

On The Beat



Don't make defrosting vehicles an easy target this winter

Motorists risk their vehicles being stolen if they leave them running and unattended while they defrost them.

As the overnight temperatures dip below zero thefts of unattended vehicles tend to rise as some drivers leave their engines running whilst they sit indoors waiting for windscreens to defrost and cars to warm up. This can present an ideal opportunity for thieves to strike. Academy Coordinator Nicola Chamberlain, from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Prevention First team, said: "Everyone dreads sitting in a freezing car whilst the windscreen is defrosting on a cold morning, but leaving it unattended with the engine running makes it an easy target for criminals. Unfortunately, there are unscrupulous individuals out there who will be on the look-out for these opportunities on icy mornings."

It is also important that motorists defrost their windscreens fully before setting out on a journey. A frozen or partially defrosted windscreen makes it difficult to see properly, putting lives at risk. Motorists caught driving with obscured vision can receive a £100 fine and three penalty points for careless driving. In more serious cases, or those that are contested in court, motorists face a maximum fine of £5,000, up to nine penalty points and could be banned from driving.

Use Your Community Voice

You can use our 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. Visit bit.ly/herts-echo and tell us your thoughts.

Local Crime

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

- Theft from Motor Vehicle, Station Road, Ashwell – On 3rd of November between 8.30am and 6.50pm a vehicle parked in Station Road was targeted. The offenders have removed both sets of number plates and have made off direction unknown. 41/88274/23

- Theft from motor vehicle, Ashwell / Bygrave – Between 5th to 10th November, both villages were targeted for crime. The offender walked along various streets in the villages checking car door handles for unlocked vehicles. Any cars that could be opened were rummaged through and valuables taken, 10 crimes reported. - 41/90044/23 refers (master crime for the series)

- Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Newnham – Overnight on 20th to 21st November a tractor was broken into. The tractor was parked behind a barn and was locked. The offenders have opened the tractor door by unknown means and have then ripped out the GPS system in the vehicle. The offenders have made off direction unknown. 41/93326/23

Local Officers - PC 396 Tom Wollard, PCSO 6048 Hannah Moss, PCSO 6522 Chris Brabrook & Sgt Ryan Champion I304

Ashwell and Bassingbourn Patients Group

NOTES FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING

We are delighted to announce that the long-awaited new phone system is to be installed at the end of January. The main advantage is that it will offer patients the option of being called back once they are at a certain point in the queue. You will not lose your place if you choose this option. This means you can do other things while waiting rather than keep hanging on. The surgery will be able to monitor the progress of calls and deal swiftly with glitches. It's in use elsewhere and the feedback is positive.

We are also moving towards something called "Total Triage". This will mean that requests for appointments, however they are made, will be recorded in a single format enabling doctors to determine the order for seeing patients based on perceived need. It is believed that this will allow us to make the best use of the limited resources available to us. It is already in use in other surgeries and is seen as an improved way of working. We expect it to be adopted in the spring.

We have a new Practice Nurse who is an Advanced Care Practitioner with the ability to prescribe. A great addition to our team.

We also now enjoy the services of a Pharmacist who, in collaboration with Dr Howe, can monitor and adjust our prescriptions as necessary. He can also carry out medication reviews.

Thankfully the heating at Ashwell has now been repaired so patients and staff can enjoy a pleasanter environment. We have also provided some chairs with arms in both surgeries to assist patients with mobility problems.

Committee members have been involved in various NHS events which will influence how our Group operates.

We are developing various community links including with Ashwell and Bassingbourn primary schools which we hope will improve communications and be of benefit to patients.

We will be working on a "Guide for New Patients" and a "Surgery User's Guide".

It's appreciated when staff introduce themselves at the start of a consultation and we have recommended that this should happen on a regular basis.

Our next meeting will be in March.

Peter Chapman, Chair



• Village Voice •

February 2024

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.269

News from St Nicholas'

We thought it would be beneficial to give an update on the Church, for anyone new to the two villages and others who do not have this information. The Rector is the Revd Chris Campbell. Her phone number is 01462 742277. She lives in Ashwell where there is a Parish Office run by Guy McKenzie at 01462 743922. He issues every Thursday via email Chris's thoughts for the week and the coming Sunday's Pew Sheet which has details of what is happening across all the local villages in the following week. The contact for this is office@stmarysashwell.org.uk. Let him know if you would like to be on the distribution list.

Here in Hinxworth the people to contact for information and help are the two churchwardens, Alec 742953 and Geoff 743227. Also, we have a group of four dog walkers who open and lock the church on a revolving two week basis from around 9am to 4pm.

Most Sundays there is a church service at 9:15am with coffee and biscuits afterwards in the Oak Room, that building the other side of the metal fence. Anybody of whatever religion can attend these services. In addition, on Wednesdays there are prayers for half an hour from 4:00 pm

The church's affairs are managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) who meet about four times a year. The PCC would like more villagers, particularly from Edworth, to join the council with some fresh ideas in how to manage what services are held and the use of the church building. Also, we could use help with monthly church cleaning and more dog walkers to help with the church locking team.

The church was busy during December with several events leading up to Christmas apart from the regular Sunday church services. On Wednesday 29th November saw a group of us giving the church and Oak Room a jolly good clean in preparation for Suffragan Bishop Jane's visit on Sunday 3rd December. This service was to give thanks to the organisations and individuals who had contributed to the Church's new roof project and to celebrate Patronal Sunday. Patronal is church tech speak for 'St Nicholas Day' It was a lovely service attended by some 34 people and four children with coffee and tea afterwards.

A popular event took place on Sunday 17th December for families with young children. A "Messy" Sunday with colouring, drawing, crafts, story telling and refreshments. It was so popular that the plan is to have another one in the future.

The Carol Service took place on Saturday 23rd December with the singing of seven carols and readings about the story of Christmas which was well attended.



Photo above, 'Messy Sunday' in the Church

Next year here are some dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 6th March the PCC have their next meeting at 4:30pm.

- Sunday 17th March the Diocesan Bishop Alan is attending our church service at 11:00 am. He is 'the boss' of St Albans Diocese based in St Albans. The Diocese has some 400 parishes across Herts, Beds and Barnet.

- Sunday 5th May at 10:30am is the annual meeting for not only the PCC, the usual attending congregation but also is open to all villagers who would like to have an input about the church's business.

- Saturday 31st August is the date for the next Village Barbecue and Family Fun Day.

Alec Stephenson

2024 is a Leap Year !

Did you know that Leap days are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun?

It takes the Earth approximately 365.242189 days – or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds – to circle once around the Sun. This is called a tropical year.



Without an extra day on February 29 nearly every four years, we would lose almost six hours every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days.

Leap Year by Annette Wynne

Little month of February,
You are small, but worthy—very!
Will you grow up like the others,
Like your sister months and brothers?
Every four years with a bound
With a leap up from the ground,
Trying to grow tall as they—
All you stretch is one small day!
Even then you're not so tall
But just the shortest month of all.

Parish Council Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 4th JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00 PM.

Present: Mr N. Tiffin (Chairman), Mr R. Cobb (Vice-Chairman), Mr T Lloyd. Other persons present: Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor and Tom Tyson District Councillor. Apologies: Mr A. Dawson and Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 7th December were agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Tony Lloyd and seconded by Dick Cobb.

2. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda: We are pleased to announce that we have two potential candidates for the vacant position on the council. Both candidates will be invited for an interview in the coming weeks.

3. Correspondence: We had received a letter from a Hinxworth resident seeking funding for a very worthwhile trip to Peru, the PC however cannot utilise public money for such trips. However, we wish the person much success in raising funds and benefitting others.

4. Finance: Current Parish Council Funds: Not agreed due to no finance information being available, to be completed at the next meeting.

5. Planning: Planning Consultations: Listed Building Consent: Single-storey side extension to provide a 1-bed ancillary annexe following demolition of existing detached timber shed. The Old Bakery, Chapel Street, Hinxworth, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 5HN All Councillors had no objection to this application

6. Highways: Traffic Calming Feasibility Study: Steve Jarvis reported that the consultation period was now closed and they had 63 responses. 61 of these were in favour of both the traffic calming and the extended speed limit at the Francis Road end. This was seen as a very positive step towards the next phase. A white gate has been installed at the Church end of the high street, the ones at the other end will be completed when full approval of the speed limit extension is approved.

We can confirm Place Farm work has started in New Inn Road, Some disruption will be necessary for the offloading of equipment and materials, please be patient the adverse weather has not made this easy.

7. Village Hall: Nothing to report

8. Recreation Ground: 1) The Hinxworth Archery Club agreement has been deferred to the next meeting. 2) Ashwell Accies – nothing to report. 3) The Gate/Pedestrian Entrance work: waiting for this to be done but the weather is against us at present

9. The Tennis Court: Nothing to report.

10. Allotments: Nothing to report

11. Any Other Urgent Business: The War Memorial Clock: The plans for refurbishment of the war memorial is underway and we have received 1 quote for the work so far. We have also reached out to the Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust to see if we can secure some co-funding for the work to be done. They are reviewing our request at their next meeting in March.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 1st February in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 7.59pm.

Wendy Kitchener, Clerk

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

Church Services For February

Sun 4th Feb	10.00	Family Service with Baptism, not later start	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 11th Feb	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Wed 14th Feb	16.00	Ash Wednesday - Evening prayer with imposition of ashes	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 18th Feb	09.15	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 25th Feb	09.15	Service of the Word	St Nicholas, Hinxworth
Sun 25th Feb	09.30	BCP Communion	St Vincent's, Newnham

Hinxworth & Edworth WI Update

The first WI meeting of the year got off to a splendid start - it was a very cold evening but nevertheless a good number of members braved it and were well rewarded with an interesting evening. Chrisi took the meeting, welcoming the members and the speaker Wendy Warren, she then went on to read out apologies from those members unable to attend and finally read out a few items of news from the Federation. She then handed over to Wendy. Wendy's talk and demonstration was all about fun and fashionable ways to tie our scarves and pashminas so that they not only kept us warm but also added a bit of flair to our outfits - a very aptly timed talk too as we all sat there bundled up in our woolly scarves. Wendy had some great ideas for us and demonstrated with great patience how to fold, tie and arrange our neckwear to not only keep us warm but to look good and to stay in place, Wendy had also brought along some really beautiful handmade jewelry which the members could buy if they wished or just admire the lovely pieces on display. Wendy was great fun and a lively and entertaining speaker. The evening ended as usual with refreshments and drawing the raffle. The next meeting of the Hinxworth and Edworth WI is on the 8th February at 7.30pm when Sylvia will give us a talk and slide show. This is our birthday meeting and will be an open meeting so everyone is welcome to bring friends and partners along. Look forward to seeing you all in February.

Chrisi Hook

COME AND JOIN US
for Fun, Friendship,
Learning and Laughs

**We get together every month on the
second Thursday in the Village Hall
at 7:30pm**

**We often have open events when
your friends, relatives or spouses
can join us,**

**We are Hinxworth & Edworth
Womens Institute**

**Want to know more? call Hilary on
07825 046640**



Ashwell's Flea Market

Saturday 9th March 2024
from 9.30-1.00 pm
at St Mary's Church, Ashwell

“All sorts of weird and wonderful items for sale”

FREE ENTRY

Tea and Coffee will be available

Funds raised go to St Mary's Restoration Fund

Community Lunch

What lovely people you all are and such a lovely lot of you - just wonderful and your support and generosity is so much appreciated. As ever three super soups on offer, all delicious - the soup pans were soon emptied - a big thank you as always to the soup makers. Thank you too to those who helped so much with clearing up afterwards and putting all the tables and chairs away. Thanks to your generosity we made an incredible £200.00 which is being donated to Macmillan Cancer Support. The next Community Lunch will be on Friday 9th February 12.30 - 2pm in the Hinxworth Village Hall. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Chrisi Hook

COMMUNITY LUNCH
Hinxworth & Edworth Village Hall
12.30pm Friday 9th February



£4

Price includes selection of homemade soups, breads & desserts plus tea / coffee

The Three Horseshoes....What's On!

Quiz Night	Wednesday 21st February
Bangkok Night	Date & Menu to be confirmed - look out for dates on our Facebook page.
Supper Night	Date & Menu to be confirmed - look out for dates on our Facebook page.

North Herts Turns 50

Have you got a special memory of North Herts from the last 50 years? It could be of a particular place, view or building that you love and feel should be celebrated.

North Herts Council is turning 50 on the 1st April and calling on residents to send in their memories, photographs, and videos to help us showcase 50 years of North Herts in our residents' magazine, across our social media channels and in our newsletters. Plus, any 50th memories could also be featured in an exhibition at North Herts Museum! Just visit our website to submit your memory: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/memories>.