

On The Beat

Keep your eyes on the road, not on your phone

Motorists are reminded not to use their mobile phones while driving or face a minimum £200 fine and six points on their licence. The warning comes at the start of a road safety campaign which will see officers targeting motorists who use handheld devices while driving.

Last year more than 347 motorists were caught using their mobile phone while driving in Hertfordshire. Most offenders were men (304) and over half of all offenders were aged between 22 and 40.

Officers across Hertfordshire will be undertaking both covert and overt enforcement activity throughout February. Using a mobile phone while driving is a leading cause of collision and many of those sadly result in serious injury or death.

Operation Feline helping drivers to protect their catalytic converter

Hertfordshire Constabulary is once again offering free catalytic converter marking, as part of Operation Feline, to help drivers protect their vehicles.

Details of the security marking scheme & advice can be found on our Operation Feline page. Go to: <https://www.herts.police.uk> and Search 'Feline'.

Operation Remote launched to protect drivers with keyless vehicles

Following increases in the theft of keyless entry vehicles across the country over recent months, Hertfordshire Constabulary is issuing advice to residents to help them protect their vehicles. These steps will also help to protect your vehicle:

- Keep vicinity vehicle keys in a signal blocking pouch which stops the signal from your key.
- You can purchase Police approved 'Secured By Design' signal blocking pouches.
- Keep keys away from the front of your property; either upstairs and/or hidden away is preferable.
- Check your manual or with your dealer if it is possible to switch the key's signal off.
- A steering wheel lock is a simple yet effective tool to protect your vehicle. It is a visual deterrent that adds an extra layer of security to your pride and joy.
- Vehicle crime is constantly evolving and offenders are increasingly using technology to gain entry into vehicles. This is why reintroducing a steering wheel lock to your vehicle is a great 'old school' security measure.

Reminder to dog owners in lambing season

With spring approaching, police in Hertfordshire are reminding dog owners to be responsible while out enjoying the countryside.

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, if a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence. The act considers sheep worrying to include attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury, suffering, abortion or loss of produce, or being at large (i.e. not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep. The act does not require livestock to be killed for this offence to be committed. Dog owners can also be convicted for 'allowing their dog to be dangerously out of control' and in some cases owners have been cautioned or summonsed to court. If you see an incident of sheep worrying in progress you should call 999.

Local Crime Information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Outbuilding burglary, Hinxworth Road, Ashwell - On 5th Jan between 6pm and 9pm outbuildings at a property in Ashwell were targeted. The offenders broke into two sheds and one barn at the location. A ride on lawnmower was found and stolen by the offenders. 41/1193/21

Criminal Damage, Northfield Road, Ashwell - Overnight on the 3rd Jan fields along Northfield Road were driven over in an attempt to poach on the land. The vehicle has driven over the fields causing damage to the farmers crop. 41/1320/21

Attempted theft, Bear Lane, Ashwell - Between 16th and 18th Jan a transit van that was parked in the street was targeted. A hole was drilled into the side door of the van. The offender did not gain entry to the vehicle and made off. 41/4656/21

No reported crime in February.

CPRE Awards Are Back for 2022

These Awards recognise and celebrate inspirational people engaged in activities that enhance and protect the Hertfordshire countryside and its rural communities.

With a closing date of 31st May 2022, we would love to receive nominations for projects which connect people with the countryside and their local green spaces. Find out all the details by visiting our website: cpreherts.org.uk, be inspired by past Award recipients, and make a nomination today!



A Day of Wellbeing: 8th May, 11am-5pm

Ashwell at Home is an annual event held in the village of Ashwell in North Herts, when this historic village welcomes visitors from near & far for a whole day of entertainment for all the family.

The theme for 2022 is 'A Day of Wellbeing' & there will be a wide range of open gardens, free workshops for adults & children, live music & entertainment around the village, talks, displays & guided walks, lunches, teas & much more.

Highlights this year include 15 open gardens, drawing & painting plants, bugs workshop, mini fit club, children's storytelling, movement workshop, wedding dress and classic car displays, reflexology mini treatments, harp relaxation, children's magic show, children's junk boat modelling & racing, adult yoga workshop, adult pop/rock singing workshop & a wide range of live music & dance all around the village.

Visit the website to see the full programme & for advance ticket purchase www.ashwellathome.org.uk.

Entry by programme: £8 adults (under 18s free with accompanying paying adult) - available on the day at the event, or £7 in advance from the website. Parking is free.

This is a community fundraising event with all proceeds to Ashwell Museum, St Mary's Church and Ashwell Primary School.

Nicki Holmes



Village Voice



April 2022

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.247

Sunflowers of Solidarity



Calling all green-fingered Hinxworth gardeners. How would you like to demonstrate your support for the people of Ukraine by growing a prize-winning sunflower - the national flower of Ukraine and a fast-growing symbol of solidarity.

What began as a seed of an idea among Hinxworth allotment holders could, we hope, be extended to all villagers who want to fly the flag for a country under siege.

All you have to do is sow a few seeds from April to May, individually in 10cm pots of peat-free multi-purpose compost. Plant out in your garden when all risk of frost has passed from early June and you will be rewarded with impressive blooms in August.

As well as making your garden look wonderful there will be a prize for the best bloom plus a special children's prize.

Hopefully, by the summer, Hinxworth allotments, as well as gardens throughout the village, will be a riot of colour.

There may also be an opportunity to raise money to help Ukrainian refugees, perhaps by selling the blooms as cut flowers. Any ideas welcome!

So don't delay, buy your sunflower seeds now and get growing.

Happy gardening.

Tony Lloyd

HYP Helps

With the recent closure of HYP, the leaders agreed that the remaining funds should be donated to help the people of Ukraine. A cheque was written for over £1300 to the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee), who lead fifteen UK based Aid charities, getting aid to those who need it, fast.

At the time of donating the government was matching donations pound-for-pound. Over the years many people in the village have supported HYP so this is also a collective contribution from Hinxworth. Thank you!

Karen Mills

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

Charlie Chicks Now Available

I'll be selling Charlie Chicks again this year & they will be available from my front gate 8 The Barns, Lower Farm, Edworth, or people can contact me & I'll arrange to deliver them locally. Each hand-made chick is £2 & includes a Cadbury cream egg. These are being sold to raise vital funds for Garden House Hospice Care in Letchworth.



Many people don't know that the NHS does not fund Hospices. Hospices only receive approx. one third of the money they need from the government. It costs GHHHC £5 million per year to run the hospice & they need to raise £7,500 every single day. That's why donations & fund-raising are so important.

Katrina Hoskins



Come and celebrate

Archery GB's Start Archery Week

with the Hinxworth Archery Club at a free

'Have-a-go'

on the Recreation Ground, Francis Road

on Saturday 14th May from 2 to 4pm

OPEN TO ALL AGES FROM 10 YEARS UPWARDS

10 to 15 year olds must be accompanied by a responsible adult



Wise Words

A. E. (Alfred Edward) Housman - English Poet (1859-1936)

The Loveliest of Trees

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.



Our time on earth is limited, so we should enjoy things whilst we can...

Parish Council Minutes

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00 PM.

Present: Mr R. Cobb (Chairman), Mr N. Tiffin (Vice-Chairman), Mr A. Lloyd, Mr A. Dawson, Mr B. Higgins, Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk). Other Councillors present: Steve Jarvis, County Councillor, Tom Tyson, District Councillor.

3. Correspondence: Community Development Agency:- The Parish Council has been contacted by this organisation with regard to the possible building of social housing in the Village. It appears this could be a lengthy drawn out process taking years during which time demographic changes may have taken place. Therefore having discussed the matter the Councillors agreed not pursue this further at this point in time.

4. Finance: The Precept: This has been agreed at £10370.00 for 22/23. This is the sixteenth year without an increase.

5. Planning:- North Hertfordshire District Council Planning Application 22/0224/FPH.

North Hertfordshire District Council Planning Application 21/03222/PQN: Prior Approval Class Agric to Dwelling Q: Change of use of two agricultural barns into two 4-residential dwellings (Class C3 Use) including the creation of amenity space and parking. The following additional comments were forwarded to North Hertfordshire District Council regarding the drainage on the site subsequent to the decision notice:- "Whilst Hinxworth Parish Council provided a "neutral response" to the Planning Application, as forwarded to you on December 13th 2021,

HPC would want to see a condition applied (see item 2 therein) regarding a full drainage review and works to remove the water generated by the new dwellings as there is no mains drainage. I refer you to Anthony Smyth's comments on the planning website along with the concerns HPC has included in their response. This land area and the surrounding dwellings, ditches and roads are subject to flooding and are water logged on a near permanent basis". The response from NHDC is as follows:- "Drainage is an issue for building control. Whilst flooding is an issue considered as part of the assessment of a Class Q barn conversion, the application site is situated within Flood Zone 1, which is an area with the lowest risk of flooding".

Richard Cobb attended a general site meeting at Place Farm with Hertfordshire County Council Planning Committee on January 21st 2022.

6. Highways: Flooding: Steve Jarvis and Richard Cobb "Walked the Village" and identified the problem areas. These have now been rectified. But it is likely the problems will reoccur on a regular basis.

7. Village Hall: Royston Ramblers have requested the use of the Village Hall Car Park on a Tuesday in March (the date yet to be confirmed). The Parish Councillors agreed to this request. Water Heaters:- Due to a problem with the system it appears the water heaters in the Hall, which could have led to flood, require the need to be checked and possibly replaced where necessary. Grant to the Village Hall: The VHMC have obtained a grant of £2000.00 from NHDC to cover the "lockdown period" of the pandemic. The Parish Councillors congratulate the VHMC on their successful application in obtaining the grant.

8. Recreation Ground: David Granger's quote for the 2022/23 season has been agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Richard Cobb and seconded by Nick Tiffin. The Archery Club: Richard Cobb is to meet with David Osmond to discuss the 22/23 season agreement. Caravan Club: A booking for 15th-17th September 2023 has been agreed.

11. Any Other Urgent Business:

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee:

Plans for the Street Party in the Close on June 5th are underway. Sylvia Scales is taking bookings. The Parish Councillors are organising events, such as the children's entertainment. Other input will be from organisations in the Village.

The "Unknown Tommy" figurine is to be purchased. Further details will be published in the Village Voice.

Parish Council Elections: Subsequent to the meeting the Parish Council has been notified there may be a possible change to the procedure for local elections. This would allow for the alignment of the dates/years for all local elections to take place in the same year from 2024. The Clerk has confirmed the next date for Parish Council Elections will therefore remain in May 2023.

Ashwell and Bassingbourn Patients Group: Wendy Kitchener attended a ZOOM meeting on 2nd February of the Committee. Katie Prince the Practice Manager reported the new telephone system is to be installed in the near future. This should be a more "user friendly" system for patients. There have been some staff changes with additional staff being employed. The minutes of the meeting will be available on the Ashwell Surgery website. www.ashwellsurgery.co.uk.

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.

Easter Extra Wine Draw!

Get ready for the Easter Bank Holiday with this fantastic draw. Win two bottles from the Wine Society for just £1.

The Society's White Burgundy

Ripe and round yet with a broad, appley palate and fresh finish. For good reason this white Burgundy, Macon Villages, is consistently the wine society's best selling wine. Its ongoing quality reflects the deep involvement in its selection by successive buyers and the skill of the 'man on the ground', Jean-Marc Darbon.



The Society's Claret 2020

Merlot-based fruity and unoaked claret supplied for over a quarter of a century by family-owned Maison Sichel in Bordeaux. Deliciously ripe and appealing in the 2020 vintage.

Entries in an envelope with £1 plus your name, post to:

- High Street House (Karen)
- Chapel House (Jan)
- 8 The Barns Edworth (Pete)
- Newnham Hall Cottage (Fiona)
- Three Horseshoes Pub (Julie)



Closing date is the 20th April. Good Luck!!!

The Three Horseshoes in April

Don't forget to book your table for dinner or lunch over the Easter weekend.



Come and join us for April's quiz night on Wednesday 20th.



Church Services for April

Sun 3rd Apr	10.15	Family Service and APCM Meeting	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 10th Apr	09.15	Parish Communion for Palm Sunday	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Tue 12th Apr	10.00	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Thu 15th Apr	12.00	Soup Lunch & Good Friday Reflection	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 17th Apr	09.30	Easter Day Holy Communion	St Vincent, Newnham
Sun 17th Apr	09.15	Easter Day Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 24th Apr	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 1st May	10.15	St George's Day All Age Communion	St George's, Edworth

A variety of other services for Holy Week, including a Eucharist on Maundy Thursday evening, will take place at St Mary's, Ashwell.

Soup Lunch on Good Friday will be followed by a service of Reflection at 13.00. Please do note the special service at St George's Edworth on Sunday 1st May – we'll be joined by the Bishop of Bedford, so it's sure to be a fabulous occasion. All welcome!

Hinxworth & Edworth WI

Unfortunately seasonal colds and Covid seems to have caught up with a lot of us recently so the number of members attending the March meeting was not as high as in previous months. However lack of numbers did not stop us from having a very enjoyable meeting. In Anki's absence Chrisi Hook opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies from members were read out and the previous month's Minutes were signed. With very few matters arising the speaker for the evening was introduced - Angela Collins with her talk entitled "A Puppet's Tale" - a talk about Angela, her life and her puppets and the ups and downs she has had like a roller coaster. Angela's talk was both funny and informative. Angela had brought with her a collection of some of the many puppets that she had made including a Elvis and a very realistic Dolly Parton! We all enjoyed her talk of entertaining chatter. And to complete the evening we finished with birthday cake - our WI celebrated its 85 birthday - with the cake being made and beautifully decorated by Jan Youngman. The next meeting is on 14 April and as ever new members are always welcome.



Chrisi Hook

Soup Lunch Update

Such a marvellous turnout for the Soup Lunch in March. So marvellous in fact that we have been able to make two donations. £50 to DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal - this was a cause suggested at the lunch and very kindly Katrina said she would organise this. Also suggested was a more local charity "Herts Welcomes Refugees". Francis is a volunteer with this organisation and £50 has been given to her to pass on.

A slight change to the next lunch - as it falls on Good Friday (15 April) the lunch will be served in the church - St Nicholas - by kind permission of our vicar Chris Campbell. Lunch will start at 12 noon and will be followed by a short service for those of you who wish to stay on for this. All profits from this lunch will be donated to the church funds. Really looking forward to seeing you all again and don't forget to make a note of the slightly earlier lunch time.

Chrisi Hook

Ashwell Music Festival

Tickets & venue details available from: www.ashwellmusicfestival.org.uk and Rhubarb and Mustard, Ashwell. Events include...

- Young Musicians Concert – 18/05 at 19.30
- Laura Custodio Sabas & Lydia Hillerudh – 19/05 at 14.00
- Let Us Entertain You – 19/05 at 19.30
- Dave Rances's Rocking Chair Jazz Band – 20/05 at 14.00
- Celtic Krystal – 20/05 at 20.00
- Drumming Workshop – 21/05 at 10.00 and 11.15
- Marco Marconi – 21/05 at 15.30
- Back to the 80's – 21/05 at 20.00
- Craig Maddox – 22/05 at 14.00

