed in Ashwell.

Commenting on the data, Dan Howdle of Cable.co.uk, said: "Digital inequality is a huge problem in the UK, both for those who suffer at the bottom end, and for the UK economy as a whole. While the number of UK households on the right side of the 'digital divide' is increasing thanks to the continuing rollout of superfast broadband, those left stranded are finding themselves further and further behind – to the detriment of both themselves and their local economies."

black holes will become ghost towns

"It's not all about whether or not you can stream the latest Bond movie. Digital black holes like Miserden and others, unless addressed, will suffer steady economic decline as homes become less desirable, and businesses can no longer sustain themselves without an online presence. These often beautiful, scenic locations will become ghost towns or villages."

More information from www.cable.co.uk



Hinxworth Art Society Show

Do come to our Art Exhibition to be held at Hinxworth Village Hall on Saturday and Sunday 2nd and 3rd April, between 10am and 4pm. As well as our usual interesting, attractive, colourful paintings covering a variety of subjects and sizes, there will be refreshments. Entrance is free so come and support us, browse or buy.

Farrowby Farm for fine foods

New Inn Road, Hinxworth, SG7 5EY

HINXFEST

Saturday 16th July 6.30pm - late

Live music from Jigsaw, Paul Adams & more.

£5.00 - Children under 12 free

Gazebos £5.00, limited spaces

Tickets on sale from 1st May

To reserve your tickets + Gazebo plot call Jan Raynham on 01462 742258

Hayley to run marathon

This year I am running the London Marathon for the Lymphoma Association (LA). Many of you will know the reasons why I personally raise money for the LA, but for those of you who don't - I was diagnosed with stage four Hodgkin's Lymphoma in January 2009. After nine months of chemotherapy I have been in remission since September 2009 and received my five year clear in 2014.

sponsorship help

As the training distances increase and the runs get tougher, it really helps to have sponsorship behind us and we are really thankful to everyone for their support. If you would like to sponsor me and the team I am running with, please visit our justgiving page www.justgiving.com/LAfundraisingteam-LondonMarathon2016

You can also donate by text by sending LMLA85 £10 to 70070 or if you would like, drop sponsorship into Mum and Dad, Julie and Chris Benham, at The Knole, New Inn Road, Hinxworth.

Hayley Benham



£1823.10 for Refugees

Weep if you missed the concert at St Nicholas Church on February 27th. Over 90 tickets sold, the church was full. The music was varied and wonderful, for tuba, for flute and clarinet, for trumpet, for cello and for voice. With proceeds from two Lent lunches organised by Robert and Caroline Evens and from the sale of handmade cards by Rosemary Gillborn, we were able to send a cheque for £1823.10 to The Refugee Council. The Council's Director, Maurice Wren, wrote to thank all concerned, saying the money would be used wisely and effectively. "As this is a time of unprecedented need for refugees, your gift could not be more welcome, so thank you." Our thanks to all who played, sang, and made this a very special evening.



Roy Smith and tuba

Hair today.....

Dear Editor,

I am an apprentice training at Grey's of Hitchin to become a qualified hair stylist. To complete my training I require varied models for blow dries, tints and will soon be moving onto highlights and cuts! Ladies, if you would like a pamper at a fraction of the usual cost or sometimes for free in a friendly, stylish salon with high quality products, Kerastase etc, please get in touch. You will be helping me to make the grade! I am supervised by a knowledgeable tutor and I won't be able to qualify without further experience, so please do give me a call on 01462 456458 and book in with Phoebe.

Thank you!

Phoebe Lord

Mammoth Proust raises £2077

Peter Robbins read the whole of Proust's "In search of lost time" in 112 hours in aid of Caldecote Church. It was heavy going, some sentences were over 200 words in length. Congratulations and commiserations.

Hinxworth and Edworth WI

Bethshona Kenny, a herbalist from Biggleswade, gave us a most interesting talk on the medicinal uses of herbs. Bethshona has a BSc in herbal medicine and has a shop in Shortmead Street, Biggleswade. She told us of the herbs that are anti-bacterial and anti-viral. They are garlic, rosemary, thyme, and oregano. Basil is an anti-spasmodic. Ginger reduces nausea, as well as being anti-viral. Chilli is for sinus congestion and cayenne powder is pain-relieving, while black pepper aids digestion.

herbal infusions work

She said that infused herbs such as rosemary, a handful in a mug of boiling water, cover and leave for five to 10 minutes, are particularly good for headaches as they help prevent nerve damage to the brain and are also good for flu. Three mugs per day are recommended. Thyme infusion, made in to a steam inhalation, is excellent for chesty coughs and chest infections. Lastly, Bethshona gave us a recipe for asparagus and nettle soup, nettles being full of iron and zinc. Watch out, Soup Lunch!

If anyone wants to know more about herbal cures, Bethshona is always ready to advise you in her shop and herbal café.

Next month's meeting is Thursday April 14th, speaker Annie Garnish, TT rider, open meeting, all welcome.

Carol Cheney

Music Teacher Seb moves in

Musician Seb Silas moved to Hinxworth from North London a month or two back. He told Village Voice, "I teach saxophone and go to London two days a week to Haggerston and Hackney, and also teach from our family home in Woodford. I've been teaching saxophone since I finished the jazz performance course at Middlesex University. I would be more than happy to teach saxophone to people around here. I also teach composition, sight reading, music theory, music history – I like to keep it nice and broad, and apply it to the world rather than doing an hour of scales. I would like to do more teaching round here and not go into London so much. I specialise in jazz and improvisation, though I have experience in lots of different forms, classical music, Balkan music." Why Balkan music? "I was asked to join a twenty-piece orchestra in London called Mimika, put together by a Croatian composer called Mak Murtic. He writes for this orchestra, largely influenced by the folk music he grew up with; there's a modern jazz twist to it."



Seb Silas

peace and quiet at last

"I've lived in London all my life. Like many people in London, particularly artists, I'd had enough of the chaotic erratic city. I just wanted to find somewhere a bit quieter where I could explore my music, with another band, White Flower. One of our focuses is on quiet music, still music. Being here has allowed me to explore quiet, and write music expressing that."

To contact Seb Silas, ring 07917 343060.

The menace of dog poo

Dear Editor,

In recent months I have become increasingly aware that Hinxworth seems to have acquired a breeding population of Dog Mess, which is colonising the verges along Chapel Street, Arnolds Lane and the track between the farm fields.

health hazard

This extremely unpleasant phenomenon constitutes a potential health hazard to other dogs and to children, as well as spoiling the pleasure of those keen to enjoy a walk in the fresh air. An appeal, therefore, to dog owners/walkers - please always carry **and use** the appropriate bags so that we and visitors may all continue to enjoy the rural benefits of this village and its environs.

Marian Barnett. *Other readers have written about this.*

Baldock Community Orchestra needs you

Is there some battered trumpet, a forgotten violin or a trombone feeling ignored and neglected somewhere in your home?

If there is, and if you'd like to make new friends and do yourself and others a power of good, why not join the Baldock Community Orchestra?

I asked Rachel Dawson, music teacher and co-founder of the new orchestra how the project had started. "Catherine Wilmers, cello teacher at Knights Templar School, approached me and said, 'wouldn't it be lovely to have a community orchestra in Baldock? I think there's a need for it. Hitchin and Letchworth have orchestras. Some of my pupils would be interested. Do you think the school would host it for a discount?' The school has, and the Head is very keen on it. We decided to rehearse on a Thursday night from 7.15 to 8.30 during term-time. We have extended the rehearsal time to an hour and a half. We have strong representation in most sections of the orchestra but we are looking for more strings to balance things out as well as some more bass instruments. It would be good to have two trumpets and two trombones."



Rachel Dawson

keeping the orchestra local

The orchestra started life in September 2015. "We had three lovely gigs last term. We supported the WI, we've played under the Christmas tree and we played during the Arts Festival in November, three very different venues, one outdoors and two indoors. We are looking to do a large scale concert in June at Hatfield. Our priority is keeping the orchestra local."

Rachel directs the Hatfield and Welwyn Community Choir, which meets on Wednesdays. The choir is six years old and its organisation is a blueprint for the Baldock Community Orchestra. "We are looking for organisations who would like us to play for them. We can always say 'no' if there are too many requests. We would welcome any financial help in maintaining the orchestra, or help with the cost of buying music. The best part of this venture so far has been the satisfaction at seeing the enthusiasm of a core of like-minded friendly people who want to see the orchestra flourish, playing a wide variety of styles of music. That's something I have learned from the community choir."

we cater for all abilities

As probably the player with the least experience, I asked Rachel about standards. "We welcome all standards because I am able to issue music for people to practise. I am happy to discuss players' needs – if they are finding the music too challenging, if they want an easier part written out, or a more difficult part to play. As a teacher I can cater for all-comers."

If you would like to know more about the Baldock Community Orchestra, why not come to one of our rehearsals, Thursday nights 7.15 at Knights Templar School during term time? Find us at www.baldockorchestra.weebly.com or ring 01438 318568? It could change your life. It's certainly changed mine.

Patrick Forbes

Newnham Parish Lunch July 31st

You have been warned. Put July 31st 1pm Newnham Hall Cottage in your diary now. This is St Vincent's Church's major fundraising event in the year, always delicious food, always fun.

Friends of Ashwell Village Museum

"Lancelot Brown and his Landscapes" in the URC Hall, Ashwell on Wednesday 27th April 8pm, a talk by Dorothy Jamieson from The National Trust. 2016 is 300 years since Capability Brown's birth which is being celebrated nationally. Tickets £5 available from the Museum, David and Sue Hall 01462 743799 and Karen Mills 01462 742155.

coach trips

Two coach trips are planned, on June 9th to Rochester and Chatham, and to London on September 17th. For more information on coach trips contact Hilary Masham 01462 742416, or Karen Mills 01462 742155.

Village Voice is published by St Nicholas Church,

Hinxworth Parish Council

Note of a meeting of Hinxworth Parish Council, held on March 3rd in the Village Hall at 7 pm. Present: Mr R. Cobb, Acting Chairman; Mr R Lewis; Mr D. Osmond; Mr E. Sore; Mrs W. Kitchener, Clerk. Also present: Mr Geoff Burrows for the Archery item.

Richard Cobb, proposed by Eric Sore and seconded by Russell Lewis to be Acting Chairman for this Meeting.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 4th February were agreed by the Parish Councillors and signed by Richard Cobb.

2. Correspondence: A letter of resignation from Les Whitfield has been received.

3. Planning: Planning Application 16/00253/1HH – Denewood, High Street, Hinxworth. The Councillors expressed their concern regarding the impact of the dwelling on the neighbours, locality and characteristics of the area. Likewise compounding the difficulty in parking in the High Street causing problems with vehicles exiting the Homefield road opposite

4. Highways: Outstanding Highways Issues: The Councillors are still concerned that the issue of speeding in the Village has not been addressed. Likewise an outstanding issue with the closure of the “gaps in the A1” and the condition of the A1 at the exit from New Inn Road. It has been agreed Tony Hunter, Hertfordshire County Councillor, and Janine Paterson District Councillor, will address these at the AGM on April 7th.

5. Recreation Ground: The Caravan Club: Please note the revised dates for their rally in 2017 are June 30th to 2nd July.

6. The Allotments: There are nine vacant allotments. Russell Lewis reported he had been approached by persons interested in taking on an allotment. He had passed their names on to Jan Woodward Chair of HAG.

7. Any Other Urgent Business: The War Memorial: All relevant documents as reported last month have been sent to the War Memorial Trust and the Robert Clutterbuck Memorial Trust. Both have responded. WMT require further details/inspections/surveys. RCMT will be meeting on March 15th to discuss the application.

The Hinxworth Archers Recreation Ground Hiring Agreement: This document is with David Wayman, Chairman of Hinxworth Archers. After further discussion between Geoff Burrows and Councillors Richard Cobb, Eric Sore and Russell Lewis, it was agreed David Osmond, who had an interest, could still remain to listen to the discussion without participating. It was decided David Wayman should be contacted.

8: Date of the Next Meeting the AGM : Thursday April 7th 2016 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Wendy Kitchener, Clerk, Hinxworth Parish Council

Dates for your diary

April 1st Roman Catholic Mass St Nicholas, Hinxworth 7 pm

April 7th Hinxworth Parish Council AGM Village Hall 8 pm

April 9th St Nicholas Churchyard clean up. Meet 10 am

April 24th St George's Edworth Parish Communion 10 am

April 27th Capability Brown talk URC Hall, Ashwell 8 pm see page 2

June 5th Hinxworth and Edworth Big Lunch Recreation Ground

June 9th coach trip to Rochester and Chatham see page 2

June 10th Three Horseshoes Charity Golf Day

July 9th WGC Male Voice Choir Concert St Nicholas Church 7.30 pm

July 16th Hinxfest see page 1

July 31st Newnham Parish Lunch, Newnham Hall Cottage 1 pm

September 17th coach trip to London see page 2

Soup Lunch

April Soup Lunch will be on Friday 8th April 12.30 - 2pm. Hinxworth Village Hall. All welcome.

copy date

Please send all copy and pictures for May's edition to Patrick Forbes, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth SG7 5HL, e-mail villagevoice3@gmail.com by April 20th. See Village Voice in colour at www.hinxworth.info

Ask for Mortier's amazing teas

Three Horseshoes kitchen gossip

Aware of changes at The Three Horseshoes, I went to see chef Shane Thresher. What changes had there been to the kitchen? “We’ve had a new oven and a new char-grill installed.” And a new menu? “We’ve focussed on a new menu using local ingredients. We want to keep reinventing what’s on offer, keep people coming back, change it every three months, keeping it seasonal. We have expanded the menu with more options.” What is National Pie Week? “It runs from March 7th to the 13th. We have put a selection of pies on, different pastries, short crust, puff pastry, some mashed potato topping for the fish pies. I made all the pies myself.” Gerry told me there were over 60 covers for Mothering Sunday lunch. “Yes it was pretty full but it ran smoothly, no hiccoughs at all. I was very happy with the day. The way the bookings were spaced out, starting at 12 noon, last meal



at 4 pm meant nobody was waiting for their food. I wasn't on my own, Gerry's son Conor helped with the cooking. I worked with him at my old pub where he used to help me, so I knew he was up to the job and he's very good at it.”

30 walkers at a time

“I have got used to this kitchen, it's very different from my old place, I know what to expect now.” How do you cope with the unpredictable demand? “Some days you might run out of steaks, and there's nothing much we can do about that. We sometimes get thirty walkers in here, but they arrive, order, go off for their ramble and come back and their meal is ready for them.”

What does Shane do to relax? “On Monday, my day off, I travel up to Lincoln to see my girlfriend. She is at university there studying marketing.” Dream a bit about the next few months. “Hopefully the weather will pick up, people will start to sit outside and I'll start designing the summer menu, a few more customers, a new menu” Then it was time for the photograph....with a pie of course. It was, after all, National Pie Week.

Patrick Forbes

Hinxworth Archery News



Evie Bridgewater was presented with medal for most improved handicap by David Wayman

Archery Club to stay in Hinxworth

An acceptable hire agreement was brokered by Geoff Burrows and the parish council's Richard Cobb which enabled the archery club to agree to sign and stay based in Hinxworth.

Neil to represent UK

Hinxworth archer Neil Bridgewater, current U.K. Compound Champion, has been chosen for the team to represent Great Britain at the 2016 World Target Archery Championships in Shanghai in April and the 2016 European Championships in Nottingham in May. We wish Neil and the team good luck.

Archery beginners

HAC Beginners' Archery Course 2016 is due to start on Friday 6th May at 6.00pm. There are still a few vacant places available but they are filling up fast. The course is open to all from 10 years of age upwards. Contact me on 01462 742048 or email hinxworth@yahoo.co.uk for further details.

David Osmond

On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook

National fraud warning over fake police

There have recently been a number of incidents where fraudsters have either phoned or attended the home address of elderly members of the public claiming to be police officers. The fake officer/s claim they are investigating a fraud of which they believe the elderly person to be a victim.

The comen then request the bank cards and personal identification numbers (PIN) of the victim and claim these are needed for investigation purposes. If first contact is made by a phone call, the fake officer/s will tell the victim that someone will be over to collect the evidence.

In one case the victim was instructed to go to their local bank and withdraw all of the money from their account. The suspect was left alone in the victim's house whilst the victim carried out the instructions.

check their identity

Before letting anyone into your home who claims to be from a law enforcement agency, ask to see their identity card and check it by calling 101. If you have any doubts, ask if they can attend at a pre-arranged time when a family member or friend can also be present.

And if you receive a phone call from someone saying they are a police officer, ask for their name and force and tell them you will call them back. Wait a few minutes and then use 101 to call them back through their force's switchboard and verify their identity."

Police will never ask for a PIN or passwords to a member of the public's bank account and will never request that money be withdrawn or transferred to them.

Hertfordshire Police contact

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 hare coursing.

Bedfordshire Police Contact

For readers in Edworth, in emergency dial 999 or 112 from your mobile. Non emergencies ring 101, or 112 from a mobile.

Ashwell Music Festival

The annual Ashwell Music Festival begins on 5th May this year – showcasing the talents of young people from Ashwell, Baldock and surrounding area with the Young Musicians' Concert.

The Festival has a great variety of concerts to appeal to a wide audience. Topping the bill will be James Pearson - one time son of Ashwell and currently the Musical Director of Ronny Scott's Jazz Club in London. He will appear with his jazz musicians and rising star jazz singer Polly Gibbons featuring the music of Dudley Moore.

country and chamber music

Continuing our tribute band theme from past years, this year we feature The Dolly and Kenny Show for all those lovers of Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers. For those who prefer chamber music we welcome Harmonie-musik, a group of wind and string players, who will be performing with Daniel Perrett - an international harpist.

ladies' barbershop

Phoenix Ladies Barbershop Chorus, recently back from the International Convention in Las Vegas, will be performing a reprise of their performance in the USA.

Online Tickets and booking form at www.ashwellmusicfestival.org
Booking office 01462 743289

St George's Patronal Festival

Join us in Edworth as we celebrate the Feast of Saint George at 10 am on Sunday April 24th. All welcome to this annual service in this fine medieval church. Dragons will, of course, be made very welcome.



Church Services

April 1st 7 pm Roman Catholic Mass St Nicholas, Hinxworth
April 3rd 10.15 am Family service St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
April 10th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
April 17th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
April 24th 9.30 am Holy Communion St. Vincent, Newnham
10 am Parish Communion St George's, Edworth

Circus visit shock horror

Wizzo's Circus which, it was hoped, planned to come to Hinxworth has cancelled its visit. The circus, with lions, tigers, elephants, acrobats and clowns, tours the country and visits towns and villages, especially those which have never seen a circus before.

Village Voice, distraught at the news, contacted the circus to learn more and was directed to Gusto, a veteran clown who has worked for forty years in the circus business. He said, "We had so looked forward to visiting Hinxworth. The recreation ground seemed ideal for us, especially the far end where the soggy ground would suit the crocodiles very well indeed. However, we were horrified when we received the seventeen-page agreement from the Council. Very few of our company are experienced in matters of the law, and we didn't feel comfortable with all the terms and conditions.

regulations killing circus

"Of course, we are used to health and safety regulations regarding circuses. It's not good for elephants to squirt water at members of the audience, for example. But the requirement to clear our human cannonball flights with Luton Air Traffic Control was just one step too far. Hercules, our human projectile, never rises further than 30 feet into the air, we can't afford the gunpowder and we don't like repairing slits in the big top." A large tear welled up in Gusto's eyes and rolled down his cheek to splash on the sawdust floor. "Regulation will be the death of the circus," he sobbed.

HYP NEWS

I was thrilled when Gerry told me he was donating the proceeds from his game of balancing the pound coin on the lemon. Karen and I continue to be very touched by the gestures and kind words of encouragement and support of the people of Hinxworth for our club. All of this makes running a project like this worthwhile. Here we are receiving our cheque from Julie for £140. Thanks to Gerry and Julie at The Shoes.

We've had a busy week here at HYP with a trip to a Roller Disco on Monday down at Roller City in Welwyn Garden City. This was an event organised by ProAction and there were about 80 young people there from various Youth Groups in Hertfordshire.

Sonja and I took Harriet, Elizabeth, Heidi, Grace, Lewis and Jonah along where they skated to some top pop tunes. Well done to Jonah and Lewis who had never roller skated before but soon picked it up and were whizzing around.

On Friday Debs and I took the children to St Francis' College Theatre to watch Thomas in his Gang Show. There was lots of singing and sketches and we all cheered when Thomas strutted across the stage doing his solo "Stand By Me". At the end we had a group chat and unanimously agreed Thomas should be awarded HYP-star! for his star performance.

If you are nine or over and want to join HYP please contact me at jayne@thead.co.uk and I can arrange for you to come along for a free taster session. We would love to see you!

Jayne Whitfield



Thomas