



Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM &
WINGFIELD

DECEMBER 2025 — JANUARY 2026

Supported by community donation and advertising revenue

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Hoxne Grocer's Legacy

Letters to (and from) the Editor

Cheers, Syleham & Wingfield! *Three thank-you letters* *for all your great fundraising*

A big thank-you to Julie Thompson and everyone at Syleham & Wingfield village hall for the recent fundraising quiz in support of *Village Voice*. The evening was great fun, and much appreciated - a real help in keeping *Village Voice* going strong.

Lesley Balian

Just a note to thank *Village Voice* for the publicity and also the people who supported two recent events at Syleham and Wingfield village hall.

There was a good turnout to listen to our local historian Stephen Poulter on his research into the Syleham Hall mansion that was destroyed by fire in 1919. He traced records back to Medieval times. Donations towards the village hall totalled £264.

Local band '*Herding Cats*' performed on Oct 11th and on the night the on-going appeal to purchase the Ocean Lake by The Harold Dean Charity was explained, including displays. A collection towards the appeal raised £360.

Many thanks to all who supported.

Roy Goodwin

Syleham village hall have generously supported our fundraising to further develop the Stradbroke tennis club. Over £500 has been raised, which has bought junior rackets, nets and tennis balls. We worked with an LTA accredited coach/instructor, and over the summer there have been various coaching sessions for 6-15 year olds and adult club members.

Why not come and join us? For more information: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/> Stradbroke Tennis Club.

Helen Peters



Hoxne's 50th Harvest Breakfast

Many of us remember 1976 as the year of the ladybirds and of course for it being a long hot summer that seemed to go on for ever.

For those in Hoxne it was even more significant as the year in which the very first Harvest Breakfast was held on the Village Green in Low Street.

We should not let the 50th anniversary of this wonderful event pass without recognising all who have worked so hard over the years to make it the huge success that it remains to this day. So, a big thank you to Carole Smith and of course Alan for conceiving the idea of a Harvest Breakfast and to Gill, Joan and many others who have ensured its rightful place in the legacy of Hoxne.

In some years the weather was not always as pleasant as in 1976 but on only one occasion in fifty has it been necessary to go under cover in the village hall. Call it divine intervention if you will but it makes you think, doesn't it?

David Hyde

Hoxne Memories

I enjoyed Stephen Govier's article in the last issue of *Village Voice*. Regarding his point about the Scottish cattle, may I add the following:

The Scottish cattle dealers fattened their cows on the water meadows of the Waveney Valley, though not necessarily within Hoxne parish. The cattle were driven through the village via the toll gate at the Swan, up to the Standing at Fairstead on the Eye Road, where they often stayed for three or four days before being sold.

Chris Johnson

Just to say a big thank you to....

...Alan Garnham, for spreading chippings on the footpath past Nelson's garage once again. It makes walking so much more pleasant and easier for us all, especially when it has been wet. Thank you, Alan.

...The Harvest Breakfast team for our 50th excellent annual event. It was great to see such a good attendance again but disappointing to see that it is always the same old stalwarts that have to do the work. I use the term 'old' advisedly as, to keep these fine village traditions going, there is a need for some of the younger residents to help share the load or Hoxne will turn into a sleepy and boring dormitory village. Please don't let that happen.

Thanks to all the volunteers in Hoxne that keep the village heart beating.

Margaret Sillis



The annual sale of Christmas trees will be held in Hoxne again this year, at:

**Market House Drive
Low Street, Hoxne**

**Saturdays and Sundays
10am-12pm**

**6th and 7th December
13th and 14th December**

To pre-order your tree,
please call Carole Smith
01379 668210

All sale proceeds will go to
Hoxne Playingfield & Pavilion
(Reg Charity 304769)

MID SUFFOLK
Christmas and New Year Waste
Collection Schedule 2025-26



	Usual collection date	Amended collection date	Change
Refuse	Monday 22 December 2025	No Change	None
	Tuesday 23 December 2025	No Change	None
	Wednesday 24 December 2025	No Change	None
	Thursday 25 December 2025	Saturday 27 December 2025	2 days later
	Friday 26 December 2025	Monday 29 December 2025	3 days later
Recycling	Monday 29 December 2025	Tuesday 30 December 2025	1 day later
	Tuesday 30 December 2025	Wednesday 31 December 2025	1 day later
	Wednesday 31 December 2025	Friday 2 January 2026	2 days later
	Thursday 1 January 2026	Saturday 3 January 2026	2 days later
	Friday 2 January 2026	Monday 5 January 2026	3 days later
Refuse	Monday 5 January 2026	Tuesday 6 January 2026	1 day later
	Tuesday 6 January 2026	Wednesday 7 January 2026	1 day later
	Wednesday 7 January 2026	Thursday 8 January 2026	1 day later
	Thursday 8 January 2026	Friday 9 January 2026	1 day later
	Friday 9 January 2026	Saturday 10 January 2026	1 day later

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. Please remember to tell me if you have any visitors staying, so I can deliver their presents too.

My friends at Aldersyde Cottage, Low Street (opposite the pump seat) are helping me, so please drop the presents there before 18th December. They are busy people but will be there between 9am and 11am and 3pm and 5pm each day. Any problems please telephone 01379 668636.

More address slips are available if you need them.

*Lots of love and
Merry Christmas, from*

Father Christmas

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TEL. NO:

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Email - harbercarpentry@gmail.com



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Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity Church of St Henry Morse

Shelfanger Road, Diss IP12 4DX
Parish Priest: Father Alex Anaman
Tel: 01379 642914

Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday: 9am & 11.30am
Holy Days 10am and 6pm
Confessions: Sat 10.30 – 10.45am
(after Mass)

Please check times on the
website and in newsletters

alex.anaman@rcdea.org.uk
Web: www.sthenrymorse.com
Email: parishpriest@holyltrinitydiss.com

G.G. EVANS

Pest Control Services

07795 177695
01379 608932
info@ggevens.co.uk

MOLES, RABBITS, WASPS & MORE



Diary Dates

Tues 2nd Dec

Coffee & Cake, SWH p16
Art Society talk, *The Scoliotic Knight*,
Diss p17

Thurs 4th Dec

U3A talk, *La Belle Epoque*, Diss p33

Fri 5th Dec

Carol Service, Red Feather Club p10
Open Mic, SWH p16

Sat 6th Dec

Film event, *The Space Between Days*,
Chapel Hall Arts, Fressingfield p10
Christmas Fair, HVH p14

6th & 7th Dec

Christmas Market, WB p9

6th - 27th Dec

Christmas Tree Festival, Hoxne church
p11

Sun 7th Dec

Film & social event, *The Moving Finger*,
HVH p14

Tues 9th Dec

Coffee Caravan, WB p19
Phoenix Quiz, HVH p29

Wed 10th Dec

Waveney Choir Carols, Hoxne church p21

Fri 12th Dec

Film, *The Salt Path*, HVH p15
Karaoke, SWH p16

Sat 13th Dec

Christmas Crafternoon, Denham VH p13
Christmas Quiz, WB p8
Fressingfield Christmas Market p17
Scouts' *Santa Fun Run*, Fressingfield p37
Waveney Heritage Quiz, Brockdish p31

Sun 14th - Sat 20th Dec

Art exhibition, *Array*, WB p8

Thurs 18th Dec

Film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, WB p8
J's Meadow get-together, Syleham, p16
Syleham Village Carol Singing, p11

Fri 19th Dec

Christmas Disco Party, Denham VH p13
Quiz, SWH p16

Sat 20th Dec

Play, *A Christmas Carol*, WB p8
Coffee morning, Hoxne church p21

Sun 21st Dec

Carols by Candlelight, Wingfield church
p20

Wed 24th Dec

Family evening, SWH p16

Thurs 25th Dec

Santa's Christmas morning visit,
Hoxne p5

Wed 31st Dec

Big Ant's Disco, SWH p16

Tues 6th Jan

Coffee & Cake, SWH p16

Thurs 8th Jan

U3A talk, *Norfolk Blood Bikes*, Diss p33

Fri 9th Jan

Karaoke, SWH p16

Sat 10th Jan

Quiz, SWH p16

Tues 13th Jan

Phoenix forensics talk, *When the Dogs
Don't Bark*, HVH p29

Thurs 15th Jan

J's Meadow, SWH p16
Hoxne Garden talk, *Perfect Pollinators*,
HVH p31

Fri 16th Jan

Games afternoon, Denham VH p13
Quiz, SWH p16

Sun 18th Jan

Panto, *Red Riding Hood*, HVH p10

Tues 20th Jan

Hoxne Heritage talk, *Anglo-Saxon Burial
Sites*, HVH p33
Arts Society talk, *The Arts & Crafts
Movement*, Diss p17
Rural Coffee Caravan, WB p8

Thurs 22nd Jan

Film, *Bronco Bullfrog*, WB p8

Thurs 29th Jan

Coffee, Craft, SWH p16

Fri 30th Jan

Bingo, SWH p16

Sat 31st Jan

Comedy, *An Evening of Old Radio*, WB p9

Sat 7th Feb

Panto, *Red Riding Hood*, WB p10
A Night at the Races, HVH p12

Fri 13th Feb

Folk, *Chanters Jigge*, Waveney Heritage,
Brockdish p31

Tues 17th Feb

Coffee & Pancakes, WB p19

All Church Service dates p18-19
Borderhoppa p31
Mobile Library dates p41

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



What's On

Wingfield Barns

Sat 13th December 7.30pm

Christmas Quiz

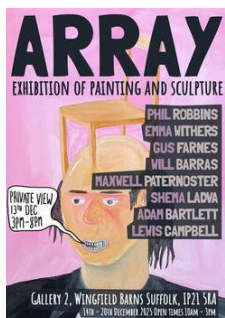
Our popular quiz night returns, so grab a team of 4/6 and book your table via the email or phone number below. Bar open.

Tickets £5pp inc nibbles on the table

Sun 14th - Sat 20th December 10-3pm

Art exhibition 'Array'

Paintings and sculpture by a group of artists: Phil Robbins, Emma Withers, Gus Farnes, Will Barras, Maxwell Paternoster, Shema Ladva, Adam Bartlett and Lewis Campbell.



Private View:
13th December 3pm-8pm

Thur 18th December 7.30pm

Classic Cinema - 'It's a Wonderful Life'

*"Every time a bell rings,
an angel gets his wings."*

Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) is now considered one of the greatest films ever made – and a timeless Christmas classic that reminds us of hope, kindness and the beauty of community.

Tickets £5
wegottickets.com/event/681482
or call 01379 384505

Sat 20th December 7.30pm

'A Christmas Carol'

Step into the magic of Christmas as Mat Jones brings Charles Dickens' beloved seasonal classic to life in a breathtaking one-man performance. With nothing but his voice and physicality to weave the story, Mat seamlessly transforms into every character - from the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge to the haunting Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.



Tickets £21
www.ticketsource.co.uk/vintageverse/t-jzamkqv

Tues 20th January 10-12pm

Rural Coffee Caravan

"Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk."

Join us at our mobile pop-up Info Café – a cheery and welcoming space where you can relax, enjoy coffee and cake, and connect with others in your community. Donations appreciated.

Thur 22nd January 7.30pm

Classic Cinema - 'Bronco Bullfrog'

"Real people. Real lives. Real East End." Barney Platts-Mills' *Bronco Bullfrog* (1969) is a landmark of British cinema – a raw and honest portrait of working-class youth in London's East End. Following Del, a young apprentice, and his girlfriend Irene, the film captures their hopes, frustrations and quiet rebellion against the world around them.

Tickets £5 wegottickets.com/event/682113 or call 01379 384505

Sat 31st January 7.30pm

An Evening of (very) Old Radio

Join us for an evening of laughter and fascinating stories with British comedy award-winning writer and comedian Paul Kerensa (*Miranda*, *Not Going Out*). Discover how the BBC began – from its quirky origins to the broadcasting legends it created – in a show that informs, educates, and entertains, in true BBC style.

Tickets from £12.50

book via www.wegotickets.com/event/680530



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Christmas

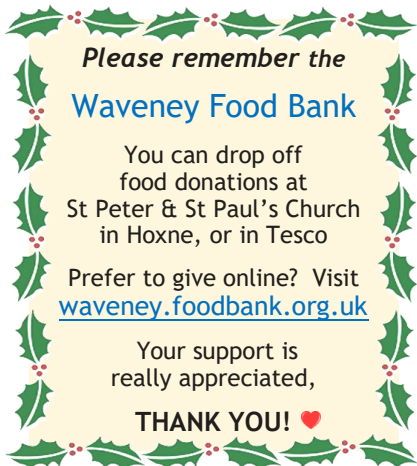
MARKET

DECEMBER 6TH & 7TH 10-4PM

WINGFIELD BARNs IP21 5RA | FREE ENTRY

For more information, please contact
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Email: office.manager@wingfieldbarns.co.uk
www.wingfieldbarns.com



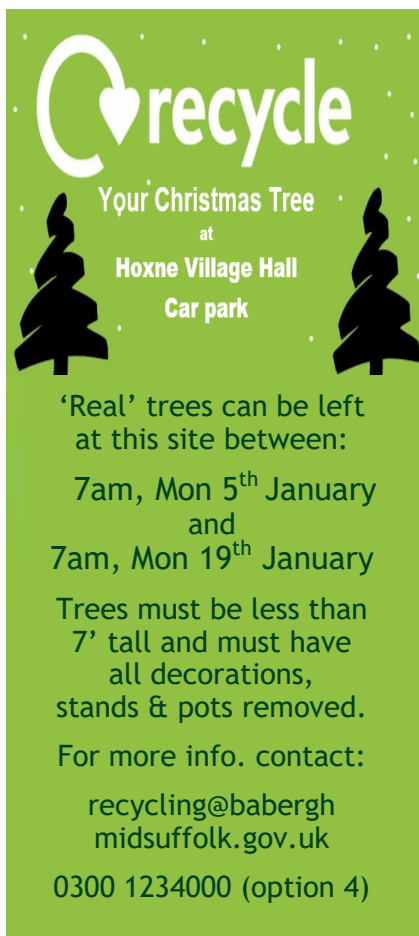
Please remember the
Waveney Food Bank

You can drop off
food donations at
St Peter & St Paul's Church
in Hoxne, or in Tesco

Prefer to give online? Visit
waveney.foodbank.org.uk

Your support is
really appreciated,

THANK YOU! ❤️



recycle

Your Christmas Tree
at
Hoxne Village Hall
Car park

'Real' trees can be left
at this site between:

7am, Mon 5th January
and
7am, Mon 19th January

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

For more info. contact:

[recycling@babergh
midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

0300 1234000 (option 4)

Puzzle House Pantomimes present
a traditional family pantomime,
based on the story of
RED RIDING HOOD

It is fifty years since Granny Smith started the chase that saw the evil wolves driven out of Longfern Wood. Now, after all this time, the leader of the pack is back! He is determined to seek revenge on Granny Smith's beautiful granddaughter, known to everyone as Red Riding Hood.

Six actors play a range of characters in a show full of songs, live keyboard music, thrills, spills and fun!

Each performance starts at 3.00pm.
There are two acts, plus a short interval.
The show will end by 4.50pm.

PUZZLE HOUSE PANTOMIMES
present

RED RIDING HOOD

A FUN-FILLED FAMILY PANTO



St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne - Sunday 18th January
Wingfield Barns - Saturday 7th February
Shows start at 3pm

All Tickets £8

Box Office: 01379 384656






Christmas CAROL SERVICE

WITH
The Diss Salvation Army Band

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas at The Red Feather Clubs enchanting Carol Service. Gather with family and friends to enjoy the timeless melodies performed by the Diss Salvation Army Band that echo the joy, warmth, and love of the season. Followed by warm mulled wine, mince pies and refreshments in the licensed 'Brads Bar'

Friday
5th
December

The Red Feather Club
Horham Road, Suffolk IP21 5DG
7:30PM around the flagpole
(weather permitting)

For one night only!

‘The Space Between Days’

Contemporary Film Installation
meets Live Music in Suffolk by
acclaimed filmmaker Bill Jackson

**Chapel Hall Arts in
Fressingfield IP21 5QD**

**Sat 6th December
7.30 pm**

The Space Between Days was
filmed over 18 months across
London, Puglia, and the striking
landscapes of Suffolk

New sculptures by Ipswich-born
artist Gus Farnes will line the path
outside Chapel Hall Arts

Tickets: £10 (early bird) / £14.
Book online: [www.tinyurl.com/](http://www.tinyurl.com/TheSpaceBetweenDays)
TheSpaceBetweenDays



Syleham Carol Singing

Thursday 18th December 2025



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 Thursday 18th December. If you would like to sing, please let us know (669320) and come and join us for a glass of wine and something to eat before we set off, at:

The White House Farmhouse
Whitehouse Lane, Syleham

between 6.00pm and 6.30pm

If you would like us to come and sing carols to you, please give us a ring. Last year we raised £400 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

Christmas Tree Festival

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Hoxne

6th to 27th December

A reminder that the annual Christmas Tree Festival will be taking place in the church again this year and it will be for an extended period.

In order to accommodate a special Christmas concert on 10th December we plan to set up on the afternoon of Saturday 6th December and have the trees on display until 27th December. However, recognising that the Christmas Fair is also being held in the village hall on the 6th, some may wish to continue setting up on Monday and Tuesday 8th and 9th December. If so, help will be available on those days as well.

come along and decorate a tree. A number of trees and lights will be available in the church from 1.00pm on Saturday 6th December and help will be on hand to assist where necessary.

Please feel free to bring your own tree, just remember any lights must be battery powered, for reasons of safety.

We shall be sending out reminders to all our regular supporters but if you have not decorated a tree in the past and wish to do so, come along on the 6th - you will be most welcome.



As usual we are encouraging local clubs, associations and families to

David Hyde
davidjhyde@btopenworld.com
01379668467

Come and join us for
A Night at the Races!

Saturday, 7 February 2026
St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne

Bar opens at 7pm Free entry
Bring a picnic and cash for the tote betting



**To sponsor a race or
donate a raffle prize, please
message Gill on: 07880 634224**

**This is a fundraising event for
Hoxne Bowls Club**

B.C. GODDARD

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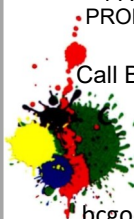
Call Brian for a free quote on

01379 388174

or mobile

07759 956627

bcgoddarduk@outlook.com



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

Denham Village Hall IP21 5DN

After the excitement of the village hall grand opening in September we have been steaming ahead in setting up a *Coffee Morning* every Thursday, 10-12, with volunteers providing delicious sweet and savoury snacks and serving fresh-brewed coffee/tea. Several visitors now come armed with tubs for take-away treats too!

If you're feeling a bit bored and fancy a chat on one of these long winter evenings, our *Friends' Bar* is open every Friday 7-11pm. So far it's been great to see customers call in from surrounding villages, as well as Denham. Must be the cheery staff, good selection of beverages and perhaps the made-to-order Cheesy Chips!

We are holding our first post-renovations *Christmas Disco Party* on Friday 19th December (see poster below) and look forward to welcoming everyone to what promises to be a fun-filled evening.

There are plans afoot to set up more weekly activities in the New Year, as well as a weekly afternoon games group starting in January (please see the other poster below).

*Wishing all our neighbours near and far a very Merry Christmas -
from Denham Community Council*

Kerina Jane

For Denham village hall bookings and enquiries, please contact Jane Gilmore, Secretary, on 07793047986.



DENHAM VILLAGE HALL
Games Afternoon

Every Friday, 1.00-4.00pm
starting 16th January

Relax and enjoy an afternoon of games,
with friendly faces.
Learn to play Canasta, Rummikub,
or bring your own favourite game!
All are welcome, no experience needed -
just come and enjoy the fun.
Contact Jane on 07793 047986

Christmas Crafternoon

Saturday 13th December,
1.00-3pm
In aid of Denham Church

Get creative with:
Wreath-making
(£10, and take your wreath home)
Christmas crafts
Festive games
Mulled wine & mince pies
Coffee & tea

Free entry - bring your friends!



**CHRISTMAS
DISCO**

Denham Village Hall
Friday 19th December
7.30 'til late!

BANQUET, BOOGIE, BAR

+ PLUS: Best outfit prizes!

Tickets £10 (incl food & welcome drink)
Available from Jane 07793047986
Or every Coffee Morning Thurs 10-12am
Or Friday eve 7pm-11pm

St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne

Website: hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

The Film Nights have continued to be popular and in December (Friday 12th) we will be screening *The Salt Path*, starring Gillian Anderson. The films for next year have yet to be decided, but there will be a film shown on 9th January - check noticeboards for details.

All our usual regular activities continue as normal, ie: Badminton, Ballroom dancing, Meditation, Morris dancing, Pilates, Garden Group, Hoxne Heritage Group, Ladies Phoenix Group and the Village Voices choir. If you are interested in joining any of these groups/activities, then visit the hall website - hoxnevillagehall.co.uk - or check out the noticeboards both outside and inside the hall.

On Sunday 7th from 2pm we will be hosting a 'Pre-Christmas Social Event' that will include a showing of Agatha Christie's *The Moving Finger*. This was filmed in and around Hoxne in 1985 and shows what the village looked like 40 years ago. Donations (cash only) will be taken for the *Families Together* Suffolk charity. Space is limited, so pre-booking is essential. Call Jeanette on 07796 200479 or email Jeanette@Lerwill.com to reserve a space.

The Scouts are having a Gang Show in December, for friends and family.

Cont.



We still need more volunteers to help with the running of the village hall, in particular admin, eg bookkeeping, invoicing, experienced with spreadsheets etc. The village hall is run entirely by volunteers, and without their generous contributions of time and energy, none of the activities mentioned above would be possible. If you'd like to be part of our friendly team, just for a few hours per month to help keep things thriving, please do get in touch. Drop me an email at: Bryn@Lerwill.com.

To discuss organising an event at the hall, please email: hoxnevhbookings@outlook.com. We have three different areas that are available to hire individually or collectively, so can suit all needs.

Bryn Lerwill



THE SALT PATH

**Friday,
12th December**

A couple facing homelessness and terminal illness embark on a 630-mile walk along Britain's South West Coast Path, rediscovering resilience, love, and purpose.

Hoxne Village Hall

7:30pm £5.00 a ticket
Tickets on the door
Bar open from 7pm
and during the interval



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Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 12 noon
and 3.00pm - 6.00pm
Sunday and Bank Holidays
9.00am - 12 noon

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall IP21 4LT

Thank you all for the support we have had over the year for our varied events! Many charities and good causes have benefited from funds raised at our Quiz evenings, Bingos sessions and Coffee events.

Most recently we've sent £314 to Macmillan, £246 to Cancer Research UK after our 'Ultra' coffee, nearly £300 to Fressingfield Shed from a quiz and so on! With the October and November Bingo in aid of some of the local magazines who help us advertise - The Mardler, Harleston Grapevine and Stradbroke monthly - we hope to help them maintain their amazing presence. Thank you to all involved with our local magazines! (You have missed the quiz we organised for our own Village Voice earlier in the year!)

Fundraising will continue in 2026. We have a quiz on Saturday 10th January for Autism Anglia - we're helping a friend with her London



Marathon madness. We also have Bingo on Friday 30th Jan & Friday 27th Feb for Autism Anglia! On Friday 16th January we have a Quiz for EACH.



Friday activities at our village hall

Join us for Open Mic on the first Friday, as well as Karaoke on the second Friday of the month, free entry, raffle. Our Quiz evenings are on the third Friday of the month, raffle, Mars bars for the lowest scoring team are hugely contested. Bingo is on the last Friday of the month, raffle. Just to confuse you - there's no Bingo in December as this would be on Boxing Day - and no Open Mic on Friday 2nd January! Otherwise business as usual...

Christmas 2025/ New Year 2026

The Syleham and Wingfield Sports and Social Club bar will be open as usual on Tuesday 23rd December, from 8pm.



We have an extra open evening on Wednesday 24th December when we'll have a Family Evening with a bit of canned music from 7pm, along with some buffet supper (please bring something to share) AND the Christmas draw will be announced - some fabulous prizes this year!

We will be closed on Friday 26th December - Boxing day - as I said before, no Bingo in December!

It'll be the usual opening on Tuesday 30th December - AND THEN, on Wednesday 31st December we'll have *Big Ant's Disco* taking us into 2026! Doors 7.30 - Entry £5, free entry for SWSSC members (annual subs £4, cons £3.50)



...and into 2026!

Join us for Eastern Angles theatre in March/April, date to be confirmed + Annual BBQ on Saturday 4th July + 70s/80s performance/show on Saturday 1st August, and of course Coffee & Cake 10-11.30am on the first Tuesday of the month, Coffee, Craft, Chat 1.30-3pm on the last Thursday of the month, J's Meadow get-together 10 to 12noon on the third Thursday of the month. Look out for all our varied events that will be squeezed in during the year!

Julie Thompson
Text 07929 794636

juliethompson435@gmail.com





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**Fressingfield
Christmas Market**

Saturday, 13th December
10am - 12noon

*More than 30 stalls
and Scouts' barbecue*

*In and around Sancroft Hall,
Fressingfield IP21 5PB*
fressproduce@btinternet.com



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
DISS

The Arts Society Diss has begun its new season of talks at The Corn Hall.

Enjoy a coffee or light lunch beforehand, then hear varied, entertaining subjects from knowledgeable speakers. Why not come along and give us a try?

2nd December 2pm

THE SCOLIOTIC KNIGHT
with Tobias Capwell

The arms and armour of Richard III. Tobias is an independent scholar of arms & armour, curator, author, lecturer, jousting and historical advisor.

20th January 2pm

ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT
with Kirsty Hartsiosis

Kirsty, now a curator at Swindon Museums, previously spent 15 years at The Wilson, Cheltenham, caring for its renowned Arts and Crafts collection.

Meetings: Corn Hall, Diss
on the third Tuesday in the month
(except December) at 2 pm

Suggested donation for guests, £8

Artsocdiss.org.uk / info@artsocdiss.org.uk

New members welcome



Church News

Christmas is coming!

... But first we prepare ourselves during Advent, beginning on Sunday 30th November. Although the secular world of instant gratification and commercial profit celebrates Christmas earlier and earlier, the church takes time before the arrival of Jesus in Bethlehem for reflection - including on Jesus's Second Coming. The message is **not** Jesus is Coming - Look Busy, but rather Jesus is Coming, Attend to the state of your soul. If you are overwhelmed by all the busyness of the pre-Christmas period, why not take some time out to be quiet, to think and pray. Then we can enjoy the celebrations even more.

We have lots of carol services for you this year. The season begins with Athelington's Advent Carol Service on Sunday 30th November at 4.00 pm. Other highlights include a service at Denham on 18th December; Amici singing at Syleham on 21st December; Carols by Candlelight at Wingfield, followed by mulled wine and mince pies at Wingfield College (also on 21st December), and the Village Voices at Hoxne's Carol Service on 23rd December.

At Christmas itself, there will be an opportunity to dress up as your favourite Christmas character at the Crib Service at Wingfield at 4.00 pm on Christmas Eve. Our usual Midnight Service at Horham will be at 11.30 pm, and morning services on Christmas Day are listed below. And when the Christmas decorations disappear from the shops, we'll still be celebrating throughout January. Messy Christingle is on 4th January this year and the season of Epiphany continues until Candlemas at the beginning of February.

Have a very happy and blessed Christmas when it comes!

Rev'd Canon Eleanor Goodison
eleanor.goodison@gmail.com
 Tel: 07876 143579

Church Services

*Denham, Hoxne, Syleham
& Wingfield*

Every Friday: Compline at 6.00 pm
on Zoom

Planned church services December/January:

December 2025

Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

**4.00 pm Messy Church
Christmas party, Syleham
& Wingfield village hall**



Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne

Thursday 18th December

6.00 pm Carol Service, Denham

Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

11.15 am Carol Service, Syleham

**4.00 pm Carols by Candlelight,
Wingfield**

Tuesday 23rd December

6.00 pm Carol Service, Hoxne

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

**4.00 pm Crib Service,
Wingfield (with dressing
up)**

**11.30 pm Midnight
Service, Horham**



Thursday 25th December
Christmas Day

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion,
Syleham

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Hoxne

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

Sunday 28th December
First Sunday of Christmas

11.00 Benefice Holy Communion, Hoxne

January 2026

Sunday 4th January
Epiphany

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

4.00 pm Messy Christingle, Syleham
church

Sunday 11th January
Baptism of Christ

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church

Sunday 18th January
Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

9.30 am Village Service, Syleham

6.00 pm Evensong, Wingfield

Sunday 25th January
Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

4.00 pm All Age service

St Margaret's, Syleham

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival Supper was well attended and raised £764 for the church which will go towards maintaining the fabric of this historic building.



**Chat, Cuppa & Cake with
Coffee Caravan at
Wingfield Barns IP21 5RA**

**Tuesdays 9th December 2025
20th January 2026
17th February, Pancake Day !!**

From 10am till 12 noon

**Pop along
Everyone Very Welcome!**

St Margaret's church was beautifully decorated for the Harvest Festival Service, and we would like to thank everyone who provided a floral display. The Harvest Festival Service collection of £198.50 has been donated to the mental health charity YANA, who support the mental health of farmers and those living in rural communities. YANA have extended their thanks to our parishioners for this donation.

Historical Ghost Walk

The Ghost Walk was a spooky success raising over £700 for the Church. Over forty people followed the ghostly trail from The Old Vicarage to The Cross, then Serendipity and then down the lane to the Church - listening to the strange and chilling happenings in the village over the centuries, witnessing for themselves the ghostly spectres of the past.

A huge thank you to all who attended to make the evening such a success. We sincerely hope none of the spirits followed you home...



Cont.

Save the Dates:

Christmas Carol Service

Many thanks to Adrian Knott for again bringing his singers to sing at our Christmas Carol Service at 11.15 am on Sunday 21st December. Music not to be missed and a lovely way to join in with the Christmas season.

Christmas Day

Holy Communion at 9.30 am at St Margaret's, Syleham.

Monthly Coffee and Cakes

The popular Coffee & Cake, open to all, continues in the village hall the first Tuesday every month, 10am - 11.30am; any queries should be addressed to Julie Thompson, juliethompson435@gmail.com

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.

For details related to all our events please contact: lorraine@syleham.uk

St Andrew's, Wingfield

Our Harvest Supper at the beginning of October seems a distant memory but it was a great evening of neighbourly celebration. Huge thanks to Jacky and her many helpers for organising. And thanks to all who contributed to our collection of non-perishable food for the Waveney Food Bank at the Harvest Festival the following day.

The Wingfield Poetry Evening returned on 25th October on the theme of War and Peace. Those taking part read a wide variety of poems, both well-known and less so, but all were enjoyable. Thanks again to Jacky and Pat for the refreshments.

We are now looking forward to celebrating St Andrew's Day on Sunday 30th November with a special Evensong at 6.00 pm and to our Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 21st December at 4.00 pm. On Christmas Eve we will have a Crib Service at 4.00 pm and we're encouraging everyone to dress up for it. Plus, the Wingfield church stall at the Wingfield Barns Christmas Fair over the weekend of



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



St Andrew's Church,

Wingfield IP21 5RA

Sunday 21st December
at 4pm

Followed by mulled wine
and mince pies at
Wingfield College



Parking at Wingfield Barns'
car park



PLUS

Christmas Eve Crib Service, 4pm
and

Christmas Day
Holy Communion Service, 11am



6th and 7th December will be offering an enticing range of crafts, Christmas goods, cakes and preserves - do come along and support us.

We received the sad news that Tommy Gee died on 31st October, aged 100, at his daughter's house in Sussex. Many people will remember that Tommy contributed to this magazine for many years. A few of us were able to attend his final birthday party last summer which celebrated his long and adventurous life and his unique personality. A full obituary can be found on page 25 of this issue.

The Book Club has been reading books on the theme of sea journeys over the last couple of months but turns to a comedy of manners for December with *The Sweets of Pimlico* by A N Wilson. Contact Revd Eleanor for more information.

Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison
Tel: 07876 143579

St Peter & St Paul's, Hoxne

Many of you were disappointed that the October church quiz was cancelled due to illness; it will be rearranged for the New Year. Stradbroke held theirs under similar circumstances but made only £23.30 –hardly enough to heat the church for a day.

Hoxne's monthly coffee mornings usually raise more, and they give us a chance to socialize. The final one of the season on 20th December coincides with the Christmas Tree Festival—a chance to enjoy coffee, cake and the trees, while pausing from seasonal stresses.

Because of heating costs, there will be no coffee mornings in January or February, but they return in March.

Christmas Fair signs are up—please support our church even if you attend other events. Also coming up: the Waveney Choir concert on 10th December and the Carol Service on 23rd December.

As mentioned before, the lych-gate has been repaired. The gates now look good and work properly, though roof conservation still needs diocesan permission. Lych-gates, dating back to the 7th century, often suffered rot. Before the 18th century, bodies were sometimes left there overnight before burial—a practice thankfully abandoned. Hoxne's lych-gate is relatively recent, built by Herbert and Audrey Leggett and consecrated by the Bishop in 1954.

Deborah Harding
01379 668190

Mothers' Union

There is no meeting in December. Our next meeting will be Monday, 19th January at 2.30pm at Time House, Low Street Hoxne.

New members are always welcome at our Fellowship Group.

If you would like more information, please contact **Cathie McGregor**, Group Leader, 01379 668434.



CHRISTMAS WITH
The Waveney Choir

Join the Waveney Choir for an evening of Christmas music, from traditional carols to popular festive favourites.

★ **WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER. 7.00 PM** ★
HOXNE PARISH CHURCH

Entry to the concert is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of the church.

Refreshments will be served after the concert.

CONDUCTOR: SARAH-JANE BULLOCK
ACCOMPANIST: SHONA HUCKFIELD

Waveney
choir



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FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Fireworks Night! The turnout was fantastic, and we truly appreciate all of you for joining us. It was an unforgettable evening, and Billy's display was nothing short of spectacular.

We would also like to apologise to any residents who were affected by irresponsible parking on the night. Unfortunately, some vehicles blocked driveways and bends, which could have restricted emergency access. There were spaces available on the paddock field next to the pavilion as the display began, and the committee is already looking into ways to prevent this problem at future events.

Stay tuned for updates on our website and Facebook page for upcoming events—especially for Boxing Day!

Bar Nights

Remember, the Hoxne Pavilion social club is open every Thursday from 5pm and on the first Friday of each month, offering a warm, welcome and lively community atmosphere.



Halloween in Cross Street, Hoxne



Hoxne's Rock & Rollin' 50th Harvest Breakfast



We would like to say a special thank you to all who attended Hoxne's 50th Harvest Breakfast. An extra big thanks goes to those of you who helped with planning, costumes, decorating, cooking and setting up - we couldn't do it without you!! The costumes were brilliant! We raised around £800 (proceeds to the Playingfield Pavilion and St Edmund's Hall.)

*Calling for more helpers next year please!
It takes serious planning, and every hand makes a difference.*

We also need raffle prize donations.

Many thanks, Carole & Gill





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ATHELINGTON ROAD, HORHAM, EYE, SUFFOLK IP21 5EH

*In memory of
Thomas (Tommy) Whitby Gee
(1925 – 2025)*

Tommy Gee, a regular *Village Voice* contributor, passed away peacefully at home on Friday 31st October 2025, aged 100.

He was my grandfather. He will be fondly remembered.

Tommy and his wife Anne (who sadly passed away in 2010) had three children: Nathaniel, Simon (my father) and Sarah. He had three sisters (Jo, Alice and Dot).

As grandparents, they were always generous and jolly good fun to have around.

Born in 1925 in Nottingham, Grandpa went to High Pavement school. As he was very smart, he studied maths at Brasenose College (he graduated with 1st class honours).

From Oxford, he went to the Royal Naval College (Greenwich) as a 2nd Lieutenant.

In the Indian Ocean on his 21st birthday, tracking a hurricane off Mauritius, the ship's captain looked over Grandpa's shoulder and said, "If I lose the ship, Gee, I shall hold you responsible." They arrived safely the next day.

At age 23 he married Anne, and they moved to Uganda. He was District Commissioner, then became the Ministry of Education's Permanent Secretary.

He then moved back to Sussex to work for the IDS (Institute of Development Studies) and set up the USP (University of the South Pacific) in Fiji. He also spent a few years in Papua New Guinea and Guyana (again with the universities there).

He returned to the IDS in Sussex until retirement. He became a county councillor and chief planner for the Liberals.

In the early '80s he restored a house in Wingfield and eventually moved there, getting involved in many local activities (the *Village Voice*, restoring the church bells, the Quakers, etc).

In 2019 he travelled to Brazil. He always enjoyed travelling!

One fond memory that comes to mind is when he used to read aloud to me before bedtime. The BFG was a favourite. He and

Grandma stocked our shelves with classics and stories from Papua New Guinea or Uganda. I now live in south-west France and enjoy reading aloud to my two daughters.

Grandpa lived with his daughter in Sussex until he passed away. He had a great sense of humour and was an avid reader of *The London Review of Books* and *The Guardian*, regularly sending in letters. I always considered him an intellectual.

He will be terribly missed.

Thomas Seeley Whitby Gee



YOGA

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New Reeding Woods

The weather has been unseasonably mild with autumn colour still showing in the woodland. The pond level however was very low reflecting the low level of rainfall after a very dry summer.

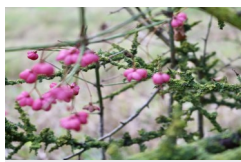
The large oak at the far end of the meadow is still a rich ochre while the field maples along the edges of the rides are showing bright yellow. Sloes are still abundant awaiting the frosts; some bushes showed blue under their load of fruit. Buttercups are still blooming in the meadow. The medlars are ripe and falling off the tree.



Medlars



Wild service leaves



Spindle berries

In the hedge the Wild Service tree glowed a flame red. The fruits of this tree are also known as chequers and can be used to make an alcoholic drink, and the name is thought to have been given to pubs called "Chequers". If you look carefully, a few spindle berries still remain vivid pink among bare and licensed branches.

Both the seat in the log at the pond and the log at the meadow are covered in tiny fungi against a rich carpet of lichens. A world of mosses and mushrooms has established in the cracks in the log. At the other end of the seat the lichen has formed trumpet-like fruiting bodies which will produce spores to allow the organism to spread.

With the leaves falling now both birds' nests and squirrel dreys can be seen in the trees. A Red Kite was being harried by rooks in the adjoining field. The wood still offers a place of peace and also colours and interest as you walk through.

If you are interested in joining the New Reeding Woods Group and getting hands-on experience of improving our local environment and enjoying outdoor activities, please contact our secretary Penny Conway on 07495875299.



**If your child was born between
1 September 2021 and
31 August 2022,
you must apply for a full-time
Reception Year school place by
15 January 2026**

You must make an application even if your child already has a place in a nursery class, pre-school or family hub.

To apply for a place or for more information you can visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

Information is also available from:

- The Admissions Team on 0345 600 0981
- Your local school

Hoxne Bells and Tower Project

We have been making progress, albeit slow, with the bells project. We are at the stage of asking which firms of bell-hangers would like to be considered for the work so that the Parochial Church Council, advised by our architect, can make a choice about which firm(s) to partner with in developing the detail of the plans. As this is a high-value project it is important that we get this stage right, and are able to justify our choice to funders, to the Diocese, and to the disappointed firms that we will not be working with. As some of the respected firms are quite small, their administrative capacity is very limited, and so the correspondence to establish how they would approach this project has dragged on for much longer than we had originally hoped. However, we hope that early in the New Year we will be able to identify who we will be working with to hang the new bells.

Revd John McCracken

St Edmund's Primary School, Hoxne

It's been a wonderful half term, and as we begin Christmas preparations, I'd like to thank all parents for their fantastic support. Our recent parent survey results were incredibly positive—thank you for your insight into our progress. Highlights from our pupils and classes are shared below, and we've been busy with nativity and festive activities. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming school and community events.

In Acorn Class, children enjoyed exploring mark-making with conkers and autumn-coloured paint. They've embraced the season, using natural resources in play and learning. A warm welcome and well



done to our Reception pupils, who have settled beautifully into routines—we're excited to watch them grow.

Oak Class have been inspired by Picasso and Miró, creating expressive portraits and pipe cleaner figures, with clay sculpture next week.

Beech Class have had a fantastic start, exploring sculpture, the Roman Empire, and life as a Roman soldier, while also developing tennis skills.

Rowan Class have written brilliant adventure stories and will soon begin non-chronological reports on an animal of their own choice. Their amazing human figure sculptures are drying, ready for painting.

Sports News

Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed a teambuilding afternoon at Hartismere High School, tackling challenges like crossing land without touching the ground, navigating mazes, walking on group skis, and transporting ping pong balls with ropes. Great teamwork all round!

Year 5 and 6 pupils from St Edmund's and Mendham Primary took part in a football tournament at Hartismere. They showed fantastic skills, winning their first match 5-0 and finishing 5th out of over 20 schools. A brilliant achievement!

House Captains

We're proud of our House Captains at St Edmund's Primary! They help pupils make friends at playtime and encourage group play. Dove (Taliyah) are currently leading in House Points, but everyone's working hard to catch up. We're excited to host an assembly explaining the 'Active 15'. Got playtime ideas? Come talk to us!

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:
office.stedmunds@consortiumtrust.org.uk

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



Tel: 01379 668283 office.stedmunds@consortiumtrust.org.uk
www.stedmundsprimary.org.uk

GRAHAM BORRILL

★

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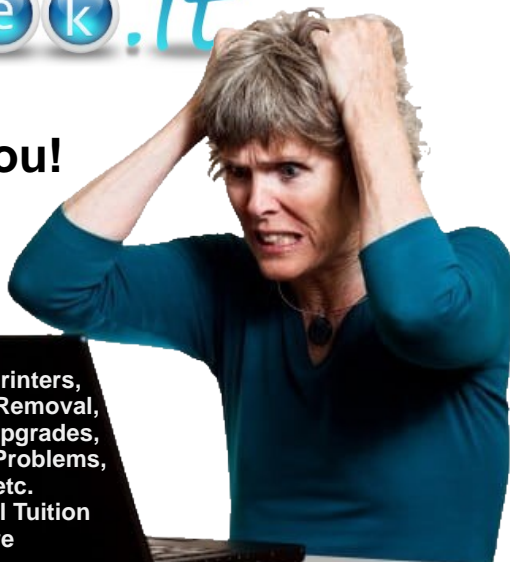


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Wingfield & District Garden Club

Our meeting on 25th September was a return visit from Jon Benington who gave us a splendid presentation on *Gardens In Close-up*. His talk began in the 15th century looking at art on the global stage with a page from the *Book of Hours* decorated with birds, flowers and gold leaf. This was followed by tapestries from the late 1520s, on to Dutch flower paintings showing tulips, roses, briar fruits, lilies and butterflies. The large vases showed a compilation of blooms not all flowering in the season. There were Chinese watercolour paintings of the 1700 and 1800s and examples of the work of Maria Merian, Mary Delany's paper mosaics, Hilma Af Klimt and Anna Atkins' cyanotypes. Then Van Gogh's sunflower paintings, Picasso's *'Flowers'*, Stanley Spencer's *'Garden in the Pound'*, Elizabeth Blackadder's orchid etchings and many more - finishing with the 2014 ceramic poppies marking 100 years since the start of WWI, and also marking VE day 2025.

Our 27th November meeting is with Helen Hillier of *'Helen's Herbaceous.'* Helen will be demonstrating 4 or 5 arrangements, including a door wreath,



all using materials from the garden or hedgerows. These can easily be replicated by people of all skill levels.

Visitors: £5. Annual memberships are due at the beginning of 2026, £20 or £35 for a couple. Look forward to seeing you at our meetings, which are held at Brundish village hall, starting at 7.30pm. Plenty of car parking opposite the hall.

Lyn Edwards

Hoxne Phoenix Flying High

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who attended our meeting on 14th October - our annual charity event, hosted this year by *East Anglian Air Ambulance*. Our group raised £371 over the year and a further £179 on the night, totalling £550. Chairman Vivienne Bradford presented the cheque to volunteer Kevin Sullivan. Members and guests were very generous with raffle prizes, ticket purchases, and donations. I must also thank Bryn Lerwill and John



Coop for running the bar. Again, thank you all for supporting this vital regional service.

Our next meeting on **Tuesday, 9th December** promises festive fun with a relaxed *Christmas Quiz* - prizes, drinks, mince pies, and plenty of laughter!

On **Tuesday, 13th January** we will welcome in the New Year with a presentation by retired forensic pathologist Mary Newton: *'When the Dogs Don't Bark.'* She'll explore cases where clues didn't correspond with findings, including the murders of Rachel Nickell and Jill Dando. It's set to be a fascinating evening.

The Phoenix Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7.30 pm in Hoxne village hall lounge. We also meet up for local walks, coffee and chats. New members and guests from Hoxne and nearby villages are always welcome.

Daphne Cook
Daphnec.cook@gmail.com



Hoxne Phoenix Group
wish you all a
Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

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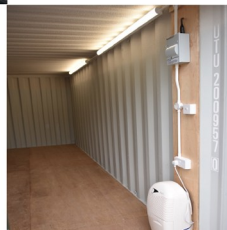
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Hoxne Garden & Social Club

One moment I am writing about the Village Produce Show, and then it is November! Autumn has been beautiful and fruitful. Woodland colours are stunning, raspberries are still ripening, and chrysanthemums are only just beginning to bloom. I hope winter holds off a little longer.

In October, Amy Holstock from *The Suffolk Owl Sanctuary* gave a talk – fittingly, the Hoxne owls were hooting along Goldbrook just before it began. The sanctuary rescues birds of prey and offers unusual animal encounters at Stonham Barns.

On 20th November Jamie Blake, former Head Gardener at The Dell Garden, Bressingham, will join us. Bressingham was a place I visited often as a child, famous locally for its gardens and nursery.

On **11th December**, the Garden Club will hold a members-only Christmas event. Jeanette will email details nearer the time.

Looking ahead to **15th January**, Stacy Cronly-Dillon returns with *Perfect Pollinators*. Her earlier bee-keeping talk was lively, and this promises to brighten a January evening.

Hoxne Garden and Social Club meet year-round on the third Thursday of the month, with talks on garden and wildlife topics, followed by refreshments and a chance to catch up. Events are advertised on Facebook and village boards. Subscription is £8; talks £2.50 for members, £4 for non-members.

Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year!



Debbie Pye
dilberry64@gmail.com

Waveney Heritage Centre

Chanters Jigge Folk songs at the Heritage Centre on **Fri 13 Feb 2025, 7.30pm**. Music, stories, history. Tickets £10 via website/Secretary. Pop-up bar with drinks & snacks.

Christmas Quiz on **Sat 13 Dec** - *bad taste dress or table* décor wins prizes! Entry £5, free mulled wine. Fun fact: French lorry drivers prefer pink loo roll!

Vintage Audio Museum open last Sunday monthly, 10am-3pm. Current exhibit: Murphy Radio.

Help needed repairing vintage radios. Contact us via website please.

Chris Parkin
www.waveneyheritage.com
www.waveneywireless.org



Borderhoppa Outings for December:

- Mon 1: Cherry Lane Garden Centre, £8
- Thur 4: Lunch at Wortham Tea Rooms, £8
- Mon 8: Thetford Town/Garden Centre, £15
- Thur 11: Lunch at The White Horse, Stoke Ash, £8
- Mon 15: Highway Leisure Centre, £15
- Mon 22: Borderhoppa Christmas Lunch at The Jolly Farers - Price TBC

Borderhoppa Outings for January:

- Mon 5: Cherry Lane Garden Centre, £8
- Thur 8: Bury St Edmunds Town, £18
- Mon 12: Highway Leisure Centre, £15
- Thur 15: The Four Horseshoes, Thornham - Dial-a-Ride
- Mon 19: Waitrose Café & Wymondham Garden Centre, £15
- Thur 22: Notcutts Garden Centre, £15
- Mon 26: Stoke Ash White Horse - Dial-a-Ride

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Monthly meetings are on the morning of the first Thursday of each month.

4th December *La Belle Epoque*
speaker: Jane Hoggar

8th January *Norfolk Blood Bikes*
(speaker yet to be announced)

Doors open at 9.45am and the meetings start at 10.30am.

We ask for a £3 donation towards refreshments and the speaker.

For more information:
<https://diss.u3asite.uk/>

Harleston Choral Society

Harleston Choral Society has been performing twice yearly for over 25 years, with 70+ members from across Norfolk and Suffolk. Whatever your musical background, we share a love of singing!

We welcome all ages and are especially keen to recruit more tenors. Join us at London Road Church, Harleston, from Monday 5th January 2026, 7.30-9.30pm, for uplifting rehearsals.

Our Summer 2026 concert will feature *Schubert's Mass in G* and *Puccini's Messa di Gloria*, directed by Justin Bindley.

For details contact Caroline Rodbourne at caroline@rodbourne.org.uk or visit www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk.

Hoxne Heritage Group present:

'Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites' - A talk by Lilly Hodges

All members of the public are invited to Hoxne village hall

on Tuesday 20th January at 7.30pm (The bar is open from 7pm)

£5 at the door (HHG Members £3)



Lilly Hodges is a Norfolk-born archaeologist, who has worked across East Anglia for over 18 years. After studying at Bournemouth and Bishop Grosseteste, she spent 15 years

with NPS Archaeology in Norwich before joining Cotswold Archaeology as Senior Publications Officer. She will speak on a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Norfolk, excavated in 2014-15. Fully analysed and soon to be published, the site's discoveries will significantly advance future studies of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries.

Our talks are open to all, but to learn more and perhaps become a member of The Hoxne Heritage Group, receive updates on local finds, join trips and events, and attend our bi-monthly Members' Meetings, see details on our website. Membership is modest at £10 per year and gives a reduced cost of £3 for village hall talks.

(Note: To keep costs low and the group viable, we ask for a £1 donation at members' meetings. Full details are on our website.)

Please visit:

www.hoxnehistory.org.uk

for fascinating facts, information, and photographs about Hoxne and surrounding villages.

Rob Hooker
Publicity, hoxnehistory.org.uk

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funds are available to all who live in
Hoxne, irrespective of age, who
might have difficulty in meeting the
costs of educational need.

Grants are given subject to funds
being available by the Trust.

**The deadline for receipt of
applications to the Maynard Trust:**

December 31st 2025

for the January Trust meeting.

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

Richard Giffin (Trustee)
54, Low Street,
Hoxne,
Eye
Suffolk
IP21 5AS

themaynardtrust@gmail.com and/or

richard.giffin@yahoo.co.uk

**Please include an email
address for quick
correspondence**

At the time of writing, the Maynard
Trust is building a website to make
applications easier. When up and
running it will be found at:

www.hoxnemaynardtrust.org.uk

Taryan's Borneo Adventure - helped by the Maynard Trust

This summer I was lucky enough to join Camps International on a month-long expedition to Borneo with 31 other students from Stradbroke High and several other Norfolk and Suffolk schools. We participated in volunteer work to help improve local communities, such as clearing channels to improve drainage in preparation for the rainy season as well as mixing and laying cement foundations for a group of community toilets.

We trekked deep into the rainforest along the banks of the Kinabatangan River, to clear an area of land and plant trees to help rejuvenate small areas of the rainforest that are under threat, with help from the Kopel Eco-tourism group.

Throughout the trip we learned about the different cultures of the tribes that live in the areas where we stayed, including different foods from local speciality recipes and the regular meals that the local people ate. We were introduced to tribal rituals, such as welcoming dances and the way the tribes tell stories through their dance.

The trip included a five-day trek through the jungle in which we carried large rucksacks of camping gear, moving from camp to camp each day doing a total of 30km, while sleeping in hammocks tied to trees at night. While we were trekking our guides showed us different aspects of the wildlife that we passed such as different species of insect, the native stingless bees and various types of plant. They showed us how we could drink the purified water from some plants that were safe, such as bamboo water and water from a certain type of vine.



The trip cost £4,800 plus equipment. I raised this through kind donations from my family, having donations instead of Christmas and birthday presents, a sponsored trampoline bounce at Waveney Gymnastics in Lowestoft where I am a long time member, and selling resin jewellery I handmade at First Eye Scout events. I am grateful to the Maynard Trust for contributing £400 towards the cost of my expedition; I am also grateful to Jules at First Eye Scouts for supporting me at the Scout events.

Taryan Gay



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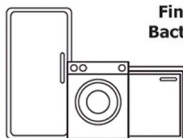
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Fressingfield Scouts

We returned to Scouting in early September alongside the school term. Our younger Sections—Squirrels, Beavers, and Cubs—made the most of the light evenings with outdoor games and activities.

Scouts and Explorers wrapped up the camping season with two camps in Norwich: Adventurers joined Explorers for a lightweight bivouac camp with a city-centre photo treasure hunt, while Pioneers teamed up with 2nd Diss Scouts for an activity camp featuring crate stacking, canoeing, climbing, and more. Despite high winds overnight, spirits stayed high and no damage was done.

Pioneers have been working on their Chef's badge in our HQ kitchen, cooking pizza, curry, pasta, and pancakes.



Squirrels' Lego time

They'll tackle the First Aid badge later this term with help from the County First Aid Team. Adventurers and Explorers enjoyed two Halloween-themed evenings with pumpkin carving and games like "wrap the mummy" and pumpkin racing.

Younger sections have been busy too: Wolves Cubs and Warrior Beavers worked on the Photography badge, while Warriors also tried archery and built model edible rafts. Tigers Cubs explored electricity and



Cubs' photography



Crate-stacking at Activity Camp

circuits, and Squirrels got creative with giant acorns, pumpkins, and Lego models.

All Sections are preparing their surprise acts for our biannual Gang Show. Over the Christmas break, leaders will plan next term's programme, including badge work, teamwork, and plenty of fun.

Best wishes from all of us at 1st Fressingfield Scout Group for a Happy and Healthy 2026! If you'd like to get involved or arrange a taster session, contact gsl@fressingfieldscouts.com or speak to any leader.

Join us for our fourth annual Santa Fun Run

on Saturday 13th December
11am start at Scout HQ,
Priory Road, and finishing at
the Community Market,
Fox and Goose car park.
Dress festively and be
part of the fun!
Registration is £5
(under 5s free).



Sponsor forms available from
Andrew at:
gsl@fressingfieldscouts.com.

More Hoxne memories...



In response to Stephen Govier's article in the October-November issue of *The Village Voice*, the photo above (copyright KFA) shows the village green, looking towards numbers 49 and 41. It was probably taken around 1952/53; the decorations may have been for the Coronation of Elizabeth II. I was born there in July 1957.

You can see the original site of the well shelter, and the tree stumps Stephen refers to in his article. It would be interesting to compare the photo with Stephen's, showing his grandfather outside his cottage.

Stephen's comment about school lunches reminded me of an entry in the School Log book. There was a delay in the opening of the 'new' canteen and kitchen as the asbestos sheeting had not been delivered! However in February 1943 the new cook, Mrs Hawes, was appointed and the official opening was carried out on 1st March 1943.

Mrs Joyce Lindley commenced her duties at the school on 8th September 1955 with the Infants. The other teachers at the time were the Headteacher Mr A V Balls (Billy) who taught the oldest class and Mrs Chapman who taught the middle class group. There were 67 pupils on roll.

George Rayner



*This is the view the other way -
towards The Swan
(copyright KFA)*

Whyt Lies Beneath: Unearthing a Hoxne Grocer's Legacy

Recently turned up in Hoxne is this scarce copper 17th cent. trade token. It was issued by Benjamin White, a grocer in the village in about 1680/90 and bears the legend "Benjamin Whyt" and the Grocer's Company arms on one side, and "Grocer in Hoxson" on the other.



Benjamin died in 1697 in the third year of the reign of William III and in his will, (which is almost illegible!), he leaves a property in Church Street, Eye to his wife and some land called the Camping Land to a relative. No reference to property or shop in Hoxne sadly, although probably in Low St!

Chris Johnson

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Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

*Please see Page 13 for
Denham Village Hall events.
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please contact
Jane Gilmore, Secretary,
on 07793047986*

Hoxne

For contacting Hoxne Parish Council we now have a telephone number in addition to making contact via the website. It is: 07594 657416. This number will get you through to the Parish Clerk.

There is no further news regarding traffic management within the parish. We are waiting for Suffolk Highways and the police to ratify our suggestions for which the Council has allocated a considerable amount of money.

All households within the Hoxne Parish should have received a leaflet offering suggestions and guidance for coping with any future flooding within the village as a result of severe weather. The Council has also devised an emergency plan. Keep the leaflet safe - there are also important links on there that may be of use in future adverse weather. If you require another copy of the leaflet there are copies in the village hall.

Within the first week of December there will be a group of your parish councillors in the community orchard at Heckfield Green undertaking maintenance of vegetation and trees. They will also be hopefully repairing the gate to the orchard and installing a new bench, kindly donated by a family having long time connections with the village. Small though it is, we encourage residents to use the orchard for the peace and tranquillity it offers.

The Council has successfully applied to renew the Swan public house as a 'community asset', meaning that if the owner (Stonegate) wishes to sell the

premises, the residents of Hoxne are given the opportunity to raise funds to purchase the pub for community use.

The proposed Shreves Farm development came before an Extraordinary meeting of Hoxne Parish Council again some weeks ago, having been revised since the original application. There are still a few issues which the Council are not happy with, details of which can be found in the minutes of that meeting on the Council website. The ultimate planning decision however rests with Mid Suffolk Council Planning.

Finally on behalf of Hoxne Parish Council may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a reminder that you could make a New Year's resolution to join the Parish Council - there is still one vacancy!

Chris Parkin
Chair, Hoxne Parish Council

Syleham

Syleham Parish Council met on 5th November. At the meeting councillors were updated on the new village sign, which is nearing completion. The sign has been carved and painted and local craftsmen have been appointed to create the aluminium frame and build the brick base.

Councillors were also updated on plans to develop an Emergency Plan for the village. The first meeting to discuss the Terms of Reference will take place in November. If any Syleham residents would like to get involved in drawing up the plan, please email the parish clerk at clerk@syleham-pc.gov.uk.

Following concerns raised by residents relating to the recent spate of anonymous flag-flying in the village on Suffolk Highways property, councillors agreed to adopt the government's flag-flying guidance, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide>.

The Parish Council has a new website (see details below). The website is a [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) domain in line with government best practice and councillors have adopted [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) email addresses.

Councillors also agreed a small grant

towards the cost of the restoration of a medieval chest at St Margaret's Church.

To find out more about what was discussed at the meeting visit www.syleham-pc.gov.uk. The next parish council meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 7.00 pm at Syleham and Wingfield village hall. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Wingfield

Wingfield Parish Council met on 17th September 2025. At the meeting councillors co-opted and welcomed Mr Jay Fletcher onto the council.

Councillors approved a grant application towards the cost of the Open Gardens event of £178.81. The event raised £5.5k, with the proceeds divided between a local hospice and St Andrew's Church. Councillors thanked the organisers and volunteers for their hard work making the event such a success.

Councillors also welcomed the news that a Wingfield History Project Group had been set up. The project includes plans to record older residents' memories of living in Wingfield and the creation of information boards giving details of the historic buildings, oral history, and walking routes around the village.

Councillors thanked Cllr Lee Smith for his work repairing the village's phone box and also thanked District Councillor Lavinia Hadingham for her support in resolving the flooding issue at Castle



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Crescent. The Parish Council had raised the issue with Cllr Hadingham on behalf of residents. The council were also updated on the second village defibrillator which had now been delivered and was due to be installed at Corner Green Farm.

Councillors welcomed Dawn Wnukoski (DW), Emergency Planning Support Officer, BMSDC, to the meeting who spoke to the council about the importance of parishes having emergency plans in place. Councillors agreed to develop an emergency plan in line with BMSDC guidance.

For more information on what was discussed at the meeting visit wingfieldparishcouncil.com.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 19 November at 7.30 pm at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall. All are welcome.

Lesley Hastie
*Clerk, Syleham & Wingfield
Parish Councils*

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Denham Calling every 4 weeks on **Thursdays**

Next stops: 11th December & 8th January

Denham post box: 11.25-11.35am

Sadly the Wingfield service has been discontinued, because it was not being used.

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

Next stops: 9th December & 6th January

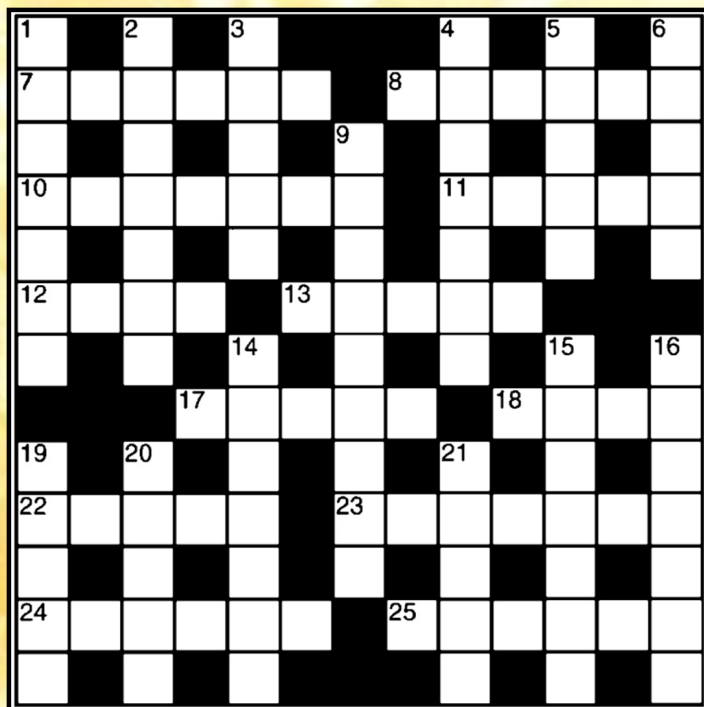
Syleham, Wingfield Road (Junction with Weybread Road): 11.45-11.55am
Brome & Oakley village hall: 12.15-12.30pm

Crossword

Puzzle No. 168

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 **Thursday, 8th January 2026** at the latest. Please add your name and address to entries.

*You can email a photograph or scan of your entry to:
vvsuffolk@live.co.uk



Across

7. Drive quickly and burn the road up (6)
8. Shortage of twisted thread (6)
10. Yearn for a try in the past (4,3)
11. Banish from latex pelmet (5)
12. Every person within reach (4)
13. Tree with the shakes (5)
17. Wide minor highway (5)
18. Threesome cause a riot (4)
22. Wading bird mainly showing sorrow (5)
23. Genteel sport despite the use of mallets (7)
24. One drinking during meal (6)
25. Money made by idol larking about (6)

Down

1. Book of psalms in chaps alterations (7)
2. Curtail a US state and join together (7)
3. Fight over what to discard (5)
4. Frankie Laine's shameless woman (7)
5. Rubbish written about alleged tasty dish (5)
6. Wrap up well in this country (5)
9. Scone can't be found in Swiss lake (9)
14. Waste money on battered food (7)
15. Rue blot causing a problem (7)
16. Rose put into a new stance (7)
19. Baste a nasty person (5)
20. Envelops fast food (5)
21. Drive to see casual top in an upland (5)

The winner of crossword puzzle no.167 was: Barbara Irwin
Apologies for the error - 11 across and 5 down didn't quite match

Answers: Across: 1. Mourning 7. Dress 8. Evincible 9. Oar 10. Snob 11. Placid 13. Demise 14. Encore 17. Barman 18. Asia 20. Mar 22. Concierge 23. Reach 24. Interest
Down: 1. Meets 2. Uniform 3. Nice 4. Nibble 5. Melon 6. Ascribe 7. Descent 12. Ostrich 13. Denmark 15. Observe 16. Cannon 17. Broad 19. Adept 21. Mite

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ADVERTISING

If you would like to place an advertisement,
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Advertising Co-ordinator:

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Hoxne, Eye IP21 5AJ

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