

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



December 2004
Vol 4 No 12

LEST WE FORGET

The following is an address given by Harry Buckledee during the remembrance day service at Newton Parish Church on Sunday 14th November 2004.

'This has been an eventful year. In June we had the D-Day celebrations when veterans were able to re-visit the Normandy beaches. Here in this Benefice we had a memorial service in Boxford church on D-Day where we listened to Percy Fletchers fine, emotional tribute to D-Day Veteran's of whom he was one who landed on D-Day. There was hardly a dry eye in the church.

Many old servicemen have re-visited their particular theatre of war under the veterans return scheme.

I myself have had the privilege of going back to El Alamein for the 62nd anniversary of what was to be the most important battle of the war. The consequences of losing El Alamein would have been disastrous.

We flew to Borg El Arab, about five miles from Alexandria. Last time I saw the place it was desert but not any more, It is now a large town and the Hilton Hotel where we stayed.

It was an eye opener travelling along the coast road through which there was nothing but desert. The whole coastline now is holiday homes. I would never have thought anyone would have built in such a desolate place, but they have.

On Saturday 23rd October we travelled by coach the 65 miles to the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at El Alamein for a Commonwealth Service of Remembrance and Commemoration of all who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

The address was given by his excellency Sir Derek Plumbly, the British Ambassador, and the Act of Remembrance was recited by Commander Mike Lovett, the Naval and Air Attaché

We were properly dressed in blazers and medals - not appropriate dress under the blazing sunshine. Sweat ran down our faces although not all of it was sweat.

Wreaths were laid by representatives from the Commonwealth nations as well as Greece, Poland and France. The contributions made by East African unit recognised by the laying of wreaths from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Two German veterans laid a wreath, they were overcome with emotion.

After the service we went to Sidi Abdel Rahman which was another eye opener. 62 years ago there was nothing but desert and the scene of bitter fighting. Now there stands a most luxurious hotel where we were entertained for lunch by the British Ambassador and several members of the Embassy.

The visit to El Alamein had a great impact on me. We were with a grand bunch of men who had fought there, all of us between the ages of 84 to 91 years. We were of all ranks from private to senior officer and the spirit of comradeship that existed between us all those years ago was soon revived.

The feeling at the cemetery was one of peacefulness and tranquillity. There was a feeling of sadness as we walked quietly among the graves to pay our respects to those who lie there and to respect the solemnity of the separate acts of remembrance by those who had relatives laying there.

What a contrast to 62 years ago when the whole area was a scene

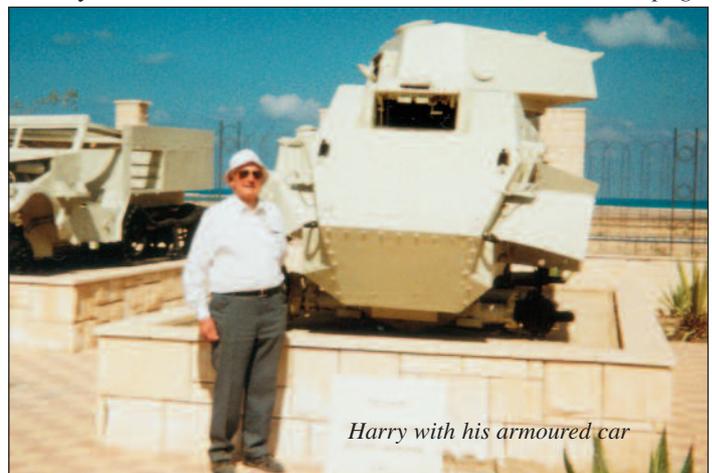


Harry places a wreath at the El Alamein Memorial

of death and destruction, of chaos and confusion. Of course we didn't have the benefit of television cameras and the media. all of whom are experts in all matters military, predicting what we would do, telling us how we should do it and where we went wrong, who was to blame etc. These days someone is always to blame. I don't know how we coped without them. The media claim to know exactly what goes on in minds of men on active service what their feelings are. But they do not know, only those who are there at the sharp end know what it is like.

Things happen in war which cannot be avoided. On the night of 24th October we almost ran over a wounded soldier. It was a moonlit night but visibility was obscured by dust and smoke, I had my head out of the turret -

Cont'd on next page



Harry with his armoured car

Box River News

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News

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cont'd from page one

not too far out because of the small arms fire, I spotted an upraised arm, I shouted halt to our driver who stopped just in time. I have often wondered what happened to our chap and hoped he survived but with dozens of tanks milling around you wouldn't give much for his chances. Nowadays, if the media got hold of something like that they would have a field day.

Somebody would be to blame, it would be negligence on someone's part, but the fact remains if I hadn't seen his outstretched arm we would have run over him and been completely unaware of what we had done.

This was what it was like, awful things happen and nothing could be done about it.

My armoured car came under heavy fire and was hit four times and put out of action. It was nothing short of a miracle that it never 'brewed up' and myself and the other two crew escaped unscathed. Not a pleasant experience. When we closed in for the night someone said "We had a good laugh this morning when we saw you getting shot up" This may seem an awful thing to say, but it wasn't, it was daft, but It was this daft, crazy sense of humour that kept you going. No good looking for sympathy because you wouldn't get it. My squadron commander came up and without so much as "are you alright" saw I was in one piece said "Cpl. Addis has been wounded go and take his place". That's the way things were.

We talked at length about our feelings at the time. Everyone said they prayed, some said they had never prayed in there lives before and maybe have never preyed since. but they prayed then, Ken Dodd in a comical way said "You should never be afraid to get in touch with head office". The line to head office was busy during those times. I'm reminded of when I was a boy from the age of 7 to 8 onwards I regularly walked to the Doctors surgery in Hadleigh to fetch medicine for people. On the waiting room wall was this text

*God and Doctor we adore
On the brink of danger not before
The danger past, both are required
God is forgot, the doctor is slighted*

We were chiefly there to remember our fallen comrades.

*We remember them for comradeship
For their support, for their humour.
We remember them as they were then
With young boyish faces,
They have not grown old as we have grown old
Above all we remember them for their bravery
In giving their lives to make El Alamein
Such a resounding Victory*

As we remember our own dead we remembered those who were our enemy. They were not all Nazis, most were decent men fighting for their country in the same way we were fighting for ours.

We shall never forget the comradeship of the eighth army and we shall always remember the mutual respect that existed between two opposing armies' *Harry Buckledee*

Poppy Appeal Newton 2004

House to House Collection	£516.58
Newton Green Trust	£70.00
Newton Church Armistice Service	£75.00
Golf Club House	£21.90
Golf Club Competition	£44.00
Saracens Head	£14.45
Total	<u>£741.93</u>



Friday, 3 December, 8.30 Ticket £10 Theo Travis Quintet

Theo Travis is a distinctive player who shows a remarkable sureness of touch in both his compositions and playing. His distinctive saxophone sound has been used in films and on albums with other leaders. Theo has been acknowledged by author Nicholas Royle as one of the inspirations for his novel, "Saxophone Dreams". With Simon Colam (piano), Pete Callard (guitar), Andy Hamill (bass) and Marc Parnell (drums).

Friday, 10 December, 8.30 Ticket £12 Stan Tracey Trio

Pianist, composer, arranger, accordion and vibes player Stan Tracey OBE is one of the most outstanding figures that Britain has given to the world of jazz. Inspired by Ellington and Monk he has consistently displayed a distinctive, sometimes quirkily personal touch in his playing. His new album "Seventy Something" is a real gem and features tonight's line up of Andy Cleynert (bass) and Stan Tracey (drums).

Friday, 17 December, 8.30 Ticket £12 Billy Jenkins Blues Collective

A born again blueser, described as a maverick, often satirizing the excess genre wine bar friendly jazz. Jenkins anarchic demeanour

conceals both a skillful musician and a shrewd thinker on all things musical. His band of Dylan Bates (violin), Thad Kelly (bass) and Michael Pickering (drums) has produced many fine albums with peerless blues playing, particularly from Jenkins himself. Warning - this is not for the faint-hearted or those suffering a humour bypass.

Wednesday 29 December, 8.30 Ticket £14 Claire Martin

Claire received instant recognition with her debut album *The Waiting Game* in 1992. Since then she has become one of the most important jazz singers on the scene. A remarkably versatile performer, her repertoire ranges from R & B to free music, incorporating along the way the great standards of which she is such an accomplished interpreter. Now also an established broadcaster Claire's talents are reaching an even wider audience. Her new album "Secret Love" will be released later this year. With Gareth Williams (piano), Laurence Cottle (bass) and Stan Tracey (drums).

JUST A TASTE OF OUR WINTER PROGRAMME...

We are looking forward to return visits from some of our favourite musicians, including

Alan Barnes,
Sarah Jane Morris,
Kirk Lightsey,
Dylan Howe, and
Brian Dee.

A special treat will be the gig with

Derek Nash and Snake Davies as "Sexy Saxes in Suits".

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

NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Boxford Village of Delight

The Ideal Christmas Present for those who love and delight in this village.

The two authors, Peter and Ian both live in the village and have combined their respective talents with pencil, pen, paintbrush, camera and computer to produce this lavishly illustrated record. The text adds intriguing information and in the epilogue, looks at some of the current problems faced by the village. It even suggests a few controversial solutions!

On sale in the Boxford shops and Sudbury bookshops, price £12. All proceeds go to the Boxford Community Council to enhance this wonderful village of ours.

Victim Support

Can we through The Box River News make an appeal for volunteer supporters for Victim Support

We currently recruiting for new volunteers in the Ipswich, Hadleigh, Sudbury and especially on the surrounding areas to help us to help victims of crime, ideally the volunteer should have at least four hours a week to spare be between the ages of 18 and 75 be good listeners and be interested in the welfare of their community.

Our training course starts on Wednesday evening the 17th November in Ipswich.

Victim Support is the national charity that helps people cope with crime. It operates through a network of local affiliated charities, the Witness Service and the Victim Supportline (0845 30 30 900). Staff and volunteers offer support, practical help and information to victims of crime whether or not the crime has been reported. Victim Support has operated in Suffolk for more than 20 years and we handle over 10,000 referrals every year. Victim Support Suffolk is committed to:

- Giving advice, support and information to those who suffer from the effects of crime
- Providing advice and support to witnesses in court proceedings
- Working in partnership with others to raise public awareness and give recognition to the effects of crime, and to promote the rights of victims and witnesses.

Our services are primarily provided by trained volunteers, who are supported by co-ordinators based throughout the county.

For further information please contact:

Linda Howes 01473 231 964

When You Wish Upon A Star

The When You Wish Upon A Star Music Quiz raised £712.00. Many thanks for all the support we were given in order to raise this amount. Congratulations to the winning team 'Tornado Smith'

Thanks again *Veronica, Robert ad Peter*

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

Thank you to all those who supported this event in Boxford.

Our cyclists were few but still raised £360.50p a very welcome contribution. The Trust will retain half this sum, the other half will be returned to Boxford to help with the repairs and maintenance of St. Mary's Church building

Jennie Lindsley.

The Benefice Lunch

Missing Cutlery!

Following the recent very successful Benefice Supper held at 'The Deans' in Newton, two sets of matching cutlery and other odd items have been found. If you have found anything missing from your cutlery draw please telephone 01787 319992 and you may just be lucky and find the items that have been found are

yours

Boxford Community Council

First of all Boxford Community Council would like to offer their sincere apologies for the delay in their fireworks spectacular held on Saturday 6th November. This was due to technical problems with the electronics compounded by the damp conditions. We would like to thank everybody for their patience and understanding. This was in fact the 31st consecutive display held and the first time we have experienced severe delay. Two of our Council members (David Gasson and Doug Impett) have been involved in every one which shows the level of commitment.

Secondly I would like to thank everybody who helped us, too numerous to list lest I forget anybody. You know who you are and what you did to help, so thank you very much. Thank you to David Gasson and his social committee who organised the event and to Doug Impett who designed and built the display. I think you will agree that it was a marvellous display. Many many hours were put into this event and we were disappointed in the delay. Thanks to for the support given to these people by their families and a big thank you to all you members of the public who turned out to support us.

Thirdly we will be holding our annual '**Fun and Games Night**' in the village hall on Saturday 29th January 2005. There will be 16 teams of 8 players in each team competing on a friendly basis for the honour of being the F & G Champions and perhaps winning a Mars bar.

Further details will follow but if you are interested in entering a team then please call Doug Impett on 210035, entries will be limited to 16 teams so get you team entered now.

Lastly, just a reminder that we will be holding our '**Boxford Rocks**' dance in the village hall on Saturday 23rd April 2005. Dancing will be to 'The Beavers', further details to follow.

If anyone is interested in helping at any of these events or in fact joining our social committee then please give me a ring on 210819, all proceeds go towards helping organisations within the local community. We need some young blood with ideas to take this community council forward and make it even more successful *Peter Hibben* Chairman 01787 210819

Edwardstone Christmas Fair 2004.

The very successful Fair was held at Edwardstone House, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Dastur, on Thursday 4th November 2004.

Mrs Diana Hawke, her committee and helpers are to be warmly thanked for organising an most enjoyable occasion. Over one hundred people shopped at the many stalls that catered to every taste and the Fair earned £2,300 of badly needed funds for Edwardstone Church. *P. F. Dawson.* 01787 210331.

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD CHARITIES

The Trustees will shortly be meeting to discuss the Christmas Gifts to be distributed to pensioners aged 65 or over, who have lived in Little Waldingfield for more than one year. If you wish to be considered please contact *Sue Mitchell*, Larks Mead, Church Road, Little Waldingfield, C010 OSP. Phone 247173.

Little Waldingfield Christmas Lights

Jon Hart will once more light up his house with a wonderful display. He will have a collecting box again and will donate the proceeds, as he did last year. Please give him and the village your support.

Boxford and District Bowls Club

'100 Club Winners for November:

£42 - G Williams; £17 - G Bullett; £7 - P Spragg.

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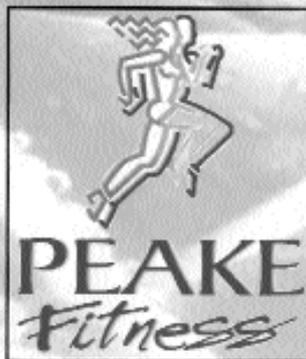
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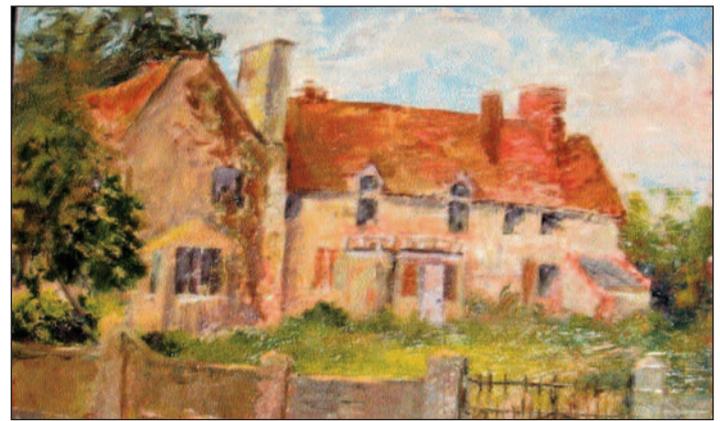
THE STOKE BY NAYLAND HOTELKEEPERS LANE, LEAVENHEATH, Nr. COLCHESTER, CO6 4PZ



Above: members of the Little Waldingfield Over 60's friendship club at the Stoke by Nayland Hotel for their Anniversary Tea Party

The Little Waldingfield Over 60's Friendship Club celebrated its 43rd birthday anniversary with a tea party at the Stoke by Nayland Hotel on Wednesday, October 27th when twenty of our members and friends were able to attend. Previously it had been agreed that a coach would be available to pick up members and friends at the usual places in the villages, but at the last moment, and after publication, this was changed and so as chairman of the club I would like to apologise to all of those who were unable to attend because of lack of transport. The day was lovely and sunny and it was a good get together; the verdict: location splendid, outlook beautiful, cream teas - disappointing, could do better.

This will be my last article for the Box River News on activities of the club as I have resigned as President/Chairman to take effect at the end of November, so I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy Peaceful and Happy New Year *Shirley Hobson*



Above: One of the many excellent paintings sold at the very successful Boxford Art Group Exhibition and sale held at the Fleece on the 13th/14th November (Picture: Knol Gate before restoration, Liz Gardiner)

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Wat's On

WORLD INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boxford Carpet Bowls Club is again organising a trip to the World Indoor Bowls Championships at Potters Leisure Resort near Great Yarmouth and we have some seats available on the coach.

The trip includes the coach to and from Potters to watch morning and afternoon matches with a two course lunch in between.

The date is Thursday 13th January 2005 and the all-inclusive cost is £24.00 per person. To book or for further details please call *Jean Saunders* on 01787 210725.

Fitness Classes Tuesday's 7-8pm in Boxford Village Hall.

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For further information please call Lindsay on 07961 830858

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Newton Village Hall

Whist Drives

Unfortunately there were only 4 tables in play at the whist drive held on Monday 25th October. This number is really insufficient to carry on, and unless attendances improve it may not be worthwhile to continue with the drives next year.

The prizewinners were;

William Ward 172

Diana Stock 170

Anna Ward 168

John Bishop 164

Alan Vince 162

Gerry Peacock 138

A big thank you to Diana for providing new playing cards, and to Joan Linney for her help with the refreshments.

The dates for the next drives are 29th November and 20th December, starting at 7.30pm, admission £1.00 including refreshments.

Alan Vince 01787373963

S.A.S Success After Stroke

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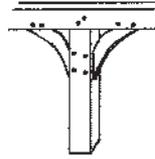
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The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton

Rector: The Reverend David Matthews, The Rectory, School Hill, Boxford CO10 5JT
Tel 210752 e.mail: David.Matthews@stedmundsbury.anglican.org

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

Please let one of them or a Churchwarden or a Lay Elder know of any cases of sickness or otherwise where they might be of use. Thank You

Benefice House Mary's House 5 Swan Street, Boxford CO10 5NZ Tel & Fax 210026

To the Box River Saints

I sadly missed the Clergy Conference this year. I have just found the time to look at it and its title on the Diocesan web site. The title was, 'Making the Most of Change.' On the title page of the web document I found two quotations.

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven" - Matthew 18.3 "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change" - Charles Darwin

At a recent meeting of the ministry team, prior to my reading about the Clergy Conference, we were discussing what we needed to do in the benefice to encourage some kind of revival within our area. The consensus was that our services needed a radical change to encourage the Christian folk of the area and especially the young to join us in our faith journey. I hear sharp intakes of breath as people read this and imagine their beloved Book of Common Prayer relegated to dusty shelves and mouldering cardboard boxes. That is not going to happen. There is a timelessness a rhythm and a familiarity about the BCP which would be impossible to replace. However we must also realise that it was probably never meant to remain in use until the last trumpet sounds. We must also realise that its beautiful language is totally out of touch with today's modern world and modern people.

We have a church in almost every village in this country and at one time they used to be well used but are now sadly mostly empty. There are exceptions and those are where the worship and the music has kept pace with the modern rhythms of life. Young people of today want to understand the words they are saying and they want music which reflects more the style of music they are used to listening to.

Christianity began with the greatest sacrifice mankind has ever known and sacrifice should be at the heart of every Christian's life. Change is sacrificial and if we are going to ensure that we are not the last congregation in our churches house we need to make that sacrifice.

Every Blessing
David



THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwarden:

Ruth Kingsbury: as Christopher above

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy spirit".
Romans 15.13 *Christopher Kingsbury*

BOX RIVER CLUB - Meetings in December:

December 5th - Christingle Service.

December 12th meets in the school hall - 10.30 a.m. -12.00 noon.

Janet Daniels

PEW BIBLES:

We would like to provide some bibles for congregational use. These may be given as a gift to the church or dedicated to a loved one. The cost is £9.99. If you would like one please see the Rector or Warden. Many thanks to those who have already made a gift. *CK*

BIBLE STUDY GROUP:

Meets Monday 13th December at 47 Swan Street at 8.00 p.m. exploring St. John's gospel. Please do come. *Peter Holden*

RESTORATION WORK TO THE CHURCH BUILDING:

The spire boarding has recently been replaced and repairs to lead work on the tower roof carried out. The PCC urgently needs further urgent financial assistance in maintaining this lovely Grade 1 listed building. Please do subscribe to the Building Trust to enable further repairs to be carried out. *CK*

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S:

Sunday 19th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
6.30 p.m. Carol Service

Friday 24th
Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass

Saturday 25th
Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. Family Service

A peaceful Christmas to everyone. *Christopher Kingsbury*

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:

Our annual Christingle Service is on Sunday 5th December at 4.00 p.m. - collection in aid of the Children's Society. Everyone welcome! *CK*

SMILE LINES:

What would have happened if there had actually been Three Wise Women, rather than Men? They would have asked directions; arrived on time; helped to deliver the baby; cleaned the stable; made a casserole; brought practical gifts, and there would be Peace on Earth. Share this thought with the wise women in your life! *CK*



THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:

Vacant

Lay Elder:

Antony Dodd 210397

OVER 50's LUNCH:

We will be holding a lunch in the Parish Hall on Wednesday 16th February 2005. There will be two courses plus glass of wine for £4.50. Please contact Daphne Clark 210698 for tickets. All welcome. *Parish Hall Committee*

ROTAS – SIDESMAN/CLEANING:

Dec 5: *United Benefice Service (LtW)/Mr & Mrs Saddleton;*

Dec 12: *Mrs Dodd/Mr & Mrs Dodd;*

Dec 19: *Mr Saddleton/Mr & Mrs Dodd;*

Dec 26: *Jean Tregear (UBS)/Mrs Morris & Mrs Kennett.*



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens: *Barbara Riddleston:
Poplar Farm, Goslings Green, 210261
David Lamming Lodge Farmhouse 210360*

Lay Elders: *Pauline Lamming 210360
Joy Sellers 378009*

CAROLS AT GROTON – COME AND JOIN US:

A traditional Carol Service – Sunday 12th December at 6.00 p.m.

Make it from the village and choose a favourite carol, verse, reading or poem for Christmas you would like included. Refreshments and time to chat afterwards.

Please phone Pauline Lamming (210360) by Sunday 5th December with your choice.

NATIVITY PLAY WITH CAROLS - Tuesday, 21st December at 5.00 p.m:

Produced and performed by mums and children from the Groton. Enjoy a visual telling of the Christmas story. Refreshments afterwards. See you there! *Pauline Lamming*

GROTON GARDEN GALA 2 - May 7th 2005:

Having held a most successful Plant Sale in aid of Groton Church in May 2004 it has been decided, by popular demand, to repeat this event.

So we are calling on all those enthusiastic gardeners, and those not so enthusiastic, to prepare for May 2005.

If you are re-organising your garden, or if things are getting out of hand, spare some time for Groton.

If you are in need of help with potting-up, Susan Block is only too happy to help. Call her on 01787 210456 or leave your plants at Spring Farm (Susan would be very grateful to receive any unwanted flower pots for this purpose). *Bob Bowdidge*

GROTON'S CHEESE AND WINE PARTY, Saturday, December 4th 7.30 p.m. W.I. Hall:

Time for our popular Cheese and Wine Party once more, with its famous Auction, as well as the usual superb Food, Bar, Gift Stall, Raffle etc. If the Harvest Supper is anything to go by, it will be a Sell-Out, so make sure you get your tickets (£5 each) in good time, from Pat Kennedy Scott (210319), Pat/Bob Bowdidge (211553) or any member of Groton P.C.C.

All proceeds to St. Bartholomew's Church. *Pat Kennedy Scott*

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE 2004:

A brief report to say the sums so far collected or promised are approaching £1000. A great achievement. The final tally will appear later - thanks to everyone. *Peter Kennedy Scott*

ROTAS:

Flowers:

Cleaning:

Sidesman with Sacristan:

December

Mrs P Thaw

Mrs P Thaw

Mr D Lamming



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwarden:

Sandra Harbord, 55 The Street; tel 247034

Lay Elder:

Tim Harbord 247034

BOOK, VIDEO AND PUZZLE LENDING SCHEME:

After the success of our first open morning, the next open morning for village residents will be in the church on Saturday, 4th December between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon. Refreshments provided free of charge. *Sandra Harbord*

CAROL SERVICE:

The Carol Service will on Sunday, 19th December at 4.00 p.m. followed by mulled wine and mince pies. *Sandra Harbord*

CAROL SINGING:

Carol singing around the village will be on Monday 20th December with all money raised going to CRISIS at Christmas. All carol singers please meet outside the Swan pub at 6.30 p.m. *Sandra Harbord*

On behalf of the PCC we wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you all who have supported the church over the past year. *Sandra and Tim Harbord*

ROTAS – SIDESMAN/FLOWERS:

Dec 5: *Mrs Pell & Mr Bowden (UBS)/No Flowers;*

Dec 12: *Mrs Rattee/No Flowers;*

Dec 19: *Mrs Harbord/No Flowers;*

Dec 26: *United Benefice Service i/Mrs Harbord.*



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwardens:

*Diana Stock: 12 Links View, 312828
John Turner, Severn, Church Rd 372677*

Lay Elders: *Jean Green 373383*

& Diana Stock 312828

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING – SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER:

Please come to our Christmas Coffee Morning, 10.00 a.m. in Newton Village Hall. Cakes, Toys, Gifts, Raffle and **FATHER CHRISTMAS**. *Diana Stock*

NEWTONEERS:

Meet: 13th December in Newton Village Hall from 4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

23rd December, Rehearsal for Nativity Service at Church, 3.00 p.m.

24th December – Nativity Service at Church, 3.00 p.m.

Copy Date for Church News section in the January 2005 Box River News:

Please, NO LATER THAN 8th December 2004. Thank you.

Daphne Clark 210698.

New email address – daphne@clark-home.me.uk

Boxford School News

Only four weeks to go and our preparations for Christmas are well under way. The older children are learning their parts as narrators and singers while the younger children are practising being camels, shepherds sheep, kings and angels. There is something very special about the annual nativity concert and for children and parents alike these concerts provide many happy and long-lasting memories. Those of you who have older children, like myself, will no doubt have very fond memories of their own children dressed as one of the various nativity characters.

This year, for the first time we will be using our own staging and lighting which has been bought for us by the FOBS. Most of you will have heard of the FOBS as they are very active both in the life of the school and the life of the local community. Over the years they have been responsible for our swimming pool, library and much of our computer equipment amongst many other projects. The fact that we have facilities that would be the envy of many private schools is largely down to their hard work and support. This term they are having their Christmas Fayre, which over the past few years has become a very popular attraction to both children of the school, their families and to members of the local community. This year's fayre is on Friday 26th November starting at 5.00 pm. I hope to see many of you there.

As well as the fayre the FOBS will also be sending their Santa sleigh around the local villages over the weekend of the 11th and 12th December. This year they will be collecting for a local children's hospice. Please keep a look out for them and support this very worthwhile cause if you can.

Every year I receive feedback from the middle and upper schools on the progress and results of children who were former pupils of our school and I am delighted to be able to report that this year's test results are outstanding. The children who left here two years ago took their end of Keystage 2 SATS and in

Mathematics, for example, over 65% achieved a higher level than would normally be expected. The GCSE results at Cornard were also up on last year. My congratulations to all those former pupils who have done so well and to both schools who continue to ensure that our children have the best possible start to their future lives.

Finally as this will probably be my last newsletter before Christmas may I thank everybody who has contributed so much to our school over yet another highly successful and enjoyable year and wish everybody a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Club THEO To Help Each Other

The Sudbury based social/support club for those under 65, made single by bereavement has had a very successful year. The club provides mutual support and friendship along with a social programme of activities each week. Members true personalities soon start to shine through when they learn it's easier to relax and enjoy themselves when they are in the company of other in the same situation as themselves.

The club received over £1,000 in funding from Community Champions at the beginning of the year for the clubs President and founder, Linda Palmer, to train in web page design and site maintenance. The club now has a 15-page web site up and running to inform members and the worldwide community of the clubs activities.

Another successful funding application to Suffolk Single Gateway brought forth £5,000 of funding to enable the club to expand its services further into the neighbouring communities. The first of these is in Bury-St-Edmunds opened back in July and a second branch is due to open in Haverhill in the New Year.

Club members have the opportunity to take part in many activities, including pub quizzes, tenpin bowling, dancing, shows, meals out, walks, golf, pitch & putt, rifle shooting and many other activities. For more information on Club THEO view contact Linda Palmer direct on 01787 377495

New Book

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Peter Kendrick & Ian Lindsley

The Ideal Christmas Gift

£12

From Boxford Post Office and Boxford News.

All profits to the Boxford Community Council and Boxford Society

Parish Council Matters

that were available covering many aspects of their services and the clerk was asked to put the list in the noticeboard so that residents could request them. She had written to Mr Ian Tippett at BDC concerning the housing allocation next to Homefield and he had telephoned her on the subject (See BH report above). He was willing to come and talk to the council on the subject. (BH would ask him to do so.) She reminded the council that she had written to Mr Peter Cuthbert last December concerning his kind offer to erect the Christmas tree in Boxford – we had accepted. An amount of £100 would be required. Council agreed to this and also asked that she remind Mr Cuthbert about his quote for the disabled access work to Bell House. (A quotation had been received from Mr Gordon Williams on this.) A local resident had written to the editor of the Box River News expressing her appreciation of the time and effort that went into producing the newsletter but also expressing concern about the article that appeared on the issue of charging for car parking throughout the Babergh area. It was National Tree Week on 24 November and for events and ideas, parishioners could log on to www.tree.council.org.uk BDC's 2004 Housing Needs Survey would shortly be available on the council's website under "Affordable Housing" and an executive summary had been sent to the council for their perusal. The Boxford Playingfield management Committee had sent a request for an increase in funds for next year's grant to them (clerk to table appropriately). They also thanked the council for the £1600 sent recently. The fundraising manager at St Nicholas' Hospice had replied to her request for them to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2005, saying they would be delighted to send someone. BDC Statement of Accounts for 2003/2004 had been received. She had received notice of the closure of Wash Lane from 8 – 12 November but not in time for inclusion in the BRN. Mr Robin Sharp of Ellis Street had written to confirm that he had trimmed his hedge at the bottom of Cox Hill and she had thanked him for his prompt attention to this matter. She had replied to Mr Bambridge-Kiddy concerning the street lights in the village, but more especially the one at the bottom of Cox Hill. She had informed the appropriate authorities. A letter outlining the council's offer of £500 to the football management committee had been sent, detailing the three conditions they wished the committee to consider in connection with the drainage work planned on one of the pitches. No reply had been received. The council requested the clerk to write again to Mr Deeks to request they consider carefully that the proposed work does not raise the water level down in the centre of the village.

POLICE REPORT: None had been received and PC Paul Wren was not present. The chairman had wished to attend the police forum held in Hadleigh recently, but it had clashed with the BDC Parish Councils meeting, so he had written a letter instead, outlining his concerns.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS: VH suggested a get-together of the members for Christmas – all agreed (mince pies and sausage rolls). VH to arrange at the White Hart. Councillor David Fraser (DF) had received complaints about the trees in Ash Street and BH was asked to deal with this. Also he noticed that the garage owner, Mr Watts, was still parking cars on the entrance to The Causeway. Clerk to write to Highways. Councillor Cecil Hughes (CH) thanked the council for their support over the last few weeks and for their donation to Cancer Research UK.

(At this juncture the council discussed the garages in Ash Street (see above) and asked the clerk to write to BDC with their concerns:- why was the area repaired in the first place? Why was 12" of good concrete replaced with a Type One stone in an area known to be flood-prone? Why had there been so little notice to the owners of the garages and why were they being asked to pay for this work at all, bearing in mind it was used almost exclusively by users of the Spinney hut? She was requested to send a copy to BH.)

Councillor Keith Paxman (KP) remarked that the area around Bell House was looking unkempt. The clerk would speak to Martin Crighton. SI would raise her point at the next meeting (local needs housing). The chairman handed the clerk a copy of his letter to the Police Authority as well as correspondence on The Queens Award for the 3PR group in the village.

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm with an adjournment arranged for Thursday 11 November at 8.00 pm – the clerk would

A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

BABERGH'S state-of-the-district debate will be held on November 26 and council taxpayers are invited to attend to have their say on the council's priorities, policies and spending levels. The event will be held at the Stoke-by-Nayland Club from 1.30pm and will start with a number of presentations on such issues as council tax levels and other services. Babergh's corporate director Geoff Kistner said: "The timing of the debate will allow the views of residents and partners to be considered by Babergh's strategy committee in January. This is a crucial meeting because it will consider the policy and budget framework for the future and will have an impact on to 2005/06 budget."

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Jill Barton on

Boxford Bounty

Winners September - October 2004

The Boxford Bounty Would like to
thank members of
Boxford Community Council
for drawing the following winners at
their meeting held at The Boxford White Hart
on Wed 10th November 2004

£160.00	MR & MRS RULES	ELLIS STREET
£75.00	MR & MRS J SIMPSON	BUTCHERS LANE
£30.00	MR B WATLING	THE RED HOUSE
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Mark Miller 01787 211596

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M

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For an application pack telephone 08456 01411'2.

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Interview date: 9 December, 2004.

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BOXFORD DRAMA GROUP PRESENT

Sleeping Beauty

the Panto!

At Boxford Village Hall

Wed 1st to Sat 4th December
at 7.30 pm

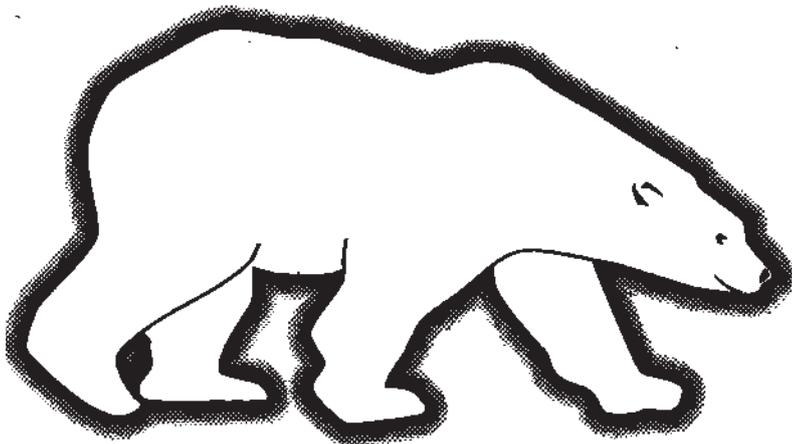
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The BOXFORD SPINNEY

ALL CLASSES START 1st WEEK in SEPTEMBER

Maureen Cooling 01787 211822

Little Waldingfield Luncheon Club

In December the lunch will be held on Wednesday 1st December (again note change of Wednesday) at the home of Mrs Rita Baker, "Hostlers", The Street, Little Waldingfield. Please phone Mrs Baker on 01787 247931 to confirm attendance.

Boxford Over 60's Club

Dates for December

By the time these notes appear the Clubs Christmas Dinner - December 8th will almost be upon us and the years meetings will almost be at an end.

Speakers from varied walks of life have provided interest. One of the most recent, Patsy Johnson of Air Ambulance having expressed special appreciation of club member's generosity in helping this vital service. Other speakers have also conveyed their thanks.

So it is that with Christmas upon us we can again look forward to the return of our meetings in 2005 at the Village Hall on January 17th

In the mean time we join in sending our sincere good wishes for the coming year. May it bring health, happiness and lasting friendship.

Thelma Williams. (secretary) Tel 01787 210118

BOXFORD DRAMA GROUP.

There are still a few tickets available for the Families Night. Wednesday 1st December, Starting at 7pm, with a Bar but no supper. Tickets at £5 adults and £2 50 for children.

and a few for Thursday 2nd, with supper. Tickets cost £10.

These remaining tickets are available for Boxford News in Broad Street. The tickets originally went on sale in the Village Hall at 9.00am on Saturday 6th November. By 9.15am tickets for Saturday 4th December were sold out with tickets for Friday 3rd being sold out by 9.40am

We look forward to entertaining you. Vic Rice Producer.

GROTON'S CHEESE AND WINE PARTY

Saturday. December 4th 7.30pm W.I.Hall

Time for our popular Cheese-and-Wine Party once more, with its famous Auction, as well as the usual superb food, and Bar, Gift Stall, Raffle etc. If the Harvest Supper is anything to go by, it will be a Sell-Out, so make sure you get your tickets [£5 each] in good time, from Pat Kennedy Scott [210319], Pat/Bob Bowdidge [211553] or any member of Groton P.C.C. All proceeds to St. Bartholomew's Church.

Pat Kennedy Scott.

Edwardstone and Boxford Cricket Club

The season may have come to an end but the work never stops for an enterprising cricket club and its members. We know it may sound a bit early and you probably haven't thought about it yet (come on fellas brains in gear) but February and Valentines Day will soon be upon us.

The Club has decided to put on a bit of a do and the whole village needs to be there.

Boxford Village Hall will be decked out in Pink Hearts and Pink Gin as Live Band Angel Street provide the tunes which will give that extra special feel to every girls favourite day of the year.

The 12th of February is the date you will all be all dressed up showing all the boys who is the most romantic man in town. £12.50 a head is small prices to pay for giving your girl a fine evening out so please don't hesitate to book your tickets.

Phone *Greg Hayton* on 07980834715 or *Adrian Gooderham* on 01787 211805 without delay and have a cracking Valentines on us. *James Williams* - Vice-captain and Press Officer

Songs Around The Christmas Tree

The White Hart, Boxford at 8pm on Monday 20th December

The Kelveden Singers

A Christmas Concert in aid of LEPR

Wakes Colne Parish Church on Saturday 11th December at 7pm. to include

Weelkes	Gloria in excelsis Deo
Haydon	Insanae et vanae curae
Vivaldi	Gloria

Christmas carols old and new... and some audience participation

Directed by Christopher Phelps

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Tickets £8 to include a glass of wine available in advance from Sarah Phillips, Wistra House, Coggeshall, CO6 1UF (sae please)

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COURSES AT ASSINGTON MILL

A new series of short courses are starting early next year at Assington Mill, which is at the centre of a small working farm set in a beautiful valley adjacent to Spouses Grove and Arger Fen nature reserves. The subjects offered in the near future are:

- Beekeeping
- Wildlife painting
- Monoprinting from landscape
- Linocuts from landscape
- Book restoration
- Photography
- Ceramics
- Dowsing

For details and booking contact Anne Holden on 01787 229955, email info@assingtonmill.co.uk, website www.assingtonmill.co.uk

**Book Market
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Cake Stall
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from 9.30 to 11.30am
Browse and have a coffee**

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Christmas starts here!

Two Christmas concerts by the Bury Bach Choir.

A seasonal mix of Christmas music and readings, including familiar carols for everyone to sing together.

Rounded off with a free glass of wine and mince pies!

WASSAIL! WASSAIL!

Saturday 11 December 2004 at 7.30 pm

at the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Lavenham

Tickets from Theatre Royal Box Office 01284 769505
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SING NOWELL!

Wednesday 15 December 2004 at 7.30 pm

at All Saints Church, Park Road, Bury St Edmunds
in aid of The Stroke Association

Tickets from Balaams Music, Risbygate Street.

Both concerts. £8 (adult) or £4 (child).

Conducted by Philip Reed with reader Jill Burrows and organist Trevor Nichols.

Box River Sports

Got a sports story? Telephone: 01787 211507 or e-mail ed.kench@virgin.net



BOWLS IN BOXFORD MA

Carpet Bowling in Boxford MA has taken another step forward. It is played twice a week in the hall of 4 Mile Village and a league has been formed. Above is a pic of some of the intrepid bowlers. Boxford UK may have begun something big in the States. It would be great if we could get a team to visit us and play carpet bowls against Boxford and some of the surrounding villages



Karen Pickering sets herself a challenge

Suffolk-based swimmer, Karen, has decided to take up a completely new sport as a total beginner, and, true to her competitive nature, has set herself the ambitious goal of participating in the Stoke by Nayland Club PGA Europro Tour Pro Am event only seven months after taking her first lesson." Kevin Lovelock, the excellent Stoke by Nayland Golf Club Professional, gave Karen her first lesson this month, which was televised on Anglia TV News. He will continue to give her regular weekly lessons at the Club's covered Driving Range between now and the Pro Am in June. Karen hopes to be an inspiration to other beginners, particularly ladies, and show them that it is never too late to try something completely different,

even if you have excelled at world championship levels at another sport. Fresh from her fourth Olympics in Athens this year, Karen, who is a member of Peake Fitness and Spa at The Stoke by Nayland Hotel, can't wait to try her hand at something totally new. She said, "Golf will be a very different discipline from swimming for me and will only help to widen my general sporting experience and perhaps help my concentration generally. My aim is to compete in the Europro tour Pro Am here at Stoke by Nayland on Sunday 26th June 2005, along with some of my fellow Olympic swimming team members who have already expressed an interest in participating with me, so watch this space!"

Kevin said, "I think Karen has definitely got what it takes to reach the level of ability she'll need for the Europro Tour Pro Am. She's determined, enthusiastic and very committed to becoming a skilled golfer. The first lesson has gone extremely well considering she had literally never held a golf club before. By the end of the lesson she had hit her best shot over 100 yards which is well above average. For more information about the Stoke by Nayland Club PGA Europro Tour Pro Am, or to enter a team, (spaces are limited) please contact Tamara Unwin on 01206 262836 or email tamara.unwin@stokebynayland.com

Local Walks

Lavenham Rambling Club

Sunday 12th December. At this time the details are not available for this walk, but please contact the leader for info.

Leader David 01787 248128

Ramblers Association Walks

Thursday 2nd December. Dedham/Thorington Street. Walk starts at 10am, meet at cp (GR 058 334) for a delightful walk to Thorington Street. The walk includes part of Essex Way And The Stour Valley Path. Please bring a picnic lunch. 10 miles. Leader Michael 01206 303899

Saturday 4th December. Edwardstone & Groton. Meet for a 10.30 am start at Edwardstone 'White Horse' PH (GR 951 428). Distance 5 miles. Leader Phillip Snelling 01787 248079

Tuesday 7th December. Bures circular walk. Meet at Bures Village Hall cp (GR 909 338) for q 10am start. Pub stop possible but it is advisable to bring a picnic lunch. No dogs please. Distance approx 12 miles. Leader Janet Penfold 01787 227929.

Sunday 12th December. Dedham/Langham followed by an afternoon carol service at Langham Church. 10.30am start at Flatford cp (GR TL 075 335) Distance 5 miles. Leader Laurie Burroughs 01787 370019

Sunday 19th December. Bures circular. meet at Bures Village Hall co (GR 908 339) for a 10am start. Walk via Wormingford and Nayland. Picnic lunch. Approx 10 miles. Leader Janet Penfold 01787 227929.

Thursday 23rd December. Bures to Sudbury. meet for a 10am start at Bures Village Hall cp (GR 908 338) to follow the Stour Valley Path to Sudbury. Returning by train (12 minutes past the hour) to Bures. Refreshments to be had in Sudbury. Distance 7.5 miles approx Leader Joyce 01255 861135

Thursday 30th December. Wivenhoe. Meet for a 10am start at the High Street cp for a circular walk along the River Colne. Newcomers to rambling are especially welcome on this walk. Distance 4.5 miles. Leader Mike 01255 861135.

Saturday 1st January 2005. Happy New Year. Little Horkesly. 11am start. meet at 'The Beehive' (GR 963 322) for a figure of 8 walk. Lunch at 'The Beehive' or picnic. The afternoon walk starts at 2pm. 6 miles in total Leader Sue 01206 572817

Sunday 2nd January. Henny Street. Meet for a 10am start at Gt Cornard, Blackhouse Lane cp (GR TL 893397). 4 miles Leader Laurie Burroughs 01787 375597.

The Tendring District Group are organising a coach to London sometime in August 2005. There will be a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament amongst other things Telephone Reg on 01206 250347.. Tickets on First Come First Served basis. All are welcome - members

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

December 2004

Wednesday 1 December

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion*
L&W 1900 Home Communion*

Antony Dodd
Tim Harbord

Sunday 5 December, Second Sunday of Advent

LtW 0930 *United Benefice Service*

The Revds. David Matthews &
Brian Watling

Box 1600 *Christingle Service*

The Revd. David Matthews

Wednesday 8 December

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion

The Revd. David Matthews

Sunday 12 December, Third Sunday of Advent

LtW 0800 Holy Communion

The Revd. David Matthews
Graham Brook

Edw 0930 Family Communion BCP*

The Revd. David Matthews

New 0930 Holy Communion CW

The Revd. Brian Watling

Box 1100 Family Communion CW

The Revd. David Matthews

Gro 1800 Carol Service

Wednesday 15 December

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion*

Antony Dodd

LtW 1900 *Compline*

Tim Harbord

Sunday 19 December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Box 0800 Holy Communion

The Revd. David Matthews

Edw 1100 Family Communion CW with Baptism

The Revd. David Matthews

Gro *Combine with Edwardstone*

New 1600 Carol Service

The Revd. David Matthews

LtW 1600 Carol Service

The Revd. Brian Watling

Box 1830 Carol Service

The Revd. David Matthews

Tuesday 21 December

Gro 1700 *Nativity Play with Carols*

The Revd. David Matthews

Wednesday 22 December

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion

The Revd. David Matthews

Friday 24 December, CHRISTMAS EVE

New 1500 Children's Carols

The Revd. David Matthews

Edw 1800 Carol Service

The Revd. David Matthews

Box 2330 *Midnight Mass*

The Revd. David Matthews

Saturday, 25 DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS DAY

Edw 0800 Holy Communion CW

The Revd. David Abel

Gro 0930 Family Communion

The Revd. David Matthews

Box 1000 Family Communion

The Revd. Brian Watling

LtW 1100 Family Communion

The Revd. David Matthews

Sunday 26 December, First Sunday of Christmas

Edw 0930 *United Benefice Service*

The Revd. David Matthews

Wednesday 29 December

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion*

Antony Dodd

* *Public Worship with Communion by Extension*
Baxford/MH: Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Baxford

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2nd Dec	Gift Tags in Publisher • Xmas Cards
3rd Dec	Xmas Shopping On-Line • Xmas lastminute.com!
6th Jan	Buying a New Computer • Personalising Your PC • MS Money
13th Jan	Emailing • Internet • Scanners
20th Jan	AutoRoute • Tidying your computer • Music on your PC
27th Jan	Envelopes & Labels • Over 50s Getting Started Over 50s How to Email



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Box River Benefice, Parish Councillors

Boxford Parish Council

David House (Chairman)	14 Holbrook Barn Road	
Veronica Hobbs (Vice Chairman)		211529
David Gasson	18 The Causeway	210796
Richard Gates	2 Brick Kiln Hill	210432
David Fraser	23 Daking Avenue	211103
Paula Stacey		211488
Cecil Hughes	Kiln Place, Cox Hill	210685
Keith Paxman	The Causeway	210104

Groton Parish Council

Carey Baldwin	Groton Manor Castlings Heath Groton CO 10 SET	210391
David Elliott	9 Gunary Close Boxford C010 5QB	210802
Robert Mares	3 Groton Place Groton C010 5EE	211318
Jeremy Osborne	Waterside Barn Groton Place, Groton C010 5EE	211960
Gerald Smith	7 Castlings Heath Groton C010 5EU	210958
Roger Vipond	Cloptons Groton Street Groton C010 5EE	210491
Brian Waghorn	Smalls Farm Groton C010 5EG	210231

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

Brian Tora (Chairman)	Enniskillen Lodge The Street, Little Waldingfield C010 0SU	247783
Terry Western (Vice Chairman)	20 Croft Lea Little Waldingfield C010 0SL	247874
Peter Baker	Hostlers, The Street Little Waldingfield C010 0SQ	247931
Bob Berry	Pitt Cottage, The Street Little Waldingfield C010 0SU	248298
Mike Ewen	Cobweb Cottage, High St Farm Little Waldingfield C010 0SS	210466
Richard Mitchell	Larks Mead, Church Road Little Waldingfield C010 0SP	247173
Phil Scott	Scott House, 3 The Street Little Waldingfield C010 0SQ	247632

Edwardstone Parish Council

John Paul (Chairman)	Willows Farm	210972
Ted Rides		
Matthew Glason		
Sharon Silverthorn		
Paul Clarke	Hazel Cottage	210689
James Rodger-Brown		
James Powel		
David Tolhurst	Parish Clerk	

Newton Green

Brian James <i>Parish Clerk</i>		372732
John Taylor	Chairman	
Janet Crimmin	Vice Chairman	
Harry Buckledee		
Alan Vince		
Colin Poole		
David Smalley		
Rita Schwenk		

THREE PARISHES RESPONSE

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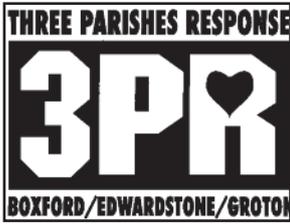
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120

We wish to thank Ann and Ken for their generous donation of £290 collected in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary

The first 3PR Newsletter is in preparation and will shortly be delivered door to door in Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton. It is intended to keep you informed about our activities.

HENRY ALDRICH:

Would the person who put a cross on the Boxford War Memorial in Armistice Week in memory of Mr Aldrich care to contact Barrie Thorpe on 01787 211346, who has some information about him

GOOD NEWS -

The Poppy Day Appeal throughout Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton has broken all records. The details are as follows:

Boxford	£840.68
Edwardstone	£331.98
Groton	£273.45
Sale of Wreaths	£83.50
Church Collection	<u>£223.14</u>
	<u>£1752.75</u>

This shows an increase of £240.87 over that collected last year. My grateful thanks to all the dedicated collectors, to the proprietors of the shops and Public Houses and to all who so generously contributed

E Fletcher Hon. Poppy Day Organiser

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LIFE THREATENING VANDALISM



Pea brained, mindless vandals have been at work again. For the umpteenth time the tennis courts on Boxfords Playingfields have been broken into and the electricity supply box for the flood lighting forced open and badly damaged. Apart from the fact that this criminal vandalism is spoiling it for so many law abiding residents it is also very dangerous for the perpetrators whose lives are at risk every time they gain access to the power supply. Even worse, leaving the box in this state represents a serious danger to curious young children.

It is not unusual for Monday morning tennis players to have to spend time clearing up glass from broken bottles (amongst other things) littering the surface of the tennis courts. It is time for the Playing Fields to take this matter in hand and make the tennis courts and the power supply more secure. It is understood that an insurance claim is in hand and repairs to the box are expected to cost in the region of £800.

Following the above incident the police were informed and a committee member remained at the tennis courts for several hours waiting for our village bobby to arrive, he did not arrive

which is unfortunately not unusual. Where are the police when we need them? I am still waiting to see our new village Bobby at a parish council meeting.
Ed

HAYTER

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Readers Letters

Dear Friends

On Saturday 28th October 1944, in those Dark Old Days of World War II in this lovely village of Boxford, I, Ken, married my dearest wife Ann.

Now some 60 years on to October 28th 2004, we have been blessed by God, to reach 60 great years of marriage. To help us both to celebrate our anniversary, all you lovely people came to a wonderful party. Six of you were at our wedding of all those years ago. Each and every one of you, as we greeted you had smiles of as if you really wanted to be there and make it our special day. By the end of the evening we both felt as if it was our wedding day again.

You wonderful people. Having given us a day we could not have but thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for giving us the day we never had way back in those dark days of war. Thank you for all of your cards including one from the 'Queen'. Thank you for all the flowers. Our home is a garden of flowers in which we can sit back and remember our wedding day.

Thanks to our daughter Jackie for a great party, also to Rona, Di and dear Sally for the great time you gave us. Thanks UST for the speech and Betty and family and all who helped. Than you Reg for opening all our cards and sorting out all your donations to Mill Surgery and 3PR. A grand total of £580 to which has been given £290 each.

One and all, please accept this letter as a final thank you all.

Ann and Ken
Homefield

Sir

I would like to express my appreciation of all the time and effort that goes into producing the enlarged Newsletter, which now serves a much wider public than its predecessor.

However I cannot see how any lasting good can come about through personal criticism such as that in the article on car parking.

All who give their time for the public good are doing the best they can, frequently in difficult situations with no easy answer, and should be given credit for their efforts.

I look forward to hearing more of these important local issues discussed without questioning the integrity of the people involved. Thank you for giving this matter your consideration

Sincerely
Maria Houghton

Sir,

Like the editor, I am disappointed that Babergh has decided to go down the road of charging parking fees, especially as I remember a majority voted against this when a referendum was held. However, the fees quoted are so small at 50p and £1.50 that I cannot believe that either motorists or businesses will be very much affected.

Am I the only person to be offended at the tone of the article on the front page of BRN? The personal attacks on Bryn Hurren are unpleasant and seem quite uncalled for. A proper journalist, before composing a piece on the parking subject, would have spoken to Mr Hurren first and included his comments and explanations, enabling the writer to produce a balanced report. I do not think the five parishes want their newsletter to read like a tabloid.

Yours
Ann Jessop

Sir

Simpsons in Boxford & Hadleigh

I have been trying to trace my mother's family in Suffolk and soon realised that tracing Simpsons can be very confusing! The branch of the family I am looking for all came from Groton or

Edwardstone, the fathers almost always called William, but about 1874 one William moved to Boxford and set up a shop in Swan Street. He had been born in Edwardstone in 1835 and by 1851 he had left the village. By 1881 he had a thriving grocers and drapers business. He was married at that time to Sophia Squirrel! from Offton but she died in 1888. At some time in the next few years he married again, this time a lady called Susan from Edwardstone and they then lived in Hadleigh where I believe he was a maltster. He was also a Freemason. I just wondered whether anyone with local knowledge could help me with a few questions. I have read of Simpson's folly in Boxford - did he build a particularly large or strange house or shop? Or is there no connection? In Hadleigh, William lived at 'Homeleigh' and at 'The Laurels', the latter in George Street. Does anyone know any thing of these houses - do they still exist and I wonder why he moved from one to the other. In fact does anyone know anything of William and of his two wives? He was an energetic and entrepreneurial man, breaking away from his farm labourer background to become a successful business man and it's always interesting to find out about such people. If anyone can help I shall be most grateful.

Robert Potter,
8, Mithras Close, Dorchester DT1 2RF

Sir

I would like to thank everybody for their concern and enquiries whilst I've had a rather long spell in the Colchester General Hospital on four occasions recently (10weeks)
At last I'm Home at last

Thank you

Sir

Daphne Hughes

Cecil Hughes wishes to thank relatives and friends for attending the funeral of his dear wife, Daphne, and for all the letters, cards and floral tributes received. Thanks also to the Rev David Matthews for a lovely service and to local doctors and staff for looking after her during her illness and for the kind donations to the Cancer Research UK Charity the total to date amounts to £600.

Please accept this as the only and most sincere acknowledgement
Cecil Hughes

CLEANER/CARETAKER FOR EDWARDSTONE PARISH HALL:

We are seeking a cleaner/caretaker for Edwardstone Parish Hall. Please contact:
Daphne Clark on 01787 210698 for details.

Boxford Village Hall

September's Draw

1st	No 103	H Selwood	Ballingdon
2nd	No 31	A Wymark	Sudbury
3rd	No 69	D Gasson	Causeway
4th	No 68	John Rose	Butchers Lane

Octobers Draw

1st	No 20	Jo Hayes	c/o papershop,
2nd	No 107	A Gunn	Homefield
3rd	No 79	Zoe Wilson	Colchester
4th	No 149	H Watts	The Garage

Novembers Draw

1st	No 76	David Wymark	Assington,
2nd	No 103	H Selwood	Ballingdon
3rd	No 149	H Watts	The Garage
4th	No 187	A McMillan	Calais Street

Eileen, Shirley and Von wish all subscribers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Parish Council Matters

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

The meeting was held on 9th November and 6 councillors attended.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Police matters.

PC Scott Lee Amies reported that there had been another theft in the village. He also confirmed that the SID equipment has proved that our stretch of the B1115 is on a par with more major roads with the volume and speed of the traffic. We were very appreciative of the fact that he visited in his own time.

Financial Matters.

Cheques for £58.75, £18, £186.72 and £25 were released to the Government appointed Auditors, British Legion, our insurers and CAB respectively.

Correspondence.

We were advised that the revised plans for Boston Cottage have been approved. Footpaths. You may have spotted the appearance of many new footpath signs. SCC tell us these have been erected at the beginning of paths and the removed sign will be recycled to replace damaged and missing ones in the fields etc.

The next meeting will be on 14th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Room.

NOTES from the MEETING of

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

held on Monday 8 November 2004 at 7.30 pm at Bell House, Boxford

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Mr Brian Fearis of Ash Street stood to make a representation going on from the previous month's meeting in respect of the work carried out in front of the garages owned by residents. Photographs were circulated to the council showing the 12" concrete base being removed and a Type One stone inserted. It was felt that the whole project had been handled badly – starting with the communications from Babergh District Council (BDC) and the actual surface repair of the area. As Councillor Bryn Hurren (BH) was present, he was asked to respond to the delegation of garage owners – a further letter (from BDC) had been sent to them to say they could pay in installments and the Spinney Management Committee (who had access over the land) were willing to provide some money towards the costs, so it could be that they would not have to pay the full amount of £650 as initially requested. He would keep in touch with them on the subject and report on developments. There was some concern that the funding of this unnecessary work was being met by tax payers and BH assured the meeting that this was not the case and the funds were coming from the housing section of the BDC budget.

Ian Lindsley (IL) then spoke concerning the two footpaths that were presently undergoing investigation in the Boxford area – No. 10 did not follow the correct line and meetings were on going to have the path diverted. This path came under Polstead Parish jurisdiction but it did join a Boxford path so he was keeping the council informed. No. 8 – this path was blocked by a fence put up by the Boxford playgroup. It ran behind the Pavilion and under some garages and Mr Lindsley went through various options open to the council and it was decided that both he and Mr Pembroke, would discuss the matter further. Unfortunately as each path fell in different parishes, they would have to be dealt with separately so an amount of £1500 had to be found from each parish to meet the legal and administrative costs of diverting these public footpaths. Whilst speaking, IL then took the opportunity to inform the council that Mr Roger Loose had offered his services as public footpath warden for the parish. He presented a draft job description for the council to consider. The council thanked Mr Lindsley for all his efforts, bearing in mind he had stood down as footpath warden many years ago, yet had continued to keep abreast of all the issues that had arisen on the subject. They thanked and welcomed Mr Loose and hoped he would enjoy his new "job". Also, IL wished to inform the council that Mr John Rose of Butchers Lane was now having to pay increased house insurance premiums as his property was designated as being in a flood area. BH would look into this.

Mrs Elaine Horne then read out a letter requesting the council to look into taking down a large tree that completely overshadowed the grave of her son in the Boxford cemetery. The chairman informed her that a working party had been set up by the council in March of this year to look at all the aspects of maintaining the area. (He had already replied to Mrs Horne by letter.) The item was on the agenda for discussion.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: Mr Jeremy Pembroke (JP) raised the subject of a street light in Daking Avenue that had been blocked out by "contractors from the council" and was causing concern from some residents. (This subject had been discussed extensively in the past.) He would deal with the matter and go to see the residents concerned. The report on the traffic movements in Swan Street and School Hill had been sent to the clerk. Whilst the majority of traffic kept within the speed limit, there were still a few who drove much faster in both areas.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT : BH informed the meeting that both he and Richard Gates were pursuing the digital cinema provision for Boxford. The local housing project was going well and allocations would be made in mid-December. Unfortunately there were still more people needing homes than houses. At this juncture councillor Keith Paxman (KP) told BH that there was damp in the new homes at Edwardstone and perhaps this could be avoided in the development for Boxford. BH noted. Also the chairman informed BH that single people were way down the housing list as they could not qualify for enough "points" and bearing in mind that one in three people in the country was single, this did not bode well for them. BH reported that the refuse collection scheme was going well. Car parking charging had been reviewed and discussed extensively and he wished it to be known that his views had not changed and was angry about the press coverage in the local BRN and would be writing to the community council on this. Comments and opinions had been sought from local Chambers of Commerce, town and parish councils, as well as members of the public on the subject. Parking patterns had been monitored and in Hadleigh and Sudbury it was found that the majority of visits were under one hour. It was the long stay parking that was causing the problem. With the exclusion of Lavenham, car parking charging would be introduced in our local towns for long term parking only. The two hours of short term should remain free – this would encourage the vitality of towns for shoppers and also bring in some income to offset the charge on council tax payers.

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE: Maureen Cooling (MC) reminded the meeting about the Community Achievement Awards. Both councillors Veronica Hobbs (VH) and David Gasson (DG) would need forms to complete – Clerk to deal. BDC had sent a full list of pamphlets

Large selection of Hearthware



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TOWN CENTRE, HADLEIGH, SUFFOLK

Trees, although rather pricey, are good investment for the future. With the right care and attention they will last a lifetime or longer. The planting of a tree requires careful planning in choosing a suitable site where it can grow undisturbed for many years. Before buying a tree, find out what size it is expected to grow to in about 20 or 30 years, then decide if your garden is big enough to accommodate such a specimen.

Many trees are planted too close to the house or to the boundary fence and are grubbed out because they have outgrown their allotted space. There is no need to remove such a tree, it can be made into a pollard 9or a cob as it was always known around here).

To pollard a tree means cutting the main branches back close to the crown so that a close thick head of growth shoots from the top of the trench. This process should be repeated every two years or so, or whenever it becomes necessary. By reducing the size of the top growth, root growth is also reduced and therefore less likely to invade foundations, etc.

There are many trees of a compact and slow growing nature, 12-12 suitable for small gardens, Amelanchier Lamarchi is an ideal tree where space is limited; has white flowers in spring on coppery foliage which turns ed in autumn. Robinia pseudoacacia frisia, has bright yellow foliage all summer. Any of the Birch family with their silver white bark and upright growth take up little space. Bare root trees can be planted from now until March.

Never buy container grown trees that are pot bound. These are usually slow to get moving when planted out. Dead and diseased branches on trees and shrubs should be cut away as soon as possible. Make the cut well below the affected area and treat the wound with a fungicide.

Mummified fruits, which are a source of brown rot disease, still remaining on the trees and any that have fallen, should be gathered up and burned. Brown rot is a disease which seriously affects the storage life of fruit.

Wisteria is now due for winter pruning to ensure a good crop of flowers next year. Left to its own devices it would become a tangled

mess of branches with few flowers. Prune previous years growth back to two buds from the main branch. Once established wisterias require little feeding and flower better if a little on the hungry side. Grape vines should also be pruned now in a similar way to wisterias by cutting this years lateral growths back to two buds from the main stem or rod. Loose and peeling bark on the main stem should be removed to prevent pests over wintering there. Remove all the lower yellow leaves from the stems of Brussels Sprouts. These can harbour fungal diseases which will spread to the sprouts causing them to rot.

New planted Rhododendrons and Camelias are easily killed by severe penetrating frost. Cover the roots with a thick layer of straw or leaves and a sheet of polythene draped round the plant will protect the foliage from drying winds.

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Evening Gazette, November 8, 2000.

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What's On

CHRISTMAS AT GROTON

All families are invited and are most welcome to Groton's Nativity play

A colourful interpretation of the Christmas story written, performed and presented by the children of Groton with a little help from parents and grandparents. At St Bartholomew's Church, Groton at 5pm on Tuesday 21st December.

Refreshments following the play.

Do come to join us.

FRIENDS OF BOXFORD SCHOOL SANTA'S VISIT

SATURDAY 11TH & SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2004

Father Christmas has once again confirmed to the Friends of Boxford School that he will be in our area on the above dates to see all the children and find out their Christmas wishes. This year the Gnome helpers will be collecting for BOXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL and EAST AMELIA'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICES.

An approximate timetable is listed below.

SATURDAY 11th DECEMBER

3.30pm Boxford Lane, Stone Street Boxford
4.00pm Calais Street, White Street Green
4.30pm Ash Street. Fen Street
5.30pm Brookhall Estate
6.00pm The Causeway, Broad Street. Cox Hill
6.15pm Rectory Park
6.30pm Swan Street
6.45pm Daking Avenue, Homefield
7.00pm The Groton Fox
7.45pm Groton Street
8.00pm Mill Green, Edwardstone
8.15pm White horse, Edwardstone

8.45pm Sherbourne Street
9.15pm Fleece & White hart
SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER

Newton Green 4.00pm The Green
Assington 5.30pm The Street

Baby and Toddler Group

We're delighted to see a number of new faces at our Baby & Toddler Group this term - most of whom are from Newton Green. We hope you have been made to feel most welcome and will continue to come along to our group.

Sadly, Sally Gooderham can no longer be our most valuable secretary as she had to return to work. Thank you for all her help and advise over the past two years in running the group as well as taking the minutes' of each meeting. You will and are sorely missed!

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party will be held at the Village Hall on 15th December Horn -1 pm.

The cost is £1.50 per child. If you would like to come please pop along to our Babe & Tot Group on a Wednesday between 10am - 12noon or contact Dawn Kurtz Tel.01787 210840. Please bear in mind we need notice so that gifts can be bought, so don't leave it till the day before the party to let us know!

Leavenheath 50+ Badminton Club

Christmas and New Years Break.

The last meeting before Christmas will be Wednesday 15th December. Play will resume after the christmas and New Years holidays on Wednesday 5th January 2005.

Please Note

The copy date for the Christmas and New Year edition of Box River News is 9th December. This allows it to be edited, printed and distributed by the weekend before Christmas

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junior 6 lessons for the price of 5 £40

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FOR MORE DETAILS CALL

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Broadband Internet - confused, concerned - need help?

Suffolk Online is a community focused internet service provider managed by Suffolk ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), a registered charity with over 60 years of service to rural communities on a not-for-profit basis for the benefit of all in Suffolk.

Now that BT will be enabling your local telephone exchange on 06/04/2005 you may want to consider fast Broadband Internet access but are daunted by the array of different suppliers or are concerned about the risks associated with using the internet - viruses, etc. Suffolk Online customers get the benefits of local support and advice from our helpful staff based in Suffolk but also the reliability and performance of Nildram who are widely regarded as one of the top three providers in the country. Any profits from the service are re-invested in local community projects. Suffolk Online offers a choice of competitively priced Broadband and Dial-Up packages and in many instances there is no need to change your existing email address. Our Anytime dialup packages start at £8.75 per month whilst our Broadband packages start at £22.75 per month.

You can find out more online at: www.isp.suffolkonline.net or by calling the helpdesk on 01473 242505.

Private Car Hire

A new Private Hire Company has started in Polstead. Known as Polstead Private Hire it is equipped with a Ford Transit Tourneo GLX to carry 8 adults in air-conditioned comfort. Telephone 01206 262196 mobile 07767 076976

FOB's Pamper Evening

Don't forget FOB's Pamper Evening on 10th February 2005 at Boxford School, their first event in the new year.

Web Site

The Conservative Parties new county web site is www.suffolkconservatives.com

WRECKERS AT WORK AGAIN



Above: Wreck in Stone Street in November

How many more of these burnt out wrecks do we have to put up with before the County Officers responsible do something about it.

There seems to be a standard routine that is followed First you abandon your car in a pretty country lane and make sure it is seen and reported to the police. The police inspect the car and stick a 'Police Aware' Notice on windscreen. This is the signal for semi literate vandals who translate this to mean "Have fun lads, smash the windows and enjoy a lovely bonfire". Then all you have to do is to wait forever for county to remove the wreck.

There must be some way of tracing the irresponsible owners of these vehicles, surely they do not all have their engine numbers destroyed. Make the fines so heavy that it becomes cheaper to get a breakers yard to collect than risk the fine or possible jail sentence.

Ed

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Car Parking

Think Again Babergh

First I must apologise for personalising the item on page one of last months Box River News, I was out of order in blaming Bryn Hurren for the decision by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Babergh District Council to recommend the introduction of Parking charges for 'Long Term' Parking and reduce the present 3 hour parking limit for short term or 'Shoppers' parking to 2 hours. Bryn works hard for the Boxford Ward and has our interests at heart but was clearly under pressure to reach a compromise on the car parking charges issue and the committee seem to have been seriously misled by information provided by the officers of Babergh District council on weekly income projections.

A survey was carried out by a team of Babergh District Council employees into the usage of Sudbury's car parks as well as those in Hadleigh and Lavenham by taking down car numbers and comparing them at intervals. These indicated amongst other things that the number of cars parking for over 2 hours in any of the car parks was so small as to be almost insignificant being some 228 in total over an entire week in Sudbury as against 17,200 parking for less than 2 hours. Reducing the short term parking period in these circumstance would have had little effect and the few cars parking for more than 2 hours could easily be accommodated in long term car parks. However this assumed the survey was reasonably accurate which unfortunately it seems it was not. In fact it was wildly inaccurate.

In the week of collecting info (all of which is available on Babergh's Web Site) the survey suggested that only 116 spaces were occupied for in excess of 2 hours during the 6 days of the survey in the North Street Car Park. This rang warning bells in me and was, as far as I was concerned, 'impossible'.

I therefore decide to carry out my own survey of parking and limited it to North Street Car Park in Sudbury, a car park with a capacity for 198 cars. a the survey was carried out on Monday 8th and Thursday 11th November. My Method was simple but verifiable. On the hour and for each hour of the survey plus a couple of minutes I took digital photographs of each of the major parking bays sampling 100 bays in total. The photos taken are dated and timed so there was no way I could 'Fiddle the results' and they were compared on my computer screen and printed out for analysis. The results were staggering for the two days chosen

The survey carried out by Babergh Staff by recording the registration number of cars suggested that on Mondays only 28 cars parked for over 2 hours whilst the photographic survey indicated that in in excess of 190 did so. Their Thursday survey suggested that only 17 cars parked for over 2 hours whilst again the photographic survey was well in excess of this number with 228 being recorded. This discrepancy is so great as to throw doubt on all the calculations on turnover and short term parking. Clearly if the photo survey is correct, and remember, it can be verified whilst the car number survey can not, then it is doubtful if the committee would have sought to reduce the short term parking from three hours to two hours since this would have very harmful effects on the serious shoppers in Sudbury who are there to make major purchases rather than just popping in for a kilo of potatoes.

Overall, during a six day week and taking into account all the short term car parks in Sudbury some 3000 plus cars park for over 2 hours and not 248 as suggested in Babergh's figures so provision will have to be made for long term parking in all the car parks with all the 'Pay and Display' equipment to be installed, capital financing arranged, staff trained, security companies hired for cash collection etc etc and the consequent reduction in short term parking spaces. Surely the committee must think again or risk driving a substantial number of serious shoppers out of town. A proper survey has to be conducted, properly supervised and not done on the cheap with in-experienced office staff from the

District council offices or other interested parties such as traffic wardens.

In their report it was suggested that the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce was not totally against car parking charges. This was taken out of context and references to short term parking related to 3 hour limits not 2 hour limits.

Check this out:

The following can be found on Baberghs Web Site. Go to www.babergh.gov.uk then to Site Map and scroll down to Council and Democracy/Council Papers, choose Minutes and select Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) committee. Choose Minutes for October 4th and D 148 can be found in blue under the heading Car Parking Study. click on Paper D148 and it will appear on your screen. Read the minutes also and confirm the basis for the decision to reduce the short term parking time from 3 minutes to 2 minutes

App D148 'A study to review the issues arising from any introduction of car parking charges in the council's off street car parks in Sudbury Hadleigh and Lavenham.

Section 4.3 Sudbury

'The Group accepts that the current 3 hour period for short stay is too long. This is supported by the survey and data and therefore should be reduced to 2 hours.

Section 4.7

The Group accepts that the current three hour time period for short stay parking in Hadleigh and Sudbury was not supported in the consultation meetings, nor by the recent surveys. It should therefore be reduced to two hours.

Understandably the committee accepted as facts the report prepared by the officers of Babergh District council and had I been a councillor presented with D148 I could have been tempted to believe that a reduction to two hours would be acceptable.

THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES SO
PLEASE, YOU MUST '**THINK AGAIN BABERGH**'.

Ed

NIGHT FLYING MENACE IGNORED

In July of this year Babergh District Council received a paper from the Department for Transport 'Night Flying Restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted: Stage 1 Consultation'. The paper required a response by the 29th October, a similar paper was sent to Suffolk County Council. Babergh District Councils un elected officers chose to ignore the paper and did not respond on the grounds that it was too technical and they did not understand it!

Admittedly the paper is couched in seriously technical terms and expert advice would have been needed to understand it. The advice was at hand from SSE 'Stop Stanstead Expansion' whose web site had a child's guide to the paper and anyway the council could at least have responded explaining that they were unable to understand the technicalities and requesting a translation. Yet again the opportunity for consultation concerning overflying our beautiful area of Suffolk has been ignored and Stansted's desire to squeeze as much as they can out of their one existing runway has taken one step forward towards destroying our sleep. The noise of night flying during these more tranquil hours is far greater than the noise experienced during day time hours. Lets hope Babergh respond in full to the stage 2 consultation paper to be issued next year.

SSATAG responded in full (see the SSATAG News elsewhere in this publication).

Ed

SSATAG News Update

SSATAG would like to thank all of those people who attended our inaugural meeting on the 26th October. We urge you spread the word, tell your friends and neighbours what is coming in the future. Our only power is in numbers. We would also like to thank all of those people who have returned membership forms. Finally our heart felt appreciation for the voluntary donations made to SSATAG to cover its costs.

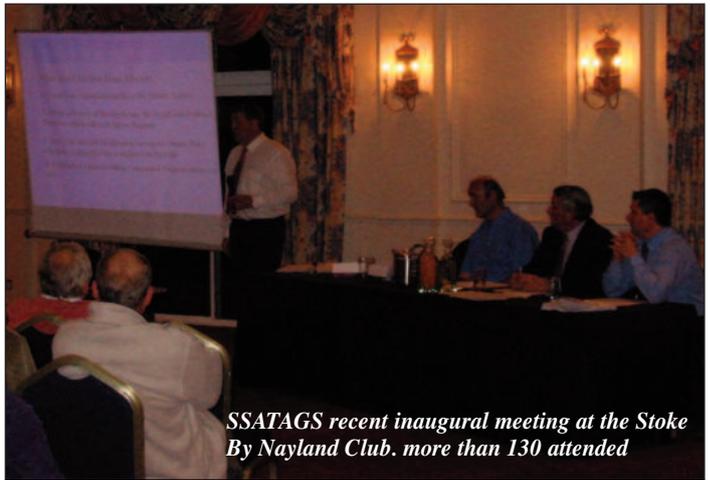
Night Flying.

We have made a response to the Department of Transport consultation on night flying from the three London Airports. This puts us on the map when the next part of the process, part two continues. Addressing our comments basically to the Stansted operation we have basically said that there should be no increase over the present number of flights with an adoption of the WHO guidelines on noise at the next review in 2011. We have pointed out that in our opinion the measurement and considerations of noise disturbance are too closely based around the airport ignoring the over flight of rural areas where the ambient background noise is very low at night.

We also drew attention to the Government's declaration in its Rural white paper to preserving the "tranquillity" of the countryside and that this should lead to an end to night flying. Hopefully the EEC is moving in this direction too.

Stansted Passenger Numbers.

The CAA have recently published the 2003 Passenger Survey Report. The Stop Stansted Expansion Campaign have analysed the figures relating to Stansted and they make interesting reading. Only 3.3% of passengers came from Suffolk and from Essex 8.1%. Overall only 22.1% of passengers came from the East of England Region. The rest travelled to Stansted from all over the rest of Britain for low fares. We contend that this shows the expansion of traffic at Stansted is based on a false premise and the aircraft should be using the regional airports where the



SSATAGS recent inaugural meeting at the Stoke By Nayland Club. more than 130 attended

passengers come from. The business use has also declined over the previous year as more effort is put into casual leisure flying. Read the full story at www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

Babergh Meeting,

We had a meeting with Babergh Planning head Neil Greg and Mike Hammond on 25th. October. This discussed the way that NATS had conducted the now notorious "Informal Consultation" on changes to airspace over Suffolk. We are hoping to have similar meetings with the County Council and possibly Sudbury Town council. We will be formulating a policy based on these meetings with view to examining the flawed process which resulted in the present situation.

If you wish to become a member of South Suffolk Air Traffic Action Group you can visit our web site and load down a membership form. If you do not have a computer please write to South Suffolk Air Traffic Action Group, PO Box 82, Milden, Ipswich, IP7 7WX. We do not have a membership fee but donations towards running costs will be most welcome

BABERGH UNDER FIRE



Concrete Bas 18" thick being smashed out

Another apology from me! Again on the front page of November's BRN we reported on the re-surfacing of the Garage approach road to the Spinney. Unfortunately the situation was much worse than reported. The work was to be carried on the drives to all 25 garages in Ash Street even though most of them are on a driveway that only serves the garages and carries very little traffic. Twelve of these garages are privately owned and a charge for the work of around £650 for each owner is expected despite the fact that there has been absolutely no consultation whatsoever.

Contractors moved in and after removing a substantial layer of tarmac that only had surface cracking, they then proceeded to remove a layer of concrete, in places 18 inches thick and showing no signs of cracking or movement over the 20 plus years it had been put in place to overcome the problems of building on marsh land (photos available). Even the contractors queried the need to remove the concrete but Baberghs engineering services department whose manager is Stewert Phelps insisted on its removal and its replacement with an MOT fill base. One wonders if they actually knew what they were doing since it seems they were un-aware of the fact that one of the drives gave access to the Spinney with upwards of 400 traffic movements a week.

Most of the private owners attended the Boxford Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th November to express their views to the parish council and to Bryn Hurren, Babergh District Councillor. A full report of this meeting can be found under Parish Council Matters, needless to say, the Parish Council supported their views and will be writing to the District Council requesting that the charges be dropped and Bryn will be reporting their views to the Council Officers concerned also requesting either that there should be no charge or that the charges should be substantially reduced and an apology sent to the residents. The Spinney Management have volunteered to contribute to the cost of repairs, a fine gesture since a retrospective charge with the Management Committee not having any chance for consultation would of course have been wholly unacceptable.

Another sad thing about this unfortunate affair was the damage caused to Number 1 Fen Street. The young couple have only recently moved in after having the walls of the house re-plastered. They warned the contractors of the likely effect of smashing out the concrete base but to no avail. The net result has been cracking of the plaster work and a deep concern that the footings of the property may have been damaged. Surely a surveyor would have been aware of this possibility. Lets hope they receive suitable compensation. *Ed*