

THE HOXNE VILLAGE SIGN



Edmund was killed by The Danes probably in 869 AD although there are other suggestions. He had become King of East Anglia in 855 AD and was defeated in battle by the Danes at Thetford and pursued by them to Hoxne. Here he hid under Goldbrook Bridge but was betrayed by a passing wedding party which saw the reflection of his golden spurs in the water. He was offered his life in return for reverting to Paganism and serving as their vassal king in East Anglia. He refused and was then tied to an oak tree and killed by a volley of arrows. Tradition has it that this tree stood where the monument stands. His head was cut off and his corpse thrown into the bushes. A few days later his head, which was being guarded by a wolf, and his corpse were discovered by his followers and were immediately rejoined. A chapel was built on the site and his body taken for burial to what became the great abbey of St Edmund's, which of course we now know is in the town of Bury St Edmund's.

The sign depicts the Gold of The Hoxne Hoard and the Blue Waves indicate The Dove, The Waveney, The Chickering and The Goldbrook River. The Crown indicates Edmund's Kingship. The Oak Tree and Arrows show the method of his death. The Tigress represents the Silver Tigress, a handle originally from a large vase or amphora which was part of The Hoxne Hoard.

In 1992, Eric Lawes was out looking for an old lump hammer that had been dropped but got more than he bargained when he found a priceless Roman "treasure chest" of 14,780 gold, silver and bronze coins plus 200 exquisite items of jewellery, ornaments and tableware, all part of the accumulated wealth of the very affluent family of Aurelius Ursicinus and dating from 307 to 407 AD depicting 15 different Roman Emperors. The Hoard is now available to view in the British Museum.

The "Half Penny" Coin was issued by Thomas Tallant and is a token celebrating the Hoxne and Hartismere cavalry unit of the Suffolk Yeomanry. It was also used as currency in local shops, possibly as currency on the Kerrison Estates as well as a Volunteer Medal. The reverse shows a castle and the date 1795 and, within the crowned garter is inscribed LIBERTY LOYALTY PROPERTY.

Finally, there are two reproduction Hand Axes in the plinth. In 1797 John Frere found flint tools, including Stone Age hand-axes twelve feet deep in Hoxne Brick Pit. This was the earliest recognition that hand-axes were the work of early humans rather than thunderbolts or meteorites as previously thought. Sadly, his theory wasn't proven until after his death but there is one of his hand-axes on display in The British Museum.