

» Village Voice «

March 2016

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.174

The meaning of Easter

A Jewish businessman sent his son to Israel for a year to absorb the culture. When the son returned, he said, "Papa, I had a great time in Israel. By the way, I converted to Christianity." "Oy vey," said the father. "What have I done?" He took his problem to his best friend, Isaac. "Isaac," he said, "I sent my son to Israel, and he came home a Christian. What can I do?" "Funny you should ask," said Isaac, "I too sent my son to Israel, and he also came home a Christian. Perhaps we should go see the rabbi."

They explained their problem to the rabbi. "Funny you should ask," said the rabbi. "I, too, sent my son to Israel, and he also came home a Christian. What is happening to our young people?"

So they all prayed, telling the Lord about their sons. As they finished their prayer, a voice came from the heavens: "Funny you should ask," said the Voice. "I, too, sent my Son to Israel . . ."

God always answers

There is much we could draw from this story. Travel broadens the mind. Parents need eventually to let their children find their own paths in life. Communities are important – it helps to share our problems with supportive friends. God always answers even if not always in the way we expect.

I could go on, and no doubt you too can find other lessons to be drawn from such stories, but at its heart this story also points us to those verses from John's Gospel which explain so powerfully God's purpose for his Son and for us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17).

love that changes lives

Christ's birth, life and ministry, and particularly the events of that first Easter, are often said to be the pivotal moment in human history - "the world would never be the same again." Yet much of the world did not change, and many people did not change. God did not wave a magic wand and return us all to the ignorant bliss of the Garden of Eden. Instead, he gave of himself, so that humanity might at last understand, individually and collectively, the true nature of our relationship with God – the God who creates us, shares our humanity in his only Son, and through that Son changes and continues to change, individual lives. It is God's self-giving love that changes lives and brings our relationship with him into focus. For some, that love is expressed most fully in the Christmas story, when God's great gift is first shown to the world. Others find Christ's adult ministry, his teaching and his miracles, the most accessible evidence of God's love and purpose. Yet others see the Cross and Resurrection, both the horror and the glory, as the ultimate expression of the lengths to which God goes to redeem us.

sharing the love

As Easter approaches, as we prepare to celebrate the culmination of Christ's mission on earth, we are invited to remember those verses from John's Gospel – to remember why God sent his Son into the world. It was not to condemn us, not to frighten us, not to shock us, but simply to show God's overwhelming love for all his creation and to invite us to reflect and share that love with everyone.

Happy Easter to you all,

Robert Evens

Hinxfest

Save the date. Saturday July 16th. An evening of live music - Come along and party with family and friends. Full details in April's issue.

Mum at the Pub?

Why not treat Mum at The Three Horseshoes, Hinxworth on March 6th? Special Mothering Sunday menu. Book on 01462 743335.

Roman Catholic Mass at St. Nicholas

History will be made on Friday April 1st at 7.00 pm when Father Richard Moroney, priest at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Biggleswade, comes to Saint Nicholas Church, Hinxworth, to celebrate Mass for Roman Catholic villagers. It will be the first such service to be held in St. Nicholas Church since the Reformation, and all Roman Catholics living in the villages will be most welcome.

"I'm all in favour of breaking down barriers," said Father Richard who remembers Father Christopher from Hitchin who used to celebrate Mass at St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Offley in the late 1970s. Do come and celebrate this historic occasion.

Easter Chicks help to fund Hospice



When Letchworth Garden City Hospice appealed last year for more "knitters" to knit Easter chicks I thought 'who better to ask than the Hinxworth W.I.?' Knowing they are a generous and kind hearted group of ladies I handed over the pattern and before long the first batch of chicks was delivered to my door. We only knit the body of the chick, which is very easy, and the rest is done by other ladies until the chick is complete and contains a creme egg. They are then sold to the public via Garden Centres and other outlets to help raise much needed funds for the Hospice. Between us we knitted nearly 100 chick 'bodies' which I delivered to the Hospice in February. Thank you very much ladies of W.I. Keep knitting! If anyone else would like to join in I can let you have the pattern.

Betty Thorn 01462 742858

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 and a raffle.

buy a masterpiece

Entrance is free so come and support us and browse and or buy one of these masterpieces for yourself or a friend, they would make an excellent present. Apart from anything else their uniqueness is much to be desired! We look forward to welcoming you on one or both days.

Betty Thorn

Catch these Ashwell fleas

The 15th Ashwell Flea Market will be held in St.Mary's Church on Saturday, 19th March from 9.30 – 1.00pm. All sorts of items for sale at bargain prices. Free entry. Tea and coffee available. Any donations gratefully received on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th. Proceeds to the Church Restoration Appeal.

If you think there's something that needs publicity, good or bad, tell the Crocodile at Village Voice.



Hinxworth and Edworth WI

Our 79th birthday party was held on February 11th. 46 members, husbands, partners and friends sat down to a catered meal of lasagne and salad, followed by fruit crumble and custard. Before the meal we were entertained by Lucy from Ware, who has the most beautiful voice. She sang four or five songs from various musicals. She sang again after the meal for about 30 minutes.

This was followed by the raffle and the cutting of the birthday cake by Audrey Clare, whose 80th birthday it was. We sang 'happy birthday' both to Audrey and the WI after the cutting of the cake which I made and which was beautifully iced by Jan Youngman. Coffee was served and the meeting closed at 10 pm.

The next meeting is on Thursday March 10th at 7.45 pm in Hinxworth Village Hall. The speaker will be herbalist Bethshona Kenny. All welcome.

Carol Cheney



picture by Janet Fair

Monthly coffee mornings at Dunton Community Garden

Great Close, Church Farm, Church Street, Dunton, SG18 8RR

We are holding coffee mornings on the third Saturday of the month except December. They go ahead in all weathers and everyone is welcome to come along for a cuppa and a chat. The polytunnel is surprisingly cosy in winter!

Seasonal produce and plants will be available for sale. We will always have drawing materials available for children. Garden tools and watering cans are available on request to use under parental supervision.

We plan to expand on the basic coffee morning event by adding optional activities. For example, following the success of an impromptu chutney-making working party on a sunny October morning in 2015, we plan to repeat it at October's coffee morning. Our gardeners will also plan activities. If you have a hobby, craft, skill or activity for children that you would be willing to demonstrate or share at a coffee morning, we would love to hear from you.

Updates on activities and events will be posted on Facebook, on the website www.duntongarden.org and in the Biggleswade Chronicle. Send your e-mail address to info@duntongarden.org and ask to join our events mailing list.

Joy Osborn

A joyful Easter to all our readers

Swap your books



Already in the Parish Rooms at Post Office opening times, there are trollies of books where you can bring a book that you have read and swap with another on the shelf.

On the second Saturday morning of the month there will be Ashwell Book Swap Cafe. All welcome. Come and browse the books. Take one, swap one and have a coffee or tea at same time! What could be nicer?

We look forward to seeing as many people from our parishes using this much needed facility!

Jane Buxton

East Bedfordshire Chamber Choir St. Patrick's Day Concert

On March 17th at 7.30 pm, St Patrick's Day, East Bedfordshire Chamber Choir will be presenting a concert of music celebrating Ireland. This will include folk songs, Irish ballads made famous by the tenor Joseph Locke, and other music from, or inspired by Ireland, including some modern choral works by Barber, Moeran, Meador, Stopford, and Stanford's lovely Bluebird, as well as songs from Riverdance and even something from the Messiah, which was first performed in Dublin.

return visit to St. Swithun's

There is something for everyone in this fun and varied evening. The concert is at St. Swithun's Church, High Street, Sandy SG19 1AQ. The choir are pleased to return to this lovely church after a successful concert there in 2014. Tickets will be available on the door: £10 including refreshments, concessions £5 for over 12s in full time education. Under 12s admission free with an accompanying adult.

Please take a look at our new website www.eastbedschamberchoir.co.uk It includes sound clips from our summer concert with Bedford Sinfonia, some singer profiles and one review/testimonial. I Hope to see many of you on 17th March.

Top of the morning to you.....

Joy Osborn

Birdwatch 2016 - birds vote with wings!

As I write this the garden is full of birds who I'm pretty sure are mocking me! I am fairly convinced the message went out on the avian grapevine, 'hey it's the birdwatch this weekend — let's not go!' since in the hour that we watched we saw fewer birds than we ever do normally. Woody visited before we started! The pheasants obviously took the day off. We didn't see them on Saturday at all. The starlings mobbed Bob while he was putting out the food and then stayed resolutely on Dawn's aerial chortling away. Surprise, surprise, about 10 minutes after the hour they deigned to visit! No Fieldfares, though they came yesterday! And the bush that is usually the Sparrows' equivalent of Costa was closed for business. Not even the grey or black squirrels! Where did they all go?

birds spoil my efforts

Of course it could be my own fault for suggesting others get involved too and maybe the choice of exciting snacks was better in your gardens — I hope so — but my own sneaking suspicion is they just decided to spoil my efforts to beat last year's count!

Hey ho! Thanks, birdies! Still — welcome back!

Sylvia Scales

Burns Night at the Three Horseshoes

What a great night was had by all with excellent food, traditional neeps and tatties, followed by haggis and the traditional Cranachan dessert. To add to that we had a piper in full regalia. Host Gerry spoke Burns' address to the haggis with great feeling. After a few drams we all started to love Scotland that much more. So much so that the planned £1 a brick collection to build up Hadrian's wall was cancelled! Thanks to Julie and Gerry and their team for all their efforts. Maybe we can look forward to a St George's evening with traditional roast beef or is it chicken tikka Masala. Well done for another great night at our local pub!

Eric Sore

Friends of Ashwell Village Museum

Annual General Meeting at Ashwell School on Wednesday 2nd March 8pm. Talk by Chris Carr on 'Flag Fen and The Bronze Age.' Admission free. All welcome.

"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

Hinxworth Parish Council

Note of a meeting of the Council, February 4th 2016.

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

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 7th January were agreed by the Parish Councillors and signed by David Osmond, the acting Chairman for that meeting.

2. Finance: Current Parish Council funds: The councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Funds received were £1610 from HAPTC for Smaller Bodies funding and £890 from NHDC from the Environmental Improvement Fund.

3. Highways: Pot Holes in New Inn Road: These are by the bend alongside 'Jack's House'. 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" and the condition of the A1 at the exit from New Inn Road. Tony Hunter Hertfordshire County councillor and Janine Patterson District councillor have been invited to the next Parish Council meeting on March 3rd to discuss these problems.

4. Recreation Ground: The Caravan Club: They have asked if they can book the dates for their rally in 2017 as 30th June to 1st July. The councillors agree to these dates subject to the Village Hall Management Committee agreeing the Village Hall is available.

5. Any Other Urgent Business: The War Memorial: Eric Sore notified the meeting that he had a civil engineer's report from Geoff Burrows for the War Memorial, including a schedule of works. Invitations to tender were sent out to seven building companies. Only two responded. The Councillors agreed that the K and L Buckingham quote be accepted for the sum of £5,000. This company comes highly recommended as they have worked on St Nicholas Church and other projects within the area. The Civil Engineer's Report and the K and L Buckingham quote will now be forwarded to The War Memorial Trust and The Robert Clutterbuck Memorial Trust. A copy will also be forwarded to Mary Caldwell, Conservation Officer, North Hertfordshire District Council for her information. The Parish councillors agreed to the payment of 25% of the cost of the work from Parish funds. The Hinxworth Archers' Recreation Ground Hiring Agreement: This document will be ready for signature by both parties within the next few days. Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd: With effect from the 2017/2018 financial year those authorities with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000 will not be required to undergo a limited assurance audit review or to pay an audit fee as required under present legislation. They will now only be required to publish an annual return in accordance with the Smaller Authorities Transparency Code.

6: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday March 3rd 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Wendy Kitchener Clerk Hinxworth Parish Council



ASHWELL STAGE SCHOOL
PRESENTS
EASTER WORKSHOP
Theme: Far Far Away
Monday 4th - Friday 8th April 2016
9.30am - 3pm
Early Bird Price £149
(£165 after 1st March)
All abilities welcome!
Great for children aged 4-13!
Age groups: 4-4 and 9-13
Contact Alex: 07903 858 568 / ashwellstageschool@gmail.com
OFFICE STAGE

The Three Horseshoes annual charity golf day is on the 10th of June

Gonville & Caius Choir

Come and celebrate the completion of the chancel in aid of St. Mary's Restoration Fund with the Choir of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

Director ~ Geoffrey Webber. Choral Music from Epiphany to Easter. Saturday 12th March 2016 7:30 pm

St. Mary's Church Ashwell. Tickets: Adults £15, under 18's £10, from Mark Eaton, 01462 743451 or email markweaton@gmail.com or on the door.

Martie's Angels are new quiz champions



79 villagers enjoyed a fiercely fought village quiz at Hinxworth Village Hall on February 6th. Your Editor's team was doing quite well, about halfway between the top and the bottom until the round in which we were asked to identify characters from the Mr Men pictures by Roger Gargreaves. This proved to be our nemesis.

Martie's Angels, pictured above, won the quiz and are this year's champions. The evening raised £316 for the VHMC.

Archery News

Hinxworth Archery Club now have three Junior Archers who have joined the British National Junior Archery rankings. These rankings include the top 100 or so archers in each category who have to compete in at least three British record status tournaments during the year.

The Club now has a total of six archers from just two families included in the National lists:

Neil Bridgewater, ranked No.2. (Compound) Current British Champion; Derek Bridgewater ranked 16th (Longbow); Jack Bridgewater (15) ranked 34th Junior (Recurve); Evie Bridgewater (10) ranked 54th Junior (Recurve); David Wayman ranked 57th (Compound); Isobel Wayman (16) ranked 11th Junior (Compound) Current British Junior Indoor Champion.

Congratulations to them and also many thanks to our Hinxworth supporters who have helped and encouraged us during the past year.

David Osmond

Learn about Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust

On March 16 2016 at 7.30 pm Avril Gilbert will be giving a talk about Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust. Refreshments from 7.15 pm.

ACT is an independent registered charity and is the only charity dedicated to making a difference for patients at Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Addenbrooke's and The Rosie).

ACT aims to support and promote the work of Addenbrooke's and The Rosie for the benefit of patients and staff by raising extra funds to enhance services, facilities and research.

This talk will cover information about Addenbrooke's, the charity, recently funded projects, special appeals, and how you could support one of your local hospitals. More about Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust can be found at www.act4addenbrookes.org.uk or ring 01223 217757.

Peter Chapman

Dates for your diary

March 2nd Friends of Ashwell Museum AGM Ashwell School 8 pm
March 3rd Hinxworth Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7 pm
March 4th Women's World Day of Prayer 3.30 pm URC, Ashwell
March 6th Mothering Sunday service 10.15 am St Nicholas Church
March 12th Book Swap and coffee Church Room, Ashwell 10 - 12.30
March 12th Concert St Mary's Church, Ashwell 7.30 pm
March 16th "Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust" Ashwell Surgery 7.30 pm
March 17th East Bedfordshire Chamber Choir Concert see page 2
March 19th Ashwell Flea Market St Mary's Church 9.30 am - 1 pm
March 25th Good Friday, bring and share lunch St Nicholas 12 pm
March 27th Easter Day - see page 4 for Easter services
April 1st 7 pm Roman Catholic Mass St Nicholas, Hinxworth 7 pm
June 5th Village Hinxworth and Edworth Big Lunch Recreation Ground
July 16th Hinxfest, details in next month's edition of Village Voice

On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook

Crime has been low throughout January, I am pleased to report. My team will be working hard to keep it this way, with regular patrols, street meets and OWL messages. We will be working hard to increase Neighbourhood Watch membership and increase the, already good, public confidence and satisfaction with the service we provide.

We have had an increase of door-to-door callers, known to Police as 'Nottingham Knockers' within the Royston town and rural areas. They claim to be ex-offenders trying to make a go of it by selling household items door to door. These people often do not have the right permissions to sell items door to door, and the products are often overpriced and of poor quality. In order to sell door to door a Pedlar's Certificate is required. This is obtained from the Chief of Police from the area in which they live. Please do not feel pressured into buying anything from these people. Even if they do have a Pedlar's Certificate, it is no guarantee as to the quality of the goods that they are selling. If you do not think they are genuine, please call police on 101, or 999 if urgent, and we will get an officer to come and check them out.

Slow down, think 30 and save a life

Motorists are being urged to slow down, **Think 30** and save a life. Speed remains a contributory factor in serious and fatal collisions across the country.

Nationally in 2014, the total number of people killed where speed was a contributory factor was 1,651. The total number of those seriously injured in an accident where speed was a contributory factor was 20,120.

Last year, 72,366 people were issued with tickets for speeding on 30mph roads across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BCH), with speeds as high as 90mph being clocked. The BCH Road Policing Unit is urging people to slow down and help to reduce the number of people killed or injured on the roads by "thinking 30".

Inspector Phil Bloor said: "When driving on built-up roads, assume the limit is 30mph until you see a sign saying otherwise. Remember the limit could be 20mph. You are four times more likely to die if you are hit by a vehicle at 40mph as opposed to 30mph. While I'm sure the majority of motorists have heard this saying, the fact remains that it is true – it's 30 for a reason. If you kill someone while speeding, you will have to live with the long-term emotional consequences. Remember that speed limits are there for a reason."

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.

"Shrek, Far, Far Away" Ashwell Village Quiz

Ashwell Stage School Easter Workshop from Monday 4th - Friday 8th April 2016 "Shrek, Far Far Away." Ashwell Village Hall, 20 West End, Ashwell, Baldock SG7 5PJ . Ages 4 - 13 years.

book now

For bookings, please contact Ashwell Stage School on 07903 058 568 or ashwellstageschool@gmail.com

19th March, doors open 7.30pm. Quiz starts at 8pm. Tickets £10 in advance from the office, £12 on the door. Supper included in the price.

Teams max 8 – new quiz, new team challenges, raffle, prizes. More information and tickets from Ashwell School, Silver Street, Ashwell SG7 5QL. Phone office on 01462 742297.



Church Services

March 6th 10.15 am Family service St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
March 13th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
March 20th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
March 25th 12 pm Bring and share lunch St Nicholas
1 pm words and music for Good Friday ,St Nicholas
March 27th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
9.30 am Holy Communion St. Vincent, Newnham

Easter Services in The Benefice of Ashwell, Hinxworth and Newnham

6 March, Mothoring Sunday

TGIS 9.30 St Mary's, Ashwell
Family Service, 10.15 St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
Parish Eucharist. 17.00 St. Mary's, Ashwell

20 March Palm Sunday

9.15 Parish Eucharist, Hinxworth, procession from Village Hall 9 am
10.45 Parish Eucharist with procession St Mary's, Ashwell
17.00 Choral Evensong St Mary's, Ashwell

Holy Week. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

10.00 Parish Eucharist. St Mary's, Ashwell
21.00 Sung Compline. St Mary's, Ashwell

24 March Maundy Thursday

20.00 Communion of the Last Supper and stripping of the altars followed by the Watch. St Mary's, Ashwell

25 March Good Friday

12.00 Stations of the Cross. St Mary's, Ashwell
12.00 Bring and share Lunch, followed by Words and Music. St Nicholas, Hinxworth at 1 pm
14.00 Last Hour at the Cross. St Mary's, Ashwell

27th March, Easter Day

6.30 Dawn Service. St Mary's, Ashwell
9.15 Parish Eucharist. St Nicholas, Hinxworth
9.30 Holy Communion BCP St. Vincent, Newnham
10:45 Family Communion. St Mary's, Ashwell
17.00 Choral Evensong, St Mary's, Ashwell

New "Shoes Menu"

Look out for the new menu at The Three Horseshoes, Hinxworth, that will be introduced on the first of March. Cheers,

Gerry

Canadian catch-up

Dear Patrick,
in the autumn of 2010 I emailed a request that you publish a note asking if anyone might have knowledge of my family, who had lived in Hinxworth during the 1890's. You published it in the October, 2010 edition of Village Voice. I knew it was a long shot; but I am now delighted to report that on January 11, 2016 I received an email from Christine Williams, a great-granddaughter of my grandfather! We have exchanged many e-mails since then, and have expanded our family stories immeasurably.

My sincere thanks for the assistance you provided.

Arnold Rumbold

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

copy date

Please send all copy and pictures for April's edition to Patrick Forbes, 18 Francis Road, Hinxworth SG7 5HL, e-mail vil-lagevoice3@gmail.com by March 20th 2016.

Soup Lunch

March Soup Lunch will be on Friday 11th March 12.30 - 2pm. Hinxworth Village Hall. All welcome.

Cold calls

There has been an increase of cold callers ringing residents in Hertfordshire. The callers are security companies trying to sell you security items, or alarms.

Please do not provide any information to these companies and do not arrange any appointments. You might be drawn into purchasing something you do not need. If you need security items or an alarm arrange this yourself, and not through a cold call on the telephone.

Just say "no thank you" and put the phone down.