

## On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook

### Have your say on how we police your area

#### Spring security for homes and gardens 22 Mar 2021

- Operation Gnome, spring crime prevention campaign, launched
- Residents given advice on keeping homes and gardens secure

Hertfordshire Constabulary is launching its annual spring crime prevention campaign, Operation Gnome, to provide advice to help residents make their homes, gardens and outbuildings more secure this spring.

As lockdown restrictions ease, many people will be returning to work or spending more time outdoors, which will give criminals opportunities to target homes.

At this time of year when the weather is starting to improve, people tend to spend more time in their gardens using gardening and leisure equipment. Burglars are also on the look-out for valuable equipment and tools left out or stored in sheds and outbuildings that often have little or no security.

Inspector Nicola Dean from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Reduction Team, said: "During the lockdowns burglaries have remained very low as homes have been mostly occupied. However, as more people venture out the risk increases and we often see an increase in thefts from gardens, sheds and garages, during the spring. We are recommending that everyone takes some basic security measures to make sure their gardens and outbuildings are secure. Leaving tools and gardening equipment lying around in your garden can attract thieves, as they are valuable and could also be used to break into your home.

"Make sure any tools that could assist a burglar, like ladders, trowels, hammers etc, are locked away and make sure outbuildings are as secure as possible, with strong locks or even an alarmed padlock. Dusk till dawn security lights and planting defensive plants like roses along your borders and keeping fences in good condition will make your home even safer. Remember to close windows and lock doors when you are finished outside and before going to bed, even when the weather gets warmer."

These are some of the ways you can make your garden and outbuildings more secure:

- Always lock your shed, preferably with two 'hasp and staple' locks (one near the top and one near the bottom of the door) or use or an alarmed padlock
- Secure your rear garden by locking entry gates with a padlock
- Burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use
- Ensure boundary fences are secure and in good condition. Spiky plants along garden boundaries are good additional deterrents.
- Tools and gardening equipment should be visibly marked with your postcode and house number - this can deter thieves and help police identify the rightful owner
- Remember to lock your garage door securely. Metal 'up and over' doors can be secured with extra locks fitted either side and/or a floor-mounted locking 'T' bar with a closed shackle padlock. Wooden garage doors can be secured with two substantial 'hasps and staple' locks and closed shackle padlocks (your local DIY store can advise on the most secure options)
- Join Neighbourhood Watch or Allotment Watch to help reduce crime in your local area

- Make access to the rear of your property difficult, keep rear/side gates closed and locked ensure boundary walls/fences are in good repair
- Wheelie bins secured so they cannot be moved or used as climbing aid
- Planting of defensive spiky plants under windows – Berberis, Roses, Pyracantha
- Most bicycles are stolen from home so ensure your sheds, outbuildings and garages are secure. Consider installing ground anchors if you have a concrete floor. If not, look for security rated products specifically for wooden and metal sheds.
- Take extra security precautions for storing expensive bikes, it is recommended that they are security marked and registered with Bike Register on-line.

For more detailed security advice, please visit our crime prevention pages via the web or contact us on 101.

You can provide your feedback on what matters most to you about policing in Hertfordshire by texting the word 'echo', followed by your thoughts to 66099\* or by visiting [www.herts.police.uk/echo](http://www.herts.police.uk/echo).

#### Local Crime Information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Burglary Business, North Road, Baldock – On 17th February three males approached the rear gate and force them open. Once inside they attempted to steal a trailer but were unsuccessful, the males made off the direction they arrived. 41/12004/21 Refers

Fraud, Dixies Close, Ashwell – On 5th February Police received a report that a member of public had received a whatsapp and telegram offering financial investment initiatives. The member of public has invested in these schemes which has turned out to be a scam. 41/8798/21 Refers

Your local Neighbourhood Police Teams website

<http://snt.herts.police.uk/Teams.aspx?TeamID=G01>

#### Useful Links

<http://www.herts.police.uk/>

<http://www.doglost.co.uk/>

<http://www.stolenhorseregister.com/>



Rainbow skies captured over Hinxworth last week

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# • Village Voice •

April 2021

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.235

## Caldecote Under Cover

Towards the end of September 2020 Friends of Friendless Churches (the charity in whom Caldecote is vested) received good news – a substantial grant of money was allocated from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund for repairs to some 17 churches in the charity's care. A sum of £88,500 was earmarked for essential works at St Mary Magdalene's.

The award could not have come too soon – we regularly reported on the poor condition of the roof membrane allowing water to seep inside the church. Plus, water ingress through damaged roof into the South Porch affected our unique stoup.

In mid-February scaffolding went around the external walls allowing access to the roof and its proper inspection. The condition of the crenellations was also looked at. Concurrent with roof inspection work commenced on internal repairs. Rotten wood from the south pews was replaced and the pews made safe and, more importantly, the hatch to the bell chamber was closed. This is terrific news – a lot of dust was being blown inside the church through it plus, every spring mating birds would leave their calling cards all over the place!

For the duration of repairs the church remains closed. However, the conditions of the grant stipulate that work ought to be finished by the end of this month. We hear from the architect that workmen are on track and are likely to finish on time. Looking at the apparent chaos inside it is difficult to imagine what the church would look like once the workmen are gone. However, we promise a few surprises! I will not spoil your anticipation by saying here what they are ...

Finally, in line with Friends of Friendless Churches' policy, Caldecote church is now left permanently unlocked. Also, we have put some literature inside - please help yourselves if you wish. There is no collection box. I remain available should you wish more information or a tour of the church. The telephone number is 01462 895830, email [grazyna.tutak@ntlworld.com](mailto:grazyna.tutak@ntlworld.com) or though the FaceBook page Church of St. Mary

Magdalene, Caldecote.

We hope to see you again before long!



Scaffolding surrounding Caldecote Church



Inside Caldecote Church

## Spring is here!

With spring arriving this last week with an abundance of yellow daffodils and tree blossom blooming, birds busying in trees and bushes, near summer temperatures and the good news that lockdown rules are easing, it is noticeable that everyone has an extra smile and spring in their step. We should congratulate ourselves on getting through the dark, cold winter and strict lockdown rules. There is much hope for better things to come with the speedy vaccine roll-out and the start of easing of lockdown rules.

Happy Easter everyone!

Lucy Wade-Editor



### Lockdown rules for England from March 29

- Six people or two households can meet up outside, including in private gardens
- Minimal travel where possible – continue to work from home if you can
- Outdoor sports facilities and open-air swimming pools are allowed to re-open

### Lockdown rules for England from April 12

- Non-essential retailers can re-open
- Hairdressers can re-open
- Gyms can re-open for indoor exercising (but not classes)
- Pubs and restaurants can open for outdoor service only

## Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIA “ZOOM” ON THURSDAY 18th MARCH 2021 AT 7.00 PM.

Present: Mr R. Cobb (Chairman)  
Mr N. Tiffin  
Mr A. Dawson  
Mr A. Lloyd  
Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

Other persons present:- Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor, Tom Tyson District Councillor (he left the meeting at 7.20pm), Bryan Higgins to be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

Co-opted Councillor: The Chairman proposed Bryan Higgins be co-opted on to Hinxworth Parish Council. Seconded by Nicholas Tiffin and agreed unanimously.

### 1. The Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 11th February 2021 were agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Tony Lloyd and seconded by Tony Dawson.

### 2. Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda:-

Nothing to report.

### 3. Correspondence:

The Parish Councillors have received a letter from a local resident regarding their concern over the felling of a number of silver birch trees in Christy's Yard. A copy of the letter has been forwarded to North Hertfordshire District Council for action by the Conservation Officer if necessary. A reply is awaited.

### 4. Finance:

The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Proposed by Dick Cobb and seconded by Nick Tiffin.

The Councillors agreed to the purchase and installation of a new defibrillator battery. The Chairman has agreed to do this.

### 5. Planning:

Planning Applications received since the last meeting on February 11th:-

21/00769/FPH - Gaynesfield, Chapel Street.

21/00843/LBC - The Bakery Chapel Street.

21/00844/FPH - The Bakery Chapel Street.

There Councillors agreed unanimously to “no objection” to the above applications. NHDC will be notified accordingly. These applications can be viewed on the North Hertfordshire Council Planning Portal.

### 6. Highways:

Hinxworth/ Ashwell Road: To be closed and resurfaced between 29th March and 6th April.

The road sign at the bend near Cuckoo Corner:- The Parish Councillors have been notified by Hertfordshire Highways this sign had been replaced but has subsequently it has been noted it is still in the ditch. Hertfordshire Highways to be contacted.

Road Subsidence: Due to the continuing wet weather the road at Bury End area is breaking away and is badly in need of repair. It is unclear as to who is responsible for this. Steve Jarvis is continuing to follow-up further along with arranging the clearing of the gullies.

New Inn Road Flooding: The road continues to flood. Steve Jarvis is to follow-up.

### 7. Village Hall: To remain closed.

The Parish Councillors have received the latest Village Hall Management Committee

minutes. A copy of the agreed Year End Accounts for December 2020 are awaited. Julie

Methven has kindly taken over as Treasurer.

### 8. Recreation Ground:

David Granger has managed to do the first cut of the season even though the ground is very wet.

Hedge Cutting around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground: This is still on hold due to the saturated ground,

The Archery Club: The Chairman has provided David Osmond with the Annual Agreement for

2021/2022. As and when the Archery Club can access the site, due to it being flooded, will need to be discussed further.

### 9. The Tennis Court:

Nothing to report.

### 10. Allotments:

The Parish Councillors have been notified one allotmentee has resigned but fortunately another resident of the Village has stepped in to take over the vacated plots.

Hilary Perricone is to send the necessary licences/ deposit/rent to the Parish Council.

### 11. Any Other Urgent Business:

Fly Tipping: Due to the current pandemic fly tipping has become more prevalent. This has and is causing a problem in New Inn Road and the surrounding area of Hinxworth. It appears ongoing, with the residents clearing much of the offending items. What make is more difficult is the local “waste tips” in both Letchworth and Biggleswade have restrictions as to what and when they can take such items. The Parish Councillors intend to monitor and provide evidence as to who the offenders are.

The A.G.M. Thursday May 13th 2021 at 7.00pm via ZOOM..The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

### 12: Date of the Next Meeting:

- Thursday March 18th 2021 at 7.00pm via ZOOM..The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Wendy Kitchener – Clerk Hinxworth Parish Council

## Church Services – April 2021

April 2 12 pm Words and Music for Good Friday, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

April 4 9.30 am Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham

10.15 am Easter Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

April 11 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

April 18 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

April 25 9.30 Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham

10 am Parish Communion, St George's, Edworth, no service

at Hinxworth.

## Hinxworth and Edworth WI

### March Meeting

It was once again great to see lots of lovely members joining our March Zoom meeting. Sylvia started the meeting promptly at 7.30 and raised some of the matters from the last meeting. One such matter was the question of fund-raising ideas – is there anything we could do now to raise some much needed funds and do we have any ideas for future fund raising? Ideas please to Sylvia.

It was then time to say hello to our speaker for the evening – Eliza McLelland – to talk and chat to us under the heading “Anecdotes, jokes and observations on the ‘Seasons of a Woman’”. Eliza is an actress and comes from a theatre family. She has worked extensively in theatres all over the UK and has appeared on television in many well-known programmes such as Casualty, Peak Practice and Inspector Lindley to name but a few. Eliza is now a very experienced after dinner speaker, travelling all over England to give her talks which she has expanded and adapted to fit any occasion. Eliza entertained us for over an hour with a fun and sometime risqué mixture of stories, poems and jokes which made for a very entertaining evening much enjoyed by all.

After thanking Eliza and saying goodbye to her Sylvia reminded everyone that the April meeting is being organised by the members, also in April subscriptions will be due - £44.00 for the year. Please contact Hilary (treasurer) or Sylvia for details on how to pay. May is the WI AGM when Sylvia expressed her wish to step down as president. Sylvia will be much missed as president – she has done a great job for the last two and a half years and particularly over the last 12 months when meetings have been difficult to sustain – her enthusiasm has carried us through. Looking forward to seeing everyone again at the April members meeting.

Chrisi Hook

## Walk with Women - The WI shows solidarity with the No More Violence movement

On Friday 19 March 2021, the National Federation of WI called on all WI members to show their support and solidarity with all women who have experienced abuse and harassment. Between 6pm-7pm, we were asked to safely join the ‘WI Walk with Women’, in accordance with social-distancing rules using candles, lanterns etc. to show support. Newnham residents were keen to support this & joined our walk where possible and also put candles in windows. A small but select group of Hinxworth WI members also walked the length of the village carrying lanterns and placards to show their support for the movement which has gained momentum since the murder of Sarah Everard. Sylvia Scales sends thanks to those who joined in and those who sent messages of support.



Newnham WI



Hinxworth WI



## The Three Horseshoes

### The Three Horseshoes is reopening 12th April 2021

We are very excited to be re-opening the Beer Garden on Monday 12th April from 5pm for drinks only

#### Opening Times from April

Tuesday – Thursday 5pm to Sundown for drinks only

Friday and Saturday 12 to Sundown

Sunday 12 to 7pm

Kitchen open Friday through to Sunday

Return of Small-Plates-Saturday

Exciting new menu coming soon

Call or message 07754312575 to book your outside table.

We will also continue with take-away meals, available Friday and Saturday between 5 and 7pm and Sunday between 12 and 3pm.

We hope to open inside in May if permitted

All the above subject to change depending on Government guidelines

We are feeling optimistic and looking forward to seeing you all soon

## Easter Chick Cheer

Charlie Chicks (all containing a Cadbury's cream egg).

Suggested donation £1 (or £2 for chicks with a hat) to raise vital funds for Garden House Hospice Care. Available from 8 Lower Farm, Edworth or contact Katrina if you'd like one delivered. [katrinahoskins@hotmail.com](mailto:katrinahoskins@hotmail.com)

