

**HOXNE  
DENHAM, SYLEHAM  
&  
WINGFIELD**

**Village  
Voice**

**FEBRUARY - MARCH  
2011**

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

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Editorial

### *Frosty wind made moan...*

I expect it's thinning of the blood but I can't remember feeling so persistently cold in winter which, of course, may also have something to do with paper thin walls and monstrous hikes in the price of fuel, when you can get it. Apparently, December was the coldest since records began. I believe it.

I can just remember the winter of 1947 with serious amounts of snow but serious fun for us kids. The '62/'63 winter didn't really begin until Boxing Day and didn't really end before April. I know because we were trapped on Dartmoor for six weeks with snow drifting between Hay Tor and Hound Tor to a depth of forty feet - and water mains in the Yorkshire dales were still frozen in March! We both worked as instructors for the Outward Bound Trust which, incidentally, is how we first met. But adventure soon gave way to community service, carting straw bales to stranded sheep and even ski-sledging emergency provisions to certain guests of Her Majesty on the Moor. And it certainly wasn't for the money; my pay was thirty quid a month, then again a pint of bitter was only 10p.

But there's nothing wrong with seasonal variation. It is nature's health diet (as long as you remember to feed the birds). That winter of '63 eventually produced the most spectacular display of Spring growth for many a year and I daresay this one may do the same. It used to be said that a really hard winter purges the land of pests and diseases and gives Springtime a clean start; pity it doesn't do the same for the health of nations!

Whether you dread the winter months or whether you relish long nights, log fires and a good book, we ought to cherish the funny old weather patterns which shape our green and pleasant land. My first school geography text book (odd, the things we keep) describes our climate as 'temperate, between the frigid and torrid zones' or, in other words, nothing too extreme.

However, as we look forward to kinder winds to kiss this precious stone set in the silver sea, let us not forget those who live with unkind ones: ones that have relentlessly driven rain-sodden clouds across the state of Queensland in Australia, Sri Lanka and Brazil causing unspeakable misery; ones that fan forest fires which consume vegetation the size of Wales and ones that turn fertile lands into deserts, all taking their toll on human and animal life.

So don't moan, be thankful that Spring is just around the corner with the aconites and snowdrops saying hello and Jenny Wren singing ta for the bowl of lard when she needed it. Let us be grateful and temperate, like the climate.

JB

# Diary dates

## **Saturday February 26**

Call My Bluff - wine tasting quiz  
Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

## **Saturday March 5**

Performance by Eyes Write  
St Edmund's Hall

## **Friday March 11**

Mustard Theatre Company  
St Edmund's Hall

## **Saturday March 12**

Artisan Market - St Edmund's Hall  
Hoxne Music Festival Quiz  
St Edmund's Hall

## **Wednesday March 16**

Mothers' Union coffee morning, Eldfield,  
Goldbrook, Hoxne

## **Saturday March 19**

Spring Fayre - Syleham and Wingfield  
Village Hall

## **Saturday March 27**

Hoxne village clean up

## **Friday April 1**

Save the Children mystery supper,  
Hoxne

## **Saturday April 9**

Artisan Market  
St Edmund's Hall

## **Wednesday April 13**

Eastern Angles - Syleham and Wingfield  
Village Hall

## **Sunday April 24 / Monday 25**

Flower Festival and Art Exhibition,  
St Margaret's Syleham

## **Sunday May 1 / Monday May 2**

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

## **Thursday May 5**

Polling Day - St Edmund's Hall

## **Thursday May 19**

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

## **Friday May 13**

Open Space Theatre Company  
The Importance of Being Earnest

## **Saturday June 18**

Syleham open gardens

## **Saturday June 25**

Wingfield Village Fete

## **Sunday June 26**

Hoxne open gardens

## **Saturday July 2**

Syleham Summer Lunch - Monks Hall



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call Andy Bull 668273 for  
Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion  
ring Gail Jackson 668186.  
For Syleham and Wingfield Village  
Hall, call Joyce Revell on 668102.

■A quiz evening, tasting wines from around the world, is planned at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday February 26. From descriptions given by our 'expert' panel of three, identify who is bluffing and who is telling the truth. Wines will include champagne (or is it a sparkler?), whites, reds and port. Tickets £12.50 per person to include all wines and sit down supper. Prizes for the winning table. All proceeds in aid of Syleham Church. Come on your own or make up a table and book in advance on 01379 668306 or email darrsville@aol.com

■ On Saturday March 19 the Eye Bach Choir will perform Mozart's Mass in C Minor at Eye Parish Church, 7.30pm.

■Members of the Hoxne Music Festival committee are already busy planning the 2012 weekend of concerts, but several one off events are also being considered for later this year. In the meantime the first fundraising event of 2011 takes place on Saturday March 12 in the St Edmund's village hall. It will be a quiz, similar to those held on previous occasions, with prizes on offer for the winners.

Teams of up to six people will be welcome and the £5 per head price includes refreshments during the interval. If you would like to enter contact the Hoxne Music Festival administrator Jenny Knights on 01379 668060 to register your interest.

"Our quizzes are real fun evenings and if we have space people will be welcome on the night, but we would appreciate prior booking to help us with catering arrangements," said Jenny.

■The last events for 2010 organised by the Friends of Hoxne Church were the Annual Quiz in November and the monthly coffee morning which, together, gave us a profit of £365. So far five events are planned for 2011. The first is another Exhibition and Sale of Art combined with craft stalls. This will take place on Sunday and Monday the 1st and 2nd of May (more details in

## OUT AND ABOUT...

next *Village Voice*). Don't forget the monthly coffee mornings take place on the fourth Saturday of each month, 10am till 11.30am. All are welcome, Books and items for our Bring and Buy would be very welcome. Please call John Chapman on 01379 740821.

■Ever wanted to play the piano? Come and join our piano workshop! Wingfield Church has a wonderful piano: several people are now playing the piano who never thought they could. We giggle a lot too. If you're interested, give the Revd Fiona a call 01986 798266, and she will give you the date of the next Workshop. We meet about once a month.

■Margaret and John Brawn are grateful to everyone who helped and supported the Save the Children quiz in St Edmund's Hall Hoxne, on January 15. The event attracted an attendance of 96 and raised about £600 for the charity. The Save the Children Committee is also grateful for the support given to the coffee morning held at Eldfield, Goldbrook in November.



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# *Tree talk lifts spirits when days are dull*

The recent cold weather has had the tree planters of Denham, Horham and Athelington snuggled in front of their fires rather than striding across the community woodland. Being a member of the New Reeding Woods Steering Group is not all about planting trees. The group meets regularly in committee members' homes where updates on various aspects of the woodland are discussed as a bottle or two of wine is shared and a cake or biscuit consumed.

Although most of our energies are devoted to the woodland, we occasionally arrange to give demonstrations of our woodland and woodcraft skills. Every year we put on a demon-

stration at the Horham Rally, making stools, willow obelisks and wooden hammers.

A wood turning pole lath and other traditional woodworking tools are demonstrated, keeping alive the skills of yesteryear. Last summer we gave a demonstration, in Redlingfield Wood, to the gathering of Tree Wardens at The Red Feather Club to mark their 10th anniversary. These events together with tending the trees in our woodland, mulching, grass cutting, and keeping the rabbit proof fence help to maintain our enthusiasm.

If you would like to join this dedicated group, please contact Mike Reeves on 01379 668179.

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## Spotters needed to map out frogs

Have you seen any amphibians or reptiles recently? If you have then Rosie Norton the County Recorder for Suffolk Naturalists' Society would like to hear from you. Collecting records helps to us to understand not just where the different species can be found and thus producing distribution maps, but also what their needs may be in terms of conservation.

Equally important is information such as where they used to be but have not been seen recently. For example, a toad crossing at a road where there are no longer any toads crossing. Records also help us answer questions about habitat needs, or not as the case may be. An interesting example of this is the lack of grass snake records from Mid Suffolk. Are there really no grass snakes there, or just no-one sending in any records?

So please keep an eye out for frogs, toads, smooth newts, great crested newts, adders, grass snakes, slow worms and lizards and if you see any, or have any past sightings or relevant information, please contact Rosie on [rosie@brundish.demon.co.uk](mailto:rosie@brundish.demon.co.uk) or write to her at 3 Wood View, Sibton, Saxmundham, IP17 2NH.

For more information about amphibians and reptiles go to the Suffolk Amphibian and Reptile Group web site [www.sarg.org.uk](http://www.sarg.org.uk) or to the Suffolk Biological Records Centre, based in Ipswich Museum.

# Organisers aim to make fete grow

On June 25, Wingfield will be holding the Village Fete at Wingfield Barns. We are hoping to make this an even bigger event than our last fete but to do that we will need help! We need people to man stalls, donations of items for the stalls, tombola, books, bottles, plants, cakes etc.

If you are able to help in any way could you let us know as soon as possible so that we have an idea of how many stalls, games etc we can organise?

There will also be places for craft stalls available at £10 per table.

Contact Eleanor on 01379 384181 (mobile 07876 143579), Michael on 01379 586355, Bob on 01379 384789 or Sue on 01379 586121, thank you. The week before and the week following the fete there is to be an Exhibition of Village Crafts at the Barns also. If you would be willing to be involved in that in any way can you please let Sue Clarke know on 01379 586121.

If you or anybody you know is in the least bit arty or crafty we would like to hear from you. So far we have half a dozen people who are willing to loan us their items to exhibit.

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## 'Spectacular' attracts huge demand

Following an exciting visit to Thursford in December (see page 43), Hoxne Theatre Club's programme for March onwards has been organised with a series of events planned.

In March we are revisiting the Albert Hall to see the Spring 2011 *Classical Spectacular*. There will be the old favourites, Rule Britannia and the 1812 Overture as well as many well known classics. There has been huge demand for this second visit and we are sure it will be a great success.

In April we are visiting the Maddermarket Theatre in Norwich to see *Forty Years On* by Alan Bennett. This is one of Bennett's most fondly regarded plays, an entertaining series of interlinked sketches covering the two world wars. Nostalgic, moving, eloquent and very funny.

Shortly afterwards in May we hope

to visit the Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich to see *A Passionate Women* a play about a doting mother on the morning of her son's wedding and all the emotions that this stirs up. Is it too late to be a passionate women again ?

In June we take a break and then in July because of its universal popularity we are proposing to visit Cromer End of Pier Show for a full day's outing to enable our members to enjoy the seaside amenities and an excellent fish and chip supper.

We are holding our annual dinner on Saturday August 13 at Hoxne Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm - with pre-dinner drinks and entertainment as usual. If you have any enquiries or wish to join the Theatre Club please get in touch with Nigel or Vivienne Bradford (668551) or Doreen Weller (668291).

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# Denham review achieves positive results

The Denham village review meeting was attended by approximately 30 residents and during an interesting evening the following points were raised and discussed, with possible solutions suggested.

## **Broadband**

It was felt that the slow broadband speed is causing problems to residents and businesses in the parish so an action group is to be formed to petition BT to prioritise the telephone exchange and bring about improvements.

## **Community spirit**

Stimulate community activity and involvement through various activities, both at the village hall and other venues. Denham residents are obviously able to be a really active community as has been shown by the sterling work done to repair and restore the church in the parish.

## **Chicken Farms**

There was concern raised about the smell from the chicken farms in the parish and it was proposed that the farmers, the environment agency and other parties meet and work together to look at the issue.

## **Highways**

Concerns were raised about rubbish thrown from passing traffic and also mud on the highways. It was decided that the Parish Council and individual residents should notify the appropriate authorities when incidents occur.

## **Village Hall**

The Denham Village Hall kitchen has recently been upgraded and now has

equipment which includes a brand new double oven cooker, a new fridge and freezer, hot water system, two microwave ovens and has every kind of equipment to cater for any event, not just for tea and coffee as previously stated. The village hall committed is currently working on plans for disabled access and toilet facilities.

## **Speeding at Shingle Corner**

This bend is dangerous as it is on a hill and has houses very close by. It was suggested that the highways authority put a 30mph restriction and/or a warning sign.

A Community Speed Watch could be set up through the Police which would require volunteers to operate it. This is expensive and would need to be shared with other parishes.

There is a further problem of speeding buses, in the middle of the road, through the main village street.

## **Other subjects raised**

In addition to these primary topics, which were discussed in groups, other issues were raised.

On the positive side: people in the village are friendly, it is quiet and there is a very low incidence of crime, there are pleasant woodlands and a circular walk.

It was felt that the following things need to be addressed: more trees and hedges; maintenance of hedges along footpaths; creation of at least one 'first response' first aider, particularly as we are such a long way from the nearest A&E; problems in getting on to the Village website through One Suffolk and flooding along Low Road. ►►

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►► (This is being addressed imminently by the Environment Agency)

### For the Future

The steering committee will now gather all the information into a questionnaire which will be circulated to all residents of Denham during February, for their comments, suggestions and also for people to offer their help and expertise in solving these issues. Once the forms are returned and collated it will be lodged with the Parish Council and over the next couple of years we hope that all the issues will be dealt with, both by the council and by volunteers.

I would like to thank all who attended the review as it was a very positive meeting.

**Eleonora Knowland**



■ **A big 'Thank You'** to all who came carol singing this year and to all who contributed to the collection. We had fun and we also made a total of £240 for Kids' Company.

We can be sure that it will make a difference to all the young people that Camila's fantastic organisation helps this coming year. She shows unusual selflessness in having no children herself so she can look after other people's abandoned children. I must add that our support came from Wingfield and Weybread as well as Syleham! See you next Christmas!

**Adrian and Jane**

■ **Very many thanks** to those who bought a Hoxne Christmas tree from Witton's Lane. As a result, £140 has been divided equally between the Southwold Lifeboat Station and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

**Brian Chester, Flaxfield, Hoxne**

## *A dish of surprises*

On Friday, April 1 - yes that is April Fool's Day - Save the Children is hosting a mystery supper evening in and around Hoxne. Participants will be welcomed into the home of a Hoxne resident for an evening meal, the exact location to be a secret until the day of the event. Whether you meet and make new friends or find yourself sitting next to a best friend or neighbour will remain a surprise.

So for all of you who like a bit of excitement and something new take the plunge and join in. Tickets £12.50 to include an initial gathering with a drink and nibbles, plus a two-course meal. Places are limited so get in quick.

For tickets and more information call Jan Murray 668511, Margaret Brawn 668352 or Sheila Evans 668477.

### **Some good cheer!**

You will be happy to know that in spite of the awful weather the joint proceeds from the 41 Club collections for the charity in Diss at Christmas were £903. A jolly good effort thanks to Jack Lee and his merry men.

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# *Market creates its own 'social scene'*

Saturday December 11 saw the last of the Hoxne Artisan Markets for 2010, with a terrific turn out for its Christmas-themed event.

On behalf of all the stallholders, I'd like to thank everyone who attended and supported the market this year. It's been enormously rewarding to organise and watch it grow from a one-off event to a monthly fixture in the Hoxne diary, even creating its own social scene as a regular meeting place for groups of friends in the Café for bacon rolls, coffee (not to mention, cheese scones and delicious cakes) and a peruse of the newspaper before a little light shopping around the market – all very convivial.

Over the year we grew out of the main hall expanding into the lounge and bar area and even took to the garden of the Swan Inn for what felt like the hottest day of the year for the July market. As a showcase for local fare, whether craft or food, the market had it all from locally grown vegetables from Michael Knights' Daganya Farm (food miles: less than one) to Steve Goddard's amazing hand carved gar-

den benches and Phil Flagg's preserves and chutneys proved to be the taste of the village to mention just a few of the twenty-plus stalls there were on offer.

As you may have gathered the Market is taking a sabbatical over the gloomy months of January and February, but will return again on the 12th March and the second Saturday of each month thereafter.

Look out for the signature bright green posters as a reminder. Expect to find the usual high quality hand-crafted goods and locally produced food), plus Cath Lawrie's excellent Café again this year.

I have stepped down as organiser this year but I will continue to attend the market with my painted furniture stall, Pippin & Tog, so I look forward to seeing you there. Izzy Shaw of Goldbrook, Hoxne will be taking over from me, so please direct any future enquiries to her on: [izzywizzywells@hotmail.com](mailto:izzywizzywells@hotmail.com)

Here's to another successful year for the Hoxne Artisan Market!

**Alison Buckland**

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## *Stradbroke gym to run alongside pool*

Stradbroke Swimming Pool is undergoing a significant improvement programme that will see the addition of a purpose-built fitness suite and changing rooms to the existing building.

The works are due for completion in early summer 2011 and will almost double the size of the existing facility.

Stuart Murdy, general manager at Stradbroke said: "We are delighted that the plans for the extension to our leisure centre have been given the go ahead and we know that customers will be happy that we are adding to our already successful swimming offer with a fantastic new gym."



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'little extras' that enhance every child's time at our school - everything from the Christmas tree, turkey and crackers to PE equipment, coach transport and even school laptops. With more funding cuts looming, the money we raise really does make a difference.

At the end of last term we organised raffles & refreshments at the school Christmas shows which raised £254 - thanks to everyone who donated prizes or helped in any way; as always it is greatly appreciated.

The children (and teachers!) enjoyed a school disco with Johnny Jaffacake at the end of term - the event was a definite hit and we hope to have

another one at the end of the summer term. We held our 'legendary' Quiz Night on Friday 21st January at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall to start the fund raising year.

In 2011 we are also hoping to organise a May Ball, Auction of Promises, Summer Fair, Clay Shoot and perhaps a Pet Show!

If anyone has any fundraising ideas or interesting 'connections' who might be able to donate prizes for any of our events or really tempting 'lots' for the auction of promises (anything from theatre or hotel trips & restaurant vouchers to parachute jumps!) please contact us either via the school or leave a message on 668157.

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## *Fundraising success to end year*

As we say goodbye to 2010 can we take this opportunity to thank Hoxne for being so supportive of St Edmund's Pre-school. We had four very successful fundraising initiatives at the end of the year. Since our recipe book launch in October we have sold 80 copies containing recipes donated by the children and their families as well as Hoxne residents. Many thanks to those who have bought a copy and we still have copies available. (Cost £4.95 contact pre-school for more information).

In November we held an 80s disco supported by many pre-school parents and friends who joined in the spirit of the night and came dressed in 80s fashions - Ozzy Osborne, Simon le Bon and Adam Ant were just a few of the 80s stars spotted at the village

hall! (For the photographic evidence check out [hoxne.net/](http://hoxne.net/))

In December we sold tea towels featuring self portraits of the children and we held our annual raffle; the first prize was a hamper full of festive treats. Thank you to those volunteers who braved the elements to stand outside the Post Office in Hoxne and the hardware store in Eye to sell tickets and thank you to the many local residents who supported the raffle. We raised over £300 for pre-school funds. We can tell you the names of the lucky winners: Hamper - Mrs Grantham from Walsham Le Willows; Christmas Cake - Mr Chambers from Hoxne; Wine - Mrs Ling from Eye; Chocolates - Mr Jenkins from Hoxne.

In December our children and their parents had a wonderful trip to Bury ►►

►► St Edmunds to see a theatre production of *Stickman*. (A Christmas story by Julia Donaldson the author of *The Gruffalo*). This was a joint trip with Sweet Briar Nursery and the primary school. (Thank you to the school for providing the bus and organising the trip). The children were thrilled by the very physical production full of music and mayhem.

We had a successful Christmas craft morning when parents stayed with their children to make Christmas decorations, calendars and cards. We joined the primary school for a crib service at the parish church (thanks to Rev Susan!). Then to finish the year in style the children wowed their families and friends with their nativity play - *A Cosy Christmas Get Together*. Even Father Christmas put in an appearance and gave each child a stocking of goodies to take home! We are looking forward to sharing with you the fun and games of the new year. We are particularly excited about a series of sessions run by Rachel Baker (of IMPS fame!) which

we are offering to parents and children beginning this month. Entitled *Imagination Stations* we will be exploring cheap and easy play opportunities using materials which everyone has at home.

As we start 2011 we are happy to welcome Hermione, Isabel and Ruby to pre-school. We hope you will have lots of fun and make new friends!

We still have vacancies for children aged from two years and upwards. We are open Monday 9.30-3pm, Tuesday 9.30-3pm, Wednesday 9.30-1pm, Thursday 9.30-3pm and Friday 9.30-1pm. We are able to take Government funding for all children age three years old and above - all families are entitled to 15 hours free sessions. Please call pre-school for more information and to arrange a visit (079108331949).

We would also like to welcome you to the Little Treasures group which meets on Wednesdays at the village hall 10am-12noon. This is a group for parents/carers to stay and play with their children (from 0-5 years old).



**Hands on - the Pre-school tea towel.**

# Club plans another productive year

Since the previous report of Hoxne Garden and Social Club's activities, the club has progressed well with interesting talks and events. The outing to Houghton Hall in September was a success but, owing to holiday commitments, numbers were a little down on previous years. It was a pleasant sunny day and our members enjoyed the house and gardens .

The talk in October entitled *The Ottomans - a glimpse into the Harem and hidden treasures of Istanbul* was a great success the speaker being particularly eloquent, with an excellent knowledge of Turkey. In November Simon White of Beales Roses gave us a film show of every rose imaginable and our knowledge of this subject was duly enhanced !

December was marked by our Annual Dinner at the Brome Grange. The ambiance was warm and the atmosphere prevailing made a very happy evening. The entertainment by Syzewell Gap was different and enjoyable with bell ringing, stories, carols and other musical interludes.

The New Year brought us a talk in January by Maureen Cole retired British Legion ladies national chairman about war graves in North Africa and Europe and in February, Lisa Finch from Hoxne is to tell us all about garden designs.

The Annual Meeting is in March and we have an excellent selection of talks ahead including the Lost City of Dunwich, International Escapades, Gardens round the World, an outing

to Audley End House in May, a trip to an exotic garden in Norwich in August. The Annual Garden Party will be held at Cedar Lodge, Hoxne in July and the Annual Produce and Flower Show in St Edmund's Hall on Saturday September 3.

The Rambling Section of the club is still very popular and each month we are pleased with the turnout. In 2011 we have arranged rambles based on various places in the area including Harleston, Dennington, Old Buckenham, Cratfield plus an away day based at Walberswick/Dunwich.

In total there will be nine rambles during the year and we will continue to hold the lunches after each ramble which remain very popular and enjoyable. Subject to the AGM in March, Roger Knight will continue to run the rambles with the help of David Bell from Diss.

**Nigel Bradford - Chairman**

.....

## Wayne's

### ■gardening tips

**February** - water dormant fuchsias sparingly to encourage them back to growth; plant bare root fruit now; sprinkle fertiliser around emerging clumps of spring bulbs.

**March** - start regular hoeing to remove any weeds and seedlings; order basket plants and bedding from mail order suppliers; plant large pots with lily bulbs.

**Wayne Page**

# HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

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**“The Big Society”** - much has been said and circulated in the press about the need for all to engage in this concept. County and District Councils are seeking to slim down and in the County Council's policy terms 'divest functions'. This means that services could be lost as part of the overall scramble to balance budgets. The Parish Council where it can, and in addition where the possibility of working with other parishes exists, is looking at ways of doing what it can to tackle some tasks. Key aspects of new policy initiatives put forward by the County Council appear to be conceived 'very much on the hoof'. There is little hard information available to assist in decisions about alternative provision of services - however, this may well soon change for the better.

The need to respond to the 'Big Society issues', in conjunction with the issues highlighted by the publication of the Hoxne Parish Plan, make for interesting times ahead. Much of what is set out as priority points in the Parish Plan are already the priority of the Parish Council. The need for further liaison with other bodies and groups which have leading roles within the village will be significant.

With all of this in mind the need for additional people to come forward with ideas and support is also worth noting. In a few months time the whole of the Parish Council stand down, in order to make way for the election of a new council to serve following the AGM in May. The Election on 5th May is one which I hope will be contested and fully supported. The opportunity to come forward is encouraged, be it to the Parish Council or in other areas. The need to maintain village life is important to many of us; the very real prospect of reduced services is likely to continue to focus attention.

**Philip Flagg, Chairman**

## **Clean-up Sunday**

Sunday 27 March 2011. All volunteers to meet at the Village Hall car park at 11.00 am for this annual tidy up of the village. Equipment and hi-visibility jackets will be provided. Please come along and help if you can.

## **Parish Council elections**

Thursday 5 May 2011. If you would like to stand for election as a Parish Councillor details will shortly be on display in the village. If in the meantime you would like to find out more about being a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk. Anyone over 18 and living in the village is welcome to stand.

## **Gritting of roads**

The Parish Council have purchased new grit bins which are in place in several locations in the village. We would like to thank those who have helped to spread the grit this winter. If you would like to volunteer to spread grit on the highway or pavements, please make sure you register your name with the Parish Clerk to ensure you are covered under the County Council's public liability insurance.

## Safe place to live

Suffolk Police reported at the last Parish Council meeting that 'the villages in the Hoxne Ward are the eighth safest place in Suffolk to live'.

## Planning

During December and January the Council considered six planning applications. Details of these are included in the Parish Council minutes which can be found on the Hoxne website – [hoxne.net](http://hoxne.net)

**The Parish Council next meets on Monday 7 February and  
Monday 7 March 2011 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](mailto:pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk)**

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## Sweet Briar gains grant for outside play

Having applied for two years in a row, Sweet Briar Nursery School is excited to have been awarded a Quality, Access and Inclusion Grant for improving our outside play area. The new area will include some much-needed shade to enhance our play in all weathers and a den-making area which we know the children will have great fun with.

Our three and four-year-olds joined the Pre-School and Primary School on a trip to see *Stickman* at the Norwich Playhouse - a 'live' performance that was enjoyed by all. Our increasing audience for our Nativity Play proves many parents still appreciate the 'traditional' approach! (*Pictured below*).

We are starting the New Year looking at 'Weather' and having fun with a week of Chinese New Year celebrations – there may be a 'dragon' prowling around!



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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

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## Times of worship • February - March 2011

### February 6

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

### February 13

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

### February 20

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

### February 27

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

### March 6

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

### March 9 - Ash Wednesday

Withersdale 10am  
Fressingfield 7pm  
Wilby 7pm

### March 13

Wingfield 10am Holy Communion  
Hoxne 11.15am Morning Prayer

### March 20

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

### March 27

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

A service of Compline (Evening Prayer) will be held at Wingfield at 6.30pm on Friday February 25 and on the second, third and fourth Fridays of March

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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

**February 2011**

**Dear Friends & Neighbours,**

I hope you are keeping well. I can't believe we are already in the second month of the New Year – I haven't quite got used to writing 2011 yet! Still it will not be long before we see the buds of spring appearing and with them the promise of warmer, longer days. During February many young people's thoughts turn to love, or at least buying or receiving a card for Valentine's Day. Or should I say all people?

Well, if you are a married couple why not do something romantic and memorable this year by joining us in St Andrews Church Weybread on Sunday 13th February at 3pm, where there will be an opportunity to renew your marriage vows. Some people do this to celebrate an anniversary or some other occasion but you can do it for no other reason than to affirm your commitment to one another.

After the service we will celebrate with tea and cake. If you would like to take part please let me know for practical purposes, you can write a note or telephone me on 01379 586040, or email me at susan.loxton@mypostoffice.com I look forward to seeing some of you there.

Of course there are many kinds of love; the love we have for friends and family, the love we have for pets who keep us company and do not ask much in return, the love for a partner or a child.

Without some sort of love humans do not thrive, but most love is costly; if we want the best for someone else we sometimes have to put our needs or desires aside. On occasions you come across a story about a person who has given the ultimate sacrifice of their very life because of their love for another person or people.

One of the reasons that many of us are so moved by the news of soldiers who have lost their life in service is because we recognise the sacrifice.

There is one love that cannot be bettered, that is not affected by what we do – it is not conditional, but is everlasting. I am talking about the love of God; he loves us even if we do not acknowledge him, something to ponder perhaps this month.

**God bless,  
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

## Focus of attention

Hoxne Parish Church was the focus of much attention on no fewer than four occasions during the Christmas celebrations. First the St Edmund's Primary School carol service filled the church with parents to hear the children read and sing and bring pleasure to all; next the Revd Susan Loxton held a special crib service which was attended by children from the Primary School and St Edmund's Pre-School; then the village carol service attracted a 'full house' with the Village Voices choir making a harmonious contribution to the pattern of readings and carols. On Christmas Day a congregation of more than 80 took part in a family service to celebrate the birth of Christ.

## New elder

The church looks forward to welcoming John Swann as a lay elder in February. He was due to be commissioned by the Archdeacon on Suffolk at the end of January to enable him to join with Peter Drake and Brian Chester in leading some of the Sunday services. Elaine Cawdell will also be helping with Sunday worship.

## Valuable contribution

Hoxne Parochial Church Council meets on Wednesday February 9 at 7.30am at Flaxfield, Witton's Lane. Although it seems some time ago now, the PCC is very grateful to all those who helped to organise and who attended the Christmas Bazaar. The event raised about £670 which, although less than in previous years, was a valuable contribution to the running costs of the church.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Mothers Union

The Mothers Union meets on the third Monday of each month at Time House Low Street. At the benefice service in January three new members were enrolled and we welcomed a member from another branch who has moved to the area.

If any one wishes to send to their mother, or in memory of their mother, a gift for Mothering Sunday, the MU has a 'Make a Mother's Day Appeal'.

Leaflets are available at the MU notice board in the church or on line at the MU website. [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org).

This is open to anyone.

### Monday 21st February

*Plants and trees of the Bible.*

### Monday 21st March

*Open meeting.*

On Wednesday 16th March there will be a coffee morning and bring and buy at Eldfield, Goldbrook. Mother's Day and Easter cards will be for sale. If anyone is interested in the work of the MU please contact Cathie McGregor, enrolling member, on 01379 668434.

### Church flowers

*February 6th and 13th*

Altar - Elaine Cawdell

Porch - Suzanne Lewis

*February 20th, 27th and March 6th*

Altar - Josephine Marsh-Feiley

Porch - Sarah Foote

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 9th March and there will be no flowers until Easter.

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep the flowers in the church fresh and welcoming.

If any one would like to join the rota please contact me on 01379 668434.

**Cathie McGregor**



## CHURCH NEWS

### St John, Denham

The monthly Village Service is now held at the new time of 11.30am on the second Sunday of each month and led by the Revd Susan Loxton. For more details of recent work completed on the church, please see page 34.

### St Margaret, Syleham

**Carol concert** - what a lovely service, a packed congregation with Adrian Knott and his Amici choir, quite beautiful carols and renderings from them; very much enjoyed. Thank you to all the flower arrangers; from entering the porch and on into the church, so special, everyone admired the floral displays, good to see so many Camels!

**Come to 'A soup lunch'** Saturday February 12 at Little Hemplands by kind invitation of Mary and Gerald Lewis. Join us for delicious home-made soups and tasty breads. 12 noon - 1.30 pm. £2.50. Bring and Buy stall - all welcome.

**Church repairs** - as part of the quinquennial report our architect has now obtained quotes for gutter and general repairs and the much larger job of flint damage and repairs to the tower. The cheapest quote was around £30,000; work will be spread over the next two years. Planned fundraising is essential. Please support us and help where you can.

#### **Easter Flower Festival and Art**

**Exhibition** - Sunday April 24 and Monday April 25 from 10 am - 6pm. Flowers based on 'Jacob's Coat Of Many Colours'. Light lunches and teas served on both days in a marquee outside the church. There will also be a raffle and book stall etc. At 6 pm on Sunday we will have Songs of Praise.

**St Margaret's** has appointed well known local artist Frances Beasley as Artist in Residence. Frances, a former art and English teacher, who carries out private tutorials, is a member of the Waveney Springs art group and has exhibited with them frequently as well as many independent gallery's. Currently she is exhibiting some of her work at the Gallery in Harleston. An exhibition of her art will be held in conjunction with the flower festival during Easter at the church.

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**Open Gardens in Syleham** – Saturday June 18. We will be approaching several of you to see if you will open your gardens. Some people have already come forward. There will be two venues for refreshments. At Paramoosh Pink Cottage there will be a plant stall, offers of plants will be welcome.

**Advance notice** - Summer Lunch Saturday July 2 at Monks Hall; Summer Fete August 6 at Monks Hall. All these events are major fundraisers for the church; all offers of help please ring Marion on 669262 or Ian 669000.

## **St Andrew, Wingfield**

**Advent was a busy time** at St Andrew's. Our Christingle Service on 28 November was well attended as usual. Another children's event was held on 1 December when the Diocesan Discovery Centre put on a 'Discovering Advent' Day for local schoolchildren. This was much appreciated in spite of the freezing weather.

**We sang** 'In the Bleak Midwinter' with feeling at our Carols by Candlelight service on 19 December, but were warmed by mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

**At our Communion Service** on Sunday 9 January Archdeacon Judy re-dedicated the Ninian Comper altar frontal, which has been beautifully cleaned and restored by the Norwich Cathedral Guild of Broderers.

We welcomed to the service members of the Askew family who had generously funded the restoration cost in memory of their late mother Barbara.

**Last year's Safari Supper** was such a success that we are holding another on 3 March, to which we greatly look forward.

## **Obituaries**

### **Michael Keith Charles Hambling 1943 – 2010**

Although Michael Hambling was not from the parishes covered by this magazine, for all his close connections with them he might as well have been. The youngest of nine siblings, he set up as an agricultural contractor in his mid twenties operating from the family farm in Horham and over the years ploughed and scattered many of the acres of Hoxne parish, mine in particular. But Michael brought friendship and cheer wherever he went which is why Wilby church saw one of the largest congregations in its long history on Friday 7th January when he was laid to rest there.

Taken so suddenly from us at the age of 67, Michael has left a great gap in many lives and, on behalf of our communities, we extend our deepest sympathy to Valerie, Nicholas and all the other members of his family. In this life, there are some who will never be forgotten. Michael Hambling is one of these.

**JB**

### **Maureen Helen Page**

Family and friends from near and far gathered in Wingfield Church on January 13 to remember Maureen Page who died, aged 63, just after Christmas. The Revd Ron Orams conducted a meaningful service in which he recounted Maureen's life, with its focus on family and home, which began in Wingfield and where, in St Andrew's Church, she was baptised and later married to David. Maureen and David subsequently made their home in Depperhaugh Cottages, Hoxne with their children Tracey and Elizabeth attending the Primary School. Maureen's later years were affected by illness which led to the need for care, finally at All Hallows Hospital, Bungay where David is also.

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# Phoenix puts re-cycling on the agenda

Hoxne's Phoenix Group enjoyed its New Year lunch at the Stoke White Horse at the end of January attended by about 38 members and friends. Members have been discussing the district council's recycling process and Mrs Vivienne Bradford has offered to explore the possibility of a visit to the main recycling depot at Great Blakenham.

Nine people have expressed interest in a book club being planned by Mrs Batey with the first meeting due to take place at Midsummer Cottage, Low Street, at 2pm on Tuesday April 26.

Tai Chi classes have begun in St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne on Friday afternoons from 1.15pm to 2.15pm. The cost is £2 per session or £15 for the course. The instructors are from Suffolk County Council Sports which is sponsoring the course. Possible outings for the Phoenix Group are Fairhaven Gardens (early June) and Maldon, Essex (mid September). Final arrangements are still to be discussed. The next two painting classes are on February 1 and 15 in St Edmund's Hall from 3pm to 5pm.

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## Can you help families to cope with stress?

Could you use your experiences to support and encourage families, helping them to give their children the best possible start in life despite the many barriers people face such as post natal depression, rural isolation or bereavement to name a few.

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■ Up to 34 million adults in the UK are risking death with the mistaken belief that the main symptom of meningitis is a rash. Believing the rash is the only symptom is costing lives; as the rash, that does not fade under pressure does not always appear. Lifesaving information is provided free by the Meningitis Trust by calling its freephone 24-hour nurse-staffed helpline on 0800 028 1828 and requesting information or a signs and symptoms card or visiting [www.meningitis-trust.org](http://www.meningitis-trust.org)

# Cup action yields mixed results

AFC Hoxne has 'enjoyed' a mid-winter break. Since our previous review there were only two footballing Saturdays in the last two months of 2010.

On November 20 the 1st XI lost 2:1 away in the league to Bramford Road Old Boys of Ipswich, while the 2nd XI triumphed 5:2 at home to East Bergholt 'A', after extra time in the Club Colours Cup.

Finally, for the year, on December 11, both teams were engaged in cup action. The 1st XI were thrashed 8:1 at Bildeston in the Omnicup. But the 2nd XI

pipped Bramford United Reserves 3:2 at home in the Primary Cup.

2011 should have begun on January 8 with both teams in action. The 1st XI were due to be at home in the league to Sporting 87 of Bury St Edmunds, but this was postponed.

The 2nd XI travelled to Aldeburgh in the last 16 of the Primary Cup aiming for a place in the quarter finals. We had our chances but it wasn't our day and in the end Aldeburgh ran out convincing 3:0 winners.

Clive Baxter

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## *Heritage route will reveal historic Hoxne*

You may have noticed a number of oak boards appearing around Hoxne recently and wondered what is going on. For the past few months a small Parish Council sub-committee has been working to produce the Hoxne Heritage Walk, which takes a circular route around the village past places of particular historical interest.

A hand-drawn map of the walk route, with walk directions on the reverse, which the council commissioned from local historian Stephen Govier, ties in with seven numbered information panels which will shortly be attached to the oak boards.

Although you can begin the walk at any point around the village, we have taken the Village Hall as the official starting point and there will be a leaflet dispenser here containing copies of the map (available free of charge). Further copies will be available at Hoxne Post Office Stores and at the Parish Church. Copies of each of the boards will also be displayed in the Church on a new wooden panel kindly made by Bill Herrington - for anyone who is interested in reading about the history without doing the walk! There is also an additional board at the Church covering the discovery of the Hoxne Hoard.

As a separate part of the Heritage Project, we have had a 1700 plan of the Hoxne Estate professionally restored, after it had been languishing in the Suffolk Record Office for years. This is an important record, which shows many old lane and field names and will be available to view in due course, probably in the village hall.

We are extremely grateful to Tom Barker of Mid Suffolk District Council for supporting our grant application for the walk project and to Guy McGregor for financial support for the plan restoration through Suffolk County Council's Locality Budget. It is this generous financial assistance which has made both projects possible.

Thanks also to the Parochial Church Council and to our Parish Council chairman, Phil Flagg, and clerk, Sarah Foote and indeed to all our fellow councillors for their enthusiastic support for the project.

Kate Leith, Ted O'Connor and Rod Searle



# Legion's resolve is undiminished

In November, the Hoxne and Disitric Branch of the Royal British Legion held its Christmas Bazaar at St Edmund's Hall raising some £330 for its Christmas Gift Fund. The event was most successful. Those present were treated to renditions of seasonal themes by the guest appearance of the English Roses Hand Bell Group led by Elaine Halton and the first public performance by the newly formed Village Voices choir singing carols. It all added a festive flavour to the event. Our thanks and appreciation go to both groups for their time and those that supported the event.

November also saw the Annual Poppy Appeal take place, organised by Bill Herrington and assisted by his willing band of helpers which raised a total of £3335.40 which was a really splendid effort by all concerned. Individual collections were as follows: House to house £1365.28; static boxes £382.30; Hoxne Church £273.99; Brome/Oakley/Thrandeston/Stuston Churches £113.90 and the Branch donation of £1200. Many thanks to all those involved in the collection, and to Jean Herrington, Nena and Peter Drake, a special thanks for carrying out the unenviable task of counting the monies received.

With the commitment of our Forces in the Middle East there is the continued need to raise funds to help those who have suffered injury or lost loved ones and the Branch is committed to raising funds to this end. Our next fund raising event will be the President's Coffee Evening, a social gathering, at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall in April, date to be confirmed.

The Branch wishes everyone a belated Happy New Year and thanks everyone for their continued support in our task.

.....  
■ I would like to say a big thank you to those of you who put together a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. The children and parents of Hoxne Primary School, especially, responded magnificently. Thank you all so much. **Ann Swan**

.....

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## Seed swap is sure to surprise...

The Wingfield and District Gardening Club Christmas Social Evening on December 16, was well attended, in spite of the atrocious road conditions. Members and guests enjoyed mulled wine and a light buffet, and a quiz with a horticultural theme caused plenty of hard brain work.

Our 'Gardens at their Worst' tour was taking place on Saturday January 29 (not 27th as stated in the last *Village Voice*). Full report in the next issue. We visit the gardens of four members 'at their worst' in the depths of winter, and see them again on 21st May 'at their best'. It is an excellent opportunity to meet and chat about gardening (amongst other things).

The annual Seed Swap is preceded by a talk of interest to all gardeners, *What's in a Name*. This will take place on February 24 at 7.30pm in Studio 4 at Wingfield Barns. Bring along any left-over seeds from last year, or seeds you have collected, however old they may be, and swap them for someone else's. The results can be surprising!

Topiary Work and Design is the subject of our March 24 meeting, with visiting topiary specialist Steve Manning. Come along and find out how to make that peacock! Meet at 7.30pm at Studio 4. At the April 25 meeting, member Shaun Taylor will tell us all about the restoration work that has been carried out at Christchurch Park in Ipswich. Meet as usual, 7.30pm at the Barns.

On June 18, a visit to Buxlow Manor, home of Mr Guy de Moubray has been arranged. Mr de Moubray was recently heard on BBC Radio 4 speaking about his interest in cookery. He has a beautiful garden, and has offered to give us a tour of the house and garden, followed by refreshments. For further information on events and membership, please phone Graham on 01379 384259, or email: [g.redelsperger@btinternet.com](mailto:g.redelsperger@btinternet.com)

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# DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Ray Keeble

## **Village Review**

A very well attended and productive Village Review meeting was held on the 8th December and a full report appears elsewhere in this issue.

## **Speedwatch**

The Parish Council remains interested in pursuing this initiative in partnership with one or more neighbouring villages with regard to which enquiries are continuing.

## **Flooding**

The problem of repeated flooding of Low Road, particularly severe at the time of writing, has been referred to the Flood and Coastal Policy Manager at Suffolk County Council in the hope that a lasting solution can be found.

## **Planning**

3269/10 Red Feather Club, Coldham Hill (single storey building to be used as museum space). Granted by Mid Suffolk District Council. (The Parish Council recommended approval.)

## **Local authority services**

*Paddock House* - At the Parish Council meeting in November, County Councillor Guy McGregor said that Suffolk County Council will be consulting on the way forward for Council operated care homes including Paddock House in Eye. In order to reduce costs and to provide a more cost effective service the Council will not in future be a direct provider, although it will continue to be responsible for placing people and for ensuring that standards of care remain high.

*SCC New Strategic Direction* - Mr McGregor explained that the new strategic direction for the County Council including the divestment of services was a necessary response to the combination of a major reduction in government funding of 30% over four years and an increasing demand for some services because of demographic change (including the continuing increase in the proportion of the population over 65). Services will shift to other providers or to community initiatives (including collaboration between parishes) or will cease particularly where take up is low (youth services being particularly at risk). Examples of possible community initiatives (with support from the County as the relevant authority) include libraries and maintaining the rights of way network.

*District Council Merger* - Mid Suffolk District Council has held a series of local road shows designed to explain the implications for local people and councils of the merger with Babergh District Council. A further report on these issues will appear in the next edition.

## **Safer Neighbourhood Team**

The police have advised residents to be extra vigilant and to take appropriate security measures to help reduce the risk of theft of domestic heating oil.

## **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be held on  
Wednesday 30th March 2011 at 19.30 in the Village Hall.

(A report on the January meeting will appear in the next edition)

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

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# Ancient landmark's new lease of life

By the standards of many Suffolk Churches, St John the Baptist in Denham is not a spectacular building, but historically it is fascinating. Over many centuries it has had so many formats that sometimes one has to wonder if the descriptions offered are the result of poetic licence.

A church in Denham is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but whether it was on the current site we will never know. A plaque in the present building is inscribed "William de Kirsby, Prior of Norwich placed me here...." This stone was previously on the outside of the east wall of the building and he is recorded as prior in the 1280/90s. This suggests that there was a stone building on the current site, though probably much smaller than now.

Evidence within the building gives clues to its other formats, for example the exposed wooden beam within the chancel arch suggest a lower roofline for the nave, the bricked up arch on the north wall together with the remnants of large horizontal grave markers outside indicate the existence of a chantry chapel, the remains of the rood stair between the buttresses on the south wall indicate the existence at sometime of a rood screen, and the recently uncovered doorway beside the current south porch door suggest an entrance to the tower which was demolished sometime in the mid seventeen hundreds.

However nothing visibly shows that this building was at some time about 14 feet longer than it currently is, but recently the builders and architects discovered that markings on the roof beams indicate that at least two of the wooden roof arches are missing, so authenticating the map of 1725 which shows a

tower in the middle of the south wall which housed three bells.

In 1744 a faculty was granted by the Diocese of Norwich to sell two of the bells and use the money to take down the tower and put the building in good repair as well as building a place to hang the remaining bell. In 1747 the church terrier lists only one bell which was housed in a cupola above the foreshortened west wall.

The north chapel is described in 1731 as having three gravestones (dedicated to the Bedingfield Family) the remnants of a screen with defaced angels, and stained glass windows.

In 1809 the building is described as 'thoroughly repaired and neatly pewed,' and an engraving of 1818 shows the church much as it stands today. However sometime during the 19th century the cupola was removed and replaced by a bell tower, but this fell down within living memory, and now the remaining bell sits at the back of the church, awaiting some more modern means of hanging it.

The population of the parish of Denham is small and the work has depended on large grants from English Heritage, ▶▶



An impression by Stephen Govier of Denham Church in days gone by.

## Stephen Govier.

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► Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Veneziana Fund, All Churches Trust and the Listed Places of Worship Grant to help fund the current repairs. There were also large donations from local farmers and members of local families. The Friends of Denham Church Group, set up in 2009, when the future of the building was in peril, organised a variety of events in their first year which has enabled them to donate £6,000 towards the repairs, this bodes well for further improvements in the future.

### *Service of celebration*

The repairs to the building were scheduled to run for 16 weeks over the summer but complications due to the poor state of the building, only exposed when the roof was removed, resulted in delays, and the emergency installation of tie bars prevented the north wall of the building from collapsing. The building work is not quite finished, but the church fabric is now secure, and should with good maintenance be secured



## Easy switch

■TV is changing. In 2011 the traditional TV signal will be switched off in the Anglia region and replaced with a digital TV signal. This is not a concern for most people but some may find it harder to make the switch than others.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up by the Government and is run by the BBC. Its purpose is to make digital TV easy for older and disabled people by converting one of their televisions to digital in the run-up to digital TV switchover in their region. People living in the Suffolk area served by the Ipswich Stoke transmitter will begin to switch on July 6.

To find out where your local advice point or roadshow will be, visit [digitaluk.co.uk](http://digitaluk.co.uk) or call 08456 50 50 50.

for generations to come.

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Right Reverend Nigel Stock led a service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on Sunday 12th December. This was a new beginning for Denham St John, as it marked the change from a monthly family service on the afternoon of the third Sunday to a Village Service at 11.30am on the second Sunday, beginning in January.

The villagers of Denham have worked hard to ensure the survival of this ancient landmark in the village - come and have a look round, join the congregation for the family service and become an active part of this community.

Margaret Reeves

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# WINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Michael Harvey

## **Wingfield Green**

The Parish Council having kept the position under review since its previous meeting in September decided at its meeting on 20th December that in order to avoid any future misunderstanding it should be made clear both generally and specifically that the grazing of animals on the Green (common land) was legally restricted solely to the registered holders of commoners rights.

**Planning:** 3134/10&3192/10 Catelyns House (two bedroom single storey detached annex). The Parish Council recommended that the application should be granted. 3366/10 Town Farm (single storey extension). Granted by Mid Suffolk District Council. (The Parish Council recommended approval.)

3573/10 Trelawn Lodge Vicarage Road (detached double garage, first floor and single storey extensions)

**Mains Drainage:** The Parish Council is as previously reported preparing an application for mains drainage in the village. The application will be strengthened by the listing of as many as possible addresses where residents have experienced any difficulty with existing private drainage arrangements. If you would like to be included please contact the Clerk. It should be emphasised that the inclusion of any address does not in any way constitute an obligation to participate if mains drainage is offered at some future date.

**Highways:** After another extended period of bad weather Suffolk County Council Highways are working hard to make good the many potholes in rural roads including a number reported in Wingfield.

## **Parish Council Meeting in December**

District Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Gibson-Harries reported that: refurbishment of the old hospital at Eye was due to commence shortly with the aim to have services available in the main building from June (having been transferred to the Lodge while work is in progress). Mrs Gibson Harries was anxious to ensure that if Paddock House was closed that this was delayed at least until local alternatives were in place thus minimising the need to travel a lot further for respite care; efforts were continuing to keep the Eye Information Bureau open. This was well used and was a valued interpersonal contact particularly for older people many of whom do not use the Internet.

**Twinning:** Mr Tom Smith reported back to the meeting and explained the initial procedure which would enable interested parties to be put in touch and it was agreed that the issue was worth taking to the next stage of enquiry.

**Polling Booth Confidentiality:** Some concern was expressed about the confidentiality of voting at past elections in Wingfield (because of the positioning of the booth in relation to the teller and members of the public). If you have thought this to have been an issue in Wingfield please let the Clerk know so that it can be reported to the relevant officers before the next local elections in May.

**Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Council will be on 2nd February.  
The last meeting of the Council year will be held in late March  
(date to be announced)**

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

# *Seven village record for Poppy Appeal*

Geoff Elliott of the Fressingfield and District Royal British Legion reports that the total sum raised across our seven villages (which includes Wingfield) for the Poppy Appeal was a record £4362. An enormous thank you must also go to volunteer house-to-house poppy sellers. Without their strenuous efforts every November we just couldn't cope. Our Grand Christmas Draw also raised £647 which will all be used on local welfare cases.

November's AGM was well attended and all branch officers were re-elected with one very notable exception. Our president, Dr David Chase, has decided to take 'early retirement' and his replacement is Air Cdre Bernard Wellingham of Wingfield. I would like to thank David for his patient assistance, advice and encouragement over my time as chairman and this is echoed by my predecessor, Col Jonathan Collins, and every member of the branch.

The winner of the first prize in our Christmas Draw has, due to personal circumstances, very kindly returned the voucher to me. Therefore, if you would like to avail yourself and partner of one night's accommodation and breakfast at the fantastic Brudenell Hotel in Aldeburgh - send me a sealed bid. Prize must be redeemed before May 31 2011 and does not include Saturday nights. Bids should be sent to me, Ben Symonds, at Olivedale, Metfield Lane, Fressingfield, Suffolk, IP21 5SD by February 28. All proceeds to RBL.

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

### **BOOZE = BAD SLEEP**

If you've had too many sherries at Christmas parties, a hangover is only one of the symptoms you may be aware of. Recent government research discovered that nearly 60 percent of us did not know that drinking alcohol can disturb our sleep patterns, leading to dehydration and fatigue. Continuous boozing can seriously interrupt your sleep cycles eventually leaving you unable to cope with normal every-day activities.

### **OBESITY LINK TO PROSTATE PROBLEMS**

We know this is the season of over-indulgence, but piling on the pounds can have greater consequences than simply going up a belt notch. Experts already know there is a link between obesity and the risk of developing prostate cancer, but a recent study found being obese increases your chance of the disease returning. Obesity is associated with more oestrogen, and less testosterone may promote more aggressive tumours. Flaxseed contains a type of fibre that can help to reduce the spread of prostate cancer, thanks to its effect on oestrogen levels.

***If you would like more information on Gym memberships, Personal Training or Exercise classes please contact me at MG Fitness Studio, Shelfanger on 07879 455966 or through the web site : [www.mickglynn.co.uk](http://www.mickglynn.co.uk) and [www.mgfitnessstudio.co.uk](http://www.mgfitnessstudio.co.uk)***

# Summer chorus to sing Anne's praises



Life has changed since my last WfW. As the year ended, the family conducted a simple DIY burial of Anne in Abbey Wood rather than a formal funeral. The ground was just large enough to meet the requirement of the Disposal Certificate of 50m from any water course.

Jacqui Dankworth will return to Wingfield in the summer to sing some of Anne's favourite songs in Wingfield Church to which all including family, her many friends, musical colleagues and students are invited to celebrate her singing career.

Much of our busy life together over 62 years was spent in poor countries where she made many friends especially through music, singing and helping advance the 'status of women'. She formed her first choir in Papua New Guinea, and the last one in Harleston.

Anne went to Papworth three years ago for open heart surgery. The NHS

has performed wonders:

consultants, surgeons, doctors, nurses, carers, etc and I shall always sing their praises, and pray that it may survive as a caring service and not become a

private industry for profit in the hands of big pharma. I expect you can list some of our national treasures?

William Beveridge who thought up the NHS in 1942 springs to mind. He regarded its establishment as a corollary to reducing the cost of his proposed comprehensive national social security benefits. He argued that with three million unemployed largely through ill health, they must be made fit to work to pay for the cost of social security. Hence the NHS. No politicians appeared to gainsay this – even today. Five years later Aneurin Bevan was the mid-wife of today's caring services.

So, in my gallery of national treasures I include Beveridge alongside our Queen, Reith, Churchill, Nelson, and even the controversial Thatcher (or snobby Roberts as she was known in her student days in Oxford).

At this time when much gloom is prophesied we need wise leadership. We are ill-served by many of our leaders, and too much private self interest. Youth as ever offers disinterested

A  
word from  
Wingfield

hope and new thinking. The media prophecy double dip recession; energy, food and water shortages; global warming and desertification; population explosion; global epidemics; nuclear proliferation and war; increased Islamic militance etc. All is overshadowed by a political leadership incapacity.

Good news is scarce, but it comes from Africa where surprisingly President Bashir has changed tack and agreed to accept the outcome of a referendum on Southern (Christian) Sudan. There is of course the Test and the Spring Royal nuptials. I still have the video tape of the York nuptials which I bought 25 years ago to show to Melanesians in PNG us Brits at our quaintest. A donation to Wingfield Church secures for first reasonable offer.

■ Donations in memory of Anne may be sent to the Harleston Choral Society c/o Folly's End, Hoxne Road, Denham, Eye IP21 5DF. **TG**

.....  
**Hoxne School Association  
 Lottery results**

*September 2010:* £20 – V Fulcher;  
 £15 – Mr and Mrs Downe;  
 £10 – F McGuire.  
*October:* £20 – Mrs N Drake;  
 £15 – C Gallant; £10 – T Feavearyear.  
*November:*  
 £20 – C McGregor; £15 – C Gallant;  
 £10 – V Williams.  
*December:* £20 – A Burridge;  
 £15 – W and S Foote;  
 £10 – K Thompson.  
*January 2011:* £20 – F Brice; £15 -  
 M and J Brawn; £10 – P and E Craig.  
*Thank you for your continued support.*

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# SYLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Chairman Mr J Leader

**Local Information Centre** District Councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries reports that, despite the sale of the County Council information centre in Eye, it is hoped to retain services at an alternative site.

**Brome Household Waste Centre** is scheduled for closure, although it is deemed profitable. District Councillors are fighting the closure and the Parish Council will be writing in protest at the loss of this valuable amenity.

**Library services** are expected to be retained. Don't forget to support the mobile library which calls fortnightly at Syleham – details from the Clerk.

**Oil purchasing scheme** – Good news! An existing group, Wortwell & Mendham Bulk Buying Community Oil Group serving the Waveney Valley, is happy to accept enquiries from Syleham residents. Orders are placed monthly during winter months. For further information, phone 01986 788750 or email [sandydiane@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sandydiane@tiscali.co.uk)

**PCSO Steven Long** tells us that Hoxne Ward is one of the top ten safest places within the County. Nevertheless, he advises that oil tanks should be locked and/or alarmed and screened.

**Re-cycling survey** results were inconclusive and further enquiries are being made. The views of residents living close to the proposed site will be given particular weight.

**Hydro-electricity?** It seems there could be advice and funding available but there does need to be keen local support. Is there anyone, perhaps in the watermill area, who would be interested in taking this project forward?

**Care for the Elderly** It is hoped that services at Paddock House in Eye will be retained until beds at Hartismere Hospital re-open in about two years' time. It is acknowledged that there is inadequate home care available.

**Finance** In order to have the funds necessary for parish council elections this year, it has been necessary to raise the local precept by £200 to £1400.

**Winter weather** - The Parish Council is grateful to John Sparrow, who registered as a volunteer and cleared snow after a particularly heavy fall.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th March at 7.30pm**

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

# Woodland flowers and plants

## Stephen Govier finds Spring underfoot

---

The woodlands and the churchyard at Hoxne are still a place of interest for botanists and wildlife enthusiasts, during the winter months. Although the ground may be cloaked with snow or sprinkled with frost, the plant life survives these harsh conditions.

Even when the lovely floral displays have passed their best within the church, we can look at the beautifully carved oak benches, lectern, pulpit and reading desk, which were commissioned in 1880. This work was undertaken by Ewan Christian [1814-1895] for the Church Commissioners and James Kellaway Colling [1816-1905] for Sir Edward Clarence Kerrison. The wood carvers being James Forsyth of Hampstead and the architectural contractors Cornish & Gaymer.

Through January and February woodland flowers start to appear and by March the flowers of the Lesser Celandine [*Ranunculus ficaria*] can be seen. This lovely plant has heart shaped dark green leaves and a bright yellow star like flower with eight petals. As the flower petals age, they turn white and translucent. This plant was also known as the Spring Messenger and Pilewort. The name *ranunculus* comes from the Late Latin word for little frog, 'from rana' a plant to be found near to water or in damp areas. The origin of *ficaria* comes from the shape of the root of clustered

tubers, which are fig like. The name Celandine is from the Latin *Chelidonia*, meaning Swallow. It is said that the Lesser Celandine flowered when the Swallows returned and faded, when they left.

Other woodland plants to look out for are Winter Aconite [*Eranthus hyemalis*] which also has yellow flowers and dark green foliage. The Snowdrop [*Galanthus nivalis*] also known as the 'milk flower'. The Primrose [*Primula vulgaris*], Sweet Violet [*Viola odorata*] and its cousin the Common Violet [*Viola riviniana*]. Wood Anemone [*Anemone nemorosa*] and the Lesser Periwinkle [*Vinca minor*]. Luckily most of the flowers listed are still commonly found in the village.



## Memories of Hoxne School

I was recently given a number of old photos of Hoxne School taken during the Victorian era so I decided to investigate further.

On an old plan of Heckfield Green, Hoxne dating from 1840 the site of the school is shown before the erection of the building on land which once belonged to the Kerrison family.

As far as I can ascertain the Kerrison family was responsible for the endowment of the school at Hoxne in about 1844 as Sir Edward Kerrison made



► payments from his estate for the provision of education in the village. In 1903 on the 21st of March a conveyance made by Lady Bateman of Brome Hall gave the school building, land and outbuildings to a board of managers. William Hayward of Corner Farm Chickering, David Brown of Abbey Farm and the Reverend Cecil Downton were the school managers at the time of the transfer of the school, which was known as the Cross Street Voluntary School.

In 1742 Thomas Maynard of Hoxne Hall had made provision in his will to establish an educational foundation, this provided a schoolroom for teaching boys and another for teaching girls. In 1914 the endowed Girls School, which had at some period in time become an infant school, closed. Some older Hoxne residents will remember that the old school building in Low Street later became the village doctor's surgery.

An early photograph of the front of Hoxne School with its decorative brick building shows that it was protected by attractive brick wall made by the

Oakley Park Estate Brickworks. To the left hand side of the building was a covered porch and door which was the girl's entrance, in the middle section of the building three tall windows each with four large openings, rising to the line of the roof, the outer windows had decorative wooden pediments with window vents. The large roof was covered with plain red tiles which were interspersed with diamond shaped tiles.

Two decorative wooden cupola/lantern like structures adorned the roof with a pair of decoratively moulded brick chimney stacks. The boy's entrance was to the right of the building. The school was equipped with two classrooms and in later years this was one large classroom which could be divided up with folding wood and glass panelled doors.

In 1914 the Infant School was merged with the school at Cross Street and the Victorian building was updated adding an infants' classroom, a juniors' classroom and store rooms. During the alterations, some classes were taught in St Edmund's Hall.

*To be continued*

**SG**



Times past: school picture from 1928

*And in conclusion...*

*a hot occurrence and a snowy reposte*

---

## **Coach ‘drama’ leaves theatre goers with a day to remember**

Hoxne Theatre Club’s trip to Thursford is eagerly awaited and the tickets sell out within days. As the day approaches, excitement mounts. This year there was the added worry of the weather. Will the coach be able to reach Hoxne? Will those from outside the village be able to get to the coach? Will the coach get to Holt, for the usual coffee, lunch and a spot of therapeutic shopping, and then on to Thursford?

Monday – freezing fog and ice. What would the following day bring? It brought clear sky and -6 degrees Celsius. The coach was booked for 9am, but we were all there well before, trying to keep our extremities from freezing..... 9.10am, still no coach – what had gone wrong? Had the driver overslept? Had the coach broken down? Had the coach firm got the day wrong? Sighs of relief all round as the coach hove in to sight, and we started to board.

Suddenly there was a terrible smell in the air and the driver, reacting calmly, asked us all to leave the coach, and stand back as quickly as possible. The brakes were burning, and there was a risk of fire. We all withdrew, and watched as fire extinguishers were operated and the danger averted.

Then came the realisation that, after all, we might not get to Thursford. Not stopped by fog ice or snow, but by fire! A few phone calls later, and a replacement coach was on its way. Some braved the cold, while others gave Peter in the Village Stores a Christmas bonus. While they were in the shop to keep out of the cold, many items were brought, including a bottle of rum and some coke by Nigel Bradford (purely for medicinal purposes before we were on the coach to keep out any hint of hypothermia!).

The replacement coach arrived; we all piled on and were soon on our way. We arrived at Holt later than planned, but the only comments were from the gentlemen in the party, who had been dragged round the shops for a shorter time than expected, and were warmed by the thought of less money spent.

The show at Thursford was up to the usual very high standard. No London theatre puts on a better performance at Christmas. All too soon we were on our way again, going via Holt to see the Christmas Decorations. Warming drinks and mince pies were enjoyed on the way home and we were all delighted to be home to a cold frosty Hoxne.



# It's snow joke!

As ex-residents of Hoxne, senior management and I look forward to each edition of the *Village Voice*, keeping us up to speed so to speak! So when the December/January copy arrived, complete in its brown envelope, it was eagerly opened, and on went the kettle for a brew.

Having read JB's editorial and subsequent articles, I had a sudden attack of the vapours. Pass the smelling salts Sheila! Followed by that well known phrase for us wrinklies. 'I DON'T BELIEVE IT!'

I had reached the Hoxne Parish Council Update and the bit about clearing snow from outside your house.

As a council tax payer and a pensioner to boot, it is pleasing to know my money is being sensibly spent employing some 'spotty' jobsworth or even a full-blown committee, heaven forbid, to offer us advice on how to clear snow from outside our own houses without the fear of any compensation claim should an accident happen. No doubt all meant with good intention, following hours of detailed analysis and experience on the subject, sitting behind a desk in full extreme weather clothing (paid from the Council Tax no doubt). Oh! and of course we mustn't forget the mandatory risk assessment, must we?!

I remember only too well the snows of January/February 1965 (swing the lamp shade!). Having just returned from a two-year tour in Aden, I was posted to RAF Stradishall now HMP Highpoint. Having driven all night through heavy snow in my pride and joy (a 1963 Mini), from Essex to Suffolk, I arrived at the Guardroom at about 0730hrs, looking forward to a hot breakfast, only to be 'welcomed' by the SWO ( Station Warrant Officer).

The conversation went something like this:

**SWO:** 'Morning Corporal'

**Me:** 'Morning Sir. Just posted in from Khormaksar'

**SWO:** 'Right - No 3 Hanger. Snow Clearance!'

**Me:** ' OK Sir!' followed by a few silent expletives as I drove to the hangar.

On arrival at the hangar, and presented with a shovel, I was directed to a group of 100 or so about 300 yds away - clearing the runway of snow. No breakfast, no advice note on how to do it, just a common cause and common sense and an esprit de Corps that prevailed. But come 11.00hrs that coffee, laced liberally with rum, tasted good and the Mess was still serving hot breakfasts.

So come on you guys in the Gin Palaces of Power, get a life and I suggest you use your common sense like us wrinklies and above all do something constructive and stop wasting our hard earned money.

**GOM alias RMT**

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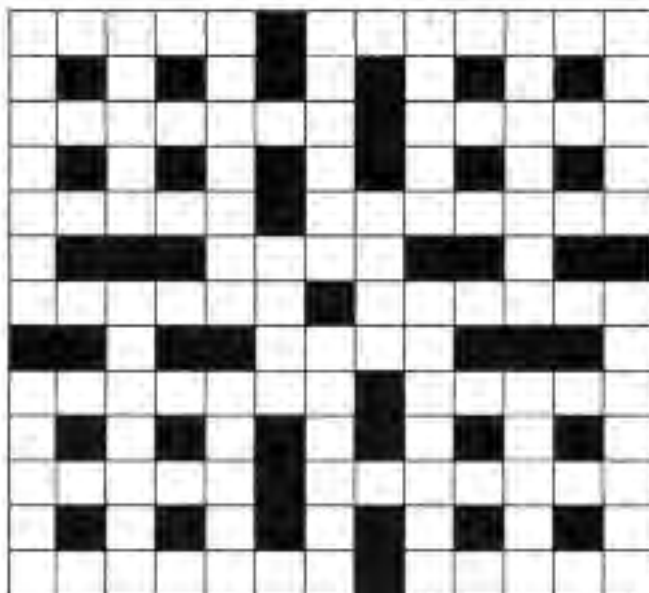
**Handöl Contura**

**JÖTUL**



CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 80

The prize for the first correct solution opened to crossword puzzle No. 79 went to Jackie Rogers of Cross Street, Hoxas. The solution appears below.



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 She has her way before dinner (5)
- 4 Fifty surrounded by bravery - how swan (7)
- 8 Wood up and made streets (7)
- 9 Tribe: Nuth in Africa (5)
- 10 Not heard lately in Rome (5)
- 11 Provider of food from the terrace (7)
- 13 Eye drop available in row (4)
- 15 Entrepreneurial insight (6)
- 17 Take a look at a gorge (6)
- 20 Chinese food - or Korean? (4)
- 23 Turn the weather (7)
- 24 Abnormality when mixing dough (5)
- 26 Adhesive from Tapes technology (5)
- 27 Lacking iron and so pale (7)
- 28 You are family, it is named (7)
- 29 Tusk out an old model (5)

- 1 Sounds like a jungle fighter (7)
- 2 Underworld jargon (5)
- 3 Understanding the old enemy (7)
- 4 French duke in river, I infer (6)
- 5 Old Boy in decay acts automatically (8)
- 6 Disregarded chaos in the Gironde (7)
- 7 Take nothing from dying Arsenal fan (5)
- 12 2 dh started Jason's ship (4)
- 14 Move a bit (4)
- 16 Use lift for a tool (7)
- 18 Describes that adolescent age (7)
- 19 Miscolours in debt and strains (7)
- 21 Messenger three dollars daily (6)
- 22 Usually one of a pair on car (5)
- 23 Cure by buying a round (5)
- 25 Item met in exhibit (5)

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO. 79



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

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## **NEXT ISSUE**

**1<sup>st</sup> April (copy by 8<sup>th</sup> Mar., please)**

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