

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a field of purple orchids. The orchids are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep purple and others lighter shades. They are set against a backdrop of lush green foliage. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM &
WINGFIELD

APRIL — MAY 2025

Supported by community donation and advertising revenue

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The Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison and
 Revd John McCracken are ex-officio
 members of each Parochial Church
 Council.

C Chair
 VC Vice Chair
 CW Church Warden

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Letter to the Editor

'Au Revoir' - and thank you!

It will be with great sadness that I shall leave Syleham and our lovely house at Little Hemplands, and I want to thank the people of the village for the warmth of their welcome and acceptance of us as complete strangers to the area nearly 23 years ago. It has been a great privilege to become involved at different times in various aspects of village life but, true to country values, there is always someone willing to take on responsibilities laid down; this is particularly true of St Margaret's Church, where I have had the privilege of ministering in a small way and which I leave with particular sadness. I am so glad that Coffee & Cake, started from the Church, has become popular and will be continuing as a community event. Following donations at the café in recent months, I have sent £125 to UNHCR in support of refugees.

Here I want to thank everyone who contributed to the very generous parting gifts presented to us: garden vouchers (such a practical idea) plus chocolates and flowers! I do not say 'Goodbye' as I know I shall be back from time to time, not least because I leave my beloved daughter in the churchyard here; and we shall not be far away, just in Fressingfield where I do hope to welcome some of you to our new home.

I hope you will now welcome Carol and Paul who are taking on the pleasure of living at Little Hemplands and are looking forward to getting to know the village.

Meanwhile, from Gerald and myself:
 'Au Revoir' and thank you.

Mary Lewis

Diary Dates

Tue 1 Apr

Coffee & Cake SWH p15
Little Lambs HPP p19

Fri 4 Apr

Open Mic SWH p12

Tue 8 Apr

Phoenix talk, 'From Plays to Novels'
50 years of professional writing
HVH p31

Thur 10 Apr

Play, *Sophia* SWH p12

Fri 11 Apr

Karaoke SWH p12
Film, *Small Things Like These* HVH p11
Music, *Duo Niepold* WB p7

Sat 12 Apr

Canine Quiz HVH p5
New Cricket Club Open Day, by
Stradbroke swimming pool p24

Mon 14-Mon 28 Apr

Metal collection skip SWH p13

Tue 15 Apr

Easter Egg Hunt & Crafts, WB p6
Hoxne Heritage Group mtg, Hoxne
Swan p29

Thur 17 Apr

Hoxne Garden club talk, *Eastgate
Larder* HVH p21

Fri 18 Apr

Lunch of the
Syleham Heritage
Walk, SWH p15
Quiz SWH p12



Sun 20 Apr

Hoxne Bowls Club Open Day HPP p25

Wed 23 Apr

Book Club mtg, Hoxne Swan p16

Thur 24 Apr

Coffee, Craft, Chat SWH p12
Wingfield Garden Club talk,
International Conservation,
Brundish village hall p27

Fri 25 Apr

Play, *These Shining Lives*, Harleston
Sancroft Academy p9
Bingo SWH p12

Sat 26 Apr

Jumble Sale SWH p13
Wingfield Annual Church mtg,
Wingfield Church p16
Play, *These Shining Lives*, Harleston
Sancroft Academy p9

Sun 27 Apr

Columbine Hall Open Day p21

Wed 30 Apr

Wingfield Parish Council mtg SWH p41

Thur 1 May

Hoxne Annual Parish Mtg HVH p40

Fri 2 May

Open Mic SWH p12
Play, *These Shining Lives*, Harleston
Sancroft Academy p9

Sat 3 May

Botanist's visit to Syleham Church
p15
Play, *These Shining Lives*, Harleston
Sancroft Academy p9

Sun 4 May

Hoxne's Community Day
HPP p22



Tue 6 May

Coffee & Cake SWH p15
Little Lambs HPP p19

Wed 7 May

Play, *All My Sons* WB p7
Syleham Parish Council mtg SWH p41
Waveney Heritage talk,
80th Anniversary of VE Day,
Brockdish p33

Fri 9 May

Karaoke SWH p12

Sat 10 May

VE Day Afternoon Tea SWH p13
Music, *Herding Cats* SWB
p13



Mon 12 May

Talk, *King Richard III's
burial site in Leicester*,
Wingfield Church p16

Tue 13 May
Phoenix talk, 1930s Working in
Ickworth House HVH p31

Wed 14 May
Phoenix & non-members outing
to East Ruston Old Vicarage
p31

Thur 15 May
Hoxne Garden club talk,
Columbine Hall HVH p21

Fri 16 May
Quiz SWH p16

Sat 17 May
Variety show, "Confident" The
Tour 2025 WB p7
APCM Hoxne Church p17

Mon 19 May
Mothers' Union mtg, Time House,
Low Street Hoxne Mon p19

Tue 20 May
Denham Parish Council mtg,
St John the Baptist Church
(better check - it might be in
the village hall) p40
Hoxne Heritage talk, Timber
Framed Buildings & Carpentry
HVH p29

Wed 21 May
Book Club mtg, Hoxne Swan p16
Little Lambs HPP p19

Thur 29 May
Coffee, Craft, Chat SWH p12

Fri 30 May
Bingo SWH p12

Sat 31 May-Sun 1 June
Wingfield Open Gardens p20

All Church Service dates p14-15
Mobile Library dates p37
Borderhoppa dates p41

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

Bridge for Beginners

Want to learn Bridge
in a friendly and
supportive club?
Then come along to
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Monday afternoons,
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12TH APRIL 7PM

HOXNE VILLAGE HALL
IP21 5AN

- ALL DOG THEMED
- £5 PER PERSON (MAX 6 PER TEAM)
- BAR + BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC
- BOOZEY RAFFLE
- POINTS AND PRIZES
- ADDITIONAL **SAMARITANS** BAKE SALE

BOOKING CONTACT:
07906 961082



Easter Fun at Wingfield Barns – Free!

COME AND JOIN US!

Tuesday 15th April

10.00 – 12.00

**The Rural Coffee Caravan celebrates Easter with an
Easter Egg hunt and Easter crafts.**

For the under 5s, but older children welcome too.

A chance for new mums and those with pre-schoolers to meet up, with the bonus of coffee/cake and some activities for the little ones.

Please note: as this is an open site,
parents are responsible for their children.

Lots of parking in our car park.

**For more information phone 01379 384505/ e mail
office.manager@wingfieldbarns.co.uk**

Wingfield Barns, Church Road, Wingfield, IP21 5RA



Duo Niepold

Friday 11th April 7.30pm

A playful evening of two diatonic accordion players.

Ann Niepold is an extraordinary accordionist and composer. Besides her solo career she has played with many art companies.



Andy Cutting is a soulful and outstanding melodeon player, a founding member of *Blowabella* and three times winner of BBC Folk Musician of the year. An evening not to be missed!

Online ticket sales at:
www.wegottickets.com/events/627684
Wingfield Barns £17.00

Open Space Theatre presents:

All My Sons

by Arthur Miller

Wednesday 7th May 7.30pm

Long-buried truths are forced to the surface in Miller's acclaimed tragedy of lies, denial and deceit as the price of a family's "America Dream" of prosperity is laid bare.



Online ticket sales at:
www.wegottickets.com/events/652937
Wingfield Barns £12.50

"Confident" The Tour 2025

Saturday 17th May 7.30pm

A fun-filled evening for all the family! A variety show combining comedy, live music, magic, prize bingo and more.

Think holiday red coat but without having to go on holiday!

Grab family and friends and book now for a great evening!

Online ticket sales at:
www.wegottickets.com/events/652937
Wingfield Barns £12.50

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CONFIDENT THE TOUR 2025

STARRING **STEVE PATTERSON**

£12.50

WINGFIELD BARNS 17TH MAY 2025

A VARIETY SHOW THAT COMBINES COMEDY, LIVE MUSIC, MAGIC, PRIZE BINGO AND MORE INTO ONE BIG NIGHT OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!

BOX OFFICE
www.wingfieldbarns.com/events
01379 384505

DOORS OPEN AT 7.00PM, SHOW STARTS AT 7.30PM
Tickets Must Be Shown At The Door
All drinks must be purchased from licenced bar

For more information, please contact Wingfield Barns IP21 5RA
Tel: 01379 384505 Email: office.manager@wingfieldbarns.co.uk
www.wingfieldbarns.com



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Harleston Players present:

THESE SHINING LIVES

by Melanie Marnich

Based on the true story of a group of female workers who, in the 1920s and 30s, suffered radium poisoning from painting the luminous watch dials for the Radium Dial Company in Ottawa, Illinois. Marnich's play focuses on the women as they support each other through illness and their long fight to take the company to court. The story is honest and uncompromising, the women's resilience is inspiring - with plenty of warmth and humour.

Performances:

Friday 25 April 7.30pm
Saturday 26 April 7.30pm
Friday 2 May 7.30pm
Saturday 3 May 2.30pm & 7.30pm

at

Harleston Sancroft Academy,
9 School Lane, Harleston IP20 9HG

01379 853211

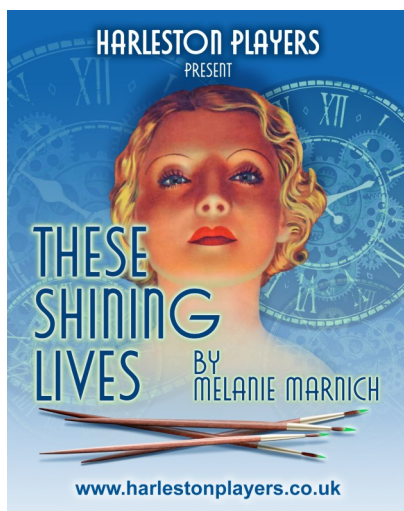
Tickets: £12

Available from Robinson's Traditional
Stationers, Harleston
or online: www.harlestonplayers.co.uk

This play is suitable for ages 12+

Licensed bar

AUDIO DESCRIPTION will be available for the performances on Saturday 3 May.



AUDIO DESCRIPTION

If you or someone you know are **PARTIALLY SIGHTED** or **BLIND** you might be interested in our Audio Description at Players Productions. We provide a small receiver with an earpiece giving live description of what is happening on stage so you can enjoy the show.

It is completely free and we can let you know when it is available at our productions. Please contact us with an e-mail or phone number so you don't miss out:

roygoodwin53@gmail.com
or on 07768 847 175.

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Mobile: 07776 235006

St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne

Website: hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

In March, Sharon and Micheal Knights stood down from their bar organisation and management roles. The hall management committee are very grateful for all their hard work over many years, and are very appreciative of Micheal's staying on the committee.

We also said farewell to Wendy, who has been our cleaner for almost 20 years and hope she enjoys her well-earned retirement.

The hall plays host to many varied activities and groups, such as:

Badminton, Ballroom dancing, Meditation, Morris dancing, Pilates, Film Nights, Garden Group, Hoxne Heritage Group, ladies' Phoenix Group and the Village Voices choir.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups/activities, then visit the hall website: hoxnevillagehall.co.uk or check out the notice boards, both outside and inside the hall.

If you would like to join the volunteers who run the hall or to volunteer to work behind the bar, please drop me an email: bryn@lerwill.com.

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

Bryn Lerwill



Village Voices Community Choir

welcomes new members

We meet every Monday evening at
Hoxne village hall at 7pm

This spring we will be rehearsing for our
"Water Aid Concert" later in the summer

All songs are taught by ear, with music,
words and sound files to help with your learning

Interested?

Contact: villagevoicesjk2@icloud.com

Or www.thevillagevoices.weebly.com



Hoxne Film Nights



In 1985 coal merchant Bill Furlong uncovers disturbing secrets in a small Irish town that's controlled by the Roman Catholic Church.

Starring: Cillian Murphy, Eileen Walsh and Emily Watson

Cert PG13

SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE

Friday, 11th April

Hoxne Village Hall

7:30pm £5.00 a ticket

Tickets on the door
Bar open from 7pm and during interval

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall IP21 4LT

I cannot believe it!

Syleham and Wingfield Sports and Social Club have raised well over £1,000 for local charities and good causes, in the first two months of 2025!

Well-supported Quiz and Bingo evenings in aid of blood pressure monitors for Fressingfield and Stradbroke surgeries mean they will be able to purchase equipment for medical staff to use, as well as community BP monitors! The Burns night raffle plus other donations will enable the Waveney Foodbank to maintain their collection van. The Quiz for Hoxne PTA was again well supported! Sorry to repeat myself, but the Bingo for Fressingfield Scouts also attracted great support!

THANK YOU to all who came along to those events!

On to the next few months and beyond...

Many of our events are more about getting together, taking time to keep warm, meet and chat, having a leisurely time.

Coffee and Cake will continue on the first Tuesday of the month, 10am to 11.30am, free due to funding from MSDC. Pop in for tea/coffee, chat, etc each Tuesday, 8pm to 10pm, again free due to funding from MSDC. Coffee, craft, chat is on the last Thursday of the month, 1.30 to 3pm, free due to funding from MSDC.

National Village Halls Week in March saw us host: live music; coffee with Information on the 81st anniversary of the loss of Lancaster LM 464 E; the soon-to-be-unveiled Historic Landmarks of Syleham footpath; a fundraising quiz; our usual Tuesday and Friday openings; a private family gathering; Tai Chi; our second weekly family get together group;



**Village
Halls
Week**

carpet bowls ...
I think that's it!
Thanks to all who support our various events and activities!

Professional theatre on your doorstep!



SOPHIA

is the touring production by the Eastern Angles which will be coming to Syleham and Wingfield village hall on:

Thursday 10th April

7.30 start

Sophia Duleep Singh was born into royalty and grew up to be a revolutionary. Returning from India with a bold new sense of bravery, Sophia uses her status to become a beacon in the fight for women's suffrage and Indian independence.



Tickets £14 from the Eastern Angles website or contact Julie to reserve a place and pay on the door. Bar open, raffle.

Our usually well-supported **Open Mic** and **Karaoke** continue on the 1st and 2nd Fridays respectively. The Quiz on **Friday 18th April** will raise funds for Stradbroke Tennis club's youth equipment, while the Quiz on **Friday 16th May** will be in aid of Wingfield church (see poster p16). Ideally teams of four, £5 per person, 7.30 for 8pm start; bar open, bring your own snacks or buy chocolate/crisps from the bar. As ever, pool, books, board games, darts available.



Bingo on **Friday 25th April** is in aid of the Rural Coffee Caravan; **Friday 30th May** is Iao Lighthouse WA - we would encourage you to also bring along any new deodorant, body sprays, shampoo, conditioner, hair brushes, gift cards and towels to pass on to Lighthouse. Be ready to start just after 8pm, bar open. Raffle prizes are still pretty awful most of the time!

VE Day 80th Anniversary

This is on Thursday 8th May but we would like to invite you to our 80th VE Day celebrations, *Afternoon Tea*, on **Saturday 10th May**, from 2 'til 4pm, on J's Meadow if the weather is favourable; in the village hall if not.

This will be free entry with refreshments by donation to the Royal British Legion. There may be some music, dancing and games! Do come in costume if you have something appropriate - but entirely optional. If you would like to lend a hand with preparations and packing away, or any other part of the day, please get in touch with Julie.

AND there's more!

The *metal collection skip* will be back on **Monday 14th April** and depart on **Monday 28th April** - any metal but NOT fridges, freezers, gas bottles or TVs. Thank you.

Our *Spring Jumble Sale* is booked for **Saturday 26th April**, from 2pm to 4pm! Free entry, come and join us!



Contact Donna if you need info on the Jumble Sale or Metal Skip, or want anything collected 01379 668361 / 07876487294. These events raise funds for our village hall. Keep feeding our glass and clothing recycling banks - these also raise funds for the village hall. Thank you.

LIVE MUSIC in May:

'HERDING CATS'

will be with us on

Saturday 10th May

doors open 7.30pm

Free entry, charity collection, bar open. Join us for a great night!

Julie Thompson
Text 07929 794636
juliethompson435@gmail.com

Syleham & Wingfield
Sports & Social club present:



Saturday 10th May
2pm to 4pm

Afternoon Tea



on J's Meadow
if the weather is kind,
otherwise in
Syleham and Wingfield
Village Hall IP21 4LT

Tea, cake, perhaps a little
music, games....

Refreshments by donation
Come and join us!



Church News

Bright hope for tomorrow

The news is full of frightening and difficult items at present, internationally and economically. Our world has suddenly become much more threatening. We may well be asking, Where is God in this? And the answer is very clear as we move through the final weeks of Lent and into Holy Week and Easter. Jesus Christ came into the world to share our human frailty and our troubles, even to the point of death, and we share his journey in these weeks. But the good news is that he rose again from the dead on Easter Day and his resurrection offers us the hope that we can share that too and rise with him to eternal life. Meanwhile he has sent his Holy Spirit to encourage and strengthen us as we go forward through the changes and chances of this world.

So God gives us strength for today, whatever it brings, and bright hope for tomorrow, as the hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness' says. Bright hope for tomorrow is also the theme of the diocesan Lent Appeal for our link diocese in Kagera, an area badly affected by climate change. The aim through the appeal is to support farming initiatives and good practice in agriculture, training of evangelists and clergy and resourcing of pastors in their parishes, as well as support for healthcare in the region through the Diocesan hospital. Do consider donating at <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/exploring-faith/our-bishops-lent-appeal/>.

Finally, some personal news. Having been Priest in Charge of the benefice of Athelington, Denham, Horham, Hoxne, Redlingfield, Syleham and Wingfield for four and a half years, I am to be made Rector at a service in Hoxne at 11.00 am on Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday). You are all warmly invited to come along. You won't notice any difference following this change, but it is confirmation that our benefice will not be reorganised while I remain incumbent.

Rev'd Canon Eleanor Goodison
Priest in Charge, Hoxne Benefice
Tel: 07876 143579

Church Services

*Denham, Hoxne, Syleham
& Wingfield*

Planned church services for April/May

Every Friday: Compline at 6.00 pm
on Zoom

April

Sunday 6th April

Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Athelington
9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne
11.00 am CW Holy Communion,
Wingfield
4.00 pm Messy Church, Syleham and
Wingfield village hall

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield
11.00 am Institution of Rev'd Eleanor as
Rector, Hoxne

Monday 14th April

6.00 pm Compline, St Edmund Chapel,
Hoxne

Tuesday 15th April

6.00 pm Compline, St Edmund Chapel,
Hoxne

Wednesday 16th April

6.00 pm Compline, St Edmund Chapel,
Hoxne

Thursday 17th April

Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm Maundy Thursday service,
Fressingfield

Friday 18th April

Good Friday

11.15 am Good Friday
service, Horham
12.00 noon Good Friday
service, Wingfield
2.30 pm Good Friday
service, Hoxne



Happy Easter

Saturday 19th April

Easter Eve

7.30 pm Service of Light, Denham

Sunday 20th April

Easter Day

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

10.00 am CW Holy Communion, Syleham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

11.15 am BCP Holy Communion, Horham

4.00 pm Easter Egg hunt, J's meadow,
Syleham

6.00 pm Easter Songs of Praise,
Athelington

Sunday 27th April

Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 am Village Service, Syleham -
note change to normal service

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

4.00 pm All Age service, Hoxne

May

Sunday 4th May

Third Sunday of Easter

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Athelington

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

4.00 pm Messy Church, Syleham
churchyard - **note change to normal
venue**

Sunday 11th May

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne

Sunday 18th May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

9.30 am Village Service, Syleham -
note new time

11.15 am BCP Holy Communion, Horham

6.00 pm Evensong, Wingfield

Sunday 25th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

4.00 pm All Age service, Hoxne

St Margaret's, Syleham

Save the Date!

Friday 18th April (Good Friday)

meet for 10am at
Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall -

Launch of the Syleham Heritage Walk

to commemorate the surrender of
Earl Bigod to King Henry II in 1174.

The first guided walk will take
about an hour and a half
following our village footpaths and
passing significant historical buildings
in our village.

Walkers with or without their dogs
should meet at 10am at
Syleham & Wingfield village hall.

There will be refreshments on sale
in aid of the Church
where funds this year will be directed
to repair the
Commandments Boards and
Medieval Church Chest.

Churchyard The Churchyard and the
church lane look beautiful now with
daffodils in full bloom. Please walk down
and enjoy the beauty of the late spring at
St Margaret's. There will be a botanist
visiting the churchyard on **Saturday
3rd May**, 10am-2noon, to survey the
flora. If you would like to participate,
please contact Lorraine at the email
address below. We are looking forward
to seeing the survey details to share with
our parishioners.

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

St Margaret's remains open daily and
the church and environment provide a
welcome place of tranquility - visitors'
comments show how much it is
appreciated.

Contact for further details:
lorraine@syleham.uk

St Andrew's, Wingfield

We enjoyed some delicious pancakes at Wingfield Barns on Shrove Tuesday, thanks to Revd John and the winter coffee morning team, and it was great to see the happy faces round the big table. The coffee caravan returns for the spring and summer, on the third Tuesday every month. There will be no more pancakes, but lots of delicious bakes and cheery chat.

The Book Group discussed the provocative book by Colm Toibin, *The Testament of Mary*, on 12th March. The April meeting will be at the Hoxne Swan at 5.00 pm on **Wednesday 23rd April** and the book will be *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky. In May we will meet on **Wednesday 21st May** and the book will be *Scoop* by Evelyn Waugh.

We are very excited about the forthcoming visit of Philippa Langley to Wingfield. It was Philippa's research which identified the exact spot in the car park in Leicester where Richard III's body was buried and she earned an MBE for the part she played in his exhumation. She



will be "in conversation" about the project at 7.00 pm at Wingfield church on Monday 12th May. No need to book, just come along on the night. Suggested donation £10.00 to include drinks and nibbles after the talk.

Our annual church meeting is at 2.00 pm on **Saturday 26th April** in Wingfield church. Everyone in Wingfield is invited to hear about the church's work in 2024 and plans for 2025, including our major project to repair the church's structure. Do come and make your views known.

Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison
07876 143579

St Peter & St Paul's, Hoxne

As I am writing this the weather seems to have improved, maybe only in the short term but it makes me more enthusiastic about the events organised for the year.

Annual Parochial Council meetings are a lot of work but they need to happen. They give us the chance to take stock of what we have achieved in the past year and to let parishioners know what exactly the PCC has been up to.

*"A horse!
A horse!
my kingdom
for a horse!"*



*"Now is the
winter of our
discontent!
Made glorious
summer by this
sun of York."*

King Richard III

Talk by Philippa Langley MBE

Famous for her role in the discovery
and exhumation of Richard III from a
car park in Leicester

Monday 12th May

7pm at Wingfield Church

Suggested donation £10.00 pp

Drinks & nibbles after the talk

This year the APCM will be on **Saturday 17th May** at 6pm in the church; all are welcome and there will be refreshments. Please come along and see what is happening with your church.

Future events planned include:

Summer Fete - 7th June at the church

Bat Tour - 4th July

Lammas - 1st August

Quiz - date to be arranged in October

Christmas Fair - 6th December

More details will be forthcoming nearer the time.

As always we are always looking for volunteers to help with events, so if you are available please come forward, we do not bite.

Deborah Harding
01379 668190

The churchyard and the Community Payback Scheme

For those of you who have had a chance to visit the churchyard in recent weeks, you will have seen the fantastic work done by the Community Payback Scheme. We are building up a really good rapport with the two supervisors and with the chaps who have been coming along to help out. Their enthusiasm is great and we were really warmed to find out that when they boarded the bus for their February session and were told that they were coming to Hoxne churchyard, they all cheered. It appears they love the work and being outside and are also grateful for the very warm welcome they



receive each time they attend.

The car park has been transformed! The chaps have cut back the overgrowing undergrowth and have utilised logs from fallen and cut-down trees to edge the parking area. This means that the car park is now able to hold a lot more cars. If you are up at the church for any reason and need to park, please can you park your car right up to the logs, especially if you are there for a large service or event. This will facilitate a third row of cars down the middle.

The chaps have also spent much time pulling out saplings and ivy from the tombs and tidying up the area set aside for cremated remains. There are still plenty of areas that are not being cut too much so there is plenty of habitation for the wildlife. The cutting back of the undergrowth around the car park and graves has also allowed the snowdrops to flourish.

Caroline Abbott & Richard Giffin

New Church Electoral Roll for 2025

The church electoral roll is renewed every six years and was last renewed in 2019. All those who live within the parish or have a connection with the church are able to be registered. This entitles you to vote in church elections for Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and church wardens and gives more influence at Deanery level.

There are application forms at the back of Hoxne church or I can send you, by return, a form by email.

Catherine McGregor
Electoral Roll Organiser
catherinemcgregor211@gmail.com

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Mothers' Union

The Hoxne Mothers' Union Fellowship Group meets on the third Monday of the month at 2.30pm at Time House, Low Street, Hoxne.

Monday 21st April - No meeting (Easter Monday)

Monday 19th May - Meeting

New members are always welcome at our Fellowship Group.

Catherine McGregor
Group Leader 01379 668434

Our meetings in April: **Tuesday, 1st April** (due to the Easter holidays). Wingfield Barns is holding an Easter Egg Hunt on **Tuesday, 15th April** from 10am - midday for the under 5s although older children are welcome. There will be craft activities on offer too. (see details on p6).

Our May meetings: **Tuesday, 6th May** and **Wednesday 21st May**.

Meetings in Hoxne Pavilion.

For further information please contact Caroline at cabbott364@gmail.com

Caroline Abbott

Little Lambs



Little Lambs have spent some great times together in February and March. We have been looking forward to Spring and to celebrate have been making daffodils and weaving baskets ready for the Easter Bunny! As you can see, Bea has been putting her



fantastic creative skills to the test and made a wonderful daffodil picture. We were also able to take advantage of the glorious sunshine and use the play equipment outside.

Little Lambs will be continuing to

meet on the first Tuesday of each month and the third or fourth Wednesday of each month (it will always be two weeks after the Tuesday meeting). The Tuesday sessions are from 12.30 - 2.30pm (don't forget to bring your packed lunch), and the Wednesday sessions from 9.30 - 11.30am. The Reception and Nursery children at St Edmund's Primary are hoping to be able to join us for some of these sessions and it will be lovely to be able to continue to create these links.

The Maynard Trust

Support for educational needs

The Trust is there to be used. Its funds are available to all who live in Hoxne, irrespective of age, who might have difficulty in meeting the costs of educational need. Grants are given subject to funds being available by the Trust.

The deadline for receipt of applications to the Maynard Trust:

30th April 2025

for the May/June Trust meeting

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

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

themaynardtrust@gmail.com

Please include an email address for quick correspondence.

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

www.hoxnemaynardtrust.org.uk

Wingfield Open Gardens

31st May and 1st June

11am – 4pm

10 + Gardens

including the stunning

14C. Monastic College and Walled Garden

*£6.00 per
person*

*Under 16s free
if accompanied
by an adult*

*Tickets/Guides
cover both
days from
Wingfield
Barns
IP21 5RA*



*Plant stalls,
instant raffle,
refreshments, cakes,
light lunches*

*Free car park
and toilets
(including disabled)
at Wingfield Barns*

*Proceeds in aid of
St Elizabeth Hospice
(Registered Charity 289154)
and St Andrew's Church,
Wingfield*

*Come and enjoy our village gardens,
and more!*

Hoxne Garden & Social Club

Officially spring has now begun which, however, does not usually mean the weather obeys such instruction. This week though, the sun is happy to shine and the garden feels a little more enticing. Crocuses have their petals open to the sky, snowdrops pepper the village, daffodils are budding and tulips just peeping.

To keep us on track for gardening during the dark evenings at the start of the year we have had some very interesting talks.

In January Stacey Cronley Dillon gave a wonderful talk on honey bees. Not only informative, but a talk given with such enthusiasm that a bee-friendly garden was the top of everyone's agenda by the end of the evening.

Our meeting in February saw Jim Paine give a diverse talk on helping to maintain all aspects of wildlife - at home by being less clinical when gardening, and on a wider scale trying to save pockets of nature, whether in the countryside or city, which can act as stepping stones to encourage movement of wildlife. He introduced us to Sweetbriar Meadows in Norwich, a rewilding project sitting beside the Wensum as it winds its way to Hellesdon on the inner ring road. The Garden Club is hoping to arrange a visit later in the year. We will be keeping members informed.

On March 20th we hold our AGM, where you may also be enticed with cheese and wine.

Eastgate Larder

Our April talk on **Thursday the 17th** is with Jane Steward from the Eastgate

Larder in North Norfolk. She is an advocate for reviving the over-looked medlar tree, and is a producer of medlar preserves.

Plant Sale at Hoxne's Community Day

Don't forget that once spring is in full swing there will be a Community Day in Hoxne on Sunday 4th May (see page 22 for details). The Garden Club will be having a plant sale at the event, with a selection of quality perennials, annuals, house-plants and vegetable plants. Please make sure you come and find us and have a browse. The club committee members are busy sowing and potting up in anticipation of plant sales!

Columbine Hall

Later in the month, on 15th May, we have a talk by Kate Elliott, head gardener at Columbine Hall. This is a wonderful, ancient, moated house with award-winning gardens situated at Stowupland. They are holding an open garden day on **Sunday 27th April, 12noon to 5pm**, if you fancy a visit before Kate's talk.

Enjoy this busy time in the garden year. Remember to cater for the wildlife, especially the bees!

Debbie Pye
dilberry64@gmail.com

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Hoxne Playing Field & Pavilion's

COMMUNITY DAY

Sunday, 4th May

- 12.00 *Hoxon Hundred Morris Dancers*
- 12.30 *The Three Chordettes*
- 1.30 *Village Voices choir*
- 1.45 *The Three Chordettes*
- 2.30 *Poz - Magic for Children* (near classic car display)
- 2.30 *Hoxon Hundred Morris Dancers* (near main stage)
- 3.00 *JS & the Lockerbillies*
- 3.30 *Poz - Punch & Judy*
- 4.00 *Raffle draw*
- 4.15 *JS & the Lockerbillies*

(All timings are approximate)



HOXNE'S BIG DAY OUT - Free Entry! New attractions at this year's Community Day on Sunday 4th May at Hoxne pavilion and playing field include a band called the Three Chordettes and the Hoxon Hundred Morris Dancers.

The Three Chordettes are a three-part vocal harmony group, with a backing band, specialising in 1940s swing music. Molly Rose, Sarah Beth and Tabitha Lu are soloists in their own right but they come together to sensitively blend in mesmerising quality harmonies.

Also returning this year will be the Village Voices choir, and Josh & the Lockerbillies, who will be appearing for the third consecutive year by public demand.

As in previous years there will also be a classic car display, children's entertainment from Poz with his magic show and Punch and Judy, an all day barbeque and bar and café serving teas, coffee, cake and ice cream.



The Three Chordettes



JS & the Lockerbillies

All local organisations and groups are again invited - as last year - to have their own stall, table, or gazebo to advertise their work and sell goods.

"We have had many hundreds of people attend over the years for this free day out and it is only possible through the generous financial sponsorship from a number of local companies and local councils," said event organiser Stuart Jarrold.



*Children's entertainer,
Poz*

Hoxne Parish Council and Mid Suffolk District Council have all contributed towards the costs of staging such a major event for the village.



Visitors are reminded that dogs are strictly not allowed since the event is on a sports playing field. Notices are prominently displayed at all entrances.

Whatever the weather the Community Day will go ahead, so bring your picnic chairs and an umbrella.



HOXON HUNDRED

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CRICKET CLUB OPEN DAY

Stradbroke Cricket Club, Wilby Road, IP21 5IN
(behind the swimming pool)

COME ALONG
SATURDAY 12TH APRIL
FOR A FRIENDLY GAME
AT 2PM. NO KIT REQUIRED.
ALL WELCOME.



STRADBROKE CRICKET CLUB

CONTACT: GDBH@MSN.COM

2025 FIXTURES

April			
Sun 27 th	Village Cup	TBC	TBC
May			
Sat 3 rd	Lakenheath II	A	13:00
Sat 10 th	Tuddenham II	H	13:00
Sat 17 th	Mildenhall V	A*	13:00
Sat 24 th	Stowupland II	H	13:00
Sat 31 st	BT Waldringfield	A	13:00
June			
Sat 7 th	Worlington III	H	13:00
Sat 14 th	Woolpit IV	A	13:00
Sat 21 st	Bury St. Edmunds IV	H	13:00
Sat 28 th	Bardwell II	A	13:00
July			
Sat 5 th	Bury St. Edmunds IV	A	13:00
Sat 12 th	TBC	TBC	TBC
Sat 19 th	Lakenheath II	H	13:00
Wed 23 rd	Liverpool University Staff	A	14:00
Sat 26 th	Tuddenham II	A	13:00
August			
Sat 2 nd	Mildenhall V	H	13:00
Sat 9 th	Stowupland II	A	13:00
Sat 16 th	BT Waldringfield	H	13:00
Sat 30 th	Woolpit IV	H	13:00
September			
Sat 6 th	Worlington III	A	12:30
Sat 13 th	Bardwell II	H	12:30
Sun 21 st	President's XI	H	12:00

Note: These fixtures are provisional at the time of writing.



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Sunday and Bank Holidays
9.00am - 12 noon

HOXNE BOWLERS GET A TASTE OF AUSTRALIA!

Bowls club members are getting excited over a new 'Australian Rules' afternoon league this summer. Ten clubs have entered the inaugural season, mostly within a five mile radius from Harleston. The format sees players swapping places during each end of the game and so experiencing both lead and skip positions. Playing in the Wednesday afternoon league means it can start in May and run until the beginning of September, so enjoying the warmer part of the summer.

We are also playing the traditional Upper Waveney and Mid-Suffolk Leagues, which are in the evenings.

Following the success of hosting the Waveney League's Presidents' Tournament last year, Hoxne have decided to run another tournament this summer. The club's clubhouse was financed by annual tournaments and it is both a welcome return of income and a fun day's bowling - Saturday 5th July.

The club is always looking for new members of all abilities. Anyone interested should contact:

Secretary - Roger Knight: 01379 668403

Chairperson - Graham Turner: 01379 669221

*Roger Knight
Secretary*



WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY LAWN BOWLS?

Then why not come along to our Open Day,
Easter Sunday afternoon, 20th April?
We would be very pleased to see you!



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or email: OFFICE@DAILYCARESUFFOLK.CO.UK

HIGH BANKS

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Wingfield & District Garden Club

Brundish Village Hall IP13 8BB

Jon Benington was the speaker at our February meeting where he presented *Gardens In Art*. Jon is a writer, speaker and freelance art curator. He grew up in Northern Ireland and is now based in Norwich. Jon has published numerous articles and books on 19th and 20th century art. The focus was on artists' love affairs with gardens - some invented, some pre-existing, others created especially for transformation into works of art. The talk took us on a 500 year journey from Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights* through to the gardens of Stourhead in Wiltshire and Monet's waterlily garden at Giverny and Cedric Morris's garden at Benton End, Hadleigh. Gardens in Spain and Germany were also covered. The meeting was a great success, and we have invited Jon back to speak at our September meeting which we all look forward to very much.




Looking ahead to the end of March our meeting will be on 27th and our speaker will be Tim Fuller, who is an ornamental grasses and woodland perennial specialist and runs a nursery in South Norfolk. Tim will be speaking on propagation and this will be a hands-on meeting where some of us will have an opportunity to get our hands dirty.

Our April meeting will be on the 24th and the speaker will be Jim Paine who has a background in international conservation. His interests also include horticulture, plant science, gardening, climate change and many other subjects.

All our meetings are held in Brundish village hall at 7.30pm and we welcome new members and visitors to our very interesting, informative and enjoyable evenings.

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Flash Fiction

by Wingfield resident, France Demetriadi

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE UNDECIDED WEATHER



Winter time in England,
Stormy weather,
Gusts of wind,
Heavy showers.

Welcome to the « SOUL CAFE »
to restore your soul,
to enjoy a cappuccino,
to listen to soft music,
warmed by all sorts of little lights,
and lifted by the colourful cushions,
to feel distracted by the authentic
waitress with curly blue hair
styled into two little blue buns.

The perfect place to let your
imagination run,
to write your flash fiction story,
to lift your mood,
and to bring a smile to
people's faces.

No need to travel far away
to meet the sun,
as, coming out of my shelter,
there was the sun and the blue sky
again matching
the young waitress's hair!

by France Demetriadi



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Hoxne Heritage Group

hoxnehistory.org.uk

On Tuesday 15th April members will meet at The Swan in Hoxne at 7.30pm to chat and discuss the group's news, business and plans. The general public are welcome to sample a trial members' meeting or two without joining the group; we are actively recruiting new members and will welcome your thoughts and ideas for the coming year.

To learn more and possibly to become a member of the Hoxne Heritage Group please visit our web site at:

www.hoxnehistory.org.uk. On the website you will find a host of useful and interesting facts, information and photographs and will learn much more of the fascinating history of Hoxne and surrounding villages.

Or pick up one of our new pamphlets at the village hall where you will find details of joining without having to go online. The cost of joining HHG is very modest at just £10 per year and gives a reduced cost of just £3 when attending our talks at the village hall. The members' meetings at The Swan are subject to a small charge of £1 per person.



Timber Framed Buildings and Traditional Oak Carpentry

On the 20th May all members of the public are invited to Hoxne village hall again for a talk titled *Timber Framed Buildings and Traditional Oak Carpentry* which will be given by Rick Lewis. Rick leads a small but dedicated group of skilled timber-frame carpenters able to repair historic frames or frame new buildings to your specification. They have many years experience of vernacular framing traditions and work only to the highest standards. More pictures and details of his company's work can be found at: www.traditionaloakcarpentry.co.uk.



Rick started life as an everyday site carpenter but became disillusioned with the industry and nearly quit to study medieval art history. By chance a local contractor sent him to repair a Suffolk church, and he has been studying medieval architecture ever since - gaining knowledge from obscure books, attending lectures and talking to other framers, but most of all by closely observing the historic framing of our region. Having repaired over 100 timber framed buildings and visited many more in his spare time, Rick has had a rare insight into vernacular carpentry; and the future of Traditional Oak Carpentry is in safe hands with Rick's son Henry already showing an interest in the tools of the trade.

As usual this talk will start at 7.30pm and will cost £5 at the door (or just £3 for HHG members). The bar will be open from 7pm and all members of the public are welcome.

Rob Hooker, Publicity Officer
hoxnehistory.org.uk

Hoxne Shop & Post Office

Hi everyone,

As you will know the Community Ownership funding was pulled in May last year and hasn't been replaced. We have sought alternative funding, so far without success.

In November the Community Benefit Society and Hoxne Parish Council jointly commissioned a revaluation of the property, which came out as £375,000 (compared with 400,000 in 2023). We made a new offer for the building but unfortunately this lower offer was not acceptable to the owner.

Our existing business plan

Our existing business plan has been under increasing pressure, due to:

- Additional costs (such as increases in projected salaries on the adding of loan interest repayments).
- Lower sales forecasts for the first year (as the business has now being closed for a long period).
- The increased likelihood that we will lose the favourable community branch contract from the Post Office (the deadline for applying is May and we need to own the building before we can do that).

Considering the above, we decided to pause the project and reassess our aims and objectives.

A change of plan - the Post Office

We now believe that the plan will have to change radically to have a good chance of success. In very rough numbers, the Post Office in Hoxne would cost £60k in costs to run and would bring in £17k of operating profit. Given the additional financial pressures, the Post Office operation appears unaffordable, particularly as we would be borrowing money to buy the building.

Given all of the above we believe we have no option but to develop a new plan, one which we believe can still meet most of the community's needs:

- To put our energies into opening a community shop *without* the Post Office.
- To make it an entirely volunteer-run enterprise.
- To offer as many additional services as we can (such as parcel collection and access to cash) to offset the loss of the Post Office as much as possible.

New location, new building

As the current Post Office location on Low Street is now unaffordable, we are forced to look for an alternative. We have previously scoured the area for suitable alternatives (with no success) so we are considering a plan for a new building. There are advantages to this approach, notably:

- It can be cheaper to buy land and erect a new building rather than buy an old one and repair it.
- Ongoing running costs are lower for a new building.
- It can be purpose-built to meet our requirements.

With that in mind we are now in search of land that might be appropriate - somewhere that is next to a road, ideally centrally located so that it is within easy reach of all the community. Can you help with suggestions or ideas? Please get in touch with the team.

Get in touch!

As always we encourage you to get in touch to ask questions, make suggestions or offer help. Please email: hoxnevolunteer@gmail.com.

You can sign up to our newsletter by emailing hoxnevolunteer@gmail.com for the very latest updates.

Thanks everyone for your continued support.

The project team

(This is an abridged version of the original letter which appeared on the Next Door website, Wednesday 12th March).

Hoxne Phoenix Group

The Phoenix Group celebrated its 17th birthday in January and the group has gone from strength to strength. We now have 36 members and a full schedule for the year ahead!

We had a last minute change of programme at the start of the year and fortunately were able to welcome Moira Cook to entertain us. Moira has been a volunteer driver for over twenty years, clocking up 489,822 miles. Moira treated us to stories about her experiences along the way and we thank her for stepping in with very little notice.

Our AGM was held in February and we took the opportunity, over a glass of wine, to discuss our members' suggestions and recommendations for activities in the future.

Sex Education!

On **Tuesday 11th March**, returning speaker Linda Scoles will be with us. Linda is an effervescent character and we eagerly await her presentation to us on her version of *Sex Education!* The evening is likely to be hilarious and very, very light-hearted.

'From Plays to Novels' 50 years of professional writing

We're absolutely delighted that lifelong scriptwriter and four-times published author Michael Bartlett will be joining us on **Tuesday 8th April**: *'From Plays to Novels' 50 years of professional writing*. Michael is an award-winning scriptwriter behind many BBC Radio dramas and stage

plays, and the author of a popular short story collection.

Ickworth House - Working Life in the 1930s.

On **Tuesday 13th May** we welcome Celia Graham: *Ickworth House - Working Life in the 1930s*. If you have not been, Ickworth House is a country house at Ickworth, near Bury St Edmunds. It is a neoclassical building set in parkland. The house was built between 1795 and 1829 and was given to the National Trust in 1956 in lieu of death duties.

East Ruston Old Vicarage

The group will be visiting East Ruston Old Vicarage on **Wednesday 14th May**. There are still spaces available for anyone wishing to join the outing (non-members welcome).



The cost is £35 per person and this includes entrance and transportation from Hoxne. Please email me.

The Phoenix Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7.30 pm in the lounge of Hoxne village hall. We also meet monthly for a local walk and again for a coffee and chat. New members and guests from Hoxne and surrounding villages are always welcome.

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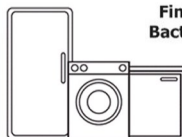
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Harleston Choral Society

Harleston Choral Society will be on full speed ahead when we return from our Easter break on Monday 28th April - we'll be well into our 25th anniversary year.

The high point will be our Summer Concert on **Saturday 28th June** in Harleston Sancroft Academy, when we'll be singing Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with professional soloists and orchestra, and the school's choir.

Another enticing date: a 'Come and Sing *Messiah*' day on **Saturday 16th August**, in St James village hall IP19 0HP, open to all.

And to round off the year, our Christmas concert on **Saturday 6th December**, back in St John's Church.

www.harlestonchoral.org.uk
caroline@rodbourne.org.uk
jo.curry@sky.com



University of the 3rd Age

Harleston & District u3a invites you to our April 2025 talk:

Walking into Grandma's Kitchen in 1940s Madras

given by Jenny Mallin. Jenny was winner of "Best in World Cookbook" by the Gourmand World Cookbook Society for 2017, and she is a regular speaker to a broad variety of groups looking for an interesting and unique talk on her British Raj family. We'll discover how enticed they were by those exotic ingredients found in India, which produced a very different kind of cuisine. Visitors welcome, admission £3.00 including refreshments.

Further information about this and all Harleston & District u3a's activities is on our website:

www.harleston.u3asite.uk
or contact Kim Poulton on:
01986 788149.

Waveney Heritage Centre

Brockdish IP21 4JP

As from April the Radio Museum will be open twice monthly, notably the second and the last Sunday in the month. We open at 10 am. We will also be opening up The Museum of Memories downstairs, where there is an extensive collection of artefacts including old toys. To celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day there will be a special collection of items commemorating the Home Front during the Second World War.

Opening twice a month does put an extra strain on the volunteers who have to give up even more of their time in order to open the museum. So, if you fancy volunteering please get in touch.

Dates for your diary:

A talk by Gary Alderton on 'The 80th Anniversary of VE Day' will be taking place on **Wednesday 7th May** at 7.30pm at the centre in Brockdish. Gary will be bringing items from his extensive collection of World War Two memorabilia to have a look at.

On **Saturday 14th June** there is the Annual Brockdish Village Garage Sale. There will be Graham's famous barbecue too. It is an ideal opportunity to sell all of those unwanted items sorted out during a spring clean. For more information and to book a stall, please call 01379 671459 and ask for Jill.


Chris Parkin
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Fressingfield Scouts

Normal activities soon resumed after the Christmas break, mostly indoors at this time of year though Explorers and Adventurers Scouts had a Caber Tossing Highland Games session as part of a Burns



Night event. The other "Scottish" activities included Tug of War, potato racing (pushing a potato along the floor with your nose!) and Haggis and Neeps and Tattie tasting. A good evening with lots of laughter and a little Robert Burns poetry!

Pioneer Troop Scouts spent an evening building bird boxes. At the end of the session they had completed 20 in three designs for robins, sparrows and blue tits. Big thanks to one of the dads who donated the materials, loaned tools and supervised the work. Everyone took one home and the extra ones were put in trees on site during a half term workday.

First aid has also featured, focusing on incidents that might occur at camp. The young people already had a pleasing amount of basic knowledge.

Wolves Cubs unfortunately had to cancel their first session because of leader unavailability but they got off to a flying start the next week with a very efficient, and just a little bit messy, bird food production line. They also made posters showing the many clubs and facilities in Fressingfield. They have started work on the Communication Badge and have worked hard at the Astronomy Badge.

Our youngest Section, Squirrels, have had great fun making bird feeders and also had a local focus with thinking about all the people with roles in our local villages that make the area so pleasant to live in. They decided these were our "Local Heroes".

Tigers Cubs acknowledged Chinese New Year with a session of Chinese cooking which went very well, the food was good and the washing up was enthusiastically tackled. Another week the Cubs were challenged to use pasta and cardboard tubes to build a tower that could support

a 400g tin of tomatoes. The tallest tower was made of 3 sheets of lasagne, 3 toilet roll tubes and some Sellotape!

Both Beaver colonies have started with games evenings. A favourite seems to be the "Christmas card game" where the leaders cut the pictures from lots of cards into four pieces and spread them around the room, then the young people have to try and find the pieces to make whole cards again. This is very energetic and usually extremely noisy but great fun!



Adventurers Scouts were out and about one evening on a "Dump Hike" where they were taken in the minibus and dropped in the countryside with maps and compasses and had to make their own way back to the HQ. This is a regular activity for them and no matter how hard the leaders try to confuse them they always seem to find their way back! In indoor sessions they have been working on their Photography Badge

The Explorers are working on the Pioneering Badge, learning about building structures from poles and ropes using knots and lashings. The first project was to make an emergency stretcher using broom handles and a long length of rope. They all had fun though some of the "patients" maybe deteriorated a little while being "transported"!

Pioneer Troop have had their Annual Pop-Up Pancake Café. The young people set up tables, supervised the carpark, prepped cutlery, mixed batter, cooked, made drinks, greeted visitors, took orders, served, cleared away, washed up, put away, swept the hall and washed the kitchen floor. The event is about our members developing their confidence and having good experiences, rather than fundraising.

There is lots of information about us on our website:

www.fressingfieldscouts.com

If you would like to know more, email our Group Lead Volunteer at:

gsl@fressingfieldscouts.com

or speak to any leader.

Look up - you will see the unexpected!

John Betjeman always said when passing buildings, 'Look up, you see so much more'. The same can be said for trees, especially those that are not native to us in England.



Two Big Trees in Selbourne House, Harleston

When you next go into Harleston, just opposite the Market Square in the front garden of Selbourne House, look up and you will see two very special examples of a tree that comes from California. Its Latin name is *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, more commonly known as the 'Big Tree'

or the 'Wellingtonia', named after the Duke of Wellington. Selbourne House, dating back to the seventeenth century, had a new front in the 1850s which is when these two fine saplings would have been planted, as they arrived in England in 1853 and became the height of Victorian garden fashion.

Like old buildings, trees also have a history, and the Big Tree has been around for about 3000 years and is one of the tallest on the planet. The largest collection is in the Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada in east central California, where some still standing have grown to over 275 feet.

The Big Tree came to England in a special consignment of seeds from a young plant hunter called William Lobb. William was sent to the Americas by his employer, the famous Veitch and Sons Nursery of Exeter in Devon, to search for

new and exotic trees and plants to excite the Victorian gardener. On one of his plant hunting expeditions in California, William found a grove of these Big Trees and thought they were so special that he collected as many small seedlings, cones and seeds as he could carry, and rushed to get the first ship home to Devon.

William's rush meant that Veitch and Sons became the first to introduce the Big Tree into England. As soon as William's haul had arrived at the nursery they started to propagate and grow on the seedlings and within a few months were able to offer the saplings for sale. Veitch placed advertisements in all the gardening press of the period, such as *The Gardeners Chronicle*, extolling the virtues of this new and wonderful introduction to gardens, selling each small sapling for three pounds two shillings - which in the 1850s was an enormous amount of money. And this is probably where the owner of Selbourne House or his gardener saw and purchased the two saplings which are still growing today.

You can find the Big Tree in most of the gardens belonging to the National Trust, English Heritage and other large estates, as well as some parks. But if you cannot get to one of those, **next time you are going west on Green Street in Hoxne, and you get to the traffic calming measure and have to wait, look up to your left and you will see a very fine specimen of the Big Tree, all the way from California.**

Next time - The Magnificent Cedar of Lebanon. SBT



The Big Tree in Green St, Hoxne

New Reeding Woods

March came in like a lamb and as we have more work to do up at the woods let's hope it does not go out like a lion.

The mild weather towards the end of February allowed us to catch up on outstanding work at the woods. The pond needed a clean-out as it was filling with weed, so two intrepid group members donned waders and braved the cold waters. A lot of weed was raked out and then in keeping with the advice "take out as much as you think and then the same again," more was removed. Other members of the working group raked the weed out and it was left at the side of the pond to allow creatures in it to make their way home. The water has now cleared and the ducks have been enjoying the clear areas. The newts will return later in the season to breed and take advantage of the increased space.

A second work session was held later in the month to remove the old wire fence up by the pond. This was in poor repair and was no longer needed. Now it has been removed the meadow area at the top will be easier to mow. Additionally, we will be able to ensure that the ditch is kept clear and running well. A new fence was put in by the top gate replacing the fence there.

More work is planned to replace the pipe under the gate entrance,

again to improve the ditch drainage and we will also improve the areas around the pedestrian gates as they have become very muddy. The ground currently looks churned up but this will be left until all work has been finished.

Having made a mess at one end of the woods a new hawthorn was planted at the edge of the top meadow in memory of Michael Reeves, one of our founder members. It will provide a splash of colour in spring in the years to come.

If you are interested in joining the New Reeding Woods Group and getting hands-on experience of improving our local environment and enjoying outdoor activities, please contact our secretary Penny Conway on 07495 875299.



Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Denham & Wingfield Calling every 4 weeks on **Thursdays**

Next stops: **3 April, 1 May and 29 May**

Wingfield, Vicarage Road layby (near Church Road): 10.50-11.05am

Denham post box: 11.25-11.35am

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

Next stops: **1 April, 29 April, and 27 May**

Syleham, Wingfield Road (Junction with Weybread Road): 11.45-11.55am

Brome & Oakley village hall: 12.15-12.30pm



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If it seems too good to be true, it probably is! (a scam)

In these days of almost everything being online, we are increasingly “doing stuff” online - shopping, appointments, communication (emails, messaging, social media etc.) These all make us vulnerable to letting the “Bad Guys” obtain our personal information and ultimately steal from us. It’s not just online though, it can be through more traditional methods such as the good old landline telephone.



Action Fraud

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>
tel: 0300 123 2040

is the UK Police resource centre for fraud reporting and prevention advice. Unfortunately, it seems to be more targeted towards business than the ordinary consumer. However, it does offer up some excellent points regarding online shopping advice.

Where to shop online

If it’s a company or person you don’t know and trust, do some research. Ask your friends or family for advice before committing to the transaction. Always use a credit card rather than a debit card if you can as they offer better fraud protection.

Keep your device up to date

Computer or mobile phone, ensure you have the latest updates! These often contain important security features that can protect you.

Keep your email account very secure

Your email account can be used to recover most, if not all your passwords so make sure it is very secure. Always use a strong unique password, especially for email and do not share it with anyone, ever!

Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)

To give any online account additional protection, turn on two-factor

authentication (2FA) if it’s an option. 2FA is a way for a service to double check that you really are the right person to be logging in.

Password managers

Do not re-use passwords. A way around this is to use a password manager. These help you use strong complex passwords without forgetting them. As with email, make sure you use a strong master password and don’t share it ever!

Don’t give your information away

Obvious details that an online store needs like address and bank details are necessary. However, be cautious if they ask for details that are not required for your purchase. Not your mother’s maiden name, the name of your primary school or pet cat!

Beware of links in emails and texts

Some of the amazing offers you receive via email or text messages can contain links to fake websites, designed to steal personal information and money. Not all links are bad, but if you are unsure, ask friends or family.

If things go wrong

Scams can be incredibly convincing and it’s easy to fall foul. If you believe you’ve been scammed, you can report it to Action Fraud and your bank. Also keep an eye on your bank transactions and contact them immediately about anything to don’t recognise, however small.

It all boils down to practising common sense - if it looks too good to be true, it generally is. **If you are unsure about anything, stop!** Ask for advice - a second pair of eyes can often spot a problem you’ve missed. Don’t get caught out and become another victim; stay safe online folks.

John Woodard
Hexpek IT

<http://callthecomputerguy.co.uk>

Parish Council Reports

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

Denham

The Annual Parish Meeting for Denham will be held on **Tuesday 20th May** at 7:00 pm, followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at 7:30 pm.

The meeting will be held at St John the Baptist Church unless the village hall refurbishment is complete by this date, in which case we will put notices up on social media and the website.

Agendas for both meetings can be found at: <https://denham.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

*Wendy Alcock
Parish Clerk
Denham Parish Council*

Hoxne

If you live within the Parish of Hoxne and pay Council Tax then first the bad news. Hoxne Parish Council is for the year 2025/26 increasing its share of Council Tax by 50%. For a Band D property this means an increase of £19.68 spread over the whole year. This is the first time since 2023 that Hoxne Parish Council has increased the charge in its share of Council Tax, which because of the way in which the tax is calculated has been smaller than that charged in 2021. Also, our share of your total Council Tax bill is comparatively small with the remainder being charges made by Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. There is also an additional charge made by Suffolk County Council for adult social care. Nevertheless you may ask why Hoxne Parish Council has had to ask for such an increase in its share of the precept?

During the last year the council has given financial support to the Community Benefit Society in the quest to try and save the village shop and post office. It has also given donations to such local

groups as the Garden and Social Club, Hoxne Heritage Group, Hoxne Playing Fields, and Suffolk Accident Rescue. All of these groups have been directly involved in enriching the life of the village, or in helping residents with life-threatening emergencies. This is in addition to maintaining and improving the village infrastructure such as noticeboards, the village green shelter, village gateway signs, litter bins, as well as employing a village caretaker. There have also been legal costs to cover in relation to future land transfers. Over the last year the Council has also been engaged in developing traffic management proposals which it is hoped will lessen the impact of traffic through the village. If approved by the Highways department of the County Council and the police they will cost considerable amounts of money to implement.

Yet, all this has been done by Councillors who give freely of their time, receiving no expenses for attending monthly council meetings or any extra meetings they may have to attend. Their reward is hopefully making Hoxne a better place in which to live.

There are now two vacancies on Hoxne Parish Council if you would like to help in making Hoxne a great place to live in. Please get in contact with the Parish Clerk who can give details.

On Sunday March 23rd volunteers completed a Village Spring Clean and we are grateful for all the efforts to keep the village clean and litter free.

If you like spending time outdoors to keep our village looking at its best, the Parish Council is currently advertising for a Street Caretaker (20 hours per month with flexible working hours). Further details are on the Parish Council website at: pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk

The Annual Parish Meeting for Hoxne will take place on **Thursday 1 May** at 7.30 in St Edmund's Hall. This is a meeting of the parish, not a parish council meeting, and is the opportunity to hear from community stakeholders and organisations on various matters that relate to living in Hoxne. Please come along.

*Chris Parkin
Chair, Hoxne Parish Council*

Syleham

Syleham Parish Council met on 5th March. At the meeting councillors were updated on the new village sign which features the Syleham Windmill and Earl Bigod and King Henry II's standards. The sign is being carved by a local wood carver.

Councillors agreed a £400 grant towards the cost of the Syleham Heritage Walk Information Board. The inaugural walk will take place on **Good Friday, 18th April** (*more details on p15*). The five mile walk starts at the village hall at 10.00 am and includes many of the village's historic buildings. Everyone is welcome to join the walk and dogs are welcome too. Refreshments will be provided at the church.

Councillors also agreed to the council adopting gov.uk email and website addresses. A new 'Adverse Weather' page has been added to the Parish Council website offering advice for residents in case of flooding, high winds and snow. A sandbag bin has been placed at the village hall for residents to access when there is a risk of flooding. More information can be found at: sylehamparishcouncil.com.

The next parish council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 7th May** at 7.00 pm at Syleham and Wingfield village hall. This meeting will include the Annual Meeting. For more information visit sylehamparishcouncil.com.

Wingfield

The next parish council meeting will take place on **30th April** at 7.30 pm at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

For more information visit wingfield-parishcouncil.com.

Lesley Hastie
Chair, Syleham & Wingfield Parish Councils



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- Weekly members' outings throughout the year
- Group hires for not-for-profit organisations

Borderhoppa Outings for April 2025:

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Thu 10 th	Great Yarmouth - £20.00
Mon 14 th	Breakfast at Wortham Tea Rooms / shopping at B&M and The Range £18.00
Thurs 17 th	Ipswich Town Centre - £20.00
Thurs 24 th	Hillcrest Nurseries, Stanton - £10.00
Mon 28 th	Peter Beales Roses, Attleborough - £15.00

Borderhoppa Outings for May 2025:

Thurs 1 st	Bungay Town (Market Day) - £10.00
Thurs 8 th	Lunch at Earsham Hall Tea Rooms - £8.00
Mon 12 th	Lowestoft Town / Sea Front - £20.00
Thurs 15 th	Harleston Factory Shop / town centre - £8.00
Mon 19 th	The Foundry Garden Centre, Tasburgh - £8.00
Thurs 22 nd	Breakfast at Billingford Horseshoes - £8.00
Thurs 29 th	Southwold - £20.00

To book or for more information please call 01379 854800 or visit our website: www.borderhoppa.org

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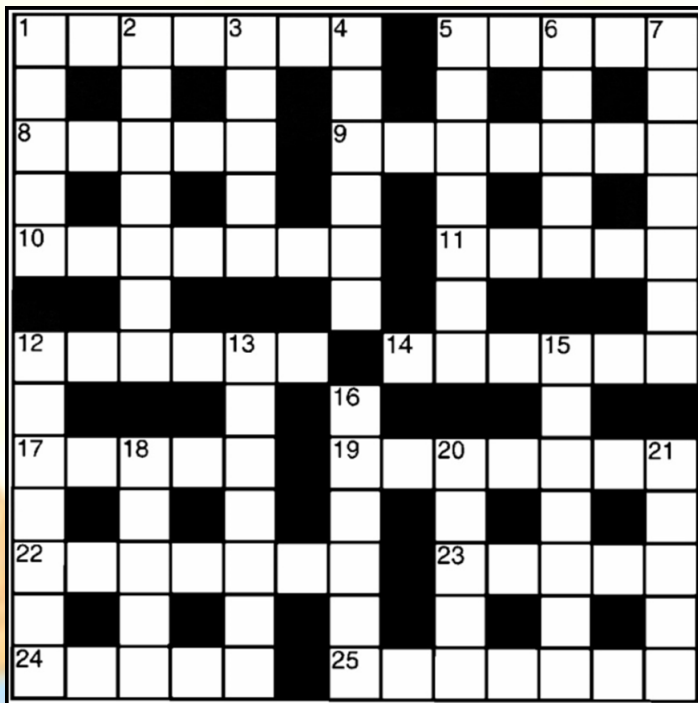
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Crossword Puzzle No. 164

To enter the crossword competition, send* your solution to the editor for a chance to win £20. The winner will be the first correct entry picked at random from those received by **Thursday, 8th May** at the latest. Please add your name and address to entries.

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



Across

1. Summed up nobleman and editor (7)
2. But do create suspicion (5)
8. Grown up had ultimatum (5)
9. Bird friend returned to the annex (7)
10. Excuse used before message sent (7)
11. Attractive confectionery (5)
12. Some agree Dylan was avaricious (6)
14. Fret about small lock of hair (6)
17. A whisky created on Mediterranean island (5)
19. Shogun lucky or maybe not (7)
22. Left and centre create a rostrum (7)
23. Bring about a mixed sauce (5)
24. Timer reset to set aside (5)
25. Left heavy element for use by painters (3,4)

Down

1. Credit current for painful condition (5)
2. Instrumental in George Formby's success (7)
3. Church tax revealed by blue tit he found (5)
4. Let Dee erase this answer (6)
5. Fur found on kettle made position worse (7)
6. Untie before rejoining (5)
7. Get a set for border plants (7)
12. Better risk taker (7)
13. Local language of a citadel (7)
15. Omit former wife Dulce (7)
16. Famous artist also handy with a lathe (6)
18. Lots of care used mostly by stand in doctor initially (5)
20. Louise and Sydney sound clearly understood (5)
21. Give up return on savings (5)

The winner of crossword puzzle no.163 was: A. Margolis

Answers: Across: 1. Straiten 7. Arrow 8. Universal 9. Sot 10. Dawn 11. Agrees 13. Mayfly 14. Uglier 17. Fitter 18. Alas 20. Tar 22. Heartless 23. Fancy 24. Proposal

Down: 1. Squad 2. Railway 3. Idea 4. Ensign 5. Gross 6. Twitter 7. Allergy 12. Blotchy 13. Mastiff 15. Illness 16. Repair 17. Front 19. Sisal 21. Step

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EDITOR

Lesley Balian

Blackberry Cottage, Cross Street, Hoxne IP21 5AH

Tel: 01379 669221

E-mail: vvsuffolk@live.co.uk Website: www.vvsuffolk.co.uk

DEADLINES

Issue	Copy Date
June / July	8th May
August / September	8th July
October / November	8th September
December / January	8th November
February / March	8th January
April / May	8th March

ADVERTISING

If you would like to place an advertisement,
let us know and we will contact you

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

Dawn Lodge, 5 Cross Street,
Hoxne, Eye IP21 5AJ

Tel: 01379 668521 E-mail: dlodge@talktalk.net

DISTRIBUTION

Sally Dudley and teams of distributors in each village