



Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM & WINGFIELD

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2020

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Letters to the Editor

VILLAGE THANK YOU

I'm sure I speak on behalf of the entire village when I say a big "thank you" to Joan for keeping the Post Office and shop open throughout the last few months, sticking to the same timetable as that for pre "lockdown". Not only has she continued to provide a valuable service to users of the shop and Post Office, she has also been a linchpin in the provision of medications to patients of Eye Surgery and, equally important, has provided a centre for 2 or 3 metre socialising by villagers gathering to use one or more of her services. Blessed (mostly) by the weather, ten minutes or half an hour chatting to other villagers in the well spaced queue has been a valuable tonic to us Hoxne folk. Even the alarming efforts by a stranger to empty her till didn't deter our Joan! With the support of a team of Hoxne "bouncers" she quickly rallied and it was "business as usual". Thank you, Joan!

Paula Tebbs-Ashworth

HOXNE CHARITIES CLAY SHOOT

We have made a decision not to run the annual Hoxne Charities Clay Shoot this year. As with everyone, we do not know how things will be by September 2020, or indeed in the following months. At present we cannot start organising and preparing, even though we had decided on a revised date in January.

Over the years that the Clay Shoot has been running, thousands of pounds have been raised for Hoxne groups - the Maynard Trust and St Edmund's Pre School have been recipients, Hoxne Playing Field has benefited over the last few years, and Hoxne School Association (the Parent Teacher organisation at our local primary

school, St Edmund's, Hoxne, where it all started) have received funds every year since the event started.

Each year the remarkable volunteers have come along in rain, sun and everything in between. There are 'love letters' from the tea lady, a bit of arm twisting, the promise of a bacon roll, but most come reasonably willingly! Many have helped every year, many live locally to Hoxne but there are several who have come along to help because they enjoy this sort of day. I do wish I could list everyone - BUT I'm a little afraid of leaving someone out, there have been so many, it does take a huge amount of man and woman power to put on an event like this!

Some helpers may miss the 'love letter' from the tea lady dropping on the mat, some may miss the whole spectacle of the day, most will not miss the length of time standing. The organisers will not miss the headache of whether we have enough help, is everyone going to get here, what time will we get started, will it be too windy for the BBQ, how long will it take to clear up, is the slow cooker on for tea?

So, thank you to Peter Saunders for the use of the field, thank you to all the helpers, thank you to all the sponsors. Look after yourselves. See you when we see you.

Julie Thompson

MEDICAL CENTRE INFO

Just a reminder of the contact details of the local medical centres: For the Fressingfield and Stradbroke NHS Medical Centres, telephone **01379 586456 / 586227** for Fressingfield and **01379 388313 / 384220** for Stradbroke, or visit: ***fressingfield-medical-practice.co.uk*** For Eye Health Centre, telephone **01379 870689** or visit: ***www.eyehalthcentre.co.uk***

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Notice Board

J'S MEADOW

It has been a delight to see young families making use of the meadow and we hope shortly to be able to make progress with its development. We are continuing to liaise with Northumbrian Water who have agreed to lay a wheel-chair friendly path around the meadow and along the access track, as some compensation for the disruption caused by the major work at the Essex & Suffolk treatment works in the parish, but there are still some bureaucratic hoops to jump through!



Nevertheless, it is hoped that the path may be installed within the next few weeks and, once that is done, we can continue with the landscaping we hope to do, including provision of a sensory garden. Meanwhile, the young hedge plants are growing - renewed thanks to the team who worked hard on the planting!

A word of warning - we are sorry that the meadow will have to be closed to the public whilst the contractors are on site, and this could be for about two weeks.

Mary Lewis, Hon Secretary

SYLEHAM & WINGFIELD VE 75

With events to mark VE 75 cancelled it was suggested to residents of Syleham and Wingfield that we instead mark the day in our own way - in our own gardens. A great show was made with bunting fluttering on a glorious sunny day! Occasional music was heard through the day and garden tables were laid for street party style teas! I have to say that Syleham Road, Wingfield looked particularly splendid!

Julie Thompson



Pictures: Linda Joslin and Jacky Taylor



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Hoxne Village Hall

As with other Village Halls across the Country, Hoxne closed its doors in March - emptied the beer barrels, turned off the fridges and went into lockdown. At time of writing (start of July), the Hall Committee are working their way through the 20 plus pages of recently received Guidelines on how to safely re-open the Hall when the Government allows indoor gatherings again.

Unfortunately, it won't be as simple to re-open as it was to close! We will have to have a strict cleaning system in place, as well as the now familiar hand sanitisers that we are all getting used to using. No doubt there will be restrictions on what types of event and numbers that we can accommodate when we do start up again.

The wedding celebrations due to take place in the Hall this year have either been cancelled or postponed until 2021, as have the plays and other events that were booked for the Summer.

The Garden Club Annual Flower and Produce Show has been cancelled, as has the Hoxne Heritage Group planned Exhibition (both in September). We wait to see when club meetings will be permitted, and if members will want to venture out again! If you run a regular

event, do check with us when the Hall will be open.

If you have any questions on your current regular booking or any event, please either phone Sharon on **07876 215269** or email Sally/Sharon on hoxnevhbookings@outlook.com

Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

The Management Committee regret that at the time of writing the hall was remaining closed for the time being - the position to be reviewed at the end of July. The hall is managed and staffed by volunteers and will re-open when the committee is confident that it can be done safely, with risk assessments and due protocols in place.

We hope to be able to re- book Marc James, Paul Birch (It's all about Buddy), and other popular events when we know we are all safe to do so. We had pencilled in a small event for VJ day on August 15th, but this will not go ahead - we would hope to arrange some events in aid of SSAFA in 2021 - our VE 75 events would have supported this charity. All subject to confirmation.

Notices advertising re-opening will be evident outside the hall and no doubt regular attenders will also hear informally.

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Phil Golding OBE

Our good friend Phil Golding, who died suddenly at home on 21 April aged 75, was at the centre of village life in Hoxne for more than 30 years - a true leader who lived life to the full, Phil was a man of many talents.

Philip Ralph Golding was born in April 1945 in Oxhey, Watford. He was the youngest of three children, with an older sister Rosemary and a brother Barrie and attended Watford Grammar School where he became Head Boy. After a degree in Economics from Cardiff University he spent time in South Africa gaining an MA from the University of Witwatersrand and working as an economist in the Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg.

His boundless energy and passion for family, friends and community meant that he would have made a success of any career he decided to go into, but it was to education that he devoted his life, steering a number of difficult schools to outstanding success and inspiring generations of teachers and students.



On returning to England in 1970, he became a primary school teacher, and after only 5 years received his first headship at the age of 31 at Coleraine Park School, in the tough area next to the Tottenham Hotspur football ground. After a second headship at Seven Sisters Junior School, in 1985 he was asked by the local authority to take over the school on the Broadwater Farm Estate, following the disruption caused by the Riots in that year.

In 1987 the family moved to Suffolk and Phil became Headteacher of St Helens School in Ipswich. He took the school from being an undersubscribed primary to gaining two Ofsted 'outstanding' ratings and becoming a 'Beacon' school. An OBE in 2003 for services to education was richly deserved and although an incredibly modest man, not taken to fast cars and fancy clothes, he was immensely

proud to take his family to Buckingham Palace to receive his award from the Queen.

He had a lifelong interest in sport. and in his youth scored 99 at Fenner's, the iconic Cambridge University cricket

GRAHAM BORRILL

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ground. He played cricket for the Hoxne Pedestrians CC and bowls for the Hoxne Bowls Club until his death.

He took particular pleasure in encouraging young people, leading Hoxne's Inter-Village Sports team in the 90s and being manager of Scole Lads Youth football team for five years.

Phil played a full part in village life for all the time he lived in Hoxne. In 1996 he became the Chairman of the Hoxne Playing Field committee which managed

the sports pavilion and playing field, actively supporting the fundraising which led to the creation of a new children's play area. He was Chair of Governors at St

Edmund's Primary School, an active supporter of the Junior Club in the Village Hall and the Hoxne Harvest Breakfast.

Music was very much at the heart of Phil's life. He was a leading light at Southgate Opera in North London before moving to Suffolk. An accomplished singer he sang in the Eye Bach Choir for the last 32 years where again he was a key member of the Committee.

In between all of this he found time to renovate several timber-framed houses.

There was many a school holiday in the middle of winter when Phil could be found down a trench or on a roof in the bitter cold attacking a task with his usual wit and humour but which absolutely had to be completed before everyone could get inside into the warmth and a hot cup of tea.

Family was very much at the heart of Phil's life. He married Felicity in March 1973 in Wood Green, London and they had two children, Emily and Jack three years

later. He was delighted to welcome his son-in-law, John and his daughter-in-law, Cristina to the family, and he derived endless joy from his two

grandchildren - Oliver and Mimi.

Phil made an enormous contribution to the life of the village. Never more so than when he tackled a man with a gun to the ground outside the village shop in Hoxne. A big personality, he will be sorely missed. Our condolences go out to all his family.

Maurice Cohen
Stuart Jarrold
Alan Smith
7 July 2020





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OPENING TIMES

Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 12 noon
and 3.00pm - 6.00pm

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9.00am - 12 noon

Fressingfield Scouts

1st Fressingfield Scout Group, along with all UK Scouting, continues in lockdown with no face to face meetings of any members allowed. Accordingly, we have moved to Virtual Scouting with Scout Section, Executive and Leader team meetings held on Zoom and many emails ping-ponging around.

There have been quizzes, mini raft building and testing, conversations about various hobbies, unusual Scavenger Hunts, games of bingo and kahoot, a whole Group virtual visit to the Army Air Museum and even Investitures.

Some of our members joined Northumberland Scouts in a World Record Camp at Home; it seems over 84,000 members of Scouting and Guiding from 67 countries took part.

However, the “Main Event” in our Virtual Scouting programme has been a Virtual Camp which we titled V-CAMP. This took place from Friday evening May 1st to Sunday lunchtime May 3rd and replaced our normal Group Camp. Seventy members camped at their homes, either in a tent in the garden or a homemade den in the house. We had cooking sessions shared on Zoom, a short Scouts Own service, a “hike”, a campsite modelling session, a crazy hat challenge, a quiz, a work out session, a campfire, a “necker” challenge and an outdoor cookery demonstration. BBC Radio Suffolk took an interest and some of our members explained what we were doing in a few slots. Park Radio from Diss broadcast a bedtime story, read by some of our Leaders at 9pm on Friday evening. Members, and often their families, attended the sessions that they were interested in and everyone had a good time. We have had some very positive feedback with comments such as: *“He had a brilliant weekend”, “The fitness challenge was right up his street*

too”, “Thank you all so very much, for a truly outstanding V-Camp”, “The range of activities over the weekend were so imaginative”, “We loved taking part in many of them as a family”, “I am enormously grateful to you all, and the other leaders”, “The Scouts have brought this bit of fun in his life”, “I could never have imagined the sense of community and cohesion that would develop over the coming days” and “Thank you for a wonderful weekend”.

The video of V-Camp can be viewed at: 1stfressingfieldscouts.org.uk/news/article/video-v-camp-2020-highlights

Please log on to it to see what we got up to, there are also pictures and comments on the Facebook page.

Earlier in April, 19 members of the Group got involved in a “Hike to the Moon”. This was in support of BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief. It involved using our daily exercise sessions to walk a mile or two and donate to the BBC event. The Scout Association had hoped that enough members of the movement would be involved to tally up sufficient miles to reach the moon. In the event there were enough miles to be only 6,000 short of getting there and back! That is a 477,710 mile journey. This raised an incredible £328,000 which will provide vital support to people and communities affected by COVID-19. Our contribution was £170. Every single penny we’ve raised, including funds from the sale of *Hike to the Moon* badges, will be match-funded by the government. This means Scouting will ultimately contribute over £650,000 for BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief.

These are some of the things that sections have been doing:

Explorers took part in National Fish and Chip day with a Fish and Potato Challenge involving each cooking a meal including those ingredients, the following week they had a gym session to burn off

the calories. They have also focussed on Global Issues affecting youth.

Adventurers Scout Troop completed DIY projects over half term and showed their achievements the next week. They have also looked at Mental Health awareness and had an extended quiz night with themes ranging from VE Day to Disney via Star Wars and Harry Potter!

Pioneer Scout Troop have worked on some Scouting skills around First Aid, knotting and preparing for a camp, have a quiz most weeks with a wide range of Scouting and general knowledge questions, have developed a team game, that we are calling Scout Fortunes, based on Family Fortunes and set a Taskmaster challenge each week which has produced some inspired and inspiring efforts from our Young People.

Both Cub Packs are operating together at the moment and have been working on the Gardener Badge, Naturalist Activity Badge and Environmental Conservation Badge. They have been making bug hotels and then monitoring which bugs come and visit.

Beavers have been making pizza, and cupcakes and had a food quiz which all go towards the Cooks Badge and are working on Cyclist Badge and cycle activities at home with their parents and posting photos of their skills. One of the Beavers is using the focus on cycling to fund raise for Banham Zoo with a sponsored 100 mile cycle ride.

To give our members a reason to camp, if only in the garden, we have challenged every member, including Leaders, with the Camp and Cook Mission, which involves camping and cooking at home in every month of the year. Gold Standard involves all twelve months camping outdoors, Silver if any are in an indoor den. There is a Bronze level for Beavers which involves preparing breakfast rather than cooking. No beds allowed! Details are on the website, if you are interested

in the sort of things we are attempting, and by the time you read this there should be a fair selection of pictures from our members home camps on the Facebook page.

Crisp bag boost: Thanks to everyone who are collecting empty crisp bags and thanks to Karine, one of our Executive Committee Trustees for organising the campaign. An unseemly amount of bags have been sent in for recycling and we have just received a contribution of £200, this cash will go towards purchasing new kayaks (made from recycled plastic). We have raised 45% needed for the first kayak.

Please continue to collect crisp packets at home, but hang on to them until the current situation returns to normal.

To find out more about 1st Fressingfield Scout Group, speak to any Leader or have a look at our website:

www.1stfressingfieldscouts.org.uk

Hoxne Bell Ringers

Bell ringing is a social activity carried out in often confined spaces and has therefore stopped completely. The churches have been closed and many of our members have very good reasons to be shielding.

I cannot foresee the time when we will be able to continue as we were in February, but it will be very welcome when it arrives. When the churches have reopened and bell ringing is allowed again, it may be that some of our members should ring with other bands while the more vulnerable members of our own are still taking extra precautions.

All work by bell hangers and restorers in churches has been stopped and Parodical Church Councils have not met, so there has been little progress on our restoration.

Andrew Castleden, 01379 668458

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**Paddle Steamer
Wingfield Castle**

It may surprise some to realise that there is a paddle steamer, moored in Hartlepool which shares the same name as the famous castle in the village of Wingfield, Suffolk.

The story starts in the 1930s, when the London and North Eastern Railway were seeking to replace its current fleet of aging Great Central Railway Steamers plying the ferry service across the Humber river from New Holland pier in Lincolnshire to Hull. In 1934 they commissioned William Gray & Company in Hartlepool to build two paddle steamers, PS Wingfield Castle along with her sister ship PS Tattershall Castle. The pair were later joined by an improved further vessel PS Lincoln Castle in 1940 built by A & J Inglis in Glasgow.

Completed in just three months PS Wingfield Castle was 209ft (63.3m) long, an overall beam of 56ft (17m), weighed 550t and could maintain a steady operating speed of 12 knots. Designed for foot passengers (who would be accommodated in traditional railway 1st and 3rd class), she could also carry a few cars on the deck and pens for livestock.

In 1935, responsibility for the management of railway operated shipping services in the Humber area passed to Associated Humber Lines, although the railways still retained ownership of vessels and ports. During the war, the two sisters were allocated extra duties to ferry troops and supplies along the Humber River.

In 1948, the formation of the British Transport Commission established British Railways who were now responsible for the service. After the war she ran several river excursions, but

this service was withdrawn in 1967 due to falling patronage. In 1970 the service ran under the British Rail Sealink brand. It is fair to say that none of these organisational changes over the years seriously affected the service or the three vessels, just a change of livery. What would affect them came in 1973.

With construction of the Humber Bridge starting in 1973 with a projected opening in 1981, PS Tattershall Castle was withdrawn in 1973, PS Wingfield Castle made her last sailings before withdrawal from service in 1974 and PS Lincoln Castle, now with a serious boiler defect, the last to go in 1978.

The service was maintained until the opening of the bridge by the diesel-electric paddle ship Farringford, transferred in 1973 from the Lymington to Yarmouth Isle of Wight service to replace PS Wingfield Castle. (It seems likely that PS Lincoln Castle was expected to continue running to provide a two-boat service).

After withdrawal, PS Wingfield Castle then led a somewhat nomadic life. She had been owned by the Brighton Marina Company who found any conversion costs to high. Legal wrangling's over ownership left her stranded in London's King George V dock for eight years. During this period, she took a somewhat starring role in the 1980 film 'The Elephant Man' when she stood in as an 1824 cross channel steamer!

Neglect by now was taking its toll and only drastic action prevented her

sinking where she was moored. In 1982 she was acquired by Whitbread plc who were going to convert her into a floating public house in Swansea marina. But someone failed to notice she was too big to fit through the lock gates.

Languishing for a further four years in Swansea, she was purchased in June 1986 by Hartlepool Borough Council for restoration back to her former glory and permanent display at Hartlepool's Maritime Experience.

So, what happened to the other two? PS Tattershall Castle is now owned by Stonegate Pub Company moored on the Thames embankment. PS Lincoln Castle was not so lucky. After a period of operating as a pub and restaurant in



Alexandra dock, Grimsby, she too suffered from imminent sinking unless major repair to the hull was undertaken. With no buyers to hand, in 2010 the decision was taken to scrap

her where she lay.

It has always been logical and customary to name transport vehicles after some local names, places, or areas where they operate in. Tattershall Castle and Lincoln Castle are respectively in a substantial town and city in Lincolnshire whose name they bear and therefore have that logic. With ten other castles in Lincolnshire they could have chosen one of them to name the third.

So why was one named after a castle in a small village in Suffolk? Can anybody throw light on this?

Dennis Murray

Hoxne Phoenix Group

We are keeping in touch with our members by e-mail and personal contacts but it seems very unlikely that we will be meeting as a Group in the foreseeable future. As the Village Hall, quite sensibly, is not racing to open up any earlier than October due to all the restrictions naturally put upon them we have cancelled our Speakers for the next couple of months. We are hoping to recommence as soon as restrictions are lifted. Meanwhile members who have birthdays during the "lockdown" are contacted by e-mail or by phone. All members will be notified as soon as normal service is resumed (as normal as it can and will be for many months to come).

Anyway to all our members keep safe and please notify us if you have any concerns or problems.

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

New Reeding Woods Group

During the course of this very strange spring and summer the open space that is pound lane wood has continued to be used both as a community open space and as a wild life sanctuary.

No formal Great Crested Newt survey has taken place but local observations have confirmed that they are in evidence once more in the pond ... and in significant numbers which bodes well for the future. Earlier in the spring owls were observed in the owl box and obviously feeding young but by now the owlets will have fledged. The rides have been cut but haymaking is still a few weeks away so there is still a profusion of wild flowers on the meadow. Thanks to

the hot dry spring there has been an impressive array of butterfly species including Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Green Veined White and Peacock. The Broad Bodied Chaser Dragonflies have been busy near the pond with a noticeably increased number this year, and after 15 years the trees are flourishing.

This is a community woodland owned by all the residents of Denham, Horham and Athelington, everyone is welcome to join the group and/or take part in our activities. For information about events see the notice board on the meadow at the wood, and to join the group please contact our Secretary Penny Conway on **01379 870165**.

Village Voices Community Choir

The Village Voices Community Choir are celebrating their 10th Anniversary this year and had planned several celebration events. We started the year by inviting singing leaders from the USA: Kathy Bullock in February then Brendan Taaffe in early March who's workshop took place with social distancing. Both were a great success, but immediately after, Brendan tried to get back home to Vermont and the Village Voices went into lockdown.

Being rather dismayed at not being able to meet and sing together we decided to organise a weekly newsletter and singing event via the internet.

Janet has been running our weekly choir session via Zoom and Choir members have been sending in stories, quizzes, photos and YouTube clips for the newsletter. The Zoom sessions have been very entertaining and many folks have found that just



seeing a friendly face has helped them during this unprecedented time. Singing via zoom has proved to be an unusual test of our singing ability, but has been an uplifting and happy time for us all.

We are planning a "Sing 26" event during July where we hope to be able to sing 26 songs over the internet and Choir members will donate to a charity of their choice, we hope this will be a popular event and will raise much needed cash for charities whose events have been cancelled.

Village Voices Isolation Community Choir take to Zoom During Pandemic



St Edmund's School

Although St Edmunds school has been closed, key worker children have been able to attend Mendham Primary school, part of the Waveney Valley Partnership. As educators, the government asked us to change our way of working and both schools joined together to create an education centre. We have also established an online learning platform for pupils who are at home to engage in their learning. This has been a testing time for pupils, parents and staff, but

with the resilience that all of our school community has we are now forming the new 'normal', for now.

At Mendham, everyone is cleaning their hands upon entry and multiple times throughout the day. We have been carrying out our online learning in the classroom, but also making the most of the outdoor learning space. We have spent afternoons playing outdoor games, calculating the perimeter of the grounds and have been using science to see who can make the best paper airplane.



We would like to thank our parents who have been extremely supportive to us all and thank you to the St Edmund's children who made bunting while at home to decorate the school. We will see you all soon.

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Alec Ivan Bedwell Jolly

Hoxne bade farewell on June 8th, 2020 to one of its great post war characters, Alec Jolly, who passed away peacefully on 17th May. Born in the village, Alec aged 86 of The Close, Heckfield Green, looked after his own pig from an early age.

A farmer, builder, property man, businessman, entrepreneur - Alec will probably be best remembered for being a top draw pub landlord. From October 1958 to May 1964 (when it was destroyed by fire) the "Red Lion" public house in the village was highly popular in the area. Mr Jolly, from a large family, ran it with his late wife Ivy. Ivy's sister Irene married Alec's older brother Russell.

Alec was buried at Hoxne Church which he regularly attended for funerals and other leading events. The service was conducted by the Revd Eleanor Goodison. She said Alec Jolly was a highly respected man, sociable and immensely kind.

Alec was my old mate - a fountain of knowledge and insightful. He had his own irrepressible style, an opinion on everything, a man of anecdotes and enjoyed horse racing. He was always entertaining, amusing and informative company who personally gave me good advice. Mr Jolly is survived by his long time partner Rita and younger brothers Barry and Richard.

From your old mate, Clive Baxter



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Derek Baker

Derek who died on 17th April aged 85 years, was a well known farmer on land in Wingfield. He moved from Moat House Farmhouse to Oaklands and then retired to Poppies in Stradbroke. He ended his final days in Hartismere Place, Eye. Sadly the COVID-19 lockdown prevented his wife Joyce from making final visits. His brother Arthur also farmed at St Martin's Farm in Wingfield and retired from farming first.

Derek was a link with the past which may be forgotten as newcomers move in to the village. As a boy he was present when Canon Aldwell retired before WW2 after a long incumbency of Wingfield parish marked by his 1926 informative history "Wingfield, Its Church, Castle and College". In those days, vicars held the freehold and usually died in office with neither a house nor a pension. So the village collected a purse when, as it was presented to him, he passed out! Derek recalls how the doctor was summoned by phone from Fressingfield and came over on his bicycle. Derek helped carry Canon Aldwell home on a door used as a makeshift stretcher, but Aldwell, a widower, died leaving his unmarried daughter in hardened straits. She moved to Diss and managed to get by taking in children.

Derek and Joyce were both active members of Wingfield Church and supported its many community activities. They had three daughters, Denise who emigrated to Canada with her husband their farm manager, Rosemary renowned for her catering skills reflected in a bakery opened in Harleston which flourished and became a popular cafe, and Carole who worked at Swingletrees Stables and was often seen driving and coaching around Wingfield. Derek's death marks the end of an era. May he rest in peace.

Tommy Gee

Church services

Denham, Hoxne, Syleham and Wingfield

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

If you need to get in touch with the Hoxne Benefice, tel.: **01379 388889**

Opening up

As I write this, we have just held our first service of public worship in Hoxne church following the government's easing of COVID-19 restrictions. We are of course delighted that after three months of closure churches are able to reopen for services, subject to careful precautions. For the time being we are taking things step by step and for that reason we cannot yet confirm our schedule of services for August and September. Keep an eye on church noticeboards and online at [facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://www.facebook.com/WingfieldChurch) as well as your local church page on [achurchnearyou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) for news.

Meanwhile, **Hoxne church is currently holding a regular service at 9.30 am each Sunday.** Everyone is welcome, although if you or any of your household has symptoms of the coronavirus, you should stay at home. Each of our churches is also **open for private prayer** one day a week, as follows:

Hoxne: 9.00 - 5.00 Wednesdays
Denham: 9.00 - 5.00 Wednesdays
Syleham: 2.00 - 5.00 Thursdays
Wingfield: 2.30 - 5.00 Thursdays

Services also continue to be streamed at [facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://www.facebook.com/WingfieldChurch) including recordings of the services held at Hoxne, for all those who are unable to get to church or who prefer to stay at

home for now. Messy Church is also available on the first Sunday of the month at [facebook.com/HoxneMC](https://www.facebook.com/HoxneMC)

We want to learn from the experience of lockdown for the future. In particular, we want to make our services accessible to a wider range of people and to stay in touch through a variety of means. Let's keep the love and care for each other which we have seen during the lockdown as restrictions are eased. So it's not just opening up our churches, but opening up to each other and, most importantly, to God.

Looking for a new rector

We have been advertising in the Church Times for a new rector. At the time of writing we have had no applications, but that may have changed by the time you read this.

Online giving

Our churches rely on donations from parishioners to fund our work. If you are able to contribute, the Hoxne benefice is now offering an easy option of online giving with a debit or credit card. This is suitable for weekly or occasional giving. To use this option, go to your parish's page on [achurchnearyou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) where you will see a 'Donate' button that takes you to the site where you can enter your details. It's very easy to do. Any support that you may be able to give is most gratefully appreciated.

Revd John

Our curate, Revd John McCracken, was due to be made a priest at the end of June but ordinations were postponed because of the coronavirus. The good news is that a new date for his ordination has now been set and it will take place on 6th September in the Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds, with a restricted guest list. Please pray for Revd John and his fellow ordinands as they prepare.

Revd Eleanor Goodison
Associate Priest, Hoxne Benefice
Tel: 07876 143579

Church News

Can you help keep our churches clean?

As our churches are gradually opened up - for private prayer, for weddings and funerals, and for services - we need to keep them as clean as we can. This does not mean men in protective suits with disinfectant "fogging" sprays (unless someone with COVID-19 turns out to have been in a church). But it does mean a high standard of general cleanliness. Much of the cleaning in our churches is normally done by volunteers who fall into an 'at risk' group for the virus and should not be asked to clean at this time. So we need more people to lend a hand.

Could you help? You should be under the age of 70 and in good health. All that is required is ordinary cleaning, without harsh chemicals. Masks can be provided. If you are willing, please get in touch with your local church contact (telephone numbers on the inside of the front cover) or with Revd Eleanor.

St John, Denham

The plant sale/exchange in June was a sociable but necessarily distanced occasion held initially in the churchyard. All the plants were donated and paid for by a donation so the amount of money raised is a testimony to everyone's generosity. Very many thanks to Barbara and Margaret for continuing to offer the remaining plants for sale in their respective gateways which substantially increased the final figure.

St John's Church has always been a place of rural tranquillity even before lock down and is now open again every Wednesday. I would like to thank Mary for the flowers in the porch that have continued to welcome visitors throughout this extraordinary spring and early summer along with all the wild flowers abundant in the churchyard.

The church is looking much better after more days of maintenance. The south doors have been rejuvenated by the application of linseed oil, you will have



to look hard to find any moss anywhere while the porch roof looks altogether new. I would like to thank the Chenery's for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

Hilary Castleden
01379 668458

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

Our church is adapting with everyone to live in a COVID-19 world. The church (at time of writing) remains locked except on **Wednesdays** between 9am and 5pm when it is open for private prayer. There is also a benefice service held each **Sunday** at 9.30am.

Hand sanitising gel is available, and you will find easily cleanable chairs and a table in front of the St Edmund screen.

The Cedar of Lebanon in the churchyard has had major surgery to make it safe and give it a boost for the next few years.

The Summer Fete planned for 13th June was cancelled but we hope to go ahead with the St Edmunds Fair in November depending on government guidelines.

A small team have been making washable face masks which are available

for a donation at the Village Stores, at 'The Swan' or in the church.

Did you know that St Edmund is the patron Saint of PANDEMICS?

Mothers' Union

The Hoxne branch of the Mother's Union normally meets on the **third Monday** of the month at 2.30pm at Time House Low Street Hoxne.

The current COVID-19 situation has put us on hold, but we share regular News Letters and information from around the diocese and beyond.

There will not be a meeting in **August** but if guidelines permit we will meet in **September** on a date to be confirmed.

It is hoped that our week long I-Chameleon charity shop will go ahead from the **1st to 7th October**. There will be advertising information in September.

Contact: Cathie McGregor, Branch Leader **01379 668434**.

Flower rota

2nd, 9th & 16th August: Cathie McGregor; **23rd & 30th August:** Jennie Looe; **6th & 13th September:** Cathie McGregor; **20th & 27th September:** Prue Day.

After the lockdown, once again the church will have flowers.

All flower arrangers will be contacted re access to the church which remains locked except on Wednesdays. There is



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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

Wanting to welcome you back! It was with great sadness that we had to lock our church, for the first time in years. We are now beginning the slow process of re-opening, and at the time of writing were open for private prayer on **Thursday** afternoons.

By the time you read this, things may be very different; but we have had to follow strict protocols to ensure our church buildings are safe for everyone, including some who are vulnerable to infection. So forgive us that access to the church has not been as available as we would have liked it to be.

The life of the church has

continued however, in different forms: for those of us with online access, we have had weekly Communion live-streamed at first from a priest's home and then from each in turn of the parish churches in our Benefice. On Sunday 5th July, public worship was held for the first time with a Communion Service in a carefully prepared Hoxne Church and was attended by 14 parishioners from across the Benefice.

Prayer groups and PCC meetings have continued on Zoom. Those people without online access have been kept

involved as far as possible with printed material and phone calls. Clergy, wardens and lay leaders have been learning lessons from this blended approach to our ministry and a period of reflection will now follow.

Messy Church has proved a particular success, with a simple home-made video streamed monthly on Facebook: this has featured a Bible story with craft ideas to reinforce the story, and been accompanied by distributed packs of the required craft materials. A good number of families across the Benefice, and particularly in Syleham, have benefited.

The foreseeable future: it is uncertain when St Margaret's will once again host services. We would, though, like if possible to arrange a simple, easy-to-arrange-at-short notice event to enable much-missed socialising; we are thinking

of a bring-your-own lunch time picnic, venue to be decided but could be J's Meadow or even the churchyard, unless another option offers itself. Dates under



consideration are **Sunday 9th and Sunday 23rd August**, but much will depend on the prevailing circumstances. A fairly comprehensive email list is held and everyone on it will be updated as things unfold.

Harvest: provisional dates remain as **Saturday 3rd October** for Harvest Supper and **Sunday 18th October** for Harvest Festival.

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

1939-1945

Counting the Cost

During the Second World War some 65 Hoxne men and women served in the various branches of the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy. Of these seven were killed or died as Prisoners of War (P.O.W.) and many more were taken prisoner and survived their ordeal to return to Hoxne.

Hoxne's first casualty was William James Barber. William was a reservist in the Suffolk Regiment and was called up on the 1st September 1939 and served in the 1st Battalion. In October the Battalion was sent to France where it sat out the first eight months on the War digging trenches and trying to keep warm during one of the coldest winters in living memory. The relative peace was shattered on the 10th May 1940 when the German offensive in the West was launched, with the Allies caught off balance the British were quickly forced to retreat towards Dunkirk. On 29th May, William was killed trying to prevent the Germans crossing the River L'Yser. He is buried in Noordschote Churchyard

Two other Hoxne men were caught up in the Battle for France. George Harsent who lived in Chickering, was serving as a Bombardier in the Royal Artillery and did not get to the beaches at Dunkirk and so became a P.O.W. Reggie Baxter, who had joined up in July 1939, was probably serving in the Suffolk Regiment in France but made it to Dunkirk and was evacuated. At some point after Dunkirk

Reggie transferred to the 1st Battalion Green Howards "The Buffs" and took part in the battle of Malta. A journalist by profession he even managed to get a piece about Malta's siege back to the Diss Express but in September 1943 the Green Howards formed part of Churchill's ill fated attack on the Dodecanese Islands and Reggie was captured when the Germans retook the island of Kos. He would spend the rest of the war in P.O.W. camps in northern Germany, needless to say he started a camp newspaper.

Harold Tyler served as a private in the 9th Battalion Suffolk Regiment (Home Defence) and was killed in action on the 30th December 1940 during a German air raid on R.A.F. Mildenhall. He is buried in Hoxne's churchyard. The battles for Greece and Crete in the spring of 1941 claimed two more Hoxne men. Alec Goldsmith had joined up in 1940 and as a driver was serving with the Royal Army Service Corps. attached to the 1st Armoured Brigade. He saw service in North Africa then was sent to Greece where he was captured in April 1941. He was the son of Mr & Mrs H.T. Goldsmith who owned the Low Street Post Office. Alfred Knights joined the Royal Artillery as a gunner in March 1940 and was sent to Egypt in September. He served in the Greek campaign and was evacuated to Crete when Greece fell, unfortunately he was taken prisoner when the Germans invaded Crete. Both men would see out the rest of the War in P.O.W. camps.

The fall of Singapore in February 1942 would have a huge impact on Hoxne and East Anglia due to the fate of the 18th



Reggie Baxter

Division (Anglian). Formed in September 1939 as a second line Territorial Division with recruits mainly coming from Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, the Division spent the first two years of the war in the United Kingdom and it appeared that it was destined for service in the Middle East but the Japanese attack on Malaya changed that and the Division was sent to Singapore arriving there in a piecemeal fashion between the 13th and 29th January 1942. On the 15th February 1942, Singapore surrendered and some 80,000 British, Indian and Australian troops were taken prisoner, among them were a number of Hoxne men who were serving in the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiments. Robert and his brother William Scofield, Gerald Goddard, Harry Knights, Sidney Garnham, Jimmy Rush and Jimmy Feavearyear. Between June and October 1942, men from the 18th Division were sent north to Burma and Thailand to work on the Burma-Siam Railway, a project crucial to supplying the large Japanese Army in Burma. The 424 kilometre line became operational in December 1943 but the human cost was horrendous with some 13,000 Allied P.O.W.'s dying together with up to 100,000 forced labourers from Burma, Thailand and Malaya. Three Hoxne men died building the railway. Harry Knights was aged 29 when he died on the 22 August 1943. He is buried at the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery (Miramar) together with William Scofield who died on the 13 September 1943, he was 24 years old. The "Death Railway" would also claim Gerald Goddard who died on



Harry Knights

the 7 December 1943 and is buried at Chungkai in Thailand.

The Tyler family lost a second son in October 1943 when Henry, a trooper in the 11th Hussars, was killed in Italy when driving his Commanding Officer to a meeting, a bridge marked as intact had actually been destroyed and the vehicle careered into the ravine. Harry is buried in the Naples War Cemetery.

Ronald Sheehan was Hoxne's last casualty. The son of the village Doctor, Ronald had joined the Hoxne Home Guard on its formation and then volunteered for the Royal Armoured Corps, serving as a lieutenant in the

4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. He was killed in action on the Dutch/German border on 31 March 1945 and is buried at Jonkerbos War Cemetery.

Those held in P.O.W. camps in Europe were repatriated quickly, Reggie Baxter arriving back in the village in late May 1945. It was a different story for the those held in the Far East and whilst families were informed that their sons were P.O.W.'s they were not aware of the horror of that captivity which only became

apparent as the War ended.

Those that survived were repatriated in December 1945 after receiving several weeks of medical attention.

Hoxne and Denham created a Home Coming Fund to support returning personnel and the families of those that had lost their lives, a total of £1,016.00 was raised and this was distributed over several months.

Graham Thornett
www.hoxnehistory.org.uk

Fiona Parrott née Lowe

14th August 1981 - 1st February 2020

Fiona's funeral took place at St Mary's church, West Malling, Kent on Friday the 6th March 2020. Her father Revd. Tony Lowe took part and gave the address and our old friend Canon Alex Whitehead (who baptised Fiona and conducted her marriage to Roland at St. Mary's church, Dover) led the prayers and said the commemoration. Roland spoke so movingly of his love for Fiona.

Fiona was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer in January 2019, a very difficult cancer to treat. After six months of intensive chemotherapy, operations and radiotherapy we all thought she was recovering. But by November the Cancer had spread to her bones, spine and liver and she was given three months to live. Despite being in a lot of pain, she remained cheerful, her smile always there and was determined that she would get better, but this was not to be. Fiona died peacefully on 1st of February 2020 in the Hospice in the Weald, Pembury, Kent. She was surrounded by love and care and all her family. Fiona was 38, leaving her husband and two little daughters Emily 8 and Chloe 6. She was brave and beautiful right to the end.

Fiona was 3½ years old when she moved to Hoxne vicarage, when her father became vicar of Hoxne, Denham, Syleham and Wingfield in March 1985. Fiona, Barbara, Charles and Andrew loved living in the vicarage and Fiona along with her siblings always considered this

their family home where they all grew up. Fiona always thought of herself as a Hoxne girl.

She attended Hoxne playgroup and she was at Hoxne Village school for 6 years along with her friends Mary, Jessie, Nicola, Gemma, Rachel, Duncan, Barry, Richard, Mark and Matthew. She loved playing football and doing plays and music lessons and enjoyed the fun of Junior club. Many who wrote to us said how they remembered her as a lively, fun loving and generous girl who would always help and be a friend to the younger children, always cheerful with a beautiful smile.

At 11 Fiona went to Thetford grammar school, Thetford, Norfolk, where she made many friends who she kept in touch with in adulthood. She enjoyed learning, sports and achieving awards in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. She also loved hockey and represented Norfolk county in the under 13s and under 14s hockey teams.

During this time Fiona helped with Sunday school, and church functions including church fetes and Rogation walks, help with preparations for our 25th wedding anniversary celebrations and her brother Charles' wedding to Sarah at Hoxne church and reception in the vicarage garden. Fiona celebrated her 21st at the vicarage.

She was a much valued babysitter, as she enjoyed being with children. During her 6th form time and university holidays, Fiona worked at the



Fiona aged 4 at Hoxne Village School



Fiona on her 21st Birthday outside the Vicarage

Depperhaugh nursing home, always willing, a friendly word and a smile for the residents and staff she worked with.

After gaining good GCSEs and A-levels, Fiona went to Christ Church University, Canterbury, and made many friends, enjoying uni life and gaining her degree in Education. She began her teaching career at Iwade primary school, Kent, where she became a much loved, respected and valued member of staff, specialising in working with children with special needs.

She later met Roland, marrying on the 1st of August 2009 at St. Mary's church Dover. Tony was a very proud father giving her away in church. Fiona and Roland moved to Kings Hill near Maidstone and settled down there.

Fiona carried on teaching until after Emily and Chloe were born. She later began teaching part-time at a nursery school in West Malling and with her experience and friendliness she was always asked to become involved in events and organisations in Kings Hill.

Emily and Chloe had a very good social life with school friends, which involved many of the parents getting together and Fiona was always there with her smile, humour and lots of fun!

Her funeral was attended by over 200 people, including family, old friends, school and uni friends, many of

Roland's friends, nurses and doctors who cared for her, as well as so many from Kings Hill, showing the affection and love they had for Fiona. It was a



Fiona and her father outside the church before her wedding

beautiful and moving service, with the sun shining through the stained-glass windows. Fiona was a very special person to all those there.

Tony and I and all Fiona's family are heartbroken, supporting each other as well as being there for Roland and Fiona's lovely daughters, Emily and Chloe.

We would like to thank you for your cards, prayers and support during these last sad weeks and months. Hoxne

was always warm and supportive to us as a family throughout our 21 years there. Fiona often returned home until



Fiona, Roland, Emily and Chloe January 2019

her father retired in 2005. She loved Christmas time and Father Christmas travelling around the village on Christmas morning! Such fun! There are many memories of Fiona over the years from the smiling little girl with all those blonde curls, to the school girl, and then the young woman and mother who was taken before her time. Fiona's smile will always be remembered by so many who loved her and knew her.

**Thank you
Chris and Tony Lowe
(Revd Tony Lowe - Vicar 1985 - 2005)**

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Hoxne Village Green

Standing by my car one day, a couple walking up the hill said "I see somebody is tidying up your green", my answer was it's not my green but thanks I will take a look later. I'm a bit surprised they didn't mention their intentions to me considering I have cut the green and supplied and paid for the petrol for at least 45 years. I would have said check with the PC and if they agree do as you wish, but do it all.

The intention of the grass covering over the small curbs had two functions one to make it easier to cut i.e. keeping the blade from hitting the curb, also crossing the path smoothly, secondly to make the green more village green than chocolate box suburbia!

A short history of the green

The water pump was declared unfit to drink in the late 40s, 'though we'd been drinking it all our lives, I suppose new arrivals to the Village wouldn't have the immunity? A large water bowser was left for our supply with a few Victorian style large cast iron stand pipes until we were connected to the mains. The shelter was turned into a seat and left in its original place.

Next was the felling of the trees as the two large Elms had rot and were considered unsafe, sadly the two Limes

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had to go also - that was early to mid 50s. Next was the creation of the new green by W.A. Banham & Sons; the telephone box was moved against the wall of the original Post Office Stores owned by Mr & Mrs. Charley Cowham, later to be moved to where it stands today along with the village seat; the green was finished by the time we held our Carnivals early 70s I think.

Around that time, there was also a parish council election of which new members elected were Maurice Hurry, John Ball, Malcolm Easey, and myself. At one of the meetings, cutting the green was discussed and Malcolm donated a new top of the range fly-mower (with wheels) which made it more manoeuvrable.

Volunteers offered to take it in turn to cut the green - the problem was though, everybody was willing, but it took longer for them to get along due to other obligations than it did to cut, so I decided to take on the job.

Everything went on well, although the first problem was to stop dogs fouling the grass, which was quite usual in those days as there were more strays. With the help of many eyes it became successful - it was heard to be said in the pub that a dog daren't look at the green if Burridge was within 500 yds. Cars did park on the green but this was soon resolved.

Dear old Jack Williams purloined a supermarket shopping basket and with two hooks fixed it to the end of the seat and duly emptied it when full with litter and took it home to dispose of (a lesson some could learn today?) If at home while I was cutting, he would bring out a tray of coffee or beer and his tobacco tin for a quick drag and chat - we nearly all smoked in those days. Jack cut the green while I was away and also must be remembered for donating and planting the two Silver Birches at the head of the green.

The green thickened and grew many wild flowers - Birds-foot Trefoil, Daisies, Clover, Buttercups. Cut one day, it was blooming the next, all good nectar for the bees. Red and white dead nettle and oxeye daisy were left to set seed, white and blue Violets, Meadow saxifrage (rare I think?) and one sad little Cowslip planted by Alan Smith that blooms every year and sets seed but never seems to spread. Later when Jack could no longer help, Alan Smith stepped in for cutting and also doing maintenance, bringing soil to level low areas and also *some* success in covering the curbs. Up until this year we have shared the cutting, Alan did the two large and I the three small. I have enjoyed my time cutting the green, but now I think its time to ask you at your leisure to come and collect the mower, please ask Sarah to inform me when you wish to collect.

I would like to finish with a bit of tongue in cheek humour. With the cash I save (not a lot mind), I would like to put to a fund so Carol can buy extra spring bedding plants from her sale on the green i.e. Blue and White Lobelia, Tagetes (French Marigolds) and Red Salvia. So you can plant three rows around the periphery of each green, plus hanging baskets on the seat. Forget Suburbia and Chocolate box and go FULL ON PARKS & GARDENS. I'll finish now with no ill will and no ill feelings.

Keep well, Allen W Burridge

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We'll Meet Again

With the recent news of the death of Dame Vera Lynn, I recall from many years ago that an important job for my wife, as Chair of our Sussex parish council, was to organise the annual village fete. There was a modest budget for the fete which, as ever, relied on volunteers.

One year, a gentleman offered to arrange for a military band, in transit to an official appointment, to stop over and play during the afternoon. Some members vouched for him as a local driver who helped get the elderly to the polling station during elections. It was stressed there would be no charge - all that was needed was a place to change into uniform, and beer and sandwiches for lunch.

Right up to the last minute, as no details were available, the clerk made no mention in the admission programme. On the evening before the fete, we learned that the marine band from the Royal Yacht would be arriving around 1pm by coach. They would have lunch, change and march through the village then someone was needed to take the salute. They came by coach and performed throughout the afternoon. It was fantastic. They then left to perform in

the De La Warr pavilion in Eastbourne and understandably my wife received complaints about the lack of publicity such as *"if we had known, we'd have been there"*.

A month later she had a call from the Royal Marine Commandant in Portsmouth who asked about the payment details for the £2,600 bill. She explained who had made the arrangements, and in a forlorn voice the Commandant remarked *"not him again"*, but still pressed for payment.

It transpired our gentleman was a "trickster" who had acquired an official directory and had used it at the last minute saying he was unable to supply any paper work. My wife then had a bright idea, namely to sell the story to the press and send the Commandant the proceeds, but he rang off, so she assumed that this was the end of the matter.

However, a month or so later, our village bobby came round to see her saying he was investigating the matter, as he might have to bring charges. He mentioned that the trickster had also driven off without paying for petrol and was now Vera Lynn's butler!

The last we heard about the matter was when the trickster was apprehended in Scotland after selling the contents of a country house he had been caretaking.

Tommy Gee

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Hoxne and Denham Calling every 4 weeks on **Thursdays**

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Hoxne, The Swan car park from 10:35 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: **7th August and 4th September**
Syleham, Wingfield Road (Junction with Weybread Road) from 11:40 to 11:55
Wingfield, Post box from 12:00 to 12:20

Food for Thought

Heartfelt Gratitude

In March 2020, The Financial Times warned us to get ready for the storm to hit. We were told that, to fill their pandemic pantries, consumers have rushed to buy non-perishable staples such as toilet paper, canned goods and pasta. Figures showed that pasta sales in the U.K. spiked 168% in the week to March 14 compared with the year before.

The ingredients needed for the meals we planned to serve weren't always available. What we ate was largely dependent on what was on the shelves or what was delivered. All sorts of products we usually just 'popped' into our baskets either weren't available or were rationed. However, the lack of some familiar staples has encouraged some of us to try 'from scratch' cooking or preparing familiar dishes using alternative and even imaginative ingredients! Some of us have benefited from the time spent in the kitchen, finding it therapeutic, or given us the opportunity to improve our cooking skills or to share cooking with our children and partners.

The UN Secretary General, António Guterres, said of this pandemic "We will come through this together". Like many, I have been shielding and wrote this copy a week after receiving a letter from The Dept of Health and Social Care "thanking all those" who have been shielding, for their resilience over the past few months. At the time of writing, those shielding will have the option to shop for themselves from 1st August. I'm excited, but there are those who remain anxious and wary of stepping out. On behalf of all, may I take this opportunity to "thank all those" groups, organisations and individuals who are supporting our community in many different ways. Your

commitment is making such a difference to so many during these unprecedented times and we are so grateful.

I've chosen the recipes below for no reason other than they make me think of happy times, social gatherings, and summer! I hope you enjoy them too.

Gazpacho

Gazpacho Andauz, is what you make it. Traditionally made from tomatoes, onion, garlic, cucumber, pepper, bread, olive oil and Xérès vinegar, you can get creative with whatever may be available. Some recipes even use tinned tomatoes. Although it is called a soup, it is raw and more like a dense smoothie. This recipe was given to me by a Suffolk Chef and although it doesn't contain bread, is delicious, especially with the addition of lots of fresh green coriander.



Place all ingredients into a large capacity food processor or use a hand wand, which is what I prefer to do, and blend until puréed.

Ingredients:

- 1 kg tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 1 med red onion, peeled and roughly chopped
- 2/3 (or more) cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
- 1 red pepper, de-seeded and roughly chopped
- 1 cucumber peeled and roughly chopped
- Large pinch of salt and black pepper

75ml red wine vinegar
150ml tomato juice
150ml olive oil
1 tbsp chilli sauce
10g sugar
30g coriander leaves

Chill thoroughly before serving and top with croutons and finely diced vegetables if desired.

Merquez Burgers

This very spicy recipe is based on one used by Yotam Ottolenghi. Traditionally this is a long thin uncooked sausage usually made from raw mutton or beef and is heavily spiced. This recipe uses lamb, but as we have all become used to adapting over the past few months, feel free to use minced pork, chicken or beef or any plain meat or vegetarian sausage removed from their skins.

Put all the ingredients in a large bowl and, using your hands, mix to combine. Form into burgers. Place in the fridge for 30 minutes to enable the flavours to develop. Either BBQ or fry in olive oil for 10 - 12 minutes or until cooked and the juices run clear when pierced with a fork. Serve in buns with the usual accompaniments.

Ingredients:

500g meat as above
2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
1-2 tbsp rose harissa to taste
1 tsp cumin seeds, toasted and lightly crushed
2 tsp each of coriander and fennel seeds, toasted and lightly crushed
1 tsp sweet smoked paprika
¼ tsp cayenne

½ tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp salt
2 tbsps olive oil
80g fresh breadcrumbs

Sicilian Strawberry Granita

This is a refreshing icy cold dessert easily made using just 4 ingredients and is gluten free, dairy free and vegan.

Without an ice cream maker:

Put all the ingredients into a large blender or use a hand wand and blend until pureed.

Transfer the mixture into a large flat metal container (using a metal container will shorten freezing times) cover and put in the freezer. Remove after 30/45 mins

and vigorously stir the mixture to break any ice crystals. I used the hand wand. Repeat every 30/45 mins for 2-3 times, or until the granita has reached a velvety texture. Leave to freeze completely. With an ice cream maker:

Follow the first step as above, then transfer the mixture into the ice cream maker bowl.

Start the machine and work the mixture for 30 min or follow the manual instructions.

Ingredients:

1 litre cold water
600g ripe and hulled strawberries
juice of 1 lemon
200g caster sugar
Ripen for 30 minutes to allow granita to soften

Stay safe.

Gill O'Connor
gillocon@btinternet.com





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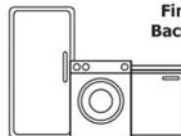
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Hoxne Garden and Social Club

It would it be true to say that the COVID-19 virus and the accompanying lockdown have had a devastating effect on village life in Hoxne. Our village is renowned locally for it's sense of community illustrated by the plethora of activities that go attracting both young and old alike. Many of these normally take place at St Edmund's hall which has been closed as a result of the pandemic. It is only now that many of us just realise what a lynchpin our village hall is to village life.

The lockdown and hopefully the virus are now beginning to ease in their severity, yet the repercussions will be there for a very long time to come. Both have had a lasting impact not just in a physical way for many but also in a psychological way. For example having been cooped up at home has made some people less inclined to go out and meet others face to face, made worse by a nagging fear that they may come into contact with the virus.

As I write this, we are not sure when the Garden and Social Club will meet again. Even when the village hall does reopen, new restrictions may encourage our Club to modify how its meetings take place. Whenever it is, our first meeting will include our much delayed AGM that should have taken place in March. Restrictions withstanding, we will also endeavour to meet on the third Thursday of the month starting at 7.30pm. We welcome new members and we can be contacted via our membership secretary, Julie Coop, or just come along for a taster. Life will go on, but out of all of this adversity, is there not a greater determination to get back to some normality?

Chris Parkin

Hoxne Heritage Group

Although the current disruption arising from the COVID-19 outbreak has curtailed some of the activities of the Heritage Group much of the behind the scenes work continues.

Sadly the talk on the Lowestoft and Yarmouth fishing industry by Ivan Bunn scheduled for June had to be postponed and although we had originally hoped to go ahead with our exhibition commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War which was scheduled for September, this has also been put back until 2021. However, a report on Hoxne's participation in the war is included in this Village Voice, see page 22.

Despite the lockdown a small sub-group of our members has been formed to consider the best way to refresh and present the Heritage related artefacts and displays recently removed from the North Aisle of the church. A number of options are under review and work will continue in conjunction with the PCC.

We obviously look forward to the time when life returns to some kind of normality. In the meantime let's not miss the opportunity to take note of the changes in village life that recent events have forced upon us. For example, how has social distancing and the lockdown impacted daily life in Hoxne and how are local residents coming together to support one another.

If you or anyone in your family has a particular experience of living with COVID -19 or an interesting anecdote related to the lockdown in Hoxne please pass these on to the Hoxne Heritage Group secretary Margaret Sillis by email at:

margaret.sillis@btinternet.com

in order that we can provide an accurate record of the outbreak for future generations.

www.hoxnehistory.org.uk



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Edward (Ted) Cowham

Edward Cowham died in Melbourne, Australia on 22 June 2020 at the age of 75 following an all too brief fight against liver cancer.

Edward was educated in Mill Hill East in London, at Hoxne Primary School and then at the now closed Eye Grammar School whose reunions he used to cross the world to attend every five years.

After leaving school he became a journalist starting out as a junior reporter on the Diss Express before working on other local papers.

Wanting to improve his skills and to travel he left Suffolk aged 25 and took a post with a newspaper in New Zealand and then subsequently worked on papers in Darwin, Brisbane, Sydney and finally Melbourne, Australia.

He worked for many years on the world famed Melbourne Age newspaper (now known as The Age) and was still practising as a journalist in recent years whilst also passing his skills and experience teaching new recruits to the industry.

This was old fashioned print journalism before the current digital age but he also mastered the new techniques.

Edward and his first wife, Lisa Kelly, met while working as sub-editors at The Australian newspaper in Sydney. They married in 1980 and Edward became stepfather to Lisa's two sons.

Edward and Lisa's daughter Alanna was born in 1981 and the family moved to Melbourne in 1983. Alanna is married to Andrew Crosby and they have two sons.

Alanna, a legal graduate, is now a judge's associate in the Federal Court of Australia.

After the breakdown of his first marriage, Edward married Vicky Jourdan and they had been together for more than 30 years.

Vicky, a translation expert, and broadcaster had been looking after him until he was taken into palliative care shortly before he passed away.

In the UK, Edward is survived by his brother Tony and his sister Rosalind and other members of their wider family. Another brother John Cowham passed away in 2015.

His parents, Charles and Annie Cowham, ran the Post Office Stores in Hoxne from 1953 to 1979.

Edward enjoyed a good life supported by his family and many many friends and colleagues. His untimely death is very sad.

His funeral took place in Melbourne on 30 June 2020.

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Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

The Parish Council has continued to operate throughout the pandemic; however all operations have moved online for the foreseeable future. The parish *WhatsApp* group has proved useful to keep in touch with people through out lockdown and the Parish Council is still offering support to people in the village until things return to normal. If you would like to join the *WhatsApp* group, please email Rod, our Parish Clerk at denhamparishclerk@gmail.com providing your name and mobile number and he will add you to the group. You can contact him by phone if that's easier (see below).

Within the village, we have a significant number of residents who have continued to work as frontline NHS workers, in NHS support roles and in many key worker roles throughout the challenging period. The Parish Council would like to thank all the residents of the parish for their contribution to keeping our local community safe whether as a key worker, a local volunteer or just by adhering to the restrictions we have all found so difficult. Although we are hopefully through the worst, it is only by considering the welfare of others, as well as our own, that we will beat this pandemic.

The Parish Council has continued to hold meetings online, and this will be the case for at least the next meeting. Details of how to join these meetings are posted on the Denham Village website and all village residents are welcome to attend. These meetings follow the same agenda as the face to face meetings and members of the public are still able to ask questions of the council.

We are aware of the concerns around the increase in the number of lorries travelling along Hoxne Road through Denham and the risks that these are posing to pedestrians, cyclists, and other vehicles. We have reported this to the relevant County and District Councillors and will continue to highlight issues if and when they arise.

Unfortunately, lockdown and the impact that this has had on the work schedules of members of the Parish Council and Trustees of Denham Community Council, has for the time being halted progress on fundraising for the Village Hall. Heritage Lottery Grants are currently suspended until October, which will further delay the project.

Denham Community Council is looking for support to establish a schedule of work for the renovation, so that we can look at the best way of making the building sound and prevent further deterioration over the next winter period. It would be really wonderful if someone in the village had the right expertise and a bit of time to devote to getting this up and running.

If anyone has building project experience and would be willing to lend their expertise to the project, please email Denham Community Council on info@denhamccmidsuffolk.org.uk. Please don't be alarmed by the prospect of taking on a huge responsibility; get in touch and have a chat with us about what you might be able to do and we can make it work...

*Tania Farrow, Chair
Rod Caird, Clerk - 07785 331217*

Hoxne

COVID-19 - the Parish Council wishes to thank all of the doctors, nurses, health care and key workers and the volunteers, whether the Hoxne (Coronavirus Self - Isolating) Volunteer Group or those working individually, who have supported our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are sure you will join with

the Council in expressing our immense sadness for the loss of life during this time. If you are one of the individuals who has come forward whether by your chosen career or selflessly volunteering your time, thank you for all you have done. Please stay well and stay safe. Abide by the guidance issued and be proud to live in a village where so much has been done by so many.

The Parish Council has met via video conferencing and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Any parishioners wishing to observe these meetings should contact the Clerk for the entry details. The next meetings will take place on **Thursday 6th August and Thursday 3rd September.**

Fly Tipping - the Parish Council will apply a zero-tolerance approach to any incidents of fly tipping on areas of public amenity land in the village. If you witness any incidents of rubbish or household items being dumped please report them directly to Mid Suffolk District Council via their website. Fly tipping is an offence and can result in fines and prosecution.

Housing Needs Survey - the draft report from the survey earlier this year is expected very soon and will be published on the Parish Council website. The results will also be shared with the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group. They will also be commissioning a strategic housing needs assessment which consultants will compile using a range of data sources. Both of these documents will provide key data to determine future housing need in the village.

Neighbourhood Development Plan - The Parish Council will be holding several engagement events to find out more of what you feel about key issues affecting the future development of the village and what you would like to preserve. As we do not yet know if these events can be held in person, please check the Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan website

for further information -

www.hoxneneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

Councillor Vacancy - there is currently one vacancy on the Parish Council and the Council will seek to appoint to this later in the year when meeting in person may again be appropriate.

Syleham

The Parish Council has been locked down like the village. We would like to thank all residents who acted so promptly in preparing the village for this emergency and their continued support of the more vulnerable members of our community.

Our last meeting was held in March and at the time of writing, our next takes place on July 15th, lockdown restrictions permitting.

Back in March, Councillor Steve Phillips presented the results of his survey of village footpaths. His recommendations for their restoration have been passed onto the County Council.

A number of other village improvements have been actioned. The Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) sign has been installed and this reminder to motorists will hopefully reduce traffic speed through the village. Three grit bins have been acquired, thanks to funding from our District Councillor, Lavinia Haddingham. These will be installed in the village, at locations agreed with the Highways Department, in preparation for Winter.

Just before the lockdown the Parish Council met with Community Action Suffolk (CAS) for help in planning the future of the village. Their suggestions were not felt appropriate for Syleham. In consequence it was agreed to investigate the alternative opportunities of a Neighbourhood Plan.

If any resident would like to join the working party needed to develop the Plan please contact the Parish Clerk.

In the interim please keep safe.

Wingfield

As we slowly come out of lockdown the Parish Council would like to thank all those residents who have made the last four months safer and more bearable.

Particular mention should be made of the COVID-19 Support Team so ably supervised by Rosemary Elliott. And, Nicky Birmingham, Eleanor Carroll and Cone Tree Nurseries, whose planting at Castle Crescent Green made life more cheerful.

Despite imposed limitations the Parish Council was able to meet on June 19th in the garden of Charlotte Claxton and plan for the future:

- The COVID-19 support team will carry on until an “all clear” is announced;
- A Neighbourhood Plan will be investigated. Any resident willing to volunteer/offer their professional

expertise to a working party should contact the Parish Clerk;

- The maintenance of the Green this year will follow guidelines given by Suffolk Wildlife Trust (see details on the website);

Two planning applications, the Caravan in Vicarage Road and the barn conversion at Meadow View, Earsham Street, were recommended for approval.

In the Clerk’s report the 2019/20 financial audit was presented and approved. It was a year of major investment in the village. We hope you have noticed the new street signage from Castle Crescent to Earsham Street and will appreciate the new noticeboard and bench to be installed this month.

Finally, our thanks to Bob Elliott who is retiring after 12 years managing the distribution of the Village Voice. Melanie and Dennis Murray are taking over and we thank them for filling Bob’s big boots.

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A Word from Wingfield

Another word...

In today's Observer, novelist Penelope Lively asks why so many people are turning to literary classics during lockdown, and says that one of her enjoyments during lockdown is reading *Alice in Wonderland* to her 26 year old granddaughter.

Many years ago we were given an anniversary present of a luxurious week end at Raymond Blanc's *Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons*, not far from our old home in the Chilterns. Before dinner we chatted to a couple who told us why they were taking a week end at the *Manoir* when the patron himself joined us by the moonlit lake to discuss his menu for that evening with us.

The other guest told us that he was Director of a new Institute of Germanic Studies at Birmingham University, which HM had just opened. He explained that their current research focussed on Britain's contribution to establishing Germany's post war democratic constitution through the Allied Control Commission, and that he had just been interviewing a Labour MP (Austen Albu) about his role in this. Austen was then my neighbour and close friend in the Sussex village of Keymer. His Austrian wife Mitzi was founding Professor of Social Psychology at Sussex. The Albus had bought their house from Jack Lively, a young politics lecturer at Sussex when he was appointed to the Birmingham politics chair, to which not only had our fellow guest succeeded, but they had bought the Livelys house in Birmingham. None of these extraordinary coincidences were known to us before the *Manoir* dinner.

Throughout my life I have had many similar experiences, which these days I

try to record under the heading "*God incidents*". Reminded of it last week by my friend David he suggested that it might be explained by string theory which posits more than three dimensions. In other words, communication through another dimension.

Just after the millennium David invited me to a post morning service sherry as he had two guests visiting and thought that Anne and I might be able to talk with them about Uganda and Oxford about which he said he knew little. The guests we discovered were the parents of the fiancée of David's son. I suspected from the mother's features that she was from Western Uganda and greeted her in Runyoro to which she responded, so my guess was correct.

I was District Commissioner of Bunyoro, a remote part of our empire in the early 50s.

I learned from her husband that when he was a young zoology Ph D student his research topic was the comparative behaviour of primates in Uganda's forest and savannah country. After his fieldwork he did some teaching at our local university in Kampala, and had sung with Anne and me in the Kampala singers before moving on to join the staff of the new Open University. From there he became Director of the Natural History Museum where his success in turning it round was recognised with a K, and he was now Warden of Wadham College, Oxford where I had sat for the open maths scholarship in 1942. Wadham was the alma mater of the famous mathematician and architect Sir Christopher Wren. When he got back to Oxford he sent Anne copies of ten Kampala Singers concert programmes where she had sung the soprano solos. Both his name and mine were listed among the bass chorus.

Another explanation for this is termed synchronicity, but I still call them *God incidents*. They are unreal unexplained coincidences experienced by many.

Last month, Wingfield lost one of its oldest inhabitants, Dr Paul Garton. His daughter came over from Canada to look after him after his wife Mary died. Mary made a most valuable and active contribution to Wingfield. She was parish clerk when I chaired the council, and a pillar of the church, including bell ringing and their restoration for the Millennium.

When I first met the Gartons, their interest was horses and they had a Romany caravan. At the end of his medical career Paul worked with employees in the nuclear industry. He helped as a volunteer with the Prison Inside Out Trust. We went round Suffolk filling a trailer with old bikes which we took to the YOI in Norwich

prison where the young offenders dismantled and restored them to their original condition after which they were despatched to the Third World. Paul also had maritime interests, surprising for an ex RAF officer. They visited their family in Holland and Paul once sailed across the Channel in a small boat and even further along the canals. He had craft skills and restored boats, including models, one of which my son had once sailed on the Serpentine in the 50s. Paul was spared from death by the dreaded COVID-19. As they do, his heart stopped beating. Paul will be sadly missed, as we say.

It is said that Air Commodore Wellingham is now Wingfield's oldest inhabitant, and that I am a close second. Readers born before 1925 will be able to let us know if they have a claim to this title.

Tommy Gee

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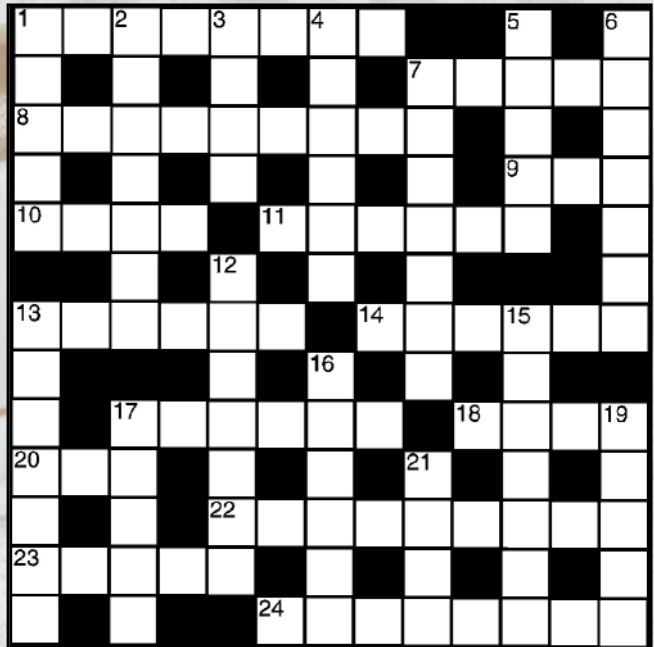
THE ONE STOP
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POULTRY SHOP

Crossword

Puzzle No. 136

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

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



Across

- 1 Fragile lace tied up (8)
- 7 Food provided in German town (5)
- 8 Killer heels (9)
- 9 Dawn moisture found in world wide web (3)
- 10 Boss of racing stables (4)
- 11 Start again to produce a C.V (6)
- 13 Become rigid with fear in the cold (6)
- 14 Attempting to annoy (6)
- 17 Time of the year when the livin' is easy (6)
- 18 Overturned vegetable on the ship's bottom (4)
- 20 A year eagerly anticipated by students (3)
- 22 Mar poetry for a limited time (9)
- 23 Partly educate a child (5)
- 24 Here late but light and airy (8)

Down

- 1 They may be compact or slipped (5)
- 2 Rile sue during playtime (7)
- 3 I quit being leader to run the kitchen (4)
- 4 Cockney headwear (6)
- 5 Confused ideas from a stage whisper (5)
- 6 King now becoming aware (7)
- 7 Big mouth at the river's end (7)
- 12 Arc of the horizon (7)
- 13 Get a fir to build a ship (7)
- 15 Repeat part of white rat escapades (7)
- 16 The elm provides overhead protection (6)
- 17 Stab some asparagus (5)
- 19 Trustworthy toast for the Queen (5)
- 21 Not really the only fish in the sea (4)

The winner of crossword puzzle no. 134 was: Colin Revell, Syleham

Answers - **Across** 1) Delicate 7) Cried 8) Terminate 9) Owl 10) Reef 11) Mutter 13) Anyway 14) Baffle 17) Callow 18) Acne 20) Lea 22) Sculpture 23) - 24) Startled

Down 1) Deter 2) Larceny 3) Chin 4) Teacup 5) Minor 6) Adulate 7) Central 12) - 13) Analyse 15) Factual 16) Robust 17) Cairo 19) Emend 21) Spur

The winner of crossword puzzle no. 135 was: Viv Bradford, Hoxne

Answers - **Across** 1) Allowed 5) Voice 8) Train 9) Rallied 10) Contend 11) Augur 12) Riddle 14) Entire 17) Sheen 19) Amnesty 22) Dissect 23) Trade 24) Scent 25) Related

Down 1) Attic 2) Learned 3) Wince 4) Deride 5) Villain 6) Icing 7) Endorse 12) Resides 13) Longest 15) Instant 16) Banter 18) Ensue 20) Natal 21) Yield

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

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