

» Village Voice «

June 2016

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.177

Volunteers fill 30 bags of rubbish



On Saturday May 14th 15 adults and one youngster eagerly gathered at Hinxworth and Edworth Village Hall to collect rubbish from the roads leading into the village from all directions.

Equipped with hi - viz jackets, top of the range grabbers and an assortment of gloves, they made their way to their starting points on foot or by car, travelling as far as the A1 and the Dunton Road.

A surprising range of debris was recovered ranging from an astonishing number of Starbucks coffee cups and empty fizzy drink bottles to car parts and pieces of wood.

In all, 30 sacks were filled by these worthy workers. They used the grabbers with much knee bending and back stretching to reach under prickly hedges and retrieve can after can, whilst balancing on the drainage ditches.



Claire with wheel arch

fitness and stamina

Once the noble task was completed we much appreciated refreshments back in the Village Hall. Considering the average age of the trusty team was approximately 70 I think we all showed huge levels of fitness and stamina. I felt quite inadequate when one septuagenarian announced she was going to spend the afternoon gardening. I was planning to find some sedentary tasks to complete for the rest of the day.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped. We had great fun too.

Claire Hay

Office Administration Assistant

Good telephone and IT skills supporting a small team.

Based in Hinxworth, Herts.

Own transport is essential.

37 hours per week.

One year fixed term contract initially.

Salary level £16,000 – £18,000.

Tel: 07974 568826 for an informal discussion
email jobs@e2bn.org or telephone 01462 834588 for application.

Closing Date June 24th 2016.

copy date

Please send all copy and pictures for July's edition to Patrick Forbes, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth SG7 5HL, e-mail villagevoice3@gmail.com by June 20th.

Join the Big Picnic Lunch June 5th

Remember that it's The Big Picnic Lunch on Sunday, 5th June! Do come along to Hinxworth's Recreation Ground with your family and friends any time after 12 o'clock. Bring everything you need for your picnic: something to sit on; cutlery, plates, etc., as well as your drinks and, ideally, a plate of food, savoury or sweet to share - or maybe more if you are a larger family. If you can't do that for some reason, then you can just produce food for yourselves of course. No money needed; just come along! And if you are new to the villages, it's a great way to meet people.

come rain or shine - you'll be welcome

The Village Hall will be open for the use of the loos and also the kitchen, should you want to make tea or coffee. Moreover, if it's raining or cold and windy we can retreat to the Hall for an indoor picnic - but let's hope that the weather in the first weekend of June will be as perfect as it was in the first week of May.

Janet Fair

WGC Choir returns to Hinxworth

The Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir is coming again to St. Nicholas Church on Saturday 9th July at 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost £10 each, including a glass of wine, and are available from Stuart Lillie, 5 Homefield, phone 01462 743755 or Patrick Forbes on 01462 742015. Proceeds to St Nicholas Church and Hinxworth Young People, HYP.

The Big Breakfast Brunch

Sunday 10th July 10.30 am - 1.00 pm

Hinxworth and Edworth WI invite you to join them for the Big Breakfast Brunch at the Hinxworth and Edworth Village Hall. Profits will be given to Denman College, the WI residential adult education college in Oxfordshire. Tickets and further details are available from Yvonne Tookey on 01462 742439

Time to buy Hinxfest tickets



Bring family and friends and join the Village Hall Committee on the Recreation Ground, Hinxworth on July 16th 2016. We have a great line-up of four very different acts with Jigsaw singing and playing a wide range of styles ranging from Jazz, Swing to The Beatles, Bon Jovi and more.

There will also be a disco. Bring your own food and drink. Gas barbecues only, please. Gates open at 5.30p.m. Tickets - £5 per person. Children 12 years and under free. Limited gazebo pitches available - £5 per pitch.

Raffle, and prize for best dressed gazebo or picnic spot. For tickets contact Jan Raynham on 01462 742258.

Newnham Parish Lunch - book now

Newnham Hall Cottage, Newnham at 1 pm on July 31st. Marvellous food and good company, good music from Seb Silas too. Tickets, a bargain at £12 each, £4 for under 12s, available from Mary Ann Boddington on 01462 742814 and Fiona Hughes on 01462 742709.

Doctor Caroline Russell retires

Caroline has been in Ashwell since 1979, living in Silver Street, Melbourn, and latterly, Springhead. After working at Ashwell and Basingbourn Surgeries for 30 years, the last seven as senior partner, she retired on 31st March 2016. I went to talk to her.

What attracted her to medicine? "I decided before taking my O levels, largely influenced by "The Penguin Book Of Careers For Girls." I had a great aunt who had been a doctor and this may have been a factor. I always wanted to be a GP. The London hospitals always had a good reputation and I got a place at the Royal Free, remaining there for five years. Being a medical student was very exciting especially for someone who had led a rather sheltered earlier existence. There was no time to be bored! When not studying I would dash down to the Thames to get rowing. I ended up as captain of the University College's women's team. I've always loved the water and am still a keen sailor."



visited Three Tuns after sailing

"After graduating in 1975 I did three years' training at The Whittington Hospital near the Archway in North London. During this time I did a lot of sailing at Grafham Water and on the way back home to Edgware I would often stop off at The Three Tuns and that's how I came to know Ashwell. It was just the sort of place I was looking for and, after spells in Stevenage and Biggleswade, I was delighted to be appointed to our surgery and I became a partner in 1987."

transformative move to new surgery

"The surgery was then located on the High Street, now the dental surgery. The facilities were far from luxurious. There was no appointment system and on busy days patients might well find themselves queueing in the street! In those days doctors were permanently on call. It was hard work but very rewarding. In 1988 we moved into our present lovely premises, designed by Bob Swain. What a transformation. When the time came to make the move, everyone - doctors, nurses, admin staff - mucked in and we completed the task over the May Bank Holiday and were ready to see patients the following Tuesday. Quite a feat! We were all delighted with our new setting and its facilities which made a visit to the doctor a much more pleasant experience than before."

training scores of registrars

It was very special to do a night visit. You sensed you were really making a difference. I recall many a rosy glow of satisfaction as I drove home in the small hours. And securing a full time post alongside my well established male colleagues, becoming their equal as it were, was a source of great satisfaction. Another highlight was extending our surgery in Basingbourn, making that an attractive facility for patients. I am a GP trainer and have very much enjoyed assisting scores of "registrars" as they are known, on their way to becoming fully fledged doctors. Many have gone into local practices.

I won't miss the mountains of paperwork and external pressures we now have to contend with! But despite all the upheavals which the NHS has undergone, no end in sight on that score, I can honestly say that I have greatly enjoyed my work as a doctor over all those years. I will miss the regular contact with local people, many of whom I have looked after for 30 years and often over several generations.

not completely retiring

I shall still be working one day a week at our surgery so I shall still be in touch with patients. I am also continuing as GP lead for the anticoagulation service across the area; providing a local service rather than making folk trek to hospital is greatly appreciated by the patients involved. Away from work, I shall be spending more time on our boat which is berthed at the Isle of Wight. I'm a churchwarden and I shall continue to be very involved in the life of our parish church. And of course I shall enjoy

continued in columns 3 and 4

having more time to spend with my friends and family. I very much see this as the beginning of a new life and I intend to make the most of it!"

Thank you very much, Caroline. We all wish you a long and happy retirement!

Caroline has kindly offered to give a talk followed by discussion on the theme of "The NHS - past, present and future" on Wednesday 15th June at 7.30 at Ashwell Surgery. On this occasion, wine and nibbles will be served from 7 pm, an occasion not to be missed!

Peter Chapman, Chairman Ashwell Patients Group

Use our Ashwell Pharmacy

Hi, we are a small business in the heart of the Ashwell community. We offer within our pharmacy a great service including: health checks for cholesterol, blood pressure and Diabetes; smoking cessation service; travel clinic vaccines and malaria tablets; veterinary medicines; dry cleaning. We give cash back with purchases. We sell 1st and 2nd class stamps, perfumes and gifts, Vichy skincare, Rimmel make-up and so much more!

Please use the knowledge and advice from our team of professional, fully trained and friendly staff. We look forward to seeing you.

Brian Deal

Ashwell Pharmacy, 22 High Street, Ashwell, Tel 01462 742250, email brianddeal@yahoo.com Open Mon, Wed, Thur and Fri 9am - 6.30pm, Tue 9am - 5.30pm, Sat 9am - 1pm

New life in Arnolds Lane



A few weeks ago we came across an extremely well camouflaged duck's nest in our garden at the rear of Hillside Cottage. We've been carefully monitoring the progress and yesterday the incubation period ended with ten ducklings. A weaker one was left behind which we have subsequently rescued with the help of Simon Marlow and it appears to be thriving in his pond.

Andy and Debbs Macpherson

**Ashwell Patients' Group
invites you to a talk on
"The NHS Past Present and
Future" given by
Dr Caroline Russell
followed by discussion.
Wednesday 15th June
7.30 pm.
Wine and nibbles from 7pm.
All welcome
At Ashwell Surgery**

soup lunch

June's soup lunch will be served on Friday June 10th in Hinxworth Village Hall from 12.30 pm until 2 pm. All welcome.

London coach trip

The Friends of Ashwell Museum are organising a trip to 'London Open House' on Saturday September 17th, leaving Ashwell at 9 am and setting down in the St Paul's area of the City. A programme giving details of buildings open is available in advance and can be bought on line for £9. Some buildings require earlier booking.

Cost £18. For more information or to book this trip, contact Hilary Masham on 01462 742416 or Karen Mills on 01462 742155.

Cleaner for sale

Very light vacuum cleaner, good for hard floors, £10, ring Annette Forbes on 01462 742015

**Why not advertise your gran-
ny's patent uncle frightener in
these columns? It will cost you
nothing and may even sell the
frightful object.**

Village Voice is published by St Nicholas Church

Hinxworth Parish Council

Note of a meeting of Hinxworth Parish Council held on Thursday May 5th 2016 in the Village Hall at 7 pm.

Present: Mr R. Lewis, Chairman; Mr R. Cobb, Vice- Chairman; Mr D. Osmond; Mr E. Sore; Mr N. Tiffin; Mrs W. Kitchener, Clerk. The Chairman welcomed Mr Nicholas Tiffin to the meeting as the newly co-opted Parish Councillor.

1. The minutes of the meeting of 3rd March 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.

3. Highways: "The Walk the Village Initiative". At the Annual Parish Meeting Tony Hunter agreed to take this on board. This meeting took place on Tuesday April 19th. All the outstanding Highways matters were discussed and a plan of action is to be put in place. This will include the following: the flood in New Inn Road; the manholes/gullies to be jetted; horse riding signs to be erected in the village; white lining for the roads; speed signage painted on the roads; weed killing between the kerbs and the roads.

4. Village Hall: David Osmond reported the VHMC at present are in the midst of planning the Hinxfest.

5. Recreation Ground: the rubbish bin: after numerous requests this has now been emptied. The Clerk reported to the Councillors that this, as notified by NHDC, is the responsibility of John O'Connor, Contractors to NHDC.

6. The Tennis Court: David Osmond reported that he and another had repaired the tennis net after it had been removed and if children were seen to misuse or damage equipment, he would ask them to stop.

7. The Allotments: An additional half plot has been taken up by a village resident.

8. Any Other Urgent Business: The War Memorial: Eric Sore reported he and Geoff Burrows met up with K. Buckingham, the Contractor for the project, to finalise a few points. Buckingham has subsequently revised their quote to include these revisions. This has escalated the cost of the project so Buckingham has gone away to look for alternatives to provide a saving mainly on the external paving area. At the Annual Parish Meeting Barry Huber, Chair VHMC, Tony Hunter Hertfordshire County Councillor, Janine Paterson, District Councillor, all agreed to fund part of the project. This will be in addition to the funds from The Robert Clutterbuck Trust £1250 and The Parish Council also £1250.

The Land opposite the Village Hall: The trees and bushes on this parcel of land, owned by NHDC, are overgrown and encroaching on the garden of the adjacent property.

The Land behind the Village Hall: The Parish Council has been notified that fly-tipping has taken place at the back of the Hall in the overgrown area alongside No.18 Francis Road. This will be investigated further.

9: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday June 2nd 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Wendy Kitchener, Clerk, Hinxworth Parish Council

Farrowby Farm for fine foods

HINXWORTH & EDWORTH WI

We held our AGM on Thursday 12th May at the Village Hall and it was a well attended and lively meeting with reports from Secretary and outgoing President outlining the past year's activities, speakers and business. The minutes were approved and the new committee was elected. The resolutions were debated and voted on. It was agreed that both resolutions would be accepted and put forward with Jan Youngman as our delegate at the AGM in Brighton. Our next meeting is Members' Night on Thursday 9th June.

Jan Youngman

How to vote on June 23rd

Has the Editor finally flipped? Is he, for the first time in 177 editions of Village Voice going to dip his toes into political controversy? Well, no. But some help is at hand in the thorny matter of the in/out referendum on June 23rd.

helpful guide

"A Guide for Voters" is the rather unexciting title of a helpful paperback published by Luth Press, price just £5.99 and available from David's Bookshop in Letchworth. Written by journalist and broadcaster David Torrance, it is a non partisan guide to the issues surrounding the referendum. It is written in association with The Electoral Reform Society.

shroud waving

Baffled by Project Fear, alarmed at the shroud waving on both sides of the argument? Waking up wondering if World War III will break out on June 24th, with the pound in your pocket worth just 37p? Well, I was not so much alarmed as fed up with the scaremongering and absence of facts that seem to characterise the campaign.

in or out - you decide

So I read the book over a couple of days. It is not complicated, it is well written, even handed and I think I know more than I did about both sides of the argument. I am still left with the choice between **In** and **Out** as we all are, but at least I have tried to understand the issues. If the future of these islands and mainland Europe depends on an informed debate and a thoughtful June referendum, this book will help.

Patrick Forbes



George wins draw for 90th birthday £5 coin

A commemorative five pound coin to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday was donated by David Osmond to be given to one of Hinxworth's children.

out of the hat

Mr Jim Woodward kindly took part and all the children living in Hinxworth were entered in the draw. Jim drew out George Mills' name from the hat. Congratulations, George. His first reaction on hearing his good news was to ask if he could take it with him to school.



Dates for your diary

June 2nd Hinxworth Parish Council Village Hall 7 pm
June 5th Hinxworth and Edworth Big Lunch Recreation Ground
June 9th Coach trip to Rochester and Chatham
June 9th Hinxworth and Edworth WI meeting, Village Hall
June 10th Soup Lunch Hinxworth Village Hall 12.30 - 2 pm
June 10th HYP Session Hinxworth Recreation Ground
June 15th Talk by Dr Caroline Russell, Ashwell Surgery 7 pm for 7.30 pm
June 17th Village Walk, meet Three Horseshoes at 10.30 am
June 20th Village Voice copy deadline
June 23rd In/Out Referendum
June 27th HYP Trip to Mega Jump Borehamwood
July 1st HYP Session Hinxworth Recreation Ground
July 9th WGC Male Voice Choir Concert St Nicholas Church 7.30 pm
July 10th Big Breakfast Brunch Village Hall 10.30 am - 1 pm
July 16th Hinxfest see page 1
July 31st Newnham Parish Lunch, Newnham Hall Cottage 1 pm
August 8th HYP Session Hartrees' pool
September 17th Coach trip to London - see page 2

On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook

RSPCA Bogus Callers

On March 15, a woman called to report two suspicious people – a man and a woman – knocking on a door in Royston at around 8pm. The informant stated that they were wearing what looked like RSPCA jackets and when officers attended, there was no sign of the pair.

On March 16, police received a report that a man had knocked at an address in Barnack Grove two days prior, and claimed to be from the RSPCA, but did not show any identification, and on March 24 a woman contacted police to report that two men claiming to be from the RSPCA had knocked on her door. Officers attended and searched the area but there was no trace of the men. On March 12, a woman reported seeing two people walking around the Swift Close area in RSPCA tabards.

RSPCA inspectors carry proof of ID

A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said: "It is of great concern that there would appear to be individuals posing as RSPCA inspectors in the area and we would appeal to anyone with further information about bogus RSPCA inspectors to contact their local police. The RSPCA wants to reassure the public that all official RSPCA inspectors and animal collection officers carry proof of ID, which will be shown on request."

don't allow access, and contact police

"This is also the case for people fundraising on behalf of the RSPCA. Anyone who has suspicions about a caller at their door is urged not to allow access to their property or animals and to contact the police."

A spokeswoman for Herts. Police said: "We would always urge people to be vigilant around unexpected callers. All genuine callers should be wearing identity cards which verify who they are. If you are unsure, do not be afraid to ask the caller to wait outside while you telephone the company or charity to check whether the caller is working on their behalf. Our advice is simple, if you aren't sure, don't open the door."

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.

Village walks re-start

May 20th saw the start of Village Walks, a small start, a gentle start. We met at The Three Horseshoes, just six of us, and we walked up Chapel

Street, Arnolds Lane, down the track to Arbtree Farm, then along to Ashwell Road, then following the footpath past the field with ewes and lambs in it, turning right and emerging near Dewmead House. We then crossed New Inn Road, walked along the side of Thorns Farm and right along the

path back to the Three Horseshoes where we had a leisurely sandwich lunch. We all enjoyed the walk in gorgeous weather.

Our next walk will start from The Three Horseshoes on Friday June 17th at 10.30 am. Do join us if you can.

Carol's knee-felt thanks

I would like to thank all those lovely people who have sent cards and gifts and also visited me since my knee replacement on 9th May. All were very much appreciated, and as usual in the village, when the chips are down, everyone is there for you. Many thanks.

Carol Cheney



Church Services

June 5th 10.15 am Family service, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth

June 12th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth

June 19th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth

June 26th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth

9.30 am Holy Communion, St. Vincent, Newnham

Vintage Barn comes to Hinxworth

The Vintage Barn (Knebworth) <https://www.facebook.com/barn-lifeknebworth/> is now relocating to Farrowby Farm and opens its doors on the 4th of June. We have all sorts of lovely vintage, handmade, upcycled furniture, gifts and unique finds.

warmth and friendliness

I first started coming to Hinxworth to visit Farrowby Farm and enjoy one of their delicious breakfasts some years ago. When my brother Colin and sister-in-law Deborah Bone moved to Place Farm in the village my visits increased even more and I began to enjoy the warmth and friendliness of the village especially the support the villagers gave Deborah, during her battle with myeloma, and to my brother after her sad departure.

We are open the same hours as Farrowby Farm, Thursday to Sunday 10 am - 4 pm and every day during the school holidays except Wednesday.

It was an easy decision to bring our thriving business to Hinxworth and Farrowby Farm when we were searching for new premises.

Lorna Clark

Gary saves Village Voice

Before Village Voice was due to be published, my computer crashed beyond my ability to rescue it. I rang Carol Cheney who I knew had good

service from a computer expert. I rang his number and in less than an hour Gary Dolan was on my doorstep. He listened to my account of what happened, disconnected the computer and he took it away, promising to bring it back 24 hours later. He did, and all was well.



Rather than up-grading from Windows 8.1 to 10, which was what I was trying to do, he reinstalled Windows 7 which seems to be more reliable. He rescued my documents and pictures, and most importantly, Village Voice files.

worked as a nurse

Gary Dolan, originally from Falkirk, works from his home in Biggleswade. He has over 27 years experience working with computers and IT. He depends on word of mouth recommendations from satisfied customers. He covers an area including Bedford, Royston, Hitchin, St Albans and St Neots. He worked as a nurse in Eastbourne, in psycho-geriatric and terminal care. "I'm better equipped emotionally to deal with people losing data than people losing relatives," he told me. Rather than trying to be good at it, he tries to be excellent at it in order to offer a first class service.

comprehensive and affordable

"People cannot afford to be fleeced day and night so the repairs that I do are hopefully at price points that match everybody's income but they are capped normally at £85 for a rebuild, with me collecting and dropping off the computer and staying long enough to make sure the customer is happy. I also leave helpful guidance notes on each computer and offer a free telephone help service if there's anything customers don't understand."

"For me the best thing is the gratification from knowing that I have done the very best job each and every time. I'm my own boss, I don't think I could be an employee again." If you need your computer sorted, send for Gary Dolan, 01462 658321 or email sales@dditp.co.uk

Patrick Forbes

