

Hinxton Life



A special edition to
welcome our new friends
from the Ukraine

April 2022

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23 DESERT ISLAND JUKEBOX
FROM JOAN ROBERTS

Hinxton Life is an independent village magazine 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 Hinxton households.

Thanks to the Reprographics Department at the Wellcome Genome campus for providing the paper and printing.

Dear Readers

An awful lot has happened since the last edition of **Hinxton Life**. We have witnessed the slow easing of the life-changing covid crisis. Then, just when we think we are getting back to normal, the horrific war started in Europe. Our hearts go out to those that are suffering but it came as no surprise that **Hinxton** has stood up to be counted. No less than **three** households in the village have opened their doors to welcome a refugee family. *Good for them.*

Recently, our good friend and neighbour, **Steve Trudgill**, passed away quite suddenly. Even during the lockdown, he could be seen strolling the village footpaths (*immortalised in the recently published **A Walk Around Hinxton** booklet p.10 dedicated to him*). The photograph opposite clearly illustrates his love of life and cheerful disposition. Steve had been an integral part of our village life almost from the moment he arrived and added his thoughtful talents in many ways we still benefit from. The featured eulogy was spoken by **Jill Garnier** at his funeral and we have his most recent **Crossword** (p.12) submitted late last year.

The warmth of the spring sun heralds the start of Hinxton's famous social calendar. All our old favourites are being planned with the added bonus of a **Car Boot Sale** and a **Jubilee Party** (p.10/11).

Theresa Sullivan has come home. *Hurrah!*

Has it really been three years? We will miss reading about her exploits in **Letter from Oz** with one last episode to enjoy on page 18.

Mike

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STEVE TRUDGILL

(1947-2022)

Jill Garnier's lovely tribute to Steve spoken at his funeral service on 16th February.

I would like to say that I am speaking on behalf of myself and all the people in Hinxtan who knew Steve. I hope that I can convey the thoughts and feelings of us all.

We all know what Steve was like. *Steve was just Steve.* Kind, generous, quirky, talented, an aging hippy at heart. The attribute that I personally most admired in him was his ability to see the good in everyone. In all the time that I knew him he never spoke badly of anyone and if someone had upset him he tried to justify their words or actions. Steve loved the environment, painting and Hinxtan.

He told me 25 years ago, when he moved into the house next door with his toothless cat, that he knew Hinxtan was the place for him, after having heard that we all had keys for each other's houses. He said that Hinxtan kept him "grounded" and provided the perfect balance to his academic life in Cambridge.

Steve soon became an integral part of the life and soul of the village. He was a long-standing member of the Parish Council, serving for 23 years.

He was always the first, according to Ros, to buy tickets for village events, make donations and offer raffle prizes. His homemade chutneys, jams and mint jellies are famous, I should think that they have found their way into most cupboards in the village.

Steve was very sociable, he enjoyed hosting and attending gatherings of friends. He could always be relied upon to be the first to arrive, clutching a bottle of Prosecco.

Chris Elliott commented that "*Steve entered into every aspect of the community. That slow, stooping walk of his coming around the corner of the mill looking for the first chiffchaffs of spring was as much a harbinger of the season as the birds themselves.*"

Steve will be talked about and remembered fondly.

We will miss you Steve.



Steve seen here yet again in the winning Quiz Night team.

In the Spotlight

Brad Charteris talking to Kate Riley

A little background

I moved to Hinxtton in 2016, so a relative newcomer really. I can honestly say that I have been made to feel so welcome here that it feels far longer than five years. Anne and I were married in 2018 and we share our home with our three Border Terriers and our Birman cat.

I was born in Stanmore (Middlesex), and moved to Bushey (Herts) when I was four years old. Since leaving school I have lived in a wide variety of places; from London to the Lake District. I emigrated to Denmark in 1976, and spent several years living there. Denmark is a wonderful country, the Danes are the friendliest people, and I have great memories of pike fishing from my boat that I kept on Viborg Lakes. Until a few years ago, I tried to spend a month per year visiting my extended family there.

I have a son, a daughter, and two beautiful granddaughters who live quite some way from Hinxtton, but they visit whenever possible.

Career

My father was an engineer, but he died suddenly when I was nearly fifteen. My mother became quite ill and she struggled to cope. Under the circumstances, it seemed sensible at the time that I should join my father's company as an apprentice toolmaker. However, after I completed the apprenticeship, I decided it just wasn't for me and I returned to studying. I have always been something of a bibliophile and my love of libraries led me into librarianship. Initially, I

worked in several of London's public libraries, but as I also had a qualification in computing, when the opportunity arose to manage the libraries and learning centres of a large FE college, I moved into that sector.

I'm a strong believer in 'lifelong learning', and working within the sector was an ideal opportunity. Over the years I gained a number of post-grads including: Teaching, Multimedia Authoring & Web Management and Multimedia Project Management.

I spent my last decade in F.E. as Head of ILT (Information & Learning Technology), Learning Resources and Partnership Projects. I also lectured part-time at Birkbeck College (Univ. London) for five years. I thoroughly enjoyed my years working in education, but following a merger with another very large college I found that I was spending more time in boardrooms and travelling between campuses, than working with students and 'people'.

I have always had a keen interest in psychology and mental health, which led me to study the subject whilst working at Birkbeck. After three and a half years I qualified as a psychotherapist. I founded a private practice, and continued to work in mental health until illness finally forced me to close my three practices and retire three years ago. Very rewarding work... particularly working with military and emergency services personnel, and I do miss it.



Life in Hinxtton

I felt at home in Hinxtton virtually instantly: The village, the people and its history. I think it's fair to say that I intend to be a permanent fixture here now!

Despite being restricted due to illness, I have kept busy. I am a moderator on a number of metal detecting fora and I write for these. I am also a 'recorder' for the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). I developed and maintain the Hinxtton Parish Council website (in addition to the Babraham Parish Council website), and I am also a co-administrator of 'Hinxtton Life' (the village Facebook pages), together with Mike Boagey.

Leisure pursuits

I have always had many hobbies and interests. In no particular order: History, metal detecting/archaeology, nature/conservation, angling, fell walking/mountain climbing, football (come on you Reds), psychology, reading, music, politics, birdwatching, collecting, etc.

If I had my time again (and a smoother path in early life) I would have chosen to become an archaeologist. History is a life-long passion of mine, and I spend a considerable amount of time researching. I have been fortunate enough to be granted permission to search some local land with my metal detector and, prior to becoming (hopefully temporarily) housebound, I have found many interesting historical items... ranging from the iron age, through Roman, early and late medieval to modern. All of these have been recorded on the PAS database and have contributed to local history.

Conservation/Nature

This is another area that I am passionate about. I have worked with a number of groups over the years to combat the ever-increasing pressure upon our beautiful landscape. I was a member of the Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG) for a decade, responsible for maintaining the 'Welsh Harp' reservoir in London. I developed their website in 1999. An oasis inside of the M25.

Music

I have loved music from an early age. My musical taste is quite eclectic, ranging from classical to heavy rock. I began playing bass guitar in my mid-teens and I have played in several bands in both the UK and Denmark. I also play a little acoustic, banjo and the ukulele.

I particularly enjoy the cello suites of Bach, in addition to traditional folk music (with a modern influence). Overall though, I would say that I am a child of the seventies and the classic rock of bands such as Pink Floyd, Free, Wishbone Ash, etc, etc, is what you are most likely to catch me either playing or listening to.

Favourite films & TV

Oh, I have many. I enjoy classic war films and Westerns, and also psychological thrillers. Among my favourites would be: Dunkirk (the original), Zulu, The Battle of Britain, Unforgiven and Silence of the Lambs.

On TV I like to watch: Drama series (particularly

Nordic Noir), historical dramas and documentaries, and quiz programs.

Historical figure that I would like to meet:

I'd like to meet King John and ask him what exactly did happen to his treasure!

Dinner guest:

Probably David Attenborough... a modern-day hero.

Achievements:

I think that rescuing our most recent Border Terrier, Lulu, from over-breeding in a puppy farm, and seeing her become so confident and happy constitutes an achievement.

Holiday destination:

Probably the Camargue. Fabulous birdwatching. Finally, I am very much looking forward to being able to meet more people in this lovely village and physically taking part in events.



Note from the Editor

Brad is the brains behind the Hinxton Parish Council website providing us with a constant stream of information about local issues.

You can access this at

www.hinxton-pc.org.uk

HINXTON 2022 SHORT STORY COMPETITION

£50 prize

Please enter our exciting
Hinxton Short Story Competition
sponsored by The Red Lion

Rules for the Hinxton 2022 Short Story Competition

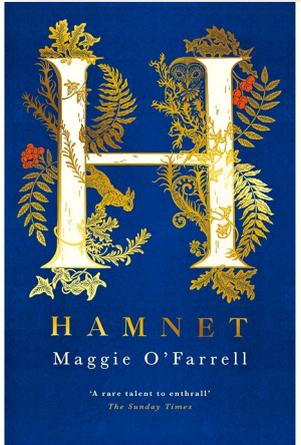
£50 prize money for the winner of each of the Seniors and Juniors
To be judged by members of the Hinxton Book Club and last year's Senior winner, Mike Boagey

- 1) Closing date for entries is 12 June 2022.
- 2) Entrants must be resident in Hinxton. Everyone is eligible.
- 3) Entrants to the **Junior** competition must be under 16 years of age on 12th June 2022.
- 4) The maximum length of submissions is **1,000 words** for the **Seniors**. (No minimum)
Senior Group Stories must contain the words '**Thread**' and '**Millpond**'.
- 5) The maximum length of submissions is **500 words** for the **Juniors**. (No minimum)
Junior Group Stories must contain the words '**Duck**' and '**Wheel**'.
- 6) When complete, deliver your story in an envelope marked :-
Hinxton Short Story Competition (Junior or Senior)
enclosing your name and address on a separate piece of paper to:-
87 High Street, Hinxton, by 12th June 2022.
- 7) Do not put your name on your story as they will be judged blind.
- 8) The judges prefer a printed submission using ARIAL font, 12 point (as this page)
- 9) The judges' decision is final.
- 10) The winners will be announced and published in the Autumn Hinxton Life.

BOOK SHELF

by Sara Gregson

Being able to keep meeting virtually for Book Club throughout the pandemic has meant we could continue to read together and chat about what we had read, almost as normal! Thank you Zoom! This also had added benefits of being able to include members who were living far away, including Theresa in Australia and Wendy in Norfolk. Here are our views on three of the books we read over this time:

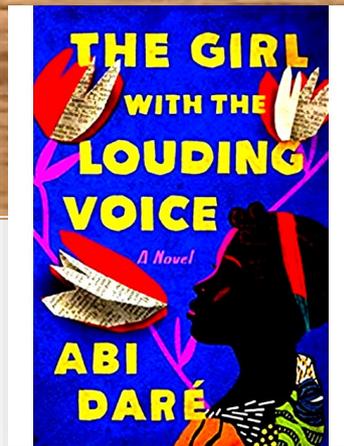


Hamnet By Maggie O'Farrell

On a summer's day in 1596, a young girl in Stratford-upon-Avon takes to her bed with a fever. Her twin brother, Hamnet searches everywhere for help. Their mother Agnes is away tending her medicinal herbs. Their father (William Shakespeare) is away working in London. Neither parent knows that one of their children will not survive the week. Hamnet is inspired by Shakespeare's son. It is a story of the bond between twins and of a marriage pushed to the brink by grief.

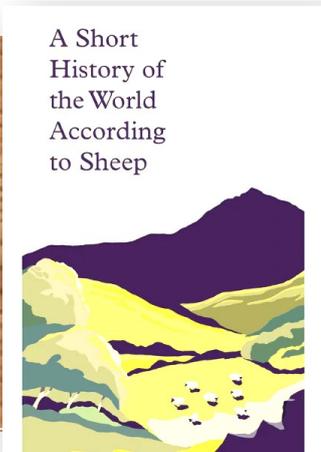
The book transports the reader back to Tudor times – capturing a wide range of characters from evil grandmother Joan to the wonderful children and of course to the centre of the story Agnes. We believe that Maggie O'Farrell doesn't name William throughout the book – because he would be too big a character and she wanted to focus on Agnes. It has some of the most beautiful and evocative language – describing things that we all recognise now some four/five hundred years later! Technology may make great strides but human nature doesn't change.

A few of us were a little less taken with the book, but still scored it highly, whilst the rest of us gave it a resounding 9+!



Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré

This is the [debut novel](#) of Nigerian writer [Abi Daré](#).^[1] It tells the story about a teenage Nigerian girl who becomes a maid and struggles with limited education and poverty. Dare's choice of using non-standard English/pidgin English made reading it hard in places but gives it an air of authenticity. When Adunni's mother dies when she is 14, her father marries her off to Morufu and uses her bride price for the family upkeep. But Adunni runs away to Lagos and has a series of adventures, ending up employed by Big Madam, who abuses her and keeps her as her slave. But Adunni is determined to find a way out and to gain an education, as she feels this is the only way she can be free. This is a remarkable and detailed exposé of the many ways girls and women are terribly treated in some parts of the world. Whilst the content is sad and thought provoking, the story has light and shade and scored a good 7 by the book club readers.



A Short History according to Sheep By Sally Coulthard

This book sounds a bit plain but is actually a remarkable survey of the huge impact that sheep have had on human history.

From the plains of ancient Mesopotamia to the rolling hills of medieval England to the vast sheep farms of modern-day Australia, sheep have been central to the human story. Starting with our Neolithic ancestors' first forays into sheep-rearing nearly 10,000 years ago, they've fed us, clothed us, changed our diet and languages, helped us to win wars, decorated our homes, and financed pioneers and privateers to conquer large swathes of the earth.

Sally Coulthard weaves the rich and fascinating story of sheep into a vivid and colourful tapestry, filled with engaging anecdotes and remarkable ovine facts.

Gold flecked fleeces when gold prospectors were using them to pan for gold and knights lubricating their armour with lanolin, will be just two of the images that remain with many of us!

This book was appreciated by all – and is one we shall probably return to, so we can carry-on learning from it in years to come.

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Contact the editor for details.

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Sara Gregson at www.talkinggrass.co.uk

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A	M	I	D	S	S	U	M	M	E	R	D	R	E	A	M
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ANSWER TO SUMMER CROSSWORD

MY CHILDHOOD TOWN **HARTLEPOOL** with Mike Boagey

I was born in this extraordinary town on a cold windy Saturday in June 1948 in St Hilda's hospital. Whilst I never lived there for more than two years at any one time, I still proudly consider it to be my home town.

In prehistoric times Hartlepool's headland is thought to have been an isolated tidal island covered by thick forests. In the nineteenth century during excavation of the adjacent marshy area called the Slake, trunks of trees from the ancient forest were found embedded in the clay along with antlers and the teeth from deer that seem to have inhabited the area in large numbers many years ago. In the 8th century, Bede mentions it ("heopru" – the place where harts (deer) drink).

Old Hartlepool is the original fishing village which existed before the new town of West Hartlepool which then became known as Hartlepool and Old Hartlepool, wishing to keep its separate identity, began to be known as the Headland!

As a child I was told that there is no high ground for the two thousand miles between the Headland and Moscow. That may explain why we all wear flat hats covering our eyes!

At the beginning of the twentieth century it was hard to believe that Old Hartlepool, with its small population of less than a thousand consisting almost entirely of fishermen, had become one of the busiest ports on the eastern coast. It was realised that trade had to be brought into the town in order to save it from oblivion and in 1823 it was suggested that railways be built to connect with local collieries, so that Hartlepool could be developed as a coal port. This brought great wealth to the town and the fine new town of West Hartlepool sprang up with all the grandeur usually only associated with city centres.

Hartlepudlians are called the 'Monkey-Hangers', a term that is often applied to supporters of Hartlepool United Football Club by the supporters of their arch rivals Darlington. However it has been embraced by many Hartlepudlians, and only a small minority still consider the term offensive. The monkey-hanging legend is the most famous story connected with Hartlepool. During the Napoleonic Wars a French ship was wrecked off the Hartlepool coast. At that time there was a fear of a French invasion of Britain and much public concern about the possibility of French infiltrators and spies. One stormy night, the fishermen, fearing an invasion, kept a close watch on a particular French ship as it struggled against the waves but when it was severely battered and sunk they turned their attention to the debris washed ashore. Among the wreckage lay one wet and sorrowful looking survivor, the ship's pet



monkey dressed (to amuse) in a military style uniform. The fishermen apparently questioned the monkey and held a beach-based trial. Unfamiliar with what a Frenchman looked like they came to the conclusion that this monkey was a French spy and should be sentenced to death. The unfortunate creature was to die by hanging, with the mast of a fishing boat (a coble)

providing a convenient gallows. So is it true? Did it really happen like that? You won't find many people in Hartlepool who say it didn't. They love the story.

The last shipyard in Hartlepool closed in 1962. The town then tried to diversify industry. In the late 20th-century vacuum flasks were made in Hartlepool. So were anchor chains, parts for marine engines, crankshafts and communications equipment were also fabricated alongside a thriving chemical industry.

Hartlepool underwent something of a renaissance under a Labour government as both Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson were local parliamentarians. Tourism became a major industry with the town making the most of its heritage. HMS Trincomalee, a frigate built in 1817 was bought to Hartlepool in 1987, and after refurbishment, was opened to the public. The Marina was redeveloped in the 1990s.



The statue standing proudly on the Headland is our most famous creation, Andy Capp



Hartlepool Marina

Back to back houses that typically lined the centre of most northern industrial towns including Hartlepool, have now been gentrified and new high tech industries have replaced the traditional coal and steel orientated manufacturing factories.

My lasting memories of staying there, with relatives, for months at a time, as a boy, are still quite vivid and even now I can still taste the bitter coal dust.

It looks like I am, and always will be, a Monkey-Hanger.

events 2022 events 2022 events 2022

April 9th

Deanery Fair Great Shelford 10-12

April 15th

GOOD FRIDAY making Easter Garden in Hinxton Church at 930 am

April 17th

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
at 9 am

April 18th

EASTER MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY
Car Boot/Dog Show/Crafty Corner
see poster opposite page

May 5th

Polling in Village Hall for local elections

May 9th

Annual Parochial Meeting in the Church
at 730pm

May 23rd

Friends of Hinxton Church AGM at 730 pm

June 5th

Jubilee Party on the Rec— poster page 13

July 2nd

Village Chocolate Fete— see poster page 15

July 22nd

The Friends of Hinxton Church Garden Evening at The Oak House, from 6.30 to 8.30 pm

November 4th-6th

The fabulous Art Exhibition in the church

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April 18th

Enjoy your Easter Monday

The Oak House field off Duxford Road
hosting a village

Car Boot Sale & Crafty Corner

starting at 10am

(featuring The Saffron Walden Community Shed)



TEAS * HOT DOGS * RAFFLE



FUN DOG SHOW

Entries from 11am.

Judging starts promptly at 12noon

Choice of ten classes to enter

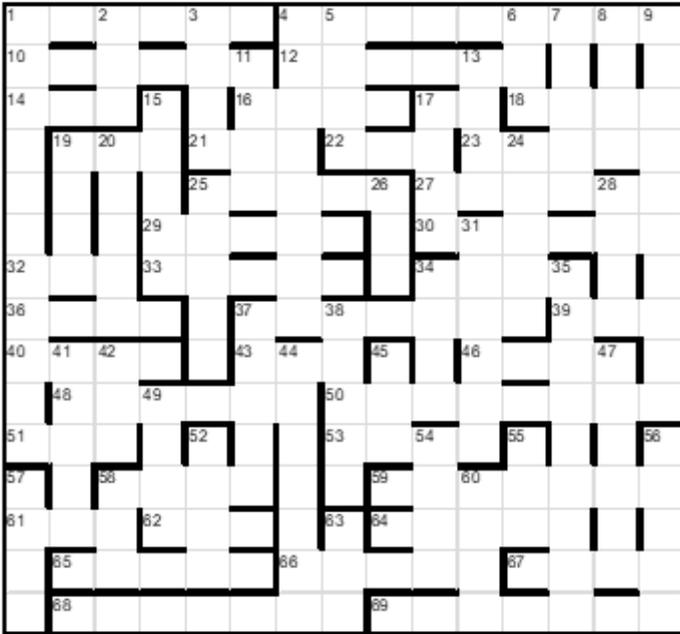
Entry fees cannot be refunded

Fantastic prize for the Champion

**WOOD
GREEN**
The Animals Charity

**WOOD
GREEN**
The Animals Charity





Hinxton Autumn Crossword

2021 on a theme of 1ac by Steve Trudgill
with Jenny Goodwin & Steve Theobald

ACROSS

- 1 Season starters of anchovy umami presented with tip of marjoram stuffed into tuna with tail removed (6)
4 Rugby group receiving NHS app notification taking 38ds (9)
10 Departs – as might be expected when these abandon trees in 1ac (6)
12 One of five going to church for 56d (6)
14 Non-professional song? (3)
16 Fish trap novice used by N. Yorkshire River (4)
17 Serious face for Italian river (2)
18 Back up abstainer for a stroke across the green (4)
19 Revolutionary Cuban head, empowering beginnings (3)
21 Carp discernible in fishtank oil (3)
22,25ac Older hobbit loses tail - make a mistake with unknown quantity for 56d (8)
23 Be quiet at the end of a short water source from a western country (5)
25 See 11d, 22ac, 24d, 25d or 58d
27 Container shortfall somehow visible in full lager without head (6)
29 Learner in car – end of story for flower (5)
30 Dermal transformation leads to 56d (6)
32 Stomach muscles which at first Adonis's body sported (3)
33, 62ac Hunt with zeal, running around to find a 42d, 62ac as 4d food (8)
34 1986 car, singular remains after most is poured off (4)
36 Note, first three of cotton winding device is liberated (4)
37 General hubbub around Dorothy 1940's US 'Road' star (7)
39 Striking colour of 10ac in 1ac at end of year and from the start of the evening to the break of day (3)
40 Every one is topless 15d (4)
43 Dance to a beer flavouring flower (3)
46 Derogatory reference to ordinary person found at the openings of public library eating books (4)
48 King's head found in ice cream container, King shortly follows – liable to be strung up and bashed, as in 20d (rather than 65ac) 37d,62ac (6)
50 Panto hen runs around to reveal an array of gods (8)

- 51 Derogatory reference to rude, noisy and aggressive person starting to yell obscene banter (3)
53 Cuts off ends of all bamboo top shoots (4)
58 Derogatory term for stupid person doing oafish, loutish things from the outset (4)
59 A kitchen garden providing vegetables served from silver in ceramic for Queen (7)
60 A single from Edgbaston eleven (3)
62 Bolt's companion becomes edible with 33ac or 55d (3)
64 Musical instrument transposed to France? 'There it is' (5)
65,37d,62ac Stew cutest hen – cooked, edible roasted (5,8)
66 Good French backing the French Count for example? (5)
67 Jamaican hybrid fruit is found in mug, liquid (4)
68 Between the east and a beast one of five children is found half way between summer and winter, (7)
69 Undergarment put on after heavy autumn rain starts – when 1d,9d – and with a 57d (7)

DOWN

- 1, 9d Salty agile fish Leander cooked, as celebrated at the time of 69ac Festival (3,2,6,8,2)
2 End of viaduct starts at end of estuary of Scottish river (3)
3..Gentle, quiet mouse starts to make sound of surprised alarm (4)
4 Landowner with beginning of red in end of tail is hoarder of 8d (8)
5 Mangy dog starts to bark, cut short (4)
6 Vigour from reorganised protective wear (3)
7 In Ulan Bator, garden flower (Elecampane) visible from the start (5)
8 Laid-back knock-out, mad? (4)
9 See 1d
11,25ac rosy rebel corrected for 56d to go with gin (9)
13 At top of chimney find wise bird as seen on monks (4)
15 Penny for everyone is a 56d with stone (5)
17 Penny on Scottish chimney is a 56d with a stone (4)
19,38d Eve's temptation of the sort never ending in taxi is a 56d without a stone (4,5)
20,37d,62ac Playing chess, hen trout becomes 56d of the 48ac sort (5,8)
24,25ac Kirk leader with Halle or Chuck is 56d for wine making (10)
25,25ac Clerk by bar ordered 56d (10)
26 Beginnings of young evergreen woody tree (3)
28 Beginning to gulp beer leads to wind - the sort often found at 1ac,68ac (4)
31 Spurt misdirected after early start with volcanic results (6)
34 Dutifully beginning to possess a way off a mountain (4)
35 Naïve measuring sound of 56d with a stone (9)
37 See 20d
38 See 19d
41 Beginnings of newly raised oak capability, as reversed for a 62ac (5)
42,62ac Loaf on your head? Alternative for 33ac,62ac (6)
44 O.E groan – confusion over herb (7)
45 Chinese tradition of way things always originate in the beginning (3)
47 Northern forest of corporeal aroma, not fake
49 Noble gas extracted from one onion (4)
52 Originally bird laid unusual egg of duck egg colour (4)
54 Route out and back, returning to find swimming area (4)
55,62ac Backward rule on head. Good pickled (6)
56 If rut mended provides part of the 1ac 69ac (5)
57 Second to first of old, new satellite (4)
58,25ac First dripping early water found on the grass in the morning with 56d rather like 25d,25ac (8)
60 Level neckwear reaches end of pullover (4)
63 Loud beast of burden is wily (3)

PARTY DECOR

3 pm June 5th 2022
on the recreation ground



4 pm Cake Cutting & Royal Toast

4.30 pm Children's Fancy Dress Royal Parade

5 pm Jubilee Tree Planting

Bring & Share
Tea & coffee provided



PEASGOOD & SKEATES



THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE
EST 1847

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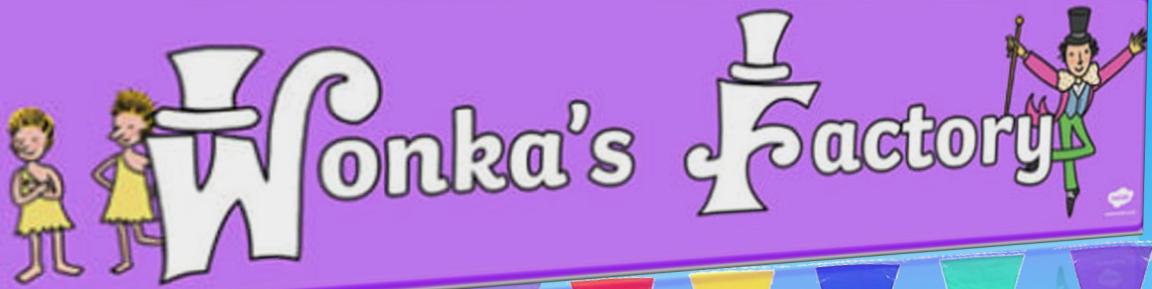
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Hinxton Fete

July 2nd at 2pm



17th CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

LORD Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

AMEN

Linda's Recipe Page



Cheat's Mushroom Risotto

This recipe serves four people.

You need a large frying pan. (You can double the recipe if you're feeding lots of people and have a large enough pan)

Ingredients 300g paella rice

1 large onion or two leeks

3 chicken (or vegetable) stock cubes - I use kallo

500g chestnut mushrooms

2 tablespoons olive oil 300g frozen peas or petits pois

Grated cheese to sprinkle to taste

Method

Heat one tablespoonful of oil in the pan over a medium heat.

Add the mushrooms, sliced, and cook for five minutes until browned a little. Remove to a plate.

Heat the rest of the oil and add the chopped onion or sliced leeks. Fry until just starting to colour and soften.

Add a knob of butter, stir in the rice and cook for two or three minutes, then add a litre of just boiled water in which you have dissolved the stock cubes.

Bring to the boil, turn down the heat to medium and cook for 20 minutes or so, giving an occasional stir.

Tip the frozen peas in, raise the heat a bit, add the mushrooms and stir until everything is piping hot. Test the rice to see if it is as you like it - if it's not, cook for a bit longer. The liquid should have been absorbed - it shouldn't be soupy. Enjoy with grated Parmesan, Cheddar or whatever cheese you like sprinkled over. Garlic bread goes really well with this.

This is a cheat's recipe as I use paella rather than risotto rice to save fiddling about adding a ladleful of stock every two or three minutes chained to the hob. It's not as creamy as a real risotto should be, but my family don't seem to mind!



Letter from Home

At last I'm back in Hinxton and I'm remembering the extraordinary and unforeseeable events of these last three years. In April 2019, the northern and southern hemisphere strands of my immediate family met halfway in Sri Lanka. It was an idyllic time staying in some of my favourite places, off the tourist track. But on Easter Sunday, we were caught up in the horrors and aftermath of the bombings of Colombo hotels and the panicked mass exodus. It left us shaken for some time afterwards. More drama came at the end of that year when Australia



experienced horrendous and widespread bush fires with tragic loss of humans and wildlife to say nothing of homes and livelihoods. The fires were never too close to Melbourne, but the smoke pollution was terrible. Midday felt like dusk in the grey orange gloom. The city appeared flattened as the tops of all the high rise buildings disappeared in the murk above the third story. Everyone developed a cough. Finally it rained. The air was clear, the views restored and everywhere and everything was covered in a bright orange, sticky layer.

Then came covid. I was booked to return home in April but flights were cancelled and borders closed in the wake of the deadly epidemic. I can remember clearly the fear and panic at that time as covid took over and proved to be a killer, particularly of my age group. But in the end, Australia became one of the very safest places to be with few deaths.

I'm sure I'm unusual, but when I look back I remember it as a mostly very happy period. It was a very fulfilling time as I cared for my 2 grandsons for a significant part of each week allowing hard pressed parents to work from home. I had the pleasure of taking them to wild and beautiful places and to the nearby sea (all within our 5km allowed area) and marvelling at the creativity of their play. At other times, I would walk or cycle with acquaintances who became lifelong friends as we shared our covid dominated lives. Another highlight was the much anticipated Hinxton Book Club meetings via Zoom which also kept me up to date with much that was happening in the village. Finally borders



opened, international flights resumed and my visa ran out. Time to head home.

January was not the greatest of months. It started with a wasted week in quarantine as omicron arrived in country and spread like wildfire. Then lots of boring sorting, cleaning and endless bureaucracy. PCR tests and covid certificates became key. I lived in dread of failing to produce the right piece of paper at a crucial time. All too soon came the very painful goodbyes.

Then, back to Hinxton and the joyful discovery that my wonderful friends and neighbours had returned furniture and other essentials to my house, made up a bed, hadn't forgotten a hot water bottle, placed wine in the fridge and filled the house with spring flowers. I can't thank them enough. But to everyone who has welcomed me back so warmly and generously, I am so grateful. It is good to be back.



Theresa

Desert Island Jukebox

with Joan Roberts



I was thrilled to be asked to compile a list of my favourite songs with a personal significance for the Hinxton News. Having been born and raised in Liverpool and grown up there throughout the 50s and 60s, music has been an integral part of my life, all the more so once I met Idris, so many of my choices are from this period.

1 Tutti Frutti by Little Richard

I have loved jiving with Idris to this song for decades since it was released in 1957. It's very fast and I used to be able to easily keep up with the beat but less so these days.

2 Blue Angel by Roy Orbison

This song takes me back to the summer of 1960 when I used to visit the Lowlands youth club in Liverpool and little did I know then but the following year I would meet Idris there.

3 Eleanor Rigby by The Beatles

Having grown up in Liverpool all the Beatles music holds a special place for me. In my late teens I was working at H Littlewoods in the city and the then-unknown band were booked to play in the works canteen one lunchtime. I can't remember what they played then but the canteen was rocking. Eleanor Rigby is a favourite of mine with its poignant lyrics.

4 House of the Rising Sun by The Animals

Idris and I had our first holiday together in 1964 shortly after this track was released and I can remember it playing on the car radio as we rode around the country lanes of Anglesey both singing our heads off.

5 Save the Last Dance for Me by The Drifters

At our wedding in 1967 Idris was looking for me to have the 'first dance' and this song was played three times before he managed to find me. Eventually we were able to have our dance together and it has remained a special track for the two of us.

6 Waterloo by ABBA

I am fond of all ABBA's songs but Waterloo in particular reminds me of our early days living in Nigeria when it was firm favourite at the expat parties and clubs. I can never keep my feet still when I hear an ABBA track!

7 Slipping Through My Fingers by ABBA

Another ABBA favourite but very different in style to many of their other works. The lyrics tell of a mother watching her daughter grow up and of her sadness that her daughter is spreading her wings and will soon leave her. Having had two daughters, myself the words have a particular resonance.

8 Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Idris is often playing this on his music system in the house and I find it particularly peaceful and relaxing.

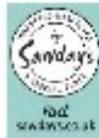




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