

» Village Voice «

September 2016

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.180

Groundsman Jim wins trophy



Jim Woodward from Francis Road, Hinxworth, has been Highly Commended by the Football Association for his work as a groundsman for Biggleswade Town Football Club in the FA's Groundsman of the Year Awards. He received his prize, a cup and a diploma, at an awards ceremony on Tuesday August 16th at the FA's training centre at St George's Park, Burton on Trent.

next year I'm going to win

Jim has been groundsman at Biggleswade Town for eight years. He has looked after cricket pitches for most of his life, including Henlow, Hitchin, Biggleswade, and, in the past, the pitch at Hinxworth. "It was something to do," he told Village Voice. "I'm at Biggleswade most days. There are two main grounds with six children's pitches. During the season, referees award marks for the condition of the pitches. These are counted and the potential winners have their grounds inspected and are interviewed. This year I was interviewed by the groundsman from Tottenham. I enjoy football, I support Arsenal and next year I'm going to win this competition."

Concert for Amnesty

Simon and Frances Marlow are hosting the annual Amnesty International Concert at their house on Sunday September 4th at 3 pm. The concert will feature Kate Romano - clarinet; Simon Marlow - piano, Brahms Sonata in F Minor and the Finzi Bagatelles, Sarah Hughes - voice; Tom Marlow - piano; A J Brinkman - bass, performing a mixture of jazz standards and original compositions.



human rights for all now

"Human Rights is not just an ideal that we can comfortably wait for in some preferred future," said Simon. "It is a practical necessity right now for the many people in the world whose lives become tragedies through its absence. So let's all help to make human rights observed everywhere. This is one reason why the work of Amnesty International is so important. So please support this fundraising event."

bargain concert and tea and cakes

"We are asking for a donation of roughly £15 per person - young children free! Our music room holds about 30 people, but we are confident it will again be sunny and warm enough for many more people to spread out onto the lawn and listen from there. Tea and cakes will be served as ever!"

Contact Simon and Frances Marlow, Hill Cottage, Hinxworth, SG7 5HR, phone 01462 742268, email simonmarlo@aol.com

Keep alert for canine cancer



We are completely heartbroken to report that we have lost both our dogs, Rosie and Enzo, to cancer within the last six months.

Rosie, left, was diagnosed with Canine Lymphoma Stage IV in June 2015. We took her to the vet suspecting the dog had worms, but then we were told this devastating news. After a course of chemotherapy and six months in remission we had to say goodbye to her on Christmas Day last year. Whilst Rosie was in remission, Enzo too was diagnosed with Lymphoma, but Stage Five - a more aggressive form. He fought to the end, but the cancer had gone to his brain and so we unfortunately had to say goodbye to him on 18 May 2016.

what could be the cause?

We have been asked by many people that, because they are related, is it hereditary? We know this to be untrue, having spoken to the breeder. Rosie's mum, who is 12 years old, and Enzo's dad, who is still going strong at 15 years old, and all their siblings, are all healthy and doing well. It just seems too coincidental that both of them died within a short space of time with this terrible disease. They were both only nine years old, and this type of cancer is not usually common with the Border Collie breed, although possible causes are environmental factors such as exposure to pesticides, viruses and bacteria.

see the vet immediately

Apparently canine cancer is on the increase and I would urge any dog owner to be aware of any unusual symptoms and to get these checked out with a vet immediately. The main symptoms for Lymphoma are increased panting, plus possible swelling to the neck, loss of appetite, weight loss and diarrhoea.

I suppose we will never know why this has happened, but I do know that they both leave a huge gap in our lives.

Heather Stean

Harp Concert at St Mary's Church, Ashwell 10th September 2016 at 7 pm

Seven different types of harps featuring Danielle Perrett and Robin Ward and members of the Clarsach Society.

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions, children under 18 free. Buy your tickets on the night. There will be a bar. and a harp workshop 2 pm - 4pm priced at £5.00.

Book this date

The 17th Ashwell Book Weekend will be held in St. Mary's Church, Ashwell, on Saturday 1st October from 10am - 5pm and on Sunday 2nd October from 2 - 5pm. Thousands of books for you to browse through and buy at bargain prices. Refreshments available. Entrance £1. Children free. Proceeds for the Church Restoration Appeal.

July 1st 2016 - A Pilgrimage

Jamie Crocker and his daughter recently visited the Somme battlefield. Here are his impressions.....

As on previous trips to this area of northern France we were assailed by the sight and the contrast between the cultivated fields of living wheat and the smaller immaculate enclosures within them; areas that bear testimony to mechanised death on an unparalleled scale prior to 1914. They are the war cemeteries. Without exception, all have bowling-green-like cut grass and perfectly tended borders that separate ghostly stone-white slabs, whose inscriptions highlight the 'the pity of war'.

great uncle died on first day

It was a journey of homage I'd been intending to make on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, ever since I'd become aware that I'd lost a great-uncle there on the first day of the offensive. A day that saw 57,470 casualties of whom 19,240 died.

never found

Rifeman Sydney Thickbroom was my paternal grandmother's younger brother. Born in 1897, he was just 19, when, serving with the 1st/12th Battalion, London Regiment (The Rangers), he took part in the diversionary attack on the Gommecourt Salient. At some point he became one of the fatalities. His body was never found. My reading of the account of the battle meant that my 20 year old daughter Chloe and I, could be within a few hundred yards of the place where he perished.



Charles Dance visited too

We'd arrived in France the day before and had spent the night in Arras. Dining out that evening we picked a restaurant, Le Domaine de Chavagnac. Observing our fellow diners we saw that it was also the choice of one Mr Charles Dance and his entourage. His reading of Sassoon's poem, 'Aftermath' at the Thiepval Memorial, the next day, is on YouTube.

Sydney may have passed this way

Relying on Chloe's exceptional navigational skills we circumnavigated the cordon that had been placed around the official commemorative event. We headed west toward Hébuterne, which had been under British occupation prior to the offensive and through which Sydney had probably passed on the way up to the front line. The minor roads were nearly deserted and any traffic we encountered consisted of right-hand drive vehicles sporting British number plates. We stopped for coffee at the small Café des Sports on the high street before heading out on the Rue de Bucquoy to Gommecourt British Cemetery Number Two.

overwhelmed, we were quiet

Under a cloudy sky we took the short path to where Sydney had probably set out and was possibly buried. Walking amongst the gravestones in respectful and reflective silence, our reticence to talk was only broken by Chloe's questions and my desire to answer them as best I could. But for the most part we were quiet — overwhelmed by incomprehension and awe at the magnitude of the slaughter, and for the great-uncle who probably would have held me as a baby and been part of my formative years, had he got the chance.

Jamie Crocker

I am grateful to Jamie Crocker for writing this feature. My father was severely injured during the Battle of the Somme. He was invalided back to the Military Hospital on Millbank. When he recovered some months later in 1917, he returned to the front. - Editor

Soup lunch in September

The next soup lunch will be served on Friday September 9th in Hinxworth Village Hall from 12.30 pm until 2 pm. Unrivalled choice of soups and puddings, plus coffee or tea, all for just £3. All welcome.

Welcome, William



Congratulations to Peter and Charlotte Garbutt of Edworth on the birth of their son, William Thomas on Sunday August 7th weighing just 6 lbs 15 ozs. The couple were married at Saint George's Church, Edworth in June 2011.

Beware "BT" Phone Scam

Nowadays more information is available regarding stopping ourselves getting scammed on our computers. I have become quite good at asking for double glazing when the scammers ring suggesting I have problems in my windows. I was well and truly baffled when the phone rang and BT.com called to explain that all devices using my I.P address were being hacked as we spoke.

he offered to 'clean' my pc

The kind gentleman Dave Procter, who rang from an unavailable number, informed me I could ring BT at any moment tel number 0800 800152 and get proof of identity. He guided me into downloading a program so that he could clean my pc from his end. I did as he asked.

we felt vulnerable and confused

My daughter Gemma arrived so I asked her to help him. He suggested that next he would download a second program to quickly and efficiently rid my pc of all possible worms Trojans and Infact nasties which had not even been registered yet. My daughter realized something wasn't right so quickly Googled the file he wanted us to let him download. I decided to ring the BT number Dave Procter had offered us at the start of call. No sooner did he hear his name in background being questioned he terminated the call and left us feeling, totally vulnerable and confused.

BT never cold call

But our account was safe. Unlike many caught before we still had our life savings. Be guided by us if you hear something you don't understand Google it before giving any vital information. BT told me that in no situation do BT ever cold call.

Brenda Smith

This is the second case Village Voice has heard of in the last few days. Please be vigilant - Editor

Dates for your diary

September 1st Hinxworth Parish Council, Village Hall 7 pm
September 4th Concert for Amnesty, Hill Cottage 3 pm see page 1
September 8th Hinxworth & Edworth WI 7.45 pm Village Hall
September 9th Soup Lunch Hinxworth Village Hall 12.30 - 2 pm
September 9th HYP visit to Air Space, Stevenage, see page 3
September 10th Book swap cafe, Church Room Ashwell 10 am - noon
September 10th Harp Concert St Mary's Ashwell, 7 pm, see page 1
September 11th Caldecote Church heritage day 12 pm - 5 pm, page 3
September 16th Village Walk. Meet Three Horseshoes 10.30 am
September 17th Coach trip to London - see page 3
October 1st and 2nd Ashwell Book Weekend, St Mary's Church, page 1
October 2nd Harvest Festival, St Nicholas Church 10.15 am

Newnham Parish Lunch Party

A beautiful Summer afternoon on Sunday July 31 saw 110 people sit down for the annual Newnham Parish Lunch Party. Hosted by Fiona Hughes in her lovely garden, the luncheon raised £1652, including £374 from a fabulous raffle of over 40 prizes in aid of The Church of St. Vincent, Newnham.

fête to lunch

I went along to see Fiona, a Newnham resident for thirty-one years, who was married to Anthony who was born in the village. I asked her how the lunch had started. "Well, there used to be an annual Village



photo - Alec Stephenson

Fête held on a Sunday" Fiona explained. "It raised around £350 for our church with various stalls and things like that. One day we thought that perhaps if we organised a lunch, more funds could be raised for our church. So it was agreed that the lunch would take over from the fête".

When did this all start? "It all started with the fête way back in 1998, and what became the lunch moved from Newnham Hall to Newnham Hall Cottage in 2010 when my mother-in-law, Dinah Hughes, died".

Would you say that the changeover was a success, I asked. "Oh yes, most definitely. We are now in our eighteenth year and have raised over £23,300 in total over that period. The lunch has become the main annual fundraiser for the church".

all profit and no expenses

The money raised goes towards the general running of the church and the great thing is that there are absolutely no expenses. 100% of the income received is profit. It is the perfect example of a village coming together to support a local initiative. However, it does attract support from neighbouring villages with guests also coming from Caldecote, Hinxworth, Edworth and Ashwell, with many returning year after year — some bringing their own party.

community spirit

Finally I asked her what she thought was the secret of the lunch's success.

"There's no simple answer to that one" she said.

"I really do think that perhaps the secret lies in the fact that we are a close knit community and that there are so very many people involved.... the majority of the people in the village....all contributing in their own way. Whether it is helping out with the raffle, preparing the food, printing and selling tickets or helping on the day. One of its charms has to be that everyone brings their own cutlery and drink. No money is taken at the door which is rather nice and all done on trust. As well as that, the venue is lovely, the food is excellent, just about everybody knows each other and it is great value. It's like having lunch with friends....relaxing in good company."

So there you have it. A real success story with a village working for its benefit and having so much fun at the same time. Long may it continue.

Michael Baim



Village Voice - the first 15 years

I apologise for the lateness of this edition. A holiday got in the way. Still, we haven't failed to appear in our first 15 years. Some years back, we had a change of editor but, alas, Annie Cullen moved from the village last year and the job came back to me. I dream of finding a new editor.

Meanwhile, my thanks to Ed Thorn, Michael Baim and Annette Forbes who help this paper to appear each month. Our thanks too to Wormald Burrows and to Floyd Engineering who print it, and our distributors who bring it to you each month. And to you, our readers and contributors. Where would we be without you all?

Patrick Forbes

HYP's Great Pool Night



photo montage by Andy Hartree

Friday was a great night down at the Hartrees' pool. Despite a lot of HYP members being on holiday there were still the hardcore members who enjoyed a good swim and a dive! Once again, Jane, Andy and Gus were the perfect hosts. After a great time in the pool, a barbecue awaited and we were joined by Les, and Sonja and Robin Bentley, so a very sociable evening was had by all.

dubious moves noted

Gus arranged a penalty shootout, the Bentley family defended their title with Robin winning in the end but there were some dubious moves...I decided to turn a blind eye and put it all down to being swept up in the euphoria of the amazing success of the British Olympians. The girls all nominated Gus for HYP Star of the Month!

Thank you so much Jane, Andy and Gus, a fab evening.

now for the trampoline

The next HYP session will be on Friday September 9th with a trip to Air Space, the new trampoline park in Stevenage.

Anyone aged nine years and over who wants to join HYP please contact me at jayne@ehead.co.uk

Jayne Whitfield

Bright flowers for medieval church

The Beds. and Herts. Fuchsia Society once again filled Caldecote church with a stunning display of fuchsias on July 30th and 31st.

The Festival, as always, attracted a good crowd, who had a really enjoyable afternoon, and enjoyed tea and home-made cakes outside.

There were booklets available on the history of the village and the church, and volunteer guides answered questions about the fuchsias and the church. A profit of more than £1300 all went towards the fund held by Caldecote Church Friends to help restore and maintain the church for community use.

heritage open day

Once again Caldecote church has been selected as one of the buildings to participate in the national Heritage Open Days, and it will be open to visitors from 12.00pm to 5.00pm on Sunday September 11th, with volunteer guides on hand, and refreshments available.

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.

Village Voice is published by St Nicholas Church, Hinxworth and can be viewed in colour at www.hinxworth.info

On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook

Join Neighbourhood Watch

Join Neighbourhood Watch in Hertfordshire to help reduce crime. Wholly supported by Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd, Watch schemes play an integral part in the 'Public Focus' aim of his five year Police and Crime Plan, 'Everybody's Business'.

Commissioner Lloyd said: "Active citizens are vital to supporting the delivery of policing and community safety. Some people are happy to go as far as becoming volunteer police officers, as part of the Special Constabulary, but others can play their part by being a member of a watch scheme – keeping up to date with police action in your neighbourhood, protecting your property against burglars and thieves by following the advice given, looking out for your neighbours and reporting suspicious activity."

more under 30s needed

Police/Watch Scheme Co-ordinator Julie Lloyd said: "It is fantastic that so many residents and businesses across Hertfordshire have signed up already but more people involved make it even stronger. We've managed to encourage people of all ages to sign up but there aren't so many members under 30. We are working hard to encourage our younger residents to get on board too, because the kind of crimes that Neighbourhood Watch can help prevent can happen to any resident, no matter what their age. Online scams and other cyber crimes, in particular, commonly happen to younger people."

do what you can

"You don't have to play a dynamic role, simply signing up for messages and watching out for your neighbours is all you need to do to be part of Neighbourhood Watch, although there are plenty of opportunities to play a bigger role as a street or area co-ordinator if you want to do more. Watch schemes use the award-winning OWL, Online Watch Link www.owl.co.uk, to communicate messages securely and send police crime alerts and crime prevention advice. It enabled police to quickly find a vulnerable missing woman in Welwyn Garden City when a member saw the appeal and spotted the woman.

local people with local knowledge

Chair of Herts. Watch, which oversees the county's watch schemes, Sue Thompson, said, "This is the power of Neighbourhood Watch – local people with local knowledge helping the police. It is just one of a number of positive direct results where members of the public have helped police. Members are also able to help prevent crime and improve the neighbourhoods we all live in. There's no reason not to join."

feeling safer in their homes

A survey of OWL recipients, carried out last month, showed that half of the people who responded feel safer in their own homes since receiving OWL messages, 87 per cent said they are more aware of scams and rogue traders since joining up and local crime alerts, scam and fraud alerts are the most useful messages they receive.

To join Neighbourhood Watch, or find out more about OWL, please visit www.herts.police.uk or www.owl.co.uk or contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team by calling 101.

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.

If you have a story for Village Voice, or a free small ad, or would like to take pictures for us, contact the Editor, 01462 742015.



Church Services

September 4th 10.15 am Family service, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
September 11th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
September 18th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
September 25th 9.15 am Parish Eucharist, St. Nicholas, Hinxworth
9.30 am Holy Communion, St. Vincent, Newnham

Nick and Alice wed



The weather held and the sun shone when Alice Marlow and Nick Busst married at Saint Nicholas Church, Hinxworth, on Saturday August 27th. Simon Marlow both played the organ and presented his daughter. Tom Marlow and friends played and sang during the signing of the registers. The reception was held at Edworth Barns. We wish them every joy.

Harvest Festivals

St Nicholas Hinxworth Harvest Festival will be celebrated at 10.15 am on Sunday October 2nd.

St Vincent, Newnham, Harvest Festival Evensong with Ashwell Choir will be on 9th October at 4.30pm.

Come and celebrate God's goodness with us.

Walk this way

Why not join us for the next Hinxworth Village Walk? We will meet at 10.30 am at The Three Horseshoes, Hinxworth, on Friday 16th September. A gentle and pleasant walk followed by a light lunch. What could possibly be a better way of spending a Friday morning in summer? All welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Ever Wanted to Learn Bridge?

Experienced teacher for beginners available to give lessons and get you started. I have taught over 40 beginners and all are still enjoying playing. I live in Newnham. Contact Carol on 07816 507315

Slow down, you're going too fast!



Newly painted road signs may lead to slower traffic through Hinxworth. Thanks to the Parish Council for getting this work done.

copy date

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