

• Village Voice •

October 2021

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.241

“Sadly, this is an ongoing problem around the villages and local towns,” explained Neighbourhood Inspector Patrick McPeake..

“We are receiving reports of thefts from vehicles, where personal belongings have been left within the vehicle, almost every day. And there is no secret method that these thieves are using. They are simply trying car doors and finding those that are unlocked and stealing whatever they can.

“People always ask us what we are doing about these thefts, but my question to local residents is - what are you doing about it? If you're not locking your car doors and removing valuables, then you are inviting this type of activity and you increase your chances of being a victim of crime.

“People also ask us - why don't you investigate these crimes and arrest the offenders? Well, we do and we have. Over the last year we have arrested and charged offenders for these types of offences. However, when they are convicted at court, they are often released with a fine. That means they are back out on the street trying your car door handles, stealing your bank cards and spending your hard- earned money.

“We can patrol these areas as much as we like, but we need help from the public, who also need to take ownership of this problem. We're not seeing cars being broken into or special devices being used to unlock them - this is simply down to negligence and criminals will take advantage of it. So, my message to you is clear - lock your car doors and remove any valuables.”

For further advice on how to protect your vehicle go to

www.herts.police.uk/protectyourproperty

Constabulary colleagues come together for rural conference

Presentations were given by colleagues and external speakers.

Attendees gained an insight into to devastating effects of rural crime.

Officers and staff from across Hertfordshire Constabulary came together for a conference last week, to learn more about the issues facing the rural community and how they can better support them.

The two-day course was run by the constabulary's Rural Operational Support Team (ROST) and featured presentations from policing colleagues and external guest speakers, including representatives from the National Farmers' Union and the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

Attendees were able to get an insight into the massive impact that crimes such as hare coursing, sheep worrying and theft can have on farmers, as well as learning about more specialist investigations involving wildlife.

It was also an opportunity for colleagues to share learning, knowledge and expertise which may assist with any future investigations.

ROST Sergeant Ryan Hemmings said: “Many people may not see rural crime as a priority issue, but for those living in these communities, the impact of it can be absolutely devastating. We want to ensure that we are doing all we can to support our rural communities across the county, to make them feel safer, build relationships and to ultimately increase their confidence in us.

“This conference helped to further educate officers on the issues that farmers and those living in remote areas face on a daily basis. It was also a chance for those working within other roles across the constabulary to understand how they could use their expertise to help.

“I'd like to thank all those who attended, the guest speakers who gave such useful and interesting insights and Lucas Lane Sports Club in Hitchin for hosting us.”

You can report information about rural crime online, speak to an operator in our Force Communications Room via our online web chat or call the non-emergency number 101. If a crime is in progress, always dial 999.

Alternatively, you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their untraceable online form (opens in a new window).

You can use our anonymous community voice platform 'echo' to let us know what you think we should be prioritising in your area. Your feedback will help towards shaping our local policing priorities, initiatives and campaigns. Tell us your thoughts.

To receive police messages about a range of topics including burglaries, scams and missing people in your local area, sign up to OWL or download the 'OWL crime alerts' app from your app store.

WI Meetings Return

On Thursday 9th September our first face to face meeting took place at Hinxworth & Edworth Village Hall and it was such a joy to be back with all our members and friends although sadly missing dear Anne whom we said a fond farewell to at her moving and lovely service at St Nicholas Church just a few weeks ago. We miss too Carol Cheney and Janet Fair who during the summer moved to their new homes and at this meeting said a fond farewell to Heather who too is off to pastures new towards the end of September.

After the business side of things we welcomed Nick our speaker for the evening who talked to us about 'Hatfield House' taking us through all the royal residents of the house, influential architects & builders and how the foot print of the buildings had changed over the years. The present day incumbents being Lord & Lady Salisbury. His talk accompanied by film slides of the beautiful architecture, grounds and fabulous knot gardens.

Our Next Meeting is to be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 14th October and will be a OPEN Meeting with a talk 'My Dogs Nose Knows'. Do come along with Husbands/Partners/Friends.

* We would love to see some new faces and know that there are lots of new residents in Hinxworth & Edworth so do please pop along and meet us as we are a very friendly group with ages ranging from 26+. Most of our ladies joined as young housewives with families and its one Thursday a month. It is no longer the Jam & Jerusalem Image of old but an organisation that holds great core values such as inclusivity for all and throughout Covid we are one of the few WI's that continued meetings via zoom and kept our members fully engaged and supported with our ethos of friendship for all. Each meeting we have business first, followed by a speaker or activity and refreshments. Every year we campaign on a set of resolutions which we vote on and the chosen one is worked on by a team of experts and becomes law or change. This year was 'A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of Ovarian Cancer' and nationally was unanimously voted on by 99.48%. There is a National AGM each year held in a different city and I have so far been to Cardiff, Bournemouth, Liverpool, Leeds, Brighton & London where we usually book a hotel for a few days away with a group of us letting loose. So you see the WI is FUN! What we need now is YOU, fresh faces with new ideas so come along and join us.

Jan Youngman

Copy Date: If you would like to contribute to the Village Voice or have a small add you would like included, please submit your piece by October 20 for the November edition to:

Lucy Wade, Editor E: villagevoice3@gmail.com

Christmas Windows Are Back!

It's that time of year again! Christmas is coming soon and we are hoping to go back to the old format for our Christmas Windows! As many of you know, last year was an unusual year with no gathering to admire everyone's works of art! Lockdown dependent, we do hope to get back to the old format of our Village Windows this year!

In the past we have had some wonderful creations and made the build-up to Christmas special for everyone - please let me know if you would like to be involved this year. We are hoping to start on the 13th and have a window opened each evening until the 24th.

Please email me at mrsmill@btinternet.com for more information and to book a slot.



Church Services for October

October 3rd - 10 am Harvest Festival Family Service St George, Edworth

October 10th - 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

October 17th - 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

- 4.30 pm Harvest Festival St Vincent, Newnham

October 24 - 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

9.30 am Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham

October 31 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

Help for HYP

HYP (Hinxworth's Young People) started seven years ago. At the time there was a large group of children in the village from around 8 – 14 years old. Lots of them went to different schools & they had one thing in common, there was nothing in Hinxworth for them & they didn't really know each other.

To fix this Jayne Whitfield & myself set-up a monthly youth club. Funds were raised and generous donations were made which enabled us to buy lots of equipment and organise a wide variety of fun activities for the kids. The activities ranged from bat watching on the cam, climbing, pool parties, cinema trips, bowling and nights at the village hall creating masterpieces (like the milk bottle poppies) or just playing music or table tennis....as long as there was a snack bar & they were together they were happy!

Time moves on and the founding members of HYP are now older and have sadly grown out of HYP, this means that after years of leading Jane, Debbs and myself are standing down as leaders. There is now an opportunity to start a new chapter! There are so many new families with children in the village, we were hoping that this could move to the new generation. Equipment is still available, the set-up remains – we just need volunteers. It doesn't take a huge amount of time, just planning once a term, booking the hall & buying the tuck! We are more than happy to help some volunteers to set-up a few sessions.

I would thoroughly recommend this as an opportunity to give something to our community and kids. We don't have much for the kids in Hinxworth, giving them this outlet is a great way help them make friends and create a positive identity with the village – friends would often come along as guests and loved joining us, our kids were proud of HYP and we hope that in some capacity this can continue.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please do get in touch with Debbs, Jane or myself – we can be contacted at;

mrsmill@btinternet.com jane.hartree@talktalk.net debbs@hillsidecottage.net

Thanks - Karen, Jane and Debbs

A big thank you

We would like to thank everyone for the support and love they have shown with the passing of Anne Dubbin last month. Anne had not lived in the village that long but had been part of it for many years. She was active in the village WI and known by many. The funeral was held at St Nicholas Church on the 25 August and the wake was at the Three Horse Shoes, Hinxworth. The family would like to thank everyone who attended and for the many flowers, cards and donations in aid of Lister Butterfly Volunteer Service.

The donation site is still open if anyone else would like to donate in memory of Anne. <https://www.memorygiving.com/annedubbin>

We will cherish the many amazing memories in our hearts forever.

Thanks and kind regards, Nick and Karen

Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM.

Present: Mr N. Tiffin (Acting Chairman)

Mr A. Lloyd

Mr A. Dawson

Mr R. Cobb (Joined the meeting at 7.30pm)

Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr Bryan Higgins, Tom Tyson District Councillor.

Other person present:- Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor. Steve joined the meeting at 7.15pm

1. The Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 1st July 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:

Nothing to report.

4. Finance:

Current Parish Council Funds: The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Proposed by Dick Cobb and seconded by Nick Tiffin.

5. Planning:

Nothing to report.

6. Highways:

Ashwell/Hinxworth Road Repairs:- This area has now been "patched" ready for resurfacing with tar and chippings either in the Autumn 2021 or Spring 2022.

Traffic Calming Measures:- Steve Jarvis is hoping for a quote on the feasibility study very soon of which the Parish Council will pay 50% of the cost. The Parish Council is putting the Village forward for consideration for visits by the Police mobile speed camera. Richard Cobb to action.

Hedges/Grass Verges:- The hedges and verges of the roads surrounding Hinxworth are in urgent need of "cutting back". Steve Jarvis confirmed this is planned to take place later in the month and a review of timing needs to be done for 2022 as this year it seems it has happened too late in the growing season.

7. Village Hall:

The AGM is to take place in the Village Hall on September 14th.

8. Recreation Ground:

The Archery Club: Having not had the use of the Recreation Ground in 2020 due the Covid 19 lock-down the Archery Club were not charged for its use. Likewise, they were unable to use the site for all of 2021/2022 so it has been agreed to payment of 50% for its use would be a mutually acceptable to both parties.

The Play Area Inspection:- This has been agreed to be included for another year in the NHDC initiative for the Parishes in North Herts.

9. The Tennis Court:

The re-white marking of the court has been completed.

10. Allotments:

The annual rents are due from September 1st.

11. Any Other Urgent Business:

Afghan Appeal:- A kindly person has placed a wooden structure at the corner of Arnolds Lane for donations of clothes/toys etc. for the Afghan Refugee Appeal. The Parish Councillors would ask if this person could get in touch with them as they would hope they could assist with help for this worthy cause.

The Cancelled Centenary War Memorial Celebrations of 2020:- Due to the obvious situation during 2020, this event, which was well supported by the Villagers had to be cancelled. Therefore, the Parish Councillors have now provisionally planned for this to take place in 2022 on June 3rd. This would not only celebrate the belated centenary of the War Memorial but the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the same day. A list of names of those in 2019 who planned to attend is held by Dick Cobb. Any further persons wishing to be added to this list please contact him. Further details of the event will be made available as the plans are put in place.

The War Memorial Clock:- The annual maintenance of the clock is to be arranged.

The Village Voice:- Lucy Wade has stepped down from the editorship of the Village Voice. The Parish Councillors would like to extend their thanks to her and her family for their contribution to the compilation of the Village Voice over the past three years.

12: Date of the Next Meeting:

Thursday 7th October 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Wendy Kitchener – Clerk Hinxworth Parish Council

Soup Lunch

Soup Lunch is back on track for the 15 October 12.30 to 2pm at the village hall. For the moment the price for lunch will remain as was at £3.00 each to include a bowl of homemade soup and a bread roll plus a choice of puddings and tea or coffee. All profits go to charities of our choice so if you have a favourite charity let me know. Everyone is welcome. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Chrisi Hook



Ashwell Patients' Group Welcomes New Practice Manager

At the beginning of September we welcomed Katie Prince as our new Practice Manager. She has written the following letter to introduce herself to patients in our various communities. We look forward to working closely with her and wish her well in her new role.

Peter Chapman

Dear Patients of Ashwell and Bassingbourn Surgery,

I thought it might be nice to introduce myself, as your new Surgery Practice Manager. I am very excited to join Ashwell Surgery, especially at this pivotal time, as we emerge from the tight restrictions, the Covid-19 Pandemic imposed on Primary care. The Surgery is very much looking forward to the easing of such restrictions and is desperate to return to some kind normality, whatever that "new normal," might look like.

Almost overnight, the Pandemic turned General Practice on its head. Everything that we knew, how we behaved, how we saw patients, how patients saw us, how the entire business operated had to change immediately in response to the pandemic. Throughout the Pandemic, Surgeries have continued to see and care for their patients, often in ways that have seemed alien to patients (and often the Doctors too)! There has been anxiety and fear, on both sides; not only regarding the virus but being responsible for striking an acceptable balance between seeing patients face to face, over increasing the risk of virus transmission.

Across the NHS, new ways of working were introduced, to aid both triage and access for patients. There was a push for online consultations and telephony options to support diagnosis and sometimes eliminate the need for an in-person consultation. These changes saw benefits such as, an increase in the numbers of patients that could be seen and improved efficiency because often patients were directed to the right service, the first time. However, there have been drawbacks of having to limit face to face consultations, which has undoubtedly caused delays in care and frustration to both sides. I am eager to continue to develop the benefits of new ways of working but equally keen to understand and address patient frustrations.

I have worked in General Practice since 2012. I joined Ashwell Surgery in June 2021, working one day per week initially, until my official full time start date on 6th September. I hold qualifications in HR, Leadership and Management and in Primary Health Care Management. I am passionate about promoting safety and sustainability within General Practice. I hope to achieve a safe and caring environment for both clinicians and patients of the Surgery. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all and engaging with you on what our, "new normal," might look like.

Katie Prince

Garden Waste Collection

As you may be aware the garden waste subscription period starts again from 1 October 2021. Residents have been contacted via email or post to remind them to sign up again should they wish to continue with the service. In case correspondence has been missed, this is a reminder to residents in the hope that this will help them avoid missing their first collection in October.

Subscriptions can be made by visiting the council webpage www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/waste-and-recycling/garden-waste-collection-service or by calling Urbaser on 01462 474000.

On the beat

with PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook

Have your say on how we police your area

Seven police forces become borderless in the fight against hare coursing

The borders between the forces, which include Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent, have been removed making apprehending and prosecuting offenders easier. This move supports the ongoing national initiative - Operation Galileo. If you witness hare coursing taking place, please dial 999 straight away. Hertfordshire Constabulary has teamed up with six other police forces in the Eastern Region in an effort to tackle hare coursing.

Sergeant Ryan Hemmings from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Rural Operational Support Team (ROST) said: "I'm delighted we've been able to reach this agreement. It's an important step forward in our ongoing efforts to tackle hare coursing and rid our rural areas of this cruel blood sport.

"The agreement effectively means that anyone caught committing anti-social behaviour (ASB) related to coursing, say in Norfolk, would be seen as also committing this in Hertfordshire.

"If the same person were to carry on their behaviour in Hertfordshire, proactive measures can take place using the ASB legislation, and if that same person was to continue for a third time, in say Bedfordshire, a prosecution can commence – alongside any other action as a result of earlier behaviour.

"It means that if someone is involved in three incidents of ASB linked to hare coursing they will be prosecuted, irrespective of which area they commit the offences in.

The subsequent prosecution would then allow officers to apply for court orders following conviction. These can include driving disqualifications, Criminal Behaviour Orders, the forfeiture of assets - for example dogs and vehicles."

Hare coursing traditionally begins in September when the fields have been harvested and ploughed, making them the perfect ground for the illegal blood sport. Hare coursing causes damage to crops, harms animal welfare and threatens the rural community. It can result in intimidation and even violence.

Landowners are urged to consider blocking entrances to their fields with ditches, fencing or trees or even barriers like barrels filled with concrete.

Anyone who sees hare coursing taking place is asked to contact police immediately on 999 and provide officers with a description of the people involved, any registration numbers, vehicle descriptions and the location and direction of travel. Its important people don't confront hare coursers or put themselves at risk.

If you have information about hare coursing and it's not currently happening, or have been a victim of the crime, you can report information online, speak to an operator in our Force Communications Room via our online web chat or call the non-emergency number 101.

You lose it if you leave it open

Local officers appeal to motorists to keep their cars and belongings secure. Opportunist thieves continue to target insecure cars for rich pickings 'Lock it when you leave it' is the message from Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team.

Opportunist thieves who target unlocked vehicles were in action again in the villages recently. A number of cars had items removed and offenders cruised the streets trying door handles and hoping for a good return.