



Festival Committee

After having to cancel the Village Walk in May, we were very encouraged by the support for the Produce Show. Thanks to all who entered or attended and to the Committee for their hard work before and on the day. Next year we celebrate 25 years since the formation of the Festival Committee, so looking forward to doing something special in 2020.

Harvest Songs of Praise

On Sunday 6 October at 3 pm in the Parish Church. We will be supporting the Stowmarket Food Bank. Gifts can be left in the church if you are unable to attend the service. Do come along and stay for a cup of tea following the service.

Village Hall events

Don't miss out on the Harvest Supper (28 September) and Christmas Lunch (1 December) - tickets selling fast!

I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU
TO COME TO MY
MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
ON
FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
AT
MEADOWCROFT, THE CAUSEWAY
BETWEEN
10.00AM—3.00PM
(so everyone has a chance to come)
Stay as little or as long as you like

Donations of cakes or savouries would, of course, be appreciated and also any raffle prizes, plants or items you might like to bring along for a sales table

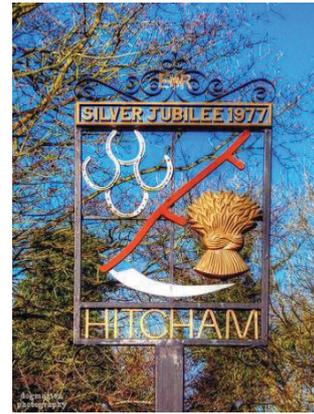
Very Much Hoping to See You
Doreen Neun (743637)

Free Church 100th Anniversary: On the 24–26 May the Free Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary, where all sorts of artefacts from the last 100 years were on display.

Wattisham Open Day 22 August: As well as their annual Open Day the Wattisham Base was also celebrating 80 years of operational flying. Those of us at home were treated to the displays by Phantoms and Lightnings.

After Sevens Club: On the 21 May the After Sevens Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a party held in the beautifully decorated Village Hall. The group began in the Old Village School in 1969 under the leadership of Sadie Squirrel and Pat Wymark.

HITCHAM



NEWS

September 2019

Ding dong, the bells are going to chime!

It was third time lucky with our National Lottery Heritage Fund application for the Church Tower Project. They awarded us the full £100k. This means that all the 'heritage' work starts in September so we are restoring and re-hanging the bells, preserving the rare old bell frame which is no longer safe to use, building the new bell frame under it and then a new ringing floor below that, as well as dismantling and moving the organ to the north aisle and giving it an overhaul to make room for the new ringing floor and finally building an oak screen across the tower archway.

That will leave us with a room at the base of the tower in which we can go on to build a separate WC and servery so we can hold public events like concerts to help make the building more sustainable long term. We will fundraise for the WC and servery separately.

It's a fantastic achievement. Thank you to everyone who helped us raise the £120K needed to match the National Lottery Heritage Fund's money, all those who support us through membership of The Friends of Hitcham Church, those who made donations and the charities which have helped us. Thank you too to the Lottery players.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund places great importance on 'Community Involvement' so please come to see the bells once they are lowered on 16 November and join in the other free events. We need volunteers to help in all sorts of ways, from clearing the tower to sitting in the church to provide lone worker cover or learning to bell ring. Ideal for anyone taking a Duke of Edinburgh Award! If you have not yet joined The Friends, please do - the Lottery needs to see that we have increased membership over the next year. Email Nicky Currie on RNFCURRIE@HOTMAIL.CO.UK to get in touch.

Your Parish Councillors...

Your Parish Councillors are Allan Scott (Chair), Pauline Squirrel, Wendy Crease, Paul Marshall, Rob Whiting, Brian Hubbard and Jim Morgan. 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

Please send items for the next newsletter by 20 November 2019 at the latest

Published by Hitcham Parish Council

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

| | | |
|----|------------|--|
| 1 | 11am | Morning Prayer in Church |
| 3 | 2pm | Keep Fit begins |
| 8 | 11am | Holy Communion in Church |
| 9 | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting |
| 10 | 7.30pm | After Sevens in the Hall |
| 14 | | Parish Church Gift Day (see enclosed letter) |
| 15 | 11am | Informal Service in the Church |
| 17 | 7.30pm | After Sevens |
| 20 | 7.00pm | Pub Night in the Hall |
| 21 | 10-11.30am | Coffee Morning in the Hall |
| 22 | 11am | Holy Communion in Church |
| 24 | 7.30 pm | After Sevens. Fashion Show |
| 27 | 10-11.30am | Macmillan Coffee morning at Meadowcroft |
| 28 | 7.00pm | Harvest Supper in the Hall |
| 29 | 10.30am | Benefice Service at Brettenham Church |

October

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|----|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6 | 3pm | Harvest Songs of Praise in the Church |
| 8 | | After Sevens: Corncraft Evening |
| 13 | 11am | Holy Communion in Church |
| 16 | | Defibrillator Refresher Training |
| 18 | 7pm | Pub Night in the Hall |
| 19 | 10-11.30am | Coffee Morning in the Hall |
| 20 | 11 am | Informal Service in Church |
| 22 | 7.30pm | After Sevens in the Hall |
| 27 | 11.am | Holy Communion in Church |

November

| | | |
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| 3 | 11am | Morning Prayer in Church |
| 5 | 7.30pm | After Sevens in the Hall |
| 10 | 10.50am | Remembrance Day Service in the Church |
| 11 | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting |
| 15 | 7pm | Pub Night in the Hall |
| 16 | 10.00 – 11.30am | Coffee Morning in the Hall followed by viewing of bells at Church |
| 17 | 11 am | Informal Service in Church |
| 19 | 7.30 | After Sevens in the Hall |
| 24 | 11am | Holy Communion in Church |
| 30 | 11.30 | Christmas Fayre in the Hall |

December

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| 1 | | Christmas Lunch in the Hall |
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Parish Council notes

Footpaths, Hedges and Ditches: Please remember to use only the *designated* footpaths around the village, (a map is included with this newsletter, and more are available from the Village Shop). These footpaths are not to be diverted or changed. Other field margins are the private property of the farm owner and must be avoided. Hedges are there for a purpose and again belong to either the farmer or council and are not to be removed or damaged in any way. Our ditches are invaluable in avoiding field and road flooding and should never be blocked or altered. Damage or interference done to any of the above causes our very busy farmers needless work in repairs and restoration.

We understand that most know all this already and thank those that treat our countryside with care, but there may be a few newcomers who are not aware of this important and necessary information.

We are lucky in Hitcham to have a great number of lovely footpaths and helpful farmers who keep them clear for our use. Some, however, are the responsibility of the District or County Council and may not be so well maintained due to financial constraints. If you are aware of any that are too overgrown to use please let the Parish Council know.

Second defibrillator. You will be pleased to hear that this has been delivered and will soon be installed on The Ranch. (Huge thanks to site manager Charity Gaskin.) Anyone can use it (a recorded voice actually tells you what to do!) and it will not operate if it detects a normal, regular heartbeat, so there is no risk to the patient. Don't forget that the Village Hall is running a refresher course on its use on 16 October.

Neighbourhood Watch: Many thanks to those who responded to our call for volunteers. We will shortly be in touch about an initial meeting for the group.

'Community kindness'

I was fortunate enough to have a holiday in Guernsey this summer. For somewhere so close to home it felt like a world away from busyness, stress, and fear. Everyone seemed so peaceful and relaxed. I talked to some of the locals and realised there is an intrinsic attitude and way of living that ensures every islander is properly taken care of.

For me, my ideal church is a bit like that. We don't get to pick and choose, rather we accept everyone and work together to make sure no one is forgotten, isolated or abandoned.

I visited the chapel of St Apolline – the smallest chapel on Guernsey, built in the 1300s, and lovingly restored and preserved. Their leaflet asked visitors to pray "for the unity of Christ's Church in God's time and according to His Will".

I would like us in Hitcham to unite in that prayer and to follow Guernsey's example of living with a spirit of community kindness.

Reverend Donna Gibbs, Acting Vicar

**For up to date village news and diary dates,
don't forget to check the village website at
hitchamsuffolk.org.uk**