

Hinxton News

June 2020



Dear Readers

This issue will be the last to be automatically delivered to every doorstep but will now be published on the excellent parish website <http://www.hinxton-pc.org.uk/> This decision has been taken not only to lessen the editorial load but also to eliminate the cost of printing. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for funding the printing costs since the Wellcome Campus closed its Reprographics Department. A future editor may well decide to return to a printed monthly News.

Please note that a number of residents who do not have computer access have been identified and will be provided with a printed copy. You can also apply for an automatic PDF copy to be sent to your email address by applying by email to mikeboagey666@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Chris Elliott and Sarah Robinson who were recently installed as our new Parish Councillors. Read more from the Parish Council on page 5.

We have just heard that Jon Senior has set himself a lockdown challenge to cycle the distance of the Tour de France. He is due to complete it next weekend, so please cheer him on if you see him! That's over 3000 km, all in his once a day exercise slot. *Apparently he's thinking of doing the Vuelta (Spanish equivalent) next!!!*

Stay safe and well,

Mike

From now on the **Hinxton News** will be available online by going to the Parish Council web site hinxton-pc.org.uk.

For the time being Hinxton News will not be printed and delivered to every doorstep. A brief version of it can be supplied to those of you who do not have access to a computer

You can subscribe to an E-copy by sending your email address to

Email-mikeboagey666@gmail.com. tel 530216

MINI CHURCH SERVICE

Every Sunday you will be able to find a short on-line service for the three churches of Hinxton, Ickleton and Duxford on the Hinkledux website www.hinkledux.com

Not as sophisticated as those that bigger churches are able to do and of course there are many of those which you can easily access on the net.

Nevertheless it's nice to feel we're meeting with other Hinxtonians – ideally at 10am, but it is available at any time that suits you.

John Huntingdon's Charity

Here at JHC we would like to say a huge thank you to all our amazing supporters in the community. Since lockdown we have been in contact with over 450 clients and given out over 250 bags of food.

We have received over £800 in cash donations and continue to receive regular food donations from individuals, via Co-op and Great Shelford Church. So many acts of kindness, one lady whose daughter works for Hotel Chocolat brought in a box of goodies so that we can add something special to our food bags. Another gentleman brought in a box full of change he had been saving – over £160!! To all those who support us, big or small your contribution is appreciated and really does make a difference.

For those who want to contribute we would be grateful for any tins of veg, fruit, meat and potatoes, rice pudding and custard. We are running short of toiletries too – deodorants, shower gel, toothpaste and soap. We are particularly keen to top up men's toiletries. If you would rather, you can donate money and we will ensure it helps those who need it most. We accept cheques made payable to **John Huntingdon's Charity** or you can transfer directly into our bank account, just call the office for details.

Thank you once again, it is so reassuring in these truly difficult and uncertain times to know that people do care and that we can all pull together when necessary. Finally, if you are worried about someone, or if you need help, then contact us directly on **01223 492 492**.



Help & advice



Housing



Grants



Do you currently have too much time on your hands? Would you like to learn a new skill, or even rekindle a skill that has become side-lined due to the pressures of modern life?

Jonathan and Rhiannon (121 High Street) are organising a musical concert in Hinxton for the near future (September, hopefully!), performed by the residents of Hinxton. It promises to be an evening full of community spirit, and musical enjoyment!

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in participating!

Whether that be as a solo musician, an ensemble, or whether there is scope to create a scratch-choir for this performance?!

Provisional details for this event are below:

Saturday 5th September 2020
(date tbc, of course!)

St Mary & St John Church,
Hinxton 7pm start

Donations on door

Refreshments available

All money raised will go towards
Teenage Charity Trust

Please can you register your interest in participating in this event by emailing

rhiandjonmusic@gmail.com

Please specify your instrument and potential piece, so we can start putting together a programme
Please save the date in your diaries!

Kind regards, Jonathan &
Rhiannon

Help is at hand!

We have a team of local volunteers ready to help you!

If you are isolated by coronavirus, we can help by **delivering urgent supplies, collecting medication, dog walking or a friendly phone call** to help you through this difficult time.

email hinxtonhelp@gmail.com

or telephone Emma 07961173121

or Sue 07979057602

To be part of the Hinxton Help please contact

emmasenior@googlemail.com or
susanj.brown@me.com

Please note that this is not an official service.

We are a group of volunteers doing our best to harness the spirit of Hinxton & keep everyone as safe & well as we can.

EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

- Begin by standing on a comfortable surface with plenty of room at each side.
- With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there for as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.
- Each day you will find you can hold this position a little bit longer.
- After a couple of weeks, move up to a 10-lb potato sack. Then try a 50-lb potato bag and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute, (I am now at this level).
- After you feel confident at that level put a potato in each bag.



Hinxton Garden Centre Report

We would all agree that losing the annual village Fete due to the virus outbreak was very sad. Preparations for the displays were well under way with a number of greenhouses heaving with plants and seedlings.

Rather than abandon everything, **Mike Boagey** and **Ros Smith** chose to offer them to the public. This was complicated by the social distancing rules. Nothing was priced but there was a simple request for an unspecified donation in an envelope through the door.

Initially we had some flowering species such as Asters and Dahlias to offer alongside the usual tomato and vegetable plants. Gradually other items were introduced so that we could keep some renewed interest for our repeat customers. The **NEXTDOOR** website helped with its extensive coverage and soon visitors from all the surrounding villages were arriving at all hours of the day.

Much has been spoken of **Sally the Gardener** who has supported our Church charities for some years now. Her input makes much of this possible. Hopefully we can show our thanks to Sally when all the lockdown issues are resolved, but for the moment we can only express our sincere gratitude for her help and advice.

The donations keep coming but as this edition is being printed the total has easily surpassed **£2600**

This is truly an amazing result.

Many in the village made valuable contributions to growing the plants and keeping the show on the road especially **Joan Roberts, Debbie Harris, Roy Ellis and Andrew Walker** who are commended for **"Exceptional Services to Potting Up"**

The PPJC Awards

(Providing Plants Compost and Jam) go to **Rosemary Breen, Kate Riley, Debbie Cooper, Jane Chater, Margaret Malcolm, Julie Baillie, Kate Murcell, Steve Trudgill, Ian Pearson** and the legendary, **Uncle Bryan**.

Thanks to all of you for your support and generosity

THE SAGA OF THE MALLARD by Rosalind Lowe

Last year in spring we were visited regularly by a pair of mallard. They landed on our koi pond then waddled over to our goldfish pond. They dabbled there and nibbled greenery. The female often visited the top of our 12foot conifer hedge but we never saw any nesting material in her beak.

We thought nothing more about them as they appeared to disappear. Then early one morning at the beginning of April. John was in the garden and came to say that there were ducklings in our vortex! (This is part of the filtration system for the koi pond.) John had been cleaning it out the day before and had left part of the cover off to complete the work the next day. The ducklings must have fledged that morning and slid into the vortex which was quite near to the conifer hedge. The mother duck waddled about calling to them but eventually cleared off leaving her seven ducklings in the vortex. They could not get out as the sides were too deep. We kept an eye on them for the rest of the day but she never returned.

We were going on holiday the next day so I rang around to see who would take them and look after them. After many phone calls and also many refusals eventually a local vets said they would accept them as they knew someone who would take care of them. So we netted the ducklings and took them in a box to the vets! At least they would be looked after. We went on holiday and thought that was the end of the story but then this year in early April she was back again! At least we assume it was the same duck. She regularly visited the top of our 12foot conifer hedge again. She was alone, no male with her. She arrived from the direction of the ford early morning and seemed to burrow down into the top of the hedge. We thought she must have a nest although we had not seen her bringing in nesting material.

We did not see her arrive or leave the hedge regularly so thought maybe no nest or young just a resting place for her.

However, we did see a magpie who was very interested in the top of the hedge! Then one morning in May, John found one smashed egg, one open with a dead chick in the shell and two other eggs all together near the foot of the conifer hedge. So we assumed she had made a nest and laid eggs which were then predated on by the Magpie. Once again we thought this was the end of the saga...but we were wrong! Early morning on May 18th while having breakfast in our sun lounge we saw a female mallard swimming in our koi pond. Not only that she had a tiny ball of fluff following her everywhere. She had one chick!

We watched as she got out of the pond on all sides making soft quacking noises, I thought she had another chick in the garden and was calling to it. I was wrong, she was trying to encourage her solitary chick to jump out of the pond but he could not follow her as the sides of the pond were too deep.

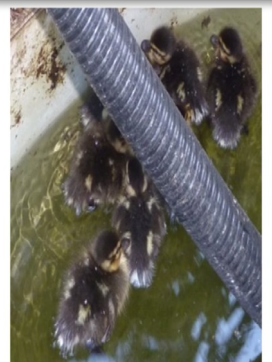
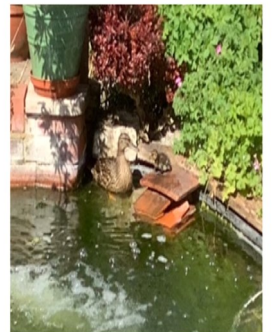
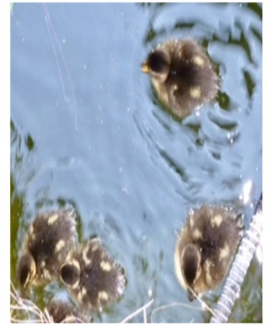
After watching her for a while we decided to try and help the chick to get out of the pond. Firstly we opened the back gate as we thought maybe we could encourage them to go that way and then down Duxford Road to the ford.

John used some bricks and slates to build a sort of staircase at the shallowest part of the pond. The mallard watched with interest from the opposite side of the pond. When John had finished the little staircase and moved away to join me at the far end of the pond the duck swam over to look at what he had built, closely followed by her chick. She stayed close by the improvised staircase and her chick started to play on it. Preening and falling over back into the pond. He seemed quite at home climbing back and wobbling on the slates. She stayed with him. Then he managed to move from the top tile onto the surrounding rockery and she followed him. They both jumped down onto the path. At this point I got behind them both but kept my distance just ensuring they they went through the back gate and down the drive. They did!

At the bottom of the drive she turned left towards the ford! I followed again at a distance to ensure no car could run over them. She went partly up our next door neighbour's drive but came down again then went further down the road and turned very deliberately into the last drive, her chick was managing to keep up with her even though we thought he had probably only hatched that morning and looked very wobbly on his feet. Once on this last drive she went right to the top by the garage and squeezed through the fence into the adjoining field. Her chick went under the fence and they both went quickly through the long grass in the direction of the river!

That was the last I saw of them, I just hope nothing bad happens to her little chick as they had made such an effort to get to the river. So if you see a female mallard with just one little duckling maybe, just maybe they are the ones from our conifer hedge!

I suppose we may see her again next year, who knows.



VIRTUAL REALITY FOR PARISH COUNCIL

Hinxton Parish Council has always been forward-looking but even they broke new ground this week by holding the first even PC meeting on Zoom. Formal dress was optional and happily there was no evidence of the PC members having indulged in illicit hair-cuts.

Recent and impending resignations had reduced the council membership to a skeleton crew but a recruitment drive had produced three candidates for the two vacancies arising from the retirement of **Graham Fagg** and **Steve Trudgill**. Both have contributed greatly to village life in many ways, with Steve having given 23 years of service and wise counsel in many areas, notably nature and conservation and Graham taking over very ably as chairman following the tragic death of **Willy Brown** in August 2019. We thank them both sincerely for their efforts, which will be marked in due course in the appropriate way.

As longest-standing PC member, **Nicholas Cliffe** has been co-opted as chairman and **Sarah Robinson** and **Chris Elliott** have also been voted on to the PC as committee members. Thanks are also extended to Mark Flint for offering to stand. We welcome them both and thank them for stepping forward, especially at this difficult time.

With much local activity having ceased, there is little of any controversy to report upon since the last meeting on 9 March but we note the following significant developments:

1. **The Smithson-Hill** proposal was rejected by the Secretary of State - a resounding success for all those local parishes (and SCDC) who opposed the proposal so

resolutely. S-H appear to indicate that they will be back for more but Peter McDonald, our local representative both at SCDC and Cambs County Council, was pretty firm in his conviction that S-H's chance of success are remote.

2. The **'NUGC'** proposal to concrete over a large part of North Essex as part of the Uttlesford local plan has also been thrown out. The local plan will now have to be re-drafted, a process which is likely to take several years and may not as result include 'NUGC' at all.

3. **The Wellcome** development also appears to be in abeyance but in conjunction with SCDC the parish council continues to remain in contact with Wellcome and their advisers in an effort to secure better and guaranteed financial reparations for the village.

Accounts for the year to 31 March 2020 have been approved in draft form and will now be presented for audit. Emma Senior and Nicholas Cliffe have been closely involved in the village's mobilisation of support during the Covid pandemic and there is a master-list of those residents who are felt to be potentially at risk and/or who may need support. Anyone at all who feels extra support would be welcome is strongly encouraged to contact us. Given the new composition of the PC committee, a list of responsibilities managed to by each councillor will be produced, to be published at the next meeting on **13 July**.

In the meanwhile, we hope all our residents, their families and friends continue to stay safe and well and please do remember we are here to support you at ANY time.

Anthony Browne MP

As I write, we have passed the peak. There is much still to do, but it is heartening to look into the future with optimism once again.

Across South Cambridgeshire, I have seen the very best of Britain; a community working together working to safeguard the vulnerable and support each other. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this effort. Due to your hard work and sacrifice, we can look beyond this pandemic.

Now, it's time to start on a long and responsible road to recovery – where possible, resuming our lives, reopening our businesses and, in time, returning to schools.

This month, I have hosted video calls and written to all headteachers in our area, discussing the challenges of providing education during lockdown and preparing for wider reopening.

It's clear that reopening schools will be challenging. The new arrangements will require a significant shift in the way

schools organise their physical space and how the staff and children interact with each other during the school day. I have passed the head teachers' comments on to education ministers for feedback and will continue to work with education leaders to support them as they reopen our schools.

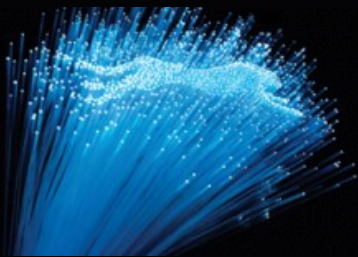
As the Government looks to reduce lockdown measures, I will also be working hard to get our local economy moving again. Standing up for local businesses, such as pub tenants in need of rent or retailers in need of clear guidance on re-opening, remains a priority of mine.

I am committed to supporting all in South Cambridgeshire through the next few months, providing answers to any questions you may have and tackling your issues as they rise.

As a country, a constituency and a community, we are getting through this. So please, stay alert, control the virus, and in doing so, save lives.

As ever, please don't hesitate to reach out if you think I can help.

Super>fast broadband



Many of you will know that optic fibre broadband reached Hinxton several years ago and, boy, did that make a difference to the internet speeds we could get. However, there are still pockets of our parish that do not have fibre and suffer poor internet connectivity. The Connecting Cambridgeshire program is rolling out superfast broadband to areas that are not covered by commercial providers.

A recent enquiry by our District Councillor, Peter McDonald, identified that 92% of premises in Hinxton currently have access to superfast broadband services (defined as download speeds > 24 mbps) and a further 12 properties will gain access during the current rollout. A quick survey amongst Parish Council members indicates that people living near to the BT cabinet on High Street (where the fibre broadband runs to) can achieve download speeds in the region of 65-70 mbps, and others a little farther away are seeing a good 40-50 mbps. However, getting these types of speed does require a subscription to fibre broadband. Copper cable broadband in the parish delivers speeds less than about 5 mbps!

In addition to extending superfast broadband, Phase 4 of the Connecting Cambridgeshire program plans to introduce Fibre To The Premise (FTTP) technology to some areas, enabling ultrafast broadband with speeds up to 300 mbps or more. At the moment, we (and most of the UK) have Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) technology, whereby fibre runs to the BT cabinet in the street and the signal degrades as it runs along copper cable from there to our homes. FTTP would deliver much faster speeds.

If you want to check your broadband speed, try
www.speedtest.net.

If you are not getting the broadband speed you think you should, contact your internet service provider and/or check your options at <https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/superfast-broadband/getting-superfast/>.

A POEM FOR OUR TIME.

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

We may seem, sweet old ladies,
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s -
If you only knew the truth!

There was s.x and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside
For 8 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no blooming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

Celebrate the wonder of grass
with grass-inspired gifts

grassy & green gifts



Sara Gregson at www.talkinggrass.co.uk

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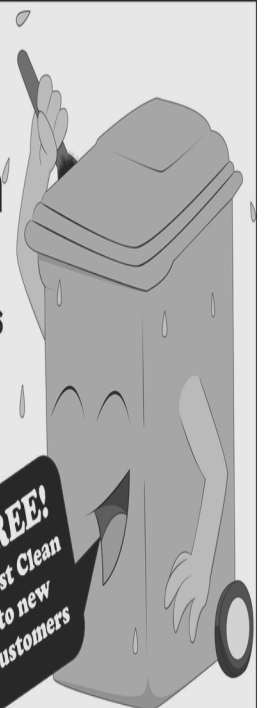
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June Greetings to Hinxtton Villagers from all at The Red Lion Inn & Black Lion Click & Collect

With little steps it is looking as though we are creeping out of these tough times.

We very much hope that we will be able to open in July but we are still unsure under what terms this will be.

In the meantime thank you to all those who have helped us keep our sanity by coming to see us for our Click & Collect on Fridays for Fish & Chips or Saturdays for provisions.

These services will be continuing until we are allowed to reopen. If you have not tried either yet and would like to know more, please email me at alex@redlionhinxtton.co.uk and I will add you to the circulation list for order forms that I send out each week once I know what we can offer that week.

The objective is to give something back locally.

We hope to cover our costs and will be donating any surplus to Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust.

Keep safe
Alex, Nikol, Shane, Kris
and the teams

info@redlionhinxtton.co.uk
01799 530 601
www.redlionhinxtton.co.uk



Hinxtton Yoga has moved online!

FREE 30 min class every Friday morning at 9.30am (and available on Instagram Live for 24hrs if you can't make that time)
Everyone welcome!
Just follow @zoekirbynutrition on Instagram

Hinxtton News is an independent village newsletter, established and run by volunteers.

Its mission is to inform residents of local issues and to maintain and promote community spirit.

Delivered free to approximately 170 Hinxtton households. Also available on line at

<http://www.hinxtton-pc.org.uk/community/hinxtton-parish-council-7847/news/>

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