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&
WINGFIELD**

**Village
Voice**

**APRIL - MAY
2011**

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Editorial

Food for Thought!

It only takes one month of unexpected weather for things to seem very different, even in Hoxne. 'Food security' suddenly became a watchword last December, as ever fuelled by the newspapers. Up and down the country, supermarket shelves were being emptied by panic shoppers and lorries laden with food lay abandoned on frozen motorways. Russia showed no sign of lifting its ban on grain exports and the price of wheat hit an all time high. In early February, hundreds of acres of sugar beet were destroyed in the field due to severe frost damage. Heaven only knows the effects on world agriculture the weather in Australia will have. 'So what?' you say, 'I'll just leave it all to Tesco'.

A recent Cabinet Office document suggests that we are a rich developed nation able to buy its way out of any food crisis that comes along. Hence its nickname given by Tim Lang, City University Professor of Food Policy - he calls it the 'Leave it to Tesco Report'. There is no doubt that we are fortunate in that we produce 60 per cent of the food consumed in the UK and around 70 per cent of our imports come from surrounding EU countries. Furthermore, world grain stocks are reasonably good. So why worry?

Well, there are at least two causes for serious concern, and that doesn't include anything good old mother nature can throw at our fragile planet, nor the fact that most world grain supplies are strategically stockpiled, i.e. not available on the world market.

Firstly, it is now widely recognised that the world 'hunger rate' is growing faster than its population. The World Bank estimates that cereal production alone will need to increase by 50 per cent to meet future food demands. To do this, in a background of preserving world ecosystems, is a huge task. Professor John Beddington, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, summarises the dilemma: 'We need 50 per cent more production from less land, less water, energy, fertiliser and fewer pesticides by 2030.'

Secondly, is our faith in technology enough to get us there? These global challenges will mean new sciences to produce our food - modification of photosynthetic efficiency, nitrogen fixation in non legumes, abiotic stress tolerances. There will be a new language for all of us to learn, like Biotech crops rather than GM, and Vaccination or Immunisation of foods. And amongst all of this, I'm sure Tesco will have its own part to play. Some food for thought which you may or may not find very digestible as you dig your cherished vegetable patch.

A final thought from revered philosopher, Carl Sagan: 'We all live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology where hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology', or perhaps, as Confucius he say, 'A person who has food has many problems. A person who has no food has only one.' **SP**

Acknowledgement: Extracts from the Oxford Farming Conference, 2011.

Diary dates

Friday April 1

Save the Children mystery supper, Hoxne

Saturday April 9

Artisan Market - St Edmund's Hall

Tuesday April 12

Hoxne Playingfield and Social Committee annual meeting - the Pavilion

Thursday April 14

St Edmund's Hall annual meeting
Wingfield Barns launch day

Sunday April 17

Hoxne Bowls Club open day

Sunday April 24 / Monday 25

Flower Festival and Art Exhibition,
St Margaret's Syleham

Thursday April 28

Friends of Hoxne Church annual meeting
Parish Church

Thursday May 5

Polling Day - St Edmund's Hall

Friday May 6

Hoxne Playingfield Social Club - Family
Entertainment Evening - the Pavilion

Saturday May 7

Jumble Sale - Denham Village Hall

Wednesday May 11

Eastern Angles -
Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

Friday May 13

The Importance of Being Earnest
St Edmund's Hall

Saturday May 14

Artisan Market - St Edmund's Hall

Sunday May 15

Red Feather Club Grand Open Day

Thursday May 19

Hoxne Garden Club - annual outing
Audley End House, Saffron Walden

Saturday May 28

King Size Papas band - St Edmund's Hall

Sunday May 29 / Monday May 30

Art Exhibition and Craft Stalls,
St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne

Saturday June 11

Hoxne Church Fete - Playingfield

Friday June 17

Hoxne School Summer Fayre - Playingfield

Saturday June 18

Syleham open gardens

Saturday June 25

Wingfield Village Fete

Sunday June 26

Hoxne open gardens (including Pre-school)

Saturday July 2

Syleham Summer Lunch - Monks Hall

Saturday July 9

Family BBQ - Syleham and Wingfield Village
Hall

Saturday September 10

Suffolk Churches Bike Ride

■ **For special church services at
Easter, please see page 21.**

■ **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 668102.**



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■Events at Denham Village Hall include Saturday 7th May - Jumble Sale from 2pm to 4pm. Bric-a-brac, Books, Tombola etc. Anyone with any jumble etc, please contact 871590 or 870346 to arrange collection. **Eye Model Railway Club** meets at the hall every Tuesday from 1.30pm to 4pm. New members always welcome - Further details from John Akerman on 01379 870458

Improver/Intermediate line dance classes are held on Thursday from 7.30pm. Details from Rose on 870346. For hall bookings, contact Tina Chenery on 870797.

■The date for the 2011 Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride is Saturday 10th September from 9am to 5pm. Would-be riders please put this date in your diary. We have a hard task ahead to beat last year's terrific total of over £2000.

■Diary dates for Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall include: date change for Eastern Angles - now 11th May; 9th July family BBQ

■Join us at St Margaret's Church, Syleham to celebrate your Wedding Anniversary this year at 11am on Sunday May 1st. All your favourite wedding hymns and prayers. No need to get into those special clothes again! For more details, contact Mary Lewis 669258 or Fiona Newton 01986 798266

■Hoxne Playingfield and Social Club holds its annual meeting at the Pavilion on Tuesday April 12 at 7.30pm.

■Eye Bach Choir will present a concert of excerpts from Porgy and Bess in Eye Church on Saturday 11th June at 7.30pm.

■Hoxne Playingfield Social Club is planning a family entertainment evening on Friday May 6. Children's entertainer - Magical Mark from 6.30 - 7.30 pm Bar open 6 pm. Hot Dogs for sale. Admission: Children over two years £2. Adults free. Ring Gail on 01379 668186.

■St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne annual meeting (followed by the bar AGM) takes place on Thursday April 14 at 7.30 pm in the

OUT AND ABOUT...

hall. Come and support your Village Hall - the bar will be open.

■Sunday 15th May: Grand Open Day The Red Feather Club/95th Bomb Group Heritage Association in Horham. 10am-4pm - military vehicles, re-enactors, trade stands, exhibits from other aviation societies, visitors from the US & a flypast. Diss Air Cadets will parade the colours. The 1285th Military Police Company plans to open their new 'Guard Room' alongside the revamped Red Feather Club museum. Denham Village Hall - the base's former Guard Room - will hold an exhibition of work by local wildlife artist, Mark Chester, and offer cream teas. Horham Church tower will also be open, offering panoramic views of the area.

■The Hoxne Village Fete organised by the Parish Church moves to a new venue - Hoxne Playingfield on Saturday June 11 starting at 2pm.



Launch Day
Thursday 14th April

Come and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine while you browse the galleries and the new gift shop. Light lunches available.

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Letters to the editor

From Stephen Govier

I would like to thank Hoxne Parish Council (Heritage Group) for their work in bringing together my idea of presenting the main historical buildings, events and discoveries in a digestible, visual and written form as the Hoxne Heritage Walk leaflet and as information boards.

I enjoyed drawing the map, producing the illustrations, taking the photographs and writing the historical text, which was adapted for the project.

My initial intention in originating the

idea was to provide those who live here and visitors with points of reference to the history of our village, for everyone to enjoy.

As someone who is deeply interested in the heritage of the village and in collecting and making a record about Hoxne, I hope the walk and the information boards will be enjoyed.

Maynards, Heckfield Green, Hoxne

■Greta Cattermole apologises for the delay but would like to express her sincere thanks for the various gifts she received at Christmas.

Tudor Close, Hoxne

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First responders seek more volunteers

Both Hoxne and Denham are now being covered by the Ambulance Service First Responders. Maria Price from Denham and Maurice Hurry from Hoxne are members of the Eye group based in Thorndon. The group has two kits, so hopefully one will cover south of Eye and the other cover north of the town. Our ultimate aim is to give 24hr cover every day to Hoxne, Denham, and surrounding villages.

If anybody would like to become a responder, please contact Maria, or me, and we can point you in the right direction about who to contact to be able to take part in a qualifying course. The course usually takes all day on a Saturday and Sunday from about 9am till 5pm and then one day during the following week-end from 9am till 1pm for an assessment.

The responders are all volunteers and can give as much time as they can spare. They are not expected to change their daily routine to be able to respond. It can be spare time during the day or during the night or both. It would be good to have one or two more volunteers so we can give even more cover than we are able to offer at present. I would like to emphasise that a responder can only respond if called by the Ambulance Service and not by the general public.

Maurice Hurry - 01379 668712

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■**Fit Villages: We would like to thank all those who supported the Tai Chi and badminton pilot schemes at St Edmund's Hall which were very successful. We have expressed an interest in getting further involved in this local initiative run by Suffolk Sport and hope to be able to offer two further courses in the near future. Detailed information will follow shortly.**
St Edmund's Hall Management Committee

The hall that has it all...

St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne is a beautiful building situated next to the Goldbrook and most of you will have attended many of the events which have been held there.

The management committee works hard to ensure the facilities are maintained and that the hall is available for everyone's enjoyment.

Recently we became the first hall in Suffolk to work with Suffolk Sport for the Fit Villages taster courses with Tai Chi and Badminton being offered.

The hall has recycling facilities located in the car park and using these helps us to raise funds which contribute towards the running of the hall. We have recently refurbished the bar and have plans to re-vamp the kitchen area.

From dance classes, the monthly artisan market, the pre-school, theatrical performances, parties, concerts and much more, St Edmund's Hall hosts activities for everyone. For future events, please check the notice boards in the car park.

If you are interested in using the village hall we have recently reviewed our prices to make the hall more accessible for you.

Please contact Andy Bull on 01379 668273 for more details.

Our annual meeting will be held on 14th April at the hall. Please come along if you are interested in helping with the running of the hall or to find out about our plans for the future.

Hall Management Committee

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School's planting completes the wood

Children from St Edmund's School, Hoxne planted trees, donated by Sainsbury's, at Pound Lane Wood at the beginning of March.

The trees, mainly flowering cherries and dogwoods, were planted in the hedgerow that bounds the woodland on the west - and when the job was finished we all agreed that the woodland is now complete.

So the search is on for more land to begin again to fulfil our quest for community woodland that links the villages of Denham, Horham and Athelington, in remembrance of the ancient Reeding Woods that existed

here in mediaeval times.

We are searching for land that can provide easy public access in the limits of the three parishes, but preferably between Horham and Denham as Pound Lane wood already links Athelington and Horham, so offers of suitable amenity land from local land owners would be welcome.

The woodland at Pound Lane is held in trust for all residents within the group, and was funded by grants and local fundraising.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Mike Reeves on 01379 668179.

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Animal study takes classes to the zoo

Now spring is on its way we thought it was a good time for four lucky volunteers from St Edward's Primary School to visit Pound Lane, Horham and plant 40 trees with guidance from Mr and Mrs Reeve and Lisa. It was a better day than we had previously scheduled in December and the volunteers (*see picture*) enjoyed a little picnic break by the pond area.

Class 2 continue to look at weather topics and will be moving onto habitats. This linked into their visit to Banham Zoo on February 1, where we saw lots of animals and listened to an interesting talk which involved hands-on experience of some not so cuddly creatures such as snakes and

hissing cockroaches as our topic is nocturnal animals. Class 1 also joined us at the zoo but they were looking

at endangered animals.

Class 1 has been busy holding its Share morning and invited parents to come into school and help their children with a carousel of activities such as cooking animal pizzas, making patterns for a large Elmer the elephant and drawing chalk snakes on the school playground.

Years 2 and 3 are looking forward to their residential stay at Thorpe Woodlands on May 12 and 13 while Year 4 pupils will go camping in June.

Class 3 has been looking at the importance of a healthy diet and their 5-a-day, and are also looking forward to skiing on a dry slope and have a go at golf.

Key stage 2 are looking at Anglo Saxons as part of their history this term and plan an interesting trip to Sutton Hoo on May 26, followed by an Anglo Saxon day at school on



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► June 9 with guests joining us, and a trip to West Stow on June 16.

The Norwich football team invited a team from our school to join them for a pre-match game with Mendham Primary school in January and to watch them play football afterwards. Some families took advantage of discounted ITFC tickets.

A change from our normal day and time for this year's Summer Fayre which is planned for Friday June 17 at 2.30 pm.

We have applied for our Green Flag eco-schools status so will look forward to being assessed over the next few months and hopefully soon be able to fly our very own green flag at school. To boost our morale we received a surprise letter from MP Dr Dan Poulter who wrote congratulating us on our eco-school efforts.

We are now collecting Sainsbury's and Tesco's vouchers. If you have any that you'd like to donate to school

please pass to a pupil to bring to school.

Our new bicycle rack has been put together for us and is ready for the sun to shine and the bikes to come out of hibernation! **Julie Rogers**

Message from the Junior Road Safety Officers

The Junior Road Safety Officers have come up with their own competition to design a road safety planet to encourage the school to think about road safety when out and about. The winners of this competition were Jan P and Samantha M. We would like to remind parents to park sensibly or use the playing field car park when dropping off/collecting children from school as there have been occasions when parking has become dangerous. If this continues we may have to take action!

Thank you. Eleanor, Justin, Molly and William



Trust reorganises for the future

The Hoxne Maynard Trust has undergone some reorganisation over the past few months. Two of our Trustees, Mrs Sallie Chester and Mr Alan Smith, retired to greener pastures in 2010 and we record our gratitude to them for their service to the charity. We are very pleased to report that the invaluable work done by Mrs Chester over the last ten years as Secretary and Treasurer to the Trust has been taken on by Mrs Elaine Baxter as an unpaid non-trustee. The current Trustees are now appointed on the basis of one ex-officio Trustee representing the Vicar of Hoxne and nominated by her/him; two Trustees appointed by the Parish Council and two by the School Governors for a term of three years.

Dates for meetings in 2011 to consider applications are as follows:

24th May, 23rd August and 29th November.

Applications for grant aid should be made in writing to Mrs Elaine Baxter, Trenchard, Cross Street, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AH (tel. 01379 668208).

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Apache pilot on a mission to explain

You see and hear those ominous 'beasties' the Apache helicopter gunships in our skies on an almost daily (and nightly) basis.

Ever wondered what they are doing - and why?

Major Barry 'Baz' Humphries, an Army Air Corps Apache pilot, is coming to Fressingfield to make a presentation about the machine, the men and women who fly and maintain it, the weapons and their operations in Afghanistan.

He will also explain why their training in this area is so vital and what they are actually doing while they hover above our fields.

Baz joined the army as a private soldier and worked his way through the ranks to officer and pilot status - he actually now trains the pilots - so he is the guy who knows all the

answers and he will be taking questions after the presentation. (Farmers - this is your chance to raise your queries and concerns).

This event is being organised by myself, Ben Symonds, and any revenue raised by way of donations will go to The Afghan Appeal. This is a soldier inspired and run charity which rebuilds schools in Helmand Province in Southern Afghanistan. Visit www.afghanappealfund.org.uk for details.

Our vicar, the Rev Susan Loxton, has kindly donated the use of Fressingfield Church for the presentation which takes place on Friday 6th May at 7.30pm.

Ben is chairman of the Fressingfield and District Branch of the Royal British Legion

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Imagination takes hold at pre-school

Parents and children at St Edmund's Pre-school, Hoxne have enjoyed exploring together with Rachel Baker from IMPs in our Monday afternoon Imagination Station sessions.

Each session was based in a different room in the house so the first week we had a bathroom stop and played with water, tubes and funnels.

After each session parents were given a goody bag with items to continue the play at home. We have had reports that bathtime has never been so popular!

We also had a kitchen stop and enjoyed chocolate scented playdough which we squeezed through a garlic

press. At the garden station we made mud pies and in the lounge we built a den under a clothes drier and made shadow puppets and light boxes. The sessions were a chance for parents to think about the different learning opportunities we all have in our own homes without using commercial toys. Anything children can play with safely can be a toy. Many people will relate to seeing their children open presents and then spend more time playing with the ribbon and wrapping than with the toy inside!

Using everyday items helps children to be self-motivated and creative explorers, to be self-learners.



■ Fun and fancy dress on World Book Day in March. The children and staff came along in fancy dress and shared their favourite stories. We had some wonderful costumes including Thomas the Tank Engine, a spider, a sheriff, a witch, a Power Ranger, Snow White, Rapunzel, Tinkerbell, a fairy and Stickman!



▶▶ Thank you to Rachel Baker for her time, energy and enthusiasm and we look forward to welcoming her back to pre-school later in the year for some more fun sessions. (Rachel runs sessions for babies and toddlers with their parents in Diss - more info from Rachel on 01379 640696).

We are very excited about the garden renovations taking place at the moment and are very grateful to Suffolk County Council for the Quality Access and Inclusion Grant which has made this all possible. We now have the willow tunnel and arbour installed thanks to Dan and his team from Country Garden Services Ltd.

We are looking forward to our new sandpit, climbing wall and canopy which will be in place very soon!

We will be opening the pre-school and unveiling our new look garden at the Hoxne Open Gardens on June 26 when Dr Dan Poulter MP will be our guest to officially open the new outdoor area. We hope everyone will come and have a look at our lovely new facilities. We are looking forward to lots of outdoor learning and fun!

We would like to ask anyone who has plants they could donate to our garden to bring them along to pre-school at a time convenient to you. If we aren't in session they can be left by the door.

Many thanks to you all for being so supportive of the pre-school.

We have other upcoming events to keep us busy. We are taking a group of children and parents to Norwich to see a production of *We're going on a bear hunt* at the Playhouse Theatre and

will be following that trip with lots of activities based around the book.

On 1st April at 7pm we are holding a family bingo night (children very welcome) with some great Easter prizes. We are hoping to arrange a jumble sale in May so please look out for advertising for that in the near future.

Last but by no means least, we love to welcome new children to pre-school and to the Little Treasures group - so we end by saying a big hello to Grace - we hope she enjoys her time with us.

Please contact pre-school on (07910 833194) or call in and see us at the village hall if you would like to know more about our sessions. We open five days a week and currently have vacancies for children aged from 2 years up to school age.

Little Treasures is a group for children from birth to school age to come and play with parents or carers on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12noon - all welcome.



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Choir calls out for male voices

Village Voices, the local community choir based in Hoxne, is busy rehearsing after the Christmas break on a wide range of new music ready for future engagements. The choir has been invited to take part in the Easter Family Service in Hoxne Parish Church and at two local weddings. We are pleased that we now have over thirty members, but more

singers of any experience are always welcome. We are especially interested in any male voices who would be most welcome to join the eight already in the choir. Village Voices currently rehearses in Hoxne Village Hall on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in joining please contact Mary Oherlihy-Nixon, the choir secretary on 01379 668785.

Redgrave Singers to stage second Trial

Following their acclaimed concerts in Redgrave Church at the beginning of December, there will be a reprise of the Redgrave Singers' production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* (to be acted and in costume) and Vivaldi's Gloria. This time the venue is to be Fressingfield Church, for one day only on Saturday 21st May. But the good news is that there will be two performances: one at 3pm and another at 7.30pm.

Trial by Jury is the shortest work

written by Gilbert and Sullivan and at only 45 minutes is a delightfully tuneful and witty operetta. Similarly, the Vivaldi Gloria is a glorious short choral work which ranges from the vibrant to the solemn.

Tickets available from Anne Pickstock on 01379 586493 or Ann Lawson on 01379 586269 - £8 which will include tea with cake in the afternoon and canapes in the evening with Pimms and Fruit Cup available from the donation bars.

Mothers' Ruin has the answers

The fund raising year for Hoxne School Association got off to a great start with a Quiz Night at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall, raising a fantastic £355. Huge thanks to quizmaster John Woodard and to everyone who attended and contributed so generously. We had an almost record-breaking 19 teams and the winners were a team called 'Mothers' Ruin'!

Forthcoming events will be our May Ball at Brome Grange on Saturday 7th May - three course dinner and dancing to 'Harley Street' live band. Tickets £35 - call 07867 555125 (selling fast so make sure you don't miss a great night out!). Also Hoxne School Summer Fayre on Friday 17th June - 2.30pm onwards at the playing field - come along after school and join in the fun!

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan has been published and your Parish Council has and continues to act, where it can, to take on board the main areas of concern. Events have, however, gone on "a pace".

Brome Recycling - Open Meeting

The impending loss of the Brome "Tip" is and remains opposed - the fear - is that the battle is lost. This loss to us has the apparent potential to save the County Council money while transferring the costs associated with the loss to other bodies and individuals all of whom are unlikely to have budgeted for it. I have heard it termed "cost shunt". If this is a railway term, I wonder, is there a siding, moreover is it disused and does it have buffers? The incidence of fly tipping in the parish has recently increased. Is this an unfortunate sign of things to come? Let us hope not.

The Parish Council has called an Open Meeting at St Edmund's Hall on Tuesday April 5 at 7pm to discuss a way forward with Suffolk County Council Councillor Lisa Chambers (Portfolio Holder for Waste) and Councillor Guy McGregor. Please come along with your ideas and support for the future of this valued facility. For further information call 07554 733621 or email pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is at St Edmund's Hall on Tuesday 26 April at 7.30 pm. You are all very welcome to attend. Given all the current gloom about public services I would hope that the numbers will swell. I hope at that meeting, as a resourceful and optimistic bunch of villagers, we will take the opportunity to form a committee to look at how Hoxne might commemorate the Queen's Jubilee in 2012. There should also be some light in all of this!

With all good wishes,

Philip Flagg.

The Parish Council next meets on Monday 4 April and Monday 16 May (Annual General Meeting) at 7.30 pm at the Playingfield Pavilion. All are welcome to attend.

Philip Flagg, Chairman, Tel: 668258 or Sarah Foote, Clerk, Tel: 668031 or 07554 733621. Email pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk

Occasional help needed!

Save The Children is an independent charity working in more than 120 countries. They are currently getting essentials to families affected by the Haiti earthquake, helping malnourished children in Afghanistan and in many countries in Africa, such as Sierra Leone, where they are building stronger health systems.

Save The Children also has projects here, in the UK, working with children, young people and families in poverty .

There are over 400 supporter groups across the UK raising the funds necessary to support such crucial work. Here in Hoxne such a group has thrived for more than 20 years, organising events and raising the profile of Save The Children. While we would love to have more members join our team we know how hard it is

for busy, working people to give time on a regular basis; but if you could offer help occasionally it would be much appreciated.

Save The Children week at the end of April is a case in point. We need collectors at some of our local supermarkets, even just for an hour or two and you wouldn't be on your own.

Other types of support needed include helping with one off events or perhaps making a cake or two. And please don't hold back if you have some great new ideas for raising funds, we would love to hear about them.

If you are interested, and we hope you are, please contact Sheila Evans on 01379 668477 or Jan Murray 668511. You will also find comprehensive information about Save The Children on their website.

Phoenix aims to help disaster areas

Hoxne Phoenix Group held its annual meeting in February and looked back on what was a very interesting year. The group's treasurer has kept us firmly in the 'black' so we have been able to keep the annual subscription at £15. We have invited the gentlemen to our meeting on April 12 – the title of which is Pigs Might Fly – and in May Mrs Joyce Kimber will tell us about Life on the Wicked Stage. Visitors are always welcome at £2 a person. Diss Rotary Club has asked us to help them fill Aquaboxes which provide material for people in disaster areas

and can subsequently be used to filter water for drinking. If you would like to help us fill a box this is a list of items which could be included: buckets (strong plastic, rubber or canvas), tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap, washing powder or flakes, cotton wool, kitchen rolls, toilet rolls, sanitary towels, large cooking pots, robust plastic cups, needles and cotton, candles and matches, pencils and paper, balls of string. Any of these things can be left with Mrs Vivienne Bradford, Cedar Lodge, Low Street or Mrs Doreen Weller, Bridge Farm, Low Street.

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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

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Times of worship • April - May 2011

April 3 - Mothering Sunday (All Mothering Sunday Services)

Wingfield 10am
Syleham 11am ■ Hoxne 11.15am

April 10

Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer
Denham 11.30am Village Service
Wingfield 6.30pm Deanery
Confirmation with Bishop Nigel

April 17 - Palm Sunday

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

April 22 - Good Friday

Hoxne 10am Meditation and Prayer
Wingfield 12noon Meditation

April 23 - Easter Eve

Denham 6.30pm Service of Light

April 24 - Easter Day

Wingfield 10am Easter Communion
Hoxne 11.15am Family Service and
Holy Communion
Syleham 5pm Songs of Praise

May 1

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

May 8

Wingfield 10am Holy Communion
Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer
Denham 11.30am Village Service

May 15

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

May 22

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

May 29 - Rogation Sunday

Fressingfield Group

Short Service of Holy Communion -
Weybread 8.30am
Benefice Service Metfield 10am (outside)
Laxfield Group
Benefice Holy Communion -
Brundish 10.30am

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@rmpkc.co.uk

April 2011

Dear Friends

As I write, there is utter devastation in Japan. With the aid of extraordinary modern technology, it is even possible to watch the destruction of cities, towns and villages, as another natural disaster engulfs families, schools, factories and farmland.

As we all remember, it was only a couple of weeks earlier, that New Zealand had a similar experience, and before that, Queensland.

Suddenly, solid ground seems vulnerable to the powerful forces within the planet that can erupt and destroy all that men and women have built.

Hugh Levinson, working for the BBC, writes: “ An ever-present sense of disaster is deeply woven into traditional ways. Japanese culture has long-prized fragility, impermanence and transience. The cherry blossom is the most prized of all expressions of nature because it achieves such a brief perfection, before falling carelessly.”

Prizing impermanence and transience is very different from our ways of loving ancient buildings and holding on to traditions from the past. The Japanese Shinto faith tradition is also very different from the Christian. But perhaps, as we draw near to Easter’s new life, we can both learn from their experience, as well as reaching out in prayer for them as a whole country comes to terms with its loss.

Let us, for example, reflect on our web of relationships in which we live – our links to nature, our community, and God. And let us quietly or noisily, in our minds or with our voices, give thanks to God for those much treasured people, those roots we value.

‘May perpetual light shine upon the faces of all who rest here.

May the lives they lived unfold further in spirit

May the remembering earth mind every memory they brought

May we reverence the village of presence in the stillness of this silent field.’

On Passing a Graveyard from John O’Donohue’s book Benedictus

With love, Fiona

Revd Canon 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

The Parish Church **annual meeting** heard that the church clock, installed in the tower to commemorate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee in 1887, should soon be working again after extensive restoration and repair costing more than £1,600. Proposals for improvements in the north aisle are making slow progress owing to the need to overcome extensive damp in the outer wall.

The vicar, the Revd Susan Loxton, thanked 'the small army of people who ensured the church was looking so good and welcoming'.

Easter comes towards the end of April this year with Good Friday on April 22 and Easter Day, April 24. The Parish Church will be holding a service of meditation and prayer at 10am on Good Friday with a Celebration Family Service followed by a shortened Holy Communion beginning at 11.15am on Easter Day

The Hoxne Village Fete organised by the Parish Church moves to a new venue this year – Hoxne Playingfield. This traditional village event will begin at 2pm on Saturday June 11.

During Lent there are no flowers in the church. A list will be distributed by the end of March for Easter flowers on April 24th and May 1st.

May 8th and 15th - Altar - Sue Thornett
Porch - Cathie McGregor.

May 22nd and 29th - Altar - Pru Day
Porch - Cathie McGregor.

Mothers Union meets on the third Monday of the month at Time House, Low Street. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

April 18th

Reflections on the Easter story.

May 16th

David Cawdell - 'A Life in Music'.

A coffee morning held on March 16 at Eldfield, Goldbrook, Hoxne for the Mothers' Union was very well attended and raised more than £182 for MU funds. Mrs Margaret Brawn expressed her thanks to all who had contributed to the event.

St John, Denham

The congregation at St John's is still basking in the glow of their successfully repaired church and the change of time to their monthly service. A Village Service is now held on the second Sunday of each month at 11.30am, with the congregation meeting from 11am for refreshments and fellowship. The service of Morning Prayer continues to be held at 9.30pm on the third Tuesday and may be accompanied by a short service of Holy Communion. In April the services will be on Sunday the 10th and Tuesday 26th, and our Easter Celebration will be the Service of Light on Saturday 23rd April, where we will gather outside the church at 6.30pm. In May the Family Service is on the 8th and Morning Prayer will be on the 17th.

St Margaret, Syleham

Porch Gates - are being constructed and we are hoping they will be in place before too long. Fundraising for church tower repairs and maintenance continues.

**Easter Sunday & Bank Holiday
Monday April 24 & 25**

Flower Festival, 'Joseph's coat of many colours' and an Art Exhibition by local artist Frances Beasley. Barbecue, light lunches and teas, raffle and book stall.

10am - 4.30pm both days. Songs of Praise ►►

CHURCH NEWS

on Easter Sunday at 5pm. We look forward to seeing you all.

Saturday June 18 - Open gardens in Syleham. Car parking and toilets at the Village Hall. Tickets, stickers for the gardens and maps can be purchased at Paramoosh Pink Cottage (opposite the Village Hall) £4 per head. Tickets and maps can also be purchased at Floodgate, The Mill, for that end of the village. But there is no parking there. Enjoy a lovely walk around the village, refreshments at Little Hemplands and light lunches at The Manor, by kind permission of Andrew Napier. Plant stall at Paramoosh Pink Cottage, any offers of plants most welcome. Please contact Marian on 669262 or Ian on 669000 if you would like to enter your garden or help with refreshments.

St Andrew, Wingfield

The **Benefice Service** on the last Sunday in January was held at St Andrew's, when the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple was enacted by members of the various congregations. We also on that day said

farewell to our curate, Lorraine Dawson, who has left us to finish her training at another benefice in Suffolk.

There will be one **Lent Supper** this year, on Monday 28 March, at which the speaker will be Canon Andrew Vessey.

Andrew has retired from the ministry in Wales, with his wife Anna, to live in Fressingfield. We have seen them frequently at St Andrew's as worshippers and Andrew has preached and presided at services. He is an artist and has a wide range of other interests, and we look forward to what will be a very interesting evening. Tommy Gee is hosting the Bring and Share Supper, to which all are welcome, at Abbey Cottage at 7pm.

On Sunday 10 April, Bishop Nigel will be conducting the **Deanery Confirmation Service** at Wingfield at 6.30pm. We will be holding a Flower Festival over the weekend of the late May Bank Holiday - the theme will be 'Favourite passages from the King James Bible'.

We are delighted that **Eleanor Goodison**, one of our lay elders, has been recommended by the Bishop's Advisory Panel to go forward for training for the ministry, and we look forward to supporting her on her journey.

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New date set for Friends art exhibition

March brought the Friends of Hoxne Church to the end of another year. Our annual general meeting will take place on Thursday 28th April in Hoxne Church starting at 7pm. All are welcome. Our coffee mornings will continue to take place on the fourth Saturday of each month starting at 10am; we have a book sale, bring and buy, raffle and you can have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits. Our first major event for 2011 will be an Art Exhibition plus Craft stalls, all items being for sale. Refreshments will be available. This will take place on Sunday 29th and Monday 30th May - not the weekend of May 1st and 2nd as previously advertised. Membership renewal will be due in May. Registration forms will be sent out in due course. New members are always welcome. Last year we recorded 90 members. To reach 100 would be very pleasing. A big thank you on behalf of the committee to all who gave us their support over the last year.

John Chapman - chairman

.....

Open Space to stage Oscar's 'Earnest'

Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, is to be performed in St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne, by actors of the Open Space Theatre Company which last visited the village on two nights in November with *Death of a Salesman*, by Arthur Miller.

The Importance of Being Earnest is one of the most delightful comedies of all time, having continued to enthral audiences all over the world since it was first staged in 1895. To avoid family duties, Algernon Moncrieff, a bachelor-about-town, has invented Bunbury, a sick relative who frequently calls him away.

His friend, Jack Worthing, has invented a wicked brother called Ernest, compared to whom he appears to be a paragon of virtue.

When Algernon follows his friend to the country and poses as Ernest, confusion takes hold – to the consternation of the women they love.

The Importance of Being Earnest comes to Hoxne on Friday, May 13. Tickets cost £9 and £7 (concessions) and can be booked in advance by phoning 01379 855101.

.....

Charity seeks volunteers

Cruse Bereavement Care is the largest bereavement care charity in the UK, with 178 branches throughout the country and 6,300 volunteers. For 50 years, Cruse volunteers have offered practical and emotional support to the families and friends of those who have died.

Cruse in Suffolk is in urgent need of people not only to train as bereavement support volunteers but also to help in many other ways, such as fundraising, administration, PR, etc.

For further information please contact : Mrs Robin Meares, area administrator, Suffolk Cruse

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Email: suffolk@cruse.org.uk

Website : www.suffolkcruse.co.uk

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If so, our Making a Difference programme may be just what you need.



We're a new, local community interest company called dream on and we work with women. We're excited to announce that we're going to be running a funded programme for 12 women starting in May this year, thanks to a grant from Lottery distributor, Awards for All. All 12 places are free and you can apply right now.

The programme is about how to make a difference in your life and we'll support and work with you throughout, helping you to turn ideas and goals into action.

We'll be running workshops and you'll get regular individual time with one of our personal advisors. You might be seeking employment, wanting to develop new skills, wanting to support your local community or trying to find a local facility that can support your goals and ideas – our Making a Difference Programme is about giving you the self-confidence and tools to do this.

The programme is open to women who are aged between 25 and 64 years, are from rural locations in mid Suffolk and whom have limited access to finance.

We now have 12 funded places available on our Making a Difference programme, starting in May at our studio in Thorndon, Nr Eye, Suffolk.

Contact us for details.



Quiz night's boost for festival funds

The best attended quiz night yet to raise funds for the next Hoxne Music Festival in May 2012, produced almost £500!

Chairman Stuart Jarrold said: "We had 15 teams and the St Edmund's Hall was packed. In addition, those who attended obviously enjoyed themselves and felt generous because a bucket collection in aid of the Japanese disaster fund also raised £137.29. We are very grateful to the many people who came along to help support the festival."

Although the Hoxne Music Festival weekend is staged very two years, the committee will continue to organise various one off events in the interven-

ing years to help promote the festival.

Next up is a live music evening at St Edmund's Hall on Saturday May 28th with the King Size Papas.

"They are a band who specialise in music of the forties, fifties and sixties – swing, blues, jazzy numbers and rock and roll - and they will also bring along dance instructors for a workshop the same evening," added Stuart. "The plan is for the dance teachers to give basic instruction in jive and lindy hop for the first hour, to music of the era provided by a DJ, before the band takes over."

Tickets priced at £10 will go on sale soon from the Hoxne Village Post Office and Stores.



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Respect the ref - right or wrong

AFC Hoxne's two teams are experiencing contrasting fortunes this season. The 1st XI, without a league win in five months, will do well to avoid relegation from division 2 of the Ipswich League. Since our last round-up they gained home draws against Henley 0:0 and Salvation Army 2:2 and lost at home to Bacton 1:4, away to Benham 0:3, Bramford Utd 2:7 and Claydon 0:4. The scheduled February 26 game 1:1 to Elmswell was postponed. They suffered their heaviest ever defeat on March 5, losing 12:0 at Bacton.

The 2nd XI meanwhile are still in the running for promotion from division 4. They have recorded wins at home to Benham Reserves 5:0 and Bramford United Reserves 2:1, away to Brickmakers of Ipswich 3:1 and Salvation Army Reserves 1:0.

They suffered two defeats, 8:2 in the league at home to Claydon Reserves and 3:0 away to Coplestone A (Ipswich), in the Club Colours Cup.

The February 26 trip to Stonham Aspal A was postponed. Finally, on March 5, at home to Bramford Road, Old Boys Reserves, (Ipswich) they won 8:2.

Unfortunately, the club is experiencing severe behaviour problem; in six specific matches played since Christmas by both teams, a total of 15 players and officials were either sent off or booked by referees. This is not acceptable. Regardless of the referee's levels of competency, his decision is final. Too many players and officials of this club are being disrespectful of authority.

I personally feel people, and this applies to all clubs, not just Hoxne, are being too disrespectful and can't accept decisions. The club has just been ordered to pay the county FA £25 fine for going over the threshold of 50 penalty points.

We need to improve!

Clive Baxter - president

.....

Bowls club to host prestigious final

The new season hasn't started yet and already Hoxne Bowls Club has been honoured. Having successfully hosted the Waveney League Finals Weekend last year, the league unanimously voted that we do so again this year. On top of that, we have been chosen to host the final of the 'Deney Cup', a prestigious county competition.

The club will, again be entering three leagues this year and, as always, we are looking for new members. No experience is necessary.

We expect to hold an open day on Sunday 17th April. This is a very informal affair with refreshments provided and help on hand for newcomers.

So why not come along and give it a try? All you need to bring is a pair of flat shoes and a sense of fun. For details phone Roger Knight (secretary) on 01379 668403

DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Ray Keeble

Parish Precept

After reviewing its plans and budget requirements for the coming year the Parish Council decided at the Council meeting on 26th January to reduce the parish precept for 2011/2012 by 5%. This follows a 10% reduction in 2010/2011. (The parish precept is the small share of council tax which is allocated to parishes)

Village Review.

This is progressing well. Please look out for the follow up questionnaire, which will be coming soon to all households in the village.

Speedwatch

It will be a matter for the new Council (following the May elections) to consider and decide upon next steps including possible partnerships with one or more villages (which would be essential for any local scheme to be operationally practicable and affordable).

Planning

3269/10 Red Feather Club, Coldham Hill (single storey building to be used as museum space). This application has been granted by MSDC. (The Parish Council recommended approval.)

Village Website

A new web site for Denham is being developed and will be launched shortly. This will contain items about village history and news about village organisations and activities. If you would like to contribute or would like further information please contact Nigel Blandford (01379 873068)

Safer Neighbourhood Team

We were pleased to welcome a member of the team to the January meeting and to note that once again there had been no recorded crime in Denham. Current priorities for the wider area include combating the rise in thefts of heating oil (residents should be on the look out for suspect vehicles) and thefts of scrap metal (residents should pass on details of unsolicited callers to the police).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 18th May in the Village Hall. As in previous years this will follow the Annual Parish Meeting on the same evening beginning at 19.30. There will be a short interval between meetings for the signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office by members of the Council.

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

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WINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Michael Harvey

Planning

New application

3753/10 Trelawn Lodge, Vicarage Road (detached double garage, first floor and single storey extensions)

Other applications

0185/11 2 Bleach Green ((Renovation of conservatory and new extension).

Granted by MSDC.

3134/10&3192/10 Catelyns House (demolition of outbuilding: new two bedroom single storey detached annex). (The Parish Council recommended that the application should be granted.) The PC had not been notified of a decision at the time of writing.

3366/10 Town Farm (single storey extension). Granted by Mid Suffolk District Council. (The Parish Council recommended approval.)

3682/10 St Andrews Church (Work to trees). Approved.

Mains Drainage

The Parish Council would welcome more responses following the note in the previous edition concerning the proposed application for mains drainage in the village. To strengthen the application it is essential to include as many addresses as possible where residents have experienced some difficulty with existing private drainage arrangements. If you would like to be included or if you would like more information please contact the Clerk.

Precept

At the meeting on 2nd February the Council agreed its expenditure budget for 2011/2012. This included a small contingency provision in the event of matched funding being required for previously reported initiatives arising from the Parish Plan. (A note on the Annual Review of the Parish Plan Actions list will appear in the next edition.).

Based on this agreed budget the Parish Council decided that the precept for 2011/2012 (the parish share of council tax) would remain unchanged.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Council will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 16th May in the Village Hall. As usual this will follow the Annual Parish meeting on the same evening. There will be a short interval between the two meetings to allow for the signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office by members of the new council)

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

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Gardeners plot their summer season

A good turnout of hardy souls enjoyed visiting four gardens on January 29th, at Wingfield and District Gardening Club's annual 'Gardens at their Worst' event. These gardens, belonging to members as far apart as Laxfield and Syleham, were seen on a bitterly cold, grey, January Saturday. Tea and coffee were served at the second venue, and hot soup at the final one.

The February 24th meeting featured a talk by the chairman on a subject that worries many gardeners - that of Latin plant-naming. The members were assured that the use of Latinised botanical names is really quite simple and logical. A seed swap followed with unwanted, old and collected seeds, brought in by members, eagerly pounced on by everyone. We await the results!

On 28th April (not 25th as stated in the last *Village Voice*, sorry, Graham's mistake) member Shaun Taylor will tell us about the restoration work

which has been carried out in Christchurch Park in Ipswich - 7.30pm at Wingfield Barns Arts Centre, Studio 4.

The May 21st meeting is a visit to the four gardens we visited in January, now 'Gardens at their Best' (we hope). Meet at 10am in the Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall car park.

As mentioned previously, on 18th June the club outing is to Buxlow Manor in Knodishall. The owner, Mr Guy de Moubray, will give us a tour of the house and garden, finishing with refreshments. Start at 5pm. Details to follow.

The propagation technique of Chip Budding is the subject of our 28th July meeting. Usual venue and time.

August is the summer recess. Watch out for our Autumn programme, to be announced.

For further information, phone Graham on 01379 384259 or email g.redelsberger@btinternet.com

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Spring stirs...and with it a bleary hornet

'St David's Day, put oats and barley in the clay.' In other words the first of March is the beginning of the farming year.

'Dust in March is worth the king's ransom' – ensuring early planting and a long growing season. Who needs the farming press when it all has been said before?

Growth begins slowly. You are aware of the dwindling store of hay as the grass becomes greener while remaining smoothly nibbled and short. The effect of the fertiliser spreaders is quickly apparent as fields become verdant but it is early days yet.

The first day of spring falls on 20th March – following the feast day of St Joseph, patron saint of fathers, carpenters, working men and pastry cooks, someone who deserves a bit more recognition. This would provide a suitable day for Fathering Saturday within Lent so they don't feel left out.

The terrace on the southern end of the house is sheltered by rampant honeysuckle. It has thyme growing up between the flagstones and ancient lavender bordering the raised bed along the wall.

There is a duck who regularly makes her way across to the tangled herbs beneath the kitchen window – and more recently a hen pheasant has been inspecting the terrace also.

We have no cat so perhaps the house represents a certain security.

Last year there was a partridge with a family of new born chicks in a

flower bed under another window. I only noticed her when I nearly put my hand on her while trying to clear the worst of the weeds from the front of the house.

It was good to come across a hornet this morning, still bleary and hung over after such a winter. Their reputation is ill founded. They are docile compared to wasps and only sting when severely provoked.

They are big and beautiful, tawny rather than yellow and increasingly rare.



HC



Watch out for a toad in the road

The Suffolk Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) would be very pleased to hear from anyone who knows about a toad crossing that is not currently included on the Suffolk Toad Crossing Register held by Suffolk County Council.

Most registered crossings will have signs erected by the County Council annually from about 1 March until roughly 30 April, although some crossings may have signs made by local residents.

If you know of a crossing and are in

doubt about whether it is registered or not, then please contact Sue Morgan, a member of SARG, on suemorgan06@hotmail.com or you can write to her at 1 Red House Farm Cottage, Pixey Green, Stradbroke, Eye, IP21 5NJ.

In addition, Rosie Norton, the Suffolk Naturalist's Society's county recorder for amphibians and reptiles, welcomes all sightings of frogs, toads, smooth newts, great crested newts, slow worms, adders, common lizards and grass snakes.

She can be contacted on rosie@brundish.demon.co.uk, or write to her at 3 Wood View, Sibton, Saxmundham, IP17 2NH.

Please take care if you see any frogs or toads crossing the road to or from their breeding ponds in the spring, especially on a wet warmish evening.

Reptiles also get killed on roads, particularly grass snakes, at various times of the year, but most often in the spring, summer and early autumn months.

The members of SARG thank you for your help on behalf of Suffolk's



Amphibians and Reptiles.

.....
 ■ Search for Signs of Spring in the ponds, woods and meadows at Redgrave and Lopham Fen, Wednesday April 20, 10am – 12noon. Family event. £3.50 child, £1.50 adult. Booking essential SWT 01473 892430

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Those we turn to when someone dear departs...

*A word
from
Wingfield*

A friend (RB) who was in North America and Jamaica when Anne died came straight round to see me when he got home. His great grandfather four times was a Jamaican attorney who died in 1829 and left property to his four mulatto children from one of whom RB is descended.

Like so many today he is interested in genealogy, and wants to know more about his ancestor. The Jamaica Records Office came up trumps with the probate which list the attorney's goods and chattels. Item one, the most valuable, was his negro man slave at £100; followed by two horses at £75, and their young keeper £15. Other valuables include a gold watch, chain and key at £70 and a silver snuff box and pencil case.

A simple record of life

The list includes furniture, crockery, cutlery and linen, his cellar and a corkscrew. The last item is a roan horse devised to Mr Smith at £80. This simple record provides a clear picture of the Jamaican lawyer's life.

Understandably most people turn to the professionals to obtain probate, but it can be done without a solicitor using a DIY pack provided by HM Courts Service. I had managed to do it, by using the help line, for a friend who died some years ago.

When someone dear to you dies there is a reduced capacity to cope,

and one turns to the vicar and church, to the graveyard and undertakers, and to lawyers, family and friends, following familiar routes, depending on ones view of death.

I see that death notices usually say either that the person died peacefully or suddenly. Anne's death was not sudden but it was peaceful. Norwich hospital's lead chaplain and close family held hands in a circle with Anne and prayed as she died.

The actual and precise moment of death, of departure from this world to the next was timeless, mysterious and deeply moving. In our case we were aware of the Lord's presence, and that Anne and I would be reunited again.

I can find no metaphor for death though I do think of Alice passing into another world through the looking glass. And embarrassingly, I think of the evil, mad, wicked doctor Shipman, who was an old boy of my school and was taught to play rugger by my brother-in-law, and went on to commit many murders curious to study the very moment of death.

The surviving spouse is also transformed into a different person living in a different world. So for me death was a deeply moving experience which connected me to the mystery of eternity.

The Ombudsman has just reported on cases where the NHS has failed in some cases to show proper respect for the needs of the elderly and dying.

Radio4 was probing for reasons why and one comment was that a lack of care for others is a wider phenomenon.

I have sympathy for the nursing staff who have to deal with dying patients.

Death is an overwhelming emotional experience for those directly involved, not just family, but also for nurses, doctors family and friends, especially those who do not seek religious support.

Philip Larkin wrote many poems about death. Here is one:

*This is what we fear – no sight or sound
No touch or taste or smell
Nothing to love or link with
The anaesthetic from which none come round.*

Tea with the Chancellor

The European Court ruling on votes for prisoners generated widespread passion with two parliamentarians reminding us of the rule of law one of them was Ken Clarke and the other Lord Mackay, ex Lord Chancellor, whom I recall meeting when he swore in my other brother-in law as a judge in Saint Stephen's tower.

His wife gave the family afternoon tea and showed us round their newly restored apartment explaining that Hailsham had left them in a mess, drawing particular attention to the new replica Pugin wallpaper.

Our party then went downstairs for a short ceremony which required the administration of three separate oaths.

Then family lined up and the six of us chatted in turn with the Lord Chancellor. In regal fashion he asked us where we were from and what we did and I said Uganda/administration. Oh, he responded I have just met your Chief Justice at a legal conference in New Zealand. Did I know him?

I said I knew his predecessor who was put into a freezer by Amin and later certain parts were consumed. He replied that he hoped it would never happen to him.

Some years later when Blair took office his Lord Chancellor was in trouble over the cost of new wallpaper. I wonder whether Ken the current Lord Chancellor is content with his wallpaper which I believe cost the taxpayer several hundred pounds a roll. Curiously like Shipman and me, he too is a grammar school Nottingham lad, and we both had accounts at the same branch of Lloyds. Small world.

TG



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SYLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Chairman Mr J Leader

Parish Council Elections will be held on 5th May if there are 8 or more nominations – nominations for the position of parish councillor need to be lodged at the District Council in Needham Market by noon on 4th April so there is now only just time.

Nomination forms are obtainable from the Clerk or on <http://www.mid-suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Elections/2011+District+and+Parish+Elections.htm>

Brome Household Waste Centre is scheduled for closure. The Parish Council will support a local campaign to retain this valuable facility and encourages attendance at the open meeting planned by Hoxne Parish Council at St Edmunds Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 5th April.

Re-cycling facility - a decision on locating a bottle bank at the Village Hall, the obvious site, proves to be the responsibility of the Hall Trustees. The Parish Council will be passing on the results of the survey recently carried out and recommending that, if the Trustees decide to install the facility, it should be on a trial basis initially. It would be expected that the siting and screening of a bottle bank would take into account the concerns of near neighbours.

Eye Information Centre – when this closes, alternative services will be offered at the library (if that survives!) and at Revenues and Benefits surgeries, held twice-monthly. Payment of Council Tax and District Council rents will be offered at all post offices in Suffolk.

Age UK – Following the massive rise in heating costs in recent years, it is possible to arrange a free confidential check to identify any financial help you can claim. Phone 01449 674222, or speak to Gloria Elsdon 01379 668409.

Police welcome information on distraction burglaries. 'Most Wanted' individuals are shown on <http://wanted.crimestoppers-uk.org>. We are reminded of the Police Direct service – call 01473 613997 or email Midsuffnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk. The public are also warned that fully comprehensive insurance may no longer cover motorists driving a vehicle not belonging to them, even with the owner's permission. You should check your policy – or risk a fixed fine of £200, six penalty points or a day in court.

Clerk – there will shortly be a vacancy for Clerk. Anyone interested could contact the current Clerk or speak to the Chairman, Mr Leader 668205.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm. Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council's annual meeting.

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

School days recalled

Stephen Govier continues his recollection of times past at Hoxne Primary School

During the 1950s the infant school teacher was Mrs Lindley and the juniors were taught by Mrs Olwen Chapman and the seniors by the headmaster A V Balls.

The playground situated between Shreeves Farm and Cross Street Farm was divided into a play area for the girls and infants near to the school building with a separate canteen. Behind the canteen was a bike shed and a large red brick wall with lean-to outside toilets and a covered ditch which went into an area of orchard with a pond, which adjoined Cross Street Farm.

On the other side of this wall was the boy's playground which was slightly larger, this was surrounded by metal fencing and a hedge with trees. Football, cricket, rounders, and games of tag and catch were played here.

The boys played marbles and swapped Brooke Bond tea cards in the cloakroom on wet and cold days. The infants had hoops, skipping ropes and bean bags. The school also had pairs of stilts which were great fun being used by all ages. The school also had a playing field and gardens which were not used as well as they are today.

I can recall that Mrs Lindley and Mrs Chapman were strict but kind

teachers. Mrs Chapman took us for walks to learn about the plants and animals of the countryside. We also had a school aquarium in which we watched tadpoles turn into frogs.

Excursions to the local stream were organised and caddis fly larvae, water snails, water beetles, swan mussels and sticklebacks were brought back in jam jars to study in the aquarium.

Children came to the school chiefly from Hoxne, Denham and Syleham and either walked or cycled to the school or came by car.

Scraps for the pigs

The junior classroom also had a folding screen and at dinner times this was arranged as a dining room. All of the scraps and waste food were put into a bucket and taken to feed Mr Jolly's pigs just over the road from the school.

I can remember being taken on trips to Orford Castle and Framlingham Castle and on Tuesdays during the summer term we were taken to the outdoor swimming pool at Diss. Before my time, swimming was taught at the Broadwaters along the River Waveney.

During the winter term at Christmas time we had a school party with boiled sweets as a treat and games



► including Are you there Moriarty? a blindfolded game of dexterity and a climbing game using chairs.

Having spoken to the school about any old records I was given a large box of old papers and extract the following for your amusement. In 1863 on Ash Wednesday the children were taken to church and allowed a vacation in the afternoon. On the 10th of March the children were taken to Hoxne Hall where they were given plum pudding and cold meat.

A day later poor Rebecca Buck broke a window at the school and that brings me to the punishment book. In 1907 on the 7th of August George Miles and Michael Miles were given one stroke for repeatedly being late. In January 1908 four boys were given one stroke each for sliding on a deep pond. Others were caned for careless work, disobedience and talking in class.

Off school - picking stones

On other occasions pupils were absent from school for stone picking, dropping potatoes, picking acorns and collecting in the harvest.

During my time at Hoxne we were taught country dancing and singing by Mrs Scott the wife of the vicar. We then had to dance at the church fete and sing in the church choir. Most of the village children also attended Sunday school and my sister and I had to walk to church over the footbridge at Downbridge Farm from Heckfield Green.

During the winter months boys were selected to collect coal or coke in

buckets from the coal store near to the old well, next to the fence near to the gardens of Castle Farm. The stove was situated in the front classroom. I can also recall that the school secretary Mrs King had a table in the corner of the front classroom to write her letters, count the dinner money and do her work.

Small bottles of milk were delivered to the school for pupils to drink and milk monitors were appointed to hand out the bottles.

One area of the school was dreaded and this was the school corridor in which the circular wooden cased school clock was located. If you had been naughty you would have to stand in silence under the clock, if you didn't you were caned.

Headmasters at the school included Mr Jonathan Howe in 1883, who was followed by Henry Norman, Harold Stevens and A V Balls.

My memories and feelings about school life are mixed. Good and bad times were encountered by many of us and we learned what we could. Discipline was enforced strictly. It is interesting to recall forgotten names and gain an insight into school life and village characters during the 19th and 20th centuries; perhaps I will dip into the school records again.

With thanks to the headmaster Clive Digby and the school secretary Sue Downe for allowing me to borrow the school records along with Suffolk Records Office.

Stephen Govier
[Hoxne, April 2011]

Welcome to Mick Glynn's Health and Fitness Column

GET FIT and keep COLDS at bay

Fed up with sniffles, sneezes and forever running out of tissues? Hitting the gym could be the answer. New research published has shown that those who are fit and active have fewer and milder colds.

The study of over a 1000 adults took other influential factors into account, such as diet and stressful events that can affect the immune system, and found that the most significant factors in catching a cold were perceived fitness and amount of exercise taken. Plus the more active people were, the less severe the symptoms of colds became, indicating that exercise has an immune-boosting effect.

The number of days that very fit people (or those that were active five days a week) suffered from cold symptoms was roughly half that of those who exercised on one or fewer days of the week.

A couple of ways to improve your fitness for 2011

1. Mix it up! Take up a new activity, get a re-programme or have a Personal Training session. It's easy to fall into a training rut and see your results plateau, so adding variety will help
2. Lift Weights! Weight training is the perfect way to support your fitness regime, by allowing your body to become stronger and more powerful. It'll also up your percentage of muscle tissue so you'll be able to burn more calories per minute

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Hoxne Parish Council

The Household Recycling Centre at Brome will close in May.

WHAT NEXT?

What can local users do to save this facility?

Hoxne Parish Council has called an Open Meeting with County Councillors Guy McGregor and Lisa Chambers (Portfolio Holder for Waste) to discuss a way forward

Open Meeting 7.00 pm Tuesday 5 April 2011 St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne

With Hoxne Parish Council Chairman, Philip Flagg, leading the meeting the agenda will be:

- To receive a report from the County Council portfolio holder on the proposed future arrangement for waste removal in our area.
- To receive questions from the public regarding those new arrangements.
- To consider what changes could be made to maintain, or improve, the continued provision of the service.

Please come along with your ideas and support for the future of this valued facility. For further information call 07554 733621 or email pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk

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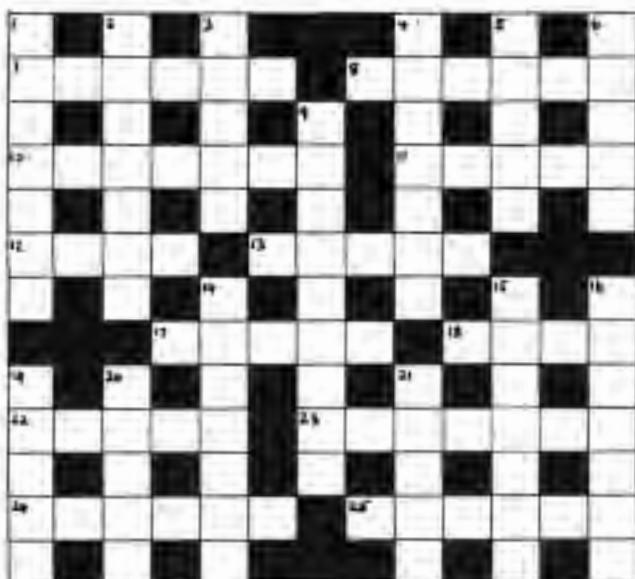
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JOTUL



CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 81

The prize for the first correct solution opened to crossword puzzle No. 80 went to Mrs P Cliver of Wingfield. The solution appears below.



ACROSS

DOWN

- 7 Falls to catch single ladies (6)
- 8 This happens to eggs, carpets & houses (6)
- 10 Ring in late and get feeling of euphoria (7)
- 11 Little left and main (5)
- 12 Observed in close encounter (4)
- 13 Disappet or wry entanglement (5)
- 17 Additional run (5)
- 19 Expensive day gone wrong (4)
- 22 Blossom without Secret Service (5)
- 23 SA rebel leader apparently missed parliament (7)
- 24 US suite for French make servicable (6)
- 25 From Modoc I left, turn (6)

- 1 Huge issue badly before northern home countries (7)
- 2 Get away from seedier (7)
- 3 Start being mistreated (5)
- 4 Occidental cowboy movie (7)
- 5 Country; boy (5)
- 6 Before French and German articles (5)
- 9 It's wrong in disc or rectangular tank (9)
- 14 Instance of lax English MIP enabled (7)
- 15 Shortage of blades (7)
- 16 Pig's foot stopped mainly by cat (7)
- 19 Concerning a tailor, sacked (5)
- 20 _____ and Mo becomes a wanderer (5)
- 21 Wise criminal like London holds (5)

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO. 80



If you would like to enter the crossword competition, send your solution to the editor by 1st May, 2011. The first correct solution to be accepted will receive a cash prize of £10.

We apologise for the absence of numbering on this crossword. But, to your credit, at least 8 people still came up with correct solutions!

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NEXT ISSUE

1st June (copy by 8th May, please)
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