



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Harvest Supper and now the Christmas Lunch have completely sold out. The last Pub Nights have been very well attended but we want to do more, and we need your input!

With few takers there will, regrettably, be NO New Year's Eve event, but you are warmly invited to drinks and free nibbles for the **Christmas Pub Night on 21st December** and there will be a **Pub Night on January 18th** where we just might start to pick your brains for what you want from your Village Hall in 2019!

Suggestions so far include Teens' Nights, Eco-sessions with help to re-make and mend clothes etc, Whist Lessons and a re-sailing of the very successful Cruise Night (another sell-out idea). Can't wait? Join us at the next meetings of the committee on 15th January, 19th March and the AGM 14th May, or contact us on Facebook or via this newsletter and tell us what *you* would like. In the meantime Happy Christmas and a great and prosperous 2019 to all in Hitcham.

## NEWS FROM THE SHOP

The refurbishment is (officially!) complete – come in and see us! Our refurbishment tea party on November 4th was much enjoyed, with impressive cakes and sandwiches from Rosemary and Hilary, and a display of remarkable clocks from Jason. We also displayed samples from some of our suppliers and gave guided tours of the newly accessible customer loo and garden space. Remember we now have a small coffee area too.

**"Shop locally" special offers** are back, including a special deal on 70cl Moët et Chandon!

**Order now for Christmas!** Please order your local Suffolk turkey or goose by 12th December to ensure it will be reserved. Orders for ham (smoked or unsmoked) and for other meats – duck, chipolatas etc, can be taken up to the week before Christmas, but the more notice the better! Vegetables – sprouts, local potatoes, chestnuts, tangerines, parsnips, cranberries, Bramley apples – please order in the shop.

**Christmas opening:** Christmas Eve 8-3pm (post office closed) Christmas Day and Boxing Day – Closed. Thursday 27th-Saturday 29th open 7.30am-7pm. Monday 31st open 9-1pm. New Year's Day closed.

**Extra post office opening in December:** We plan to open from 8am – 6.30pm in the run-up to Christmas.

# HITCHAM



## NEWS

December 2018

### Speedwatch

Frequent roadworks on the B1115 mean we haven't been out as often as we'd like - but when we *have* managed a session it's clear there is a stubborn group of drivers who still think they're not causing any danger to other road users, pedestrians or wildlife by driving at speeds well above 40mph in the 30mph zone.

We don't exactly conceal our presence, so the (almost) 10% who get caught clearly aren't prepared to change their habits. Perhaps a letter from the police may help.

The new speed sign records a lot of data, some of which may surprise you. Each two-week session usually picks up around 15,000 vehicles in one direction. The latest figures, facing north on The Street, show 292 vehicles passing at 15 mph or less, 2520 at 30 mph or less, and the rest - 83% - travelling above the legal limit. Of those, 252 were travelling at 50+ mph, 34 at 60+ mph, and one (presumably with amazing brakes) at 72mph - at 8.24am! If these figures worry you - and they should - why not join the Speedwatch team? Just contact the Parish Council (see below). You know it makes sense!

*Paul Marshall (Hitcham Speedwatch Co-ordinator)*

### Your Parish Councillors...

For those who don't have web access, your Parish Councillors are Allan Scott (Chair), Pauline Squirrell, Wendy Crease, Paul Beedham and Brian Hubbard. Jim Morgan and Rob Whiting have kindly agreed to serve as co-opted council members.

You can contact the Council by phoning our Clerk, Doreen Neun, on 01449 743637, writing to her at Meadowcroft, The Causeway, Hitcham or emailing [parishcouncil@hitchamsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@hitchamsuffolk.org.uk)

**Please send items for the next newsletter  
by 20 February 2019**

*Published by Hitcham Parish Council*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### December

- 1 11.30am – 1.30pm Church Christmas Fayre
- 9 Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall (sold out)
- 11 After Sevens: Christmas Meal
- 19 3.00pm Carols at the Bus Stop (outside shop)
- 21 7.00pm Christmas Pub Night in Village Hall
- 23 3.00pm Carol Service in the Parish Church
- 24 3.00pm Crib Service in the Parish Church
- 25 10.45am Christmas Service in the Parish Church
- 30 10.30am Benefice Communion Service in Rattlesden

### January

- 6 11.00am Morning Prayer in the Parish Church
- 13 11.00am Holy Communion Service in the Parish Church
- 14 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall
- 15 7.30pm Village Hall Committee Meeting
- 18 7.00pm Pub Night in the Village Hall
- 20 11.00am Family Service in the Parish Church
- 27 11.00am Holy Communion Service in the Parish Church

### February

- 3 11.00am Morning Prayer in the Parish Church
- 10 11.00am Holy Communion in the Parish Church
- 12 7.30pm After Sevens: Auction
- 15 7.00pm Pub Night in the Village Hall
- 16 10.00 – 11.30am Coffee morning in the hall
- 17 11.00am Family Service in the church
- 24 11.00am Holy Communion in Parish Church
- 26 7.30pm After Sevens. Games Evening

## Bowls Club on Mondays...

The Club meets very Monday throughout the year from 7.00 to commence at 7.30pm, unless there is a Parish Council Meeting. The club arranges friendly matches with other local clubs, details are always given to members. This is a friendly, sociable group and we are always looking for new members. Interested? Please contact John Berry on 01449 743715.

## ...and Zumba on Thursdays

Lucy Brinkley's class is open to anyone, of any age, fitness level or experience. Cost is £5 a session and will last for roughly 45 minutes, including a range of different rhythms. Lucy is a certificated Zumba instructor: you can email her at [brinkleylk@gmail.com](mailto:brinkleylk@gmail.com) or find her on Facebook.

## A Christmas message...

As I write this, Brexit is in the news even more than usual. It's a word we now hear on a daily basis, often several times, and I imagine many of you turn the wireless off when you hear the word. This is going to be the case for several more years, as the complex unravelling of Britain from the EU continues.

Many in the Church of England and in the wider country would like to see the Church disestablished (there are of course those that wouldn't, who are known as antidisestablishmentarianists!) which believe it or not would require a similar amount of unravelling, and could take years to accomplish. I don't suspect it would be on the wireless every day, but it would have to have a snappy abbreviation: Chexit, perhaps?

Christmas is all about a similar unravelling. God the Son triggered the heavenly Article 50, and Hexit was born in a cramped home in a town called Bethlehem. Just as we remain part of Europe after we leave the EU, so Jesus remained fully God, and in constant relationship with his Father in heaven. But he was no longer enthroned in heavenly splendour, instead a dirty manger held his form. No longer all powerful and immortal, instead a tiny baby reliant on mortal humans. The very same humans he came to save.

This Christmas, let Hexit replace Brexit in our minds as we remember this tremendous act of love, as God came to be one of us, and one with us. Join me as we journey from the Manger to the Cross in 2019.

*Tiffer Robinson*

## Is your broadband superfast - or super slow?

If your broadband is slow - and unlikely to improve - then help could be at hand; provided that you can get a decent mobile signal from the recently-installed mast near the village. (Not everyone can, and it may depend on your provider: Vodafone seems to be the best.) Some Hitcham residents have tried satellite-based broadband, with varying results: in one case we know about it worked well to begin with, then tailed off when nearby trees grew tall enough to block the signal.

If you think mobile-based broadband could work for you, government grants may be available to help pay for installation. Please email [parishcouncil@hitchamsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@hitchamsuffolk.org.uk) for more information.

**For up to date village news and diary dates,  
don't forget to check the village website at  
[hitchamsuffolk.org.uk](http://hitchamsuffolk.org.uk)**