

# » Village Voice «

February 2016

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.173

## Pelicans in the garden? Onkey needs young rider



picture courtesy RSPB

Our younger daughter thinks birdwatching, even from the comfort of our own kitchen window, is evidence that we are 'old.' However, since it provides many hours of shared enjoyment and is a constant source of conversation, I would argue that everyone can benefit. And we know that she secretly enjoys watching the Great Spotted Woodpeckers thwarting the black squirrels' efforts to eat their nuts!

### give an hour to the birds

So I would like to urge you to get involved in the Big Garden Birdwatch on the weekend of 30th - 31st Jan. Just an hour of your time - and you will be amazed how quickly that time goes - at any stage that weekend and you can make a valuable contribution to current knowledge and understanding of what goes on in our gardens, wildlife speaking that is.



### let us know what you see

As the article in The Village last month suggests, visit [rspb.org.uk/bird-watch](http://rspb.org.uk/bird-watch) to join in. Maybe next month we could hear about what birds villagers saw most or were surprised by. And if you don't know your Field Fares from your thrushes download the pack from their website.

### Sylvia Scales

*The reason Village Voice is published a little earlier this month is so that readers may have time to sign up with the RSPB and enjoy taking part in the Birdwatch - Editor*

## Hinxworth Village Hall Quiz - Saturday 6th February.

Quizmaster Barry Huber. Teams of up to 6 people. Cash prize for the winning team and team name to go on the shield. So come on, last year's winners, it's time to defend your title!

£4 per person. A few nibbles will be on the tables. Bring your own drinks and any more snacks and sweets you like.

To book a table telephone Jan Raynham 01462 742258

### copy date

Please send all copy and pictures for March's Village Voice to Patrick Forbes, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth SG7 5HL, e-mail [villagevoice3@gmail.com](mailto:villagevoice3@gmail.com) by February 20th 2016. Thank you.



Hinxworth's own donkey, Onkey, desperately needs someone to ride him at weekends and on summer evenings. Owner Antonia McKinley of Thorns Farm, Hinxworth, told Village Voice, "He was a beach donkey at Butlins at Skegness so he is used to being ridden. He needs to be ridden so he doesn't get bored. He is 14 years old and he is adorable. He can carry a maximum weight of six stone, and he will need an adult to accompany him on his ride. He is hugely well behaved." Onkey wears a grab strap for a young rider to hold.

If you have a child who would like to ride this fabulous animal, who recently starred in Ashwell's Nativity Play, please contact Antonia on 07802 876947, or evenings on 01462 743652.

## Arts Weekend Workshops

The Art Department at Stratton School, Biggleswade, will be holding a weekend full of creative activities on the 6th and 7th Feb 2016. Experienced or complete art novices are all welcome. The workshops range in subject matter and techniques used. There is a small fee to cover materials but the day is extremely reasonably priced. Places must be booked in advance in order to ensure that you receive the best experience possible. To ask any questions or to request a booking form, please e-mail me, [Stlwelch@stratton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:Stlwelch@stratton.beds.sch.uk)

### Saturday 6th February

Katie Ellis - 'The Basics of Photograms' : 9:00 – 11:30am £5

Katie Ellis – Creative development from photograms (digital manipulation), 12:30 -3:30, £5.

'The Basics of Photograms' leads on nicely to the Digital manipulation workshop. However, you can attend one, either, or both.

Leonie Bell -Exploring printing techniques (still life), 9:00-3:30, £10

### Sunday 7th February

Lesa Welch - Life Drawing, 9:30-3:30, £14, £10 concession for students, aged 14 and above.

Workshops must be booked and paid in advance. Booking forms and payments may be handed in to the school reception. Once this is received we will be in touch with further details.

Lesa Welch

## New Year's Eve jukebox raises £200

New Year's Eve virtual jukebox at The Three Horseshoes produced a sum of £200 which was given to the Home Farm Trust, a charity which provides local support to people with learning disabilities, their families and carers. Thanks to everyone concerned.

# Hinxworth and Edworth WI

The speaker at its meeting on Thursday 14th January was Ruth Pym, a lady who goes into Little Hay Prison to teach the long term prisoners Fine Cell Work. The charity was founded by Lady Anne Tree in 1997. Fine Cell Work trains men and women in prison to do high quality paid needlework in the long hours spent in their cells. This fosters confidence, hope and self-discipline.

## new skills and self-belief

The aim is to enable them to acquire new skills, to earn and save some money and to acquire self belief to stop offending. The charity is currently working in 29 prisons and with up to 450 prisoners. Prisoners dedicate up to 20 hours per week to this solitary disciplined cell-work, with some working up to 40 hours. Prisoners organise their own work and decide how to spend their earnings.

## beautiful work bought by V&A Museum

The beautifully hand made work is supported by designs from interior designers including Penreath and Hall, and Kit Kemp, and is bought by such organisations such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, English Heritage and by the public. Ruth Pym brought in some examples of the fine cell work, and they were really beautiful and so well made.

Next month's meeting: The 79th Birthday Party, for members, their partners and invited guests at 7.30 pm, Village Hall, Hinxworth, Thursday 11th February 2016. If any members have not put their names down for the catered meal please contact Heather Baim.

Carol Cheney

## Thank You from Go MAD in Tanzania

What a wonderful surprise it was, to open the envelope from Janet Fair containing the generous donations from Hinxworth and Edworth Alternative Christmas Card Scheme, to support the work of Go MAD in Tanzania (Go Make A Difference). Donations of around £400, including gift aid, will be sent to Go MAD in Tanzania and 100% will be used on one of their projects.

## any age fit volunteers welcome

During August and September last year, Kia Pettitt-Brandtner and I travelled from Ashwell to North-east Tanzania, to work as volunteers for the small Christian charity, Go MAD. This was my second visit. We were part of a group of 14 volunteers, from diverse backgrounds and ages ranging from 19 to 68. Anyone can be a volunteer. The only requirements are reasonable fitness and a desire to understand the culture and to improve the quality of life for the people. Many volunteers are young people who are taking a gap year, but any age is welcome!

## clean water for a poor family

Go MAD works on a range of projects within extremely poor rural communities, who face the daily struggle to find clean drinking water and to feed and clothe their families, let alone pay for medical care, education and the basics of everyday life. Your generous



donation should pay for a clean-water tank to be built for a poor village family, who currently walk several miles twice a day to collect dirty infected water for drinking, cooking and washing.

Go MAD has been working in this corner of Tanzania for about 15 years and has developed a very close relationship and love for the people. To read more about the work of Go MAD, please have a look at their website. [www.gomakeadifference.co.uk](http://www.gomakeadifference.co.uk)

A huge thank you to all those who have made a donation to Go MAD this Christmas.

Gaye Rowlands

# Is the climate changing?



## December 31st 2015 January 17th 2016

Most of the time, Village Voice avoids political questions. We might think government policies on broadband roll-out are a joke. We may wonder about the wisdom of so cutting expenditure that pot holes don't get filled. But we do wonder about global warming and climate change. A radio amateur in Lexington, Virginia earlier this month told me that flowers were blooming and that birds and squirrels seemed to be confused about which season they were enjoying. So we publish two pictures of a daffodil outside Hinxworth Village Hall, one without snow, the other snow-capped as a pictorial aid to the debate about climate change.

Patrick Forbes

## The Big Lunch - Sunday June 5th

Wouldn't it be great if Hinxworth and Edworth were to make "The Big Lunch" an annual event and support it whole-heartedly each year? We're a good community but there's always room for improvement.

## seven million people took part

The Big Lunch normally takes place on the second Sunday in June each year and is the UK's annual get-together for neighbours, an idea from the Eden Project made possible by The Big Lottery Fund. It's the perfect recipe for families and neighbours to get together to foster community spirit and welcome newcomers. In 2015, over seven million people took to their streets, gardens and community spaces for this event. If lunch is in the form of a picnic, where those who join in bring all their own equipment and a dish or two of food to share, it involves the minimum of organisation apart from arranging tables on which to spread the shared food. Moreover, as it's not a fundraiser, neither money nor tickets are involved, so no one needs to commit weeks in advance to attending: they just turn up on the day - whether twenty or two hundred, it matters not.



## more villagers needed

In fact a number of people have taken part in this event for several years now in different venues in Hinxworth, but it has been disappointing that, despite publicity in Village Voice and some posters and flyers, more villagers have not joined in. Those who did last June, as in previous years, enjoyed a very pleasant few hours in one another's company and in glorious sunshine.

The recreation ground is an excellent venue, particularly as the Village Hall Management Committee has agreed in principle that the hall's facilities could be used for this purpose on the second Sunday of June each year and, of course, if the weather is inclement we would be able to retreat under cover, the number of participants probably being fewer.

## book the date - June 5th

This year so many people are away on June 12th, which is also when big celebrations are planned in London for the Queen's 90th birthday, that we feel Hinxworth's Big Picnic Lunch should be on the previous Sunday - 5th June.

Of course if anyone wished to organise a bouncy castle or other amusement one year that would be fine, but certainly not essential for a very pleasant village occasion; of which there seem to be fewer nowadays as we all lead such busy lives that few people are able to commit to organising them. So come on, Hinxworth and Edworth, how about it? Write "Village Big Lunch" in your diaries for 5th June this year!

If you know nothing about The Big Lunch, visit their website, [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com) or see YouTube to learn more.

# What3words



*Chris Sheldrick looks for our address*

What3words is a giant grid comprised of 57 trillion 3m x 3m squares that cover the entire globe. It is the simplest way to communicate location. And it all began with Chris Sheldrick from Dewmead in Hinxworth. Village Voice asked him how.

## getting a band to the exact address

"I grew up here in Hinxworth where we always had to give the postcode for our house to anyone. The houses have names but no numbers so we spent time collecting post for people over there and they spent time collecting post for us, with vans going backwards and forwards. This is the best addressed country in the world. But when I was working in the music business, sending bands to remote parts of this country or even to London venues, I realized that if I gave a post code or an address that was not very good to 50 people, half of them would find it, half of them wouldn't. The post code will get you near where you want to be. But in my business it was important that people showed up on time. We tried giving people GPS co-ordinates. People were very resistant and one driver in Italy mistook a five for a six and ended up an hour North of Rome instead of an hour South. So we thought of devising something as accurate as GPS co-ordinates but more user friendly."

## 64 trillion addresses

"A mathematician friend and I knocked some ideas around. We realised that there were enough words in the English language to produce a unique three word address for every three metre square in the world, giving 64 trillion three word combinations for 53 trillion 3 metre squares."

"Table chair spoon could be in Sweden, octopus branch toffee could be in Brazil and that was it, one simple system. We made a mathematical algorithm which names each of the 3 metre squares. They are fixed, locked in, and there's a grid reference for the whole world made of our three word addresses. Dewmead is Toffee branched pyramid."

## system winning awards

"We got into the top 10 of one of Richard Branson's competitions last summer. We won the Grand Prix for Innovation at the Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity and we won the Tech Award for Humanity at San Francisco. We have also been awarded recognition by the United Nations Universal Postal Union."

## saving \$50 million a year

"We make our money by licensing the underlying technology to mapping systems. As a consumer you can use our map and our website for free. We are about to announce our first delivery partnership very soon." For delivery firms, time is money, especially when your addressee lives in one of South America's giant favelas or slums. "If UPS drivers drove one mile less per day through optimisation, they would save \$50 million a year, so it's worth it to make these little efficiencies. We're getting an awful lot of interest from around the world, and I think we will soon be able to announce our first postal service integration. The Norwegian Mapping system has just built us into their own website portal. Readers should go to [www.what3words.com](http://www.what3words.com), explore the map, zoom into their home, and read off the three words."

Don't laugh but our Editorial office is Apply Enjoyable Comedians.  
**Patrick Forbes**

# Hinxworth Parish Council

Notes of a meeting of Hinxworth Parish Council held on January 7th 2016 in the Village Hall. Present: Mr D. Osmond, acting Chairman; Mr R Cobb; Mr R. Lewis; Mr E. Sore; Mrs W. Kitchener, Clerk. Apologies: Mr L. Whitfield.

**1. The Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting of 3rd December were agreed by the Parish Councillors and signed by the Acting Chairman.

**2. Highways: Flood in New Inn Road:** This has been reported to Hertfordshire Highways. Outstanding Highways Issues: the Councillors are 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." Tony Hunter Hertfordshire County Councillor and Janine Patterson are to be invited to the next Parish Council Meeting on February 4th to discuss these problems.

**3. Village Hall:** Year End Draft Final Accounts: The Parish Council is in receipt of this information. Hinxfest July 16th 2016: Barry Huber, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, has written to the Chairman of the Parish Council regarding this event. The Councillors have no objection and further discussions will take place with the Village Hall Management Committee in the near future.

**4. The Allotments:** The sum of £30.00 deposit has been refunded to Harry King.

**5. Any Other Urgent Business:** De-fibrillator: Russell Lewis has information regarding the possibility of installing this device in the Village. He will investigate further.

**Ashwell Academicals F.C.** The Parish Council has received a proposal for the football club to have use of the recreation ground. After much discussion on considering this proposal the Councillors agreed they cannot meet the conditions and expectations detailed therein. So it has to be declined.

**The War Memorial:** Eric Sore notified the meeting he had a Civil Engineer's report from Geoff Burrows for the War Memorial, including a schedule of works. It is his intention to obtain quotes for the work. The Civil Engineer's Report and the quotes will then be forwarded to The War Memorial Trust and The Robert Clutterbuck Memorial Trust to whom applications for funding have been made. A copy will also be forwarded to Mary Caldwell, Conservation Officer, North Hertfordshire District Council, for her information.

**6: Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday February 4th 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**Wendy Kitchener, Clerk, Hinxworth Parish Council**

## Fuschias help for Caldecote Church

Caldecote Church Friends are pleased to announce that, once again, their popular main fundraising and social event, the Caldecote Fuchsia Festival, will take place on July 30th and 31st 2016.

## reading Proust for funds

Peter Robbins will read La Recherche du Temps Perdu out loud at home, having been banned from reading it in the church on grounds of age, 81, insurance, and general 'elf and safety grounds! He will start reading on February 15th, and keep going until he finishes. He says "If anyone would like to sponsor me for a fixed sum, they can ring me on 01462 433773 for details".

## Kenwood Smoothie2GO

Brand new smoothie maker, unboxed, never used, for sale at bargain price of £15. Contact Patrick Forbes, email [patrickforbes@waitrose.com](mailto:patrickforbes@waitrose.com) or ring 01462 742015.

## Dates for your diary

February 4th Hinxworth Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7 pm  
February 6th Village Quiz, Hinxworth Village Hall  
February 12th Soup Lunch Hinxworth Village Hall 12.30 - 2 pm  
February 20th copy date for Village Voice  
February 27th Concert for Refugees, St. Nicholas Church, Hinxworth 7.30

## On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook

### Police warn drivers not to leave keys in the ignition

As the weather turns colder Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning drivers not to leave

vehicles unattended with the keys in the ignition, whilst waiting for the windscreen to defrost. One vehicle has already been stolen this year after the keys were left in the ignition when an overnight frost appeared.

Inspector Paul Lawrence of the Crime Reduction Unit said, "The weather has been pretty mild over the last month, but colder weather appears to be on the way. Defrosting the car in the mornings isn't a pleasant task and we've seen in the past that leaving the car running whilst you go back inside where it's nice and warm can give thieves an easy opportunity.

### insurance cover risk

"Your insurance companies may not cover you if your vehicle is left insecure or the keys are left in the ignition. Those few extra minutes in the warm, could end up costing you thousands of pounds. Never leave your car unattended with the engine running."

### 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.



## Church Services

February 7th 10.15 am Family service St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
February 14th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
February 21st 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
February 28th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
9.30 am Holy Communion St. Vincent, Newnham

## Hinxworth Young People

Our December session was interesting and perhaps our most challenging yet! Gingerbread house building and decorating....after a bit of an icing disaster we called in the WI and Linda Huber came to our rescue with her piping bag! Thank you Linda! But what I must say is how patient and determined the children were. We were very impressed, they managed to come up with eight completed houses!

We asked Les Whitfield to judge the houses which he did without knowing who had done which house. After much deliberation he chose Gus as our overall winner. The girls teamed up and Grace and Elizabeth came second with Millie and Heidi in third place. Harriet was our Hypstar in December!

### fund raising news!

Well done to Thomas and Grace who managed to raise £40 for HYP at the Hinxworth

Christmas Bazaar. Grace ran a jewellery stall and Thomas organised a few games including "HYP the target". To put this into context, this amount pays for almost two months of village hall hire or even a trip.

Eyes down for a full house! January's session was Bingo! Caller Sonja Bentley had all the Bingo Lingo! The kids loved it. Well done to Elizabeth who was our first HYPstar of 2016

February we have a Giant Jenga competition and March we have a Roller Disco trip planned and a trip to watch Thomas in his Gang Show.

### quality mark awarded

We were delighted to hear this week that after being assessed, and our policies and procedures moderated, we have been awarded First Steps which is the first stage of the quality mark granted by Ambition, a leading national youth charity [www.ambitionuk.org](http://www.ambitionuk.org). The quality standard is endorsed by The Charities Commission and is granted when a youth charity/club can demonstrate integrity, good governance and accountability. They only endorse quality systems that meet their challenging benchmark for comprehensive, robust and objective assessments of how charities are run.

This will help us enormously when we make grant and funding applications in the future. The children have played an integral role in achieving this.

Jayne Whitfield



## Christmas Card Scheme = £1200

Christmas Card Scheme in Hinxworth and Edworth once again raised nearly £1,200 for the two charities we supported.

On your behalf I have delivered £820 to the children's hospice at Keech Cottage in Streatley and £350 to Gaye Rowlands in Ashwell for Go Make A Difference in Tanzania. Furthermore, so many of you were kind enough to give through Gift Aid, the two charities between them will be able to claim back from HMRC an extra £220 or so.

### thanks to all

Once again, thanks are due to several people: Marianne Osmond who so kindly designed the card which incorporated Gordon Hayden's delightful painting - the first we have had depicting a Hinxworth scene; Chris Phillips of Phillips Digital Print in Letchworth who, following an approach from Richard Floyd, most generously undertook the printing completely free of charge; and last, but by no means least, those who so kindly delivered the card to every household in the villages.

### could you organise the scheme?

Last year was the eleventh in which the scheme has been operating and it would be great if someone else would be interested in taking over its organisation from me. It's quite rewarding to do and very straightforward, particularly if you use a computer to do the adding up! I would, of course, be happy to share the responsibility and explain "the ropes" next year, but normally I think it should be done by just one person to best preserve the privacy of the contributors. Do let me know if you'd be interested - next December will be here in no time!

Janet Fair

### St Nicholas Church, Hinxworth

### Concert for Refugees

Saturday February 27th 7.30 pm

Music for organ, cello, tuba, flute

Tickets £10, to include complimentary glass of wine, from Patrick Forbes 01462 742015

### Soup Lunch

February Soup Lunch will be on Friday 12th February 12.30 - 2pm. Hinxworth Village Hall. All welcome.

### doors for sale

Gerald Clare has two doors to sell, proceeds will go to Saint Nicholas Church.

Used internal door in good condition - painted white. New external door - solid wood - unpainted. Contact Gerald on 01462 742820 - [g.clare@mac.com](mailto:g.clare@mac.com)

