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&
WINGFIELD

VILLAGE
VOICE

FEBRUARY- MARCH 2017

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 each PCC.

Editorial - Going Down and Passing On

In summer 2015, I walked past a dive centre in Madeira. A couple of weeks later I remembered two dives that I'd done in Guernsey as a child that I had enjoyed. "I wonder whether I could learn to dive at my age?" A few minutes on Google informed me that people had learnt in their eighties, so there was still time. By October, I had qualified as a PADI Open Water diver. This is rather like the driving test – with luck, you know enough to keep yourself alive.

I liken diving to the flight of birds – you are weightless and can glide through the water without any effort. Forget those adventure films where divers are furiously flapping their legs, recreational diving is using as little effort as you can when underwater.

In 2016, I made more dives and learnt more, able to dive to 30m, in a dry suit for cold UK waters and use enhanced air (Nitrox), which puts less strain on your body. I bought my own kit at the end of the year and used it for the first time in a former quarry near Leicester this month.

One of the most difficult things when you start diving is to go down; the first five metres are tricky after that it gets easier. For the Voice, however, it was the opposite and it nearly stopped publication recently. You may remember that I announced that I was passing on the role of Editor early last year and found a replacement, planned to start this issue; he was the only person to show interest. Unfortunately, he had to withdraw for health reasons, so the New Year started without an editor or back-up plan.

I rapidly spread the news and three people expressed an interest. As well as being keen on words and documents, the editor needs good computer skills. Fortunately, one of the three ticked all the boxes and has agreed to take on the job – welcome Richard Whiting, usually called Bones.



While there is great criticism of people not volunteering for jobs in villages, my view that it is also the responsibility of the current holder to organise the job so that it can be handed over easily and to pass it on after a few years. With a little luck, I have achieved these aims.

Please give Bones your support.

John Langley

Letters to the Editor

From Jo Pentelow & Family

We would like to thank everyone for making November's fundraiser dance for the Air ambulance such a great success. We raised £1,153 in memory of Stephen Cowham.

From Jane and Adrian Knott

On Wednesday evening 21st December we were 24 carol singers going around the villages of Syleham, Wingfield, and Weybred. Great fun, with plenty to eat and drink being offered and GREAT generosity all round. We raised £550 for the charity EACH - East Anglia's Children's Hospice. A big thank you to all who contributed. If you weren't involved this year, there's another chance next year! Happy New Year!

From Clive Baxter

The annual Christmas Day Father Christmas sleigh made history this year. A fourth generation of the Potter family performed as an elf, delivering presents. 12-year-old Freddie, from Nuttery Vale, a pupil of Hartismere High School, followed in the traditional footsteps of three known footballing Potter's, his great grandad Freddie, granddad Paul and father Kevin. 13-year-old Spencer Moore was also aboard. Well done all

From Rosedale Funeral Home

We would like to give grateful thanks to the generous people of Attleborough, Diss and Wymondham and the surrounding communities for the wonderful response to the Christmas shoebox appeal. Close to 900 shoeboxes were wrapped by staff and packed with small gifts to be taken to children in poorer countries, most of whom would otherwise have nothing at all and many are in orphanages. Next year we will be widening the appeal and packing boxes for entire families and the elderly through an organisation called Link to Hope, and will be able to include items such as candles with holders and wind up torches as well as packing boxes with toiletries and baby supplies for the local women's refuge.

From Anne Swann

I would like to say a big thank you to the people who did a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. There must have been great joy on the faces of the children who received them. Thank you very much.

Diary Dates

Thursday 2nd February
SEH Hoxne PC, p22

Saturday 4th February
SEH Jitterbugs bop, p7

Friday 10th February
SEH Film, Bridget Jones Baby, p7

Saturday 11th February
SWH Disco night, p6

Tuesday 14th February
SEH Phoenix AGM, p13

Thursday 16th February
Mobile Library, Hoxne, Denham, p6

Friday 24th February
Mobile Library Syleham, Winfield p6

Saturday 25th February
SWH Red Glass, p6

Thursday 2nd March
SEH Hoxne PC, p22

Friday 10th March
SEH Film, The Girl on the Train, p7

Saturday 11th March
WB Nathaniel Mander, p8
Hoxne Church, Village Voices, p8

Tuesday 14th March
SEH Phoenix talk -Stained Glass, p13

Thursday 16th March
SEH HGSC AGM, p13
Mobile Library, Hoxne, Denham, p6

Saturday 18th March
Hoxne Church, Coffee morning, p8

Sunday 19th March
Hoxne clean-up, meet at SEH, p22

Friday 24th March
Mobile Library Syleham, Winfield p6

Saturday 25th March
SEH Produce and Craft Market, p25

Wednesday 29th March
Red Feather Club, Denham PC, p22

SAVE THE DATES

Friday 28th April
SEH Hoxne Annual Parish Meeting,
p22

Thursday 4th May
HPP Hoxne PC AGM, p22

Saturday 3rd June
HPP Summer Ball - save the date.

Wednesday 21st June
Pound Lane Wood, Summer solstice,
p15

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....

■ **Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall** invite you to join them for their upcoming events:

Saturday 11th February - Disco night from 8pm 'til late. Free for Social club members, others £5.

Saturday 25th February - Red Glass make a return appearance to the hall. Red Glass are a young band who will be appearing for the first time at Stradisphere in 2017. They are all based locally and have played together for about 18 months. Doors open 8pm, live music 8.30 'til late. Tickets £5 on the door or book with Dick 07711 610933 or Viv 07884 075003. Find more details on their website ljhayes121.wixsite.com/red-glass and with Radio Stradbroke at www.radiostradbroke.co.uk

Thursday 27th April - Eastern Angles theatre group. More details to follow

■ **Harleston Information Plus** are running a number of **free** IT courses this year, from the basics of a computer to using the internet, Microsoft Word and emails! These laid-back and informative sessions have been funded by Santander Discovery Fund and we're thrilled to be able to offer them to the local community. Call **Jake Kubala** on 01379 851920 for more information and to book a place.

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Suffolk Libraries - Mobile Library Routes

Denham and Hoxne

Calling every 4 weeks on Thursdays. Next stops are **16th February** and **16th March**:

Hoxne, The Swan car park, from 10:25 to 10:50

Hoxne, St Edmunds House, from 11:00 to 11:15

Denham, Post Office, from 11:25 to 11:35

Syleham and Wingfield

Calling every 4 weeks on Fridays. Next stops are **24th February** and **24th March**:

Syleham, Wingfield Road (junction with Weybread Road), from 12:15 to 12:35

Wingfield, Post Box, from 13:45 to 14:10

St Edmund's Hall Events

Over the New Year, there have been some changes; the Yoga and Tai Chi trainers left due to retirement and a house move. Replacement trainers, Maria Manly and Cindy Engel were found, so these classes continue. Helen Chapman, who runs the Pilates classes, has introduced a Swiss Ball class on Tuesdays at 5.45pm. Details of all classes with contact details can be found on our website.

Saturday, 4th February sees Jitterbugs return for a Saturday evening bop of '40s and '50s dancing, starting at 8pm. They have booked more evenings through the year.

The Film Night on **Friday, 10th February** is *Bridget Jones Baby*, in my view the best yet. Renee Zellweger reprises her signature role as an accident prone single woman, this time facing the challenges of motherhood, unsure if Mark Darcy (Colin Firth) or Jack Qwant (Patrick Dempsey) is the father. Emma Thompson as a witty obstetrician helps the trio on their way to parenthood.

The *Girl on the Train* is the film on **Friday 10th March**. Stupefied by her divorce from Tom (Justin Theroux), permanently pickled Rachel (Emily Blunt) travels the Hudson Line into the city, passing through the leafy, upmarket suburb where Anna (Rebecca Ferguson) is now raising a child with Rachel's ex-husband. Attempting to avert her attention from her former home, Rachel fixates on the glamorous couple, Megan and Scott, next door until she glimpses something that cuts through her alcohol-fuelled, idealised view of them. When Megan goes missing, Rachel presents herself to handsome Scott as an old friend with crucial information. But do Rachel's own lapses of memory hide a guiltier secret?

The Hoxne Produce and Craft Market (previously Artisan Market) makes a welcome return on **Saturday 25th March** 9.30 – 12.30 under new management. It will be monthly from March to November, with June to be confirmed. As well as goods for sale, it will feature a café run by Ioannis and Gill, who also run the Friday weekly café.

Use of the Hall has been increasing for some time and, as well as regular clubs and classes, it has become a popular venue for private events and business meetings. Hence, the diary fills and, if you want to come for a special event, it is wise to book early – this week, we've taken our first booking for 2018.

Keep an eye on our website that is updated regularly

John Langley
www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

Village Voice 7

Wingfield Barns

We had a very busy festive period here at the Barns, with sell out performances from Made2Measure Theatre Company with their comedy 'Black Ice', and RoughCast Theatre Company brought their spectacular performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. The ceilidh on New Year's Eve was a huge success, and much fun was had by all. A perfect way to end the year!

Getting on with the year ahead, we are looking forward to getting back in to the swing of things with Emily's Keep Fit class on Thursday mornings (10am), and we see the start of Adult Ballet lessons on a Tuesday, also at 10am. John Parker's Art Classes provide a more relaxed way to pass the time (Tuesdays 10am – 4pm), keep an eye on the website for additional dates and classes to be added.

On **Saturday 11th March**, Nathaniel Mander will be performing at the Barns. He is an amazingly talented young harpsichord player, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming him here.

Whilst making the most of a bit of down time between now and then, we will be preparing for the tea rooms to be open for the exhibitions we have booked, the first of which is in April. We will also be taking the opportunity to spruce the place up a bit and get ready for what looks set to be a very busy year. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

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Coffee Mornings

Please note that from March 2017 the church coffee mornings will be on the 3rd Saturday in the month.

8 Village Voice

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Use it or lose it

The Post Office recently announced that it's planning to close the main branches in Diss and Thetford as part of major changes nationwide. It is hoping to franchise them to nearby locations and of course it's all "subject to consultation" - this usually means that, unfortunately, it's a done deal. Taking a wider view of this scenario, with the scarcity of Post Offices in the area, there's really no further give if the Post Office have similar plans in the future. So, what better time than now to support your local Post Office? In our Village Voice distribution area, that means Hoxne, but it equally applies to all sub Post Offices.

However, don't stop there. Sub Post Offices by their nature, co-exist with other outlets, which equally rely on regular footfall to stay viable. So, the next time you're visiting the local PO, why not pick-up a few essentials too that you may otherwise have purchased elsewhere? Meats and vegetables are usually sourced locally, so it's another win-win situation from that point of view. The simple addition of those items to your daily bits and pieces such as the newspapers, milk and bread, are sure to be appreciated. Help to keep your community facilities afloat and save some time and money on travelling to boot, not only for now, but to protect them for the future too.

Bones

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Hoxne Garden and Social Club

...on the brink (again)

The Club had a very successful Christmas Dinner at the Hoxne Swan on the 2nd of December and Darren did us proud with the food both from my own perspective and judging by the very positive comments that I received. We had a raffle, with a single prize donated by Easeys, which was won by Helen Bentley. I think that it is fair to say that the year ended on a high note for the Club.

At the present time, we are finalising our programme for the forthcoming Club year which starts in April and hope to put on a full programme as we have this year. However, there is a very big BUT to this as things now are not as positive as when I wrote my piece for the last edition of the Village Voice. Last year, resignations from the committee left us with three members standing for re-election and this year we will be down to two having received one resignation now and two more will not be standing for re-election, including the Treasurer, at the AGM on **Thursday 16th March**. In order to continue we need three new committee members, including someone willing to act as Treasurer.

However, I believe we could have a Treasurer who was not involved in the running of the club, but simply 'looked after the books' if that brings forward someone who has little interest in gardening, yet would like to contribute to village life in some way. Should this become the way forward, we would still need three committee members to ensure the effective running of the Club. If you, the reader, are interested in joining the Club and being on the committee, please put your name forward as soon as possible so that we can plan for its continuation. You can speak to myself on 668565, Val Thompson (668659), Cath Lawrie (668204) or Jeni Urwin (668502).

Gordon Lacey, Chair, Hoxne Garden & Social Club

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Hoxne Phoenix Ladies' Group

We meet in St. Edmund's Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Visitors Welcome (£2).

On **14th February** we will have our Annual General Meeting and a talk by Rachel Hillier on HeartStart.

On **14th March** our talk will be by Teri Lockton on Stained Glass.

AFC Hoxne Football Round Up

AFC Hoxne first XI will be disappointed if they do not gain promotion to the senior division of the Ipswich league this season. They can now concentrate on the league after their elimination from the Suffolk Junior Cup, which they won last season. We were beaten 4-2 in a penalty shootout at Benhall. In November, we beat AFC Kesgrave in both League and Junior Cup. Our five away league run continued with a 4-0 win at Stowupland.

Hoxne finished the calendar year with games against the two Trimley teams. On December 10th we lost 0-1 at home to Trimley Athletic. On December 17th we drew 2-2 away to Trimley Red Devils. The second XI lost their unbeaten record when thumped 5-0 away by YourShirts FC (Ipswich) in the Suffolk Primary Cup quarter finals on December 10th. They had won 16 of their previous 17 league and cup games. The Sunday veterans team managed by Colin Mayhew have won all 7 league and cup games under his command. 2017 began with the second XI's 2-0 win at Wenhaston on January 11th.

Clive Baxter



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New Reeding Woods Group

Pound Lane wood is held in trust for all the residents of Denham, Horham and Athelington and is well used by those that live close by and by dog walkers. To encourage others to visit their community woodland, the Steering Group will be organising an event on the evening of the summer solstice, **June 21st**, to hopefully enjoy the sunset. By that time of year, the woodland should be at its best with the trees in leaf and the wildflower meadow a blaze of colour. So put this date in your diary and look out for more details closer to the evening.

If want to be actively involved in this project, please contact Mike Reeves on 01379 668179 for more details





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REFLECTIONS - *What did you see there?*

The quieter, calmer month of February and the early part of Lent (Ash Wednesday is on the 1st March) are good times for reflecting on how Christmas was? What did we see there?

Several researchers have found that lots of people have had 'spiritual experiences' even if they struggle to put those experiences into words or fit them into conventional religious structures. It seems to me that Christmas is the most homely, most domestic of Christian festivals and so a good starting point for reflecting on where we might have encountered the spiritual. For me, our first ever Live Nativity at Nora's Yard on the boundary between Hoxne and Denham would be very high up the list of spiritual experiences over Christmas.

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who took part; Harry and Barbara Irwin for making their yard available and preparing it so thoroughly, Sue Roberts and her hive of sewing bees for the stunning costumes; no that wasn't a Quality Street tin on the head of one of the wise men! All the cast, especially the last minute stand-in and, of course, Jenny and William Hall for playing the central characters; I promised you a real baby! William was brilliant and to my great surprise slept all through the animals joining in on 'the cattle are lowing' in Away in the Manger'.

And thank you to the ensemble of horses, cattle and sheep, who helped to make the whole affair so evocative; that is where the spiritual came in not just for me but for many others. In conversations afterwards, I've been struck by how many adults found it profound to see a young babe in a barn surrounded by straw and farm animals. Suddenly a story that they'd heard so many times, to the point of boredom even, was enlightened and animated, brought alive in a way that had never happened before; especially the mums and grandmas who found that they had 'something in their eye' all of a sudden!

I said Christmas was the most domestic of festivals, and here was the whole domestic drama played out before our very eyes and yet it was also a profound, spiritual moment at the same time. Perhaps it was appropriate that it took place in barns on the boundary between two of our villages as, for a moment, we found ourselves on the boundary between the physical and the spiritual.

The question for the coming year then becomes, having once encountered it, can we be alert to the spiritual in future. Or in the words of St. Francis de Sales, 'Make yourself familiar with the angels, and behold them frequently in spirit; for without being seen they are present with you'.

Michael Womack

01379-388889

hoxnebenefice@gmail.com

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CHURCH NEWS

Hoxne, Denham, Syleham and Wingfield

If you need to get in touch with the Rector, Michael Womack, tel: 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, Catelyps, tel.: 01379 384181

Times of worship

Sunday 5 February

10am Wingfield Morning Prayer

11.15am Hoxne Holy Communion

4pm Syleham Messy Church

Sunday 12 February

11.15am Wingfield Holy Communion

11.15am Hoxne BCP Morning Prayer

Sunday 19 February

8.30am Hoxne BCP Holy
Communion

10am Syleham Village Praise with
Wingfield

11.15am Hoxne Community Service

Sunday 26 February

9.30am Syleham BCP Holy
Communion

10am Hoxne Family Service

11.15am Denham Family Service

6.30pm Wingfield BCP Evensong

Wednesday 1 March Ash Wednesday
Deanery Service – 7.30pm Stradbroke

Sunday 5 March

10am Wingfield Morning Prayer

11.15am Hoxne Holy Communion

4pm Syleham Messy Church

Sunday 12 March

11.15am Wingfield Holy Communion

11.15am Hoxne BCP Morning Prayer

Sunday 19 March

8.30am Hoxne BCP Holy
Communion

10am Syleham Village Praise with
Wingfield

11.15am Hoxne Community Service

Sunday 26 March – Mothering Sunday

9.30am Syleham BCP Holy
Communion

10am Hoxne Family Service

11.15am Denham Family Service

6.30pm Wingfield BCP Evensong

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

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

The Diocesan Advisory Committee gave its wholehearted approval to the plans for a kitchen cabinet and toilet presented to its meeting in December. The committee was particularly impressed by the design of the toilet which will be accessed through the north door. The total cost of the work is estimated to be in excess of £140,000 and grants will be needed to bridge the gap between available resources and expenditure. The annual meetings of the parish church and the Friends of the Church will be held in St Edmund's Hall on Tuesday 18th April, beginning at 7pm.

The Village Carol Service attracted a congregation of 110 to hear the traditional readings and swell the singing during this pre-Christmas service. We are very grateful to the Village Voices Choir which brought additional festive harmony to the occasion – including *White Shepherds Watched* to the tune of *On Ilkley Moor Baht 'at*. Collection from the service was donated to the Children's Society.

Children from St Edmund's Primary School celebrated Christmas at the church with a carol service prepared by the school and presented to the delight of the many parents present. The St Edmund's brass band ensured the proceedings made a rousing start.

The Christmas morning Family Communion, led by the Revd Michael Womack, was also well attended.

CHURCH NEWS

The Third Sunday Community Services in February and March are both on the 19th of the month starting at 11.15am. The Friends of the Church will be taking part in the *Mothering Sunday Family Service* (10am) on 26th March.

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.

20th February Baptisms in the benefice with Rev Michael Womack.
20th March St Joseph of Nazareth.

Branch Leader Cathie McGregor.
668434

Flower rota

5th and 12th February
Altar - Sarah Buckley
19th and 26th February
Altar – Eleanor Hart

The month of March will be Lent when there are no flowers in the church. Thank you to all the flower arrangers for your contributions to keeping 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

CHURCH NEWS

St John, Denham

February services will begin with Evening Communion at Willow Cottage on the 14th at 7.30pm and the March communion will also be on the 14th at a venue to be announced. The family services will be on the 26th February and the 26th March. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place after the family service on 23rd April and everyone is welcome. As usual, all family services will be preceded by refreshments and fellowship.

St Margaret, Syleham

Carol Service. A full church as usual for our very popular carol service, with some thoughtful readings and carols, traditional congregational ones and some less well known ones beautifully rendered by Amici Choir. The collection was £314 and is being divided between Ipswich Winter Night Shelter and local church funds.

Service Pattern. For our Village Praise services on 15th January and 19th February, and possibly into the future, we shall be joined by the congregation of Wingfield Church and leadership responsibilities will

be shared. The service will take its usual simple form, starting at 10am and followed by coffee and an opportunity to chat.

Messy Church. Our December session was a great opportunity to mix with other groups at a farm barn venue near Fressingfield as we began our celebration of Christmas. We followed this up with our January session at Epiphany and on 5th February and 5th March we shall be meeting as usual at 4pm in the Village Hall in Syleham. All families are most welcome and can be assured of a good time and a scrumptious tea.

Residents moving. A number of properties are changing hands and it is not always easy to keep track of new residents throughout the village. We at St Margaret's like to offer a welcome and so, if people feel they can let us know when they have new neighbours, it would be greatly appreciated.

CONTACT for any of the above -
Churchwarden Mary Lewis (669258)
mary.lewis43@icloud.com

St Andrew, Wingfield

No report

National census causes accommodation crisis in Denham

The recent government directive for updating the national census provided a much-needed income boost to local hotels and B&B's in the Suffolk village of Denham, near the county boundary with Norfolk. The requirement that all had to return to their place of birth to register, caused most, if not all, accommodation to be full.

Witnessed by over 100 children and adults at Nora's Yard, on the edges of Denham, a carpenter and his pregnant wife had arrived late at night on December 24th and initially had nowhere to stay. Joseph commented that he and his pregnant wife Mary endured a slow journey to the village. Mary had ridden on a donkey for much of the trip, but was still very tired. Joseph, no longer in his youth and concerned for his young wife, was also weary and had become anxious as the night drew on without finding a bed for the two of them for the night.

After persistent knocking on the door of what appeared to be the last inn of the village, a grumpy inn keeper managed to find space in his barn, at the back of the inn.

Nearby local shepherds had earlier reported hearing an airborne voice reporting that the barn would become 'the place to be' later that night, and so had made their way to the venue. Amazingly, three dignitaries also appeared soon after the shepherds, having made significant journeys to be at Nora's Inn. They had used GPS (Global Positioning by Star) to reach the inn on 24th December and each had brought a gift for the anticipated new-born baby.

The crowd sang carols interspersed by the narrator updating the events as they happened; cows and sheep joining in, in their own inimitable way.

The crowd finally moved from the road outside the Inn, to the barn, where the happy couple, Mary and Joseph, the baby, animals, shepherds and kings had gathered.

At the close of the play Michael Womack, the local vicar, thanked those involved for arranging the reconstruction of the first Christmas. The stunning atmosphere of the barn, at dusk, with live animals, a six-week-old baby, and players wearing tailored, in-character costumes, made by a local team, made this a truly atmospheric production.

The crowd slowly left for home as dusk turned to night, with the crisp evening air adding even more to a memorable Christmas Eve.

GAR



Report from Denham Parish Council

DOG FOULING – The Parish Council is dismayed to receive reports of dog fouling in the Parish. Either mess is not being cleared up or bagged mess being dumped at various locations. The Council will debate the provision of dog litter bins in the village at its January meeting. If you are a dog owner and enjoy walking on our roads and footpaths, please clear up after your dog and take bagged waste home. It is an offence under The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 with a maximum fine of £1,000. Please co-operate and avoid prosecution.

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 next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Wednesday 29th March**. 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

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Report from Hoxne Parish Council

A happy New Year to all our Parishioners. The Parish Council would like to thank all involved with the Christmas lights on Low Street Green. The result of your efforts gave a very festive display to the village, and others, to enjoy.

PRECEPT & BUDGET FOR 2017/2018 FINANCIAL YEAR - at its January meeting, the Council agreed on a Precept of £15,085 for the coming financial year. The Precept is the money the Parish Council requests from the District Council to run services within the village. The Parish Council is progressing the concept of a Village Sign and a working group has been formed to look at designs and location.

CLEAN UP WEEKEND – This year’s tidy up will take place on **Sunday 19th March**. Volunteers should meet at St Edmund’s Hall at 10.00 am where equipment will be provided. Please bring your own gloves. Refreshments will be provided on return.

Other dates for your diary include the Annual Parish Meeting on **Friday 28th April** at St Edmund’s Hall, and the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on **Thursday 4th May** at the Playing Field Pavilion.

The next Parish Council meetings will take place on **Thursday 2nd February** and **Thursday 2nd March**, both in St Edmund’s Hall.

Sarah Foote, Clerk, Telephone: 07554 733621
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Wingfield Broadband

Broadband for those who live in Wingfield and perhaps find themselves between a rock and a hard place

In the past, our church engendered the community. Times have changed. Thus, the Government has launched a review into the sustainability of our churches and cathedrals in the face of its limited resources. They want to hear from local authorities and others with experience of making community assets sustainable. Many years ago, understandably at the time, Wingfield turned down a proposal (with a possible income rental of £10,000 pa) to allow a mobile phone company to erect a mast on its tower. That was then the size of its annual budget, which was then in balance.

Today, much later, our community, especially the young, is fostered through the internet. A few are reached through the church, but its demographic has moved into high numbers. If our community is to have a seamless web, we must ensure effective modern rural communication for all ages and activities since Church buildings and village halls do not provide a complete solution. It has now become a necessary service paralleled by water, gas and electricity. Wingfield Parish Council is grappling with the BT bureaucracy and wishes to maintain a clear dialogue over their plans, substantially supported by government subsidy, to ensure that the benefits are shared by its rural community. The routing of fibre optic cables and the positioning of the connecting boxes is left to engineers who, driven by BTs commercial imperative, seek to connect the maximum number of properties without proper consultation on what the community actually needs. All we know from a SCC winter press release, is that BT intends to serve just 27 premises in Wingfield before 2020, and that *"there is a voucher scheme for anyone who gets less than 2 Mbps which aims to provide an interim solution whilst fibre optic progresses"*. The lucky ones are not specified. Is this a lottery?

On the ground, there are many who experience low speeds (or none) and sudden disconnection. Not mentioned, and not within the government's subsidy scheme, is the BT Infinity service which will, if you apply, sell you a new Smart Hub which it claims will provide higher speed broadband. This costs £60 and the monthly fee for the broadband service is upped. BT fails to explain in terms this compromise deal, which it is believed makes use of both old copper and new fibre lines, at a special price, which may or may not work, and whose speed cannot be assessed until installed.

The SCC press release states that *"for the 3-4% of Suffolk which we will not reach under our existing scheme"* (the figure is much higher in Wingfield) *"government are currently formulating an approach to a Universal Service Obligation of 10 Mbps for all premises by 2020"*.

Rural reality, or simply rurality

Today's news was about us lagging way behind in providing mobile phone networks, recommended by BT/SCC as the solution for those who will not get a fibre cable connection for broadband. It is worrying that those responsible for connections don't do joined up thinking. The C of E has many unused towers and needs the money.

Questions arise in many other areas of policy wonkiness:

How did the garage and tyre industry successfully lobby local government not to fill potholes?

Finger posts, designed for riders on horseback rather than motorists, hidden by vegetation, bent, grimy or knocked down by wide vehicles, have been taken over by GPS or the beating of Tomtoms.

Do library closures result from the ease of ordering a next day book for one penny from Amazon?

Did China and eBay contribute to the closure of BHS? A pair of button braces came by air from a room in a high-rise in Shanghai for £3.99. The Oxfam shop where old men's clothes end up said that they were scarce and in demand.

What will happen to Council Tax now that Council services have almost disappeared. Is it not the right moment for the money allocated to local government for social care to be moved back to central government for the NHS?

BIG current problem solved.

Make academies into charities like the public schools, charging fees, and strengthened by market competition.

NIMBYs and planning account for the housing shortage. Other services such as water and electricity are overseen, or should it be overlooked, by regulators, so why not place builders under a new regulator OffBuild.

And let new airports come under OffTake (takeOff perhaps). Roads would come under OffRoad. But how will this impact on garages?

With the departure of Alan Yentob, the BBC will need a minder to protect it from Murdoch. So why not OffAir?

Our frontiers have not been well guarded by the Border Agency. If G4, which is recruiting staff to strengthen it, fails to protect our shores, let us try a new agency called OffShore, which should investigate the Australian model, not their much-vaunted points system, but finding islands such as Manus, and as in the past, Tasmania, where foreigners can be parked, in the way use was made of the Isle of Man in WW2. If the price of oil fails to recover, the Scots may have Islands to rent or for sale.

New ways of policing are emerging, and new priorities too. Police are increasingly occupied investigating past paedophiles among football coaches, deceased politicians, and entertainers. The national press authorized to enquire into their activities may be able to satisfy their readers, especially now that Levison is dead in the water. And with their direct access it would not be necessary to buy information from policemen. The police presence is usually overdone, with large numbers assembled at an incident looking aimless. The French use cardboard cut-outs, especially after road accidents, to let the public know they are there. The Police Federation might object.

A word from Wingfield

The Brexit shenanigans are disturbing. I find it odd that a large army of bureaucrats is being trained to be appointed and assembled to take us out of Europe and to free us from the Brussels bureaucracy, out of the frying pan as it were. If, however, we are really interested in a free market, surely, we should set the people free and step back from government interference, if Brexit really means Brexit, and we intend to return to the buccaneering days when Britain was really great and the market ruled OK.

If neither by Murdoch, our sovereign, a dictator, the church, democracy or the free market, by whom shall we be ruled? Silicon Valley has made a very good pitch which worked OK for starting the Arab Spring, until others took over. Trump and the referendum have made us think. He plans to tweet from his tower, which seems to be the current electronic solution for wielding world power. So far, the history of the future is unclear, but as the end of the world is nigh, and experts are derided, we need someone to come up with ideas. State planning and plans never seem to work, so it looks as if pragmatism is the answer.

If Trump refutes the Paris accord dealing with global warming, Professor Naom Chomsky says the ensuing inundation of lowlands will lead to the mass migration of tens of millions of people from Asia and the Pacific which, will be unmanageable and well beyond today's immigration challenge.

Is the end nigh?

Tommy Gee



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Obituary

Charles George "Ben" Nunn, was a lifelong Hoxne man. "Benny" Nunn was buried in the Parish Church churchyard on 9th December after a service to celebrate his life. His coffin was driven to the church on a tractor and trailer. Charles George Nunn, who was 79, had died in West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, on 14th November. A gardener, Benny, who enjoyed growing his own vegetables, was a "Man of the country". They were the words of the Rev. Michael Womack, who conducted the service. A hard-working, family man who would help anybody. Over the years, Ben raised hundreds of pounds for Hartismere Hospital League of Friends, Eye, by selling plants and raffle tickets.

Mr Nunn's entire working life had been spent as a farm worker for the Havers family of Hoxne. He started with them after leaving school in 1952 and received at the Suffolk Show, the long service appreciation Award for 50 years continuous farm service. Mr Nunn played amateur bowls for Hoxne and Thornton, and indoor carpet bowls at Syleham. He enjoyed bingo, family holidays, shooting and going to the market at Campsea Ashe. A one-time member of the Hoxne Playing Field committee, he was also involved with the annual village Christmas Day Father Christmas sleigh delivery.

Benny married his wife Georgina (who died in 2000) at Occold Baptist Chapel in March 1966. He leaves daughters Beverly and Karen, son-in-laws Graham and Barry, and grandchildren Mark and Emily. A superb eulogy was delivered by Stella Goddard. The organist was Dougie Chittock and a lesson was raised by Clive Baxter. A selection of organ music was played at the beginning of the service and "Country Roads" by John Denver at the end. After the service, refreshments were served at St Edmunds Hall, Hoxne.

Donations, if desired in memory of Ben, to the British Heart Foundation and to the Alzheimer's Society, may be sent c/o Rosedale Funeral Home, 63 Victoria Road, DISS, IP22 4JE.

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Sweet Briar Nursery School

We welcomed the children back after the Christmas Holidays along with some very young newcomers who have all been settling in really well.

This term our overall theme is based around the different hot and cold places in the world and we are learning all about the inhabitants of these places and the different ways in which they live. We are reading "Big Bear Little Brother" about the Arctic and "Mama Panya's Pancake" which is a story from Africa.

We are covering the physical aspects of hot and cold with some interesting science investigations and we also have lots of fun plans to celebrate Pancake Day, Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

We currently have no spaces for under 2's. However, we do have a limited number of places for 3's and over so please contact us if you are interested.

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Watercolour of Swan Bridge, Hoxne, 1973 by Michel Des Rochers (b.1938)

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And isn't it ironic?

Who would've thought, it figures – The new BT green cabinet has finally made it to Low Street, Hoxne and it might have gone unnoticed except for the inevitable roadworks that go hand in hand with such things. While it may not be the superfast broadband panacea for all Hoxne, it will hopefully be embraced by many. We should perhaps be considered fortunate in light of the woes of Wingfield's roll-out that is covered elsewhere in this issue of the Village Voice, although some badgering by the PC Chairman should not go without applause for getting us where we are pivoting on the brink of today. This is the second box in the Parish (incongruously entitled cabinet No. 4), the first being some 2 years ago on Heckfield Green (aptly named cabinet No.1) and that covers the area from Cross Street through to Hoxne Road, Denham. The new cabinet is sited to serve Church Hill through to Goldbrook and Abbey Hill. However, the nature of such things is that the further you are away from the box, the expectations of the maximum network speed are less, but none-the-less a worthwhile improvement for the ever-growing internet connected world.

Still, don't be daunted, contact your current provider or check the Openreach website to verify your telephone number or postcode for eligibility: www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx - It might be that the end is nigh for your stuttering online TV viewing or those slow photo and movie uploads to so called social media. With the recent announcement from the BBC that they vow to 'reinvent' the iPlayer to provide not only catch-up services, but exclusive content to rival the likes of Netflix, you could find that your existing bandwidth usage for multiple devices within the family is being severely limited. There could be a couple of months more wait for the new cabinet to go fully live, but that's small fry indeed in the scheme of things.

Now, Alanis Morissette may not have had broadband on her mind when penning her hit song *Ironic*, or even when she teamed up with James Corden to duo a modern technological comic update. But, it hasn't passed me by that when BT turned up outside our house late one evening to pipe optical fibre up the B1118 to Green Street and along to the Hoxne telephone exchange on Syleham Road, that our superfast expectations were going to be imminently met. But yes, you guessed, that isn't the case, as our house and the whole of Green Street / Church Close aren't going to be served by the new cabinet and of course never had a chance with the old one either, despite the optical fibre likely laying within a few feet of potential customers. When will us non-receivers be enabled? Who knows, but I reckon it could be a while yet. Don't you think?

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Health & Fitness - The Italian Swiss Ball

Forty years I've been calling the huge fitness ball a Swiss ball thinking it was Swiss! I now know that in the year of my birth – 1963 – an Italian scientist invented the ball and it was first manufactured as a toy called “Gymnastix”. It is known by a number of different names, including balance ball, body ball, fitness ball, gym ball, physio ball, Pilates ball, Pezzi ball, stability ball, therapy ball, or yoga ball. This large plastic ball can also be used during labour to aid the descent of the fetal head into the pelvis – alias the “birthing ball”.

Aquilino Cosani, an Italian plastics manufacturer, perfected a process for moulding large puncture-resistant plastic balls. Those balls, then known as “Pezzi balls”, were first used in treatment programmes for new-borns and infants in Switzerland.

Later, also in Switzerland, Dr Susanne Klein-Vogelbach integrated ball exercises as physical therapy for neuro-developmental treatment. From their development as a physical therapy treatment, in a clinical setting, those exercises are now used in athletic training, as part of a general fitness routine and are incorporated into alternative exercises classes, such as mine – Pilates. Exercising with a ball as opposed to exercising directly on a hard-flat surface means that the body responds to the instability of the ball. To remain balanced, many more muscles are recruited. Regular repetition of the exercises builds strength in the core body muscles – the abdominals and muscles of the back—these are the focus of Swiss ball classes.

The ability to recruit more muscle units without the need to increase the total load is pure genius, particularly for people with musculoskeletal problems. Curl-ups performed on an exercise ball increases activation of the rectus abdominus and allows for greater activity per exercise when compared to a stable surface. Ball curl ups yield a greater amount of electromyography (EMG) activity compared to exercises on a stable platform. Ball push-ups can be used to increase trunk strength and greater resistance to injury and fall prevention.

It was once recommended to replace your office chair with a Swiss ball. There is no scientific evidence of any benefit occurring by just sitting without additional exercises. However, some experts warn against using a Swiss ball as a chair due to the possibility of it being ergonomically and biomechanically unfriendly to the human body. So, there you have it – no need to replace your chair with a ball – just roll up to a Swiss Ball class near you!

Call Helen Chapman on 07587 700 892 or email info@bowen.healthcare

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Police Page

Distraction thefts have been known to occur in supermarket car parks where a victim is approached and distracted by an offender, which allows the offender's accomplice access to the car to steal property such as a handbag or purse or to pickpocket the victim.

Money may subsequently be withdrawn from the victims' bank accounts. There are a number of ways criminals will try to distract you in a car park in order to steal your bank cards or money:

Punctured tyre

When the shopper returns to the car park with their shopping, an offender distracts them, tells them one of their tyres has been punctured and shows them a nail sticking out of it.

Dropped money

An offender will distract the victim by informing them they have dropped some money.

Directions help

The offender, carrying a map, asks for directions. The map is opened right out, giving cover to an accomplice to approach the car unseen.

PIN theft

It is believed the offender or accomplice will have been standing close to the shopper as they pay for their goods in the store using their bank card, enabling them to see the PIN number for the card.

In order to reduce the chances of becoming a target for this scam:

- Always cover the number pad when entering your PIN when purchasing goods or when withdrawing money from a cash point.
- Be aware if there is someone standing close to you in the payment queue, or if there is someone at the other end of payment aisle who appears to be waiting for someone.
- If you place your handbag inside your car while you put your shopping in the boot make sure it is not easily reachable – for example place it on to the back seat with the doors locked.

You can call 101 to report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice or make us aware of any policing issues in your local area. You should always call 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger; if the crime is in progress or you need police help immediately.

Help us keep our communities safe by reporting any suspicious activity.

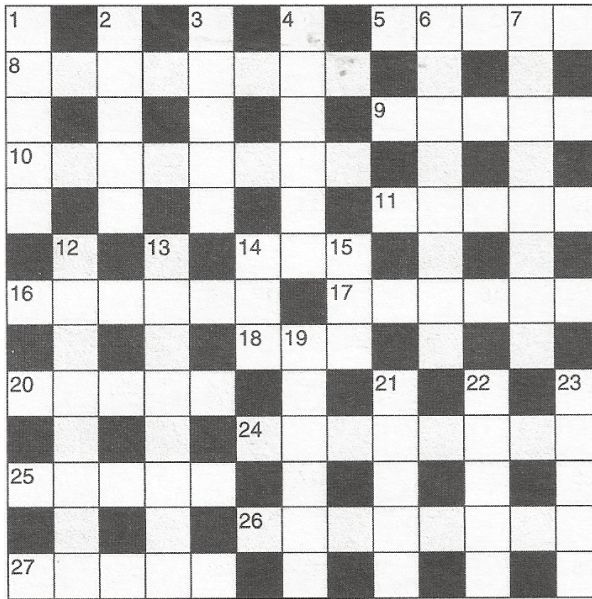
Please use the following link to pass useful information to Suffolk Police about any incident:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/report-crime>

To report information anonymously on any crime, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 116

The prize for last issue's puzzle was won by Mrs G Inglis, Brome. The solution appears below.



ACROSS

- 5 Crumble the cheese – sounds terrific (5)
- 8 The Great _____, a mucky crowd (8)
- 9 Savoury cake from disco nearby (5)
- 10 Rile able to make him trustworthy (8)
- 11 Delivered without cost (5)
- 14 Age to which we are returned (3)
- 16 Casual laming is evil (6)
- 17 Early copper useful in kitchen (6)
- 18 Female deer likes the sound of money (3)
- 20 Tasty fish for grumpy old women (5)
- 24 Fell upon by chance (8)
- 25 What Private Walker says he does (5)
- 26 A mean hat is detestable to me (8)
- 27 Audibly rasp in river inlet

DOWN

- 1 Horse Grooms hot dish (5)
- 2 Woven fabric favoured by cavalrymen (5)
- 3 Phonetic award (5)
- 4 Trader in charge of the pack (6)
- 6 Part-time judge's musical instrument (8)
- 7 Offered to deter end (8)
- 12 Dog at home in Canada (8)
- 13 Suit mail in pretend confusion (8)
- 14 Finish at the back (3)
- 15 Mimic the primate (3)
- 19 Excursion out in Greece (6)
- 21 Many a metal craftsman found in the UK (5)
- 22 Bells keeping you awake, just the reverse (5)
- 23 Put aside confused thoughts (5)

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO 114

Across 1) Opinion 5) Poles 8) Inert 9) Disdain
 10) Natural 11) Annul 12) Gladly 14) Feasts 17)
 Ivory 19) Lantern 22) Awfully 23) Chile 24)
 Early 25) Resolve
Down 1) Onion 2) Inertia 3) Inter 4) Noddle 5)
 Passage 6) Learn 7) Singles 12) Grimace 13) Loy-
 alty 15) Special 16) Player 18) Offer 20) Nicks
 21) Niece

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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