Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM & WINGFIELD

DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021

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The Revd Eleanor Goodison and Revd John McCracken are ex-officio members of each Parochial Church Council.

C Chair V-C Vice Chair CW Church Warden

Diary Dates

Now on...

Virtual Christmas Market p3 Thursday 3rd December Hoxne Parish Council Meeting p34 Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December Christmas Market, WB p18 Weekends, 5th - 20th December Hoxne Christmas Tree Sales p5 Wednesday 9th December Wreath Making, WB p19



Friday 11th and Saturday 12th December RoughCast Theatre A Christmas Carol, WB p19 Saturday 12th December Benefice Festive Zoom p14 Scouts Virtual Quiz Night, p5 & p23

Sunday 20th - Friday 25th December

Christmas Tree Display, Hoxne Church p4 Thursday 7th January Hoxne Parish Council Meeting p34 Friday 15th January Quiz Supper Evening, WB p19 Wednesday 27th January Denham Parish Council Meeting p33 Friday 29th January Made2Measure 12 Angry (Wo)Men WB p19 Sunday 31st January Puzzle House Pantomimes Robin Hood, WB p4 Mondays 'Make, Do & Friends' Zoom p9 30th November, 7th & 21st December, 11th & 25th January and 8th February Church Services and events, see p13 - 17 Mobile Library, see p20 WB Wingfield Barns

Virtual Christmas Market

Our churches are staying Covid-secure this year with a virtual Christmas Market. Items can now be ordered and picked up direct from the donor. Proceeds will go to the church of the donor's choice.



Look out for our flyers with a host of home-made goods, crafts and gifts to buy in aid of our churches. And if you would like to be sent our mailing list to stay up to date, please email: hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com



Here's an initial selection - more are being added all the time:

ltem	Available from	Price
Small Christmas pudding	Eleanor Goodison 01379 384181	£5.00
Boiled Fruit Cake	Anne Swann 01379 669322	£3.50
Marmalade	Cathie McGregor 01379 668434	£3.00
Autumn Fruits Chutney	Eleanor Goodison 01379 384181	£3.00
Honey	Hilary Castleden 01379 668458	£5.00
Sweetie Jars	Caroline Abbott 07837 698517	£1.50
Candy Cane Mice	Caroline Abbott 07837 698517	£0.75
Christmas Face Masks	Cathie McGregor 01379 668434	£3.00
Fishermen's Woolly Hats	Mary Lewis 01379 669258	£5.00
Hand-turned Wooden Ornaments -		
available to view, contact	Richard Court 01379 678772	various
Knitted Toys (shelf sitters, 2 sizes)	Cathie McGregor 01379 668434	£2.50/£3.00
Christmas Cards:		
Lighted Tree in Athelington Church	Colin Palmer 01728 628747	£5.00 for 5
Wingfield Church in Snow	John McCracken 01379 384181	£5.00 for 10

Notice Board

HOXNE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES



espite all the ongoing difficulties arising from the COVID-19 restrictions we

are pleased to advise that arrangements are in hand to hold the annual display of Christmas Trees at St Peter & St Paul with St Edmund Church, Hoxne over the festive period.

Given the challenges presented by the current circumstances the display period will be shorter than in previous years running 11am - 3pm from **Sunday 20th to Friday 25th December** with Saturday 19th set aside for set up. We should like all trees to be removed by Wednesday 30th December at the latest. All of the

HOXNE BELL RESTORATION CHRISTMAS CARDS

8 cards & envelopes in each pack

(4 designs, 2 of each)

All profits in aid of the

Hoxne Bell Restoration Fund



Available in Hoxne Post Office Stores or by contacting Claire Whiting on 01379 669111 Government guidelines in place at the time will apply.

Over the coming weeks we shall be contacting everyone who has supported us in the past and we will of course be pleased to hear from any local organisation interested in participating this year.

Clearly during the weeks leading up Christmas the situation may change and we may be obliged to amend arrangements or, in the worst case, even cancel the event. However we remain optimistic and will endeavour to keep everyone advised in good time.

> David Hyde davidjhyde@btopenworld.com

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES CYCLE RIDE

big thank you to all the cyclists and walkers who turned out on Saturday September 12th to support our church. This year despite all the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, we saw an increased number of Hoxne participants. Also the number of riders from all over the area visiting our church was a healthy 31, significantly higher than last year.

All together Hoxne riders and walkers amassed £500.00 for our church which, considering the circumstances is an excellent total and much needed in these trying times.

Rhona Bertie, Local Organiser

PUZZLE HOUSE PANTOMIMES ROBIN HOOD - WINGFIELD BARNS

Subject to the current COVID-19 situation, Puzzle House Pantomimes will present Robin Hood, a family friendly show with traditional pantomime -style fun. Six performers play a range of characters in a show full of songs, live keyboard music, thrills, spills and silly jokes. Sunday 31st January, 3pm to 4.10pm at Wingfield Barns. All tickets £7. Box office 01379 384656 opens on Monday 4th January.

We are planning a one act show, with no interval. Sadly, the song contest and the handing out of sweets cannot take place this time - we intend to put on something even better!

Tickets will NOT be on sale on the door. All Covid regulations will be strictly adhered to.

puzzlehousepantomimes.weebly.com

HOXNE VILLAGE CALENDAR

ow available, the new 2021 calendar celebrates all the events we had to cancel because of COVID-19. It resurrects photos from the past and recreates some of the



activities and events we would have normally enjoyed. With 24 colour photos inside, it's priced just £6 from Hoxne PO Stores or by contacting Cathie **01379 668434** or Carmel **01379 669123.** Profits will go towards repairing recent damage to the fabric of the Church.



Borderhoppa

e are so pleased to announce that our full dial-a-ride service is back up and running. It has been a long period of uncertainty for everyone but we are now able to once again provide transport around the local

Buy your Christmas Tree in Hoxne

Nordman Fir Norway Spruce On Sale

Sat. Dec. 5th,12th,19th.

10 - 12 noon

Sun. Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th. 10 -12 noon

At Market House Drive Low Street, Hoxne

Due to Corona Virus, please wear masks and observe social distancing.

Pre-ordering your tree would be appreciated.

Ring Carole Smith **01379 668210** Proceeds for Hoxne Playing Field

1st Fressingfield Scout Group Virtual Quiz Night

Saturday 12th December @ 7:00pm

Register via Crowdfunder www.crowdfunder.co.uk/quiz-night

How to register...

Donate £10 per team, and provide your team name.

Email scouts@ciarancarr.co.uk with this team name, so that we can send you the Zoom code ©

Please email for alternative arrangements...

Village Voice

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What's On

Sample a beautiful lunch and dinner in the amazing surroundings of our 600 year old pub/restaurant in the heart of historical Hoxne.

We cater for all tastes, including vegetarian and vegan. Our menu includes a great selection of fish dishes, British classics, and meat options. And we also have an ever changing chefs special board.

Sample our menu in front of one of our log fires this winter.

Book now for **Christmas meals & Christmas day**, and a traditional Sunday Lunch every week.

More information can be found on our Facebook page "The Swan Inn Of Hoxne" and on our website.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 12 till late with food between 12 and 2:30 & 5 until 8:30 *Sunday* 12 till late with food between 12 and 4

Tel: - 01379 668275 www.theswaninnofhoxne.co.uk



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area for our members. However, we all need to continue to be alert and take all the precautions we can while attempting to go about our usual business.

Seating will be limited for a while to allow for the correct social distancing within the vehicle and we will ask passengers to use the hand sanitisers provided on the vehicles and to wear face masks.

We are also asking that where possible, the driver is paid in the correct change as we are trying to limit the amount of cash that is passed around. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the office on **01379 854800** or email: *adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com* We look forward to seeing you all soon!

FAMILY NAME REQUEST - DUNCH

he Village Voice was recently contacted in a quest to learn about Barnaby Dunch and his family, as previously mentioned in an article on seventeenth century Hoxne by John Draper in 1999. If you know any further details of Barnaby Dunch, his first or

Hello to all the children of Hoxne

I is very cold here at the North Pole, so I am really excited about coming south in a few weeks time. As you know, I always make a special appearance in Hoxne on Christmas morning to deliver all of your presents. The elves have been extremely busy all year making some wonderful toys, so my sack is getting very full. As always, I have employed some local elves



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

I have filed a fight plan with the Airways Authority and expect Rudolf to land the sleigh in **Denham Road** about **6am**. This means we will reach **Nuttery Vale** about **7am** and **Low Street** about **8am**. Just in case we get lost(!), can you make sure all presents are marked with full name, address and telephone number.

Joan, my friend in the village shop, will advise and help you if needed. So please contact her before **Thursday 17th December**. If you need a label please use the one shown, but Joan will have some spares.

Lots of love and cheer, Father Christmas

COVID-19 Alert

All presents <u>MUST</u> be delivered by Saturday 19th December in a clear polythene covering. This allows us to sanitise everything before loading on the sleigh. This year

will be slightly different: The elves will put the presents on the step or path and sanitise their hands after each delivery. We are still taking advice regarding the gathering on Low Street Green. Please keep watch on the **Hoxne Facebook** page or contact me a few days before Christmas day, when we will know more. **01379 668636**.

Name			
Address			1
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Postcode	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•••••	• • • • • • • • •
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ARE YOU A CARER? – WE REGULARLY RECRUIT FOR LOCAL CARERS TO JOIN OUR TEAM

The Daily Care Agency is registered and therefore licensed to provide services by the Care Quality Commission. Provider ID 1-101723169 second wife or children William and Mary, or their possible connection to a John and Walter Dunch, then please email Nick Moss at:

eyetalkenglish@gmx.com Nick is researching James Dryden, a younger brother of the poet laureate John Dryden and is exploring a connection to the somewhat rare Dunch family name in Suffolk.

CAN YOU HELP 'IN THE KITCHEN'?

his issue sees the last of Gill O'Connor's recipe and food features that have been with us for the best part of four years. Many thanks to Gill for her contributions over that time for such a wide range of her varied culinary delights.

Going forward, do you have a favourite dish that you would like to share? Maybe one that's been passed down through the family? Perhaps more than one? Then get in touch with the Editor (see back cover) to feature in a forthcoming issue.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9TH

NOVEMBER 2020 AT HOXNE

ue to COVID-19 restrictions, no formal Remembrance Service could be organised at St Peter and St Paul Church with St Edmund's this year. This is a special time of year when people pay their respects to the many fallen



during all conflicts but especially WW1 and WW2 and remember the men of Hoxne who gave their lives. Instead, it was suggested that the Poppy Wreaths and Crosses be placed at The Well on Low Street Green for those who wished, to pay their respects. These were later moved to The Memorial at St



Peter and St Paul with St Edmund on 11th November 2020. A thank you to all those involved.

Edward O'Connor



MAKE, DO & FRIENDS

f you fancy getting together, but not face-to-face, then why not join one of our friendly Community online gettogethers? These relaxed Zoom sessions will help you develop technical skills and confidence whilst enjoying a creative workshop. The sessions are ALL FREE, but booking essential as spaces are limited: Online radio drama listening with Lynn Whitehead, Mondays 30th November, 7th & 21st December, 11th & 25th January and 8th February, 11am-12.30pm.

Full information about the activities can be found at: *makedoandfriends.co.uk*



Village Voice



Allen Burridge and his long service award - a painting of Low Street Green, Hoxne by local artist Sally Procner, see page 34 for details.



'Real' trees can be left at this site from 7am on Wednesda 30th December, until 6.30am on Monday 25th January. Trees must be less than 7' tall & must have all decorations, stands & pots removed. Please call 0300 1234000 (option 4) for further details



Village Voice







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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.: **07876 143579**

Note: Planned church services are subject to change in the light of government restrictions.

Every Saturday and Sunday

8am CW Morning Prayer at: facebook.com/WingfieldChurch

Sunday 6th December

2nd Sunday of Advent 9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne 11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield 4pm Messy Christingle, Wingfield Sunday 13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent 9.30am Café Church on Zoom with carols Sunday 20th December 4th Sunday of Advent 9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne 4pm Celebration of Christmas, Syleham **Tuesday 22nd December** 4pm Benefice Carol Service, Wingfield Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve 3pm Nativity Parade through Hoxne (if the weather is inclement, the parade will be replaced with Nativity scenes in the church as part of the Christingle service) 4pm Christingle service, Hoxne

Friday 25th December

Christmas Day

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

11am Family Communion, Wingfield

11am CW Holy Communion, Denham

Sunday 27th December

11am Benefice Holy Communion, Denham Sunday 3rd January

Epiphany

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne 11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield 4pm Messy Church at:

facebook.com/HoxneMC Sunday 10th January Baptism of Christ 9.30am Café Church on Zoom Sunday 17th January

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne 10am Village Service, Syleham

24th January

9.30am BCP Matins, Hoxne 9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham 11am CW Holy Communion, Denham

31st January

Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) 11am Benefice Holy Communion,

Wingfield

Church News

One kind word can warm three winter months

This Japanese proverb may be very relevant this winter, as Covid-19 restrictions seem likely to be in force in one way or another throughout the coldest and darkest time of the year. As we hunker down and turn up the heating, it's more important than ever to remember those who may be isolated, anxious or depressed either about the threat of the virus itself or its economic and other side-effects. We all need to look out for each other at this time, even



if we can't meet face to face. There is help available, from our village neighbour schemes, our local churches and from specific funds for anyone who is suffering financial hardship. If you want to talk about anything, or just to talk about nothing in particular, please do get in touch.

I would like to thank all those who have sent kind messages of support following my licensing by Bishop Mike on 4th October as SSM interim Priest in Charge of the benefice of Athelington, Denham, Horham, Hoxne, Redlingfield, Syeham and Wingfield. I look forward to my ministry among you for the next two years and will be doing my very best to keep our churches at the heart of our communities. We have lots of plans for the future, and they are not all on hold during the pandemic.

Over the next couple of months we hope to be able to hold public worship services,

but if they continue to be subject to government restrictions we aim to build on our current online services and events. We are planning several virtual celebrations over Christmas, in particular our Virtual Christmas Market. Look out for our list of home-made goodies, ranging from Christmas puddings to Christmasthemed facemasks, crafts to preserves all available to pick up at your convenience - see page 3 for more details. And keep a space in your diary for our Zoom event at 11.00 am on Saturdav 12th December with festive cheer, a fun quiz and, who knows, maybe a visit from Father Christmas! For a Zoom invitation, please contact me - vou don't need vour own Zoom account.

With every good wish for a very Happy Christmas when it comes.

Revd Eleanor Goodison eleanor.goodison@gmail.com Tel: 07876 143579

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St John, Denham

am pleased to report that tenders have been sent out for repairs to the chancel roof, walls (inside and out) and vestry. Hopefully work will be carried out in late spring next year. Despite the restrictions of Covid-19 we have been able to make a start on restoring the church to a more kempt and weatherproof condition. I would especially like to thank Philip Chenery for rejuvenating the porch by making good the plaster and lime washing the walls and ceiling.

We are very grateful to all the bike riders and sponsors who raised more than £1000 for the Suffolk Churches Trust on 12th September this year. Half of this is passed on directly to provide much needed funds to keep the church going. Normal income has been drastically reduced by the lockdown.

With these new restrictions in place, it is unlikely that services in the church will resume over the next couple of months. However, it remains open on Wednesdays for anyone who needs peace and sanctuary - something this church has provided over the last eight hundred years through many other and varied tribulations.

Hilary Castleden 01379 668458

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

The church community like all the world is living with Covid-19 and its restrictions. Our face mask project raised over £800 of which £200 was gifted to the Children's Society. Thanks to all our supporters.

Facemasks in Christmas fabrics will be available on the Virtual Christmas Fair, see page 3 for more details.

The 'Village Covid Calendar 2021' is priced £6 and on sale at the Hoxne

Village Stores, also at the church on Wednesdays when the church is open for private prayer. For orders please phone Carmel **01379 669123** or Cathie **01379 668434**, see page 5.



The repairs to the guttering to the south of the church are well in hand. Approval for the repair of the floor in the St Edmund chapel has been applied for from the Diocese. We have a contractor ready and a Sponsor to pay for the work to be carried out.

There has been a very generous offer of sponsorship for a painted icon of St Edmund to be placed in the chapel.

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 and the cold months has affected us. We had a lovely garden meeting in September and the North Suffolk Area I-Chameleon shop went ahead. Over £1200 was raised for projects and we will again be supporting the Night Shelter in Ipswich with 'Christmas Stockings' and the two women's 'Refuges'. We continue to share regular News Letters with information from around the diocese and beyond.

Meeting dates should be Monday 21st December and Monday 18th January our AGM, these will be on Zoom or in the church. I will send members information nearer the dates.

Cathie McGregor. Branch Leader 01379 668434.

Flower rota

During December there will be an Advent Candle at the foot of the Chancel steps. It is very much hoped that there will be a Christmas Tree festival in the run up to Christmas Day, see page 4.

January 3rd, 10th & 17th: Altar, Cathie McGregor; January 24th & 31st: Altar, Suzanne Lewis;

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

There is hand sanitising available for use in the church.

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

Uncertain times! It is hoped that by the time you read this, church services may be able to continue their progress towards normality! We were just beginning to enjoy meeting together for more regular services, albeit with the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 compliance, when we had to lock-down again. But this serene autumn evening reminds me of God's enduring promises.



Alternative services on Facebook and Zoom, including the popular Messy Church for families, are likely to be

continued for the foreseeable future, as set out on the Church Services page.

We were able to enjoy a limited Harvest Festival, with the church looking very attractive despite the reduced decoration, and were very sorry not to have the usual Act of Remembrance.



Christmas - Families are being invited to join us on **Sunday 6th December** for a Christingle Service in Wingfield Church, where we have the space to work safely,

so we do hope this can go ahead; and they have also been offered, separately, a challenge to produce a homemade nativity scene. Some of the resultant photographs will no doubt appear in the next issue of Village Voice.



Syleham's traditional Carol Service with Amici cannot, sadly, take place but we plan a candle-lit *Celebration of Christmas* at 4pm on **Sunday 20th December**. Numbers may have to be limited but contact will be made nearer the time.

Fund-raising - We are really grateful to Baroness Elaine Murphy who is generously donating proceeds from her book *Tales of the Old Vic*, a history of The Old Vicarage, Syleham; and St Margaret's net share of proceeds from Ride & Stride in September amounted to £235. In addition, the Benefice is running a virtual *Christmas Fair* (see page 3) and each parish will keep proceeds from its own sales, so do support it! Cards, crafts, baking - I am busy knitting hats - is there anything <u>you</u> could offer?!

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

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall

t the moment Syleham and Wingfield village hall remains closed. We therefore need to let you know that we will not be organising any events for the Christmas period, for New Year celebrations, for our usual Senior Citizen's event or for National Village Halls' week.

It is hoped a joint meeting of the Hall Management committee and the Sports and Social club committee will be able to be held early in the new year to decide on the next steps towards reopening when appropriate.

Both committees are made up of volunteers from the two villages plus interested individuals who have loyal ties to the villages. We are always looking to widen our expertise, so if you feel you would like to get involved please do contact me or one of the committee members. We are particularly looking for someone to take over the role of secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee, Charity number 297332 - we have about four meetings per year plus intermittent correspondence during the year.

We can offer a collection point for glass recycling as well as a clothes bank. Any

profit from these goes into village hall funds. There is a small collection bin for you



empty crisp packets from any manufacturer, including the outside packaging, but not popcorn bags, crisp tubes (Pringles), pretzel bags or meat snack bags. These raise funds for Fressingfield Scouts who will be able to purchase kayaks through this scheme.

We also have a community use defibrillator on the front outside wall obviously we hope you don't need to use

this but it's there if the need arises. It is necessary to call 999 to be given the door code. The Hall Management committee ensures this is in working order and pays for replacement batteries and pads as necessary.



Opposite the village hall, a little way down the footpath, is J's Meadow, which the village hall purchased for community use. There's a beautiful view over the Waveney valley! The pedestrian gate is always open, so do enjoy the space. There is now a meandering path around the inner perimeter and some seating, and the bug hotel is well established.



A Bounce back net has been donated and makes it easy to play ball games if you are on your own

or there are just a couple of you. Thank you very much, Malcolm!

A ride on mower has been purchased and we have a small team of grass cutters - thank you particularly to Malcolm, who has carried out the bulk of the cutting this year! We would really like to get the raised beds and sensory garden started as soon as possible - we will need to ask for some help with the heavy work involved in placing the old railway sleepers in appropriate positions, liners inside and filled with soil - again if you would like to get involved please let me know. Plants are being cared for and await their planting day, although others will be needed.

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support to our village halls at this time Julie Thompson

Hoxne Village Hall

B y the time you read this, it will be almost eight months since we temporarily closed Hoxne Village Hall. The Hall Committee did meet towards the end of September, and as much as we wanted to re-open and welcome back regular users and one off events, the Government Guidelines in force at the time meant we decided the Hall would remain closed until at least

St Edmund's Village Hall, Hoxne Picturesque venue for parties, wedding receptions, family gatherings or meetings



hoxnevhbookings@outlook.com 07876 215269 www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk February 2021. At the time of writing (start of November), we are about to go into lockdown again so maybe February 2021 as a re-opening date seems optimistic at the moment!

We were pleased to sponsor a page in the Hoxne calendar which features some lovely photographs (see page 5) - and hopefully we will be able to welcome you all back in 2021!

Once again, you can recycle your real Christmas tree at the dedicated area in the hall car park. You can leave your tree from **Wednesday 30th December**, see page 11 for further details. In the meantime, best wishes from the Hall Committee for a happy and healthy Christmas.

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 hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

Wingfield Barns

Christmas Market

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December, 10am to 4pm - We are looking forward to hosting our first Christmas Market here at Wingfield Barns... fingers crossed we emerge from lockdown just in time! Plenty of fun for all the family - carousel for the kids, yummy treats, and a wide range of stalls perfect for doing your

Christmas shopping, all in the beautiful grounds of Wingfield Barns. Entry is free, but please book your free arrival slot so we can keep an eye on numbers - link on our website.



Village Voice



Gifts, crafts, artisan produce, kids carousel, wreaths, mulled wine and more

WINGFIELD BARNS

Wreath Making Workshop

Wednesday 9th December, 10.30am -Enjoy a relaxing morning with Gabi from Gabriel's Garden and create a natural moss based wreath full of festive berries,



WINGFIELD BARNS

dried flowers, seasonal foliage, and seed heads. Perfect to adorn your door this Christmas or to use as a beautiful candle filled table centre. All materials will be

provided but feel free to bring bits from your garden to add that personal touch.

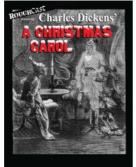
Please bring secateurs or scissors and an apron. Coffee and cake provided. Tickets £45.

RoughCast Theatre Co. presents 'A Christmas Carol'

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th

December, 7.30pm - RoughCast revive their first ever Christmas show, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, as a staged

reading for a small ensemble, echoing the famous solo renditions by the author himself that wowed audiences in Victorian times. The story of the reclamation of that self-



confessed "Humbug" Ebenezer Scrooge never fails to delight audiences of all ages with its colourful cast of famous characters both real and ghostly. Tickets £12/£6 (full time students).

Quiz Night

Friday 15th January, 7pm - Dust off the grey cells and join the team at Wingfield Barns for our first quiz supper evening. The bar will be open (table service) and the ticket price includes a chilli supper (vegetarian available). Table teams of 4 - due to Covid restrictions we currently cannot mix/make up table teams at this time. Prizes for the winning team. £5 per head.

Made2Measure Theatre Co. presents 12 Angry (Wo)Men (with a 2020 twist)

Friday 29th January, 7.30pm - 6 good actors and true will attempt to portray a full jury through judicious use of a line-

up of hats. We hope you will find us

 $\frac{12 \text{ Angry (Wo)Men}}{\text{Rule of 6}} = \text{Double the fun!}$

guilty of entertaining you with our lighthearted take on this well-known play, set in 1950s Ipswich for extra glamour. This will be a rehearsed reading, the performance lasting for around an hour. Tickets £10.

Wingfield Barns, Church Road Wingfield IP21 5RA 01379 384505 www.wingfieldbarns.com

Village Voice

Food for Thought

The festive season is fast approaching. Do you favour traditional foods, try something totally different or find a new twist on an old recipe? The English have always loved to serve one dish under the guise of another and my first offering, Glacé Fruit Bombes is no different. An imitation plum pudding which also resembles the Nesselrode pudding designed in France and very popular in Victorian England.

Glacé Fruit Bombes

Ingredients:

80g glacé cherries 40g angelica 80g soft figs 80g soft nougat with nuts 160g glacé fruits 100g chocolate 4 tbsp brandy 4 egg yolks 120g caster sugar 420ml single cream 420ml double cream

Method:

Quarter the cherries and chop the fruits, nougat and chocolate to similar size. Place the fruits into a bowl and cover with brandy, stir and leave to soak for 2 hours. Beat egg yolks and sugar together until creamy. Bring the single cream to the boil and pour onto egg mixture, mixing vigorously. Pour into a double boiler or a heatproof bowl placed over a pan of simmering water and, heating gently, stir until thickened. Cool completely. Whip the double cream until it forms soft peaks



and fold into the cold custard until thoroughly combined. Pour into a rigid freezer-proof container, cover, seal and freeze for 2 hours until half-frozen. Stir well, then fold in the remaining ingredients and any brandy that has not been absorbed. Pour into a 1litre bowl or individual moulds. Cover with a lid or foil and freeze for 2 - 3 hours or until firm.

Any variety of glacé or crystallised fruit can be used. If using crystallised fruit, pour over boiling water and leave for 10 minutes, to soften and remove excess sugar then drain. If you choose to omit chocolate or nougat increase weight of fruits accordingly.

...and so to the leftover egg whites. Some claim the meringue was created in the Swiss village of Meiringen during the 1700's and perfected by a chef called Gasparini. Others maintain that the word comes from the Polish word marzynka and that the preparation was invented by a chef in the service of King Stanislas I Leszcyński, later Duke of Lorraine whose daughter Marie, introduced it to the French. Others insist the treat was invented in England in 1604.

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Thursday 17th December & 14th January Hoxne, The Swan car park, 10:35 to 10:50; Hoxne, St Edmunds House, 11:00 to 11:15; Denham, Post Office, 11:25 to 11:35.

Friday 22nd January

Syleham, Junction of Wingfield Road & Weybread Road, 11:40 to 11:55; Wingfield, Post box, 12:00 to 12:20.



Wherever it originates, there aren't many who don't like a huge chewy cloud or crisp shells bound by thick whipped cream. Although not officially a cake but a Dacquoise, this

confection consists of three thin layers of hazelnut meringue sandwiched together with a soft chocolatey cream.

Chocolate and Hazelnut Meringue Cake

Ingredients:

100g whole hazelnuts 4 egg whites 225g caster sugar + 1 tbsp caster sugar 115g dark chocolate 100ml double cream, plus 150ml double cream 1 tbsp caster sugar

Method:

Preheat the oven to 190C. Aga: lowest shelf of roasting oven. Place hazelnuts onto a baking sheet and roast for 5 - 8 minutes. Place them onto a clean dry tea towel, gather all corners to form a purse and rub off the skins. Chop finely and form into two unequal piles of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$.

Turn the oven down to 110C. Using a 20cm cake tin as a template, mark 3 circles on 3 large sheets of baking parchment (not grease proof paper as the meringues may stick). Place the marked paper on 3 baking sheets. In a clean bowl whisk the egg whites until the stiff peak stage then gradually add the sugar. Fold in the larger pile of chopped hazelnuts and spread equally and evenly over the 3 circles of parchment paper. Level the tops and sprinkle the remaining pile of

hazelnuts over one circle. This will become the top layer. Bake in the oven for 2 hours then turn the oven off, leaving the meringues inside to go cold for at least another 2 hours. Aga: simmering oven for 4/5 hours.

To make the cream filling, melt the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Once melted, remove from the heat and stir in 100ml of double cream. Whisk the 150ml of double cream with the caster sugar until it just forms soft peaks then fold thoroughly into the chocolate mixture. Once the meringues are cold, spread one half of the chocolate cream over one of the meringue layers, top with the second layer and spread over the remaining chocolate cream. Top with the final layer topped with hazelnuts and chill until the cream mixture has set. Dust with icing sugar or cocoa powder before serving and slice with a serrated knife.

These meringue discs are very delicate.

Antipasto Skewers

Select the ingredients you'd like to use for your antipasto (cured meat, various cheeses, vegetables, marinaded vegetables, olives and fresh basil) Lay the ingredients out in front of you. On a cocktail stick



alternate the antipasto ingredients. Try to vary the sticks. Arrange on your chosen plate and insert bay leaves and rosemary to imitate a Christmas wreath.

A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year

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Village Voice

Hoxne Phoenix Group

There is nothing much to report other than keeping in touch with members who have a birthday that particular month. The Committee were happy to take part in the Hoxne 2021 Calendar - unfortunately it was a very sunny day and several of us had either sunglasses or "varifocals" on hence the look of the Mafia!

We hope next issue to be able to give details of 2021 - at least for part of the year. Hope for more news next time.

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

Fressingfield Scouts

uring the last few weeks Explorers have spent a very dark evening on a Night Navigation Hike around footpaths. Their Zoom sessions have focussed on Remembrance and Reflection and included time with the Fressingfield Royal British Legion. This year, because of the lockdown, there have been no Remembrance Services, although we have laid wreaths at War Memorials as usual.

As well as Zoom sessions with a virtual treasure hunt around the streets of Norwich and some quizzes, Scouts have had a pumpkin carving evening in the dark at the new site which went very well with a good display at the end.

Cubs have been meeting at the new site, this involves two sessions as we are limited to 15 in the group, with plenty of Leaders. Activities so far have mainly involved nature projects, map reading skills and fire lighting. Beavers were just getting restarted mixing face to face and Zoom with similar activities to the Cubs. Unfortunately, with the new lockdown we have moved back to only Virtual Scouting on Zoom.

Thank you to everyone that has supported our CrowdFunder campaign, *www.crowdfunder.co.uk/new-hq* although we didn't get to our rather ambitious target, we have achieved getting on for £6000 at the time of writing and are still accepting donations! There will be a further boost from a sponsored parachute jump by the chair of our Executive Committee and one of the Scout Leaders in November. If you would like further information please contact *scouts@ciarancarr.co.uk*

You may have noticed a bit of activity on and around the new site as we prepare to have the services connected in anticipation of progress with the building.

Recently we have been donated two excellent gazebo shelters by someone that no longer has a use for them. We are very grateful for this especially as one that we were using was twisted out of shape beyond use at a Cub Camp towards the end of last year during a storm. In the last year or so we have also been gifted a table tennis table and a table top football game, this sort of gift will happen only rarely but it occurs to us that perhaps cooking equipment might be more often looking for a new home? We need metal pots, pans and utensils for use at camp so anything not breakable or easily melted is useful particularly frying pans, cooking pots, dishes and trays and things like ladles and spatulas and even redundant grids from barbeques and grills. Small axes, logging saws, pruning saws and spades or entrenching tools are also useful. If you can help with this please contact any Leader or Michael on 07761 827053.

We are running a Virtual Quiz Night on Saturday 12th December at 7pm, in an





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Tel: 01379 668596 Mobile: 07801 515494 Rainford Cottage, 11 Green Street, Hoxne. effort to bring families together whilst raising funds and awareness for our New HQ Campaign.

How to Register:

- Please donate £10 per team via this 1. Crowdfunder page: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/quiz-night including your team name. Alternatively, please email scouts@ciarancarr.co.uk for the Group's account details, or to arrange another payment method.
- 2. Email *scouts@ciarancarr.co.uk* with the same team name registered on Crowdfunder in order to be able to receive the Zoom invitation link.

Please email if you have any questions.

The Zoom link will be emailed out the night before the event.

Merry Christmas.

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

e were making some progress in deciding what to do with the bell restoration when the second lockdown was introduced. Future meetings will now be by zoom which many of us find much less satisfactory.

At the last meeting the Parochial Church Council (PCC) decided to draw up a simple Vision Statement so that we can consult parishioners about what improvements they would like to see to the fabric of our church. The bell restoration will be one of these proposals.

One thing we have to do for the bell restoration is to move the organ. This would open up the West Door and make sense musically as well. There are a few possible locations for the organ, which will be included in our public consultation. The restoration of the bells and the movement of the organ will need what is called a "faculty" - the church equivalent of planning permission - this is granted by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). Unfortunately, there is an outstanding faculty to do with the St Edmunds Chapel and the DAC have made clear that they would not support a faculty for moving

I have been talking to Matthew Higby who was going to come to Hoxne to meet and brief the PCC on the scheme his firm have drawn up for our bell restoration. This will now take place by Zoom which will not enable him to see the church, the tower, bells or the PCC members personally.

the organ or restoring the bells until that

has been resolved.

Congratulations and thanks to Claire Whiting for producing the Christmas cards that have transformed my dull photographs. These are available for sale at Hoxne Post Office so do buy some and support us! See page 4 for details. Andrew Castleden 01379 668458 / 07931 725928



The bell frame which will be conserved, looking up from below.



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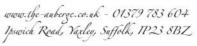
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New Reeding Woods Group

P ound Lane Wood is quietly slipping into autumn and is currently a tranquil place to walk or an opportunity to let your children run outside. Now, as we find ourselves once again in lockdown, the wood offers a place to exercise and health benefits from being in a green space.

The wood is dedicated for public use and maintained by volunteers; anyone who would like to join us in working there is welcome to contact us and get involved. Although of modest size at around a hectare, it offers developing scrub and woodland, meadow and wetland habitats, complimented by a burgeoning range of flora and fauna.



All of this requires careful management and intervention to ensure its potential is realised for all to enjoy. If you visit the wood and have enjoyed the space and contact with nature it allows, why not get more involved?

We can offer -

- Expertise and training for volunteers;
- Space for schools to use via local parents;
- Future surveys and projects bird counts, invertebrate surveys, bat detecting and wild flower monitoring;
- Management activities including thinning of the woodland areas;

Experts say that 97% of the nation's meadows have been eradicated since the 1930s. Britain is ideal too for tree growth, thanks to its mild winters, plentiful rainfall, fertile soils and hillsheltered



topography - yet nowadays only about 12% of Britain's land is woodland (of which in England a quarter is conifers).

Please use the opportunity to join in and help us and get hands -on experience of helping to improve the local environment at a time of climate crisis. -Contact our Secretary for further information - Peny Conway **07495 875299**.

St Edmund's School

Forest School

Towards the end of the Summer Term and during the summer holidays Lucy Benton and the team from Waveney Tree Specialists have worked incredibly hard to enhance the outside area for the delivery of forest schools. The school now has a designated log circle to base

teaching from. This term both Acorns and Oak classes are benefitting from this development already, with others classes having forests



schools scheduled for later in the year. The school wishes to publicly thank Kristian and his team for their time and resources in the development of this area.

Remembrance

Each year the children at St Edmund's are taught the significance of Remembrance Sunday - this year is no exception and to mark the date each pupil has brought in a stone, that they have then decorated with an image that they believe symbolises Remembrance Sunday. The stones are now on display at the church, lining the pathway to the main doors, as well as some being on display within the building.

Acorn Class

Autumn is always an exciting time to be teaching in Early Years. We have had opportunities to explore seasonal change that all Art makes everyone feel differently. In Literacy we wrote senses poems about Autumn and fireworks and in Maths we moved on to solving addition and subtraction number sentences.

Beech Class

In Beech class we learnt about Harriet Tubman who created the secret "Underground Railway" to free slaves by taking them from the South (where slavery was allowed) to the North (where they would be free). We spoke about how it would feel to be oppressed and role played Harriet Tubman's story.

To celebrate, we then made carnival masks for Notting Hill Carnival with plenty of glitter and sequins. Fabulous!

with lots of walks and cooking with food we were able to harvest. Over the next few weeks we will continue to remember and celebrate a range of



We've also been learning about our skeleton and challenged ourselves to complete a skeleton puzzle and label the bones. As historians, we've been examining

festivals in new and creative Covid safe ways!

Oak Class

Oak class had a very busy term. You may have seen us walking around the village trying to find the different sites that are important to St Edmund and imagining what it would have been like to have been found hiding under Goldbrook bridge. In Art we learnt to paint pictures showing different emotions and found out Anglo Saxon artefacts and thinking about what these tell us about the lives of these people. Did you know they wore beautifully crafted rings on their fingers?

Rowan Class

This term we have been working hard looking at World War I and life in the trenches. We have been studying Siegfried Sassoon and how his poems changed over the course of time. In Science we have been looking at biodiversity and have now begun to look at our circulatory and respiratory systems.

St Edmund's Primary School 01379 668283 www.waveneyvalleypartnership.org

Hoxne Garden and Social Club

First the bad news; I can confirm that 2020/21 as far as the Garden and Social Club is concerned has been cancelled. It remains to be seen whether we will be able to hold an AGM in March of next year, if not then we will have to assess the situation since strictly speaking the Club does not presently have a properly constituted committee voted for by the membership. However it is fair to say that the committee members voted for in March 2019 are still happy to represent you for the time being.

Now for the good news. Below is a collection of activities undertaken by some of the members during and beyond the (first) lockdown period. Hopefully they might provide you with some entertainment.

Chris Parkin

Phil Flagg writes...

Lock down heralded the rekindling of a longstanding affair with Minnie. I have, until quite recently kept this 22-year-old liaison firmly under wraps, but the onset of a long hot summer with hot days and

sultry nights left me re kindling an old romance. She has again put on her little black number and started to look her best. I say started because I have



yet to get her going. I refer, of course, to my 1948 Hillman Minx Drop head Coupe as originally advertised around Elstree and Denham by film stars Ronald Coleman and Jean Kent, that is for those of you who remember.

Sue Flagg writes...

What have I been doing in Lockdown? Nothing newsworthy. Did you ever have the feeling of 'Stop the World for a Day so I can Catch up?'

I have taken the time to do lots of those projects, all very boring domestic items. Making the curtains that I bought the material for some time ago, upcycling the old ones into cushion covers for the Patio chairs, sorting out family photos that had just been stuffed into a drawer! The feeling of crossing them, and others, off the list of 'to do items' was very satisfying!

Otherwise, trying to go for a walk/cycle ride every day, seeing and chatting with those of you I have met en route, keeping up with the weeding in the garden, [which I enjoy!], experimenting in the kitchen... the list must be much the same as many others. Missing seeing family and friends far away, but I thank the modern world for Email, Facetime, Messenger, Skype, WhatsApp, Zoom and all the other electronic communication ways!

Paula Tebbs writes...

The tiny apples on what I assume are malus trees in our front garden are so prolific this year that their weight has broken several substantial branches. Last year they didn't have one fruit! As for the quince tree with the smaller variety of fruit, it too is weighed down.

Acidantheras! If you, or other club members, don't know them then they really should! The bulbs are very cheap and the result is a delight... Ideally planted in a large pot, in late August/ early September they produce 3/4ft stems



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I came across them some years ago in the tiny garden of The Briton Arms cafe in Norwich and eventually one of the waitresses tracked down the name and 'phoned me. Last year a friend advised me to cover the pot after planting and only remove the cover once the shoots started to appear (June?!) and only then to water the pot from time to time.

They bear a similarity to gladioli but are far more fragile in appearance and each individual flower is widely spaced and has the loveliness of a single orchid.

In addition, I recommend a series of Zoom talks offered by The Gardens Trust (*thegardenstrust.org*) - I have

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Richard Giffin writes...

Lock down gave us a wonderful opportunity to refocus on a very local village life centred around the village green and shop. Indeed, a visit to the shop became very sociable in a social distancing sort of way. It was lovely catching up with all and sundry. Chris and I were in the process of buying Jack William's house next door and we were allowed to work on the house and garden over this time - a wonderful opportunity and a great tonic from the news going on nationally. This enabled us to dig a pond and plant a lock-down vegetable garden, the produce of which is coming out of our ears.

Julie Coop writes...

It was a sad day when Lin and Harry Batey decided to leave the village and start a new adventure in Halesworth. Lin had been involved with the garden club for many years and also served on the committee as Treasurer.

Their move was 'put on hold' for several months and then happened suddenly within a week. What could we



do? We couldn't let them leave without a social distanced farewell. The weather was kind

and we had BBQ at the edge of our woods. It was a lovely evening and hopefully one which they will remember along with all their fond memories of Hoxne.

Chris Parkin writes...

Like everybody else, the lockdown was an opportunity to catch up on all those little jobs that had been hanging around for ages with no time nor inclination to do them previously. It was thus an opportunity to also tackle slightly more creative tasks, for example it gave me the chance to review some of my vintage wireless collection, much of which until recently has been in storage at the back of a wardrobe hidden from view collecting dust and scratches from shoes being inadvertently thrown at them. Lack of space has meant that they could not be displayed or used.

One of these radios, an HMV, Model No. 651 shown in the photograph was bought at an auction some years ago in North

Lincolnshire. It had received some restoration to the workings and worked, but the restorer had also stripped off the original lacquer finish and attempted to relacquer it using French Polish (Shellac). The result was a dull 'shallow' finish failing



to highlight the walnut veneers underneath. Even the HMV logo of Nipper had been rubbed off the top. This radio, made in 1937, is a typical EMI product of the 1930s, not exactly getting the blood racing with its design but a premium product none-the-less and built like the proverbial Victorian toilet block.

To improve the appearance, I Frenchpolished the radio and repainted the black trim. The finish now has brought out those walnut veneers so typical of the 1930s. It now sits in our living room and is used most days. We normally listen to the Archers on Radio Four Long Wave in the evenings!

1066 and All That

he three volumes of Runciman's Crusades were published almost 70 years ago, and describe in extraordinary details how we behaved in those distant feudal days in sharp contrast to electronic life today. The outcome, especially the failure of European leaders to reach agreement is reflected in our troubled relationships in the world today, especially between Islamic and other faiths. Heads are still removed and worse.

Many of us heard about the crusades at school. I confused St George with King Richard the Lionheart who spent his eight year reign mostly on a horse crusading and not on the throne in London which would have been a far more comfortable. The English were not much involved in the opening Crusades, rather it was mainly the French aristocracy who wished to possess the lands of Israel and Jerusalem and run them as French feudal fiefdoms with Dukes, Counts, Kings and princes affording them power and wealth in short supply back at home. And their knights were rather good in battle provided it was conducted honourably and chivalrously according to European terms with impenetrable polished steel armour, chain mail, long lances and sturdy stallions, and no arrows to avoid the plight which beset Harold at Hastings. Food was a problem but pillage was permitted in extremis, but not rape. There were attachments of large bodies of foot soldier who joined in the Crusades willingly with the prospect of plunder and adventure or as compelled serfs unable to refuse the voyage into the unknown but happy to escape from the tedium and enforced labour of serfdom.

This feudal system of government appeared to work well. It foreshadowed the colonial system of explorers and traders which spread worldwide 300 years later for which Christopher Columbus must bear a heavy responsibility.

Thoughts on the foregoing arise when I came across the English late involvement in the Crusades. It was a scheme of a Bishop of Norfolk with the curious name of Despenser who, as happens today, ventured outside of his ecclesiastical role into politics, without success, and fell out of favour, and the King's Chancellor, our very own Michael de la Pole, was appointed as a Royal Commissioner to report on Despenser to Parliament. 800 years ago the British bureaucracy was just "a man and a a boy" and moved faster than the Grenfell Tower or Hillsborough enquiries. Uncle Jack Diamond chaired Harold Wilson's Royal Commission on income distribution for eight years, but Beveridge holds the record, beating Michael de la Pole. He was chair and sole commissioner and delivered in ONE YEAR and we owe him a great debt for all he wrote because it was wise, thorough and implemented.

I am now in Brasil cut off from my library but awash with memories: of Bob Elliot's heraldry linking Wingfield to its Plantagenet past, and wondering how, had some one responded to Richard III's last words, what Wingfield might have been.

Those tombs in Wingfield are evocative. Wingfield Green might have been "Green Park". And what of today's Tudor successors with one notable exception, our Queen. Might it have been Emperor Boris? Several large countries besides the USA now have similar manifestations. Julius Caesar should be a lesson to us all.

As it is lockdown and a time only relieved by fun and frivolity, I apologize for being influenced by the early history of England written by Messrs Sellar and Yeatman "1066 and all that" and for any errors or omissions.

Tommy Gee

Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

The government has found time (because they don't have much on their plate at the moment) to propose a radical review of the planning process.

It's quite true that the planning system is very complicated. It has evolved over time; multiple bits of legislation have been added on top of many other rules and regulations - and all of them are open to interpretation and to challenge in the courts.

The answer to the vast majority of planning questions is "maybe". Can I build an extension? Perhaps. A cartlodge? Probably. An extra floor? Could be. A house at the bottom of the garden? Possibly. Ten houses on a disused factory site? Maybe....

But that doesn't mean that the system is actually broken. All the maybe's and perhaps's get converted into real answers in time, through a process which includes thorough consultation and discussion through all public gateways from the Parish Council to the Planning Committee of the District Council and ultimately, if necessary, the national Planning Inspectorate.

The government's reforms are intended to make the whole system much simpler and more streamlined, basically in order to get more houses built. There is a clear need for more homes in the country as a whole, there's no doubt about that - but is the shortage of house building caused by the imperfections of the planning process? Will more houses get built if it is easier to get planning permission?

It seems like a straightforward solution to a very difficult problem. We need lots

of houses, so make it easy to get permission to build them.

Except for one thing. The Local Government Association (LGA) last year published research which showed that in the past ten years only 1,530,680 of the 2,564,600 units which had planning permission actually got built. That's a shortfall of 10 million homes people could have been living in.

So maybe the problem lies not with the planners, but with the builders? Perhaps the government's reforming zeal should be directed at persuading builders and developers to get on with putting real people's homes on the land they own and have permission to build on, rather than sitting on the undeveloped land and waiting for the value to rise?

It's also essential that Parish Councils retain a key role in all planning application consultations, for the simple and obvious reason that Parish Councils uniquely hold the relevant local knowledge.

The consultative connection between Parish Councils and the planning officers and councillors on the next tier of local government should be strengthened, so that Parish Councillors feel that their voice is being heard - both in the initial phases of an application and subsequently when things (as they sometimes do) go wrong;

Parish Councils are not hostile to housing development; they are not the organised voice of the NIMBY lobby. On the contrary they want their local communities to thrive, develop and grow. For that reason they need a clearly defined role in determining where developments should be, what sort of housing they should consist of, and how new homes should be designed - including those designated as affordable, whether for rent or purchase. This implies a decisive downward shift in the decisionmaking process, giving local communities a stronger voice through their Parish Councils.

A greater degree of transparency in the process is essential, in order to create greater trust; there should be a stronger structural connection between parish and district councils, so that the two levels can work together openly and effectively. At the moment the power sits at District level, with the Parish often feeling consulted only in name.

The January meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 27th January** at 7.30pm. In line with national and local guidance, Parish Council meetings are currently being held online in the interests of the safety of all those attending. Meetings are still open for everyone who would like to have their say on anything, or just to listen to what's going on - joining instructions can be obtained from the Clerk. If you don't have a decent online connection, you can still take part by phone.

If you would like to help with the renovation of the Village Hall, or to contact the Parish Council about anything, our Clerk Rod Caird will be happy to hear from you by email or 'phone, see page 2 for details.

Hoxne

GRATITUDE TO LONG SERVING GREEN

KEEPER - Mr Allen Burridge has stood down from his voluntary cutting of Low Street Green after over 50 years' of unstinting dedication. The Parish Council were keen to thank Allen for his work and commissioned local artist Sally Procner to paint a scene of Low Street Green and, at Allen's request, also made a donation to Cancer Research UK. It is understood that Sally will be commissioning greeting cards with the same scene on the front.

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Adhering to social distancing, Parish Council Chairman Edward O'Connor presents Mr Allen Burridge with an original painting of Low Street Green as a long service award. Allen and his award can be seen on page 11.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN -The second stage of consultation, which will include seeking parishioners' opinion of sites for possible future development and land to be protected as local green space, will commence shortly. The consultation will be online but telephone appointments will also be available to those who cannot access the on-line survey. Full details of how to access the survey are being circulated. Please see the NDP website for latest updates:

hoxneneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group is a team of Parish Councillors and members of the village who are bringing together the draft plan which will be adopted by referendum following several rounds of consultation with the parish. If you are interested in joining the Working Group please contact the Parish Clerk.

HIGHWAYS - At the November meeting, the Parish Council considered correspondence from residents requesting a 20 mph speed restriction on the western end of Green Street. The Council was concerned at the lack of enforcement with the current 30 mph restriction and instead of supporting a request to Suffolk Highways to lower the speed limit, agreed to explore the concept of a Community Speed Watch team operating on Green Street, and volunteers who would be interested in using a speed radar gun and recording data should contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council is joining with Denham Parish Council to explore the concept of the road from the primary school, via Clink Hill and through to the Old Hospital Museum and Shingle Hill obtaining Quiet Lane Status. **MEETINGS** - The Parish Council meetings continue to be held virtually via Zoom. The next meetings are Thursday 3rd December and Thursday 7th January. Details of the meetings and how to access them are available on the agendas published approximately one week before the meeting and available to view on noticeboards in the village and on the website hoxne.onesuffolk.net





A Word from Wingfield

Indirect rule of Empire

he British Government found it was cheaper to avoid using taxpayers money to run its empire, and ruled where possible by enrolling local chiefs to do the job, empowering them with rifles and more modern systems of administration, a local currency, debit and credit accountancy, courts and written laws, prisons, systems of taxation (usually poll tax) and faster communication. Thereby we ourselves created the winds of change which blew with such effect that we lost that empire albeit with one or two familiar exceptions such as Gibraltar and the Falklands and tax havens.

There were several casualties of rulers who came into conflict before, at and

after independence. King Freddy of Buganda was one such which lead Winston to enquire of Uganda's colonial Governor whether he had heard of the divine right of kings. Mountbatten, scion of our own royals, dispensed with the Indian aristocracy. Our new rulers are no longer blue blooded, but they do seem to have dynastic ambitions for their children. Western States seem to do no better than Islamic States in deciding who shall lead them as power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

It was the news about the last Sultan of Zanzibar, aged 91, that started this train of thought. He was exiled to Southsea for the past 51 years after a very short reign in succession to his father, when Tanzania took over the spice island of Zanzibar, and he fled in haste like many other potentates have had to, this time on the royal yacht together with a very large entourage.



Zanzibar had been the centre of the East African slave trade, and Muslim explorers discovered the interior long before we claimed to have done so.

We made use of their services to help us penetrate the interior and then claimed those territories for the Crown and ruled them for almost 100 years. That story is familiar because at school in the thirties we were proudly shown the extent of our empire coloured in red on a globe or wall chart.

In 1946 I was on HMS Glasgow the flagship of what remained of our East Indies fleet. We travelled to Empire outposts as a reminder that Britain still ruled the waves (and as some said waived the rules). We called at Zanzibar, fired the appropriate 16 gun salute to announce that the Queen's representative, the C in C East Indies fleet was on board, and the Sultan then fired a salute of 14 guns to indicate he had received the message. Then he was rowed over to the Glasgow protected by a gilt canopied vessel well oared with at least two dozen men aside, exchanged formalities with the C in C, who then hopped into our small captain's launch ashore to call on the Sultan in his palace. We had some 30 Royal marines who doubled as officers' servants and ships bandsmen, who added to the pomp by playing suitable martial music.

The young Portslade Sultan was the son and successor of the Sultan with whom we exchanged those formal courtesies on that occasion.

We then went ashore and explored the spice island and could smell the cloves everywhere. They were then the main source of the island's income. Zanzibar was an ancient trading Islamic outpost and centre of the Islamisation of the East African Coast a way of life which still endures. The British had their own "Ambassador" there who played a key role in the penetration of Africa from the East. The Arab dhow was their main form of transport, and when I visited one in Kilindini harbour. I was astonished to find in a small stern cabin that their navigation was similar to ours in the RN using Admiralty charts, sextant, nautical tables, chronometer, parallel ruler, etc.

The deposed Sultan's roots were in Muscat and Oman, but he and his entourage were not welcome back there, so he ended up in Portslade! The Brits gave him a somewhat derisory resettlement grant but enough for him to buy a small house, and now at last he is being allowed to go home to Muscat.

This may please Priti Patel as it conforms to her policies. I wonder whether she had a hand in it? And whether her policies might impact on herself one day?

Tommy Gee





Crossword Puzzle No. 138

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 Friday 8th January latest.

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

1	2	3		4				5	6
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				16					
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		22							
23									
			24						

Across

- 1 Teach how to unravel curt sin (7)
- 7 Dishonesty contained a glow (5)
- 8 Heavy snowfall (9)
- 9 Finish with 75% of 10 across (3)
- 10 Paradise for a former P.M (4)
- 11 Deeply upset to have household fittings removed (6)
- 13 Pester a nocturnal creature (6)
- 14 Arguing when out on a river (6)
- 17 Dodgy haircut was the death of him (6)
- 18 Cease a short street enterprise (4)
- 20 Everything stops for this according to a song (3)
- 22 Announce that reduction is confused (9)
- 23 Remove errors from the problem ending (5)
- 24 First performance on the Mere Pier (8)

Down

- 1 Mad and losing a point how foolish (5)
- 2 Unwanted wild plant in the ocean maybe (7)
- 3 Wander around a foreign city I hear (4)
- 4 Prickly desert feature (6)
- 5 Fed up so drilled a hole (5)
- 6 I dangle when going ahead (7)
- 7 Notices broken part (7)
- 12 A dimmer version of sea creature (7)
- 13 Sibling serving in a religious order (7)
- 15 Break in to point rudely (7)
- 16 Ceramicist who likes to amble about (6)
- 17 Rescued for a rainy day (5)
- 19 Sound like a bit of tranquillity (5)
- 21 Shape a school class (4)

The winner of crossword puzzle no. 137 was: Mrs V Bannon, Horham

Answers - Across 7) Hansom 8) Feller 10) Lasagna 11) Salvo 12) Char 13) Adios 17) Agile 18) Daze 22) Atoll 23) Necktie 24) Latest 25) Alcove

Down 1) Shylock 2) Unusual 3) Dough 4) Teashop 5) Slyly 6) Groom 9) Mandoline 14) Ageless 15) Cartoon 16) Leveret 19) Ladle 20) Hosts 21) Scold

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Village Voice

Dec 2020/Jan 2021 39

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

DEADLINES

lssue	Copy Date
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June/July	8th May
August/September	8th July
October/November	8th September
December/January	8th November

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