

Plant Britain - Our very own Arboretum?

If you are a fan of Countryfile, like my family, you will know about this campaign. As a result, I thought it might be a nice idea to join in this initiative in this community and am sending out this appeal to all in Hinxworth, Edworth, Caldecote and Newnham.

I wondered if there was a piece of land in the area on which a few small flowering trees, like apple, plum, almond or cherry, might be planted to enhance the natural beauty of our surroundings and to create a small wood in commemoration of the Coronavirus pandemic. Perhaps some people might like to plant a tree specifically in memory of someone they have lost.

The last time this was done [in my memory at least] was in 1983 when we reclaimed the site where the old sewage works had been in Francis Road, alongside the recreation ground, and planted the wood which is there now. We also planted the hedge from Bury End pond in Hinxworth down almost to Cuckoo Corner sometime after that. It would be great to hand on another legacy to the residents of the future.

The land would need open access. I realise that this is a big ask, but if anyone does know of or have a piece of land, [I was thinking of something maybe as small as the grass between no 7 and Wattlefield in Francis Road] which is not being used for anything, and is unlikely to be in the future, please get in touch with me at sylviamedia@gmail.com

Sylvia Scales



Woodland alongside the Rec

On the Beat

Chris Braybrook PCSO 6522

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 Non-emergency: 101

Warning after residents targeted in National Insurance scam

Victims are sometimes contacted via text messages asking them to urgently call the number provided, or via emails which contain bogus links.

Detective Chief Inspector Sam Khanna, from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: "These fraudsters tend to target elderly and vulnerable people and use the threat of arrest to frighten them into making bank transfers or using other methods to pay bogus debts or fines.

"It's important to remember that government officials and police officers will NEVER contact you in these ways or ask you to buy gift cards, vouchers, withdraw money, purchase goods or hand over

private banking details.

Please help us to raise awareness by talking about this with your friends and family, especially if they are vulnerable or elderly."

How to protect yourself: HMRC will never use texts to tell you about a tax rebate or penalty or ever ask for payment in this way.

Telephone numbers and text messages can easily be spoofed. You should never trust the number you see on your telephone display. If you receive a suspicious cold call, end it immediately

If you receive a suspicious email, never click on the link contained within. Retain any details and report to Action Fraud unless the fraud is in progress, in which case dial 999.

Hertfordshire Constabulary offers the following advice on recognising fraud: Be sceptical of callers, even those who claim to be officials. NEVER give personal information, such as your date of birth or bank details, to unexpected callers.

Remember that the police or your bank would NEVER unexpectedly call you and ask you to withdraw cash or move your money to another account, as a result of fraud or any other reason.

If callers suggest you call your local police or bank to check who they are, use another phone or ensure the line has been fully disconnected by phoning a friend first, or by waiting at least five minutes, otherwise you may be simply talking to the fraudsters again. This is a common fraudsters' tactic.

If a caller asks you to type your bank PIN number into your telephone handset - do not do this, as fraudsters can use technology to identify the numbers.

You can opt out of many cold calls by registering for free with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707.

If you believe that you are a victim of this scam please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 to report, using a different phone to that used to communicate with the fraudsters. If a fraud is in progress or someone's life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

Click it or risk a ticket

Seatbelts save lives and those who fail to 'click it' risk getting a ticket or worse, warn police at the start of a national seatbelt campaign that starts in June. Wearing a seatbelt is one of the simplest things a person can do to protect themselves on a journey. Failing to do so is one of the most common causes of serious injuries and deaths on the roads. Yet despite warnings, some people are still willing to take the risk. Throughout the campaign, officers will be proactively engaging with the public during their patrols to highlight the importance of wearing a seatbelt and enforcing the law where necessary.

Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Attempted Theft, Hinxworth - Overnight on 3rd May a transit type van was parked in Francis Road, Hinxworth. The offenders have approached the vehicle and damaged the lock in an attempt to gain entry. Access to the van was not successful and the offender made off.

Copy Date: Send copy/pictures for August edition to Lucy Wade, Editor, by July 20th Email: villagevoice3@gmail.com

• Village Voice •

July 2021

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.238

Caldecote Church

By the time you read this update from Caldecote all essential repairs to the church roof and stonework will have been finished. A warm and dry April allowed for a robust progress of work. A new, steel roof is in place, slightly pitched so that rainwater can drain freely down the reconditioned gutters and drainpipes. Unfortunately, the contractors encountered crumbling brickwork and plaster in the crenellations and parapets, which needed to be made safe to eliminate any danger of falling masonry. A huge tarpaulin cover enabled these repairs to continue. The finished areas have received a layer of fresh, cream-coloured rendering.

Inside, all damaged wood had been removed and replaced, both from the pews and from the interior roof beams. As much as I longed to keep the pieces, the architect dissuaded me against it unless I was prepared to freeze them for a few weeks first – an idea rather distasteful owing to my freezer's size and the fact that it is packed full of home-cooked food!

Inside, the bell chamber stone walls and wooden floorboards were strengthened and repaired and access made to the upper sections of the tower. The hatch will be closed with a trapdoor which, although not new, is still serviceable and fitted with new hinges and bolts.

At the time of writing the contractors promise to clear and tidy up the site completely before the end of June. Please check out our FB page "Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Caldecote" for the latest news.

Grazyna Tutak



Caldecote church roof

Welcome Newcomers

A big welcome goes out to all new arrivals to our villages, there have been over a dozen new arrivals in the last year to Hinxworth and Edworth alone! It is always exciting when new young families and their children move in (the next generation of villagers). Village Voice is always happy to receive news, ideas or interesting information from any resident, but especially from newcomers. I have no doubt that established residents will be very interested to hear all about you.

Email: villagevoice3@gmail.com by 20th of the month for inclusion in the following edition. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lucy Wade – Editor

A Big Thank You and Farewell From Foxhollow Nursery

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their support over the years as this is our last year of trading as Foxhollow Nursery. It has been a difficult decision to make as we have enjoyed every moment. In September the Nursery will close down.

We have been trading for over forty years and have met and made friends with so many lovely people who have returned to see us year after year.

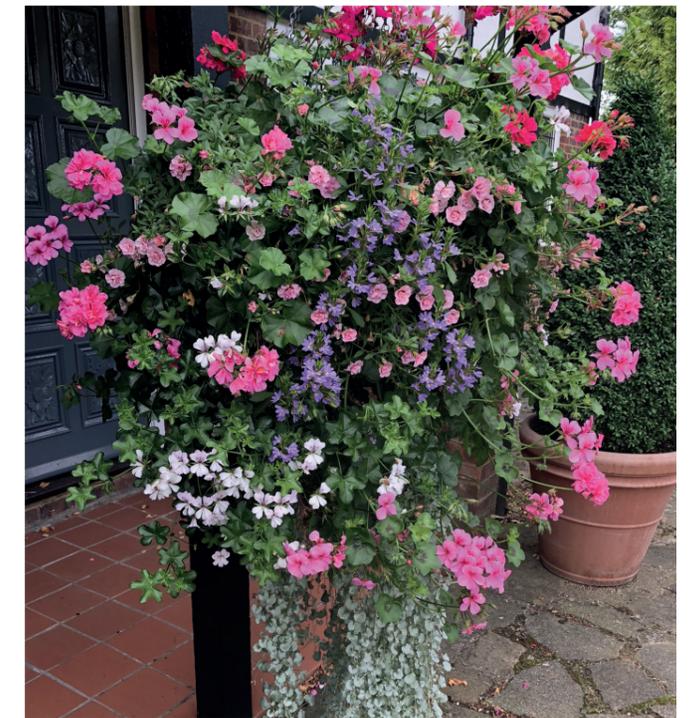
Doug and I feel it is time for us to have the future spring and summers to ourselves and concentrate on our own garden.

The Nursery is full of lovely plants, if you can pay us a visit we would love to say goodbye in person. We are now selling the remaining stock including plants, terracotta, stone bird baths, statues and stone urns at a much-reduced price.

Thank you again,

Doug and Margaret

Foxhollow Nursery, New Inn Road



Pelargoniums at Foxhollow Nursery

Defibrillator

Just to remind everyone that the Hinxworth Defibrillator is located at The Three Horseshoes.

It is on the wall at the side towards the beer garden, next to where the daily papers are left for collection.



The Three Horseshoes

Tel: 01462 743335

Gin and Jazz - Sunday 27 th June - Postponed

Unfortunately, due to the extension of Covid restrictions the Gin and Jazz event had to be postponed.

This will now take place on 25 July.

(Any previous bookings will be held for the new date, but please let us know if any party cannot make it)

Road Closure

Whilst some residents in Hinxworth noticed the peace and quiet of very little traffic along the High Street, others experienced the inconvenience of the road closure.

This was due to the unfortunate event of a collapsed sewer. The road remained completely closed just before New Inn Road and the Church, for over two weeks.

Happily for most residents who need to pass through here for school runs and other essential trips, the road reopened on Tuesday 22 June.



Church Services for July 2021:

July 4 10.15 am Family Service, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

July 11 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

July 18 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

July 25 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

9.30 am Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham

NHS and Essential Workers' Day

The planned event to commemorate NHS and essential workers on Sunday July 4th has been cancelled due to the extended Covid restrictions.

Hinxworth and Edworth WI

June Meeting

The sun shone and it stayed warm for the first "in-person" WI meeting for over a year and what a lovely meeting it was too. Sylvia and Bob had very kindly invited the WI members and partners to their garden; members took food – savouries and cakes - and Pimm's was served. Sylvia's garden looked a picture. The tables were laid, chairs set out and garden parasols in place – Bob had also arranged a beer corner in the garden specially for the men amongst us. Everyone was made so welcome. It was really lovely to see so many members, to chat and catch up on news.



Jean Brown's 90th Birthday

Anki Smart, the new president, had very wisely decided to postpone the usual WI formalities until the end of the evening. Everyone found themselves a seat and helped themselves to food. Once the plates had been cleared and we prepared ourselves to tackle the delicious looking cakes and puddings on offer, Anki called for a moment of hush from everyone so that she could say a few words. Firstly, she said how nice it was to see so many members again after so long and how lovely it was that this meeting happily coincided with Jean Brown's 90th birthday.

Jan Youngman had made and decorated a cake which was finished off with a little bouquet of fresh flowers by Lizzie Cree for the occasion, which was presented to Jean to cut and share with the members. Anki then went on to say a big thank you to Sylvia and Bob for lending us their garden for the evening and Sylvia was given a very sweet smelling rose bush. Patrick took lots of pictures during the evening and the highlights are here in print. A delightful evening.



Sylvia Scales receiving her rose

The next meeting will be on Thursday July 8 at the slightly earlier time of 7pm – this is the WI garden meeting and the venue at Edworth Church. See you then.

Chrisi Hook

Ashwell Patients' Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16 June 2021

1. Present:

Peter Chapman (Chair), Hilary Hodge, Harry King, Dr Matt Jarvis, Linda Johnson, Mike Pearch, Detlev Popp,

2. Apologies:

T. Cathcart, Wendy Kitchener, Graham Lee, Andrea Rowlands.

3. Staffing News:

Our new Practice Manager, Katie Dearman, will start in August. PC will try and meet her before the next committee meeting.

Dr Cole has now left and we have secured temporary cover until her replacement, Dr Geraldine Odor joins in November. Dr Jarvis explained that, thanks to efforts by LJ, we have a good supply of locums to count on when gaps arise. PC pointed out that figures for vacancies for GPs and nurses in our area (East and North Herts) showed a significant shortfall. We are lucky to be fully staffed. However, MJ pointed out that the situation was fragile given the very difficult recruitment situation nationally because of a shortage of clinical staff.

4. Vaccination Update:

LJ informed the committee that all but a very few of the 40+ on our books had now been fully vaccinated. The local centre near Sainsbury's run by our Primary Care Network (PCN) is only dealing with the very few patients not yet vaccinated. The regional centres (Robertson House and da Vinci) are catering for the under 40s. We have not been informed about how the booster programme will be delivered.

LJ pointed out that we are in the process of organising Pneumonia (P) and Shingles (S) vaccination clinics. P will be held at both Ashwell and Bassingbourn in car parks; S at Ashwell at the back door with access to a clinical room.

5. Appointments:

- Cold and Warm Sites: Since the start of the pandemic all surgeries have been required by government to operate "cold" and "warm" facilities, to maximise infection control. We are unusual in having 2 bases, Ashwell and Bassingbourn, with the first designated as "cold" with very limited physical access to patients, the second being Bassingbourn ("warm") where most face-to-face consultations occur. Ashwell deals with phone, video and eConsult links with patients. Our staff currently work exclusively in one or other venue. GL, on behalf of Ashwell Parish Council, was anxious to understand why Ashwell residents were routinely being sent to Bassingbourn especially if getting there was problematic. Dr Jarvis responded that whilst the current infection control rules necessitated limiting physical access to Ashwell as our cold site, patients in particular circumstances can still be seen at Ashwell. He pointed out that whilst receptionists were expected to offer Bassingbourn in the first instance, patients could explain their situation and request an appointment at Ashwell. The extension of the national measures until July 19th means that cold/warm rules will continue for some time. The committee understood MJ's explanation and found the arrangements for our surgeries to be reasonable, especially given that exceptions were possible depending on circumstances. It was agreed that it would be useful to publish an explanation of the cold/warm arrangements. PC to work on this.

- Face to Face as Opposed to Digital Consultations: Dr Jarvis estimated that currently around 68% of consultations were digital. That said, we have augmented capacity for in-person consultations by increasing the number of locums we employ. We have also shortened the length of consultations to make more available.

- Waiting Times: These are not over-long at present. We have a duty doctor available daily for emergencies as well as a minor injuries nurse. Non-urgent patients are asked to email or use eConsult. There are no waiting lists for general nursing needs. Sometimes patients express a wish to see a doctor for an on-going issue which could be dealt with by a nurse. Blood test results come back daily and doctors contact patients if there needs to be further action.

6. Blood Tests:

Members were alerted to the fact that patients were now required to book appointments for blood tests in hospital and that walk-ins were no longer possible. LJ said the system was working well and was useful for emergencies or for when surgery times were inconvenient. This is an additional to the phlebotomy service offered 3 times a week at Ashwell (despite Covid precautions at the "cold" site). We are the only practice in the area to offer such a service. Patients at other surgeries need to go to hospital for testing. PC will circulate the information to local websites.

7. Pressure on Surgery Staff:

PC reported that at the recent CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) board meeting GPs from all over Herts and West Essex were experiencing a tsunami of demand, unprecedented in their experience. This, together with Covid restrictions, was impacting on waiting times and frequently causing disgruntlement among patients leading to a deterioration in surgery-patient relations and often abusive behaviour. MJ and LJ both acknowledged that we too were experiencing a surge in demand but Dr Jarvis said that in our case we were managing it. A rise in abuse from patients is an issue nationally.

8. Problems with Phone System:

PC and Mark Pilling recently gave a talk to Ashwell Mothers' Union at which one patient told how on several occasions, after a long wait on the phone, she was cut off. MJ reported that he and Mark had discussed this and found it unacceptable. They had called in the provider who had been unable to identify the fault. We think this occurs when the system is overloaded. The PCN (Primary Care Network) is considering adopting a common phone system but MJ was sceptical that this would resolve the problem. Sadly we are at an impasse at present.

9. General Practice Data for Planning and Research (GPDFPR):

The government has plans to collect patient data (anonymised) from GP records. This information is potentially extremely valuable in the fight against disease. However, there are fears that the data could be acquired by commercial interests which could lead to adverse effects on individuals or groups. Patients had until the end of June to withdraw their willingness to share their data. However, the government has postponed this until September. Discussion ensued. Watch this space.

10. "Cancel out Cancer":

DP reported that his men's group in Guilden Morden had received this briefing offered by the CCG and that it had gone well. PC invited other groups to take advantage of the offer.

Date of Next Meeting:

PC to liaise with MJ about a date mid-September

Peter Chapman – Chairman