

On the Beat

PC Mark Ellwood 371 & PCSO 6531 Penny Tomsett,
PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522. Sgt Jon Vine 1841

Make your home secure this winter - use simple low cost devices. Lock your cars. Keep valuables out of sight

Autumn is here and the clocks have gone back, meaning darker afternoons and increasing opportunities for criminals. Burglaries are currently down around 30 per cent, compared to the same period last year, however during the autumn and winter months burglaries do tend to increase. Homes that are left unlit during the dark afternoons act as a signal to burglars that a property is empty, so residents are being urged to follow home security advice in the months leading up to Christmas.

This is a very busy time of year for all of us and we can be easily distracted, so please remain vigilant, ensure all windows and doors are locked and that your Christmas presents are not on display and visible through windows. If you are intending to go away to visit relatives, maybe install some timers on your lamps, set at different times in different parts of the house, to make the house look lived in. Maybe install an alarm or a video doorbell. For your outbuildings, install a shed alarm, these can be inexpensive and emit a loud frequency as a deterrent. Do not leave any valuables in sight in your vehicles, this includes Christmas presents, leave them in the boot of the car.

Local crime information

Royston area

We have had a theft of a van in Barley, which was locked and the keys in the house, but there are some relatively simple steps drivers can take to lower the risk of their vehicles being stolen. Thieves can use electronic devices to boost the signal from the vehicle's keyless fob if the key is close enough to the vehicle, even if it is inside the home, the device can detect the fob signal and use it to open and start it. This can be prevented by simply keeping the fob in a faraday bag or a metal tin. Just using old-fashioned steering wheel locks is also an effective deterrent.

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Theft - Hinxworth

Overnight on the 17th-18th October a white transit van was seen on CCTV to park up at The Three Horseshoes, Hinxworth. Two offenders have exited the vehicle entered the rear yard and taken a bin containing cooking oil. They have loaded into the van and driven off in the direction of Ashwell. 41/81318/21.

Theft - Ashwell

Overnight on the 27th-28th October unknown persons have entered a building site on Claybush Road, Ashwell. Boilers, showers and strimmers were taken. Offenders also gained access into the site office, items were taken. 41/83557/21.

Travellers Tales

A while back I was given a book to read - The Island by Victoria Hislop. The novel is based on the fortress island of Spinalonga, in north eastern Crete. It was an actual leper colony for 54 yrs; the story is built around the inhabitants of the leper colony and the villagers of Plaka, Eloundis and Agios Nikolaos.

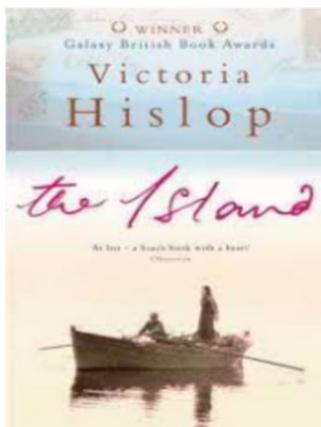
I found the book absorbing and loved the descriptions of the local people, their food and way of life. I longed to sit in Georgio's taverna in Plaka, overlooking the sea and Spinalonga. When I visited in October 2021 I thought that I would be a trailblazer, a unique visitor; how wrong was I..!

The book has been serialised on Greek television and published widely throughout Europe. As a result visitors have turned the leper colony into quite an attraction. Indeed, further books have been published including the splendid 'Yannis' by Beryl Darby.

I have been aware of the plight of people suffering from leprosy for, when I was a child in the mid 50s, my Father, an Evangelical minister, sometimes took me with him to visit a leper colony in Reigate, Surrey! Jordan's hospital was one of only two established in the UK and every patient there had contracted the disease abroad.

I was pleased to realise that 'The Island' novel has resulted in the region becoming revitalised and prosperous; that something good has come out of its troubled past.

Merry Higgins



Beer Shortages Hit Herts!



Over the past 18 months we've had to live with many shortages. From toilet rolls, pasta, petrol, lorry drivers, fresh fruit & salad, Christmas turkeys and PPE to name just a few. Now it seems that North Herts is threatened with another shortage - Beer! Oh no...what a calamity! But three cheers for Gerry and Julie, at the Horseshoes, who have managed to secure an uninterrupted supply of this precious commodity for us thirsty villagers to enjoy. What would we do without them?





Thank You Lucy!

A big thank you to Lucy Wade and her family for giving us some great, informative reading over the last few years. Jan and Karen hope to continue your legacy as we take on editorship from this month.

Biggleswade ‘Preen’ Foodbank

Many of you will already know that Hinxworth residents support the local Biggleswade food bank. A big thank you to those who give regularly. Donations can be left inside St Nicholas’ Church. They are collected by Patrick Forbes and taken to Biggleswade. The food bank is on Sun Street, sharing a building with a community project (Preen) that recycles and re-uses household items and furniture. It is open to everyone in need, working people welcome, no proof of benefits is required and users are encouraged to bring their own shopping list along with them. It is open from Tuesday to Friday from 10-11am and Saturdays from 2-4pm. It is closed on Sunday and Monday.

In an average opening slot, the food bank serves about fifteen families. Their simple motto is “ Don’t worry - we’ll help you”.

As Christmas approaches the food bank will be an important lifeline for many people. Jan on the Village Voice team recently visited to ask what donations would be most helpful. Dayna, who runs the bank on a day to day basis, gave us the following list:

Tinned Vegetables	Pasta Sauce	Sugar
Tinned Meats	Kids Cereals	Squash/Juice
UHT Milk	Teabags & Coffee	Christmas Treats



Copy Date: Please send all copy/pictures for January edition by December 20th. E: villagevoice3@gmail.com

‘Alternative’ Christmas Card

As Christmas is approaching the Alternative Christmas Card Scheme in Hinxworth and Edworth means a donation can be made to one or both of the chosen charities instead of buying and sending Christmas cards to friends and neighbours in Hinxworth and Edworth. A printed Christmas card with seasonal greetings and the names of all the participants will be delivered to every house in the two villages before Christmas.

This year, the chosen charities are the Garden House Hospice in Letchworth and Mind. The hospice provides a wide range of services for patients, their carers, and families facing a life limiting illness; and Mind, a mental health charity provides advice and support to anyone experiencing a mental health problem.

If you would like to participate in the scheme I have set up a JustGiving page for;

- Garden House Hospice (www.justgiving.com/Rachel-Giles9)
- Mind (www.justgiving.com/Rachel-Giles10).

When donating, please tick “hide donation amount from public view”. It is also imperative that you put the names of all the people in your household including surname, and tick the box saying “happy to share contact details with Rachel Giles” so that I can include all the contributors’ names in the Christmas card. If you have participated in the Alternative Christmas Card Scheme in previous years I have your address (which is put in the card alongside your name) but if you are new to the village or moved house in the past year please email me your address rachel@gilesunlimited.co.uk. Please can donations be made by Tuesday 7th December. If you prefer not to use Just Giving please put your contribution in an envelope (a cheque preferably) with your name and address. Cheques can be made payable to “Garden House Hospice Care” or “Mind”. Please drop donations to me at Bury End Farm, Ashwell Road, Hinxworth by Tuesday 7th December.

The Three Horseshoes Menu and Christmas Hours

A new seasonal menu is now available. Christmas hours are:

	Bar	Kitchen
Christmas Eve	12.00 - 23.30	12.00 - 15.00 17.00 - 21.00
Christmas Day	12.00 - 14.30	Closed
Boxing Day	12.00 - 15.00	Closed
Mon 27th Dec	Closed	
28th - 30th Dec	Normal Hours	
New Years Eve	12.00 - 15.00	12.00 - 15.00
<i>Ticket Only</i>	18.00 - 01.00	
New Years Day	12.00 - 15.00	Closed
2nd - 5th Jan	Closed	
Thurs 6th Jan	Normal Hours	



The Big Breakfast

Tickets are now being sold for January's 'WI Big Breakfast'. This will take place on Sunday 23rd January, from 10am - 12.30pm. Prices are £7.00 for a big breakfast, £3.50 for a half portion breakfast or £3.50 for a continental breakfast. Call to book your tickets. Contact Hilary (07825 046640) or Jan (07890 410752).

Jan Youngman

Candles by Candlelight

This will take place in the delightful St Mary Magdalene Church, Caldecote SG7 5LD on Saturday 4th December from 5.30pm.

Tickets are £10.00 with all proceeds going towards the restoration fund. Contact grazyna.tutak@ntlworld.com or via Facebook at the 'Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Caldecote' for tickets or more information.

Calm Confident Mamas

Carly from Edworth contacted the Village Voice to tell us about her new recently launched business. Calm Confident Mamas supports parents to prepare for a calm, confident birth.

Carly is offering a six week online prenatal & birth preparation course which will provide tools, confidence and knowledge to create a positive birth experience.

The next course runs from Monday 3rd January 2022, spaces are limited so if you or someone you know would like to take part please go to www.carlywillersyoga.com/calmconfidentmamas to reserve a space.

Carly Willers

Soup Lunch

The next Soup Lunch will be on the 10 December in the Village Hall 12.30 to 2pm. Everyone is so welcome - no booking needed. Just rock up for a choice of delicious homemade soups and puddings for just £3.00. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Chrisi Hook

Fusion Dance is Here!

Street Dance and Freestyle Disco is now taking place in the Hinxworth Village Hall. This runs in two groups, for 4-8 year olds and 9-12 year olds. Spaces are available so get in touch for a trial and more information. Contact fusionmissmaisy@outlook.com.

Goodbye to 'HYP'

With no volunteers to take over, our village youth club is now closed. There have been some great memories and friendships made. All of the leaders would like to thank everyone in the village and most importantly the members for their support and participation over the years. There are lots of new families with young children in the village, maybe in the future HYP will thrive again...

Debbs McPherson, Jane Hartree & Karen Mills

Parish Council Minutes Online

Parish Council Minutes can be found on the Hinxworth Parish Council Website. Go to: www.hinxworth-pc.org.uk for more information.

Church Services for December

Sunday 5th December		
10.15	All Age Service, St Nicholas' Day	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
16.30	Carol Service	St Vincents, Newnham

Sunday 12th December		
09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
16.00	Carol Service	St Vincents, Newnham

Sunday 19th December		
09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
17.00	Lessons and Carols	St Mary's, Ashwell

Friday 24th December		
15.00	Crib Service	St Mary's, Ashwell
23.30	Midnight Mass	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
23.30	Midnight Mass	St Mary's, Ashwell

Saturday 25th December		
09.30	Communion Service	St Vincents, Newnham
10.00	Family Service	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
10.45	All Age Communion	St Mary's, Ashwell

Sunday 26th December		
10.45	Benefice Eucharist (Said)	St Mary's, Ashwell

New Neighbours in Edworth

A very warm welcome to The Flint family who moved to Edworth from Surrey in September 2021. Amy and Matt Flint told Village Voice: "We don't know anyone here at all but we fell in love with the house. We wanted to be able to have our horses living 'at home' with us. It's a wonderful place to live. People have been so kind and friendly and we look forward to meeting more of our neighbours in the coming months." Amy and Matt got married in August 2021. Amy owns and runs her own drama school based in London and Doncaster. Matt, who doesn't like or drink coffee, works in London and Dunstable for none other than Costa Coffee!



From left to right. Dotty, the Skewbald (aged 12yrs), Amy, Pippin the Palomino (aged 14yrs), Oscar the Maltese Terrier (7yrs), Matt and Baxter the Fox Red working Labrador (14 weeks).



'Advent Windows' are Back...

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to take part! This will start from the 6th December. It would be great to see as many people as possible at each window 'reveal'. Please come along from 7pm.

6th	7th	8th	9th
High Street House	5, Homefield	1, Arnolds Lane	The Ogles, High St
10th	11th	12th	13th
6, Christys Yard	Middle Farm, Chapel St	Cantebury, Chapel St	2, High Street
14th	15th	16th	17th
The Chimes, High Street	Bay Tree Cottage, Chapel St	2, Meadow View, Edworth	7, Homefield
18th	19th	20th	21st
8, New Inn Rd	2, Francis Rd	The Paddock, High St	Chapel House, Chapel St
22nd	23rd	24th	
Cammocks, Chapel St	14, Frances Rd	The Three Horseshoes	

Festive Fizz..!

According to a recent review by Which? Les Pionniers Champagne- Co-op's own-brand champagne is as good as Mumm Cordon Rouge and better than Moët & Chandon. Which? name it as the best value deal for Christmas bubbly. Les Pionniers NV champagne sells for £19, half the price of a bottle of Moët, but scored joint top with Mumm Cordon Rouge in blind tests by experts.

The champagne is made for Co-op by Piper Heidsieck – which normally sells for £30 upwards in UK supermarkets. Tim Atkins says "It's a classy, toasty, mouth-filling bubbly with creamy bubbles, based on the red grapes, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier; but with 20% Chardonnay providing a citrus-edged tang of acidity. The best value Champagne in the country".

One lucky Village Voice reader can win this bottle. Simply put £1 in a sealed envelope, write your name on it and post your entry through any of the following letterboxes:

- Chapel House, Chapel Street (Jan)
- High Street House, High St (Karen)
- 8, The Barns Edworth (Katrina & Peter)
- Newnham Hall Cottage (Fiona)

Closing date 20th Dec. There must be at least nineteen entries to make the draw viable as we need to cover the cost of the initial purchase. Any surplus funds will be put towards next month's bottle.



War Memorial Wreaths

The twenty wreaths on the walls represent the men who died in the two world wars from the three villages.

The four main wreaths which were laid on the day were from the villages, Hertfordshire Lodge of the Legion, Purple Heart wreath to remember the contribution of animals and the Bedfordshire Cycle Club.

That Cycle Club has been visiting this event for many years; because of this were invited to lay a wreath. Five members of the club died in the second world war.



Photo & words by Alec Stephenson



Photo by Graham White

Hinxworth & Edworth WI

The November meeting was held on the 11 November and was once again well attended by members. Another interesting speaker was in store for us. This time 'Bill Hamilton - Man on the Spot'.

Bill started out as a mere cub reporter and ended his career as a special correspondent on BBC TV news, a role which took him to some of the world's worst trouble spots. Bill was best-known as a BBC network news reporter, who earlier in his career presented Reporting Scotland. After leaving the BBC Bill went freelance.

In retirement he has been involved in filming assignments for a range of children's charities in Albania, Uganda and Kazakhstan. With money earned from outside talks on journalism and broadcasting he was able to raise funds to rebuild a dilapidated country school 3,000 feet up in the Albanian mountains. Bill also played the role of fictional ITN reporter Robert Snow in the 1982 British political thriller Who Dares Wins. Bill was an animated and thoroughly interesting presenter and his talk and slide show was enjoyed by all.

The next WI meeting is 9th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. New members are always most welcome so any new ladies to the village "come on down" to the Village Hall and enjoy a lovely social evening. We are a very friendly bunch and look forward to seeing you.

Chrisi Hook