

# » Village Voice «

January 2016

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.172

## Ho Ho Ho ! Santa tells almost all

“And what’s your name”, “How old are you”, “Have you been good this year?” “Now then, what do you want for Christmas?”

These are words that every child visiting Father Christmas expects to hear. A tradition that has been handed down from generation to generation for many many years and which is guarded and passed on without question. Father Christmas (or Santa Claus – the two names are synonymous) is part of growing up.

However, to ensure that this is kept alive each year is a big responsibility for Father Christmas himself and is not one that is taken lightly. He has to create magic. Ensure that each and every child believes, trusts and wonders and ensure that all his visitors experience one of the highlights of their Christmas. In addition, a visit to Father Christmas should always be memorable.

### so much to do

As well as all this, he has to keep all the activities surrounding his work very much to the fore....Rudolph, his home at the North Pole, the letter to Santa, the food and drink to be left out for Rudolph (and Santa), Santa’s little helpers and his sleigh. All in a very short time span.

### plenty of stamina and beware of promises

So, to make this happen there are a few rules for anyone seriously considering becoming Santa:

- Keep your eye on your beard!
- Treat the children maturely – don’t talk to them as babies.
- Know where Rudolph is...without exception children will ask.
- Be able to think on your feet.
- Give detailed answers to all questions.
- Don’t make big promises like “of course I’ll get you an iPad for Christmas”.
- Have fun.
- Have plenty of stamina.
- Find out if there is a tree and/or a chimney. Answer appropriately where you will leave the present – eg under the tree, in the fireplace, in the stocking, at the bottom of the bed etc.
- Make sure you are up to date on the latest pop music, pop stars, films, fashions, games (computer or otherwise) – children are so on the ball today.
- Ensure that there is an adult with you at all times – we live in a difficult world.

### serious responsibilities

So there you have it - a very short overview of what goes on behind the beard. Of course it is far more complicated but I hope this gives you a very brief idea of how seriously Father Christmas takes his responsibilities.

All that is now left for me to do is wish you all a very Happy Christmas and hope that you have a healthy, successful and peaceful New Year....and remember....go to bed early on Christmas Eve and be good.

With much love,

Father Christmas.

## 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

**Village Voice wishes  
all its readers a  
good New Year.**

### Soup Lunch

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



## Improved mail service?

This letter was glued to the left hand side of Hinxworth’s one post box...

*“In order to provide our customers with the best possible service, we are continually re-viewing our mail collection service. Part of this ongoing activity involves revising collection times from Postboxes.*

*From 15th November 2015 the final collection from this Post-box will be 16.15 on a Monday to Friday.*

*After this date should you require a later collection in the area, later collections are available from the following Postboxes*

*Letchworth Delivery Office,  
Avenue One*

*SG6 2YY @ 18.30*

*If you should have any concerns you should contact our Customer Service Team on 08457 740740,*

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Vianney Leckning,*

*Letchworth Delivery Office.”*

Crocodile rang this number and after some 24 minutes on the phone was told, “I really have no idea why the change has been made.” Crocodile can’t see how this change provides the best possible service. However, Crocodile was told that there is still a collection on Saturday morning at 10.00 from our one postbox.

**Crocodile**



### copy date

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

## In full colour

Though Village Voice is usually printed in black and white, you can see it each month in glorious colour on the Hinxworth Village website.

Go to [hinxworth.info](http://hinxworth.info), find Village Voice....and enjoy.

## Volunteers for Church opening

We are looking for volunteers to help unlock the church in the morning and lock it in the evening before dark on a daily basis to help the Clares who have been doing this for many years. We will produce a rota. Please let Alec Stephenson know if you can help – phone 01462 742953, Email [alechs644@btinternet.com](mailto:alechs644@btinternet.com)

# Hinxworth and Edworth WI

The WI Christmas celebrations were two-fold this year. On December ninth we all gathered at the George the Fourth pub in Baldock for a Christmas dinner, and then on Thursday the tenth, our usual WI night, we had a meeting in the village hall. Everyone had been asked to bring a wrapped present to put under the tree from Secret Santa. With nibbles on the tables and a glass of something fizzy we got down to doing the quizzes, first of all Dingbats, a brain stretcher if ever there was. There followed a general knowledge quiz about Christmas. This seemed quite easy after the Dingbats. We then played Consequences, with hilarious results.

## homespun evening

After refreshing ourselves with mince pies and the odd glass of port, or a cup of tea, we received presents from under the tree, exchanged Christmas cards with friends in the WI who don't live in the village, and then made our merry way home, having enjoyed a homespun evening, thanks to hard work from our committee.

The WI would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The next meeting of the WI will be Thursday 14th January 2016, the speaker to be announced. All new members very welcome. Come to a couple of meetings and see if it suits you.

Carol Cheney

# Christmas Bazaar



The teas flowed and the bazaar had a steady flow of visitors throughout the day. Santa magically appeared with presents, and kept the children captivated in the grotto with his stories. Big thank you to Jan for organising the event and providing the teas and cakes. Big thanks to Barry, Gary and Debbie for setting up and tidying away. I was Jan's tea assistant and cake taster. The Bazaar made £140.

Thank you to all those all had a stall on the day and to everyone who donated cakes to the event. Thanks

Helene and VHMC



**Concert at St.Nicholas Church Saturday February 27th 7.30 pm**

**SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING REFUGEES**

If you have seen the gut wrenching pictures of a refugee father holding his drowned son in his arms, you might have thought, "What can I do?"

Simon Marlow and I are organising a concert in aid of the Refugee Council on Saturday February 27th at 7.30 pm. Aiming to feature local talent, we have already signed Roy Scott a member of the Stotfold Salvation Army Band who has been playing the tuba for some 50 years. Cellist Catherine Wilmers from Radwell will be playing, as will flautist Alison Gates from Ashwell.



picture Christina Malkoun/IRIN

### please help

If you could help in any way by playing, or selling £10 tickets, for this concert, Simon Marlow and I would be most grateful.

Professional musicians have often commented on the near perfect acoustic of St Nicholas Church, so it will be an opportunity to enjoy some excellent music, accompanied by a complimentary glass of wine during the interval, and to provide some tangible help for refugees.

## we've made a life

One refugee from Congo said, "Since arriving in the UK, we've received a lot of support from the Refugee Council; and without that support we wouldn't be where we are now. I really appreciate the work the Refugee Council is doing – I hope they can continue to help lots of other refugees like us. It hasn't been easy but it has been a journey. We've come a long way and it has all been worthwhile because we have made a life out of something so little."

Saturday February 27th, 7.30 pm. Please book the date now.

Patrick Forbes

*Village Voice is published by St Nicholas Church, as a service to the community*

## Advent windows sparkle and shine



By any standard, the Advent window scheme must be judged a great success. Artistic skill displayed, hospitality offered and received, neighbours and strangers meeting, children excited and adults feeling good – what's not to like?

Congratulations to Amy and her team for organizing this month long display of creative art and welcome hospitality. As we went to press, these were some pictures Julie Methven and I took. Such a high standard and we're only half way through the series.

Patrick Forbes

# Christmas Dinner Dance



*pictures by Helene Donohoe*

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all from the village and further afield who came to support the Christmas Dinner Dance. We hope you had a lovely evening and you helped raise almost £900 for the village hall funds. Once again thank you so much for your support.



*Hinxworth Sewing Group got together to celebrate Christmas, reports Brenda Smith. No needles or hooks or wool just lots of cheer good food plenty to drink a very nice time was had by all, rounded off with coffee hosted by Biddy Sheldrick.*

## Caldecote Carols raise some £1000

If they could speak, the ancient timbers and stones of this gentle church would have echoed the voices of friends and guests at the two 'Carols By Candlelight' services on Saturday 5th December. Apart from ticket sales, around £300 was also donated towards the maintenance of this 800 year old building for which we, the 'Caldecote Church Friends' thank each and everyone.

**Brian Munnery**

# Hinxworth Parish Council

Notes of a meeting of Hinxworth Parish Council, December 3rd 2015

**Present:** Mr L. Whitfield, Chairman, Mr R Cobb, Mr D. Osmond, Mr E. Sore, Mrs W. Kitchener, Clerk

**Apologies:** Mr R Lewis.

**1. The Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting of 5th November were agreed by the Parish Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

**2. Finance:** Current Parish Council Funds: The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Precept 2016/2017: The Councillors agreed unanimously to no change to the precept.

**3. Highways:** Email to Tony Hunter County Councillor and Derek Jerrard (Ringway). The Councillors have become increasingly concerned there has been no acknowledgement/action in respect of the emails detailing the Highway problems in New Inn Road and Bury End that need addressing urgently.

**4. Village Hall: External Lighting:** The Parish Councillors agreed this needs to be reviewed. A storage heater has been installed.

**5. Recreation Ground: The Annual Safety Inspection:** The Councillors have received the Annual Report. There a few minor items that need attention. These will be addressed in the near future. Hinxworth Archers: The Councillors have met with representatives of the Archery Club and have agreed terms for the use of the recreation ground with effect from April 1st 2016. Les Whitfield is to draft the formal agreement based on the points agreed at the meeting.

**6. The Allotments: Licence Renewal's:** Two allotmenteeer licence renewals are still outstanding.

**7. Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday January 7th 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

**Wendy Kitchener Clerk Hinxworth Parish Council**

## Christmas Services reminder

Sunday December 20th 4 pm Carol Service St. Nicholas Hinxworth

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Midnight Communion, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth

Christmas Day 9.30 am Holy Communion, St. Vincent Newnham  
10 am Carols and readings, St. Nicholas Hinxworth

Sunday December 27th no service at St. Nicholas or St. Vincent  
10.45 am Parish Eucharist St. Mary's, Ashwell

## Dates for your diary

January 5th Jungle Body Dance Fitness Hinxworth Village Hall 7.30 pm

January 7th Hinxworth Parish Council, Village Hall 7 pm

January 8th Soup Lunch Hinxworth Village Hall 12.30 - 2 pm

January 14th Hinxworth & Edworth WI, Village Hall 7.45 pm

January 20th Copy date for February Village Voice

February 6th Village Quiz, Hinxworth Village Hall

February 27th Concert for Refugees, St. Nicholas Church, Hinxworth 7.30

## Three Horseshoes opening hours Christmas and New Year - reminder

	Bar	Kitchen
Christmas Eve	12.00 - 24.00	12.00 - 14.30 17.30 - 21.00
Christmas Day	12.00 - 14.30	Closed
Boxing Day	12.00 - 19.00	Closed
Sunday 27th	12.00 - 23.30	12.00 - 17.00
Monday 28th	12.00 - 23.30	12.00 - 17.00
Tuesday 29th	12.00 - 15.00 17.30-23.30	12.00 - 14.30 17.30 - 21.00
Wednesday 30th	12.00 - 15.00 17.30-23.30	12.00 - 14.30 17.30 - 21.00
New Year's Eve	12.00 - 12.00	12.00 - 17.00
New Year's Day	12.00 - 17.00	12.00 - 17.00



**Watch out for news of Burns Night Celebration**

# On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook

## Top tips for a crime-free Christmas

Christmas is a busy time of year for everyone, including the criminal. We know, however, that a high percentage of crime is opportunistic, and can be prevented by taking some simple precautions.



### your car

Don't leave presents in full view on the back seat when out shopping. These can be tempting to thieves. Lock them away out of sight in the boot. Always lock your car and make sure windows are closed, even if you're away from your vehicle for just a few minutes. Use a steering lock if possible. Never leave your keys in the ignition whilst your vehicle is unattended, even for a few minutes. Opportunistic thieves will often steal cars that have been left with the engine running to defrost the windows. Don't leave any valuables in the glove compartment. Take bank cards, mobile phones and satellite navigation systems with you. These items are on car thieves' shopping lists. Make sure you park in a well-lit area or in an attended car park. Look out for the Park Mark award logo for safer parking

### your home

Keep doors and windows locked at all times, even when you are in the house. Keep presents out of sight. Large piles of gift wrapped goodies under the tree that are visible through a door or window are tempting to thieves. Don't leave empty boxes on display outside. Discarded packaging advertises all the new goods you have indoors. Don't leave car keys and handbags lying around on display. Make it look like someone is at home when you're going out for the evening. Leave lights on and close the curtains. If you have a burglar alarm, set it. If you're going on holiday over the festive period, ask a friend, relative or neighbour to keep an eye on your house.

### our property

Make sure all valuable property is marked. You can either postcode mark your property with an ultra violet pen, or use a forensic marking solution such as Smartwater. Register bike frame numbers, mobile phone IMEI numbers and other identifying details on Immobilise, the free national property registration scheme. The police recover hundreds of stolen items every year, and it's much easier to prove that an item is stolen and return it to the rightful owner if it's been registered with Immobilise or security marked. Don't carry large amounts of cash on you when you go out. Be alert, and make sure your purse or wallet is secure and hidden from view. Don't keep your chequebook and card together. Keep your PIN confidential and don't write it down. Check that your home insurance adequately covers you for the value of goods in your home.

### passing stolen goods

You can make it difficult for criminals to operate by not purchasing stolen property. If you are offered a quality product at a bargain price ensure that the source is genuine.

## Residents asked to be vigilant

Police in North Herts are urging residents to secure their properties after a spate of burglaries that have happened since the beginning of September. In most of the burglaries, offenders have gained access to properties through gates to back gardens at the side of homes that have been left unlocked and through PVCu rear or side doors and windows that haven't been double locked.

### 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

January 3rd 10.15 am Family service St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
January 10th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
January 17th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
January 24th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St. Nicholas, Hinxworth  
9.30 am Holy Communion St. Vincent, Newnham  
January 31st 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St. Nicholas, Hinxworth

## Jungle Body Dance Fitness is coming to Hinxworth

A low complexity, medium to high intensity class that is suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

Jungle Body Fitness Instructor Tarryn is bringing a wild mash up of Konga® and Jagua® to Hinxworth Village Hall every Tuesday from 5th January 2016, 7.30pm – 8.30pm, £6.00 per person.

Bring along some water, a yoga mat, a sweat towel and **friends**.

### fierce and wild workout

Konga® is a fierce and wild workout designed to shape, sculpt and redefine your physique while injecting your body with an endorphin overload. Jagua® is a body sculpting and conditioning class that may help build flexibility, muscle strength, muscle tone and endurance in the legs, abdominals, arms, hips, and back.

Whether you are super fit or totally un-coordinated, this class is for you! With fresh choreography, new technique and the latest music every month, you will never hit a plateau or get bored!

Cardio-Boxing-Toning-Bodysculpting-Stretches. You can burn up to 700 Calories per class.

### no need to book, just pitch up!

For more info, call Tarryn on 07447 496 918 or email tazsaone@hotmail.co.uk

## Have a safe Christmas and New Year

As Christmas quickly approaches we would like to offer you a few simple tips to help you keep safe:

### DO:

- Have working smoke alarm
- Make a fire plan to include all persons in your house
- Remember where you put your keys
- Close all doors of a night or when you are out
- Have electrical equipment tested regularly (electric blankets, heaters etc...)
- Make sure cigarettes are extinguished properly

### DON'T:

- Panic
- Go back inside the property once outside
- Overload sockets – 1 plug – 1 socket (xmas lights, decorations etc...)
- Leave candles unattended, especially if have pets or children near by
- Leave cooking unattended – distraction can be one of the major causes of house fires
- Cook whilst under the influence of alcohol
- Smoke in bed

It is important that you have a fire plan and that once you are outside of a property you must never go back inside for any reason. If you are trapped upstairs during an incident then get to a room of safety, close the door, throw a duvet at the bottom of it and open a window, shout FIRE as loud as you can and dial 999. DO NOT try and exit the room unless you feel it absolutely necessary.

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue