



Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM &
WINGFIELD

FEBRUARY — MARCH 2024

Supported by community donation and advertising revenue

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CW Church Warden

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Letters

Syleham Carol Singing

A big thank-you to all who came and sang carols around Syleham on Wednesday 20th December.

And a big thank-you to all those who invited us to sing.

It was a fun evening all round and we are sending our collection to the East Anglian Children's Hospice: £460. Bravo!

See you next year, best wishes,

Adrian and Jane Knott

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>



Every year I have to pinch myself to wake up to the reality of what a wonderful place Hoxne is. This Christmas, as usual, the village was magical. The Christmas decorations on the village green, the very special Santa Claus and his elves bringing magic (and a little chaos) to Christmas morning; Christmas trees at the church supported by village organisations and individuals, the carol service, and all the Christmas activities put on for our community. It was great to see the Swan packed and buzzing with life on Boxing Day for the tug-of-war. All of these Hoxne events, and so many more, are put on through the kindness, generosity and love of our community and I would really just like to thank all involved. Over the years this has been the case in Hoxne, and no names need be mentioned as that perhaps will dispel the magic of this place.

On reflection, I could just mention the name of one man, who needs his last thank-you for shaping this place and handing on the baton to others - thank you, Alan Smith.

Richard Giffin

We hope to have an obituary for Alan in the next edition of Village Voice

Diary Dates

Fri 2 Feb

Play, *The Box of Delights*, Sancroft Academy, Harleston p5

Sat 3 Feb

Play, *The Box of Delights*, Sancroft Academy, Harleston p5

Tue 6 Feb

Coffee & Cake SWH p12, p17
Little Lambs HPP p19

Fri 9 Feb

Film, *A Haunting in Venice* HVH p8
Valentine Karaoke SWH p12

Sat 10 Feb

Quiz night HVH p9

Sun 11 Feb

Music, *Harbottle & Jonas* WB p6
Audition workshop 'Friendly Invasion'
Jay's Green Centre, Harleston p29

Tue 13 Feb

Coffee & pancakes WB p17
Pop-Up Pancake Café, Scout HQ
Fressingfield p34, p35

Wed 14 Feb

Book Club, De La Pole Arms,
Wingfield p17

Thu 15 Feb

Talk, *Rose Breeding* HVH p21

Fri 16 Feb

Supper Club HPP p10
Quiz SWH p12

Sat 17 Feb

Supper Club HPP p10

Sun 18 Feb

Jubilate Singers Choral Evensong
Wingfield Church p17

Tue 20 Feb

Talk, *The Architectural Madness of William Thomas Beckford*,
Corn Hall, Diss p7

Wed 21 Feb

Talk, *The Silk Road's Cities of Uzbekistan*, St John's Church,
Harleston p22

Fri 23 Feb

Youth Club HPP p10
Bingo SWH p12

Thu 29 Feb

Coffee, Craft, Chat SWH p12
Talk, *The Good Life Garden*,
Brundish village hall p20

Sat 2 March

Eye Bach Choir, Eye Parish Church p6
Suffolk Orchid Society Annual Show,
Martlesham p21

Tue 5 Mar

Coffee & Cake SWH p12
Little Lambs HPP p19

Fri 8 Mar

Film, *The Great Escaper* HVH p8
Purplestar Karaoke SWH p12

Fri 15 Mar

Quiz SWH p12

Sat 16 Mar

80th Anniversary event - Lancaster
LM464 SWH p11
Book sale & coffee, Hoxne church
p19

Mon 18 Mar

Carpet Bowls SWH p12

Tue 19 Mar

Talk, *What really happened on Easter Island?* Corn Hall, Diss p7
Talk, *How microbes have shaped human history* HVH p23

All Church Service dates p14-15
Art Society Diss dates p7
Mobile Library dates p43
Red Feather Club dates p29

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

Wed 20 Mar
Tai Chi SWH p13
Talk, *Robin Twigge*, Waveney
Heritage Centre p20

Thu 21 Mar
Play, *Stones in His Pockets*, SWH p13

Fri 22 Mar-Mon 8th Apr
Skip for metal collection SWH p13

Sat 23 Mar
Play, *Top Girls*, WB p7
Village Halls Week, coffee SWH p13

Sun 24 Mar
Play, *Top Girls*, WB p7
Hoxne Village Spring Clean HVH p45

Thu 28 Mar
Talk, *Fullers Mill Garden*, Brundish
village hall p20

Harleston Players present

The Box of Delights
by John Masefield
Adapted for the stage
by Piers Torday

Suitable for age 7+

Kay Harker heads home for the Christmas holidays - but nothing can prepare him for the journey that lies ahead!

*"There are tricks...
...and then there's Magic!"*

Sancroft Academy,
Harleston
IP20 9DD

Friday
2nd February
7.30pm

Saturday
3rd February
2.30pm & 7.30pm

Ticket prices:
Evenings £12
(no concessions)
Matinée
£10 Adults,
£5 Children
(up to age 16)

What's On

Wingfield Barns

Harbottle & Jonas

Sunday 11th February, 7.30pm
Tickets £12

Partners in life and in music, dynamic Devon-based folk duo *Harbottle & Jonas* are one of the most exciting acts on the UK circuit today, combining a love of the richness of traditional folk with their own original and powerful songwriting.

Dave and Freya have developed a distinct and compelling signature sound, blending concertina, harmonium, banjo, stomp box, acoustic guitar and cittern with their beautiful and closely intertwined vocal harmonies.



Their fourth album, *The Beacon*, entered the top 30 of the Official UK Folk Chart, whilst *Songs Of Love and Death* (collaboration with Reg Meuross) achieved the same feat.

Their video series *Saving the Good Stuff* has reached over half-a-million people (and counting) on Facebook.

Their 2023 releases included a collection of covers: *Saving The Good Stuff: Vol 1*, and a highly-anticipated new album will be out in spring 2024.

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

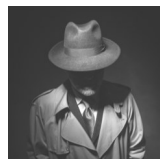
At Wingfield Barns,
Harleston Players present:

Dick Barton - Special Agent

Wednesday 24th April, 7.30pm
Tickets on sale soon

Written by Phil Wilmott and based on the 1940's BBC radio serial, Dick Barton faces new and hilarious stage adventures.

When Britain's entire tea supply is threatened to be poisoned, he soon finds himself wrapped up in an adventure soaked with intrigue and mystery.



Along with faithful companions Jock and Snowy, he faces off against arch enemies Marta Heartburn and Baron Scarheart, battles with killer ants, all the while finding time to sing a few songs along the way - and of course, saves the day!

50th Anniversary
SEASON



Eye Bach Choir
Founded in 1974, Chesham, Bucks, UK

Eye Bach Choir

HAYDN NELSON MASS
MOZART SOLEMN VESPERS

Saturday March 2nd, 7.30

Eye Parish Church

Tickets: Adult £15
under 16s £7

Bookings:

www.eyebachchoir.co.uk/book-tickets/

or from The Handyman, Eye

Email: tickets@eyebachchoir.co.uk

Eye Bach Choir is a registered Charity. No 1114948

Art that talks...

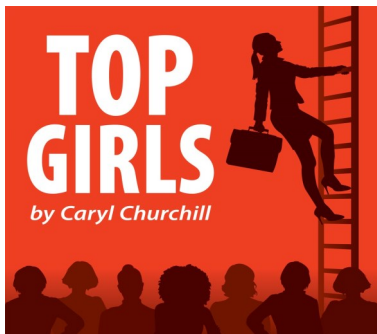
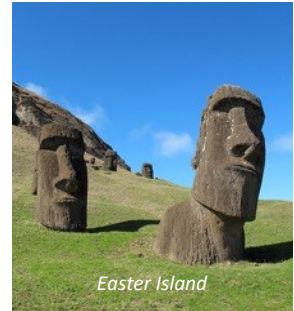


We are a friendly and welcoming society that meets at the Corn Hall, Diss, at 2pm on the third Tuesday of the month to enjoy a wide range of illustrated talks about the arts, given by highly-qualified speakers.

Membership costs £45 a year and guests are always welcome (suggested donation: £8).

Our programme from February to June:

- 20 February: The Architectural Madness of William Thomas Beckford
- 19 March: What really happened on Easter Island?
- 16 April: Adventures of an Archaeologist
- 21 May: Where have all the Women gone? Women and Art
- 18 June: Why can't we read them? Conserving the National Trust's Libraries



RoughCast Spring Tour

Top Girls

by Caryl Churchill

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th March

Performances 7.30pm
Wingfield Barns

Named by The Guardian as one of the 10 greatest plays of the 20th century, Caryl Churchill's groundbreaking play focuses on Marlene, the head of "Top Girls" employment agency, and explores the compromises that she has had to make to achieve her hugely successful career.

From a surreal and hilarious celebratory dinner party in a London restaurant with a cast of women from history and fiction, to a poignant confrontation between two sisters in a Suffolk kitchen, it is a highly entertaining exploration of the challenges faced by women throughout history and right up to the present day.

Tickets £12 or £6 (students) Suitable for age 14+

For further details: www.roughcast.co.uk or Tel 01379 586745

FILM NIGHTS

St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne

Tickets £4.00 available on door - Films start 7.30pm

Bar open from 7pm and during interval



A Haunting in Venice

Friday 9 February

Now retired and living in self-imposed exile in the world's most glamorous city, Poirot reluctantly attends a séance at a decaying, haunted palazzo. He soon gets thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets when one of the guests is murdered.

Kenneth Branagh stars and directs.

Cert PG13



The Great Escaper

Friday 8 March

In the summer of 1944, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Michael Caine and
Glenda Jackson

Cert 12A

St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne

Monthly Film Nights

A good number enjoyed the film in December - *What's Love Got To Do With It*. The Friday 9 February film will be *A Haunting in Venice*. As usual, the bar will be open from 7pm and during the interval. Film starts at 7.30pm.

Quizzes

As mentioned in the last Village Voice there will be a quiz on 10 February for Hoxne Church.

Please note change of date
(from 3 February).

Teams of up to 6 people. Bar open from 7pm; quiz starts at 7.30pm. Bring a picnic for half time if you wish (no alcohol please as bar will be open).
Booking essential - 01379 668060.
£6 per head.

Dancing

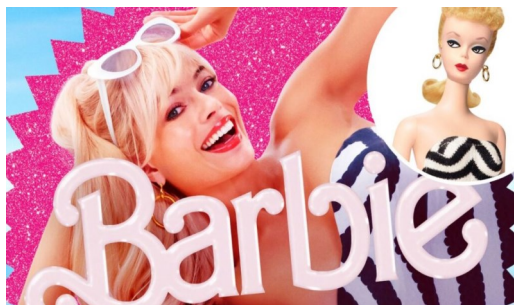
We were pleased to welcome *Jitterbugs* in January for a 1940s & 1950s dance night. It is some time since they last visited the hall and we hope they will return soon, as a great time was had by all!

Pilates

Pilates sessions on Wednesdays 6-7pm are continuing. For more information contact Emma on 07914 535448.

Scrap Metal

As mentioned in the last edition of Village Voice, we will be having a skip at



Our film for Friday, 12 April:
BARBIE Cert 12A

Hoxne Church

Quiz Night

Hoxne Village Hall

Saturday 10 February

7.30pm start

Teams of up to six

Bar and Raffle

Bring a picnic for half time!

(No alcohol please as bar will be open)

£6.00 a head

To book your table

Call 01379 668060

the hall for you to deposit your unwanted metal items in. Look out for posters around the hall and on our website. This will not be for general items.

The Hall Committee would like to wish you all a Happy and healthy 2024 !

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 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

What's on at HOXNE PAVILION

Hoxne Pavilion continues to be in demand with more events and functions lined up in 2024.

Supper Club

Such has been the success of the sell-out supper club evenings, two eight-course banquets will now take place in February. Numbers are limited and the first will be on **Friday 16th February** with another the following night, **Saturday 17th February**. The menu will be issued in due course so please look on the Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion Facebook page or email coconutmonkeycatering@hotmail.com for details.

Social club for young people

First meeting: Fri 23rd Feb, 7-9pm



Another new regular booking for 2024 will be a social club for young people, on the last Friday of every month. Darts, table football and pool will be available and it is hoped local teenagers will support the venture.



ED'S PLAICE

Traditional Fish and Chips

- Wednesdays: serving from 3 - 7pm
PULHAM MARKET, The Green
- Thursdays: serving from 4 - 7pm
HOXNE, The Playing Field Pavilion
- Fridays: serving from 4 - 7pm
WORTHAM, Common

Tel: 01379 741967
Mob: 07904 231006

MAYFEST, Sunday 5th May

A Mayfest is to be organised on the playing field and at the pavilion on Sunday 5th May, the day before the first May Bank Holiday on Monday 6th. Already Cosmo from the Foolhardy Circus and his assistant - who were warmly received at the Christmas children's party - has been booked to provide children's entertainment. Several top quality bands will be performing and there will be a large display of classic and vintage vehicles. As with the Coronation celebrations last year, the event will be free and open to everyone from around 11am to 7pm.



Other regular events at the pavilion will continue, including the bar opening on the first Friday of every month, sometimes with live music. The bar is also always open every Thursday from late afternoon to coincide with the weekly visit of Ed's Plaice fish and chip van.

The Hoxne pavilion and playing field committee are keen to make sure that the excellent facilities are available to be used by people from the village and surrounding area. Anyone who would like to book for a gathering of any kind - a birthday, children's party, a business meeting, a hen or stag night, a christening, a wake etc can contact Duncan McGregor dunxmcreor@hotmail.com for details.

Volunteers are always being sought to help with the running of the pavilion and the bar, and at events, so also contact Duncan McGregor if you can help.

Stuart Jarrold

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall, IP21 4LT

Commemorating the Crew of the Lancaster LM 464

Sat 16th March 2024, 1.00-4.00pm
Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall

We are running a fund-raising drive to purchase a permanent memorial to these brave young men who lost their lives almost 80 years ago. We are also running a commemorative event on 16th March 2024, between 1.00 and 4.00pm at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall. We hope to dedicate the memorial plaque and share some WWII stories and entertainment with local associated charities. This is the crew's story:

Pilot Officer **Roy Dixon**, Age 20 - Pilot
Sergeant Percy Reginald Lawn, Age 22 -

Rear Gunner
Sergeant **Bertram
Crosby**, Age 20 -

Flight Engineer
Sergeant **William
Haswell Thompson**,
Age 27 - Navigator

Sergeant **Roger
Dunkerley Vernon**,
Age 21 - Wireless
Operator

Sergeant **Norris
Sydney Marshall**,
Age 33 - Mid Upper
Gunner

Sergeant **Robert Harry Bryan**, Age 23 -
Special Wireless Operator

Flying Officer **Sydney Leonard Huntley**,
Age 25 - Bomb Aimer

On the 18th March 1944 at 1920hrs, Lancaster LM464 E (Edward) of 101 Squadron lifted off from RAF Ludford Magna in the Lincolnshire Wolds. The target was Frankfurt, Germany. At the controls that evening was Pilot Officer **Roy Dixon** DFM and next to him was Sergeant **Bertram Crosby**, the Flight Engineer. He would be assisting the pilot with fuel calculations, monitoring the engines and hydraulic pressures. Down in the nose of the aircraft, Canadian Air Force Flying Officer **Sydney Huntly**, the Bomb Aimer, would be busying himself

checking his switch selections and bombsight, ready to direct the pilot onto the target as they approached Frankfurt.

Meanwhile the Navigator Sergeant **William Thompson** would be updating their track towards the target with the latest winds, which he received from the Wireless Operator Sergeant **Roger Vernon**. All the time the Air Gunners Sgt **Norris Marshall** in the mid upper turret and **Percy Lawn** in the rear would be scanning the horizon for German Nightfighters trying to infiltrate the Bomber Stream. The Lancaster was fitted with a top-secret radio jamming system which required an additional eighth crew member. The Special Wireless Operator Sgt **Robert 'Harry' Bryan** huddled over the glow coming from a cathode ray tube, his job to listen for German transmissions and jam the frequency with noise, thereby disabling German ground communications with their fighters.



Lancaster LM 464

They reached the target at approximately 22.10 and at 20,000 ft successfully dropped their bomb load. LM 464 headed back home. At 01:40 they reached the English coast at Orford Ness. Two other Lancasters returning from the raid reported hearing LM 464 calling on the radio fairly clearly. This was the last contact they made. Five miles NNE of Horham at 01.55, LM 464 crashed in a field behind Fir Tree Farm in Syleham. All the crew were killed.

(Extract from a family history article by Mel Murray)

If you wish to donate to the fund, please contact: julietthompson435@gmail.com

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall Cont.

Despite February, and possibly March, being a time when we usually expect cold, snowy weather, at Syleham and Wingfield village hall we have a packed programme of events to which we would like to welcome you.

Warm Welcome get-togethers

The Warm Welcome continues, with the financial assistance of a Mid Suffolk District Council grant to ensure heating, lighting and provisions are available to welcome everyone each Tuesday from 8pm to 10pm, on the first Tuesday of the month from 10am to 11.30am for Coffee and Cake (in association with Syleham church), and on the last Thursday from 1.30pm to 3pm for Coffee, Craft, Chat. All are most welcome for a hot drink, books, board games, free wifi and chat.

Sports & Social Club

Syleham and Wingfield Sports and Social club open the volunteer-manned bar each Tuesday and Friday at 8pm. Come along,

if you like what you see please pay the annual membership of £3.50 (£3 for concs) to keep us legal but also to gain discounted or free entry to events throughout the year.

Friday 9th February and Friday 8th March see **Purplestar Karaoke** joining us, free entry, raffle.

Friday 16th Feb, there's a quiz in aid of Eye Opportunity Group, 7.30 for 8pm start, teams of four ideally, £5 per person, raffle, Mars bars for team with least points! Quiz in aid of RAFA on Friday 15th March.

Bingo on Friday 23rd Feb is also in aid of RAFA, ready to start just after 8pm, with raffle. There's Bingo on the last Friday of the month - 29th March, 26th April - all for locally-nominated charities and good causes.

Club evening opening times

Tuesday 19th March, the volunteer-manned Sports and Social club bar will be open at 8pm - pop in for pool, darts, books, board games, free wifi, hot drinks and chat, as well as a few couples using the main hall for some gentle jive - and there'll be card players there too!

Friday 22nd March, club bar will be open at 8pm for pool, darts, books, board games, free wifi, hot drink and chat.

Carpet bowls

Our Carpet bowls players will be in the hall from 8pm on **Monday 18th March** - come and join them. Beginners welcome to have a go. Carpet bowls season in the village hall in the colder months only. Contact is Joyce 01379 668102.

Saturday Coffee

in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

On Saturday 23rd March, 10.00-11.30am, we celebrate National Village Halls week. Come and pop in to your village hall, find out about hiring the hall for a family get-together, regular or one-off meetings or as a venue for a course,



SYLEHAM & WINGFIELD VILLAGE HALL
&
THE GALACTIC TROOPERS
PRESENT THE VERY 1ST
GALACTIC KIDSCON

Supporting GALACTIC KIDSCON OPPORTUNITY GROUP

The mini Con for mini people

Join the Galactic Troopers at Syleham & Wingfield village hall on the 1st August 2024 for the very first kidcon for 5 to 15 year olds.

Meet characters from Star Wars. Ghost Busters. Batman and more.

Have a book signed by our guest childrens book AUTHOR.

Come dressed in your VERY OWN COSTUMES to enter one of the competitions (Theres even a catagory for best costumed family).

1st August 2024 Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall

find out about the activities offered at the hall. Join us for a hot drink, refreshments and chat, find out about the work



Village Halls Week

of the Sports and Social Club and their amazing fundraising achievements for the hall as well as many locally nominated

charities and good causes! AND - meet our colleague who will be completing the Macmillan Mighty Hike in May!

Tai Chi

Wednesday 20th March, 10am - each Wednesday morning. Please contact our instructor, Cindy on 07873114682 if you would like more information, as this is not a drop-in activity.

Skip for metal!

On Friday 22nd March the skip for metal collection arrives in the car park and will stay until Monday 8th April. Any metal items except fridges, freezers, TVs, gas bottles.
Info: Donna 07876487294

Eastern Angles theatre group's

'STONES IN HIS POCKETS'

On Thursday 21st March, at 7.30pm, the professional theatre group, Eastern Angles join us as part of their village halls spring tour with their production, 'Stones in his Pocket'. The EA website says:

'Local lads Jake and Charlie are working as extras on a Hollywood epic movie that has taken over their small village in rural Ireland. Switching from plucky Irish extra to know-it-all American movie star with a flick of the wrist, the pair take on all 15 characters to tell the story of the impact this movie has on their local community. The result is a sad, hilarious and irresistible play that pushes the boundaries of storytelling.'

Please book via the Eastern Angles website or contact Julie T to reserve a seat and pay on the door.

juliethompson435@gmail.com
text 07929794636.

Advance diary dates:

Saturday 6th April -

Jumble Sale, 2-4pm
(contact Donna on 07876487294)

Thursday 1st August -

Galactic Kidscon (see opposite page)

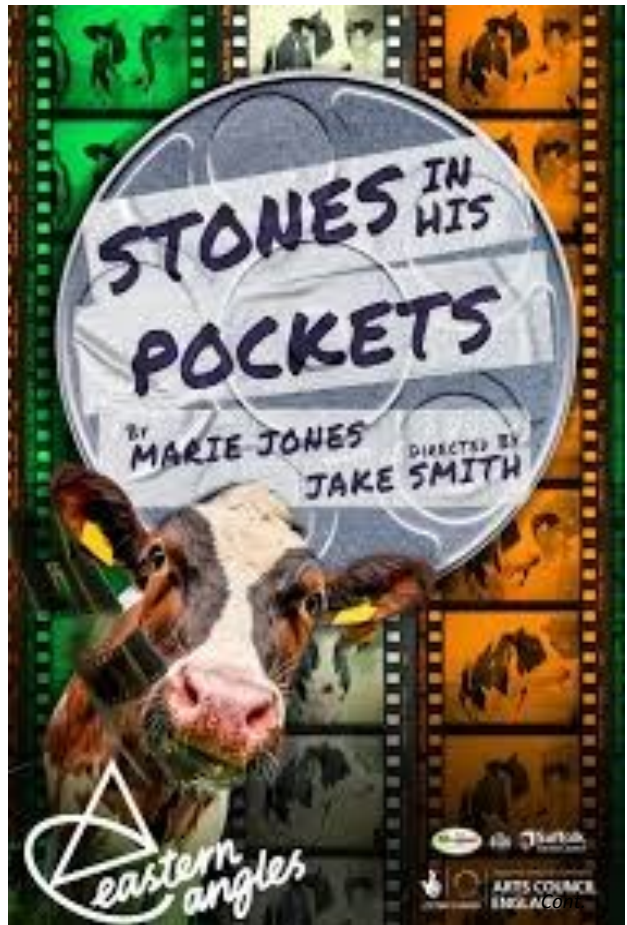
Saturday 16th November -

Buddy Holly

Julie Thompson

Text 07929 794636

juliethompson435@gmail.com





Church News

From death to life

This is the time of year when nature seems to move from death to life. Bare trees break into leaf and green shoots come up from the cold earth. Seeds that have been dormant in the ground begin to germinate - some actually requiring a period of frost in order to do so. It may feel like winter still but the days are getting longer, plants are starting to grow again and animals are coming out of



hibernation. Traditionally, the birds choose their mates on 14th February - Valentine's Day.

The church's year follows the same pattern, with Ash Wednesday which marks the start of Lent also falling on 14th February this year. Lent is a season of penitence which can feel wintry, but which is intended to spur new growth in us as we prepare for an explosion of life when Jesus Christ defeats death and rises from the tomb on Easter Day (31st March). Jesus himself used the imagery of seeds germinating when he spoke of his death on the cross. He said: 'Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.'

During Lent we will be holding a special Study Group on the subject of Worship, with sessions on Tuesdays 20th February and 5th, 12th and 19th March. If you have ever wondered why we do the things we do in church, this might help provide the answers. Contact me for further details.

Revd Eleanor Goodison
eleanor.goodison@gmail.com
Tel: 07876 14357

Church Services

*Denham, Hoxne,
Syleham & Wingfield*

Planned church services in February/ March

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

Every Friday:
Compline at 6.00 pm on Zoom

February

Sunday 4th February Second Sunday before Lent

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne
11.00 CW Holy Communion, Wingfield
4.00 pm Messy Church, Syleham and
Wingfield Village Hall

Sunday 11th February Sunday next before Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield
9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne

Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday

7.00 pm CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

Friday 16th February and each Friday during Lent

6.00 pm Compline, Wingfield and Zoom

Sunday 18th February First Sunday of Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne
10.00 am Village Service, Syleham
11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham
6.00 pm BCP Evensong, Wingfield with
Jubilate singers

Sunday 25th February Second Sunday of Lent

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham
11.00 CW Holy Communion, Hoxne
4.00 pm All Age service, Hoxne

March

Sunday 3rd March Third Sunday of Lent

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne
11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

Sunday 10th March Fourth Sunday of Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield
9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne

Sunday 17th March Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne
10.00 am Village Service, Syleham
11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham
6.00 pm BCP Evensong, Wingfield

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

9.30 am BCP Holy
Communion, Syleham
11.00 am CW Holy
Communion, Hoxne
4.00 pm All Age service, Hoxne



Monday 25th March

6.00 pm Compline, St Edmund Chapel,
Hoxne

Tuesday 26th March

6.00 pm Compline, St Edmund Chapel,
Hoxne

Wednesday 27th March

6.00 pm Compline, St Edmund Chapel,
Hoxne

Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm deanery service at Gislingham

Friday 29th March Good Friday

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

Saturday 30th March Easter Eve

7.30 pm Service of Light, Denham
Village Voice

Sunday 31st March Easter Day

9.30 am CW Holy
Communion, Hoxne
10.00 am Easter Praise,
Syleham
11.00 am CW Holy
Communion, Wingfield
4.00 pm Easter Egg
Hunt, J's meadow, Syleham



Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison

St Margaret's, Syleham

St Margaret's enjoyed Christmas! We had a beautiful Carol service with Amici Voices on 17th December, a well-attended Celebration on Christmas Day and Messy Church completed the season with a Christingle Service at Epiphany.



Welcome to the PCC!

We are delighted to welcome Julian Thompson and Lorraine Doll to the PCC and are very grateful to Julian who is taking on the role of Treasurer. Hallelujah!

Events

Keep an eye out for publicity for one or two events which we hope will help towards funding of the repair and maintenance work taking place this year;

Cont.



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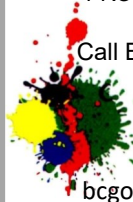
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a soup lunch at the church when snowdrops are in full glory in late February/early March and a fête/fun afternoon to be held on J's Meadow during the summer.

Churchyard

Our thanks to the people who have volunteered to help with conservation of the protected areas. The cut has been 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 complete; a copy will be available in the church and should help to identify existing graves and to assist anyone wishing to reserve a plot.

Coffee & Cake

This will continue at the village hall on 6th February and 5th March from 10am - 11.30am. Free coffee/tea and homemade cake with table service and plenty of lively chat. There is always a quiet table if preferred and prayer cards and doodling facilities are also available.

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

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

St Andrew's, Wingfield

Wingfield church hosted a Christmas concert by the Waveney Choir in December which proved a most enjoyable evening - many thanks to all involved. We hope to welcome the choir back another time. Our Carols by Candlelight was also well attended and we are most grateful to Tom Grant at Wingfield College for his hospitality afterwards.

We are now looking forward to a visit by the Jubilate singers for Choral Evensong on **Sunday 18th February** at 6.00 pm. If you enjoy traditional Book of Common Prayer worship and good music, this is for you! Wine, soft drinks and nibbles after the service.

Shrove Tuesday is on **13th February** this year, so we are moving the coffee

morning forward a week so we can have pancakes, prepared as ever by Revd John and the team - 10.00 to 12.00 at Wingfield Barns, all welcome!

Our popular Zoom Compline goes hybrid in Lent, so you can attend in person at Wingfield Church if you would like. Friday 16th February and every Friday in Lent at 6.00 pm. Contact Revd Eleanor for the Zoom link.

The Book Club continues at the earlier time of 5.00 pm. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14th February and the book will be *Lydia* by Paula Gooder.

Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison

St John's, Denham

The Live Nativity on Christmas Eve attracted over a hundred people of all ages to see the Christmas story, acted out by people and animals (live donkeys, sheep and a cow and calf, not to speak of the cuddly camels). Many thanks to Barbara for masterminding, to Peter Saunders for the use of his yard and to all who helped with the event.

Meanwhile Denham church is sadly missing its churchwarden, as Hilary and Andrew Castleden will be looking after their granddaughters for the foreseeable future. If you live in Denham, could you



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help with church management in any way? If so, please contact Revd Eleanor.

St Peter & St Paul's, Hoxne

Coffee Mornings

Church coffee mornings have been suspended for the months of January and February - the church is too cold and the cost of heating high. We do intend to recommence on 16th March, so please come along. We would hope to have some new books as well by then.

After many years on the coffee morning rota, Maureen Johnson is taking a well-earned rest. We are grateful for the hours that she has put in. This does mean that we are short of volunteers, there are only five of us now, this means that we are each needed to do four duties during the year. So if anyone would like to help we would be happy to add you to the rota. Please get in touch. Each duty lasts two hours maximum and you need to bring a cake. The real 'icing on the cake' is that you get to meet some of the lovely people of Hoxne. All proceeds go towards the upkeep of our church.

You do not have to be a churchgoer to come along or volunteer.

Next coffee morning and book sale:

Sat 16th March, 9.45-11.15am.

More diary dates:

Quiz (see poster p9) Saturday 10th February, 7.30 pm at Hoxne village hall. Teams of up to 6. Bar and raffle. Bring a picnic for half time (no alcohol please - bar will be open). £6 per person. Proceeds to Hoxne church. To book, call 01379 668060.

New Youth Café on Friday 23rd February at Hoxne Pavilion, 7.00 to 9.00 pm. Open to all aged 12-16 (school years 7-11) (see p10).

Deborah Harding
01379 668190

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 19th February and Monday 18th March - meetings to be confirmed

New members are always welcome at our Fellowship Group.

Cathie McGregor
Group Leader 01379 668434

Little Lambs



Little Lambs were busy preparing for Christmas at their meeting in November, when they made lanterns and stars to hang on the Christmas tree in the church ready for the Christmas Tree Festival. The December meeting was held in the church, when they had great fun decorating the tree with their craft work, and they all took part in a Crib Service when they were able to place the figures in the crib. They all sang rousing renditions of *Little Donkey* and *Away in a Manger*, which



was accompanied by the little ones playing percussion instruments.

Little Lambs will be meeting at the Pavilion, Hoxne Playing Field, on the following Tuesdays:
6th February and 5th March, between 12.30 and 2.30 p.m. All under 5s welcome, with an adult. Bring a packed lunch if you would like to.



Caroline Abbott
cabbott364@gmail.com

Waveney Heritage Centre

www.waveneyheritage.com

Waveney Heritage Centre is a registered charity with the prime aim of promoting heritage in all of its forms along the Waveney valley, straddling both Suffolk and Norfolk. It receives no public funding, having to raise funds through the hiring of rooms at Brockdish Old School or by organising events that create an income. The centre at Brockdish also houses a vintage audio museum (not just old radios) and a recreated 1930s living room, together with art deco piano and armchairs.

As part of the remit to educate, the centre also holds a series of evening talks (all starting at 7.30pm). The first one of this year is on **Wednesday 20th March** when Robin Twigge, the owner of the Swan in Harleston, will be giving an autobiographical talk on his life and adventures.

On Easter Monday, **1st April** there will be an open day when there will be treasures from the extensive archives on view, and of course the museums will be open. Refreshments will be available, including a barbecue.

On **Wednesday 17th April** a talk will be given by Gordon Lascelles on Burgh Castle, one of Britain's best-preserved Roman coastal forts, situated just outside Great Yarmouth.



Burgh Castle

Further events have been arranged throughout the summer, including a talk on the Home Guard during World War II, a walk around Dickleburgh Moor, a talk

by Rick Lewis on the carpentry used in timber-framed buildings and the annual Brockdish garage sale. More details can be found on our website.

In the meantime if you would like to be a volunteer at the Waveney Valley Heritage Centre, based at Brockdish, then please get in contact via the website. We are desperate for volunteers! Enquiries can also be made via the website for hiring rooms.

Chris Parkin

Wingfield & District Gardening Club

Our last meeting was in November with Luci Skinner, who gave us an entertaining and informative talk on salvias. Luci presented an overview of the salvia family, their origin and usefulness in our gardens today. The on-screen presentation underlined the attractiveness of this most useful of plants in our garden borders. Luci also explained how to overwinter plants in the garden or, if one wanted to keep a particularly precious plant, how some salvias can be potted on and overwintered in a greenhouse. We also held a very successful raffle after Luci's talk.



Our following meetings are on the **29th February**, Ade Sellers speaking on *The Good Life Garden* and the **28th March**, Jude Law who will be speaking about *Fullers Mill Garden*, which is a seven-acre garden on the banks of the River Lark near West Stow.

All meetings are held at Brundish village hall IP13 8BB and start at 7.30pm.

Garden Club subscriptions for 2024 are: single membership £20, joint membership £35. Guests are always welcome, £5 per meeting.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Lyn Edwards

Hoxne Garden & Social Club

Well, what a mixed bag of weather we had during 2023. Relatively warm to start, with the driest February since 1993. This was followed by a cold snap and then a long period of unsettled weather, culminating in the storms during late autumn and winter. Although growth was good due to the high rainfall, only time will tell whether the bulbs have survived being submerged for longer than is usual. Now that we have passed the shortest day, I feel spring is on its way, although it always feels like a long slow slide until we get there. By mid-February I can really feel the days getting longer and I am looking forward to doing some real gardening.

It has been a very good year for the Garden and Social Club, with membership steadily growing and excellent attendance at our talks.

In November Gabi from *Gabriel's Garden* demonstrated wreath-making with some beautiful greenery, berries and even some late flowers. She sold wreath bases and sphagnum moss, which quite a few members purchased to make their own wreaths at home. We are planning to visit Gabi's cutting garden in Gissing in July next year.

The Christmas Party was held in the village hall with a quiz devised and presented by Peter Webster. This was a great success, with an excellent range of food provided by members.

Our next talk is on January 18th when Jim Paine will be presenting a talk titled 'Gardening in the Shade'. Then on **February 15th** Ian Limmer from Peter Beales Roses will be talking about *Rose Breeding*. The AGM will be held on Thursday 21st March. We have nearly completed our programme of talks for 2024 and have put together a varied range of topics from *Cybercrime* to *The*

Wild Waveney. I hope we can keep our current members' interest and attract some new members in the coming year.



The Club has also been involved in providing ideas for the garden behind the shop in the village and we will be presenting ideas for Mike Barton to include in the funding bid to purchase the shop as a community asset.

Jeanette Lerwill
jeanette@lerwill.com

Suffolk Orchid Society's Annual Show

Saturday 2nd March
10am to 4pm Admission: £1.50

Martlesham Church Centre,
Martlesham Heath, Ipswich IP5 3PL



The orchids offered in supermarkets and garden centres are a tiny sample of the tens of thousands of known species and hybrids. Our Show is an opportunity to enjoy a greater variety of the exotic forms, colours and fragrances of orchids.

Orchids in flower and suitable for windowsill culture will be on sale from visiting nurserymen - handy for Mothering Sunday the following weekend!

Refreshments will be available. The Society can't take card payments at the moment, so cash only please.

<https://suffolkorchid.co.uk/event/suffolk-orchid-society-spring-show/>



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Harleston Choral Society

Our Spring Term began on Monday 8 January 2024, but it's not too late to join us. We're rehearsing *Saint-Saëns Requiem* and *Dvořák Mass in D Major* for our Summer Concert on 29 June 2024. We welcome everyone - especially Altos, Tenors and Basses - even if you've never sung in a choir before. 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 (TOFS), almost opposite the church.

Our website:
www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk

Harleston & District U3A

Our monthly talk, *The Silk Road's Cities of Uzbekistan*, is on **Wednesday, 21st February** at 2.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ. It will be given by Pat Alker, based on her wide travels in that area, with lots of photos of the stunning architecture, and with reference to the current revival of the concept of linking Europe with the Far East and - as she says - 'with all places in between'.

Our website: www.u3asites.org.uk/harleston or contact Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.



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Hoxne Heritage Group

hoxnehistory.org.uk

The Heritage Group continues to meet monthly.

On 16th January we present a talk at Hoxne village hall by Graham Moore, titled "*The Early History of Wireless in East Anglia*". This copy had to be in before the talk takes place but from interest shown I am sure it will be well attended.

On Tuesday, 20th February members will meet at The Swan in Hoxne at 7.30pm for our AGM 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 19th March we are back at Hoxne village hall for an interesting talk by Tony Sillis, titled "*Little Devils - How microbes have shaped human history*".

Microscopic organisms have affected human life, culture and society since pre-history - they continue to do so today. Tony will present examples of how they have changed our world and where in East Anglia we may find evidence of their effects.

Tony started working as a laboratory junior in medical microbiology with the Public Health Laboratory Service (a public sector arms-length body funded by the Department of Health) in 1969. The role of the PHLS was "to protect the population from infection". He ended his career as the chief executive of the PHLS in 2005, when the organisation was dissolved by the government.



Plague Doctor

Tony has a post-graduate qualification in medical microbiology and whilst working was a Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Science. His work in the laboratory brought him face to face with many different micro-organisms - bacteria, viruses and fungi - some trivial, some serious and a few deadly. Please allow him to introduce you to some of them.

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



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on Christmas morning

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Low Street lights

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Tug-of-war,
Boxing Day at
The Swan Inn



Festival of Christmas Trees

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported this season's display of Christmas trees in the church.

Although this year we were not able to muster an official tree team to manage the event as in previous years it was most encouraging that so many members of the community gave up their time to decorate a tree, or in some cases several trees.

As a result we were able have the full display illuminated in time for the well-attended Carol Service on 18th December.

Hopefully next season we will be able to re-establish a tree team to assist with the planning and so if you would like to help, please do get it touch.

David Hyde
davidjhyde@btopenworld.com



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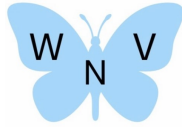
Waveney Volunteers for Nature is a group that spends a few hours each week looking after our commons and other areas where we can make improvements for our wildlife and public enjoyment of our open spaces. A few years ago the national organisation, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) received Lottery funding to set up a group bringing together existing volunteers already doing some work in the area.



Our first year has just been completed and at our first Annual General Meeting we were able to report good progress on commons in Brockdish, Rushall and Dickleburgh as well as help with wildlife areas at Harleston Primary School and Foxwood Forest School. We also have effective working relationships with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the River Waveney Trust which helps with training and many other aspects of our work.

Looking forward, we would like to extend our work into other areas which will be possible as our membership grows. Local action is now achieving what has been needed for so many years to take care of our wildlife and make a contribution to dealing with climate change. We're never short of ideas either: we are lobbying Norfolk County Council to release their abandoned old school playing field in Brockdish so that we can manage it as a nature reserve and we have floated the idea of 'Brockdish - A Wildlife Friendly Village' which hopefully will involve the community in fostering wildlife.

Above all we are a friendly group that enjoys working in the open air and doing our bit for the planet. So, if you would like to be involved, or just know a bit more about us, then contact us at: WVfNature@protonmail.com or visit our Facebook page 'Waveney Volunteers for Nature'.



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www.dogstrust.org.uk
Tel: 0303 003 0000

Hoxne Phoenix Group

November brought us almost to the end of 2023 with Jean Musgrave, one of our members who is very clever at handicraft, instructing us in the art of making a Christmas decoration. It was a happy and pleasant social evening, with some showing great skill - others needing a little help!

At the last meeting of the year we had a games evening, playing Beetle - with mulled wine and mince pies on the side. It was great fun, lively and somewhat noisy.

January 2024 started with Adrian Tindall visiting us from Bury St Edmunds to talk about that town; in February we have our AGM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all our members,
and a warm welcome to any visitors
who would like to come and meet us.

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The Red Feather Club

Events List for 2024:

- Sat 20 April: Dance - *Skyliner*
& guest DJ Nigel Woodhouse
- Sun 26 May: Public Open Day
- Sat 29 June: Dance - *Memphis Lee*
& *his Creepers*, guest DJ Jive Bomber
- Sun 30 June: Americana Day - music,
stalls, re-enactors & vehicles
- Sun 28 July: Public Open Day
- Sun 25 Aug: Public Open Day
- Sat 28 Sept: Dance - band to be
confirmed
- Sun 29 Sept: Public Open Day
- Sat 26 Oct: Dance - Redlingfield
fundraiser with DJs
- Sun 27 Oct: Public Open Day, followed
by 95th BGHA AGM

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Visit: www.95thbg-horham.com.
Contact: enquiries@95thbg-horham.com.

'Friendly Invasion'

Audition workshop
Sunday, 11th February, 2 - 5pm
Jay's Green Community Centre,
Harleston IP20 9HQ

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Station 366, plus a team of local Lindy
Hop dancers, are teaming up to create
'*Friendly Invasion*', a show about the
arrival of the USAAF to this area and the
ways in which the presence of thousands
of Americans influenced life in the
region.

Auditions will be held in March (see
Harleston Players website for dates) and
are open to all. Please contact either
Eileen Ryan on anyoldryan@gmail.com or
Sara Curtis on curtissara155@gmail.com

But, before then, *Harleston Players* are
holding an afternoon workshop on Sunday
11th Feb for anyone who might be
interested in getting involved in this
production and would like to know more.

Come and join us in singing a few
wartime songs, reading aloud some
pieces from the script and maybe
learning some dance moves!



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John Fredrick Brawn 1933 - 2023

Although he spent much of his life in East Anglia, John was raised in the West Midlands and was always very proud of his Black Country heritage.

After a spell in the RAF and work for Martin Baker on the development and testing of aircraft ejector seats, which he obviously enjoyed, he and Margaret moved to East Anglia where he embarked on a very successful career with Howard Rotavators, based in Harleston. A long time Hoxne resident, John was very active in village life from the outset. He served extended spells on the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council. He and Margaret were also staunch supporters of the Garden, Phoenix and Theatre Clubs and did much to raise funds for the Save the Children Charity.

However, John will probably be best remembered for his work with The Friends of St Peter and St Paul. As one of the founders of the charity in 1986, he twice served terms as Chairman. Together with his co-founders and a loyal band of committee members, this organisation was able to raise substantial sums of much-needed money to help maintain the integrity of our church over many years.

A life-long supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers, John was also a keen gardener and in recent years had re-kindled his interest in model-making.

He will be greatly missed by all of us who have worked with him and socialised with him over these past decades.

David Hyde

Hoxne Computer and Digital Device Support Group

The eight-week pilot study for the Computer and Digital Device Support Group has now concluded.

Twelve participants attended in total and received one-to-one tuition and support from our technical expert, Andrew Hannon, ably assisted by Steve Card. The issues covered were very varied with most people having very specific requirements. Feedback was extremely positive and the tuition was delivered at a level easily understood by non-technical beginners.



From a personal aspect, I am delighted to be able to pay for things safely using the wallet on my phone now! I feel really 'down with the kids' and the facility has come to my rescue on one particular occasion recently, when I was desperate for a coffee but didn't have cash or a card on me, but did have my phone!

On reflection we have decided not to continue with this format of meeting as a group because the one-to-one tuition is more appropriately delivered in a home environment, or as a clinic-style format in view of specific needs and a variety of devices. Andrew is willing to deliver individual support and is considering whether to set up clinic-style sessions:

andrew@techicallyspeaking.co.uk

tel.07525614614.

We are indebted to the Maynard Trust and Hoxne Parish Council for their generous support for this venture.

Margaret Sillis



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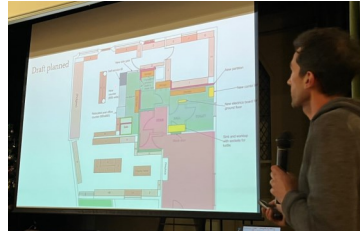
Mike Barton and his team have been working hard - there are now 30 volunteers working on this exciting project.

Here's the latest news:

- * A price of £400,000 has been agreed for the purchase of the shop/Post Office building (which matches the independent valuation we commissioned).
- * We decided NOT to take on the running of the shop last year and instead focus our efforts on raising funds to purchase the building in this year.
- * Members of the committee have started to help with general tasks to enable the shop to stay open (eg, doing the cash 'n' carry run!) but the current business is still Joan's.
- * Alison Buckland has been recruited as Manager and is currently completing training for the role.
- * We have been awarded a grant of £8,600 to assist with the business plan and share issue.
- * A complete Schedule of Works for the shop refurbishment has been completed and we are in the process of obtaining quotations from contractors.
- * A Pre-Planning Application has been completed.
- * Discussions with local groups have commenced to ascertain how we can all work together to the benefit of the community.

Update from Mike:

As I sit here on 8th Jan we have just 3 weeks until we submit our bid to the government's Community Ownership Fund



(deadline 31st Jan). There are many of us working on the details, from solar panel quotes to letters of support to financial forecasts - all in all we're in really good shape.

We should hear back from the government around the end of March and in the meantime will have the job of securing the funding to match what we'll receive from central government. The most important part of that is raising money from the local community by issuing shares in the Community Benefit Society which will own the post office and shop. It's the shares that enable this incredibly valuable asset to be community owned, with shareholders deciding what happens to it in future. Please look out for a village hall meeting at some point in February to let you know more.

Should you wish to get involved or want further information, please contact:

hoxnevolunteer@gmail.com



Interested?

If you have already decided that you would like to apply to be a Locality Committee Representative, please download and complete the application form and skills audit available on the Consortium Trust Website or contact your school office.

The forms should be returned to:
clerk@consortiumacademy.org

We are looking for people with ...

- Energy and enthusiasm
- A desire to be involved
- Curiosity and willingness to ask questions
- Common sense
- The ability to work as a team
- A willingness to share responsibility



Proud to be part of Consortium Trust

St Edmund's Primary School



Our Locality Committees are seeking people just like you ... find out what is involved



Locality Committees are crucial to the running of our schools

Skills

The Locality Committee needs additional representatives from the local community who are enthusiastic, willing to learn and curious about the school to provide support and constructive challenge. No educational experience is required to apply for the role.

Role Overview

Generally Locality Committee representatives are not specialists in education. Much of the role is about exercising common sense and working together in the best interests of the pupils. You will focus via our teams on a number of areas:

- Pupil Experience
- Safeguarding
- Parent Parliament

Benefits

The opportunity to gain skills you may not otherwise acquire. To gain a wider perspective of your community by understanding how our Trust and schools are managed and pupils supported to maximise their potential. Most importantly, the satisfaction of contributing to the school and helping to make a difference for the pupils.

Tel: 01379 668283
officehoxne@wvpschools.org
www.stedmundsprimary.org.uk

Our Locality Teams share responsibility for monitoring:

- Safeguarding the children in the school
- Ensuring that the school is providing for all its pupils whatever their particular needs
- Implementation of relevant policies
- Ensure that standards are continually improving
- Ensure the school supports spiritual, moral and cultural development
- Engagement with stakeholders (pupils, parents and the community)

Who sits on our Locality Committee?

- Parent Representatives (appointed by parents of the school)
- Community Representatives (appointed by the Trust Board)

What is involved in being a Locality Committee Representative?

- A voluntary position (usually for a term of four years)
- A commitment to attend two meetings per term (one virtual and one at your school) usually early evening
- A commitment to one monitoring visit per term linked to your role (safeguarding, pupil experience or parent parliament)
- Training will be offered to support you in your role
- You will be encouraged to attend school events
- A DBS check will be required in line with our strong safeguarding culture

St Edmund's Primary School & Nursery

The children at St Edmund's Primary embraced the festive season and participated in a range of activities.

Our Key Stage 1 and Early Years classes performed their version of the Nativity. Many of the families attended and the hall was packed for both performances.



of their work were outstanding and there are definitely some creative minds that will do well in the future!

We are always looking for opportunities to increase our engagement with the local community. If you have any ideas, please contact the school by phoning 01379 668283 or emailing Mr Lea, Academy Head, at Head@wvpschools.org

Simon Lea, Academy Head

The whole of the school visited St Peter and St Paul's Church where the older children read published poems and shared their own prayer creations, where they thought about those that they are thankful for in their lives.

The children were joined by all of their families in singing a number of festive carols.

Even the staff contributed to the Carol Service as they recited the famous poem 'Twas the night before Christmas!'

Our Year 5 and 6 classes were also presented with the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills as they participated in an enterprise activity. They worked collaboratively in groups creating products that were then sold to their families. The results

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Sunday: 10am

Wed & Fri: 9.30am

Confessions 10.45am Saturday
The Rosary Group 9.30am Saturday
Holy Days of Obligation usually 10am
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Pancake Café

Tuesday 13 February

6-7.30pm Scout Headquarters
Priory Road, Fressingfield IP21 5PH

Pioneer Troop invite you to join them
for pancakes on Shrove Tuesday

Sideshows from our Beavers

*Do you know about these free
Library sessions?*

Eye Library:

Saturday Book Club for Children
09:30-12:30, every Saturday.

Lego Club
For children aged 4+.
10:30 12:00, every Sunday.

Barclays drop-in advice session
Barclays Bank weekly advice session.
10:00-16:00, every Wednesday.

Wordplay - story-time & rhymes
Fun session of story-time, songs and
rhymes for children aged 0-3.
11:00-11:30, every Wednesday.

Citizens Advice drop-in session
Weekly Citizens Advice drop-in session.
09:00-12:30, every Friday.

Stradbroke Library:

Thursday Book Group
Friendly and informal book group.
14:30 - 16:00, last Thursday of the
month.

Craft & Natter
Bring your creative project to the
library and craft away in the company
of new friends.
14:00 - 16:00, every Tuesday.

Fressingfield Scouts

November was another busy month with Explorers undertaking their Engineering Badge at Cowham's Car and Commercial in Fressingfield. This included changing a wheel, soldering and learning about the importance of vehicle maintenance - even undertaking an oil change!

Pioneers Scouts made craft items for the Christmas fairs. They had a nerf gun battle and sessions on IT. Wolf Cubs learned some IT skills and Beavers made ice cream, which they enjoyed eating! Tiger Cubs learned about the planets and stars in an astronomy session, went on a night hike in Fressingfield and still had

enough energy for a boisterous session in the playing field.

Warrior Beavers had a visit from a lovely white rabbit (with its owner), and learned how to look after it.

Ninja Beavers made Christmas tree decorations from clay, and Squirrels decorated gingerbread men. They have started working towards their Navigator badge.

Adventurers prepared, cooked and ate a two-course evening meal. They also learned about caring for bikes, and had fun riding around on them afterwards.

Our Scout Group came together on 13th November to take part in Remembrance Sunday. Wreaths were laid at Fressingfield, Hoxne and Laxfield with around 110 uniformed members in attendance. Eighty-nine paraded in Fressingfield, including our Squirrel Drey (aged 4-6). Young people read in church, undertook the offertory and were all-round amazing. Thank you to all our

members for showing discipline, dignity and respect.

We had some autumn fundraising events with Pioneer Troop running a cake stall at Weybread Church Christmas Fair. The Beavers Section had a Fun Bingo evening, and Tigers Cubs ran a bake and craft stall at the Laxfield Christmas Market. Money raised goes towards Group funds. Huge thanks to everyone that supported us.

There were Christmas parties, and Senior Sections had a bowling trip to Ipswich. Tigers Cubs visited Hartismere House care home and gave a carol concert. Wolves Cubs made items to go into Christmas food hampers, which were then given to the community. Squirrels did some seasonal decorating in HQ.

Pioneer Troop decorated our tree in the Hoxne church Christmas Tree Festival (see photo on page 25).

Our Santa Run and Fair went well with nearly 40 runners. Thank you to everyone who participated and all the sponsors. Tigers Cub Leader, Adrian Green, braved an icy water tank and raised £300. There were stalls, a hot food café, everyone had a good time and we raised plenty of money.

Continuing the fundraising theme, Pioneer Troop are running a Pop Up Pancake Café at HQ on **13th February**, from 6pm to 7.30pm. Please come along! (see poster, opposite page)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising calendar. If you still need one, please contact us - we may still have a few left!

We now have a 2023 video review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCfQgZZMAVw>

*Best wishes from all of us at
1st Fressingfield Scout Group for a
Happy and Healthy 2024*

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



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Book Club Review

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

by Rachel Joyce

This is a book that we all enjoyed. It was cleverly thought out, about Harold's journey to see his friend Queenie, a friend who is very ill in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

He leaves his house to post a letter to Queenie to say he's coming to save her - and just carries on walking. He hasn't told his wife, and is totally unprepared for such a long journey, over 500 miles.



The story focuses on the need for communication within relationships and families. After 20 years of not communicating in his marriage, Harold is given time to reflect on life while his wife has time

to miss him. As he travels he becomes quite a celebrity and others want to join in and be part of his fame.

We start the New Year with a book chosen by Rev Eleanor Goodison to discuss *The Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel.

If you would like to join us, our meeting will be on 17th January, 5pm, at the De La Pole Arms in Wingfield.

Gloria Bell

Theatre Review

Miss Marple meets The Ice Wolf

by Pat Wymark

Diss Corn Hall

We have just been to see *Miss Marple meets The Ice Wolf*, which is a comedy caper by The Common Ground Theatre Company. Miss Jean Wimple is a renowned amateur sleuth and dog trainer, on a hiking trip in the Italian Alps. She meets Dr Bridges and gets involved in investigating a murder in the nearby Castle Pandora. She is warned of The Ice Wolf - the "Bestia Gelato" (half-man, half-wolf) - but she still sets off to investigate.

What follows can only be described as slightly potty! There are four actors on stage who take on numerous roles with very quick changes of outfit. There are plenty of funny moments, along with innovative but simple props that make you laugh out loud. All the actors are very versatile, being able to both sing and play a variety of instruments.

In the audience there were several faces there that we recognised from Hoxne, who all said they enjoyed the performance.

For a fun, entertaining night out this was a good one to go to see.

Jenny Burton



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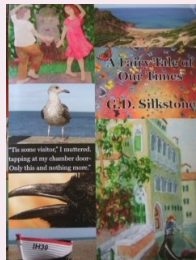
A Fairy Tale of Our Times

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Geoff's hardback book is on sale at the Hoxne Post Office and shop, with the special price of £7.99 for Village Voice readers.



photography, freshwater fishing, walking, gardening and the movies.

He also works as an Ambassador for Cancer Research UK.

Over the years he has been passionate about helping people who have suffered injustices, particularly from the authorities.

He has two sons, six grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

He wrote his first three books while spending time with Wilma on the Balearic island of Menorca.

A Fairy Tale Of Our Times is his fourth novel.

He says:

"I have always wanted to write books but my involvement in the legal profession until 2009 prevented me from really getting down to it. In events I was over 70 when I produced my first novel and in retrospect it was hardly a world-beater!

"It's a case really of using one's imagination where fiction is concerned. My English teacher in the 1950s used to say, 'Let your imagination run wild and free, like a butterfly fluttering from flower to flower in the summer breeze.' I've tried to emulate that.

"I didn't have any past connections with Hoxne when I first came here but I've made many new friends and love the place in my wintering years. We used to take our sons to Bressingham Steam Museum in the early 1970s when we lived in Tiptree in Essex. They loved it, and we did too. My parents moved to Norfolk in the late 60s and had a chalet and a boat on the Yare at Brundall. We loved that situation too."

G Geoff Silkstone was born in 1942 in the east end of London. After the war, his family moved to Sheffield where he spent his early years.

His first job was with the National Provincial Bank in London. After that he was employed in the Sheffield steel industry as an analytical chemist before taking up law in 1968. He practised law in the Civil Service in London from 1970 - 1988 and then in the legal profession in Colchester, Spalding and Holbeach in Lincolnshire, and Penzance in Cornwall before his retirement in 2009 at the age of 67.

He came to Hoxne in 2017 following the death of his partner Wilma, with whom he had shared a relationship for 25 years.

Apart from writing he enjoys

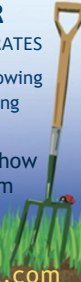
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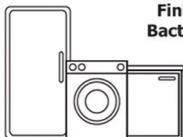
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New Reeding Wood

“As the days lengthen so the cold strengthens”. It has been wet and relatively mild so far this winter but folklore has it that now we have passed the solstice we will get colder times, and hopefully drier.



Catkins

It is very wet and muddy up at the woods but still an uplifting place to walk. The recent winds have removed a lot of the leaves that

were late to fall. The hedges and trees may look bare but they are a promise of

good things to come in spring. Buds are swelling and catkins are out. Seed heads replace earlier flowers, and lichens provide splashes of colour.

In the wood the trees are going to provide food and shelter in the coming months. Buckthorn

provides a thorny protection for nesting birds and brimstone caterpillars feed on the leaves in spring. Brimstones have become more common in Suffolk following initiatives aimed at encouraging the use of buckthorn in hedges by wildlife groups.

Hawthorn flowers are a delight to both people and insects and the haws feed autumn birds. Bees love the flowers of the field maple and the yellow autumn colours are eye-catching. The crab apples are now largely gone but the blossom will be out in spring.



Silver birch bark



Lichen

On walks with my dog near my home I have seen and heard fieldfares and seen their upright stance in groups in the fields. They eat berries and fruit over the winter and are sociable birds. I have seen them fly over the wood but not yet observed them on the ground.



Seed head

No work will be done at the wood until the weather is warmer and the ground dry. The pond is higher than it has been for a long time. The owl box will be cleaned out and hopefully it will be occupied this year. The bird boxes we put up will also be watched for

occupants. Although not much is possible outside now there is a lot to look forward to when the cold and wet weather passes.

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 on 07495 875299.

Peny Conway



High water level in the pond

Voices from the Past

December 1990 - January 1991

In the vicar's seasonal message was a powerfully-worded reminder that God chose as the birthplace of His only son, Jesus, a country with particular problems - poverty, oppression, civil violence and unrest, and near civil war as well as daily struggle with hunger, violence and cruelty. The Rev Tony Lowe saw a comforting Christmas message here but, in light of recent events in the Holy Land after 2000 years, I fear his optimism was sadly misplaced.

Efforts were afoot to build a badly needed new pavilion at the playing field. I was strongly reminded of our current campaign to save the Post Office/shop and take it into community ownership. John Chapman wrote that he knew not everyone was in agreement, some saying we didn't need a new one and others saying it would never happen. But he said that when the Chapmans moved to Hoxne in the 1970s the attitude of Hoxne people seemed to be 'if we want something we will have it', such as the playing field itself, the tennis courts, the bowling green, children's play equipment - all then still in use and in fair condition! The pavilion had been second-hand when purchased more than 30 years before.

Hot Press News quoted from 'The Free Paper', 16th November 1990:

"Jubilant villagers were celebrating on Monday after winning the first round of their battle for a £23,000 grant for a new playing field pavilion.



Mid Suffolk District Council has provisionally approved the grant which will fund half the cost of the planned building at Hoxne.

The planned new facility would include a club room, changing rooms and a shower and would replace the 30-year-old wooden building."

So far there was £7,566 in the pavilion account towards the cost of the new building, estimated at approximately £46,000. John pointed out that was clearly a significant sum to raise - even if costs for the project could be reduced, the council would still be giving 'only' 50% - and urged playing field users and clubs to get together and arrange some fund-raising events. Well, the brick-built pavilion at the playing field is lasting evidence of their success! I imagine that as I dig further into the 'Voice' archive, more of the story will be unearthed.

Among events and services reported for St Peter and St Paul's Church that autumn was the marriage of Marcus Charles Read and Helen Mary Saunders.

K.G. Read and Son are long-time advertisers and supporters of Village Voice and, like me, many will remember Marcus worked with his father at that time on our plumbing, heating and general building works. My own oil boiler was installed in 1977 by his father when Marcus was a young man and it was only, finally, replaced in the summer of 2022. Marcus now approaches retirement age, having trained his own son Daniel, so we can look forward to continuity. I mentioned to the Reads that I had come across their wedding announcement and they told me that

A black and white advertisement for Sundown Guitars. The background shows a close-up of a guitar's fretboard and strings. The text is overlaid in white and orange. At the top, 'SUNDOWN' is written in large, bold, orange letters, with 'GUITARS' in smaller white letters below it. Underneath, the services 'Set ups, Servicing', 'Re stringing and Repairs', and 'Accessories & Spares' are listed in white. At the bottom, the contact information 'Chickering Corner Farm, Hoxne IP21 5BT', 'Please phone to discuss your requirements or to make an appointment', and the phone number '07958 758 602' are provided in white.

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07958 758 602

they remembered the 6th October 1990 was a very windy day and the Rev Lowe was hoping that the roof wouldn't blow off!

A stall in Diss market and an auction, both by the PTA, had respectively raised £70 and £700 for St Edmund's school - to be spent on a third Nimbus computer for the children. Community funds were also generated by a bonfire party and the Harvest Breakfast; the editor thanked the organisers, helpers and supporters for the £400 raised. Proceeds from the Harvest Breakfast were split between St Edmund's Hall and playing field pavilion funds (£150 each) and the Village Voice magazine (£100). Hoxne Playgroup thanked supporters of their Christmas fair on 20th October, which raised just over £300 for new equipment and running costs.

Congratulations were extended to Joan Dale (now Joan Garnham) who had been selected to swim backstroke and butterfly for Norfolk in the Eastern Counties Championships. She came fourth in the backstroke, and Norfolk as a team came second with Essex being first. Regular readers of *Voices*

From the Past and 'old timers' might recall that Joan was also running the swimming club and teaching the village's children to swim.

Pattermore's Pen-Pushers had been active; their first publication - a booklet called *Past Times* - had been well received and members had been invited by both Suffolk and Norfolk Radio to talk about it. Through the Village Voice, Gladys Pattermore thanked Mr and Mrs Moor at Low Street Post Office, the Nelson Family at Cross Street Stores, Mr and Mrs Marjoram at Heckfield Green Post Office, Mr and Mrs Britten at Denham Post Office and Mr and Mrs Cattermole at the paper shop in Eye for giving space and selling copies (does anyone still have one?). That is THREE post offices and TWO stores in Hoxne, Denham and Heckfield Green! Proceeds from the sale were to be donated to the St Edmund's House minibus appeal early in the new year.

Finally, there were Christmas greetings from 'Laura and Roy of the Grapes'.

Dawn Lodge

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

If there are people in Hoxne who would use the Library 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: **9 February 2024 and 9 March 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: **7 February 2024 and 7 March 2024**

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

Brome & Oakley village hall: 12.15-12.30pm

Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

Denham Village Hall refurbishment update

We still do not have a date for completion, but work is progressing well.

We have now got a date for reconnection of the electricity on 11th January and then first fix electrics will start shortly afterwards. The double-glazed metal windows will shortly be delivered and will be fitted in mid-January. Rebuilding of the brick buttresses is almost complete, and the end wall will be braced before the external walls are re-rendered. The internal walls are currently being insulated before plastering.

The project is currently on budget, but we do have some additional work to do with regards to wastewater manage-

ment that will lead to some unbudgeted additional costs, that are within our contingency planning. We have also secured further grant funding from Mid-Suffolk to purchase kitchen appliances.

Planning is now underway for a community event to officially open the hall and we look forward to publicising this nearer to the time!

Check out Denham Parish Council website for the dates of the next meetings at: <http://denham.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

Wendy Alcock
Parish Clerk

Hoxne

Some good news to start the new year. At the January meeting of the parish council it was agreed to peg our share of the council tax at last year's level. Unlike some of the larger authorities presently, Hoxne Parish Council is financially sound with sufficient reserves. However it is likely that your council tax will still go up as a result of an increase being proposed by Suffolk County Council of 4.99%. At the time of writing the rate

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of council tax for Mid Suffolk District Council and the Police Authority is not known.

The new year has also started with several applicants hoping to join the council. (More are invited however). It is hoped one of those applicants will help the council to support the aims of the Community Benefit Society hoping to take over and run the village shop on Low Street. Hoxne Parish Council will however not be involved financially in the running of the business.

Village Spring Clean 10.00am, Sunday 24th March

On Sunday 24th March we have the Village Spring Clean when volunteers equipped with bin liners and long-handled claws will go around the village streets picking up rubbish to be deposited at the village hall for collection. If you would like to help then please turn up on the day at 10am at the village hall where you will be shown what to do.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

On the evening of **Friday 26th April** there is the Annual Parish Meeting at the village hall. This is the event where all the community groups within the village can 'tout for custom', looking for new members or outlining their activities and events planned for the coming year in addition to reporting what they have achieved in the last twelve months. If you are relatively new to the village, or just want to see what these groups can offer, then this is an opportunity not to be missed. Entrance is free.

The Parish Council is aware that all households affected by the floods will be now be included in the County Council's statutory investigation of the flooding, but it is noted that this may take some time to complete. Winter is the time when our roads take a battering as a result of severe weather, resulting in breaking up road surfaces and pot holes. These can be reported straight to Suffolk County Council as the highways authority via their website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highway-issue>

The county council is also responsible for public footpaths, including the signs. If you are unhappy about the state of a footpath then this can also be reported using the same website.

The Council regrets the sudden death of Alan Smith, who was a long-standing Chairman of Hoxne Parish Council and devoted many years of service to the village. Condolences are sent to his wife Carole and the family.

Chris Parkin
Chair, Hoxne Parish Council

The Maynard Trust

Support for educational needs

The Trust is there to be used. Its funds are available to all who live in Hoxne, irrespective of age, who might have difficulty in meeting the costs of educational need.

The deadline for receipt of applications to the Maynard Trust:

**31st March 2024
for the April 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

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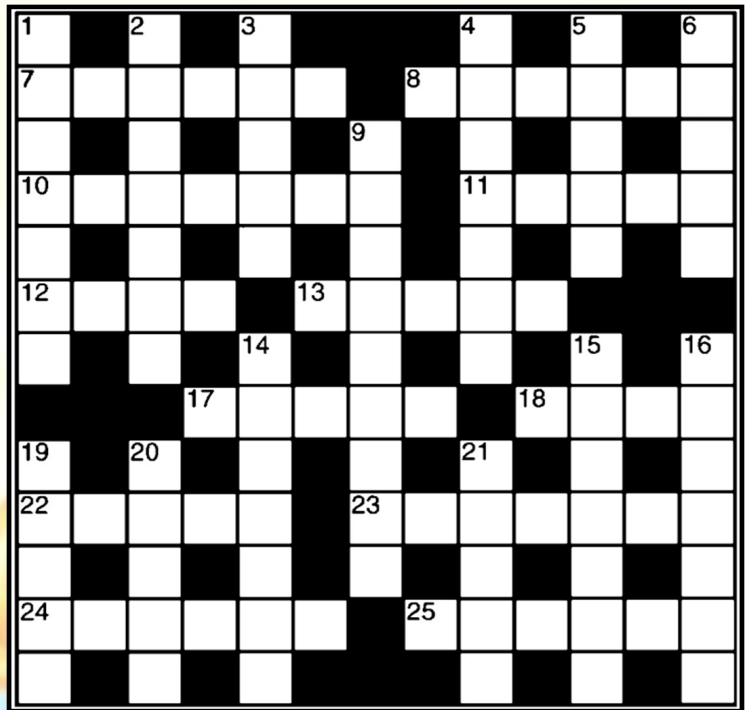
**Please call Mark
07818 088080
01379 871399**

Crossword Puzzle No. 157

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 Friday, **8th March** 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

7. Recent change of heart (6)
8. Sounds like part of a sentence with talons (6)
10. Zero allowance for a great speech (7)
11. Two companies contribute to a bedtime drink (5)
12. Recruitment in wild biblical garden (4)
13. Distribute a large number I hear (5)
17. Frolic with an edible flower bud (5)
18. Grasp storage space on board (4)
22. Freight found in 18 across (5)
23. Just opposite in rhyme (7)
24. I'm shod fashionably (6)
25. Professor - a clever person hiding a prophet (6)

Down

1. Narration about a nobleman (7)
2. A driven raider (7)
3. Source of Brian's intelligence (5)
4. Voter from select organisation (7)
5. Lightweight wild cat (5)
6. Old mode of transport from the Andes (5)
9. Signal ace constructs a pain killer (9)
14. Oppose a young native American (7)
15. Right way to make an amendment (7)
16. Stuck on a crazy red head (7)
19. Camps destroyed by rascal (5)
20. I leave a telling off to do some dealing (5)
21. Partly oversee a bowler's deliveries (5)

The winner of crossword puzzle no.156 was: T. Birrell

Answers: Across: 1. Emerald 2. Dial 7. Pecan 8. Caveat 9. Date 11. Adulated 13. Toddle 14. Asthma 17. Opposite 18. Gobi 21. Useful 22. To let 23. Fall 24. Dynamic

Down: 1. Expedition 2. Excited 3. Aunt 4. Decade 5. Devilish 6. Await 9. Idealistic 12. Glassful 15. Hoodlum 16. Styled 18. Pasha 20. Eton

Hoxne Post Office and Shop

Low Street, Hoxne IP21 5AR
Tel: 01379 668334

Shop Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday 09:00 to 17:30

Sunday 09:00 to 11:00

(We are closed on Bank Holidays)

We are a local village Post Office and shop.
We stock bread, cakes, dairy and grocery items
and frozen ready meals

Post Office

Counter hours remain the same for now:

Monday, Tuesday	09:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:30
Wednesday	09:00 to 13:00
Thursday, Friday	09:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:30
Saturday	09:00 to 12:30
Sunday, Bank Holidays	Closed

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

DEADLINES

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

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