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DENHAM, SYLEHAM
&
WINGFIELD**



**DECEMBER - JANUARY
2012 - 2013**

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**The Revd. Susan Loxton is chair to Hoxne & Denham PCCs.
The Revd. Fiona Newton is chair to Syleham & Wingfield PCCs.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Editorial

Annus Mirabilis?

It is twenty long years since our then battered and beleaguered Head of State uttered the sad little tag, *Annus Horribilis*, in her Christmas message to the nation. I wonder how she will remember 2012 – as an *Annus Mirabilis*, the ultimate jewel in a patient crown? I do hope so. For, be you Royalist or Republican, few cannot have experienced the up-welling of national pride and the tidal waves of kindness and voluntary support surging through this remarkable year.

It would be nice to think that a thankful Jubilee and a joyful coming together from the four corners of the Earth to celebrate over two millennia of physical endeavour have sent out a message of hope, peace and love to our frail old world. I do hope so.

Yesterday is soon forgotten and tomorrow never comes. But we all remember a sweet taste. Whether it be granny's apple pie or that chocolat symphonie in a ridiculously expensive French restaurant, some things are unforgettable. The taste of the twelfth year of a new millennium surely deserves to linger on the buds of the national psyche. I do hope so.

So what makes it different from other moments of sweetness in our island's long story? Well, it was not brought about by any victory out of a powder keg - more like a honey pot. What a difference a day makes! The powder keg was there alright; the inner city riots of 2011, which spread like a plague and still fresh in the memory, was an inauspicious opener for what was to come. But even that was forced to fade like a nasty dream by the sheer weight of freely given goodwill that enveloped cities, towns and villages throughout the land.

So, where did it come from? In a climate of recession, austerity and seedy revelations – pernicious press barons, morally destitute bankers and overt tax scams – I guess the collective voice said enough's enough. Get a life, get happy. So we did.

Unfortunately, the pile of dirty linen shoved under the bed hasn't gone away and, undoubtedly, there will be more to come. But, for just a few heartening moments in 2012, ordinary folk planted a flag on the moral high ground for all to see. We don't want to worry about the Big Society, it's been there all the time. It is simply that it doesn't flaunt itself.

For my money this old and United Kingdom is still the best place to be. And who should we thank for that? Our gracious Queen is far too modest to tell you but I'm sure she will thank all of us for rallying round the flag in her message to the nation this Christmas. Will she call it her *Annus Mirabilis*? I do hope so.

JB

Diary dates

Saturday December 1

Hoxne Church Christmas Fair
St Edmund's Hall
Christmas Market - Wingfield Church
St Trinian's Disco (Pre-school)
Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion
Withering Heights - Hoxne Players
St Edmund's Hall

Sunday December 2

Withering Heights - Hoxne Players
St Edmund's Hall

Friday December 7

St Edmund's Hall Film Evening
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

December 13

Wingfield and District Garden Club
Christmas Party - De la Pole Arms

Friday December 14

Hoxne Garden and Social Club
Christmas dinner - St Edmund's Hall

Thursday December 20

Syleham carol singing

December 28 and 29

Treasure Island Pantomime
St Edmund's Hall

Saturday January 5

New Year Dance Party
Denham Village Hall

Friday January 11

St Edmund's Film Evening

Wednesday January 9

Flicks in the Sticks
Wingfield Barns

Sunday January 27

Treasure Island Pantomime
Wingfield Barns

Saturday February 9

Hoxon Hundred Ceilidh
St Edmund's Hall
Syleham - Call My Bluff

Wednesday April 17

The Long Life and Good Fortune
of John Clare - Eastern Angles
Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

■ For Parish Church Christmas services please see page 21.

■ Hoxne Artisan Market; second Saturday of each month - St Edmund's Hall.

■ For St Edmund's Hall bookings call **Andy Bull 668273**.

■ For Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion ring **Gail Jackson 668186**.

■ For Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall, call **Joyce Revell on 668102**.

Don't forget that Father Christmas makes a personal appearance in Hoxne on Christmas morning. His sleigh travels round the village delivering presents along the way. See page 36 for details of how to make sure his Elves knock on your door.



All who produce and distribute Village Voice send their best wishes to all who read it, for Christmas and the New Year

Village Voice: Opportunity knocks...

When this *Village Voice* went to press (to use a phrase often employed on these pages when an issue remains in doubt or undecided) this community magazine continues to seek a new editor.

As was eloquently expressed in the October / November editorial, I have made the decision to 'step aside' after 17 years, first looking after Church News and being then 'promoted' to the editor's chair. It's a rewarding task with purpose - that of providing, at one level, a means of communication for the many organisations in our communities to readers in every household in each of the four villages we serve while, at another, providing articles which seek to inform and entertain. And, judging by the kind words expressed, the result is appreciated.

In the past ten years or so the magazine has grown organically from 28 pages to the present 52 pages and is supported financially by contributions from groups, individuals, parish councils and revenue from limited advertising. All members of the VV team - John Ball (who has turned his editorials into an art form); Jan Murray (who co-ordinates and prepares a sometimes challenging selection of hand-written material submitted by contributors), Dawn Lodge (who chases advertisers and is keeper of the purse strings) and Sallie, copy chaser and proof reader par excellence - have made their mark. So too have the volunteers who walk from house to house delivering *Village Voice* come rain or shine.

There is an opportunity now for a new approach and new thinking to take the Voice forward. It is an opportunity we earnestly hope will be taken up and pursued, not necessarily by one brave individual as suggested in the previous editorial but, perhaps by an amalgam of skills. The computer whiz may not relish the prospect of selecting content and preparing copy and someone with a clear grasp of the written word may not possess the technical ability to translate it to the finished page. Answer – get together. But first, step forward and see what can be done. You'll be surprised what collective talent our parishes have. One thing is for sure, there is no shortage of subscribers. BC



Jan Murray writes: When I started typing for the *Village Voice*, an unbelievable 12 years ago, email was in its infancy. Copy would arrive, type written, or on pieces of lined paper, in longhand, needing a certain amount of de-ciphering, and naming no names my deciphering has improved! But now, thanks to the wonders of technology, most copy arrives by email and type written articles can be scanned in.

Sadly, all good things come to an end and I shall really miss Brian's phone calls every two months asking me if I'm free to do some typing. 'Is it that time of the month again,' I say as I strain to believe another couple of months have flown by let alone 12 years. It has been a most enjoyable journey thanks ►►

From Allen Burridge

On behalf of my family, I would like to say a very big thank you for all the letters and cards, all the kind words and thoughts we received these last few weeks.

From those who knew Neil, it confirms what we have always thought; Neil was big on friends and friendship, from the time on his paper round (Brian and Sallie, JB); school friends; the staff of the Depperhaugh (Evelyn, Hazel, Joan, Ellen, Shirley); friends of sport - tennis (Tony and Ann), badminton (Annie, Rhona), football (Paul P, Paul C, Trevor, Clive); not forgetting bowls (away matches in Reg Baxter's car with Arthur Curgenvin and Billy Potter), to his final days in Australia and his many, many colleagues and patrons who counted themselves Neil's friends. The message from all was plain and clear - Love and Friendship.

Low Street, Hoxne

From Carole and Alan Smith

Another Hoxne Harvest Breakfast has come and gone. Once again the weather was kind to us although a little colder than usual. Not quite as many people attended this year and as prices were not increased the profit was slightly down at £406! This has been split between St Edmund's Hall and Hoxne Playing Field. A big thank you must go to all who

Letters to the editor

helped and to everyone for coming to make another successful breakfast.

Low Street, Hoxne

From Jan Murray

A sum of £332 was raised at a Save the Children coffee morning held at Willow Lodge, Denham Road on October 25. As well as Christmas cards and Bring and Buy a wide variety of books were also on sale. Friends and neighbours also had a chance to sit and enjoy a chat over their coffee. A big thank you to all those who helped or came along and 'brought and bought'. Save the Children also made £120 at the Christmas Artisan's Market held in St Edmund's Hall on November 10. Well done all!

Denham Road, Hoxne

From Kathy Barber

July 1st saw my second coffee morning which was much better supported; so much so that I was able to send £216 to the Colney Cancer Centre at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Many thanks to those who gave me cakes to sell, raffle prizes, donations and, most of all, their time to help me. Without this help there would have been no coffee morning! Thank you again,
Wingfield



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Marigold Hotel is first night success

The first film night at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne on November 2 was very successful with more than 50 people attending. The film *The Exotic Marigold Hotel* was enjoyed by all. A very big thank you must go to Jenny Knights for organising this event and for completing the training to use the equipment. Also to her family for the behind the scenes help and the transport they provided.

The next Film Night will be Friday December 7 at 7.30pm to see *Salmon Fishing In The Yemen*. Entrance £3.50. The bar will be open. The January show will be on Friday the 11th.

If you have any ideas of films that might be appropriate please get in touch.
Carole Smith 668210.

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Panto will bring thrills and spills

Puzzle House Pantomimes will present a traditional family panto featuring pirates and treasure at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne on December 28 and 29 and at Wingfield Barns on January 27. Six actors feature in a show full of songs, live keyboard music, thrills, spills and silliness. All shows start at 3pm. Based (rather loosely) on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure story, *Treasure Island*, our hero Jim Hawkins helps his mum run the tumbledown inn *The Admiral Benbow* - and dreams of beautiful Polly Trelawney and the day when he will set sail and find some treasure. Then...Captain Billy Bones arrives with a sea chest that contains a mysterious secret! And the adventure begins. On the voyage meet Blind Pew, Doctor Liversalts, Squire Trelawney, Short John Brass, Black Dog, the Phantom Parrot and Ben Gunn. Whatever you do, steer a course well clear of the most evil female pirate of all time - Long Jane Silver!
Tickets £6. Tel: 01379 384656

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Red Cross in search for new gardens

The Red Cross in Suffolk is looking for additions to its Open Garden programme for 2013. If you know of a secret garden (or street, or whole village) that you think would be suitable, or like the idea of helping at an Open Garden near you (putting up signs, baking cakes, stewarding the gate etc) please contact Jane Dow, senior community fundraiser: tel 01284 727247; email: janedow@redcross.org.uk Last year the programme raised £10,000 for the charity which uses the money for work in the county. One scheme is the medical equipment loan service which provides items for up to three months, free of charge.

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Carol singers to raise cash for children

Would you like to join us carol singing at Syleham? Or would you like us to sing carols for you? We want to organise village carol singing once again for the children's charity, Kids Company, on Thursday 20th December. If you would like to sing, please let us know and come and join us at The White House Farmhouse, Whitehouse Lane, Syleham, between 6pm and 6.30pm for a glass of wine and something to eat before we set off. If you would like us to come and sing some carols, please give us a ring on 669320.

Last year we had a good evening and raised £365. So why not come and join us or ask us to sing for you? We'd like to involve new people this year, so do get in touch; we are happy to go as far as Wingfield or Weybread! Every year we receive a letter of thanks from the Chief Executive of Kids Company. Here is an extract: "Dear wonderful carol singers of Syleham, I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for donating £365 to Kids Company, and try my best to convey the enormous difference your kindness will make to thousands of London's most impoverished and vulnerable children and young people".

Jane and Adrian Knott

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Wood group on alert for ash disease

The New Reeding Wood Group recently held a morning working party at Pound Lane Wood, spending time cutting the grassy rides, tidying the hedges, removing tree guards from the most recently planted trees and checking the fences to ensure the woodland remains enclosed.

They also inspected the plantation of self set ash trees that have established themselves in the woodland. These trees, from ash keys falling from a tall tree in Pound Lane, have grown at an amazing rate, outstripping the other saplings that have been planted around them, and so far seem to be free of the ash die back disease, Chalara fraxinea that is threatening all the ash trees in Britain. We will keep a close watch on them.

The proposed wildlife survey is due to commence soon, and volunteers are needed, if you would like to help, please contact Mike Reeves on 01379 668179.

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■ Fancy a day out? Need a lift to doctors, hairdressers or shops? Or just want to visit a friend or relative? Then give us a call at Borderhoppa. Anyone, any age can use our demand responsive service. We operate Monday – Friday from 8.30am – 4.30pm and pick you up from your door. You can book your journey four working days in advance, but we do require a minimum of two working days notification for bookings. If you have a bus pass and travel after 9.30am, it won't cost you a penny! To book a place on an outing, a journey on our demand responsive service, or to hire one of our mini buses, please call 01379 854800.

Garden Club goes for variety

Where has the year gone? The summer seemed to be a washout in the garden sense, but I have only just finished picking runner beans!

Christmas is nearly with us and the committee of Hoxne Garden and Social Club and I wish everyone Festive Greetings. We are looking forward to our Christmas dinner in Hoxne Village Hall on Friday December 14. Catering is by Ann Fiddy and our after dinner entertainment is provided by Ray Hubbard.

We are busy sorting out the programme for next year and we hope to have a variety of events for everyone to enjoy. January's speaker is Robert Spray and his talk is entitled *Underwater around the Coast*. You might have seen him on the television recently. We meet in Hoxne Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm, and we always

welcome new members, please contact me, my details are below.

The intrepid Ramblers who ramble on the fourth Thursday of each month, ably led by Roger Knight, take a break during December and January. This year the Ramblers have started a new tradition, to award the pub they enjoyed the most after the ramble a certificate, and I believe it will be hotly contested! I would like to thank Roger for all his hard work in organising the rambles, and finding so many different routes!

On behalf of all the Hoxne Garden and Social Club members I would like to wish Brian and Sallie Chester all the best for their future ventures, I will miss the very gentle prod I receive each time that the report for the *Village Voice* is due!

Sue Flagg, Chair. Tel 01379 668258 or email: philip.flagg@btinternet.com

Wayne's ■gardening tips ■ December / January

December: A little time spent affording some of the plants in the garden protection from the worst of the weather will pay dividends. Prune overhanging trees and shrubs. Clean out ditches and drains; apply preservative to exposed wood and give tender plants some form of protection. Dislodge snow from trees and shrubs and protect plants from wind. Switch off outside water taps and insulate and care for wildlife.

January: Plant window boxes for seasonal colour; check stakes and ties after high winds. Tidy and organise your shed and order supplies for the coming season. Plan changes and alterations to the garden.

Have a good Christmas and Happy New Year.

Wayne Page

PS Did you know that blackened dead leaves and purple lesions on the stems are the signs of the disease called *Chalara fraxinea* now threatening ash trees across the country.

Hoxne's past uncovered

The Hoxne Heritage Group held its inaugural public meeting at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne on October 16. The audience of 60 was treated to a fascinating account of the historic landscape and archaeological heritage of Hoxne given by Edward Martin from the Suffolk Archaeology Unit.

Edward explained how the characteristics of the soil influenced the development of the village over time with much of the area comprising glacial till and boulder clay deposited by the retreating ice-sheet of the Anglian Glaciation. The landscape has an 'ancient' field pattern with sinuous and substantial hedges and ditches and, with more recent introduction of under-field drainage, the heavy, often water-logged clay pastures were converted into lucrative arable units.

The poorly-drained areas of the clay plateau are the sites of greens (eg South Green) which are thought to have evolved through prolonged grazing from areas of woodland as mentioned in the Domesday Book. Hoxne still has some small areas of ancient woodland around Chickering Beck and Goldbrook.

The difficult wetland was used in medieval times as deer parks especially when the Bishops of Norwich resided at the palace in Hoxne. There is still some uncertainty whether the palace was on the site of the old vicarage or on the Hoxne Hall site. As is a common theme in Suffolk villages, the medieval landscape of Hoxne showed the pairing of the manorial hall and the church on the best quality soil surrounded by a status-enhancing moat. Other moated properties are evident around the village. These are often dispersed settlements, medieval in origin and the moat denotes their manorial freehold status.

Edward described in detail the impor-

tance of Hoxne in history from the Palaeolithic finds of John Frere in 1797 at the old brickworks, which forms the type-site for the Hoxnian Interglacial, to the 5th century Hoxne Hoard of silver and gold found in 1992. More recently Tudor coins have been found in Witton's Lane.

He mentioned the rich stock of medieval houses in and around Hoxne and made particular reference to Red House at South Green, Thorpe Hall and Abbey Farm, which stands on the site of an old Benedictine Priory –the existing flint wall being the original boundary.

No talk about Hoxne would be complete without reference to St Edmund!

Edward outlined the story and presented evidence relating to the finding of iron arrowheads in the vicinity of the tree to which King Edmund was tied. Danish and Saxon artefacts have also been found near the Goldbrook Bridge. The site of one of two Chapels of St Edmund was excavated in 1989 between Nuttery Vale and South Green.

The evening concluded with an opportunity to handle some of the interesting artefacts that had been brought from the archive.

We hope that this enthralling evening will have inspired people to be more interested in the heritage of Hoxne and we welcome anyone who would like to become involved in any aspect of our project to investigate the continuity of settlement here.

We are pleased to announce that the Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded us about £10k for our study to dig archaeological test pits and carry out field-walking under expert supervision. Watch out for further information - coming soon. This is your village so please join in!

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Children learn of life in Kenya

Pupils at St Edmund's School, Hoxne have learnt about the history of Kenya and its development over the last hundred years.

A talk, given by Nigel Bradford of Hoxne, was divided into three sections relating to Kenya since the British colonised the country at the tail end of the 1880s.

The children were shown a video of a visit to Kenya a few years back to set up a community programme with Simon Gee and Mary Hibbert (also at that time, from Hoxne) with the Masai - one of the largest tribes in Kenya - which was to build three wells, about five houses and supply a small village school with drinking water and transportation for the two teachers who had to walk approximately five miles each way morning and evening.

The video showed how some of the houses were built of cement, wattle and daub and thatch and pictured the places in the countryside where wells could be built subject to research and water being available underground.

The Masai put on a special celebration to mark the visit with tribal dancing and pupils were also able to see how the Masai lived in their natural surroundings.

In 2003, Nigel went to teach in a Secondary Boarding School in Kitale in northern Kenya for a few months. A video of the school, its environment, where the children lived, and the sports available and other extra-curricular activities was shown, and Hoxne children were able to compare life at

a country school with that in Kenya.

Finally a history of the opening up of Kenya was illustrated by the building of the Kenya Uganda Railway in 1900 telling the story of the lions of Tsavo which held up the construction of the line for nearly a year when about 200 labourers were eaten alive; how on a swamp on the Nyarobi River, occupied by the Masai, a camp was established to survey the building of the railway up to Uganda and how the present capital of Kenya, Nairobi, came about.



Text time

From after half term the bulk of communications from St Edmund's Primary School, Hoxne will be electronically delivered, i.e. afterschool clubs cancelled or reminders to bring in PE kit will be via SMS text. Newsletters etc will be mainly sent via email.

The school has purchased an IT package to support us in improving our communication to parents. It is essential that parents check that the school has current mobile and email details. Please advise if you change these in the future.

We hope that this will speed up the way in which information is received and will save the school printing and paper costs.

If you do not have a mobile number or email address, please inform us and paper copies can be arranged.



*Snakes
alive!
It's
close
contact!*

A Curriculum Enrichment Day at St Edmund's Primary School, Hoxne brought pupils in close contact with the 'Bizarre Beast Road Show' presented by educational zoologists from Banham Zoo. Children, in groups of under 25, had an hour-long session in which they had the opportunity to handle some weird and wonderful creatures. Teachers and school staff also worked alongside microbiologists from the John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park using microscopes and science equipment not available in school.



Staff from the EATS catering team gave cooking demonstrations in the morning; there were sports science activities during lunchtime and other workshops including sustainable living (activities and games) and a mini-beast hunt. CED days are opportunities for all pupils and staff to come together and learn in depth one aspect of the school curriculum. We either visit a site of interest or bring in experts to support, deepen and extend learning. Either way the average cost to the schools is in excess of £500.

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER – Last winter parishioners were concerned that if they helped to clear snow they may have become liable for third party claims. We can confirm that anyone who clears snow from outside their own, or someone else's, property would only be liable for an accident if their efforts actually made the pavement less safe than it was with the snow and ice undisturbed as a result of which somebody is injured. If you would like **to register as a volunteer** to clear snow and, therefore, be covered under the terms of the Suffolk County Council insurances for public liability **you must contact the Parish Clerk (details below)** who will take your details and provide you with an advice sheet from the County Council entitled "advice for volunteers spreading salt/grit or clearing snow from the highway at times of severe weather".

The salt/grit in the Grit Bins is provided by the County Council and they make it clear that they provide it only for spreading on the public highways and public paths. They will regard use of salt on private driveways and private paths as theft.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS – The Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team currently has two new priorities relevant to Hoxne for the next three months:

The first is to promote road safety for all road users, including pedal cyclists and pedestrians during the winter months (all local postcodes). This priority was set at the Area Tasking Meeting on 09/10/12. The second is to target the theft of heating oil from both domestic and commercial tanks during the winter months (all local postcodes).

DRIVING STOPPING DISTANCES – With the arrival of cold, dark weather car drivers are reminded by Suffolk Police of the recommended stopping distances which should be allowed for. At 20mph allow 40 feet, 30mph allow 75 feet, 40mph allow 118 feet, 50mph allow 175 feet, 60mph allow 240 feet and at 70mph allow 315 feet. This emphasises the importance of obeying the speed limits in the villages, where obstacles and dangerous conditions can suddenly and unexpectedly present themselves.

PARISH COUNCIL ENQUIRY DESK – A trial of an enquiry desk at the last artisan market in the village hall prompted some discussions with parishioners. The main areas of interest appeared to be speeding traffic, road and footpath conditions and street lighting.

REMOVAL OF REDUNDANT POSTERS – Event organisers are reminded that they should remove all redundant signs and posters as soon as possible after the event has been completed.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 6th December 2012 and the one after that on Thursday 10th January 2013 in order to clear the festive period. Both meetings will be held at St. Edmund's Hall commencing at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all Hoxne Parish Councillors.

**To contact the Parish Council please telephone: 07554 733621
or email pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk**

HSA fund raising tops £4000

November 7th saw the annual meeting of the Hoxne School Association. A busy year for fund raising in difficult times but it was reported that in the year to date a figure in excess of £4000 had been raised by the team at HSA events included bingo, cake sales, the summer fair, Peter the painting postman and the annual clay shoot which this year raised over £1200, to be apportioned between the HSA, Hoxne playing field and Maynards Trust.

There are a few places left on the ever popular Hoxne 100 club (please contact Debbie Davis on 01379 668812) Recent winners are:

September - £20 R Matthews;
£15 F Brice; £10 T Thomas.

October - £20 M Dobell; £15 A Bull;

£10 G. Goddard.

November - £20

N Drake; £15 K. Carter; £10 S Price.

The amounts raised have given much needed help to the school which has refurbished the library and organised activity days that ordinarily would not have been possible.

Up and coming events in 2013 include 'Belly Dancing' no less - and the focus of our fundraising next year is to help provide a mini bus together with Mendham School to enable more activity days and events with Hartismere and Stradbroke.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the HSA to thank all those who have contributed or helped in any of the school association's events of the last year.

Alan Bryant

Phoenix enjoy beetles and chips

On Thursday November 13, 42 members and friends of the Hoxne Phoenix group met in St Edmund's Hall for a social evening including a Beetle Drive and a fish and chip supper. Mrs Lin Batey and Mrs Eve Blower won first and second prizes. Everyone agreed it was a very good evening.

The next meeting is on December 11, when a member of the group will demonstrate how to arrange flowers for Christmas, such as table decorations. At the January meeting - on the 8th - Mr Basil Abbott will describe to members the history of Diss Common.

The group's membership is growing and we now have 39 members, each

paying a subscription of £15 a year. If you would like an evening out in the winter, we meet on the second Tuesday of the month. Visitors are welcome at just £2 for the evening.

Doreen Weller, secretary, tel 668291

■ **In the final tournament of the season at Hoxne Bowls Club, Carol Bond and Maurice Hurry successfully defended their Waveney Mixed pairs title and Maurice also went on to win the Champion of Champions - again defending the trophy he won the previous year. So congratulations to them and Season's Greetings to all members past, present and future. Yes that could be you!**

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NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

Hoxne, Denham, Syleham and Wingfield

Main contacts for anyone who needs to get in touch with a member of the clergy are:

Hoxne – Brian Chester, Flaxfield, Witton's Lane tel: 01379 669157

Denham – Michael Reeves, The Brambles, Church Road tel: 01379 668179

Syleham – Mary Lewis, Little Hemplands tel: 01379 669258

Wingfield – John McCracken tel: 01379 384181

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Times of worship • December - January 2013

December 2

Syleham 11.15am Morning Prayer
Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion
Wingfield 3.30pm Christingle

December 9

Wingfield 11am Holy Communion
Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer

December 16

Syleham 10am Village Service
Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion
Wingfield 4pm Carols by Candlelight

December 23

Hoxne 10am Christingle
Wingfield 10am Family Service
Syleham 11am Carol Service
Denham 4.30pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

Wingfield 11.30pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day

Syleham 9am Holy Communion
Wingfield 10.30am Family Service
Hoxne 10.30am Family Service
followed by a shortened form of
Holy Communion

December 30

Group Service
10.30am Wingfield

January 6

Wingfield 10am Holy Communion
Syleham 11.15am Morning Prayer
Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion

January 13

Wingfield 11am Holy Communion
Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer
Denham 11.15am Village Service

January 20

Syleham 10am Village Service
Wingfield 10am Family Service
Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion

January 27

Hoxne 10am Family Service
Syleham 10am Holy Communion
Wingfield 10am Morning Prayer

**A time for prayer takes place
each week at Wingfield on
Mondays at 12noon, Syleham
on Tuesdays at 12noon and at
Denham on the fourth Tuesday
of the month at 9.30am.**

The Vicarage, 15 Noyes Avenue, Laxfield
01986 798266 fionanewton@rmpc.co.uk

Dear Friends,

A Child is born. But that's not where I want to start. We were recently in the far north west of Scotland, in the hamlet of Arnisdale. We had just had a good walk through the woods along the side of the loch. The single track road finishes here. There is nothing else. "Ring for tea" said the sign in the Tea Hut. And Sheena came. Three generations have lived in her tiny stone cottage. Her tea and home-made scones were delicious. The rain lashed outside (and in through the two open doors), but we were secure in her company.

Ten miles towards civilisation at Glenelg, the shop owner drives each morning for 20 miles for the papers. To our astonished looks, he responded simply, "people cannot do wi'out their paper".

A Child is born. He was born at the hub of the then world, where news would travel fastest. God's grace was extraordinary. He gave us not passing tea and scones, but the exemplary life to follow. A life force that is always present, whether we notice or not. A life that encountered as much tragedy as ours, but mostly more. A life that, again and again, showed us how to deal with all the lashings of wind and rain our lives throw at us.

As our world darkens into winter, let us look into our own darkness too, 'press the bell for tea' and prepare to receive the gift of the Child with joy and delight and wonder.

Happy Christmas!
Fiona

Revd Canon Fiona Newton (Tel: 01986 798266) is priest-in-charge of Brundish, Cratfield, Laxfield, Syleham, Wilby and Wingfield and Rural Dean of the Hoxne Deanery

Revd Susan Loxton (Tel: 01379 586040) is priest-in-charge of Denham, Fressingfield, Hoxne, Mendham, Metfield, Weybread and Withersdale

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

Christmas services

Hoxne's Parish Church will be the focus of much activity in the run up to Christmas. St Edmund's Pre-School is planning to bring the children to a crib service, then St Edmund's Primary School will be holding its annual carol service at 6pm on Monday December 17; on Wednesday December 19 the Village Carol Service, led by the Revd Susan Loxton, will begin at 7pm; on Sunday December 23 a Christingle Family Service is planned (10am) and on Christmas Day, Canon Andrew Vessey will take a Family Service at 10.30am followed by a short form of Holy Communion.

Scheme approved

At a meeting of the Pastoral Committee of the Church Commissioners in London a decision was made in favour of the scheme to re-shape the benefices within the Hoxne Deanery. There was an option for those who objected to the scheme to appeal against this decision - but only on legal grounds rather than repeating their original case - within 28 days of a letter being received setting out the committee's conclusion. If the reorganisation proceeds as planned, the process of appointing a priest to what will be the new Hoxne Benefice will be re-started.

Standard on parade

A congregation of more than 100 attended the Remembrance Day Service at St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne at which the standard of the Hoxne and District Branch of the Royal British Legion led a parade of Legion members into church. The service was led by Canon Andrew Vessey with

CHURCH NEWS

Mr Bill Herrington reading the names of those lost in two world wars and other conflicts and Mr Peter Drake a passage from the Bible. A collection for the Legion's Poppy Appeal totalled £310. Children from St Edmund's Pre-school had prepared a poppy wreath which had been placed in church.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union meets on the third Monday of each month at 2pm at Time House, Hoxne. December is an exception - FRIDAY 21 to make Christingles and for Christmas celebrations. Monday January 21 is the Annual General Meeting.

The MU has published a new pamphlet entitled *Labelled for Life* - managing the commercial world as a family. It is a helpful guide for families with children and for grandparents and others confused by these aspects of the modern world. It is available at £2, please ask Cathie if you would like a copy. (A sample is on the MU notice board in church).
Cathie McGregor - Branch Leader
01379 668434

Flower rota

During December the Advent candle is decorated; the list for Christmas will be sent out at the end of November, this will cover Christmas and January 6 and 13.
January 20 and 27

Altar - Isabel Draper

Porch - Cathie McGregor.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the welcoming flowers in our Parish Church. Cathie McGregor 01379 668434

Friends of Hoxne Church

First of all I would like to take this



CHURCH NEWS

opportunity to say thank you to all those who help to set up and then clear away when we have our coffee mornings.

While we are on the subject of coffee mornings we will not be having one in December, so see you in the New Year on Saturday January 4.

In October we had our annual Harvest Lunch. A total of 48 people enjoyed a very sociable lunch time meal for which we have had many compliments. On their behalf, I must thank Margaret Brawn and her team for all their hard work. Also to thank those who helped to prepare the hall and then clear away afterwards. We don't have any planned events for next year yet, but will keep you informed.

John Chapman, chairman

St John, Denham

The Village Carol Service will be held on Sunday 23rd December at 4.30pm and will probably be the last service to be conducted by the Revd Susan Loxton before the Deanery rearrangement. The Parish Church at Denham has been well supported by the village during the recent rebuilding and repair work and the church council welcomes everyone to this Christmas celebration. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served following the service so that your Christmas celebrations can begin in style.

The Village Service in January will be at the usual time of 11.15 am on the 13th with refreshments and fellowship from 10.45am, and morning prayers will be held on Tuesday 22nd at 9.30am.

The Church Council would like to thank

everyone who participated in the Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride on behalf of St John's, between them they have raised more than £500 with half of the money raised returned to this Church. During the recent repairs St John's received grants of more than £10,000 from them, so we are grateful to our riders and also their sponsors as without them this money could not have been raised.

St Margaret, Syleham

St Margaret's Observed, held on the 20th October was an extremely enjoyable and informative occasion (although sadly, poorly attended). Roy Tricker gave a very amusing talk and a reprise of the history of our church with some lovely feature slides on other churches of interest. This was followed by wine and nibbles and there were comments that a repeat performance would be welcome.

An Act of Remembrance was once again held at St Margaret Church Syleham on Remembrance Sunday, when the names on the Memorial Tablet were read, more recent sacrifices remembered and a wreath was laid to honour all of them.

Christmas Services – Our Carol Service is at 11am on Sunday 23rd December and we shall once again be joined by the Amici Choir, who always add spice to the occasion! On Christmas Day, there will be Holy Communion at 9am.

Flower Arrangements – If anyone not already on the flower rota would like to join in and make a Christmas display, please contact Gerry Lancashire on 668166.

Call my Bluff – The original date of 17th November has been changed to

St Andrew, Wingfield

We will mark the start of advent as usual with a Christingle service on the afternoon of 2 December at 3.30pm. Carols by Candlelight will be on 16 December at 4pm, and will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. This will be the last of our regular services at which John Vandenberghe will be the organist. We are very grateful to John for his dedicated service over many years and wish him well for the future.

Saturday 9th February 2013, when Colin Campbell will be chairing this enjoyable (and rather hilarious) event. Further details to follow but queries can be directed to Colin at darrsville@aol.com.

Syleham Soup – We are hoping to repeat this event to tie it in with the snowdrop season so watch for details or keep up to date with church activities on the parish website <http://syleham.onesuffolk.net>

Tower Appeal – Initial response has been good to the appeal to help us fund work urgently required on the church tower and we are very grateful for the support so far.

.....

Bikers ride to record result

I didn't really think it was possible for Hoxne to go on improving the sponsorship year on year for the Suffolk Historic Church bike ride, particularly as a couple of our longest serving stalwarts hung up their cycle clips this time. Last year we peaked with that wonderful total of £2,215. Oh, me of little faith, you've done it again!

Normally, it would be invidious to single out individual efforts because every contribution, large or not so large, is key to the overall success of the event. However, now and again something exceptional comes along and cannot pass without comment. One of our noble band of bikers (this was only his second Bike Ride) recently celebrated a landmark birthday, inviting a wide circle of friends from France to a party. Much against his wishes, they insisted on offering gifts so he told them they could sponsor him for the Bike Ride. Clearly a good move, the French love for the 'Velo' is well known - look no further than the Tour de France. And our octogenarian hero did not disappoint. He bagged 13 churches covering 36 miles. Vive la sport! Bob Ashworth of Garden Cottage on the Eye Road raised, single-handedly, over £1,000. How good is that?

I would like to name you all but, as you know, that would be invidious. . . However, I'm sure you will agree that Bob's unprecedented contribution has to be an exception. So, to all you bikers, recorders and mega-generous sponsors, a huge thank you because between you all you have achieved a staggering total of £3,026, surely an unbeatable record! How good is that?

Footnote: David Gould, SHCT treasurer, has informed me that, at the time of writing, Hoxne is the only parish in Suffolk to have improved on last year's total!

JB

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Obituary

Neil Burridge - 1963 - 2012

Neil was born in Stradbroke but grew up in Hoxne the son of Allen a skilled carpenter and joiner and Doris a skilled cook, sewing machinist and maker of covers for harpsichords.

Neil was from his earliest years a social animal, a people person, always out with his mates, always kicking a ball or inventing a game. In his teenage years he joined every sports club Hoxne and nearby villages could offer: tennis, cricket, football, badminton, bowls, petanque and even bingo. Neil went to St Edmund's C.P. in Hoxne and Diss Grammar School where he had his first cookery lessons.

Neil's first job aged about 12 or 13 was a newspaper round for John Chapman at Hoxne Post Office - which on a Saturday would take him about four hours to finish because, typically, he had to stop and chat or have a cup of tea with the customers.

His first job after leaving school was in the kitchen at a local retirement home. Neil was attending catering college one day per week to get some additional training and he had the good fortune to get on a pastry chef course that was really designed for fully-trained and experienced chefs not day-release trainees like Neil.

This training as a pastry chef and his natural aptitude for it provided him with a niche which was to enable him to go on to bigger and better things. Neil moved away from home to the Midlands. It was the Albany Hotel in Nottingham where Neil got

his first serious commercial experience under his belt, catering for everything from large functions to a la carte fine dining. It was at this time that Neil started getting involved in charity work and fundraising.

He soon moved down South and up-market to The Burford Bridge Hotel in Dorking in Surrey. His employers obviously spotted his potential and Neil was sent to Paris to complete his training as a pastry chef.

In 1992, Neil moved to the Central Coast, New South Wales in Australia. His career really took off when he teamed up with a talented Australian Head Chef, setting up highly successful, award-winning restaurants in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and Darwin in the Northern Territories before returning to the Central Coast when the partnership went into business for themselves.

Neil moved out of the kitchen to manage the three restaurants they owned. Neil became a well-known and loved member of his community, charming his customers and doing a great deal of charity work. During his final illness he earned the affection and admiration of all those who treated and cared for him. Neil is survived by his wife Annie and his son Jack.

Neil Burridge

Born 20 March 1963 Stradbroke

**Died 20 October 2012 North Gosford,
New South Wales, Australia**

MB

SYLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Chairman Mr Malcolm Flounders

Parish Council Meeting – at September's meeting Councillor Gibson-Harries invited Councillors to attend a conference to discuss the individual needs of the parish with senior officers of the District Council so that MSDC are aware of all factors when considering future strategic priorities of the District Council.

Public Footpath – The parish council is to seek Council funding for a bridge over a ditch to form a branch /continuation of an existing foot-path enabling parishioners to visit the site of the trees planted to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Police – advise there has been no reported crime in the village since the last meeting and only one crime reported all year. Eye Police station moved to new premises at The Lodge in Castleton Way in September. Suffolk Police have asked us to promote a new scheme launched to reunite you with your lost or stolen keys whilst supporting local charities. Suffolk SAFEKey is an official service offered by Suffolk Constabulary in partnership with Keycare Ltd which is open to both residents and business owners. Members are issued with key fobs featuring a unique identifying number. People who find lost keys with the SAFEKey fob are encouraged, through a £10 finders fee, to hand the keys to the police or send them to a secure postal address. This allows for the keys to be returned to their rightful owner. To join Suffolk SAFEKey visit www.suffolk.safekey.org.uk or call 08444 121802.

Suffolk Fire Service has asked us to publicise a three-month consultation which asks residents to have their say on a proposed merger between the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Services. No decision has been taken as yet, which is why they are asking for people's comments on the proposal. For more information tel. 01473 260533 or go to the consultation website - <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/consultations/delivering-the-best-fire-service-to-you/>

AGE UK – The Sue Ryder charity has joined with AGE UK on a project to give information, advice and guidance to dementia sufferers and their family carers. Please call 01473 353350.

Planning – There are no new applications or decisions.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall**

Clerk: Linda Bruce Tel: 01379 669018 pc@syleham.suffolk.gov.uk

Pre-school grows

Our term at St Edmund's Pre-School, Hoxne has been an exciting one so far, enjoying Halloween and November the 5th with the children decorating pumpkin biscuits, making chocolate apples on sticks, safe glitter 'sparklers' and a powder paint and glitter fire-work mural. Many thanks to those who supported and enjoyed our Halloween disco and Open Day – despite the awful weather!

We have been delighted to welcome eight new children this term who have all been a delightful addition to our happy, friendly and enthusiastic group.

We are now busy preparing for Christmas including a crib service at the church, Christmas parade and activity morning, Christmas party and a wide range of crafts and foodstuffs to make and enjoy!

We also wish our lovely deputy Emma all the very best as she goes on maternity leave to prepare for her special arrival in February.

Much love and thanks go out to Emma from Pre-school for all she has done for us. Emma is going to keep in touch by attending 'Little Treasures' our toddler group for babies and little ones on a Wednesday from 10am-12noon with her baby. Do feel free to attend if you have a little one or grand-child, no need to call, just turn up!

If your child is two or older, they can attend pre-school on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for 15 hours, at no cost, from the term after they turn three and they may be eligible for free sessions from just two years. We are also offering a free after-



noon session if you pay for two mornings and lunches - and our current paid rate is only £2.80 an hour! This offer lasts until July 2013. Do call or email to request a brochure or to come and look around our large and well planned environment.

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An ever changing scene...

Yggdrisil is the ash tree that in Scandinavian mythology, with its roots and branches, binds together heaven, earth and hell. The English ash tree is a more homely sort – quick growing and versatile. The wood is inherently springy and for generations has been used for walking sticks and racquets and wheels and hurdles and anything else that needs elasticity with strength.

If all our ash trees succumb to this fungus (originally from Asia but now, ironically, windborne from Holland) not only will our landscape change irrevocably but the best source of firewood will have gone also.

Kipling's countryside of oak and ash and thorn is set to change as only thorn, so far, seems to have the resilience to survive the global trade in plants and their accompanying diseases.

In spite of diminished daylight, November has become a golden autumnal month rather than one of freezing fog and chilblains. No longer is it: 'No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds – November' (Thomas Hood

1844) because there is still the odd apple on the tree, the garden is blooming with roses and asters, oaks and maples are glowing with golden leaves and the rape is full of pigeons and the hedgerow full of pheasants.

However, the NFU is warning farmers to expect more extreme weather conditions as a result of climate change. The drought this spring was followed by heavy rain during the summer. Farmers will need to become resilient in coping with unseasonal and unexpected weather.

The advice from the NFU is to reintroduce livestock as a means of maintaining fertility, or in other words to return to old-fashioned mixed farming.

Monoculture is certainly an unnatural regime and is only possible with a hefty input of artificial fertilisers, pest and fungicides.

This is short-term husbandry forced upon farmers by the demand for more food produced more cheaply and it has been done at the expense of the long-term health of the land and its eco-systems. **HC**



■ Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotments Association (BATAAA) was established a couple of years ago by a group of enthusiastic villagers with support from Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council and South Norfolk District Council. Over the last few years the allotment site in Brockdish has developed and matured nicely and is proving most productive.

There are, however, still a few plots available and we are offering them to new members for the price of BATAAA membership (£5) from now until February 2013 when the plot fee for 2013-2014 will become due. If you would like to find out more or would like to look round the site please e-mail Rebecca at bataaa@hotmail.co.uk

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Happy and healthy is nursery theme

We have had lots of fun at Sweet Briar Nursery School this November thinking about fireworks and bonfire night. It has been a great opportunity to use lots of bright colours to make pictures and collages. We have been on nature walks in our adventure meadow to collect leaves and sticks to make our own bonfire models and to do leaf printing pictures (*see below*).

For the next part of this Autumn term we are planning a focus on 'Happy and Healthy'. We will be learning all about keeping fit, the importance of healthy food and drink, keeping clean and for one of our projects we will need to bring in our toothbrushes! There will be many activities around this theme including cooking and setting up an obstacle course in our playground so we can explore the effect of exercise on our bodies using our stethoscope.

As Christmas approaches we will be making decorations, surprises for our families and friends, singing carols and cooking mince pies and iced Christmas biscuits. There will be great festive fun to be had! We also look forward to welcoming all parents, grandparents and carers to our Nativity Play which will be held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 12th December. Please come along and enjoy a mince pie and the show.

The Sweet Briar Blog on our website (www.sweetbriarnursery.co.uk) is updated every week with all the things we are doing in the nursery so have a look when you are next online...

We are open five days a week with hours available from 8am – 5pm for children from three months to five years. We aim to be as flexible as possible with hours to suit you and your child's needs and we can continue a child's individual home routine with our facilities for sleeping. You can add hours at very short notice, add on hours at seasonal times, work around shift patterns and take advantage of term time only arrangements. We also run holiday and half-term Playschemes for children up to the age of eight, meaning we are open 50 weeks a year.

For children of three years and above there is Government Funding available ►►



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» for 15 free hours per week that you can spend with us. We are also able to secure funding for two year olds that meet the special requirements of the Government. Please contact us for more information.

We feed into a network of local Primary Schools and several of our children go on to our closest school, which is St Edmund's Primary in Hoxne, for which we are a joint provider.

If you would like to come for a taster session then we would be more than happy to welcome you and your child. If you would like to book a taster session then please contact Sarah Buckley on either:

Tel: 01379 668480 Email: sarah@sweetbriarnursery.co.uk

.....
■ Children from St Edmund's Primary School, Hoxne will be taking part in an artist-led church heritage learning session at the village's Parish Church in December. The workshop is being organised through the Angels & Pinnacles project run by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The lead artist and workshop co-ordinator is Jenny Nutbeem of Kelsale. Angels & Pinnacles involves 24 churches in six clusters across Suffolk. Angels & Pinnacles is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as well as the Lord Belstead Charitable Trust, the Scarf Charitable Trust and Discover Suffolk. Children's workshops have taken place in the hub churches with a three-week exhibition of work having just come to an end in all six churches. So far, the scheme has involved 230 children from seven primary schools with very positive feedback from both pupils and teachers. Their work can be viewed under 'Latest' at www.angelsandpinnacles.org.uk
.....

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Village Voice has received a special message from Santa Claus about his visit to Hoxne on Christmas morning. He has so many presents to deliver that he must plan his journey around the village very carefully. He has asked Village Voice to say how much he wants to see the children and the grown ups and he is anxious that we all know what he plans to do. So this is his delivery list : early on Christmas morning at 6am he will arrive, as if by magic, in Denham Road and with his Elves running hither and thither come towards the school, into Cross Street, down St Edmund's Close and into Tudor Close (about 6.30am). Heading back into Cross Street, he will visit Nuttery Vale (about 6.45am) and, with bells ringing, progress down Abbey Hill to Goldbrook by 7am. Next comes the Eye Road and homes close by, arriving at Low Street Green by about 8am where there are many presents to deliver and music to cheer him on his way. From Low Street, his sleigh heads up the hill to Green Street, calling in at Church Close before completing his visit to Hoxne down Witton's Lane and into Heckfield Green (between 9am and 9.30am).

So listen for the bells and you will know he is on the way...

■ Father Christmas at Hoxne...It will soon be time to start wrapping up those presents and taking them to Hoxne Post Office where they will be delivered to the man in red with the white beard who will again be knocking on our doors on Christmas morning, and that right early! It's an experience not to be missed - use the form below to give Santa the details.

Don't forget – make someone's day that bit more special!

PLEASE ADD ME TO SANTA'S LIST

To ensure that Santa doesn't disappoint anyone please follow the instructions below.

- Complete this label giving the **full name and address in large capital letters** which will help Santa make his delivery - and a contact telephone number.
- Cut out the completed panel and place it in a waterproof holder (available from Hoxne Post Office) and attach it to your parcel, showing the name and address clearly. If you have more than one present for the same house, please place in a single bag.
- Leave your parcel at the Post Office by 3pm on Saturday December 22 at the latest

.....

Name

Address

.....

.....

Telephone No.

AFC Hoxne recover from early knocks

AFC Hoxne have arguably assembled the strongest ever squad in the 13 year history of the club. Despite this, the 1st XI suffered two home Ipswich League Division 2 defeats, in September.

That knocked the wind out of our sails after the good opening day 5:0 win at Salvation Army, Stowmarket in a close game. League leaders Claydon beat us 2:1 while Ipswich side, Waterside, with whom we were promoted last season, secured a remarkable 6:3 victory, after we had been leading 3:1.

Hoxne then got back on track at Needham Market. First Division AFC Crawley were beaten 3:2, after we trailed 2:0 in the first round of the Bob Coleman Cup. New 2nd Division boss, Ben Wilby, assisted by wife Emma, has made the best ever start to a season in the 11-year history of the reserves.

After the 12:0 opening day Division 4 win at Sizewell, our closest game so far came in the in the 3:1 home win over Felixstowe Harpers. We made it 20 goals in two away games with a comfortable 8:0 triumph at Framlingham Reserves.

In the first round of the Suffolk Primary Cup, the 100 per cent league record was maintained with a 6:1 home win over Cedars Park Reserves of Stowmarket.

One of the scorers of the match was centre half Ben Green. Every year Ben remembers Phil Govier, the 17 year old Hoxne goalkeeper who was tragically killed playing cricket for Diss 2nd XI on May 25th 2002. Ben was also playing in that match. Phil was the eldest

son of Jenny and Stephen Govier and was a pupil of Hartismere High School, Eye. He had been a member of the Primary Cup winning team versus Dennington at Haughley six weeks previously.

It was mixed fortunes for the two teams on October 6th. The 1st XI thrashed Bramford Road Old Boys Reserves at home 13:0 while the 2nd XI lost 3-0 in Ipswich against FC Adhara. The following week the 1st XI had another good win. Stowupland Falcons were knocked out of the Suffolk Junior Cup in the first round hurdle by a 6:3 margin. The 2nd XI had to be content with a point at lowly Benhall Reserves. October 20th was a red letter day for AFC Hoxne, the 1st XI beat league leaders Claydon 3:0 away and the 2nd XI also won 3:0 at home to FC Adhara in the Suffolk Primary Cup 2nd round.

The only cloud was the news of the sad passing of one of our former players, Neil Burrridge at the age of 49, in Australia. A lovely 'fella', Neil's memory was observed by a minute's silence before the 2nd XI fixture.

The 2nd XI were well beaten 4:0 at home by Ufford on October 27th. Nathan Ellis got a last-minute winner for the 1st XI in a 3:2 win at Stonham Aspal. The 1st XI were again triumphant on November 3, winning 2:1 at home to Bartons (Bury) in the Suffolk Junior Cup, second round. The 2nd XI won 15:1 at Tattingstone, the highest score in the history of AFC Hoxne.

Clive Baxter

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Tips to keep oil thieves at bay

A thief will usually come equipped with a limited range of tools to attack your tank so it's worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Closed shackle padlocks are best as they offer most resistance to the most popular of burglar tools, namely the bolt cropper. Due to their design, closed shackle padlocks have very little of the metal hoop (shackle) exposed and bolt croppers cannot get a good grip.

The position of the tank can have a significant effect on how hard a target it is in the eyes of a thief. If the tank is within good view of the house, then the thief may consider the risk of being seen too high. If the tank is close to a road, path, drive or alleyway then it will be a far easier target. Hiding the tank behind the garage, shed or some other type of outbuilding is fairly commonplace but, on the other hand, it could help to conceal the thief. Remember your tank should be positioned in away that will not prevent the oil supply company from being able to gain access to refill the tank

Check with your insurance provider that you are not only insured for fuel thefts, but also any oil seepages, either through wear and tear or deliberately caused by an offender. The cost of any resulting environmental clean up could prove expensive.

Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available, which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly falls in fuel level. These gauges are sited within the house to warn of any potential problem. If you have already installed an alarm for your property ask your provider if they can also add an alarm link to your heating oil tank. Another recent security measure available is a padlock with a built-in alarm, which activates, when tampered, at up to 110 decibels.

Other options include restricting access through gating, installing dusk to dawn security lighting, or lockable caps, supported by closed shackle padlocks. Join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme to keep an eye out for suspicious vehicles/persons, and make a note of the registration number of any suspicious vehicles and if in doubt report any suspicions to the Police on 999.

PCSO 3172 Steven Long & PC 878 Jacqui Thomas
Eye Police Station,
Victoria Hill, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HJ Phone – 101
midsuffnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk



EYE HEALTH CENTRE

Castleton Way, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7DD
Telephone: 01379 870689 Fax: 01379 871182

SURGERY TIMES:

<u>Mornings:</u>	Monday to Friday	By appointment	08.30 - 11.00
	Monday to Friday	Telephone Consultations	11.30 - 12.00
<u>Evenings:</u>	Monday	All doctors	15.30 - 19.30
	Tuesday	Dr Lewis	16.00 - 18.00
	Wednesday	Dr Partridge	16.00 - 18.00
	Thursday	Dr Ahmed	16.00 - 18.00
	Friday	All doctors	15.30 - 18.00
<u>Nursing Clinics:</u>	Smoking Cessation	Monday to Friday	08.30 onwards
	NHS Health Checks	Monday	12.00 - 15.00
	Travel	Monday	17.00 - 18.00
	Over 75 checks	Monday & Wednesday	08.30 onwards
	COPD	Tuesday	15.30 - 16.30
	Diabetes	Tuesday	12.00 - 15.00
	Asthma	Tuesday	12.00 - 15.00
	Childhood Immunisations	Tuesday	12.00 - 15.00
	Baby Clinic	Tuesday	13.30 - 15.30
	Heart/Blood Pressure	Wednesday & Thursday	12.00 - 15.30
	Diabetes Pre Clinic Check	Thursday	12.00 - 14.30
	Coil fitting/Implants	Friday	12.00 - 14.30
Cervical Smears	Friday	12.00 - 15.00	

DISPENSARY OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday	08.30 - 18.00
For telephone enquiries	09.30 - 18.00

**PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST TWO CLEAR WORKING DAYS
BEFORE COLLECTING YOUR REPEAT PRESCRIPTION**

RECEPTION OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday	08.30 - 18.00
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URGENT appointment to see a DOCTOR or NURSE (<i>Same Day</i>)	08.30 - 09.30
ROUTINE appointment to see a DOCTOR or NURSE (<i>2-4 Days</i>)	09.30 - 18.00
ADVANCE BOOKING for a DOCTOR or NURSE (<i>up to 3 months</i>)	09.30 - 18.00
HOME VISIT REQUESTS	08.30 - 09.30

For general enquiries and test results: 09.30 - 18.00

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Shaping up for Christmas

Detox, well everyone's doing it and I think there's no better time to get your system cleansed before you unload all that Christmas stodge on the unsuspecting bowel. The following detox can be used before and after Christmas.

There's no real science to being good to yourself, your just giving your body what it needs and nothing else. Your body craves nutrition so that's what we'll do, provide the body with nutrients. Try for three to four days, some may get headaches which are normally associated with withdrawal symptoms to chocolate or coffee (caffeine), alcohol etc. The body stores foreign substances and toxins in its fatty deposits, so, in many cases, people may be carrying up to 10 or more pounds (4.5kg) of unhealthy mucus-harboured toxic waste.

Ever wondered why you are tired, have PMS, digestive disorders, headaches, joint pains, bad breath, allergies, constipation, poor memory, depression, insomnia, excess weight and so on.

For a time, your body will struggle to protect itself from noxious toxins by trapping them in a ball of mucus or fat so that they are impeded from triggering adverse immune reactions. But this will only last temporarily. Before long, the toxins will seep into the blood stream and into the cell membranes, disturbing metabolic functions.

TOP DETOX FOODS

- Fruit and Vegetables
- Water
- Raw Food/ Sprouts/Greens
- Fruits, veggies, whole grains and seeds

Organic foods when possible.

Foods to Avoid

- Sugar
- Fried Foods
- Dairy
- Alcohol
- Caffeine

Good luck for the rest of the year and may I wish all the readers a very Merry Christmas and a very healthy New Year.

If you would like more information on Personal training, Gym membership or Exercise classes please do not hesitate to contact Mick Glynn Fully qualified and insured Personal Trainer at MG fitness Studio on : 07879 455966 or e-mail at mickgly@aol.com www.mickglynn.co.uk

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Wingfield and Denham Parish Councils

David Jenvey, parish clerk to both Wingfield and Denham parish councils, has been forced by illness to step down from both posts. At the time of *Village Voice* going to press, David was in hospital and our thoughts and prayers go out to him and Catherine. Both councils are now searching for a new clerk.

■Wingfield Parish Council invites applications for the post of Part-time Clerk commencing 1st January 2013 This is an interesting and varied post working mainly from home and serving a friendly and supportive Parish Council. The Parish Council holds approximately eight meetings each year meeting in Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall or Wingfield Barns and you will be responsible for preparing the agendas, writing the minutes, and dealing with the Parish Council's accounts and its correspondence and all other administration. Previous experience as a Parish Clerk would be helpful but not essential, but good literacy, accounting and computer skills will definitely be required for this post.

A full job description and application instructions can be obtained by contacting the Chairman, Michael Harvey tel 01379 586355 or email michaelharvey8643@live.co.uk. The closing date for applications is Monday 17th December 2012 and interviews will be held at times and dates to be confirmed.

■Denham Parish Council: It is with sadness that we have to say goodbye to David Jenvey and to thank him for all his efficient hard work as our clerk. The post of Denham parish clerk is now vacant. If you would be interested in taking on this role please contact the chairman Ray Keeble on 01379 668281 or 07952 240871 As the year draws to a close we wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. Next council meeting is on Wednesday January 30 2013 in the village hall at 19.30.

Syleham and Wingfield Sports and Social Club

Our Senior Citizens Christmas Party will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th January 2013 at 6.30pm for 7pm. Due to the rising costs of postage we will not be sending written invitations this year. If you would like to attend please contact Alison Thurlow on 668251 or on alliemt@suffolonline.net by 14th December 2012. Any residents of Syleham and Wingfield aged over 60yrs and their partners are welcome to join us.

We are planning to celebrate 30 years of the Sports and Social Club on Saturday 23rd February 2013. If you have been a member of the SWSSC committee during these 30yrs please keep this date free. Further details later.

Diary Dates

Eastern Angles: *The Long Life & Great Good Fortune of John Clare* Wednesday 17th April 2013

42 Village Voice

DENHAM VILLAGE HALL

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Preoccupations - past and present

Because investigative media has flourished allied with rapid communication, we have a more informed and open society - but there are problems running institutions such as banks, the EU, the UN, police, the Beeb, NHS, care services, utilities – even our churches. States are not immune. China is uncertain of the way forward, Russia has been high-jacked by oligarchs. Somalia has failed. The Arab Spring countries are caught in the middle East cauldron. Power struggles intensify over scarce resources, especially minerals. Growth and the economy now have priority and global warming is almost ignored and out of control.

But hope springs eternal, and ordinary people are still able to protest their moral concerns over rising unfairness, corruption and spin, even if they get kettled or driven from Cathedrals.

The churches are currently preoccupied with internal problems. Western Christendom is in retreat. Rome has made scant progress since Vatican 2 fifty years ago and has some really serious problems. Anglicans with 24 bishops in Parliament have a platform and could speak truth to power but are mired in internal matters over women bishops, priests and leadership. A second Reformation is needed, or a third if the 19th century Oxford movement is counted.

Atheists driven by post Darwinian science and led by Dawkins have mounted a challenge. Rapid strides

have been made in astro-physics, mathematics and computers, cosmology, space and planetary research with the discovery of hundreds of planets in our very own Milky Way galaxy, some of which lie in the marigold zone where other life may be possible. Cellular biologists have discovered that each human body contains 132 trillion cells.

Fundamental questions about infinite time and space remain unanswered, and how and why Creation came about, now said to have happened 137 billion years ago, leading some to regard the Old Testament as biased aural history and myth, and no longer a sacred text but simply 'of its time'. But wonder and marvel about God, and our truly wonderful Creation, remain despite Dawkins forceful arguments. Mathematicians, astro-physicists, biologists and even philosophers now advance new theories of space, time and life itself. For some this has deepened our understanding and faith in God: for others it has led to faith being abandoned.

Recent programmes from the BBC and the Open University have explained these remarkable advances with space travel, the Hubble telescope, the Hadron collider at the macro level, and the microscope and cellular biology at the micro level. New laws governing the behaviour of the universe are postulated and old ones confirmed or modified . Newton's law of gravity and Einstein's relativity are back in the



A word from Wingfield

news. God less - so
the search for the
connect between
earth and heav-
en continues.
More young,
people their
curiosity
undimmed, apply
to study RE and
theology. Are we, as

parents able to respond to the first
questions they articulate in their
infancy as they marvel at the world
around them?

For many God is still a supreme
ruler up there in heaven somewhere
seated in the clouds with Jesus along-
side and St Peter holding the records
in control of the entrance gate, and
from his throne delivering judgement
from on high about the way we have
led our lives, supported by his staff of
angels and archangels. If we have led
a good life we shall be reunited with
our loved ones. For the unbelievers,
death is final. Then there are those
who believe that our remains having
been carefully buried East to West will
at some future time be reincarnated
and reunited with our souls, and we
shall be one again, and all will be
revealed. They are uncertain of the
precise age we shall assume when we
are reconstituted in this future eternal
and perfect life, for which not all will
be eligible because so many people
have been born and died, and it could
be difficult to arrange for all of them
to be accommodated.

And there is uncertainty about the
position of the ancients who long ago
were unaware of religion. Shall we

find good Neanderthals and Stone
Age people in heaven? And what
about God's other creatures who were
in the ark? It is not surprising that the
atheists find it easier not to speculate
about eternal life.

The Quakers say that there is a little
of God in all of us and some think that
he permeates everything, living and
inanimate. Indeed perhaps he is
everything and embraces all that time-
lessness, space, power and existence
that is beyond our imagination and
that He is Creation itself in its entirety
that everything is sacred. Indeed,
Panentheists believe that 'all is God
and God is all'.

During 20 years at Sussex University
Anne and I shared ecumenical
worship with university students
in Spence's wonderful meeting house
which deployed his trade mark of
coloured glass honeycomb walls,
echoing the windows at Coventry
Cathedral. A very long tapestry by
Piper stretches across the organ
illustrating the text from Psalm 46
'Be Still and Know That I am God' -
the university's motto now truncated
to the first four words. Could that
have been because some students
said that the original was the Vice
Chancellor's motto?

Bishop Cormac Murphy O'Connor
of Arundeland later the Cardinal
Bishop of Westminster, descended
on us taking strong objection to the
Roman students sharing the Anglican
communion cup, forbade the practice
and replaced the Roman Chaplain
with a compliant priest and separate
worship, not what the founding
fathers had hoped for.

I also attended my local parish church when the services were not in conflict with those at the university and sat on the Deanery and Diocesan synods. For at least 70 years I have worshipped in many different churches, far flung and with different liturgies, and alongside people struggling to know God.

Throughout the ages humankind has sought to learn more about God and different religions and sects have their own version of Him. Many treat the God as having a human form and character. As many know about Him through Jesus who was God become man, anthropomorphism is not surprising. The massive strides in scientific discovery in this millennium will impact on how we regard God and

His Creation in future years as did the pioneering work of medieval astronomers on the uninformed views of the church of their time.

Recently I read a Church of England Newspaper review of a new book *God and the Scientist* in which several scientists, in addition to being eminent in their own field, are, I submit, far more knowledgeable about theology and philosophy than Dawkins. The book contains a collection of essays which assesses the work of Anglican priest John Polkinghorne, FRS and former Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge and includes one of his entitled confessions of a bottom up thinker. There's a heavy going challenge for our Deanery book club to read and discuss. **TG**



New website for the Barns

A change of pace at Wingfield Barns this month; we are slowing down for the winter and hibernating a little. We are still open Tuesday to Friday from 10am – 4pm but we are being refurbished so may have to close parts of the building along the way. The last concert of the season was the award winning, folk duo Megson on 24th November. Our traditional family panto 'Treasure Island' will be held at the end of January and our new Wednesday afternoon 'Flicks in the Sticks' will start on January 9th. Phone the Box Office 01379 384505 to book. The new website www.wingfieldbarns.com is up and running so check us out.

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Hoxne's Bullock Fair

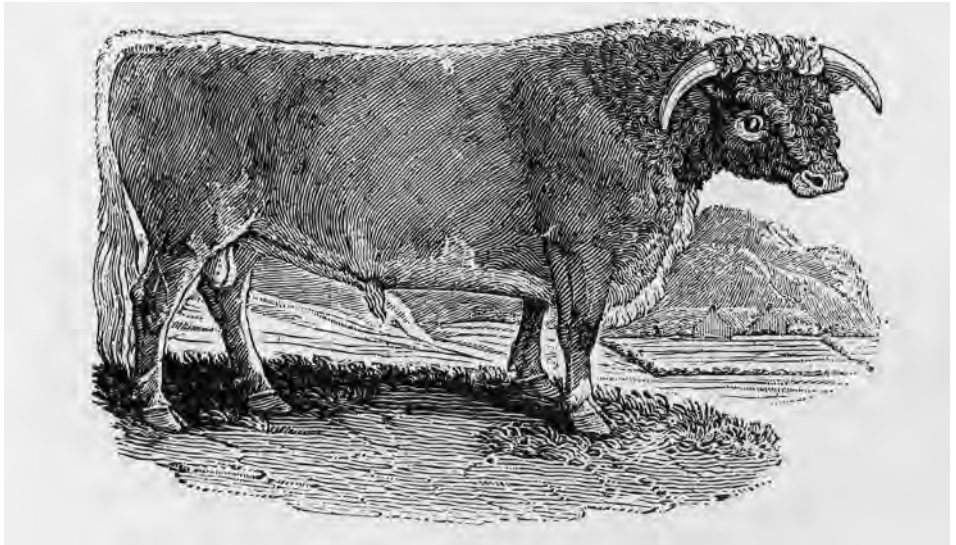
As winter approaches and the colder weather gives us damp and frosty mornings, the structure of the landscape of the village changes.

Even when you have lived in a particular place for many years, new views open up as the trees shed their leaves. Looking back in time to the winter of 1746 and the memories of the cattle drover Thomas Bell, Hoxne is approached from a number of roads and was on the drover's route from Scotland, bringing down cattle to be sold at the winter cattle market in Hoxne, during the 18th and 19th centuries. The starting point for collecting beasts was Stornoway and across the sea to the Ross and Cromarty Estates. Heading south to the borders to Falkirk, Gatehouse,

Dundeuch, Barharrow and Balmae. Into England following a south easterly route to Long Preston, Nappa, Malham, Skipton and Carleton to Skirbeck at the top end of The Wash and then on to Hoxne.

Hoxne was one of the main cattle markets along with Braintree in Essex.

Benjamin Bell [1680-1762] and his brother Thomas Bell [1712-1770] were drovers who resided at Woodhouselee, Midlothian. The Bell family were tenants of the Duke of Buccleuch. Benjamin was married to Rebecca Graham and his sister Isabella [b.1718] to Bryce Blair [b.1700], his brother Thomas was married to Eliza Scott [b.1734]. Drover's had a hard life and suffered ▶▶



» from illness, due to the bad weather conditions and robbery. Usually they were armed with a pistol and cudgel.

In the churchyard at Hoxne near to the Cedar tree, you will find the gravestone of a Scottish drover. Many of them had English girlfriends and wives. A drover could make a considerable amount of money, by buying and selling and transporting cattle.

Thomas Bell was writing to Bryce Blair of Annan, an astute businessman and the legal and business adviser to the Bell family. He probably financed their droving activities.

The Bell brothers bought 200 cattle from John McCartney of Hacketlees at Falkirk Market for £630 [63s each] in September 1746. These cattle and another 300 from Mr Murray of Broughton purchased for £1449 [58s each].

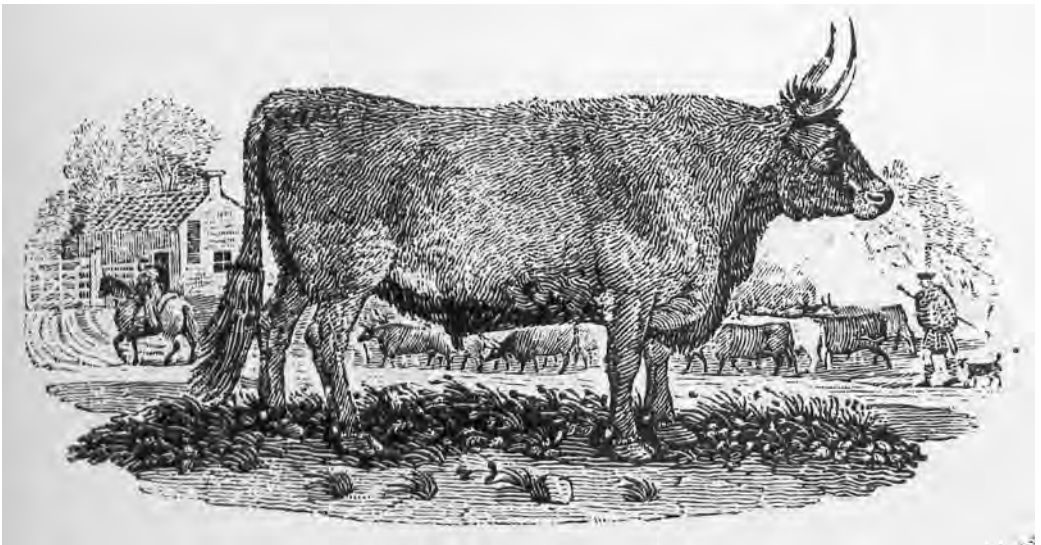
"I have bought Broughton's drove and drawn on you for the price in 3 bills. They are a fine drove and

vastly fat, their number is 500," wrote Thomas.

In October 1746 the Bell brothers arrived in East Anglia, but cattle plague in a virulent form broke out.

"The distemper amongst the cattle rages more and more, it is now over almost all Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, so we have no place to fly to, even if we had liberty. God knows what we shall do, we cannot get money. I cannot express our melancholy situation. May God pity us." *Hoxen 25th December 1746.*

"This morning when I went among the beasts there were 29 laid dead in one pasture, worth £5 a head. Seventeen in another pasture and 8 in another. I shall be home by Candlemass and people can do with me what they will. I assure you we have lost £300 by the distemper already, but the people shall get every groat we have and we can do no more. *Hoxen 7th January 1747.*



The Bell family were not the only family involved with droving activities. John Birtwhistle [1715-1787] of Skipton and his sons William [1744-1819], Alexander [1750-1810] and Robert [1758-1815] were bringing cattle from Scotland and Ireland to Suffolk.

In 1782 the Birtwhistle brothers William and Alexander were bringing Galway Scots to Hoxne with an arrival date of the 19th March 1782.

The cattle were kept in the fields around the village and most probably sold on the village green at Low Street. The former butcher's shop opposite the Swan Inn [was originally open fronted, with steps up to the counter] probably benefitted from the arrival of the Scottish drovers as did the pubs and shops. The Bullock Fair would also attract other visitors to the village during November, December, January, and February and as late as March.

The Bullock Fair at Hoxne was later removed to Harleston, Norfolk where the name Bullock Fair still survives. More details about this can be found

in *Candler's History of Redenhall with Harleston*.

So if you are thinking of having a beef joint for Christmas, just think about how our ancestors purchased Scottish beef cattle to fatten up on the marshes and meadows around Hoxne.

Highland cattle are still kept in the area and at one time they were wintered on The Moor, between the Broadwaters and Hoxne Watermill. It is a strange but interesting experience to encounter cattle appearing from the fog or mist hanging over the pasture meadows of the River Waveney, during the winter months.

Stephen Govier

[with edited details of letters from the Bell family].

With thanks to the Bell family and Birtwhistle families and Tony Stephen's book entitled *The Birtwhistle's of Craven and Galloway*.

Illustrations from *Woodcuts by Thomas Bewick* edited by Blanche Cirker

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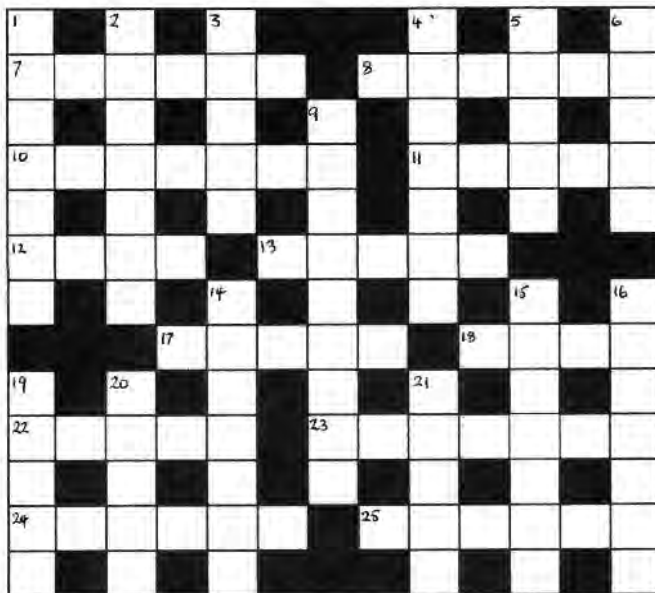
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 91

The prize for the first correct solution opened to crossword puzzle No. 90 went to Mrs V. Bannon. The solution appears below.



ACROSS

DOWN

- 7 Swell out, being unwell in Bow (6)
- 8 In the worst are soft gazes (6)
- 10 Sadly dies out, not in (7)
- 11 Inbred ram at play (5)
- 12 Inspect watch (4)
- 13 Soft keyboard (5)
- 17 Imbibe doctor with writing fluid (5)
- 18 Confront female expert (4)
- 22 Circular drinks (5)
- 23 On night out, get zero (7)
- 24 Make tare in the outskirts of Crewe (7)
- 25 Fair noble broke the first damsel (6)

- 1 Pardon? Sailors love to misbehave (7)
- 2 Dressed in the cold, sadly (7)
- 3 Look good in charge of reasoning (5)
- 4 Learner strew dust over hospital dept (7)
- 5 US woman is widespread (5)
- 6 Award between November and Papa (5)
- 9 Drink in Benin, good start (9)
- 14 Performed rite due to the learned (7)
- 15 Beaming worker supports open raid (7)
- 16 Pretended to put gin into feed (7)
- 19 Stiffen couple (5)
- 20 Silence is quite moving (5)
- 21 Stem small talk! (5)

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO. 90

B	A	R	B	E	R		Q	U	E	U	E	
U	E		L		P		U	B		U	N	
L	V	C	R	E		R	U	I	N	D	U	S
L		L		C		I		T		N		J
E	R	U	P	T	E	D			B	Y	R	E
T		S		O		E	L	K				D
	J	E	E	R			A	L	P	S		
P				S	P	A		N		L		A
L	O	C	O			L	A	G	G	A	R	D
A		R	E	S		A		A	G		V	
C	R	E	E	P	E	R		R	O	U	S	E
E		E		I		M		O		E		R
D	E	L	F	T			P	O	S	S	E	T

If you would like to enter the crossword competition, send your solution to the editor by 1st Jan., 2013. The first correct solution to be opened will receive a cash prize of £10.



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EDITORIAL CO-ORDINATORS

This is Brian's final issue as editor. Regrettably, there is no-one to take his place yet, so the next issue could be a while coming. However, if you have copy, please keep it or send it to Jan who will hold it until someone comes forward. We will keep you posted via Hoxneman.

**Jan Murray, Willow Lodge, Heckfield Green,
Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AA Tel: 668511**

E-mail: jammur@talktalk.net

NEXT ISSUE

1st February (copy by 8th Jan., please)

*** * ***

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