

Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM & WINGFIELD

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021



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Revd John McCracken are ex-officio
members of each Parochial Church
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Letters to the Editor

RECOGNITION THANKS

Last autumn I was delighted to receive from Hoxne Parish Council a wonderful painting by local artist Sally Procner along with a most generous cheque for £500 for Cancer Research UK (my original request). Many, many thanks. I would also like to thank Sally and her friend for organising the printing and production of the gift cards. Last but not least, I would like to thank Joan for allowing them to be sold at the village shop. ALL proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to Cancer Research UK. Thanks again.

Allen W Burridge

CHRISTMAS TREES SALES

Thank you to everyone who bought a Christmas Tree from Market House Drive again this year. We hope you were pleased with your tree as you couldn't see it unnetted as we had no netting cone this time. Normal service will be resumed next year!

A profit of £1120 was made for the Hoxne Playing Field funds. This will go towards the two projects we are planning - these are to update the lighting and heating to be more energy efficient. The lighting will be updated in January and the heating in the Summer. Thank you again for your support.

*Andrew Banham,
Julie Bryant,
Carole Smith*

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY

It was a relatively late 2nd December when the 'Tree Team' agreed they'd be able to go ahead and put on a display in Hoxne Church. After some

quick phone calls to see who would be willing to display a tree, we had 12 responses all prepared to decorate between one and six trees each and a plan as to how we could abide with all the COVID-19 restrictions.

By Monday 20th December the church was decorated with nearly 30 trees. We had a good response from the public for the first two days, but unfortunately the weather then intervened.

Many thanks to Revd Eleanor, everyone who displayed their tree(s) and all those who visited the Church. Many thanks from the 'Tree Team'.

Rhona Bertie

HOXNE LOW STREET GREEN CARD

Thank you to everyone who has bought a card or card pack from the village shop depicting the village green. So far, up to 9th January, we have raised £229.00. Due to the generosity of two sponsors, every penny from the sale of the cards is going to Cancer Research UK. Many thanks again,

*Sally Procner
and Allen W Burridge*



The Low Street Green cards are still available from Hoxne Post Office & Shop. They are left blank inside for your own greeting and can be purchased singularly or in packs - Ed

Notice Board

EYE HEALTH CENTRE

MEDICATION DELIVERY TO HOXNE

A reminder to all those registered at Eye Health Centre that you can have your medication delivered to Hoxne Post Office & Shop and simply pick it up from there. This service has been running from many years, but in current times when everyone needs to avoid unnecessary travel and minimise contact, it has never been more useful - and of course you can also shop for a wide range of essentials including bread, dairy, groceries, frozen meals and cakes!

To use this service, either drop off your prescription slip (including any payment required) at the shop before **3pm** on a **Tuesday** or **Friday**, or state you want it delivered to the Hoxne shop if ordering via the Health Centre's online system, or ask the dispensary to put your medication in the Hoxne box for the next delivery.

Your medication will be available to pick-up from the shop on the **next collection day** following receipt of your prescription. So any slips left before 3pm on a Tuesday will be available to pickup after the collection returns from Eye on the following Friday. Similarly, any prescriptions placed before 3pm on a Friday will be available after the collection on the following Tuesday.

This service was originally facilitated by a member of the Health Centre staff as they went to and from work. During the first COVID-19 lockdown, the Hoxne Coronavirus Self-Isolating volunteer group continued the service and in addition delivered prescriptions to those that were self-isolating. The CSI group decided not to continue operating the service at the beginning on December, but will continue to offer support to anyone who is self isolating due to COVID-19.

The current twice weekly service is now organised by a member of the public. Many thanks to Joan at the Hoxne Post Office & Shop for her support with the service.

CENSUS 2021 WILL PROVIDE A SNAPSHOT OF MODERN SOCIETY

Households will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

"This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

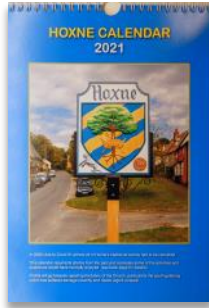
Census day will be on **Sunday 21st March**, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. For more information, visit: census.gov.uk

HOXNE VILLAGE CALENDAR

A few copies are still available of the 2021 calendar that 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 now half price at just £3 from Hoxne PO Stores or by contacting Cathie 01379 668434 or Carmel 01379 669123. Profits will go towards repairs to the fabric of the Church.



BILLINGFORD WINDMILL IS BACK:- ALMOST!

After many, many months of work we're nearly there. The lovely view of the Mill, with its boat-shaped cap (peculiar to Norfolk mills) and shiny new sails is back! It had been a sight to lift our hearts for 150 years and a comforting landmark, not only for the war-time airmen who, lacking modern navigation aids, looked out for it as they returned to their base, but also for all of us as we drive and walk past today.

As is frequently the case, the damage to the mill structure turned out to be much greater than we had expected and much more expensive. Of course work on structures such as this is highly specialised, calling on the skills of an ever-diminishing band of millwrights, all of whom are extremely busy and often approaching retiring age. Tim Whiting,

our millwright, is an exception as he is a mere youngster by our standards, but his work load is massive as he tries to balance the demands of all those who need his assistance. However, he has just a few final jobs to complete on our mill and then it will be over to us.

The mill should be ready to re-open in the Spring and we are planning a celebration for when the sails turn again. In the meantime, WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are all volunteers, mostly "getting on" a bit and would welcome all of you who might like to get involved. We are planning to open the mill on special occasions during the summer and to do this we need assistance with providing conducted tours, refreshments, assisting with car parking and so-on.

Most importantly we would like to train some of you to actually run the mill.

Since Herbert and Julie Websdell are no longer involved we want to train some of you to learn how to run the Mill, continuing a tradition dating back hundreds of years. We, the Friends of the Mill, are most grateful to Herbert and Julie for their input over many years. Now is your chance to ensure that the tradition continues. If you are interested in how early machinery functions and would like to help this is the hobby for you! You will receive full training and support from the Norfolk Windmills Trust who own the mill, the Mann Estate owners of the land on which it stands and of course ourselves, the Friends of the Mill. We really do need you! Please contact: Amanda Rix, Norfolk Windmills Trust, Email: amanda.rix@norfolk.gov.uk Sir Rupert Mann, Email:

Rupert.Mann@thelvetonfarms.co.uk
Malcolm Butcher, Email:

hbutcherdell@gmail.com

Mary Thompson, Email:

marygthompson@aol.com

Phone: 01379 668279

Hoxne Village Hall

At time of writing (January) the Hall is still closed and there seems no prospect of it re-opening in the next few months - unless are we asked to be a vaccination centre!

At least we have the prospect of being jabbed to look forward to, which will hopefully mean we can start to plan events at the Hall again and local clubs and societies will start to meet again in person. There will be a lot to catch up on when that does happen!

Julie from Fressingfield found an aerial photo of the Hall taken about 10 years ago and has kindly passed it on to us.



It had already been suggested that we ought to put together a collection of old photos/ information about the Hall so we have a recent history. So do you have any old photos of the Hall that you could photograph and send on to us by email (address below)?

If that sounds too technical, please dig out photos/information and keep until the Hall is open again and maybe bring to a Film Night (yes, they will be back sometime!) so we can look at and take copies. I am sure several of you can remember the parties and dances that went on there in the 1940s, 50s and 60s - it would be great to be able to record that information.

We are starting to take one off bookings for later in the year so if you would like to pencil in a date for an event then please do contact us.

Email Sally & Sharon at:

hoxnevhbookings@outlook.com

Phone Sharon on **07876 215269**.

When we do re-open we will of course advise all our regular hirers and the website will be updated:

www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

Wingfield Barns

Suffolk's most beautiful venue for entertainment and creativity, arts, training and conferences is using this time to plan activities to enjoy when we do come out of hibernation.

We hope to have an Easter Egg Hunt and activities on Easter **Sunday 4th April**, resume Quiz Night suppers, and many performances have been pushed later into the year and include a musical adaptation of 'The Wind in the Willows' by GreenMatthews, the folk duos Jacob & Drinkwater & Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith, or theatrical performances of 'The Bear' by Anton Checkhov, or 'Twelve Angry (Wo)men' (with a twist!) by the Made2Measure Theatre Co.,

Back in December, our first Christmas Market was a big success and one we plan to make an annual fixture. Tier 2 guidelines and COVID-19 measures actually helped create an uncrowded market with a relaxed atmosphere. Despite snow the day before the Market, the weather was super for December.



Pre-booking ensured visitors arrived in small numbers throughout the day and stewards ensured no barn got crowded so that 2m distancing was possible, giving visitors a chance to really get to see all the stalls and chat with the stallholders.

New surface matting in the car park meant an end to mud and parking difficulties for shoppers, and it will of course benefit all visitors for future concerts and events here at the Barns.

Twenty five stalls provided a range of choice including quality clothing, pet gifts, food, honey, candles, art and photography, and felted and wooden animals to name a few.

Plans for a bigger better Christmas Market are already in play for this year so make a note it will be on 11th and 12th December.

We are a great location to host all those overdue celebrations when we are



WINGFIELD BARNs

allowed out and we are still taking wedding bookings for 2022 onwards. Keep an eye on our website and sign up for our e-newsletter.

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

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall

Syleham and Wingfield village hall remains closed at present. The bottle bank and clothes banks continue to be emptied at regular intervals, as does the crisp packet recycling bin. The defibrillator is located



on the front wall as you turn into the car park.

J's Meadow - opposite the village hall - remains open to pedestrians. Please do use the Village Hall car park if necessary, but check the latest exercise and travel guidelines at:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Keep safe and well, and we'll see you later in the year.

Julie Thompson

Les Archer

The archers were a large well-known Hoxne family in Heckfield Green - parents Ivy and Fred. Geoffrey at Fressingfield informed me recently of the passing of his older brother Leslie "Les" at the end of 2020 aged 69.

Les, a very likeable fellow, attended Hoxne primary and Eye grammar schools. His first employer was Henry Read, the heating and plumbing engineer at Orchard House, Hoxne (the firm now run by his son Marcus). Les departed for Humberside about 50 years ago and died in hospital near Hull on December 29th, surrounded by his family. He had been employed mainly in the building trade.

Les played regularly for the Hoxne youth club football team between 1967 and 1970. My funniest football memory of Les came in April 1969. I was one man short for a Sunday league game and at old Buckenham, Les kindly helped me out, despite a heavy night drinking. He said, "Are we playing against a good team?" No, I said, nothing special. Les played right back, marking a guy called Eddie Cocking who had scored 50 goals that season! We lost 9-1!

Leslie was predeceased by his parent's, brother Gordon and sister Sylvia. He is survived by Valerie, Brenda, Freda, Geoffrey and Dudley. Rest in peace Les.

Clive Baxter



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Characters Remembered

Wm. Charles Saunders was a national figure in the world of horse breeding. His reputation was international, with his Hoxne Suffolk Punches improving strains in many distant parts of the world. In his heyday, he was guest judge at the Calgary Stampede. He also had his corner seat in the back room of the Hoxne Swan. You did not sit on it.

“Take me to the Cantley Beet Demonstration, Boy John.” That was nineteen-sixty something and I did. Our progress was royal: the ‘Royal Oak’, the ‘King’s Head’, the ‘Queen’; it was an astonishing education. I doubt the Pope was recognised and welcomed by more



Charlie (Right) doing his bit during War Weapons Week in Diss in 1942. Standing in front of the organ is Oliver West of Broom Hall and G Barber is pranking the organ. The scene is in Mere Street.

a massive amount of money and didn't get done once. And I thought we're going to look at sugar beet harvesters!

When we did eventually get home he pronounced with the righteousness of a polar explorer, *“That wasn't a bad day. Now we'd better have a drink.”* *“Not another one!”* I thought. I had much to learn from that hardy old fox.

[From the archives - Oct-Nov 1999]

New Baxter Arrival

Reg and Mary Baxter previously of 53 Low Street Hoxne made a massive contribution to Hoxne social life in the second half of the 21st century.

Their only child, Clive (who recently moved from Hoxne to Stowmarket) informs me that at the beginning of the year (2021) a rare female came into the family. Reg had a sister, Ella, who predeceased him in 1911, while Clive and his ex-wife Margaret's daughter Jamie was the first female born into the Baxter side of the family for 74 years in 1985. Now, on January 9th, Jamie and her husband Rob proudly announced that Tamsin Mary was born in Ipswich hospital weighing 4 pounds 14 oz. Tasmin has an older brother Edward, 3 year old. Jamie also has an older brother Chris, 38 years old.



Choir practice at Oakley Park stables in December 1970. Charlie “conducting” his team of eight geldings which he exhibited at the Royal Norfolk that year. On the left of picture is Jenny Caldwell, his stud groom and manager.

people, but in Charlie's case it was landladies. He had a way. After some lengthy stops we arrived at journey's end, or was it beginning. The Sugar Beet Demonstration was a paying affair, so I was surprised that we got in without paying. More surprised that Charlie had bought 20 tonnes of beet pulp and resold it at a decent profit before we were within 20 yards of the beer tent. Yes, that was just the beginning. Charlie was of the old school and never missed the chance of a deal. By the time he was ready to come home, he had turned over



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Call David: 07711 458575

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 on:

[facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://www.facebook.com/WingfieldChurch)

Every Friday

6pm Compline on Zoom

Some services in church are also live streamed or uploaded to Facebook.

Sunday 7th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne

11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

11am Zoom Eucharist

4pm Messy Church on:

[facebook.com/HoxneMC](https://www.facebook.com/HoxneMC)

Sunday 14th February

Sunday next before Lent

9.30 am Café Church on Zoom

Wednesday 17th February

Ash Wednesday

7 pm CW Holy Communion with Ashing, Wingfield

Sunday 21st February

1st Sunday of Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

10 am Village Service, Syleham

6 pm Evensong on Zoom

Sunday 28th February

2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham

9.30 am BCP Matins, Hoxne

11 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

Sunday 7th March

3rd Sunday of Lent

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne

11 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

11 am Zoom Eucharist

4 pm Messy Church on:

[facebook.com/HoxneMC](https://www.facebook.com/HoxneMC)

Sunday 14th March

Mothering Sunday

9.30 am Café Church on Zoom

Sunday 21st March

5th Sunday of Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

10 am Village Service, Syleham

6 pm Evensong on Zoom

Sunday 28th March

Palm Sunday

9.30 am BCP Matins, Hoxne

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham

11 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

Church News

Spring growth

As I write this in the first part of January, the figures on coronavirus infections and deaths both nationally and locally are increasing alarmingly. Many people hoped that 2021 would be an improvement on 2020, and we still hope that, but it is clear there

will be no quick or easy solution to the pandemic. We believe that the vaccination programme will help to bring it under control and reduce the threat to life, but we will be living with the effects of coronavirus for some time yet.

What does Christianity have to offer in the face of this situation? I can put it quite briefly: the good news that God is with us and has redeemed us through Jesus Christ. God became a human being in order to share and transform our nature and our lives. In Jesus he also shared in our suffering and death, so that as he rose again from the dead, so can we. God is with us as we face all the griefs, anxieties and challenges brought about by the coronavirus and with his help we will come through it.

God's faithfulness never changes. In the darkness of winter we already see the first signs of spring, and by the time you read this, the days will be lengthening

and the leaf buds swelling on the trees. Lent, the season of growth (the word actually means spring) begins on 17th February. Can we make Lent this year a time when we grow as human beings, not in spite of COVID-19, but because of the way we respond to it?

(Evidence shows that very few cases of COVID-19 have been linked to public worship, so at the time of writing church services are still allowed to take place. We will continue to offer services in church as long as we feel it is safe to do so. But if you do not want to venture out, or if the government brings back restrictions on churches, there are also a range of services available via Facebook and Zoom - further details in the schedule).

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

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Report on Christmas activities

Many thanks to all who supported the Virtual Christmas Market. We had a great range of items on offer and people were generous with both purchases and donations. Final figures are not yet available, but we



estimate the Virtual Christmas Market raised at least £750 for the churches of the Hoxne Benefice. Thank you also to all who took part in the Nativity parade in

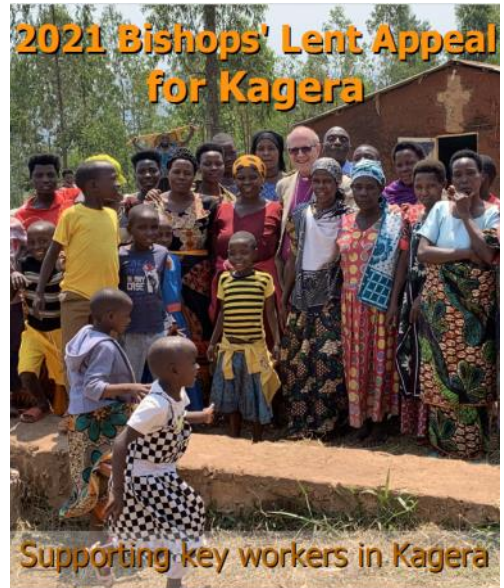
the face of plague and flood! See page 17 for more pictures.

Bishops' Lent appeal for Kagera 2021

Many here are suffering hardship because of the pandemic yet continue to support their communities with love and care. Can we extend that spirit of compassion to our partners on the other side of the world? Churches in Suffolk are linked to the churches in Kagera, northwest Tanzania. It's a poor forgotten area of a poor country, where the majority of people are subsistence farmers and live on less than £1 a day. 1kg of flour costs 80p and a doctor's appointment £3. Yet the people are trying to raise themselves out of poverty and with a little help are doing just that. Here in our churches we've supported Kagera in many ways, through friendship, prayer and finance. Can you

help us this year? Many people across Suffolk enjoyed the Lent Challenge in our last appeal in 2019 - looking around their own homes and villages, comparing them with homes and villages in Kagera and raising money in the process. There's a new challenge booklet this year with lots of new ideas and information. To find out more about the appeal or get your copy of the booklet, visit:

cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal
or contact the Kagera link co-ordinators:
kagera@cofesuffolk.org



See the leaflets in your local church
or visit cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal



DIocese OF KAGERA
Anglican Church of Tanzania

St John, Denham

Thank you very much to all those who contributed to the church through the virtual Christmas Market and thank you to Mary and Brian Coulson for providing the flowers and decorations for the church over Christmas. The distant celebration of Christmas has been very useful and a

comfort but it was lovely to actually meet people in church over the extended festive weekend.

It was a great pleasure to have Adam, Helen and Harry at the Benefice service when we were able to welcome Harry into the church (who slept blissfully throughout). However, with the alarming rise of COVID 19 infections in Suffolk since then, it is probably more important now than ever before to stay at home - and telephone somebody every day.

Hopefully work will start on repairing the chancel sometime after Easter. The church will remain open and in use during this time and everyone is welcome to come and see what is happening. We are looking forward to a more cheerful and healthy 2021 as the year goes on.

*Hilary Castleden
01379 668458*

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

We have all experienced a very different Christmas from usual. A huge thanks to Rhona Bertie and her team who organised a 'COVID Secure' Christmas Tree Festival. The church looked dazzling and raised the spirits of the visitors. The 'Nativity' re-enactment usually at Nora's Barn on Christmas Eve became a parade from the church to 'The Swan' followed by a Christingle Service. The singing of carols was much missed (COVID again).

Permission has now been granted for the repair and restoration of the stone floor in front of the Maynard Memorial and will be carried out in the spring.

The guttering to the South side of the church has been replaced and grateful thanks goes to Mick Procner & Son who carried out the work.

Thanks to all who bought the Village Calendar. There are a few left and are for sale at HALF PRICE - £3 at Hoxne Village Stores or telephone **01379 668434** or **01379 669123**.

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.

At the time of writing the COVID-19 situation and the cold months have affected our gatherings.

Our meetings should be **Monday 15th February** and **Monday 15th March** and all members will be notified of plans.

Our deferred AGM from January will be held at the first meeting.

We continue to share regular News Letters with information from around the diocese and beyond.

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

Flower rota

February 7th and 14th - Altar, Cathie McGregor; Lent begins on 17th February until Easter and during this time there are no flowers in the church.

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

Christmas

We were so glad to have been able to hold our Celebration of Christmas, which was very different from our usual carol service with the acclaimed Amici but nevertheless proved very popular. In late afternoon, candlelight showed at its best and, with the help of organ and violin, we sang a few carols outside before the service, which focused on the nativity story and was enhanced by a charming 'Mary' who sang some solos.



The church was beautifully decorated as always - our thanks to all and special mention of the elegantly dressed Christmas tree! Sadly, that was the only opportunity for the decorations to be seen as we were forced to cancel Christmas morning Communion owing to severe flooding across the church lane.



Services

We are returning to a regular pattern but have also experimented with a Zoom service and this remains an option should further church closures take place. There are regular Zoom options for the whole benefice, see page 11.

Private prayer

At the time of writing the church remains open once a week, on Thursdays between 10am and 2.30pm. Parishioners

are most welcome to come along and spend a few moments in quiet reflection within the prayer-soaked walls of this ancient place of worship.

Messy Church



This is continuing on Facebook and, among the families across the benefice, there are now twelve in Syleham who receive the nativity packs and follow the videos. We did have one

opportunity to welcome a few of the families to a Christingle service, held in Wingfield Church at the beginning of December;



love these solemn little faces of children clutching their Christingles!

Fund raising

Thank you to those who supported Syleham's part in the benefice virtual Christmas Market: we made £120. We are still receiving donations in respect of Elaine Murphy's book *Tales of the Old Vicarage* and there were further donations from *A Suffolk Farmworker's Boy*, a book by a former Syleham resident Fred Harper, reminiscing on his days growing up in the village. There were only a few copies and all were snapped up, but I do have a copy available for loan: just let me know if you would like to be added to the waiting list!

We would like to hold a summer event if circumstances permit - watch this space!

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



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Hoxne Benefice Nativity Parade 2020



*Pictures:
Barbara Irwin*



Flood Memories

The floods of Christmas Eve 2020 will live long in the memories of those worse affected and will take months if not years to repair the damage. Memories of course are notoriously unreliable and conversations about “worst in living memory” are common and sometimes conflicting, so it was of interest when my son David brought me the farm rainfall figures.

My wife Rosemary started daily recording on the farm in Syleham in 1983 and is now carried on by David. Looking through the figures it seems clearer as to why we suffered so last year.

Average rainfall from 1983 to 2000 was just over 500mm (20ins) and the average from 2000 to 2020 was 676mm (27ins) so a large increase.

In 2020 we had what appears to be the wettest consecutive 7 months on the farm in our limited records with 631mm (25ins) falling from June through to December, 155.5mm (6.22ins) of it falling in December and 64mm (2.56ins) of it falling over the day and night of December 23rd/24th.

Although we did not have any individual daily record amounts of rain, we did have through the autumn a continuous topping up until the land

capacity was completely saturated and on the fateful day water poured straight off the land in amounts no drains or culverts could contain.

To my mind this was the worst in living memory, with similar memories of the flooding at Syleham Mill in 1968. Some Syleham and Brockdish residents may be able to say whether this year was worse or not. Certainly the Brockdish Grove Road residents suffered as much as any again. In 1968, my memory was of my father worrying about the legality and insurance of me, as a 15 year old, transporting people on a tractor and trailer through the flood. Getting from the Syleham side to Brockdish I had to keep my feet on top of the gearbox as the water level was over the footplates. I was also scared stiff in case I ran off the road which I couldn't see anymore. I am not sure whether my father let me or made me do it!

Direct comparisons are difficult as nothing stays the same. It is true that increased development and roads provide more hard surfaces and more run off. Agricultural land before the 1960s was not drained in the same way it is now and water reaches the rivers more quickly. The rivers, especially the Waveney are not now maintained as a water conduit to any extent and therefore water can back up in the flood plain.

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Some years ago, the National Rivers Authority, later the Environment agency, used to send out a man on a digger to clear silted up areas and fallen trees etc every year. In the later years, he said with some disillusionment that whatever he did was wrong with someone. Farmers and land owners needed good drainage. Boating and canoeists need good navigation and launching places. Environmentalists wanted natural habitat to take over, anglers needed good swims with feeding grounds. It seemed that in

any individual situation there was no agreement as to the best action.

When the Environment Agency funding was severely altered so that they had to fund much themselves, many previous responsibilities lapsed and jobs were lost. The annual river maintenance appears to be a casualty.

Many will blame Climate Change, but I have photographs of Needham Mill sticking out of a completely flooded valley in the 1930s. Plus ça change...

Roy Goodwin

River Waveney at Billingford

Latest recorded level **6:15pm Thursday 24 December 2020.**

River levels at this location in the last 5 days



Billingford measuring station recorded its highest level of 1.83m on 24th December 2020. The previous highest recorded level was 1.36m on 13th October 1983. For the latest levels, visit: flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/6083



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Hoxne Phoenix Group

The Group should be celebrating it's 14th Birthday on Tuesday 12th January, but this unfortunately will not be possible, likewise the AGM on Tuesday 9th February.

The Group evolved from Hoxne & Denham W.I. when the members agreed they were not prepared to pay the annual subscription which was then £30. At the first meeting of Phoenix it was agreed to start with a sub of £15pa and it was only last year that the figure went up to £20pa. During the last 14 years the group has had some very interesting speakers, and, as it is not a Charity, had many successful fund-raising events ranging from 'Pudding Evenings' to Quizzes, most have involved food! There is a Book Group within Phoenix and many outings of interest have been organised. The Group is not political or sectarian, so can invite Speakers on all subjects, sometimes entertaining, sometimes thought provoking, and always ending with time to meet and socialize. There are around 40 members and quite a few come from surrounding villages, and though Technology has made a huge difference to our lives, particularly as we live in a rural area, we can do so much from sitting in our own homes, but there is nothing quite like meeting people and talking face to face.

There are probably new people in the area who have not had the chance to really get to know their new neighbours, and possibly not know what they look like because of masks we have to wear, plus hats and scarves during the winter months!

So, looking forward, and trusting that these vaccines will kill off this awful virus, the Phoenix Committee are already making plans for this coming year, hoping that after Easter we maybe in a position to meet again in Hoxne Village Hall on

2nd Tuesday of each month, and if you are interested in meeting like minded ladies you will be most welcome to join us! For further information please contact either:

Viv Bradford 01379 668551
Pat Green 01379 668379

Hoxne Garden and Social Club

It seems all doom and gloom at the moment, and currently with yet another lockdown the only light at the end of the tunnel seems to be the vaccine that will hopefully curb the spread of the pandemic. Looking back it is safe to say that 2020 was a wash out for the Garden and Social Club in which only two meetings actually took place, notably in January and February. The Club committee has tried to stay in contact with members through regular emails and two online 'newsletters' which have recorded the hobbies and tasks undertaken by members during the lockdowns. We were thus entertained on such subjects as car restoration, French polishing, jam making, and of course various aspects of gardening, to say nothing of the odd bit of poetry. The Christmas newsletter also contained a description of how people celebrated the festive season in 1940 where parallels could be on the deprivation of not seeing loved ones, but for different reasons.

We also managed to decorate a Christmas tree in the church, there was no theme for this year as in previous years, our task was just make it as cheerful as possible!

On line 'newsletters' however, are not a good substitute for members meeting face to face. I have given up trying to predict when our meetings will begin again, but hopefully they will and in 2021 if we are lucky. Let us look forward!

Chris Parkin



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Fressingfield Scouts

The Christmas and New Year break is a good opportunity to look back on everything we have achieved during a turbulent year. What is amazing is the commitment of our leaders and the resilience of the young people. We have a video review of the year available to view on *YouTube* and, together with the new Newsletter, can be found on our website. 'Our Scouting Year 2020' can be viewed at:

youtu.be/Pr3y9JaXWYM

We hope you enjoy it.

Cubs and Beavers have been together on a virtual visit to Wye Valley Alpacas and learned a lot about Alpacas. Beavers have made Christmas calendars, decorated biscuits and toast and made Cup Cake Poppies. Cubs have investigated healthy eating and made sandwiches and researched and celebrated Divali.

Norfolk Scouts (yes, Fressingfield is in Suffolk but for Scouting we have been part of Norfolk for many years!), have run another Virtual Jamboree called BOXJAM with many activities and events which several of our members enjoyed. Southern Norfolk District are running a Lockdown Challenge of activities that can be completed at home and lead to a badge. Both gave the opportunity to interact on screen with members from other Groups.

Scouts have been on a virtual hike to the Lake District and learned about map reading in mountainous areas, played a Generation Game type memory game, identified members from cryptic photographic clues and made Pizza in a mug.

The Explorers successfully completed an Escape Room and have been planning their Easter 2022 expedition to Kenya including a virtual tour of the orphanage.

They also spent an evening completing their Digital Champion Badge.

Two of our adult volunteers have been recognised recently for their commitment to the Scout Group: Susie Remblance, Beaver Scout Leader, has received her 5 Year - Long Service Award and has also completed the Leader Training programme and been awarded her Wood Beads; Angie Ellis, Executive Secretary, has been awarded the 5 Year - Long Service Award Executive Pin.

New Headquarters update: We had hoped that our new building would have been installed just before Christmas, after securing a loan for the final amount. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons that was delayed, however we are working hard to get things back on track. We hope that when face to face Scouting is able to resume we will have a new and much needed building at our Priory Road site. While the building has been delayed we continue to get the site ready, and have recently had UK Power connect the site to the national grid, so we now have power but also an electricity bill!

We are now working on the water supply and waste connection and hope to have all services connected ready for the arrival of our modular building. The site is also now a registered address and we have a post box.

A grant from the Tree Council, has enabled the purchase of further hedging plants to fill the gaps in the existing hedges and replace those in the new hedge that didn't survive the hot weather. We also have a stock of heritage fruit trees - some already planted and the final ones to go between the new building and fence.

Three Pioneer Scouts also achieved the prestigious Gold Award, congratulations to Jess Amps, Nicole Pentelow and Hannah Petty. This is a significant achievement and they didn't allow COVID

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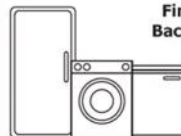
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to disrupt them! During the last two years they have led teams, navigated, taught map reading and cooking, built and slept in a fantastic bivouac, hiked, worked together to help at Cub activities, twice led the various teams at our Pancake Café, enthusiastically attended most activities and generally supported each other and the Leaders. We hope they had their share of fun while all this was going on. Two things need particular mention. As part of the Gold Award they volunteered for Suffolk Wildlife Trust and enjoyed it so much they only stopped going back because of lockdown. They also formed a team to help at our fundraising quizzes and have become part of the quizmaster's team for quizzes for other charities.

The section Leader Teams have been working on the programme for the term to Easter, these will be virtual, on Zoom, with the hope that the COVID restrictions will be eased to allow some limited, outdoor, Face to Face meetings after half term.

We are grateful to Fressingfield Parish Council for the donation of £350 and to a couple who have donated their Winter Fuel Allowance to the New HQ project

We have been doing as much fundraising as lockdown and COVID safe restrictions allow. A Virtual Auction of donated items has raised a significant contribution towards our new HQ fund, many thanks to all that donated items and supported this. The chair of our Executive Committee, with one of the Scout Leaders, undertook a sponsored parachute jump which also raised around a thousand pounds.

Last month we asked for unwanted cooking equipment for camping, there have already been donations but we thought it worth repeating the appeal as there may more items looking for a new home after Christmas. 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**.

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 Heritage Group

Under normal circumstances at this time of the year, Heritage Group members would be gathering at the Swan for our Annual General Meeting and to develop plans for the coming years activities. Alas, the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions have once again forced us to press the pause button.

Although a final decision has yet to be made it now seems inevitable that we shall be forced to defer the second of our World War Two Exhibitions celebrating the 75th anniversary of the end of hostilities which had already been postponed until May.

Lockdown restrictions have not however entirely put a stop to all activity, a number of our group continue to research individual projects related to the history of Hoxne and more recently have been able to assist with enquiries relating to the ancestry of one prominent local resident.

Hopefully we can at last look forward with some degree of confidence to the return of a more normal way of life, it's not too late however to record your own personal experiences of the past twelve months and pass these on to us for future reference. We look forward to hearing from you.

David Hyde
hoxnehistory.org.uk

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Hoxne Bell Ringers

Very little has happened in the last two months. We had a useful PCC meeting before Christmas but nothing has actually changed as regards the church improvements or the bell restoration project.

The opportunity was taken to visit three towers in Suffolk who have done restorations that include ringing platforms accessed from existing spiral staircases.

Hitcham have been unable to complete all their work due to covid restrictions. The bells have been rehung by Taylors and the ringing platform is complete, but they have not installed the rope guide or rung the bells other than for test purposes. Their glass balustrade has an oak rail on top.



Hitcham

Earl Stonham 6 bells were rehung by Taylors 18 years ago with a ringing platform with a clear glass front.



Earl Stonham

St Margaret's Ipswich were restored by Nicholsons a few years ago and are said to sound particularly well. They also have a glass only balustrade.



St Margaret's Ipswich

All the people involved are very happy with the ringing platform arrangement. It allows the ringers to see down into the church and the congregation to see the ringers on the platform and leaves space for other uses in the tower base.

Andrew Castleden 01379 668458
fal@castleden.co.uk

Thank you to all those that bought the Bell Restoration Christmas cards this year, a total of £192.80 was donated to the Restoration fund from their sale.

Claire Whiting



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New Reeding Woods Group

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Whilst walking keep a look out for two winter bird visitors. The Redwing is a member of the thrush family and can be recognised by a creamy strip above its eye and orangey-red patches under its wings. Another migrant is the Fieldfare. Groups of field fares are often seen

feeding on hedgerow hawthorns or on open grassy meadows. Keep an eye open too for those very first harbingers of spring... the hazel catkins are just



beginning to burst open, showering yellow pollen clouds on the lightest breezes; the primrose leaves are burgeoning among the grasses and muddy patches, promising flowers of splendid sulphur, as the days lengthen.



If you are interested in joining us and getting hands-on experience of helping improve the local environment benefitting the environment and yourself, please contact our Secretary for further information - Peny Conway on **07495 875299**.



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Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

The Parish Council has bought, with the very welcome assistance of the County and District Councillors, a vehicle-activated speed sign which will soon be visible on Hoxne Road. The sign detects the speed at which vehicles are approaching and displays their speed - with a smiley face if it is less than 30mph and a grumpy face if faster.

The signs are to be seen on many roads around Suffolk and drivers do pay attention to them. They also contain software which counts passing vehicles and records their speeds, so it is easy for us to accumulate evidence of problem areas. This is a really valuable tool, and the information can be passed to the police, to encourage them to send out speed enforcement vehicles which can result in prosecution.

We have two posts on the road so can move the sign so it displays in each direction. Hopefully it will make a difference to traffic behaviour...

Some positive developments to report as well in this very difficult time:

Fund-raising activities for the work on the Village Hall have continued in spite of

the coronavirus restrictions; sales of Christine Drane's hand-made Christmas cards went extremely well and contributed welcome sums; donations have come in from a wide variety of sources in many forms (including kitchen equipment!) and our District Cllr Matthew Hicks has made a grant to cover the cost of necessary tree work on the land beside the Hall. With improved weather and hopefully better health news the project will get a new impetus in the spring.

And the village *WhatsApp* group has gone from strength to strength - it's an invaluable way of exchanging ideas and plans and has really brought the community together. One of its successes has been the regular visit of Jim's mobile grocery who has added Denham to his list of villages that he visits weekly.

He comes on Friday between 10.30 - 11.00 and parks in Pantiles Drive, just up from the old post office. As he drives from the Hoxne direction, he plays a tune to let you know he is on his way. He stocks a wide variety of groceries. If you join the *WhatsApp* group, they will message once he's arrived and he stays for about 15 mins or until the customers have all been served. You can follow him on Facebook and he will take drop-off orders en route if you contact him directly.

If you'd like to join the *WhatsApp* group just contact the clerk (details below) with your mobile phone number. You can of course leave the group at any time if you want.

When life gets easier... Keep an eye on the *WhatsApp* group and elsewhere for news of a planned village barbecue to meet up in person again!

The March meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 24th March** at 7.30pm. In line with national and local guidance, Parish Council



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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 at denhamparishclerk@gmail.com or on his mobile **07785 331217**.

Hoxne

Thank you to all the residents in Low Street and beyond who provided such wonderful window displays at Christmas and, of course, Hoxne's renowned village green display. The result of your efforts was enjoyed by many. A polite reminder to anyone wishing to host an event on the green - please contact the Parish Council for consent to do so.

A new year has begun but things remain difficult for many. The Suffolk Advice and Support Service has funding streams to assist individuals who find themselves in hardship whether it be access to food, payment of heating bills or rent arrears. Please call **0800 068 3131** in complete confidence.

Planning and the Environment

Thank you to all those who responded to the second-round consultation for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The results and further information on site allocations and protection of open spaces will be published shortly.

The Parish Council has recently requested the transfer of the Denham Road phone kiosk from the Community

Heartbeat Trust to the village. This will be renovated by volunteers and future uses are being considered. If you would like to be involved in the renovation or have an idea for use of this heritage kiosk, please let us know.

Members of Hoxne Parish Council and Denham Parish Council recently met with Crown Milling to discuss their application for an Environmental Permit and the operation and traffic movements to and from Town Farm, Hoxne. It is envisaged that this will become a regular forum and any concerns you have relating to the above can be made to members of the Parish Councils.



Picture: Joan Garnham

Highways

The Parish Council and County Councillor McGregor, have agreed to jointly fund two detailed traffic surveys; one for Green Street and one for Low Street at the junction with Goldbrook.

Please continue to report blocked drains, potholes, obstructed footpaths etc on-line at: suffolk.gov.uk/highways

A Word from Wingfield

Habitat

The recent death of Terence Conran brought back memories of the '60s. I had become involved in setting up what was then thought would be the last "colonial" University to be located in the South Pacific in one of the more populous islands (Fiji) that was only viable if the twelve other scattered empire island nations were to participate. A different approach to France which sent their islanders to French universities.

I was talked into spending a further two years helping to deal with the practicalities, so Anne and our young daughter sailed out through the canal to join me in a ship loaded with emigrants who travelled to Australia for just 10 pounds paid by the Oz government.

New Zealand had built a Sunderland flying boat station in Fiji which they were abandoning and so provided the land, buildings and services to enable us to get off to a flying start. At the first opportunity, core staff and their spouses were assembled for a meeting with the Vice Chancellor who expounded his philosophy: one fundamental issue being that he did not want us to become an "ivory tower" cut off from the people, and that the 49 officers' quarters which staff would occupy initially would not be increased in number, and that when the number exceeded 50, staff would either have to rent or buy a house in town, or even build one.

As Fiji Independence was looming, foreign missions were already searching for suitable houses, and the market was becoming unfavourable for the expanding foreign incomers. The academics present were already housed, but they were

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concerned that their future colleagues would be busy devising a new relevant curriculum with little time to worry about where to live. Moreover it was said that national law in Fiji prevented land alienation to foreigners.



So the next day Anne went to see the Secretary of the Native Land Trust Board and came home saying she had not only obtained a 99 year lease on a three acre site, in the hills five miles from the university with a 180 degree horizon of the Pacific, but had also found an architect who would design us a house costing about £20,000, money we had managed to save during the first 25 years of our marriage. She exploded the impossibility myth of the Vice Chancellor's meeting.

The very young architect had just completed an internship with Basil Spence on our Rome Embassy, and the four 'gargoyles' that delivered water off



our roof were inspired by Rome. The house was built in blockwork: the ground was volcanic soapstone which had to be excavated in order to grow trees and plants, and also to create ditches to carry water off the site.

Anne had sent for the new Habitat catalogue by air mail and ordered furniture which was despatched to us by sea. Coincidentally it was an early Conran design called *The Campus Range* that popularised the flat-pack revolution and possibly Habitat's most significant contribution to furniture innovation.

The house was built and furnished just before we returned home two years later. As the diplomats were followed in by UN and then EU representatives, so we thought there would be no problem selling - indeed we might even make a small profit.



Our tropical white Morris Minor collected from the works at Cowley sold easily, but not the house. The sitting room and veranda were said not to be big enough for diplomatic entertaining. Anne subsequently sailed home and having organised a local choir for numerous charity performances, she had been awarded the *Order of the Whale's Tooth* from the Fiji PM.

The house finally sold after we arrived home with a capital gain of just £1,000, sufficient for us to build an outdoor pool!

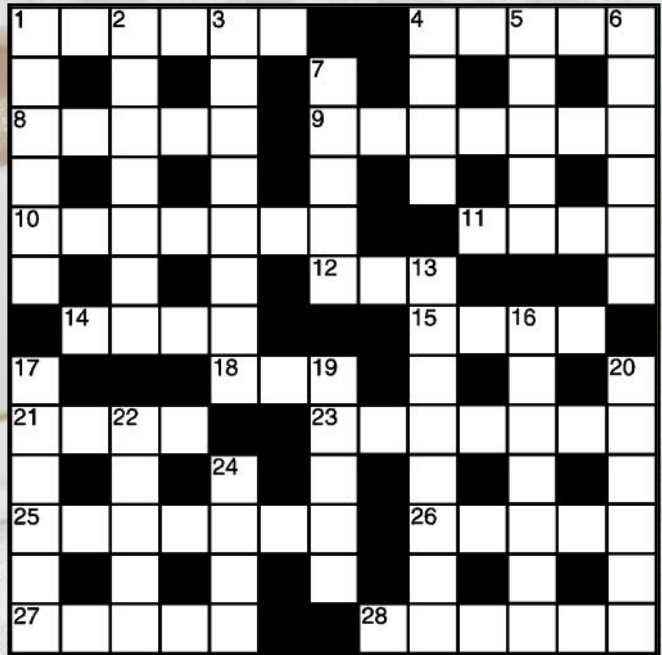
Tommy Gee

Crossword

Puzzle No. 139

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 **Monday 8th March** latest.

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



Across

- 1 Share part of operational duties (6)
- 4 Reduces the harbour area (5)
- 8 Bradley Walsh's pursuit (5)
- 9 Two girls sitting on my knee (7)
- 10 A canape could be a universal remedy (7)
- 11 Sounds like I battled for a stronghold (4)
- 12 Cut short a frost on edge (3)
- 14 Part of Mr Goodman's eye (4)
- 15 Church recess in collapse (4)
- 18 Beverage served from a steamer (3)
- 21 Nits found on public enemy (4)
- 23 Omen found in a transport enterprise (7)
- 25 Some venom in a large dose - in name only (7)
- 26 Audibly change a communion table (5)
- 27 Be outstanding at stating 40 in Roman numerals (5)
- 28 Always in the Home Counties - that is harsh (6)

Down

- 1 Summarizes about headwear (6)
- 2 Apprentice from Aintree (7)
- 3 Cloudy above a theatrical group (8)
- 4 Tax on a legal obligation (4)
- 5 Instrument in Monk's room, old (5)
- 6 Small tin in a pig's pen (6)
- 7 Run through an asparagus tip (5)
- 13 Grim area in which to form a union (8)
- 16 Sceptre crumbles in front of a ghost (7)
- 17 Quick peep at an excellent old weapon (6)
- 19 Pages in beer produce a fruit (5)
- 20 Remove the onset of harvest and have no food (6)
- 22 Funny man's choice of reading (5)
- 24 Indigo shade scene in vanilla (4)

The winner of crossword puzzle no. 138 was: Zillah Inglis, Eye

- Answers - **Across** 1) Instruct 7) Shone 8) Avalanche 9) End 10) Eden 11) Gutted 13) Badger 14) Rowing 17) Samson 18) Stop 20) Tea 22) Introduce 23) Emend 24) Premier
- Down** 1) Inane 2) Seaweed 3) Roam 4) Cactus 5) Bored 6) Leading 7) Section 12) Mermaid 13) Brother 15) Intrude 16) Potter 17) Saved 19) Piece 21) Form

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Sunday, Bank Holidays	Closed

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

DEADLINES

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

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