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WINGFIELD

*VILLAGE
VOICE*

DECEMBER 2016
- JANUARY 2017

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The Revd. Michael Womack is chair of
each PCC.

Editorial - What are Parish Councils for?

All too often we hear the cry, "oh they are useless, they never do anything, they never listen", yet our Parish Councils are an important layer of government because they are local and responsible to us, the residents.

Let's start with what they are not – they are not a private club, a housing association, a charity or anything to do with the church. They are a group of people, from the village or community who give their time, normally elected by us for four years. Their function is to serve, represent and look after the interests of the community and its residents.

So, what are they responsible for and what should we expect? Perhaps first and most importantly they should represent the community. They have powers and duties entrusted to them by Local Government Acts and other legislation.

They are funded through our Council Tax and the amount of this 'precept' depends on how many people there are in the community and how much they ask for to carry out various projects needed for the community and their statutory obligations.

Just a few examples of what they can provide are public clocks, public conveniences, road lighting, traffic calming measures, litter bins, village halls and other local amenities. They are also statutory consultees on planning applications. A good example is that, in the past, some Councils in our four villages contributed funds towards the running of the Voice (currently, we do not need this support).

Under 'general spending' our councils may be able to give money to a village project; this is subject to many rules and regulations. First call to see whether funding might be available is to contact the PC Clerk or Chairman.

Parish Councils should publish information relating to the business of the Council; these days they usually have a website. Councillors also must follow a Code of Conduct, just like anyone else in public office, selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

We should never forget that the Council and Councillors are accountable to us in our communities. Because they are working on our behalf, it is important to go to Parish Council meetings to support their work. As a resident, if you have a matter that concerns you, you can suggest that this is put on the agenda for discussion or simply raise it during the Public Forum when you can speak – your role for the rest of the meeting is to listen only!

So, go to the next meeting, see what is going on, ask questions – get involved.

John Langley

Letters to the Editor

From Sue Roberts

Many thanks to all those who took part in the SHCT sponsored cycle ride and of course, thank you very much to all of the generous sponsors. It was a rather wet and windy day especially after about 10 o'clock but I saw many riders out and about, in good spirits and seemingly thoroughly enjoying themselves. So thank you all for your superb efforts and for raising a total of £1684.50 so far (we still have to collate Wingfield's contribution) for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust which means £842.25 for our churches. The amounts per church are Denham £874.50, Hoxne £760, Syleham £50, Wingfield tbc and visitors : Denham 11, Hoxne 26, Syleham 28, Wingfield tbc Thank you on behalf of your local area organisers; Sue, Rhona, Anne, Mary and John

From Philip Flagg, Cross St, Hoxne

A reminder, following on from my article in the last Village Voice, Next Stop Symi are planning another aid trip to Greece in March and we do need funds. If the winter fuel allowance or part of it is spare, please let us use it to help stranded refugees. The press is silent but the crisis remains. Go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/nextstopsymi> go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/nextstopsymi> UK Charity number 1167494

From Julie Thompson

Clay shoot update. Thank you to all who helped in any way with the 2016 annual Hoxne Charities Clay Shoot. It was again a fantastic success with over £2400 being raised for this year's charities - Hoxne School Association and Hoxne Playing Field. This, of course, would not have been possible without those who helped on the day - we are particularly grateful to this bunch of people, many of whom have no connections to the school or playing field, who spend two or three hours, or the whole day, with us. We certainly couldn't do it without you. This year we had a good amount of sponsorship, which is already promised for next year's event!

From Rachel Ife and Sue Clarke

We would like to say a very big thank you to all the people who helped with the Macmillan Coffee Morning at Wingfield Barns on Friday 30th September and also to the people who supported us by coming and joining in. Also thank you to Anna at Wingfield Barns for letting us have the Great Barn free of charge. The sum of £527.73 was raised, so thank you all once again.

From Kathy Barber

Many thanks to the people who gave cakes, raffle prizes and donations and to the friends who gave their time to help at the recently held coffee morning. (24th September) I was able to send £420 to the Colney Cancer Centre Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Thank you again

Diary Dates

Thursday 1st December
SEH Village Review, p23

Sunday 4th December
SEH Jitterbugs Tea Dance, p7

Friday 9th December
SEH Film, Absolutely Fabulous The
Movie, p7

Saturday 10th December
SEH Film Matinee, Jungle Book, p7
WB Made to Measure Theatre, Black
Ice, p8

Friday 16th December
SEH Rough Cast, A Christmas Carol,
p7

Sunday 18th December
HPP Children's Christmas Party, p6
Diss Carols, p26
WB Rough Cast, A Christmas Carol,
p8

Wednesday 21st December
Syleham Carol Singing, p11

Sunday 25th December
FC delivery Hoxne, p45

Saturday 31st December
WB Ceilidh, Harbour Lights Band, p8

Sunday 8th January
SEH Puzzle House Pantomime, Little
Red Riding Hood, p7

Friday 13th January
SEH Film Anthropoid, p7

Friday 20th January
SWH HSA Quiz, p6

Parish Church services, see p18

- SEH bookings, Jane Langley 07876 215 269
hoxnevhbookings@outlook.com
- HPP bookings, Gail Jackson 668186.
- SWH, Joyce Revell on 668102.
- WB, on 384505.

DVH - Denham Village Hall
HGSC - Hoxne Gardening & Social Club
SEH - St Edmunds Hall, Hoxne
SWH - Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall
WB - Wingfield Barns

Here and there....

■ On Sunday, 18th December there will be a Children's Christmas Party at the Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion with a children's entertainer, scrummy tea and ice cream. Father Christmas will visit with a gift for every child. The bar will be open for grown-ups. Cost will be £2.50 per child over two years, sorry no unaccompanied children. Call Gail 07503 181136 or Hannah 07774 327836.

■ Hoxne School Association will be holding their annual quiz evening at Syleham and Wingfield village hall on Friday 20th January 7.30 for 8pm start. The bar will be open and the cost of £5 per person includes buffet supper. Teams of 4 are needed and can be booked with Julie j.thompson@wvpschools.org 01379 668169 or John 01379 668102. Thank you to John Woodard our quizmaster for the umpteenth time!

■ Are you interested In Painting and Drawing? If so Dickleburgh Art Group are looking for new members. We meet every Tuesday at the All Saints Church rooms from 1.30 to 4.00/4.30pm Fees are £14 three times a year, which is hardly a pound a week. Why not pop in one Tuesday afternoon for a taster session? We are very friendly and would welcome you. For more information please call Val Fielding on 01379 677802

■ CHRISTMAS TREES. Buy your Christmas Tree in Hoxne and support the Hoxne Playing Field. Noordman Fir and Norway Spruce Christmas trees, all sizes, on sale at Market House, Low Street, Hoxne on Saturdays December 3rd, 10th, 17th, 10.00am- 3.00pm and Sundays, December 11th and 18th, 10.00am- 1pm. To place an order, please phone Carole Smith 668210 or see Peter at Hoxne Post Office Stores. All profits to Hoxne Playing Fields.



St Edmund's Hall Events

Thursday 1st December 6pm. Parish Plan Meeting - Come to explore the concept of a Village Review as a way of following up the 2010 Parish Plan. This project will be parish, not Parish Council, driven.

The regular Parish Council meeting will be later that evening at 7.30pm

Sunday 4th December, 2-7pm. Jitterbugs return for a tea dance to 40s/50s Swing, R'n'B and Jump-Jive with DJs Vintage Rob, Big John's Special, Mail Man & Mark's Kickin the Boogie. £6, free tea/ coffee/ cakes, bar available.

Friday 9th December, film starts 7.30pm Absolutely Fabulous, the Movie.

Publicist Edina Monsoon and best friend Patsy Stone are still shopping, drinking and clubbing their way around London's trendiest hot spots. While attending an elite party, they wind up knocking supermodel Kate Moss into the River Thames. Her untimely demise creates a media firestorm, leading the paparazzi to relentlessly pursue the hapless duo. Seeking refuge, the gals flee to the French Riviera where they hatch a plan to make their escape permanent and live the high life forever.

Saturday 10th December film starts 2.30pm, Jungle Book matinee. This superb new version of Disney's classic puts a real Mowgli (Neet Sethi) into a computer-generated world of jungle and animals that looks so real. The story, with some nods to the original, goes further; Shere Khan is chillingly scary (voiced by Idris Elba), Kaa seductive (Scarlett Johansson). A must-see film for adults and children. £4 adults, children free.

Friday 16th December, performance starts 7.30. As their first Christmas show RoughCast present an original adaptation of that perennial seasonal favourite, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The story of the reclamation of that self-confessed "Humbug" Ebenezer Scrooge never fails to delight audiences of all ages with its colourful cast of famous characters both real and ghostly. With carols to sing and dances to join (for those so inclined), it will get your festive season off to the merriest of starts - even if Christmas tends to bring out your own inner Scrooge! There will be an interval with a bar. Tickets, £9 and £7 concessions, or a family ticket (2adults, 2 children) £28, available online through www.roughcast.co.uk or tel 01379 586745. Advance booking is advised.

Thursday 5th January Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm

Sunday 8th January, performance starts 3pm. Puzzle House Pantomimes return for their 11th visit. This time "Little Red Riding Hood". It is many years since Granny Smith chased the last wolf away from Sunnydale... but the big, bad wolf has returned to seek his revenge on Red Riding Hood. Prince William, Old King Conkers, Squire Cheatem, Meddle and Muddle join in the adventure.

Friday 13th January, Film Night, Anthropoid, Based on WWII 'Operation Anthropoid' - the mission to assassinate SS General Reinhard Heydrich the main architect behind Hitler's final solution who was third in command after Hitler and Himmler. Starring Jamie Dornan and Cillian Murphy.

John Langley
hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

What's On at Wingfield Barns

We've had some fantastic exhibitions here at the Barns over the past month or so: Cyril Winfield and friends showing a great selection from very talented artists, followed by the East Anglia Regional Group of the Royal Photographic Society for which people travelled from far and wide to view almost 300 images.

Looking ahead to the festive season, we have a trio of evening events coming up in December which all have the makings of a great night out and shouldn't be missed!

Saturday 10th December 8pm

Made To Measure Theatre Company present 'Black Ice' – a play by Eileen Ryan

In a remote Alpine resort, four characters find themselves thrown together après-ski over a glass of schnapps. Outside, the snow is deep and crisp and even and, as the shadows lengthen, the storytelling begins. Stories about the peculiar characters who used to live on the mountain and a mysterious furry beast that terrorises the valley. Add a generous measure of seasonal music from local choir Crossing the Border and, voila! - a potent cocktail that's a real killer. Tickets £8

Sunday 18th December 7.30pm

RoughCast Theatre Company present 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
The story of the reclamation of that self-confessed "Humbug", Ebenezer Scrooge, never fails to delight audiences of all ages with its colourful cast of famous characters both real and ghostly. RoughCast's promenade performance has carols to sing along to and dances to join in with (for those so inclined). Tickets £9/£7 conc/£28 family

New Year's Eve from 8pm

Ceilidh with the fabulous Harbour Lights Band

Are you looking for something different to do this New Year? If so, come along to the Barns for a fun-filled night of music, dancing, floor spots and entertainment. Tickets include a hot supper, glass of fizz at midnight and a great way to dance out the Old and see in the New with family and friends. No experience necessary! The bar will also be open. Tickets £20

Tickets for all of the above are available from the Box Office on 01379 384505.
Wingfield Barns, Church Road, Wingfield, IP21 5RA
www.wingfieldbarns.com

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Syleham Carol Singing, Wednesday, 21st December

Would you like to join us carol singing? Or would you like us to sing carols for you? We want to organise village carol singing once again for the children's charity, EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices) on Wednesday 21st, 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 6.00pm 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 £450. (£10 arrived late so it's already in the tin for this year!)

So why not come and join us or ask us to sing for you? We always like to involve new people, so do get in touch; we're happy to go as far as Wingfield or Weybread!! In the letter of thanks that we received from EACH, they said: "Your support is invaluable as it enables us to continue delivering care to local families."

Jane and Adrian Knott

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Hoxne Garden and Social Club

We are two thirds of the way through the Garden Club year (April to March) and from a situation at the beginning of the year which was 'touch and go' we have got by successfully so far without having to make any major alterations to our annual programme. This is due not only to the efforts of our, now small, committee but the efforts of other club members during summer events in response to requests for help. There have also been a handful of new memberships from newcomers to the village whose interest has been very welcome.

In the last two months members have heard Karon Sanders from the Stackyard Nursery in Mendlesham speak about the design and implementation of the Olympic Garden in the Olympic Park at Stratford and Jon Tyler on the subject of fungi, mushrooms and toadstools, both well attended events.

We decided this year not to hold the Christmas Dinner at the village hall, which has been the venue in recent years, to reduce the input required of the committee and have chosen to hold it at The Swan. All the available places were booked up in record time and hopefully by the time you read this we will all have had an enjoyable and successful event.

In the meantime the committee are putting together an interesting, informative and enjoyable programme of talks and events, following the established format, for next year. We would however welcome ideas, for consideration, from readers that might encourage a wider membership of the club in the future.

Gordon Lacey, Chair, Hoxne Garden & Social Club



Double Triumph for Hoxne Bowlers

Despite losing to a very strong team from Diss and District in the Final of the Upper Waveney League Cup, Hoxne bowlers were in celebratory mood back in sunny Mid-September at Mendlesham.

Maurice Hurry was victorious in the final of the Champion of Champions and then had to face fellow Hoxonian, Alan Garnham in the Men's Four Wood Singles. In a tense but friendly game, Alan came out on top and so they came home with a trophy each.

Thus, a most successful season closed on a high note. Woods were given their final polish and sent to hibernate in the bottom of wardrobes, while the greens are stripped, treated and nurtured through the winter, ready for another enjoyable season in 2017.

Roger Knight

Village Voice 13

OLD HOXNE AGAIN

The following intriguing advertisement appeared in the July 12, 1740 edition of the Ipswich Journal

"To be sold by WILLIAM PORTER, Needle- Man at Hoxne, at Prime Coft
All Sorts of Collar-Makers Awls and Needles; all sorts of Glovers, Taylors and Semptreffes Needles; all sorts of Awls and Tacks for Shoemakers, likewise Mufheen and black Balls; all sorts of Angling-Hooks, Spring-Hooks, Snap-Hooks, Ligger Hooks, Trowing-Hooks, Trowing Lines, Silk Lines and all Sorts of Finished Lines and Hooks; Likewise Indigo Blue, beft and Ordinary; All to be Sold at the Loweft Price; Where all Shopkeepers or Travellers may be ferved with as good Goods as Any in England, the greatest Part New from London."

Probably somewhat of a niche market in a country village in Georgian times for most of these goods, with the possible exception of the blacking and the indigo blue, the latter used for bleaching linen. Did he make the fishing hooks himself, or was he bringing them in from London? And, if he was trading in Hoxne, did he have a small shop somewhere? Seems a bit unlikely. Whatever "musheen" was is a complete mystery!

Chris Johnson



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REFLECTIONS - Hospitality

I recently spent a few days in a monastery with an order of monks who place great emphasis on hospitality and it got me wondering what hospitality is like, does it have a spiritual dimension? Is all hospitality alike or can it be offered in a good spirit?

At the monastery, it would be impossible to go hungry but best not to ask what you were eating! The soup was vegetable, either brown or green. Then there was something which seemed to be a sausage roll but without the sausage and another time quiche with the texture of a sponge cake. There was always space on the refectory bench, but there again the brothers needed 48 hours' notice of any change. It was hospitality, but it seemed to be an inhospitable hospitality.

I realised this question comes into the Christmas story. Clearly, when Mary and Joseph lodge with the animals in the stable they experience some form of hospitality; realistically it would be warm and dry and better than nothing. But it was far from a generous expression of hospitality, it was mean-spirited hospitality.

One measure of hospitality is in the quality of the food and drink served. Famously Archbishop Oscar Romero was affronted that the villagers of rural El Salvador didn't serve 'good food' until he realised that it was the best that they had, and then he turned his indignation on the authorities at the eventual cost of his life.

People have said to me, 'Christmas doesn't start until Midnight Mass'- as with all communion services it is a time to rejoice at eating together as the family of God and to anticipate the heavenly banquet. So, this Christmas-time, let us consider in what spirit will we offer and receive hospitality. Ideally, it will be offered in the divine spirit of love and forgiveness.

Michael Womack
01379-388889
hoxnebenefice@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

Times of worship

Sunday 4 December

10am Wingfield Morning Prayer
11.15am Hoxne Holy Communion
4pm Syleham Messy Church
(Fennings Barn)

Sunday 11 December

11am Wingfield Holy Communion
11.15am Hoxne BCP Morning Prayer

Tuesday 13 December

7.30pm Denham Village Carol Service

Sunday 18 December

8.30am Hoxne BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Hoxne Christingle
11am Syleham Christmas with the Amici Singers
4pm Wingfield Carols by Candlelight

Monday 19 December

7.30pm Hoxne Village Carol Service

Saturday 24 December – Christmas Eve

3pm Denham, (Norah's Yard), Live Nativity
11.30pm Horham Midnight Mass

Sunday 25 December – Christmas Day

9.30am Syleham BCP Communion
10am Hoxne Family Communion
10am Wingfield Family Service
11.15am Denham Family Communion

Sunday 1 January

11am Redlingfield Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 8 January

11.15am Wingfield Holy Communion
11.15am Hoxne BCP Morning Prayer
4pm Syleham Messy Church (Village Hall)

Sunday 15 January

8.30am Hoxne BCP Holy Communion
10am Syleham Village Praise with Wingfield
11.15am Hoxne Community Service – Plough Sunday

Sunday 22 January

9.30am Syleham BCP Holy Communion
10am Hoxne Family Service
11.15am Denham Family Service
6.30pm Wingfield Evensong

Sunday 29 January

11.15am Benefice Holy Communion - Horham

The Benefice Newsletter includes details of services in the three parishes outside the Voice distribution. Copies can be picked up in churches or electronically by request from hoxnebenefice@gmail.com

Hoxne, Denham, Syleham and Wingfield

If you need to get in touch with the Rector, Michael Womack, ring 01379 388889.

Village contacts 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, Catelyns tel: 01379 384181



St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

We are all asked to be extra vigilant for any suspicious activity around St Peter and St Paul following a rash of raids on roof metal on local churches. The dark nights aid the activities of the thieves who seem undeterred by the proximity of houses. Real concerns should be reported immediately to the police and the churchwardens Brian Chester and Guy McGregor.

Many thanks to those who mounted the saddle for the Historic Churches Bike Ride – and especially to those who contributed to the £750 raised – half of which is returned to St Peter and St Paul.

Hoxne’s Harvest Festival was celebrated with members of the congregation bringing a wide selection of gifts of packets and tins of food for the Waveney Valley Food Bank. The food was gathered together to make an impressive display at the chancel steps, helped by the willing hands of Phoebe and Ivy Mayhew. A focus of the service was the lighting of five candles following each of a series of special harvest prayers.

Very many thanks to all who

CHURCH NEWS

provided flowers and fruit and vegetables and created the arrangements which brought so much colour to the church – for the festival service and the following weeks.

The annual service of commemoration for the departed on 29th October brought together those who were remembering loved ones from several parishes within the Hoxne group of churches. The names of the departed were spoken and candles lit in their memory.

The benefice choir brought an extra musical moment to the service which was prepared and led by the Revd Michael Womack.

Remembrance Sunday saw a contingent of Scouts from the 1st Fressingfield Group attending the service during which Ted O’Connor, chairman of the parish council, read the names of those remembered on the memorial in church.

Work was progressing during November on re-rendering the base of the north wall with lime mortar. Once completed and allowed to dry the wall will be repainted with lime-wash during which time it is hoped that plans for a kitchen cabinet (to be sited against the north wall) and a

CHURCH NEWS

flush toilet (to be accessed through the north door) will have been approved by the church authorities.

The Christmas season of special services gets underway on Tuesday 13th December with the St Edmund's Primary School Carol Service starting at 6pm; Christingle, at which candles are lit by the crib, will be celebrated on Sunday 18th December at 10.30am; the Village Carol Service follows on Monday the 19th at 7.30pm with the Village Voices Choir adding to the occasion. On Christmas Day a Family Communion will begin at 10am. On Sunday 1st January, a benefice Holy Communion will be held at Redlingfield so no service at Hoxne.

Mothers' Union

The Hoxne branch of the Mother's Union meets on the third Monday of the month at 2.15pm at Time House Low Street Hoxne. New members are always welcome.

On Thursday 1st December we are invited to Fressingfield for their Advent Meeting, 'Exploring Salvation'. This will be in the Sancroft Hall at 2.30pm.

On Monday 16th January we have our Annual Meeting followed by New Year Tea.

Thank you to all who supported our Coffee Morning in Wingfield in October we raised £67.08 and this was sent to the MU Harvest Appeal to support families achieve a stable prosperous future.

Branch Leader Cathie McGregor.
668434

20 Village Voice

Flower rota

There are no flowers during December apart from around the Advent Candle.

The flower rota for Christmas will be sent out at the end of November.

10th 17th and 24th January

Altar - Cathie McGregor

Thank you to all the flower arrangers for your contributions which help to keep our church a welcoming place for our visitors. If you would like to join our group please contact me.

Cathie McGregor
flower rota organiser 668434

St Margaret, Syleham

Harvest Service in September saw a good congregation in a beautifully decorated church – thank you to all the arrangers. The collection amounted to £280.63 and went in full to Mission Aviation Fellowship to support their work in transporting food and aid in countries where land travel is impossible. Our Harvest Supper was most enjoyable and was also the occasion for the solemn unveiling of the winner of Earl Bigod's haul, who was Jacqueline Campbell; our thanks to Jim Woodger who devised and managed the competition, which raised £360 for church funds.

People - we welcomed Harriet Barker, born to John and Alex; and sorrowed with Maureen Brundle on the loss of her husband Frederick: the spray from his coffin was beautiful and was laid on the altar in St Margaret's following the cremation service.

Messy Church for families continues and on Sunday 4th December we shall be having extra fun with other Messy groups! We shall meet at the usual time of 4pm but at Fennings Barn, near Fressingfield (IP21 5NH). Details from Revd Michael or from myself. In January, we shall return to our usual venue at the Village Hall in Syleham, usual time of 4pm but on Sunday 8th January as the first Sunday is New Year's Day.

All families are always welcome to join in our fun activities and story, and share a scrumptious tea.

Carol Service - We are privileged to have Amici with us once again for our carol service, this year at 11.15am on Sunday 18th December. This is always a very special time so please come and share with us: we shall no doubt rustle up some refreshments to follow! There will be a Communion Service at 9.30am on Christmas Day.

From January onwards, congregations at the third Sunday 10am services in Syleham and Wingfield will be coming together at St Margaret's and sharing a simple service followed by coffee and chat. Wingfield will be offering Evensong on fourth Sundays (see rota for time) and we in Syleham are encouraged to join them for this traditional service in the delightful setting of the candle-lit chancel of St Andrew's.

CONTACT for any of the above -

Churchwarden Mary Lewis (669258)
mary.lewis43@icloud.com

CHURCH NEWS

St John, Denham

Christmas celebrations begin at St John's with a Village Carol Service and communion on the 13th December at 7.30pm and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. This will be followed on Christmas Eve by a live nativity at Nora's Yard at 3pm, come to see the retelling of the Christmas story in a stable setting with real animals which will bring the story alive for everyone. On Christmas morning there will be a communion service at the church at 11.15 am.

In the New Year we will revert to our normal rotation of services with the Benefice Communion on Tuesday 10th January at 7:30pm at a warm venue to be arranged with the Family Service at 11.15am in the church on 22nd January with refreshments and fellowship from 10.45am.

We are most grateful to everyone who supported the Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride by riding for St John's or sponsored our cyclists, thank you all as you raised an amazing £874.50 of which £437.25 was returned to this church.

CHURCH NEWS

St Andrew, Wingfield

We extend a warm welcome to everyone who would like to attend our ever-popular Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 18th December at 4pm. It will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Wingfield College by kind invitation of Peter and Jane.

We have been reviewing our pattern of services and propose to make a few changes in the New Year.

Evensong has tended to be a popular service at Wingfield, and so, starting in January, we will have a monthly service throughout the year on the fourth Sunday each month at 6.30pm. Holding it after dark will be a bit of an experiment for us, which we think is worth trying as the church looks so wonderful when the choir stalls are lit by candles.

Also, the service on the third Sunday of the month is now very similar to the service which Syleham holds on the same Sunday. We therefore plan a second experiment of worshipping together at St Margaret's Syleham in a combined service. As this will involve a little more travel for some parishioners we will be pleased to offer people lifts to Syleham Church on these occasions. Please speak to one of the PCC if you would like help with travel.

Thirdly, we will move the time of our monthly Communion service to 11.15am on the second Sunday each month. This will make it a little easier for the rector to make the journey from other churches where he will have taken services earlier in the morning.

.....

Defibrillator available

Syleham and Wingfield village hall IP21 4LT have now installed a community access defibrillator CAD. As the name indicates the defibrillator is accessible to everyone should the need arise, although the ambulance service still needs to be contacted to give out the code for the key pad to open the door of the box in which it is housed.

The box, and its defibrillator, is located on the front wall of the village hall directly in front of anyone entering the carpark. An outside light triggered by a sensor will come on to further show its whereabouts. We will be organising some free training sessions which will be advertised as soon as we know the date/s. We are grateful to Syleham Parish Council for their help in acquiring a portion of the funding.

Syleham and Wingfield village hall management committee

Report from Hoxne Parish Council

VILLAGE REVIEW – a meeting will be held on 1st December at 6pm to explore the concept of a Village Review as a way of following up the 2010 Parish Plan. This project will be parish, not Parish Council, driven and more news on how you can be involved will follow.

WINTER AND THE HIGHWAYS

At the time of going to press, the grit supply for the village is on its way. 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, and as a result 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".

LOW STREET GREEN

The Parish Council would like to thank both Alan Smith and Allen Burrige for their work in maintaining the Green and Alan and Joan Garnham, and their team, for ensuring that the trees on the Green are safe and healthy as well as looking wonderfully decorated this Christmas.

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN

It is hoped the VAS will soon be deployed at an additional location on Green Street – further to the east as traffic enters the village from the Stradbroke direction.

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of the month. The next meetings will be held on Thursday 5th January and Thursday 2nd February at St Edmund's Hall and commence at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Hoxne Parish Council, c/o Church Hill, Hoxne, IP21 5AT
Email: pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk www.hoxne.onesuffolk.net
Phone: 07554 733612

Report from Denham Parish Council

GRIT BINS – to assist the Highways Authority in maintaining an adequate supply of grit to keep your roads safe this winter and to improve the environment, the Parish Council purchased some grit bins to store the grit in. These were bought with public money raised through your Council Tax. It is very disappointing to report that one was stolen no sooner than it was put in its chosen location. The Parish Council hopes the culprit is aware that they have in effect wasted public money which you generate through paying your Council Tax. A replacement bin has been ordered and, as we write, the grit delivery is awaited. Parishioners interested in finding out more about clearing ice and snow and their liabilities (please refer to Hoxne Parish Council entry), are advised to contact the Parish Clerk.

DENHAM DAY SURVEY RESULTS –parishioners who did not attend the Annual Parish Meeting back in May where the survey results were published, may be interested to know that the results of the Your Denham survey are published on the Parish Council website. Other useful information about the Parish Council can also be found on this site.

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES – We currently have vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you would like to make a positive difference to your village and have the opportunity to influence decisions that affect your community, please contact the Parish Clerk for more details of the co-option process.

MEETING DATES – The first meeting of the Parish Council in 2017 will take place on Wednesday 25 January. The meeting will commence at 7.30 pm at the Red Feather Club. Members of the public are welcome at all meetings. Notices of meetings and detailed agendas are displayed on the four notice boards in Denham. Please check these or the website – www.denham.onesuffolk.net - for further details.

**Sarah Foote, Clerk, Telephone: 07554 733621.
Email denhamparishclerk@gmail.com**

Syleham Parish Council Update

As a village community we are more dependent upon neighbours for our own safety and security. Fortunately, problems are rare. However, it was reported at the last Parish Council meeting on 2nd November that a serious burglary had taken place in the village and another in Wingfield; we must be vigilant. In the last issue, we posted an invitation for residents to participate in our local Neighbourhood Watch Committee. Perhaps these incidents will prompt a response. Please contact the Clerk for details.

In keeping with the theme of communal support can we ask you to look out for your neighbours, particularly the elderly in the coming winter months. Help is available from Age UK and the Council can put you in touch with their services.

We still have a vacancy on the Parish Council. Please consider this opportunity when writing your New Year's resolutions.

A very Merry Christmas to all our residents and neighbours

Our next Council meeting will take place on 7th March, 2017 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Clerk: David Young Tel. 668556 pc@syleham.suffolk.gov.uk

Report from Wingfield Parish Council

Chairman: Michael Allmey

It may be early but this is only opportunity for the Council to wish all residents a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. In keeping with the season we can pass on two items of good news.

Fibre broadband will be active in the centre of the village within the next four months. Please consult the village website: wingfield-pc.org.uk, to see if you fall within the catchment area. We are continuing our efforts to connect the remainder of the village.

The De La Pole Arms will be opening soon not just as a pub but also village shop/deli. The new owners, Mr and Mrs Ashley, hope to open by Christmas but this plan is dependent upon the speed of processing licences. Our District Councillor, Elizabeth Gibson- Harries, is doing everything she can to help overcome the bureaucracy.

Let us hope we will be welcoming in the New Year and our digital future in our own village pub.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on December 7th. It will be held at Wingfield Barns and commence at 7.30pm.

David Young, Parish Clerk. Tel: 668556; www.wingfield-pc.org.uk

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A Christmas Story

St Mary's lies just a few country miles from Hoxne at Thornham Parva. This quaint and unusual church is well worth a visit. It was following such a visit that I was inspired to write this short story, **Osla's Song**

'Oh please Dad. It'll be much more fun playing fiddle at the ceilidh; do I have to do the church service?'

'Christmas Eve is not about having fun Christopher; we should be thanking The Lord for giving us his only son. And you're a violinist, not a fiddler. I didn't teach you all I know and train you to be Suffolk Young Musician of the Year for you to behave like a roving minstrel.'

Chris, only his parents used his full Christian name, loved all kinds of music; pop, classical, jazz but the Christmas Eve Ceilidh at the Red Lion would allow him to let himself go and enjoy his favourite genre – folk. But his pious father had other priorities and no end of pleading or sulking would divert him from his path. Even when the snow began to fall and Chris complained of having to play in a cold church, his father reminded him the thatched roof and packed congregation would keep the place warm.

So, after dusk on Christmas Eve, well before the service was to start, father, son and the rest of the Mid-Suffolk Ensemble, trudged down Green Lane, up the Lime Tree Walk and into St. Mary's.

Up the tower stairs, they hoisted, hauled and cajoled their instruments to the musician's gallery at the back of the church. And there, shivering in their thermals, they rehearsed their repertoire.

An hour before people began to arrive, they took a break for a mug of hot chocolate. While Chris's father and the rest of the ensemble chatted to the vicar, the verger and the choir, Chris explored the inside of the church.

Cradling his warm mug and idling along the aisle, he came upon one of the arched windows. Having been a regular in the church for years, he'd seen it before but only from the elevated musicians gallery. He'd not seen the unusual window up close.

There was a circular etching at the bottom with the inscription, "To celebrate with joy the warmth and beauty of Osla." He wondered what or who was Osla. Running his gaze higher up the glass, he found strange markings, like the runes he'd seen in *The Hobbit*. They meant nothing to him. But somehow, inside, he felt they should. As he studied the simple shapes, orange lights began to flicker in them. He blinked, thinking he was imagining things but then noticed the verger lighting the oil lamps along the walls. Now ornamental and only lit to create an atmosphere, their reflected flames danced along the symbols. Chris envisioned them coming to life, forming, not words but notes – musical notes. He tried to fashion the sounds in his head: they were curiously familiar. He was starting to feel the rhythm and mood of the song when –

'Come along Christopher,' his father called, with a hearty grin across his gammon cheeks.

'Back upstairs, ready to please The Lord and his flock. Then we can enjoy a cup of mulled wine,' The ensemble accompanied the choir to the traditional carols. They sat through the readings, the psalms and the sermon before arriving at, for the musicians, the highlight of the evening: the second movement of a Vivaldi violin concerto. It was the only challenging piece of the repertoire for Chris: his father having given him the solo.

Hushed concentration drifted up from the congregation as his bow caressed the strings. But it was something else rising from the window that caught the lad's attention: runes. They floated up, swaying to his music but luring him from Vivaldi's notes to their own. He resisted, concentrating on the Italian maestro's classical masterpiece. But their pull was strong. He battled with himself to block out the strange shapes. They teased him: dancing like children, up and down the pews of admiring faces.

He missed a note and caught his father's glare from the corner of his eye. He concentrated harder. The runes floated higher, nearer and brighter, he could resist them no longer. When Vivaldi paused, Chris took up their flow and played their tune. He saw nothing of the startled expressions of his fellow musicians: lost in the energy of the music, he was oblivious to all around him. Yet through the lead-lined panes, he watched a boy. A boy he knew to be Osla, skipping through lime trees, kicking up the powder puff snow as he sang. And as the boy sang, so Chris could not help but sing too.

A single voice in the choir joined in, then another. Two more, four more. The whole congregation, too, became caught up in the wild vigour and joy of the song. They gave voice so loud, they were heard in the Red Lion a half mile away, where the ceilidh paused, listened and united in the last two verses. The vicar could not recall such riotous cheering and whistling in church, as when the impromptu rendition came to an end. Chris's father fumed at first but swallowed his anger when he saw how popular his son was. With a change of heart and a smile on his face, he slapped his son on the back. Then he turned a blind eye to the several cups of mulled wine the lad enjoyed after the service.

When Chris tried to explain to everyone it was all down to a boy called Osla, the verger confirmed a family of Gaelic origins settled in the village, long ago. They'd been benefactors of the church: Osla was their son, taken in his youth. The musician's gallery, he reminded them was an unusual feature and, when built, must have been a novel change to the traditional church organ. 'But,' he said, stifling his laughter, 'that might well be the first rendition in the church of Paddy McGinty's Goat.'

Roger Knight

Tales from the Bush

Marina Warner's tale in the latest London Review of Books tells how her father, Plum Warner, bought his young Italian bride a pair of handmade brogues when she arrived in London from Bari at the end of WW2, I was reminded that I had done the same for my 17-year-old wife Anne to wear in the African bush, and green suede mosquito boots too. And on our first trip home she had a wonderful pair of shoes made to measure in Rome. She wore the Italian shoes, but not the heavy brogues. At the end of my second tour I had to look after a UK Parliamentary delegation of three MPs headed by Bernard Braine, later father of the House, who became a good friend. On their return home by BOAC Tudor he sat next to Anne who had our very young first born with her. When it landed in Rome, the shoemaker was at the foot of the ladder with another handmade pair of shoes which she had ordered from him so she had Bernard look after Nathaniel in the plane while the shoes were fitted and paid for, until she came back in. That couldn't happen today. Later I received an inscribed gold propelling pencil from the MPs for my services.

Come to think, there are several "I once met" stories to be told. The most unusual was when a light aircraft carrying the Hemingways crashed at the Murchison Falls which was in my first district and we had to mount a search and rescue, twice in fact.

Also during my short tenure of the very remote and undeveloped Bunyoro District, which is separated from the Congo by Lake Albert, we had a film crew living in the railway paddle steamer on the Lake making the film "The African Queen". Our doctor was summoned because all, including both Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn, had a very bad go of the squitters. They had hired local staff who were using un-boiled water from the lake into which everything was discharged. That's all I can remember, except that the boat used in the film belonged to the administration. On Sundays we used it to catch Nile perch, one of which was big enough to feed the entire station including the servants. The recent discovery of oil in this Rift Valley lake has rather changed life for the Banyoro.

Anne also "once met" several distinguished people visiting Uganda. She met Tricky Dicky Nixon who gave the Governor a silver rose bowl on his 24 hr stay, and the Queen Mum, who gave Anne a tortoiseshell comb with Royal crest set in silver, for services rendered. She stayed a whole week. After independence, there was a flood of them: e.g. Golda Meier, Indira Ghandi, to whom I was introduced as Mrs Gee's husband, a title which stuck for some time. As the thin white line got thinner, I received a letter on House of Commons notepaper from one Robert Maxwell MC MP, later known as the

bouncing Czech, who wished to see me. He came to promote Pergamon Press, his education publishing company, then in the ascendant.

Our grandest visit was from Emperor Haillie Selassie of Abyssinia, who was an early victim of the end of the old regime. One of my first jobs to nursemaid visitors (we all had to do it from time to time as people loved to visit strange places, especially MPs on expenses). This one involved the Ethiopian Vice Ministers of Education and Health - Vice because the Emperor himself (shades of Gilbert and Sullivan) was Minister of every Department. They had come South into Bantu country to find out for him whether our outstanding university medical school at Makerere was suitable for their Ethiopian students, a curious manifestation of African racism perhaps. They reported back to the Emperor that it was not a place to train their doctors. Brexiters today echo similar sentiments.

Colonial Secretaries, towering political figures such as Alan Lennox Boyd , whose very strong perfume I recall, and Ian McCleod whose untimely death is said to have robbed us of a potential PM. John Stonehouse cut his teeth in Uganda, had problems, left, came back as an MP, and then fell (or swam) from grace. That would make a very good "I once met" story.

I also recall the visit of a rich American who was in Africa to shoot game in my district. He wounded a lion and our District Game Warden, one Captain Wyndham, who was with him, went into scrub to finish it off, and it grabbed him. His gun bearer then fired at the lion to save his boss but unfortunately shot and killed Captain Wyndham. When we cleared up his bungalow we found an enormous Nile perch preserved in Formalin in his bath. He had caught this six-foot-long monster for display at a show in Rhodesia. We had to dispose of it as Saatchi had not started his collection. Some visits could be very messy.

Tommy Gee

A word from Wingfield



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HOXNE PHOENIX LADIES' GROUP

Last month Hoxne Phoenix Ladies' Group held a Pudding Evening on behalf of the Eye Opportunity Group and we are very happy to report that we raised an amount of £410. We would like to thank everyone who attended and who helped to make it such a successful and enjoyable evening.

We meet in St. Edmund's Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Visitors Welcome (£2) and on 13th December we will have a Christmas Quiz and social evening.

On 10th January 2017 our meeting will be in the afternoon. We will meet in the Activity Room at St. Edmund's Hall at 2.00 pm for a demonstration by Chef Richard Martin followed by our birthday tea.



To all the very generous supporters of the summer ball in memory of Trevor Jackson held on Saturday 30th May 2015

I should like to thank again all the very generous supporters of the Summer Ball in memory of Trevor Jackson. We raised £2,880 of which £2,080 was donated to the Somersham Ward at Ipswich Hospital and £800 to MacMillan Nurses.

I am holding another ball next year at the playingfield; this time any profit will be donated to St Edmund's CP school, Hoxne with which I have a long standing association, and have two granddaughters and other family children that attend.

The date will be Saturday 3rd June 2017.

To find out more details or prebook your table call me.

Gail Jackson

Busy start for St Edmund's Primary School

We have had a very busy start to the new school year. Our Head Boy (Jacob Ash) and Head Girl (Raisa Bryant) have been elected along with our Prefects, House Captains and our librarians. We have welcomed lots of new friends into Acorn class and we have even started a Mother and Toddler Group on a Monday morning.

On Friday 7th October pupils from Hoxne and Mendham went to Minsmere Nature Reserve for a Curriculum Enrichment Day. We completed three activities which were: mini beast hunting, a scavenger hunt on the beach and bird watching.

The 13th October was our School Council elections. Lots of people put themselves forward wanting to be on the council. We ended up with 10 councillors including Head Boy and Head Girl. Well done to everyone. Dr Daniel Poulter came to visit us. Head Boy and Head Girl showed him around the school, before he came back and was asked questions in a School Council meeting.

On Thursday 20th October the reception, year 1 and 2 went to the Organic Vegetable Farm in Hoxne. They learnt how vegetables are grown and thought about where our food comes from. This helped them with their work in preparation for the Harvest Celebrations at the Church where we sang lots of lovely songs and some children wrote Autumn and harvest poems. To end the afternoon, Head Boy, Head Girl and the prefects read a prayer.

Very soon, Oak class are going on a residential to Ringsfield Hall near Beccles – I am sure they will have a great time exploring the outdoors. We are now beginning to think about Christmas and KS1 will soon be working on their Christmas play. Rowan class will be starting their enterprise work in order to raise some money and we will be all learning songs for Christmas.

**Head Boy and Head Girl
Jacob Ash and Raisa Bryant**



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Hoxne Music Festival to Continue

The future of the Hoxne Music Festival has been secured, following fears it may have to fold after nearly a decade.

Three day festivals featuring top class musicians and bands, and showcasing the best of local talent, have been staged in the village since 2008. But the entire eight person committee of volunteers gave notice recently they would like to retire and sought new people to take over.

Stuart Jarrold, chairman since the organisation was founded in 2007, told the annual general meeting "The Hoxne Music festival has been a welcome addition over this past decade to the life of our vibrant village where so much goes on for the benefit of our community. We would all like to see it continue and grow and enhance our quality of life."

Retiring treasurer Jenny Knight said that prudent budgeting by the committee, tight financial control and proactive fundraising meant there were still adequate reserves of several thousands of pounds towards the future sustainability of the festival.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting seven villagers came forward to volunteer as new committee members to take the organisation forward. Afterwards Mr Jarrold added: "It was a really positive response. No one wanted the festival to fold but the old committee decided to was time new people with fresh ideas should shape future festivals."

To mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of Hoxne Music Festival a special one-off Music Day has already been arranged for the Bank Holiday Saturday 27th May 2017. There will be a free afternoon concert with local musicians and choirs in the gardens of the Swan public house in Hoxne. Saturday evening sees the return of the Jive Aces, who were warmly received at the 2016 festival, playing at the St Edmund's Hall. Ticket prices have yet to be determined but will be announced early in the New Year on the website www.hoxnemusicfestival.com

Meanwhile the newly formed committee will be meeting to formulate plans and decide on acts for the 2018 Hoxne Music Festival. Watch this space!

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Our Christmas Concert is on Saturday 10th December at 7.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston. Come and join us - we're singing Vivaldi's Gloria, Fauré's Cantique de Jean Racine, 'The Shepherds' Farewell' from Berlioz' 'L'Enfance du Christ', Franck's Panis Angelicus, and carols (some with audience participation), with professional soloists and orchestra. Tickets £10 (accompanied children free) from choir members, or on the door on the night.

Our Spring Term begins on Monday 9th January, at 7.00 pm for collection of subs. We'll be singing Mozart's Requiem and works by Haydn and Handel, in preparation for our Summer Concert on 17th June. Do come and sing with us: we welcome everyone - especially Tenors! - whether experienced singers or not, and although it's an advantage to be able to read music, it's not essential. There are no auditions, and music is provided free. Subs are currently £35 per term (some concessions are available). Further information on the HCS website www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk or from Jo Curry on 01986 875494, jo.curry@sky.com

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"Above all, learn how to breathe correctly." - said Joseph Pilates, the man who devised his own method of exercising the body, mind and spirit. Joe Pilates based his work on breath, whole-body health and whole-body commitment, encompassing mind, body and spirit.

Joseph Pilates was born in Germany in 1883. Little is known about his early life but it is believed that he was a frail child who developed his body by training as an acrobat and athlete.

In 1912 he lived in England working as a circus performer, boxer and self-defence instructor. During the latter part of the First World War he worked with patients unable to walk and attached bed springs to the hospital beds to help support the patients' limbs. He emigrated to the USA with his wife Clara, and together they developed and taught the method in New York in 1926.

Pilates became very popular with the dance community, as it offered a chance to improve technique or recover from injury. Many celebrities of the day visited his studio. Originally 60% of the clientele were men. Clara Pilates allowed the method to be passed on to apprentices and she adapted the Pilates method to suit the individual needs of clients.

In 1945 Pilates published a book, 'Return to Life Through Contrology'. Through these writings and his students, his method was passed on after his death in 1967 at the age of 83. Only after his death did it become known as the Pilates Method. In Pilates the quality of movement is valued over quantity of repetitions. Development of the "core" consists of the deep abdominal muscles, including the pelvic floor, and the muscles closest to the spine. Control is achieved by integrating the trunk, pelvis and shoulder girdle.

Traditional workouts repeatedly work the same muscles in the same pattern. The result is muscular imbalance - causing poor posture, injury and chronic back pain. Pilates training, when practised at least three times a week, can re-train your body to move in safer, more efficient patterns. Many of the exercises are performed in reclining or sitting positions, are low impact and partially weight bearing and rather challenging!

Benefits:

- Conditions the body by developing flexibility.
- Muscle strength, and endurance in the legs, abdominals, arms, hips and back.
- Spinal, pelvic alignment, breathing, strengthening the pelvic floor which might even prevent prolapse of the bladder and uterus.
- Improves coordination and balance.
- Intensity can be increased over time as the body gets stronger.
- Brings awareness of the mind/body connection aiding relief from stress.

Classes are close to home so if you would like to reap the benefits of Pilates classes in Hoxne or Wortham please contact Helen Chapman 07587 700 892 or email info@bowen.healthcare

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Police Page

The security of your outbuildings, such as sheds and garages, often takes second place to securing your home. However, sheds and garages can contain high value items such as bicycles, gardening equipment and tools. Think about what you store in your outbuildings and add up the value – how much would you lose if your shed or garage was broken into and how inconvenient would that be? A few simple, relatively cheap measures will help secure outbuildings and deter would-be thieves.

Hints and tips for securing your outbuildings:

- Avoid storing valuable items like power tools and golf clubs in your shed. These items should be kept inside your home or a secure garage.
- Remember to lock your shed or garage after use.
- Secure shed doors by fitting a strong hasp and staple (also called a 'padbar'). Secure this with coach bolts and lock the hasp over the staple with a closed shackle padlock.
- Secure shed door hinges with coach bolts or non-returnable screws.
- Further protect your shed with a 'shed bar'. This and other approved security products will improve the security of your shed or garage and can be found at www.soldsecure.com or www.securedbydesign.com
- Replace any rotten door or window frames.
- Replace broken glass panes or use Perspex or polycarbonate as a more secure alternative for shed and garage windows. Use a window lock along with a strong grille or wire mesh. Use curtains or netting so people cannot see inside. Screw windows shut if you do not use them.
- Fit a good quality battery operated alarm to your outbuilding.
- Up-and-over garage doors can be secured by putting padlocks through the inside runners or fitting padlocks with a hasp and staple on either side of the door.
- Fit British Standard approved locks to all your external garage doors including integral doors which access your house.
- If you have a household alarm fitted, consider extending the system to cover your garage.
- Chain items such as bicycles, ladders and lawnmowers to a strong anchor point or to each other and use a closed shackle padlock.
- Property mark items such as drills and lawnmowers. Items can be post-coded by etching, painting, stencilling, etc.
- Register your property at www.immobilise.com. This is a free web based property registration service supported by Norfolk & Suffolk Police.
- Make sure your household insurance covers your shed or garage.

If you would like further information about security for your home or any other crime prevention advice, visit www.suffolk.police.uk or contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team on 101.

'One man's rubbish is another man's treasure'....

On 1st November about 70 villagers were treated to a fascinating and highly entertaining talk in the village hall by Dr. Tom Licence, Director of the Centre for East Anglian Studies and Senior Lecturer in History at UEA, on the subject of 'What the Victorians threw away'

Tom revealed how everyday minutiae dug from old rubbish heaps representing three levels in society during the period 1875 to 1914, - a labourer from Kent, a postman from Shropshire and a clergyman from Norfolk - contribute to the story of how our great grandparents built a throwaway society from the twin foundations of packaging and mass consumption, which illustrate how our own throwaway habits were formed.

In 1933, the Society for the Prevention of Disfigurement in Town and Country published a study concerning the disposal of domestic refuse in rural areas. 37% of replies indicated there was no organised waste disposal with most refuse dumped in the corner of lanes or over neighbours' hedges. In the 1870s polishes, pastes, sauces and beverages were confected at home and very little was thrown away. A book on household hints, 'Facts and Hints for Everyday Life' became the bible in thousands of households and gave methods for the preparation of products for household use, preserving food-stuffs and methods for removing stains and repairing stoneware and glassware etc. for re-use.

Richer households could afford to purchase ready-made products which were becoming ever more affordable during the nineteenth century. With colourful labels and recognisable brands, they became a feature of shopkeepers' shelves, their sales boosted by advertising. Of particular note was the availability of Judson's dyes which enabled a new lease of life for old clothes and hats using a relatively inexpensive and simplified labour-saving process for the hard-pressed housewife compared with the previous complex method requiring homemade dyestuffs. The wealthy households also used readymade blacking, polish, condiments and boned toothbrushes to apply fine-perfumed toothpaste. Their social inferiors used homemade products and toothbrushes carved from marshmallow root to apply coal ash for their oral hygiene. Evidence of luxury goods e.g. anchovy paste, Russian caviar and Devonshire clotted cream brought to London by steam locomotives to be sold on the Strand, was found in Essex, the dumping ground (then as now) for refuse brought up from London by barge.

In 1888, Bovril had become popular as a beef tea beverage. Bovril became a staple for the rural population even during WW1 because the price remained static and most rubbish heaps revealed a number of the characteristic brown jars. In the 1890s glassware became disposable and the rich would discard bottles even if unbroken, whereas the poorer families would scavenge through rubbish to collect unbroken bottles to redeem the farthing deposit by selling

on to street buyers who patrolled Victorian cities, purchasing old clothes, rags, skins, bones and bottles. The poor were more likely to make their own lemonade and ginger beer re-using vessels which they cleaned, while to the rich, vessels were disposable. The poorer families would also scavenge through rubbish to collect jam jars for preserving foodstuffs.

The period around 1905 revealed machine-manufactured vessels and fruit juice crystals were used to make beverages, essence of anchovies for gravy browning. Evidence of literacy was found as ink wells were uncovered, as well as alphabet cups and nursery rhyme mugs indicating that children were being educated. Further evidence of childhood was seen as ceramic toys were found in heaps.

Differences in rubbish was evident in the three levels of society represented by the case studies mentioned earlier. Compared with the labourer's rubbish, the postman's heap showed more evidence of readymade products and cleaning products, ink wells and returnable beer bottles that had not been returned due to the rural location. The rubbish from the rectory revealed a much larger disposable income with decanters, a very fine wine jug, candlesticks, Mellins Infant food (2s 6d) a china doll's head, a doll's plate with gold leaf and fine imported Limoges oriental tableware. Food packaging also indicated fine dining occurred with lobster, relishes with spices, Colman's mustard and potted meats. The discovery of 28 bottles of fruit juice crystals and two cups bearing the name of a confectioner from Norwich suggested that these may have been supplied by party caterers. This was substantiated by a newspaper entry indicating that a party was to be held at the rectory.

Excavation of the rubbish also gives an insight into what medicines were used. Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup was commonly used to soothe teething babies. The preparation contained morphine and became known as 'the baby killer'!

In the 1900s local chemists often had their own preparations but from 1910 the emergence of brand names was seen e.g Timothy White's, Boots. The wealthy also used potions from a health spa in Bohemia -Carlsbad Sprudel Salts -the universal laxative, diuretic, cure for rheumatism, diabetes, kidney problems and more! Poisons were commonplace in Victorian houses and were kept in ribbed hexagonal bottles – probably a safety feature to indicate the product should not be consumed if picked up in a poorly-illuminated room. Our Hoxne community dig in 2013 revealed that there is a lot of Victorian rubbish buried in the gardens around Hoxne. We are also aware of six Victorian rubbish heaps around the village. Next time you dig up an old bottle or tin with a label spare a thought for what this tells us about how these people lived.

More information can be found in 'What the Victorians Threw Away', a small illustrated paperback written by Tom about this fascinating project.

Margaret Sillis (www.hoxnehistory.org.uk)

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Hello to all the children of Hoxne

It is very cold here at the North Pole so I am really excited about coming south in a few weeks time.

As you know, I always make a special appearance in Hoxne on Christmas morning to deliver all of your presents. The elves have been extremely busy all year making some wonderful toys, so my sack is getting very full. As always, I have employed some local elves to help me and they tell me they are looking forward to all those lovely mince pies and refreshments you kindly give us.

Just remember I need you to tell me if you have any visitors staying or I will deliver their presents to the wrong address.

I have filed a flight plan with the Airways Authority and expect Rudolf to land the sleigh in Denham Road about 6.00am. This means we will reach Nuttery Vale about 7.00 and Low Street about 8.00. Just in case we get lost(!), can you make sure all presents are marked with full name, address and telephone number. Peter, my friend in the village shop, will advise and help you if needed. So please contact him before Monday 21st December. If you need a label please use the one below, Peter will have some spares.

Lots of love and cheer
Father Christmas

Name.....

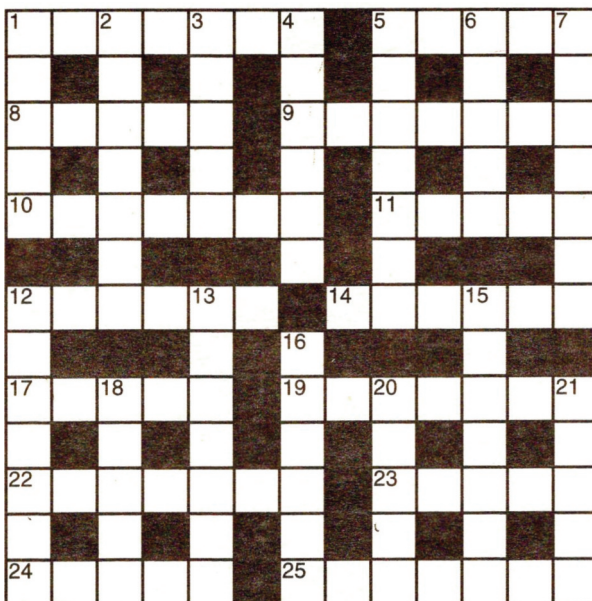
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 114

The prize for last issue's puzzle was won by Pat & Bryan Green, Denham. The solution appears below.



ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 In my view and nothing to a wing (7)
 5 Europeans at the end of the earth (5)
 8 Shake up 3 down and become static (5)
 9 Treat said din with scorn (7)
 10 Not sharp or flat – just normal (7)
 11 Invalidate part of the cannula (5)
 12 With pleasure (6)
 14 Special meals from safest ingredients (6)
 17 May get tickled on a piano (5)
 19 Light noticed in Angolan Tern (7)
 22 Dreadfully confuse the full way (7)
 23 Cool country apparently (5)
 24 Nearly but not quite and on time (5)
 25 Decide to sort out problem again (7)</p> | <p>1 Greek leaving 1 across may end in tears (5)
 2 Finer tiara conceals some apathy (7)
 3 Bury with the flint erection (5)
 4 Do lend the parts to get ahead (6)
 5 Donkey found in a book in transit (7)
 6 50 make a wage to gain knowledge (5)
 7 Unmarried tennis players (7)
 12 Rag mice to cause look of disgust (7)
 13 Card held by valued customer (7)
 15 Slap ice to make it exceptional (7)
 16 Sporting actor (6)
 18 Proffers part of a proposal (5)
 20 Makes small notches in prisons (5)
 21 Way to go in French resort for a relative (5)</p> |
|--|--|

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO 113

Across 7) Chance 8) Seller 10) Rancour 11) Theme 12) Iota 13) Ample 17) Smith 18) Coop 22) Excel 23) Nonplus 24) Coward2* 25) Reveal
Down 1) Scorpio 2) Magnate 3) Actor 4) Fertile 5) Fleet 6) Tried 9) Brimstone 14) Implore 15) Collier 16) Apostle 19) Fence 20) Scowl 21) Inter

* The missing clue - Was Noel Yellow?

If you would like to enter the crossword competition, send your solution to the editor, deadline on back cover. The first correct solution to be opened will receive a cash prize of £10.

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DEADLINES

Issue	Copy	Crossword
February/March	8th January	1st March
April/May	8th March	1st May
June/July	8th May	1st July
August/September	8th July	1st September
October/November	8th September	1st November
December/January	8th November	1st January

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