

# Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



January 2017  
Vol 17 No 1

**A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all**



*This years Drama Group Pantomime was Robin Hood, .The photograph Shows Robin with the Dame and Alan-a-dale*

Photo Trudi Wilde

## GROTON'S ANNUAL CHEESE AND WINE



Last year I said that there was a full house at the annual Groton Cheese and Wine Party, probably the best attended Cheese and Wine I have ever been to at Groton. Well this one was even better. Probably the highest numbers attended what proved to be a most enjoyable evening with good company and great food

All proceeds from the event went to St. Bartholomew's Church, which was targeted by lead thieves recently.

It goes without saying that the food prepared by the hard working team was of a very high standard and very plentiful.

## BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL FESTIVE FAYRE



The BVH Festive Fayer held on 9th December co-incided with the FOB's fair and was a tremendous success with the village hall crowded with happy shoppers. Results will have to be in the next edition of BRN along with FOB's

## Box River News

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Final date for reserved copy for the February 2017 Issue is:

**January 15th at noon**



**Friday 6 January 8.00 £18**

### **Fletch's Brew**

An explosive start to 2017. Spontaneous and seamless explorations of funk, bop, fusion, reggae and rock!  
Mark Fletcher ~ DRUMS, Carl Orr ~ GUITAR, Freddie Gavita ~ TRUMPET, Jim Watson ~ ORGAN Steve Pearce ~ BASS

**Friday 13 January 8.00 £16**

### **Pavillon**

Jim Rattigan's French horn led big band. Their uniquely rich, swinging style will warm and impress you.  
Jim Rattigan ~ FRENCH HORN, Liam Noble ~ PIANO, Dylan Bates ~ VIOLIN, Sophie Ramsay ~ VOICE and 8 other great players.

**Friday 20th January 8.00 £18**

### **Ben Crosland plays The Ray Davies Songbook**

Look at the line-up! Easy to understand that they present familiar tunes with a fresh glow (Dave Gelly) and help them find a home in the jazz genre

Ben Crosland - BASS, Dave O'Higgins - SAX, John Etheridge - GUITAR, Steve Lodder - PIANO. Sebastiaan de Krom - DRUMS

**Friday 27 January 8.00 £15**

### **Phil Hopkins - Toots Thielmans tribute**

A timely homage to perhaps the greatest jazz chromatic harmonica player who died last year. Think of the Midnight Cowboy theme and you have starting point for this gig.

Phil Hopkins ~ HARMONICA, Jonathan Gee ~ PIANO, Martin France ~ DRUMS, John Paricelli GUITAR, Paul Morgan ~ BASS

**Friday 3 February 8.00 £16**

### **Damon Brown's International Quintet**

A welcome return to the UK for the man whose hard driving trumpet will surely blow you away. "Fluent, impassioned and technically superb" - Jack Masserick.

Damon Brown ~ TRUMPET and VOCALS, ~ Christian Brewer ~ SAX, Paul Kirby ~ PIANO, Sean Pentland ~ BASS. Manuel Weyand ~ DRUMS

**Friday 10 February 8.00 £18**

### **Brandon Allen Sextet**

One of the very best tenorists around, emotional and blues drenched, leading an incredibly exciting sextet.

Brandon Allen ~ SAX, Alex Garnett ~ SAX, Mark Nightingale ~ TROMBONE, Ross Stanley ~ PIANO, Sam Burgess ~ BASS, Chris Higginbottom ~ DRUMS

To buy tickets for any gig, obtain further information or add your name to the mailing list please telephone the BOX OFFICE:

**01787 211865**

All cheques (with S.A.E. please) to:  
Jazz at the Fleece, 18 The Causeway, Boxford, Suffolk CO10 5JR



## THIS MONTHS LETTER FROM REV JUDITH

*Dear friends,*

### Christmas is coming....in case you hadn't noticed!

I think the Vicar of Dibley season has truly arrived for me...as I write this I am in the midst of multiple school nativities, multiple Christmas Fairs (FOBS, Boxford, Newton) and very soon multiple carol and Christmas services....

I think the only saving grace is that I won't be having the famous multiple Christmas dinners that the amply proportioned Revd Dibley enjoyed (endured?) – instead just a quiet, but festive, vegan one with my Rufus, probably on Boxing Day, when we have recovered a bit from the days before!

Perhaps by the time you read this, you will (being more organised than me) have done most of your Christmas shopping, both for food and presents, but in case you haven't, here are some ideas for shopping with an eye to others, not just to the mounting bill, all taken from a book, "Come Emmanuel: approaching Advent, Living with Christmas", by Ann Lewin:

- Looking at the shelves – thank God for all who work to bring the products there
- Seek out fair trade goods – and pray a quick prayer for those unfairly exploited
- In the queue – spread some calm if you can and pray silently for others waiting
- At the till – say a kind word and smile at the busy checkout operator

And if you haven't yet finished choosing your presents or writing your Christmas cards and letters:

- As you do so – offer up a quick prayer for each recipient
- Remember someone who may not receive a present or card – could you give one?
- Give thanks for the charity whose card you are sending – say a prayer for those it supports

In these small, but meaningful ways, as the author says, we can make the connection between God and our world. Because that is the message of Christmas Day, that God loves us so much that he became one of us, to share and transform and redeem our ordinary human lives.

Meanwhile on a lighter note, I hope you enjoy this guide to the Christmas cards you receive!

Blessings, *Revd. Judith*

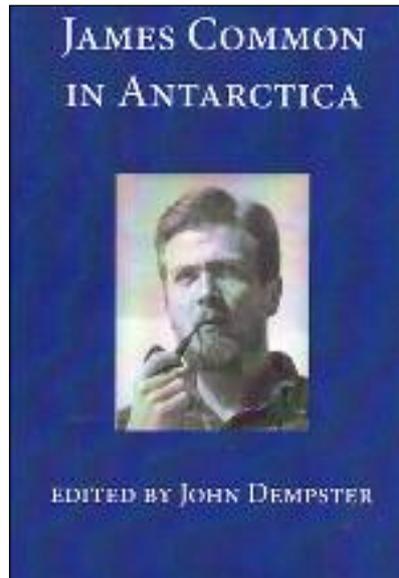
(Cartoon used under licence)



## THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ BY JEREMY WAGENER

“James Common in Antarctica”

Edited by John Dempster



The photograph on the book's dust cover is of a young James Common, bearded, hair neatly parted, pipe in mouth, looking very much an explorer in the making. His brow is furrowed, his look a little pensive as perhaps befits a man who read classics and philosophy at university and who was embarking, 50 years ago, on a two and an half year sojourn in Antarctica as a member of the British Antarctic Survey.

James and Ruth Common came to live in Boxford in 2005. It was only after James died in 2012 that Ruth discovered a manuscript diary which James kept during his first year in the Antarctic. Now, John Dempster, his

oldest friend, has transcribed and edited the diary which vividly brings to life the experiences of a 26 years old living in a remote part of the world with 21 other men in primitive conditions. Some of us can remember an illustrated talk James gave in the Fleece pub in Boxford about his experiences; now we can relive them by reading the diary so well assembled in John Dempster's book which also includes interesting biographical details about his good friend: his love of the outdoors and reading books - to which I would add his appreciation of classical music. The book starts with James's letters to his parents telling them of his plan. As an only child, he was apprehensive about their reaction to his wish to go to the Antarctic which he told them was “not just a good lark for a couple of years” but would “test my abilities to the full” and, quoting Captain Scott: “the trivial values of civilisation quickly disappear and only what is worthwhile remains”. His job references spoke of his great qualities of fortitude and perseverance and so he was selected as a General Assistant and assigned to the BAS base at Adelaide Island, well inside the Antarctic Circle.

James's adventure and the diary start in October 1963 when he set sail from Southampton on the 1500 ton research vessel “John Biscoe”. It was to be several months before he reached Adelaide, partly because the ship was hampered by having to navigate through ice floes and avoid the constant danger of getting stuck in the ice. As the ship heads south from the Falklands, he sees icebergs for the first time describing them poetically: “.....such bergs when they stand alone seem to have an aloofness about them, some untouchable purity... “. En route he encounters elephant seals, looks (no doubt enviously) at unclimbed snow-capped mountains and makes a pilgrimage to Ernest Shackleton's grave. Finally, the party reach their destination. The diary records daily life in the cramped conditions of the base and the book's excellent photos capture its bleakness. The geologists and meteorologists go about their business; James Common's job is to help run the base. In this and in his character sketches of his fellows he shows that good judgement of people and awkward situations which was to stand him in good stead in his later career in personnel management in the Post Office. He is philosophical about living in close proximity to other people: the importance of getting on with them rather than getting to know anyone very deeply; when trust, comradeship and tolerance are essential.

The diary describes an almost spiritual experience when James, to his delight, is sent on an expedition as a field assistant in charge of a dog team and is travelling in a part never before visited by man. There was time for fun and games too: games of chess and bezique, parties and shows, and reading the bagfuls of mail written in response to “lonely heart letters” from the base!

This diary is not a simple recording of facts and events: James Common's descriptive and poetic prose and John Dempster's skilful editing combine to make it a fascinating and easy read. In a postscript, “In James's Footsteps”, John Dempster describes a visit to the Antarctic Peninsula he made in January 2016. Although he wasn't able to get as far as the Adelaide Island base, his trip helped him to appreciate the wildlife and scenery which James Common experienced and wrote about so well all those years ago.

Jeremy Wagener

Copies of the book can still be purchased from Ruth Common for £10 (or £12 incl. postage) via [ruthcommon@icloud.com](mailto:ruthcommon@icloud.com)

# New Year Beauty Bonanza!

Get gorgeous and groomed this January with our New Year half-price Beauty Bonanza.

Happy New Year from Suffolk Medical Clinic! As a little thank you for all your support over the last few months, we think you deserve a really special offer to get this new year started. So how about this?

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[www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk](http://www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk)

## FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

First of all can I wish all readers a really nice Christmas, restful holiday and a successful new year. For those amongst us who have to keep working we must spare a thought.

Upon reflection this has been a truly astonishing year both nationally and worldwide. We have had Brexit, Trumpet and most incredibly of all the Bakeoff has gone from the B.B.C.

To channel four, who would have thought it all possible. Thankfully Balls did not win strictly. At Babergh also far reaching decisions have been made, with housing or the lack of it always a problem to be wrestled with, we also have the total cut off of our government support grant to contend with in three years' time. Coupled to all of this our impending move to leave the offices in Hadleigh to work from Endeavour House in Ipswich will have far reaching implications for the town as well as staff and Councillors along with the now stalled devolution bid, it is going to be a very tough year ahead for those in local government. Nearer to home I feel that the ward of Boxford has in general more than kept it's head above water in these fast changing times and the village has become a hub for the other satellite villages around it with the School remaining as popular as ever and the shops continuing to trade and serve their loyal customers. I will with others be delivering the Quay Theatre Brochure all around the villages and hope that as many of you as possible will find time to come and see our shows. The Panto which this year is Treasure Island runs from 16th Dec through to 1st Jan. Oh yes it does. Come and Enjoy. All Best Wishes Bryn.



## WOODLAND TRUST

James Cartlidge MP has planted an oak tree to highlight the importance of conservation work in South Suffolk. The tree is on land owned by the Woodland Trust, who manage nearby Primrose Wood on the upper side of the river box. It marks a 'line of sight' that will be left for the public to enjoy between the summit of the bank and Boxford church, through an avenue of Lime trees which the Woodland Trust are in the process of planting. James Cartlidge said:

"I was pleased to meet with the Woodland Trust in Boxford and hear about the important conservation measures they are carrying out in the Box valley, and also the work they are doing in relation to Ash dyback. I was particularly pleased to plant a new oak tree at the point where a line of sight will be left for the public to enjoy from the upper bank to the Church, once the lime trees have matured that will be planted back along the valley towards the village. This is important because the Woodland Trust will be protecting and nurturing an area of countryside that is either woodland or will be in future, next to new development on greenfield land. The work of the trust therefore acts to ameliorate some of the impact of new housing comes in a rural setting. There should be new paths to the valley for local people to enjoy and I'm sure over the years ahead the oak tree will grow amid a flourishing and newly wooded bank of the Box, to the benefit of the whole community'.

## FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

### ➤ Suffolk County Council commits to pursuing principles of devolution further.

At its full council meeting on Thursday 24th November, Suffolk County Council voted to support a number of recommendations towards looking at the potential for a future devolution deal for Suffolk. The vote was 57 in favour and there were 7 abstentions. The full recommendations discussed and agreed were as follows:

#### **This Council agrees:**

1. To reiterate the commitment given previously by the Council to devolution as a means of delivering accelerated growth in the local and national economy and of helping local people and places to fulfil their potential;

2. To authorise the Leader and Chief Executive to:

a) seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss the Government's intentions in relation to devolution

b) work with Government and local partners to agree an alternative devolution deal as soon as possible

3. That further reports are presented to the Council and Cabinet, as appropriate, as the devolution process progresses.

All seven other local authorities in Suffolk have voted on these recommendations – namely Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, St Edmundsbury, Babergh, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils have all agreed these principles.

### ➤ Your chance to have your say in budget setting process

People in Suffolk are being asked to share their views on what matters most to them to inform the budget setting process.

As grant funding from central government continues to reduce, Suffolk County Council is required to make savings of **more than £46million in 2017/18**, followed by further savings in the years after. This means the council needs to look at where it should prioritise spending and how it can make savings across the services it provides.

As part of the public engagement, people are being asked where they think Suffolk County Council should prioritise spending. The survey closes on 30 December 2016 and the budget report will be considered by the Suffolk County Council Cabinet on 24th January 2017, who will make recommendations to Full Council on 9th February 2017.

To have your say, visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/budgetsurvey2017](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/budgetsurvey2017)

### ➤ Help for Family carers

Suffolk County Council has released a new video and booklet giving an insight into what it means to be a carer.

The Council and Suffolk Artlink have worked in partnership to produce the video and booklet which bring together the stories of carers living in Suffolk. Carers have shared their advice and experiences of the carer's assessment process, their ways of coping and how this role has changed their lives.

A carer is anyone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who cannot manage without help. This can be due to illness, frailty, mental health need, substance misuse or disability.

The aim of the video and booklet, 'Talking Care' is to help further inform people about the carer's assessment and what the assessment could mean for them.

Anyone who provides unpaid care can ask for a carer's assessment from Suffolk County Council as long as the person you care for lives in Suffolk. A joint assessment for you and the person you care for can also be carried out.

To request a carer's assessment, contact Customer First by telephone on 0808 800 4005 or by email at [customer.first@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:customer.first@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk)

More information can be found on our website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/care-and-support-for-you-and-others/what-is-a-carer/carers-assessment/>

### **My priorities for Suffolk**

Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley -

Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax

**James Finch** County, Councillor Stour Valley Division

Email: [james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)

## Remember

The Box River News can be seen in full colour by downloading from the internet. Just go to [boxfordvillagehall.co.uk](http://boxfordvillagehall.co.uk) and click on the BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about two days after the published press date. [ed.kench@btinternet.com](mailto:ed.kench@btinternet.com)



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## Elaine Carpenter

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12 - 2pm & 6 - 9pm  
sunday 12 - 3pm

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24th December - Open all day (food 12-2 & 6-9)  
25th December - 12 - 2pm drinks only  
26th December - 12-4pm (food until 2pm)  
27th December - 12-7pm drinks only  
Then usual opening hours until 31st December  
31st December - open all day (food 12-2pm & free buffet in evening)  
1st January - 12-4pm (food until 2pm)  
2nd January - closed  
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## THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851 by Geoffrey Kay



Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Geoffrey back to the Parish Room last Wednesday night to tell us all about the Great Exhibition of 1851. He began by introducing us to the Iron Bridge over the river Seven in Shropshire. Opened in 1781 it was the first arch bridge in the world built of cast iron, and greatly celebrated because of its innovative use of this new material. We heard that its structure is comparable to something that a carpenter would construct, comprising standardised sections that were created offsite for easy assembly on site; something that would come to the fore seventy years later in the Crystal Palace.

Geoffrey then introduced us to Sir Henry Cole, or Old King Cole as the press referred to him - a civil servant involved with public records and the postal service. Through membership of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), Cole lobbied for support for his campaign to improve standards in industrial design. With the backing of Prince Albert, a royal charter was granted to the RSA in 1847. Cole organised a successful Exhibition of Art Manufactures in 1847 and enlarged exhibitions in 1848 and 1849. He then visited the 1849 Paris Exhibition, noticing the lack of an exhibition for international participants and seeing that the RSA's planned exhibitions for 1850 & 1851 could be changed into a larger international exhibition. He secured Queen Victoria's backing, and in 1850 a Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 was established, under the Presidency of Prince Albert, with Henry Cole as its chief administrator.

We heard it was decided the entire project would be funded by public subscription. An executive Building Committee was formed to oversee the design and construction of the exhibition building, chaired by William Cubitt and comprising Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Robert Stephenson, the Duke of Buccleuch, architects Charles Barry and Thomas Donaldson and the Earl of Ellesmere. By 15 March 1850 submissions were invited, which had to conform to several key specifications: the exhibition building had to be temporary, simple, as cheap as possible, and economical to build within the short time remaining before opening, which was scheduled for 1 May 1851. We were told that within 3 weeks the committee had received some 245 entries, including 38 international submissions from Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Hanover, Switzerland, Brunswick and Hamburg. Unbelievably we then heard the committee rejected them all, although two were jointly awarded a second prize. As a last resort the committee came up with a standby design of its own, but this was widely criticized and ridiculed when published in the newspapers. The site for the Exhibition was also still unconfirmed!

Geoffrey then introduced Joseph Paxton, a renowned gardener interested in the project, who with enthusiastic backing from Henry Cole, agreed to submit his own design. Paxton was chiefly known for his celebrated career as head gardener for the 6th Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth House, where he had experimented extensively with glasshouse building; he created many novel techniques for modular construction using combinations of standard sized sheets of glass, laminated wood and prefabricated cast iron. The Great Stove conservatory at Chatsworth, built in 1836, was the first major application of his famous 'ridge-and-furrow' roof design, then the largest glass building in the world covering around 28,000 square feet. A decade later, with the availability of the new cast plate glass, he developed his techniques with the Chatsworth Lily House, built specifically to house the Victoria amazonica waterlily recently discovered by botanists. The lily and its house led directly to his design for the Crystal Palace.

The project was a major gamble for Paxton, with the Exhibition opening less than a year away! His design fulfilled and surpassed all requirements, proving significantly faster and cheaper to build than any other form of building of comparable size. The submission budgeted a remarkably low cost of £85,800, about 2-1/2 times that of the Chatsworth Great Stove. This was just 28% of the estimated cost of Richard Turner's second place design, but with a footprint of more than 770,000 sq ft (approx 19 acres), or roughly 25 times the ground area of its progenitor. Impressed by the low bid tendered by engineering firm Fox, Henderson and Co, the commission

accepted the scheme and gave public endorsement to Paxton's design in July 1850. Paxton now had less than 8 months to finalize his plans, manufacture the parts and erect the building in time for the Exhibition's opening, scheduled for 1 May 1851.

Paxton designed and built the largest glass structure yet created, in less than a year, completing it on schedule and on budget, despite altering the design shortly before building began. This was to add a high barrel-vaulted transept across the centre of the building, to enclose several large elm trees that otherwise would have been felled, thus resolving a controversial issue and major sticking point for the vocal anti-exhibition lobby; it also kept the Queen happy. Allied Iron Founders supplied the iron castings and Chance Brothers the glass panels; both companies survive to this day and the crystal palace was successfully completed over a very hard winter; sadly five men were killed during its completion, which was low as 2,000 men completed the enormous structure in just eight months. The building was simply colossal, being 1,848 feet long, 408 feet wide and 108 feet high to the central transept, having required 4,500 tons of iron, 60,000 cubic feet of timber and more than 293,000 panes of glass, which also eliminated the need for any internal lights. By way of example, the Tropical Biome, largest of the Eden Project domes, is 180 foot high at its centre but just 328 feet wide & 656 feet long - tiny in comparison.

The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations was then opened by Queen Victoria and ran from 1st May to 15th October 1851; it became an enormously popular and financial success. Six million people (eight million separate visits because many season tickets were sold) came to view 100,000 exhibits from 14,000 exhibitors within the 990,000 square feet of space.

Admission to the exhibition varied by date of visit, with prices reducing as the parliamentary season drew to an end and London traditionally emptied of wealthy individuals. Prices ranged from three guineas (approx. £384 today) (two guineas for a woman) for a season ticket, or £1 per day, for the first two days, then reduced to five shillings (approx. £30.50 today) per day until May 22. The admission price was then further reduced to one shilling (just £6.00 today) per day, except on Fridays, when it was set at two shillings and six pence, or Saturdays, when it remained at five shillings. The one shilling ticket proved most successful amongst the industrial classes, with 4.5 million shillings (£27,500,000 today), being taken from attendees, and by the end of the summer, there were more than 100,000 visitors each day. Many people set up local clubs so that members could save up and then arrange excursions to the Exhibition as a group, negotiating cheaper train fares and lodgings. Some working men's associations set up similar schemes, as did railway agents including Thomas Cook; more than 150,000 people from Yorkshire and the Midlands, including a party of 3,000 children from Leicester, Derby and Nottingham, travelled to London under Cook's arrangements, who later made a successful business from such excursions. Crystal Palace also had the first major installation of public toilets - George Jennings "Monkey Closet" flushing lavatory. The toilets were originally for the use of gentlemen, but were later also made available to ladies. During the exhibition, 827,280 visitors paid one penny to use them (£3,447 then, £420,534 now), for which they got a clean seat, a towel, a comb and a shoe shine.

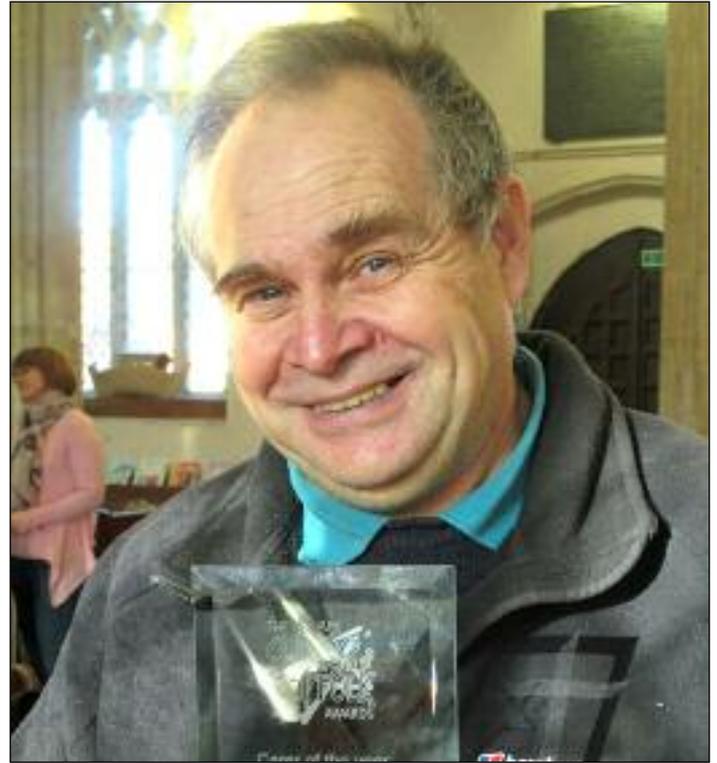
After the Great Exhibition closed, Paxton was knighted and public opinion clamoured, without success, for the Crystal Palace to remain in the park. Nine businessmen came to the rescue and purchased the complete structure from Fox Henderson, the contractors who erected and owned the building. In the summer of 1852 a new site was found for the now redesigned Crystal Palace, on Sydenham Hill in south-east London, and reconstruction commenced. Reopened in 1854, the Crystal Palace provided a national centre for the education and enjoyment of the people, the building featuring courts depicting various periods of architecture as well as courts of art and manufacture. The grounds of the palace contained magnificent fountains, an unrivalled collection of statuary, many fine specimens of trees and shrubs and full size models of prehistoric animals, which were to become world famous. In 1856 the magnificent fountains and Brunel's great water towers were commissioned. Unhappily, the Crystal Palace was completely destroyed in a spectacular fire in November 1936. In October 1851 a Royal Commission was founded as a permanent body to spend the exhibition profits in order to realise Prince Albert's ambition to "increase the means of industrial education and extend the influence of science and art upon productive industry". Commissioners purchased 87 acres of land in South Kensington, stretching from Kensington Gore to Cromwell Road, where they aided establishment of the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Science Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Royal Albert Hall and Imperial College, as well as the Royal College of Art and the Royal College of Music. This legacy and unique cultural estate became known as Albertopolis, and the Commission still acts as landlord for much of the site, playing an active part in its continuing development. Today the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 awards some 25 postgraduate Fellowships and Scholarships a year, for advanced study and research in science, engineering, the built environment and design, a brilliant enduring legacy from a fantastic Victorian exhibition of the world's finest manufactured objects.

Andy Sheppard

**FOB'S CHRISTMAS FAIR 9TH DECEMBER**



**LENNY SOUTHGATE CARER OF THE YEAR AWARD**



Lenny Southgate: Chris Southgate, Lenny's son, says: "My dad Lenny has cared for me since my accident in 2003 when I was paralysed in a cycling accident. I am a wheel-chair user and have learning difficulties. My dad has been a great support, attending to my every need. He gave up work to look after me and my mum - it's not been easy and he gets no help. My mum died suddenly in 2014. It hit dad very hard, but he still manages to look after me. I would not be where I am without him and my late mother."

# Valentine's Day at SbN

Romantic Candlelit Dinner | Romantic Spa & Dining Break

**Romantic Candlelit Dinner – just £39pp**  
Join us for a bespoke 3-course Valentine's dinner, glass of champagne each on arrival and a special red rose for your valentine

**Romantic Spa & Dining Break – just £135pp**  
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# NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

## Breast screening mobile

The Breast screening mobile will be once again visiting Sudbury, at the King Fisher leisure Centre, October to December 2016. Please note this is an invitation service only, screening women aged 50-70 years. If you are over 70 years of age, you may self-refer for a mammogram once every 3 years: call us on 01284 713941. If you have a breast problem see your GP. Please let us know if you cannot make an appointment.

## Boxford Drama Group Charity Donations

Due to the generosity of our patrons BDG have been able to donate £100 to the Royal Marines Benevolent Trust from the 'Quartet' draw, £100 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance following the 'Oh La La draw and £209 each to Boxford Village Hall and Boxford Community Council as a result of the money raised at the performances of 'Robin Hood'.

## The Little Earth Project

The Little Earth Project have a very unusual beer coming up called organic 'Brett Terroir' there will only be a total of 10 firkins in total and should be ready by mid-December. It is a wild Saison brewed using 100% our organic hops and malt (grown at Chelsworth) and fermented using a local wild yeast culture combined with a strain of Saison yeast. It will be available at the Fleece Hotel in Boxford to celebrate the visit of the famous Churchfitters Band on the 18th December.

## SHOEBOX CAMPAIGN 2016

SThank you to all who helped to wrap and fill the shoeboxes at Mary's house this year. Also to everyone who very kindly supplied us with bags of goodies, stationery, toiletries and cuddly toys and of course the usual bags of knitted hats, scarves and mittens. Knitted hand puppets are very welcome too and we have easy knitting patterns for them.

168 lovely boxes from Boxford went to the warehouse which just shows the generosity of the people in our villages and we can't thank you enough. They were due to leave for Bulgaria on Friday 2nd December - what a treat for the children waiting for them!

Thank you all so much and keep on knitting for next year when we hope to do it all again.

Any further information please phone:

Ann Porter on 210581. Shirley Watling on 210024. Jennie Lindsley on 210520

## Poppy Appeal 2016

We achieved another good result for the Poppy Appeal in Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton, with a total of over £2150. Thanks are due once again to the house-to-house collectors, businesses who had collecting boxes, and the congregation at the Remembrance service in Boxford.

On a personal note, having organised the appeal in the three villages for a number of years, I am endeavouring to find somebody to take over from next year. If you would like to consider giving some of your time to support the vital work of the Royal British Legion, please ring me on 210814. I would be happy to explain what is involved, and would give whatever support is required in the transitional period.

Yours sincerely

Brian Jones, Poppy Appeal Organiser

ATTENTION ALL

## BOXFORD GARDENING SOCIETY MEMBERS

*Ticket Only Event in March. Tickets available ONLY at our January and February meetings!*

On Tuesday March 7th **Anna Pavord**, gardening correspondent for The Independent and prolific author of respected gardening books will be our **STAR SPEAKER**.

Anna's unusual presentation is not a 'how to' of gardening techniques but rather the fascinating and extraordinary story of the tulip - a flower that has made men mad, with greed, desire, anguish and devotion all playing their part in the development of the tulip into the world-wide phenomenon it is today.

No other flower has ever carried so much cultural baggage; it charts political upheavals, illuminates social behaviour, mirrors economic booms and busts, plots the ebb and flow of religious persecution. Anna will tell how the tulip arrived from Turkey and took the whole of Western Europe by storm, starting as a fashion that far surpassed anything we have seen since.

Tickets for this event are £8.00 Members and £10 guests

## Boxford WI

2016 has been a great year for us here at Boxford WI. We have welcomed three new members with three more to join in the New Year. This year was of course our 10th birthday and we had a wonderful celebration. We have had some excellent Speakers including talks about Melford Hall, the Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds and a painting demonstration from Vernon Lever. Our craft group is very popular as well as our book club and our walking group continues to visit our lovely Suffolk countryside. Some of our members attended Elmsett and Aldham garden party and others Bures 95th party. There was a visit to Cambridge including a tour of Queens College as well as a trip to Paycockes house and gardens. Our lunch clubs has had some excellent meals at The Loft in Sudbury, The Horseshoes in Cockfield and the Veggie Red Lion in Great Bricett to name but a few. Our newly formed Theatre group went to see made in Dagenham at the Wolsey Theatre

In 2017 there will be a number of Speakers on a variety of subjects for example: Tai Chi, Couture Millinery and a return visit from the wonderful Jenny Gibbs with further tales of her life in Turkey. Our craft club will be busy making sensory bands and snail making. Our walking group will run from April to September and our lunch club will continue to meet regularly as will our book club. The Theatre group is off to see the play that goes wrong at The Mercury in Colchester in February.

Life is full and enjoyable here at Boxford WI and we are looking forward to many good things to come in 2017.

## Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

An 8 week course on Monday afternoons 3.30-5.30pm  
Meeting in Groton Village Hall, CO10 5EL  
Starting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

Tutor: Hugh Black-Hawkins

## UNHAPPY FAMILIES

*"All happy families resemble one another but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."* Tolstoy: "Anna Karenina"

We shall explore the different ways families are unhappy. This will involve examining the absence of families and the changing ideas of family over the last 400 years in the following issues:-

Monday January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Shakespeare - Henry IV Parts 1 and 2
Monday January 30 <sup>th</sup>	
Monday February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Poems by Phillip Larkin and Simon Armitage
Monday February 20 <sup>th</sup>	
Monday February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Austen - Mansfield Park
Monday March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lorna Sage - Bad Blood
Monday March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Ayckbourne - Bedroom Farce
Monday March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Poems by Larkin, Armitage and others

Course Fee: £70 for the complete course, payable on the first or second meeting. £8 for each single class.

Newcomers to these classes are very welcome.

Further information from:

Mrs Elm Todd, Mill Farm Cottage, Edwardstone, Sudbury CO10 5PY  
Telephone: 01787 210344

Please contact Mrs Todd if you are interested in attending.

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# Wot's On

## QUIZ AND CHIPS

**Saturday, January 14th 7.30pm at Groton Village Hall**

The Groton Church fund-raising team have another treat for you: a whole evening of "Quizzing" and a delicious meal brought in from the Chip Shop [you can choose what you have with your chips, for instance fish, chicken, sausage etc] Please bring your own wine, beer etc., soft drinks and glasses provided. This should be a good evening, so get your clever friends together, and buy your tickets, which will be available soon at only £10 each, from Pat Kennedy Scott[210319] or Jayne Foster [211360] All proceeds to St. Bartholomew's Church.

## A Boxford Benefit for Peter Hibben.

Veronica Hobbs is organising a big Valentines Disco Dance on Saturday, February 11th to benefit Peter Hibben (details below). Local businesses and organisations are generously supporting the event so she is able to pass on all profits to Peter to help him with his future care.

This is a 'Tickets in advance only' event, where a professional DJ will play music that will suit everyone from Dad Dancing to hits of the seventies up to the present day. There will be a Buffet Supper and a full bar and some interesting raffle prizes!

### VALENTINES DISCO DANCE

**Saturday February 11th 7.30 pm till late at Boxford Village Hall.**

Tickets £12.50 (IN ADVANCE ONLY) from: Veronica Hobbs 01787 211529, Sylvia Tait 01787 210053, Eileen Norman 01787 210229, David House 01787 210918

## PLAY BRIDGE in Boxford

At **THE FLEECE**

A NEW GROUP has been established and meets on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 5 pm

All players welcome including beginners

For more information call David Tolhurst at 01787 210328

Email [detolhurst@gmail.com](mailto:detolhurst@gmail.com)

## Little Waldingfield Parish Room

The next Quiz Night is on Saturday 11th February 2017. As always there will be a 2 course meal at £8.50, bar and raffle. I hope you will come and enjoy what will be the usual night of fun as well as supporting the Parish Room. The main course will be steak pie, but if you have any dietary needs please let Sue know.

To book your table contact Sue on 247173 or Mary on 247658

## Whoops! There go my onions!

Boxford Drama Group has invited those lovely ladies from the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society back for their March production.

So if you enjoyed their previous ventures on the Boxford Village Hall stage in 'The Haunted Through Lounge and Recessed Dining Nook at Farndale Castle' and 'The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery' then you'll simply love their latest production entitled 'Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue, S'il Vous Plait'.

The Farndale ladies latest production, set in Paris, has all the ingredients of a classic farce featuring a delicious French maid, a plumber, the secretary, the mistress, husbands and wives but not necessarily married to each other, the lovers tryst, some dodgy dealings, plenty of doors, a Hoover with a mind of its own, and let's not mention the accordion!

Confusion reigns as everyone tries to keep track of who is married to who, who is having an affair and with whom, who is in the kitchen with the decorator, who stole the occasional table and exactly where is the painting of the Laughing Cavalier?

What could possibly go wrong.....apart from collapsing furniture, forgotten lines, miss-timed sound effects and general am-dram mishaps and mayhem for which those Farndale ladies are famous for.

This hilarious comedy, written by David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin jnr, will be on at Boxford Village Hall on 30th, 31st March and 1st April 2017. Tickets will be available from Boxford Post Office from 25th February 2017.

## Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy

**21st January 2017 10 a.m. – 12 noon**

Parish Room Little Waldingfield

(in aid of church funds)

A Boxford Benefit for Peter Hibben!



**Valentine's  
Disco  
Dance**

• DISCO  
• BUFFET SUPPER  
• LICENSED BAR

SPECIAL  
RAFFLE!

**Saturday February 11th  
7.30 till late**  
Boxford Village Hall

Tickets £12.50 (IN ADVANCE ONLY)  
Veronica Hobbs 01787 211529  
Sylvia Tait 01787 210053  
Eileen Norman 01787 210229  
David House 01787 210918

GROTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS



**QUIZ AND  
CURRY  
EVENING**

At  
**Groton Village Hall**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 7.30 for 7.45 Start  
£12.00 per head (entry plus choice of curry & dessert)

Teams of four  
B.Y.O. Bar  
Raffle

Phone Joanna: 210619 or Jayne: 211360 to book your place

# Wot's On

## LWHS Programme of Events - 2016/2017

**18th January**

What did your grandfather do in the great war? by David Empsom.  
LWHS member only event - A talk on medals & military research through the ages.

**15th February**

Chilton: A journey through time by David Burnett.  
Beginning in the late Bronze Age, incorporating discovery of Saxon treasure and riotous church behaviour, with memories of Chiltonians past and present.

**15th March**

Henry Adams Cupper by Geoffrey Robinson.  
A Suffolk Pioneer, a transatlantic journey into the unknown.

**19th April**

Connections between Suffolk and India by Ashley Cooper.  
Ashley is a brilliant speaker and this talk will be full of surprises.

**17th May**

The Life and Art of Thomas Gainsborough by Mark Bills.  
Mark is a director of Gainsborough's House, so who better to speak to us.

**14th June**

The life and times of Joan of Arc by Joy Bounds.  
Joy is a local writer who focuses on women's issues and history who has published widely. This talk is based on "Far From Home" - her novel about Joan of Arc.

## NEWTON VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

**DECEMBER 2016**

Wednesday 14th	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
Monday 19th	12-12.30 pm	Fireside Club – Xmas lunch at Cock & Bell

**JANUARY 2017**

Tuesday 5th	2.00 pm	Fireside Club – tba
Saturday 8th	10.00 am	Newton Green Trust coffee morning
Wednesday 11th	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 17th	2.00 pm	Fireside Club - tba

### REGULAR EVENTS

Monday mornings (term time only): Yoga class (phone Sophia on 313662 for details)

Monday evenings: (6.00 pm) Trayfit high intensity exercise class (call Tracy 07772 575325)

Monday and Thursday evenings: Western Partner Dance Club (call Chris 371006)

Tuesday evenings: JT Steppers Line Dance Club (call Jean on 377434)

Friday afternoons: Art and Craft club (call Anne on 312346)

Friday evenings: Sudbury and District Wargames Club (call Brian on 312160)

## CHRISTMAS IN LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

*Christmas Carol Service*  
St. Lawrence Church  
Tuesday 20 December at 7pm

*Sing Carols round the Village*  
In aid of CRISIS  
Thursday 22 December  
6pm at The Swan

*Christmas Eve Communion Service*  
St. Lawrence Church  
Saturday 24 December at 9pm



**BOXFORD  
GARDENING SOCIETY**

## Gardeners Question Time

Rupert Eley of Place for Plants

Sarah Cook former Head Gardener at  
Sissinghurst and Iris specialist

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO MAGGIE THORPE  
maggiehorpe37@gmail.com

# GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

**Tuesday 3rd January 7.30pm**  
at Boxford Village Hall



**Saturday 28th January 2017**  
7.30pm for 7.50pm prompt start!

## BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL

**£60 PER TEAM - MAX. 8 IN A TEAM**

Contact Stephanie Atkins 01787 21044

Mark Miller 01787 211596

[mark.miller@talktalk.net](mailto:mark.miller@talktalk.net)

[BoxfordCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:BoxfordCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

[www.boxford.village.hall](http://www.boxford.village.hall)

Registered Charity No. 104482

**LEAVENHEATH CINEMA SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY**  
 Tickets Telephone: Lesley (01206 262505) or Ken (01206 263266)  
 £3.50 per adult and £2.00 per young person

PRESENTED BY  
**PETER HALL**  
 BASED ON THE NOVEL BY  
**RONALD BLYTHE**

**AKENFIELD**

DUAL FORMAT EDITION

**Polstead Digital Cinema Friday 20th January**  
 Tickets £3.50 from the Polstead Community Shop or 01787 210029  
 All films start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm

**NEW**  
 Senior special **EVERYDAY** £5.95 lunch with a drink  
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or medium glass of wine

**Wednesday** homemade burger specials

**Thursday** Indian/Thai curry night

*White Hart, Broad St, Boxford, CO10 5DX*

## Forthcoming Events Diary

### January

3 Boxford Gardening Society	Gardeners Question Time	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
4 Boxford WI	Food Waste	Boxford Village Hall	2.00pm
11 Boxford WI	Craft Club, Sensory Hands	Mary's House	2.00pm
14 Quiz and Chips	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	7.30pm
18 Little Waldingfield History Soc	What did gandad do in the war	Parish Rooms	7.30pm
21 Coffee Morning Bring and Buy	Ltl W PCC	Parish Rooms	10-12noon
23 Unhappy Families (see ad for other dates)	Boxford Study Centre	Groton Village Hall	
27 Boxford WI	Lunch Club	The Bell, Kersey	
28 Fun and Games Night	Boxford Community Council	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm

### February

1 Boxford WI	Tai Chi Demo	Boxford Village Hall	2.00pm
8 Boxford WI	Craft Club, Snail Making	Mary's House	2.00pm
11 Valentines Dance	Peter Hibben Benefit	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
11 Quiz Night	Little Waldingfield Parish Room	Parish Room	7.30pm
15 Little Waldingfield History Soc	A journey through time	Parish Rooms	7.30pm
22 Boxford WI	Book Club	Mary;s House	2.00pm

### March

1 Boxford WI	Dementia	Boxford Village Hall	2.00pm
8 Boxford WI	Craft Club Snail Finishing	Mary's House	2.00pm
15 Little Waldingfield History Soc	Henry Adams Cupper by Geoffrey Robinson	Parish Rooms	7.30pm
30 Boxford WI	Lunch Club		tba
30/31 & 1st April	'Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue, S'il Vous Plait' BDG	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
First and Third Monday each month	Boxford Parish Council Meetings in	Bell House, Stone Street St, Boxford	7.30pm



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[www.churchillbrothers.co.uk](http://www.churchillbrothers.co.uk)

## BOXFORD ROVER'S UNDER 9 TEAMS



Boxford Rover's Under 9 teams Sponsored by W.A. Deacon Builders of Lavenham Above are the Blur team and below the Reds. Mr Deacon is the Grandfather of one of the players.



St. Bartholomew's Church Group  
presents a



## QUIZ & CHIPS

NIGHT

with Peter our Quizmaster  
Tables of Six

on  
Saturday  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2017

at 7.30p.m.  
Cotton Village Hall

Chips and a choice of Fish, Sausage, Pie or Chicken  
Choices to be given when booking tickets please

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Christmas and New Year**

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*Please accept this as our Christmas greeting in lieu of cards this year. We will instead be making a donation to the Evelina Children's Heart Organisation based at Guys Hospital. Although this may not seem to be a local charity, it is often where children with heart problems in our area are treated. Thank you.*

*Darling I did tell you to get it fixed at Mattocks*

# Oh yes it is!



Set in Nottingham Castle and Robin's encampment in Sherwood Forest, this was yet another in the long line of Pantomimes, written in house by a member of Boxford Drama Group.

Written and Directed by David Phillips this years offering achieved the usual high standard that can be expected of a BDG production.

One of the delights of traditional pantomime is that often the characters have to ad lib and react to situations not always in the script, which was the case for the opening of his year's pantomime Robin Hood. The odd opening-night glitch, which the cast dealt with admirably, only served to add much to an already delightful rendition of the Robin Hood story.

By the second night and playing to a capacity audience everything was slick and just as the producer had expected. I was there on the third night when the performers were also reacting well with audience participation, and comments. That's what Panto is all about.

Central to this story was Nanny Nora, the pantomime dame, wonderfully played once again by Joe Barrett, who has developed a real forte for this type of performance and so knows how to play every nuance and subtly to perfection, continually interacting with the audience. Nanny Nora's mission is to help her ward, Lady Marion (Ruby Robinson), avoid the fate of marrying the evil Sheriff (Georgie Waterson) and instead win her the hand in marriage of Robin Hood (Beth Molloy). Well thats it in a nutshell.

We had one new actor on the stage, Beth Molloy who gave a strong performance as a Handsome Robin and Derek Butler was encouraged to come out of retirement, to be a splendid Friar Tuck. There was also a surprise appearance at the end of the Panto by Sean Connery (or was it Nick Elliott) as King Richard who finally made Nanny Nora's dreams come true.

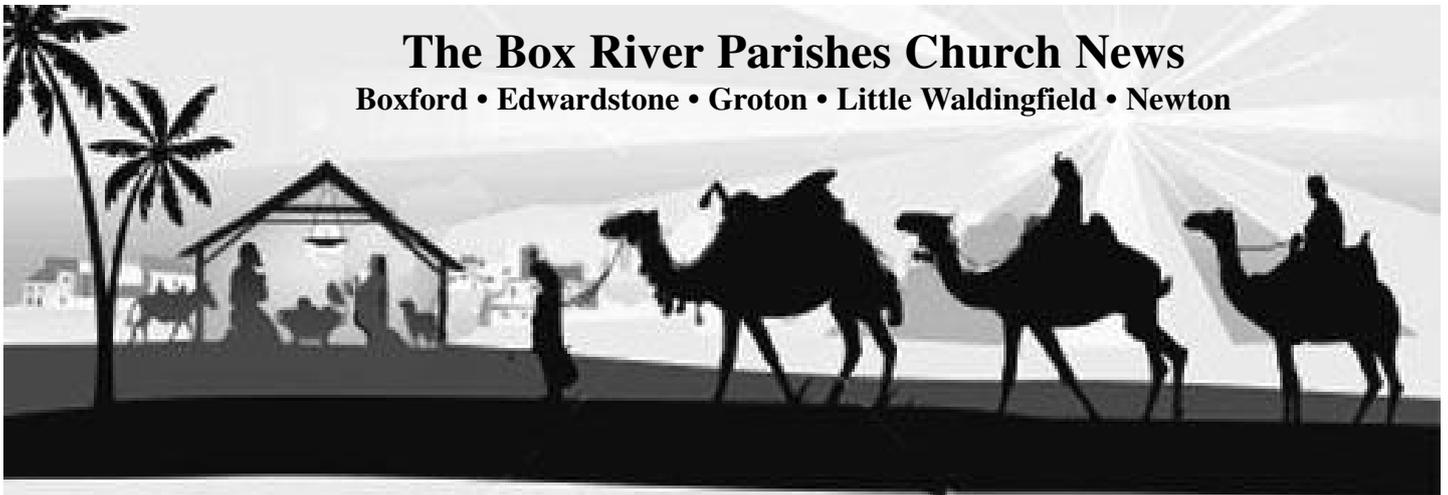
Everyone turned in splendid performances including the catering team who gave us our first taste of Turkey this season.



Photo's Trudi Wilde

# The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton



**Churches Together Prayer Breakfasts** in January 2017, to which all are welcome, will held on Saturdays, 8.00 am to 9.30 am, on the following dates at these venues

- 7th** Living Waters Church, Gregory Street, Sudbury.
- 14th** St Mary's Church, Bures.
- 21st** Suffolk Road Church, Sudbury.
- 28th** Sudbury Baptist Church, Church Street, Sudbury.

**Week of prayer for Christian Unity 15th – 22nd January 2017** entitled **Crossing Barriers**

The Week of Prayer is international and offers local opportunities to meet and pray with fellow Christians of different denominations. The theme this year is Crossing Barriers. The material for 2017 was prepared for worldwide use by the churches in Germany based around 2 Corinthians 5: 14-20. There are 50 million Christians in Germany who, traditionally, have mostly belonged to the Roman Catholic Church or one of the Protestant State Churches. Recent developments, particularly the reception of refugees and asylum seekers, have begun to change this balance and other Christian traditions are finding expression. Whilst that which unites the churches is stronger than that which divides, there are still areas of difference in which the churches remain self-absorbed or construct new walls.

The text from 2 Corinthians announces that God has, in Christ, reconciled the world to himself. The love of Christ compels us to be ambassadors of this reconciliation, which is enacted by dismantling the walls. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany experienced how a seemingly insurmountable wall could be brought down. The fall of this wall is a symbol of hope that, with the love of God, nothing is impossible. The Week of Prayer is an annual worldwide event. It is a great joy to meet with members of other churches; please come to as many of these days as you can:

- Sunday 15th January 6:30 pm** *United Service* at Sudbury Catholic Church
- Monday 16th January 12:30 pm** Sudbury Baptist Church
- Tuesday 17th January 12:30 pm** St Mary's Church, Bures
- Wednesday 18th January 12:30 pm** St Andrew's, Great Cornard
- Thursday 19th January 12:30 pm** St John's Methodist Church, Sudbury
- Friday 20th January 12:30 pm** United Reformed Church, Sudbury
- Saturday 21st January 8:00 am** Prayer Breakfast at Suffolk Road Church

Refreshments will be provided after most services

Visit the Churches Together website for CTiS&D news and for details of other forthcoming events: [www.churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk](http://www.churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk).

Copy Date for Church News in the February Box River News:

**Please, NO LATER THAN 12th January 2017**

**Failure to meet the date will mean your copy may not be included**

Thank you. Rev'd Judith. 01787 210091

**email address: [rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com](mailto:rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com)**

## THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

**Churchwarden:**

*Peter Dilnot*

**Assistant Churchwarden:**

*Michael Gray*

*Mobile: 07931 043926*

*Email: [boxford.warden@btinternet.com](mailto:boxford.warden@btinternet.com)*



### Christmas Services

**Sunday December 18th A Carol Service** for the whole family at **6.30 pm** followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

**Saturday December 24th Christmas Eve** Midnight Communion at **11.30 pm**

**Sunday December 25th Christmas Day** A Family Service for Christmas Day at **10.00 am**



We are approaching the deepest and darkest time of year. We look back at the year that has passed with all its many changes and challenges, the world we live in seems beset by

sorrow, conflict and noise. Politicians argue and countries are almost destroyed by war or want. Tens of thousands of people are on the move, crossing seas and continents in search of a better, peaceful life. At Christmas time we hear again the story of one family's journey under orders from their Imperial masters. Joseph and Mary have to leave the safety of Nazareth and travel for days to reach Bethlehem, to be counted, named, put on a list of residents of an occupied country. They will soon have a baby, another name to be recorded, and Mary needs a place to rest. In a quiet, dark stable, Jesus is born, laid in a manger and adored by Mary and Joseph. God appears in the most unlikely place, unheralded, unseen, unknown except by a few shepherds and three strangers from the East. If we stop this Christmas, stand still for a while, and wait, perhaps we will hear the Christ-child in the darkest corner of some desperate street in a bombed out city. Perhaps we will see the light of hope shining in the distance, drawing us all to its penetrating fire.



The **Boxford 2017 Calendar** is now on sale in the Post Office. It makes a great gift and souvenir. Priced at £7.00 a copy, all proceeds go to St. Mary's Church, or you can email Chris Kingsbury at [ChrisKingsC@aol.com](mailto:ChrisKingsC@aol.com) and we will reserve you a copy.

St Mary's Church wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:  
Vacant

**Saturday 24th December.** Our **Carol Service** takes place on **Christmas Eve as usual at 6.00 pm.** This is our traditional Christmas service of Carols and Readings and is a happy event open to everyone and can be enjoyed by all the community of Edwardstone. As with all of our services, non-churchgoers are just as welcome as our regular congregation. Our Benefice Choir will contribute to the service with choral pieces reflecting the season and there will, of course, be familiar carols for all to join in and sing. Every child will be given an orange with a candle to remind us of the Christingle tradition in which the orange represents our World and the candle stands for Jesus as the light of the World shining out across all of God's creation. Please do come and take part in this celebration of Christmas. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

### Rota

**Sunday 15th January at 9.30 am Morning Worship**

**Sidesman/Coffee** Jan Paul / Marlene Clarke

**Flowers** Ineke Morris

**Cleaning** Emma Driscoll and Justine Walters

Our **Christmas Carol Service** will be held on **Tuesday 20th December at 7:00 pm.** There will be mulled wine and mince pies.

Please join us to sing carols round the village on **Wednesday 21st December at 6.00 pm.** We shall be collecting for CRISIS.

The **Christmas Eve Communion Service** will be held on **Saturday 24th December at 9.00 pm.**

**Please note** the only Service in the Benefice on **Sunday January 1st** is here at St Lawrence's Church at **10.00 am.**

We are holding a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale in the Parish Room on **Saturday 21st January between 10 am and 12 noon** in aid of Church funds. Please do come and enjoy the morning.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



## THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwarden:  
Christine Cornell,  
"Opus", Sudbury Road, Newton, Tel: 370331

27th November. Our Service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday in Advent was conducted by Revd. Judith. As part of the service, the first candle on the Advent Ring was lit signifying the start of the journey of the Christmas story. Seeing the flickering candle light amongst the beautiful greenery really did draw us into the thought of the ending of this year and the coming of a new year.

**Saturday 24th December at 3.00 pm** We welcome all to our Crib Service. This is an informal service for all ages, with children particularly welcome. The service will include carols and songs with children in mind and there will be a simple retelling of the Christmas story. During the service the children will be invited to gather round for the blessing of the Crib.

All Saints' Church wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

### Reduction in Newton Church Services from January 2017.

Please note that, with much regret, Newton church council (PCC) has decided to go down from two Sunday services per month to one, on a trial basis, losing the 9.30 am service on the second Sunday of the month and retaining only the 11:00 am service on the fourth Sunday of the month. This is because the one or two people who always set up for services, organising refreshments and tidying up afterwards, are under increasing pressure, due to illness and caring responsibilities, such that they are unable to sustain the two regular services a month. Please do consider whether you would be able to join the team on a regular basis and maybe the coming year will bring new people to our village who would like to offer help. They would be very welcome.

## BENEFICE NEWS

**Ministry Team** The next meeting of the ministry team is on **Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 7.30 pm** at Mary's House.

## DEANERY NEWS

None

## GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

Pray for Syria and Iraq each Friday

Our cries and the cries of people around the world go up for the people of Syria and Iraq. It is hard for us to conceive of the suffering, the danger and fear that so many are living with and to understand why political efforts seem to come to very little. Bishop Martin is asking all of us each Friday at noon to pause whatever we are doing, and spend a minute in prayer for those who are suffering, especially in Aleppo and Mosul, those providing help, and for peace. One minute, at noon, every Friday. "We live by faith, and our prayer is an expression of that faith. Prayer makes a difference, and by this simple commitment we can help those who are in such desperate need." A suggested prayer can be found on the weekly 'New Wine' Benefice newsletter or on the Benefice 'Church Near You' web site at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com). Enter Boxford in the search box, choose St Mary and look in the right-hand section of the side bar headed Pages and Links for the title Prayer for Syria.

100 Years, 100 Treasures: A celebration of Suffolk Churches Copies (price £5) still available. Contact David Lamming. Tel: 01787 210360 or e mail [djlamming@hotmail.com](mailto:djlamming@hotmail.com).



## THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens:  
Vacant

### Christmas Carols, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Groton's Carol Service this year, to be followed by mulled wines and mince pies, is on **Wednesday 21st December 2016 at 7.00 pm** in **Groton Church.** Do join us!

**PCC MEETING** The PCC will meet at Mary's House at **7.00 pm on Tuesday 10th January 2017.** Items for the agenda should be communicated to the secretary, David Lamming (tel: 01787 210360; e-mail: [djlamming@hotmail.com](mailto:djlamming@hotmail.com)) by Sunday 1st January 2017.

St Bartholomew's Church wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



## THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens  
Vacant

### Rotas

1st Jan  
**8th Jan**  
**15th Jan**  
**22nd Jan**  
**29th Jan**

### Sidesmen

Mrs Martin & Mrs. Eddington  
Mrs. Roser  
Mrs. Gregor-Smith  
Mrs. Duffy  
Mrs. Squirrel

### Flowers

Mrs. Eddington

The village has been saddened by the sudden death of Barry Squirrel who was a staunch supporter, working hard for our church and village. We are also thinking of Diana Langford whose husband, Mike, died after a long illness a few days later. They will be mourned and missed by us all and both families are in our thoughts and prayers.

13th November. We were happy to welcome Tim Harbord to our church again to take our Remembrance Sunday Service. We began in the church and then continued to the War Memorial where the two minute silence was kept. The names of the fallen were read and wreaths laid.

4th December. Reverend Judith took Morning Worship for us. We were delighted to see Rebecca and Ben, who were married at Little Waldingfield in October.

We are busy planning our Christmas Services and hope many friends will join us.

**Village Prayers**

Each week, in the five churches: informal, friendly service, 30-40 minutes, with Revd Judith. We pray for those who are ill, concerns of the villages, and for the wider world. Do join us! Please let Revd Judith know of any people or situations for prayer. Confidential messages can be left on Tel: 01707 210051 or emailed to: [rvjudithboxriver@btinternet.com](mailto:rvjudithboxriver@btinternet.com). The winter months' rota is: **Tuesday** 9.00 Edwardstone; **Wednesday** 9.00 Groton, 16.00 Little Waldingfield (Newman's Hall); **Thursday** 9.00 Newton, 17.00 Boxford.

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday after Christmas/The naming of Jesus</b>	<b>(W)</b>
Lt Waldingfield	10.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	18.30 Evensong	Christopher Kingsbury

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd Judith

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Lt Waldingfield 15.00 Holy Communion - Newmans Hall (Reserved Sacrament) Lay Team

<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	<b>(W)</b>
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd Judith

<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b>	<b>(W)</b>
Edwardstone	09.30 Morning Worship	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd Judith

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Lt Waldingfield 15.00 Compline - Newmans Hall Lay Team

<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b>	<b>(W)</b>
Groton	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Newton	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Morning Worship	Christopher Kingsbury

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House Revd Judith

<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b>	<b>(W)</b>
Newton	10.00 Five Villages Service (with Holy Communion)	Revd Judith



Photo's David Lamming



November was not a challenging month for the Tora household. We arrived in Portugal to find one of our neighbours had died and that two – not just one – of the local characters that propped up the bars frequented by ex-pats and swallows (homeowners who fly back and forth, like us) had also passed away. Of course, it had only been a short while since Richard Morris's memorial service and, while in Portugal, I learned of the death of a City friend who had retired and moved to Felixstowe.

As if this was not enough, two neighbours from Little Waldingfield also succumbed to the grim reaper and just before writing this I heard of the passing of Peter Kennedy Scott. Given that I am in my 72nd year, perhaps I should accept that such a rush of deaths comes with the territory. But there

were more younger than me who passed away than older and these days we expect to travel on into our eighties. None of those who died had made it into their eighth decade.

It does make you think. If staying alive is as much of a lottery as these recent events suggest, should we be spending our time as if every day is our last? I don't have a "bucket list", but there are plenty of my friends who have gone into overdrive so far as travelling and holidays are concerned. Perhaps they are taking the view that joining the "Ski" club – spending the kids' inheritance - makes sense in advancing years. People of my age are, after all, considered a privileged generation enjoying better health, avoiding wars and not having to pay for the social services that threaten to cripple the developed world.

Funerals are meant to be an opportunity to celebrate the life of the departed. This has certainly proved the case in many of those I have attended recently. It is those close that are left behind that bear the biggest burden. Whether that burden is increased by a sudden and unexpected death – such as that suffered by Barry Squirrel (who will be very much missed as, I'm sure, will all the others who have died recently), or a long drawn out battle with cancer, as our German neighbour in Portugal suffered, is impossible to gauge.

I found the funeral service for Hayden, a retired sea captain who lived across from our first house in Praia da Luz, particularly moving, but by no means solemn. Knowing his days were numbered, he planned it himself. After a private cremation, some 19 – five English, the rest German - of us gathered on a cliff top near his home. A makeshift altar was fashioned and a

CD player regaled us with the full version of Ravel's Bolero. The sun shone warmly throughout.

After some prayers, a homily and a hymn – all in German, of course - around half the congregation repaired to a local restaurant while the widow took her husband's ashes out in a boat to scatter them in the sea in direct view of their home. It seemed a fitting tribute to a man who had enjoyed too little of his retirement. Like Richard and Barry, he was 68 when he finally shuffled off this mortal coil.

Contemplating the life left to me in the wake of this sad group of events, I reflected on how time seems to move much faster the older you become. I recall the late John Mortimer, author of the Rumpole stories, remarking that once he reached his eighties, it felt as though he was having breakfast every hour on the hour. Perhaps time travels quickly because we are doing more of what we want to do, rather than the chores of earning a living or looking after a house, but it is something we older people need to bear in mind.

With Christmas just around the corner, I so hope those that have been bereave will be able to take comfort from their friends and family at what can be a stressful time of year. And to all the readers of the Box River News, may I wish you as happy a Christmas as you can accomplish and a trauma free New Year.

*Brian Tora is a local writer and broadcaster.*

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# Parish Council Matters

## Groton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7 pm Wednesday 2 November 2016 at Groton Village Hall, Broad Street, Groton

Present: J Osborne (Chair), P Roberts, N Cox, R Cheeseman,

In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk), B Hurren (BDC)

Apologies for absence – A Dixon-Smith, D Wills, C Fraulo – approved.

The Minutes of the meeting of 7 September 2016 were approved and signed.

Reports and questions from Councillors and members of the public –

J Osborne said that he had today attended the CAB AGM in Sudbury. They had had a very difficult year, having been without a manager for some time and relocating from Belle Vue House to Acton Road. He had suggested that an outreach programme based in Boxford for residents of Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton would be useful. He said that the Town & Parish Liaison Meetings were on 8 or 14 November and if anyone wanted to go they should let the Clerk know.

Reports - J Finch (SCC) was not in attendance.

B Hurren (BDC) advised that the appointment for the new Chief Executive of BDC/MSDC had been made and he wished him well. The District Councils had voted to move to Endeavour House in Ipswich, a move he had opposed, and this is likely to happen in late spring 2017. He believed that the application for the phone mast on the bypass was likely to be approved and should be in place by the spring. He confirmed that Spout Hill had been swept and should be scraped later in the year. Butchers Lane would also be cleaned. All the properties in Sand Hill have been allocated apart from one. There will be a boundary review in the next couple of years.

Suffolk Police – it was noted that there had been two burglaries in the village. There had been a number of incidents in neighbouring villages as well.

Planning Matters – Applications received - B/16/01348 Groton Manor, Castlings Heath CO10 5ET – subdivision of existing site to create additional independent planning unit under land use Class C 3 (dwelling house) and use of existing annex as independent dwelling house – the Parish Council was in full support of this application.

Planning decisions received – Winthrop Cottage, Church Street Groton CO10 5HD – erection of first floor side extension and porch; erection of front extension to existing garage and single storey rear extension (following removal of existing conservatory) – approved.

Local housing update – J Osborne said that he had agreed with Hastoe Housing that a further meeting would be held with them in the second half of January 2017 to progress matters.

Community Emergency Plan – the Council considered the draft further. The Clerk will endeavour to progress this before the next meeting.

Chairman's reports and correspondence – J Osborne will complete the SALC survey on public service delivery in Suffolk and distribute to other Councillors.

Highway and Footpath matters - Footpath cutting – Councillors agreed to walk the footpaths prior to the January meeting and make a decision then on whether to continue with the SCC contractors. It was resolved that if a third cut was required the Council would liaise with local landowners.

Dog fouling issues – BDC had approved the siting of a new dog waste bin outside The Croft. It was resolved that a red bin should now be ordered.

Park Corner – The culvert has still not been mended; the Clerk will chase.

Other highway and footpath matters – R Cheeseman said that once again only some of the potholes had been mended along the stretch of road past Frogs Hall. It was agreed to continue reporting potholes to SCC. There are bad potholes near Moat Barn which will be reported. J Osborne received another complaint about horse riding on the footpath from Boxford Playing Fields up towards the barn near the Fox & Hounds. J Osborne will speak to the landowner, the Clerk will check the legal position and can provide some No Horseriding signs supplied by SCC.

Financial matters - The Statement of Finance and Orders for Payment were approved.

Reserve account as at 30 September 2016	£3518.15
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Current account as at 30 September 2016	£5410.22
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Total	£8928.37
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Transparency Code Funding- it was resolved that the Clerk would make a grant application to cover the website fee, Microsoft Office for the laptop and additional work involved in updating the website to comply with the Transparency Code.

The draft budget for 2017-18 was considered and will be finalised in January. The Clerk will provide a breakdown of previous annual donations.

It was resolved that SALC will be used as the internal auditor for 2016-17.

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reviewed and no changes were considered necessary.

The Parish Council's assets were reviewed and the annual Financial Risk Assessment was carried out. No actions were required.

Future agenda items were agreed as dog bin, footpaths, Park Corner junction, Community Emergency Plan, budget and precept.

The meeting dates for 2017 were proposed as under, all at 7pm.

18 January, 1 March, 3 May, 5 July, 6 September, 1 November.

A full copy of the Minutes can be found on the Parish Council's website:

Groton.onesuffolk.net/

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## THE NAMES ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS - JANUARY 2017

After a run of eight consecutive months, in which at least one of the servicemen from our villages had been reported killed, or missing in action presumed dead, the months of January and February 1917 passed without news of any further deaths. In that period in 1916 twenty local men perished, all on the Western Front of France and Flanders. This is exactly half of the total lost since the beginning of the War. So, in the absence of names to remember, for the next two months I will write a little more fully on one or two subjects associated with the main theme of these monthly articles. But, before I do that, this month I will set the scene of the events of the War in western Europe from the end of the battles of the Somme up until the middle of March 1917.

### The situation of the War after the Somme

1917 opened with the massive effort, and the cost in lives and equipment, of the five-month long Somme offensive still echoing both at home among the villages and in the minds of the commanders of the Allied forces on the Western Front. The winter was harsh and the opportunity for any major new battle initiatives was limited. Nevertheless, it was essential to secure the ground that had been won during the offensive and, to this end, relatively small scale operations continued in the vicinity of the high ground around the Ancre River during the first three months of the year, and several key German trenches and other defensive concentrations were taken. This was part of a strategy to ensure that any new counterattack by the German forces would be more effectively detected and resisted.

However, during February and March the German forces set in motion a plan that had been in the making since the later stages of the Somme offensive. In the autumn of 1916 aerial reconnaissance by the Royal Flying Corps, which until April 1918 was still the airborne branch of the Army, had detected several new lines of trenches being dug by the German forces behind the Front Line. This in itself was nothing new. Both armies had 'rear organisations', including trench systems, as part of the essential means of supplying the Front and providing for a rapid fall back should the Front be breached.

So, no great store was put on this information.

The eastern most line of the new trench system that had been formed drew a roughly straight line across the French countryside between Arras in the north and Rheims in the south. This became known as the Hindenburg Line, after the German Chief of the General Staff, Paul von Hindenburg. On February 9th, the German army began what was known as Operation Alberich. Within the area between the Front Line determined by the Somme offensive and this new line to the east, what we would now call a 'scorched earth' strategy was set in motion. Railways and roads were destroyed, bridges blown up, trees cut down, wells poisoned, municipal building in the towns and villages damaged or demolished and about 125,000 able bodied men were transported to work for the German war effort elsewhere in occupied France. The remaining population of this area, mostly women and children, the sick and the elderly were left with minimal food and provisions. This was carried out sector by sector, using the intervening trench lines that had been noted in the aerial reconnaissance as staging posts. Enough troops were left in place to continue the appearance of military occupation and to continue to shell Allied positions. Then between the 16th and 20th of March, all German troops withdrew to take up new positions behind the Hindenburg Line. Effectively, they gave up more ground than had been secured in the initial advance of 1914, but what this achieved was the shortening of the Front Line by 25 miles with a corresponding increase in the numbers of troops per mile of Front. In addition, the new line had been carefully chosen to occupy all the high ground along its length.

When the Allied scouting parties began to return with accounts of empty trenches and the absence of troops, as well as descriptions of a ravaged landscape full of booby traps, it became clear that what was initially hailed as a German retreat was, in truth, a very cleverly executed tactical withdrawal. The Allied commanders were now faced with the knowledge that any new advance to try and recover the occupied French territory would be hindered by the absence of a coherent transport infrastructure, and, when progress was made eastwards, they would come up against a newly empowered army deeply entrenched on high ground. Never has the phrase 'an uphill battle' had a more literal meaning. All of this meant that most of the strategic planning for the progress of the war by the Allies after the Somme had to be scrapped.

### Commonwealth War Graves Headstones

Moving on from this short resume, when we think of the memorials to the dead of the War, all of us probably have in mind the massive and monumental structures in France and Belgium such as the Menin Gate, or the Thiepval Memorial to those with no known grave, or, perhaps, the cemeteries with serried ranks of thousands of similar headstones above the graves of those whose bodies were recovered, such as at Tyne Cot or Etaples. But, as we have noted in one or two of the earlier articles, some of those from our villages who died have been lain to rest in the soil of their own country. In fact, amongst the churchyards, chapelyards and cemeteries of the towns and villages of Suffolk there lie 1332 men, who died in this war, close to where many of them were born. Many of these men are likely to be casualties evacuated from the Front for hospital care in England, and who subsequently died from their wounds. There will also be those who died in this country, whilst serving in the forces engaged in the war effort.

In our parishes there are graves of five men who died in this War, one each in Boxford, Groton and Newton, and two in Edwardstone, and a further two of those who died in the Second World War, one each in Groton and Little Waldingfield. In addition, there are graves of two men, who also died in the Second World War, located in Boxford Cemetery. In all of Suffolk, there are 195 churchyards, 22 chapelyards, and 33 cemeteries containing the graves of service personnel who died in the First World War.

Most of these graves will be marked with the same standard headstone as can be seen at Tyne Cot, though in some cases relatives arranged for privately commissioned headstones to be erected such as that in Boxford Churchyard to members of the Griggs family. (In this grave are buried Private Walter Griggs, who died as a consequence of the effects of the war in 1920 and, I think, Walter Gremsey Griggs, who died in 1918, but not in the armed forces. It also commemorates Private Ernest Griggs, who died in Flanders and has no known grave, and Corporal Bertie Griggs, who also died in Flanders and is buried there). Every one of the standard pattern headstones remains to this day the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Commission is charged with the duty to maintain all official Commonwealth war memorials, whether monuments in Flanders or a headstone in Edwardstone Churchyard, in perpetuity. Winston Churchill, during a debate in the House of Commons in 1920 to consider the question of whether the repatriation of war dead should be permitted, referred to the headstones and said that even in 2000 years time they would "...preserve the memory of a common purpose pursued by a great nation in the remote past and (would) undoubtedly excite the wonder of future generations". And so they do, even when that past is not yet quite so remote.

The design of the headstones is the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, the distinguished architect, who was one of several architects employed by the Commission as it set about the enormous task of creating the great memorials to the fallen in all the theatres of war throughout the world. Initially, there was much debate about whether there should be a uniform design for the individual headstones, or whether there should be some freedom to distinguish such matters as rank, or country of origin. However, the view prevailed that those who were being commemorated would have wanted for no such distinction and that they would have understood that they fell in pursuit of Churchill's "common purpose", officers and men together and Sikh, Hindu, Jew and Christian side by side. Thus, this simple and dignified rather tall, narrow stone came to be a familiar sight.

There is more to the design than immediately meets the eye. The gently rounded top was found to be most effective at dispersing rain in such a way as to keep it from running down the front across the carved surface. The lettering, the work of Eric Gill, sculptor, typeface designer, letter cutter and printmaker, was designed so it could be read most easily at an angle of 45 degrees from the front, that is from the viewpoint of a person standing before the grave, and also be easy to read from the side to help people looking along a row of graves for the names of relatives. Simplicity, it was felt, was paramount, and so each headstone bears the name, rank, and number of the person, the badge of their regiment, the symbol of their religion, a cross, star of David or otherwise as appropriate, and the date of their death. The Commission did allow for an extra few words to be incorporated, at the expense of the relatives, should they so wish. An example of this that to Serjeant Ernest Peachey in Edwardstone Churchyard.

The headstones in our churchyards are among the 750,000 that were made to this pattern, and that figure ignores the rejection rate during quality control that could reach as much as one to one. The sheer number demonstrates the enormity of the task that was embarked upon in 1920. All of these original memorials are made from either Portland Stone or Hopton Wood Limestone, this being the recommendation of the Curator of the Geological Survey Museum in London as the two best sources of stone that combined affordability and durability. The Monumental Masons' Federation undertook to provide 500,000 headstones in the space of six years, but, whilst the task of lettering was relatively easy to accomplish in this timescale, the regimental badges presented enormous problems. Eventually, a firm in Lancashire invented a type of pantograph machine that enabled the outline of the badge to be traced onto the stone from a standard drawing, and this was made available to all the firms employed in the production of the stones. Between 1920 and 1923 more than 4000 headstones were shipped to France each week, and of course, some 1330 or so found their way to Suffolk.

Rufus Sweetman This account of the headstones is timely. Early in 2016 the Commission, as part of the process of commemoration of the centenary of the First World War, started to roll out a project, that had been trialled earlier in one locality. It is called the War Grave Signage Project and its purpose is to arrange for a standard sign to be placed at the entrance to all cemeteries and churchyards containing war graves. (from any war or recognised military campaign) informing of their presence. The sign simply states, in white lettering on a dark green background, "At this location are Commonwealth War Graves". The signs will be provided, fixed and maintained at the expense of the Commission, but the decision to erect them at churchyards lies with the Parochial Church Councils. Each Diocese has commended the scheme and arranged for a fast track way of approving the signs without recourse to faculties or individual Archdeacons Approvals. Each of our five PCCs have given the go ahead and it is hoped these signs should appear during 2017.

*Rufus Sweetman*

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## Carter Jonas

## Parish Council Matters

### Little Waldingfield

#### Minutes of a meeting held on 10th October 2016

**Present:** Councillors Andy Sheppard (Chairman), Stewart Braybrook, Barbara Campbell, Jeremy Coomber, Matt Foster and Tim Sheppard.

**Attending:** Margaret Maybury (Babergh District Councillor) and 2 residents.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr White (holiday) sent his apologies.

**Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation:** No interests were declared and no request for dispensation had been received.

#### Minutes of Meeting held on 20th September 2016:

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Public Forum:** One resident, who could not attend the first public meeting on community led planning, raised a number of issues that were addressed at that meeting. The chairman and other councillors satisfactorily answered his questions.

**Community Led Plan:** Councillors reviewed the outcomes from the public meeting held with residents on Saturday 24th September 2016 regarding future development in the village.

The proposed letter to residents along with the accompanying ballot and information forms were discussed in detail and a revised layout and wording were agreed.

It was also agreed that completed ballot forms would be collected by councillors, on the morning of Saturday 12th November, between 10.00 and 14.00. It was also agreed that provision would be made for residents to post their completed forms into one of two ballot boxes, in the telephone information point and the church.

Lastly it was agreed that each councillor would be provided with hard copies of each of the four example plans for residents without access to the internet to examine.

#### Next Meeting:

The date of the next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday 15th November 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

### EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

#### MINUTES of the meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 21 November 2016 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** S Norman (Chair), M Childs, C Britcher, P Clarke, S Flack, P Baker

**In attendance:** A Robinson (Clerk); B Hurren (BDC); J Finch (SCC) and Daphne Clark

**Reports** - Report from SCC - J Finch had circulated his report prior to the meeting, giving further information about good results for Suffolk's Early Years Foundation Stage, plans for delivery of the new Greater Anglia rail franchise and the Be Safe and Seen in Suffolk road safety campaign which will provide thousands of primary school children with badge reflectors. Cllr Finch also gave

his views on the current position with proposals for devolution, which he believes are very much in the interests of Suffolk people. C Britcher asked about infrastructure issues, in particular the congestion on the A12. Cllr Finch said that his team had already put in a bid for funding to Highways England for this and the A14. He is also keen to encourage more people onto the trains. He confirmed the further upgrading of broadband in Edwardstone, with all due to be complete by the end of 2017 including Priory Green, Mill Green and Round Maple. A Councillor gave details of an incident when 3 wagons and 6 men turned up to repair a pothole and will provide J Finch will full details. He will investigate as this seems a gross overuse of resources.

**Report from BDC** - B Hurren said that Arthur Charvonia had been appointed as new Joint Chief Executive for BDC and MSDC and will take over early in the new year. Both Councils had voted to move operations to Endeavour House in Ipswich, and this is likely to happen from about June 2017. There are proposals for boundary changes and the Parish Council is likely to be consulted at some stage. BDC will vote on the devolution proposals tomorrow. He does not agree with the proposals he has heard to date. Locally, he confirmed that the Station Field development is up and running, and looks very good. The application for a mobile phone mast on the A1071 has been approved and should be functioning by May or June. It will service Vodafone and O2 and should improve coverage at least as far as Edwardstone. He had agreed to try to find a solution for Edwardstone Parish Hall's structural problems with the disabled toilet extension. BDC's Building Control Manager has agreed to repair the defect and the grants team will fund it. D Clark said that once a meeting has been held and she has the offer in writing she will put it to the Parish Hall Committee. She will need a guarantee for the work. C Britcher asked about the appalling parking situation in Boxford. B Hurren agreed that it was bad but said that there are some schemes which may be put in hand in due course to alleviate the problem.

**Councillor vacancy** - no further applicants had come forward. The position will continue to be advertised.

**Highway and footpath matters** - Potholes - S Flack said that the pothole outside her house had been marked but not yet repaired. The whole of this road, from the phone box to the White Horse and beyond (U8339) is in dire need of resurfacing and the Clerk will report this to SCC.

**Footpath cutting issues** - P Baker said that following the report the Parish Council sent to SCC earlier this year, steps had been put in on the footpath from behind Edwardstone Hall towards Mill Green, and the existing steps and handrail further along had been repaired. He had walked the footpath from Tinywent again recently and due to natural dieback it is now passable, but he will keep an eye on it. S Norman said that the farm manager had confirmed it would be cut next year but it will only get one cut.

The Chairman thanked P Clarke for putting up the No Horses signs. No horses have been seen on the path since the signs went up.

**Reports and Questions from Councillors and Members of the Public** - D Clark said that in the past Suffolk ACRE had looked after Village Halls and then became Community Action Suffolk. Recently she had discovered that the Locality Officer had left and 2 part time staff covered half of Suffolk so CAS were no longer able to provide an advisory service. The national ACRE office were unable to provide advice and suggested joining together with other Village Halls as a self help group.

**Planning** - Planning applications received - none.

Planning decisions received - B/16/01226/FHA/AS - extension to building formerly The Coach House, Edwardstone Hall CO10 5PH - approved; B/16/00729 Home Farm, Temple Bar, CO10 5PH - conversion of outbuilding - approved.

Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence - no issues arising save that the Clerk will complete the SALC survey on public service provision.

Financial matters - The Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment were approved.

Business Premium Account as at 30 September 2016	£2517.45
--	----------

Business Current Account as at 31 October 2016	£7029.12
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Total	£9546.57
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The Annual Return was approved and accepted following receipt of the external auditor's opinion, which was that there were no issues. A financial risk assessment for 2016-17 was carried out. Internal financial controls were reviewed and no issues were found. Richard Norman has kindly agreed to continue as internal auditor and his appointment for 2016-17 was confirmed. The RFO presented the draft budget which was accepted. As the precept information had now been received from BDC the Parish Council resolved to keep the precept for 2017-18 unchanged at £5625 and the precept form was signed. Councillors checked the half year accounts and bank reconciliation against the bank statements and approved them.

The Council considered the first tranche of donations including two new applications. P Clarke had been approached for a donation from the Parish Council to support a fundraising event at Boxford Village Hall for Peter Hibben who had suffered a stroke. He had done an enormous amount of voluntary work for the local area. The Council resolved to make a £100 donation to this. Another application had been received for support for a new bridge club in Boxford. The Council resolved not to make a donation at this stage but to ask for further information and will reconsider at its March meeting. The Council resolved to make the following donations under the General Power of Competence: £300 to Edwardstone PCC, £375 to Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust, £350 to Edwardstone Parish Hall.

The Council resolved to move its website to CAS as OneSuffolk were no longer able to host it, and to pay the annual fee of £50. The Clerk will apply for a Transparency Fund Grant to cover this cost and the cost of software for the new laptop. The Clerk confirmed that she had dealt with the declaration of compliance with the Pension Regulator.

**Meeting dates for 2017** - dates proposed were 16 January, 20 March, 15 May, 17 July, 18 September and 20 November.

## DVD TELLS THE STORY OF MARIA MARTEN



A feature film just released on DVD tells the story of Maria Marten's murder in the Red Barn in Polstead in 1827. The Haunting of Maria Marten, as the title suggests, is also a ghost story telling the chilling tale of the skull of William Corder which was supposedly stolen from the West Suffolk Hospital. After Corder was hanged in 1828 for the murder of Maria, he was dissected and anatomised and his skeleton was used for medical experimentation. According to famed ghost-hunter R. Thurston Hopkins the skull was stolen by a Doctor Kilner who was obsessed with the Red Barn murder, but when the doctor took it home

frightening events occurred.

Written and directed by Michael Munn, the film began life in 2013 as a dramatized documentary about the Red Barn murder. It was shot on locations in Polstead, Boxford and Edwardstone, and a number of local people were enlisted to play the principal parts, most notably Chloe Waterson of White Street Green who portrayed Maria. "I cast Chloe because she is a lovely and engaging actress who I knew could portray Maria with sympathy and sincerity," says Michael. "She played the part with total dedication and an understanding of Maria's way of life and of the complexities that led to her murder."

Will Carpenter of Edwardstone played Maria's father, Thomas, who discovered Maria's remains in the barn almost a year after she had died.

Corder was played by Ipswich actor Henry William Galpin, and also from Ipswich was Joanna Davey who played Maria's step mother Anne. "Anne is central to the story of Maria," said Michael, "because she was the one who knew where Maria's body was buried, claiming Maria told her in a nightmare. For that reason we called the docudrama The Murder Revealed in a Nightmare. We interviewed people in Polstead about the case, and they proved very generous and kind in accommodating our enterprise."

Post-production on the docudrama was completed in late 2014 after which Michael set about contacting broadcasters, with the exception of the BBC which had produced its own documentary about the case, but was unable to find any channel interested in even looking at the film.

"That's when I decided to turn it into a feature film and release it on DVD," explains Michael Munn. "We had around 40 minutes of film dramatizing the story of Maria, all impressively acted and beautifully costumed by Elaine Carpenter, but additional scenes had to be affordable, so I decided to tell the story of Dr Kilner and the haunted skull and set it in the present day, all interweaved with the period scenes we already had about Maria. We have kept close to the account told by R. Thurston Hopkins, but I decided to write Dr Kilner as a woman and cast Georgina Waterson in the role; she appeared briefly in the docudrama and just happens to be Chloe's mum. I also invented a daughter for the doctor who suffers nightmares and under regressive therapy reveals a former life as Anne Marten, and that brings the two stories together. Joanne Davey who played Anne in the docudrama plays the doctor's daughter.

"We shot the ghost story over a two week period last Easter in White Street Green, and what we now have is the most accurate film that I know of about Maria Marten's life and of the trial that led to Corder's hanging, all based on historical records, and also a chilling ghost story that is supposedly based on fact, although the jury is out on that.

"With it being a dramatic entertainment, we had to come to a conclusion about the murder of Maria Marten, and so we have what I think is a viable and controversial conclusion, but I think we definitely give reason to question the official verdict." The trailer of The Haunting of Maria Marten can be seen on [www.martellofilms.com](http://www.martellofilms.com) from where the DVD can be ordered. The British Board of Film Classification have rated the film 15.

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## Readers Letters

Sir

On behalf of St Elizabeth Hospice I would like to thank everyone who saved their stamps and also thank you to Boxford Stores for allowing me to have the collecting box in there. Also thanks to Megan and Margaret for collecting them and bringing them to Hadleigh for me. I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and please keep saving stamps for the Hospice which does a great job.

Thank You  
C Bode. Hadleigh

Sir,

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support, sympathy and kind words we have received after my dear husband, our dad and dadda, Richard Morris, passed away. The support of the community means a great deal to us and has helped us in this difficult time.

Ineke Morris, Edward Morris, Liv Hov, Alexander & Freya Morris,  
Marijke Morris, Victoria & William Milbourn.

### Red October :

#### Lenin & the Russian Revolution' with Simon Doney

Stoke-by-Nayland WEA presents a series of 9 Lectures starting on Thursday 12th January 2017 in Stoke-by-Nayland Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

One of the great events of global history, the Russian Revolution, changed the shape of the contemporary world at great cost to the Russian people. This course will study the causes of the revolution, the reasons for the October coup (1917), and seek to explain why Lenin and the Bolsheviks were able to win a Civil war and secure power against all the odds.

Our lecturer Simon Doney is a local lecturer in Further and Higher Education and has taught classes for the WEA over a number of years. Fees: Adult £48 (payable after the first session). Try the first session (free).

For further information please contact Sue Whiteley.

Phone: 01787 210945 or email: whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk



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- ◆ Chutney, pickles or savoury dips
- ◆ Coffee and Hot Chocolate
- ◆ Toiletries: shampoo, shower gel, deodorant

Collection boxes will be found until **NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>** in:

- Reception at Boxford Primary School
- The Boxford Village Shop.

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# Box River Benefice, Directory of Clubs & Organisations

## Boxford Clubs & Organisations

1st Boxford Beaver Scouts  
 1st Boxford Brownies  
 1st Boxford Cub Scouts  
 1st Boxford Explorer Scouts  
 1st Boxford Guides  
 1st Boxford Rainbows  
 1st Boxford Scout Group  
 1st Boxford Scouts  
 Vulpine Explorer Scout Unit  
 3 Parishes Response  
 Bellringers  
 Boxford Art Group  
 Boxford Bible Study Group  
 Boxford Bike Club  
 Boxford Bowls Club  
 Boxford Bounty  
 Boxford Car Community Scheme  
 Boxford Carpet Bowls  
 Boxford Community Council  
 Boxford Conservative Assoc  
 Boxford Drama Group  
 Boxford Gardens Open  
 Boxford Gardening Society  
 Boxford Over 60s Club  
 Boxford Playing Fields  
 Boxford Rovers Football Club  
 Boxford School  
 Boxford Society  
 Boxford Spinney  
 Sunflower Child Care  
 Box River Lectures  
 Boxford Tennis Club  
 Boxford United Charities  
 Boxford Village Hall Bookings  
 Boxford WI  
 Boxford Youth Club  
 Box River News  
 Community Police Officer  
 County Councillor  
 District Councillor  
 Edwardstone and Boxford CC  
 Fleece Jazz Club  
 Friends of Boxford School  
 Green Team  
 Local History Recorder  
 Mill Surgery  
 Babies and Toddlers Group  
 Parish Council  
 Parochial Church Council (Secretary)  
 Poppy Appeal  
 Primrose Wood  
 SESAW  
 Sponsored cycle ride  
 Gareth Weiland Memorial Fund

Diana Taylor 210239  
 Moira Grant 211513  
 Neil Barkham 211916  
 Adrian Gooderham 211805  
 Eloise Britcher 828710  
 Janice MacMillan 210565  
 Richard Gates 210432  
 Mark Miller 211596  
 Denzil Smith 210020  
 Peter Hibben 210819  
 Richard Gates 210432  
 Sue Beven 210021  
 211077  
 Matthew Shinn 211296  
 Les Clark 210698  
 Mark Miller 211596  
 Sue Green 210603  
 Brian Porter 210581  
 Ward Baker 210129  
 Peter Patrick 210346  
 Janice Macmillan 210565  
 Angela Tolputt 212264  
 Elizabeth Wagener 210223  
 Shirley Watling 210024  
 David Burden 211926  
 Melvyn Eke 602846  
 Toby Barkworth Knight 210332  
 Tina Loose 210538  
 Gordon Edgar 378983  
 Moira Grant 211513  
 Simon & Jo Marchant 210149  
 Yvonne Woodfield 210151  
 Guy Godfray (Clerk) 211378  
 Veronica Hobbs 211529  
 Annie Phillips 211729  
 Pauls Hoare 211033  
 EddieKench 211507  
 Babergh West 01473 613500  
 James Finch 01206 263649  
 Bryn Hurren 01787 210854  
 Iain Young (01787 210048  
 David Gasson 210796  
 Tina Impett.  
 Elaine Carpenter 210601  
 Philip Rich 212329  
 210558  
 Caroline Williams 210836 or Nicola Coote 371788  
 Debbie Hattrell 210943  
 Ruth Kingsbury 211236  
 Brian James 210814  
 Ian Lindsley 210520  
 Maggie 210888  
 Ruth Kingsbury 211236  
 Ben Woodfield 211922

## Newton Clubs & Organisations

Art Club  
 Line Dancing  
 Local History Recorder  
 Newton Fireside Club  
 Newton Golf Club  
 Newton Green Trust  
 Newton Keep Fit Club  
 Newton News Views & Coffee  
 Newton Village Hall  
 PCC  
 Police Liason Officer  
 Sponsored cycle ride  
 Surgeries

Anne Gardner 312346  
 Jean Tomkins 377343  
 Alan Vince 373963  
 Wendy Turner 372677  
 377217  
 Lee Parker 376073  
 Alan Vince 373963  
 Alan Vince 373963  
 Christine Cornell 370331  
 Chris Cornell 370331  
 Boxford Mill 210558  
 Meadow Lane 310000  
 Hardwicke House 370011  
 Siam 370444  
 Brian Lawson 312160

## Edwardstone Clubs & Organisations

Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust  
 Edwardstone Parish Hall booking Secretary  
 Edwardstone Parish Hall chairman  
 Edwardstone United Charities  
 Edwardstone and Boxford CC  
 Local History Recorder  
 Parochial Church Council (Secretary)  
 Sponsored cycle ride

Claire Mortime 210051  
 Fiona Raymond 210461  
 Daphne Clark 210698  
 Les Clark (Clerk) 210698  
 Tom Whymark 211375  
 Daphne Clark 210698  
 Ineke Morris 210761  
 Mrs A Tribe 211526

Edwardstone Parish Council

Anita Robinson 211673

## Groton Clubs & Organisations

Groton Educational Foundation  
 Groton Parish Council  
 Groton United Charities  
 Groton Village Hall Bookings  
 Local History Recorder  
 Sponsored cycle ride  
 Groton Parochial Church Council (secretary)  
 Groton Winthrop Mulberry trust

Anthea Scriven 01787 210263  
 Anita Robinson 211673  
 Jeremy Osborne 211960  
 Joanna Roberts 210619  
 Jeremy Osborne 211960  
 Colin Blackmore 211134  
 David Lamming 210360  
 R Bowdidge 01787-211553

## Ltl Waldingfield Clubs & Organisations

Gt Waldingfield WI  
 Little Waldingfield History Society  
 Ltl Waldingfield Parish Council  
 Lt Waldingfield Parish Room  
 Little Waldingfield Playingfield Committee (Chair)  
 Little Waldingfield Charities  
 Local History Recorder  
 Sponsored cycle ride

Linda Lutz 378888  
 Andy Sheppard 247980  
 Mary Thorogood 247658  
 Sue Mitchell 247173  
 Charles Miller 249111  
 Sue Mitchell 247173  
 Sue Sheppard 247980  
 Barry Squirrel 247705

## Milden Clubs & Organisations

Milden Cricket Club  
 Milden Pavilion and Playingfield

Richard Robinson 211114  
 Pearl 01449 741876

## Directory of Benefice Web Sites

### VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Box River Benefice [churchnearyou.com/boxford-st-mary](http://churchnearyou.com/boxford-st-mary)  
 For churches other than Boxford, follow the links under "Our other churches"  
 Boxford: [opsboxfordbures.com/](http://opsboxfordbures.com/)  
[boxfordbikeclub.co.uk](http://boxfordbikeclub.co.uk)  
 Boxford Community Council: [boxford.me.uk](http://boxford.me.uk)  
 Boxford Drama Group: [boxforddramagroup.com](http://boxforddramagroup.com)  
 Boxford Gardening Society: [boxfordgardeningociety.one.suffolk.net](http://boxfordgardeningociety.one.suffolk.net)  
 Boxford School: [boxford.suffolk.dbprimary.com/](http://boxford.suffolk.dbprimary.com/)  
 Boxford Spinney(Scouts): [boxfordspinney.freeserve.co.uk/](http://boxfordspinney.freeserve.co.uk/)  
 Boxford Sunflower: [boxfordsunflower.co.uk](http://boxfordsunflower.co.uk)  
 Boxford Rovers Youth Football Club: [boxfordroversyfc.co.uk](http://boxfordroversyfc.co.uk)  
 Boxford Rovers Youth: [boxfordrovers.intheteam.com](http://boxfordrovers.intheteam.com)  
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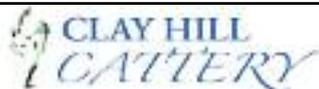
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