

**HOXNE  
DENHAM, SYLEHAM  
&  
WINGFIELD**

**Village  
Voice**

**APRIL - MAY  
2010**

**Supported by community donation and advertising revenue**

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Meeting times for all Councils will vary. Please refer to Council reports for time of next meeting.

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The Revd. Fiona Newton is chair to Syleham & Wingfield PCCs.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Editorial

### *The Bus Stop of Life...*

**A Hoxne resident who just happens to have a bus stop 'growing' in his front garden finds it has become a symbol for reflection...**

Do buses still have a button that goes ding-ding when you want to get off? It's a reassuring sound because, when you hear it, you always know that the driver will start or stop. Life is a bit like that.

The first ding-ding sounds when the midwife cuts the umbilical and you climb aboard for the first leg of the journey, and the last is the undertaker's finger on the doorbell. The ride in between has many stops, some for getting on and some for getting off.

The more obvious bus stops punctuate events like marriage, parenthood and retirement but there are many more occasions when we find ourselves mounting or dismounting the boarding platform - some planned, some accidental and some by a quirk of fate. Our formative years are full of bus stops. Perhaps it was the teacher who inspired a love of literature or the kind uncle who took you to your first football match. Our late lamented Bill Richards once described how he was dragged, kicking and screaming, to a Reginald Dixon organ recital in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom, aged ten. The experience shaped the rest of his life (and enriched many others).

On a personal note, my most life changing bus stop was marked by a death, a quirk of fate I guess. When my father-in-law was killed in a mountaineering accident, that ding-ding signalled not only a career change but a completely new way of life.

As it happens, the intervention of the fickle finger was the harbinger of happiness and fulfilment that I could not possibly have arranged for myself. But that sort of reflection inevitably prompts the question: 'What if?' Well, Routemaster doesn't do that road because it leads to nowhere. We are where we are, and we are what we are.

Most, if not all, have at some time found themselves at a stop that they would rather hadn't been there which is why we need and must cherish fellow travellers. It's no fun journeying alone. Next time you see a bus with a solitary passenger, thumb it down - that can be life changing, too.

Some believe that life itself is just the first stop on a journey that stretches to infinity but, of course, there is only one way to prove that! In the meantime, the earthly bus rumbles on. But be certain of one thing: at every bus stop there is a fare to pay so make sure you have some change ready.

**JB (inspired by SP)**

Village Voice **3**

# Diary dates

## **Saturday April 10**

Artisans' Market - St Edmund's Hall

## **Sunday April 11**

Hoxne Clean Up - St Edmund's Hall

## **Monday April 12**

St Edmund's Hall annual meeting - at the Hall

## **Saturday April 17**

RBL President's Coffee Evening  
Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

## **Sunday April 18**

Hoxne Bowls Club open day

## **Thursday April 22**

Hoxne Annual Parish Meeting  
St Edmund's Hall

## **Friday April 23**

Friends of Denham Church  
annual meeting - Denham Village Hall

## **Saturday April 24**

Hoxne churchyard tidy-up  
New Reeding Woods Group annual  
meeting - Red Feather Club

## **Monday April 26**

Syleham Church annual meeting - Monks Hall

## **Wednesday April 28**

Tudor Close open event  
St Edmund's Primary School

## **Friday April 30**

Roughcast Theatre - 'Tis pity she's a whore  
St Edmund's Hall

## **Sunday May 2 and Monday May 3**

Friends of Hoxne Church Art Exhibition and  
Craft Sale - Hoxne Parish Church

## **Thursday May 6**

Friends of Hoxne Church annual meeting  
Hoxne Parish Church

## **Saturday May 8**

Denham Jumble Sale - Denham Village Hall  
Friends of Denham Church Quiz  
Horham Community Centre  
Wingfield Church Safari Supper

## **Wednesday May 12**

Syleham annual parish meeting  
Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

## **Sunday May 16**

Wingfield Church annual meeting  
Wingfield Parish Church

95th Bomb Group Open Day  
Red Feather Club

## **Friday May 21**

Open Space Theatre  
The Glass Menagerie, St Edmund's Hall

## **Saturday May 22**

Poetry and prose evening  
Wingfield Parish Church

## **Monday May 24**

Hoxne Parish Council annual meeting  
Playingfield Pavilion

## **Wednesday May 26**

Denham annual parish meeting  
Denham Village Hall

## **Friday May 28 to Sunday May 30**

Hoxne Music Festival - see page 11

## **Friday June 4**

Ruby and Her Horses - St Edmund's Hall

## **Saturday June 12**

St Edmund's Primary School Summer Fair  
Hoxne Playingfield

## **Friday June 18**

HSA Quiz - Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

## **Saturday June 19**

Hoxne Church Fete - Abbey Farm

## **Saturday June 26**

Syleham Church Summer Lunch - Monks Hall

## **Saturday July 3**

Royal British Legion Fete

## **Saturday July 3 and Sunday July 4**

Wingfield Open Gardens

## **Saturday July 10**

Friends of Denham Church - Barn Dance

## **Friday July 16**

Castleton Brass Band - Hoxne Parish Church

## **For Easter church services**

**please see page 21; 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 Hall,  
call Joyce Revell on 668371.**

■Blacksmiths Cottage Nursery, Langmere Road, Langmere is running a spring plant fair on Saturday April 17, 11am - 3pm. Free admission Local growers and nurseries selling spring bulbs, hellebores, hardy perennials. Call 01379 741136.

■Hoxne Parish Church is planning a tidy-up day in the churchyard on Saturday April 24 starting at 9am. All volunteers welcome.

■The Maynard Educational Trust meets next on May 20 - applications please to Sallie Chester, Flaxfield, Witton's Lane, Hoxne well before the meeting date.

■Orwell Housing Association is holding an open event at St Edmund's Primary School, Heckfield Green, on Wednesday April 28 from 2.30pm to 5pm to explain the opportunities offered by the new development to be known as Tudor Close. Call 01473 228604 for details.

■The Eye Town Twinning Association is planning a Fun for all the Family event at the Eye Community Centre on Monday April 5. Treasure Hunt from Monday March 29. More details from Gail on 870727

■Hoxne School Association Lottery results for February and March are : February - £20 Sylvia Marjoram, £15 Carol Clark, £10 A Bull March - £20 Jacqueline Taylor, £15 Mr and Mrs M.Revell, £10 Mark Goddard Thanks, as always, for your support. Hilary Webb - 669108.

■A OCN level 3 accredited six-week course in script writing for adults begins on April 21 at Wingfield. The course tutor will be from the UEA's creative writing course. It is being

## **OUT AND ABOUT...**

funded by the ESF. For details call Shirley on 01379 668353 or email createfilms@mac.com

■Future events at the Red Feather Club, Horham:

April 10: General Quiz, 7.30pm (£5 including Ploughmans)

April 17: 1940s Disco, 7.30pm

May 15: Grand 1940s Dance (with live band). May 16: Grand Open Day and Reunion.

Call Frank Sherman on 01379 678471 or James Mutton on 01728 860930

■Events at Denham Village Hall Saturday May 8 - 2pm - 4pm - Jumble Sale - clothes, books, toys, bric a brac, tombola, teas etc.

Sunday May 16 - To honour the 95th Bomb Group Open Day at the Red Feather Club, the hall (former 95th Guard Room) will be open from 10am - 4pm. Refreshments, cakes, books and bric a brac on sale in the hall. Outside car boot pitches, for £2 per pitch, can be booked by ringing Pam on 871590 or Rose on 870346.

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## Letters to the editor

### *From Alison Buckland*

Many thanks to everyone who attended the first Hoxne Artisan Market on Saturday March 6 at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne (pictured below). I'm delighted to report that the day was a resounding success, with our aim of providing local craftspeople, artists and producers a platform to sell to local people being fully met.

Many of the customers commented on the quality and variety of the products available, surely proving that Hoxne and surrounding areas has a talented collection of artisans!

From handmade soaps, cushions

and bags to locally brewed beer, organic vegetables, painted furniture and even homemade dog biscuits, there really was something for everyone.

For those exhausted from the shopping, the café did a roaring trade in tea, coffee, homemade cakes and biscuits and was a great place to catch up with neighbours and friends.

The event was such a success that we will be doing it on a monthly basis on the second Saturday of the month commencing on April 10, when we hope also to add more local food producers. So instead of heading to Tesco, just pop into your local village hall!

We look forward to seeing you all again.

**Low Street, Hoxne**



## *From Bingy Hindle*

Everyone enjoyed an evening of entertainment with music, step dancing and jig dolls by Ray Hubbard and friends on February 6 raising £538 for Denham Church funds. A presentation was made as a thank you as this was the third year we have had Ray and friends raising £1,768 in total over those years - and also to acknowledge his 55 years of entertainment. Thank you to Ray and friends and all who supported this event.

**Church Farm, Denham**

## *From John and Margaret Brawn*

On behalf of Save The Children we would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the quiz held at Hoxne and for the donations received. £700 has been sent to the Haiti appeal.

**Goldbrook, Hoxne**

## *From Sheila True*

I would like to thank everyone in Hoxne who has contributed to knitting a vast number of colourful squares which are to be sewn into blankets by a lady at the Walcot Residential Home. These blankets will be sent to Oxfam for distribution in Haiti. The response was quite overwhelming and once again I thank you for your support.

**Priory Road, Palgrave**

■ **Letters to the editor are an important part of Village Voice. Write to: Village Voice, Flaxfield, Witton's Lane, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AE. Please note - letters may be edited.**

## HSA targets £6000

This year Hoxne School Association plans to help the primary school to buy up to 15 laptops and a trolley. This would allow computers to be moved into each class room as needed and would ensure that the IT suite can be used more effectively.

The aim of the HSA is to raise £6000 towards the cost of the equipment over the next year and all funds raised from planned events will go towards this as well as some existing funds.

The Quiz held at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall in January raised £210 and was enjoyed by all. A second quiz has been planned at the same venue on Friday June 18 so please support this enjoyable event.

The date for this year's Summer Fair is Saturday June 12. The event will again be held at the sports field and pavilion and will incorporate a football tournament for the local youth teams. There will be lots of family fun with a performance from the children, stalls, games and refreshments. Please put this date in your diary.

The annual Clay Shoot will also be held later in the year and details of this popular event will follow.

Funds raised from previous events have recently been used to support the whole school to see The Lion King in London. The HSA paid for the coaches to take the children to the theatre and also subsidised the cost of the tickets.

We again thank you for your continued support at HSA events without which we would not be able help the school to provide the children with these unique experiences.

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# Open gardens with 3D appeal

This year's Wingfield Open Gardens will take place on Saturday and Sunday July 3 and 4 and is being co-ordinated by the Wingfield and District Garden Club and the Friends of the Arts in Wingfield with professional artists' 3D work on display in some of the gardens.

As well as the usual diverse range of private gardens, Wingfield Barns and Wingfield College will also be opening their grounds and Abbey Wood, a newly planted wood for community use, initiated by Tommy Gee, will be officially opened.

Tickets to view all the gardens will

be available at the very affordable price of £2 with free entry for children under 16. All the proceeds from the sales of plants, refreshments and lunches will go to the East Anglian Air Ambulance Service and St Andrew's Church, Wingfield, two worthy organisations that diligently serve our community at large.

Further details about the event will be published closer to the date with information on where to purchase tickets in advance.

**Rosemary Elliott**  
Wingfield Open Gardens Committee

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## *Weather toll fear for newly planted trees*

As spring approaches the New Reeding Woods Group waits to see whether the prolonged cold weather has had an adverse effect on the trees in Pound Lane Wood, especially those planted as part of the Tree O'Clock event. The event, held on December 5 2009, saw more than 200 trees planted at Pound Lane, with 50 volunteers taking only 35 minutes to do the job. It is estimated that nationwide half a million trees were planted during the allotted hour, not a world record, but an amazing achievement.

The New Reeding Woods Group will be holding its annual meeting on April 24 at the Red Feather Club. An illustrated talk will follow the AGM, and then, fortified by refreshments and weather permitting, we will take

another guided walk around Redlingfield Wood. For more details contact Mike Reeves on 01379 668179.

The group will once again have a working exhibit at the Horham Bygones Rally on June 12, where their woodworking skills will be on display. Rustic garden stools and benches will be made to order during the day, and repairs to old stools undertaken. Willow weaving skills will be demonstrated with garden obelisks for sale.

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**■ St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne will be holding its annual general meeting on Monday April 12 at 7.30pm in the hall. Everyone welcome - hope to see you there. Carole Smith, chairman**



# Festival makes early start

Tickets are now on sale for the Hoxne Music Festival which takes place at various venues around the village on the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th.

"We have already had a number of inquiries from people wishing to be included on our mailing list, after leaving their details at the different events we have held in recent months to promote the festival weekend," said chairman Stuart Jarrold. "At our inaugural event in 2008 we had virtually full houses at the two big concerts, with people coming from a wide area. This year we thought we would make an early start with ticket allocation so local residents would not be disappointed."

If you wish to be included on the mailing list please leave your details, including an email address and telephone number, on a form which is available at Hoxne Post Office, or contact the festival administrator Jenny Knights on 01379 668259. Visit [hoxnemusicfestival@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hoxnemusicfestival@hotmail.co.uk) for more details and there is also a link via the website [www.hoxne.net](http://www.hoxne.net)

All tickets for festival events can be purchased from Hoxne Post Office. The 2010 festival begins with a family ceilidh, presented by the Hoxon Hundred, in St Edmund's Village Hall on Friday evening May 28th from 7pm. Tickets cost £10 for adults, to include a light supper, with under 16 year olds free.

On Saturday May 29th there will be

free events on the village green from lunchtime, with a barbeque and refreshments available. Gill Alexander and her jazz band will be playing along with a performance from children from Hoxne primary school.

Saturday evening May 29th at St Edmund's Hall, King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys will perform their unique brand of rhythm and blues with tickets priced at £13 in advance or £15 at the door on the night.

There is another day of free musical entertainment on Sunday May 30th when youth and young peoples bands will be playing from lunchtime at the Sports Pavilion in the playing fields.

On Sunday evening, Hoxne Parish Church will host another classical concert by Red Priest – two of whose members, Piers Adams and Howard Beach – performed at the inaugural Hoxne Music Festival. Tickets for Red Priest are also priced at £13 in advance or £15 on the night.

"From a cost saving viewpoint it makes sense to purchase advance tickets and in view of the interest being shown already we cannot guarantee there will be tickets left for purchase on the night" said festival chairman Stuart Jarrold.

More than one hundred people attended a magnificent classical concert, held in Hoxne Church on March 7 as a prelude to the festival. Former Hartismere school pupil Alex Redington gave a virtuoso performance on the violin, accompanied by his wife Sui Chui Li on the piano.

# School gains 'green' recognition

St Edmund's Primary School's Eco-team has had an exciting term so far with two lots of wonderful news. We were chosen to be School of the Week for our work on [www.appetiteforaction.org.uk](http://www.appetiteforaction.org.uk) (w/b 01.03.10) and also short-listed for a Creating a Greener Country Award 2010.

A film crew came into school on March 1 to see what we do and invited us to a gala presentation evening at which the film was shown and is also on their web [www.greensuffolk.org/schools](http://www.greensuffolk.org/schools)

We have gained some new school pets in the form of a wormery thanks to the HSA and a lovely shiny new red bin to help keep our school tidy; we also plan to take part in the Suffolk Spring Clean fortnight.

A team of Year 4 pupils attended the High Suffolk Sports Partnership competition at Hartismere High School on January 27 and competed against 15

other teams in a pyramid Tchoukball festival. After playing extremely well, we are very proud to say that they came away with first place! (See picture). The children tried to trick the rest of the school by telling us that they had lost but the grins on their faces gave the game away.

Class 2 also had a taster session in school in the art of 'Speed stacking'. The children thoroughly enjoyed this activity and have just started 'two' lunchtime speed stacking clubs due to the demand.

The children decided that they would like to hold a non-uniform day and 'wear a hat for Haiti' in aid of the earthquake appeal on January 29.

Class 3 pupils sold jewellery that they had made using polished stone which they collected during a residential trip to Blakeney Point last year. They also made presentation boxes for their stones as part of their numeracy





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# Hoxne Friends plan art in church

Since the Friends of Hoxne Church started regular coffee mornings in the church we have raised in excess of £220. They take place on the last Saturday of each month starting at 10am. This is a nice social gathering with a raffle, bring and buy, and second hand books. My thanks to all who have helped and supported us in the past. Items for the three stalls are always welcome.

Forthcoming events: On Sunday May 2 from 1pm till 5pm and on Monday May 3 from 10am till 4pm there will be an Art Exhibition and Sale plus Craft Stalls in Hoxne Church. Refreshments will be available.

On Friday June 4 in St Edmund's Hall the Bumstead Boys will present a show called *Ruby and her Horses* - a true life story on screen and in song set against the hardship of the agricultural depression. To book ring 01379 740821. Tickets £6 - members of the Friends £5. More information on *Ruby and her Horses* can be found on [www.traditionsofsuffolk.com](http://www.traditionsofsuffolk.com) On Friday July 16 in Hoxne Church the Castleton Brass Band will perform a concert of mixed music. On Sunday October 10 we will have our annual Harvest Lunch and in November another quiz. The Friends annual general meeting will take place on Thursday May 6 at 7pm in Hoxne Church.

**John Chapman - chairman**

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## Legion to raise Standard for Mary

It has been a quiet period for the Hoxne and District Branch of the Royal British Legion.

John Elliot attended the County Conference at Needham Market on behalf of the branch. He reported that it was an interesting day, the highlight of which was a talk by a senior member of the Rehabilitation Team at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham on the work carried out on the treatment and rehabilitation of injured service personnel returning from Afganistan.

Our centenarian member Charles Saunders, sadly, suffered a bad fall injuring his face on some iron railings while shopping in Diss, however he is making a good recovery.

The branch's fundraising for 2010 starts on April 17 with the President's

Coffee Evening at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall at 7pm. Your support would be greatly welcomed.

Sadly, as you know, one of our most ardent supporters, Mary Baxter, recently passed away and a Memorial Service is to be held on Thursday April 15 at Hoxne Church.

The branch Standard will be present and it would be greatly appreciated if Branch members could attend in appreciation of the support she gave to the Royal British Legion, especially the local branch.

**Roger True**



# Pre-school has fun with LRRH

It's been an exciting start to the New Year for St Edmund's Pre-school. Hoxne with lots of snow and the children enjoying investigating the ice in the garden as well as our own ice world which we created indoors.

We have welcomed new children to the setting - Daisy and Harvey have both joined us.

We have had a lot of fun with the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We created Grandma's cottage with lots of props and dressing up clothes so the children can act out the story (see picture below). We are looking forward to a visit to a local woodland so we can go on our own Red Riding Hood story walk.

We were also busy creating some-

thing very special for our Mum's on Mothering Sunday.

With Eastertime approaching we will be finding out about why this is a special time for Christians and we also have an Easter party to look forward to at the end of the school term when we will be showing off our Easter bonnets!

The staff and children would like to say a big thank you to all who have given a donation to the pre-school through the collecting box in the Post Office.

We would like you to know that we have been able to purchase two new foam soap dispensers for the children's use and these have proved very popular!



# HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

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■ Since Christmas there has been an increase in the number of break-ins or attempted break-ins in the area. Please can you make sure that you secure all buildings, vehicles and outbuildings and the contents - and also be vigilant for any suspicious behaviour?

■ Is there a pot hole in your road? If you have, please report it to the Customer Service Direct team on [customerservice@csduk.com](mailto:customerservice@csduk.com) or 0845 606 6171 or pop into Eye Service Centre. This centre is open: 9am to 2pm and 3pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday at 6 Cross Street, Eye, IP23 7AB (Near the car park).

■ Do you want to help gritting the roads when the weather is bad? Is there a hill near you that might need grit? If you can help, contact the Parish Clerk Sarah Foote to arrange to be put on the Suffolk County Council list.

■ Thank you to all for completing the traffic survey. If we get enough response we will hopefully receive a payment of £200 towards the planting of trees in an amenity area in Wittons Lane - so thank you to all who took time to complete it.

■ Planning: Proposals from the following were all approved  
Bramble Cottage  
Longfield, Nuttery Vale  
Woodlands, Low Street  
Gissings Farm  
Downbridge Farm

**The Annual Parish meeting is at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne  
on 22nd April at 7.30pm**

**Parish Council AGM is at the Playingfield Pavilion, Hoxne  
on 24th May at 7.30pm**

**Philip Flagg, chairman Hoxne Parish Council  
Tel: Hoxne 668258 email: [philip.flagg@btinternet.com](mailto:philip.flagg@btinternet.com)**



## **Volunteers please for Clean Up Sunday**

Starting at St Edmund's Hall at 10.30am on Sunday  
11th April for a couple of hours of light litter picking duties.

I have arranged for the usual bags, jackets etc.  
Hope to see as many of you there as possible.

**With all good wishes - Philip Flagg  
Chairman - Hoxne Parish Council**

# *Dinosaur project has 'big appeal'*

Now that the sun has made the occasional appearance, at Sweet Briar Nursery we are drawing up plans for our vegetable and herb garden. And we are lucky to have Sally's expert help and advice.

Our dinosaur project is very popular and involves all areas of learning – in fact it may well take over the Nursery!

Tina is in the final stages of studying for her degree in Early Learning Studies and Laura and Natasha are also studying for their degrees. We have plenty of new ideas to try out and areas of research to discuss between us all.

If you would like to look around please contact Sarah on 01379 668480. We have facilities for children from six months to five years and offer a flexible and friendly service.

Sarah Buckley

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## *End of the road for Playbus*

It is with great sadness that Pyramids Playbus has had to say its final goodbye to the children of mid-Suffolk. After many years of offering fun and safe play and pre-school education to under-fives, the Playbus has closed its doors. Increasing costs plus Ofsted requirements and regulations have put a strain on finances and, despite our efforts, with ever-increasing competition in child-care facilities and a significant drop in numbers using the Playbus, we have not been able to secure sufficient funding to ensure that the bus can continue to run. If anyone knows of a charitable organisation looking for a double-decker bus please get in touch with the committee on 07848 373759 or email [committee@pyramidsplaybus.co.uk](mailto:committee@pyramidsplaybus.co.uk) You can comment on the closure or leave your memories of the Playbus at [www.pyramidsplaybus.org.uk](http://www.pyramidsplaybus.org.uk). We thank you for your support over the years.

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■ **St Andrew's Church, Wingfield is planning an evening of poetry and prose at the church on Saturday May 22 at 7.30pm. The theme will be: Sumer is icumen in. Read your favourite piece and listen to other selections - all to celebrate summer. Entrance free - donations in aid of St Andrew's Church. Call Eleanor Goodison on 384181 or email [eleanor.goodison@virgin.net](mailto:eleanor.goodison@virgin.net)**

■ **Drawing for all: Learning... improving... enjoying... Regular weekly drawing groups for anyone interested in drawing are being held in Stradbroke. Relaxing and rewarding sessions for beginners, and all levels of ability, wanting to improve and come together to enjoy developing skills, techniques and general observation. The groups meet every Friday from 11.30 – 1pm and Saturdays from 10am– 11.30am. For more information please phone Dave Sumner on 01379 388238.**

# Friends make a dancing start

The Friends of Denham Church began its 2010 programme with a Ceilidh on the later than planned date of March 23. Some other dates published in the last issue of the *Village Voice* have also been amended so please revise your diaries accordingly.

The annual general meeting will be held on Friday April 23 at 7.30pm in Denham Village Hall. In addition to the formal business there will be refreshments, a raffle and a talk by Tony Redman of Whitworth Co- partnership, chartered architects and surveyors who are responsible for the repair works to Denham Church.

Tony is hugely enthusiastic and knowledgeable about his work with historic buildings and his talk on the subject of 'John Wastell, Bury's first Cathedral Architect' will be enjoyable as well as informative.

The Quiz Evening is now to be held at 7.30pm on May 8 at Horham Community Centre. The bar will be open and, as last year, the ticket price will include hot food midway through the evening. Will last year's winners retain the trophy this year or will there be strong competition to wrest it from their grasp?

Look out for posters and flyers nearer the event for more details and be sure to be there to compete for that trophy and have some fun along the way!

The Barn Dance is on Saturday July 10, as previously advertised, and Happy Feet have again been booked to provide the music. Last year's

dance was very successful and much enjoyed by all those who attended but let's make it bigger and better this year.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at all of the Friends' events during the year.

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## *Garden club has flourishing year*

Hoxne Garden and Social Club held its annual general meeting on March 18 after another successful and enjoyable year, for which the chairman and committee thank our members and friends. The club continues to grow and flourish, with many new buds among our evergreen stalwarts.

The Rambling Group now attracts a large number of people who enjoy their walks as well as the pub lunches thanks to the hard work of David Bell and Roger Knight.

We have an exciting programme planned for 2010/11, beginning with a talk on April 15 by Mike Stagg on gardens, horticulture, woods and trees in Suffolk. On May 20 we will travel by coach to Christchurch Park in Ipswich for an evening visit with a talk and guided tour.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Guests and new members are always welcome.

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# NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

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## 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 • April - May 2010

### April 2 - Good Friday

Hoxne 9.30am Meditation  
Syleham 12noon Meditation

### April 3 - Easter Saturday

Denham 7pm Service of Light

### April 4 - Easter Day

Wingfield 10am Easter Communion  
Syleham 11am Morning Prayer  
Hoxne 11.15am Family Service  
with Holy Communion

### April 11

Wingfield 10am Holy Communion  
Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer

### April 18

Wingfield 10am Family Service  
Syleham 10am Holy Communion  
Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion

### April 25

Syleham 10am Village Worship  
Wingfield 11am Morning Prayer  
Hoxne 10am Family Service  
Denham 3pm Family Service

### May 2

Wingfield 10am Family Communion  
Syleham 11am Morning Prayer  
Hoxne 11.15am Holy Communion

### May 9 - Rogation Sunday

Wingfield 10am Holy Communion  
Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer

### May 13 Ascension Day Laxfield 7pm

### May 16

Syleham 10am Holy Communion  
Wingfield 10am Family Service  
Hoxne 11.15 Holy Communion

### May 23 - Pentecost

Syleham 10am Village Service  
Wingfield 11am Morning Prayer  
Hoxne 10am Family Service  
with Baptism

### May 30 - Trinity Sunday

*Fressingfield Group*  
Mendham 10am Benefice  
*Laxfield Group*  
Cratfield 6.30pm Songs of Praise  
to God for Flowers

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**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, 2 Tansy Meadow, Fressingfield,  
Eye, Suffolk IP21 5RQ**

Tel: 01379 586040 Email: susan.loxton@mypostoffice.co.uk

**April 2010**

**Dear Friends and Neighbours,**

As a priest in the Church of England, I thought I would like to respond to the letter from Mark Haddock published in the previous Village Voice. There are two areas I want to address: the issue of sexuality and what it means to be a Christian.

Mark is correct in saying that the clergy are not allowed to formally bless a civil partnership at this time. We need to remember, however, that it is not too many years since homosexuality was a crime in the UK and still is in some other countries.

The church, being such a big organisation, elects the General Synod to make decisions. They in turn try to discern together God's will using scripture, reason, prayer, discussion, the inheritance we have that goes back 2,000 years, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

This is not an easy task. Men and women, lay and ordained, give much time and effort to this and contrary to what the media would have us believe, the Church is engaged in many different aspects of life and actually does not spend all its time on this subject. In reality, there are differing opinions in the church as we all try to interpret the Bible in the light of our culture today and what that might mean to us in respect of how we live. God gave us minds and intelligence and we need to use them alongside compassion and love. Add to this the very broad spectrum of faith found in the Church and you can see how difficult it must be for us to move on or change long held beliefs and doctrine.

As a woman priest, I have empathy with most minorities; it is not easy being different. However, I think change usually happens from within an organisation and, at the moment, we have no idea what changes, if any, will materialise. In the meantime, I do not see how my being part of the Church makes me dishonest or reinforces any prejudiced attitudes. We are all on a journey and do not have all the answers.

Much of the discussion and many of the concerns concentrate on the physical side of homosexual relationships, whereas any relationship between two people is much more than just physical, it is about sharing ourselves with one another, loving and caring and being a better person because of the relationship .

Having said all of this, although there is some discrimination, I believe that in most cases the Church welcomes all, no matter who you are, how you live, or what you have done. We are all sinners on a journey, all of us need the love and forgiveness of a loving, merciful and yet holy God.

Secondly, we Christians believe that it is only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, of his death on a cross which paid the price for our sin, past, present and future, that we can stand before a holy God and receive new life in him.

Contrary to Mark's comment about faith becoming more important than reason, as I

have already said, God has given us minds and we are to use them. But there are many things we do not understand and science cannot answer all our questions.

Ultimately, we have to put our faith in something or someone and when I look around me at the beauty and complexity of creation, when I experience a peace so strong it overcomes all fear, when I witness acts of such courage in the face of adversity, deep down I know there is more to life than just this.

The writer of Ecclesiastes said, 'God has set eternity in the hearts of men.' And it was St Augustine hundreds of years later who said of God, 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.'

I believe God sent his son Jesus to bring us all back into a relationship with him, a relationship so fulfilling that none other can compare. I don't know the answer to all the questions; if I did I would be like God. God will always remain part mystery in this life but I believe he is trustworthy and the safest and best place for us to be is in his hands.

I would be happy to discuss these things further with any who would like to, perhaps over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine.

## Your Vicar - Susan

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

**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

## St Peter and St Paul,

### Hoxne

#### Annual meeting

Hoxne churchwardens were able to report at the annual meeting on March 16 that priest-in-charge, the Revd Susan Loxton, had continued to oversee a regular pattern of Sunday worship - Holy Communion, Morning Prayer and a Family Service with the help of non-stipendiary clergy and two Hoxne Lay Elders.

In addition, a week-day service of Morning Prayer was held whenever possible as have informal services at St Edmund's House (sheltered accommodation for the elderly). The children's corner has seen further improvements and is often used during family services. The

time of this service is 10am. Other regular Sunday services are at 11.15am. The involvement of members of the congregation in these services in as many ways as possible is encouraged, adding a welcome dimension to the pattern of prayer.

The wardens reported with much regret that the church's long serving organist, Daphne Banham had, for reasons of health, stepped down. The church owes Daphne a huge debt of gratitude for many years of a rich and unstinting contribution to worship.

The church finances, having been subjected to a thorough overhaul by the treasurer, Caroline Ball, continue to show improvements in cash flow and further progress towards achieving a credit balance. Again ►►

the parish has met the Diocesan quota which is both commendable and encouraging. However, there is little room for complacency as the finances are still very much hand to mouth.

The Revd Loxton thanked everyone who contributes to the ministry of St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne, and especially those who do things that often go unnoticed until they cease to be done! It had been an encouraging year, with the church family supporting many events and building its relationship with the wider community.

It was noted that the PCC had recommended a phased approach to the development in the North Aisle and discussions were to take place with the architect.

John Ball and Brian Chester were both re-elected as churchwardens with Mrs Jean Chapman as secretary of the PCC and Mrs Ball as treasurer.

A churchyard **Tidy-Up** is planned for Saturday April 24 while Saturday June 19 is the date of the annual **Church Fete** to be held in the gardens of Abbey Farm, Cross Street.

## **Mothers' Union**

Mothers' Union meets on the third Monday of each month at 2pm at Time House Low Street.

Monday 19th April - *Reflections on the Easter Story*.

Monday 17th May - *Beauty from Ashes* (DVD) - the story of life after a failed marriage.

Thanks to all who attended and contributed to our coffee morning on March 11. Also, a big thank you to John and Margaret Brawn, for hosting this most successful event. Over £140 was raised for MU funds and this will help to continue the work of promoting family life within the UK and abroad.

If you are interested in the work of the

**24 Village Voice**

MU please contact Cathie McGregor, enrolling member on 01379 668434.

## **Flower rota**

*April 4 and 11* - Easter rota.

*April 18 and 25*

Altar - Sue Thornett

Porch - Cathie McGregor

*May 2 and 9*

Altar - Josephine Marsh- Feiley

Porch - Cathie McGregor

*May 16 and 23*

Altar - Caroline Ball

Porch - Sarah Foote

*Sunday May 30*

Benefice Service at Mendham

(No service at Hoxne)

Thank you to all who contribute to the flower arrangements in the church.

Cathie McGregor 01379 668434

## **St John, Denham**

The Revd Loxton will holding a **Service of Light** at the church on Easter Saturday - April 3 - at 7pm. All are welcome to this meaningful service as we prepare for Easter Day. Family Services are held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 3pm The work on the church will be starting soon - please check the village notice boards or call the churchwardens to check about access to the building.

## **St Margaret, Syleham**

Easter flowers - would all flower arrangers please note that the church will be open for them on Saturday April 3.

*Notes for your diaries:* Saturday June 26,

**Church Summer Lunch** at Monks Hall.

Saturday August 7, **Church Fete** at Monks Hall.

Also in the summer **The Duck Race** at the Mill, details later from Ian Marshall.

If anyone would like to host a coffee

morning or tea afternoon, etc for church funds the PCC would be delighted to hear from you.

The **Annual Parish Church Meeting** will take place on Monday April 26, 6pm at Monks Hall - all welcome.

## St Andrew, Wingfield

As I write, we have had one enjoyable and thought-provoking **Lent Supper** with Archdeacon Judy Hunt, and are looking forward to the second one, when the Revd David Streeter will be our speaker. We welcome into our church family the Hays – Angie and her children Adam, Amy and Alix – who have been baptised and confirmed, and Alex Dowell, who has been confirmed.

Easter will be celebrated with **Family**

**Communion** followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard, and coffee mornings will be held on Thursday April 22 and Thursday May 27 at 10am in the church.

Our **Annual Church Meeting** will be held on Sunday May 16 at 11am, following the Family Service.

We are looking forward to a **Safari Supper** on May 8. Please come and join us if you can. The contact for this is Sue Harvey, 01379 586355; and we shall be repeating last year's successful **Poetry Evening** on May 22 – theme 'Summer is icumen in' (we hope it will be by then). If you have a favourite poem or piece of prose you would like to share with others please contact Eleanor Goodison - tel 01379 384181.

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## **Obituaries**

### **Mary Elizabeth Baxter 1923 – 2010**

In her eighty-six years, Mary Baxter was known, loved and respected by many generations of Hoxne people. Born Mary Quinton, she attended Hoxne Primary School and began her working life as housemaid to the Backhouse family who farmed near Hoxne Watermill. That line of employment continued when she joined the household of another memorable Hoxne character, Wm C Saunders (Charlie) at Billingford Hall. Subsequent jobs included a period working as a cleaner at the Swan which she did with her customary diligence for a number of years.

In 1947, in Hoxne church, Mary was married to Reg Baxter, veteran of Dunkirk and a well known local journalist. They set up home at 53 Low Street where she lived until her death in February, Reggie having predeceased her in 1999. Their only son, Clive was born in 1948. They say that behind each successful man there is a good woman. This was certainly true of Mary who backed Reggie every step of the way, supporting many local causes and organisations. She was a member of the Girls' Friendly Society and the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion, an institution dear to her husband's heart. She was also a past president of the local branch of the Women's Institute and a staunch supporter of the Parish Church.

A warm-hearted, generous woman who would help anybody, Mary showed great stoicism and courage in overcoming two serious illnesses. In 1970, she underwent an operation at Addenbrooke's to remove a brain tumour and thirteen years later

fought and won a battle against cancer. She also nursed Reggie for the last five years of his life, following a stroke in 1994.

In her latter years, Mary, a lifelong Liberal Party supporter, continued to actively engage in many local causes as well as being Hoxne correspondent for the *Diss Express*, a role which her husband had fulfilled for many years.

The Service of Cremation at Ipswich on the February 18 was attended by many of her family and friends who braved the winter weather to bid their farewells. She is survived by her son, Clive, and daughter-in-law, Margaret, with her grandchildren, Christopher and Jasmine, whom she adored. Mary's five brothers and sisters predeceased her.

A memorial service will take place in Hoxne Church at 2pm on Thursday April 15.

### **Herman Frederick Simper 1920-2010**

The name of Herman Simper may be a familiar one to older residents of Hoxne, but probably not to newer villagers. Herman was born at Charsfield, Suffolk in 1920 into a well-respected farming family. He worked on his parent's farm until he was 20 and then volunteered to join the RAF in 1940. Herman was stationed in Scotland and was a member of the RAF Police. A keen footballer, he played for Aberdeen Football Club and his RAF team. He was initially stationed in Portsmouth and then the Outer Hebrides. On returning to Suffolk after the Second World War he was demobilised and had a trial as a goalkeeper for ►►

Ipswich Town. Although he was good enough to pursue a career in football, his father persuaded him to take up farming as football was seen as 'short term'. In 1946, Herman became the tenant farmer of 283 acres at Park Farm, Hoxne, which was part of the Depperhaugh Estate. He eventually increased the size of the farm to 800 acres as an owner occupier, with lands in the parishes of Hoxne, Denham, Horham and Stradbroke. Included in this ownership was land taken to build Horham Airfield, which was gradually brought back into agricultural use.

Herman was married to Barbara Girling of Tunstall, Suffolk and the couple had three children: Errol who emigrated to Australia and has become a journalist of some note in Sydney. Carol (Twinch) who is a local history writer and journalist and Jill (Palmer) who sadly died in 2003. In 1960, Herman was approached by Rintoul Booth, the agricultural editor of the EADT to write a column on farm machinery. Herman enjoyed writing about agricultural matters and published his first book in 1977 entitled *A Farmers Guide to Arable Machinery*. In 1976 he stopped farming and moved to Norfolk, before retiring to Potton Hall, Westleton in Suffolk. In 1989 he published a short biography entitled *Farming Pursuits*.

While a member of the community in Hoxne, Herman took on several roles as a councillor of Hoxne Parish Council and was also the chairman of the Eye Branch of the NFU. He was the chairman of the Suffolk Farm Safety Committee for 13 years. For over 50 years he was a loyal member of the Hartismere Lodge of Freemasons and held office there.

Herman Simper will be remembered as a kind hearted and generous member of the community in and around Hoxne.

He was also a well respected journalist and farmer who took a great interest in what was going on around him. Herman was elected a member of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists and travelled widely reporting on farming matters. Sadly his wife and helpmate Barbara died in 1997.

Herman died on Monday February 22 at Allonsfield House Nursing Home, Campsea Ash, aged 89, being the grandfather of six children and great grandfather of four children.

*Stephen Govier - with thanks to Carol Twinch and the Simper family for details.*

### **Kathleen Ellen Barker**

Kathleen Ellen Barker (died on February 16th, 2010 aged 88]. Kay as she was usually called was brought up in Thrandeston by her parents who were farmers. In 1954 she moved with her family to Larch House, Heckfield Green to look after her father John Neave.

Kay was a country girl at heart and an attractive young woman who had three children Rosalind, Hilary and Peter. Kay was always busy cooking, sewing and gardening. For a number of years she ran a hairdressing salon in Stradbroke until she retired from work.

In 2002 with the death of her husband Alan, she moved away to live with her daughter Hilary in Framlingham. Kay enjoyed time with her family and grandchildren and was a visitor to the Day Centre in Framlingham.

She will be remembered with kind affection in Hoxne and the surrounding area as a good neighbour and friend. Kay died at home peacefully and was buried at Athelington Churchyard in this tranquil setting.

# DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Ray Keeble

**Vacancy for a Parish Councillor.** At the time of writing there was still a vacancy for a parish councillor (as reported in the previous edition). The Council hopes to fill the vacancy (by co-option) at the earliest opportunity. The Parish Council normally meets on the last Wednesday of alternate months with occasional additional meetings as necessary. If you live in the village (or within three miles of any part of the parish boundary) this is an opportunity to participate. If you are interested or would like further information please contact the Clerk.

## **Parish Precept for 2010/2011**

At its January meeting the Parish Council reviewed its committed and planned expenditure for the coming year and decided that its financial position was sufficiently robust to allow a reduction in precept income for the coming year. Accordingly a reduction of 10% in the precept requirement for 2010/2011 was agreed. (The precept is the small share of council tax which is allocated to individual parishes and is separately identified in the breakdown of council tax supplied to householders)

## **Planning:**

New application:

0096/10 Airfield Industrial Estate Eye (3 wind turbines and sub station). In line with the comments submitted to MSDC regarding the earlier scoping opinion consultation councillors were generally supportive of green/renewable energy schemes and considered that the impact of the scheme on Denham would be minimal (the turbines may be visible from some parts of the village).

## **Application decided by MSDC**

3687/09 Owls Barn, Low Road, Denham (Change of use of agricultural land to garden, three-bay cart lodge garage with home office over). This has been approved. (The PC recommended approval)

## **Community Policing: Safer Neighbourhood Team**

We were delighted to welcome a member of the team to the January meeting who gave a full report and stayed to answer many questions from the floor. Priorities for the team in the area are set at regular meetings held locally and open to the public. Mrs. Hindle our Neighbourhood Watch co-coordinator believes the meetings to be very worthwhile and urges increased participation across the villages.

To contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team about local policing issues and concerns (not emergencies) ring 01473 613500 or email to:

[midsuffolknorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:midsuffolknorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

To enquire about Police Direct (for free locally relevant up to date policing information sent direct to you by email or by telephone) ring 01473 613997.

## **Transport Survey**

We hope to include in the next edition some preliminary feedback from Suffolk County Council regarding the survey of public transport usage (and transport needs) recently circulated with Village Voice.

## **Highways**

Thanks are due to the County Highways team for their hard work during the severe winter (which at the time of writing appeared to be coming to an end).



Potholes and subsidence following the sewage scheme will continue to be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Resurfacing of Hoxne Road is expected to take place in summer 2011 (by then settlement following the drainage excavations should have stabilised). The problems of flooding in Low Road have been addressed but the underlying problem (the water course is higher than the road) is not easily resolved particularly given current and foreseeable budgetary constraints. Our District Councillor Mrs. Gibson-Harries is continuing to give her attention to the problem in liaison with the County.

### Next Meeting

**The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which will follow immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday May 26 at 19.30 in the Village Hall**

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

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## Question Time planned for gardeners

Wingfield and District Gardening Club's tour of 'Gardens at their Worst' was a great success. Twenty members and friends visited two gardens in Syleham and three in Wingfield.

Far from being at their worst, they were immaculate, but with only a few flowers, or, indeed, signs of new growth, the freezing weather having held back the new shoots.

Refreshments were served half-way and at the last garden. A very enjoyable time was had by all, with plenty of opportunities to chat and make new friends.

The April 28 meeting at 7.30pm in the De la Pole Arms will be a 'Gardeners' Question Time'. Bring along your problem, query or sickly plant for some advice from the members. There will be a soil-testing session, details of this will be circulated.

We will be visiting Fernatrix at Stoke Ash for the May meeting. This will be on the 15th.

Our June meeting is, of course, a Garden Safari ('Gardens at their Best') - the same gardens we saw in

February, transformed! Wednesday the 30th, 7.30pm at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall. For more information, phone 384259 or 384525.

**Graham Redelsperger**  
(chairman)

.....

## Wayne's

### ■gardening tips

**April** - lift and divide polyanthus after flowering. Prune early flowering shrubs like berberis, forsythia and spiraea immediately after flowering. Mulch beds to help eliminate weeds and conserve moisture.

**May** - trim ornamental hedges. Note gaps to be filled with bulbs for next year. Strawberries, just before flowers open hoe the ground then thoroughly cover with fairly short straw. If late frosts occur pull the straw over the blooms.

*Did you know some rare snowdrops can be worth £40 each?*

**Wayne Page**

# Relegation risk for Hoxne footballers

AFC Hoxne 1st XI, who are too close for comfort to the bottom of Ipswich League Division Two, began their new year programme on January 23 with a trip to league leaders Ipswich Exiles. We lost 2-4 after being 2-1 up, with half an hour to go. On the same day the 2nd XI in Division Five (where they are in the promotion path) triumphed 3-2 at Dennington. The 1st XI game at home to Trimley Red Devils on February 6 was an eventful affair. We gained a point from a 2-2 draw after being 2-0 down but survived a late penalty miss by the visitors. A minute's silence was observed before the kick-off in memory of Mary Baxter, mother of club president Clive Baxter. The Baxter Family have been connected with the club for over a century.

The 2nd XI achieved a third successive away win on the day 4-3 v Somersham Reserves. Just the 2nd XI were in action on February 13, thrashing AFC Titans (Ipswich) 6-1 at home. On February 20 the two teams only gained one point between them. The 1st XI lost 2-1 at Bramford United, while the 2nd XI were held 2-2 at home by Benhall Reserves. There were no fixtures on February 27. As things stood at the end of February, the 1st XI were 12 out of 14 in the Ipswich League Division Two - obviously in a relegation situation but we have it all in our own hands with seven of our last 10 matches being at home. The 2nd XI, with five of their last six matches at home, were placed second

in Division Five with a chance of promotion just a year after nearly being relegated. Finally on March 6 the 2nd XI did better than the 1st XI. The latter lost 1-2 away to Parkside (Ipswich), but the 2nd XI had an exciting 4-3 home win over East Bergholt United (A). **Clive Baxter - president**



## Bowls success

Another season has come to an end at Hoxne Bowls Club with the club and individual players achieving success.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Border League team were runners up in the league just three points behind the winners. The Upper Waveney League team finished mid table,

The club was host to a number of league and county semi-finals and finals. We had four players in the county area team, four players reached the county semi-finals and final play offs and we had one player at Worthing in the national finals - so as you can see, we are pleased to have put Hoxne Bowls Club on the bowls map. We look forward to next year, when we all, I am sure, will be aiming to improve on this year.

We would love to see some new members at the club, so if anybody is interested please contact me on 668712, or any club member, and you will be made very welcome. We will be holding an Open Day on Sunday April 18 at 3pm - just bring flat shoes and have a go.

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# SYLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Chairman Mr J Leader

**Residents are reminded** that attendance at Parish Council meetings, which are held in the Village Hall, is always welcome.

**District Councillor** Gibson-Harries brought the good news that Thornham Walks will be remaining open, although with reduced funding. Hartismere Hospital is progressing, despite many hurdles; the first development will be a new Health Centre followed by a 60 bed in-patient unit.

**The Police Safer Neighbourhood Team** will be holding their area meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30 on Wednesday 14th April. An excellent chance to meet the team and further publicity will be put out nearer the time.

**Winter conditions** – the Parish Council reviewed events of the past winter and considered ways to prepare for the next one.

**Mobile Library** calls fortnightly at 10am on Fridays and stops for 10 minutes on Wingfield Road at the end of Weybread Road. Dates for the forthcoming two months are: 16th and 30th April and 14th and 28th May. It is well stocked and special orders can be given.

**Energy saving** – You can borrow an energy monitor for free from the library van – to check your carbon footprint and see where you might save money. To find out more, email [creatinggreenestcounty@suffolk.gov](mailto:creatinggreenestcounty@suffolk.gov) or telephone 01473 264832.

**Waylands Minibus Service** 497 calls at 0923 Syleham on Wednesdays and arrives at Harleston Church at 0941. The return service leaves Harleston at 1235 and arrives at Syleham at 1253. This service is sponsored by Suffolk County Council.

**Age Concern:** Mrs Elsdon reminds us that the Care Quality Commission can be contacted on 03000 616161 if anyone is not happy with the independent care service they are receiving. Mrs Elsdon herself is always happy to help and Parish Councillors are delighted that Age Concern has awarded her a Certificate in recognition of her dedication.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th May 2010. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm and the Parish Council's Annual Meeting will follow.**

**Clerk: Mrs M Lewis 01379 669258  
[pc@syleham.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@syleham.suffolk.gov.uk)**

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# Sunday reflections...

Wake up slowly to the sound of the odd car or two going through the village on a typical Sunday morning. The feeling of peace and tranquillity is something to behold.

Sit with a nice cup of tea or two and think of all that's happened in the last week. I look out into the garden and see all the jobs beckoning me; search for a small one, one not needing much effort, just to get the body going is enough!

The village is so quiet but you know others are doing the same, it feels like your own little world in the back garden. Then I hear the clatter of bottles being discarded at the pub, "Sounds like opening time", so down to The Swan for a nice pint or two and chat about cabbages and kings with my friends.

Back home, the dog is saying it's her turn for a walk. Yet again, no one to be seen, it's as if the village is asleep. Walking along the foot path to the barn, I look at a village hidden behind trees in a natural valley; although about 300 people live in Low Street, Hoxne, you can hardly see the houses.

Then the sound of an old organ can be heard sending out a delightful tune and I walk on home with a smile on my face knowing that others are also at peace – what a delightful place Hoxne is!

AG

.....

## Stage, screen and concert hall...

■ THE Open Space Theatre Company chalked up another success with its briskly-paced presentation of *84 Charing Cross Road* at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne at the end of February. Big performances from the key characters backed by a variety of engaging supporting roles delighted a full house. Theatre lovers from Hoxne should be queuing at the door the next time this company visits.

■ Harleston Players stage *Do not go gentle*, by internationally acclaimed playwright Suzan Zeder, at Archbishop Sancroft High School from Wednesday April 23 to Saturday May 1 at 7.30pm.

From the grievances, joys, disappointments and hopes of a 'normal' family, Zeder weaves a tale of self-discovery

that will shock and intrigue and appeal to a wide age-range, from teenagers upwards.

Call 01379 854257 for details.

■ The monthly concert series continues at Wingfield Barns. ■ Saturday April 10 at 7.30pm: Zeffirett - Baroque Musici: 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.

Call 01379 873536 or visit the web site: [www.wingfieldbarns.com](http://www.wingfieldbarns.com) for details of the many events planned including shows by the East Anglian Film Archive, art exhibitions and workshops

# Watching and waiting as the season turns

Water has been pouring from the land drains since the snow melted and the noise it makes is reminiscent of walking among the becks in the Lake District. The land is saturated so a night's rainfall is enough to fill dips, hollows and all the newly formed potholes. The river becomes a swirling torrent barely confined within its banks, cascading under the bridge and then surging down the inlet into the decoy pond which overflows forming a lake beneath the poplars.

Crops are bedraggled after an old fashioned frosty winter with the predation of pigeons and paddocks waterlogged with sparse muddy grass so the spark of yellow catkins within the bare branches of the hedge is very cheering.

March used to be the hungry month when not much was left in the storeroom and nothing was growing yet in field or garden. In that respect it would have been a convenient month for Lenten fasting as by Easter the grass would be growing again and the hens laying. Traditionally it was the month when military campaigns resumed, when roads became passable after the winter mire and work began again on the land.

The season is turning for although a pair of mallards and a moorhen is swimming on the lawn, snowdrops are growing through the water – the reflection giving a double display. There is no longer a flurry of long tailed tits around the bird table in the mornings and even the gold finches have dwindled to the odd pair. It must be warm enough now for other sources of food. In sunny intervals between the rain, skylarks are singing.

HC

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# An Evacuee at Hoxne

A reminiscence by retired school master, Paul Fincham,  
now living in Woodbridge.

I was almost nine when, in September 1940, the Germans began their bombing offensive on London and other English towns, and my school in Ipswich was hurriedly evacuated to the Midlands. But my parents thought it better to send me to Hoxne, which seemed less of a target for the bombs, to stay with their friend, Miss. Laura Thirkettle, who lived with her companion Miss. Alice Shelley, in "Acacia" on the Denham Road.

Both ladies were enthusiastic gardeners: one had a conservatory attached to the house, the other a greenhouse. There was a gardener too – Miles, I'm pretty sure he was called – whose hut was practically papered with empty seed-packets and certificates won at local flower-and-vegetable shows. The garden itself was large and interesting, with little 'secret' paths, a rockery much ornamented with broken china, a pond with goldfish, and – adjoining – another large lawn and orchard: the latter was obviously combed off and sold at some point and another house built on it.

Miss Thirkettle's brother and his family lived and farmed at the nearby White House Farm: George, Gordon, Phyllis, Laura (known as 'Little Laura' to distinguish her from her aunt) and Peter who was a couple of years older

than me. The Rush family lived at Shreeves Farm. Helen Rush was a pretty girl who, I think, married Gordon Thirkettle.

I was enrolled at the village school, in Mrs Chapman's class. Hoxne had already had one influx of London evacuees, when war began, and it had not been a happy experience so I was looked on with suspicion, though barriers were soon broken down. My Ipswich school had been brand new so the village school was an eye-opener – two or three gaunt classrooms and no modern facilities.

I remember almost nothing about my three months there except being made to draw a chrysanthemum (the



Paul in 1940

## Evacuee at Hoxne - continued

most difficult flower imaginable) and, on 20 November, being told the story of King Edmund's discovery and execution by the Danes which was thought by many to have happened at Hoxne.

The war seemed to follow me to Hoxne. Planes returning to Germany often discarded spare bombs at random, and on my first night there, one such fell in a field. A boy at school generously gave me a piece of shrapnel he'd recovered from the crater. A few days later the ladies met me from school and we drove to Eye to change the particulars on my identity-card and ration-book, those essential wartime documents.

### *Safety in a ditch*

The regional food office was in the Hartismere Hospital and, as we arrived, a stray German 'plane flew over and machine-gunned the town: the car stopped and someone pushed us into a ditch until it was safe to run into the building. From a window we watched the 'plane, swastikas clearly visible on its tail, swooping several times over the town, spraying bullets. We heard later that it had been shot down at Laxfield, though I've no idea whether that was true. But what excitement, and in a place where I'd been sent to be out of danger!

Nineteen-forty had a most beautiful autumn and I've never forgotten the dew-laden cobwebs on bushes as I walked to school, nor the abundance of berries, crab apples and other wild fruits in the Acacia garden.

On Sunday mornings I walked with Miss Thirkettle to church. In the afternoon I drove with Miss Shelley to chapel at Occold, then to tea with her nice friends, the Hawes family, at the Hall Farm in Horham. Blanche Hawes was organist at the chapel and our Sunday evenings were sometimes enlivened with a bit of hymn-singing. I came in for harvest festivals in both places, and helped (or so I thought) decorate St Peter's and St Paul's Church with a car load of produce from the Acacia garden.

Social life was much restricted in wartime. The ladies had a minimal petrol allowance at this time, and our Saturday morning trip into Diss, for shopping, banking and so on, was the week's high spot. Both were avid knitters, like so many then, making 'comforts' for the troops, and they taught me to knit curious 6-inch squares of wool oddments which were sewn together into blankets. Knitting-parties were held on one afternoon each week, ladies taking it in turns to host them, when a dozen or more would gather and knit (and talk) together.

### *Little Laura's birthday...*

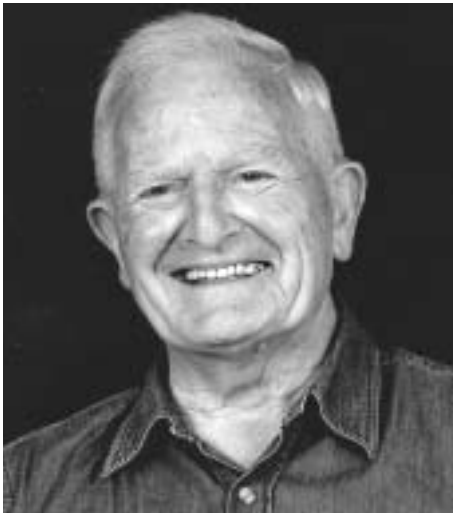
Perhaps the most exciting thing in my three months in Hoxne was that 'Little Laura' celebrated her 21st birthday, in October.

There was an evening party at White House Farm to which Miss Thirkettle and Miss Shelley (complete with knitting needles and wool!) were invited, and so was I. There must have been no electricity, for I remember the comfortable warm glow of oil lamps, as we played pencil-and-paper

games. 'Little Laura' subsequently married an American serviceman, John Sutter, and went to live in the USA.

By mid-December of that year, 1940, the situation seemed to have settled down enough for my parents to bring me home to Ipswich. This delighted me of course, but I think those two kind ladies had become genuinely fond of me and were probably sad to lose me.

Of course they seemed old to a nine-year-old, but I know now that Miss Thirkettle was only fifty-seven and Miss Shelley in her thirties, but they were fairly set in their ways and knew little about children. I longed to be taken to see the Disney film Pinocchio in Diss, for example, but it was out of the question – I doubt whether either of them had ever been to a cinema! I went back twice, in 1941, to stay a week with them and we remained friends for the rest of their lives.



Paul Fincham

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# WINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Michael Harvey

## **Planning**

2947/09 Cone Tree Nursery, Top Road, Wingfield (Dwelling to serve nursery unit). Approved by MSDC. (The Parish Council recommended approval and supported the application at committee).

## **New application**

0096/10 3 Wind turbines, Airfield Industrial Estate, Eye. The Parish Council responded to the earlier scoping opinion consultation indicating general support for green initiatives and noting that the effect of the scheme on Wingfield would be minimal (visual only from some parts of the parish). A planning application for the scheme has now been received and a large number of organisations are being consulted including some 30 neighbouring and nearby parish and town councils.

**Parish Council Vacancies.** At the time of writing it was hoped to fill the vacancies by co-option at the first available meeting of the Council.

**Parish Precept** Following a review of expenditure commitments and forecasts the Council has decided on a small increase (3.5%) in the precept for 2010/11. (The precept is the small share of the total council tax allocated to individual parishes). This would be sufficient to maintain reserves at an adequate level to cope with day to day contingencies. Any major expenditure on initiatives included in the Parish Plan could be expected (and would need) to be funded primarily by grant aid.

**Parish Plan** The Council has now completed its annual review of the action plan elements which fall primarily to the Parish Council. The main points are as follows:

**Affordable Housing** The Council supports the principle but a survey did not identify significant current demand. A new survey would be conducted if/when appropriate.

**Facilities For Young Children** The search would continue for a suitable and generally acceptable site for a play area and this remains a high priority.

**Community safety** A free information service is provided direct to subscribers through Police Direct. The introduction of regular open meetings enables local councils and members of the public to input to local priority setting for the Safer Neighbourhood Team. A representative of the team (SNT) also attends PC meetings whenever possible.

**Fly Tipping** The facility to make direct calls to the relevant officer at MSDC has generally worked well. Signs emphasising the high level of fines have been erected at some risk points.

**Traffic Management** The PC has applied for an extension of the 30mph limit to include sections of Top Road. County Highways respond effectively to urgent safety related reports (potholes, obstructions etc)

**Footpath Maintenance** The aim is to maintain effective liaison with the relevant officers and to report obstructions brought to the attention of the council. Some good work has been done on key paths including north of the church.

**Access To Skills.** It has not been considered practicable to provide worthwhile skills training in Wingfield itself when most courses are available in larger centres in the area. However the Council would consider suggestions with a view to acting as an advocate for any exceptions that would meet a demonstrable demand and would be viable in such a small community.

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**Mobile Phone Masts.** There have been no applications in the village.

**Protect Open Spaces, Trees, Hedgerows** The splendid Abbey Wood initiative has included the planting of hundreds of trees and provides a leisure and educational facility open freely to the public. A hedgerow survey has been completed for the whole parish.

**Mains Drainage.** This was expected to be an agenda item for the March meeting of the Council. A report will appear in the next edition.

**Maintaining the Green.** A community based approach to cutting has been agreed and will commence this year. Signs drawing attention to the byelaws have been erected.

**Recycling Centre.** A glass recycling facility is available courtesy of the De La Pole Arms

**Support for small domestic wind turbines.** No proposals received so far.

**Improved Broadband access.** The PC will consider support for a regional campaign at its next meeting

### Next Meeting

**The next meeting of the Council will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which will be held in May immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting. (Date to be confirmed)**

**For further information: please contact David Jenvey, Clerk 01379 388184**

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## *Short-sighted reforms?*

Some events lead one to ask where are we heading this 21st century. For example why did mid-Staffordshire hospitals have a list of unexpected deaths over three years. The independent enquiry has not satisfied families probably because of its remit carefully drawn up to protect the backs of the authorities. But it was politicians who invented Quangos and the target culture and must bear ultimate responsibility; not those operating their system. Bankers are blamed for the recession but it was the politicians who relaxed financial controls and let loose the greed culture.

We all experience impersonal often distant call centres, the tick-box culture which misses the point, and the never ending digital voice help line. A good example is closing down a phone line for a deceased. "If you want...press 1. If you want...press 2 " and so on. This takes half an

hour. Later a letter from BT addressed to the deceased expresses regret at the decision to leave them, hopes it was through no fault of theirs, and should they decide to come back, they would be welcome with open arms". Amen.

This piece is about eyes. After two years and six visits to hospitals/clinics where ophthalmologists have their gear. Under the new system of patient choice entitled 'choose and book' you must first visit your optometrist who will refer you to the surgical unit of your choice. Despite the round of visits to ophthalmologists, he then tests you as if you are back at square one.

An NHS hand-out explains the rules:  
*See optician - contact referral centre -*

A  
*word from  
Wingfield*

*choose surgical unit - have appointment - have operation.*

But this critical path is strewn with obstacles. Thus the wrong phone number appears twice in large print at the start and the new number added on a sticker at the back is also wrong. The referral centre in Kings Lynn says the hand-out has been withdrawn and should be destroyed. They added: "Do not ring us, we will ring you".

No call, so a week later I rang again to be told there is nothing in the pending tray, but wait, we tried to ring you but perhaps we have the wrong number? But we have referred you to Norwich who will be in touch.

I ring Norwich who say we will write to you to arrange an appointment. I ask about the NHS hand-out which they say is the responsibility of the Area Authority.

It resembles snakes and ladders and leads me to suspect that the authorities launched patient choice but it has withered on the NHS vine. My faith in the professionalism of nurses and doctors survives, but questions hang over the authorities. Who are they and to whom are they accountable?

We get our appointment and arrive to find the clinic is very busy with mostly elderly ordinary folk, and quite a few in wheelchairs. We are moved from noisy waiting room to queuing corridor where

the surgeon's small room was full.

First to enter were a group of female students followed by another group, of men. Tight together with wheelchair, carer and nurse, we all peered at his TV monitor and explored the inside of Anne's eyes. The Norwich ophthalmologist then said he agreed with the opinion of his Ipswich colleague. My offer to address them was accepted so I related our saga and said I hoped that when they had qualified as doctors, they would look closely at admin procedures.

The ophthalmologist said that the new NHS system of 'choose and book' had reduced the number of patients he was able to treat. I said I had been asked to destroy the NHS guidance leaflet.

We then moved on to the curiously named Nelson Day Unit which fixed three days for a further assessment and two separate ops, after which there are check-ups. I had pushed Anne about a quarter mile because of bad signing and parking, but slept well.

Soon she will have two new plastic lenses in place of the cloudy ones with which she was born and no need for specs. The doctors and nurses are wonderful, but the NHS bureaucracy is worrying. I wonder whether NHS Trust accountants factor in the patient costs of travel, time and stress?

TG



■ The Diss and District Branch of Save the Children is celebrating this summer with two events during June.

**Saturday June 19** *Music for Everyone* - a concert by the Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society at 7.30pm at Garboldisham Village Hall. Come and join us for a rousing evening of popular music. Tickets £10 - cash bar and raffle.

**Sunday June 27** Visit a glorious local garden and enjoy a real home-made Strawberry Tea. Visiting horticultural experts, plant, books and other stalls. Raffle. 3pm at Furze House, Rushall. Entrance and tea £3. A wonderful opportunity for garden enthusiasts to visit an unusual local garden - still in development - and also to meet the holder of the National Collection of campanulas.

Our annual Champagne Breakfast was a big success raising £600 with very many thanks to all who helped and attended.

**Further information from Sheila Evans 01379 668477  
or Jackie Johnson 01379 668220.**

# *Names from the past...*

**In this article, Stephen Govier visits Wingfield churchyard and remembers the Rush family of Hoxne**

---

I was recently in Wingfield and passing the Old School House - converted into a dwelling several years ago - brought back memories of my grandmother Olive Tye who taught alongside Mrs Feavearyear at the school. Older Wingfield residents who attended the school will remember them well.

In the churchyard are the grave-stones of Harry Palgrave Raven [1875-1952] who had a private school at The Depperhaugh and retired to Hoxne having a house called St Edmund's built within the old pleasure grounds of Oakley Park. Harry's father was John James Raven who lived at Fressingfield and was a renowned campanologist. Harry used to live at Syleham Hall until it was damaged by fire and was the organist at Wingfield Church for many years from 1928-1937.

Also of interest is the Reverend Samuel William Hemphill Aldwell [1866-1938] of Wingfield the local historian and author.

He was the eldest son of Basil Duckett Aldwell and his wife Frances. Samuel was married to Ethel Norton at Rickinghall in 1908 and they had a daughter Dorothy who was born in 1909.

Samuel Aldwell died on the 27th of October 1938 while talking to his parishioners at his retirement celebra-

tions. Basil Silver Aldwell [d.1953] his brother was the rector of Thorndon and is buried at Wingfield with his wife Mary Bertha [d.1942].

Absolom Feavearyear of Wingfield is buried on the village green; he fell out with the vicar and said that he wouldn't enter the church again dead or alive and is buried in his own mausoleum.

I was recently contacted about the Rush family in Hoxne, some of you will remember Cyril Rush who was the pastor at the Baptist Chapel in Hoxne. Cyril was a keen gardener and looked after the Vicarage gardens for the Reverend Scott. Cyril [d.1975, aged 63] and his wife Daisy Kate [d.2002, aged 88] lived in one of the council houses in Nuttery Hole, later called Nut Tree Vale.

My file on Hoxne marriage records lists a number of Rush weddings including Henry Chase the miller who was married to Martha Rush on the 29th of September 1829. Henry came from South Elmham and his family had the tower mill at Metfield and water mill at Hoxne and smock mill at Diss.

William Etheridge was married to Sarah Rush on the 19th of February 1829. James Mallett of Eye was married to Mary Rush on the 20th of May 1833. Francis Churchyard [widower] was married to Sarah Rush [widow]

on the 4th of October 1830. James Self was married to Deborah Rush on the 17th of November 1830. Robert Rush was married to Rebecca Leach on the 12th of September 1826.

Charles Rush of Hoxne [b.1799] lived at White House Farm in 1881 with his wife Lydia [b.1797] a native of Hoxne along with their son George [b.1837]. White House Farm later came to George Thirkettle and his son Gordon [d.1962 aged 40].

Another Charles Rush [b.1821] resided in Green Street with his wife

Charlotte. He was an agricultural labourer. Charles Rush [senior], who had been born at Hoxne in 1814, resided at White House Farm, Stradbroke on the Hoxne Road. Mary [b.1817] his wife also came from Hoxne. Charles farmed 163 acres with five men and three boys.

Charles Rush [junior] farmed 238 acres at Battlesea Green with eight men and three boys during the 1880s. Charles [b.1842] and his wife had a number of children included Charles, Frederick, Herbert, and William.

## Welcome to Mick Glynn's Health and Fitness Column

### Older can mean better

Older runners are speeding up, research has shown that over the last 10 years the finishing times of runners from older age groups showed the greatest increase in speed. The benefits of regular exercise for older people are reduced blood pressure, increased bone density and improved self esteem. A study done by the national institute of Ageing looked at the exercise habits of men and women aged 70-79 and discovered that, after four years, those who had been inactive from the start were most likely to have become immobile.

### Overweight children have disease of middle age

A report from the (BMA) British Medical Association found that Doctors are now seeing in children and young people diseases and disorders once found in the middle-aged and elderly. These include type 2 diabetes, problems with joints and raised blood pressure. This is a huge issue as there are now a million obese children under 16 in the uk.

### Walk to work for a healthier life

Research by the society places Cambridge at the top of a healthy workers list. 44% of people in Cambridge walk or cycle to work. Bottom of the list was Enfield in Middlesex where only 5% walk or cycle to work.

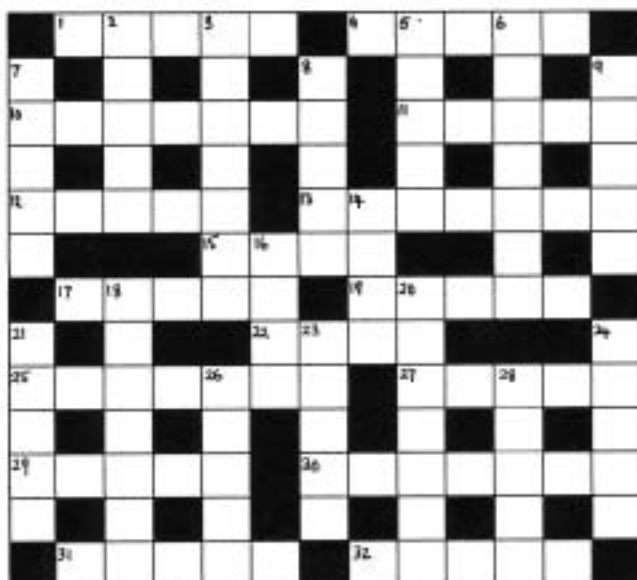
**If you would like more information on Gym Membership, Exercise Classes or Personal Training please do not hesitate to contact Mick Glynn or a member of the team, all fully qualified and insured trainers.**

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### CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 75

The prize for the first correct solution opened to crossword puzzle No. 74 went to Shona Bendix of Hoxne Rd., Denham. The solution appears below.



#### ACROSS

#### DOWN

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Stray into woodland deity (5)                   | 2  | Not Nay, otherwise irritate (5)                 |
| 4  | Not heavy illumination (5)                      | 3  | Lonely for N.E. with 9 (7)                      |
| 10 | Under the bean somehow (7)                      | 5  | Lifeless nitre removed (5)                      |
| 11 | Rub out home counties after a time (5)          | 6  | Weightier somehow have one queen (7)            |
| 12 | Annoyed, confused, without an eldest member (5) | 7  | Poem after sailor's dwelling (5)                |
| 13 | Red unit in action is unproven (7)              | 8  | Rash, rugged, showing signs of indifference (5) |
| 15 | Border in potted geranium (4)                   | 9  | A dyer prepared (5)                             |
| 17 | Somehow art of French commerce (5)              | 14 | Require young Edward to hold point (4)          |
| 19 | Each one Eve followed by case of railway (5)    | 16 | Adroit Parisian of twelve inches (4)            |
| 22 | Deaf to lose colour (4)                         | 18 | Draw back as deserter hold true somehow (7)     |
| 25 | Painter starts one composition (7)              | 20 | Decision of court after Italian composer (7)    |
| 27 | Rascal in smart brogues (5)                     | 21 | Spear man's name (5)                            |
| 29 | Wash spik beer in outskirts of Clacton (5)      | 23 | Shame goes pale (5)                             |
| 30 | Code somehow if I contained building (7)        | 24 | Soft hat about in the middle of wager (5)       |
| 31 | Starting price round golf peg, done (5)         | 26 | Rationality of sight, touch or taste (5)        |
| 32 | All holding to coral isle (5)                   | 28 | Question cook (5)                               |

#### SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO. 74



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

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## **NEXT ISSUE**

**1<sup>st</sup> June (copy by 8<sup>th</sup> May, please)**

**\*\*\***

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