



Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM & WINGFIELD

APRIL - MAY 2019

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The Revd Michael Womack is chair of each Parochial Church Council and the Revd Eleanor Goodison is an ex-officio member.

C Chair
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 CW Church Warden

Diary Dates

Saturday 30th March

Perennial Plant Sale, Hoxne p8
Denham Hall Meeting, Red Feather Club p38
Auction of Promises SWH p13

Thursday 4th April

Hoxne Parish Council Meeting HVH p39

Friday 5th April

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof WB p8
Open Mic night SWH p15

Saturday 6th April

Jumble Sale SWH p13
Denham Litter Pick p39
Red Glass SWH p13

Tuesday 9th April

Phoenix Group Talk HVH p31

Thursday 11th April

Friends of St Peter & St Paul AGM HVH p27

Friday 12th April

Film Night - First Man HVH p12
Karaoke Night SWH p15

Saturday 13th to Monday 22nd April

Barry Freeman Photographic Exhibition WB p8
RPS Creative Eye Group Exhibition WB p11

Sunday 14th April

Hoxne Bowls Club Open Day HPP p33

Tuesday 16th April

Rural Coffee Caravan, Wingfield p9
Playing Fields AGM HPP p9

Thursday 25th April

Village Hall AGMs HVH p13
Wingfield & District Gardening Club BVH p31

Friday 26th April

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof HVH p8
My Dog's Got No Nose WB p11
Bingo SWH p13

Saturday 27th April

Hoxne Produce and Craft Market HVH p12
Peter Knight's Gigspanner WB p11

Sunday 28th April

Museum Open Day, Red Feather Club p30

Monday 29th April

Hoxne Bowls Club Match Opener HPP p33

Friday 3rd May

Open Mic night SWH p15

Saturday 4th to Sunday 19th May

East Anglian Photographic Exhibition WB p12

Thursday 9th May

Eastern Angles - The Tide Jetty SWH p13
Hoxne Parish Council Meeting HPP p39

Friday 10th May

Film Night HVH p12
Karaoke Night SWH p15

Monday 13th May

Phoenix Group Talk HVH p31

Wednesday 15th May

Denham Parish Council Meeting, Church p39

Friday 17th May

Wingfield Parish Council Meeting WB p40

Saturday 18th May

Hoxne Produce and Craft Market HVH p12
Hoxne Music Festival HVH p9

Tuesday 21st May

Rural Coffee Caravan, Wingfield p9

Wednesday 22nd May

Syleham Parish Council Meeting SWH p40

Friday 24th May

Bingo SWH p13

Saturday 25th May

Wingfield & District Gardening Club Visit p31

Sunday 26th May

Hoxne Rogation Walk p9
Museum Open Day, Red Feather Club p30

For Church Services and events, see p20 - 22
For Mobile Library, see p23

BVH Brundish Village Hall

HPP Playing Fields Pavilion, Hoxne

HVH St Edmunds Village Hall, Hoxne

SWH Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall

WB Wingfield Barns



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Letters to the Editor

HOXNE VILLAGE RECORDER PLEA

The Village Voice is a superb record of the day to day activities within our village and this information will be invaluable for tomorrow's historians. We have a good collection of copies since the inception in the 1990s, but there is a period between 2006 and 2009 where our collection is incomplete. If anyone has any old copies between those dates I would be very grateful to receive them. Please contact me on 01379 668395 or email:

margaret.sillis@btinternet.com

[If you're rummaging and find any issues from 2000 or earlier, I would equally be pleased to received those, Ed - contact details on back cover]

HOXNE DEFIB JUMBLE

Just a quick note to say that over £200 was raised from March's jumble sale at the Village Hall in aid of the defibrillator fund for the school / playing field end of the village. Thank you to all who supported the day and helped contribute to the circa £2000 needed for a public access defibrillator.

Emily Benton

ARE YOU LONELY?

Help is at hand. Age UK provides a free befriending service across Suffolk. A 30-minute weekly phone call or a one hour visit from a befriender can really make a difference. Simply call Beck or Debbie, Age UK's befriending co coordinators, on 01473 353051 or 01473 353061.

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“J’s Meadow”

The Management Committee of the Village Hall were delighted with the response to the Open Morning held to consult on the name and future of the land behind Chaucer Houses. The name “J’s Meadow” came out a clear favourite so the area will be known as this in future.

There are exciting plans for future development, such as landscaping, natural play areas using logs and willow, a sensory area, a wildlife exploration area, seating and, if funds are available, an all-weather path to facilitate access for wheelchairs and prams. It is intended to leave an open space for community events. More news as the year goes on.

*M Lewis, Hon Secretary
Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall
Management Committee*

Fressingfield and District Branch of the Royal British Legion

Firstly some facts and figures. Thanks to the never ending support and generosity of the residents of our six villages we can announce that the branch raised a record £914 by way of our Christmas Draw and that the 2018/19 Poppy Appeal currently stands at £7561 with some overdue payments yet to be received - donations for wreaths etc. The appeal lasts for a full year so we are hopeful that some fairly substantial amounts will be added to it as time progresses. We raise money constantly with our fetes, car rallies and other events.

All of the money that you donate to us is spent on welfare projects within the ex military personnel sphere. None of it is spent on admin or expenses within our branch.

Legion welfare can be delivered in very many ways. The applicant doesn't have to have physical wounds to qualify for help. Imagine that you have served in the army for 30 years and you are now a Sergeant. You are also a qualified sniper, machine gunner and drill instructor. You have seen active service in Bosnia, got wounded in Iraq and your vehicle was blown up by an IED in Afghanistan. This explosion killed your driver. Your enlistment period is now ending. There is not much call for any of your military skills in civilian life. However, you would have received very good training in man management and teaching. You would be good at making rapid decisions and planning future actions. What you require is training for a civilian job where you can put your experience to good use. The Legion could assist you with a loan or grant, depending upon your circumstances, so that you can receive the extra guidance and training required to make you a useful asset to a future employer.

Many of our veterans suffer from stress disorders. This may become apparent long after the termination of their military service. The Legion will ensure that they receive the required treatment from whichever organisation should be providing it. Government agencies do not always do what they are supposed to do - Especially in times of financial restraint. If necessary additional treatment can also be provided by the Legion. The badly wounded are always our highest priority.

The Legion spends about one million pounds every week nationally. Every person who has been paid for at least one weeks service in the armed forces of this country, including reserves (Territorial Army etc), qualifies for RBL assistance in times of need. This assistance is extended to their family and dependants. It is available for life. All Legion welfare applications are means tested so the money is only spent where it is needed most.



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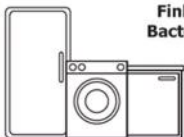
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Thank you for your support. Why not come and join us in our work and social life? Everyone is eligible to join the RBL. You do not have to be ex service (or male). Phone Brian on **01379 384959** for full details.

Syleham Broadband

Latest Update

BT Openreach have installed their telecommunications cabinet in the front car park of the Village Hall and appear at the time of writing to be awaiting connection following some delay with paperwork. Let's hope installation is soon complete!

Mary Lewis

Syleham WWII Lancaster Crash

Appeal for Information

This is a request that was passed to me via the 101 Squadron Association to help the family of an airman locate the crash site of a Lancaster bomber in the Syleham area. This would hopefully give the relatives some form of closure and somewhere for them to pay their respects.

On the night of 18th March 1944 a MKIII Lancaster LM 464 E took off from Ludford Magna (Lincolnshire) at 19.20 heading for Frankfurt. It was last heard from at 00.14 and was believed to have crashed in a field near Syleham whilst heading home. Artefacts from LM464 E and a crash site photo are held at the Norfolk and Suffolk Air Museum in Flixton which, according to the museum curator, were possibly donated by a Syleham farmer.

My father, K.G.Thompson D.F.C., was a navigator in a 101 Squadron Lancaster ME 616 B flying on the same raid and he completed two tours of duty consisting of 44 raids in all.

Here are the details of the LM 464 crew:
 Flight Sergeant R.Dixon
 Sergeant B.Crosby
 Sergeant W.H.Thompson
 Sergeant R.Vernon
 Flying Officer S.L.Huntley (Canada)
 Sergeant N.S.Marshall
 Sergeant D.R.Lawn
 Sergeant R.H.Bryan



Thank you so much in anticipation of any help you may be able to give in this matter, it is much appreciated by myself and the families of the lost crew.

Mark Thompson
01376 551146
markofthefold@gmail.com

STOP PRESS - As we go to print, Mark has received a possible location via Mary Lewis, but please do get in touch if you have any information yourself.

Hoxne Defibrillator Fund - Can You Help?

It's proven that an early shock, early intervention - saves lives. The average out of hospital cardiac arrest survival rate of 8%, increases to 20% in those patients who receive early defibrillation.

I am trying to raise money for a defibrillator, to be positioned with 24 hour public access, near the school / playing field. To date, -£1000 has been raised, with thanks to kind donations from the school PTA, Simon Gore & Anthony Benton and monies raised from the jumble sale.

I would be keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in sponsoring or supporting this very worthwhile cause. Please contact me with any queries.

Emily.benton@hotmail.com

18.3.44.	Lancaster 111 LM.464 E.	S/S. Dixon, R. Sgt. Crosby, B. Sgt. Thompson, V.H. Sgt. Vernon, R. CAN. F/O S.L. Huntley. (J.27712)	FRANKFURT	19.20
		Sgt. Marshall, N.S. Sgt. Lawn, D.R. Sgt. Bryan, R.H.		

Flight record of the raid

What's On Here

Perennial Plant Sale

Another of our ever popular plant sales will take place on **Saturday 30th March** at Low Street Green, Hoxne from 10.00am to 11.00am. All plants from a Lincolnshire nursery. Proceeds are for the Hoxne Playing Field funds.

Carole and Alan Smith

Open Space Theatre

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

On a steamy night in Mississippi, a family gathers to celebrate the birthday of cotton plantation owner "Big Daddy" Pollitt. But the scorching heat is almost as oppressive as the lies that are told. His son, Brick, and daughter-in-law, Maggie, dance around the secrets and sexual tensions that threaten to destroy their marriage. With the future of the



family at stake, which version of the truth will win out?

Tennessee Williams' great play was made into a memorable film in 1958, starring Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman.

Friday 5th April - Wingfield Barns, box office **01379 384505**

Friday 26th April - Hoxne Village Hall, box office **01986 894411**

Both performances start 7.30pm. Tickets £12 and £9.50 concessions (under 18, over 65).

www.openspacetheatre.org.uk

An Exhibition of Photographs at Wingfield Barns

BY BARRY FREEMAN ARPS DPAGB APAGB

Barry, who has lived in Hoxne for over 20 years, will be returning once more to Wingfield Barns to hold another exhibition of his work.

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.

For the third year running Barry shows his photographic landscape prints and this year he will be featuring his Irish seascapes, but there will be some local landscapes as well.



The exhibition will be held in Studio Four from **Saturday 13th to Monday 22nd April**. Opening hours: 11am to 4pm. Closed Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th April, but Open Easter Monday 22nd. Admission is free.

At the same time as Barry's exhibition, there is in Studio One & Two a showing of the RPS Creative Eye Group Members' 2019 Exhibition of Prints and Projected Images.



Fanad Head Lighthouse

Murlough Beach to Mountains of Mourne

Ballystocker Bay Tide Lines

Rural Coffee Caravan

The Rural Coffee Caravan will once again be visiting **Wingfield** at Castle Crescent, 10am - 12pm on **Tuesday 16th April** and **Tuesday 21st May**. The caravan delivers information and friendship to rural communities across Suffolk. To get in touch:

Telephone: 01379 855338
ruralcoffee caravan.org.uk

Hoxne Playing Field A.G.M

Please come and show your support for the Village Playing Field and Pavilion on **Tuesday 16th April**, 7.30pm, in the Playing Field Pavilion, Heckfield Green.

Hoxne Playing Field Committee

Hoxne Music Festival

Following the success of "A Night at Rick's Café" last year, Hoxne Music Festival are presenting another themed evening based on the prohibition period of the 1930s in the USA.

We aim to transport you to 1930s Chicago on **Saturday 18th May** at Hoxne Village Hall for "A Hot Night in Hoxne"

with music by jazz pianist, Max Middleton and his band, plus guest musicians, singers and dancers.

This will be a limited ticket, Black Tie Affair (Gangsters and Molls style) with food and dancing.

£25 per person - 8 tables with 10 seats. Book early to avoid disappointment. Reserve your place(s) through Helen Macdonogh, email:

helenmacdonogh@aol.com



Hoxne Rogation Walk

The annual Rogation Sunday walk will this year be on **Sunday 26th May**. Starting as usual from the Church Lychgate at 2pm and returning to the Old Vicarage around 4pm for tea and cake, by kind permission of Rod and Carmel Searle.

Phil Flagg, 01379 668258

Advance Notice

WINGFIELD OPEN GARDENS

This years Open Gardens are on **Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June**, 11.00am to 4.00pm and will include several historic houses including the topiary garden of Wingfield College and adjacent Wingfield Barns where the popular work from the Suffolk Open Studios will be displayed during the event with original art works for sale.

At least 18 gardens, large and small, from traditional cottage to contemporary garden design will be open including a scarecrow trail.

There will be crafts and bric-à-brac in several gardens including a colourful display of Romany Caravans. We also have delicious home made lunches and cream teas on offer at various locations in the village. Proceeds to St. Elizabeth's Hospice as part of their regional Great Garden Trail, and St. Andrew's Church, Wingfield. Tickets for the weekend will be £4.

Lorraine Ware

HOXNE CHARITIES CLAY SHOOT

The Hoxne Charities annual clay shoot will be held this year on **Sunday 1st September** by kind permission of landowner Mr Peter Saunders. Further details nearer the date.

Julie Thompson





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Wingfield Barns

Open Space Theatre Company presents *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* By Tennessee Williams

Friday 5th April, 7.30pm
Tickets £12/£9.50 (under 18/
over 65). For production
details, see page 8.



RPS Creative Eye Group Members' 2019 Print and Projected Image Exhibition

Saturday 13th to Monday 22nd April
11am to 4pm, Gallery 1 and 2. Admission
free. An exhibition of recent work by

members, covering
a wide genre of
images. Please
note: The galleries
are closed on
Mondays and
Tuesdays, except
Easter Monday.



An Exhibition of Photographs By Barry Freeman ARPS DPAGB APAGB

Running at the same
time as RPS Creative
Eye Group Exhibition in
Studio 4. See page 8
for further details.



Kick In The Head presents *My Dog's Got No Nose*

Friday 26th April, 7.30pm
A one-man play by Ron Aldridge and
produced by Kick In The Head. Starring
Giles Shenton and directed by Simon
Downing. Giles Shenton (Old
Herbaceous) returns with a "thought
provoking" and "cleverly constructed,
wonderful piece of theatre" about a man

preparing to
fulfil his
lifelong
ambition to be
a stand-up
comedian, "...
puts one in
mind of Alan Bennett's Talking Heads".
You join the man as he prepares
backstage for his first ever stand up
comedy gig. Something he has waited
over 30 years for. Find out how he got to
this point in his life... but be warned...
the man and the performance are not
quite what they seem! Tickets £14/£12
concessions



Peter Knight's Gigspanner

Saturday 27th April, 7.30pm
May 2019 marks the tenth anniversary of
the release of the intriguingly named
Lipreading the Poet, the debut album by
Peter Knight's
Gigspanner,
which had the
distinction of
being listed as
one of the best
10 Global albums
of 2009 by The
Wire Magazine.



Described since as one of the "most
quietly brilliant sets of musicians in the
folk world and beyond" (Folk Radio UK),
Gigspanner has stayed true to their quest
to take self-penned material along with
music rooted in the British Isles and
beyond, and with the flick of a bow, a
finely chosen chord or slip of a beat,
produce richly atmospheric arrangements
"with notes seemingly plucked from the
stars and rhythms from the
equator" (Spiral Earth).

In 2013, Gigspanner's founding
member, legendary fiddle player Peter
Knight, left Steeleye Span to wholly
commit to the trio, 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 making some of the most beautiful music the genre has to offer" 5*****. Tickets £16/£14 concessions

East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies

Saturday 4th to Sunday 19th May
Annual members' exhibition. 11am to 4pm, Wednesday to Sunday in Gallery 1 and 2.

To book tickets or for more information on booking the Barns for your event or for details of all our upcoming events, please visit our website.

www.wingfieldbarns.com
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Hoxne Village Hall

Film Nights

Bar opens 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm with interval. Ice creams and pop corn available. Tickets in advance on **01379 668060** or from Hoxne PO Shop, Deli & Tea Rooms.

On **Friday 12th April** we have **First Man**, certificate 12A. Recounting the life of Neil Armstrong and the decade leading to the historic Apollo 11 flight. Told from Armstrong's perspective, the film explores the triumphs and the cost - on Armstrong, his family, his colleagues and the nation itself - of one of the most dangerous missions in history. Starring Ryan Gosling (Neil Armstrong). Steven Spielberg as an executive producer.



Other Film Dates for 2019 (all **Fridays**)-
10th May, 7th June, 5th July (both June and July change to 1st Friday), no film in August, **13th September, 11th October, 8th November and 13th December.**
Next Season's Films yet to be decided, watch out for posters and flyers near the time.

Open Space Theatre Company presents **Cat On A Hot Tin Roof** By **Tennessee Williams**

Friday 26th April, 7.30pm
Tickets £12/£9.50 (under 18/
over 65). For production
details, see page 8.



Hoxne Produce and Craft Market
With café, **Saturdays** monthly, 9.30am to 12.30pm. Dates -**27th April, 18th May, 22nd June, 27th July, 31st August, 28th September, 26th October, 30th November and 14th December.**

Annual General Meetings

You are warmly invited to attend the meetings for both St Edmund's Hall and St Edmund's Hall Bar Committee on **Thursday 25th April** starting at 7.30pm at the village Hall. Bar will be open. If you would like to consider joining the Hall Committee as a Trustee, please contact our Chair Stephen Nixon on **01379 668785** or email chairman.hoxnevillagehall@outlook.com

Help Needed

Do you have a few hours to spare and fancy pulling a few pints? We are pleased to say we have several bookings this year for weddings which tend to be busy, so would love to have some more helpers to join our team. No previous experience necessary, full training given, and you



would always be with someone who knows what they are doing (well we like to think so!) Interested? Please give Sharon a call on **01379 668060** or email to the address below.

For contact details of the various organisations that use the Hall, please see our website for more information:
www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

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

Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

Auction of Promises

Saturday 30th March, 7pm for 7.30pm start, bar open, professional auctioneer, promises to suit all pockets, come along and buy yourself some once in a lifetime, exciting, useful, extraordinary items and offers.



Jumble Sale

Saturday 6th April, 10am 'til 12.30pm. If you have jumble to donate please bring it to the hall after 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd or Friday 5th - or Wednesday 3rd between 11am and 2pm - or call Donna on **01379 668361** or **07876 487294** to arrange collection. There will also be a raffle, refreshments and a cake stall.

Red Glass

Saturday 6th April, 8pm 'til late. Fiver on the door, burger van, bar. Come and support this talented local band who will be releasing their first album very soon.

Bingo

Friday 26th April, Friday 24th May and Friday 28th June

These three Bingo sessions will be for Eye Opportunity Group. Please come and support this amazing group who support children and families.

Eastern Angles

Thursday 9th May, 7.30pm. Eastern Angles theatre are touring with their new production 'The Tide Jetty', a thought-provoking play, exploring what we treasure and how and why we preserve it.

Two brothers, Tucky and Nathan grow up on the banks of Breydon Water



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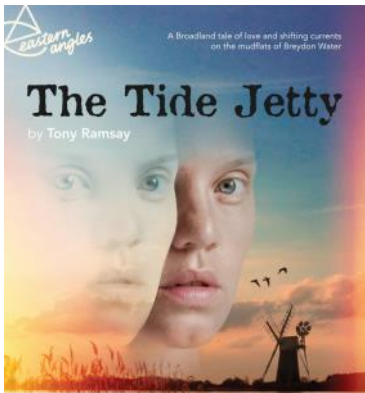
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alongside tomboy, Eliza. The three of them are inseparable. As they grow older the inevitable happens and both the boys fall for her. But tragedy tears



the trio apart and years later it is time to discover the truth of what really happened. Eastern Angles are working with the Broads Authority on the Water, Mills and Marshes project. £12 /

£10 concessions, refreshments, bar open, raffle. To book, call **01379 668102** or email: k.thompson156@btinternet.com

Advanced Date

Saturday 6th July, Family BBQ with live music, food from 5pm - 'pay as you eat', raffle, bar open, games.

Sports and Social Club

Membership is £3.50 (£3.00 concessions) with opening times each **Tuesday** and **Friday** from 8pm onwards. Please call in. Pool and darts available. Bar open. We will be pleased to see you

Open Mic night is on the **first Friday** of the month and Karaoke continues on the **second Friday**.

The postcode of Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall for SatNav users is **IP21 4LT**.

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

What's On There

Needham & Brockdish Community Heritage Project

HISTORY FESTIVAL

Running through April, the festival consisting of several local history talks, two separate exhibitions and the launch of a new website, is the culmination of a year of research into the history of the neighbouring South Norfolk villages of Brockdish and Needham.

A grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, enabled a group of volunteers from the local area to uncover stories of the past inhabitants of these rural communities and the historic properties they inhabited.

The programme kicks off on **Saturday 6th April** in Needham Parish Church at

2.30pm with Project Co-ordinator Stephen Poulter giving a free illustrated talk about some of the recent historical finds; this will be followed at 4pm by the Official



Launch of a Needham History Exhibition at the Village Hall next door which stays open until 7pm. The Exhibition will be open again on **Sunday 7th April** from 11am to 5pm.

At the Waveney Heritage Centre in Grove Road, Brockdish on **Sunday 28th April**, Baroness Elaine Murphy, a long-standing Brockdish resident and patron of the Community Heritage Project will

officially launch the Needham & Brockdish History website at 2.30pm followed by a talk by Dr David Seddon who



Fishmongers Arms, Needham c1900

Brockdish School Road c1900

also lives in Brockdish. The Brockdish History Exhibition will be open from 11am to 5pm on that same day and the following day, **Monday 29th April** between 11am and 7pm - all these events are free.

Stephen Poulter
stephenjp@talktalk.net
www.waveneyheritage.org

Harleston Players

THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM

Thornton Wilder and Ken Ludwig's adaptation of George Farquhar's classic comedy. After squandering their fortunes on food, drink and gambling, Tom Aimwell and Jack Archer, two London "beaux" (gentlemen), seek refuge and rich wives in the country. The *Beaux' Stratagem* finds them down on their last few pounds in the village of Litchfield in Staffordshire.

Here their stratagem for seducing ladies of stature and wealth - and returning as quickly as possible to London, of course - runs a-foul of true love and a colourful collection of rouges, thieves, dunces and strong women who give as good as they get.



Performances at Archbishop Sancroft High School on: **Friday 26th & Saturday 27th April** and **Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th May**.

Tickets £10.00 and £8.00 (concessions), first night only all tickets £5.00. Tickets available from Robinson's Traditional Stationers, Harleston, and online.

Look out for further updates on the Harleston Players website and Facebook page.

www.harlestonplayers.co.uk

Burgate Singers

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

The Burgate Singers and Burgate Sinfonia, with professional soloists, are performing Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *The Yeomen of the Guard*, in concert version, in Diss Corn Hall on **Saturday 27th April** at 7.00pm. It is a somewhat sad tale with leanings towards serious opera which when it was first performed had a run of 423 performances, and many of the songs remain familiar today. Don't miss it. The ticket price is £18 (and £15 for under 18's) obtainable from The Corn Hall box office 01379 652 241.

www.burgatesingers.org.uk

Harleston Choral Society

SUMMER TERM

HCS will pick up its scores again after the Easter break on **Monday 29th April**, 7pm in the London Road Church, Harleston. We're singing music by Purcell in preparation for our summer concert on **Saturday 22nd June**. Do come along and join us - we're a friendly non-audition choir and music is provided free. Subs £40.00 per term (some concessions available). More information on our website or from our Chair, Jo Curry: jo.curry@sky.com

www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk

Beyond the Wall

BLOSSOM DAY

Join us for our annual Blossom Day on **Sunday 12th May**, 12 noon - 3pm. Free entry, music, stalls, maypole dancing, children's games, BBQ, welly wanging & raffle. Beyond the Wall, The Walled Garden, Thornham Magna, Eye, IP23 8HA.

www.beyondthewall.org.uk

The Creative Fen Group

ART EXHIBITION

Based at Theltenham Fen, The Creative Fen Group is holding an exhibition from **Friday 17th to Sunday 19th May** at The Fox Inn, Garboldisham, entitled *The Awakening Fen*. A variety of art works will be on display including paintings, prints, textiles and photographs by local artists.

Mendham

PLANT FAIR, STALLS & CAFÉ

Come and purchase your perennials, summer plants, vegetable plants, herbs and other garden treats in the churchyard of All Saints' Church, Mendham IP20 0NR, on **Saturday 18th May**, 10.30am - 2.30pm. Coffee, tea, homemade scones, sausage rolls and cakes and from midday, light lunches. From 11am - 1pm there will be a gardeners' question time with International plants and Timothy Carless.

Harleston Players Auditions

Auditions for the autumn production of *Blue Stockings* by Jessica Swale, will be at Jays Green Community Centre on **Tuesday 28th May**, 7.30-10pm; **Sunday 2nd June**, 2-4pm; **Tuesday 4th June**, 7.30-10pm.

1896 - Girton College, Cambridge, the first college in Britain to admit women. The Girton girls study ferociously and match their male peers grade for grade. Yet, when the men graduate, the women leave with nothing but the stigma of being a 'blue stocking' - an unnatural, educated woman. They are denied degrees and go home unqualified and unmarried.

In Jessica Swale's debut play, *Blue Stockings*, Tess Moffat and her fellow first years are determined to win the

right to graduate. But little do they anticipate the hurdles in their way: the distractions of love, the cruelty of the class divide or the strength of the opposition, who will do anything to stop them.

The play follows them over one tumultuous academic year, in their fight to change the future of education. 'Love or knowledge: which would you choose?'

If you would like to get involved come along to the auditions and find out more about the show. There are many parts in this play for actors of all ages. There is a cast breakdown on the Harleston Players website or contact David Cumming:

davidcumming75@gmail.com

07947 318297

www.harlestonplayers.co.uk

Harleston and District U3A

The new Harleston and District U3A Art Group have decided to meet on the **fourth Wednesday** of each month at 2pm in the Methodist Church hall on London Road. This is an all-ability group and those who have always wanted to "have a go" but have never really had the leisure or opportunity before are particularly welcome. More experienced members of the group will be more than happy to offer help if asked. The group intend to operate as a co-operative with everyone who wishes, being able to choose a topic for the next session and each group member able to use any style or medium. Release your inner Van Gogh and join them!

To join U3A and take advantage of any of the interest groups on offer - from astronomy to playing the ukulele - contact Kim on **01986 788149**, or visit our website or try out one of our regular monthly meetings which have a speaker, raffle, refreshments and some social time. We meet at the Masonic Rooms, 2pm on the **third Wednesday** of each month.

u3asites.org.uk/harleston

Diss Quaker Meeting

Meeting 10.30am every Sunday at the Friends Meeting House, Frenze Road, Diss IP22 4PA. All welcome. peter.sorrell48@gmail.com
www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/diss

Park Radio - 107.6 or 105.2 FM

We are now in our second year of being on-air and this couldn't be achieved without the large group of volunteers who dedicate their time. We can be heard via the Radio, Internet and through our website. For details about us, upcoming events, news and listening schedule, please visit our website. We love listeners to interact with us, so send us a message, email us or even pop in and see us. We truly believe this is "Your Station and Your Music".
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Hoxne Bell Ringers

The Hoxne bell ringing band now numbers nearly a dozen. We have two regular ringers and one who has rung previously. The others are all learners who have started this year.

Starting to ring takes one to one teaching so we have divided the band into two groups. The Wednesday evening group go to Bacton where we have tied up four clappers to prevent the bells sounding and upsetting the neighbours. We have had great support from the Stowmarket band both by allowing us to use Bacton Bells and by them providing us with teachers.

Thornham Magna on Saturday mornings accommodates the other group. We are taught by Sylvie the tower captain and Zoe who also comes to Bacton, so special thanks to her. We are really beholden to the Thornham ringers and cannot thank them enough for the time they give us and the patience they show while teaching us.

We have had two demonstrations at Wickham Skeith of bells being rung and nine teaching sessions so far and good progress is being made by everyone. The enthusiasm of the band is excellent.

The Hoxne church tower is to be inspected in late March to assess its ability to take full circle ringing. This is a precursor for a restoration which we are planning to do in the next few

years. When we get a satisfactory structural report the process of fund raising and applications for grants from the lottery fund and many others organisations can begin in earnest.

Andrew Castleden, 01379 668458
fal@castleden.co.uk



Reflections

Hope for the future

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow - a line from the popular hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness'. Strength and hope are things we all need, particularly at a time of turbulence and change. Global developments seem threatening, the nation is divided over Europe and many of us have challenges to contend with in our personal lives as well. But we can draw both strength and hope from the events of Holy Week and Easter which the church celebrates in April.

Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph on Palm Sunday (14th April this year) and the crowds hailed him as King. Then it all seemed to go horribly wrong. Jesus was betrayed by one of his closest friends, arrested, given a show trial and put to death on

Good Friday. For his disciples, things could not have been worse. Yet just when all seemed lost, the resurrection happened and Jesus was alive! The darkest hour really was just before the dawn of new life.

And Jesus's resurrection was for all of us. The Russian Orthodox church has an icon showing Jesus, as he rises from the tomb, pulling Adam and Eve - that's the whole human race - out of their graves with him to eternal life in God. So when things seem black for us, let us find "bright hope for tomorrow" in the Easter mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Revd Eleanor Godison



Borderhoppa



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). See our website: www.borderhoppa.org

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.

April

Mon 8th, Mystery Tour; Thu 11th, Lunch at The Kings Head North Lopham £7; Mon 15th, Highways Nursery Loddon £15; Thu 18th, Lowestoft £16; Thu 25th, Halesworth & Lunch at The Angel £10.

May

Thu 2nd, Great Yarmouth £17; Thu 9th, Lunch at The Old Ram Tivetshall £7; Thu 16th, Thetford Town & Garden Centre £15; Thu 23rd, Lunch at The Chip Inn Long Stratton £6; Thu 30th, Southwold £15.

Church services

Denham, Hoxne, Syleham and Wingfield

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

Village contacts

Denham - Rev Michael, **01379 388889**

Hoxne - Guy McGregor, **01379 668434**

Syleham - Mary Lewis, **01379 669258**

Wingfield - John McCracken, **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

Sunday 31st March

4.00pm St Margaret's 'Messy Church for Mothering Sunday' - all welcome

11.15am Denham Holy Communion

11.15am Hoxne BCP Matins

6.30pm Wingfield Benefice BCP Evensong

Friday 5th April

6.00pm Wingfield Compline

Sunday 7th April

8.30am Hoxne BCP Communion

11.15am Wingfield Holy Communion followed by AGM

2.30pm Messy Church at The Depperhaugh - all welcome; NB: no Messy Church at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

Friday 12th April

6.00pm Wingfield Compline

Sunday 14th April (Palm Sunday)

11.15am Denham Benefice family@church

Thursday 18th April (Maundy Thursday)

7.30pm Hoxne Stripping of the Altar

Friday 19th April (Good Friday)

12 noon Wingfield

2.30pm Hoxne

Saturday 20th April (Easter Eve)

7.30pm Denham Service of Light

Sunday 21st April (Easter Day)

7.45am Meditation and breakfast

9.30am Wingfield BCP Communion

11.15am Hoxne Holy Communion

11.15am Wingfield Family Communion and Baptism

3.00pm Syleham Easter Praise

Sunday 28th April

9.30am Syleham BCP Communion

Sunday 5th May

8.30am Hoxne BCP Communion

11.15am Wingfield Holy Communion

4.00pm Wingfield and Syleham Village Hall Messy Church

Sunday 12th May

11.15am Denham Benefice family@church

Sunday 19th May

10.00am Syleham Village Praise

11.15am Hoxne Holy Communion

Sunday 26th May

9.30am Syleham BCP Holy Communion

11.15am Denham Holy Communion

11.15am Hoxne BCP Matins

6.30pm Wingfield Benefice BCP Evensong

Thursday 30th May

7.30pm Deanery Ascension Day service - for venue check Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

Church News

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

The Parochial Church Council Electoral Roll is being updated and anyone who is associated with St Peter & St Paul's is entitled to be

included. Those already on the register will need to reapply.

Membership gives the right to attend the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting and vote for officers and church wardens. There is a notice in St Peter & St Paul porch and application forms are in the church or available from me. The completed form needs to be returned to me.

By the time you read this the church tower masonry should have been repaired.

Cathie McGregor **01379 668434** or email: guy.mcgregor@suffolk.gov.uk

Mothers' Union

The Hoxne branch of the Mother's Union meets on the **third Monday** of the month at 2.30pm at Time House Low Street Hoxne. New members are always welcome.

Monday 15th April - Branch meeting in Hoxne;

Monday 20th May - Branch meeting in Hoxne.

Thank you to all who supported our Coffee Morning in February. A total of £150 plus £105 for cards was raised. This will be used for the 'Make a Mother's Day' and other appeals.

Cathie McGregor. Branch Leader
01379 668434.

Flower rota

7th and 14th April: No flowers as we are in Lent;

21st and 28th April: Easter Rota

5th and 12th May: Altar, Cathie McGregor;

19th and 26th May: Altar, Jenny Looe;

Thank you to all the flower arrangers for your contributions to keeping our church a welcoming place for visitors.

If you would like to join our group, please contact Cathie McGregor, flower rota organiser **01379 668434.**

St Margaret, Syleham

Re-decoration of the church - Exciting! Work is being put in hand and may well be completed by July: we plan also to have the windows thoroughly cleaned, and repaired as necessary, and look forward to a really bright and welcoming church. We shall then be able to have the memorial tablet for J Leader installed and no doubt there will be a dedication arranged. Watch this space for further news on this. In the meantime, there may be limited access to St Margaret's whilst the plastering and painting is in progress: please bear with us on this as the contractor requires the church to be locked for safety reasons.

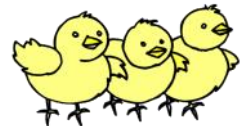
Mothering Sunday is on **31st March** this year so may have passed by the time you receive your copy of Village Voice. But note that we are holding a special '**Messy Church for Mothering Sunday**' in St Margaret's at 4pm: activities, crafts, story and tea. Everyone is welcome to this!

Easter Day is on **Sunday 21st April** and will be celebrated in St

Margaret's with a Songs of Praise at 3pm: do come and sing with us, admire the flowers and enjoy tea and cake - and an Easter

Egg hunt!

Other Easter services will be listed in the usual way in Village Voice, but we are starting early by taking Messy Church to the Depperhaugh Residential Home on **Sunday 7th April**, at 2.30pm. There will, therefore, be no Messy Church in the Village Hall that day, but everyone is welcome to the Depperhaugh, where we shall have live chicks as part of our celebration of Easter and the days leading up to it.



Future events are being planned. So far, we have one definite date and that is **Saturday 13th July** for a **Cheese & Wine evening** at The Old Vicarage, by kind invitation of Colin and Jackie Campbell. Always a super evening so do put this in your diaries for 6pm. We have also had requests to revive the Summer Fete and we are keen to do this if there is



sufficient interest in helping with stalls, games and activities: this is likely to be in August, date and venue to be confirmed.

Our Harvest Supper is always popular and we intend to repeat this; and there are also plans to have a special Harvest Celebration in the church: dates should be confirmed by the next Village Voice.

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

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Obituary

Isabel Draper

November 1919 - January 2019

The funeral service for Isabel was held on the 5th February at Hoxne Church with Rev.Eleanor

officiating. Isabel had passed away peacefully on January 19th at The Depperhaugh Care Home where she had lived for the last 16 months of her life.

She was born in Oulton Broad on 11th November 1919, the first Remembrance Day and a date of which she was always very proud. She was born a twin, her sister Pamela was the elder of the two and they had five other sisters and two brothers.

When they were old enough, the twins joined some of their siblings in the Rock Chapel Choir and so began a love of singing which stayed with her throughout her life.

She married John Draper in 1942 and would become the consummate vicars wife. She worked quietly in the background, helping to set up Sunday Schools, doing flower arranging in the churches, washing the altar linen, baking endless supplies of cakes for fetes and

coffee mornings, joining choirs, Mother's Unions and WIs. This all culminated in the ten years spent in Hoxne, "the golden years" of his ministry as John called them. In 1985 he retired and they moved to Holton.

However, they returned to Hoxne in 1994 and lived in Church Close for three years until they found the garden too big to manage as they advanced in years.

It was not to be Isabel's last association with Hoxne though as she moved back in 2006 to live in St Edmund's House, John having passed away in 2002. She was very happy in her flat there, enjoying the company of the other residents, baking cakes each week to sell to them in order to raise money for charity and becoming involved with the Church again.

Diagnosed with Alzheimers in 2016 she was determined to live independently for as long as possible and she reluctantly agreed to go The Depperhaugh in 2017, initially for respite care but stayed on as a permanent resident when she realised how well she was looked after by all of the staff there.

Isabel is survived by her four children, four grandchildren, four great grandchildren and her twin sister.

Mrs Anne Williams

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Hoxne and Denham

Calling every 4 weeks on **Thursdays**

Next stops: **11th April and 9th 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

Calling every 4 weeks on **Fridays**

Next stops: **17th May (there is no visit in April)**
Syleham, Wingfield Road (Junction with Weybread Road) from 11:40 to 11:55
Wingfield, Post box from 12:00 to 12:20

The lost Papers of John Frere

I have been researching the life and work of John Frere 1740 - 1807, who was born at Westhorpe, Suffolk to Sheppard Frere 1712 - 1780 and Susanna Hatley 1711 - 1779 of Finningham, Suffolk. John was educated in Wyverstone at Mr Steggal's School before he went to study at Caius College, Cambridge.

He decided to study the law and entered the Middle Temple in April 1761, but because of his inherited wealth did not pursue a career in the law, but it came in handy when he became a Justice of the Peace and was involved in local politics. In 1768 he married Jane Hookham of Beddington, Surrey, the heiress to her father John Hookham, a rich London Merchant. So the Frere family were very well off with lands at Finningham, Roydon, Wortham and Hoxne.

John Frere was related to the Thurston family of Hoxne and the Frere family had inherited lands in Hoxne which John visited. On one occasion he travelled from his home at Roydon Hall, near to Diss, Norfolk to Hoxne and encountered workmen from the nearby tile kell, filling in the potholes in the road from Low Street to South Green and the ancient borough of Eye. The pot holes were being filled with flints, but flints which had been worked on by human hands, evidently fabricated as weapons of war by hunter gatherers before the time of Adam and Eve.

John Frere organised a dig to discover more of these ancient flints in stratified soils that established these objects were with fragments of bone and wood. While the early periods of the hunter gatherers are called Stone Age man, it must not be

overlooked that animal skins and wood were used to build shelters and camps. John Frere presented a report on his discoveries to the Society of Antiquaries in 1797 and it was subsequently published, but dismissed at the time.

Superficial evidence pointed to a ring ditch or small henge being located near to the site of the interglacial lake and a walkway made from birch, fir, alder and oak trees crossing the beck (now known as the Goldbrook) to an ancient trackway and another going towards the River Dove Valley and River Waveney.

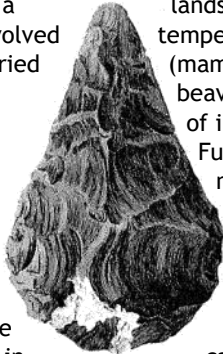
During the inter-glacial period of approximately 375,000 -425,000 years ago, the water levels within the landscape were much greater and the temperature very different. Elephants (mammoth), rhinoceros, giant deer, beaver, shrew and wild horses would of inhabited the river valley.

Further evidence indicated a number of campfires near to the edge of the lake. It would be foolish to suggest that a large henge was erected here for ceremonial purposes, as the beliefs of stone age man cannot be truly known, although the mother earth symbolism of carved female fertility figures have been discovered at Grimes Graves, near to Thetford.

The recently found papers of John Frere have helped me shed light on the great discoveries made at Hoxne. They were mixed up amongst other papers by the antiquarian Prince Frederick Duleep Singh and came up for sale at the beginning of April 2018 at a local auction house in a box of books owned by Edmund Farrer of Hinderclay, Suffolk, the antiquarian friend of Prince Freddy.

I hope this information will be of much interest to your Hoxnian readers.

**Henri Boucher de Perthes
Abbeville, France**



Hand Axe by
John Frere

THE HOXNE HERITAGE GROUP PRESENTS A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS: HOXNE AT WAR 1939 - 1945

Before they forget!

With the passing of time things are forgotten or misremembered and Hoxne Heritage Group would like to record as accurately as possible the events of WW2 for posterity but YOUR help is needed. We can look in official records, newspaper articles and diaries, but what was it really like in Hoxne and Denham?

CAN YOUR FAMILY HELP?

Who knows of, or remembers the searchlight at Chickering? The pillboxes near Red Bridge? The falling of the V bomb? Air raid practises at St. Edmund's Primary School? The coming of the USAAF? Delivering laundry? Black GI's building the runways at Horham? Fund raising dances and events in the Hall. Fines for blackout failures?

And what of 'Chummy'? How about Bryrum's Reply?

Anybody heard of that and its pilots? What on earth did the Home Guard get up to? And the sport lovers... did they play?

Your family may have photos, clippings, anecdotes or leftovers from the war years. You may have medals, uniforms or kit. Toys and games. Or be able to tell stories of what life was like to one of our members. Anything lent to us will be well cared for and returned, although we would like to copy photos and documents if possible and credit given to the family for that contribution. Please contact our Chairman, David Hyde: davidjhyde@btinternet.com or Kevin Knights: ktk957@gmail.com
Hoxne Heritage Group: hoxnehistory.org.uk



Hoxne & Denham Home Guard on Demob

The First Exhibition: PREPERATION & OPENING TO 1941

AN EXHIBITION DETAILING VILLAGE LIFE IN HOXNE DURING THE
OPENING PHASE OF WORLD WAR TWO WILL BE SHOWING IN
THE VILLAGE HALL ON **SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER, 10.00AM - 4.00PM**
WHAT IT WAS REALLY LIKE - BYGONES, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTEFACTS, INVASION ALERTS
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Fressingfield Scouts

First this month an update on the new site. We have made some progress with improving the new site, several hundred tree saplings have been planted around the plot along with bluebells and other native flowers along the tree line on Priory Lane. We also have wild meadow grass seeds to sow around the edges of the field soon.

A successful grant bid to install a trim-trail of climbing equipment has been received and by the time you read this the equipment should be situated at the top left hand side of the field along the fence line.

Our actual construction of the building part of the project is taking much longer than we had hoped, but we have recently made some progress, hopefully there will be some definite news in the next couple of months.

On the 6th April, 11 members of the Explorer Unit will be heading off to Kenya to work with our partners and friends at Mothers' Mercy Home. The orphanage offers shelter, support and education to over a hundred young people many rescued from the streets of Kenya. The Explorers will be immersed in African culture for over two weeks, we will be taking donations of clothing, school shoes and school stationary items. Any donations will be gratefully received.

The Scout Association has recently conducted its annual membership census and this has confirmed that the Group has grown yet again as second most popular Group in the District of 14 groups. But with these numbers and a growing interest in Scouting, many of our sections are now full and for us to offer more opportunities to more young people we need more adults to volunteer and help us deliver an exciting, challenging and rewarding youth programme. If you are interested in

joining our excellent team of volunteers please contact Andrew Aalders Dunthorne on **07908 262623**.

Also the Scout Group is an official point for the collection of empty crisp packets for recycling. The bags will be processed into other plastic objects so please pack them in a carrier bag, tie it securely and either hand it to a member, bring it along on a meeting evening or leave it at the Goodwin Hall in the marked dustbin. We will be paid per kilo that we forward so please help us to fund raise as the area recycles a bit more plastic.

WANTED - quality new items for a Grand Summer Draw: We will soon be printing raffle tickets for a grand draw and would really welcome any items that would make quality prizes. Please contact Andrew on **07908 262623** to pledge an item.

www.1stfressingfieldscouts.org.uk

Friends of St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

Our AGM will be held at St. Edmunds Hall on **Thursday 11th April** at 7pm and it is hoped that it will be well supported. We are in desperate need of new committee members as we have lost two during the year, anyone interested please let me know.

Despite this, the present committee have arranged a full programme of fundraising events for the coming year:
Saturday 8th June - Pie & Pint evening;
Sunday 14th July - Summer Curry Lunch;
Sunday 13th October - Harvest Lunch;
Saturday 9th November - Quiz.

Further details of all these events nearer the time. We will continue to hold our monthly coffee mornings and book sale on the **third Saturday** of the month. Tea, coffee, cakes and lots of books, 9.45 to 11.15am.

*John Brawn, 01379 668352
Chair of the Friends committee*

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New Reeding Woods Group

On a recent walk around Pound Lane Wood it was interesting to reflect on the transformation of this corner of a farmer's field over the past 13 years and contemplate the coming year.

There were a few signs of spring with swelling buds on some trees, catkins on the hazel, cherry blossom along the hedge and primroses around the pond and beside the meadow. As yet there are no orchids, the barn owl was

nowhere to be seen, and the newts have yet to return. The rides around the woodland are well trodden, the water in the pond is clear, the woodland is well used and the prospects for the coming season are looking good.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy this community woodland, so come along to Redlingfield Road, Horham see it for yourself.

For information about events, see the notice board at the wood, and to join the group please contact our Secretary Peny Conway on **01379 870165** - new members are always welcome.

Margaret Reeves

The Hoxne Angel

Recently I was reading a fascinating book entitled 'The Angel Roofs of East Anglia' by Michael Rimmer which was published in 2015. This got me thinking about the painted angel boards in the roof of the nave at Hoxne church. When the nave was being re-roofed during the 1970s a fragmented board was found in the roof, but had sadly deteriorated from woodworm.

along with a watercolour of the Angel. He was the professor of design at the Royal College of Art [1926-1948] and was the author of 'English Medieval Wall Painting', which was published in two volumes by Oxford University Press in 1944/1950. The watercolour designs were produced in 1926 and are in the Victoria & Albert Museum [E17-1927] prints, drawings and paintings collection.

The painted angel had red and white barber pole decorations above and below and decorative coloured floral bosses at each end. The angels would have most probably decorated the length of the nave as a decoration between the wall and roof. We must remember that our catholic churches were highly coloured and decorated, during the medieval period, with painted and gilded wood carvings, painted stonework, murals, tapestries, paintings and statues of saints. Most people could not read, so were informed by the visual imagery to be found within the church. With the dissolution of the monasteries and the Commonwealth period, most of the decorative features within our churches were destroyed.

Stephen Govier, Elmswell



*Painted Angel decorations, Hoxne church Nave
Last panel, destroyed by woodworm.*

Obviously the high status carved angel roofs can be predominantly found in Suffolk and Norfolk, sadly Hoxne didn't run to carved wooden angels, but did have painted wall murals.

The murals were restored by Professor Ernest William Tristram [1882-1952], who produced watercolours of the murals

Red Feather Club

The 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association operates and manages the Red Feather Club Museum. Public Open Days are on the **last Sunday** of the month April to October, 10am-4pm, with our first of the year being **Sunday 28th April** and the next on **Sunday 26th May**.

On **Saturday 29th June**, one of the hottest bands on the circuit at the moment, The Revolutionaires, will be performing for us at our evening dance. For details of prices, times, ticket availability etc. for dances & other Red Feather Club events, visit our website.

If you want to join the association contact our membership secretary Helen Krawczynszyn on **01728 628138** or visit: www.95thbg-horham.com
Red Feather Club Museum
Coldhams Hill, Denham, IP21 5DG

St Edmund's School

Spring Term at St Edmund's Primary School has been full of fresh activities. We celebrated Number Day, a national maths inspired fundraising day for NSPCC. Teachers dressed as dominoes, children were creative and came in a variety of number related costumes.

Parents joined us for a maths session in the class rooms and our wonderful chef prepared a number themed lunch.



On World Book Day we shared our passion for reading by holding a special after school club session. Families joined us for a story, cocoa and cookies. We recently received £100 worth of books

from Archant Newspapers as a result of friends and families collecting book tokens in the local newspaper.

We are hoping to increase our **LEGO** collection by collecting vouchers. These are found in the East Anglia Daily Times and Ipswich Star. If you read these papers and can collect the vouchers for us we would be very pleased to receive them.

Oak Class had a fabulous day at Africa Alive. It was a fine spring day filled with African animal activities at the zoo.

Outings such as this enrich our children's understanding of their class room based work and inspires creativity too.



For more information about our school, please visit our website or contact us as shown. Small Schools - Huge Ambitions.

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Hoxne Phoenix Group

We began 2019 by celebrating our 12th Birthday with appropriate refreshments having first had an interesting talk by Lynsey Allison. When we saw that our talk was to be on Lingerie and Swimwear, we wondered what on earth there was to say. But Lynsey, who herself has designed such items of clothing, gave a very interesting presentation with examples of all different types.

It is obviously a very complex business. Not only is there such a huge range of sizes and shapes to consider, but also differing customer requirements from simple comfort, to support, to glamour,

to materials - and then how do you actually construct them? It appears to be quite an engineering project, with traditional fabrics cut in various shapes and stitched, more modern materials heated and moulded, plastic or wire introduced to maintain shape, and then other materials added for decoration. Who would have thought so much went into it! Lyndsay passed around her samples while explaining the intricacies of design and manufacture, keeping us fully absorbed till time for our appropriate refreshments.

The following week we had a very enjoyable New Year Lunch together with our husbands at The White Horse at Stoke Ash, where we spent a good couple of hours eating and chatting - a good time was had by all and the staff looked after us admirably, as usual.

At the Annual General Meeting in February we had reports from the President, Viv Bradford and the Treasurer - Noreen Couch (who always keeps us on our toes financially) and who produces our accounts in a very efficient and methodical manner. After having had the same subscription of £15 for the last 11 years it was becoming obvious, we would have to increase it. With Speakers costs and travel expenses rising, it was agreed by the vast majority of members to increase it to £20 so that we have surplus money for the next few years, hopefully not having to increase them yet again.

The Secretary, Pat Green, reminded members of the events and activities in 2018. Our fundraising this year will be in aid of Alzheimer's Society - so keep your eyes open for our Special Pudding Evening on **Tuesday 10th September** which will be open to anyone (including men) - the more people we have the more money we will raise for a worthy cause. Full details will be given in the next issue.

Our talk on 12th March on Defensive Driving (to which anyone including men are invited) will be very interesting and will be reported on in the next issue. Gold Work Embroidery is the title of our meeting on **Tuesday 9th April** - so if that interests you please feel free to come along for that particular talk - this applies to any of our meetings. All we ask is a £2 Visitor Fee.

There is a change to our May meeting to **Monday 13th May** (in place of the Outing on the programme for the 14th). We will be having a talk on Travel by Sue Horne. Usual time of 7.30pm in Hoxne Village Hall.

The Hoxne Phoenix Group has welcomed three new members in the last few months. The illness of Margaret Richardson and her subsequent death earlier this week came as a shock to us all as she had been a very interesting and informative member of the Group since its inception (and before that as Hoxne W.I.).

Pat Green, Secretary
01379 668379
patandbryan1@gmail.com

Wingfield & District Gardening Club

The next meeting of the Wingfield and District Gardening Club is on **Thursday 25th April** and will be a talk by Tom Harbinson on Garden Ponds. This is followed on **Saturday 25th May** when we visit two member's gardens in Syleham.

Meetings start at 7.30pm in Brundish Village Hall. Wine and local apple juice on sale. Non-members welcome - £3 at the door. For further information, please contact:

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Hoxne Garden & Social Club

I am not sure if there will be a Garden Club as it currently exists when you read this, as our AGM is on 21st March and we still need two more members to step up to form a committee.

Please be assured that the Flower, Craft and Produce Show will still take place on **Saturday 7th September**. Show Schedules will be available from the Hoxne Post Office & Shop and other places nearer the time.

In the meantime, we have had an extremely entertaining talk by Karen Kenny on “the Magic and Mystery of Herbs” in February. It was not quite as we expected, but some wonderful descriptions of their uses from the year 2000bc to present day produced a lot of laughter! Our AGM Speaker is to be Dr Tim Wregitt on “Low Allergy Gardening”, very useful for those of us who suffer from allergies such as Hay fever.

Sue Flagg, 01379 668258
sue.flagg@hotmail.co.uk

Hoxne Bowls Hit the Start Line for Ton Up Celebration Season

Only months after the end of the Great War, The Hoxne Swan entered a team in the Mid-Suffolk Bowls League. No records survive to tell us just who those men were - women rarely played sports at that time.

On **Sunday 14th April**, Hoxne Bowls Club will open their green and start their Centenary Year celebrations. The first home game is **Monday 29th April**.

The club moved from The Swan and dropped the name some fifty odd years

ago. Now, with a smart clubhouse and highly respected green, the club is looking forward to the coming season. With three teams and club competitions there is plenty of scope for new members.

The club is proud that the majority of its members are villagers and always welcome more.

Players will be dusting off their greys and polishing their woods ready to swing their arms from 2pm. All are welcome to join them, whether experienced or trying for the first time. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes.

Refreshments and Bar will be available.

If anyone cannot make that date and are interested in the sport, we have a regular club night **every Wednesday** where newcomers will be welcome. Or contact the secretary, Roger Knight on **01379 668403**.



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Plants for Moths & Butterflies

If you want lots of day flying butterflies and dusk flying moths in your garden, you will not only need to provide plants for the many colourful and marked adults, but their caterpillars too.

Different species of caterpillar feed on different plants and some are very fussy feeding on only one species of plant. But the more different varieties of trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses in your garden, the better it will be for moths and butterflies.

Some caterpillars are quite easy to spot. You can often see large groups of black, spiky peacock caterpillars on stinging nettles in June. Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma caterpillars all eat nettles too. Even more reason to leave a nettle patch, when weeding, if your garden is large enough. The caterpillars like to eat in the middle of large clumps in sunny, sheltered locations, so consider this when deciding where you're going to leave the nettles to grow! Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns and Skippers like to eat wild grasses left to grow tall. Common Blue caterpillars eat bird's-foot trefoil, a small yellow pea-flower which grows in grassy wild areas. So, if you can leave the grass long near your nettle patch it will help other caterpillars and provide a barrier to stop you getting stung!

We have all seen Butterflies feeding on *Buddleja davidii*. It's one of the best-known nectar flowers for adult butterflies, but *Verbena bonariensis*, Hebe, or wild marjoram will all draw in the adults for a feed. To feed moths, you will need to grow flowers that release their scent and nectar in the evening. *Nicotiana alata* and Sweet rocket can be



grown from seed each year and grown in the flower bed. Jasmine and Honeysuckle for growing up a trellis. Hemp-agrimony is a perennial that grows about 1m tall, with soft, lilac heads of flowers. In the autumn, try plants like Ivy, *Symphytichum novi-belgii* (Michaelmas daisy) and *Sedum spectabile* sometimes called *Hylotelephium spectabile*. Just remember, generally the more “old-fashioned” the plant variety the more nectar they will produce. Many modern forms and hybrids, in particular double flowers have little or no nectar or pollen, so it is better to choose varieties with single flowers.

With so many different moths and butterfly's species living in the UK, they form an essential part of the food chain. If you're a bat or bird, the adults can be a tasty treat, while blue tits, great tits, robins and many other garden birds feed caterpillars to their young.

**Claire Horne - BBC Radio Suffolk
Gardening Expert**

Vanessa atalanta, the Red Admiral butterfly

Lemon Drizzle Simmel Cake

This is an easy Easter traybake, where Lemon drizzle meets a light and fruity almond cake. It should keep in an airtight container for up to five days, but chances are it will be eaten well before that!

Ingredients:

- 250g softened salted butter
- 225g caster sugar, plus 50g for the topping
- 2 large lemons, zested and juiced
- 3 large eggs
- 200g SR flour
- 100g ground almonds
- 1tsp baking powder
- 50ml milk
- 100g dried raisins
- 150g marzipan, chilled
- 50g icing sugar
- 11 marzipan balls or mini chocolate Easter eggs for decoration if required.

Method

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line and grease a 9 inch or 23cm square baking tin with baking parchment.

Cream the butter and sugar with most of the lemon zest until its pale and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time,

alternating with a little flour to avoid the mixture splitting. Add the remaining flour, almonds and baking powder, and mix until smooth. Stir in the milk and dried fruit.

Put half the cake mix into the tin and level the surface. Coarsely grate the marzipan onto the batter to create an even layer, then add the remaining cake mix. Level the top and bake for about 40 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

Mix the 50g of caster sugar with a quarter of the lemon juice, then drizzle over the cake while its still warm, then leave the cake to cool in the tin.



Mix the icing sugar with enough lemon juice to make a drizzly icing, 2-3 tsp should be enough. Drizzle the icing over the cake, top with 11 marzipan balls or small Easter eggs or both! Then sprinkle with the remaining lemon zest and more drizzly icing as desired.

Based on a recipe by Cassie Best from the BBC Good Food magazine



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Hoxne Wallpaper came from Tonga

Rachel Hand, the collections manager for the anthropology collections of the Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology in Cambridge was recently in contact with me regarding the hand painted wall coverings which used to hang on the walls of The Retreat, formerly The Royal Oak ale house which had been owned by the Cupper family until 1957, when the property was purchased by Freda and James Govier.

The Retreat is a 17th century timber framed house with a thatched roof and inglenook fireplaces. The wall coverings were pasted



fields are typically Tongan, from a type of cloth called ngatu tahini, and could date from the 19th-20th century.

Rachel says that the wall coverings are fascinating and a wonderful thing to have been found on the walls of a



Suffolk house, most probably brought back by someone who had travelled to the Pacific.

Examples of the wallpaper were shown to the Hoxne Heritage Group and its speaker Philip Aitkens, for further research.

At the moment the wallpaper expert and consultant to the National Trust Emile di Bruijn is looking at the wallcoverings in Cornwall.

I did come across '*Tapa in Tonga*' by Wendy Arbeit, published 1995, which is an informative guide to Polynesian art.

Stephen Govier, Elmswell

between the beams to the sitting room until circa 1965 when they were removed. I saved some of the larger sections out of interest, because they were hand painted and interesting.

Rachel thinks that the material is bark-cloth made of paper mulberry [*Broussonetia papyrifera*] from Western Polynesia, most likely to be Tongan or Samoan. The heavy black dot design, fo'i hea, leaf designs and the enclosed

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Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

The Parish Council wants to hear everyone's opinions about the future of the Village Hall. To raise funds (and we're going to need £150-200,000) we will need the engagement, support and enthusiasm of the whole community. If you are on the internet we have set up a public survey about the hall's future - you can find the link on our website www.denham.onesuffolk.net and it's also on the Denham Parish Council page of Facebook. Please take ten minutes to click on the link and tell us what you think.

We will soon be delivering leaflets as well which will have printed versions of the survey, so if you'd prefer to fill it out that way, feel free - the leaflet will have details of who to give the completed survey back to.

On **Saturday 30th March** we are holding an open meeting about the Village Hall at the Red Feather Club from 10am until 12 noon. Please come along and let us know what you think. We want to get the Hall back into daily use for the whole community as soon as possible and there's a lot to do to get to that point.

On a (somewhat) related subject this year also sees elections to the Parish Council and the District Council. Two of our long-serving Parish Councillors - Carol Rose and Margaret Reeves - are standing down this year after giving wonderful service to the community. We have vacancies! A couple of people have come forward, but it would be really great to achieve a Parish Council which represents all interests, age-groups, areas and concerns.

The election will have been officially called on 12th March and the closing date for nominations is **Friday 4th April**, with the election itself on **Thursday 2nd May**. To be honest it is fairly unusual to have more nominations than seats on the council, so volunteers are extremely welcome to play a part in shaping the future of the village.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Clerk and will also be available from our website. If you need any help or want to talk this over, again just contact the Clerk.

The next regular Parish Council meeting will be on **Wednesday 27th March** at 7.30pm in the Church; the first meeting after the election will be the Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 15th May** at 7.30pm in the Church. That's when the new Parish Council officially takes office. On the same evening we will also hold the Annual Parish Meeting, when we will present the results of the Village Hall survey.

And one more date for your diary: the village litter pick will be on **Saturday 6th April**, starting from the Village Hall at 10am. Come along and help!

Residents are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings and have their say on any matter. If you would like to help with the renovation of the Hall, or to contact the Parish Council about anything, our Clerk Rod Caird will be happy to hear from you.

Hoxne

Planning and Housing Development - At the March Parish Council meeting the Council agreed to commission a Housing Needs Survey for the Parish. This will provide data to be used when considering future housing development in the village.

The Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th March gave consideration to a Neighbourhood Development Plan for

Hoxne. The conclusion of this discussion will be published in the next edition.

Village Spring Clean - Thanks to all that came along on 17th March including the enthusiastic and willing members of Fressingfield Scout group. Their contribution was much appreciated. It is not just one day a year that we want Hoxne to look at its best, this can be achieved all year round. Put your dog waste in a bin, don't drop litter, take down out of date posters and walk the footpaths with a pair of secateurs to hand!

Highways - The Parish Council is disappointed to note the current state of surface of the B1118 particularly following the resurfacing that took place just a few months ago. The Council has expressed its concern and requested that the Highways Authority hold their contractor to account for the quality of this work. Any concerns you have whether it be potholes, blocked drains or flooding can be reported at www.suffolk.gov.uk/highways

Council Election - On **Thursday 2nd May** a new Council will be elected for Hoxne. There are 11 seats on the Parish Council and those taking these positions are elected to represent the village at the first level of democracy. We wish them every success for their four year term of office and pay great thanks for those willing and dedicated individuals who have served the Parish Council so well for the last four years and in particular those individuals who have served many terms of office.

Meetings - The next meeting will be **Thursday 4th April** at St Edmund's Hall and following the 2nd May elections, the new Council will meet for an Annual General Meeting and election of Chairman on **Thursday 9th May** at the Playing Field Pavilion. All meetings start at 7.30pm and all are welcome to attend.

Syleham

The Parish Council held its last meeting before the District and Parish elections of 2nd May on March 6th. Major Andrew Napier DL announced his retirement from the Council after decades of service. Malcolm Flounders led the thanks to Andrew for his enormous contribution to the Parish Council and the village. His wise counsel will be missed.

The Clerk reported that Essex and Suffolk Water had been granted planning permission for expansion of their plant in the village, but the application for building executive homes at Walnut Tree Farm was turned down.

The “green box”, bringing fibre broadband to the village, has now been installed and the cabling linking it to the Hoxne exchange is underway. To mark this event the Parish Council approved the acquisition of a new noticeboard to stand alongside the box at the Village Hall. A centre for paper and paperless communication for all residents.

The Council has agreed to liaise with the Village Hall Committee and MSDC leisure department to help arrange for a change of use order for “J’s Meadow” and fund plans to develop the site as a recreation area for the whole village.

Our next meeting takes place on **Wednesday 22nd May**, which will also serve as the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Wingfield

Our last meeting took place on 25th January and primarily focussed on planning for the year ahead.

The following measures need to be endorsed by the new Council to be elected on May 2nd at the District and Parish elections (See noticeboard and website for details):

Wingfield Green - Completion of “topping” the northside and inviting interested parties to graze the Green with sheep;

Churchyard - Installation of new bench and cutting back vegetation from perimeter wall;

Telephone box - Using the box as a memorial to the Village School and its last headmistress.

Castle Crescent Green - To facilitate improvements suggested by residents in partnership with MSDC, the ultimate authority regarding the land in question.

Defibrillator - The Council agreed that this should be purchased and installed at the De La Pole Arms with permission of the landlords.

Finally, the Council would like to draw all resident’s attention to the footpaths in the village available for walking and exercising dogs. A map will be posted on the noticeboard and website.

The field margin, belonging to Castle Farm, running behind the properties on Castle Crescent and Vicarage Road is not a footpath and should not be trespassed.

The next meeting of Wingfield Parish Council will take place on **Friday 17th May** and will also serve as the Annual Parish Meeting.



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Village Walks...

Valley Views from Wingfield

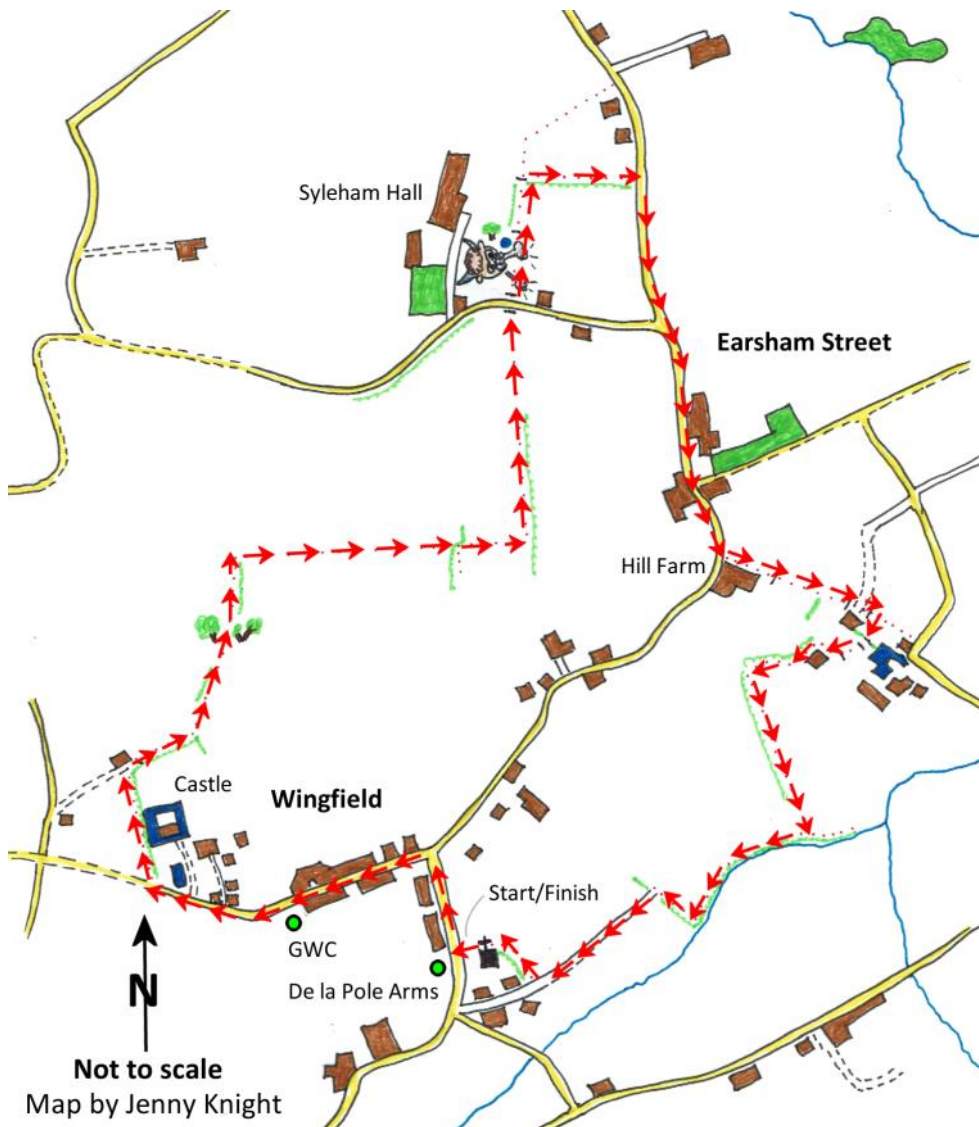
Refreshments are available at the De La Pole Arms and the Good, the Bad and the Hungry cafe at the GWC equestrian centre. Both refreshment venues have car parks for customers. There is limited

Start & Finish: Wingfield

Distance: 4.75 miles

OS map: Explorer 230

roadside parking in front of the church. This ramble is best walked on a clear day, as the views over the distant valleys are inspiring. Think Elgar or Vaughn Williams.



The walk starts from Wingfield church and begins on roads through the pleasant village of Wingfield. Head north and **Turn Left** at the T junction. Follow the road ahead, passing the GWC on the left. Just after the castle on the right, you reach Wingfield Green, a large expanse of common. **Take the path on the RIGHT.** Keep to the right edge of the green, passing the mock castle on your right until you reach a pair of cottages. To the right find and cross a stile by a gate. **Turn Right.**

Keep the hedgerow on your right until it turns right. **Bear Left** across a field to the left edge of a copse. Then **Turn Right** along the field edge until the end of the copse.

Bear slightly to the Left aiming toward a solitary Oak across a field. Pass between the Oak and a pair of Ash and continue on a wide path, keeping the hedgerow to your right. At the end of the hedgerow **Turn 90 degrees Right** and head straight across a field toward another hedgerow and two wind turbines beyond (if visible through trees). At the far side of the field, you need to continue straight on. **However**, there is a dog leg in the hedgerow. Take the gap slightly to your right and follow the hedge round a left turn until a path leads off to the **Right**. You should now be heading in your original direction (i.e.: Due East) Follow a ditch along a field edge then **Turn Left**.

Follow this path along the edges of a couple of fields until you reach a stile into a road. The route here continues ahead over another stile into a field. However, this field is often occupied by bullocks and the more nervy might choose to **Turn Right** along the road to a T junction where you may **Turn Right again** to re-join the route and save a quarter of a mile.

In the field, continue ahead, keeping a fence on your right and passing between a solitary Oak and a pond. Cross the stile

in the corner to your right and the next stile is directly in front of you on the other side of the short field. Over this stile the official footpath follows the line of the power cable poles. However, take a permissive path to the **Right** which brings you to a road. **Turn Right.**

Follow the road through Earsham Street, ignoring all turnings, until you reach Hill Farm. **Take the footpath on the Left** just before the farmhouse.

Keep to the field edge and skirt the farm buildings until you reach a stile. Cross. Ahead is a field with a hedgerow jutting across from the right. Aim for its left edge where you will see a stile in the corner to your right. Cross the stile, a lane and another stile into a field.

Immediately turn to your **Right** and look for a farm gate in the hedgerow. The next stile lies to the left of it. Cross this and pass through a small gate into a paddock. Cross the paddock, aiming for a stile in front of the brick house. Over the stile and **Turn Right** along the edge of the paddock. Pass around or through a corrugated shelter, then **Turn Left**, opposite a workman's caravan, down a grassy avenue.

At the end of the avenue, bear left toward a tower, then right to exit the garden. **Turn Right** and follow the field edge round and down into the valley. Before the bottom of the valley look for a deep ditch to your right and a plank bridge across it. Cross and enter a path between a fence on the right and a hedgerow on the left. The path follows the river until it turns sharp **Right** and climbs for twenty yards or so. Look for a gap in the hedge and **Turn Left**. Now keep the hedge on your right. This is soon replaced by a ditch. When you reach a gate into a wood **Turn Right across a plank bridge. Do not pass through the gate.** Follow this path around the wood and back to the church and the finish.

Roger Knight

The Lunch Bunch Visits...

We have visited the Swan Inn at Hoxne before, but we thought what with new management and a new menu it warranted another visit. A mid-week spring morning and a virtually empty car park greeted us. We all arrived together so went straight in from the car park, through to the front bar.

There were already a few lunch-time drinkers and once the gentleman filling the shelves acknowledged us, we were told that the young lady serving in the back bar would be with us in a minute. We had a table booked, though the online “contact us” form and un-replied emails proved a little problematical, so we would recommend phoning and persevering until you get to speak to a person.

The menu has been tweaked a few times since the new folk took over and it contains a nice variety of meat and veggie options. A range of Pizzas is now offered and what’s also called *Light Bites and Small Plates* if you just want a “quick” meal. We also noticed evening specials are available too: Wednesday is Curry Night, while each Monday, Tuesday & Thursday you can have a beef or chicken burger, accompanied by a drink from their list for just £10.

Our order was taken by the lady who served our drinks and we cannot praise her enough - she appeared to be the only member of staff available and as such needed to deal with two bars, take meal orders and serve the food. We all felt

slightly sorry for her as she could never be in the right place at the right time, but we since understand the pub is advertising for more staff which



The Swan Inn
Low Street, Hoxne
IP21 5AS Tel. 01379 668275
www.swaninn-hoxne.co.uk

we hope will speed the service up and make things a bit less distracting.

When our food started to arrive, there was a bit of an extra wait for The Swan Burger, but it was all hot and smelled and tasted delicious.

The Chickpea & Sweet Potato tagine was colourful, the flavours mingling well; The Chicken Balti was mild, but got hotter and the rice cooked to perfection; Mac & Cheese

from the small plate menu along with Margherita Pizza was a perfect carb combo; And the Swan Burger along with extra cheese and bacon really hit the spot. The food was delicious and couldn’t really be faulted.

Not thinking of our waist lines, but wanting to try a full variety of items from the menu for you dear reader, we ordered the Chocolate Brownie and Lemon Parfait along with coffees. They were scrumptious and finished the meal off to perfection.

On the whole it was a worthy visit with a very agreeable menu and we all thought an evening visit would soon be on the cards to try a burger or curry night. Our main meals started at £12.50 and desserts from £5.

The Lunch Bunch



A Word from Wingfield

End of Empire and a Bauble

I have a bauble. Long ago I sat next to the TV star Jack Warner better known as PC 49 who also got his OBE that day. I subsequently remember watching him on our flickering black and white telly in rural Oxfordshire and his opening reassuring greeting to us “evening all”. We had not watched telly in Uganda so it was my children who told me later who it was.

In the wait, sitting outside the Buck House ballroom I found myself directly opposite a small *Dutch interior*, the very one I had bought in my student days as a sixpenny Penguin print. Next, as HM pinned the bauble on my chest, it was some 54 years ago but unforgettable, she really did ask me where I was from and what I did.

Very nervous standing in front of this tiny woman, I wasn't entirely sure what to answer. She seemed very small for such a big job. We had seen her off to Tree Tops in Kenya from a wartime airport near to London when her very ill father made his last public appearance.

When we cleared out the contents of this cottage so that the children could run it as a holiday let with me renting and living simply in the annexe after my wife Anne's death, the contents, including the family medals, were dispersed, including my mothers MBE. So I can't follow the current fashion, and return my OBE to the palace.

But I do have thoughts and feelings about my acceptance of the award.

Clearly the time is overdue for us to re-appraise Empire and for the few survivors who had a part in it, to explain us Empire children's modest role in it before we die.

In 1962 I was invited by Milton Obote, Prime Minister of the newly elected Ugandan government to stay on in Uganda as Education Secretary. Most colleagues had accepted HMGs generous £10,000 golden handshake for loss of career and departed to start a new career before it was too late. For many it provided a rung on the housing ladder. Most of us had lived in the pre-war wooden bungalows on the hill where we stationed. Anne used to

relate that with the help of our servants she had packed our goods and chattels 17 times and loaded them on to the back of a lorry to our next posting or into the Public Works Department store before home leave.

Despite my somewhat radical views in those days, which were well known, I felt I could still be of further use. My opportunity came when the UPC (Uganda Peoples Congress) swept to victory in 1962 with

their simple slogan promising an end to poverty, ignorance and disease. My role would be to help tackle ignorance, working alongside the new Minister of Education, Joseph Luyimbazi Zake, who I knew as Joe, a clever lawyer educated in South Africa, and the successful and popular son of a leading Buganda chief, who I had also known as such in earlier times when on tour as an Assistant Resident, Buganda. Indeed, I can still recall visiting the family chapel in his



CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
12th June 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the Celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday, to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:

To be Ordinary Officers of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Thomas Whitby GEE, Esq., Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Uganda.

vast banana garden in Bulemezi which was just large enough to hold his many wives and children.

I have never been back to Uganda, but I asked the Commissioner sent by Sonny Ramphal when Amin was ousted to assess how the Commonwealth could best help Uganda if he could visit the Zake home. He did and was greeted by an elderly Muganda woman with the words “welcome back white man”.

But Uganda was a Protectorate, not a colony, and our relationship with Uganda was, and remains good and strong, and not exploitative. It is sad that when ordinary Ugandans come to Britain assuming they can get a visa, the official climate here is now hostile, undoing so much of our work there.

On his first day in office we sat down to discuss details of future education policy. UPC policy was quite simple, but very ambitious. Joe said his plan was to double the number in tertiary education in that first year, 1962. We discussed the difficulties and the obstacles which had prevented the British Protectorate government from making faster progress in preparation for self government. But in three very busy years we achieved our target.

So I stayed on as a sort of “mid-wife” to help make the transition from empire to independence and then handed over to a local to take my place.

In those days, newly independent governments sent their nominations for honours to Britain as a local list of empire awards (ours was called the Uganda list) and the newly independent government included me 54 years ago before this practice became anomalous.

It had the blessing of the then very clever High Commissioner, later the first Brain of Britain, and the man who drafted Macmillan’s famous wind of change speech, so it wasn’t really an empire award.

It proved to be as invaluable on my CV as my MA (Oxon) in finding a job on returning home in 1965 aged 40, and wondering what to do with the second half of my working life. I was head hunted and had to decide what to do next. We had a cottage near Oxford and the offer of the secretaryship of Ruskin College appealed strongly, especially as our two sons were at school in that wonderful city. But God (and Barbara Castle) had his own plan for me, so we sold the cottage and moved to Sussex.

What about the “O” as I call it? As a final gesture I should like to return it, as it’s now seen as a reminder of empire and an anachronistic order of chivalry, but it is now in the hands of family and they see it as part of their history, so I shall let sleeping dogs lie.

After our two world wars, returning officers continued to use their rank and title to lend them lost status in the new world in which their place was no longer assured. The annual honours lists of Lords and Ladies, Knights and Dames, Ks, Cs, Os and Ms now seems to many as inappropriate, as we struggle in this electronic age to distribute its blessings more fairly.

So I cannot return my “O”, and I shan’t mention it again. But we shall need a clean up after Brexit to sort out the fuddy-duddies who want to put the clock back.

Tommy Gee

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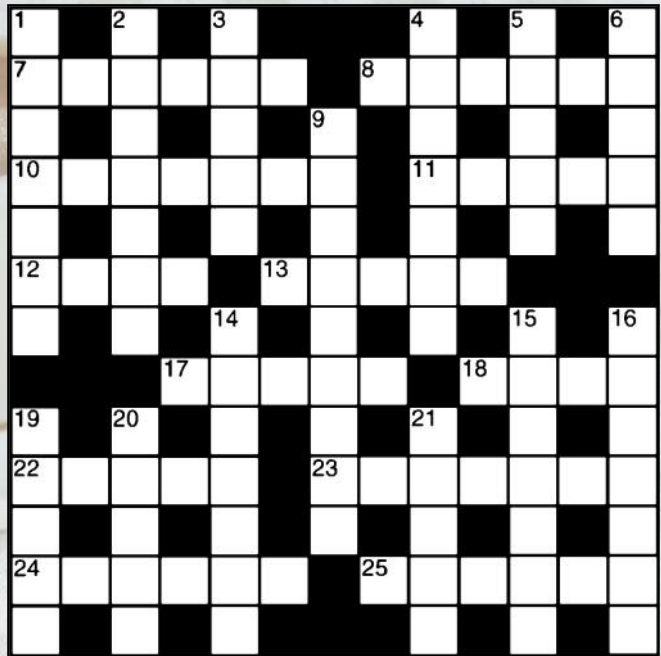
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Crossword Puzzle No. 129

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 **Wednesday 8th May** latest.

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



Across

- 7 Patient restaurant worker (6)
- 8 Trip lightly through the tulips (6)
- 10 Peculiar arrangement of garnets (7)
- 11 Girl to proffer a peace symbol (5)
- 12 Partner on board a ship (4)
- 13 Guide a bullock (5)
- 17 Slightly mad but sounds fragrant (5)
- 18 Stumbled in the Lake District (4)
- 22 Bit part player added to the score (5)
- 23 Give an account of complex near art (7)
- 24 Zodiac sign opposed to Capricorn (6)
- 25 Chief fete organiser hiding a weak personality (6)

Down

- 1 Couple upset by most woe (7)
- 2 Go abroad for funky ragtime (7)
- 3 Sensible French river apparently (5)
- 4 Wow - dire predicament for bereaved man (7)
- 5 Straight laced but remained I hear (5)
- 6 Some leeway provides a scuffle (5)
- 9 Statement altered in the will (9)
- 14 Team boss ran game haphazardly (7)
- 15 Discussed the implement in a legal document (7)
- 16 Ripped off a woolly coat (7)
- 19 Indulge in sword play with a crook (5)
- 20 Heavy weight in the home counties - hardly (5)
- 21 Skill required on a boat (5)

The winner of crossword puzzle no. 128 was: **Juliatt Easey, Hoxne**

Answers: **Across:** 1) Hamster 2) Teeth 8) Torso 9) Vagrant 10) Lazybones 12) Ode 13) Flower 14) Strand 17) Ado 18) Hairpiece 20) Clipper 21) Costa 23) Dotty 24) Reliant
Down: 1) Hotel 2) Mar 3) Trouble 4) Ravine 5) Togas 6) Elaborate 7) Hothead 11) Zoologist 13) Flaccid 15) Topical 16) Mirror 18) Happy 19) Exact 22) Spa

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Joan and David at Hoxne Post Office & Shop have kindly agreed to accept copy and crossword entries on our behalf.

DEADLINES

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

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