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**Message
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**FEBRUARY - MARCH
2010**

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**The Revd. Susan Loxton is chair to Hoxne & Denham PCCs.
The Revd. Fiona Newton is chair to Syleham & Wingfield PCCs.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Editorial

A New Leaf?

Resolutions are simply cheques that men draw from a bank where they have no account.

Oscar Wilde

What A New Year's resolution, as often as not, is a pledge to give something up like booze, bad language or chocolate. The already pious aspire to nobler ambitions like being civil (or even kind) to mother-in-law. And for some, it is merely a penance for over-indulgent festivities. The satirist, P J O'Rourke, has it thus: 'Proper behaviour through the holiday season is to be drunk...culminating on New Year's Eve when you kiss the person you're married to'. I'm not too sure whether this is meant to signify penance, alcoholic blindness or true love. But that is the cunning art of the satirist. (Phew, how's that for diplomatic sidestepping, chaps!)

Personally, I am wary of making New Year resolutions because they tend to go in one year and out the other. But I'll tell you what mine might have been – well, it's not mine actually, it's a quote from Dr James Agate but it has a certain appeal nevertheless: 'To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this doesn't encourage them to take up more of my time'. I asked my teenage granddaughter for hers. The response was, if nothing else, pragmatic: 'Not to use up my mobile phone credit in the first two days'. A sign of the times, I guess. And there's the rub. Technically, she kept her resolution because the credit ran out on day three, which is why I am wary of drawing cheques from the New Year Bank!

But, having said all that, New Year's Day is a calendar landmark for setting new standards or just improving old ones. Those who say that they are going to bury the bottle or bin the baccie, and do, are much to be admired. However, equally laudable is the soul who makes a mental note to pop in and see poor old Mrs So-and-So once a week, as are the ones who resolve to do their bit for such-and-such a cause. Hardly a season passes without I recall a sentiment once uttered by our former vicar, John Draper: 'Giving something up is only likely to be of immediate benefit to you; promising yourself to undertake a needed task is probably going to benefit someone else'. Worthy words.

Best of all, of course, is to do both and then you won't end up a broken-winded old warthog like me! But then again, I've never aspired to be the first centenarian to run the London Marathon. Live life gracefully, I say, and try to avoid drawing on an empty account.

JB

Diary dates

Saturday February 6

Hoxon Hundred Family Ceilidh -
St Edmund's Hall

Wednesday February 24

Eastern Angles - *Long Way Home*
Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

Friday February 26

Open Space Theatre Company
84 Charing Cross Road
St Edmund's Hall

Saturday February 27

Hoxne Music Festival quiz -
St Edmund's Hall

Saturday March 6

Hoxne Music Festival concert
Hoxne Parish Church

Tuesday March 16

Hoxne Parish Church Annual Meeting
In the church - 7.30pm

Tuesday March 23

Hoxne Playingfield Annual Meeting
Playingfield Pavilion

Saturday March 27

St Edmund's Pre-School portrait sitting
and nearly new sale - St Edmund's Hall

Thursday April 22

Hoxne Annual Parish Meeting
St Edmund's Hall

**See page 21 for details of
church services; page 35 for
Wingfield Barns concert dates**

**For St Edmund's Hall bookings
call Andy Bull 668273 for
Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion
ring Gail Jackson 668186.
For Syleham and Wingfield Village
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■There will be an evening of entertainment with Ray Hubbard and friends featuring traditional East Anglian music, step dancing and jig dolls at Horham Community Centre starting at 7.30pm on February 6, tickets £5. Bar and refreshments available. All proceeds for Denham Church funds.

■Open Space Theatre Company, which last visited Hoxne with a production of *Private Lives*, by Noel Coward, starts its 2010 programme with a performance of *84 Charing Cross Road*, by James Roose-Evans, based on the book by Helene Hanff. The play, to be performed in St Edmund's Hall on Friday, February 26, was a box office hit in London and New York during the 1970s and early 80s.

Funny and emotionally moving, with lots of songs and music from the period. Tickets cost £8.50 and £6 (concessions) Box office, 01379 855101

■Historic films with local interest will be screened by the East Anglian Film Archive at Weybread Village Hall on Friday February 19. Tickets £6 including coffee. Call 852267 for details.

■There's an open invitation to the the annual meeting of Hoxne Parish Church on Tuesday March 16 at 7.30pm in the church and to Hoxne Playingfield Committee's annual meeting at the Playingfield Pavilion on Tuesday March 23 at 7.30pm.

■The regional theatre company Eastern Angles will be at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall on Wednesday February 24 to present *A Long Way Home*. Call 668371 or 384362 for tickets.

OUT AND ABOUT...

■Jane and Adrian Knott report that thanks to all the singers who came along for carols around Syleham on December 23 and to the generosity of listeners, a grand total of £220 was made for Kids' Company. "Looking forward to seeing you all again for Christmas 2010," says Adrian.

■St Edmund's Pre-school has organised a photography portrait sitting and nearly new sale of children's clothes, toys and equipment at St Edmund's Hall on Saturday March 27 from 10am to 3pm. Cake stall and refreshments available. Booking for photography and tables (£5) is required.

Please contact Julie Bryant on 01379 668126 for further information and bookings.

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Letters to the editor

From Doreen Weller

How lucky we were at Christmas in Hoxne. There was no need to struggle with the supermarkets and fight for a parking spot. All you needed for a stress free Christmas was our village shop. We are so fortunate to have such a well stocked shop and a friendly person behind the counter. Well done Peter!

Bridge Farm, Hoxne

From Andy Bull

As a resident of Hoxne can I thank Janet Koralambe, all the performers and everyone associated with a thoroughly enjoyable production entitled the Christmas Box on December 28. It shows the talent that lives in Hoxne and the surrounding villages.

The Willows, Eye Road

From Clive Baxter

Thank you so very much for all your kindness, help, assistance and friendship during mum's time in hospital. Mary will be going into a nursing home in Ipswich, but I shall be remaining in Hoxne for the immediate future.

Low Street, Hoxne

From Sallie Chester

There's always something special about Christmas morning at Hoxne with the annual visit by Father Christmas and his Elves not to be missed – even if it's just to wave from the window as they pass by. This year I was ready as usual to wave them on their way when, to my surprise, they

stopped. The Elves hopped out and headed up the drive and presented me with a present! It was totally unexpected – and I was overcome. What a wonderful job they do every Christmas. Call in again next year Father Christmas and we'll say thank you properly with a little something to keep out the cold!

Flaxfield, Witton's Lane

From Mark Haddock

Hoxne Church is a warm, friendly and supportive community. However, it cannot be entirely inclusive. Clergy, for example, are not allowed to marry same-sex couples. While I don't for one minute believe there is any personal discrimination by the clergy on the basis of sexual orientation [quite the opposite] Hoxne Church is nevertheless part of an organisation, the Church of England, that explicitly denies same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples. I can imagine a situation where friends or relatives could be excluded from the Church in this way. They and I would be both angry and upset and would not be prepared to participate in such an organisation. This is one* reason I have decided not to participate now – it would be dishonest and I would be complicit in reinforcing prejudiced attitudes that can lead to discrimination.

Despite all the good work the Church of England does and all the good intentions of Hoxne Church, it is still part of an institution that discriminates against a minority group for no valid reason. Civil partnerships are now legal. The Church needs, I think,

to follow this example otherwise it continues to offer excuses for discrimination and exclusion.

I expect some members of the Church will agree with me to some extent but not with my non-participation as a result perhaps. I am interested to hear people's views and very much appreciate the publication of this letter in the *Village Voice*.

*To be a Christian is, I think, to have faith in things we don't and can't fully understand – i.e. faith becomes more important than reason. This inevitably entails a degree of intellectual dishonesty. To be a Christian also, I think, requires an acceptance of all Jesus' teachings and actions as reported in the gospels. While many of these teachings are to be admired, it is difficult to accept those that encourage fear – e.g. the idea of everlasting punishment. These are some of the reasons I do not call myself a Christian but an Agnostic and a Humanist.

Church Close, Hoxne

From Greta

I am writing to say thank you to everyone for their kind gifts at Christmas – especially to the person who left a hamper on my doorstep – and left me to guess who it was from!

Heckfield Green, Hoxne

From Brian Chester

Very many thanks to those who bought a Hoxne Christmas tree from Witton's Lane. As a result £160 has been divided equally between the Southwold Lifeboat and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Flaxfield, Witton's Lane

International musicians in Hoxne concert

As part of the build up to the Hoxne Music Festival in May, organisers have been extremely fortunate to secure the services of virtuoso violinist Alex Redington and his wife Siu Chui Li, award-winning classical pianist, to play in the village.

They have been booked for Saturday March 6 and will present a concert in the Parish Church. Tickets will be available from Hoxne Post Office and at the door on the night.

International commitments meant that the couple were not available for the weekend of the festival in May, but managed to fit this one-off performance into their busy schedule.

Alex is a former pupil of Hartismere High School and since leaving he studied at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music before joining the Doric Quartet and giving solo performances. His wife, who started playing piano at the age of seven, was a student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Each has given performances at venues around the world and built an international reputation.

"It is a huge coup to have such established international classical musicians performing a concert as a prelude to the weekend of the Hoxne Music Festival," commented chairman Stuart Jarrold, "and definitely one not to be missed."

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Site reveals its ancient past

Details can now be revealed of discoveries made by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit during excavations on the site off Witton's Lane, Hoxne now being developed by the Orwell Housing Association.

Evidence suggests that this area was occupied during the 11th, 14th and 16th centuries with ditches and field boundaries. Building structures fronted the road and metalworking was taking place on the site. The other interesting isolated find was a small group of eleven silver coins dating from 1553 most probably lost in a purse or container. The coins are three groats, five sixpences and three shillings and date to the reigns of Mary I [1553-1558] and Elizabeth I [1558-1603].

The coins were found in one of the old ditches and at this time the Southwell family were lords of the manor of Hoxne Hall and most of the land within the village. The Priory Manor [Abbey Farm] was in the ownership of Sir Robert Southwell who had purchased this estate from Sir Richard Gresham about 1538. The Priory Farm Estate, formerly the Priory Cell of St Edmund had been demolished and was occupied by a farmhouse in which the Thurston family resided from the 1600s.

The three groats belong to the reign of Queen Mary I [1516-1558] with one coin from the earlier part of her reign and the other two after her marriage to Philip II of Spain [1554-1558]. Philip was styled King of England [jure

uxoris] by right of his wife during her lifetime. A groat was a silver coin which was worth four pennies.

The five sixpences and three shillings all come from the reign of Elizabeth I and date from 1560-1568. A shilling [solidus] was worth twelve pence and the word shilling is derived from the Roman period.

Sherds of pottery cooking utensils and other artefacts were found on the site being recovered from the ditched areas which had been filled in.

The vicars during this period were Thomas Bacon who was the parish priest from 1528-1554, being followed by James Sheparde until 1572 and from that date until 1572 by William Rushbrooke. From 1585 until 1594 Lewis Owen was in charge being followed by Thomas Sayer who stayed until 1645. **Stephen Govier**



**Elizabeth 1 silver sixpence (top)
and Queen Mary silver groat (below)**



King Pleasure is sure to please

Plans have now been finalised for top-of-the-bill bands at the Hoxne Music Festival, which takes place during the Spring Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May.

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys have been lined up for Saturday night, May 29, at St Edmund's Hall while Red Priest will perform a classical concert at Hoxne Parish Church the following evening, May 30.

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys might not be a name well known to the general public in Suffolk but their unique musical style has been in demand across Europe and at top festivals in England for many years.

Stuart Jarrold, chairman of the festival committee, said: "I first saw them several years ago at a festival and was immediately impressed by their stage presence and musical capability and variety. They play everything from jazz to swing and rhythm and blues and really had the audience foot tapping, hand clapping and bopping away. Anyone who came to our last festival and saw Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band will certainly enjoy King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys every bit as much."

Festival tickets will go on sale from Hoxne Post Office soon but, at the time of writing, prices have not been finalised. However should you wish to put your name down to reserve tickets, a form will be available at the post office.

Booked for the opening night of the festival, on Friday May 28, are the

Hoxne Hundred for a family ceilidh. On Saturday afternoon May 29 there will be free music on the village green with Gil Alexander and her band and on Sunday May 30 there will be another free session with local young bands and musicians at the Pavilion playing fields.

Red Priest will include Piers Adams and Howard Beach who were so well received at the inaugural festival.

The next quiz in aid of Hoxne Music Festival takes place at St Edmund's Village Hall on Saturday February 27. Please contact Jenny Knights to book your team on 07909 006832. The £5 per team member includes light refreshments.

"We had several teams who turned up on the night last time and just managed to squeeze everyone in. But it would help us if people could book in advance so we don't have to turn anyone away," said Jenny.

The Christmas Box musical show on December 28, also held to raise funds towards the Hoxne Music Festival, was a capacity event. Organiser and performer Janet Koralambe said: "We would like to thank everyone who helped put on the show and to those who came along and made it such a successful evening."



Poppy Appeal tops £3700

The Hoxne and District Branch of the Royal British Legion achieved a 'wonderful success' during the recent Poppy Appeal.

The final amount raised totalled £3701.63 made up by: house-to-house collections - £1343.68; static boxes - £368.68; Hoxne Church - £246.27; Brome and Oakley Churches - £143; Hoxne and District RBL - £1600.

Bill Herrington, branch chairman, says: "Many, many thanks go to all the collectors who are at the very heart of these activities. The sadness of the continuing involvement in Afghanistan has crystallised public minds on the terrible price being paid by our Armed Forces in that country. This reflection is truly shown in this year's Poppy Appeal results.

"Thanks go to everyone not forgetting the counters of monies, Nena, Peter Drake and Jean Herrington... I sincerely thank you all once again."

In November, the branch held its Annual Christmas Bazaar at Brome Village Hall. Following last year when the event was 'blighted' by snow, the bazaar was held in the afternoon and was a real success raising a total of £492 towards the branch's Christmas Gift project. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was had by all and our thanks to all who supported us.

As mentioned previously, Charles Saunders, our oldest member celebrated his 100th birthday on January 7 and it was the the branch's intention to hold a get-together of members and his relatives at Brome Village Hall on

the day. Charles had served in the Royal Artillery and it had been arranged for a birthday cake baked by the RA chefs at Colchester to be presented to him by the secretary of the RA Association with a special birthday card from the Master Gunner, St James' Park.

In addition, relatives who had flown in from the USA and Canada were invited.

Once again we were 'blighted' by 'seasonal weather!' and unfortunately the event was called off at the last moment at Charles' request, he not wishing people to travel in the conditions.

However we were able to have a gathering at his home where John Elliott and myself along with his relatives, the Mayor of Diss and Major Chris Davies from Colchester were able to present him with the cake and his 'special' card from St James to sit along side his card from the Queen. A small, short but happy afternoon celebrating a great achievement.

Roger True

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Pre-school has fun with ice and snow

The children are having an exciting spring term at St Edmund's Pre-school. We will be celebrating the Chinese New Year and Pancake Day; visiting the Primary School and be out and about walking to the Hoxne Man - if weather conditions allow.

As we are going to see the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* we will be planning activities around this story and also Red Riding Hood. We are preparing a 'frozen world' indoors and while outside have enjoyed the snow and ice with the children alongside finding out more about animals that live in cold climates.

Last term seems such a long time ago but you might have seen us walking up to Hoxne Parish Church for carol singing and nativity. Many thanks to Rev Susan Loxton for holding that for us. The children enjoyed walking up and singing in church.

Our Christmas Show (*pictured above*) went ahead as planned even though we thought it might be snowed off. The children sang and acted out *Follow the Star*, a Christmas nativity, beautifully. Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket for our Christmas Hamper

We welcome Toby who is starting Pre-school this term.

On March 27 (10am – 3pm) we will be holding a photography portrait sitting for families or individuals, with Terri Brice Photography (www.terribricephotography.co.uk). Also being held at the same time will be a Nearly New Sale of children's clothes, toys and equipment. Come along - there will be a cake stall and refreshments available. Booking for photography and tables is required. Please contact Julie Bryant on 01379 668126 for further information and bookings.

Parents who attend Little Treasures on Wednesdays (our group for babies and children up to five years old accompanied by a parent/carer) will be having a busy time this term with a different craft activity each week, parachute games and singing.

Parents/carers who would like to find out more are invited to drop in on a Wednesday between 10am -12noon term time - you will be made very welcome!

If you would like to send your child to Pre-school please feel free to pop in to us at St Edmund's Hall. We are open Mondays and Thursdays 9.30am to 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am to 1pm.

Friends make a social occasion

The last big event organised by the Friends of Hoxne Church was a Family Quiz which raised a profit of £406. My thanks to all who helped and to those who supported the event with a special thanks to Gladys for running the raffle. So far we have raised £152.52 at our three coffee mornings which take place in the Parish Church on the fourth Saturday of each month, starting at 10am. It's a nice social get together. Do come along, all are welcome.

In the coming year we hope to hold an art exhibition and sale plus some craft stalls, possibly in early May. We are also planning a concert by the Castleton Brass Band. More details on both of these will be published later. Both events will take place in the church.

John Chapman, chairman

Tree group quick to meet target

The Annual Open Day of the New Reeding Woods Group was delayed in 2009 to coincide with the BBC Tree O' Clock planting challenge on December 5 when there were hopes that one million trees would be planted, between 11am and noon. So far it seems that the challenge was not achieved though in many locations vast numbers of trees were planted.

At Pound Lane our modest plan to plant just over 200 trees was easily completed in 35 minutes as more than 50 enthusiasts joined in the planting. Trees were planted adjacent to the rides, alongside the meadow, in the hedge, round the pond and parallel to the Redlingfield Road, and we are satisfied that Pound Lane Wood now has a full complement of trees. Rides around the woodland on a horse drawn cart were a highlight of the day, and when the task was completed the tree planters were fortified by a BBQ and hot soup.

Although tree planting is now complete at Pound Lane Wood, the group

still has regular work parties to maintain the woodland and manpower is always welcome - call Mike Reeves on 668179 for details. The search is still on for more land within the villages of Denham and Horham for another area of community woodland.

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Benefactor's legacy holds good today

As a community, Hoxne has a pretty good record for fundraising. Many clubs and organisations have benefited from the proceeds of fetes and dances, festivals and flower shows; breakfasts and barbecues, bike rides, quizzes and a variety of other happy wallet-wasters keep many village activities on the road.

But there is another source of funding that quietly goes about its business without poaching the pockets of this inexhaustibly generous hinterland. And it provides for the immediate needs of individuals.

If your daughter is struggling to pay for her university reading list or your son wants to go on that school study expedition or perhaps Granny would love to do a computer course, there is help at hand. So who do we have to thank for this? One Charles Lord Maynard.

Charles Maynard was a benefactor of Hoxne parish who, in 1761 endowed a foundation bearing his name for the benefit of boys and girls, and indeed now anyone of the parish, to assist financially with their educational needs. Today, the Trust, which is administered by six trustees from Hoxne, derives its income from investments and small traditional rents.

As with any Trust, it is governed by its constitution and is accountable to the Charity Commission. So, if you want funding for a family skiing holiday, forget it! On the other hand, if the boy is training for the Olympic slalom – go for it! As long as the purpose is educational or career enhancing training, an application will be considered. But you must be a resident of Hoxne Parish and we do

have limited funds. The Trust does not operate on a first come first served basis but rather to assist as many as possible, according to its means and your needs. For example, if you are doing a woodwork course at Suffolk College and have to buy tools costing £200, you could expect help to the tune of £75 to £100. If there are twenty others doing the same course, the grant would then be commensurate with the demand.

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 an educational need. Just write (preferably the applicant rather than a parent or guardian) to any of the following trustees stating the purpose for which the application is being made and the approximate costs involved:

John Ball, Abbey Farm, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AL

Sallie Chester, Flaxfield, Witton's Lane, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AE

Felicity Golding, Hoxne Place, Reading Green, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5DJ

Simon Pretty, 17 Cross Street, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AJ

Sally Prochner, Ash Tree Cottage, Witton's Lane, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AE

Alan Smith, Market House, Low Street, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AR

Meeting dates to consider applications for 2010:

25 February; 20 May; 26 August; 25 November.

Please submit applications before these dates.

John Ball - chairman

Children travel back in time

St Edmund's Primary School has enjoyed another exciting and busy term with two school trips in November, two beautifully presented Christmas performances and a finale of snow!

Class 1 children visited Norwich Castle (pictured right) and Stranger's Hall where they learnt about toys from another age some of which were nearly 100 years old.

Classes 2 and 3 visited Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse to experience a Victorian Christmas that linked into their history topic work in class.

Our Christmas performances were Class 1's The Innkeeper's Breakfast and Classes 2 and 3's Wind in the Willows. Well done to all involved who helped make this year's productions such a great success.

The children displayed their skills



by presenting the Nativity Story and playing their brass instruments at the school's carol service in Hoxne Parish Church. We also visited The Depperhaugh and St Edmund's House to sing Christmas carols. The last day of term presented the children with an early gift of snow, which everyone enjoyed.

- Julie Rogers



The school's Junior Road Safety Officers write -
Hello, our names are Daniel and D'arcie and we are in Year 6. We are the school's Junior Road Safety Officers. We hope to try and educate parents and children, so that they are safer on the roads by having competitions and making posters.

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Happy New Year from Hoxne Parish Council.

Tudor Close

As you might have noticed the low-cost housing development is progressing at Heckfield Green and, as there was a discovery of Tudor coins while excavating the site, it has been decided to call the scheme Tudor Close to mark this event.

Planning

Determinations:

The following determinations have been received.

Ref: 3046/09 – Kingswood, Low Street - Cut down two cherry trees and cut back a hornbeam – permission granted.

Ref: 1538/09 - Alteration and conversion of outbuilding to form residential annexe for use ancillary to Fir House – permission granted.

3511/09 Woodlands, 50 Low Street, Reduce six Sycamore trees by 50%.

Remove the front stems to one Sycamore tree. Remove one Eucalyptus tree and reduce seven Silver Birch trees by 30%. Approved by MSDC.

3164/09 Land to the rear of Claret House, Nuttery Vale,

Erection of four dwellings and garages (submission of reserved matters – scale, layout and landscaping pursuant to outline planning permission 4011/07) refused by MSDC

Planning applications:

The following planning applications were considered.

3327/09, Eye Airfield, Castleton Way, Eye - Scoping Opinion proposed wind turbines.

1958/09, Gissings Farm, South Green, Retention of demolition following partial collapse of mid 20th century porch hood over right hand front exterior door. Subject to the approval of the MSDC Conservation Officer, it was proposed to support the application. Unanimously agreed.

3414/09, Longfields, Nuttery Vale - erection of detached single garage

(re-submission of 1245/09). Councillors were reminded of the previous application for a double garage which was objected to by the Parish Council, MSDC and refused on appeal. Detailed discussion took place around the new plans which Councillors felt had taken into account the previous comments made. It was proposed to support the application with the comment that 'the drains serving this property and neighbouring were protected during construction. The ridge height of the building should be no more than the garage at the adjoining property'. Unanimously agreed.

Ref: 3570/09 Bramble Cottage, 5 Nuttery Vale – erection of extension to the front and a porch to side of the property. Hoxne Parish Council would recommend approval not be given on the grounds of size, scale and bulk.

New bus timetable

New Far East Travel Route 482 Bus timetable came into effect 2 November 2009.

Please use link below to download a copy.

<http://www.suffolkonboard.com/content/download/17322/263396/482.pdf>



Mobile Library service

Our Mobile Library service now visits Hoxne on alternative Thursdays - January 14, 28; February 11, 25; March 11, 25; April 8, 22; May 6, 20; June 3, 17; July 1, 15, 29; August 12, 26; September 9, 23; October 7, 21; November 4, 18; December 2, 16, 30.

2011: January 13, 27; February 10, 24. at
Hoxne Post Office Stores 11.05am - 11.30am
Hoxne The Close, Cross Street 11.35am - 11.50am
Denham Post Office 12pm - 12.10pm

**Dates of next Parish Council Meetings are Monday February 1, Monday March 1 and Monday March 29 at 7.30pm - all at the Playingfield Pavilion.
An early reminder for Thursday April 22 - Annual Parish Meeting at St Edmund's Village Hall**

**Philip Flagg, chairman Hoxne Parish Council
Tel: Hoxne 668258 email: philip.flagg@btinternet.com**

.....

Club plans six-month programme

The Hoxne Theatre Club has almost completed arrangements for the next six months with a varied programme that we hope will be of interest to all our members. We have arranged the following trips:

March - Saturday 20, a visit to the Royal Albert Hall in London to see a *Classical Spectacular* incorporating the 1812 Overture, canons, indoor fire-works, Jerusalem, Rule Britannia, Sousa, Aida, La Traviata and many others. This event has been a 'sell out' but if you want to join the waiting list let us know.

April - Tuesday 27, we visit the Maddermarket, Norwich to see Terence Rattigan's *French without Tears* a light romantic comedy based on the French Riviera. Evening performance 7.30pm.

May - Wednesday 26 (not yet booked). We hope to visit the Theatre Royal

Norwich for a matinee performance of *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett-- a much enjoyed play providing a rich vein of comedy.

June - no visits planned this month.
July - Tuesday 20. By continued demand we are again visiting the Cromer End of Pier Summer Show. There will be time for a stroll along the Front or a Game of Pitch and Putt and or the usual visit to Mary Jane's for a good Fish and Chip Supper!
August - Saturday 14. We are holding our Annual Dinner at Hoxne Village Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm. Free wine at the table, pre-dinner drinks and entertainment.

If you have any enquiries or wish to join the Theatre Club please get in touch with Nigel or Viv Bradford 668551 or Doreen Weller 668291. We are always keen to see new members.

Friends reaches charity goal

The last event of 2009 for the Friends of Denham Church - the Auction of Promises - was a resounding success which surpassed all our expectations and raised almost £2,500 after meeting the expenses of the evening.

It was held at the Red Feather Club and we would like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the team at the club for all their invaluable help leading up to, and on, the day. The event began with a highly amusing discourse by Alan Smith which set the mood for the evening, followed by an ample supper and then the auction itself with Alan's son Ed masterfully wielding the gavel. Huge thanks are also due to father and son Smith for the success of the evening.

We have now planned our programme for 2010 although we have not set dates for events in the last quarter of the year. We are planning a Ceilidh for around the end of January/beginning of February but at the time of going to press details, including the date have not been able to be finalised, so please look out for local publicity, posters, flyers etc.

Following the Ceilidh the programme is as follows:

AGM - April 14

Quiz Evening - May 22

Barn Dance - July 10

Wine Tasting - September 18.

We propose to follow the formal proceedings of the AGM with an 'event', details of which are yet to be decided, and hope that this will encourage as many members as

possible to attend.

For the last quarter of the year we are considering holding a horse-racing night and, nearer to Christmas, a family party but both of these have yet to be finally agreed.

In between these main events we hope to be able to hold some daytime events with children in mind such as a Treasure Hunt and Duck Racing.

We have comfortably reached our target to enable registration as a charity and look forward to your continued support during 2010 for further successful fund raising.



Wayne's

■gardening tips

February - sow broad beans under glass and keep them well covered on frosty nights. Sow cucumbers for an early crop if you have a well-heated greenhouse. Dahlia tubers can be boxed up in old compost.

March - this is a good month for turf laying. Sow sweet peas outdoors and bed out wallflowers and forget-me-nots and other spring bedding. Did you know sprouts are a good source of protein? They contain phytochemicals which may help fight some cancers. Here's to a happy gardening year! **Wayne Page**

■ *Mum and I would like to say thank you for our Christmas gifts for delivering the Diss Mercury*
Happy New Year - Wayne

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NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

Hoxne, Denham, Syleham and Wingfield

Main contacts for anyone who needs to get in touch with a member of the clergy are:

Hoxne – Brian Chester, Flaxfield, Witton's Lane tel: 01379 669157

Denham – Barbara Irwin, Reading Hall tel: 01379 870500

Syleham – Marion Minns, Paramoosh, Pink Cottage tel: 01379 669262

Wingfield – John McCracken tel: 01379 384181

Times of worship • February - March 2010

February 7

Wingfield 10am Family Communion

Syleham 11am Morning Prayer

Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion

February 14

Wingfield 10am Holy Communion

Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer

Ash Wednesday

February 17

Hoxne 10am

Wilby 7pm

February 21

Wingfield 10am Family Service

Syleham 10am Holy Communion

Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion

February 28

Wingfield 10am Morning Prayer

Syleham 10am Village Service

Hoxne 10am Family Service

Denham 3pm Family Service

March 7

Wingfield 10am Family Communion

Syleham 11am Morning Prayer

Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion

March 14 Mothering Sunday

Wingfield 10am Songs of Praise

Hoxne 10am Family Service

March 21

Syleham 10am Holy Communion

Wingfield 10am Family Service

Hoxne 11.15 Holy Communion

Fressingfield 3.30pm Confirmation

March 28 Palm Sunday

Syleham 10am Village Service

Wingfield 11am Morning Prayer

Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer

A service of Compline will be held at Wingfield at 6.30pm on the first, second, third and fourth Fridays of Lent.

Week-day services with a focus on prayer are held at

Hoxne, second Tuesday at 9.30am; Denham on the third Tuesday at 9.30am;

Wingfield on Mondays at 12noon; Syleham on Tuesdays at 12noon.

The Vicarage, 15 Noyes Avenue, Laxfield
01986 798266 fionanewton@rmpc.co.uk

February 2009

Dear Friends,

One of the most profound privileges of my role is to be called to the bedside of a person close to death. Once, it involved a fast drive to the hospital, so that a man nearing the end of his life could be baptised. More often, though, it means joining the family for a time as they watch and wait through the final hours.

One of the reasons I treasure it, is the conversations that take place then. Stories are told, memories are shared, messages imbued with gratitude, as well as laughter, are offered to the person in the bed. And sometimes, even scores are settled...and prayers said.

The more I live and work in our villages, it is clear to me that we do indeed recognise the wisdom of our older people. Some of them have survived times of deprivation that we can barely imagine. Some have grappled with atrocities that have marked them for ever.

If we hear these stories, then we are privileged, and we realise why such people – like Moses, like Abraham and Sarah, like the parents of John the Baptist – we realise why such men and women are often called to do great things and offer us good advice...because they can...like the prayer that goes: may we see Christ in others, and be Christ to others.

Amen to that!

With love,
Fiona

Revd Fiona Newton (Tel: 01986 798266) is priest-in-charge of Brundish, Cratfield, Laxfield, Syleham, Wilby and Wingfield and Rural Dean of the Hoxne Deanery

Revd Susan Loxton (Tel: 01379 586040) is priest-in-charge of Denham, Fressingfield, Hoxne, Mendham, Metfield, Weybread and Withersdale

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

Hoxne Parish Church was at the centre of a series of successful services over the Christmas period with the **St Edmund's Pre-School** singing carols by the crib, and the **St Edmund's Primary School** carol service which filled the church with parents and children all enjoying a presentation which included music from the school's brass band and readings and songs from the pupils. The Revd Susan Loxton thanked the teachers and the children for all they had done and the school association for organising refreshments afterwards with donations being made to the running costs of the church.

The **village carol service** featured more brass being led by the Diss Salvation Army Band with the congregation listening to the traditional readings and joining in with well-known carols.

On **Christmas Eve**, a service of Holy Communion for the group of parishes of which Hoxne is part, was led by Susan and attended by more than 60 people.

On **Christmas Day** a Family Service attracted a similar number including many children. The service was followed by a short form of Holy Communion.

The church council expresses its thanks to all those who provided the many seasonal decorations – including the crib and Christmas tree – which brought pleasure to everyone who visited the church during the festivities. Donations were made from the collections to the Salvation Army and the Church of England Children's Society. The council is also grateful to all those who contributed to or attended the **Christmas Bazaar** which raised more than £800 for church funds. Fund raising – from events and reg-

CHURCH NEWS

ular giving – will be a focus of concern for the council in the coming year as it seeks to raise the finance to run the church and maintain clergy numbers.

The Mothers Union meets on the third Monday of each month at Time House, Low Street Hoxne.

Monday February 15 - Margaret Thompson speaking about her wartime experiences at Bletchley Park. The March meeting will be on Thursday 25th at 11am attending the Lady Day service at Bury St Edmund's Cathedral with our banner.

As from January 1, Val Jeffreys became our new Diocesan President. Val has a write up on page 11 of the January issue of *East Anglian* which includes her vision for the direction of MU work within the Diocese (copies in church).

If you are interested in joining our group please contact the enrolling member Cathie McGregor on 01379 668434.

Flower rota

February 7 and 14

Altar - Josephine Marsh-Feiley
Porch - Cathie McGregor.

This is followed by Lent and there will be no flowers in the church until Easter. The list for Easter will be available in mid March. Thanks to everyone who provides the lovely and imaginative flower displays throughout the year. If any one would like to join the team please contact me. Cathie McGregor rota organiser - 668434.

The first of a series of meetings run by Susan to explore Holy Communion and for anyone who would like to prepare for **Confirmation** is on Sunday February 21 at The Vicarage, Tansy Meadow, Fressingfield, followed by February 28, ►►

March 7 and 14. A Confirmation Service is to be conducted by the Bishop of Dunwich on Sunday March 21 at 3.30pm at Fressingfield. Susan can be contacted on tel: 586040

St John, Denham

Morning Prayer on the third Tuesday of the month at 9.30am and a **Family Service** at 3.00pm on the fourth Sunday continue as regular features at St John's, but 2010 will see some disruption of this schedule, as major building works at the church will begin in the late spring. However this will only result in a change of venue, not a disruption of services, so watch this space. At 7pm on Easter Saturday, April 3, a candle lit **Service of Light** will be held at the church.

The stage one investigations have shown that the repairs needed are not quite as extensive as first thought, and the work will begin as soon as the bats roosting in the church have fledged this year's young. Grants have been received from many funds who support ancient buildings and the **Friends of Denham Church** has raised a substantial amount of money towards the repairs to this building that dates back to the thirteenth century. The conservators report and his history of the Church building together with details of the repairs about to be undertaken will be on display in the Church from January 30, when a coffee morning in the church will mark the start of this exhibition.

St Margaret, Syleham

Carol service

We had a packed church for this lovely service by the Revd Ron Orams. The Amici Choir delighted us all with their special renderings; how lucky we are to

have them join us. And the snow made everywhere look magical! We warmly thank all the flower arrangers who loyally tramped through the snow to set up their windows and porch displays, all different every time; such a delight to see over the Christmas period. Thank you to each and everyone of you.

St Andrew, Wingfield

Our Christingle and **Carols by Candlelight** services were well attended and appreciated, in spite of the weather, and we thank Jane and Peter at the College for entertaining us to a warming glass of mulled wine or fruit juice and mince pies after the carols.

We held a very successful inaugural **community coffee morning** in the church in November, and plan to hold one of these each month from now on. The February one will be on Thursday 25 February and the one after that on Thursday 25 March, 10am to 12noon. All are welcome!

Our **Lent Suppers** this year will be at the de la Pole Arms on Monday 1 March, when the speaker will be Archdeacon Judy Hunt, and on Monday 22 March, at which the Revd David Streeter of Stradbroke will be the speaker. Also during Lent we will again be holding a service of Compline every Friday evening at 6.30 pm. A Songs of Praise to God for Mothers will be held on Mothering Sunday (March 14) at 10am. On Easter Day decorate an Easter Bonnet and come and parade it at church.

■Using the film *Chocolat*, come and explore issues of faith on Sundays in Lent beginning on February 21 (8-9pm) at the home of the Revd Ron Orams, Crane Lodge, Bickers Hill, Laxfield.

Hoxne Plan promises 'fascinating read'

The Hoxne Parish Plan is nearing completion. With additional help from Phil and Jack Golding the staggering 126,651 pieces of information gleaned from the questionnaires, have been analysed, and a 46-page draft report prepared. The report offers the clear and comprehensive views of Hoxne parishioners, over the wide range of subjects raised.

On January 25 the Steering Group presented the Parish Plan to Hoxne Parish Council, asking them to consider the document and to include in it their Action Plan relative to the issues raised, and then to adopt the Hoxne Parish Plan. Thus far, the document presents a fascinating read, and will be published as soon as adopted by the Council. Some printed copies will be available (dependent upon the remainder of the budget available) and we hope to publish, in complete form on hoxne.net, and in abbreviated form in the Village Voice before too long.

Alan Smith - on behalf of the Hoxne Parish Plan Steering Group

.....

Phoenix Group has busy year in store

The past year has been a very busy one for the Hoxne Phoenix Group and looking at the programme for 2010 it looks as if we are going to be just as busy. We had a New Year lunch on the January 19 at the Brome Grange which was very pleasant. On the February 9 we are having a talk by Mr Stevan Thorpe of the St John Ambulance Brigade who will bring us up-to-date on our first aid. Our March 9 speaker is Mr Andrew Wilkinson from the Triffid Nursery telling us about his carnivorous plants; sounds spooky, if you saw the play *The Day of the Triffids* on television. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the lounge of St Edmund's Hall and you are very welcome to come as a visitor for a fee of £2 or, if you would like to join, the subscription is £15. We are a friendly group and we do have some interesting talks.

.....

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Hoxne's 2nd XI in promotion picture

Just the 2nd XI of AFC Hoxne were in action on November 14, winning 3:1 in the rain at fellow high-flyers Coddendam Reserves. Both teams triumphed on November 21. The 1st XI by 3:2 in the local derby at Stradbroke, and the 2nd XI 4:0 at home to Sizewell Reserves. In contrast, both teams lost on November 28 - the 1st XI 1:3 away to Waterside (Ipswich) in the Omnico cup and the 2nd XI by 2:0 away to East Bergholt 'A'. Again on December 5, both these teams bit the dust, the 1st XI 3:1 away to Trimley Red Devils, and the 2nd XI 3:4 at home to Bramford United Reserves. Just the 1st XI played on December 12. We entertained league leaders Ipswich Exiles, gave a good account of ourselves, but lost 1:2. This completed the fixture list for 2009. Following a three-week break because of bad weather and Christmas, action resumed on January 2. This was in the shape of the 2nd XI who completed the double over Sizewell Reserves with a 2:1 away win. The 1st XI fixture away to Sporting 87 in Bury St Edmunds was postponed because of the snow. The

.....

HSA Lottery results

Winners for November 2009:

- £20 Ken Reeve
- £15 Allen Burrige
- £10 Fiona Brice

December 2009

- £20 Ann Wells
- £15 Daisy Chenery
- £10 A Bull

Thank you for your continued support

1st XI under the expert guidance of manager Paul Chapman and coach, Lee Brown, were somewhat enigmatic in the first half of the season. Once or twice after thumping defeats they responded with good displays. The 2nd XI's encouraging start to the new year puts them into the promotion picture. They had no scheduled fixture for January 9. The 1st XI were due to be at home to Claydon. This postponement provoked memories of the 1962/63 winter when the Hoxne v Finningham Primary Cup tie was called off on no fewer than eleven occasions.

Clive Baxter - club president



■ Businesses from across Suffolk have been challenged to help their staff to a healthier, happier 2010 by making it easier for them to cycle to work. The scheme, run by the Department of Transport, offers encouragement and incentives to staff to ditch their car in favour of a bicycle. Visit www.cycletoworkguarantee.org.uk/index.php

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DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Ray Keeble

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Following the resignation of Councillor Lisa Finch a vacancy has arisen for a parish councillor. The Parish Council normally meets on the last Wednesday of alternate months with occasional additional meetings as necessary. If you live or work in the village or close by this is an opportunity to contribute to the community and to make a difference. If you are interested or would like further information please contact the Clerk.

Councillor Lisa Finch

The Chairman and fellow Councillors would like to express their thanks and appreciation to Lisa for her years of work with and on behalf of the Council during which time she took a particularly close interest in planning matters and a leading role in a range of initiatives including the village sign and the recently completed hedgerow survey

Planning: new application:

3687/09 Owls Barn, Low Road, Denham (Change of use of agricultural land to garden, 3 bay cart lodge garage with home office over)

Transport Survey

Denham PC was represented at a local area focus group held by Suffolk County Council in Hoxne on the 11th January exploring new thinking about ways of providing worthwhile and affordable improvements in local bus services in rural areas such as this. The aim is to offer a more flexible service that more closely matches the real needs of local people. As part of the extensive consultation process a survey of current travel patterns and transport requirements is being conducted. Please devote a few minutes of your time to complete the short questionnaire inserted in this edition of Village Voice and send it to Suffolk County Council at the Freepost address shown. A report on the results of the survey and subsequent progress will appear in later editions.

Hedgerow Trees

Our Tree warden Mr. David Flowerdew has reported further good news of the scheme funded by the Tree Council and agreed with MSDC to plant native hedgerow trees at about 20 metre intervals from Shingle Hill towards the Old Hospital on Low Road. Further grants may also be available in future years for parish tree planting. We are grateful to Mr. Flowerdew for his continuing hard work, which is much appreciated.

Highways

Continuing efforts are being made in liaison with our County and District councillors to see if any further steps can be taken to ease or resolve the problems of flooding and damage to verges and road surfaces especially in Low Road.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on

Wednesday 31st March at 19.30 in the Village Hall

For further information please contact David Jenvey, Clerk (01379 388184)

Spoonbills spotted.... and huddling wrens

During the cold spell just after Christmas, it was nice to sit indoors of an evening and browse through my notebooks and diaries for the previous year, recalling some of the interesting wildlife encounters in Hoxne throughout the seasons. One such diary noted sightings of the more unusual birds, not only spotted in my local patch (Brakey Wood and surrounding fields and hedgerows) but also in the back garden.

The Waveney meadows east of the Dove produced calling Redshank early in the year (2009) as well as passing Buzzard and a pair of Marsh Harriers. Common Snipe were present throughout January along Chickering Beck as far up as the Depperhaugh, and a Barn Owl was observed hunting for several days at the end of the month over the meadow between Downbridge Farm and the road.

The end of February saw the arrival of a Little Egret on the field by the Swan Bridge. It spent nearly the whole of the year feeding, often with a couple of companions, in the stream at the rear of the Swan much to the delight and amusement of many village folk. Siskins also turned up in good numbers in February – flocks of up to 40 birds often seen feeding in the alders along the beck.

Late spring saw the arrival of Turtle Doves in the village. Birds were heard calling at Heckfield Green, at Moatfield and in the grounds of Abbey Farm. The number of young seen around subsequently suggesting a successful breeding season. Some of our scarcer summer migrants put in an appearance in Hoxne, including a Hobby and a solitary Spotted Flycatcher singing on a TV aerial in Low Street! A single Marsh Tit made a brief visit to my garden in Cross Street and another was seen in Brakey Wood. Probably the highlight of the year, though, was the two Spoonbill spotted flying E to W over

Witton's Lane in early October. These were probably the two radio-tagged Dutch birds, which dropped in at Minsmere. Other, now less common birds glimpsed throughout the year in the village included Treecreeper, Bullfinch, Grey Wagtail, Woodcock, Corn Bunting, Cuckoo and of course, Kingfisher! Sightings of anything a bit unusual in the bird line are always welcome, especially those attractive winter rarities such as Waxwing and Arctic Redpoll. You can contact me on 668220. **Chris Johnson**

A rare sight

As a tiny garden bird, the Wren can be quite elusive – now you see it, now you don't. Nesting time is probably the best time to observe them to-ing and fro-ing with beaks full of breakfast, dinner and tea but usually only one pair to a patch. It's not that they don't get on, they're just not gregarious. Until, that is...

It was dusk and the temperature was already minus five and still snowing when I went out to shut the kitchen garden half-doors. Aware of movement, I looked up to see a dozen or more small birds landing on and scabbling up the brickwork of the house. One by one they disappeared into a crevice under the eaves. In the gloom, they resembled wrens but, of course, they couldn't have been...

I rang a friend, they call him twitcher. 'Yep, they were wrens alright.' 'But...' I started. 'Look,' he said 'You're a lucky fella. Not a lot of people have seen that. When weather conditions are life threatening, these little guys abandon social convention and just go for survival, like penguins. They huddle together for warmth.' Given the mild winters of recent years, not only was it a rare sighting but a rare event too. I am grateful for the privilege. **JB**

Tell-tale tracks in the snow...

The snow fell overnight accumulating against the northerly windows. In the morning the lawn, yard and surrounding fields were blanketed, pristine white; mud, ruts and emerging crops merged into a uniform undulating expanse of snow. A line of fox prints skirted the house taking in the bird table before disappearing towards the spinney. Moorhen tracks made a trail from the moat to the apple tree and a pair of ducks had landed nearby - very neatly - no scuff marks, and the two sets of webbed prints meandered off into the bushes.

By breakfast time wellington boots had made indentations to the henhouse and then post van tyre marks defined the route of the driveway up from the lane. It does not take long for human activity to obliterate the evidence of any other sort of life. Towards the end of the day a restless routine had become evident - beaten pathways lead to the compost bin, henhouse and derelict shed which shelters the car in winter. Car tyres and tractor tyres had compacted the snow until it turned to ice. In the paddock you could see where the rabbits had scabbled the snow aside to reach the grass beneath.

I had been doing much the same in order to find the leeks in the vegetable patch - one of the few things left since they obviously do not appeal to rabbits or pigeons. The sudden drop in temperature affected the oak tree and a drift of yellow leaves spangled the snow. The sky was pink as the sun dropped towards the horizon and the shadow of the tree stretched half way across the field. HC

Gardeners make the best of the worst

The Christmas Social Evening at the De la Pole Arms on 16 December was well-attended and enjoyed by all. The raffle tickets were drawn (appropriately) from a large flowerpot!

The January meeting featured a seed swap and a short talk on indoor seed-sowing. The February focus will be 'Gardens at their Worst'. On Saturday 27 February we will visit a selection of members' gardens (volunteers can come forward). Gardens are always unavoidably a bit of a mess at this time! On 30 June there will be a 'Garden Safari' to see these very same gardens at their best. 'Plant Collecting in South West China' is the subject of our 31 March talk by visiting speaker Alan Durand. He will illustrate his talk with a slide-show, about his own expeditions, following in the footsteps of the great plant-hunters of the past. For the 28 April meeting another 'Gardener's Question Time' is planned. There will be a soil-testing session, and members will be invited to bring soil samples for checking, in addition to bringing along any plants (or bits of plants) which are looking unhealthy.

Both March and April Meetings are at the De la Pole Arms at 7.30pm. In May, a Saturday visit to Fernatrix at Stoke Ash is being planned. Date and details will be announced. The 30 June 'Garden Safari' will be a Wednesday Evening event. Details to follow nearer the time. For further information, phone 384259 or 384525.

Graham Redelsperger (chairman)

SYLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Chairman Mr J Leader

Local transport: Suffolk County Council is considering launching a mini-bus service, accessible to disabled and tailored to local requirements. A survey of need is to be conducted and one of the parish councillors will be distributing information within the next few weeks.

Roads in winter: Parish Councillor Malcolm Flounders arranged for supplies of grit and some clearance of snow during the recent icy weather. County Councillor Guy McGregor said that the Highways department had shifts working constantly to deal with conditions and assured the Parish Council that winter maintenance funding already within the system should cope with the costs.

Re-cycling site: An issue highlighted as of particular interest in the Parish Plan was a recycling site: investigation will shortly begin into the feasibility of this idea and there will be full consultation.

Oil purchasing group: Enquiries are being made about a possible oil purchasing group, another feature of the Parish Plan. Suggestions welcome.

Footpaths: Residents also expressed interest in a footpath survey and volunteers would be needed. If you could help, please contact the Clerk.

Household Waste: The site at Brome is available every day from 8am until 5pm to end March and until 6pm to end September. Items accepted include green waste, household and car batteries, fridges/freezers, tetra pak cartons and electrical goods, but not wood or plastics.

Ipswich Hospital: District Councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries is hopeful that heart services may be returning to this local provision.

Elderly: Mr McGregor says the County Council is exploring ways to improve care for the elderly and would like to work more closely with local communities. Mrs Gloria Elsdon continues as the Parish Council's link with Age Concern and is always willing to help.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday 10th March 2010 at 7.30pm.

Clerk: Mrs M Lewis 01379 669258
pc@syleham.suffolk.gov.uk

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Recollections of the thin white line...

A very old friend has just had his final work of scholarship published by Cambridge and presented me with a copy. At £60 it is the sort of book which I get from our mobile library. The author began his academic career in Uganda. He was one of the founding fathers of Sussex University and then headed a Cambridge College. Finally he became Vice Chancellor of the Australian National University. After many publications on the history of East Africa he moved on to the pre-independence study of India, and the end of Empire. His final work examines the beginning of Empire, what he calls the fabrication of Empire, which was once a peculiarly British skill. Unfortunately our politicians overlooked these skills and left it to an inexperienced and self-interested US to shape Iraq and Afghanistan with tragic consequences for the world.

The main thrust of his thesis is that generally the British governed successfully with a thin white line through traditional leaders and their authority. In Africa we called it indirect rule. In India we worked with princes and maharajas. The same was true in Malaysia, the Pacific and elsewhere. I was part of that thin white line. My working life began in Uganda alongside chiefs using parallel systems of native and our own laws.

The evocative jacket photograph shows Sir Harry Johnston, the British Commissioner in his white ceremonial uniform and Kabaka Daudi Chwa of Buganda and their entourages in 1900 when a formal agreement between Buganda and Britain was signed which formed the basis for our Protectorate there (mostly about land and guns, unlike the final settlement for Zimbabwe, which was left for Mugabe to deal with)

Anne and I were married 61 years ago in

Watlington Church, Oxon, by the adjacent Vicar of Pyrton and Shirburn, Revd Dr Clare Wiggins CMG who when he retired from

Uganda, had been given an advowson (or living) by our local Lord (Macclesfield was his name). I treasure a photograph of Dr Wiggins as an ex officio member of the small 1921 Uganda Legislative Council when he had become director of Uganda's Medical Services seated alongside Governor Sir Robert Coryndon. Four men are in the picture in white ceremonial uniform and two in white suits, and a seventh is wearing a Sam Browne. But there are no weapons in sight! That was not how we shared our concepts of religion, law and order, education, medicine, agriculture, and trade.

Dr Wiggins came to East Africa in 1901 to join the medical department and retired in 1923 in curious circumstances. The acting governor in place of Coryndon, who was away on leave, accused Wiggins of conspiracy to keep his son out of the government service by refusing to pass him medically fit. Wiggins described him as a weedy youth with a noisy but functional heart who admitted to smoking 50-60 cigarettes daily and took no exercise.

Wiggins an upright Edwardian Christian opposed patronage which was by then being replaced by competition and merit – a reform which had begun in the Indian Civil Service and spread to Britain. Moreover, having served under rigorous tropical conditions for 22 years he had become eligible for a pension and so he

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word from
Wingfield



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retired. He had seen his family for just 10 months in 11 years in the period 1911 - 1922 (there was no air travel then).

Children grew up with grandparents and at boarding schools. Initially we did three-year tours and travelled on leave by sea until Freddie Laker began cheap charters using Avro Lancaster bombers which he had converted for civilian use.

However there was a world call in 1926 for more missionaries and Dr Wiggins returned to Uganda under CMS auspices to start two leper settlements in the North East where he initiated new large scale treatment. After this second career he returned to England and was ordained in the Church of England.

Immediately post-war my very young wife could only accompany me to Uganda on my first three-year tour of duty if I could evidence to the Colonial Office that she would have somewhere to stay as government housing was unlikely to be available. So Dr Wiggins wrote to say that she could stay at the Kumi Leper Settlement, which his daughter Nora was then running, and this was accepted, but not called upon since the Archdeacon of Mbale found us a simple thatch, wattle and daub mission house with a pit latrine but no services.

When independence came in 1961 the by then frail Wiggins were invited as official guests. Many Africans still remembered them and their contribution to the country. They stayed with us. He died shortly after in his 89th year.

Uganda is a Christian country. James Hannington, our first bishop was seized by Kabaka Mwanga when he arrived in 1885, tortured for several days and then butchered to death. We celebrate him in the Anglican panoply of saints every 29 October. In 1977, Uganda's Archbishop, Janani Luwum, knowing full-well the consequences, led Christian protest at the institution of state murder by Amin who gave orders for his murder. His martyr-

dom is commemorated throughout the C of E every 17 February, and there is a statue of him alongside nine other martyrs at the front of Westminster Abbey. We all have heard the fearless testimony of John Sentamu who as Archbishop of York and a Ugandan speaks with such clarity of the good news of Jesus.

Wiggins was in that wonderful tradition and one of the thin white line that served to enlighten Uganda. TG

.....

Concert series at the Barns

Dates to note for the monthly concert series at Wingfield Barns. Call 01379 873536 or visit the barns web site: www.wingfieldbarns.com. Become a Friend of Wingfield Barns by sending an e-mail to dona.haycraft@donahaycraftphotography.co.uk and that will bring you a regular newsletter with details of what's on.

■ Saturday February 13 at 7.30pm: Concert of Flute - Aldo Baerten and Harp - Anneleen Lenaerts ■ Sunday March 14 at 3pm: Concert of Trio dei Mezzo: Violin - Marko Pop Ristov, Cello - Beata Söderberg, Piano - Tarek Al-Shubbak. ■ Saturday April 10 at 7.30pm: Zeffiretti: Flute - Anna Hopkins, Oboe - Adrian Knott, Bassoon - John Mason, Harpsichord - Suzanne Vandenberghe. ■ Friday May 28 at 7.30pm: Maria Martinez: Cello, Tarek Al-Shubbak: Piano. ■ Sunday June 13 at 3pm: Tyburn String Quartet. ■ Sunday July 4 at 3pm: Karen Geoghegan: Bassoon, and Piano. If we can make a success of this concert series we will be able to see a musical future for the Barns. **AN**

WINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Michael Harvey

Parish Council Vacancies

Following recent resignations there are currently two vacancies for Parish Councillors. The Council normally meets quarterly with some extra meetings as may be necessary. All meetings are open to the public. By becoming a councillor you can make a valuable contribution to the life of the community. If you live or work in the village or close by and are interested in its future why not consider becoming a councillor? For more information please contact the Clerk.

Councillor Tommy Gee announced his decision to step down from the Council at the December meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his many years of work and commitment on behalf of the community and of the council both as member and formerly as Chairman

Councillor Tom Smith who has also resigned was thanked for his contribution to the work of the council and for his role as a member of the Steering Group in the development of the Parish Plan.

Transport survey

Suffolk County Council is currently conducting extensive consultations to identify ways of improving local bus services so as to make them more responsive to people's real needs. As part of this process a survey of travel patterns and transport needs is being undertaken throughout the area. A short questionnaire has been included inside this edition of Village Voice. Please take a few minutes to complete it and return it (by 10th March) to Suffolk County Council at the Freepost address provided. A report on the results will appear in a future edition.

Planning

2947/09 Cone Tree Nursery, Top Road, Wingfield (Permanent dwelling to serve nursery unit)

The Parish Council has recommended that this application should be approved.

3327/09 Scoping opinion request (Wind turbines, Eye airfield) This is not a planning application at this stage but neighbouring councils and other consultees were given the opportunity to comment on the scope of the assessment criteria. Wingfield supported measures to reduce carbon emissions and would wish to comment on the substantive application in due course.

Parish Plan

An interim review of progress against those elements of the action plan (some 14 points in total) falling primarily to the Parish Council to initiate or lead, showed significant progress in most areas although the provision of a children's play area remained stalled at present until a suitable site can be found. An annual report on overall progress in implementing the action plan will appear in the next edition

Highways

The Parish Council has decided to apply for an extension of the 30mph limit to include that part of Top Road that can be clearly seen to fall within the village. Areas of recurring flooding on village roads have been taken up with the County supported by our District Councillor, Mrs. Gibson-Harries

New Community Woodland

The previous edition reported the launch of this exciting scheme. The proposal, ►►

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which is named Abbey Wood, has received a Forestry Commission grant for its creation and the stewardship of 1100 trees. These are mainly native broad leaves including oak, ash, maple and some hornbeam, cherry and lime plus some woody shrubs comprising hazel, thorn, spindle, and guelder rose. The rains following the summer drought enabled Michael Harvey to do the planting during December. There is public access via footpath number 15 running from Wingfield Church. Future work will include regular maintenance, mulching, planting of wild flowers, piles of logs for wild life, and internal paths and rides.

**The next meeting of the Council will be in March (date to be confirmed)
For further information: please contact David Jenvey, Clerk (01379 388184)**



Welcome to Mick Glynn's Health and Fitness Column

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You can make intelligent decisions about your health and life for 2010 and beyond. Decisions that translate into getting the most out of every minute that you spend exercising. Eat the right foods and at precisely the right times to fuel muscle growth and boost energy and stamina. I've checked into some exciting developments that are on the horizon and hope to share them with you over the coming months.

NO MORE WAITING TO WORK OUT.

I've spoken to a number of different trainers over the last few months, to find out what they would do with their clients when the workstations in the gym are being used and have come up with seven exercises, to help keep you exercising until the treadmill becomes available.

Crunch of the cross. Abdominal exercise. Lay on your back; bring up the knees so your feet are off the ground and your arms out to the side. Slowly lower your legs from one side to the next. 2 sets of 20 repetitions.

Dumb-bell squats. Holding 5-7kilo dumb-bells by your side with your feet shoulders distance apart, shift your hips backwards and bend your knees, keep your back straight. 2 sets of 20 repetitions.

Med ball lunges. Keep a good distance between the front and back foot, Hold the medicine ball, Bend the front knee to a 90-degree angle and push out the medicine ball in front of you, return to the start and bring the ball back into the body. 10 repetitions on each leg 2 sets.

Bicep curls. Men 6kilos women 3kilos. Hold your set of dumb-bells, let your arms hang straight down from your shoulders, your palms turned forward, curl both dumb-bells upwards, keeping your upper arms stationary. 20 repetitions 2sets.

Hop-a-cross. Using the step box, place one foot on top and the other at the side of the box, hop a cross replacing the foot on top of the box with the other and repeat 20 times 2 sets.

Press-ups/ or box press-ups. Box press ups - Go down on all fours, place your hands approx. shoulders distance apart. Bend the elbow lowering your head and chest to the mat; extend the elbow to return to the starting position. 20 repetitions 2sets.

**Please contact me on 07879 455966 at MG Fitness Studios, Shelfanger
or visit www.mickglynn.co.uk**

Alastair Forsyth recounts a European odyssey which brought together places and people and their fighting history

Distant battles that echo still...

Some years ago we had a garden party at our house in Hoxne. It was a party political event. We wanted one or two more attractions in addition to our political guest, the Pimms and the strawberries and cream. We were lent a mechanical organ. We had an unlikely pair of belly dancers from Norwich, who blinked in the bright light of day. But it happened the date was the 16th of June. We could not celebrate Waterloo which was two days later, but we had reason (we thought) to make something of the fight at Quatre Bras.

Our gardens were once part of the Oakley Park estate, inherited just after Waterloo by Edward Kerrison. His father, a rugged businessman from Bungay, had made money. He used it to buy the estate and a commission in the army for his son.

The son, a hussar, fought in Wellington's army all the way through Spain and, after some fun in Paris, in the brief peace of 1814, found himself under arms again in Belgium early in 1815. The armies were gathering again to meet Napoleon. But Napoleon sprang a surprise. Wellington on the night of the 15th June was at the Duchess of Richmond's ball in Brussels, when news reached him that Napoleon's army had crossed the border at Charleroi (now an easyJet base) just 20 miles to the south. The French were stopped at the crossroads of Quatre Bras, where a bloody foot soldiers battle began. The Gordon Highlanders were almost wiped out. The hussars were hurried down to cover the retreat.

At Genappe, to the North of Quatre Bras, Kerrison only just escaped with his life, chased by the dreaded Polish lancers.

His horse saved him. Harlequin was wounded, so Kerrison rode Gift, his second charger, next day at Waterloo. A cannonball killed Gift and wounded Kerrison. Harlequin came back to Suffolk, and lived out a long life in Oakley Park. He is buried there, under a memorial raised by Kerrison's wife. I learnt all this in preparation for the garden party. With the help of our neighbours, John and Carol, who had lived for some time in Belgium not far from Quatre Bras (John supplying history, Carol some photographs), we put together a reasonable little exhibition.

First stop Brussels

Last year we somehow managed to finesse ourselves out of our home (renting it out by mistake) and so decided to travel. First stop was Brussels, to see my son, who was courting there, and my niece, who lives there. My wife Jacki also had friends who invited us to stay. We were delighted to see from the directions they gave that they were close to Quatre Bras.

A new book had just appeared on Quatre Bras, the first, the author claimed, exclusively about the battle. I had this with me. I had never seen Quatre Bras, or for that matter Waterloo, so we set off to remedy this. We wasted some time before we discovered that our hosts lived by a different Quatre Bras. The name simply means a crossroads and this one turned out to be a huge road junction in the suburbs of Brussels.

We eventually reached the great mound at Waterloo. It is not as friends had told us a site uniquely dedicated to Napoleon. It ►►

is in gentle rolling country and the sun was upon it. After a stroll we had a beer in the Wellington Café.

The Cambronne Café over the road looked slightly more appealing, but we decided it was disloyal to opt for a Marshall of France rather than one of our own. While there my son phoned from Brussels about arrangements to meet. I said we were at Waterloo, at the Wellington Café. He said he made a shameful display there, some years before, in the field over the road. As already explained, and as every schoolboy knows, Wellington was 15 miles away, at the Duchess's ball, when the news of Napoleon's move to the north came through. My son had been with the hussars, in a successor regiment of the 7th Hussars which Kerrison had commanded. There is now a tradition that on the anniversary of Waterloo assorted cavalrymen make the ride from Brussels to Waterloo and back. My son, under pressure, not being a great horseman, agreed to join them. The night before, he and the friend who had enrolled him had a disgraceful amount to drink.

A bloody ride to Waterloo

They arrived late the next day at the assembly point. The horses were provided by the Belgian police. All had been allotted bar two. One was lame and the other not yet broken in. My son ended up with the latter. He reached Waterloo, head reeling from the night before, having lost his spurs, and his hands bloodied from his fight with the reins. At that point one of the other riders, equestrian trainer of the German army, said my son's horse should not be ridden. My son's relief was great, however shameful for a hussar to lose his horse. It still rankles.

From the Wellington Café we set off to look for the real Quatre Bras. We asked an aged garage hand at the roadside. He ges-

ticated – down there, at the third traffic light – but there's nothing there! Just before the third light Jacki spotted the memorial to the Duke of Brunswick.

The Duke of Brunswick (Braunschweig, that is) was a German, with a deep hatred of the French. They had killed his father and deprived him of his duchy. The Duke came to join Wellington, bringing with him his own troops, including the notorious Black Brunswickers, hussars dressed all in black. The memorial at the roadside records his death, in the thick of the fight, on the 16th June 1815. Who looks after the memorial now?

The sun was shining. In the field beyond a father and son, father with a big pitchfork, son with a small one, were tossing bales, smaller than British ones, into a trailer. Peace reigned.

Nearby there was another monument, which we did not see, to the Dutch cavalry. There was a large Dutch and Belgian contingent attached to Wellington's army. They are often spoken of unfavourably, but this is almost certainly unjust. Historians probably shied away from tackling the records in Dutch. In any event they played a crucial role at Quatre Bras. Dutch troops under the Prince of Orange (his ancestor our King William) were the screen to the South of Brussels. It was they who had the first contact with the French and sent Wellington the news that the army, in large numbers, was on the move.

Skilful Prince from Saxony

Attached to the Dutch cavalry was another aristocratic German, Prince Bernhard von Sachsen Weimar. (Saxe and Sachsen by the way both refer to what we call Saxony). At this critical time the Dutch commander had to leave the field, put out of action by a kick from a fellow officer's horse. The Prince held the rank of colonel and as senior officer, although German and not Dutch, assumed command.

Wellington owes him a great deal. He skilfully delayed the French drive North, and was personally engaged in the desperate fight at Quatre Bras.

That was on 16th June. On the 17th there was the skirmishing withdrawal towards Waterloo (when Kerrison had his lucky escape). On the 18th the Prince was at Waterloo. On the 19th he wrote to his father, the Grand Duke von Sachsen Weimar, with an account of what had happened and the part he had played.

Stern guides at the castle

Three days after our visit to the battlefields we were in Weimar, in the heart of Germany. We visited the Grand Duke's castle, Schloss Belvedere, beautifully refurbished after years in East German hands. We were sorry there were only German guides, stern ladies in black uniforms. East Germany has not yet quite struggled free from its grim past.

The castle in the Grand Duke's time was a palace, the site of the Grand Ducal court. It is now a musical academy – there was opera practice in the background - and a museum. The museum is full of beautiful glass and ceramics, and of less beautiful portraits of the princesses of Sachsen Weimar. No wonder British royalty had difficulty finding acceptable brides among them.

In 1918, at the end of the Great War, Kaiser Wilhelm fled to Holland and the Prince von Sachsen Weimar abdicated. The Kaiser spent the rest of his life in exile in Holland. He died in 1941. His grandson has a house in Hoxne. What happened to the Sachsen Weimars?

From Weimar we travelled on, passing by the town of Gotha, to Coburg. There in the main square is the imposing statue of Albert, Prince of Saxe Coburg Gotha, Duke of Saxony (probable birthplace of King Edmund, shot to death in Hoxne), and, last line of his titles, Prince Consort of Great Britain and Ireland. He dominates

the square, and even has his own square, the Prinz Albert Platz, next door. Jacki has always thought of him as a terrible bore. Boring or not, he is honoured here in Coburg. From Coburg we went on, through Germany, and eventually to Orange, far south in France. The province was once Dutch, a Protestant enclave in a Catholic country. In 1713 under the Treaty of Utrecht it passed to France. But the Prince who commanded at Quatre Bras was still the Prince of Orange, his full title being Prince of Orange – Nassau. (And orange is still the colour of the Dutch football team).

At the Waterloo Banquet at Apsley House in 1836, the Prince, by now King of Holland, sat next to Wellington. Kerrison, now General Sir Edward Kerrison was a few seats away.

One moral of all this is that Europe is not a new thing in our lives. As to the garden party, we got it wrong. Kerrison never made it to Quatre Bras. Perhaps we should have celebrated instead Edward 7th. He stayed with the General's son at Oakley Park. Indeed he is said to have made merry in the very gardens where the party was held, and our dusky beauties from Norwich danced. He was, as it happens, born a Saxe Coburg Gotha.

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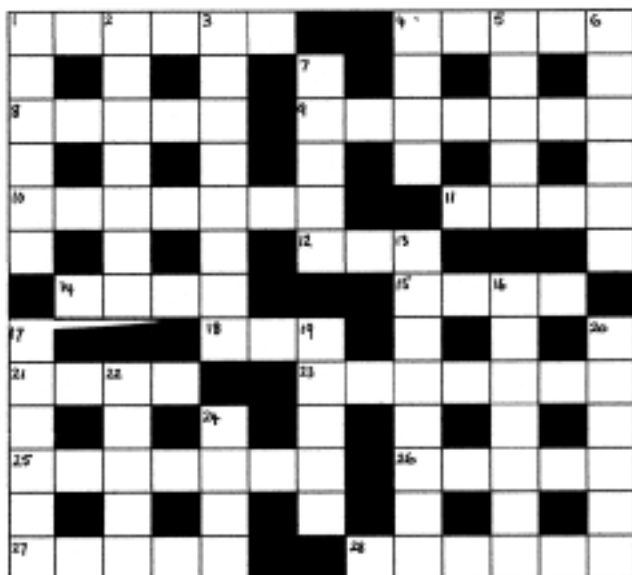
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 74

The prize for the first correct solution opened to crossword puzzle No. 73 went to V Bannan of Herham
The solution appears below.



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 Yarns for young ladies (6)
- 4 Overweight drop out (5)
- 8 Lip turned ballad skippy (5)
- 9 Kneecapped by two girls (7)
- 10 Good judgement from internal viewing (7)
- 11 Pallid sounding implement (4)
- 12 To show that one is human (3)
- 14 Appliance to decrease (4)
- 15 Series of vowels at rest (4)
- 18 Remove layer from plan to reveal jewel (3)
- 21 As to drying hops . . . ! (4)
- 23 Boil ash and get rid of (7)
- 25 Filly in rosette add taste (7)
- 26 He guides into the bus here (5)
- 27 Become sweeter with age (5)
- 28 Heather loses the direction beside the fire (6)

- 1 Anything but imperial (6)
- 2 Charitable Godparent (7)
- 3 Hiring a fiancé? (8)
- 4 Heat dissolves loathing (4)
- 5 Dotie's favourite dance (5)
- 6 Lord found annually in yeomanry parameters (6)
- 7 Ill-will in coalmine in Kent (5)
- 13 Determined to lose true identity (8)
- 16 Serpentine movement (7)
- 17 Strongbox sounds broschitic (6)
- 19 Two Rulers wed in May (5)
- 20 Refuge for rich urchin (6)
- 22 Keen musical note (5)
- 24 Rent by tornado – no fuss (4)

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO. 73



If you would like to enter the crossword competition, send your solution to the editor by 1st March, 2010. The first correct solution to be opened will receive a cash prize of £10.

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Wednesday	7.30 – 1.00 (Half day closing)

Visit your village store for a warm welcome, where as well as finding a full range of provisions including groceries, newspapers, tobacco, fresh produce, free range eggs and daily fresh bread.

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Here you will find wines, beers and spirits.

If we haven't got your favourite tippie let us know.

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NEXT ISSUE

1st Apl. (copy by 8th Mar., please)

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ADVERTISING

**The space allocated for advertising in the
Village Voice is now fully subscribed.**

**If you would like to place an advertisement,
let us know and when space becomes available
we will contact you.**

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

**Vera Williams, 54 Low St., Hoxne,
Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AS**

Tel: 01379 668209

E-mail: vwilliams60@btinternet.com