

Village Voice



DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM & WINGFIELD

APRIL - MAY 2018



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**The Revd. Michael Womack is chair
of each Parochial Church Council.**

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Picture This...

With the Winter Olympics now a fading memory and our own brief PyeongChang climate giving way to the inevitable pot-holes and floods, it's back to reality with a full diary of events. Thanks go to Barry Freeman once again for more excellent photographic tasters of local scenes and beyond. His exhibition is on this Easter week, so make sure you get along before it

ends, see page 10. Also making a welcome return with another top line-up, is the Hoxne Music Festival over the Spring bank holiday weekend. Hopefully by then, the weather will be well on its way to a decent Summer and thoughts of Australian flu or using Wittons Lane as a Luge track will be a distant past. Now, where's my tea tray? - if only for the Anzac biscuits on page 28!

Bones

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS 2018

Yes, it's that time of year again! An Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to hear from organisations in their Parish and to discuss matters relating to the village life. This is not a Parish Council meeting, but an assembly of the whole parish which happens once a year - come along and find out more about what is happening where you live. All are welcome to attend.

Denham - Wednesday 23rd May, 7.30pm at St John's Church (hopefully, see p37)

Hoxne - Friday 20th April, 7.30pm at St Edmund's Hall

Syleham - Wednesday 16th May, 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Wingfield - Friday 25th May, 7.30pm at Wingfield Barns

Front Cover: Pictures by Barry Freeman, see page 10
Clouds Over Heckfield Green; Evening light over Waveney; Eye Road Hoxne Oak Tree in Mist; Waveney Valley trees in mist.



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Letters to the Editor

DENHAM APPRECIATION

I am pleased to write on behalf of other residents, friends and neighbours of Denham to express our warmest thanks and recognition to Pam Davey, Barbara Iff, Rose Mc Mahon, Tina Chenery and Brian Davey for their hard work and dedication shown in the up keep and running of our “Guard Room” Village Hall over the past 35 years.

It is with regret that we hear the village hall committee’s recent wholesale resignation and we wish to take this opportunity to show our appreciation to Pam and the rest of the team for their untiring commitment to providing such a valuable service to our village for so many years.

30 plus years ago Pam took it upon herself to set up and run Denham toddler group for the then significant number of youngsters we had in the village. With help from committee members and contributions from some residents, she also organised fetes, dog shows, fancy dress parties for the children and dances for the adults. There were free firework parties and a free Christmas meal was provided for our over 60s residents!

The hall has also been hired out regularly for children’s birthday parties, Line Dance classes, Bat conservation courses, model railway club and many other activities.

Pam and the team put in a huge effort to ensure the Queen’s Jubilee was celebrated in style, and I’m sure the many residents young and old who attended, will remember the lovely buffet spread we had during the day, with games and prizes for the children and the super dance in the evening.

More recently the team have continued to provide regular jumble sales, live

music evenings such as the Harvest supper dances, with a fabulous three course meal, cooked and served by the Bunting family. As well as the very popular New Year dances, hugely enjoyed by residents and our neighbouring villagers.

The team also worked in conjunction with the Red Feather Club and Hospital site by making sure the hall was open and serving refreshments on open days. On this note, we very much hope that we are able to re-open our Guard Room Hall in time for the 75th anniversary celebrations on the 16th and 17th of June 2018 at the Red Feather Club.

It is our hope, that despite having lost the generous support of Pam and the rest of the Village Hall Committee, we can find a way to make sure that Denham’s part in the heritage of the area can continue to thrive, by re-opening our Guard Room Hall as soon as possible and by utilising local support in order to continue to offer the valuable service it has provided.

Karina Jane

SYLEHAM GRATITUDE

I would like to thank the farmers and other volunteers who cleared the snowdrifts from our roads during ‘that week’ in March. We would have been entirely cut off in Syleham otherwise - as illustrated by the attached photograph!

Mary Lewis



Diary Dates

Saturday 24th March to Monday 2nd April

Barry Freeman Exhibition WB p10

RPS's Creative Eye Group WB p15

Sunday 1st April

Sarah Probert, The Swan, Hoxne p6

Tuesday 3rd April

Hoxne Heritage Group, The Swan, Hoxne p24

Thursday 5th April

Hoxne PC Meeting HVH p38

Friday 6th April

Open Space Theatre Company WB p14

Tuesday 10th April

Hoxne Phoenix Group Talk HVH p24

Thursday 12th April

Friends of St Peter and St Paul, AGM HVH p25

Friday 13th April

Film, Murder on the Orient Express HVH p11

Saturday 14th April

Cabaret, Hoxne School Association HVH p6

Sunday 15th April

Denham Litter Pick DVH p37

Tuesday 17th April

Rural Coffee Caravan, Wingfield p35

Thursday 19th April

Eastern Angles Theatre Company SWH p13

Hoxne Garden & Social Club Talk HVH p31

Friday 20th April

Hoxne Annual Parish Meeting HVH p38

Saturday 21st April

Wingfield Poetry Evening, Wingfield Church p6

Disco, SWH p13

Saturday 21st April to Sunday 29th April

BIG Paintings and Mini Prints Exhibition WB P15

Sunday 22nd April

Hoxne Bowls Club Open Green Day HPP p35

Thursday 26th April

Wingfield & District Gardening Club BVH p31

Friday 27th April

Elvis, The Swan, Hoxne p6

Bingo SWH p13

Saturday 28th April

The Produce and Craft Market HVH p11

Sunday 29th April

Red Feather Club Open Day p37

Tuesday 1st May

Hoxne Heritage Group, The Swan, Hoxne p24

Thursday 3rd May

Cambridge Coach Trip P6

Hoxne PC AGM HPP p38

Saturday 5th May

Andy Irvine Concert HVH p6

Once Upon a Labrador (rescheduled) WB p14

Saturday 5th May to Sunday 20th May

EA Federation of Photographic Societies WB P15

Tuesday 8th May

Hoxne Phoenix Group Visit p24

Friday 11th May

Film Night HVH p11

Saturday 12th May

Richard Digance WB p14

Sunday 13th May

Syleham's Garden Lunch p22

Tuesday 15th May

Rural Coffee Caravan, Wingfield p35

Wednesday 16th May

Syleham APM and PC AGM SWH p38

Thursday 17th May

Hoxne Garden & Social Club Talk HVH p31

Sunday 20th May

Peter Knight's Gigsparner WB p14

Wednesday 23rd May

Denham APM and PC AGM, Denham Church p37

Friday 25th May

HMF Concert, Max Middleton & his Band HVH p8

Bingo SWH p13

Wingfield APM and PC AGM WB p39

Saturday 26th May

The Produce and Craft Market HVH p11

HMF Concert, Vagaband HVH p8

Sunday 27th May

HMF Halesworth Choir, Hoxne Church p9

Red Feather Club Open Day p37

Thursday 31st May

Wingfield & District Gardening Club, BVH p31

For AFC Hoxne & Veterans fixtures, see p43

For Church Services and events, see p20-22

For Mobile Library, see p26

BVH Brundish Village Hall

DVH Denham Village Hall

HVH St Edmunds Village Hall, Hoxne

HPP Playing Fields Pavilion, Hoxne

SWH Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall

WB Wingfield Barns

What's On Here

Swan Song

On Easter Sunday 1st April we have live music at 8.00pm from singer **Sarah Probert** with her diverse repertoire of old favourites to current chart hits. This is followed on **Friday 27th April** at 8.30pm when we have **Elvis** in the building singing live.

I am now staying on at the Swan until the 30th April. I would like to thank



everybody for their support since we opened on St Patrick's day two years ago - it seems a lot longer!

Kind Regards, Darren
The Swan Inn, 01379 668275
www.swaninnhoxne.co.uk

GBH Café Night

The Good, the Bad and the Hungry café at the GWC Centre in Wingfield will be holding another Pop-Up specials night in April. This time it will be on an Indian theme and follows on from the successful Mexican night in February. Keep an eye out in the café for the confirmed date or visit the GBH Facebook page for details.



www.facebook.com/GoodBHCafe
01379 388193

Wingfield Poetry Evening

The Wingfield Poetry Evening returns on **Saturday 21st April**, 7.30 pm at Wingfield Church. Read a favourite poem or piece of prose or just come along to listen and enjoy. Maybe even read something you have written yourself! The theme will be 'Darkness into Light', but this can be interpreted as

HOXNE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

will be holding an evening of

cabaret

On Saturday 14th April at
Hoxne Village Hall

This evening will include a three course meal, table magic by an award winning magician, a comedian and a six piece covers band called midlife crisis.

Tickets for this event will be £30.00 per person and tables or single tickets can be purchased.

For more information or to book you place please call Hannah Mayhew on
01379 668200 or 07774 327836

broadly as you like. Entry is free, but so a programme for the evening can be planned you should book your slot to read with Revd Eleanor Goodison, **07876 143579** or eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

There will be refreshments in the interval, with donations invited in aid of Wingfield Church.

Cambridge Coach Trip

On Thursday 3rd May there will be a coach trip from Hoxne & Eye to Cambridge. The coach will pick up from Hoxne Post Office Stores at 9.15am, then Eye Town Hall at 9.30am and return about 5.45-6pm. Cost per person is £12.

For further information and to book, please telephone Sally Procter **01379 669073**. Organised by the Eye Arts Guild.

Andy Irvine in Concert

The Waveney Valley Folk Collective are delighted to announce that Andy Irvine will be performing at St Edmunds Hall, Hoxne on **Saturday 5th May**. Andy is one of the great Irish folk singers, his voice one of a handful of

truly great ones that gets to the very soul of Ireland. He has been hailed as "a tradition in himself". Musician, singer, songwriter, Andy has maintained his highly individual performing skills throughout his 45 year career.

From Sweeney's Men in the mid 60s, to the enormous success of Planxty in the 70s and then from Patrick Street to Andy Irvine & Dónal Lunny's Mozaik, Andy has been a world music pioneer and an icon for traditional music and musicians.



As a soloist, Andy fills the role of the archetypal troubadour with a show and a travelling lifestyle that reflect his lifelong influence, Woody Guthrie.

To quote the Irish Times, "Often copied, never equalled", his repertoire consists of Irish traditional songs, dexterous Balkan dances and a compelling canon of his own self-penned songs.

This is going to be an exceptional evening which you simply can't afford to miss.

Special guest is Bernard Hoskin.

Tickets £12 in advance from

www.waveneyvalleyfolkcollective.co.uk or £15 on the night.

River Yoga

A new yoga class is starting at the beautiful **Wingfield Barns**. The classes will be held in the exhibition space with vaulted ceilings and heated wooden floors.

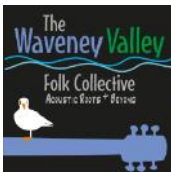
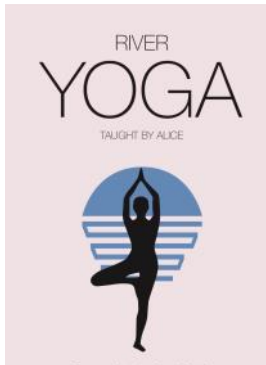
Alice of River Yoga will be running the classes. Having trained at Yogaworks in Los Angeles she has studied with some of the best teachers in the world including Lisa Wolford, Jeanne Heinemann, Vinnie Marino and Jenny Aurthur.

She has been teaching in LA and London since 2013 and recently moved her classes to the Waveney Valley. Whilst running group classes she has also trained in private teaching, tailoring classes to fit specific physical and emotional needs of clients. The classes are for all levels, including those who have never tried yoga before!

Alice describes her style of teaching Hatha Yoga as, 'Aligning breath with fluid movement, to build strength and flexibility in our bodies, calm our minds, and improve health and wellbeing in our daily lives.'

The classes are on **Friday mornings** 9:30-10:45, £8 drop in and £6 for a block booking of 5. Mats, and all equipment are provided.

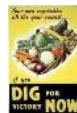
For further information phone **07400 333492** or alicecoulthard@icloud.com



Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotments

Why not have an allotment? There are full and half plots

available now at Church Road, Brockdish. If you're interested contact David on **01379 668556** or Rebecca by email: bataaa@hotmail.co.uk



Spotted in Wingfield Churchyard!

Hoxne Music Festival

The festival line-up is now in place and we are bringing you a mix of styles of event and styles of music across the Spring bank holiday weekend.

Evening, Friday 25th May at Hoxne Village Hall. "A night in Rick's Bar, Casablanca" with music by jazz pianist, Max Middleton and his band, with singer Jan Jinkerson. Max has played with a whole line of star artists; Jeff Beck, The Bee Gees, Kate Bush, Chris Rea, Peter Frampton. This



Jan Jinkerson

will be a limited ticket period costume affair (e.g. DJs & Cocktail dresses) with a light meal and dancing - we want to transport you to a different time.

Evening, Saturday 26th May at Hoxne Village Hall. A standing only, foot tapping/body swaying/dancing concert, starring exciting East Anglian band **Vagaband**. Catch their soon to be released new album "Something Wicked This Way Comes": www.vagaband.co.uk

Picture: Jerry Tye



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Afternoon, **Sunday 27th May**, 4pm at Hoxne Church. The **Halesworth Community Choir**. We invite you to come and listen as the choir takes you on a musical journey through songs from near and far, helped along with a glass of wine and strawberry tarts.

When tickets go on sale they will be available from the website www.hoxnemusicfestival.com and from committee members and the village shop. In the past, events have typically been sold out so keep a look out and buy early to avoid disappointment.

We are keen to find further people keen to help organise and run the festival. If you are interested, then please get in touch via the website or with Anthony Benton on **01379 668319**, or anthony.benton1@googlemail.com



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Dates for your Diary

NEXT STOP SYMI

Next Stop Symi will be repeating their successful Greek Night on **Saturday 30th June** at the Village Hall in Hoxne. The charity is also planning a further run of Aid to the refugee camp on the Greek Island of Samos, leaving Suffolk in May. Please see our website of Facebook page for information on how to support us. If you would like a copy of our regular newsletter email us.



Phil and Sue Flagg
nextstopsymi@gmail.com
www.nextstopsymi.org
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SUFFOLK OPEN STUDIOS

Every **Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday** throughout **June**, up to and including **Sunday 1st July**, seven Suffolk artists, all members of Suffolk Open Studios will be displaying their work at Wingfield Barns. The Inspired Art Exhibition will be open from 11 am until 5 pm on these days and there will be at least one artist in attendance at all times.

This exhibition is free to attend. Most of the work on view will be for sale. We would love you to come and support us and see our very varied styles and subjects, from abstracts to still life to landscapes etc. Discuss with us what you think and maybe even consider joining our art class! John Parker, who is one of the artists exhibiting, is also the resident tutor at the Barns art class which takes place **every Tuesday**. More information is available at the exhibition. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Clarke

An Exhibition of Photographs at Wingfield Barns

BY BARRY FREEMAN ARPS DPAGB APAGB

Barry has lived in Hoxne for 20 years and held a retrospective exhibition at Wingfield Barns in 2017. He is holding another exhibition of his photography at the same venue this year.



He has been involved in photography since the 1950s and is an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and a Past President of the Ipswich and District Photographic Society. He edits many photographic journals. Barry is a life member of the Ipswich and District PS, which he has been a member of since 1992.

His main interest is landscape photography, especially monochrome images and leads the Suffolk Monochrome Group. Barry's photographic prints are now digitally printed, but in the past all monochrome and colour work were processed



Sunset at Southwold

and printed in his darkroom at home. He has a passion in the earth and skies of East Anglia, but mainly the skies.

Barry is well known throughout East Anglia as a landscape photographer and particularly well known for championing monochrome photography, excellence in photographic printing and photographic art.



Early Light - Inch Strand - Ireland

Virtually every day, regardless of weather conditions, Barry will be taking photographs of the landscapes in the Hoxne area. Even though he does travel further afield when he can, he enjoys photographing the beautiful local environment and the fantastic Anglian skies.

This exhibition will feature photographs Barry took at last year's Thrashing Day at Hoxne and examples of his recent landscape photographs.

The exhibition is being held at Studio Four at the Wingfield Barns from **Saturday 24th March to Monday 2nd April**. Closed Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th. Open 11.00am to 4.00pm. Entrance is Free.

Front cover: local monochromes, see page 3 for details

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Hoxne Village Hall

The Hall continues to offer a variety of one-off events for the coming months as well as being used regularly for ballroom dancing, Village Voices Choir practice, yoga, Tai Chi, Morris dancing, stained glass workshops, Parish Council, Phoenix and Garden Club meetings.

We have also had bookings for birthday parties for various ages from 4 to well over 21! Additionally, the Hall is well used as a quiz venue, for theatre rehearsals and productions.

We are pleased to welcome back the Hoxne Village Café every Friday morning 9am-11.30am. A community café serving home-made sausage rolls, cakes, pastries as well as teas and coffees.

Saturday 31st March, 9.30am-12.30pm, Hoxne Produce & Craft Market. Last Saturday of each month throughout the year.

Thursday 12th April, 7pm, Friends of the Church and Hoxne PCC AGM's.

Friday 13th April, 7.30pm, Film night - *Murder on the Orient Express*. Kenneth Branagh directs and stars in this new version of Agatha Christie's novel, in which the Belgium sleuth Hercule Poirot

finds himself stranded on a snowbound train in company with thirteen strangers and a corpse, a classic murder mystery!

Voting will take place

as well for next films to be shown so come along and have your say. Voting slips also available at the Village Café.

Saturday 14th April, Hoxne School Association Cabaret evening, see page 6.

Friday 20th April, 7.30pm, Annual Parish Meeting. Hear what has been happening in the Village and what various organisations have been up to for the last 12 months.

Saturday 28th April, 9.30am-12.30pm, Hoxne Produce & Craft Market.

Saturday 5th May, Waveney Valley Folk Collective return with Irish Folk singer Andy Irvine. Bar open 7.30pm for 8pm concert. See page 6.

Friday 11th May, 7.30pm, Film night - details on Hoxne Village Hall website, and look out for posters and flyers.

Friday 25th & Saturday 26th May, we are pleased to welcome back Hoxne Music Festival, see pages 8 & 9.

Saturday 26th May, 9.30am-12.30pm, Hoxne Produce & Craft Market.

A date yet to be confirmed is Hoxne Village Hall AGM which will be followed by our Bar AGM - please keep a look out on the Hall notice board or website:

www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

For bookings, email Sharon and Sally on hoxnevhbookings@outlook.com or call 07876 215269.

Sharon Knights

Shiver My Timbers

Once upon a time there was a neat little gate in Hoxne's Wittons Lane, leading to a small patch of land next to Tudor Close. Then came the snow - and as it melted away it emerged that the gate had suffered the indignity, not to say the discomfort, of being stripped of its protection! First thought was a desperate need for firewood; then reports emerged

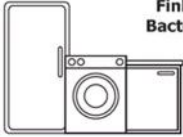
that a snow-bound motorist required extra grip! Meanwhile the gate stands with its bare essentials exposed to the weather's worst...



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Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

The Eastern Angles touring theatre group will visit Syleham and Wingfield village hall on **Thursday 19th April**, 7.30pm with their latest production *Guesthouse*. Tickets from Julie **07929 794636** are £10, concs £9. Bar open. Refreshments available.

Tensions are high in Clacton-on-Sea. Guesthouse owner Val has been taken ill and both her estranged daughter Lisa and ambitious grand-daughter Chloe have arrived to lend a hand. Chloe is close to

Val, having spent most of her childhood raised by her grandmother. But Lisa and her mother are not on best terms. In this poignant and beautifully observed drama, three generations of women have to set aside differences as they decide the fate of their family-run B & B. Guesthouse asks what's it like when the town you were proud to grow up in becomes impoverished? What does it take to keep going? And what does it take to face the truth? Written by Essex playwright Nicola Werenowska and directed by Tony Casement.

Our next event on **Saturday 21st April** is Wally's disco from 8pm. Entry is FREE for Sports and Social club members.

Bingo continues on the **last Friday** of each month. We are pleased to have raised over £250 for *Meningitis Now* in the last couple of months. Thanks to all who supported these bingo evenings. Next sessions **Friday 30th March**, **Friday 27th April** and **Friday 25th May**.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 9th June, 10.30am-12.30pm, "Come for Coffee". Tea, coffee, cakes stall, raffle, a few games, Usborne books,

jewellery, come for a natter. Free entry. In aid of annual Senior Citizen meal.

Saturday 9th June, 8pm - Red Glass, local band of lads, fiver on the door. In aid of *Meningitis Now*.

Saturday 7th July, 5pm - annual family barbecue. Food from 5pm.

Sports and Social club

Membership of the Sports and Social club costs just £3.50 per year with £3 for concessions. Social club open Tuesday and Friday from 8pm when the bar is open. The first Friday of the month sees Open Mic, second Friday is Karaoke, last Friday there's the Bingo session.

Julie Thompson, 07929 794636
k.thompson156@btinternet.com

How to book the hall

Bookings for Syleham and Wingfield village hall can be made with:

Donna Baker, 01379 668361
donnamariegoose@hotmail.co.uk

Borderhoppa Group Hire

Did you know that, along with our door-to-door dial a ride and outings service for members, not for profit community groups can hire our minibuses for their own outings.

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Our requirements are very simple. Your group must register with us as a not for profit organisation, cost of our annual group membership is £15, and tell us what your group does and when and where you would like use of a minibus.

If you would like to make a booking or would like more information, then please call **01379 854800** or visit:

www.borderhoppa.org



Wingfield Barns

We've a busy few months ahead of us at the Barns... here's a taste of what's to come.

Music and Theatre

Dancing at Lughnasa -

Open Space Theatre Company

Friday 6th April, 7.30pm

Five sisters live out their lives in rural Ireland in the 1930s, hoping beyond hope for events which will free them from their domestic isolation. Brian Friel's play, which was a resounding success at the National Theatre, in London's West End and on Broadway, New York in the 1990s, is both magical and tragic as the sisters aspire gamely to a happiness they will never achieve.

Music and songs from the period adorn this drama which is set around the Celtic festival of Lughnasa, bringing a bitter harvest for the sisters and their frail elder brother who has returned from life as a missionary in Africa. A theatrical gem. Tickets £11/£9.

Once Upon A Labrador -

Charles Garland and Alfie

Saturday 5th May, 7.30pm

We are really pleased to be able to reschedule this performance after having to postpone it due to the bad weather in early March. Tickets £10.



Richard Digance

Saturday 12th May, 7.30pm

Following his Golden Anniversary Tour of 2017, Richard is back on the road in 2018, with a brand new show, the Not Bad For His Age Tour, singing songs and telling

stories from his new album Once Upon A Time.

His special guest will be Eric Sedge, back by popular demand after great performances on the 2017 tour. New songs, new choruses to sing along with along with Richard's most popular golden oldies. Tickets £18.



Peter Knight's Gigspanner

Sunday 20th May, 7.30pm

In the wake of his departure from Steeleye Span, multi award winning fiddle player Peter Knight has turned his full attention to his trio Gigspanner, and in the process established their reputation as one of the most genuinely ground-breaking forces on the British folk scene, inspiring Maverick magazine to write "Gigspanner are pushing at the boundaries, expanding the possibilities and in the process making some of the most beautiful music the genre has to offer".

The captivating nature of their set stems not only from their creative ability and vision, but the eclectic nature of the material chosen. There are eddies and undercurrents drawn from a whole palette of influences which engage and enthrall audiences to the closing notes. Tickets £16.



Exhibitions

Royal Photographic Society's Creative Eye Group, Gallery 1 and 2

The Exhibition presents an opportunity to view a display of striking images from a wide genre of photography.

Barry Freeman, Studio 4

Barry is well known throughout East Anglia as a landscape photographer, lecturer and judge and particularly well known for championing monochrome photography. See page 10.

Both of the above exhibitions are open **Saturday 24th March to Monday 2nd April**, 11.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesday to Sunday and also Easter Monday.

BIG Paintings and Mini Prints Saturday 21st April to Sunday 29th April 11am - 4pm, closed Mon 23rd & Tue 24th

Red Dot Art Consultancy is based in the neighbouring village of Syleham, but operates on a UK wide basis. Its owner Lesley Jackson organises 2D and 3D art exhibitions, represents artists and, also an art finder, will always find an original work of art for clients' homes or offices when they have neither the time nor the art contacts to know where to look.

The **BIG Paintings** exhibition in Gallery 2 is a selection of work from some of the artists represented by Red Dot Art and the

Mini Print exhibition in Gallery 1, which has been on a UK tour since September last year, is an open exhibition that includes over 400 mini works of art, all measuring just 10cm x 10cm. It's quite amazing! See advertisement on page 3.

East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies Saturday 5th May to Sunday 20th May

The Annual Exhibition of Monochrome Prints, Colour Prints and Projected Digital Images returns for 2018. Open Wednesday to Sunday and also Bank Holiday Monday.

Regular Events

In addition to our **Thursday Keep Fit** classes which have been a regular fixture at the Barns for many years, we now also offer yoga and Pilates classes. **Pilates - All Abilities**, followed by Bring the Baby Pilates, **Tuesdays** 9.45 and 11.00 with Emma from Pilates Body Harmony. **Yoga** with Alice from River Yoga on **Fridays** at 9.30am, see page 7.

Tickets for all events are available via the box office on **01379 384505** or online. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for more events being added, and for those already planned for later in the year.

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Harleston Players

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS

BY IAN HISLOP AND NICK NEWMAN

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steel arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford - only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village.

And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson's career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself - along with his inner Lear! Contains strong language.

Performances at Archbishop Sancroft High School in April: **Friday 20th, Saturday 21st, Thursday 26th, Friday 27th & Saturday 28th**, 7.30pm. Licensed Bar. Tickets £9.00 (concs. £7.00) from the box office at Robinsons Traditional Stationers, 5 The Thoroughfare, Harleston IP20 9JG or **01379 855027**.

www.harlestonplayers.co.uk

Harleston's Future

The next HF event will be a Spring Fair on **Saturday 5th May** (9.30am - 3.30pm). In addition to the stalls selling crafts, plants, produce and street food there will be a treasure hunt around town, face painting, Morris Dancers and Too Many Cooks singing group. Other delights will be a raffle with amazing

prizes, home-made toffee apples and Harleston's very own upcycled flag bags. To book a stall call Marilyn on **07896 649002** or eventscharleston@gmail.com

Burgate Singers

The Burgate Singers 40th Anniversary Summer Concert is on **Saturday 12th May**, at Burgate Parish Church at 7.30 pm. The programme is 'Four Sacred Pieces' by Verdi, and Handel's 'Dixit Dominus', with professional soloists and orchestra. The tickets are £18 (and £16 for those under 18) and are available from **01379 677333**. All are welcome to a BBQ supper after the concert at £5 a head and there will also be a bar.

www.burgatesingers.org.uk

Diss Organ Festival

Last years festival was a great success with over 6000 people attending during the day. By popular demand, it will return this year on **Sunday 20th May**, 10.00 til 5.00.

The streets and Park will be alive with the joyful sound of over 40 mechanical organs. This free event is being organised by Alan Smith of Hoxne and Jonny Ling of Palgrave on behalf of the Mechanical Organ Owners Society whose members are bringing these amazing instruments from across the U.K. and Holland for your enjoyment.

A display of vintage vehicles on the Park, together with the Austin 7 Club, will be accompanied by the Diss Rotary Barbecue, stalls and refreshments throughout the town. "Diss at its Best". Charity Collection for Marie Curie.

www.dissorganfestival.co.uk
youtu.be/FvhRpn94PBI



Hoxne Footpaths 7 and 8

DOWNBRIDGE FARM BARN

We are pleased to say that footpath numbers 7 and 8 around Downbridge Farm Barn, Hoxne, are now fully open again, having been closed for six months. These are important paths that allow a safe and direct route, away from traffic, down to the village centre.

The official signposts have been reinstated, making it clear which are the official Public Rights of Way. There is also an additional disc stating that there is a permissive path. Permissive paths are opened by the landowner for you to walk on for as long as they wish for the public to do so - they can be withdrawn at any time!

The public footpaths are PERMANENTLY OPEN unless the footpaths officer feels that they need to close them for safety reasons.



It is important to keep using the older established routes. Thus keeping the pathways clear and open. They have been there for many years and are a part of village history.

If you're walking on any pathway and



find it blocked or difficult to pass or you're not certain whether it is open or not, you may contact **Charlotte Ditchburn** who is the new Area Rights of Way officer, tel: **01284 741352** or email: **pro.west@suffolk.gov.uk**

**Mick Procner, Footpaths Officer
Hoxne Parish Council**

Pictures: annotations show Public Right of Way



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Reflections

Happy Easter!

And if you are reading this only after Easter Day, I still say Happy Easter! because the Easter season continues all through April and into May. Some have commented wryly on Easter falling on 1st April - All Fools' Day - this year. But it is absolutely appropriate for "the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God". So let's embrace the chance to be Holy Fools this Easter! We will be following in the footsteps of Old Testament prophets like Hosea, as well as St Simeon Salus, who was known for throwing nuts around in church, and St Juniper, the over-enthusiastic follower of St Francis, who had to be restrained from constantly giving away all his clothes.

The 40 days of Easter culminate in Ascension Day on 10th May, when Jesus returned to heaven to sit in glory at the right hand of God. Then comes

Pentecost (also known as Whitsunday) on 20th May, when the Holy Spirit was sent to the disciples in a rushing wind and tongues of flame. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have once again invited people to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' during these 10 days. 'Thy Kingdom Come' was launched in 2016, when 100,000 people pledged to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom of justice, peace and joy. In 2017 more than half a million people from 85 countries and more than 50 denominations pledged to pray. How many will it be this year, I wonder? Whether or not you engage in some holy foolery or take part in 'Thy Kingdom Come', I pray that April and May will be a time of peace and joy for you, dear reader.

*Revd Eleanor Goodison
Associate Priest*

PS: For more information about 'Thy Kingdom Come', visit: www.thykingdomcome.global

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Membership is required at £6 for 6 months or £10 for 12 months. If you or someone you know would like to join us, please call **01379 854800**, 8.30am to 5pm, Mon–Fri.

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Covering 61 parishes in south Norfolk and north Suffolk. The fares to use the Borderhoppa bus service are: 0-5 miles £2 (£3.50 return); 5-10 miles £2.50 (£4.50 return); 10-15 miles+ £3 (£5.50 return).

Members Outings

Borderhoppa has lots going on for our members. The outings are very popular, so early booking is advised. Call or email adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com to confirm space availability. Outings are individually priced as follows:

April 2018

Thu 5th - Waveney Stardust Boat Trip £20 including cruiser; Mon 9th - Lunch at The Jolly Farmers, Forncett St Peter £7; Thu 12th - Great Yarmouth £16; Thu 19th - Bressingham Garden Centre £7; Thu 26th - Cherry Lane & Goodies Farm Shop £7;

May 2018

Thu 3rd - Lunch at The Kings Head, North Lopham £7; Thu 10th - Sheringham £20; Thu 17th - Lunch at The Chip Inn, Long Stratton £6; Thu 24th - Somerleyton Hall £15; Thu 31st - Southwold £15;

Church services

Hoxne, Denham, Syleham and Wingfield

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

Village contacts

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**

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

Maundy Thursday - 29th March

7.30pm Wingfield Stripping the Altar / Foot Washing

Good Friday - 30th March

9.30am Hoxne Putting out the Light
12 noon Wingfield Hymns and Meditation

Easter Eve - 31st March

7.30pm Denham Service of Light

Easter Sunday - 1st April

9.30am Syleham Holy Communion
11.15am Hoxne Holy Communion
11.15am Wingfield Holy Communion

4pm Syleham Messy Church

Sunday 8th April

11.15am Hoxne BCP Morning Prayer
11.15am Wingfield Holy Communion

Sunday 15th April

8.30am Hoxne BCP Holy Communion
10am Syleham Village Praise with Wingfield

Sunday 22nd April

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

Sunday 29th April

11.15am Athelington Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 6th May - Rogation Sunday

10am Wingfield Morning Prayer
11.15am Hoxne Holy Communion
4pm Syleham Messy Church

Sunday 13th May

11.15am Hoxne BCP Morning Prayer
11.15am Wingfield Holy Communion

Sunday 20th May - Pentecost

8.30am Hoxne BCP Holy Communion
10am Syleham Village Praise with Wingfield

Sunday 27th May - Trinity

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

Church News

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

The days of the plastic washing up bowl hidden away behind a weary looking screen may soon be drawing to a close as the PCC has given the go-ahead to Wardrop Joinery of Yarmouth to construct the kitchen cabinet for the North Aisle. The company plans to start work in April during which time we will need to prepare the way with a drainage system to the main drains.

Following planning approval for the construction of a toilet on the north side of the church, an application is now in

hand with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for their agreement (a faculty) to the proposal. A faculty application is also being prepared for the re-erection, in the north aisle, of the Victorian carved oak screen depicting the martyrdom of St Edmund. Once in place, the screen will make a magnificent new feature for the church, provide space for an area dedicated to St Edmund and strengthen the village's long links with the saint. So progress all round. Preparation work for re-erecting the screen has only been made possible by a very generous local donation for which the PCC is most grateful.

The kitchen unit will be funded by a contribution by the diocese from the sale of the vicarage and by the Friends of the Church; the PCC, the Friends and the diocese will all contribute to the cost of the toilet, but external funding from specific charities will be needed to allow the project to proceed.

During the summer, new thinking will be given to the format of the Family Service previously held on the fourth Sunday of the month. Our regular organist for the service, Tessa Bevan, can no longer visit Hoxne on that Sunday. Tessa and her family have joined in this worship for many years and will be much missed, but we are very grateful for the contribution they have made. The change has presented the opportunity for a new approach with the service moving to the third Sunday and the Revd Michael will be leading thoughts on the way forward over the next few months. To allow space for this to happen, family worship will be suspended until September which means no service at Hoxne on the fourth Sunday. However, our neighbouring parish Denham holds its Family Service on that day and always welcomes additions to the congregation.

Don't forget the annual vestry meeting (election of churchwardens) and annual

parochial church meeting on **Thursday 12th April** at 7pm in the Village Hall. The annual meeting of the Friends of the Church also takes place on the same evening at the same venue.

Rogation Sunday, the day we remember farmers and their crops - and parish boundaries - is on **6th May**.

Demand for the Waveney Foodbank continues unabated. St Peter and St Paul has received several certificates of appreciation for the items collected so please help to keep the supplies going. The box for donations is easy to spot by the font.

Mothers' Union

The Hoxne branch of the Mothers' Union meets on the **third Monday** of the month at 2.15pm at Time House, Low Street, Hoxne. New members are always welcome. Next meetings:

Monday 16th April

Monday 21st May

Contact Branch Leader Cathie McGregor
01379 668434.

Flower rota

1st and 8th April: Easter flowers.

15th until 22nd April: Altar - Cathie McGregor.

6th and 13th May: Altar - Pru Day

20th and 27th May: Altar - Jenny Loomes

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 Cathie McGregor, flower rota organiser **01379 668434**.

St John, Denham

Services at St John's will continue in their regular pattern during the spring with the monthly family services on the **Sunday 22nd April and 27th May**. These services will, as usual, begin at 11.15am with fellowship and

refreshments from 10.45am. Spring marks the return to the church of the Benefice weekday Communion and the evening services are on **Tuesday 10th April and 8th May** at 7.30pm.

On **Easter Eve the 31st March** a Service of Light will be held at 7.30pm, with the congregation carrying lighted candles into the church in anticipation of Easter Day.


The Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held in church after the service on the **Sunday 22nd April**.

St Margaret, Syleham

Church Re-decoration: It is important to the Parochial Church Council to maintain St Margaret's as a clean and welcoming church for our local congregation and for our numerous visitors and, to that end, we are hoping to have the porch and interior of the church re-decorated - this year, if we can raise the necessary contribution towards the cost.

We shall be writing to residents to further explain how the work is being funded, starting with the *Call My Bluff* event in March enthusiastically organised by Colin Campbell.

Later in the year we plan a sponsored swim for all ages, but now we invite you to join us for lunch. **SUMMER WILL COME!**

 and with it **Syleham's Garden Lunch**, will be ushering the season in on **Sunday 13th May**. This year, our generous hosts are Jim and Liz Woodger at Kindling, The Cross, Syleham IP21 4LN and we hope that parking will be available in the field opposite. Lunch served 12.30 - 2pm, £12.50 per person (children under 5 free, older children £5). There will be a select raffle and one or two stalls. All proceeds to Syleham Church Fabric Fund for the re-decoration project.

Contact for the above: Churchwarden, Mary Lewis on **01379 669258**, or email mary.lewis43@icloud.com

St Andrew, Wingfield

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for St Andrew's, Wingfield will take place after our worship on **Sunday 8th April**. As in previous years we will be aiming for a brisk meeting so that people are not too long delayed from lunch. To help achieve this we will, as usual, make the Churchwarden's and Treasurer's Reports available in advance, so that anyone who wants to discuss something in detail can raise the issue in advance with John McCracken. We would like to welcome additional members onto the Parochial Church Council. If you would be interested in joining the PCC, please have a word with Revd Michael Womack.

Rogation Sunday is on **6th May**. This is the Sunday when we pray for God's blessing on the crops in the fields and on our other activities. We like to conduct the Rogation service outdoors, though this is very much weather-dependent. Please keep an eye out for further details closer to the date when we hope to have a clearer idea of what weather to expect on the day.

Each May churchwardens are sworn in for their new term of office by the Archdeacon. This year, the service at which this will happen for the Hoxne and Hartismere Deaneries will be at Wingfield on **Monday 21st May** at 7.30pm. The service is open to everyone: the Archdeacon gives a very lively and informative talk about recent and forthcoming developments and how the diocese can support the work of the parishes. We will need assistance on the night with stewarding the car-parking and serving refreshments - all offers of help will be gratefully received!

The Wingfield Poetry Evening is back on **Saturday 21st April**, 7.30 pm at Wingfield Church. See page 6 for more details or contact the Revd Eleanor on **07876 143579**, eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

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Hoxne Heritage Group

Wallpaper! Not exactly a subject to fire the imagination, or so you would have thought.

However, the talk we were presented with in January by Philip Aitkins did indeed fire the imagination. We were not talking about any old wallpaper here either, but rather historical wallpaper up to about 1850 when it was largely handmade, and certainly not massed produced.

Evidently before the onset of massed produced wallpaper this type of interior decoration was not cheap. To illustrate his talk Philip brought a large portfolio of historical wallpaper remnants many over two hundred and fifty years old. Some had been removed from old buildings now no longer here. Not surprisingly each of these remnants had a story to tell, either the social standing of the owner who commissioned the wallpaper to be made or indeed the history of the house that the wallpaper was removed from.

Using a selection of slides Philip also plotted the stylistic development of wallpaper taking into account many of the influences prevalent, notably the Chinese, and the blue and white style reminiscent of Delft pottery, popular throughout the late 17th century and 18th century. Using the patterns derived from these styles Philip assured us that wallpaper could be dated quite accurately.

Some of us went to this talk clutching remnants of our own wallpaper scraps hoping they would be dated. Unfortunately most of us were disappointed when told that our wallpapers were cheap massed produced examples dating from the end of the 19th century. However, Philip was quite excited by a 'wallpaper' presented at the talk for investigation - he dated this as between late 17th century and early 18th

century. He also said it was not wallpaper, having not been made from paper. Instead it was thought to have been possibly made of linen, once the product of a local manufacturing industry in the Waveney Valley. This wall hanging came from a house still standing in Hoxne so there is a local connection. So much interest was raised by this wall hanging that, with the permission of its owner, Hoxne Heritage Group is to seek further expert advice. Interestingly, the owner of the wall hanging was told many years ago that it originated from Java and is made from crushed wood bark and that it was stuck on the ceiling between the joists. So, watch this space as we try to discover its origins.

If you are interested in local history and enjoy a social get-together, then why not join the group. See the contact page on our website. Finally, a reminder that our regular meetings are held on the **first Tuesday** of each month at The Swan Inn.

Margaret Sillis
www.hoxnehistory.org.uk

Hoxne Phoenix Group

Hats - Anyone suddenly coming into the Village Hall during our February meeting might have wondered why there were so many hats around! We were having a demonstration of hats (both old and modern styles) by our Speaker who bought with her over 100 hats of every style and colour from her shop in Norwich. Having looked around at each one of us she then found a hat for us all to wear that matched the outfit we had come to the meeting in and we then individually paraded in front of the group. How she summed us all up in such a short time was amazing.

We followed this talk with our brief A.G.M. where we had a reports on the past year and our Treasurer, Noreen Couch, presented the Accounts for 2017.

We have a healthy balance, but with speakers' expenses increasing, we still must be prudent. Our Fund-raising event in aid of SERV (Suffolk Bloodrunners) realised a total of £400 which was an extremely good effort.

Our talk on **Tuesday 10th April** will be by Dr Ian Bedford from the John Innes Centre and he will be giving an illustrated talk on "Butterflies".

Our outing this year on **Tuesday 8th May** is a trip to Fairhaven Gardens, South Walsham. The cost will be £21 return for the coach from Hoxne and boat trips will be available (weather permitting) on the Broad for an extra cost of £3.50 per person (this has to be booked and paid for at the same time). We will leave Hoxne Post Office at 9.30 am. and should be back between 5.30-6.00 pm (earlier if the weather is against us). The gardens cover an area of about 4 acres with woodland walks (but plenty of seats en route to rest and take in the scenery) and there is also a café and gift shop. Lunches are available or people can bring packed lunches if they so wish. A few mobility scooters are available for hire, but obviously we would need to book these in advance. If you would like to come on this trip or for further information, please contact Viv Bradford **01379 668551** or Pat Green **01379 668379**. This is open to anyone in the villages around Hoxne (husbands/partners included).

We are in the process of arranging an outing (or two) in the Autumn in addition to our regular **second Tuesday** meetings at 7.30 pm in Hoxne Village Hall and Fund-Raising evening.

Anyone interested in any of our meetings is welcome to come along and join us for that evening. All we ask is for a Visitors Fee of £2 for the evening.

Pat Green, Secretary, 01379 668379
patandbryan1@gmail.com

Friends of St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

In February we held our quiz in the village hall which raised just over £300 for our funds. Our sincere thanks go to Chris and Jackie Johnson for organising such an interesting and entertaining quiz.

With regards to the planed tea-point in the church, the contract for the cabinets has now been placed, we hope that delivery will be within the next 3 months. Plans for the toilet are being prepared, we hope to have more to report in the next issue.

Thursday 12th April is the date for our AGM in St Edmunds Hall at 7.00pm. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance to discuss the future plans for the Friends. Your input is really required and by the way, we need a Secretary, as Margaret is stepping down after eight years in post. Any offers?

We are visiting Lichfield, Coventry and the National Memorial at Alrewas on **Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th May**. There are still some places available, so for more details please contact me on **01379 668352**.

Future events: Our summer event is still to be finalised, so more details later. Our annual Harvest Lunch will be on **Sunday 21st October**. On **Saturday 27th October** the award-winning Castleton Band will be performing in the church followed by a Cheese & Wine supper.

Just a reminder, book sale and coffee morning, every **third Saturday** in the church from 9:45 till 11:15.

If you would like to join the Friends and help us to maintain the fabric of the church, then contact Maureen Johnson **01379 668478**. Annual membership is only £12.50.

John Brawn, Chairman
01379 668352

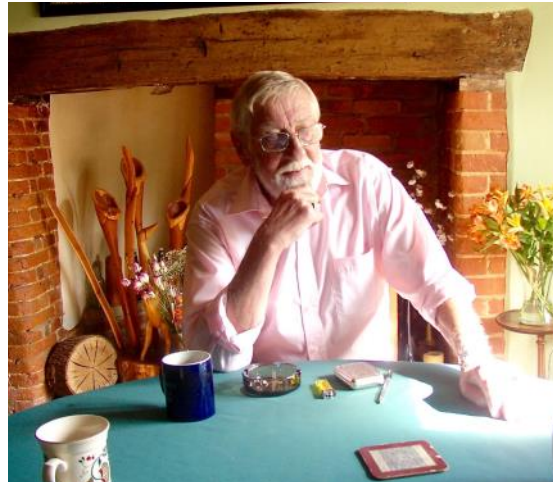
Obituary

Jack Williams 1938 - 2017

Jack Williams moved to Hoxne with his family nearly 40 years ago, and over the intervening years, he became almost as much a part of the village scene as the Swan or St Edmund's Hall. Although born in Southend, most of Jack's adult life was spent in Suffolk, where he was a popular teacher in Eye and then Halesworth. Having started his family in a tiny two-up, two-down cottage (with outside toilet) in Syleham, he lived in Eye with his first wife Joan and their three daughters, Judy, Jill and Nick for 10 years before making the move to 54 Low Street (with two outside toilets, only one of which flushed...). Here he set to work with characteristic energy, removing the outside plumbing, relocating the inside facilities, and spending a couple of days with a scarf wrapped round his mouth to keep out the dust while demolishing masonry to reveal a handsome inglenook fireplace.

Jack was always busy. As a boy, he had taken on the role of father figure to his two sisters when their own father died, as well as having a variety of part-time jobs - including as a market gardener and

a deckchair attendant on Southend seafront. After school, he excelled in his training as a navigating officer, and then sailed the world with Portline, before contracting TB. This meant extensive treatment and a long recuperation in Australia, where he remembered being able to reach out of his hospital window to pick fresh oranges! But a change of career was needed, and so he trained as a Maths teacher, and began his second career in Suffolk. Here he put down deep roots and made many lasting friendships.



As a boy, he had sung in school and church choirs, and choral music was a life-long love for Jack. He was a founder

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Hoxne and Denham

Next stops: **12th April and 10th May**

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

Next stops: **20th April and 18th May**

Syleham, Wingfield Road (Junction with Weybread Road) from 11:40 to 11:55*

Wingfield, Post box from 12:00 to 12:20*

Calling every 4 weeks on **Thursdays**

Calling every 4 weeks on **Fridays**

***new earlier times for 2018**

member of the Eye Bach Choir, and sang with them for many years in locations ranging from Eye Church to the American Cathedral in Paris. And after the concert, he would always contribute to the choir tea, preparing his signature dish: a large oval plate of sardine sandwiches!

After early retirement from teaching, Jack did not sit idle: he took pride in growing most of his own vegetables, and worked as a painter & decorator in homes and historic churches across the area -

many a local church will bear his signature, written in pencil, out of sight high up among the rafters. He and Joan were amicably divorced, then in 1998 he married Vera, and together they played an active part in village life. Jack was a decorative feature at the Harvest Breakfast, and for several years was also one of the early-rising helpers who made sure Father Christmas rounded off his deliveries by visiting Hoxne every year. He won prizes at local flower and produce shows, and he was always delighted when his rock cakes beat the local ladies to first prize! Jack contributed to local committees, helped at fetes and events, picked litter and stacked chairs. His last employment was as caretaker for the Pre School in the village hall, where the children loved him because he kept all their pencils beautifully sharpened... And when he stopped for a moment, he was often to be found at the bar in the Swan, humorously setting the world to rights with the regulars of half pint corner.

In the last few years, Vera's illness and his own increasing ill-health were a challenge, but Jack still loved to spend time with family and friends, and managed to get to the Swan even if it meant arriving by wheelchair! He kept his quick wits and sense of humour to the end, keeping abreast of current affairs and the village grapevine, as well as wrestling with the crosswords in the Telegraph - and Village Voice!



Jack was a good friend to many, and a caring and fun husband and dad; he was witty, well-read and a great raconteur; he gave time and energy to many local causes. He was the sort of person who keeps the social and cultural life of the village alive, and many people will remember him fondly, and miss him deeply.

Judy, Jill and Nick



In the Kitchen

*“...She turned to the sunlight and shook her yellow head, And whispered to her neighbour: Winter is dead”
Daffodowndilly, AA Milne (1832 - 1956)*

We can now buy most vegetables all the year round, but when spring comes along, does your mind turn to those English favourites: fuchsia pink rhubarb, hot Jersey royal potatoes, tender, bright green asparagus or perhaps, you may give a thought to the sometimes neglected watercress and radishes. Apart from being delicious in soups, salads and cheese sandwiches, watercress contains more vitamin C than an orange, more calcium than milk, more iron than spinach and more folate than bananas. Radishes add an extra crunch to salads, are an integral part of a grand aioli and delicious dipped in hot baked Camembert - almost an instant fondue. Like other vegetables of the brassica family radishes contain two natural compounds, sulforaphane and indole - 3. It is thought that these antioxidant substances may slow or stop the growth of several different types of cancer.

Watercress and Smoked Haddock Frittata

Frittata's are quick to prepare and are great for supper, picnics and packed lunches. Serve hot or cold.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp of olive oil into a large 28 cm non-stick frying pan with an oven proof handle
- 150 g watercress, any tough stalks removed and roughly chopped
- 1 large red onion thinly sliced
- 200 g new potatoes, cooked and diced

- 300 g smoked haddock, poached, skinned and flaked
- 6 large eggs, beaten with salt and pepper to taste
- 200 g grated cheddar cheese
- 100 g feta cheese crumbled

Method:

Preheat the grill and warm the olive oil in the frying pan. Sauté the onion over a gentle heat until soft. Add the watercress and stir until it begins to wilt. Add the potatoes and smoked haddock. Pour the beaten eggs into the pan and cook over a gentle heat until mixture starts to set. Gently lift the edges with a spatula and



tilt the pan to spread the mixture. When starting to set, scatter over the grated cheddar and crumbled feta and pop under the grill to finish cooking. Remove when the top is golden brown and the cheese has melted. For Aga use middle shelf of roasting oven.

Baked Egg Muffins

Ingredients and method

Mix together a little each of watercress, onion, potato and haddock and pop into a 6 pan silicone muffin mould. Beat together 2/3 eggs with salt and pepper and pour into the moulds. Top with grated cheddar and bake in a preheated

oven until firm and golden brown. 190C/170C/Fan/Gas 6/Aga roasting oven 20 - 25 mins. If using conventional muffin tin, using a wad of kitchen paper lightly oil, leave to cool slightly, but they may stick a little.

Simple Radish Salad

On a plate lay sprigs of watercress, thinly sliced cucumber, radish, apple and red onion (be generous with the radish and apple). Scatter chopped sweet almonds - leave skins on. Sprinkle sea salt and a drizzle of olive oil or dressing of your choice.

Anzac Biscuits

25th April 1916 was officially named Anzac Day. 'ANZAC' stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corp. Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the British expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula. These became known as Anzacs and the pride they took in that name continues to this day. During World War One, the friends, families and community groups sent food to the fighting men and this biscuit, first known as the Soldiers' Biscuit, was one food that remained edible without refrigeration for long periods of time whilst also retaining its high nutritional value. There are many variations but the basic ingredients are rolled oats, sugar, flour, coconut, syrup or black treacle, bicarbonate of soda and boiling water. This is a firm favourite in our house.

Ingredients

- 1 or 2 baking trays lined with baking parchment
- 85 g porridge oats
- 85 g desiccated coconut

Watercress and Smoked Haddock Frittata, Baked Egg Muffins, Simple Radish Salad & Anzac Biscuits

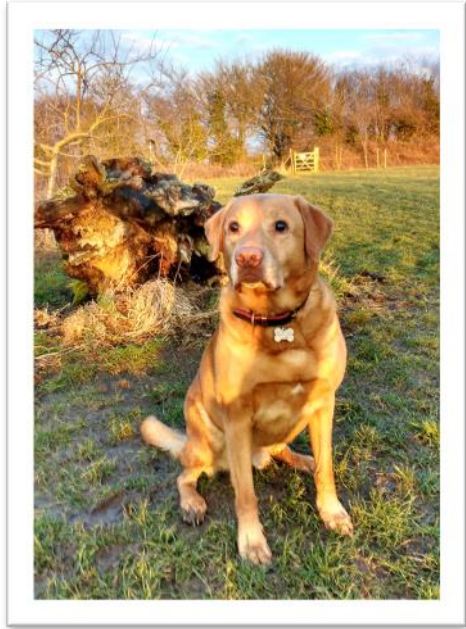
- 100 g plain flour
- 100 g caster sugar
- 100 g butter
- 1 tbsp golden syrup
- 1 tsp of bicarbonate of soda

Method

Heat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas mark 4. Place the oats, flour, coconut and sugar into a bowl. Melt the butter in a small saucepan and stir in the golden syrup. Add the bicarbonate of soda to 2 tbsp of boiling water and stir into the syrup and butter mixture. Pour the butter and syrup mixture into the middle of the dry ingredients and stir gently to incorporate. Take a small dessertspoon of mixture and form into a ball. Place on a baking sheet allowing plenty of room between each as the biscuits will spread. Bake in batches for 8/10 minutes, turning half way, until golden. Leave on the tray for 5 minutes and transfer to a cooling rack. These biscuits have a chewy texture. To bake in an Aga place the grid shelf on the floor, place the baking sheet on top and a cold plain tray on the shelf above.

Gill O'Connor





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Wingfield & District Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 26th April** at 7.30 pm in Brundish Village Hall with a Container Gardens demonstration. The talk on **Thursday 31st May** will be on Hardy Exotics, again 7.30 pm in BVH. For further information, contact Priscilla Williamson on **01379 388034** or email: priscillaawilliamson@gmail.com

The New Reeding Woods Group

In the middle of March following the savage effects of the “Beast from the East” the countryside looks forlorn. Huge heaps of grubby snow lie along the verges and the remnants of snowdrifts persist along field edges and under hedges. At the wood there are few signs of snow, but all the rides are muddy quagmires and walking round the woodland is treacherous. The water level in the pond is higher than it has been for many years and the overview is of a tangle of brambles, clumps of meadow grasses and trees, but the air is milder and overhead birdsong is a herald of a spring that must soon come.

The group holds regular steering group meetings, events and working parties at the wood. This spring, small mammal and bird surveys will be organised with times and dates listed on the notice board at the wood.

Later in April Sue Morgan and David Mitchell are organising a Great Crested Newt Day at the Old School in Horham - when the date is announced it also will be listed on the Pound Lane notice board.

The next working party planned will be on **Saturday 2nd June** at Pound Lane

Wood when there will be a Spring Walk followed by formative pruning of some of the trees. Once again for more information see the notice board.

For more information about events or joining the group, please contact our new Secretary Peny Conway on **01379 870165**.

Mike Reeves
01379 668179

Hoxne Garden & Social Club

By the time you read this article the Hoxne Garden & Social Club may or may not still be in existence. Despite not having received a flood of volunteers, nor a single volunteer, prepared to put themselves forward for election I remain optimistic that the Club will continue after the AGM in March.

Unfortunately the February talk on ‘The Hawking Experience’ had to be postponed at the last minute as the speakers were bringing along some owls to illustrate their talk but issues with avian flu prevented this happening. I am sorry if this was as disappointing to people as it was for me. I think that it would be good if the talk could be resurrected for a future occasion.

We do have a programme of talks in place, albeit not yet a complete one, which covers 2018 and just about extends into 2019. The subjects are the usual mix of garden and horticultural interest and those of more wide ranging general interest. The first of the Club year is on **Thursday 19th April** and is a talk on ‘Natural Remedies’ by Jenny Gibbs. This is followed on **Thursday 17th May** by Dr Tim Wreghitt talking on ‘Low Allergy Gardening’. I am sure that these subjects, whilst garden related, will be of interest to a wider audience.



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As for the rest of usual events the Club puts on throughout the year, this will be up to any new committee to decide so watch this space!

Whilst this is my last Garden Club article for the Village Voice I do hope that is not the last article.

You don't have to be a member to come to a meeting, you just pay £2 rather than £1 for the privilege and you will be very welcome! All meetings start as 7.30 pm in Hoxne Village Hall.

Gordon Lacey, Chair
01379 668565

St Edmunds School

Acorn Class for nursery and reception children is located on site at St Edmund's Primary School in Hoxne. We have a range of resources available every day to suit every child's interest, alongside which we have planned activities such as baking or crafts linked to our class topic. We also have child initiated activities that are play based and key to learning basic principles. Our own outdoor space is accessible in all weathers, complete with a mud kitchen, play house and building equipment; with



imagination the provision is limitless! Please see our website for pictures and information:

www.waveneyvalleypartnership.org

As well as having our colourful classroom, we have access to all the school facilities including the main hall where we sit with the other children for assemblies and lunch. We are fortunate at St Edmund's to have our own kitchen and cook who provides delicious hot meals daily.

As we are in a school setting, nursery members work alongside reception aged

children. Reception children set a good example to the nursery children and are always very helpful to their younger peers. It is an arrangement that works well for both year groups as they both access the Early Years and Foundation Stage Curriculum. We are privileged to have a good ratio of qualified and experienced staff to support the individual learning of every child.

If your child is 3, you are eligible for up to 15 hours free child care and might also qualify for an additional 15 hours funded sessions. For details please ask at the school office or visit the Government's website: **www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds**

Acorn Class invites all pre-schoolers and parents/guardians to join their Stay and Play sessions being held on: **Wednesday 13th June, Monday 25th June and Wednesday 11th July**. Please book your place with the school office. If you can not make these dates, but would like to visit at another time, please contact us to make an appointment.

A warm welcome awaits from Mrs Mansfield and the Early Years Team.

St Edmund's School Office
01379 668283
officehoxne@wvpschools.org

Fressingfield Scouts

The Cubs have been enjoying the winter Olympics with their own take on Ice Curling. They made their own curling stones and then competed in their sixes by sliding their ice cubes down a make-shift "ice" sheet. A lot of fun was had by everyone.

The Beavers have been working on their International and My World Badges. They have been tasting food from other countries and spent a night "exploring" Kenya. Closer to home they have looked

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at Countries within the UK by doing different activities such as stories, games and a ceilidh. They also have a visit to Stradbroke fire station planned.

On the first weekend of half-term the Leader team and the Explorers attended a Leader development weekend in Milton Keynes. As well as sessions on leadership skills, International involvement and planning for the future of the Group there were team building activities such as archery, air rifle shooting, climbing, caving, fencing and fire lighting in the rain. On Saturday evening we had a formal dinner and quiz.

Progress has been slow with our new and exciting Headquarters development due to unforeseen issues, some technical and some legal. These have all been resolved and our solicitor has confirmed that the land transfer to the Scout Group has now been completed. The land, approximately 0.8 acre off Priory Road, is held in a Trust for and on behalf of the 1st Fressingfield Scout Group, with the sole purpose to provide Scouting facilities for the locality. This project has taken a mammoth effort to get this far and we are aware of the huge challenges moving forward including raising funds.

We are working to comply with the planning conditions before we can begin development; we hope that this will take only a few weeks. The initial work on the site will be a tidy up of the hedge line to enable the fencing to be installed.

The weather was kind to us for the Funfair and Firework display we organised in March on the Fressingfield playing field. Around 300 people attended and just over £1,400 was raised for the headquarters development fund.

Thank you to everyone that supported us, especially Fressingfield Playing Field Committee, Social Club and Parish Council.

Michael knights

Hoxne Bowls Club

In our ninety-ninth year, Hoxne Bowls Club will hold their annual Open Green Day on **Sunday 22nd April** from 2pm. All are welcome, with or without experience, to come along and try the game and meet the members. All you need is flat soled shoes. The bar will be open and refreshments available. For those unfamiliar with the club, the green is situated behind the Playing Fields' Pavilion.

The club has a busy season ahead: we will be entering a team in the Mid-Suffolk League for the first time in many years, as well as the Upper Waveney and Border leagues. We are able to do this because of an influx of new players last year. We hope to attract more bowlers this year in preparation of celebrating our centenary next year.

Anyone interested in playing and can't make the Open Green Day may contact the secretary:

Roger Knight
01379 668403

Rural Coffee Caravan

The Rural Coffee Caravan returns to its usual schedule after the Winter break. It will be visiting **Wingfield** at Castle Crescent, 10am - 12pm on **Tuesday 17th April** and again on **Tuesday 15th May**. The caravan delivers information and friendship to rural communities across Suffolk. To get in touch:

Telephone: 01379 855338
ruralcoffecaravan.org.uk





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Red Feather Club

The Red Feather Club, operated and managed by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association, is the official UK museum of the 95th Bomb Group. The award-winning museum in a former NCOs' club, houses uniforms and memorabilia relating exclusively to the 95th Bomb Group and has been described by visitors as "stepping back in time".

We are open between 10am and 4pm on the last Sunday of every month between April and October. For SatNavs, our postcode is: IP21 5DG. Other events coming up include:

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th June, 75th Anniversary of the 95th's arrival at Horham. Details to be announced.

Saturday 23rd June, Jumpin' Jivin' R&B Dance. With the 'Devil's Cut Combo'! They treated our ears so well last time, we just had to get em' back! We've also got Special guest DJ 'DJ Slimboy' in between sets.

Saturday 29th September, Return of the 200th Mission Dance. This time featuring 'Junction 55' plus DJ 'Gypsy John' and 'The Mailman'!

www.95thbg-horham.com

STREET CARETAKER

Hoxne

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If you are active and like working outdoors, this part time position with flexible hours could suit you. You will sweep pavements to keep them safe and ensure the village looks well kept. You will be paid whilst you provide a useful service to your community.

For further details call Sarah Foote, Parish Clerk, on 07554 733621 or email pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk

Equipment will be provided which can be stored at the Parish garage.

Parish Council Reports

Please see page 2 for contact details and website addresses for all Parish Councils.

Denham

Parish Council Clerk - The Council now has a new Clerk - Rod Caird, who lives in Henley, but will frequently be in Denham on parish council business. He started on 1st March and can be reached by email on denhamparishclerk@gmail.com or by phone on 07785 331217. Rod also works as Clerk to several other parish councils.

Councillor Vacancy - There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would like to make a positive difference to the village, and to have an opportunity to influence decisions which affect the community, please contact the Clerk. He will be happy to talk this over and discuss what's involved.

Litter Pick - Don't forget to come and help with the Village Clean-Up; meet at 2.00pm on **Sunday 15th April** in the Village Hall car park.



Meetings - The next meeting of the Parish Council is likely to be the **Annual Parish Meeting**, together with the **Annual General Meeting**, on **Wednesday 23rd May** at 7.30pm, which will (hopefully) be held in the Church. An Agenda will be published nearer the time on the village noticeboards and also the website: www.denham.onesuffolk.net The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for everyone in the village to share news about their activities in the community over the past year. The **AGM** of the Parish Council elects the officers for the coming year and approves the accounts for 2017/18.

Planning - If any planning applications are made before May, it may be necessary to call an additional meeting. Again, if that happens, the details will be published at least three full working days

before the meeting, both on the noticeboard and on the website.

Useful Contacts - As you will know the recent bad weather has played havoc with the roads, and new potholes have appeared in many locations. The County Council Highways Department encourages residents to report potholes and other damage on their website:

www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk

If you check the site, you'll see where problems have already been reported; give them as much detail as possible including a photo if you can take one. The Highways team is under a lot of pressure all over the County, but they still need to be told about problems.

Rod Caird, Clerk

Hoxne

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Cllr Sarah Entwisle and Cllr Simon Wilby both of whom were co-opted at the March meeting. The resignation of Richard Whiting was noted and thanks were expressed for the work he did both on planning and the vehicle activated sign. One vacancy remains and interested candidates should contact the Clerk for more details.

WINTER ROADS - After a period of significant snow fall, the Parish Council is acutely aware of the state of the roads in the village and the number of potholes which need attention. If you are aware of any particularly concerning potholes these can be brought to the County Council's attention via their on-line reporting tool at www.suffolk.gov.uk/highways We would like to thank all the farmers who went into action to clear the snow and make the roads passable. It was most appreciated.

CLEAN UP WEEKEND - Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time for our recent spring clean of the village.

STREET CARETAKER - if you enjoy being out doors and take pride in your village, why not consider applying for our Street Caretaker role? You will work 21 hours per month, to suit you. Equipment is provided and this can be stored at the Parish Council garage. See page 37.

DOG LITTER - The dog litter bin in Low Street is well used. However, all parishioners are reminded to clear up after their dog - the penalty for dog fouling is £1000 under the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996. Your co-operation to clear up after your dog will be much appreciated.

MEETINGS - The Parish Council next meets on **Thursday 5th April** at St Edmund's Hall. Other dates for your diary include the **Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 20th April** at St Edmund's Hall and the **Annual General Meeting** of the Parish Council on **Thursday 3rd May** at the Playing Field Pavilion. All start 7.30pm.

Sarah Foote, Clerk

Syleham

Unfortunately, the publication of the Village Voice does not synchronise with Parish Council meeting dates. At the time of writing, our last meeting was in November and our next takes place this week. However, there are items of news that have arisen in the interim.

Proposed housing development at Walnut Tree Farm - This will be the first item on the agenda at our March meeting and the Council's response will be posted on the notice board.

Broadband - The response to B4RN's superfast service publicised in the Christmas issue of the Village Voice was overwhelming and enough for B4RN to hold a public presentation of their offer at the Village Hall, 7.00pm on **Wednesday 28th March**. We hope Village Voice reaches you before that date.

Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) sign - Suffolk County Council have agreed to top funding from Mid Suffolk DC to cover the cost of this sign. Our thanks to Councillors Guy MacGregor and Elizabeth Gibson Harries. The sign will be shared with Wingfield and moved between villages.

Roads - Suffolk Highways had repaired the deepest potholes, but the recent spate of bad weather will inevitably create more. Can you please notify the Parish Council if you see any, particularly those that are a minimum of 10 cm in depth.

Precept - Your Parish Council has requested an increase of 1.4% for the financial year 2018/19. This is inline with the increased tax base of the village supplied by Mid Suffolk DC.

Snow - Finally, and most importantly, the Parish Council would like to thank those residents who voluntarily cleared the village roads during the recent bad weather.

Next Meeting - Our next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 16th May**, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be the **Annual Parish Meeting** followed by the **AGM** of the Parish Council.

David Young, Clerk

Wingfield

The Parish Council has met twice since we last reported. An extraordinary meeting was held in January to discuss the planning application for the site opposite Old School House and our first scheduled meeting of 2018 was in February. The outcome of both meetings are as follows:

Planning application (DC/17/05514):

The Council decided not to oppose this development of 3, 3 bed homes, because they were to be built on a brown field site and there was no opposition from

neighbours. However, the Council informed the planning authorities that this decision was an exception not a precedent for any future development outside the settlement boundary established in MSDC's Joint Local Plan of 2017.

Vicarage Road Post Box - The non replacement of this box, removed in October is an outrage. Having failed in communications with Diss sorting office and the manager responsible for collections in the IP21 area, the Council wrote to the head of Royal Mail in the East Anglian region. At last we have had a positive response. Could anyone spotting the new box notify the Clerk.

Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) - Suffolk County Council have agreed to top up funding from Mid Suffolk. We should now be able to purchase the VAS sign and do something about calming traffic speeding into the village.

B4RN Superfast Broadband - This company will be making a presentation of their offer at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall at 7.00pm on **Wednesday 28th March**. It will be of particular interest to residents with a 668 number who have been bypassed by BT / Openreach.

Precept 2018/19 - Maintenance of Wingfield Green is beginning to drain the Parish Council reserves. Over the last three years it has spent over £750 p.a, on remedial work. In response, the Council has requested a precept increase of £500 for 2018/19 to contribute to the ongoing maintenance costs.

Next Meeting - Our next meeting will take place on **Friday 25th May**, 7.30pm start at Wingfield Barns. This will be the **Annual Parish Meeting** followed by the **AGM** of the Parish Council.

If you are not able to attend, please read the outcomes on the noticeboard or website.

David Young, Clerk

In The Garden

Do you cut them or tie them up? This is a question I'm often asked at this time of year when people are getting out in the garden and see their daff's leaves looking limp and starting to brown. Neither is the answer, you really must resist the urge to "tidy" them up as soon as flowering is over. Feed the leaves with a liquid feed and let them die down completely and naturally to help build up the bulb ready for a great flowering season next year.



Do it now?

Sow hardy annuals like cornflowers, pot marigolds, nigella, sweet peas and nasturtiums directly where you want them to flower. Now is the ideal time to re-seed bare patches in your lawn. Tidy the edges and you can also apply lawn feeds and remove moss. In warm gardens you can start to think about planting out your chitted potatoes. Traditionally they're planted in trenches and weekly covered with more soil until you get a ridge about 30cm tall. Or you can plant them in purpose made bags, old compost bags or pots. Trials have shown it's the feeding and watering that give you a bigger crop, not the container you grow them in. The Hoxne Garden Club also ran a competition to see what weight of potatoes they could grow in a 8lt container. The winning entry for most tubers grew 49 individual



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tubers of a salad variety called 'Jazzy! and the heaviest overall crop was 1.5kg or 3lb 6oz of a main crop - unfortunately variety unknown! Both entries were fed weekly with a liquid feed and were watered using a trickle irrigation system.

General Maintenance

I know the water is cold, but now is a really good time to lift and divide water plants such as irises, reeds and other deep marginals. Along with water lilies that have out grown their space or are no longer flowering, they are best lifted by hand and split and re-potted on away from the pond edge, so you avoid cutting or damaging your pond liner. Always use specialist aquatic compost and top the pots with stones. Now is a great time to mulch your fruit trees and bushes. Use garden compost or well-rotted manure, just ensure the mulch doesn't touch the stems or trunk of the plants as this can lead to rot or diseases.

5 Minute Jobs

There is still the chance of the odd frosty night, so watch the local forecast and be prepared to cover or move any tender plants. Pop a forcing pot or dustbin over your rhubarb if you haven't already done so to bring on the crop. Keep an eye out for pests like blackfly, greenfly and whitefly as early control is

much easier than dealing with an all-out infestation later in the season.

In the veg garden

If you have some protection from a greenhouse, now is a good time to sow courgettes, squashes, pumpkins and sweetcorn in individual pots. If you don't have any heat, you should get away with kale, calabrese and summer cauliflowers. Wait till the end of the month or early May for French and runner beans. Outside, if the soil is well drained, you can sow beetroot, broad beans, chard, peas and salad crops. Pot on chillies and tomatoes sown earlier under glass.

*Claire Horne - BBC Radio Suffolk
Gardening Expert*



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AFC Hoxne

2018 has been tough for AFC Hoxne. In four successive away league games we should have got something from all four. Instead we ended up pointless.

The results were at Westerfield United (2-0), Benhall St Mary (2-1), Felixstowe Harpers United (3-2) and Wenhaston United (2-1).

The only home game in this period was a 7-3 defeat by Coplestonians of Ipswich, after leading 3-1 at halftime.

Although struggling, we should avoid being sucked into the relegation picture. The bottom two teams, Ransoms Sports of Ipswich and Leiston St Margaret's are well adrift.

Due to work commitments, Ben Wilby has stood down as the 1st XI manager. Holding the fort is Sam Bobby from Stowmarket. Sam got injured at Sporting 87 (Bury St Edmunds) on 11/3/2017, but will return to action next season.

In "League A", the second XI are still topping their reserve group at the time of going to press.

The next Senior Division fixtures during this issue of the *Village Voice* are:

- 31/03 14:30 **Away** Coplestonians
- 07/04 14:30 **Away** Bramford United
- 14/04 14:30 **Home** East Bergholt United

- 21/04 14:30 **Home** Henley Athletic
- 28/04 14:30 **Home** Grundisburgh
- 05/05 14:30 **Away** Leiston St Margarets

Matches may be subject to change, so please check before travelling:
<http://touchlinesil.co.uk/fixtures>
Clive Baxter, President

Hoxne Veterans

In the Norfolk & Suffolk Veterans League, Hoxne are dropped to second place in their group as we go to print.

Although league matches may have been with postponed, the cup matches have survived. In the 2nd round, Hoxne triumphed against Coplestonians Reserves (10-0) at home. While in the 3rd round tie away to Barham, they still had a credible win (5-3). The date for the Quarter-Final match at home to Premier South side Coplestonians has yet to be confirmed.

The next Division One (North) fixtures during this issue of the *Village Voice* are:

- 22/04 14:30 **Away** Waveney

Matches may be subject to change, so please check before travelling:
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Times Past

Hoxne's old Cattle Fair

In 1780, after existing for over a hundred years, the well known annual Hoxne "Beast Fair", ceased running and the trade removed over the border to the old Cardinal's Hat inn at Harleston in Norfolk. The fair, for the sale of cattle, was conducted during the whole of the month of December at Fairstead Farm or the Fair Standing as it was called then, just out of the village on the Eye road. It naturally attracted numerous packmen and hucksters, giving the field next to the old house the name, "Pedlars Fair", recorded on an old map of Lord Maynard's estates.

Each year, Scottish drovers brought thousands of cattle south to be sold at Suffolk fairs such as those at Hoxne and Halesworth, mainly Galloway bullocks, which they would have constant problems in feeding during the harsh highland winters. They would be fattened on the lush meadows along the river Waveney on the 'rawings' (the grass left after a mowing). In 1727, Daniel Defoe reported that *"these Scots runts as they call them, coming out of the cold, feed so eagerly on the rich pastures in these marshes, that they grow monstrously fat, and the beef is so delicious for taste, that the*

inhabitants prefer 'em to the English cattle". Those beasts that the Suffolk graziers did not keep for their own consumption were driven the following September to the London market at Smithfield.

As far back as 1674, Samuel Rainer of Hoxne had a drovers' parlour in his large farmhouse to accommodate the travellers and even, according to an inventory of his estate in the same year, had a large quantity of grass stored for fodder for the fair, valued at 12 shillings. The parish churchwardens also took advantage of the arrival of the drovers by charging them tolls for driving their beasts over the Swan Bridge!

Quite often the drovers were fortunate if they sold all their cattle. After the 1756 December fair in Hoxne, the 'Gentlemen Drovers' advertised in the Ipswich Journal to the effect that *"there are still great numbers of both Scotch and English cattle to be sold there, and also that they propose staying 8 or 10 days longer there, and if at that time no graziers come, they propose moving from that place, and further any who have proper keeping or can take any Scots a wintering, let them send their proposals to Mr Roper's House, at the Fair Stand Place of Hoxne, and there shall be treated with upon the subject by the drovers, and any who want to buy, may depend upon it Scots will be sold upon*

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easier terms than they were at any time this season before."

Again at the end of December, 1760, five drovers still had upwards of six hundred bullocks unsold at Hoxne, and with keeping becoming scarce, they decided that what they could not sell before the 17th of January, they would put out to winter and leave. The same situation occurred at the Fair two years later when upwards of 1,000 Scots steers could not be sold and the drovers resolved to stay around for several weeks into the New Year. One reason for this could have been the caution on the part of local graziers who saw the cattle plague rage in Suffolk during the mid 18th century, closing down many of the fairs for years at a time.

Two well known Scottish farmers, Benjamin and Thomas Bell, had first-hand experience of this awful scourge, when they left home in mid October 1746 with a drove which contained 500 particularly good beasts. On reaching Hoxne in December they met with disaster. Cattle plague raged in the area and they were in no position to escape. The animals were dying at an alarming rate and one hand at Hoxne had already lost 300. Of their own 2,481 beasts, thirty seven had died in two days.

Thomas wrote to their backer to say that forty beasts sold to a Colchester farmer had died and that fifty four animals in two fields in Hoxne worth £5 a head, had been found dead and the other animals infected. All the carcasses had by law to be buried within three hours. Their fortunes recovered, however, and at Hoxne in 1755, the inspectors reported

that the great numbers of cattle at the fair were entirely free from the disease.

By 1765, there was an increased demand for Scottish beasts owing to a shortage caused by this series of outbreaks. Drovers Walter Greeve and James Armstrong turned up at Hoxne in March well after the fair had finished, with 340 good Scotch bullocks, consisting of Highlanders, Galloways and Steers. How they fared with sales is not known and for the first time the Scots now experienced serious competition, as a number of English graziers travelled over the border, buying direct and thus depriving many Scottish drovers of business.



One canny Scot, George Campbell, was a drover who now became a dealer in his own right. He was highly organized - rode thousands of miles to cattle markets; owned a string of horses and rented thousands of

acres of grazing. He arrived at Hoxne in February 1779 and stayed for three days, where he offered a capital drove of Galloways and heifers. The sale was so successful that he turned up again in the March with the "finest sized and largest drove of Galloways ever brought into Norfolk", as he advertised in the Ipswich Journal.

Once more sales were brisk, especially as there was now a dramatic increase in demand for beef, with the military being stationed at Ipswich and Woodbridge during the Napoleonic Wars. Hoxne Fair could no longer cope with the huge volume of cattle coming into the area and a colourful era came to a close in 1780 when the trade moved to Harleston.

Chris Johnson

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The Lunch Bunch Visits...

The Lunch Bunch fought off snow, sleet and rain, and crossed the border into Norfolk to visit this "Pizza Pub". We had chopped and changed our booking, and it was all done easily over the phone.

We arrived just as they were opening the bar doors; they have a café area that opens at 10am selling tea, coffee and cakes, but the main eating area in the bar opens at 12 noon. The log fire was burning away and the welcome was warm. Asked what drinks we wanted, the array of Gins was more than apparent! Their website claims 148 different ones, but I think that is a bit out of date!

We sat down with our drinks and looked over the menu. While they do say they are a Pizza Pub, they also offer soups and panini, salads and pasta dishes as well as the wide range of Pizza! There is also a pleasingly wide range of vegetarian options.

We choose dough balls and garlic bread to share for starters, then pizza and pasta to follow. The starters soon arrived, and we tucked in the delicious hot buttery breads. Once they were demolished the enormous platters with the pizzas were brought in. Gorgonzola Piccante and red onion and a torn chicken, Pine Nuts and sultanas! The pasta was a beautiful bowl of creamy Linguine al Funghi.

We were offered pepper and chilli oils and the conversation then dipped at this point as we all tucked in and the "yums"

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and "Oh that's nice" started! The pizzas were perfectly Italian, with thin crisp bases and fresh toppings, enhanced by the cheeses not overwhelmed by it! The



pasta cooked to perfection, the creamy rich sauce coating, not drowning it.

While we were stuffed from the mains, we try to sample the full menu for you all, so a couple of deserts were ordered, along with tea and coffee. The Chocolate 'Calazone' and Vanilla Panna Cotta beautifully presented and taste wise, hit the mark and I think the plates would have been licked clean if given the chance! They offer a nice range of tea's (not just your basic Builders) and the coffee was rich, dark and hot, just as expected.

The general consensus is that if you specialise in something, you better do it well and they certainly do that here! Staff were attentive, polite and friendly and the food delicious. Highly recommended and good value for money.

Starters from £3.25, Mains from £8.95,
Deserts £4.95

The Lunch Bunch



A Word from Wingfield

Run-Up to End of Empire

Part Two - The Kabaka's Return

Later that year we were summoned to the Governor's presence in Entebbe to meet with himself, the Secretary of State and Sir William Gorrell-Barnes to deliver our first hand impressions of the situation in Buganda.

We sat in a line of chairs facing our policy makers and each in turn was asked his views on the consequences of the Kabaka's return to Uganda. A more-or-less unanimous view emerged on the lines that Buganda would become unadministrable, and that after saying so often that the Kabaka would never return, our credibility would be completely destroyed. Constructive relations between the Protectorate administration and the Baganda would be impossible. Our fragile prestige would be damaged. It was very insecure anyway - founded on Blanco, brass bands and bull-shit, some would say, rather than force. To surrender to agitation would lose our future capacity to provide firm leadership. Or, to put it crudely, the administration would be done for - sold down the river.

The Kabaka would always be an obstacle to a future unitary constitution.

If the Kabaka returned, what would happen to those loyal chiefs and others who had given the "Guvenmenti Enkuumi" their loyal support?

I had just submitted a safari report on my return from Bulemeezi and Buruuli Sazas saying that I was convinced that there could be no progress in Buganda unless the Kabaka did return. The system required a Kabaka to make it work. This was heresy or worse. The Resident called me in and said that I must either withdraw the report or if not, it would go on to the Secretary for African Affairs in Entebbe, and I would have to resign since I did not appear to agree with British Government policy.

Inevitably, when my turn came round, I repeated my views at the Government House meeting. Dick Posnett was the final speaker, and rather to my surprise said that he agreed with me. We were then told in confidence that the Government had decided that the Kabaka would return. My feelings were very confused. I was out of step with colleagues, and in effect I was saying openly that Cohen had been wrong.

Later in November we were again summoned, this time to be briefed by the Resident before a meeting of the great Lukiiko at Mengo on 16th November 1954 at which His Excellency would announce the return of the Kabaka. It was a long speech running to six pages of single-space printing with a parallel announcement near the beginning by the Secretary of State in Westminster to Parliament that Her Majesty's Government had decided that either the Lukiiko should choose to elect a new Kabaka or else that Mutesa II should return.

The building itself was crowded and surrounded by many struggling to hear at the open windows what was being said. As soon as the first alternative was announced there was a tremendous

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hullabaloo which prevented His Excellency from finishing his sentence, so no one heard the second option about the return. The damage was done.

I had asked Deputy Resident that morning what our small unprotected contingent of a dozen administrative officers should do if things turned sour. We had experienced a number of nasty situations from time to time, like the prophet in the tree. Richard Gill simply replied: 'Well, you've got your swords haven't you?'

We were hustled out by a hostile crowd unceremoniously before the good news could be spread around. I wondered if we might be lynched as we were not on home ground and had no Protectorate Police with us. I saw the Resident's driver get a mighty biff on the head but we managed to extricate ourselves without any damage.

Things began to look up again after that low point, largely because of the wise counsel offered to the Baganda by Kenneth Diplock, and by 19th May the Lukiiiko had agreed by a large majority to measures for Buganda's participation in central legislature.

Mutesa II's return took place at 9 am on 17th October 1955. He arrived in a special plane and was greeted by His Excellency with the words: "How nice to have you back". We had a curious part in the ceremonies. The Kabaka had brought several friends back with him from London to share in the ceremonies. They had looked after him in exile and this was their reward. They were a heterogeneous group which included Oliver Messel and his protective Dutch minder, Kenneth Diplock, Dingle Foot and the Reverend Michael Scott of the African Bureau. No doubt many had played their part in reversing Her Majesty's Government decision that he should never return.

It was known that I was sympathetic, but more important, I had a large black Chevrolet which would be useful in the procession from Entebbe to the Lubiri in Mengo, to carry some of the guests. I was allocated three of the guests: Colin Legum, the Observer correspondent, Tom Makumbi, and a West African. There were some dozen official cars, and no doubt many others following on. The roads were lined with happy crowds waving bark-cloth flags. I still have mine. It says on it: 'God save the Kabaka'.

There was a week of celebration, including a special service of thanksgiving in the cathedral and canoe races. We took off by plane to the National Park to see the wild game. Then we settled back into our normal routine, but this time with an intended difference. The Resident enjoined us to deal with criticisms that had been made about his staff by the two commissions that had been set up to grapple with the crisis. These criticisms were that we had usurped the functions of the Kabaka's Government by giving orders; we had caused the chiefs to serve two masters; and we had duplicated departmental officers' fieldwork.

I do not recall whether this homily led to a dramatic change of style. I fear it may have been business as usual. But this did mark the demise of a long period of native administration as we had known it.

I walked with Andrew Cohen in the Oxford South Parks after he returned home from Uganda and came to stay with us in his own house. He told me he had been summoned to explain matters to the Prime Minister (Sir Winston Churchill) who had upbraided him:

"Have you not heard of the Divine Right of Kings, Cohen?"

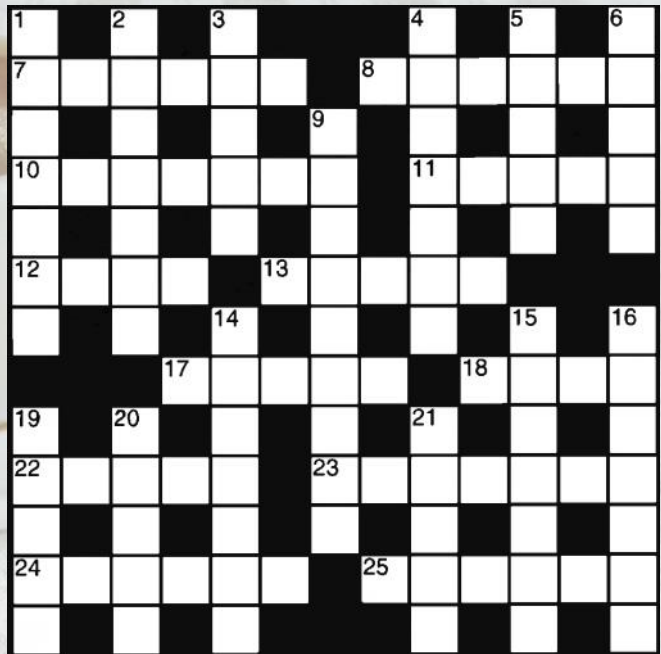
Tommy Gee

Crossword

Puzzle No. 123

To enter the crossword competition, send* your solution to the editor for a chance to win £10. The winner will be the first correct entry picked at random from those received by **Tuesday 8th May** latest.

*Don't forget you can email a photograph or scan of your entry too!



Across

- 7 Receptacle found on board ship (6)
- 8 Detesting a thing disintegrating (6)
- 10 Complaining about the barrier (7)
- 11 Make amends after noon (5)
- 12 Way Out from Essex itinerary (4)
- 13 Walk on part of a tyre (5)
- 17 Be on edge by the roadside (5)
- 18 Scottish lake sounds secure (4)
- 22 A vile way to be extant (5)
- 23 Hectare confused a tutor (7)
- 24 Keep extra terrestrial in a downpour (6)
- 25 Wild horse (6)

Down

- 1 Supervise abroad I hear (7)
- 2 Hopin' for pain reliever (7)
- 3 Evil spirit existed in reverse (5)
- 4 Crazy fruit (7)
- 5 Point out a climbing aid (5)
- 6 Eager to concur (5)
- 9 Grand total of the hard core (9)
- 14 Vicar attached to a great lake in a daydream (7)
- 15 Not even a dicky bird (7)
- 16 Brave warrior in bed having a smoke (7)
- 19 Harass a royal (5)
- 20 Girl in charge of card game purse (5)
- 21 Not recommended to be done hastily (5)

The winner of crossword puzzle no. 122 was: Sharon Knights, Hoxne

Answers: **Across** 1) Statue 4) Tarry 8) Press 9) Textile 10) Roister 11) Cede 12) Kid 14) Fall 15) Ibex 18) Eft 21) Tiff 23) October 25) Fragile 26) Trade 28) Argent
Down 1) Superb 2) America 3) Unsettle 4) Taxi 5) Raise 6) Yields 7) Stork 13) Dictator 16) Embrace 17) Stuffy 19) Towed 20) Ardent 22) Franc 24) Mint

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Peter at Hoxne Post Office & Stores has kindly agreed to accept copy and crossword entries on our behalf.

DEADLINES

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April/May	8th March
June/July	8th May
August/September	8th July
October/November	8th September
December/January	8th November

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