

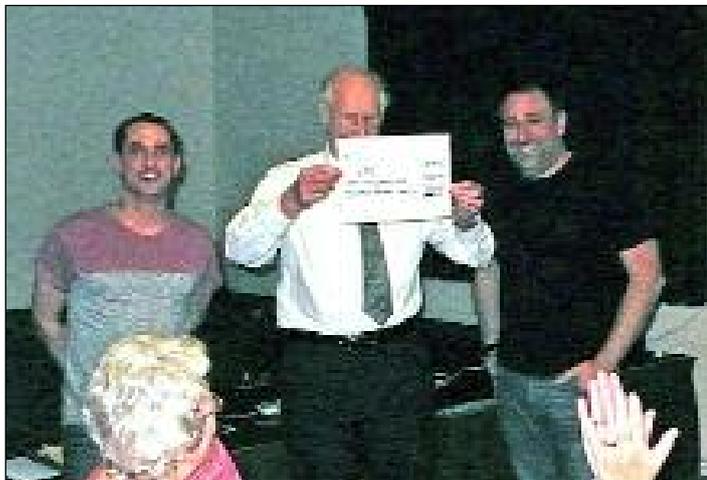
# Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



February 2017  
Vol 17 No2

## 3PR OVERWHELMED BY VILLAGERS GENEROSITY



In the November edition of the Box River News Vic Rice, Life President of the Three Parished Response team made an appeal for funds to finance the purchase of a digital defibrillator and training version. This was to be used by Vince Stafford who was now covering all night shifts and weekends and needed his own equipment, and for training our other responders in the use of the new defibrillator since the old ones were being phased out.

The day after the publication of the November Box River News there was a knock at Vics door and a representative of the Boxford Bike Club handed over a cheque for £1100 for the purchase of a new defib. For several days after that folk were knocking at Vics door offering sums ranging from £50 up to £500 and before long enough had been raised to to buy an up to date advanced defibrillator which will allow us to treat very small children, plus a training defibrillator for all the group to use. The amazing generosity of the residents and one organisation of the Box River Benefice has no bounds. The Three Parished Response team is now stronger than it has been for some time and the vast majority of shifts are now covered. More volunteers have come forward and training was due to commence in January.

The Cheque for £1100 was officially handed over by Alan Leeder of the Boxford Bike Club during the Box River News Distributors and Contributors Christmas Social held on the 15th December in Boxford Village Hall

In June, the day of the street party in Boxford, we at 3PR heard of the sad news of our dear friend and co-ordinator Peter Hibben being taken to hospital having suffered a stroke. Peter is well known throughout the three parishes for his tireless work in organising the First Responder group After a frustrating six months for Peter he has now transferred to Magdalen House Care Home in Hadleigh. This was a difficult decision to make by the family but we know that being closer to home will enable him to have lots of visitors. Anyone wishing to visit Peter would be more than welcome. It is hoped that Peter will be able to join us at our annual lunch later this month.

### VOLUNTEER

We are in urgent need of extra first responders, if you feel you would like to chat about responding then please ring

Michael Norman on 01787 210229 or Vic Rice on 01787 210504 without obligation and they will be pleased to answer any queries or questions you have.

If you would like to be a responder then please fill in the form and the co-ordinator will be in touch as soon as possible.



### Milden Singers December Concerts

As ever the audience enjoyed the Milden Singers Concerts in December and there were tears in the their eyes as young Megan sang Walking in the Air. Raising £785 for Milden Pavilion and £315 to Compassion a charity raising the awareness and understanding about all aspects of domestic violence and abuse within our local community, based in Sudbury covering the Babergh Area.

Their next concerts will be on 5th and 6th of May and promise a mixture of rock, pop and musicals.

### Little Waldingfield History Society Presentation

At the end of the carol service in St Lawrences Church, Little Waldingfield History Society presented Revd. Judith with a cheque for £1915.25, the proceeds of a concert they had organised in aid of the Church Restoration fund. The Church is immensely grateful for their hard work and generosity.

### Edwardstones Christmas Eve Collection

At their Christmas Eve Carol Service in Edwardstone an amazing £1,100 was raised from the collection (a record!) which will go to support the church and EACH.

### Groton Carol Service collection

At their Carol Service on 21st December £220 was raised for the Ipswich winter Night Shelter which was sent to the Selig (Suffolk) Trust for the benefit of the Shelter.

## Box River News

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Final date for reserved copy for the March 2017 Issue is:  
**February 15th at noon**

**Delivered Free** to every home in Boxford, Groton, Edwardstone, Newton, Little Waldingfield, White Street Green Milden and Kersey and is available to residents in Assington, Leavenheath, Gt Waldingfield, Polstead, Shelley Stoke by Nayland, Nayland, and parents of children at Boxford School.

## CAROL SINGING IN LTL WALDINGFIELD see Soap Box



Photo David Lamming

## GROTON'S QUIZ AND CHIPS



73 people took part in the quiz (in 13 teams) and fish (or pie) and chips (collected from Hadleigh) were served to 76 people. It was a very enjoyable evening: thanks to Jayne, Steve and Peter for organising it. The quiz was won on a tie-break question: how many miles to London on the milestone in the centre of Hadleigh. Do you know the answer?

Photo's David Lamming



The fish and chips arrive

# FleeceJazz

at Stoke by Nayland Hotel

### 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

"Damon Brown is a superb musician with a unique voice on both trumpet and Flugelhorn" - Ian Carr

"a bright, gleaming tone, a superbly poised attack, and a fine rhythmic sense" - John Fordham

Of Christian Brewer, John Fordham says, "almost as agile and fluently expressive as the Charlie Parker disciple Phil Woods on fast pieces, and his ballad playing echoes the raw-nerve soulfulness of the late Art Pepper."

### 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

Brandon Allen is one of the very best tenor players around: emotional and blues drenched. He leads six bands. His Sextet, comprising six of the Fleece's favourite musicians, performs his arrangements of standards and classic jazz compositions.

From Perth Australia, Brandon has been based in London for 16 years. Eric Clapton, Neil Diamond, The Blockheads, Claire Martin, Stan Tracey and Pete King, are a serendipitous selection from the multitude of stars he has appeared with.

With him are the cream of UK musicians: the dark husky sax of Alex Garnett, the magical mastery of trombonist Mark Nightingale, the classically and jazz trained keyboard superstar, Ross Stanley, resident bassist at Ronnies, Sam Burgess, and returned from New York, the drummer and bandleader Chris Higginbottom.

### Friday 17 February 8.00 £15 Will Butterworth Quartet

This is the first date of a national tour by this impressive quartet launching their new recording, a suite based on an Oscar Wilde story, 'The Nightingale and the Rose'.

Will Butterworth piano, Seb Pipe alto sax, Nick Pini bass, Pete Ibbetson drums

A precociously talented jazz pianist, Will Butterworth grew up playing cello and improvising on piano and started playing Jazz professionally in 1999. Will has worked with many of Britain's finest musicians and is steadily becoming an increasingly important presence on the UK Jazz scene as pianist, composer and band leader.

Seb Pipe has worked with many top musicians such as Tony Kofi, Portuguese group Pequenos Mundos and spent some time playing with American pioneer Steve Coleman and his Five Elements Band, as well as his own band.

The back line of Nick Pini and Pete Ibbetson are known to us as fine, flexible musicians.

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,

### Turning over a new leaf....?

I'm sitting in my study writing this on what must be one of the coldest days this year – but I suppose that doesn't say much, since it is still only halfway through January! This morning, there was a fine dusting of snow over the rectory garden, but a bitter wind has now blown all that away. Apart from venturing out to post a few letters, I have remained warmly tucked up inside. Outside the study windows, though, the birds are busy, especially the blackbirds. We have a lot of leaf litter from the many tall trees that surround the house, and the blackbirds love turning the leaves over, trying to find something to sustain and nourish them in the bleak weather.



“Turning over a new leaf” is something people often think about doing at the start of a new year. But of course that saying doesn't come from observing the birds. It harks back to a time before email, before texts, before computer screens, when sitting down writing a letter (like this one) required the writer to take up their pen and blotting paper and to find a fresh sheet of paper, or “turn over a new leaf”.

A blank piece of paper, even a blank screen, can sometimes be a daunting prospect, as I know only too well! But it also offers great possibilities. I have been reading biographies of the Brontes over the past year, their literature and lives having been a great love of mine, ever since, at 11, I was enthralled by reading *Jane Eyre*. For Charlotte, Emily and Anne, nothing was more exciting than to receive a new parcel of pristine paper, on which all three would write powerful and enduring novels. For them, “turning over a new leaf” gave them the opportunity to invent and explore new worlds, to be creative, to express their inner thoughts and feelings, to comment on their society free from the constraints and expectations which conventional society placed upon women at that time.

Sometimes in our lives, we wish to - or perhaps have to - turn over a new leaf. Something changes. Outward circumstances or inner longings or



needs mean that we cannot continue quite as we were. That blank page of life which lies ahead of us can be daunting, but it can also open up for us new possibilities, take us in new directions.

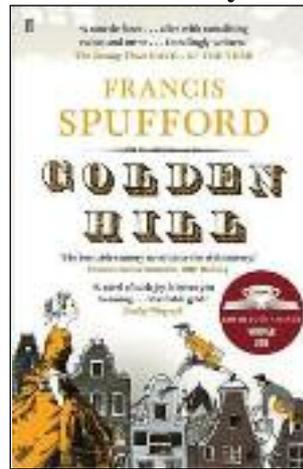
There may also be things in life that we regret or wish to change or give up. Those too can be a strong motivator to “turn over a new leaf”.

Jesus was continually offering to all kinds of people the chance for a fresh start, the chance to begin all over again, whether it was through healing them – physically, mentally or spiritually – or through telling that they were forgiven, that they were set free from the chains that had bound them, the things that had held them down, held them back.

These are the same things which I believe he offers to all of us today. Like the blackbirds or the writers, “turning over a new leaf”, as the year turns, can, with God's help unearth hidden treasures to nourish and sustain us, reveal a clean page, a clean slate, on which to write afresh, from the longings of our hearts.

Blessings, Revd Judith

## THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ by David Lamming “Golden Hill” by Francis Spufford



Francis Spufford is an established writer of non-fiction whose books have been described by reviewers as “bizarre” or “brilliant”, and usually both.” Some BRN readers may be familiar with his first book *I May Be Some Time* (which won the Writers Guild Award for Best Non-Fiction Book of 1996) and *Unapologetic: Why, despite everything, Christianity can still make surprising emotional sense* (a personal riposte to Dawkins, published in 2012). *Golden Hill* is his first novel.

The book is set in 1746 New York, then just a small town of some 7,000 people on the tip of Manhattan. The

fast-moving action takes place over a period of two months in November and December, during the reign on George II, as the chapter headings remind us. To whet your appetite I can do no better than quote from the introduction on the dust jacket:

“One rainy evening in November, a handsome young stranger fresh off the boat pitches up at a counting-house door in Golden Hill Street, New York: this is Mr Smith, amiable, charming, yet strangely determined to keep suspicion simmering. For in his pocket, he has what seems to be an order for a thousand pounds, a huge amount” — over £140,000 today, applying the RPI rate over the period — “and he won't explain why, or where he comes from, or what he can be planning to do in the colonies that requires so much money. Should the New York merchants trust him? Should they risk their credit and refuse to pay? Should they befriend him, seduce him, arrest him; maybe even kill him?”

Spufford goes on to describe, in chapters intriguingly headed ‘All Hallows’, ‘Pope Day’ (5th November), ‘Her Majesty's Birthday’ (10th November) ‘Sinterklaasavond’ (St Nicholas' Eve) and ‘Quarter-Day’ (25th December), the adventures that befall our hero, with a twist in every chapter. Suffice to say that those adventures include a street robbery, a fight, a roof-top chase worthy of James Bond, and a spell in prison, from where he writes an evocative letter that takes up another chapter. The answer to the puzzle about the £1,000 is only revealed in an epilogue-type chapter dated August 1813.

*Golden Hill* is the Sunday Times ‘Novel of the Year’ and has been named as ‘First Novel’ category winner in the Costa ‘Book of the Year’ awards for 2016. There are five categories (First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book) and the book chosen as overall ‘Costa Book of the Year’ will be announced on 31st January. *Golden Hill* would be a worthy winner: do read it and enjoy it, as I did.

*Golden Hill* was published in May 2016 by Faber & Faber, price £16.99 (hb), £8.99 (pb) (or £14.45/£3.99 from Amazon)



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## FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

After a short break for Christmas and New Year it is back to business as usual with Parish and District Council duties coming thick and fast, we have big challenges ahead for all of us in the coming year. It is a good time to thank all who keep services running over the holidays and especially those who work in our hospitals and the care sector during what can be the busiest time. As a carer myself for my old Mum ( 99 yrs young ) Lisa and I know that holidays and festivities are something that one has to fit in around vital duties for those we care for along with going to work and earning a living to pay the bills. The first thing to be decided is the level of Council Tax that we all have to pay to keep our local services running, we have to balance the wish to have a low Council Tax against the falling Government support and the ever increasing need to supply social care to all who need it, young and old alike, we also have an ever decreasing Police presence due to government cuts who will ask for increased funding from the local pot. Although the District Council gets only around 9% of what we all pay in Council Tax we do collect all of the monies and distribute the other 91% out to the County Council, Police and to your own Parish Councils. We will also have to somehow facilitate the Councils decision to move all our operation, staff and councillors to the neighbouring District of Ipswich, this will be difficult for staff and councillors alike to get in and out of Ipswich at peak times of travel along with the hardship this will cause the market towns of Hadleigh and Needham. A very poor short term decision in my view. A move to unitary councils to save confusion and money in the long term would have been a much better long term strategy. I will keep you all up to date with all matters local and District in this column in the coming months. There will be no Theatre trip for a little time as I am off to hospital next week to pick up a new knee and will not be able to drive for a little time, however I will be limping around to all the village A.G.Ms in April / May to give all the council reports, please try and come to the one in your own village, they can be better than Eastenders and Coranation St and you may have a point of view or a problem that needs airing. Democracy starts very locally for all of us. Hope to see you there. Bryn.

## JAMES CARTLIDGE WRITES

Your Member of Parliament

At the last general election, when I stood for election as your MP for the first time, my top commitment was to campaign for 'opportunities for young people'. What does this mean and why is it so important? It's about ensuring young people can flourish in South Suffolk, rather than feeling that the only option after completing their studies is a long commute to the 'big smoke'. And it's also about recognising that we will face a demographically unsustainable future if the balance between young and old in our local communities becomes tilted entirely in the more senior direction of things.

This is not to complain about the trend for living longer - this is one of the great achievements of the modern era, and who wouldn't want to live to a ripe old age? Nor is this about 'inter-generational' tensions. On the contrary, it was striking for me that concern for today's young was one of the biggest topics on the doorstep when I spoke to many older residents on the election trail. Frankly, it is in all our interests that every generation has the chance to contribute to their maximum potential. If we are to afford the growing cost of pensions and social care, we need a strong and thriving economy - and that in turn requires a workforce with the best possible education and skills. The good news is that we are making real progress in Suffolk, after previously lagging behind in education terms. Latest figures show that 85% of Suffolk's schools are good or outstanding and this should get even better with the long-awaited confirmation of 'fairer funding'. For so long our schools have received less money compared to schools in better funded areas. So in December the Government announced a new single, national formula to deliver fairer funding in practice. It's complex to assess the impact of the changes, and there will be a long transition to ensure better funded schools do not suffer adversely. Nevertheless, an initial look at the data suggests South Suffolk will do relatively well. For every one of us, that should be very welcome indeed

## FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

➤ **86% of Suffolk schools are now being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted**

Educational standards across Suffolk continue to improve to make sure that every child has access to the best possible education. Provisional results show that the overall A-level pass-rate has continued to rise and for the first-time GCSE progress has risen above the national average. There has been a 3% rise in the number of students achieving the GCSE threshold in English and Maths.

Provisional results also show a rise in Suffolk children achieving a Good Level of Development in their Early Years Foundation Stage results and Suffolk are above the rest of England. While Key Stage 2 results, released in August, remain below the national average, Suffolk's ranking has significantly improved from 134 to 119.

In summary, 86% of Suffolk schools are now being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, and this is the highest percentage we have ever had and it is improving twice as quickly as England overall. Suffolk County Council remain dedicated to supporting ALL Suffolk Schools to become "Good or Outstanding".

➤ **"ChatHealth" School Nursing Service**

In December Suffolk's School Nursing Team celebrated one year of the 'Chat Health' service. It was introduced with the aim of allowing more people to access the School Nursing service as well as improving the efficiency of the service, to aid early intervention.

Young people in Suffolk can send messages to a dedicated number which delivers to a secure website. Texts are responded to within one working day. The service is available Monday to Friday 9am – 4.30pm excluding bank holidays. Outside of these hours anyone who texts the service receives an automated message with advice on where to get help if their question is urgent.

School nurses can support children and young people with enquiries relating to a wide range of health and wellbeing issues including self-harm, bullying, drug and alcohol use, smoking, healthy eating, sexual health and mental health.

The text messaging service was first launched to secondary school aged pupils in November 2015 and extended to parents and carers of all pupils, including primary school aged pupils in April 2016.

The service has been positively received by staff, young people and clients, with over 3,000 messages sent and received within its first year. The service has also received a lot of positive feedback in this first year, with 74% of conversations rated as 5 out of 5 by users .

The Text number for a school nurse is 07507 333356. For more details – insert "ChatHealth School Nursing Service" in your internet search engine.

➤ **Flu Vaccination**

Health chiefs are urging people across the county to not miss out on flu vaccination. As winter bites there is still time to get a flu vaccination which is widely recognised as an effective way to reduce harm from flu. It reduces the risk of serious illness, hospitalisation and even death. People eligible for free vaccinations are: Carers; Pregnant women; People aged six months to 65 with an underlying health condition such as a heart problem, breathing difficulties, kidney disease, lower immune system due to disease or treatment, liver disease, stroke, diabetes, a neurological condition, for example multiple sclerosis, an issue that affects the spleen or for those who are seriously overweight; People over 65 years of age.

Children of aged two, three and four and in school years one, two and three have for the second year running been offered the vaccination as a nasal spray delivered in schools. Those not eligible for a free vaccination can arrange for a paid-for vaccination through participating community pharmacies.

**My priorities for Suffolk**

Education - Supporting Vulnerable People – Maintaining Suffolk's Highways - Jobs and Growth

Localism and the Stour Valley - all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax

James Finch County, Councillor Stour Valley Division

Email: james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk



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Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February

See website for more information

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### MOTHERS DAY

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Special menu - see website for details

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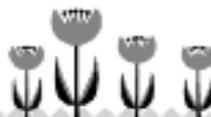
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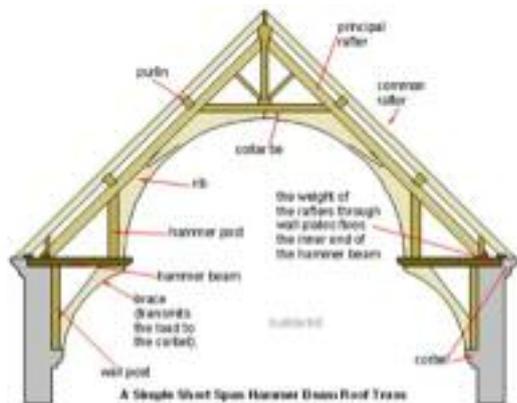


## THE ANGEL ROOFS OF EAST ANGLIA Michael Rimmer

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Michael Rimmer to the Parish Room last Wednesday night, to hear all about the wonderful Angel Roofs of East Anglia. Michael enthralled the near 50 audience with a superbly polished, professional and visually stunning account of how and why these magnificent pre reformation religious sculptures came into being, how they escaped the reformation and where we can see these magnificent icons for ourselves. He also impressed with some unexpected but delightful audio visual pieces with period music that perfectly set the scene.

We first heard:

- That East Anglia has the highest concentration of medieval churches on Earth;
- That out of 188 surviving single hammerbeam roofs, 124 (65%) are in East Anglia;
- That all 32 surviving double hammerbeam roofs are in East Anglia; comprising 21 in Suffolk, 4 in Norfolk, 4 in Essex and 3 in Cambridgeshire; and that
- Out of more than 140 surviving angel roofs, 59% are in Suffolk & Norfolk, 69% in East Anglia, but including bordering counties (Essex, Bedfordshire & Lincolnshire) raises this total to almost 84%. Michael next explained what they are and why they matter.
- By the late 1300s, English constructional and decorative carpentry had attained a sophistication unrivalled in Europe, probably as a result of the number of shipwrights in the country.
- Hammerbeam and angel roofs were some of the most impressive and complex examples of this skill, often combined in East Anglia but rarely anywhere else in the country.
- Between 1395 and about 1530, several hundred angel roofs were built in England, mostly during the 1400s - a century of usurpation, conquest and then loss in France, the Wars of the Roses and the birth of the Tudor dynasty - perhaps people were looking for inspiration.
- More than 140 angel roofs survive today, almost exclusively in churches, predominantly in East Anglia and particularly in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk - how lucky we are.
- Angel roofs are found in a range of structural patterns and are adorned with carved images of angels. Some are 8ft tall, others half-body figures or low-relief carvings - some roofs have just a handful of angels, others scores and a few have hundreds.



A Hammerbeam Truss

We heard that until the Reformation, medieval churches were a riot of colours and images. Following the Protestant revolution of the 1540s and the Puritan destruction of images a century later, most of the depictions in glass, paint, stone and wood were destroyed, condemned as idolatrous. However, amidst this destruction there were some silent survivors; roof angels were far above the ground, inaccessible and sometimes holding up the church roof. Not all escaped the iconoclasts, but tearing down roof angels required determination, time and the co-operation of locals - not always available. In contrast, most stained glass was a sitting duck, explaining why so many medieval churches today have only clear glass or Victorian replacements. Because they were hard to get at, roof angels are now the largest surviving body of major English medieval wood sculpture. High up in darkness or extremes of light and shade, often overlooked by visitors, they tell of the skill and vision of medieval carvers and carpenters, and about the beliefs, economics and personalities of medieval England. As Michael observed, this was England's Talibanic moment; thankfully our churches were not blown up.

The earliest known angel roof is at Westminster Hall in London, which was erected mainly between 1395 and 1398 by Hugh Herland, master carpenter to Richard II, as part of the King's enlargement and restoration project. Michael told us this roof is a masterpiece of art and engineering, spanning a previously unprecedented width of 67ft, at a height of 92 ft; a combination of timber arches and hammerbeams provide rigidity without need for columns, leaving the hall floor space entirely open.

It is estimated the oak roof timbers weighed some 660 tons, with the original lead covering probably a further 176 tons. Early C20th restorers

discovered that 70% of the roof timbers were rotten but the roof still stood, testament to the redundancy built in. Herland is unlikely to have fully understood the physics of the roof, so over-engineering was understandable given the status of his patron and the scale of the challenge. Hammerbeams at Westminster Hall were carved in the shape of full-length angels bearing shields emblazoned with Richard's arms, projecting horizontally from the wallplates, intersecting the arch ribs and stretching beyond to support vertical hammerposts connecting with curved ribs higher up. It seems that even today, with the benefit of computer modelling and pressure sensors, architectural experts disagree exactly how the roof works, but its strength is clearly based on the combination of arches and braced right-angles, with load also dispersed through vertical tracery - all techniques subsequently deployed in many of the C15th angel roofs of East Anglia.

Westminster's 26 angel hammerbeams were carved either at Farnham or onsite. Royal records tell the names of the men who carved most of them, and what they were paid for the work. Given the prestige of this project and the quality of the carving, it is likely these men were specialist master carvers (known as imagers or ymaginours) rather than generalist carpenters able to turn their hand to sculpture. While many of East Anglia's angel roofs, particularly the more modest ones, would have been made by local craftsmen, sometimes responsible for both the carpentry and the carving (e.g. Hockwold, Norfolk), masters could be brought in from far afield for expensive and prestigious building projects. London-based imager John Massingham is known to have worked on carvings in Canterbury, All Souls Oxford and Eton College in the 1430s and 1440s, so it appears that the best craftsmen were used to working around the country, helping to spread the technology and ideas.

We heard that rich prosperous men were eager to show their status when alive, and to alleviate the suffering of their souls after death, by spending on reconstruction or adornment of their churches. By the 1400s, the prime era of angel roof building in English churches, East Anglia was rich compared to most of the rest of Britain; however, although other parts of England were also rich, and elaborate expensive churches were built there, angel roofs were not a common feature of these regions. The sophistication of East Anglian expertise in carpentry and wood carving during the C15th-16th has been noted by several writers. At a small scale, finely carved church bench ends are found in large numbers only in East Anglia and the West country. East Anglia also excelled in large-scale medieval carpentry and wood carving, clearly demonstrated by the distribution throughout England of single and double hammerbeam roofs - arguably the most complex and audacious form of medieval timber roof. Such roofs provide multiple surfaces for figurative carving, and many of East Anglia's hammerbeam roofs are also angel roofs - but how did the fashion and expertise for hammer beam and angel roofs come to be so heavily concentrated in East Anglia?

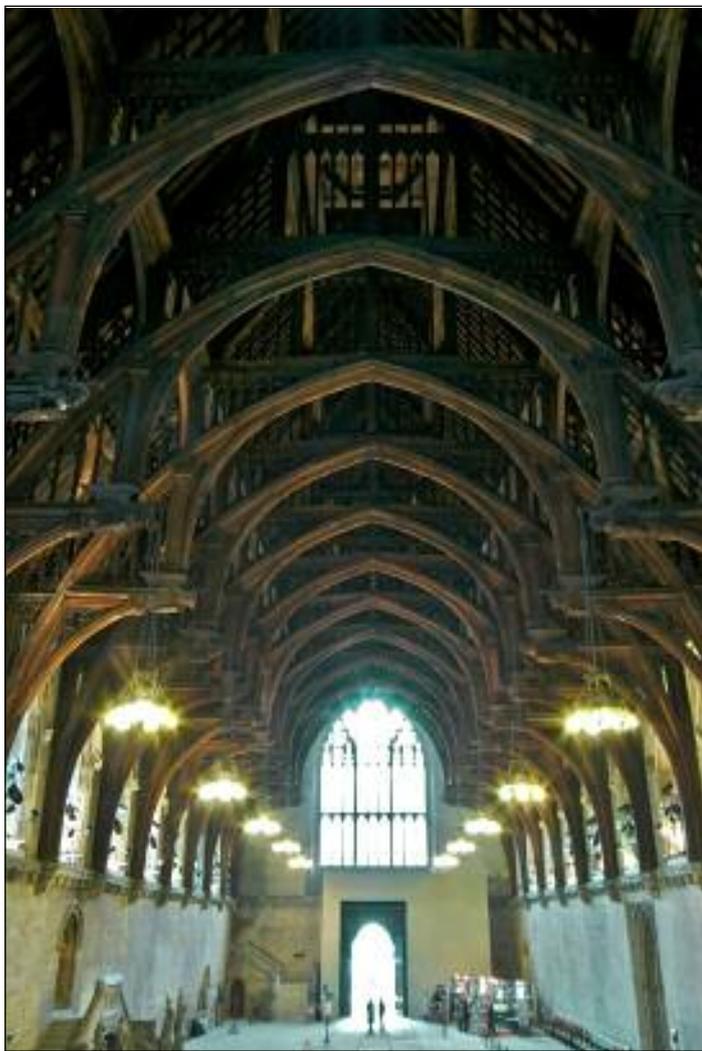
Michael believes the answer lies with royal carpenter Hugh Herland, creator of the first known angel roof and the first major hammer beam roof at Westminster Hall. This roof was substantially complete by 1398, because on 10th August that year, Hugh Herland was appointed to a new project, the recruitment of labour for the construction of a new harbour at Great Yarmouth, in Norfolk; probably in his late sixties, this was his last known major assignment. Four men were appointed alongside him: Hugh atte Fenn, Robert atte Fenn, John de Cleve and William Oxeneye. All were East Anglians of substance and status, wealthy merchants involved in the governance of Yarmouth. Given the scale, fame and rency of his work at Westminster Hall, it seems very likely that it was talked about during Herland's interaction with the four East Anglian grandees appointed beside him.

Michael believes that Herland would have taken trusted lieutenants to assist him on the Yarmouth project, some of whom would have worked on the Westminster Hall roof. Herland and his team would then have come into contact with East Anglian craftsmen, both carpenters and shipwrights, a pool of craftsmen already expert in a different form of timber construction involving large components. Some of these local craftsmen may then have acquired enough knowledge and inspiration to attempt hammer beam and angel roof construction themselves, whilst members of his team may have stayed behind to undertake commissions in East Anglia once the work at Yarmouth was completed. Local gentry who came into contact with Herland, or his men, or heard talk of Westminster Hall's roof may also then have been inspired to commission such roofs themselves.

Once the expertise needed to build hammer beam and angel roofs had been planted in East Anglia, their spread throughout the region during the C15th can be explained by local fashion and inter-community, inter-gentry rivalry; for example: "the work is to be like that at location X, only better".

Michael is not aware that anyone else has made this connection between Herland, the Yarmouth harbour project and the prevalence of angel and hammer beam roofs in East Anglia before, but it seems, at the very least, a plausible and tantalizing possibility.

Michael finished his glorious performance by answering many thoughtful and detailed questions from the floor, which by general consent was the best presentation to date - a real tour de force during which our audience was completely spellbound and enthralled throughout. *Andy Sheppard*



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# NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

## TWAM

TOOLS THAT TRANSFORM LIVES - as a gentle reminder, especially if you are having a clear out in the New Year, I am the local collection point volunteer for TWAM, which takes all sorts of tools and sorts them into trade kits to go across the world to enable people to earn a living. Whether it's plumbing, carpentry, electrical, building or blacksmith hand tools, they can all be used. Also bikes, sewing machines, haberdashery, IT equipment and gardening tools are all needed and packs of stationery are sent to schools (pencils, biro, rubbers, rulers, A4 writing pads etc.). My contact number is 01787 211822, all you have to do is deliver the items to me. Thank you, Maureen Cooling.

## Boxford WI

Report from Boxford WI for the Meeting held on 4th January, 2017  
Boxford WI welcomed four new members to their first meeting of 2017 and after dealing with the usual business, we hoped to listen to a manager from Waitrose, Sudbury talk about food waste. Unfortunately, he failed to materialise, so we listened to an interesting account from one of our members about her adventures on the Trans-Siberian Railway! How we laughed at her descriptions of the facilities on the train and the servings of tinned peas with every meal on their journey through Russia! It just goes to show that WI members are resourceful creatures and that we can manage to learn something new from each other as well as official speakers! We have a varied programme coming up this year at Boxford WI. Next month on 1st February we are going to be trying some Tai Chi! If you would like to come along to one of our meetings you would be most welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Boxford Village Hall at 2.00 pm. Annie Phillips Secretary Boxford WI

## IN MEMORY OF RONALD BEAU JACKAMAN

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Ron Jackaman will be held at 11am on Friday 10th February in St. Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland. Everyone welcome to attend the service and meet the family afterwards at Assington Village Hall, The Street, Assington, CO10 5LW

## BOXFORD BOUNTY

The time of year is with us once again, for the Boxford Bounty collectors to come knocking at your door asking for your continued support.

The local lottery for Boxford Benefice, the Bounty provides financial support for many local groups and interests. The following groups have benefited from direct grants in the past few years:

1st Boxford Brownies	1st Boxford Guides	Boxford Fireworks
Carpet Bowls Club	Boxford Village Hall Roof	Breast Cancer Care
Ladies Bowls Club	Over Sixties Club	Boxford Tennis Club
Boxford Spinney	Edwardstone Mill Green Trust	

Friends Of Boxford School

Sunflower Playgroup	BoxRiver Club	Bowls Club
Boxford Playingfields	Boxford Village Hall Floor	Boxford Rovers
Boxford United Charities	1st Boxford Scouts	Boxford Bike Club

Tickets are available at a cost of £10.00 per year, which guarantees entry to six draws.

The prizes for each draw are:

1st Prize	£160
2nd Prize	£75
3rd Prize	£30
4th Prize	£15

If you would like to buy a ticket for the Boxford Bounty and have not been visited by a collector please apply directly by sending a cheque made payable to BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL to the following address:

Boxford Bounty, 39 Daking Ave, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 5QA  
Or ring Mark Miller on 01787 211596

e-mail mark.miller@talktalk.net

and we will arrange a call from your local collector.

## COLLECTORS NEEDED

If you have an outgoing personality, love walking, enjoy meeting people and would like to do something to support the community please contact Mark for further details.

## WELCOME TO NEWTON

Reproduced from the October 2000 Boxford Newsletter

"This issue of the Newsletter is being delivered Free to every household in Newton Green for the first time. Newton Green, was the last Parish to join the new 'Box River Benefice' and is most welcome.

Newton is proud to claim that it has one of the longest established village newsletters in the County and I have had the privilege of viewing a copy dated 1916. As part of the reorganisation of the parishes it has been recommended that the Newton Newsletter should be incorporated in the Benefice Newsletter with the added advantage that readers would be aware of what is happening throughout the Benefice not only as Church News but as general information and reporting on the many institutions that we all share. Boxford School and News from FOBS, News from Stoke Middle School and Gt Waldingfield School, The Scouts, Cubs Brownies, Guides, The Football and Cricket clubs, Boxford Fleece Jazz Club and all the organisations from villages around who supply news of their activities and forthcoming events.

The Newsletter is entirely funded by advertising revenue and is produced at no cost to you or your institutions allowing previous funding to be released for use by local organisations and charities. Unlike some other newsletters in the region, the newsletter is edited by a local with a keen interest in the welfare and future of the local villages and printed by a local printer, probably the only one within the Benefice. Whilst advertising revenue is essential for the survival of the newsletter it is not allowed to take the lions share of space and is vetted to ensure that an ad in the newsletter is as good as a recommendation.

Newton, like all the other members of the Box River Benefice, would continue to collate its own news with the added advantage that the news can also be accompanied by pictures of their local events. Copy can also be sent direct to me at the address inside or sent by email or Fax. We sincerely hope that Newton will contribute to and be happy to receive the Newsletter in future and that the Benefice can benefit from their valued contributions and enable a closer integration of our many activities.."

The introduction of the Box River News to Newton followed a reformandum in which the vast majority of villagers chose the Box River News as against the Village Newsletter. Unfortunately a small group of individuals opposed to the change prevented copy being sent to the BRN. So much for democracy. However the two publications delivered together cover all Benefice aspects with the Village Newsletter providing local news and the BRN covering the Box River Benefice.

During the 17 years since the introduction of the Box River News Harry Buckledee, who is also our Gardening Correspondent, has assumed responsibility for its distribution to the other deliverers in the village, however at the ripe old age of 97 Harry feels he can no longer carry out his duties, after this edition he will no longer have a car. We are looking for someone prepared to accept bulk delivery of 230 copies each month and distribute them to some 8 deliverers in the village. If anyone is interested in taking on this important task please let Harry or myself know on 01787 210772 or myself, Eddie Kench on 01787 211507

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## 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)

## Events to Look Out For In 2017

[The Fleece, Boxford](#)

[Monday, January 2, 2017](#)

January - Every Second and Fourth  
Wednesday from 9pm

February - Valentine's Day, Winter Ale  
Festival and Bens Take on Pancake  
Day.

March - National Pie Week Come and  
Try some Weird and Wonderful Pies,  
St Patricks Day with The Molly  
Maguire's, Mother's Day Treat.

April - Easter Egg Hunt For the  
children on Easter Sunday, St  
Georges day Feast in The Guild  
Room.

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON.

[thefleecehotel@hotmail.com](mailto:thefleecehotel@hotmail.com)

01787 211183

# Wot's On

## LWHS Programme of Events - 2016/2017

### 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

### 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)

## 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

## BOXFORD SLIMMING WORLD

Why not join our fun and friendly group at:

Boxford slimming world, Boxford village hall

Stone street road, Boxford

Wednesday at 7.30pm

call Vicky for a chat on:

mob: 07931587504

home: 01787376059

## Men's yoga classes

On Friday mornings during school term time from 11.00-12.00pm in Boxford Village Hall.

A very gentle yoga class working with the breath, posture and balance. Some movements from the chair. No experience necessary. Suitable for complete beginners. For more details telephone Marianne Marshall on 01787 210323.

## Leavenheath Village Hall Digital Cinema

Tickets £3.50 per adult, £2.00 per young person  
Telephone: Lesley (01206 262505) or Ken (01206 263266) for tickets  
Arrive 7.00pm starts 7.30pm See ad in the BRN

## BOXFORD GARDENING SOCIETY

DARREN LERIGO

# What shall I do with this space?

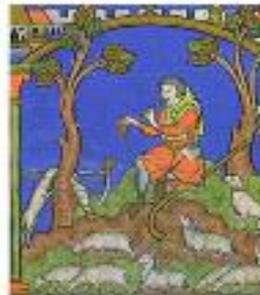
*Ideas from garden designers around the world*



Tuesday 7th February 7.30pm  
at Boxford Village Hall

## Box River Lectures

### The Wool Trade of East Anglia



The wool trade was the backbone of England's medieval economy. 'No form of manufacturing had a greater impact upon the economy and society of medieval Europe than did those industries producing wool'. Predominant in this trade was East Anglia, whose famous 'wool churches' are testament to its wealth and success.

Valina Bowman-Burns MA, from the Essex Record Office, has researched the wool trade and clothing of early modern England extensively. This Spring she will be giving us five lectures on the industrial and social history of East Anglia's wool trade, from its early development to its decline.

At Groton Village Hall on Tuesdays at 2:30pm (except for 14 March - 5pm start)

28 February	The processes - how wool is made
7 March	Money, wages, boom and bust
14 March (5pm start)	Why people wear clothes
21 March	Health and clothing
28 March	Clothing and fashion

£8 per single lecture or £35 for all five - just pay at the door.  
Tea and biscuits included

New members are always welcome at Box River Lectures!

# Wot's On

## Yoga classes

Running Thursday mornings 9.00-10.00am and evenings from 5.45-6.45pm at Boxford Village Hall.

Come and enjoy an hour of stretching and relaxation. All levels welcome. To book a place call Marianne Marshall (trained Alexander Technique teacher and British Wheel of Yoga) 01787 210323 or email [marianemarshall@fastmail.fm](mailto:marianemarshall@fastmail.fm).

## What Could Possibly Go Wrong.....

Long before *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* in which an amateur dramatic society experiences the horrors of what can go wrong right in front of a live audience, the fictional Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society have been resolutely presenting plays in which the scenery collapses, cues are missed, lines are forgotten and sound effects create illusions the director never imagined.

Boxford Drama Group has previously produced two of the side-splitting Farndales, *The Haunted Through Lounge* and *Recessed Dining Nook* at Farndale Castle in 2006 and *Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society murder Mystery* in 2008, both directed by Jane Lindekam who brings back the Farndale Ladies to Boxford Village Hall with *Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue, S'il Vous Plait* by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr.

This time the Farndale Ladies are attempting a French farce in the style of *Boeing Boeing* with complicated romantic encounters and no less than four doors for the cast of characters to run in and out of while trying to stick to the complicated script whilst about them props go missing and pieces of the set collapse resulting in an evening of hilarious horrors and cock-ups galore.

Boxford Drama Group presents *Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue, S'il Vous Plait* at the Boxford Village Hall on 30th, 31st March and 1st April. Tickets are £13.00 which includes supper and will be available from the Boxford Post Office from Saturday 25th February 2017.

Boxford Drama Group presents those lovely Farndale ladies in



**Boxford Village Hall**  
30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm

Tickets £13.00 includes supper. On sale from Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at Boxford Post Office

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## Forthcoming Events Diary

### January

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
7 Boxford Gardening Society	'What shall I do with this space'	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
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
28 through 28 March	Box River Lectures 'The Wool Trade'	Groton Village Hall	2.30pm

### 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

### April

19 Little Waldingfield History Soc	Connections between Suffolk and India by Ashley Cooper	Parish Rooms	7.30pm
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First and Third Monday each month Boxford Parish Council Meetings in Bell House, Stone Street St, Boxford 7.30pm



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## Valentine's day Menu

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£22 for 2 courses £27 for 3 courses

### French

#### Starters

Garlic soup with crusty bread  
Perigordian salad  
Goat Cheese with honey tarlin

#### Main

Pan fried duck breast with honey  
& pomme sarladaise  
Petit sale served with ham hock  
Vegetarian cassoulet

#### Desert

White chocolate & raspberry crème brulee

### Italian

#### Starters

Bruschetta  
Crispy calamari  
Zuppa di funghi

#### Main

Chicken saltimbocca  
Smoke salmon fettucine  
Prawn marinara

#### Desert

Tiramisu

#### Daily specials

Monday £5.00 any pizza  
Tuesday £5.00 burger with a pint of beer or  
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goodie bag for the  
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Sunday 26th February 2017 | 1am - 3pm

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## NWT CLEY MARSHES.

Why not take a natural approach to the Christmas season? asks EMILY KENCH, a passionate young graduate and wildlife champion, currently carrying out an internship role at NWT Cley Marshes. First published in the Eastern Daily Press 06/12/2016



Simmonds Scrape, Cley Marshes

So often we think of winter as a season of hibernation and even the end of life. Much like the hedgehogs, ladybirds, reptiles, bees and butterflies, all too often we find ourselves sleeping through. Sometimes we even sleep with our eyes open, missing the waxwings in the trees or the configurations of starlings murmuring high above our heads when journeying to and from work.

Instead, weekends and evenings are spent clambering into bed, turning up the heating, perfecting a duvet nest, and ensuring our fat reserves are sufficient by seeing off a bargain box of chocolates.

Through weary eyes and dark nights we are blinded, our senses dampened. We cannot see. Somewhere off our coastline something magical is happening. Life is just beginning.



All along the Norfolk coast, grey seals are pupping. Clumsy, curvaceous, cows haul their blubber onto the beach and prepare for the challenge ahead. While elegance and sophistication may forgo them, bravery and daring most certainly does not.

Sitting on the beach at Cley, it is possible to see a stray black silhouette bobbing between the waves. The prize for opening your eyes. If you're lucky, your senses may be further awakened. Listen carefully and you may hear the grey seal song. It's a slow low moan, far sexier than and just as dangerous as that of a siren. Hear it once and you'll be lured, desperate to fight the cold and walk the seven miles to Blakeney Point for more.



The snow bunting

Turn away from the commotion of the waves, walk towards the shingle ridge and another of nature's gifts awaits you. A low husky warble interspersed with a rippling whistle will lead you to a tiny migrant visitor. In flight all you may see are the black tips of wings contrasting against

the crisp, wintery sky. Look through your binoculars however, and the snowy white plumage that has led the bird to become colloquially termed the 'snowflake' will become apparent.

The snow bunting has a curious migration pattern, breeding in the Arctic during the summer months and migrating south in the winter: an amazing expedition for a bird weighing no more than 40g. The coastal regions of the North Sea play only a small part in their wintering grounds but even these little flocks may be the closest we come to real snowflakes this winter.

If the rippling whistle is pierced by a high two-note chip, the shore larks are about. While their breeding grounds expand further than the Arctic, their migration pattern mimics the snow bunting. Less like a snowflake and more like the Zorro of the skies, a curved black mask and a body of beige help disguise the bird against the shore. Yet the yellow throat of both sexes and the black tufted horns of the males give their presence away.

Turn to overlook the marsh and distant figures emerge from the reeds: two working men with brushcutters. Bernard and George, Cley Marshes' wardens are busy undertaking the reed bed's annual cut. Their hard work is both a gift to the wildlife and us. Bearded tits with their distinctive handlebar moustaches cling to the dense clusters of reeds. Their facial hair rivals that of Father Christmas but thanks to the essential maintenance work they are more than just a seasonal treat. The reed beds allow them to munch on insects throughout the summers and come winter they opt for a seed-based diet.

Buried in the reeds, they are out of sight from the marsh harrier circling above. He picks an easier prey, swooping towards Pat's pool and flushing the teal. Lapwing and brent geese also take to the sky and the orchestral cacophony of alarm calls mutes the marsh harrier's gentle mewling.



The Marsh Harrier

Wait long enough for the sun to set and you will spot the blackened V shape of the marsh harrier teetering over the tips of the reeds. He is going to roost, but unlike his savage solo hunting, he takes company to bed. Marsh harriers and hen harriers gather on the ground in their communal winter roosts. The skies may be their domain but their power and size are morphed in the marsh. Even the most potent of predators can feel defenceless at times.

Sensing their vulnerability, pink-footed geese flock in their thousands; honking, cackling, mocking their predators through the darkness. The sound is by no means a lullaby but Norfolk's very own Christmas chant. A classic Christmas tune but one we should fight to keep contemporary, not nostalgic. More than 100,000 individuals select our county to overwinter in from their icy breeding grounds in Svalbard, Iceland and Greenland so we must feel a sense of responsibility towards them.

Do not surrender to the cold and your patience will be rewarded. As the last of the geese simmer down silence will descend. A dozen hoots may break the silence as a short-eared owl returns with her final vole of the day. A Christmas dinner for one.

So why not jump out from under the duvet and spend a rewarding day at the north Norfolk coast this winter. Life has not ended at Cley... it has only just begun.

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# The Box River Parishes Church News

**Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton**

**Priest in Charge:** The Revd Judith Sweetman  
The Rectory, School Hill, Boxford CO10 5JT  
Tel: 01787 210091; e-mail: rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com  
*The Revd Judith's day off is normally Friday but this may vary according to circumstances*

**NSM:** The Revd David Abel, 13 Church Street, Boxford CO10 5DU  
Tel: 211765; e-mail: davidabel19@hotmail.com

**Reader:** Christopher Kingsbury, Rose Cottage, Sherbourne Street, Edwardstone CO10 5PD  
Tel: 211236; Fax: 211238; e-mail: ChrisKingsC@aol.com

**Lay Elder:** David Lamming, 20 Holbrook Barn Road, Boxford CO10 5HU  
Tel: 210360; Fax: 329770; 07968 791135; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com

*Please let any of the above or a Churchwarden know if you would like a home visit, home communion or a hospital visit, or of any cases of sickness or otherwise where they might be of assistance.*

**Benefice house:** Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford CO10 5NZ.  
For much more information about the five parishes in our Benefice please go to our Church Near You web site at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com).

## BENEFACTICE NEWS

**Ministry Team** At the last meeting on 11th January it was decided to change the time of meetings from the evening to the afternoon. The next meeting, therefore, has been rearranged for Monday 20th February 2017 at 3.00 pm (venue to be confirmed). A decision has yet to be confirmed whether all future meetings in 2017 will be on Mondays and at this time.

**Lead thefts and damage to Visitors Books** – A call for vigilance: It is a sad feature of our society that criminals see fit to steal from, or cause damage to, our ancient church buildings or their contents, whether it is serious crime (such as the theft of lead from church roofs) or relatively petty, but nonetheless of concern, such as the tearing of pages out of bibles or visitors' books. Perhaps encouraged by the rise in the price of lead (it has doubled on the London Metal Exchange in the last six months) the lead thieves have returned recently to two churches in our area (Polstead and Chilton), as well as to two in Norfolk. Also, more pages from the visitors' book at Edwardstone were ripped out last month. Please, therefore, be your village's 'eyes and ears' and, if you see anything suspicious, especially any strange vehicles parked near any of our churches or at odd times, note the registration number and inform the police by phoning 101.

## GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

**General Synod** The Church of England's General Synod meets in London over four days from 3.00 pm on Monday 13th to 5.00 pm on Thursday 16th February 2017. A timetable has been published and full details of the agenda will be available shortly on the Church of England website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org). Tuesday will largely be taken up with legislative business. On Wednesday morning Synod will consider a motion from London Diocesan Synod on fixed-odds betting terminals. In the evening session, there is to be a 'Take Note' debate on a report from the House of Bishops (yet to be published as the BRN went to press) following the 'Shared Conversations' on human sexuality in York last July. Then, on Thursday afternoon, a debate on proposals to relax the rules about the wearing of clerical dress in church is likely to be contentious. The 'questions' sessions on Monday evening is also likely to be lively. If you would like to know more, do contact David Lamming, who is one of the three lay members on the synod representing our diocese: e-mail [djlamming@hotmail.com](mailto:djlamming@hotmail.com). Note, also, that you can follow the synod proceedings, when in session, via a live video stream accessed via the CofE website. Go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/about-general-synod.aspx> and click on the link in the box on the right.

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).

## 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)



**Cafe Church** resumes at St Mary's Boxford on **Sunday 5th February at 11.00 am**. Everyone is especially welcome - we serve good coffee and pastries to enjoy at this time of very informal worship.



### A Thought for the Month:

Sometimes we need to be reminded of the five marks of mission that have guided the church ever since they were first suggested in 1984. They are all-embracing, including nurturing followers of Christ, responding to human need by loving service, seeking to transform unjust structures of society and taking care of God's creation. Whilst we can readily identify with these aims, we don't easily relate to the first mark of mission, 'to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God'. Yet, when we read the gospel accounts of his life, it clearly meant a lot to Jesus and his first followers. In many places he is recorded as saying, *"The right time has come. The Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!"* What that means was filled out by his acts of healing, a political demonstration (turning the tables of money lenders in the temple) as well as the many parables he told.

The simplest way to understand what Jesus and his early followers meant by the kingdom of God is that it is 'heaven on earth'. He taught us to pray, *'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'*. This also implies that the kingdom of God is how things would be when God's will is done on earth. The good news is that when the Spirit of God is active, both in Jesus and in his followers, we can see little instances of heaven on earth. Things that are wrong being put right, people being made whole, lives and situations being transformed, love flowing between people. Every blessing in Christ. *Christopher Kingsbury*



The Bible Study Group resumes and will meet 2nd and 4th Monday in the month at 7.30pm at Russets, 47 Swan Street. All are welcome at this hour of fellowship.

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

**Please, NO LATER THAN 12th February 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 THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

**Churchwarden:**  
**Vacant**

The Christmas Eve Carol Service at St. Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone was another "sellout" with standing room only. A brilliant start to the Christmas festivities for all who attended. If you were not there, please make a note of 6.00 pm Christmas Eve for 2017 as you would not want to miss two in a row!

Although we raised the roof with our enthusiastic singing of at least nine carols, structurally the building survived. Particular thanks to Jim and Liz Henderson for recruiting and arranging rehearsals for the choir as well as sourcing all the necessary music, and also to Patrick Friend, our organist for the evening, who also rehearsed the choir alternating with Liz Henderson. An amazing £1,100 was raised from the collection (a record!) which will go to support the church and EACH.

**A Date for your Diaries - Saturday 13th May at 6.00 pm.**

A concert will be given by organist Derek Grover and a small choir to celebrate Edwardstone's very special "Father Smith" organ, through music mainly from the period of Bach, Handel and Purcell. Watch this space!

**Rota**

**Sunday 19th February at 9.30 am Holy Communion**

**Sidesman/Coffee** Bill Dastur / Sally Hoskyns

**Flowers** Anne Suckling

**Cleaning** Anthea Tribe and Liz Henderson



## THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

**Churchwardens:**  
**Vacant**

**From the Registers**

**Thanksgiving Service** A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Dr Peter Kennedy Scott, who died on 1st December 2016, aged 75, was held in St Bartholomew's Church on 20th December 2016.

**Change of Service Day** Please note that, as from this month, the 9.30 am service at Groton will move from the 4th Sunday to the 2nd Sunday of each month. The February service, therefore, will be on Sunday 12th February.

**Ipswich winter Night Shelter** £220 was sent to the Selig (Suffolk) Trust for the benefit of the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter following the Carol Service on 21st December. Many thanks to all who contributed. Thanks, too, to the benefice choir, who turned out in force to lead the singing at what was the best-attended carol service in Groton since 2011.

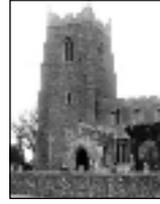
**Dr Peter Kennedy Scott** The church was packed on 20th December for the service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Dr Peter Kennedy Scott, who retired in 1996 after many years as a local much-loved GP. (see above). Pat generously nominated St Bartholomew's Church to be the beneficiary of the retiring collection, which amounted to over £1,000.

**Electoral Roll Revision** Each year the electoral roll is revised ahead of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which this year is on 4th April 2017. The revision period will be from 1st March to 18th March. The revised roll will then be published by being exhibited on the church noticeboard from 19th March until the date of the APCM. Formal notice of the revision period will be posted on the church noticeboard on 12th February. The roll is important as it is those whose names are on the roll who are entitled to attend the APCM and stand for election to the PCC. This year, too, two people are to be elected to serve on the Sudbury Deanery Synod for the next three years. If your name is not currently on the roll but you would like to be on the roll and think you qualify for enrolment, please get in touch and ask me for an application form. (There is no need to wait for the formal revision period.) Likewise, contact me if you are unsure whether or not your name is on the roll and/or whether you qualify for enrolment. *David Lamming (Tel: 210360; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com).*

**Church Roof Update** The PCC have recently received the first tranche of the £39,000 grant from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund that will fund the bulk of the cost of the permanent repair of the church roof following the lead theft in October 2015 (see the BRN, August 2016

and November 2015.) Tenders are now being obtained and it is hoped that the work will be carried out in the late spring.

**PCC Meeting Tuesday 7th March 2016, 7.00 pm** at Mary's House. Items for the agenda should be notified to the secretary, David Lamming, by Sunday 26th February. [E-mail djlamming@hotmail.com]



## THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

**Churchwardens**

**Vacant**

**Rotas**

**Sidesmen**

**5th Feb** Mrs. Nicholls and Mr. Duffy

**12th Feb** Mrs. Duffy

**19th Feb** Mrs. Roser

**26th Feb** Mrs. Gregor-Smith

Our Carol Service was very well attended. Revd. Judith led the service, the Benefice Choir sang beautifully, the flower team decorated the church with a nativity scene, three Kings, pedestals in the north and south aisles, and a lovely arrangement on the font. The Christmas tree and the candles glowed, readings and carols and mulled wine were enjoyed by all who came.

At the end of the service Little Waldingfield History Society presented Revd. Judith with a cheque for £1915.25, the proceeds of a concert they had organised in aid of the Church Restoration fund. We are immensely grateful for their hard work and generosity.

Barry Squirrell's Memorial Service was held in Lavenham Church on 5th January. Revd. Judith took the service. Barry's family and friends spoke of him so movingly and with great humour and affection. We all pray for them, especially Joy. Our support and love will be there for her in her bereavement.

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.



## THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

**Churchwarden:**

Christine Cornell,

"Opus", Sudbury Road, Newton, Tel: 370331

24th December. Our Crib Service was a wonderful family gathering and Revd. Judith led us with her usual gift of making even the youngest baby feel very welcome. As a result, children were happy to answer questions and come forward to illustrate the Christmas story. As the congregation left, home made biscuits were given to hang on Christmas trees or eat. It was a lovely way to start Christmas. Thank you to all who came at such a busy time and thank you to Nancy Roser for playing the organ and to everyone who helped.

**Sunday 22nd January at 11.00 am** We will have our Holy Communion service for the month.

**Sunday 29th January at 10.00 am** The Five Villages Service with Holy Communion will take place here at All Saints Church at which Revd. Judith will bless the Plough.

**Sunday 26th February at 11:00 am** A service of Holy Communion.

This will be the beginning of our new service pattern of one service a month, which will be a service of Holy Communion at 11:00 am on the fourth Sunday of each month. This is arranged on a trial basis. We will be pleased to welcome you to our church.

### MARY'S HOUSE BOOKINGS

**When making a booking, please ensure that a contact name and telephone number is entered clearly in the diary in respect of every booking (including church and PCC bookings), as we need to know who to contact in the event of any query over, or the need to change, a booking.**

Please note that the suggested donation is £1.00 per head for a two-hour booking for all meetings. For inquiries about new bookings, please contact Pauline or David Lamming: telephone 01787 210360.

**FEBRUARY 2017****Services in the Box River Benefice****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. 01787 210091 or emailed to: [rvdj@btinternet.com](mailto:rvdj@btinternet.com). The winter months' rota is: **Tuesday** 9.00 Edwardstone; **Wednesday** 9.00 Groton, 16:00 Little Waldingfield (\*at Newman's Hall); **Thursday** 9.00 Newton, 17.00 Boxford.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTE: CHANGE TO SERVICE ROTA \*\*\***

*Please note that Groton's 9.30am service has moved from the fourth Sunday of the month to the second Sunday.*

**Wednesday 1st**

Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd David Abel / Revd Judith

**Thursday 2nd**

Lt Waldingfield 15.00 Holy Communion - Newmans Hall Lay Team  
(Reserved Sacrament)

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple /Candlemas</b>	<b>(W)</b>
Boxford	08.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Lt Waldingfield	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 <i>Cafe Church: Candlemas</i>	Revd Judith
Boxford	18.30 Evensong	Christopher Kingsbury

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>**

Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd David Abel / Revd Judith

<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>Third Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>(G)</b>
Groton	09.30 Morning Worship (**NOTE: CHANGED SUNDAY)	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

**Wednesday 15th**

Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd Judith

**Thursday 16th**

Lt Waldingfield 15.00 Compline - Newmans Hall Lay Team

<b>Sunday 19th</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>(G)</b>
Edwardstone	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

**Wednesday 22nd**

Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House Revd Judith

<b>Sunday 26th</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	<b>(G)</b>
Boxford	11.00 Matins	Christopher Kingsbury
Newton	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

## Soap Box

One of the traditions of Christmas in Little Waldingfield has been the carol singing around our village. Last Christmas was something of a disappointment. Elizabeth and I were the only villagers able to take part. If it hadn't been for the Reverend Judith and David from Groton supporting us, we'd have had to cancel.

As it happens, those who we small band serenaded with festive tunes were most generous. Perhaps they felt sorry for us. We had a shorter time out than usual as both our guest participants needed to return to their home villages, but collected a better sum for the church than we feared we would.

There were reasons behind the low turnout. Barry and Joy Squirrell had been staunch supporters in the past, while other regular carol singers had commitments elsewhere. Also, the Playing Fields committee also held a function on the same night which might have kept some people away. And it was closer to Christmas Day than usual, so I suspect others who might have joined in were otherwise occupied.

But it did make me think about one of my regular hobby horses – the declining number of people prepared to throw themselves behind events and make them happen. Too often it is the same people who regularly give the time and the effort to organize a fund raising quiz or a function aimed at bringing people together. Don't get me wrong – such a situation is not confined to local villages. Indeed, in Little Waldingfield we are generally well served by those prepared to undertake tasks for the benefit of the village.

However, often those at the centre of village organizations are the older members of the community. Perhaps it is because they are retired that they feel able to contribute, but I do worry over who will replace them when they become too old to continue. Key members of our Parish Room committee are standing down later this year, though there has been good succession planning and I fully expect it to be business as usual in the future.

In Rotary, where I confess to being a less than diligent attendee due to absences abroad, the membership also seems to be getting older. One of the two clubs in Sudbury has folded and, while the one to which I belong continues to attract new members, it is rare for them to be of working age. Indeed, a recent recruit was actually 90 when he joined. Yet many of the members started their Rotarian activities while still employed and have

remained with the club for many years – decades in several instances.

It could be the busy life we all seem to lead these days that make it difficult for those in employment to find the time for voluntary activities. If so, it is a shame as much fulfillment can come out of working with others to help deserving causes or bring pleasure to those less fortunate in the local community. Rotary has brought me into contact with organizations I would not otherwise have discovered, such as a children's home in Beirut, swamped with refugees from the Syrian conflict, or a lending mechanism for entrepreneurs from the Third World.

As it happens, I believe we are more fortunate than most in the organizations and facilities available to those of us lucky enough to live in this benefice. But in a society in which personal contact is diminishing as technological advancement changes the way in which we shop, do business and communicate with each other, we need to ensure that local events receive both the resources and support that allow them to continue and flourish. Next year I hope to see many more carol singers around in our village.

Brian Tora is a local writer and broadcaster.

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# GARDENING IN FEBRUARY HARRY BUCKLEDEE

Lift remaining parsnips, carrots and leeks to allow the ground to be dug over ready for spring planting. Parsnips and carrots can be stored in sand or peat and leeks can be heeled in a sheltered corner of the garden.

It was always said that you should plant shallots on the shortest day and harvest them on the longest day. Planting out on the shortest day when the soil is wet and cold and expecting them to make root and grow has never made a lot of sense to me. However, shallots do need an early start because whenever you plant them they will stop growing between the longest day and the first week or two in July. A method of growing I have used for the last 50 years is to plant 15 shallots in a full size seed tray, filled level full with peat based compost at the beginning of February. Not a lot of heat is necessary or desirable. In four or five weeks they will have grown shoots two to three inches long but more importantly they will have produced a mass of strong roots four to five inches long. Harden them off and plant out in March when planting conditions outside are favourable. It is important to lift them carefully off the trays so as to do as little damage as possible to the roots and use a trowel to make a big enough hole to spread the roots out fully. This method of growing has worked well for me and has enabled me to be consistently among the prize winners at the show in the past and to have a good supply of large bulbs for the kitchen.

Brussel sprouts need a long season of growth and plants can be raised now from seeds sown in a cool greenhouse. F.I varieties give best results producing uniform size sprouts all the way up the stalk.

Carrots such as Amsterdam Forcing or any of the Nantes varieties can now be sown in large pots in the greenhouse and should be ready for use in May.

The herbaceous border can now be thoroughly cleaned. Cut away all dead stems, clean out weeds and lightly fork over the soil incorporating any well rotted compost or manure that you can spare. Clumps of plants which are overgrown and showing signs of dying off in the centre should be lifted and only the young outer growths replanted, discarding the worn out centre parts of the clump.

Bearded Iris and Pyrethrums should not be lifted and divided until after flowering in July.

Roses can be pruned at the latter half of the month. Water the pruned stems and the soil around the bushes with a solution of Amillotox to kill off any black spot spores which are lying dormant ready to infect new shoots as they form.

Don't be afraid to cut them back hard. Hybrid T's should be cut back to three buds from the base and Floribunda's to four or five buds. Roses will last longer, stay healthier and give a better display by hard pruning. Last years new rambler rose shoots, which are needed to produce this years blooms, have continued to grow right through the autumn and early winter and will need tying to supports. There is still plenty of time to plant new rose bushes and other deciduous shrubs and trees.

Spring is in sight. This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

## Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover
- 2 Chit potato tubers
- 3 Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches
- 4 Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
- 5 Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- 6 Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'
- 7 Prune Wisteria
- 8 Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
- 9 Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea
- 10 Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

As long as the ground isn't frozen, the key job for this month is to cultivate and prepare seedbeds, covering them with clear polythene, cloches or fleece to warm up the soil before sowing.



**\*\*Pilates and Yoga classes now at Kersey Mill\*\***

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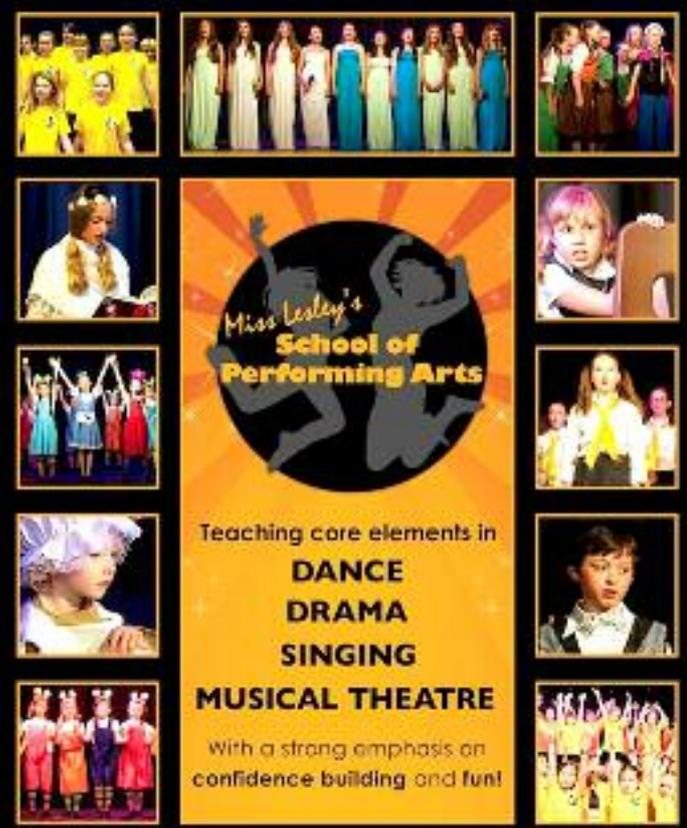
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# Parish Council Matters

## Minutes of a Meeting of Newton Parish Council 14th December 2016

**Present:** Councillors Paul Presland (Chairman), Sue Crawte and Colin Poole.  
**Attending:** James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), D Crimmin (Clerk) and 4 residents.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Bower, Parker, Schwenk and Taylor (commitments) sent their apologies as did Lee Parker (Babergh District Councillor).

### Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

No interests were declared and no request for dispensation had been received.

### Minutes of meeting held on the 9th November 2016

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

**Public Forum:** James Finch updated councillors on his previously circulated report and gave further information on Devolution, SCC's Budget and help for Family Carers. He updated councillors on the re-consultation for the proposed speed reductions on the A134 and on the Raising the Bar grant available from the Suffolk Foundation which NPC may wish to apply.

**Correspondence (Appendix A):** Following a review of the Correspondence and the emails circulated since the last meeting there were no further actions requested of the Clerk. The councillors resolved to defer a decision on the use of Newton's name for a youth football team until the Trust had decided on whether the playing field could accommodate the proposed use.

**Clerks Report (Appendix B):** Following a review of the Clerk's Report there were no further actions requested of the Clerk.

### Finance

a. All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix C), were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting, agreed the Reconciliation of Accounts against the Bank Statements and reviewed the Statement of Accounts against the budget.

b. The councillors reviewed the finances for the Firework event which has raised a surplus of £192.11p.

### Planning

a. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/16/01451 2 Tudor Cottages, Sudbury Road - Application for Listed Building Consent - Removal of internal wall and replacement of existing window on rear single storey element and resolved that they had no objections.

b. The councillors reviewed appeal APP/D3505/W/16/3159313 regarding refusal of Planning Application B/16/00131/FUL Farm Shop, Wheldons Fruit Farm, Newton Leys, Newton, SUDBURY, CO10 0QE - Change of use of existing farm shop (Class A1) to dwelling house (Class C3) including parking, gardens and access and resolved that they had no further comments and would like a copy of the Inspector's decision.

c. The councillors reviewed appeal APP/D3505/W/16/3159797 regarding refusal of Planning Application B/16/00629/FUL Abbey House, Rectory Road, Newton, SUDBURY, CO10 0QZ - Erection of two detached dwellings with garaging and resolved that they had no further comments and would like a copy of the Inspector's decision.

d. No further planning application had been received since the agenda was posted.

e. The status of previous applications and appeals were reviewed and the councillors agreed to review the process and outcomes of the Planning Committee's determination of the Red House Farm planning application at the January meeting.

**Village Hall and Trust representative updates:** There has not been a Village Hall meeting in the last month and the Trust are holding ongoing meetings with NGGC to formulate a new arrangement for the Green.

**Questions to the Chair:** There were no questions raised.

**Clerk vacancy:** The councillors reviewed the documentation prepared by the Clerk with regard to his contract of employment, it's terms and conditions as well as the specific duties he undertakes on behalf of NPC. Cllrs Presland, Crawte and Poole will meet to prepare their recruitment proposals for consideration at the January meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday 11th January 2017 starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

## Meeting of Little Walden Parish Council 3rd January 2017

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

**Attending:** Margaret Maybury (Babergh District Councillor), Dave Crimmin (Clerk) and 8 residents.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Tim Sheppard (commitment) sent his apologies.

**Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation:** Cllr Braybrook declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17/005a as he is a neighbour of the property. Cllr Campbell declared a pecuniary interest in item 17/005c as the proposed garage adjoins her boundary and did not take part in the discussion and vote on the item. No requests for dispensation had been received.

**Minutes of Meeting held on 15th November 2016:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Public Forum:** Several residents raised their concerns over the planning application for the retention on the wall at The Cottage in Church Road. The 2 owners of the properties which the wall fronted, expressed their concerns that the developer had not built what was promised when the properties were

being purchased and that at least the top line of bricks should be removed and replaced with coping tiles. Other residents felt that the original style of wall should be re-instated to be in keeping with the walls on this side of Church Road, within the conservation area.

Residents raised their concerns on the scale of the proposed garage in the planning application for 1 Priory Cottages and the impact it had on the dwelling itself and adjoining property.

**Planning:** a. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/16/01578 The Cottage, Church Road - Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990): Erection of 2 no. two storey dwellings and detached garage building for plot 2 (following demolition of existing dwelling and garage). Alterations to front boundary wall to create 2 no. new vehicular access and stopping up of existing vehicular access without compliance with condition 13 of B/12/01469/FUL to allow erection (and retention) of 1200mm high replacement front boundary wall and resolved to object to the application on the following grounds:

i. The original planning permission for the new dwellings was given with the original wall to the property being retained. Whilst the developer had to remove this during construction, presumably with the permission of the LPA, its re-instatement should have been in keeping with the original wall and the other walls on the boundary of the site

ii. The wall forms part of the "continual wall" as described in the conservation area for the village, within which the properties reside, and should be sympathetic to this rather than introducing a modern brick wall style.

b. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/16/01637 Harvest Barn, Haymarket - Application for Listed Building Consent - 1) Insertion of window into former opening in garage outbuilding 2) Insertion of glazed doors in garage outbuilding 3) Insertion of connecting fire door between garage and kitchen 4) Installation of thermal/acoustic insulation to interior of garage outbuilding and resolved to support the application.

c. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/16/01687 1 Priory Cottages, Church Road - Erection of attached single garage and resolved to object to the application on the following grounds:

i. The scale of the garage in terms of its height and mass, is out of keeping to both the dwelling and the neighbouring property

ii. The garage creates an unacceptable loss of light and residential amenity for the neighbouring property on the shared boundary

iii. Building materials specified for the roof not being sympathetic to the setting.

d. No further planning application had been received since the agenda was posted.

**Closed Churchyard:** LWPC still awaits the necessary permissions from the Diocese to undertake the works on the lime trees.

The recent damage to the pillar of the churchyard wall was discussed and the Chairman updated councillors that the resident responsible for the damage has stepped forward and has agreed to pay for its re-instatement. The councillors agreed that a quote be obtained to rebuild the wall in line with the recommendation received from Babergh's Heritage Department which could then be:

- given to the PCC to obtain the necessary Diocese approval
- verified with Babergh's Heritage Department to ensure that no planning permission is required.

The councillors requested the Clerk to log the incident with LWPC's insurer.

**LWPC representatives on the Playing Field Committee:** Cllr Campbell updated councillors on the Playing Field Committee's work to bring the Trust Deed up to date which has resulted in LWPC being asked to confirm whether it still wanted to have 2 representatives on the PFC. The councillors resolved that the new PFC constitution should give the option for 2 representatives of LWPC to be members.

**Questions to Chair:** The Clerk was asked to contact BT regarding the failing electrical supply to the telephone kiosk.

The councillors agreed with Cllr Coomber's suggestion that Brian Tora be put forward for the SALC ballot for a place at the Royal Garden Party to be held at Buckingham Palace in May 2017, in recognition of his service as Chairman of LWPC. Cllr Coomber will discuss the nomination with Brian Tora before submission of the application.

**Next Meeting:** The date of the next scheduled meeting will be Thursday 26th January 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

## PARISH COUNCIL OF BOXFORD PUBLIC NOTICE

Please note full copies of Boxford Parish Council Minutes are available on the following website: -

<http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/BoxfordParishCouncil.cfm?page=minutes>

Full Meetings take place at 7.30pm on the first Monday each month at Bell House - full address below:

Clerk: Mrs Debbie Hattrell

Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford CO 10 5NP  
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# Parish Council Matters

## Meeting of Boxford Parish Council

### Report of the Meeting held on 9th January

The next full meeting of Boxford Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th February.

**New Members:** The Parish Council is delighted to report being back to full strength following the co-option of Vince Strafford in December and Mathew Wooderson in January. The Parish Council was impressed with the quality of candidates and had conducted interviews during November.

**Public Forum:** A representative from the Church thanked the Parish Council for providing a Christmas Tree for the Churchyard again. The maintenance of the Churchyard and parking in the vicinity was raised following a site meeting. Finally the Parish Council was asked to consider a contribution towards the insurance costs of the Church again this year.

**County Council Report:** Cllr James Finch attended and discussed winter gritting, changes to Ipswich Park and Ride, the recent temporary closure of Orwell bridge and the feasibility stage of the potential Sudbury relief road. He was questioned about the faded yellow lines at the Swan Street, Broad Street and Church Road junction. This had been reported on-line during December.

**Correspondence:** The progress of items raised at Parish Council were discussed. It was agreed to organise for litter and leaf clearance on Sand Hill from the Cox Hill junction to Station Field.

**Finance:** In addition to the usual business, a contribution of £1750 was agreed towards the insurance costs of the Church.

**Cemetery:** Two Memorial applications were duly approved. A full written plan was being devised of the cremation area and new metal markers were being sourced for the Cemetery.

**Village Car Park:** Parking has regularly been discussed as an issue in various parts of the village. There was discussion of the need for a car park, options and steps to start the process of investigation. Various members were researching different aspects and this will remain on the Agenda.

**Reports:** It was agreed to provide website details in Box River News for full Parish Council Minutes to be accessed by residents. Anti-social driving in the village was reported and it was noted that reports should be made to the Police. The overhanging tree near the Homefield flats is being followed up.

**Planning:** Permission had been given by the Planning Authority for tree work at 12 The Causeway. The Parish Council had No Objections to extensions and alterations proposed at 1 The Causeway and tree applications at 5 Fitzgerald Meadow and The Spinney.

Debbie Hatrell, Clerk to Boxford Parish Council

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## THE NAMES ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS - FEBRUARY 2017



Last month's article looked briefly at the subject of the graves of those who died in the War located in the county of Suffolk and then gave some account of how the familiar headstones that mark the graves were designed and produced by the War Graves Commission.

To start this month's

article, I will broaden the horizon and try to provide a resume of the history of the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**, which is charged with maintaining all war graves of British and Commonwealth service personnel throughout the world.

Today the Commission cares for some 23,000 burial locations in 154 countries, which range from the single grave in Newton Churchyard to the cemeteries such as Tyne Cot in Belgium with around 12,000 burials. It is a substantial organisation with its Head Office in Maidenhead in Berkshire. But its beginnings were almost accidental and its story is really the story of one man's vision and dedication, Fabian Ware, later Major General Sir Fabian Ware CB CMG KCVO KBE.

When just plain Fabian Ware at the age of 45 in September 1914, being too old for active service, he volunteered for service with the Red Cross in France. He was quickly posted to take charge of a unit based in Lille, which, as well as running a field hospital, co-ordinated the volunteer drivers and their cars, who worked tirelessly to pick up wounded men from near the front and ferry them to the hospital. Originally trained as a teacher, he had had a varied career in education in posts in England and South Africa, as well as a spell as editor of the *Morning Post* in London. He was neither soldier nor politician and had no particular interest in war graves. But what he did have, from his time in South Africa, was first-hand experience of the way the British cemeteries created after the Boer War of 1899 to 1902 soon fell into disrepair through neglect.

There were some 25,000 graves in 356 cemeteries in the Transvaal region of South Africa. Prior to that war the proper recording and marking of war graves was sporadic. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, it was customary to bury ordinary soldiers in mass graves near a battlefield with no records made of names or locations; only the bodies of officers were, where possible, returned home. By the mid-century, at the time of the Crimean War, the reporting of the war via telegraphed dispatches from newspaper reporters brought home to the public the true scale of the horrors of the battlefield and it also highlighted the often rudimentary provision for the care of the sick and wounded and the haphazard arrangements for the burial of the dead. Many of the burial grounds in the Crimea simply disappeared over time, so by the time of the South African Wars at the end of the century, the public expected more to be done, particularly as these were the first wars in which volunteers were recruited to fight alongside the regular soldiers.

Thus, during and after these wars, the Royal Engineers were given the task of recording the location of all British military graves. Working with them in the period after the end of hostilities were a group of women, the Guild of Loyal Women, who located the graves from the records and arranged for them to be marked with an iron cross. The Guild also produced registers which contained the names, where known, and the locations. The Guild became the South African Soldiers' Graves Association. But with few resources and working many thousands of miles away from home, it proved impossible to maintain these cemeteries, and so, from soon after 1902, the decay and loss of graves began.

It was this neglect that Fabian Ware witnessed, and it must have made an impression, because from the outset Fabian Ware instructed his staff to make careful note of all the graves they came across on their journeys to and from the Frontline. Partly, this was the usual practice for the Red Cross, because they had the role of providing next of kin with details of the burial places of their sons, husbands and fathers. However, this war was being waged just across the Channel, and Ware foresaw that it would be only a matter of time before relatives sought to try and visit the graves, and so, under Ware's guidance, his team took special care in the accurate recording of the location of the graves. But more than this, with the feelings and emotions of the bereaved in mind, he also instructed that, where possible, the graves be properly tended and cared for.

As early as October 1914, this thoughtful and sensitive initiative came to the attention of the military staff responsible for assessing the medical care provided by the Red Cross. During one of these assessments, Ware took the trouble to show Lieutenant Colonel Edward Stewart the section of the French cemetery at Béthune, which contained the graves of several British soldiers buried there by their regiment. Stewart was impressed by the obvious care the graves received, but was concerned that the simple wooden crosses with the names marked in pencil would soon become illegible. He then instructed Ware's team to duplicate

the names in white paint on the back of the crosses. On his return to England, Stewart successfully argued that Ware's unit should become dedicated to carrying out this work with the graves. In February 1915 Ware and his staff were absorbed into the Army and given military titles and in March the Graves Registration Commission was formerly established under the command of Major General Neville Macready with Ware, now also Major General, in day to day control.

Between May and October 1915, the Commission recorded and marked more than 32,000 graves. As the Western Front drew more and more soldiers to it, and the casualties mounted, so the work increased. Word of the Commission soon reached the public and, as well as marking, registering and tending graves, it soon found that it was becoming a focus for enquiries by bereaved families. Realising it would be impossible to stop this happening, in the spring of 1916 the Commission became the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries. By now it had also expanded into all the other theatres of the War, with units working where ever the conflict took them. During this period the Directorate began to look to the future and opened negotiations with the French to secure the necessary land to accommodate permanent cemeteries. Thus, the scale and remit of the Directorate's tasks became ever more complex.

Both Ware and Macready knew that, whenever the War did end, the workload would increase massively, and they also knew that the longer it went on and the numbers of dead grew beyond anyone's worst fears in 1914, public expectation of the proper management of the graves would be high. Ware began to promote the idea of the founding of a permanent civil organisation that would assume all these tasks at the end of hostilities. Initially, the Office of Works argued that it was best suited to do this, but Ware understood that the contributions and losses of the many other colonial countries involved in the War demanded something altogether different. Out of this thinking was born the idea of the organisation that was to be the Imperial War Graves Commission.

But Ware could not call this into being on his own, particularly now that existing Whitehall departments were looking to assume these responsibilities. However, he did have some powerful allies, chief among them the Prince of Wales, who had taken a very personal interest in his work. Ware suggested to the Prince that he write to the Prime Minister, David Lloyd-George, suggesting that an Imperial War Graves Commission be founded by Royal Charter and that it was to be funded and supported in proportionate measure by all the countries whose service personnel had died in the War. Lloyd-George was in full agreement, partly because he too saw the need for a truly independent and broad based organisation and partly because it would prevent any further power struggles with the Civil Service. So, on the 21st May 1917 the Commission was granted its Charter which conferred on it a daunting set of duties.

It was charged with caring for all members of the Armed Forces of the British Empire who 'died from wounds inflicted, accident occurring or disease contracted, while on active service whether on sea or land'. It was also to acquire and hold land for cemeteries and memorials, provide for burials, to erect and care for memorials, to keep records and registers of the graves and to look after all graves whether within or outside the cemeteries. The President of the Commission was the Prince of Wales, its Chairman was Lord Derby, its Vice-Chair Ware, and it included Macready and various High Commissioners and other representatives of the Empire. At its first meeting in November 1917 it set about appointing further commissioners drawn from the professions from which it needed expertise and advice. Thus came the architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, Charles Aitken, the Director of the Tate Gallery, Sir Frederick Kenyon, Director of the British Museum, who was its artistic adviser, and Rudyard Kipling its literary advisor. These Commissioners in turn called on other people with the requisite skills and knowledge for the task ahead; for instance, Lutyens sought the advice of the garden designer and plantswoman, Gertrude Jekyll and her contribution can be seen today in the plantings of trees and shrubs in the cemeteries. All of this from one man's sensitive understanding of the essential need to mark with due gravity and dignity the sacrifice of an individual's life in the service of their country.

At that first meeting its most significant guiding principles, which are still in place today, were laid down. Macready argued that in the erection of grave markers and the layout of the cemeteries there was to be no distinction between officers and men, a radical departure from past practice. Nor, the commissioners agreed, was there to be any distinction on the basis of creed and nationality. But, appropriately enough, it fell to Ware to set out, what to me is the most important of all the undertakings, which is that these cemeteries and memorials were to be constructed and maintained such that they lasted 'in perpetuity'. In the past it was only royalty and the great figures of state and public life who had been accorded the privilege of what is formally called 'perpetuity in sepulture', as is witnessed in cathedrals and great churches throughout the land. Ware made clear that this was now extended to the 'common' man, the ordinary soul who, through his own sacrifice, would not grow old as his peers would.

It takes a little while for the significance of this to sink in. When we look around any church or chapel yard or any municipal cemetery we see spaces in between marked graves where the headstone has gone and all that remains is a gentle mound, and in other places we see nothing whatsoever to indicate that these are the last resting places of countless thousands of living, breathing people. Their relatives have probably died or the family has moved away, and it is only the

burial registers which can tell us who these people were. But the Commission determined that it would ensure that the horsemen, the blacksmiths, the ploughmen, the innkeepers, the shopkeepers, the schoolmasters, the tradesmen and the bank clerks from our Suffolk villages, who did not come home from the War, would never be forgotten. For it has undertaken upon itself that their graves, or their names on the memorials for those who have no known grave, will stand true for all to see for all foreseeable time, even while the graves of their kin return to the unmarked grassy patch in which their bodies were first laid. And so it is, and so it should be.

The work of the Commission developed rapidly and by the time of the Armistice it was already in the process of constructing cemeteries, and beginning the long process of designing and constructing the great memorials such as the Menin Gate at Ypres and the Thiepval Memorial on the Ancre Heights above the Somme. This is a story in itself but one to be told another day and we have to leave this brief history of the Imperial War Graves Commission at this point. For the time being we need to record that, as political and cultural climates shifted it became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1960, having weathered the second major world war, and that its commitment to 'perpetuity in sepulture' will ensure its purpose is as relevant today as the day it was chartered. But before we leave this part of the essay, we must close the story of Fabian Ware.

Ware continued to lead the Commission right through the interwar years, and witnessed the completion of the great memorials, only to be plunged into the new difficulties and demands created by the Second World War. He finally retired in 1948, aged 79, and died the next year. A modest and unassuming man, he desired no memorial, and is buried in the churchyard of Amberley, Gloucestershire, near his home. However, the nation saw fit to raise a plaque bearing his name in the Warrior's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, and the French nation, in his honour, renamed the road that runs past the Bayeux Memorial. But, as one author has said, "His truest memorial is the Commission. He had done a great service to the relatives of the dead; he built the first 'living model' of Commonwealth co-operation (and) added something to the national heritage."

#### **Grave Concentration**

*My second subject this month is directly linked to the Commission's work, but of more immediate relevance to the stories I tell of the men of our villages in these articles. However, this is a sombre story but one it is impossible to avoid, as has been noted in some of the previous articles in the series.*

*Imagine an observer, just after the Armistice, standing on higher ground, where the line of the Western Front was visible for several miles in each direction. Even on a grey day the shattered and ravaged nature of the landscape would be all too obvious, but he would also see against the leaden sky a broad white line snaking away to infinity to the North and South, like a chalk mark across the land. Closer inspection would reveal this line to be the multitude of white crosses marking the graves of those who were hurriedly buried where they fell in the recent carnage.*

*The Commission, at its meeting held a week after the Armistice, noted that it estimated there to be over 150,000 known and marked graves in France and Belgium along and either side of the Front. It also noted that it would simply not be practical to leave every body exactly where first buried. In time the broken land would have to be returned to fields and woods, and villages and towns would have to be rebuilt. This was a very sensitive subject, because many relatives would want to ensure that the bodies of their loved ones would not be disturbed from where they lay. But the Commission's view had to prevail for the sake of future generations of the French and Belgium peoples who needed their land.*

*A principal was established, on Macready's advice, that, where possible, so as to minimise the disturbance, a significant grouping of say ten to fifteen graves would be used as the nucleus of a much larger cemetery, to which the bodies from the outlying areas would be brought for reburial. Tyne Cot, about 9 miles east of Ypres started as a cemetery of 48 graves at the site of a battlefield dressing station. Today it numbers around 12,000 in its burial register.*

*The difficult work of exhumation and reburial was the task of the Grave Concentration Units. These consisted of parties of 12 men, all volunteers, under the command of a senior NCO. Each unit was allotted a section of the Front Line and they worked systematically through the section carefully retrieving the bodies and noting any distinguishing material that would help to confirm a known soldier or identify one known to be missing. Many became expert detectives such that even the shade of khaki of the dead man's uniform could help them identify the regiment to which he belonged or the period of the war in which the man died. Everything was meticulously recorded, and the Grave Concentration Records which they completed can now be accessed on the Commission's web site. Map references of the original grave are given in these records which pin point the position on the ground to within a few metres. Armed with these and the extraordinary satellite mapping facilities now widely available on the internet, it is possible to translate these mapped positions to present day features in the French and Belgian countryside. Never have the lines*

*If I should die, think only this of me:*

*That there's some corner of a foreign field*

*That is for ever England.*

*seemed more immediate, nor those corners of foreign fields so tangible.*

*Between the Armistice and September 1921 these units of dedicated men*

*retrieved 204,650 bodies and reburied them in the new cemeteries; a number which shows that even the Commission, with its detailed understanding of the scale of the loss of life along the Front had not anticipated. After 1921 the organised recovery of bodies ceased, all the white crosses having been removed and the chalk smudge drawn across the land in the wake terrible suffering erased from sight. And yet, as the land gradually returned to ordinary use, over the following three years a further 38,000 burials were unearthed, and through the late 1920s as many as 20 to 30 more would come to light each week. Still, 100 years on, about 30 new burials in the now long established cemeteries are made each year, and each man is laid to rest for a second time as the Last Post is sounded to remind others of the sacrifice he made.*

This article has inevitably been solely concerned with the Commonwealth War Graves, but all nations involved in the War suffered enormous loss of life amongst their armed forces. So, we should also know and respect that the French War Graves Agency is responsible for the graves of the 1,600,000 of their countrymen who died in the conflict and all the cemeteries and memorials set up to contain and record them. Similarly, the German Volksbund today maintains 833 cemeteries and memorials in 46 countries, which are the last resting place of 2,700,000 war casualties incurred in Europe and North Africa since 1914.

How can it be that civilised nations permit this slaughter and destruction to occur? My parents married in 1944 and I was born a few years later. I grew up and matured in a world where, despite the Cold War, there prevailed the idea that peace was best served through openness and co-operation between nation states. Now, I watch a world where that generally internationalist climate of political and economic exchange between nations is faltering, and in its place countries are assuming a more inward looking stance, where nationalism in its most divisive form gains stature. With the lasting monuments to the slaughter of previous wars, which I have been discussing in this article, in mind, we should not be afraid to speak truth to power and say look upon these cemeteries and learn, for this is where racial and religious intolerance, the pursuit of unfettered power and greed and the hollow ring of jingoistic sentiment lead us.

Lastly, as a reminder, all the previous articles in this series can be read on our 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 The Names on our War Memorials.

Rufus Sweetman, The Rectory.

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Kind Regards Marion, Julia and Andrea Hibben.

*Sir*

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## GOTTA NICE MOTOR? NICK NEEDS TO KNOW



Nick Thomson, self-confessed lover of stylishly designed cars, is heading a campaign to encourage Newton Green Golf Club members to reveal their classic vehicles. The club is staging an historic vehicle display as part of its 110th birthday celebrations, which open the annual golf week on Sunday, August 6.

Nick, a Lancia enthusiast, is no stranger to such events, having been the founder organiser of the annual Lavenham Rare Breeds car show from 1996-2000. It is held in association with the village's annual carnival, and today regularly attracts 500 entries.

A more modest – perhaps 25-50 – will be aimed for at the golf club event Nick commented: “We are aware of a number of very interesting vehicles owned by our members, and want to give them the chance to show them off.

“Priority will be given to vehicles built prior to around 1970, and we hope to have some space for later built ones of rarity or special interest. Any unusual vehicle, even if it is an old army tank or commercial vehicle will be welcome. If someone has a classic Vincent Black Shadow motorcycle or suchlike in their garage, we'd love to see it. Some owners have already committed themselves to attend, and we are anxious to leave no one out.” Nick says he has had a love of classically styled cars from a young age, particularly those from Italy.

“Although I am interested in what is beneath the bonnet, my main pleasure is derived from cars that have design idiosyncrasies, with a classic touch, and are fun to drive.”

In particular, he has three Lancia Gammas from the 1983/84 era. All are Series 111 coupe, with 2.5 litre, four cylinder engines – with “renowned road holding, performance and a body to die for” He is a member of Lancia Motor Club.

“Fiat rescued a virtually bankrupt Lancia in 1969, but kept the marque independent until fairly recently. Lancia continued to produce a stream of great models until the marque was merged with Chrysler a few years ago.”

In early days much of Lancia's production was classic engines and chassis, with customers' coachbuilders designing and building one-off bodies.

Thirteen years ago Nick followed the same dream when he acquired the chassis and 20 boxes of dismembered parts of a classic 1935 Astura, and set about building the car of his desires. The chassis, with its three-litre, V8 engine, has been fitted with an ash frame and four seater drop head aluminium body.

It is a real head-turner in its dark red paintwork, and harks back to grand tourer days when the rich rallied their way across Europe to the south of France.

The show-stopper (pictured) will be among those on display at the golf club event, which also features traditional jazz and cream teas.

### Boxford Tornado

This Years Boxford Tornado will take place on Sunday 9th April. Two routes are available, a 40mile and 60 mile. Starting at the Boxford Pavilion the routes use predominantly quiet rural roads and travel through the beautiful rolling, tranquil Suffolk countryside and include Suffolk Villages including Boxford, Kersey, Chelsworth and Woolpit. Each of the routes will be fully signposted.

Entries opened on January 1st 2017 and the chances are that all places will be taken by the time this is published.

## BOXFORD BIKE CLUB



Over the past few years the Boxford Bike Club, based around Boxford, has grown from humble beginnings to now having a very active and ever growing membership of local riders.

As a club, we don't take ourselves too seriously and we hopefully come across as a friendly and approachable bunch, at the same time endorsing the benefits and enjoyment of cycling in all its forms.

Various members have taken part in a number of local and national cycling events, and regularly participate in twice weekly training rides. Over the last year members have taken part in events such as the Dunwich Dynamo, the Suffolk Sunrise 100 mile ride, and Essex 100 charity bike ride. Members have also attended local reliability rides, as well as mountain bike events and competitions.

As a new club we are keen to attract new members. In this age of social networks, making contact with the club couldn't be easier, the club has a Facebook page - click on the link above, and a Twitter account @BoxfordBikeClub.

Boxford Bike Club are affiliated to British Cycling .

### Club rides

Currently the club organises a number of weekly rides:

1. An evening club road ride of about 20 miles leaving Boxford on a Wednesday at 7.00pm.
2. A Thursday evening mountain bike ride leaving at 6.45pm.
3. A Saturday cafe ride, various lengths.
4. A Sunday morning club ride of about 20 miles, leaving Boxford at 8.00am (16-17mph).
5. A more gentle Sunday morning introductory ride of about 15 miles, leaving Boxford at 9.30am.
6. A medium paced (14-16mph) Sunday morning ride of about 20 miles, leaving at 9.30am.
7. A faster paced (17-19mph) Sunday morning ride of about 20 miles, leaving at 9.30am.
8. A Sunday morning mountain bike ride leaving the village at 8am.

The introductory ride is for people who are new to the sport, those that enjoy a more gentle pace, or those who are thinking about joining the club.

Without exception on any ride we ride at the speed of the slowest rider. Waiting at an appropriate junction if necessary.

Members also often organise other rides during the week, making contact with other members via our Facebook page.

The meeting point for all club rides is the White Hart pub in the centre of Boxford.

### 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 below. You can also drag any pics you might like onto your desktop but these will be of low resolution.

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