

Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM & WINGFIELD

APRIL - MAY 2021

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Letters to the Editor

HOXNE IN BLOOM 2021

Dear Hoxne resident's; Firstly I would like to thank you all personally for the effort you all made with the Christmas lighting and window displays in December 2020. I was truly blown away by the way our village came together to cheer everyone up, making the village look spectacular.

So, I think we can do it again. I am inviting all households to brighten up our lives and our stunning village this Spring/ Summer, by creating floral borders, hanging baskets, tubs and pots inside our gardens and outside of our houses.

The aim is to make our village as pretty as possible this summer. I am very sure some of you will go that extra mile, but if you are not green fingered then that doesn't matter every flower will brighten the day. Looking forward to what I will see.

Kind regards
Gill Short

Notice Board

WALKING IN SUFFOLK

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? If so, then the *Walking in Suffolk* website is for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. Visit the website at:

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk

John Harris of *Walking In England* says "There is so much walking information

on the web, but it is difficult to find. *Walking in Suffolk* (part of the *Walking in England* suite of websites - one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you."

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris
www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

BORDERHOPPA

Borderhoppa are pleased to say that we are continuing to help people to reach the vaccination centres for people who have an appointment but do not have a family member or friend who is able to transport them to their appointment.

We are also still providing our door dial-a-ride service for essential journeys in our area whilst maintaining social distancing on our buses. Passengers will need to continue to wear face masks when travelling.

For all enquiries please call our office **01379 854800** and we'll do our best to help.



MEDICAL CENTRE INFO

A reminder of the contact details of the local medical centres: Call Fressingfield on **01379 586456 / 586227** and Stradbroke on **01379 388313 / 384220** or visit:

fressingfield-medical-practice.co.uk
For Eye Health Centre call **01379 870689** or visit:

www.eyehalthcentre.co.uk

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Wingfield Barns

Although there is no Chelsea Flower Show in May this year we are celebrating all things horticultural on **Sunday 6th June** with our Garden Celebration Day at Wingfield Barns. Making use of our lovely location and outside space, we will be open from 10:30am - 4pm. We have expert

We are also gearing up for reopening with a calendar of concerts, events and quiz supper. Our popular International Mini Prints will be here over August, and the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies will also be here with their annual exhibition. So lots to look forward to and we are so ready to reopen our doors the minute lockdown is lifted.

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



- Local plant stalls & plant swap
- Talks & Demonstrations
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- Cream teas, cakes & snacks
- Children's Snail Trail & Planting Table
- Small Entry Fee

speakers, stalls, a plant-swap and children's Snail Trail and other activities, and of course lots of tea and cakes!

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall

At the time of writing Syleham and Wingfield village hall is closed but things are moving in a direction which may mean the doors could be opening for some activities in the near future. If needed, the village hall could be open on the day of the local elections, **Thursday 6th May**.

We have a few events pencilled in for later in the year. We will be taking our time to make careful opening arrangements so would like to encourage

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Hoxne and Denham

Calling every 4 weeks on **Thursdays**

Next stops: **6th May**

Hoxne, The Swan car park from 10:35 to 10:50

Hoxne, St Edmunds House from 11:00 to 11:15

Denham, Post Office from 11:25 to 11:35

The mobile library service is currently suspended until 12th April due to national restrictions.

Syleham and Wingfield

Calling every 4 weeks on **Fridays**

Next stops: **16th April and 14th May**

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

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





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you to look out for local advertising - posters and flyers.

J's Meadow is an open outside area just a little way down the footpath opposite Syleham and Wingfield village hall. It was acquired for the use of the community - the pedestrian gate is always open and hopefully the daffodils have managed to push through again this year, so do pop along and enjoy the wonderful view over the Waveney Valley.



Please do continue to use the glass and clothes recycling banks which are located in the village hall car park, thank you - funds from these facilities go towards village hall maintenance.

Thank you for your support of our village halls! Best wishes to all - see you when it's safe to do so!

Julie Thompson

Hoxne Village Hall

At the time of writing (start of March) the Hall is still closed, however there is now the Government's Roadmap that will guide us on when we can re-open.

As an exceptional event, the Hall will be open for the local Council Elections on **Thursday 6th May** (and also Police and Crime Commissioner Elections on the same day), so we will be busy dusting and cleaning to be ready for that!

The Hall Committee will need to meet prior to then to agree when we will start

to welcome back our regular hirers and one off bookings such as parties. We need to understand, and follow, what Government Guidelines there may still be in place for Village Halls.

As with many small clubs and charities, we are still to hold our Annual General Meeting for 2020. This will be incorporated into the 2021 meeting so we would welcome your attendance and input whenever that does take place. We will advertise by posters, on the website, and in the Village Voice when we have set a date.

As mentioned last Village Voice, it has been suggested that we ought to put together a collection of old photos/information about the Hall so we have a recent history. If you have any old photos of the Hall that you could photograph please send on to us by email (address below), or maybe bring to a Film Night when these are running again.

We already have two weddings booked for later in the year so if you would like to pencil in a date for an event then please do contact us. We look forward to seeing you at the Hall soon! 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

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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 on:

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

Every Friday

6pm Compline on Zoom

For an invitation to our Zoom services, please email:

eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

Some services in church are also live streamed or uploaded to:

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

Thursday 1st April

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Stripping of the Altar, Redlingfield

Friday 2nd April

Good Friday

12 noon Good Friday service, Wingfield
2.30pm Good Friday service, Hoxne

Saturday 3rd April

Easter Eve

7.30pm Service of Light, Denham

Sunday 4th April

Easter Day

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne
11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield
11am Zoom Eucharist
4pm Messy Church for Easter, Wingfield (to be confirmed)

Sunday 11th April

Second Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Athelington
9.30am Café Church on Zoom

Sunday 18th April

Third Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne
10am Village Service, Syleham
6pm Evensong, Wingfield (or on Zoom - please check)

Sunday 25th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Matins, Hoxne
9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham
11am CW Holy Communion, Denham
4pm All Age service on Zoom

Sunday 2nd May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 9th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield
9.30am Café Church on Zoom

Thursday 13th May

Ascension

Service to be confirmed

Sunday 16th May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

10am Village Service, Syleham

6pm Evensong, Wingfield

Sunday 23rd May

Pentecost

9.30am Matins, Hoxne

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham

11am CW Holy Communion, Denham

4pm All Age service on Zoom

Sunday 30th May

Trinity Sunday

11am Benefice Service - details to be confirmed

Please note: Revd Eleanor and Revd John will be away from **5th - 11th April**, inclusive. If you need a priest urgently during this week, please contact Revd Richard Court:

rev.richard.court@icloud.com

Private prayer - Churches are open for private prayer once a week as follows:

Denham - **Wednesdays** 9am - 5pm

Hoxne - **Wednesdays** 9am - 5pm

Syleham - **Thursdays** 10am - 2.30pm

Wingfield - **Thursdays** 2.30pm - 5pm

We hope we will soon be able to extend these opening times.

Church News

Dare to hope

As I write this, the children are going back to school and we are taking the first step towards easing lockdown restrictions. Those of us who are over 55 will probably have had our first vaccination and the roll-out continues. We still take every precaution

at our church services but we are offering at least one service in church every Sunday alongside Zoom services and live streamed services on **facebook.com/WingfieldChurch** (see schedule). We are looking forward to being able to socialize again in due course - so keep an eye out for news of summer events at our churches which we will be starting to plan over the next couple of months. We can now dare to hope that the coronavirus will be brought under control not just for the summer but for the longer term.

Hope is at the centre of the Christian message and especially as we celebrate Easter on **4th April** and for several weeks afterwards, until the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost on **23rd May**. Jesus's disciples had dared to hope that this prophet - 'mighty in deed and word before God and all the people' - 'was the one to redeem Israel'. His crucifixion on Good Friday cast them into despondency. But this was changed to rejoicing as he rose again from the dead. And our hope today comes from his promise that we too can be heirs of eternal life through him. This transforming hope is not just for heaven after death, but a better, fuller life now. Let's dare to embrace that hope.

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

Easter Zoom event

Our pre-Christmas Zoom event was a great success, so we are holding another on **Saturday 3rd April** at 11am. If you are able to join you can expect fun Easter activities involving eggs and, by popular demand, a short quiz. We would also like you to wear a special Easter bonnet. You could dig out a vintage hat from the back of the wardrobe, or you could make your own,



or decorate a plain one - whatever you want! There will be prizes for the best hats and, if circumstances permit, an exhibition in one of our churches after **12th April**.

Online church donations

Our church income has suffered badly from the pandemic, in common with many other charities. You can now donate online with a debit or credit card. This is suitable for weekly or occasional giving. To use this option, go to your parish's page on www.achurchnearyou.com where you will see a 'Donate' button that takes you to the site where you can enter your details. It's very easy to do. The money will go towards paying the parish share and reducing the burden on all our parishes. Your support is most gratefully appreciated.

St John, Denham

Services are resuming again and it is very pleasing that the church will be open and welcoming everyone back in time for Palm Sunday and the Service of Light on Easter Eve - the beginning of the Christian year and hopefully the restoration of a properly sociable way of life.

One or two members of the PCC have had to resign recently so I wonder if anyone would like to join us? It is not an onerous commitment as meetings take place about four times a year in one of our houses (unless there is a lockdown) and are relaxed and friendly. It would be useful to have new ideas, outlook and expertise and it will be good to be able to organise local fundraising events once more.

The repairs to the chancel roof and walls are now due to take place in the summer so we should be able to hold our annual plant sale unencumbered by

scaffolding. The plant sale is usually towards the end of May and we will put up posters in the church and the shop beforehand.

Hilary Castleden
01379 668458

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

The church is open for private prayer and meditation on Wednesdays and the times will increase as COVID restrictions are lifted. Church services are once again held on Sundays.

The PCC has been meeting via ZOOM and a survey on the way forward for the church was distributed with the January edition of the Village Voice. Thank you for your responses so far.

To date there is good support for a proper display of historical artefacts and the need to provide quality toilet facilities.

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, with upcoming dates of **April 19th** and **May 17th**.

Our deferred AGM from January was held at the February meeting via ZOOM.

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

Future meetings will be held either on ZOOM or in a group as the COVID restrictions allow. New members are always welcome.

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

Flower rota

April 4th and 11th - Easter rota; April 18th & 25th - Altar, Cathie McGregor; May 2nd & 9th - Altar, Prue Day; May 16th & 23rd - Altar, Jenny Looome; May 30th & June 6th - Altar, Sue Thornett.

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These arrangements are subject to any COVID restrictions which may arise, but hand sanitising gel is 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

Services

We are returning to a regular pattern but Zoom options will continue. Please refer to the service schedule for the full list of services in the benefice.

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.

Book

For those of you who missed out on acquiring a copy of *A Suffolk Farmworker's Boy*, there is now a further chance to obtain this interesting book by a former Syleham resident Fred Harper, reminiscing on his days growing up in the village. Please

contact Fred directly on harperfred1947@gmail.com

Events

We would like to hold a summer or harvest event if circumstances permit, possibly including the talk on the history of the church by Elaine Murphy that was due to take place last April. Watch this space!

Messy Church

This continues on Facebook and in March we welcomed Revd Eleanor, with Baby Tiger, as an additional presenter; she and Barbara presented a very busy session on Spring and new growth.

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



Snowdrops on the church lane and in the adjoining woods gave an excellent display this year and lasted well into March, just as the daffodils were beginning to come into flower. Quite delightful!



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11 Green Street, Hoxne.

Hoxne Bowls Club

The bowls club hope to be playing again this year. No plans for the reopening of the green or details of how the leagues will operate are known at the time of going to print.

If you are interested in joining or trying the sport we will be having roll-ups and practice games throughout the summer.

Contact the secretary, Roger Knight, on **01379 668403** in May, when things will, hopefully, be clearer.



Memories of sunny days

Hoxne Heritage Group

As with other local groups and organisations, the Hoxne Heritage Group has been forced to look for alternative means to stimulate interest and maintain our contacts during lockdown.

On February 23rd we were fortunate to be able to join an online presentation by Rebecca Ellis a PhD student from Hull University working with the Roman Roads Research Association speaking on the subject of Iron Age Art including information on a bovine mount artefact of international importance discovered by one of our members, now on display at West Stow Museum. A link to Rebecca's talk will be available on our website shortly.

Doubtless to many this may not sound like a worthwhile alternative to *Top Gear* or *Who Wants to Be A Millionaire*. Far from it, Rebecca proved to be an excellent speaker with an infectious enthusiasm which kept us all fully engaged throughout the forty five minute presentation.

Following the success of this our first online gathering, we now plan to hold a quiz on March 16th and hopefully a talk by a local expert on the history of Norwich sometime during April. Also planning is now under way for our annual social event held over from last year, at Pakenham Mill during August. This of course assumes that all the current restrictions will have been lifted by then.

Sadly though COVID restrictions still impact us and, as we feared, the second of our exhibitions celebrating the anniversary of the end of the second world war scheduled for May has had to be deferred again.

Finally, we all owe a big vote of thanks to Pauline and David Rimmer who, throughout the past twelve months and long before, have worked hard to maintain our website. In January alone there were 340 visits to the site.

David Hyde
hoxnehistory.org.uk

Hoxne Phoenix Group

We have now come full circle as our last meeting was on 10th March 2020, and little did we realize what we were in for! Hopefully, if all goes to plan and we do come out of all restrictions in June our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 13th July 2021!** At this stage it is too soon to make any definite plans, but keep this date free and weather permitting we shall have a Social meeting in a garden, possibly in the afternoon.

Masks need not be worn, and we shall be able to meet and see each other face to face! By then the Committee will have met to make plans for the rest of the year which we can all discuss and decide upon.

*Viv Bradford
President
01379 668551*

Hoxne Bell Ringers

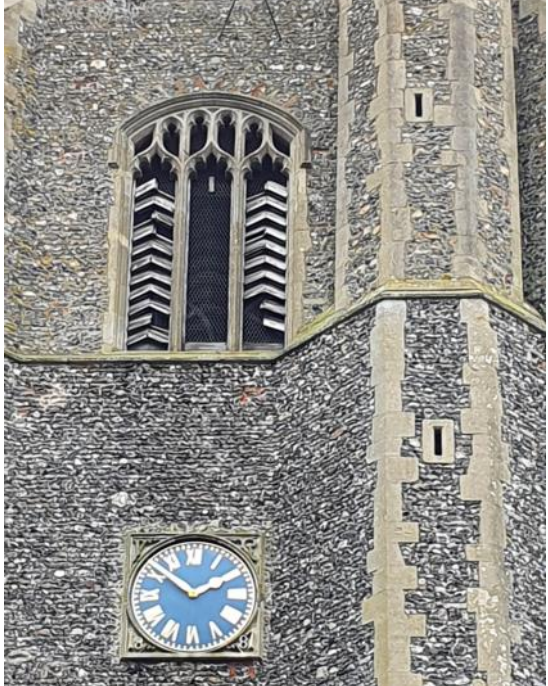
We have received additional quotations for the bell restoration and the prices look encouragingly competitive. We will, hopefully, also get information from the questionnaire that was circulated with the last Village Voice.



Snow on the bells and bell frame 8th Feb 2021

A start has been made on forming a group to help with the fund raising. Some activities will have to wait until COVID restrictions have been relaxed and Hoxne church still cannot apply for any faculties from the diocese so further planning has come to halt.

Prices have been requested for the repair of the louvres on the south side of the tower. Prices vary a lot depending on how we are allowed to do the work which is unknown at present.



The damaged Louvres on the South side of Hoxne church

Laxfield restoration is in full swing and may be complete by the time you read this. You can see their new bell chamber at laxfieldbells.co.uk and press the 'web cam' button. I attach a photo of the steels being put in before the bell frame and the bells arrived.



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

New Reeding Woods Group

As the days lengthen and spring starts to be noticeable around us there is a lot to see. At the woods, there is a notebook to allow visitors to record their sightings. These are not always predictable - both Elvis and Father Christmas have been seen there.

Looking through the notes I was grateful to see a woodcock recorded as I saw one two weeks ago and was pleased to have another record of it. Spring sightings around the pond have included newts, bright blue damsel flies, broad bodied chaser and emperor dragonflies and water boatmen.

The birds are more active now and sightings in previous years have listed the yellow hammer with its song of "*a little bit of bread and no cheese*". Bullfinches, Chaffinches and the colourful Goldfinch also are to be seen in the wood. The owl box in the corner hopes to attract a barn owl to make a home there. Green woodpeckers are often to be seen on the meadow. Blackbirds and robins sing



along the rides. Blue tits, Great tits, wrens and sparrows are resident attracting the kestrel seen hovering over the pond.

Primroses have been seen as early as January, common spotted orchids have been seen in the lane, bee orchids seen by the pond where yellow flag irises bloom. Butterflies including tortoiseshells, brimstone, red admiral, comma and a group of seven peacock butterflies sunbathing on the log



pile. A great variety of bees have been noted including Goodens nomad, Andrena or the mining bee, garden bumble bee, red tailed bumblebee. A pipistrelle bat was spotted by a

keen-eyed observer and another enviable sighting was of a male kingfisher by the pond. Field mice were spotted by visiting Brownies.

We still have grey cold days, but hopefully this list of sightings will encourage further visits as the weather improves. Please record your sightings as they provide an invaluable record for the group.

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





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Fressingfield Scouts

Virtual Scouting continues in Fressingfield and the District team have put on an online photography competition which many of our members took part in. At the time of writing we are waiting for judging to be completed to see how we have fared.

Explorers are thinking about their proposed trip to Mothers Mercy Mission in Kenya during Easter 2022. They have cooked chapatis and ugali and learned some basic Swahili.

Following their virtual visit to an Alpaca Farm, the Cubs are continuing to work on their Animal Carer Activity Badges. They have now “met” a Giant African Tortoise with large teeth living in a huge greenhouse, and a Queen Ant called Melody that is slowly building her colony. They also made bird feeders and took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

The two Scout Troops continue to work together while we are meeting on Zoom. They have made two-minute presentations about themselves, played “Guess Who” where they worked out which cryptic photo belonged to who, and worked on individual “four part” artworks including an adaptable game made from recycled materials. Following their virtual hike to The Lake District last autumn they have recently virtually hiked up Snowden. This was great as quite a

few members had been up there in the last couple of years and were able to tell us all what it was really like; it was a surprise to hear there were so many different routes to the top. During half term the Scouts joined together on Zoom for pancake night, each member cooking and eating their own pancakes while sharing ideas for pancake toppings and chatting. This was a great success with a really relaxed and happy atmosphere.

Beavers continue to meet on Zoom, they have been busy, after Christmas they showed and talked about their presents and pets, they have made and decorated cardboard picture frames and found escaped zoo animals on a grid reference game.

At the moment, it seems likely we will be able to return to some form of Face to Face Scouting after the Easter break. There will, undoubtedly be quite a few restrictions on numbers and activities which we will have to comply with.

The Leader Team has been working on some minor restructuring of roles to make best use of skills and experience and planning for training to increase the range of activities the team can provide. We hope to relaunch the Scout Group at the new headquarters in the autumn.

We are very grateful to the many people that have donated, and continue to donate, to our camp cooking equipment appeal, the response has been



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fantastic with much useful equipment donated. We are sure that much use will be made of it when we are allowed to camp again. If anyone has anymore, or small axes and logging or pruning saws please get in touch with Michael on **07761 827053**.

Our website and social media coordinator has started a project to gather archive material relating to Fressingfield Scout Group to display in the new HQ and form part of the website. If you have any photographs, memorabilia or even stories that you are able to share please get in touch with Ciaran at scouts@ciarancarr.co.uk or telephone Michael on **07761 827053**.

Dads get a taste of the great outdoors



● **HARDY** campers at Weybread preparing a meal. One father at least adheres to the motto "Be prepared" — and carries an umbrella as he keeps an eye on the weather.

LETTERS

Express letters, Norfolk & Suffolk House, Mere Street, Diss, Norfolk

FRESSINGFIELD fathers took the plunge last week when they accompanied their sons on a cub scout camp. Using the army cadets training ground in Weybread they pitched camp for the weekend led by the Group Scout Leader, Mr Arthur Brown, of Harleston, who runs the 1st Fressingfield Scout Group.

This is the first camp he has organised since he began at the group eight months ago. "It was meant as a fun weekend", he said and although Saturday was a sunny day the weekend campers experienced the most familiar of campers' unpleasant tasks, taking tents down in pouring rain.

Apart from the rain and the usually eventful first night in camp depriving fathers of sleep, they are well. Dividing into groups of three tents each cooked for themselves. Mr Brown is hoping to have another camp next year.



Just to illustrate what we are looking for, the Fressingfield Village archive has come up with a couple of pictures, does anyone recognise themselves?

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



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Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

Denham has been working closely with Hoxne to designate Quiet Lanes for the benefit of both communities and of visitors. Under the County scheme certain routes can be identified and signposted to make it clear to drivers that these roads are used a lot by walkers and horse-riders. In the words of the Quiet Lanes website:

“A Quiet Lane is a nationally recognised designation of single track road (i.e. no line markings), typically with less than 1,000 vehicle use per day. Quiet Lanes EXPECT the lane to be used by a variety of people, animals and transport, and to RESPECT each others’ rights to considerate road use!”

The two routes in Denham are Church Road and Low Road - the latter of course runs through into Hoxne, which is why the two parishes are collaborating on the scheme. Both now appear on the official website and there will shortly be an opportunity for residents of both parishes to have a say before the status is confirmed and signage installed. There will be no cost to the Parish.

The benefits of safer walking, cycling and riding routes are obvious - and the two chosen lanes open up great opportunities for local people and visitors to take advantage of the whole footpath network in our area, visiting Hoxne’s facilities as well as the historic Denham Church and our World War II heritage sites as well.

We will publicise the consultation as soon as possible and there will also be an open public meeting (probably on

Zoom, because of the coronavirus restrictions).

It’s worth stressing that Quiet Lanes don’t ban vehicles altogether, but the signage and designation is intended to make clear to drivers that there are other users of the roads which deserve equal consideration, to help them enjoy the countryside. Quiet Lanes are therefore part of an overall strategy to improve the experience of all road users and people who live near our roads.

The May meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 26th May** at 7.30pm. This will also be the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. 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. But it’s very likely that after May, we can return to meeting in person.

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

Planning and the Environment

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group are keen to hear from residents if there is still an interest in allotments being provided in the village. If you would be interested in an allotment plot in the future, please contact the Clerk to register your

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interest. Whilst the Neighbourhood Development Plan can allocate land use, there will need to be a certain level of interest before the Parish Council can use its legal powers to provide allotments.

At the March Parish Council meeting, it was agreed to provide financial and practical support for the Hoxne in Bloom initiative and we look forward to progressing planting at areas such as Low Street Green shelter, Cross Street well and the redundant phone kiosk on Denham Road. This coincides with recent maintenance work at the Community Orchard on Wittons Lane, where it is hoped parishioners will visit to not only see the fruit trees in bloom, but to later in the year harvest some of the apples and pears.

Highways

Requests submitted to the Parish Council calling for a 20 mph speed limit in certain areas of the village have been referred to the County Council Highways Department and particularly in line with their guidance which can be found at:

www.suffolk.gov.uk

[/assets/Roads-and-transport/traffic-management-and-road-safety/20mph-Speed-Limit-Policy-Criteria.pdf](#)

The Parish Council are still keen to see Community Speed Watch initiatives run in the village. This is a practical way to achieve some speed enforcement measures. If you are interested in volunteering to be part of such a scheme please contact the Clerk. More details are available at:

www.suffolkroadsafe.com

[/speeding/community-speedwatch](#)

Meeting Dates

The Parish Council continues to work within the confines of the lockdown and a temporary legislative arrangement. In

order to comply with both, some meetings have been rearranged as follows:

Thursday 29th April

7pm - Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 4th May

6pm - Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council

Both meetings will take place virtually via Zoom and details will be published on the Parish Council website. At the Annual Meeting on **Tuesday 4th May**, the Council will look to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council. Please do get in touch if you are interested in this role and serving your community.

Syleham

A big thank you to all our residents who have helped their neighbours get through this difficult time of COVID-19. Also, our thanks to the Suffolk Community Foundation who granted us the funds to offer free transport to the vaccination centres. An offer we can now extend to all adults in the village for the remainder of the vaccination programme.

During this enforced lockdown, the Council has taken a serious review of financing investment in Syleham. Recent improvements such as the new noticeboard, grit bins, speed sign and website have all been funded by grants from third parties. Sources that will be more difficult to access in the future.

Our own income comes from the Precept, an annual payment of just £1,600. It no longer covers the cost of administration and statutory payments for insurance and professional fees.

This income has hardly changed for ten years and has fallen to just 33% of precept levels charged by neighbouring parishes. We have had to take action to correct this imbalance as you will see in

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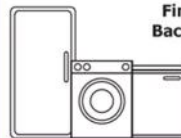
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your Council Tax statement for 2021/22. This increased funding will not only ensure financial viability but also help us support the innovations planned for the new financial year.

The village was not only hit by COVID but also flooding in January. A disaster that Syleham and the District Council was clearly unprepared.

A group of qualified residents led by Leslie Hastie has offered to prepare a Flood Prevention Plan for the village and want to present this at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Council wants to support this initiative.

Recent planning decisions have demonstrated the importance of our network of footpaths in protecting the character of our village. To strengthen this defence, we intend to refurbish the signage and encourage all residents to enjoy walking the paths.

Finally, we have the first data from the speed sign for the period August 2020 to January 2021. It measured 16,500 vehicle movements through the village. 30% of which were travelling at over 35mph, fast enough for an endorsement. Drive carefully and keep safe.

Covid restrictions willing, we plan to have a “virtual” Parish Council meeting on **Friday 26th March** (details to be posted on the noticeboard and website) and a “normal” Annual Meeting on **Wednesday 26th May**.

Wingfield

Our last meeting in December was conducted by “Zoom”, a first for the Parish Council. It began with a big thank you to the COVID Support team and those individually who have supported our more vulnerable neighbours. We repeat this expression of gratitude in March along with appreciation of the Suffolk

Community Foundation grant that has enabled us to offer free transport to vaccination centres. An offer we can extend to the end of May.

Despite the lockdown the Council has made progress in bringing a defibrillator to the village. In short time, electricity will be reconnected to the phone box enabling us to install the resuscitation unit at a total cost of £4,000. Training in its use will be held at the Village Hall.

If COVID-19 was not enough, flooding has affected both Church Road and Low Road. The former requires unblocking of drainage ditches and the latter the building of functional drainage and re-engineering the camber of the road. Both Suffolk Highways and adjacent land owners have been informed of the work required.

Work on “topping” the Green has been completed according to our rotation scheme that includes the establishment of an untouched area for the study of flora and fauna.

The planters on Castle Crescent Green have been rejuvenated with new planting by Eleanor Carroll and her team. Our thanks to them all for the uplifting result.

Our quest for land suitable for a children's play area continues. Watch this space for developments.

The costs involved in supporting the Council's work and deliver against our responsibilities to residents continues to increase when funding from elsewhere is becoming more restricted. Our income requirements for 2021/2022 are reflected in the increase to the Precept to be announced in the Council Tax statement you will receive in March.

Our next meetings are to be held “virtually” on **Friday 19th March** and “normally” on **Friday 21st May** at Wingfield Barns at 7.30pm, COVID willing!

A Word from Wingfield

Brasil

Some years ago I advertised in the Friend, a quaker weekly, for someone willing to become my live in carer (not a wife), unsalaried, but with free accommodation and food. I saw it as an affordable solution in old age with a pension. The alternative of moving into an institution was beyond my means and too constraining. I imagined that out there among the UKs 70,000 Quakers there would be someone in similar circumstances in need of board, lodging and companionship with a similar outlook. I did not think a dating agency would produce a suitable list of applicants.

The editor asked me whether I would like to receive applications as they arrived, or all together, which he thought would be fairer, as I would not then just accept the first applicant.

A month later he rang to say he had not had any response and suggested I re-advertise and offered me a discount for the second ad. This didn't work either so I tried to work out why. Did older women have insights into men which they had not had when they were younger? Were there no women Quakers in need of board and lodging? What

were my real motives? Was I a soulmates seeker?

My daughter told me there were other possibilities e.g. *Workaway* was a very respectable organisation which matched hosts and guests. She offered to enrol me as a host and to trawl the responses and find me a guest. She was successful, and a I had a series of guests from around the world, young and old, who stayed with me for different periods. There was an understanding of doing 5 hours work per day, a wonderful bonus. The first, a retired builder built a library. There was an enthusiastic gardener, another a gastronome, and one a writer.

The final *Workaway* a lawyer/civil servant became a host and invited me to Brasil. Although I have travelled widely including Guyana and the Caribbean, I had never been to Brasil.

I had read a story before the war, a Book Society choice sent to us in Uganda, called "*Brazilian Adventure*" an account of how as a young man, Peter Fleming, Ian's brother, went on an expedition to the Amazon to find Colonel Fawcett who disappeared ten years previously. He failed, but wrote an excellent account of the search, its dangers and difficulties.

I was astonished by Brasil. It is an amazing country with a unique past. It belied all I knew about Empire and Colonialism.

It has come under the radar here recently because of COVID and Bolsonaro. It has vast resources and territory. Its people are fascinating. I decided to make a second visit and post COVID restrictions a third. I scribbled a diary and the following is an extract.

We travelled inland, together with many trucks, some double length and impossible to pass when in convoy, some 200 miles to Araxa to spend New Year local style in a big rural hotel in coffee/cattle country. The hotel building is literally palatial. The dining room is a



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double cube, (twice the size of the Whitehall banqueting hall where Charles I lost his head). The solid walnut lifts are 90 years old.

Swimming in the blue tiled deep underground pool, I was reminded of a similar experience in Baden back in 1955 where Nazi-like medical assistants in white, imposed strict time limits in the water in case one turned to stone. Everywhere seems to have local marble floors, often with unnecessary red carpets, and much use of blue ceramic tiles with distant echoes of Delft.

This really massive building stands in extensive grounds surrounding a lake, surely the reason for the original investment. Getting in past security took 5 minutes. Eventually the gatekeeper tolled on a large bell (Lutine-like, as if to announce the sinking of another ship) and we drove into the porte-cochere. We were then taken over by porters of different grades their ranking indicated by the number of rings on their uniform. One introduced me to his boss, a four ringed bell captain.

On arrival, one is wrist-tagged just like on a family prison visit. Luggage was commandeered and stickered with the room number and wheeled away. We were escorted to the lifts and briefed on the extensive facilities, and arranged to swim before shutdown. We were admitted to the pool, and a wheel chair was ordered to whisk me back to room 4342. I had managed the long walk to the pool but feared I would not be able to get back, or would get lost in the carpeted marble corridors with no TomTom to guide me. Lost in the Catacombs!

I find the people of Brasil a great fascination, what I shall call their colour spectrum, and, at least with those I met, seemed to be a classless society. They provide more information about their persons than you would encounter in

northern Europe, since they are less clothed, and what they wear is revealing in many ways. Wearing a great variety of colourful clothing, as if part of a fashion parade, almost always reveals the half-contained person, both male and female. All these different fashion models mix and match in a delightful racial-well-mannered, seemingly classless, melting pot. Ever present are their phoneless well-behaved children.

Am I blinkered here by social financial layering? Maybe, but so far this is the persistent experience. The most overwhelming impression is of the racial spectrum, across the range from black to white, but also in facial types from Africa all the way to old Europe. It would be an impossible challenge for our racial nations to decide who to send back to their home country, were they ever ambitious to do so. Words are inadequate to get this across, so I shall have to do some furtive photography to make the point.

I have not yet been able to form a view on the other half of the people, who live in favelas, nor about the ticking time bomb which they must surely represent. Will this evident skewed wealth distribution lead to an explosion? My host's son (a surgeon) has offered to guide my reading on Brasil's future socio-economic implications to try and satisfy my curiosity, as my experience so far is constrained by language, and polite conversation.

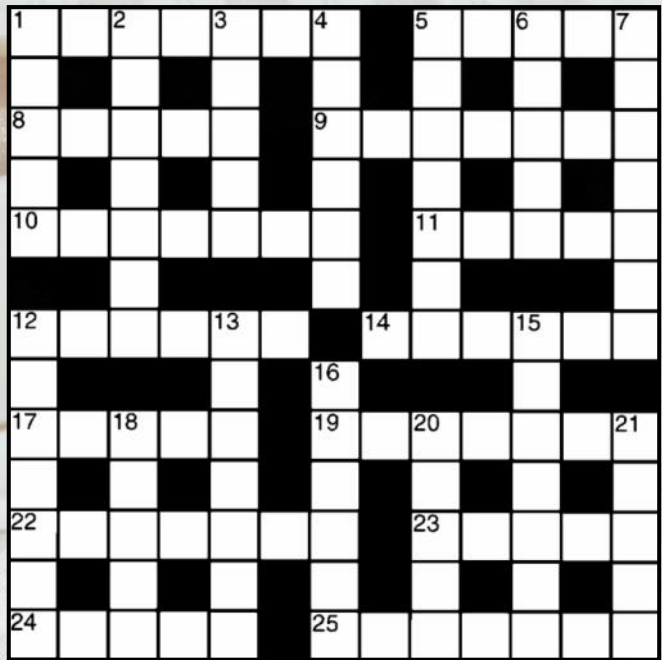
Since writing this, I have engaged a teacher in Belo Horizonte to teach me Portuguese so that I can find out more on my third post COVID visit. 70 lessons, three per week extend beyond language into history, culture, politics, etc. She is a brilliant teacher (retired) whom I hope to meet in the flesh rather than on Zoom. Manaus on the Amazon is where I really wish to go pace Peter Fleming.

Tommy Gee

Crossword Puzzle No. 140

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 **Saturday 8th May** latest.

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



Across

- 1 Total agreement at a musical performance (7)
- 5 Drags to the foyers I hear (5)
- 8 Messenger bearing news of a German city (5)
- 9 Confused ingenue is authentic (7)
- 10 Foretell public relations law (7)
- 11 Beer mug from 8 across (5)
- 12 Admire Greta for showing sorrow (6)
- 14 May be nervous or digestive (6)
- 17 Frequently used name for a craftsman (5)
- 19 Completely launder a Sussex castle (7)
- 22 Measurement of noise level (7)
- 23 Claw is vital on a raptor (5)
- 24 White heron is almost a cause for remorse (5)
- 25 Betrayal by a crooked senator (7)

Down

- 1 Move stealthily like a toady (5)
- 2 Savings from a hen coop (4,3)
- 3 Drunken nuisance conceals boredom (5)
- 4 Ladies attire certainly not loose (6)
- 5 Shy note makes for integrity (7)
- 6 Unscramble 20 down to join together (5)
- 7 Breast bone fractured in Munster (7)
- 12 Rise due from the remains (5)
- 13 Show a document produced in court (7)
- 15 Sweeney joins Les and strolls off (7)
- 16 Everybody in the wager at Sadler's Wells (7)
- 18 Suffer part of a Latin curse (5)
- 20 Auntie drops an article to become loose (5)
- 21 Fabric from Dublin environment (5)

The winner of crossword puzzle no. 139 was: Dawn Lodge, Hoxne

Answers - **Across** 1) Ration 4) Docks 8) Chase 9) Patella 10) Panacea 11) Fort 12) Rim 14) Lens 15) Apse 18) Tea 21) Lice 23) Portent 25) Nominal 26) Alter 27) Excel 28) Severe
Down 1) Recaps 2) Trainee 3) Overcast 4) Duty 5) Cello 6) Scanty 7) Spear 13) Marriage 16) Spectre 17) Glance 19) Apple 20) Starve 22) Comic 24) Anil

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

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October/November	8th September
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