

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



February 2006
Vol 6 No 2

JACK WINS COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

YOUTH workers, sportsmen, fundraisers and stalwarts of the local community will gather at a special ceremony to be rewarded for their sterling efforts. Babergh District Council has announced the 25 winners of its 14th annual Community Achievement Awards, which will be presented in March.

The youngest person to be recognised is 13-year-old Jack Copping, from Newton Green, Sudbury, who was born with his right leg shorter than his left and had to have the limb amputated at the age of two. However, despite the disability he has learnt to cope with an artificial limb and is now an outstanding swimmer with dreams of winning gold at the 2012 Paralympics.

He joined Colchester Phoenix Amateur Swimming Club in 2001 and trains seven days a week, while in 2004 he was one of the youngest swimmers to compete at the senior short-course events in Sheffield.

The Stoke-By-Nayland Middle School pupil said: "I feel very pleased. I really enjoy swimming and started when I was eight. I've always liked the water for as long as I can remember. I'm hoping that I might be able to reach the Paralympics and am just going to be trying as hard as I can to get there."

Stephanie Atkins from Boxford received her award for her active role in supporting the nursery and primary schools in Boxford.

Stuart Miller of Polstead was nominated for his work as a parish councillor and as chairman and founder of the Friends of Polstead Shop, raising money to upgrade the shop's security after a burglary.

Faith Marsden, a full time teacher from Great Waldingfield, has been recognised for her commitment to the running of two weekly after school clubs for children and teenagers.

A special celebration evening, with BBC Radio Suffolk

Breakfast Show presenter Mark Murphy as guest of honour, will take place on March 8 at the Stoke-by-Nayland Club.



Jack Copping from Award winner from Newton

GOOD NEWS FOR BABERGH TAXPAYERS

Babergh has done it again! With the second lowest level of Council Tax in Suffolk, and after two years of low Council Tax increases of 2.8% and 3.6%, Babergh District Council is considering a Council Tax increase of only 2.7% for its services next year.

This is in line with the Council's financial strategy of doing its best to keep Council Tax increases to the rate of inflation.

In his report to the Strategy Committee, Geoff Kistner, Corporate Director, explains that this low increase of 2.7% is the result of a rigorous exercise over a number of months by Councillors and officers to identify efficiency and other savings, and the likelihood of a good grant settlement from the Government for next year.

"We have identified savings and additional income of £640,000 for next year", he says. "This will enable Babergh to maintain and improve some services, whilst only increasing Council Tax by the rate of inflation."

The most significant service improvement will be the change from half-fare to free bus travel from 1 April 2006 for the elderly and disabled. That will cost the Council an additional £350,000

a year, but that cost is being funded by the Government.

The final decision on the budget will be made by the Council on 23 February after the announcement by the Government of the final grant settlement for next year. The bills, which will go out in March, will also include the requirements of Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police Authority and the relevant Parish/Town Council, as well as Babergh's own requirements.

Box River News

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Box River
News

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to every home in Boxford, Groton, Edwardstone, Newton, and Little Waldingfield and available to residents in Assington, Leavenheath, Gt Waldingfield, Polstead, Lindsey, Milden Stoke by Nayland, Kersey, and parents of children at Boxford School.

EDWARDSTONE OVER 50s LUNCH, 14TH DECEMBER



and brandy. This was served with new potatoes, green beans, broccoli and fresh peas. The pudding was homemade fresh cream sherry trifle and/or homemade mince pies with custard, cream and brandy butter. There were plates of extra mince pies to have with the coffee if wished. Every guest went home with a gift of either sherry, red or white wine, plants or chocolates. These were chosen by free raffle tickets being drawn.

We hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed arranging it.
Edwardstone Parish Hall Management Committee

22 people from various villages sat down to lunch on 14 December and, when it was served, all the helpers sat down to eat with our guests. The hall was decorated with festive greenery and lights and there was also a decorated Christmas tree.

Sherry was served on arrival and red and white wine with the meal. Coffee and chocolates were served at the end.

The meal was beef bourguignonne (or coq au vin for non-beef eaters) with mushrooms and onions made with red wine, masala



the original records, Steve Waterman (trumpet), Dave Green (bass) and Steve Brown (drums).

Friday, 24 February, 8.30 Ticket £15 **Art Themen Septet**

Saxophonist Art Themen started playing jazz with the Cambridge University Jazz Group where his studies eventually led to him becoming a medical consultant specialising in orthopaedics. His style originally owed much to the influences of Dexter Gordon and Sonny Rollins, but later influences were Coleman Hawkins, Evan Parker and John Coltrane. Kenny Wheeler (trumpet), Steve Melling (piano), Mike Gibbs (trombone), Andy Cleyndert (bass), Jim Mullen (guitar) and Spike Wells (drums) complete this stellar line-up.

Friday, 3rd March, 8.30 Ticket £12 **Guillermo Rozenhuler**

A versatile vocalist, guitarist and composer from Argentina, Guillermo is now based in London. His music is lively, evocative and insightful and as a voice trainer he radiates a combination of charisma and talent on stage. Tonight he will be performing a mixture of standards and tango influenced songs with the help of Javier Fioranonti (bass, vocals and guitar) and Andres Ticino (percussion and vocals).

Friday, 10 March, 8.30 Ticket £12 **PD3 with special guest Dick Pearce**

Pete Downes (guitars), Andy Coe (double bass), Tim Bruce (drums) and British Jazz trumpet legend Dick Pearce (who has played with Mike Westbrook, Gil Evans and Ronnie Scott, amongst many others) join forces.

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

Jazz at the Fleece Boxford Suffolk

Friday, 3 February, 8.30 Ticket £12

Mark Crooks Quintet

Mark's saxophone playing has a flair for melodic phrasing, which has echoes of Stan Getz. His clarinet playing is thoughtful and sensitive with a warm mellow tone akin to that of Sweden's Putte Wickman. With John Pearce (piano), Colin Oxley (guitar), Matt Miles (bass) and Steve Brown (drums).

Friday, 10 & Saturday 11 February, 8.30
Ticket £16

Martin Taylor and Jack Emblow

Martin Taylor and Jack Emblow, two world famous masters on their respective instruments combine for an evening of superb musicality and humour. Jack Emblow is the guvnor when it comes to accordion playing and jazz guitar great Martin Taylor needs little introduction to Fleece audiences - his unbelievable technique having left our audiences amazed and dumbfounded many times.

Friday, 17 February, 8.30 Ticket £14
Alan Barnes Quintet (Horace Silver Tribute)

Alan Barnes is, without question, one of the brightest talents on the current jazz scene and his tribute to the Connecticut born piano legend Horace Silver is exquisite and expertly devoted. With John Donaldson (piano) who transcribed all tunes from

NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Newton Parish Council

New Website

At the end of last year, Newton Parish Council launched their Website. Take a look at www.newton.suffolk.gov.uk

Hadleigh Harriers

Our Club continues to grow, building on our Ladies beginners nights on Tuesdays at 7pm outside Hadleigh High, we are now to start a MENS BEGINNERS NIGHT- up to 20 ladies turn up on Tuesdays, we hope that the mens night will grow as well. Runners can then progress with confidence to the Club night on

Thursdays and then on to if they want to, but there is no commitment.

ALSO---ITS FREE I

Men - want to run but not sure how to start?

Do you lack the motivation to run on your own?

WHY NOT TRY OUR MEN ONLY BEGINNERS/ IMPROVERS RUNNING GROUP?

We meet Monday evenings 7pm outside the gates of Hadleigh leisure centre, at Hadleigh High School.

For more info call Clive on 07861 289 479

In association with Hadleigh Hares running club

www.hadleighhares.co.uk

BOXFORD BOUNTY

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

The local lottery for Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton, the Bounty has provides financial support for many local groups and interests.

Tickets are available at a cost of £10.00 per year, which guarantees entry to six draws. You may also arrange to pay monthly at £1.00 per month.

The prizes for each draw are:

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

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

Boxford Bounty

39, Daking Ave, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 5QA

Or ring Mark on 01787 211596

email HYPERLINK "mailto:millerpmark@yahoo.co.uk"

millerpmark@yahoo.co.uk

We will arrange a call from your local collector.

COLLECTORS NEEDED

If you have an outgoing personality, love walking, enjoy meeting people and are interested in becoming a collector for the Boxford Bounty please contact Mark for further details.

The Boxford Bounty is a registered charity No 304862

SESAW Animal Rescue

"Having a spring clean?"

SESAW Animal Rescue would love your unwanted items for their forthcoming fundraising events. Anything considered, collection arranged. Tel Rosie 01206 264099 or items can be left at 27 Crossfields, Stoke by Nayland. Also help is needed at the sanctuary and with fundraising events can you spare an hour or two

EDWARDSTONE BUS SERVICE –

Full timetable in bus shelter:

A few villagers have noticed a red bus travelling through Edwardstone during the last couple of weeks. On investigation it appears it is our new bus service (106/108), which travels through Edwardstone on way to Hadleigh and Ipswich Park & Ride, London Road. The tickets are valid for forward travel to Ipswich Town Centre on the Park & Ride services. The one-decker bus, sponsored by Suffolk County Council and operated by Carter Coach Services, picks up at the Mill Green telephone kiosk in Edwardstone from Monday to Saturday at 9.30 a.m.

It returns from the Park & Ride, London Road, Ipswich at 2 p.m. reaching Edwardstone, Mill Green telephone kiosk, at just after 3 p.m.

The route through Edwardstone goes from Boxford Fleece PH to Groton

Fox & Hounds, to Mill Green telephone kiosk, along past the White Horse Inn and round through Round Maple and onto what was the White Rose PH in Lindsey. The driver says he will pick up anywhere along the route, just flag him down.

If you want to use the service please check timetable which, I am assured by Suffolk CC, is posted in bus shelter.

Les and I will try out the service before the next magazine and report back. *Daphne Clark*

EDWARDSTONE 155 CLUB WINNERS FOR 2005:

Thank you to all who have supported our hall during 2005.

Approximately half the takings from the 155 Club are returned as prizes, and the rest goes towards the upkeep and improvements to the hall. During 2005, the main roof was retiled at a cost of £8,000 and a full set of white china has been purchased.

The winners for 2005 are listed below.

£100 – Mr P Fletcher, £50 – Mr R Stowe.

£25 – Mrs Peacock, Ms Alison Cox, Mrs Doreen French, Mrs Mockridge.

£10 – Mr J Long, Mrs D Hawke, Melanie & David Richardson, Prof. David Tolhurst, Mrs Sheila Saddleton, Mr M Tew, Mr A Suckling, Mr & Mrs Penrose, Mrs S Tolhurst; Mr R Stowe, Mr & Mrs Raymond, Mr A Suckling.

£7 – Mrs McDermott, Emily Griggs, Mrs R Elliott, Mrs S Kennett, Mrs Wild, Mrs G Nevill, Mrs J Gooderham, Mrs J Gooderham, Mrs C Ratcliffe, Mrs Milsom, Mr Tew, Mrs Tregear.

£5 – Kelly Richardson, Mrs P Hills, Mr S Whymark, Mr H Smith, Mrs Parry-Jones, Mrs M Richardson, Mrs Walters, Mrs Spittle, Mrs Garwood, Mr O'Riordan, Mrs Gower, Mr & Mrs Pearl.

Edwardstone Parish Hall Management Committee

BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB '100 CLUB' WINNERS FOR JANUARY:

£36 – G Goward; £15 – Mr J Rose; £6 – Mrs Josh.

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some agents are having
a lie in on Sundays

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SPANISH

Wot's On

COMMUNITY LIGHT ORCHESTRA

Concert at Sudbury Upper School
Saturday March 25th 2006. 7.30pm.
in aid of Home-Start Babergh

The Community Light Orchestra has a membership of around 70 members and gives three concerts a year in aid of charity. The usual practice is for a charity to invite the Orchestra to give a concert and to make all the arrangements. The Orchestra asks for a very small donation and all the surplus (profit!) goes to the sponsoring charity. The charity Home-Start Babergh has invited the Orchestra to come to Sudbury on March 25th 2006.

Home-Start Babergh covers the whole of the Babergh district and aims to help families with at least one child under five who are facing difficulties. Currently there are over 60 volunteers who have all promised to give 2 hours or more per week to visiting a family and supporting them in any way that helps them. In addition Home-Start runs Family Support Groups where families can meet together and support each other. The total expenditure of the charity per year is approx. £83,000 and support from local authorities and other bodies usually brings in about £50,000, the rest has to be raised.

The members of the Community Light Orchestra (CLO) meet regularly on Tuesday mornings at Henley - a small village just outside Ipswich, and come from all over the County. As its name implies the Orchestra plays a great deal of light music - excerpts from shows, popular songs, etc. and also some popular classical music. Every concert features a mix of all these - and so there is literally something for everybody and a very enjoyable evening is always in prospect. The Orchestra is under the direction of Barry Salmon who brings his own flair to the proceedings!

Tickets for this concert will be available from the Home-Start Office, 01787 371108, from members of the charity and from The Idler in Hadleigh and The China Shop in Sudbury. They are

£5.00 per person with accompanied children of primary school age admitted free.

We will be able to give details of the programme next month. Meanwhile, please make a note of the date and keep the evening free.

THE LOST CITY OF DUNWICH

Saturday, March 25th 7.30pm Groton Village Hall

Groton PCC has been fortunate enough to persuade the excellent speaker, Mark Mitchels, to come and give us an "Illustrated Talk" entitled "The lost City of Dunwich" [the story of a great East Anglian city which now lies beneath the North Sea] A comment on this talk reads:— 'a fascinating story told in a way which captured the interest of everyone in the audience'. After the talk, which will last just over an hour, we will be serving a plate of light refreshments to everyone, as well as a glass of Hot Fruit Punch, when you will have a chance to talk to Mark and to ask any questions. There will be no licence for alcoholic drinks, but anyone who wishes to is quite welcome to bring their own bottles of wine etc. We think this will be a good evening, and the tickets [£7.50 each] will be limited; so to be sure of a seat, call Pat or Bob Bowdidge [211553] or Pat Kennedy Scott [210319] or any member of Groton PCC. All proceeds to St. Bartholomews Church.

Boxford Drama group

Palace of Varieties April 7th and 8th

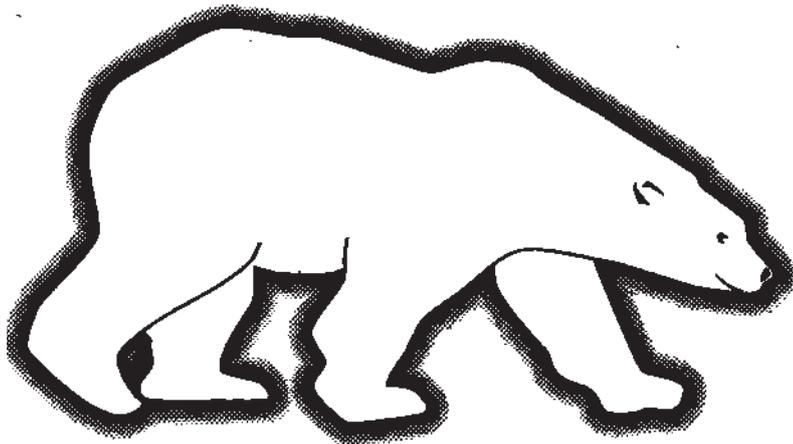
Now the euphoria of the pantomime has died down the Drama Group have got down to work on this years programme. Three productions from now until September and then the pantomime. That's enough for us to be going on with. So get your singing voices ready and your best foot tappers on because on April 7th and 8th it's the Palace of Varieties. Full of song, comedy and dance, this is going to be a must for all our faithful followers. Directed by Derek Butler and Bill Horne you can be sure of a good night out. See you there cos we can't do it without you Derek (I can't remember my lines) Butler.

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Wot's On

Nurse Betty at Boxford Digital Cinema

February 4th at 7.30pm

Betty (Renee Zellweger) has spent all of her life in Kansas. She married a local car dealer, works at the local diner, and went to the local high school... you get the picture. Her dream is to become a nurse, but that dream was squashed by her philandering jerk of a husband, Dell (Aaron Eckhart). Betty doesn't hold a grudge. She just goes through life working and religiously watching her favourite soap opera, "A Reason to Love" starring the man of her dreams, Dr. David Ravell as portrayed by George McCord (Greg Kinnear). As far as Betty is concerned, all is right with the world as long as she can watch her soap.

One night when her husband thinks that she's gone out he brings home two men to discuss some shady business. Betty doesn't care what they're talking about as long as she can watch her soap. She turns up the sound on the t.v. and drowns out the conversation. Eventually she hears some rough-housing going on and peeks outside. What she sees is her husbands business associates kill him. This is too much for her. She shuts the door and turns back to the soap and her mind immediately checks out.

From that moment on, Betty mixes reality and fiction. She believes that Dr. Ravell really does exist and that she is his former fiancée. She decides to leave her husband (whose death she has blocked out her mind) and go find Dr. David and make everything right.

What follows is her hilarious trip to Los Angeles. What she doesn't know and what her husband didn't know was that the car she is driving, one she borrowed from his lot, is actually a stolen car with dope in it. So now the men who killed her husband, Charlie (Morgan Freeman) and Wesley (Chris Rock) are following her.

All of the supporting players are wonderful. This was the perfect cast for this movie. Anyone else and it would have been off-kilter.

MORGAN FREEMAN RENÉE ZELLWEGER CHRIS ROCK GREG KINNEAR
She's chasing a dream...they're chasing her

NURSE BETTY

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Forthcoming Events Diary

January

28 Indoor Fun & Games Night	Boxford Community Council	Boxford Village Hall	
30 Boxford Over 60's		Village Hall	2.30pm

February

4 Nurse Betty	Boxford Digital Cinema	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
11 Valentines Ball	Stoke by Nayland Hotel		7.00pm
18 Valentines Day Dance	E & B CC		TBA

March

12 Come When I Call	Suffolk Village Festival	Boxford St Mary's	6pm
25 Lecture:--"The Lost City of Dunwich"	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	7.30pm
26 Mothering Sunday Lunch	Boxford St Mary's	Boxford `Village Hall	12.30am

April

7/8Boxford Drama Group	"The Palace of Varieties"	Village Hall	7.30pm
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May

13 Scouts Open Day and Evening Dinner			
29 J S Bach Suffolk Village Festival		St Mary's Church Hadleigh	6.00pm

June

4 Boxford Gardens Open			
24 Boxford St Mary's Church Fete		The Rectory	
Second Monday each month Boxford Parish Council Meetings in Bell House, Stone Street St, Boxford			7.30pm

Boxford News

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Parish Council Matters

Meeting of Boxford Parish Council

Monday 12th December 2005.

Planning

Confirmations from Babergh District Council: -

- Amendment to the structure between the house and outbuilding at 29 Homefield is Approved.
- Permission granted to erect single-storey and two-storey extensions at Barfield Cottage, Swan Street.
- Permission granted to construct triple garage with living accommodation over at Shakers Hall, Sand Hill.
- No Tree Preservation Order preventing work to a Willow and to fell an Elder tree at 3, The Causeway.

Permission granted to erect a single storey rear extension at The Conifers, Hadleigh Road.

Permission granted to erect a log store, gates and front boundary walls at The Red House, Rule's Yard.

Tree Preservation Order confirmed at Maple Lodge, Roylands Lane.

Affordable Housing Event

The publicised event went ahead, in the village hall, in order to obtain views regarding potential affordable housing at Homefield. Babergh District Council are currently collating feedback from residents.

District Council Report

District Councillor, Bryn Hurren, reported that Babergh District Council are concerned about the proposed re-organisation of the Police Force and their official response will be provided. Babergh are setting their budget in line with inflation and are still attempting to make savings whilst meeting their current and future obligations. The Inspectors report has been released in respect of the local plan. The next showing of the Digital Cinema will take place on Friday 30th December with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. A further film will be shown on 4th February.

Clerks Correspondence

The Clerks report was circulated ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. With regard to the Sorting Facility at Boxford Post Office, the latest position advised to the Parish Council is that work is still on-going and they are awaiting electrical work to be completed. Clerk to continue to chase progress.

Finance

In addition to the usual business, a payment of £500 was made to the Football Club towards the pitch drainage project. The budget for next year was discussed and Bank Account Forms were completed in respect of the Replacement Street Light Reserve.

Reports from Members

Repairs to the bus shelter will be considered. The pavement repairs outside the Post Office are still to be completed. The Chairman and Clerk have been complaining to Anglian Water, who have now re-opened the case and further news is expected. The village hall will be put on the Agenda for the January meeting following Councillor Philbedge's recent review.

Debbie Hattrell – Parish Clerk.

Meeting of Boxford Parish Council

Monday 9th January 2006.

Affordable Housing Event

Ian Tippett attended from Babergh District Council to provide feedback from the Event held in the Village Hall. The Event was to seek views on the potential development in Homefield and went well with 38 people attending. The Councillors now need to consider fully the feedback provided.

Suffolk County Council

County Councillor S Pryor attended and reported that they are currently scrutinising the situation regarding the much publicised budget restraints.

District Council Report

District Councillor, B Hurren, reported the slight interruption to the rubbish collection over the holiday period. The potential new supermarket in Hadleigh is included in the local plan. The

Fitzgerald Meadow sign is now ready and Councillor Hurren will arrange for it to be fixed. The next showing of the Digital Cinema is scheduled for Saturday 4th February with the film entitled Nurse Betty. This is for much needed funds for the Village Hall.

Clerks Correspondence

Key areas discussed were proposed improvements to the Bus Stop Provision in Broad Street. Suffolk County Council Highways have withdrawn the original proposals. It was agreed to arrange a site meeting to investigate where changes to the kerb could aide access to specially adapted buses. A response to our letter to the Chairman of Anglian Water indicates that the pavement outside the Post Office should be reinstated shortly. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Finance

In addition to the usual business, donations of £50 each were agreed to Optua and Home Start.

Boxford Youth Club

The Council agreed to continue to assist the Youth Club by payment of the Village Hall Hire.

Planning

Confirmations received from Babergh District Council: -

- Permission granted at 8 Stone Street Road for Erection of Garage/Workshop.
- Babergh does not wish to make a Tree Preservation Order preventing work to an Ash, Poplar and Cypress Conifer Trees at 2, The Causeway.
- Babergh does not wish to make a Tree Preservation Order preventing work to Ash Trees and a Walnut Tree at Causeway House, The Causeway.

The following were discussed: -

- The Application for listed building consent to demolish outbuilding, build an extension and make internal alterations at 26 and 30 Stone Street.
- To reduce Holly Tree, Yew Tree and Ash Tree at 22 Stone Street.
- Various work to Pear, Conifer, Apple, Maple, Yew and Lilac Trees at Peyton House, Butchers Lane.

Debbie Hattrell

Parish Clerk

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Boxford Village Hall Draw

The Boxford Village Hall Draw costs only £1.00 per month to entre but helps to provide essential cash to keep our ageing Village Hall up to scratch

Monthly prizes are:

1st prize	£40.00
2nd Prize	£20.00
3rd Prize	£10.00
4th Prize	£15.00

For more information contact 01787 210640

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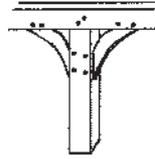
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Day off: Monday

Reader: Christopher Kingsbury, Rose Cottage, Sherbourne Street, Edwardstone CO10 5PD
Tel: 211236 Fax: 211238 e-mail: ChrisKingsC@aol.com
Graham Brook, 90 Tayler Road, Hadleigh IP7 5HR
Tel: 01473 823723, e-mail: g_brook_1999@yahoo.com

Benefice House Mary's House 5 Swan Street, Boxford CO10 5NZ
Please let one of them or a Churchwarden or a Lay Elder know:

- If you would like a home visit, home communion, hospital visit or
- Of any cases of sickness or otherwise where they might be of assistance. Thank You

To the Box River Saints

Following a recent radio program, which looked at broken relationships and people who had not spoken for years, I was struck by the whole aspect of forgiveness. It seems to me that probably one of the most difficult things to both give and receive is forgiveness. At the same time it is also one of the most important aspects of any relationship. Without forgiveness, a relationship will wither and die.

We must recognise that forgiveness is from God. It is his way of dealing with mankind's sin and with his guilt. One of the basic understandings of Christianity is that we have all missed the mark, which God has set for us. Our sin does not have to include any of the basic misdoings our laws recognise as crime. The basic sin is that we separate ourselves from God and that leads us down the slippery slope to law breaking. Sin begins with a broken relationship with God and leads to broken relationships between men and women.

Our legal and penal system works on the basis of punishment for these crimes of broken relationship, which could range from a fine to a large chunk of our life in prison. God on the other hand sees crime from the true angle of broken relationship and approaches it from that perspective. His radical response is one of forgiveness. He does not ignore our guiltiness but recognises that it is not the most important thing about us. He breaks the normal cycle of sin and penalty through the death and resurrection of Jesus. He died and was resurrected to restore our relationship with God.

Now comes the tricky bit: we have to demonstrate that renewed relationship by rebuilding our relationships. It is relatively easy to forgive a family member or good friend who has hurt us but much more difficult with people we don't like. We are called to forgive even those who have made our lives a misery, those who have taken things, which are valuable to us, and even those who have taken our loved ones. Having regard to the way our worldly system works, forgiveness seems to be the opposite approach we should take. It almost seems that we are downgrading the seriousness of evil. The truth is that we are following the line set for us by God as a way of saying to the person we are in conflict with that the most important thing about them is not what they have done wrong but that they are loved.

It often seems impossible to follow the command of Jesus to forgive unconditionally, but our faith if it means anything has to be sacrificial and unconditional forgiveness is just part of that sacrifice. As we recite the Lord's Prayer we say; "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." This is an assurance that as God forgives us for our sin we are prepared to forgive others for theirs.

To the unforgiving world, forgiveness seems like weakness but in reality it is a physical demonstration of the love of God and the different parameters in which he and we are to operate. In our forgiveness we become the ambassadors of God and his Son Jesus Christ.

God's richest blessings to you

David



THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwardens:

Ruth Kingsbury, as Christopher above

Peter Patrick, Amberley,

White Street Green. tel 210346

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

We keep being surprised by God. Christmas was a time full of surprises - the incarnation, the virgin birth, the star, and angels. But the surprises keep coming long after Christmas. Knowing God's power and goodness, we might say that nothing he does would surprise us. And yet, we leave the manger and are filled with wonder and awe day after day, year after year, as we keep being surprised by our marvellous God. *Christopher Kingsbury*

FAMILY SERVICES:

In February the Box River Club will join worship on Sunday 12th, during Morning Prayer. *CK*

BOX RIVER CLUB NEWS:

Meets in February on 12th and 26th and in March on the 12th. March 12th is Mothering Sunday - Family Service. New members to the club are always made very welcome.
Janet Daniels

BIBLE STUDY GROUP:

Meets Monday 6th February at 8.00 p.m at 47 Swan Street studying the book of Genesis. Everyone is most welcome to this time of fellowship. *Peter Holden*

RESTORATION NEWS:

Work is due to commence on the chancel roof in early February.
CK

THE HOUSE GROUP:

Meets alternate Thursdays at 8.00 p.m. at Brook House Fen Street Boxford. A time of fellowship and reflection in the context of St. Mark's Gospel. *Peter Holden*

CONCERTS IN CHURCH:

The next Suffolk Villages Festival concert is to be held Sunday 12th March at 6.00 p.m. A Concert entitled "come when I call" with the Savadi ensemble - Ulrikae Hofbauer and Kristine Jaunalksne (soprano) and Marie Bournisien (harp). Festival Box Office 01206 366603

YOUR CHURCH ON THE WEB:

A web site for St. Mary's may be found on www.achurchnearyou.co.uk with more information, photos etc.

SMILE LINES:

"Lord lead me not into temptation, I can find the way myself".
Rita Brown



THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:

Vacant

Lay Elder:

*Antony Dodd, Mill Green End; tel 210397
Peter Welstand, 5 The Winthrops; tel 210525*

OVER 50s LUNCH, 14TH DECEMBER:

Please see photographs and article in the General section of the magazine. *Daphne Clark*

OPEN GARDENS AND SCARECROW COMPETITION:

We are planning to have Open Gardens with a Scarecrow Competition on Sunday 11th June 2006. There will be a separate competition for adults and children. If you are interested in opening your garden or entering the competition please contact *Pam Dodd* on 210397 or *Daphne Clark* on 210698. You can take part in either or both. *DC*

CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE:

Edwardstone's traditional Children's Carol Service on 24th December 2005 drew the usual capacity congregation who are thanked for their generosity for the collection of £404.90. The proceeds have been divided equally between Essex Air Ambulance and Orbis who provide an international eye-care programme in five continents. *Peter Dawson*

SIDESMAN & CLEANING ROTA:

Feb 5: Mr Dodd (Combined Benefice Service)/

Mrs Clarke & Mrs Clark;

Feb 12: Mrs Dodd/Mrs Clarke & Mrs Clark;

Feb 19: Visiting/Mrs Moore & Mrs McDermott;

Feb 26: Mrs Dodd/Mrs Moore & Mrs McDermott.



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens: *Barbara Riddleston:*

Poplar Farm, Goslings Green, 210261

Patricia Bowdidge, Appletree Cottage,

Horners Green 211553

THE LOST CITY OF DUNWICH:

Saturday, March 25th at 7.30 p.m. in Groton Village Hall.

Groton PCC has been fortunate enough to persuade the excellent speaker, Mark Mitchels, to come and give us an "Illustrated Talk" entitled "The Lost City of Dunwich" (the story of a great East Anglian city which now lies beneath the North Sea). A comment on this talk reads:- 'a fascinating story told in a way which captured the interest of everyone in the audience'. After the talk, which will last just over an hour, we will be serving a plate of light refreshments to everyone, as well as a glass of Hot Fruit Punch, when you will have a chance to talk to Mark and to ask any questions. There will be no licence for alcoholic drinks, but anyone who wishes to is quite welcome to bring their own bottles of wine etc. We think this will be a good evening, and the tickets (£7.50 each) will be limited. To be sure of a seat, call Pat or Bob Bowdidge (211553) or Pat Kennedy Scott (210319) or any member of Groton PCC. All proceeds to St. Bartholomews Church.

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE 2005:

Groton cyclists raised £730 last September riding bravely through torrential pockets of rain. September 9/10 was the wettest 24 hours of the year, according to the East Anglian. Thanks to all who took part, including the sitters in the church some of whom also raised money - half of the total sum has now

arrived safely in the Groton PCC account. *Peter Kennedy Scott*

ROTA

Flowers:

Cleaning:

Sidesman with Sacristan:

February

Mrs L Gill

Mrs L Gill

Mrs Pauline Lamming



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens

Sandra Harbord, 55 The Street; tel 247034

Alison Carse, Pink Cottage; tel 247585

Lay Elder:

Tim Harbord 247034

CAROL SINGING COLLECTION:

This is the first opportunity to thank everybody who contributed to a highly enjoyable and successful evening, which raised £210 for CRISIS. Thank you to all those who donated, those who provided hospitality and all those who turned out to sing.

Alison Carse & Sandra Harbord

BOOK AND VIDEO LENDING SCHEME:

Our next open morning will be on Saturday 4th March.

Alison Carse & Sandra Harbord

ROTAS:

SIDESMAN/FLOWERS

Feb 5: Combined Benefice Service (Edw)/Mrs Eddington;

Feb 12: Mrs Gardiner & Mr Powell/Mrs Pike;

Feb 19: Mr Squirrel/Mrs Pell;

Feb 26: Mr & Mrs Tora/Mrs Storar.



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwardens:

Diana Stock: 12 Links View; tel 312828

John Turner:

Severn, Church Road; 372677

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY:

Our 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer service will be taken by Mr Roy Tricker. *Jean Green*

WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY –

VILLAGE HALL – 7.30 P.M.:

An evening of the popular TV game "Call my Bluff". Light refreshments, Raffle.

Entrance £5, in aid of church funds.

Please contact *Jean Green* 373 383.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

THANK YOU:

In very recent months, the benefice has seen a great change among those who have been with us over many years.

The Revd. Brian Watling left Boxford and moved to Nayland towards the end of last year.

Among the organists of the benefice, Peter Bumstead will continue to maintain the organs of Edwardstone, Groton and Little Waldingfield but, with a growing family, now feels Ipswich is too far for occasional services. Michael Colleer and Nancy Roser have both left the rota but we hope we may still see them from time to time.

To all of them, we say a big thank you for their contributions to our worship over many years.

Antony Dodd

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A friend of mine, recently reached a certain age and not being far from an even more significant birthday, I am reminded of an e.mail recently received from friends in Boxford MA. I thought it might amuse readers as much as it did me Ed

GETTING OLD!!!!!!

I felt like my body had got totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. At my first session I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

A reporter interviewing a 104-year-old woman asked "what do you think is the best thing about being 104?". She simply replied: "No peer pressure."

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

Just before the funeral service, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied. "Two years older than me." "So you're 96," the undertaker commented. "Hardly worth going home, is it? She replied".

I'm certainly getting old.! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees. Fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driving licence

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her vicar she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Tesco's. "Tesco's?" the vicar exclaimed. "Why Tesco's?" "Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week" she replied.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

I'm getting into swing dancing. Not on purpose. Some parts of my body are just prone to swinging.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief."

Don't think of it as getting hot flushes. Think of it as your inner child playing with matches.

Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up.!

Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing.

THE SENILITY PRAYER :

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Boxford Digital Cinema

The next film to be shown at the Boxford Digital Cinema will be

'Nurse Betty' starring:

Renée Zellweger and Morgan Freeman

4th February at 7.30pm

for more information about this and other Digital Cinema films
telephone 01473 822337

ENGLISH TO BE EU OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The European Commission has just announced an agreement that English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German (the other possibility). As part of the negotiations Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling has room for improvement, and has accepted a five-year phase-in of new rules which will apply to the language, and will re-classify it as Euro English.

The agreed plan is as follows:

In Year 1, the soft 'c' will be replaced by 's'. Certainly this will make the sivil servants jump for joy. The hard 'c' will be replaced by 'k'. This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards can then have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome 'ph' is replased by 'f'. This will reduse 'fotograf' by 20%.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling can be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of the silent 'e' in the language is disgrasful and they should eliminat them.

By Year 4 peopl wil be reseptiv to lingwistik korektions such as replasing 'th' with 'z' and 'w' with 'v' (saving mor keyboard spas). During ze fifz year, ze unesenary 'o' kan be dropd from vords kontaining 'ou', and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinatins of leters.

After zis fifz year, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrion vil find it ezi to understand ech ozer.

Ze drem vil finali kum tru!

From the Bookseller, 14 November 1997 (Bent's Notes)

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Box River Sports

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

Dove Barn welcomes

FOBS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNER.



Dove Barn, the wedding venue at Castlings Heath, just outside Boxford enjoyed an invasion of 20 energetic 9 year olds on Saturday 15th January.

Richard Abbott, the birthday boy shared his 9th birthday tea party with Chris Jarvis at Dove Barn after his parents won a party at the venue in the Friends of Boxford School Christmas raffle.

After an epic footballing contest at the Boxford playing fields the boys repaired to Dove Barn for a hectic hour of jumping around on a bouncy castle before a tea party.

By 5pm everyone – parents and children alike, looked just about exhausted. 'It was lovely to see the exuberance of so many kids' said Adam Dixon-Smith, the owner of Dove Barn, 'I hope they all had a good time'.

Dove Barn, now in it's third year as a licensed wedding venue is looking forward to a busy summer of weddings. In September 2006 it is also planning to hold another charity Art Fair. Anna Dixon-Smith, the exhibition organiser said 'We are hoping to build on the success of the 2004 Fair by showing more artists and extending the opening for an extra couple of weeks'.

For more information about Dove Barn, please visit www.dovebarn.com or call 01787 210007.

Local Walks

LAVENHAM RAMBLING CLUB

Sunday 5th February. Around Headingham, meet Castle Headingham Nr. The Bell Inn (GR TL 785355).

Leader *Ann* 01787 377359

Sunday 19th February. Milden and Lindsey. Meet Monks Eleigh Church (GR TL 966477)

Leader *Victor* 01449 740680

Sunday 5th March. Leavenheath towards Stoke by Nayland. Meet Leavenheath Village Hall (GR TL 948364)

Leader *Jill* 01206 263751.

All of these walks are of about two hours duration and walks start at 2pm.

For general enquiries please phone Graham 01787 248128

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION WALKS

Sunday 5th February. Castle Headingham. Figure of eight. Meet for a 10am start at 'The Wheatsheath' PH (GR TL 785355).

AM walk around Castle Headingham and the River Colne. PM.

North of the Village. Lunch stop, choice of pubs 12 miles in total. For more details contact leader.

Leader *Kevin* 01206 210510

Sunday 12th February. Hadleigh Railway Walk. Meet for a 10.30am start at Hadleigh Magdalen Rd. CP. (GR TM 027426) Durrants Farm and Rail Line. 5 miles

Leader *Iain* 01787 370019.

Wednesday 15th February. Newton Green-Cornard. Meet for a 10.30am start at Newton's Saracens Head PH (GR TL 915408) for a walk via Newton Green and Cornard. 5½ miles. Lunch at the Saracens Head. Please book before the walk.

Leader *Margaret* 01787 880875

Wednesday 15th February. Lavenham St Edmundsbury Way. Meet for a 10.30am start at free cp opposite Melford Hall (GR TL 865461) to walk to Lavenham via St Edmundsbury Way. Lunch in Lavenham. Return via Acton Country Park. 9 ½ miles.

Leader *Arthur* 01206 578056.

Sunday 26th February. Kersey Tye/Lindsey. Meet for a 10.30am start at Kersey Church cp. (GR TM 112439) for a walk via Kersey Tye and Lindsey. Lunch at Kersey 'The Bell'. Please book before the walk.

Leader *Margaret* R 01787 248299.

I CRACKED BRAZIL!



Above: Vi Cracking it

In November I took part Breast Cancer Care's Trek Brazil in memory of my Mum, Doreen Tricker. It was an amazing experience and feel very privileged to have taken part and seen what I did – scenery and waterfalls that take your breath away. I have to admit that it was much more of a challenge than I could have ever imagined, plus the early onset of the rainy season took us by surprise – we hadn't expected to be crossing man-made rope bridges and I would have swapped my wet tent for anything – but am proud to say I did it all!

The total raised is an astonishing £9046.37. May I take this opportunity to say thank you and how much I appreciated everyone's support, which was given to me in so many ways.

It is satisfying to know that the money will be providing support for the men, women and their families who are now facing the trauma of breast cancer.

Thank you, once again. *vi*

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

February 2006

Wednesday 1 February

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion
 LtW 1900 Home Communion

The Revd. David Matthews
 The Revd. David Matthews

Sunday 5 February, 4th Sunday before Lent

Edw 0930 *Combined Benefice Service*
 Box 1830 Evensong

The Revd. David Matthews
 Christopher Kingsbury

Wednesday 8 February

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion

The Revd. David Matthews

Sunday 12 February, 3rd Sunday before Lent

New *Visiting*
 Gro 0800 Holy Communion BCP
 LtW 0930 Holy Communion CW
 Edw 1100 Matins
 Box 1100 Morning Prayer

The Revd. David Matthews
 The Revd. David Matthews
 Peter Welstand
 The Revd. David Matthews

Wednesday 15 February

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion
 LtW 1900 Compline

The Revd. David Matthews
 Tim Harbord

Sunday 19 February, 2nd Sunday before Lent

Edw *Visiting*
 LtW 0800 Holy Communion BCP*
 New 0930 Morning Prayer
 Box 1100 Holy Communion CW
 Gro 1100 Family Communion

Graham Brook
 Roy Tricker
 The Revd. David Matthews
 The Revd. David Matthews

Wednesday 22 February

Box/MH 1030 Holy Communion

The Revd. David Matthews

Sunday 26 February, Sunday before Lent

Gro *Visiting*
 Box 0800 Holy Communion BCP
 Edw 0930 Holy Communion CW*
 New 0930 Holy Communion
 Box 1100 Matins
 LtW 1100 Family Service

The Revd. David Matthews
 Antony Dodd
 The Revd. David Matthews
 Christopher Kingsbury
 The Revd. David Matthews

March 2006

Wednesday 1 March, Ash Wednesday

Box 1030 Imposition of Ashes & Holy
 Communion
 1930 Imposition of Ashes & Holy
 Communion

The Revd. David Matthews
 The Revd. David Matthews

Sunday 5 March, 1st Sunday of Lent

Gro 0930 *Combined Benefice Service*
 Box 1800 Evensong

The Revd. David Matthews
 The Revd. David Matthews

* Public Worship with Communion by Extension

Boxford/MH: Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford

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

Please, **NO LATER THAN 14th January**. Thank you.

Daphne Clark 210698.

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

Box River Soap Box

It had been my intention to turn my attention to our beleaguered agricultural industry this month. We are, after all, a rural benefice. Not that the land provides employment in quite the way it once did. And there are so many aspects of farming deserving of comment. The Common Agricultural Policy, subsidies, fair trade, stewardship of the countryside, Green Belt development – all would more than fill this column and would doubtless fuel endless debate. But the stories evolving about the transfer of power from County Councils to our parishes struck a particular chord.

Candidly I cannot see such a shift taking place – not in my lifetime as a parish councillor, at any rate. It is an interesting concept, though. In Continental Europe this approach is common. When our friends and fellow Little Waldingfielders, Bobbie and Colin, went to live in France, a small contingent of their ex-neighbours travelled to their new home to celebrate their first New Year as ex-patriates. We met the Mayor of their adopted village, marvelled at the facilities their community enjoyed and wondered how a village just double the size of ours – and far smaller than Boxford or Newton as examples – could afford what amounted to a very local authority, complete with paid staff.

The arguments, I imagine, are that services based directly in the community they are designed to support can be more appropriately tailored. Perhaps bureaucracy can be reduced, too, although I am far from certain that France should be held up as a shining example of a society where red tape has ceased to be a problem. These stories did make me wonder, though, what it might be like to serve on a parish council with real powers.

And there's the rub. At times being a parish councillor can feel at best frustrating, at worst a downright waste of time. In our small village our total revenue is not much more than £2,000 a year – and a third of that goes on maintaining our one paid employee, the Parish Clerk, surely one of the most under rewarded posts in local government. As for exercising power, if you consider turning down the many requests for donations that come across the table from local charities as power, then you would be in your element serving on a parish council. While planning issues probably take the largest slice of discussion time at meetings, the power of the council to influence outcomes is severely limited in my experience.

Yet people give up quality leisure time to sit around a table in an inadequately heated village hall to try to demonstrate that democracy extends down to the very local level. Would we obtain a better result if those councillors were properly paid, could employ staff to ensure their wishes were carried out and enjoyed delegated authority to deliver meaningful decisions to their local community? I wonder. The risk that a planning application might succeed or fail according to attitude of those tasked with delivering judgment to the applicant must surely weigh with those considering how best to structure our local services.

In the end I suspect that this is all the product of the imagination of a civil servant with too much time on his or her hands. Even so, I confess to finding the current structure of local government difficult to understand. Who decides which service should be the province of the District Authority or the County Council, for example? Perhaps the delegation of more power to the parish council would not be such a bad thing after all. Villages like ours could have their own mayor, rather like their French counterparts. It could make the 2007 local government elections that little bit more interesting.

Brian Tora is Chairman of Little Waldingfield Parish Council and a regular writer and broadcaster on financial matters.

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Box River Benefice, directory of clubs & Organisations

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Village Hall Draw Tickets

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Moirra Grant 211513
Mark Miller 211596
Lil Benton 210809
Janice MacMillan 210595
Richard Gates 210432

Vic Rice 210504

Richard Gates 210432
Philip Ingram 210771
Susanne Excell 210572
211077
Les Gunn 210994
Les Clark 210698
Mark Miller 211596
Jean Saunders 210725
Peter Hibben 210819
Peter Patrick 210346
Margaret Clapp 210186
David Mayhew 248585
Barrie Thorpe 211346
Elaine Powling 211243
Nell Suckling 210250
Richard Gates 210432

Philip Rich 210605
Mark Lane 211656
Bob Giles 210332
Tina Loose 210538
Sonja Lane 211214
Moirra Grant 211513
Paula Stacey 211488
Bob Martin 210837
Diana Hawk 211403
Eddie Kench 211507
Dr J. Debenham 210540
David Phillips 210106
Shirley Grimwood 210682
Ian Lindsley 210520
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210558
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Debbie Hattrell 210943
Cynthia Wanniarachy 211182
E Fletcher
Ian Lindsley 210520
Maggie 210888
Dawn Kurtz
210640

Edwardstone United Charities
Edwardstone and Boxford CC

Les Clark (Clerk) 210698
Sally Gooderham 231327

Groton Clubs & Organisations

Groton Educational Foundation
Groton Parish Council
Groton United Charities
Groton WI

Anthea Scriven 01787 210263
Martin Wood 210181
Martin Wood 210181
Joanna Roberts 210619

LtI Waldingfield Clubs & Organisations

Gt Waldingfield WI
Lt Waldingfield Parish Council
Lt Waldingfield Parish Room
Little Waldingfield Playingfield Committee (Chairman)
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Alex Stevens 374093
Linda Cutts 370242
Molly Watson 373353
377217
Dave Crimmin 375093
Linda Buckledee 210772
Lisa Devlin 374182
Nancy Harris 374626
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Rosemary Otto 370977
PC Ruth Horton 01284 774307
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Siam 370444
Alan Vince 373963
Tina Boyes 375423

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Willow Montessori Nursery

Edwardstone Clubs & Organisations

Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust
Edwardstone Parish Hall

Clare Britcher 211234
Fiona Raymond 210461

Comment

You will no doubt have read all the fuss that has rightly been made about Ruth Kelly approving the employment of a sex offender as a PE teacher in an East Anglian school but are you aware that anyone employed in the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure application form to enable the Bureau to carry out an investigation into your suitability.

All members of our First Response Team, 3PR, are required to go through the procedure, as do all NHS staff, school staff and anyone employed or voluntarily involved with the welfare of children and members of the public.

This however seems to have become quite an industry involving large sums of public money. It takes about a couple of weeks or so to train a 3PR member and then about 5 months for the Criminal Records Bureau to carry out their checks, or do they?

Whilst primarily the responsibility of the police, this work is sub contracted to private companies for completion. Not only do these companies seem to be seriously understaffed but their main objective is profit and not public service. Imagine you are unemployed and have been offered a job involving the welfare of vulnerable adults, how much is it going cost the tax payer in benefits whilst you are waiting for this procedure to be completed. Lets assume £3000 per applicant plus the fees charged by the company handling perhaps 250,000 and more applications a year. The problem is aggravated by the fact that in our case, 3PR are desperately in need of new members becoming active and these delays are putting lives at risk in the three parishes. The effect over the country in schools and Hospitals etc. can only be imagined.

The problem is made worse by a lack of communication between companies, organisations and police forces and even between departments within organisations. I completed my CRB application over three years ago when being accepted as a volunteer member of the East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust and 18 months ago I became a member of the Central Suffolk PPI Forum (Patient and Public Involvement in Health). It has now been decided that members of the forum, a part of the NHS, should complete CRB Applications. However one part of the NHS is unwilling to accept information from another and I am faced with the same procedure once again. One would imagine that the NHS was awash with cash instead of closing down Hospitals, dismissing staff and trying to kid us that this was going to improve health services. Incidentally over the last three months I was invited to attend 33 meetings. Had I chosen to attend them I would have been entitled to approx £330 in travelling expenses alone. There are over 5000 forum members throughout the country whose travelling expenses alone could exceed 6 million pounds per annum but with a budget of around £35,000,000 a year this ineffective and very expensive QUANGO would be better financing the shortfall in the East Anglian NHS Budget.

A couple of bouquets for Babergh District Council, firstly, well done for keeping your share of the Council Tax within the cost of living index and secondly congratulations on the magnificent effort made by the refuse collection teams over the holiday period. Despite the extreme weather conditions very few residents had to wait more than an extra day or two for collections to be made.

I can understand the County Council wishing to keep the increase in Council Tax as low as possible, after all this was the new councils mandate at the last Council Elections in May 2005, but why oh why does it have to be the children, the elderly and the frail who have to suffer most? Adult social care is to be hit most and in children's services, support for foster carers is to be slashed by £393,000 and our already seriously depleted bus services are to be cut. In all children and adult care services are to be cut by almost £18,000,000. Why not get rid of the extra 8000 council employees engaged over the last 10 years instead.

Ed

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GARDENING IN FEBRUARY *Harry Buckledee*

Complete the pruning of fruit and ornamental trees, climbers and shrubs. Wisterias should have last seasons growth cut back to two buds from the base. Wall fruit trees and shrubs should be given a dressing of bone meal and general fertilizer. Cut back all the shoots that have just flowered of *Jasminum nudiflorus* (winter jasmine) and *Chimonanthus* (winter sweet) to one or two buds from the old wood.

If you can maintain a temperature of 50°F, a start can be made in the greenhouse. An electric propagator is ideal but an oil heater under the staging will provide sufficient bottom heat to get plants moving. It should be remembered that plants are attacked in the seedling stage by diseases which affect them at soil level. Whole trays of seedlings may collapse caused by a disease known as "dampening off" which is caused by various fungi. Best control is to water the compost with Cheshunt Compound at sowing time, and at two week intervals after germination until the plants are established. Avoid overwatering.

Brussel Sprouts need a long season of growth to produce a good crop of firm sprouts. Seeds of FI varieties are best and should be sown individually in Cell trays and potted on when large enough to grow on ready for planting out in the garden during April.

Shallots need to be brought into early growth to produce good results. The old saying was plant shallots on the shortest day and harvest on the longest. Soil conditions are never favourable for planting at that time or at anytime near then. Excellent results can be had by planting in seed trays, 15 to a tray, this will produce good, well rotted sets for planting out in March when soil conditions are favourable.

Try a sowing of carrots in pots. The variety Amsterdam forcing is quick maturing and will produce a crop of tender finger size carrots of good flavour.

Dormant fuchsia should be cut back to three inches from the base, and have all the old compost shaken from the roots and repotted in fresh compost and down potted to a size smaller pot. As well as rejuvenating the plant it will ensure that any grubs of the dreaded vine weevil that may have been lurking in the old compost are

removed.

Dahlia tubers can be removed from store and placed in shallow boxes on the greenhouse bench. Work in enough compost to cover the tuber but do not cover the stem. Water thoroughly and the warmth of the greenhouse should soon produce many cuttings from the base of the stem. The Dahlia is not a true tuber like a potato and shoots will only come from the short stem and not from the swollen roots.

Where lime is necessary it should be applied now. Lime helps by neutralising soil acidity, providing calcium which is an essential plant food, by helping to break up heavy clay soils and by releasing certain trace elements which are locked up in the soil. It should not of course, be applied to ericaceous subjects such as Rhododendrons.

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"All that a village pub should be"
Evening Gazette, November 8, 2000.

For your diary:

Valentines Day Tuesday February 14th

St David's Day Wednesday March 1st

St Patrick's Day Friday March 17th

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Easter Weekend April 14th - 17th

St George's Day Sunday April 23rd

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Scouting isn't just for kids, its great for adults too.

I used to drop my kids off at the Spinney for Cubs knowing that they were going to do something enjoyable and different with a group of their friends. When I picked them up, I asked what they had been doing and when they told me I thought, "It sounds like fun, I wouldn't mind doing that myself".

I didn't think I could be a Scout leader because I had never been in Scouts as a child. I looked at the programme and saw that the next week's event was tent erecting. I have always enjoyed camping and I know how to put up a tent, so I saw Richard Gates (the Cubs leader) and asked if I could help. To my surprise, he didn't ask for a CV, a brief resume of relative experience, or a short statement considering the role of scouting in a widening life skills curriculum. He just said "Yes, if you like. Come in with the boys next week and I'll show you where to sit."

Most of that first week, I sat at the side of the hut watching as the children organised themselves into teams, ran the flag up the flag pole and played games. They also showed me, how to put up a tent.

Five years later and I am a fully qualified Scout Leader. Last year, I went camping, sailing and air rifle shooting (all without any children in sight). I took the kids camping and hill walking in the Malvern Hills, sailing at Ramsholt and to football, cooking and map reading competitions, all of which were organised by somebody else.

Now, it's not just my kids. I have a great time doing things that are enjoyable and different with a group of new friends who are always on hand to help out and give me advice. I still haven't been asked for a short statement considering the role of scouting in a widening life skills curriculum. I keep it, just in case.

Be Prepared.

Mark Miller – Scout Leader

2006 is the year of the volunteer. If you would like information about supporting 1st Boxford Scout Group, please contact one of the following:

Section	Age	Leader	Telephone
Beavers	6-8	Diana Taylor	01787 210239
Cubs	8-10½	Richard Gates	01787 210432
Scouts	10½-14	Mark Miller	01787 211596
Scout Group Committee		Debbie Miller	01787 211596

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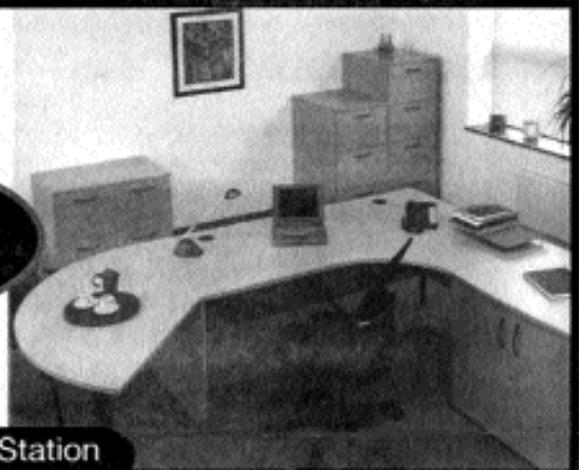
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Boxford School News

A Very Happy New Year to All

Well here we go again. I trust you had a relaxing and enjoyable break and that Father Christmas was kind to you. The last newsletter was written just before the main Christmas festivities took place and I am delighted to report that despite a high number of absences all of the usual events took place and were most successful. Our Nativity in the church went very well and was enjoyed by all. Our Nursery performed their own concert in the hall and in my opinion it was the best yet with the children singing and acting with real confidence. Well done and Thankyou to all.

Despite what you may sometimes read in the press and see on the television our key aim is still to provide the very highest standard of education for all our children and to ensure that we give them the best start to their school careers. We all know that one of the key areas within this is to teach our children to read. We have always been very proud of our record in this area but it doesn't mean we are complacent and we are always striving to find ways to raise standards even higher. Imagine then my delight at the success of a recent school initiative which involves encouraging children in Year 3 and 4 to read more regularly at home. The scheme challenges the children to read at least four times a week to their parents at home and rewards them with a range of prizes including certificates and books. The scheme has been in place for just over four months so I decided to carry out an assessment to see how it was going. Using a simple reading test I discovered that children who were actively taking part in the challenge made seven and a half months progress compared to four and a half months progress for those not taking part. This was considerably better than I expected and it just goes to prove that practice really does make perfect.

During December the FOBS held three major fund raising events including their very popular Christmas Fayre. In total they raised over £3,000 a stunning achievement I am sure you will agree. My thanks go to Jed, Moira and the rest of the FOBS team and to all those in the local community that gave support either by attending the fayre or donating money during the Santa Run. Not only will the money be going to support our school but we will also be making a considerable donation to a very worthwhile charity, The Sick Children's Trust. This term we have two events planned a Bingo Night in Edwardstone Village Hall on the 4th February and a Quiz Night on the 22nd April. I hope to see many of you at one or both of the events. If you would like further details please contact the school office on 210332.

Finally, I know it seems rather early to be thinking about this but we are already taking applications for children who will be five years old in the 2006/07 education year. If you are considering applying for a place you need to complete and return an admission form by February. If you are in our catchment area and complete this form in time you will be guaranteed a place. Please contact us for more information.

WANTED

Old Photographs or pictures of the village and folk from Edwardstone and the surrounding area

If you have any and would be prepared to let us copy them, we would like to copy them and hang them in our newly decorated lounge

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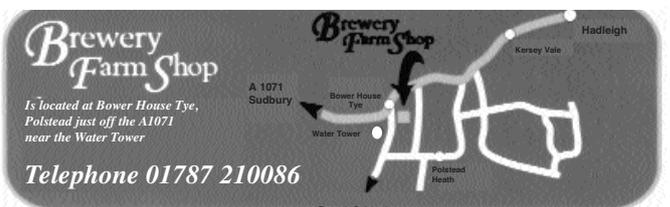
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Ulrike Hofbauer 6 Kristine Jaunalksne (soprano) Marie Bournisien (harp)

Savadi is one of the most exciting ensembles to arrive on the early music scene in recent years. Its three members come from Latvia, Germany and France, and studied together in Basle. They won the 2003 International Early Music Network Competition at York and the 2004 Van Wassanaer Concours at The Hague, and since then have performed in festivals and concert series throughout Europe.

Savadi means 'in an another way' in Latvian, and the group is unique in performing the Baroque repertory for one and two sopranos with the beautiful and flexible accompaniment of the Italian triple harp.

In this programme they contrast intense and dramatic solos and duets by Claudio Monteverdi, Girolamo Frescobaldi, Barbara Strozzi and others with music from seventeenth-century England including songs and dialogues by John Dowland, Robert Johnson, Richard Dering, John Coprario and Henry Purcell. A concert not to be missed.

'Their fascinating programme was carefully and cleverly chosen, presented with equal measures of humour and scholarship, and brilliantly performed' — Stephen Varcoe

Monday 29 May 2006, 6.00 p.m.

St Mary's Church, Hadleigh

J. S. Bach: Mass in B minor

Philippa Hyde 6 Claire Tomlin (soprano) Timothy Travers-Brown (countertenor) o Patrick McCarthy (tenor) Eamonn Dougan (bass)

Psalmody

Essex Baroque Orchestra directed by Peter Holman

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A ten week course on Monday evenings at 7.30 pm meeting at **The Fleece Boxford**. First meeting Monday 9th January. The course tutor is *Steven Trerise*.

We will be reading and discussing works by four "Inner Émigrés":- Joseph Conrad, James Joyce, D.H. Lawrence and Ford Madox Ford. All are major figures in English Literature. One is Polish, one Irish, one English and one half German. For a reading list and further details contact Mrs. Etain Todds 01787 210344 Moat Farm Cottage, Edwardstone, CO10 5PX

General

A ten week course on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm at CEVCP Primary School, Boxford, starting on 10th January 2006. Art in the USA will be scrutinised, from the time of the first European settlers to the present day. Much will be learnt about American history, and its connection to painting and sculpture.

Course fee: £37 (concessionary fee: £34)

Further information from: Mr Patrick Bazley-White, The Rosary, Thorington Street, Stoke-by-Nayland, Colchester, Essex, CO6 4SP, (01206) 337334

Newton Village Hall

Whist Drives

The prizewinners at the whist drive held on Monday 9th January were

Ian Stares	173	Sue Frost	172
Beryl Mauldon	167	Phyllis Goody	167
Joan Crisell	165	Mary Jackson	143

Many thanks to Joan and Molly for preparing the refreshments. Because of holidays there will not be a whist drive in February. Future drives will be on March 20th March and 24th April.
Alan Vince 01787 373963

SUFFOLK WEST FEDERATION OF WOMEN INSTITUTES GREAT WALDINGFIELD W.I.

A belated Happy New Year.

In November the Committee was re-elected with Mrs Sheila Dunnett our President.

15 ladies went by mini-bus to West Suffolk College - this we call our 'Pamper Day', we have Facials, Pedicures, Manicures, Massages and Hair Dressing done, also our lunch - this is why it is aptly named.

In December we started our Christmas festivities early, instead of our monthly meeting in the Village Hall we had a most enjoyable evening and meal at "The Angel" in Lavenham.

In January we had our usual meeting, instead of a speaker we had a 'Beetle Drive' it was a fun afternoon.

Our next meeting is on February 8th at 2.00p.m. in the Village Hall when Jacqueline Wisby will show holiday slides, the subject is 'Prepare for Summer'.

Everyone welcome

Maisie Root (Sec)

Boxford St Mary's

Mothering Sunday Lunch

March 26th 12.30pm

We propose holding a lunch on Mothering Sunday to enable parents and children to enjoy a meal together, at a moderate cost. If you are interested in participating, please telephone Cynthia Wanniarachy on 211182 or Maggie Bishop on 210276

EDWARDSTONE CRICKET CLUB
VALENTINE DANCE
BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY FEB 18th
7.30 till Late
Live Band
Angel Street
Buffet & Licensed Bar
Tickets from Sally Gooderham
01787211805 or club member
Price £12.50

Wot's On

Boxford Rovers Quiz Night and Fun Run:

If you're still brushing off the festive cobwebs and looking for a new challenge, Boxford Rovers have just what you need – excitement for both mind and body.

The club will be holding their annual Quiz Night on 25th February at the Village Hall. Starting at 8pm the cost is £5 per person and teams of up to eight. A buffet and licensed bar is provided and much fun to be had by all. You certainly don't need to be a football fan to take part as the quiz is general knowledge and normally very popular – an early booking is advisable. To book your team please contact *Chris Waugh* on 01787 210139 or *Richard Robinson* on 01787 211114.

If your New Year's Resolution included getting fit or slimming down why not prepare early for the Boxford Fun Run? The Run will take place on 29th April and is open to all ages. Last year's event was well supported and those taking part particularly enjoyed the cross country aspect. Well marshalled and organised it is an event which anyone can enjoy. This year the fun run will also include a car boot sale on the same site – burning calories, getting fit, enjoying the Boxford scenery and then browsing for a bargain – what more can you ask for? Again, for more details or for a sponsor form, contact *Chris Waugh* on 01787 210139.

Edwardstone Cricket Club

As the Christmas tide is now over it's time to start thinking about rummaging through the loft to find your trusty old cricket gear. Remember Cricket is the new Football.

Before we get too carried away though; it's also time for the 2nd annual Edwardstone Cricket Club Valentine's Dance.

We have again put on a Licensed Bar and Buffet at Boxford Village hall accompanied by the fantastic Angel Street who will provide the evening's entertainment. And all in the name of romance.

So if you fancy cracking night out with your Wife/Girlfriend/Mother get yourself a ticket from Sally Gooderham on 211805. Tickets will cost a mere £12.50 a head and will be for Saturday the 18th of February. So fellas if you usually forget Valentine's Day we've given you an extra couple of days to make up for it and show that you actually care.

Back to the good old fashioned cricket season and we are again looking for new players to come and join in this, the most sociable of games. Are first game is not until Sunday April 23rd – a friendly no less - so that gives you boys plenty of time to organise yourselves and to get acquainted with us regulars and see if you can handle a whole season of banter and Sunday afternoons in the sun. There are many ways to contact us, namely through the Captain Greg Hayton, Colts Coach Adrian Gooderham and Club Stalwart Ray Gibbons etc but instead of giving you their numbers I thought it would be more fun for you to turn up to the Valentine's Dance and meet us in person. So get your tickets and we will see that you have a great night out.

James Williams – Press Officer

Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust

Advance Notice

The **Beavers** on the Green

Saturday 9th September

Watch this space for further details

Boxford Over 60's Club

Meetings at the Village Hall at 2.30pm on

Monday February 13th and 27th

Edwardstone

OPEN GARDENS AND SCARECROW COMPETITION:

We are planning to have Open Gardens with a Scarecrow Competition on Sunday 11th June 2006. If you are interested in opening your garden or entering the competition please contact *Pam Dodd* on 210397 or *Daphne Clark* on 210698.

Learn to Live with IT!

Do you have a computer that gets very little use, would you like to buy & sell on Ebay or is your digital camera still in its box?

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Training is offered to businesses on-site or individuals at home using their own PCs from £25 per hour - often an hour is all that is required to progress that step further or to just get started.

The popular Digital Photography Workshops are continuing to run at Hadleigh using Adobe Photoshop Elements (this package is often received free when purchasing digital cameras). During the morning hands-on practical session, cameras are used to take photos and clients share experiences. After a light lunch the pictures are transferred onto the computer and can be cropped, enhanced and printed. This relaxed one-day workshop is just £45 which includes a light lunch. Small groups are taught by professional experienced tutors and have proved to be both informative and an enjoyable day out.

So, whether you want to join our workshop, send an email, sell unwanted items on Ebay, use the 'Friends Reunited' website or produce professional documents in Word, Excel Publisher, Powerpoint or Access just call. Courses can be produced specifically for clients to maximise learning.

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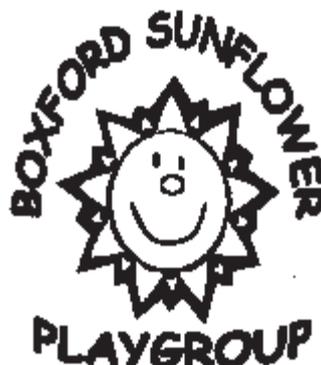
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Readers Letters

Dear Editor,

It is with regret that I find myself having to write in concerning recent events that have happened within the Homefield area of Boxford.

The latest occurred in the evening of New Years Eve, when my family returned from a nice evening out to find that some mindless vandals had decided to vandalise and break some Christmas lights at the front of our property, leaving them in such a state that could have caused harm to others. It later became apparent that several houses in Homefield had been targeted causing a great deal of expense to those involved. The matter has been reported to the police.

Earlier in the year, we had also been subjected to projectiles being hurled from the gardens of the new housing development, behind us, in to our garden resulting in damage to several panels of glass in our greenhouse. These definitely did not come from the footpath as we were in the garden at the time and know for definite that nobody was using the footpath.

This brings me to the new flats proposed for the area of land between the top of Homefield and the playing fields. At present the residents of Homefield have to endure the stream of constant traffic to the playing fields at weekends within the football season. It is good to have a well used amenity within the village, however, it would be appreciated if people driving up and down Homefield would spare a few moments to think of the residents who have to use the road to access their properties rather than treating the road as if its sole purpose is for them to go to and from the playing fields. This road currently struggles to cope with the amount of traffic that uses it and the fact that the majority of households now own two vehicles, means the building of these flats at the top could easily add yet another sixteen to eighteen vehicles regularly using this road which it is not designed for. These same vehicles would need to use Swan Street in order to leave the village and we all are already aware that Swan Street struggles to cope with the traffic it gets now.

Perhaps the Parish council would consider better uses for the land in Homefield, such as, providing more garaging for the residents of Homefield, this would reduce the need for as many vehicles to be parked on the road, which in turn, would make the road more capable of taking the traffic to and from the playing fields. The installation of traffic calming measures, should also be considered to slow cars down before there is a tragic accident. Any new housing could be built on plots of land bordering the bypass where there would be no access problems as vehicles would be straight out of the village onto the bypass rather than struggling down roads that were not designed to take this amount of traffic.

Lastly, before anybody accuses me otherwise, I am not against low cost housing but do feel that it is time that it was balanced with the ability of the village to cope with the increase in traffic, which it generates, and suitable sites located near to the bypass.

I would also respectfully ask that you do not print my name or address at the bottom of this, as I am aware that some residents of Homefield who have already expressed their views have since received hate mail and damage to their vehicles.

Homefield Name and address supplied



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Dear Sir

LES GUNN

I wonder if you would allow me a few lines to express my sadness on learning of the death of Les Gunn. During the last year I have been writing a book about the 'Forgotten' war in Burma in the later stages of World War Two - in particular the battle for the Arakan Coast where Les served as a Royal Marine. He was a fund of stories about his time in the appalling climate and dangerous conditions on that coast and his own dramatic escape from death on the boat on which he was serving when it was hit in a narrow river passageway by Japanese guns.

While researching the book, Les also helped me with other contacts and places to go to for further information and took a great deal of interest in the project even as his health declined. I completed the manuscript in December and saw Les for what would prove to be the last time just before Christmas when I was able to show him a proof of the dust jacket which the publisher had prepared for the book. Now, sadly, he will not be able to read the work to which he contributed so generously - but I hope that *The Banzai Hunters*, which is scheduled for publication in April, will prove to be a memorial of sorts to a fine man who gave himself generously for his country in war-time and his village during the many years of peace that followed.

Peter Haining,
Peyton House, Boxford.

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in March
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For more information please call Mark on 01787 211115

For You The War Is Over Part 1

Harry Buckldee

A DAFT WAY TO GET CAUGHT

"For you the war is over." Those were the first words that prisoners of war heard from their German captors. Words that didn't sound all that convincing at the time and, as subsequent events were to demonstrate, proved to be a very long way from the truth. As combatants our war was indeed over, but in many other respects it was only just beginning.

My story starts on December 28th 1942. Just over two months after the great battle of El Alemain, the German Africa Corps under General Rommel had been driven out of Egypt and most of Libya towards Tripoli and were holding a line east of Misurata. My regiment, the 11th Hussars, nicknamed the "Cherry Pickers", an armoured car reconnaissance unit, was always in the front line and on this day my troop was ordered to go on a long and difficult patrol to reconnoitre the area to the south and west of Misurata along the Wadi Zem Zem to a place called Bu Ngen.

Owing to the difficult terrain, it was decided that we should use jeeps instead of armoured cars. So we set off in three jeeps: our troop leader, Lieutenant Turner M.C., with his driver, Trooper Robinson, took the first; on the second there was Sergeant Martin with driver, Trooper "Bing" Crosby; and lastly, there was myself as Troop Corporal with driver, Trooper Donald Trotman, plus a chap from the Royal Engineers whose name I cannot recall.

The going was rough and, since I was the only member of the troop who was supposed to be a qualified mechanic, I was kept busy mending punctures, repairing broken springs etc.. However, we covered a broad area and sent back useful information.

On the afternoon of the 30th December, we made our way towards Bu Ngen. From a distance we saw no sign of movement and there seemed to be just a few derelict vehicles dotted about. About a mile to my left there was a petrol tanker and Lieutenant Turner called me over and told me to go and see if there was any fuel in it. While looking round the tanker I noticed some sort of movement at Bu Ngen but, being on low ground, was unable to ascertain what it was. I returned to Lt Turner and told him what I had seen. He assured me that everything was all right; he had spotted them too and they were ours. "The Long Range Desert Group," he said. "Let's go up to them."

Only in Hollywood do armies perform with perfect efficiency. Real wars inevitably involve blunders when, in the stress of the moment, even the best-trained men make fatal miscalculations or bungle a vital operation. The results are either farcical or tragic, depending on whose side you are on. Well, on that fateful day in

December 1942 the circumstances of our capture can only be described as a right cock-up. "The Long Range Desert Group" were actually three German armoured cars and, following Lt Turner's orders, we started to drive directly towards them. By the time we realised who they really were it was too late for Lt Turner and myself to spin round and make a run for it; we had half a mile of flat land to cover and would have been shot to pieces. Sergeant Martin, who was way out to the right of us, had the advantage of good ground cover and his jeep managed to get away.

To this day I cannot understand how Lt Turner came to commit such a fundamental error. He was a good officer, one who tended to err on the side of caution, but on this occasion he totally disregarded standard procedure. He was clearly convinced that they were our men (and, to be fair, we had been informed that we might see something of the Long Range Desert Group in that area) but, even so, we should not have simply approached them directly. Normal procedure in the desert was to take a wide sweep round the objective and observe from all sides before approaching. Had we done that, we would have identified them correctly instead of driving straight into a trap.

I felt a mixture of dismay and anger; it was such a stupid way to get caught. Of course, Lt Turner was terribly upset and couldn't stop apologising for having let us down, but no one felt like blaming him. What was done was done; a good man had made a most untypical mistake and nothing could be served by making him feel even worse about it than he already did. We were ordered to get off our jeeps and put our hands up. A German officer came forward, relieved us of our .38 revolvers and said to each in turn, "For you the war is over." The officer in charge then came up to us and in perfect English said, "This is too bad for you." He seemed almost sorry about capturing us. Later, after scrutinising our maps, he even complimented us on our performance:

"I congratulate you; you have done good work. I don't know how you managed to get as far as you have without being spotted before."

We spent the night there with them. They were extremely friendly - as indeed were most front line troops - and told us that they had seen action on the Russian front before coming to Africa. The following day they took us back to Rommel's HQ, bid us farewell, shook hands and wished us luck.

And so I was a prisoner of war. I didn't have a clue what to expect. In all my time on active service in North Africa it had never entered my head that I might be captured. I think it was the same for most of the

blokes; certainly we had never discussed the possibility of being taken. But now the unthinkable had happened, and what lay in store for us was anybody's guess.

INTERROGATIONS AND TORPEDOES

We were immediately handed over to two officers for interrogation. They tried chatting generally about the war in the desert, obviously hoping to tempt us into a conversation in which we might let something slip. Needless to say, given the kind of company we were in, we didn't feel particularly chatty.

After a while a third officer arrived and learned from the others that we were "not very talkative". This third one adopted a more direct approach. "Come on now," he said, "how about telling us a story about your experiences? Tell us all about the Long Range Desert Group." Not getting much response, he tried to impress us with how much he already knew: "We know you are in the Long Range Desert Group. You were in the 11th Hussars but are now in the LRDG, otherwise why would you have a man from the Royal Engineers with you? We know the LRDG are volunteers from other regiments."

Since direct interrogation wasn't getting them anywhere, they switched to more devious methods. They had a chap in British uniform doing chores around the camp. He said he was in the Queen's Regiment, spoke with a convincing Cockney accent and claimed he had been captured at El Alemain. Lt Turner was kept apart from us at this stage. Perhaps they thought that an officer, being an educated man, might be smart enough to see through their little trick. They must have reckoned the rest of us were pretty stupid if they really expected us to fall for something so transparent.

While the combat troops who had captured us had been thoroughly decent blokes, here in HQ there was the odd nasty piece of work. As we were eating a hot meal on that first day, I noticed an unpleasant-looking officer staring at us and eyeing me up in particular. Eventually he came up to me and asked, "Are you a Jew?" I replied that I was not and he said, "Well you look like one." I repeated that I was not a Jew. He studied me for a while and then said, "I believe you. I have seen them in Germany." It was obvious that he was full of hatred. Later I was to see with my own eyes some of the horrors that men like him visited upon the Jewish people.

As darkness fell an officer gave some instructions and a group of guards marched the four of us (Lt Turner was still being kept apart) away from the vehicles and out into the desert. We were feeling extremely apprehensive about what might be happening to us. At moments like that - in the middle of nowhere, without witnesses - it is difficult to see how the Geneva Convention is significantly different from any other piece of paper. Eventually we came to a small barbed wire enclosure where we were to be kept for the night. It wasn't the coziest of places to spend the night but, believe me, we were glad to see it.

The next morning we were taken by road back to Horns. On the way we had to take cover a couple of times to escape the attentions of the RAF. I was soon to learn that a POW's lot often involves having his life threatened by attacks from his own side.

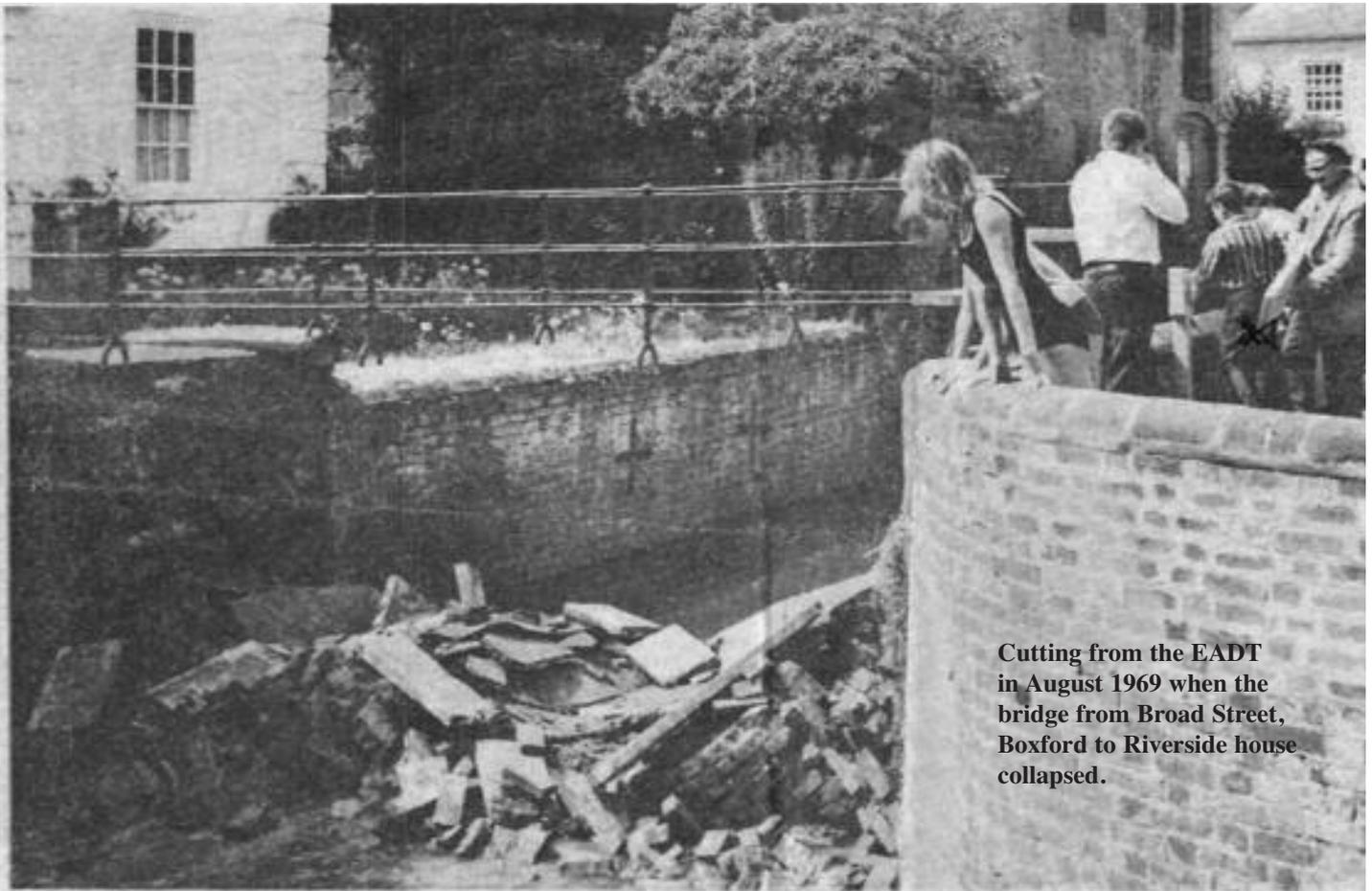
On arrival we were put in a room that was entirely empty except for a couple of beds and a Chianti bottle of water on the floor. Half an hour later they made another clumsy attempt to fool us into giving away information. A big Italian sergeant brought along two airmen and almost threw them into our room. We had not been manhandled in this way, so the rough treatment of these two immediately smacked of ham acting.

One had pilot's wings of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the other an air gunner's badge. Their story was that they had been operating from Malta in a Beaufort, attacking shipping off Tripoli. They had crash landed on the coast

after being hit by flak. When it came to acting, they made the Italian sergeant look like Lawrence Olivier. The questions fairly tumbled out of them. How were we doing over here? Had we got enough tanks to push these bastards out of Africa? What were the chances of escape? Was there anyone we could contact if we got out? We told them a pack of lies and, on the question of escape, Robinson declared: "I'll be out of here tonight, once it gets dark." They immediately wanted to know what he would do about water. I'll get them to refill this Chianti bottle and take that," he told them.

After about an hour the Italian sergeant took the "airmen" away. As soon as they were gone, Donald Trotman, who spoke good German, said that he had detected traces of German pronunciation in their speech. A few minutes later the Italian came back and took the Chianti bottle away. As an intelligence gathering tactic the whole operation had lacked a certain finesse.

The following day we were taken to Tripoli and put in a camp with about 100 prisoners from a number of different regiments, including one



Cutting from the EADT in August 1969 when the bridge from Broad Street, Boxford to Riverside house collapsed.

● ALL that remains of the old arched brick footbridge at Boxford are the iron railings, as this picture shows, taken shortly after the bridge had collapsed.

Big order from 'down under'

A RECENT visitor to the Great Yeldham factory of Whitlock Bros. Ltd. has been Mr. Ken Coles, Managing Director of Ken Coles Pty. Ltd. who are distributors for Whitlock construction equipment in Australia.

LUCKY ESCAPE AS BRIDGE COLLAPSES

AT about noon on Saturday, a few seconds after Mrs. Dora Sore, closely followed by Miss Elsie Bowers, crossed the old arched brick footbridge over the River Box leading from Broad Street to Riverside House, Boxford, the bridge collapsed into the river.

The age of this bridge is

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Parish Council Matters

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

The council met on 13th December.

7 councillors and 2 villagers attended.

Police Matters. Neither officer attended but there was nothing to report.

The Minutes were approved and signed.

Matters Arising. Highways have been asked to clarify funding for the bollards at Cypress Cottage. BDC say grant aid is not available.

Financial Matters. £1,000 received from SCC Locality Fund. This will be used towards the Churchyard wall repairs. Payments made to C Steed-£80 and Eon Energy-£125.86. Because of the burden of the wall, the Precept for 2006/7 has been increased by £100 to £2,200. This is the first increase for several years.

Correspondence. Plans for agricultural buildings at Newmans Hall passed by BDC. Plans for an extension at Brookwood Manor (Holbrook Hall) have been withdrawn. Plans received for house next to Paisley House.

Footpaths. Footbridges near Archers Farm are slippery and require non-slip netting.

Churchyard Wall. Work has been suspended due to the intervention of the BDC Conservation Officer.

Any Other Business. SCC has declined to consider a footpath to the Lavenham Road. They have been requested to consider pedestrian signs. The next meeting will be on 10th January at 7.30 in the Parish Room.

(It was not possible to get this report in the BRN as it took place after the closing date for copy for January issue)

The council met on 10th January.

6 councillors attended

Police Matters. No officers attended nor did we receive a report.

Correspondence. Enforcement notice upheld in respect of the building at Bell House. Planning permission for the extension at 1Priory Cottage has been granted by BDC. Plans for an extension to the house conversion at Park Farm received.

Churchyard Wall. Work should start within 2/3 weeks following clarification with BDC.

The next meeting will be on 13th February at 7.30 in the Parish Room.

The White Horse Inn

Edwardstone



Folk Music Every 2nd Wednesday Monthly.

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Start time is around 8:30pm

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