

A person in a red jacket is walking a dog on a dirt path that winds through a dense forest. The trees are mostly bare, with some green moss or lichen on the branches. On the right side, there are some purple flowers. The overall scene is misty and atmospheric.

Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM &
WINGFIELD

DECEMBER 2023 — JANUARY 2024

Supported by community donation and advertising revenue

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The Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison and
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Letters

There is now a defibrillator installed at Hill House Farm, Battlesea Green, the head office of Rattlerow Farms Ltd. The turning is sign-posted *Hill House Feed Mill & Office Deliveries*; the defibrillator is mounted on the wall of the building as you turn in.

We hope no one ever has need of it but we would like everyone to know where it is located, just in case.

Charlotte Forbes

If you would like to help civilians in Gaza and Israel with a Red Cross donation, please visit:

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/>

To support Ukraine:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

St Edmundsbury Cathedral's 'Ukrainian Christmas' service is on Friday 5 January 2024, 5pm

I would like to say a big thank you to all the very kind people who have volunteered and helped this year to keep St Andrew's church looking beautiful for visitors to enjoy. From the church flowers, church cleaning, opening/closing of the church, helping with fundraising events, to the churchyard tidy on the first Thursday of the month, we really couldn't do it without all your help.

If you would like to get involved with any of the above, please let me know via email: Taylor5re@btinternet.com. Thank you.

Jacky Taylor

I would like to say a huge and heartfelt public thank you to all the lovely people who rallied round and assisted me in so many ways after my home was badly flooded.

Without being asked a small army of folk, with their own mops, buckets and cleaners, arrived at my barn. They rapidly set to spending hours and days clearing, sorting, and cleaning. With my dishwasher and washing machine ruined they took dirty crockery and glassware to their own homes to wash. Also flood soaked bedlinen, towels, clothing in wardrobes and cupboards were likewise taken away and returned beautifully cleaned and ironed. Others provided me with food and entertained me to supper in their homes, while I lived outside in my camper van until power was restored.

To know there are such kind hearted people in our community, who willingly give of their time makes me feel truly blessed. My deepest appreciation and thanks to you all.

Stuart Jarrold

Diary Dates

Sat 2-Sun 3 Dec

Wingfield Barns' Christmas Market p9

Sun 3 Dec

Dick Barton Auditions, Jays Green
Community Centre, Harleston p11

Tue 5 Dec

Dick Barton Auditions, Jays Green
Community Centre, Harleston p11
Coffee & cake SWH p17

Little Lambs' Crib Service, Hoxne
Church p19

Wed 6 Dec

Waveney Choir Christmas Concert,
St Andrew's Church, Wingfield p18

Thur 7 Dec

Floristry Demonstration SWH p12

Fri 8 Dec

What's Love Got To Do With it? film
HVH p10

Christmas Sparkle band/choir, Eye
town hall p31
Coffee morning WB p9

Sat 9 Dec

A Christmas Carol: In Concert WB p8
Scouts' Christmas Fayre, Priory Rd
Fressingfield p10 & p39

Scouts' Santa Run, Fressingfield HQ
p39

Saturday café SWH p12

Harleston Choral Society, Vivaldi's
Gloria, St John's Church p26

Wed 13 Dec

Book club, De La Pole arms,
Wingfield p18

Thur 14 Dec

Hoxne Garden Club Christmas Party
& quiz HVH p27

Fri 15 Dec

A Wingfield Christmas Box WB p8

Silver & Gold concert, Eye Bach
Choir, Eye Town Hall p10

Grand Christmas Quiz SWH p12

Sat 16 Dec

Jim Causley, *A Causley Christmas* WB
p8

Sun 17 Dec

Three separate Carol Services:
Denham, Syleham, Wingfield p16

Mon 18-Fri 29 Dec

Festival of Christmas trees, Hoxne
church p6

Mon 18 Dec

Mothers' Union Mtg (*to be confirmed*)
p21

Hoxne Carol Service p16

Tue 19 Dec

Winter Coffee Morning WB p9

Wed 20 Dec

Syleham Carol Singing Choir visits p7

Sun 24 Dec

Nativity play, Denham Church p19

Tue 26 Dec-Mon 8 Jan

Christmas tree recycling HVH p7

Fri 29 Dec

Bingo SWH p12

Sun 31 Dec

Big Ant's New Year Disco SWH p13

Tue 2 Jan

Coffee & cake SWH p17

Fri 12 Jan

New Year Karaoke SWH p13

Mon 15 Jan

Mothers' Union review the year p21

Tue 16 Jan

Winter Coffee Morning WB p9
Hoxne Heritage's *The early History
of Wireless in East Anglia*, talk HVH
p27

Denham Parish Council Mtg, St John
Baptist Church, Denham p44

Thur 18 Jan

Hoxne Garden Club's *Gardening in
the Shade*, talk HVH p27

Fri 19 Jan

Quiz SWH p13

Sat 20 Jan

Jitterbugs music & dance HVH p11

Sun 21 Jan

Dick Whittington & His Cat WB p8

All Church Service dates p16-17
Mobile Library dates p43

HPP	Hoxne Playing Field & Pavilion
HVH	Hoxne Village Hall
SWH	Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall
WB	Wingfield Barns

A big thank-you to all the farmers who cut the verges for us this year.

Thur 25 Jan

Wingfield Garden Club's *Preparing for Chelsea*, talk, Brundish Village Hall p9

Fri 26 Jan

Quiz SWH p15

Sat 27 Jan

Burn's Night SWH p15

Wed 31 Jan

Wingfield Parish Council Mtg SWH p45

Sat 3 Feb

Quiz night HVH p11

Tue 13 Feb

Winter Coffee Morning WB p9

Wed 28 Feb

Syleham Parish Council Mtg SWH p45

Sat 16 Mar

WWII Event SWH p12

Tue 19 March

Winter Coffee Morning WB p9

Buy your Christmas Tree in Hoxne & support the Playing Field!

A good selection of Nordman Fir (non-drop) for sale

Saturdays and Sundays

10.00 am-12 noon:

2 & 3 December

9 & 10 December

16 & 17 December

Market House Drive
Low Street, Hoxne

Carole Smith 01379 668210



Hello to all the children of Hoxne

I will be making my special appearance in Hoxne again on Christmas morning to deliver presents, with some local elves to help with deliveries - my sack will be very full!

I expect Rudolf to land the sleigh in **Denham Road** at about **6am**, reaching **Nuttery Vale** at about **7am** and **Low Street** about **8am**.

Just in case we get lost, please can you make sure all presents are marked with your full name, address and telephone number. You can use the label below, and there are spare labels in the shop. Please remember to tell me if you have any visitors staying, so I can deliver their presents too.

My friends in the village shop are helping me, so please drop the presents off there before **18th December**.

Lots of love and Merry Christmas, from

Father Christmas



NAME..... ✂

ADDRESS:.....

POSTCODE.....

TEL. NO.....

Festival of Christmas Trees



In previous years the annual Festival of Christmas Trees in the church has been organised and overseen by the Friends of St Peter and St Paul. Although the charity has now been wound up many of us are anxious that the event should continue, and so this year we will be making some trees and decorations available for set-up on Friday/Saturday, 15th/16th December, in time for the Carol service on Monday, 18th December.

The display will continue until Friday 29th December and during this time the church will be open for viewing between 10.00am and 4.00pm. We should like all trees to be removed from the church by 30th December at the latest.

As the number of trees that we can provide is somewhat limited, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, we would encourage anyone who wishes to provide their own tree to please do so. For safety reasons the lights and decorations should be battery-powered.

The Festival of Christmas Trees has long been one of the features of the festive period in Hoxne, so please do come along on 15th/16th December to help us make this year's display one to remember.

David Hyde
davidjhyde@btopenworld.com



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info@gbkac.co.uk



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Proudly owned and run by
Sara & Don Warren

Please feel free to pop in and meet us,
we will be happy to show you around

OPENING TIMES

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

Sunday and Bank Holidays
9.00am - 12 noon



Syleham Carol Singing

Wednesday, 20th December 2023

Would you like to join us carol singing? Or would you like us to sing carols for you? We want to organise village carol singing for charity once again, on Wednesday 20th December. If you would like to sing, please let us know (tel: 669320) and come and join us at The White House Farmhouse, Whitehouse Lane, Syleham, between 6.00pm and 6.30pm for a glass of wine and something to eat before we set off.

If you would like us to come and sing carols to you, please give us a ring. Last year we raised £500 for EACH, which was fantastic.

So why not come and join us this year, or ask us to sing? We always like to welcome new people, so do get in touch; always happy to go as far as Wingfield or Weybread!!

In the letter of thanks that we received in 2022 from the East Anglian Children's Hospice, they said: "Your support is invaluable, as it enables us to continue delivering care to local families."

Jane and Adrian Knott



Real trees can be left at this site from 26th December until 6.30am, 8th January.

Trees must be less than 7' tall & must have all decorations, stands & pots removed.

Please call 03001234000 (Option 4) for further details



What's On

Wingfield Barns

A Christmas Carol: In Concert

Saturday 9th December, 7.30pm



Modern-day balladeers GreenMatthews take the well-loved festive adventure back to its Victorian fireside roots, painting a vivid and evocative picture of Dickens' world.

This unique retelling of Dickens' heart-warming tale uses an array of traditional and modern instruments and authentic musical arrangements, and brims with warmth, wit, and wonder.



A Wingfield Christmas Box

Friday 15th December, 7.30pm

An evening of festive readings and songs with Made2Measure Theatre Company.

Tickets include a minced pie and glass of mulled wine (or non-alcoholic alternative).

Jim Causley - A Causley Christmas

Saturday 16th December, 7.30pm

Join Jim in celebrating the Christmas season as he entertains you with lesser-known West Country carols, medieval and secular carols from around the British Isles, his own settings of moving Christmas poems by his relative, the late Cornish poet Charles Causley as well as a gurt dollop of festive fun with songs of over-indulgence and even a spot of panto too!

If you are feeling a little dismayed with the over-commercialisation of "Christmas present" then join Jim for a journey through Christmas past that will be guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit!

Dick Whittington & His Cat

Sunday 21st January, 3pm

Our hero arrives in London determined to seek his fortune, only to find the whole city is under threat from an army of rodents, led by the evil King Rat and Queen Rat!



Six actors play a range of characters in a show full of songs, live keyboard music, thrills, spills and fun! Join in with the songs, solve the puzzles on the way, and help Dick Whittington rid London of the rotten rats.

PUZZLE HOUSE PANTOMIMES have been playing village halls in Suffolk since 2006... and we're still using the same old jokes!

Tickets £7 Box office tel: 01379 384656

For tickets and information, please contact Wingfield Barns IP21 5RA office.manager@wingfieldbarns.co.uk

Wingfield Barns Christmas Market

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd December
10am - 3pm



Over 40 stalls of Christmas gift ideas,
crafts and toys, with entertainment,
hot food, mulled wine
free parking, £1 entry (kids free)

www.wingfieldbarns.com

01379 384505 Wingfield IP21 5RA

Now it's getting colder, the
Rural Coffee Caravan at
Castle Crescent, Wingfield
is being replaced by

Winter Coffee Mornings at Wingfield Barns

Tuesdays, 10am - 12noon

19th December,
16th January, 13th February &
19th March 2024



Pop along -
Everyone
Very
Welcome!

The Wingfield and District
Gardening Club

'Preparing for the Chelsea Flower Show'

Talk, starting at 7.30 in
Brundish Village Hall IP13 8BB

on

Thursday,
25 January 2024

with speaker
Andy Barringer



What's Love Got To Do With It?

Friday 8 December

Hoxne Village Hall

7:30pm £4.00 a ticket

Advance Bookings 01379 668060

Tickets on the door subject to availability
Bar open from 7pm and during interval
Cert 12A

Comedy romance. Zoe (Lily James) is a dating app addict but swiping right has only delivered a stream of Mr. Wrongs. Emma Thompson plays her eccentric mother.

1st Fressingfield Scout Group
Christmas Fayre

Saturday 9th December
11am-2pm

1st Fressingfield Scout HQ
Priory Road
Fressingfield
IP21 5PH




Golden Anniversary SEASON
Eye Bach Choir

Eye Bach Choir
GOLD & SILVER
ANNUAL SEASONAL CONCERT
With New Buckenham Silver Band



Friday Dec 15th, 7.30pm
Eye Town Hall, Eye, Suffolk

Golden Ticket Prize Draw
Festive drinks & mince pies
Tickets £12 each or *£20 for two
(advance bookings only)

Book via <https://eyebachchoir.co.uk/book-tickets/>
or from The Handyman Store, Eye

Eye Bach Choir is a registered charity. No: 1114948



John Doe of Diss
CHARITY & SOCIAL FUNDING

St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne

Monthly Film Nights

We were pleased to see some new faces at the October film which was *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. December's film is *What's Love Got To Do With It* (see opposite) - Friday 8th December, bar open from 7pm and during the interval. Film starts at 7.30pm. Please pre-book your tickets if possible on 01379 668060 as it helps us put out the right number of chairs.

Quizzes

We held a very successful Quiz Night in aid of Fressingfield Scouts on 7th October. The hall was full, bar was busy and a good time was had by all. Very close result with the winners only being half a point ahead!

There will be another quiz on 3rd February, this time for Hoxne Church. Look out for more details nearer the time.

Dancing

We are pleased to welcome *Jitterbugs* on Saturday 20 January. 1940s & 1950s music. £6. 8pm -12, bar will be open.

Pilates

Pilates sessions on Wednesdays 6-7pm have proved very popular and are planned to continue. For more information contact Emma on 07914 535448.

Scrap Metal

We will be having a skip at the hall for you to deposit your unwanted metal items in. Likely to be mid January - look out for posters around the hall and on our website. This will **not** be for general items.

A reminder if the clothes bank is full please do not leave items next to it as it is fly tipping and things get ruined by the weather! Kindly call the number on the bank so it can be emptied.

If you would like to discuss a celebration at the hall please contact the number/ email address below. We have three different areas that are available to hire

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20TH JAN 2024

individually or collectively so can be cosy or more spacious as you need!

Email Sally/Sharon
hoxnevhbookings@outlook.com
Phone Sharon 07876 215269
Web site: hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

AUDITIONS: HARLESTON PLAYERS

Dick Barton - Special Agent

By Phil Wilmott
based on the 1940s BBC radio serial

When Britain's entire tea supply is threatened with poisoning, Dick Barton finds himself wrapped in an adventure soaked with intrigue and mystery!

Auditions at
Jays Green Community Centre, Harleston

Sunday, 3 December 2.30-5pm
Tuesday, 5 December 7.30-10pm

Rehearsals Mondays and Thursdays,
starting 12 February.
Nine performances, in April 2024

Mary Frendo 07512 977066
marytcfrendo@hotmail.co.uk
www.harlestonplayers.co.uk

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall IP21 4LT

December events

Floristry Demonstration

We would like you to come along to an amazing Christmas inspired Floristry Demonstration on Thursday 7th December, 7 for 7.30pm, £10 to include light refreshments, + raffle where you can win one of the fabulous floral pieces made by Lyn through the evening.

Thanks to our friend, neighbour and



professional florist Lyn Curtis, for coming along and making this an event not to miss. Booking would be great, or just come along on the night!

Contact Lyn:

lynbespokeflorist@hotmail.co.uk

Or Julie: 07929794636

juliethompson435@gmail.com

Saturday Café

Saturday 9th Dec - Come and join us for Saturday Cafe from 10 'til 11.30. Just an informal drop-in event, look around your village hall, see our facilities, have a hot drink and a chat with friends, neighbours and all sorts of people you may not have met before! Representatives from Syleham parish council will also be there.

Warm Welcome

(the new name for the Warm Space initiative) continues at Syleham and Wingfield village hall - the first Tuesday morning of the month, 10 'til 11.30, for coffee and cake in association with

Syleham church, and/or the last Thursday of the month for Coffee, Craft, Chat from 1.30pm to 3pm. Come along between 8pm & 10pm on a Tuesday evening, when hot drinks and biscuits are always available as well as board games, books and chat. We had some funding from MSDC, thank you.

WWII Event

A small organising group would like to let you know about a special event that is being planned for 16th March 2024 to mark the 80th anniversary of a local WWII event, and ask you to give further suggestions.

Grand Christmas Quiz

Friday 15th Dec Grand Christmas Quiz for Friends of Harford Manor school - Come 7.30ish ready for 8pm start, ideally teams of 4, £5 per person, bar open, bring your own snacks or buy chocolate or crisps from the bar. Traditional Mars bars for the team with lowest score!



Christmas Village Hall Open

Syleham and Wingfield Sports and Social Club and the bar will be open from 8pm on **Friday 22nd Dec** (but not Sat 23rd), then **Sunday 24th Dec**.

Bingo

You still have time to join us in our fundraising for *Nelson's Journey* - we've already had a Quiz and Bingo in November, so now we're adding December's Bingo to the money raised. Come and join us on **Fri 29th Dec**, be ready to start just after 8pm, bar open, bring your own snacks or buy chocolate or crisps from the bar. Usual awful raffle prizes! Pool, board games, books available,

**Nelson's
Journey**

free wifi. *Nelson's Journey* support children and young people who have lost a significant someone.

New Year's Eve Disco

On New Year's Eve, Sun 31st Dec we have Big Ant's disco from 8pm. £5 non members, members free.

Just reminding you all that annual membership is still only £3.50 (concs £3.00)

Purple Star Karaoke

Celebrate the New Year by coming to Purple Star New Year Karaoke on Friday 12th Jan from 8pm, free entry, raffle.

Quiz Evenings

January's Quiz evening Fri 19th Jan, is for Hoxne PTA - no, of course John and I won't mention that we started the quizzes when our children were at primary school, and they are now in their 20s! As ever, come along 7.30 for 8pm, *Cont.*



John and Pam - Cheers! Prost!



Becky, Matt (alias Heineken Man) and Jenny

Oktoberfest

Well, our first attempt at an Oktoberfest was very well received - lots of visitors! Marvellous kitchen staff serving amazing bratwurst and apple strudel, among other delicacies. Several different European beers to test, background Oompah music!!! Altogether a great night, and several people came along in costume - Matt the Heineken bottle remained in costume for the whole evening!

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Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall Cont.

£5 per person, ideally teams of 4, bring your own snacks or buy crisps & chocolate from the bar. Raffle is minutely better than the Bingo raffle - Mars bars for lowest scoring team! Contact John to book 07908 222428 or come along on the night!

The quiz in January will raise funds for one of our favourite charities, *Eye Opportunity Group*. Join us on **Friday 26th January** and be ready to start just after 8pm.



Burn's Night

We hope you will be able to join us for our Burn's Night celebration on **Saturday 27th Jan** - BUT numbers are strictly limited, so please get in touch with Donna asap on 07876487294 or 01379 668361. It's a great night with traditional foods, address to the haggis and a fantastic piper!

Fantastic Craft Fair

Although the weather put off a few visitors, the Craft Fair on Saturday 4th November was a fantastic event. There were about 20 varied stalls, each

with an amazing array of beautiful items. Most stallholders were relatively local, and we were lucky enough to be treated to the company of some wonderfully talented people. The event itself raised funds for the village hall, while the payment for refreshments raised funds for Macmillan - amounting to £175. Thank you.

By the way, one of our colleagues is joining the Macmillan Mighty Hike in 2024, so this will be added to her fundraising.

Suffolk Library Service

Important news - public survey ahead of review in March 2024 -

<https://suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/shaping-the-future-of-library-services-2023>.

Thank you!

SWSSC would like to say a HUGE thank you to all our fantastic supporters, and a HUGE well done to all who have contributed to all our fundraising events over 2023! We do raise funds for village hall maintenance but also help other groups. Many locally nominated charities and good causes have benefitted from our bingo and quiz evenings, from strawberry teas, etc, etc...

Among those are *East Anglian Air Ambulance*, *Waveney Foodbank*, *Eye Opportunity Group*, *Fressingfield Thursday Toddlers*, *Red Cross Ukraine*, and many, many more!

ADVANCE NOTICE

Eastern Angles will be with us on Thursday 21st March.

Julie Thompson
Text 07929 794636
juliethompson435@gmail.com





Church News

*O hush the noise of mortal strife
and hear the angels sing!*

As we prepare for Christmas, the church's observance of the penitential season of Advent helps to remind us how far we still fall short of the message brought by the angels to the shepherds outside Bethlehem two thousand years ago: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace..." Yet today, as then, the angels still bring good news of great joy for all people. Jesus Christ is born as a human being to save the whole world from sin and death and to bring us the hope of eternal life with God. The best of all reasons to rejoice!

The Church of England's motto this Christmas is *Follow the Star: Join the Song*, and we will indeed be joining the song with our usual busy programme of carol services. The songs begin on Wednesday 6th December with a concert by the Waveney Choir at Wingfield church - see details in Wingfield's church news. On Sunday 17th December, Denham church holds a carol service at 11.00 am, Syleham church has carols with the Amici singers at 11.15 am and Wingfield church has carols by candlelight at 4.00 pm. On Monday 18th December, Hoxne church has a service of lessons and carols at 6.00pm. And don't miss our always popular Live Nativity in a stable in Denham at 3.00 pm on Christmas Eve!

As the carol says: *"For lo, the days are hast'ning on when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing."*

I wish you all a joyful and peace-filled Christmas when it comes and a very happy New Year.

Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison
Priest in Charge, Hoxne Benefice
07876 143579
eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

Church Services

Denham, Hoxne, Syleham & Wingfield

Planned church services in December/ January (changes to normal service times are shown in **bold**)

Every Saturday and Sunday:
CW Morning Prayer at 8.00 am on
facebook.com/WingfieldChurch

Every Friday: Compline at 6.00 pm on
Zoom

December 2023

Sunday 3rd December - Advent Sunday

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne

[No morning service at Wingfield]

4.00 pm Messy Church Christmas party,
Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

4.00 pm Confirmation + commissioning of
Lay Elder, Wingfield with Bishop Mike

4.00 pm Advent Carol Service,
Athelington

**Sunday 10th December -
Second Sunday of Advent**

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne

**Sunday 17th December -
Third Sunday of Advent**

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

11.00 am Carol Service, Denham

11.15 am Carol Service, Syleham

4.00 pm Carols by Candlelight, Wingfield

Monday 18th December

6.00 pm Lessons and Carols, Hoxne

**Sunday 24th December - Fourth Sunday of
Advent/Christmas Eve**

[No morning service at Syleham]

11.00 am Benefice Holy Communion,
Hoxne

3.00 pm Live Nativity, Denham

11.30 pm Midnight Service, Horham



Monday 25th December
Christmas Day

9.30 am CW Holy
Communion, Hoxne

10.00 am Christmas Celebration, Syleham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

Sunday 31st December -
First Sunday of Christmas

11.00 am Benefice Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

January 2024

Sunday 7th January - Epiphany

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

4.00 pm Messy Christingle, Syleham
church

Sunday 14th January -
Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne

Sunday 21st January -
Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

10.00 am Village Service, Syleham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

6.00 pm Evening Prayer, Wingfield

Sunday 28th January - Presentation of
Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

4.00 pm All Age service, Hoxne

Rev'd Canon Eleanor Goodison

St Margaret's, Syleham

Your parish church St Margaret's has had a varied few weeks, with Rob & Sarah's very happy wedding early in October, our harvest festival the next day and, at the Village Service the following week, a special time to light candles and pray for



the escalating situation in Israel and Gaza.

Our Carol Service will be on Sunday 17th December at 11.15am with input from the popular Amici choir: always special, and this year an excellent opportunity to see the transformation achieved by the new church lighting.

Our Christmas theme this year will be 'Follow the star'. Look out for simple star templates enclosed with your Village Voice - for you or your children to decorate any way you wish: we would love you to put the large one in your window and perhaps bring the smaller one to church to hang on our Christmas tree.



There is at last sight of progress on the masonry repairs needed and a contractor has been appointed. Donations at our Carol Service will be put towards the funds required and we have plans for further fund-raising next year.

Churchyard. Our thanks to the people who have volunteered to help with conservation of the protected areas. The cut was delayed by bad weather but will happen, with thanks to Sarah Buckley who is organising this. A comprehensive plan of the churchyard and its graves is almost completed: a copy will be available in the church and should help to identify existing graves and to assist anyone wishing to reserve a plot.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning held on 3rd October once again, raised £400 for the support of cancer sufferers and their carers - thank you to all who supported. **Coffee & Cake** will be in its usual format on 5th December and 2nd January, from 10am - 11.30am.

St Margaret's remains open daily and the church and environment provide a welcome place of tranquility; visitors' comments show how much it is appreciated.

Contact for all above:
mary.lewis43@icloud.com
01379 669258/07775 732259

St Andrew's, Wingfield

December is full of activity at Wingfield. As well as the Wingfield Barns Christmas Market on 2nd/3rd December, we are

Cont.

GRAHAM BORRILL

★

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welcoming Bishop Mike, the Bishop of Dunwich, at 4.00 pm on Sunday 3rd for a service of confirmation with the commissioning of a new Lay Elder. Everyone is welcome to come along. Because of the confirmation service in the afternoon, there will be no service in the morning that day.

Then we are excited that on Wednesday 6th December the Waveney Choir will be giving a Christmas concert at St Andrew's, Wingfield at 7.00 pm. There will be carols old and new and a few jolly items too. Refreshments will also be available. No need to book - just turn up. Donations of £10 invited.

Our Book Club continues with a meeting on Wednesday 13th December when we will discuss *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevenne* by Robert Louis Stevenson - 6.00pm at the De La Pole Arms as usual.

Our annual Carols by Candlelight are at 4.00 pm on Sunday 17th December, with mulled wine and mince pies at Wingfield College afterwards, courtesy of Tom and Hester Grant.

Sadly, we have lost Hilda Walker from Wingfield and her funeral took place on 7th November. She was a lively member of the community, particularly known for her knitting, much of which she donated to charitable causes. She will be very much missed.

Revd Canon Eleanor Godison

St John's, Denham

Our faculty for new radiant electric heaters and for a window in the porch to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II has now been granted and we hope that work on both projects can start very soon. The new heaters will be both more efficient and more climate-friendly.

Our thoughts now start to turn towards Christmas celebrations and we are looking forward to our Carol Service at our normal time of 11.00 am on Sunday 17th December and to the Live Nativity at 3.00 pm on Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December. Look out for posters with more details or contact Revd Eleanor Goodison to check nearer the time.



We are seeking people who would be willing to help organise the Live Nativity this year in Denham and/or take part! If you could contribute, please contact Revd Eleanor. Baby Jesus has been cast but there are opportunities for any children who would like to play angels or shepherds.

The collection (as usual) will be for the Children's Society.

On Christmas Eve at 11am there will be a Benefice Service at Hoxne church.

On Christmas Day there will be a service at 9.30am.

In these difficult times, let us have a joyful and happy Christmas.

Guy McGregor, Church Warden

Friends of St Peter & St Paul

On the 31st October we had a communication from the Charity Commission confirming that the Friends charity had been removed from the Central Register of Charities.

Prior to receiving this communication we had written to ex-members, however we are aware that since our last collection of subscriptions in 2022 some may have changed address or passed away so they may have not seen the letter.

This is the letter that was sent:

Dear Friend,

As you may be aware, at our Annual General Meeting last April the decision was taken, albeit reluctantly, to wind up the Friends of St Peter and St Paul's Church Hoxne.

Declining membership and more importantly the difficulty in attracting new committee members who form the hard core of any charitable organisation forced us to take this very difficult decision.

Cont.

St Peter & St Paul, Hoxne

The Hoxne Church Village Fair took place on the 25 November. The Hoxne PCC is very grateful to all who came to the village hall whether they were stallholders, helpers, or those who came for the lunch and company and for those who patronised the stalls. This is a vital event for our church and it enables us to maintain friendships and raise funds to maintain the mission in the parish and via our quota (this year £9,800.00) support our priests and our diocese.

I confirm that the new lavatory (located outside the North Door) is now fully operational.

The PCC is now giving more attention to the restoration of the bells project. Informal discussions have taken place with the interested and statutory parties. The responses have all been positive. This project is dependent on securing a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The initial enquiry indicates that the HLF would not support "new work" and prefer "conservation work". As a consequence, the PCC will be recommended to concentrate on the restoration of the existing church bells and provide for the new set to be rung from the floor of the tower.

On 5th December the *Little Lambs* will be holding a Crib Service in the church. All under 5s and their carers are most welcome. Please bring a packed lunch.

The Carol Service will be held in the church from 6pm on the 18 December.

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Originating from a small group of dedicated fund-raisers, the Friends became a registered charity in February 1987 and in the years that followed we have been able to raise in excess of £200,000 to assist with the maintenance of the fabric of the church. This has only been possible through the invaluable support we have received from our members.

Sadly however, on September 29th all formal activity ceased and our remaining funds have been transferred to the Parochial Church Council fabric account in order that we can continue to support the maintenance and upkeep of St Peter and St Paul.

Hopefully this is not the end however, as we intend to hold some fund-raising activities from time to time and our regular coffee mornings/book sales will continue at least during the spring, summer and autumn months when the warmer weather prevails.

If we may we will keep in touch, but in the meantime on behalf of the trustees of the Friends it's time for us to thank you wholeheartedly for your support in all its various forms down the years.

*Debbie Hooker, Secretary
David Hyde, Treasurer*

Mothers' Union

The Hoxne Mothers' Union Fellowship Group meets on the third Monday of the month at 2.30pm at Time House, Low Street, Hoxne.

Monday 18th December - meeting to be confirmed.

Monday 15th January - meeting to review the year.

Our NSA morning in September was well

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attended when the Rev Enid Pow gave us a fascinating insight into her work with Inuit Indians in the Canadian Arctic Circle.

The North Suffolk Area annual *I-Chameleon* pop-up shop at Halesworth was a great success, with over £2000 raised. Funds will be used to buy gift vouchers for the Women's Refuge in Ipswich and support the Night Shelter for the homeless and other projects,

New members are always welcome at our Fellowship Group.

Cathie McGregor
Group Leader 01379 668434

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride

A big thank you to all the participants and recorders who gallantly braved the scorching weather to support this year's Ride and Stride event on Saturday 9th September. This year we managed to raise £405 for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, half of which will be received by St Peter and St Paul Hoxne. This is an improvement on last year and we look forward to continuing the trend next year.



David Hyde, Local Organiser



Wendy's house blew into Hoxne's Harvest Breakfast in September, along with the wonderful Wizard of Oz & friends



Hoxne's Harvest Breakfast

Despite the weather not being typical of most of our Harvest Breakfast events over the years, yet again we had an amazing turnout by our lovely villagers, their families, friends and dogs. The small amount of rain didn't deter, and most certainly didn't drive everyone away.

This year's waiter theme was a lot of hard work, but I think you would agree that the waiters followed the yellow brick road to see the wonderful wizard of Oz!

I would like to thank so very much the helpful people who turned up to make the event fantastic. We had many new faces this year, which are a welcome asset to the helpers of old.

I have to say a very special thank you to Deaglan Hall for the donation of 100 delicious sausages, Alan from Pakenham Mill for the porridge oats and finally thanks to Rob and Jacqui who donated £40 as they couldn't join us this year.

Alan Garnham of Waveney Tree Specialists for transportation of the tables and chairs, cheers Alan.

And a massive thank you to Carole and Alan for all of the breakfasts over the years.

Proceeds go to the Playing Field Pavilion and St Edmund's Hall.

Gill Short

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2023 and the Maynard's Trust

Two Trustees are appointed by St Edmund's Primary School, two Trustees by the Parish Council and one Trustee from the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul with St Edmund, Hoxne. We meet quarterly to consider grant applications for a wide range of educational purposes for people living in Hoxne of all ages and backgrounds. Applications are not means tested.

The Trust has granted over £2000 since January 2023 towards a variety of educational causes for people who live within Hoxne. This includes school trips, laptops for specific needs, coaching, tutoring, and support for older members of Hoxne updating computer skills. As the 2022-23 contribution to the school, we donated £300 towards the provision of a sensory space for pupils at St Edmund's primary school.

The Trust is there to be used. Its funds are available to all who live in Hoxne, irrespective of age. The deadline for receipt of applications to the Maynard Trust:

31st December 2023

for the January 2024 Trust meeting

Just write or email (preferably the applicant rather than a parent or guardian) to:

Amanda Jones (Administrator)
Claret Cottage
Cross Street,
Hoxne, IP21 5AJ

Tel: 07758 078754

Email: marmite1518@gmail.com

STORM BABET

Low Street,
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Friday,
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2023

For help and
information about
flooding, please see
page 42.

There is also a report
from Hoxne Parish
Council on page 44.

Photos:
Cathie McGregor





The Swan Inn's lawn



Tilly and Daisy wade through the flood



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Harleston Choral Society

Christmas Concert - Vivaldi's Gloria

Come and celebrate our Christmas Concert with us on **Saturday 9 December** at 7.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ. We're singing Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Christmas music including pieces by Saint Saens, Holst, Whitacre, Rutter, Berlioz and Drake, under the baton of our Music Director Justin Bindley, and with soloists Jo Westaway and Joanna Gamble. There will be carols for you to sing with us too!

Tickets £15, including wine or fruit juice and a mince pie. Accompanied children free. Available from choir members, on the door on the night, or from Harleston Information Plus.

Summer Concert Rehearsals

Our Spring Term begins on **Monday 8 January 2024**, so please come and sing with us - we'll be rehearsing for our Summer Concert on 29 June 2024. There are no auditions, and music is provided free.

Practices are on a Monday evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm, in The London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH. Parking is available in The Original Factory Shop, almost opposite the church.

Further details about the choir are in the **Location, Contact and About Us** sections of our website: www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk or from Stella Brownsea (Chair) at heidihouse@btinternet.com



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Hoxne Garden & Social Club

As the weather influences so much in terms of how our gardens flourish, it is hard not to make my article more like a weather report than a Garden Club report. And the weather has certainly been much on our minds of late, with the recent torrential rain and consequent flooding. Due to the high rainfall and above average temperatures, many plants are still flowering but on the flipside some have yet to set seed and probably won't before the first frost.

The Garden Club had two very informative talks in September and October and both were very well attended by members.

Our talk in September from Janina Lilykete Jones was about composting, specifically a method of producing good quality, nutritionally-balanced compost in a relatively short period.



In October, local entomologist Ian Bedford's talk entitled Bugs - Cohabit, Conserve or Control was very thought-provoking, making many of us think again about using pesticides and artificial fertilisers in our gardens.

We will be wreath-making with Gabriel's Garden in November and then on December 14th (this has been changed from Thursday 21st December) we have our Christmas party with a quiz. There will be a limit of six members per team for the quiz. The party will start promptly at 7.30pm so we will ask members to arrive at 7.15pm. The bar will be open in the village hall and we ask members to bring a dish to share. We hope you can make it.

Our first talk of 2024 will be on January 18th when Jim Paine will be talking about *Gardening in the Shade*.

Jeanette Lerwill
jeanette@lerwill.com



Hoxne Heritage Group hoxnehistory.org.uk

The Heritage Group continues to meet monthly and on November 28th we presented a talk at Hoxne Village Hall by Ben Patterson; titled "*The work of the Suffolk Mills Group*". This copy had to be in before the talk took place but from interest shown I am sure it was well attended.

On Tuesday 19th December members will meet at The Swan in Hoxne at 7.30pm for our annual Christmas meal and to mull over the past year. It has been a good year for the group with some interesting talks at the village hall and meetings at The Swan where members chat, plan events, discuss all things related to the history of Hoxne and surrounding villages and enjoy a series of additional mini talks. Check us out at www.hoxnehistory.org.uk - you may like to join us.

On Tuesday 16th of January we are back at Hoxne village hall for an interesting talk by Graham Moore on "*The early History of Wireless in East Anglia*". Graham is a trustee of Waveney Heritage Centre in Brockdish and heads up Waveney Wireless and the Wireless Museum to be found upstairs at the Centre.

The museum has an ever-changing selection of vintage radios and ephemera on display - many are working! Graham's talk will encompass wireless history from the early crystal sets to more ambitious valve descendants; it will include some interesting and local exhibits from the museum's collection (*Also see p31*).



As usual, this talk will start at 7.30pm and will cost £5 at the door (£4 for Hoxne Heritage Group members), the bar will be open from 7pm and all members of the public are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

Rob Hooker
Publicity Officer, hoxnehistory.org.uk

Jean Chapman obituary

Jean Harriett Chapman, formerly of Hoxne, passed away at home in Dickleburgh on 2nd September.

Jean was born in May 1936 in Farnham, Surrey, the eldest of five brothers and one sister.

As a young woman, Jean left her home and family to train as a cook in a children's hospital in London. Through a blind date, she met John and they were married in May 1955.

Three children and 18 years later, the Chapman family came to Hoxne where they took over what is now the shop and post office.

Both Jean and John played a very active role in village and church life, immersing themselves in many community activities and events with Jean making full use of her catering skills.

Jean was a very creative person, who enjoyed cooking, baking, embroidery and sewing. She also loved her garden,

taking pleasure in colourful flowers and growing veg. Jean was also a very talented artist and has left many paintings as her legacy.

Reading was another of Jean's passions, enjoyed from a young age - among her favourite subjects were historical fiction and poetry.



Family played a very important part in Jean's life, with a truly inspirational 68 years' marriage to John. Their three children are Mike, Paul and myself who, with partners Mel, Fiona and Simon, had six doting grandchildren - Chris, James, Frances, Alex, Elle and Maya. Jean was greatly involved in their care. Later came four great grandchildren - Gracie, Harriet, Poppy and Lana. They were all a great delight in both Jean and John's lives.

John and all the family would like to say thank you to everyone for the cards and kind thoughts that they received. The packed church at Jean's thanksgiving service on September 29th was a true testament to the much loved, highly respected, wonderful woman she was.

Sue Fulcher



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Hoxne Playing Field & Pavilion

Hoxne playing field and pavilion now has additional facilities to benefit villagers and visitors.

There is a bottle bank, two electric vehicle charging points and a defibrillator. Also new signage has been erected so people are aware of what is available.

The Hoxne playing field committee have also emphasised that since they are responsible for the children's play area, and sports field, there is a strict rule that no dogs are

allowed either outside or inside the pavilion.

Visitors attending events, or purchasing their weekly fish and chips, are encouraged to either leave their dogs at home or in a vehicle while they are being served.

Stuart Jarrold



Hoxne Phoenix Group

Shanty Folk

After many weeks of preparation, the evening had come - on 12th September we welcomed 100 guests to the village hall for a fund-raising evening for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. Our entertainment was provided by *Shanty Folk* from villages in the Lavenham area, who give much of their time volunteering for this very worthwhile cause. After introducing themselves they performed for 45 minutes, delighting the audience.

We had set out food, beautifully prepared by our members for the interval, with wine and soft drinks. Raffle tickets were on sale, with generously donated prizes.

After the break the music continued, the audience joining in with singing and laughter. A very happy evening. The next day an email arrived to say that £409 had been raised for the RNLi.

The River Deben

October brought us a visit from an old friend, Mark Mitchels. Formerly a teacher at Woodbridge School, after retirement Mark gained a reputation as a speaker. We have been lucky enough to welcome him several times to speak at our meetings, on varying subjects such as *The Hoxne Hoard*, *Charles Dickens*, and on this occasion *The River Deben*.

Mark took us through the centuries along this beautiful waterway from Debenham to Woodbridge, with stories of murdered vicars, wealthy landowners, boat-building and places of burial such as Sutton Hoo - illustrated with beautiful photographs. We regret we will not see Mark again as he is moving to Devon, but will remember his visits over the years.

In December we have a games evening planned, with festive mulled wine.



A Handsome Little Town

Adrian Tindall's talk in January is about Bury St Edmunds.

Jenny Looome
Jenny.loome@btinternet.com

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Waveney Heritage Centre

www.waveneyheritage.com

As we near the end of the year it is a time to reflect on what the Centre has achieved over the last twelve months, and what we hope to achieve in the next twelve months.

Waveney Heritage Centre continues to offer a regular programme of talks on a wide variety of subjects - *The Work of Bletchley Park During World War Two, A Closer Look at Mediaeval Church Woodcarvings, The Early Days of Radio Broadcasting, and Remembering Diss Picture House.*

The Centre now has a 'Waveney Trail' - museums along the Waveney valley are marked on a trail map, obtained from the Centre. The map includes our own Wireless (Radio) museum, with its 1930s themed living room and room of memories.

We continue to expand our collection of vintage wireesses and other vintage audio equipment - reel-to-reel tape recorders, wind-up gramophones and radiograms. We also have a collection of 78rpm records, played on most open days.

We have had new additions to the Centre this year - an Art Deco piano, 1930s HMV radiogram and electric fire manufactured in Norwich, together with toys and other artefacts to provoke distant childhood memories.

In the coming year we hope to develop the archives, and make them more widely available for those doing local history research.

All our museum areas are open during the winter months on the last Sunday of the month. The inclusive entrance fee to all museum areas is £3.

We are constantly on the lookout for new volunteers who could help our small but dedicated band of helpers. Those with skills needed to repair radios and audio equipment are especially needed.

Chris Parkin

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Doreen Weller obituary

Long-time Hoxne resident, Doreen Weller, died just a few weeks short of her 99th birthday. There were those among her friends who believed that Doreen, being resolute by nature, would make it to 100 but it was not to be. Even so, 98 was a remarkable achievement and marked a life that covered twists and turns through illness and war before arriving, with her husband David, in Hoxne in the late 1950s.

Born in Alverstoke, Hampshire in 1924, Doreen's early life began well in a house with a maid, a father who owned a garage, and a start to education in a private school. When only seven, all things changed when her parents divorced and she moved to live with her grandfather.

At 12, Doreen and her mother settled in Dulwich and education continued at a day school, prematurely ended by rheumatic fever and a long period of recovery.

Secretarial training at Pitman's College prepared her for working life as the Second World War came. It was during the first years of the war that she met and married David, who was in the Army serving on home soil due to health reasons. There was a close call with a bomb; rehousing and six weeks of caring for a neighbour's baby boy while his mother was in hospital. It was, she later admitted, among the hardest six weeks of her life.

That life continued in Nunhead, south London, after the war with David running a successful business selling office equipment. Then another illness - possibly polio - caused loss of use in her left leg and arm; hard work and determination resulted in recovery.

Weekend trips to the countryside led to

the purchase of a small (two up and two down) cottage at Bardwell in Suffolk in the year of the late Queen's coronation, 1953. Limitations with the cottage (no piped water or connected sewer) resulted in a move to Hoxne to a cottage in the lane opposite the Swan Inn.

The call of the countryside grew stronger and Doreen and David moved across the lane to Bridge Farm where Doreen kept cats, dogs, chickens, sheep, rabbits and pigs while David continued to restore and sell antique furniture - previously having a shop in Market Hill, Diss.

Doreen immersed herself in many aspects of village life, contributing to Meals on Wheels, the Women's Institute becoming the Hoxne Phoenix Group and the Hoxne Theatre Club - accompanied by a wide circle of friends with frequent 'social gatherings' and parties in the barn.

David died in 2003 and Doreen's last years were spent in the considerate care of Hartismere Place, Eye. Although deteriorating health

limited her in a way she would not have wished, this was a long life lived, from the beginning, with purpose.

Her funeral was at Hoxne Church on 26 July.

Brian Chester





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St Edmund's Primary School

This new Academic Year has started positively at St Edmund's Primary School. Our new School Culture has quickly become embedded with all stakeholders. It focuses on three key statements. We have created a whole school display for all pupils to view.

We have led Whole School Assemblies as well as having discussions in class about the meanings of these statements.

Staff are using these in lessons to ensure that all pupils are fully aware of the importance we are placing on these. Already we have seen the pupils much more focused on learning in this first half term.

In our Year 5 and 6 classes we also have 'Culture Creators'. These are pupils who are appointed by their class teachers to reward those children at playtimes and lunchtimes who are



displaying our new School Culture. Lots of stickers have already been given out!

In the first of our 'Discover More with Mr Lea' sessions our new culture was shared with all of our families. Parents commented that their children are already using these words at home. These sessions were well attended, and we have more planned throughout the year focusing on different aspects of school life.

This half term has already shown how collaborative we can be. Collaborative is one of our Learning Characteristics developed by our Trust, the Consortium Trust. We intend to continue to strengthen our partnership in the future by creating further opportunities for our families to engage with us.

Simon Lea, Academy Head



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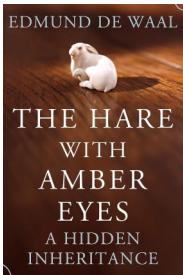
Book Club Review

The Hare with Amber Eyes

by Edmund de Waal

This family memoir follows the history of de Waal's Ephrussi Jewish family, and the 264 Japanese netsuke passed down through the family. Originally carved in ivory or wood, these beautiful and precious little figures were attached to little carrying boxes tied to a kimono belt, or obi.

We discussed what we liked and disliked about the book. The story was intricate, enjoyed for its various storylines.



De Waal, a potter since he was quite young, studied under the renowned potter Bernard Leach. De Waal's pottery is very highly collected by rich followers of his work and also collected by museums.

He also worked with Japanese potters and in 1991 was given a scholarship to study Japanese at an English University. This was followed by a year in Tokyo, then recovering from the crash of the bubble economy of the 1980s.

After World War II the Ephrussi family faced the loss of their banking empire.

Another element was The Anschluss, when Austria was annexed to Nazi Germany; the book detailed some of the atrocities perpetrated on Jews at that time.

We discussed what the hare symbolised, Aesop's fable of the Hare and the Tortoise and the race that the hare lost - by stopping for a nap. The hare has a symbolic meaning of charity and longevity - slow and steady wins the race.

There are many topics covered in this book, each one of interest for discussion. It was appreciated for its history, and the different story lines weaved through the book.

Gloria Bell

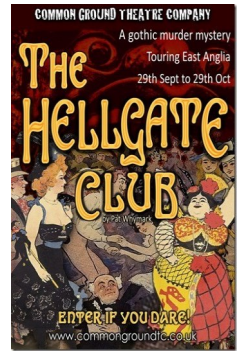
Theatre Review

The Helgate Club

Common Ground Theatre Company

We were invited by friends to go to see *The Helgate Club* at Wingfield Barns. Never having been to Wingfield Barns before and not knowing quite what to expect, we were pleasantly surprised.

The Theatre is small and intimate and we were so close to the performers you felt immediately involved. It was a small cast of four with excellent portrayals of Clara Popelin (Bernadette Moran), Celine de Pougy/Marie Popelin (Susie Barrett), Inspector Telier/Baron von Ditton (Julian Harries) and Sergeant Aveline/Paul Popelin (Ben Elder). The writer, director and composer was Pat Whymark, who accompanied the play on her guitar from the sidelines.



The play is a gothic murder mystery set in Paris in 1905 and there is live music throughout in the style of the period, with some amusing dialogue.

Inspector Telier begins to investigate a series of strange happenings where several men have disappeared. He begins to interview local proprietors and the staff of local clubs and bars, amongst them the Popelin family. The cast doubled up on characters and all the costume changes blended in seamlessly. All of the cast had excellent singing voices, as well as superb acting skills, and they all played a variety of musical instruments. The whole performance was to a very high standard.

We really enjoyed the performance and can thoroughly recommend the Common Ground Theatre Company. We look forward to seeing more of their productions in the near future.

Jenny Burton



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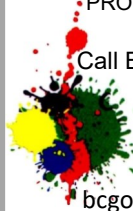
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Fressingfield Scouts

The start of term has been busy for all Sections with Beavers tying knots then making slime and Tigers Cubs using paracord and knotting skills to make craft items to sell for fundraising. Wolves Cubs learned about bandaging and how to deal with choking at a First Aid session. Squirrels learnt about the five senses, then experimented with kitchen cupboard ingredients for the Exciting Experiments Badge.

At separate District wide activity days Beavers spent a full Saturday at Flixton Air Museum learning about flight and checking out the exhibits and Squirrels joined four other Squirrel Dreys at our HQ for a day of sticker archery, pumpkin carving, model building, assault course tackling, fire lighting and marshmallow toasting.

Tigers Cubs have all lit a fire, done some backwoods cooking in foil and had a visit from a Hedgehog Rescue Centre. Wolves Cubs have been out on an Incident Hike, learned knot tying, are working towards the Digital Badge and visited Pets at Home to learn about pet care.

The Explorers had an evening air rifle shooting on our range and have started some sessions on engineering courtesy of Cowham's Car and Commercial garage workshop. They also enjoyed a pre-Halloween visit to Scaresville.

Pioneer Troop Scouts had a session with the Explorer Kenya team which was followed by a presentation from former



Breakfast in the Middle of Nowhere camp

member Eammon Andrews talking about his trip to Italy with Scouts in 1973. This was attended by Scout Leader at the time, Stewart Cousins.



Squirrels' Exciting Experiments

Further afield Explorers attended the Norfolk Scouts Explorer 24 event where they tried a wide range of activities. This included midnight kayaking, climbing, archery, craft activities and a disco, in a continuous 24 hours of activity followed by a sleep in the minibus on the way home!

Pioneer Troop Scouts had two small weekend Middle of Nowhere camps for the older members away from toilets, roads, taps and electricity. They camped in bivouacs that they built, cut firewood, skinned, butchered and casseroleed a small deer, cooked on fires and explored the area assessing potential campsites. These camps for older members gave the opportunity to learn some different camping skills and to work in small teams. Thank you to the farmers for accommodating us, and friend of Scouting Michael for the butchery sessions.

Our fundraising quiz in Hoxne was very successful with a full village hall and over £700 raised for the Group. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the evening, either by supporting the organisation or as a participant.

Our annual Santa Run will be back again on Saturday 9th December, this year with a Christmas Fayre from 11am to 3pm (see poster on page 10).

The Santa Run starts at 11am so Santas and Festive Characters should arrive by 10.45am. Entry to the run is £5 per person (under 5s no charge). There will be refreshments on sale at the Scout HQ.



To find out about Fressingfield Scout Group look at the website www.fressingfieldscouts.com or speak to any Leader.

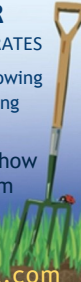
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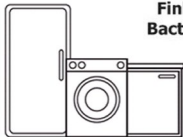
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New Reeding Woods, Denham

Autumn colour seems to be late this year. A few trees are showing good colours, possibly those that got an early start this spring. Others are still green after a late spring and a mixed, largely dry summer.



Rosehips

The recent rain has restored the water level in the pond although the rides are now wet and muddy. A closer look as I walked the wood showed that autumn colour was all around. The rose hips by the entrance are a blaze of scarlet with the haws in the hedges a richer red. The Gelderland rose leaves were turning colour and the berries glowed in the sun providing food for the birds.



Alder catkins

Sloes are abundant this year and their deep purple colour was echoed by the purple catkins on the alders by the pond.



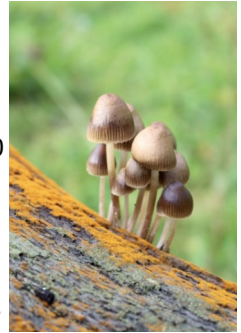
Michael Reeves

The log at the edge of the meadow was covered in golden lichen and a cluster of delicately ribbed fungi. The medlars are covered with golden fruit nearby. A walk around

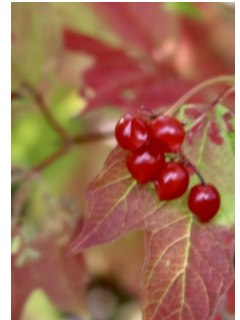
the woods always has colour and interest and I felt better for a visit.

The wood and meadow are maturing, having been established over 20 years ago. Recently one of the founder members Michael Reeves died. Together with his wife Margaret, he helped to

establish the woods, clearing ground and helping plant the meadow and trees. We will miss him when we meet up at the woods to work. The beauty found at the wood stand as tribute to all the hard work and determination put in to set it up.



Lichen & fungi



Gelderland rose berries

Work at the woods will now largely wait until spring and drier days, when we will replace the noticeboard and information board.

If you are interested in joining us and getting hands-on experience of improving our local environment and enjoying outdoor activities, please contact our secretary:

Peny Conway, 07495 875299



Medlars

Help with Flood Damage to homes and/or businesses

Residents or businesses who have experienced flood-related damage are being asked to report this online via the Highways Reporting Tool, available on:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/ReportFlood.

How to use the Reporting Tool:

Click on - **Report It**
Then click - **Drainage and Flooding** and select the most appropriate drop-down option. Please include as much information as you have; there is also an option to upload photos.

What if I can't report online?

A family member/friend could report online on your behalf, or if you do not have access to the internet, you should call the SCC customer service number: **0345 606 6171**.

Government Support

On 25th October, the Government announced funding to help communities recover from the impact of Storm Babet.

- Flooded households in affected areas can apply for up to £500 to give cash quickly to help with immediate costs.
- Households and businesses significantly affected by recent flooding will be eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least three months.
- Small-to-medium sized businesses in affected areas will be eligible for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant to help them return quickly to business as usual.
- Eligible flood-hit property owners will be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to

future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.

Eligibility

The support will be made available through a scheme known as the Flood Recovery Framework. Details are still awaited from the government. In the meantime, it is essential that if you, or your business, suffered significant flood related damage, you report this online via the Highways Reporting Tool on:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/ReportFlood

You can read more on the GOV.uk website:

www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-support-for-flood-hit-areas

Residents are encouraged to report any issues with the roads online via the Highways Reporting Tool: <http://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Do not report a highways problem online if:

- it poses an immediate danger to public safety - call 0345 606 6171.
- it is on a **trunk road** in Suffolk - call the National Highways Information Line on 0300 123 5000.

More information about Storm Babet is available on the Suffolk County Council website:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/stormbabet

*Matthew Hicks
Leader of Suffolk County Council
County Councillor for the Thredling
Division*

*Tel : 01728 628176
matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk
Twitter: @HicksCllr*

See also the Reporting Flood Damage report on the Hoxne Parish Council website:

www.hoxne.onesuffolk.net

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Unfortunately Hoxne will no longer have visits from the mobile library, as there were three consecutive visits with no customers. The library will now stop at Brome & Oakley Village Hall instead - see times below.

If there are people in Hoxne who would use the service regularly, please let me know and we will look to reinstate the visits.

Amanda King, Executive Library Manager, Suffolk Libraries Tel 01986 892748

Denham & Wingfield Calling every 4 weeks on **Thursdays**

Next stops: **14 December 2023 and 11 January 2024**

Wingfield, Vicarage Road layby (near Church Road): 10.50-11.05am

Denham post box: 11.25-11.35am

Syleham, Brome & Oakley Calling every 4 weeks on **Tuesdays**

Next stops: **12 December and 10 January**

Syleham, Wingfield Road (Junction with Weybread Road): 11.45-11.55am

Brome & Oakley village hall: 12.15-12.30pm

MID SUFFOLK Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2023-24

	Usual collection date	Amended collection date	Change
Refuse	Monday 25 December 2023	Wednesday 27 December 2023	2 days later
	Tuesday 26 December 2023	Thursday 28 December 2023	2 days later
	Wednesday 27 December 2023	Friday 29 December 2023	2 days later
	Thursday 28 December 2023	Saturday 30 December 2023	2 days later
	Friday 29 December 2023	Tuesday 2 January 2024	4 days later
Recycling	Monday 1 January 2024	Wednesday 3 January 2024	2 days later
	Tuesday 2 January 2024	Thursday 4 January 2024	2 days later
	Wednesday 3 January 2024	Friday 5 January 2024	2 days later
	Thursday 4 January 2024	Saturday 6 January 2024	2 days later
	Friday 5 January 2024	Monday 8 January 2024	3 days later
Refuse	Monday 8 January 2024	Tuesday 9 January 2024	1 day later
	Tuesday 9 January 2024	Wednesday 10 January 2024	1 day later
	Wednesday 10 January 2024	Thursday 11 January 2024	1 day later
	Thursday 11 January 2024	Friday 12 January 2024	1 day later
	Friday 12 January 2024	Saturday 13 January 2024	1 day later

From Monday 15 January 2024, collections return to the normal refuse and recycling collection schedule.

Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

Following on from our report in the last edition of the Village Voice, I'm please to let you know that work has commenced at the village hall and is progressing well. We hope to welcome people to the hall early next year.

The next Parish Council meeting is on **16th January 2024** at 7:30 pm at St John Baptist Church, Denham, unless the village hall is complete then we will be holding the meeting there. Check the noticeboard for the agenda. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*Wendy Alcock
Parish Clerk*

Hoxne

As this report is being written, Hoxne Parish Council is due to have its monthly meeting at which the effects of the severe flooding that affected much of Suffolk, including Hoxne, will be discussed. Flooding was widespread with many homes affected, particularly around the bottom of Abbey Hill, around the Swan pub and Nuttery Vale. The Parish Council has virtually no powers when it comes to flood prevention - that responsibility lies with the Environment Agency and the County Council. Previously the Parish Council has not acted when any flooding in the village has taken place. However, with the frequency of flooding in Hoxne likely to increase then the Parish Council may have to look at measures which may not stop the flooding but at least try and mitigate the worst effects of it. The Parish Council is already endeavouring to work more closely with those agencies that do have the powers and responsibility for flood prevention and alleviation. Watch this space.

It was hoped to have at least one of the new noticeboards up by now on Low Street, however it seems they have to be erected by someone with the correct qualifications. Therefore the noticeboard, along with the proposed 'entrance gates' to the Green Street part of the village, will be put in place by a qualified highways technician.

In order to support some of the work of Suffolk Highways, two of your councillors have volunteered to undertake the Highways Ranger qualification. If any parishioners are also interested in doing this, which will enable minor works such as hedge and vegetation cutting, road sign cleaning and footway skirting to take place, please get in touch with the Parish Council.

A meeting was held one morning on Green Street by your councillors with the Police Crime Commissioner, along with two senior officers responsible for road law enforcement and the community traffic engineer from Suffolk County Council. The meeting was also joined by some of the residents of Green Street to air their complaints about speeding traffic and the volume of heavy lorries. It was fortunate that at first hand, all there were able to witness two large lorries attempting to pass each other on Green Street necessitating one of the lorries having to mount the pavement. An illegal act. The police promised to increase their presence on Green Street, particularly now that more HGVs were using the B1118 as a result of the HGV ban in Eye. The County Council is also undertaking its own survey of traffic volume and speed, not only on Green Street but also on the Eye Road and Low Street. Realistic proposals were identified for more effectively managing traffic throughout Hoxne and implementation of these will depend on the County Council traffic survey and of course money. Again, watch this space. The Parish Council remains keen to hear from any parishioners who would be interested in running a Community Speedwatch Scheme.

On behalf of all of the Parish Council, I wish you a pleasant Christmas break and a happy and healthy new year.

Chris Parkin
Chairman, Hoxne Parish Council

Wingfield



Chairman: Lee Smith

We hope you all had a good summer. Since we last reported, the Parish Council has held two meetings. On 6th September we welcomed Melanie Murray to the Council replacing Rosemary Elliott, who served the community for over 10 years. In recognition of her service the Council has complied with her wish for a new *smiley face* speed sign at the entrance to the village. It is already showing an improvement to driving behaviour. So thank you Rosemary, and a happy retirement.

On 1st November we had our second meeting at which we planned the urgent work required at Low Road, the launch of Wingfield Oral History and an update on the sheep on Wingfield Green.

The annual patching of the Low Road surface always fails. When it rains it is washed away leaving the original pot-holes. It needs a comprehensive repair involving a new drainage system. We will take this up with Suffolk Highways.

The Oral History programme involves new signage for historical sites around the village eg Nanny Bradshaw's on Top Road, after Cone Tree Nursery - once the site of the home of a village character before the war.

The sheep on the Green have been a great success. The flock has been expanded, the ragwort has been removed and we no longer have to mow

the grass. All we have to do now is cut back the brambles that are encroaching on the Green.

Our next meeting takes place on 31st January 2024 at the Village Hall. An agenda will be posted on the notice-board. Please come along with your ideas.

Syleham



Chairman: Malcolm Flounders

The Parish Council started the year with a commitment to work in partnership with other organisations in the village, particularly the Village Hall Committee.

The Queen's Jubilee and Coronation parties and the new playground equipment on J's Meadow have been successful products of this association.

It does not stop there. At our last meeting, held on 4th October, the Parish Council agreed to extend this association with the erection of a village sign at the Village Hall car park entrance. The plan is to use our windmill logo as the centrepiece and Syleham facts reproduced on the support post ie, Syleham - a Waveney Valley Village, population, elevation, and acreage.

We are also working with the Village Hall on the memorial for the Lancaster bomber that crashed in Syleham in 1944 and flood prevention measures. Sand will be made available at the hall car park for residents to fill sandbags.

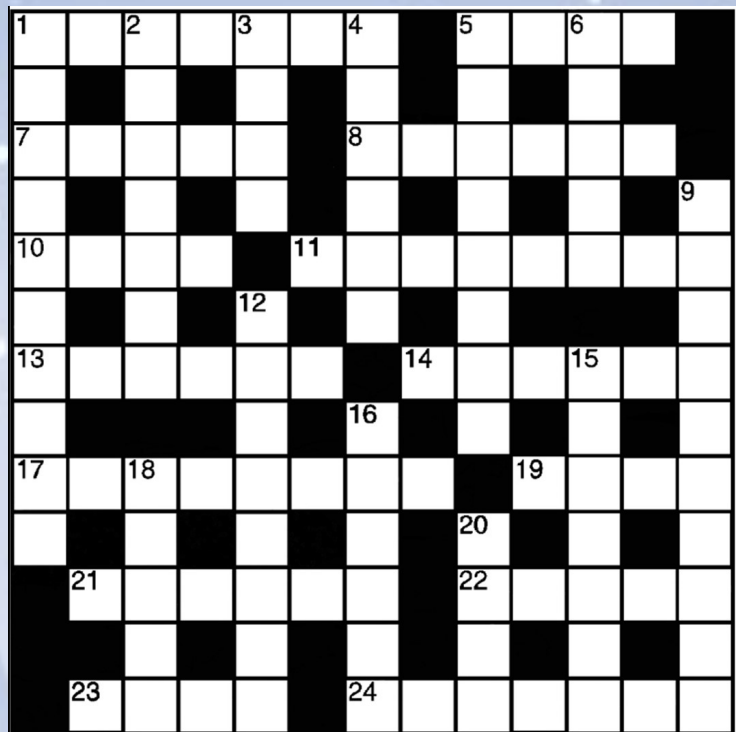
Our next meeting will take place on 28th February 2024 at the Village Hall. An agenda will be posted on the notice-board. Please come along with your ideas.

Crossword Puzzle No. 156

To enter the crossword competition, send* your solution to the editor for a chance to win £20. The winner will be the first correct entry picked at random from those received by **Monday, 8th January** at the latest.

Please add your name and address to entries.

*Don't forget you can email a photograph or scan of your entry to: vvsuffolk@live.co.uk



Across

1. Irish jewel (7)
5. Laid back indicator (4)
7. Hope can reveal a nutty treat (5)
8. Warning issued from a concave atrium (6)
10. Palm fruit for a specified time (4)
11. Flattered by a dual date (8)
13. Leisurely stroll in a childish way (6)
14. A maths problem may cause wheeziness (6)
17. Facing a contrary viewpoint (8)
19. Big O adrift in a desert (4)
21. Fuel us in a serviceable manner (6)
22. I leave the WC for somewhere to rent (2,3)
23. Decline in the autumn (4)
24. Many CID officers may be energetic (7)

Down

1. Pitied oxen used on a journey (10)
2. Previously quoted and exhilarated (7)
3. Relative hiding in a haunted house (4)
4. Ten years in a river for a scoundrel (6)
5. Wickedness in a container - diabolical (8)
6. Be ready to bear a load I hear (5)
9. Italicised transformation to romantic belief (10)
12. Super optimists view of a beer (8)
15. Hooligan removed neighbourhood luminary (7)
16. Fashioned to resemble a farm gate (6)
18. Has PA the makings of a Turkish official? (5)
20. Audibly consumed at a posh school (4)

The winner of crossword puzzle no.155 was: B. Irwin

Answers: Across: 1. Ballast 5. Rails 8. Swamp 9. Unicorn 10. Miserable 12. Act 13. Spoils 14. Busier 17. Inn 18. Esperanto 20. Perfume 21. Guess 23. Tulle 24. Dutiful

Down: 1. Besom 2. Lea 3. Apparel 4. Thumbs 5. Raise 6. Isolation 7. Senator 11. Scoundrel 13. Snippet 15. Upright 16. Append 18. Elude 19. Ousel 22. Elf

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*Hoxne Post Office & Shop kindly accept copy and
crossword entries on our behalf.*

DEADLINES

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

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