

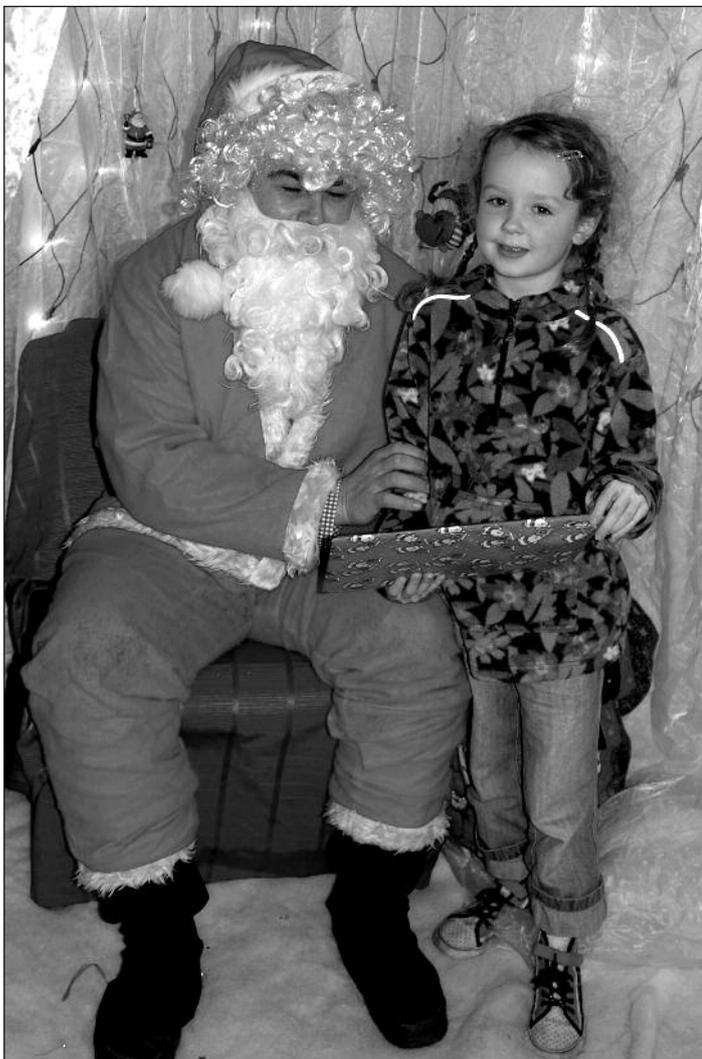
Box River News



Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green

January 2009
Vol 9 No 1

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A MORE PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR



FRIENDS OF BOXFORD SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Friends of Boxford School Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December was a great success. Blessed with a brilliantly sunny afternoon, the two venues, the school and Boxford St Mary's Church, enjoyed a steady flow of parents, children and guests.

One of the most amusing stalls this year was a Human Fruit Machine that drew crowds of children anxious to see adults making fools of themselves and making sure that they repeated their little dance performed every time a suitable donation was made, as often as possible. A brilliant idea.

Father Christmas had a steady flow of children each of whom received a small gift. Stalls included Face painting and there were many wild tigers around the school, Teddy Tombola, Nail Painting, frequented by many fashion conscious young ladies, a book stall, football tombola and lots of children's games.

The FOBS Christmas Fayre is one of the main fundraisers of the year and this year funds were being raised for an outdoor classroom area as well as additional classroom budgets and contributions towards school activities such as the year 4 theatre trip and early years camp.



THE GROTON NATIVITY PLAY

On Sunday 30th November, the first Sunday of Advent, over 130 people packed St. Bartholomew's for the Groton Nativity Play. Almost all of Groton's children took part as narrators, angels, shepherds, kings, the innkeeper, Mary and Joseph, not forgetting Millie the donkey. All played their parts brilliantly, and the traditional simplicity of the play highlighted the magic of the Christmas story and provided some moving and special moments. The cast and congregation also sang a host of carols to create a very festive atmosphere.

Special thanks go to Joanna Riddleston and Anthea Scrivens for heading the direction production team, Bob Bowdidge for creating amazing sets, Nancy Rosen for playing the organ to accompany the carols, Pat Kennedy-Scott and her team for providing mulled wine and mince pies, and of course to all of the children. Over £100 was raised for the Congo Relief Appeal in the retiring collection.

Box River News

Copy delivery points are:

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Telephone: 01787 211507

e.mail: ed.kench@btinternet.com

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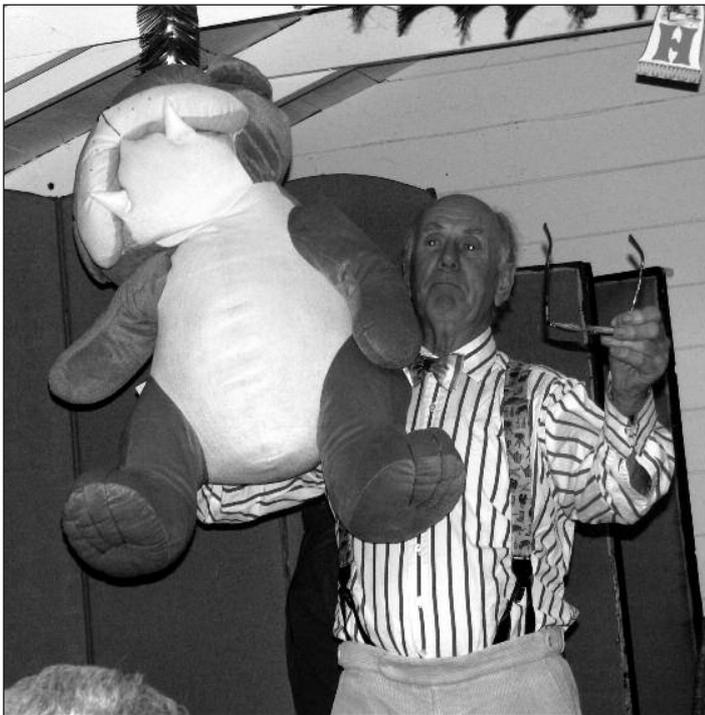
January 16th @ Noon

Box River
News

Delivered Free

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, Nayland, Kersey, and parents of children at Boxford School.

GROTON CHEESE AND WINE



On 6 December, parishioners, local friends and some expatriates gathered at the Village Hall for the annual Cheese and Wine party. As usual, it was a wonderful way to mark the beginning of the Christmas season – good food, good fellowship and good fun. The team of ladies who prepared the delicious buffet excelled themselves again, providing an enormous range of savouries to tempt the palate. No Groton event would be complete without the usual “Pat and Gerald” bar, and this time they brought along the delightful three week old Molly, who charmed us all. Bob led the customary auction in his own inimitable style – as he

said, it was billed to be a quiet auction, but that would have been foreign to his own instincts – and David Lamming persuaded each of us to invest in the raffle.

Apart from being an enjoyable social event, the evening raised about £700 for church funds. Sincere thanks are due from all who were there to everybody who helped to organise the occasion and so foster the Groton community spirit.

Brian Jones

Left: Bob Bowdidge and Churchill

Below: The magnificent spread



Friday, 16 January 8.00, Ticket £13

Bryan Corbett

Birmingham based Bryan Corbett is one of the UK's most accomplished trumpet players. He brings with him Levi French keyboards, Ben Markland bass and Neil Bullock drums. The quartet are influenced by the classic Blue Note albums of the 50's and 60's, with the leader taking particular inspiration from his trumpet hero Freddie Hubbard. However this is no mere recycling of the past. This band is a distinctly contemporary outfit playing music with energy, vitality and tremendous technical ability. Look out for their new CD, 'Off The Cuff'.

Friday, 23 January 8.00, Ticket £13

Liam Noble

Dave Brubeck's music has rare charm and transparent elegance, which has led to its considerable commercial success. This highly interactive trio of Liam Noble piano, Dave Whitford bass and Dave Wickins drums / percussion re-evaluates his legacy through an expanded contemporary language playing music from "Brubeck", their new CD on Basho Records.

Friday, 30 January 8.00, Ticket £13

Sarah Moule

In the past few years singer Sarah Moule has established a growing reputation as one of Britain's most exciting new vocal talents. Developing from her previous work, her new CD 'A Lazy Kind of Love' shows a newfound depth and character in her vocal approach and spotlights Sarah's interpretations. Sarah is accompanied by her exceptional regular trio of Simon Wallace piano, Mark Hodgson bass and Paul Robinson drums.

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

01787 211865

All cheques (with S.A.E. please) to:

Jazz at the Fleece, 18 The Causeway, Boxford, Suffolk CO10 5JR



Friday, 2 January 8.00, Ticket £15 sold out!
Liane Carroll

Please note the change of date to our marvelous end of season Christmas gig, which sees the return of the multi award winning pianist / singer Liane Carroll with Roger Carey bass and Mark Fletcher drums. Liane has a remarkable vocal delivery, both powerful and soulful. She can when the mood takes her have you in tears one moment with a sad ballad and whooping it up the next with something riotously up tempo! She is also very good between numbers! Her new DVD, 'Liane Live' can only add to her growing reputation around the world.

Friday, 9 January 8.00, Ticket £16

Empirical

Relax - the future of British jazz is safe in these guys hands as all who saw their last storming gig at the Fleece can testify. They play with a maturity that belies their ages. Maintaining the roots of traditional modern jazz but with a finger on the pulse of the contemporary world these four young award winning musicians are Nathaniel Facey alto saxophone, George Fogel piano, Tom Farmer bass and Shaney Forbes drums.

NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Boxford Sunflower Playgroup Family Cook Book

Fed up with cooking the same old thing ? Not sure what to buy a friend for Christmas ? Why not try Boxford Sunflower Playgroup's Family Cook Book. It's full of favourite tried and tested recipes from friends and families of the Playgroup and also includes special recipes from local Pubs and restaurants. It's fantastic value at just £5.00. The books are available at Boxford Stores Post Office, Boxford Newsagents, Alan Leeder Butchers or contact Sally Gooderham on (01787) 211805. All proceeds go towards The Sunflower Project.

Boxford Tennis Club

Next year I shall be giving up organising Tennis Club membership and we need someone new to take over. Very little hard work is involved, it's just time for someone else to do it!

The income from membership subscriptions is vital to the Playingfields Management Committee – it's not just the tennis courts that benefit, the money goes into the pot that helps to maintain all the facilities there.

So if you and your family enjoy using all aspects of the Playingfields and you would be prepared to give up – literally – a few hours a year, contact me on 211403 and I'll talk you through it. Diana Hawke

Boxford Gardening Society

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 18 November 2008

Chairman's Report: Maggie Thorpe explained Roger Molyneux's unfortunate absence and read the following report:

We met in September 2007 to form this Society and held our first meeting in October 2007. An excellent year followed with 10 monthly talks and a coach outing to Anglesey Abbey in May and 2 garden visits, one to a member's garden and one a follow-up visit to our speaker Rod Leeds' garden. Several of our speakers waived their fees in order to help get us off the ground and this was much appreciated and gave us time to get a bit of money behind us to cover speakers' expenses in the future. Our year will now run from January to November and we are offering a £1 reduction in the annual membership fee - £9 instead of £10 if you pay before the end of January. It would help if you would please send your cheque to our Membership Secretary, Elizabeth Wagener, with the renewal form which will come to you by post about the beginning of December.

We would like more help from members please – thank you to those who volunteered to take a turn making tea – there will be several other tasks as well in the future, for instance Finlay would like help putting out chairs and clearing up afterwards. If you will kindly tick the box on your renewal form, we can then make up a rota of helpers.

Events for next year are well planned – do please pick up the new 2009 Programme and if there are any visitors here tonight who would like to join, please see Elizabeth Wagener who has with her forms for 2009 membership.

Roger would wish me to ask you to offer thanks to the members of Committee who have given a great deal of time and effort over the past year to ensure our new Boxford Gardening Society prospers.

Newton Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

House to House collection	£739.19
Saracens Head	£34.98
Golf Club competition	£52.00
Golf Club Collection	£23.74
Newton Village Green Trust	£100.00
All Saints Church Collection	£57.60

Mu gratefull thanks to all who have once again given so generously to this worthy cause Harry Buckledee

KNIT AND NATTER AFTERNOONS

As so many people in the village are now knitting all year for the shoebox appeal we wondered if anyone is interested in spending a couple of hours at Mary's house once a fortnight. Bring your knitting (it doesn't have to be for the shoeboxes), have a cup of tea and have a good old natter at the same time! We have heard of other villages who do the same and people really enjoy themselves. We would meet on Monday afternoons once a fortnight from 2pm to 4pm to alternate with Boxford Over-60's club. If anyone is interested please call either Ann Plorber on 210581 or Shirley Watling on 210024. We will be at Mary's house on Monday 2nd February at 2pm. Please come and join us.

Boxford Drama Group Cinderella 2008

Once again another four nights of triumph for this group of devoted luvviess. The music, the comedy, the costumes all combined to make up four magical nights, four full houses, a meal never to be forgotten in the nicest possible way and nearly 400 happy punters.

We couldn't ask for more. So once again thank you all, we couldn't do it without you

Derek and Vic

BOXFORD BOWLS CLUB 100 CLUB WINNERS FOR DECEMBER:

1st Ray White - £48; 2nd Margaret Adams - £18;
3rd Mike Platten - £9.

BOXFORD BOUNTY

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

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

1st Boxford Brownies, 1st Boxford Guides, Boxford Netball Club Carpet Bowls Club, Edwardstone Village Hall, Breast Cancer Care Ladies Bowls Club, Over Sixties Club, Boxford Tennis Club Boxford Spinney, Edwardstone Mill Green Trust, Friends Of Boxford School, Sunflower Playgroup, BoxRiver Club, Bowls Club, Boxford Playingfields, Boxford Village Hall, Boxford Rovers, Boxford United Charities

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

The prizes for each draw are:

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

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

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

Or ring Mark on 01787 211596 e-mail mark.miller@talktalk.net and we will arrange a call from your local collector.

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

The Boxford Bounty is organised on behalf of Boxford Community Council
registered charity No 304862



1 BEDROOM FLAT ASH STREET, BOXFORD

The Council have a one bedroom well maintained first floor flat to let in Ash Street, Boxford. The flat comprises, entrance hall, living room, kitchen, and bathroom with walk-in shower.

The flat can either be let on the basis of sheltered housing, with the full support of an on-call Scheme Manager, or if preferred, as a non- sheltered flat to anyone over 50 with a quiet and settled lifestyle.

If you are interested in renting this property please contact:-

Janet Carter
Lettings Officer
Babergh District Council
Corks Lane
Hadleigh
01473 825765

Soap Box

HADLEIGH DENTAL SURGERY

01473 823092

17/19 HIGH STREET, HADLEIGH

P. J. B. WILSON BDS, LDS, RCS

G. SINGH BDS (HONS)

& ASSOCIATES

WWW.HADLEIGHDENTAL.CO.UK

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- IN HOUSE HYGIENIST
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- EVENING & SATURDAY MORNING APPOINTMENTS

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www.ukayfuels.co.uk Fax 01473 828332

MATTOCK MOTORS NEW TESTING BAY

We are happy to have invested in another MOT testing bay. (We now have 2) our new bay is an automated test bay, where we can accommodate camper vans (subject to height)

We supply and fit tyres at very competitive prices. We are rarely beaten on our price; and there are no hidden charges.

Please ask for a quote for any job so you know what the final bill will be.

Accident repairs- let us quote these for you. The insurance companies often try to insist that you take your car to a company that they specify. You do not have to do this and can insist your vehicle is repaired at a garage of your choice.

- All class 4 MOT tests carried out on site
- Diagnostic work carried out on most makes and models of vehicles including light commercials
- Tyres
- Exhausts
- Batteries
- Air con re-gas and leak detection service
- Winter checks
- Brakes
- Full steering geometry checks including camber and caster
- General servicing and repairs to most makes and models, including head gaskets, clutches, welding etc (including light commercials)
- Breakdown and recovery service

Vehicles still under manufacturers warranty –

We are able to service these vehicles using approved parts, the main dealers don't want

you to know this! Block exemption allows independent garages to carryout servicing and maintenance on vehicles without invalidating the vehicles warranty provided the garage use parts that are of matching quality to the vehicle manufacturers, and follow the vehicles service schedule – like they say, why pay more?

We are able to collect and deliver locally, alternatively we can loan you a vehicle, there may be a small charge for this to cover the insurance.

Any question or query just call in or ring us on 01787 211394, and Richard, Michael or Martin will be happy to help.

Opening times:

Mon – Fri 8.30AM to 5.30PM,
Saturday 8.30 to 12 noon.



Richard, Joy, Michael and Martin would like to wish
all our customers, past and present,
a happy and healthy Christmas and new year.

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





Above: Liz Martland De Alvis, a relative newcomer to Boxford, at the recent exhibition of paintings of local scenes in Mary's house



Above: The Bounty Hunters, Mary, Val and Gay are present a cheque for £1000 to to Heather Buxton from St Helena Hospice. The money was raised at the Great Snail Race 2008.



Above: Members of the excellent Boxford School Choir performing at the schools Nativity Play.



Above and below: The winter of 1947 in Boxford. Volunteers clearing the road at Sand Hill



LOCAL FITNESS CLASSES

Many of us lead sedentary lives, enforcing the need to be more active in our spare time in order to keep our heart healthy and our bones strong. Two classes available in Boxford are aimed at helping you achieve just that - the **Spinney at 8.30 am on Tuesdays** for a gentle but thorough workout and the school hall at **7.00pm on Wednesdays** for a faster, stronger session.

Commencing 6th & 7th January 2009
(open to men and women)

**Qualified for 20 years, BACR, PSI, Exercise Professional
Maureen Cooling 01787 211822**

Wot's On

Boxford Community Council Fun and Games Night

Saturday 31st January 2009 at Boxford Village Hall

Once again we will be holding our annual Indoor Fun and Games Night challenge in the Village Hall. Teams of 8 contestants will battle through the various games and mindbenders striving for the prestigious title of Fun and Games Champions for 2009. A fun night is promised for all and we will be having a licensed bar and refreshments. The evening will commence at 7.30pm for registration with first round of games at 7.50pm. Ticket prices will be £40 per team, £5 per head.

Our limit is 16 teams so if you don't want to be disappointed, please contact David Gasson on 210796, Stephanie Atkins on 210444 or Doug Impett on 210035 or Peter Hibben on 210819, we will list you on first come first served basis.

We would like to get all teams listed before Christmas if possible so ask your help in a swift reply.

If anybody is not in a team but would like to come and help then please give *Peter Hibben* a ring on 210819.

GENTLE YOGA

Thursday mornings 10.15am -11.15am

An ancient discipline suitable for all abilities; by use of postures, breath control and some meditation, eases stiffness, relieves stress, calms the mind thus enabling a sense of well being. An enjoyable and relaxed approach guided by Heather Abel a qualified tutor for some 25 years.

Thursday mornings 10.15am -11.15am at Boxford Village Hall cost £5 per session. Wear loose clothing, bring a mat and preferably have only a light breakfast that day.

Phone Heather. 01787211765

LOCAL LADY required with own transport for part-time childcare and light housework.
Please call Mrs Long (01787) 248337

Boxford Study Centre Presents

A ten week course of lectures by
Graham Slimming

Lives of the Great Painters

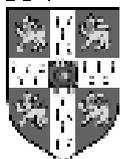
When Vasari published his "Lives of the most excellent Painters, Sculptors and Architects" in 1550 the modern discipline of Art History came into being. This course will examine Vasari's achievements and the impact of his book, and the continuing importance of biography as a method of studying the history of art and artists.

Starts: Tuesday 13th January 2009

Venue: Boxford School

Tel: 01206 337334

Fee: £45



University of Cambridge
Institute of Continuing Education

BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S
INDOOR
FUN & GAMES NIGHT

Refreshments **Licensed Bar!**

BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL
7.30PM, SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 2009

Tickets £5.00
Teams of Eight
To book a team, please call 01787 210819, 210444 or 210035

Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

A 10 week course on Monday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm
First meeting at The Fleece pub, Boxford on
Monday January 12th 2009

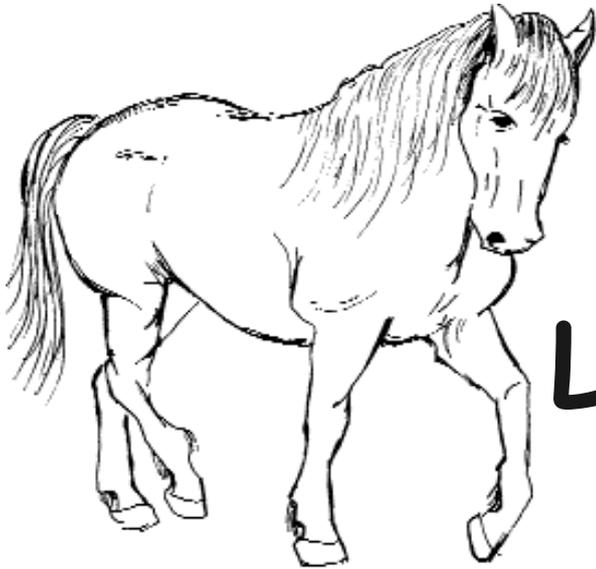
Tutor: Mathew Carter

THE MYTHOLOGY OF AMERICA

-the frontier, the hero, the American Dream
in novels by Herman Melville, Kurt Vonnegut
Cormac McCarthy and Joseph Heller

Fee £45

Reading list and further information from
Mrs Etain Todds 01787 210344
Moat Cottage,
Edwardstone, CO10 5PY



The White Locally brewed beer!

Christmas opening hours & events

Eve 12noon till 12 midnight (Sherry and Mince Pies on the WH from 6pm)

Xmas Day 12 noon till 2pm

Boxing Day 12 noon till 5pm

27th 28th 12 noon till 12pm

29th & 30th 5pm till 12 pm

New Years Eve 12 noon till 3pm & 5pm till 1am

New Years Day 12 noon till 5pm

New Years Eve Silly Hats Party from 6pm with prizes

Christmas Folk evening 28th December 8.30pm

Christmas Blues evening 30th December 8.30pm

Mill Green Brewery's new brews -

-Bulls Cross Bitter (3.5% abv dark and hoppy)

- Barley Bird Bitter (3.7% abv smooth and malty)

-Loveleys Fair (4.0% abv pale & aromatic)

-Mawkin Mild (2.9% abvblack chocolate malt flavour@ £2.25 pint)

Normal events -

£2 Tuesday (for most beers every Tuesday).

Folk Night every second Wednesday.

Blues Night every fourth Thursday.

Holiday Cottages and Camping.

Gavin and Amy

Tel. 01787211211

www.edwarstonewhitehorse.co.uk

Keep your eye on the website for details & live music.

Wot's On

FILMS AT POLSTEAD VILLAGE:

Becoming Jane

This is the moving and entertaining account of the love story that lay behind Jane Austen's mature novels. Imaginatively based on actual events, and hints in her letters to her sister, the film reveals how Jane was unable to marry the man she loved and eventually could not bring herself to accept the man she found unattractive. Beautifully filmed and superbly acted by a strong cast (Anne Hathaway as Jane, James McAvoy as Thomas Lefroy, Julie Walters as Mrs Austen, James Cromwell as Mr Austen and Maggie Smith as Lady Gresham), the film creates a romantic insight behind the sad reality of Jane's later life. (Her masterpieces were still being published anonymously when she died at 42; and they only became widely known after being republished sixteen years later, since when they have never been out of print.)

Doors open at 7-00pm, films start at 7-30pm. Licensed Bar, teas, coffee and Suffolk icecream available.

Tickets £3-50, can be booked in advance at Polstead Community Shop or by ringing Sue Wigglesworth on 01787 210029.

Boxford Sunflower Playgroup

Will be having an open afternoon on Friday 30th January 2009 12.30 – 3.00pm if you would like to see what we do and what we would be able to offer you and your children.

The playgroup was established in 1973 and has offered good quality childcare since. We have long standing members of staff so are able to offer continuity and care that we find parents value.

The playgroup offers a high ratio of qualified staff and has been praised by outside agencies for the staff's dedication to the playgroup and the development of early years children.

The playgroup is Ofsted Inspected and part of the Early years education plan so are registered for educational grants for children from the term after they are 3 years of age.

We were very pleased with our last Inspection in September 2007, which was very good, with Ofsted saying that the attractive environment is well maintained and the organisation of the good quality resources provides an effective learning environment for young children.

All staff of the playgroup attend regular courses to ensure that they are informed of all aspects of childcare. All staff also attend the Ofsted required courses not just an allocated member.

The welcoming atmosphere of the playgroup is enhanced by the quiet playing fields that the pavilion over looks, we have sole use of the pavilion during playgroup hours and appreciate the support that we are given by the Playing fields management committee.

We have good links with the local primary schools and offer our support to them at fundraising events.

We are able to offer either all day 9.00am – 3.30pm or morning / afternoon sessions for children aged 2 – 5 years of age.

For further information on a wonderful village playgroup in an ideal setting please contact Moira or Polly on 01787 211363 during playgroup hours or visit our web site www.boxford-sunflower.co.uk E m a i l : info@boxford-sunflower.co.uk

EAST ANGLIA POTATO DAY 2009

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, 9.30am to 2pm

VENUE: Stonham Barns, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket, IP14 6AT. (On A1120 just east of junction with A140. follow brown tourist signs.)

Approx 120 varieties (around 20% organic) of seed potato available to purchase as individual tubers. The general range will cost 12p per tuber and the premium range 20p. At 12 noon an Expert's Forum will answer questions on a potato theme; other attractions include seeds, books, tools, chip-tasting, refreshments, produce and a home composting display. There will also be a SEED-SWAP table where you can swap unwanted seed of your own for something else that you fancy.

Visit our new website www.eapd.btik.com for more information, including the list of varieties ordered.

Contact 01787 375153 for more information.

This event is organised by Ipswich and Suffolk Organic Gardeners and Norfolk Organic Group.

Boxford Over 60's Club

The club resumes it's meetings on Moday January 26th 2009 in the Village Hall at 2.30pm

We look forward to seeing you all next year and welcome anyone who would like to join us with a view to becoming a member.

If you are thinking of recycling your Christmas Cards after Christmas I would love to have them at the club where I can use part of them to add to the Christmas Child shoe boxes next year

We would like to wish you a Very Happy Christmas, Shirley (210024) and Barbara (210936)

Gainsborough House Print Shop

In 2009 to mark the 30th anniversary of the foundation of Gainsborough House Print Workshop the following events will take place:

14th to 17th May: Gainsborough House Print Workshop Exhibition at St Peters Church, Sudbury

Three Saturdays in June: Gainsborough House Open Studios, Print Workshop. 23rd to 28th June: Gainsborough House Fine Art Print Fair, Pond Gallery, Snape.

The Quay Theatre, Sudbury

Jack and the Beanstalk

Friday 19th December to Saturday 3rd January 2009

LOOK BEHIND YOU... and you'll see the "Booking for Christmas" signs going up everywhere. Sudbury Dramatic Society at the Quay Theatre is no exception, as you can BOOK NOW for our family pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. Written by our very own Sian Notley. Box Office 01787 374745 www.quaytheatre.org.uk afraid to ask for.

BOXFORD W I

Our December Meeting was at Mary's House where we enjoyed a Tea provided by the committee and games provided by Heather and Hen

Our Group Carol service on Thursday 4th December at Polstead Church was well attended where over eighty members enjoyed Carols and Readings and of course super home made eats and tea provided by Polstead W I

Our next Meeting will be our Christmas Meal at the Fleece Boxford on January 7th

QUIZ NIGHT:

QUIZ NIGHT, 14 MARCH 2009:

We are holding a quiz night in Edwardstone Parish Hall on Saturday 14 March 2009, 7 p.m. for 7 30 p.m. Tickets £5 each, to include light refreshments. Tables for up to 6 people. Licensed bar available plus raffle. To book tables, please contact Daphne Clark on 01787 210698.



The Pavilion, Homefield, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 5PB
www.boxford-sunflower.co.uk 01787 211363

Open Afternoon

Friday 30th January

12.30 - 3.00 pm

Loves coming here

So warm and welcoming

Lovely atmosphere

These are just a few of the things that have been said about us, if you would like to find out more please visit.

We are registered for children from
2 - 5 years of age

Last Ofsted Inspection GOOD

Part of the early years Foundation stage curriculum

All Day, Morning, Afternoon sessions
and Lunch club offered

WHITE HORSE CAMRA PUB OF THE MONTH



Above: Kevin Waterson, Chairman of West Suffolk CAMRA presents the CAMRA Suffolk Pub of the Month award to new landlords Gavin Barnes and Amy Mitchell. Left front with Kevin is John Norton who owns the White Hart together with his son who runs the new brewery. Others in the photograph are members of Suffolk CAMRA.

“Suffolk Pub of the Month” is an award presented to the landlord or manager of a public house in the Suffolk area in honour of their dedication to real ale. This can be by innovation, returning a pub to "cask ale", introduction of "Guest Beers", consistently high quality beers, sympathetic restoration or any other worthwhile act that promotes real ale in line with the aims of CAMRA. Despite its name, the award is not allocated each month but only after a pub is nominated by a branch member and approved by a branch meeting. In a similar fashion, there are awards for the Pub of the Year and Club of the Year.

PILATES CLASSES

This Autumn & Winter

in

Lindsey

on

Tuesday morning

Pilates may be new to you or you may have some experience and be looking to return to Pilates. Whatever your level of fitness there is a class for you.

For an Information pack and to book an Assessment, Beginners Workshop or to join an established class

call

Peter Heath – Living Pilates

www.livingpilates.co.uk

Phone 01473 429477

or email pjh.pilates@keme.co.uk

“If your spine is inflexibly stiff at thirty, you are old. If it is completely flexible at sixty, you are young”. *Joseph Pilates*

suffolk digital cinema

network

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Becoming Jane

(PG) 120mins

starring: Anne Hathaway

James McAvoy Thomas Lefroy Julie

Walters Maggie Smith

FRIDAY 16 JANUARY

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REMAINS OF GROTON POUND TO BE PRESERVED

Residents and visitors alike have recently witnessed a brick wall emerging from the ivy undergrowth at the green triangle of the War Memorial by the Village Sign in Pound Lane. Now all can be revealed!!

Groton Parish Council are delighted to tell you that this is the last remaining wall of Groton Pound, which consisted of a four sided brick compound approximately 20 feet square and 6 feet high, with a wooden five bar gate at the entrance.

Vice – Chairman Jeremy Osborne has researched the history of the village pound on behalf of Groton Parish Council. The name derives from the Anglo Saxon word pund, meaning an enclosure) and is one of the most ancient English institutions, with references in documents dating back to the 12th century. It was used to keep animals that had been rounded up after straying, or had been taken as distress (a seizure of property in recompense for a debt in order to enforce payment). The animals were kept under the care of the pinder or pound keeper until they were reclaimed or released and any necessary fees or fines paid. The pound keeper was initially appointed and controlled by the Lord of the Manor and later by the Church authorities.

The presence of pounds, many of which have disappeared, is often indicated (as here in Groton) by names such as Pound Lane and Pound Field.

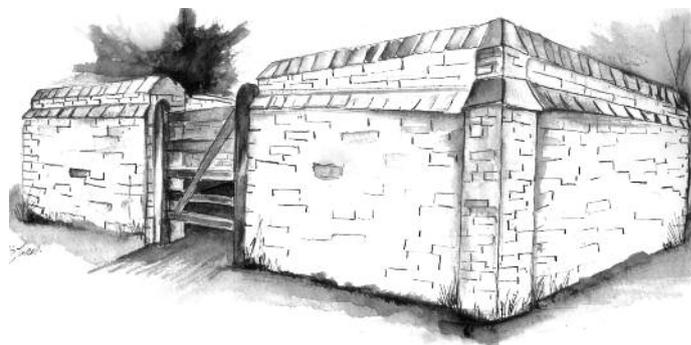
It is very difficult to date pounds, as they were not important enough constructions to be recorded and, here in Suffolk, many were timber built and have rotted away. The few that survive (such as those in Beccles, Blundeston, Kedington and Wrentham) are brick replacements, probably dating from the 18th or 19th centuries. Pounds remained in use until the late 19th or early 20th century.

As this is such an important part of Groton's historical heritage the Councillors are working to preserve this wall as well as have its' historical significance highlighted with a plaque. Councillor David Elliott with his extensive local knowledge is working with the Parish Clerk and Councillor Mark Mayhew to produce an article for the website. In the meantime if any local residents have any photographs of the Pound in its original state or have any historical knowledge relating to the Pound please contact any member of the Council.

Sandra Grey, Clerk to the Groton Parish Council



The remains of the Groton Pound



Artist's impression of how the Groton Pound might have looked by E.S Jones

Christmas Market 19th December 2008

6.00pm in the courtyard of the Fleece

In the courtyard of The Fleece in Boxford, come along and visit Santa, enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, listen to carol singers, buy last minute Christmas gifts, support local charities and generally enter into the Christmas Spirit.



THE FLEECE

Broad Street, Boxford

Tel 01787 210247

Jay, Lewis and all the staff at The Fleece would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

Xmas Fayre Friday 19th December at 6pm

Live Music
Upstairs at The Fleece
Saturday 20th December
The Threat

Newly resurfaced courtyard

Take Away Fish & Chips every evening

Forthcoming Events Diary

December

19 Christmas Market
 22 Newton Whist Drive

The Fleece
 Newton Village Hall 7.30pm

January

7 Boxford W I Christmas Meal
 16 Becoming Jane Polstead Village Hall
 20 Boxford Gardening Society Karen Kenny
 26 Boxford Over 60's Club

Boxford Fleece
 7pm
 Village Hall 7.30pm

2.30pm

30 Boxford Sunflower Playgroup Open Afternoon
 31 Boxford Community Council Fun and games night

12.30 - 3pm
 Boxford Village Hall 7.30pm

February

2 Knit and Natter
 4 Boxford W I Grant Elliott on Monopoly
 7 Friends of Boxford School Quiz Night
 17 Boxford Gardening Society Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson

Mary's House 2pm
 Village Hall 2pm
 Village Hall 7.30pm

March

4 Boxford W I Roger Loose Talk and Slides on Boxford
 14 Quiz Night Edwardstone Parish Hall
 17 Boxford Gardening Society Ian Limmer
 21 Boxford Gardening Society Daffodil Walk

Village Hall 2pm
 7pm
 Village Hall 7.30pm
 Boxford 2.00pm

April

21 Boxford Gardening Society Andrew Tokeley

Village Hall 7.30pm

May

31 Boxford Gardens Open

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KERSEY MILL NEWSLETTER



Whats On

December 2008

31st - New Years Eve Party

January 2009

29th - Race Night in Aid of the RNLi

February 2009

5th - Girls Night - Amazing medium demonstration by Janey Davidson

- EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT, JAZZ

....our new opening times for our:-

Hair Salon

Tues 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Wed & Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thur 11a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sat 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Beauty Salon

Mon & Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tue, Wed, Thur 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Volume 2

1st January 2009

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(See more about her on her website www.ki-lin.co.uk)

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(£10 booked in advance or £12 on the night). Bar opens 6 p.m. Demonstration starts 7p.m. FREE buffet in

the interval and our usual disco / karaoke by Kiss afterwards - **A TRULY GREAT NIGHT OUT!**

NEW YEAR - NEW YOU - NORDIC WALKING!!!!!!

Starting in January, Nordic Walking is the fun way to exercise outdoors.

Based on cross country skiing, it is a great way to get out and enjoy the beautiful countryside around Kersey Mill, at the same time getting a fantastic workout.

You can be as energetic as you

like, making it suitable for just about everyone.

The groups will be led by a qualified instructor, and will finish at the Mill in time for lunch!

Kersey Mill GYM are introducing a Pay-As-You-Go scheme at £3.50 a visit. Come and work out in a

cheery bright atmosphere with no strings attached.

Also - Slimlife Lifestyle Coaching - Mindquest Hypnotherapy - Fitball & Circuit Classes - Kickstart weight-loss programme.

RACE NIGHT IN AID OF THE RNLi 29TH JANUARY 2009 TICKETS £15 - 7:30 P.M. START



There will be 8 big screen races along with the Tote Bookies so you can have a flutter or two! The evening will also include a sumptuous buffet. We will be holding a big prize draw and a

fully licensed bar will of course be available. Get some friends, family and colleagues together and have a night out! People can bet on races. Good prizes and winnings to be won!

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A WELL DESERVED SELL OUT FOR CINDERELLA



The marriage of Cinderella to her Prince Charming

Carpenter, daughter of that old pair of luvvies Will and Elaine Carpenter. She showed the confidence of a much older trouper, a real chip off the old block, and what about that cat!!

What amazed everyone was the half time spread, a full Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings and Mince tart and cream to follow. How Jan Graves and Di Butler, assisted by Veronica Hobbs, coped with almost 200 meals to produce over three nights I do not know, but they are to be congratulated on the exceptionally high standard of their food and its presentation. Where can you go to see a great show and get food like that for £12.00. Congratulations to everyone for a job well done.

Ed

I thought for a moment that it was just me! So I asked other Panto Go'ers and they agreed that Cinderella was the best Boxford Drama Group Pantomime ever. The casting, costumes, timing, scenery, word perfect actors! brilliant musical direction and a wonderful script and direction from our own Bill Horne combined together to make this a truly great pantomime (you did say the cheque was in the post didn't you Bill).

Yes even Derek, *I can't remember my lines*, Butler got it right. His one long pause was perfectly timed and even fooled the prompt. The audience were waiting for it and it got the longest laugh of the evening. Well done Derek. the Butler and Rice duo are rapidly becoming the Morcambe and Wise of Boxford and long may they continue.

Cinderella had the perfect innocent beauty for the part and the ugly sisters, well what can I say! One newcomer shone out, Hannah



Butler and Rice, the famous comedy duo

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The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton

Rector: The Reverend David Matthews, The Rectory, School Hill, Boxford CO10 5JT
Tel: 210752; e-mail: david.matthews49@tiscali.co.uk

Day off: Monday

Readers: 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

Lay Elder: David Lamming, Lodge Farmhouse, Groton CO10 5EJ
Tel & Fax: 210360; 07968 791135; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com

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

Benefice house: Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford CO10 5NZ.

To the people of the Box River Benefice,

I was quite saddened recently when a group of children were interviewed on television and asked what the celebration of Christmas was about. Only one of the children interviewed knew it was about more than presents, holidays and food. But while this child knew it had a spiritual significance, he didn't know the details. I get mildly annoyed when I see those who have perverted one of history's most important events and one of the foundations of our faith into an orgy of spending and gluttony.

Christmas is a celebration of the fact that God broke into human history not to take control of human affairs but to give us a few pointers as to what being fully human is all about. God breaks into our history in the presence of the Christ Child and without any duress gives the people of the time and us an opportunity to revert to type. In computer speak he give us the chance to revert to factory settings once again to become the full human model he designed.

What physically happened with the birth of Christ is that heaven joined with earth in the celebration of new life. As someone once said, "The heavenly realm reaches out to the earthly realm, and the two meet because a child is born." There is a massive expression of joy, which we see recorded in the birth accounts, that has nothing to do with angels, shepherds and wise men. A young woman and her carpenter husband witness the birth of their beloved child. Nothing, not the squalor of the animal shelter nor the cold of the night can dampen the miracle of birth. In keeping with the low-key birth of the baby Jesus, a group of shepherds, visited by angels suddenly turned up to see this wonderful birth.

Whether you celebrate the religious or secular Christmas it brings to most of us a feeling of great joy as we gather as family or friends. Whether we accept it or not this is the feeling, which comes from the all embracing love of God, who loves us so much that he gives and gives sacrificially. Christmas is the compassionate heart of God reaching out to the world, which bid us to do the same. He bids us to reach out to the masses of the voiceless, faceless and powerless human beings both on our doorsteps and far and wide.

Human dignity is something we need to affirm in the midst of the greed and gluttony, which can so easily take over this season. We can have little sense of personal dignity while others are hungry, without shelter and refugees. They mirror the Christmas story of Mary and Joseph forced to travel to a strange place and all we need to do is replace the name Bethlehem with Darfur, Congo and the many other areas of strife in our world.

Let us enjoy the Christmas season and celebrate. Let us celebrate first the birth of the Christ child and God's intervention in our world. Let us celebrate even in these difficult economic times what we have knowing that no matter how little, it is enough and things will get better. Let us thank God that we enjoy the fundamental riches of liberty, security and equality. Gather your family and friends and celebrate with them and because of them. But at the same time spare a thought for those who have nothing and have nothing to celebrate.

God's richest blessings for a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

David



THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwardens:

Ruth Kingsbury, as Christopher above

Peter Patrick, Amberley,

White Street Green. tel 210346

Thought for the season: For millions of people, the Christmas season means nothing more than parties, gifts, decorations, and time off work. For Christians, however, this time of year is a happy reminder of the hope we have because of Jesus Christ.

Before Jesus came, God seemed distant, hidden in the Holy of Holies in the temple, accessible only to the high priest. Worshippers wondered whether their sacrifices were acceptable. They doubted their salvation.

Christ means hope—to the person out of work, to the struggling single mother, to the dying believer. Even if you're just slogging your way through the disappointments of life if you have Jesus, you have hope. And he is not a false hope, a childish fairy tale that we wish will have a happy ending. When Christ rose from the dead, that ended the argument. Period. Our hope in him is solid and it is real.

Christmas is a renewal of that hope. It reconfirms it for us if our vision has grown dim. It was settled long ago, so we don't have to doubt any more. Jesus is the fulfilment of our hope, our deepest longings come true.

Forthcoming Fund-raising events for Church Funds:

Ladies Lunch Club. The next "Ladies Lunch" will be in the New Year, on Thursday 8th January 2009 at 12.30 pm - at the home of Ruth Common, Causeway House, Boxford.

Boxford Gardens Open 2009 It's not too early to be thinking about next year's Boxford Gardens Open – on Sunday 31st May.

The Box River Club Meets in the school hall on Friday afternoons at 3.15pm in term time. We then go into church for the remainder of our meeting & finish about 4.15pm. We warmly welcome all children to join the Box River Club for games, activities, crafts & learning about Jesus. Our next Family Service will be on Sunday, January 4th at 9.30 am. All are welcome especially those who perhaps are more used to more traditional services. You will actually find our worship challenging & fun.

The Bible Study Group Next meets at 47 Swan Street on Monday 12th January at 8.00pm, where we continue our study of St. Luke's Acts of the Apostles. All are most welcome to come along.

The House Group Meets at 7.30 pm at Brook House, Fen Street, Boxford- 1st & 3rd Thursdays each month

Christmas season worship at St. Mary's Parish Church:-

24th Christmas Eve – Midnight Holy Communion at 11.30pm.

25th Christmas Day – 10.00 am Family Service - Everyone Welcome

Choir News The choir meets Friday evenings at 7.30pm in church. New members are always most welcome.

Smile Lines Three boys are in the school playground boasting about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100." The third boy says, "I got you both beaten. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes six people to collect all the money!"



THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:

Jan Paul Willow Farm, Edwardstone

Tel: 210972

David Saddleton 8 The Winthrops, Edwardstone

Tel: 211161

QUIZ NIGHT, 14 MARCH 2009:

We are holding a quiz night in Edwardstone Parish Hall on Saturday 14 March 2009, 7:00 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. Tickets £5 each, to include light refreshments. Tables for up to 6 people. Licensed bar available plus raffle. To book tables, please contact Daphne Clark on 01787 210698. In aid of Edwardstone Parish Hall.

Rotas:

	Sidesman	Cleaning	Flowers
Jan 4:	Mrs Paul	Mrs Moore & Mrs Paul	Mrs Morris
Jan 11:	Visiting	Mrs Moore & Mrs Paul	"
Jan 18:	Mrs Paul	Mr & Mrs Saddleton	"
Jan 25:	Visiting	Mr & Mrs Saddleton	"



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens: *Jayne Foster:*

Ramblers, Bulmer Lane. 211360

Sue Edwards:

Cotlee, The Street, Groton; tel 210785

Sidesman needed

We are looking for someone to fill a gap in the Sidesman rota. If you'd like to get more involved in Church services this is an ideal way in. Each sidesman takes on the role for one month of the year – that's just two services in most months. If you think this could be for you contact Jayne Foster (211360) or Sue Edwards (210785). Full training provided!

PCC MEETING:

Wednesday 28th January at 7.30 pm at Mary's House, Boxford.

Groton Cheese and Wine

On 6 December, parishioners, local friends and some expatriates gathered at the Village Hall for the annual Cheese and Wine party. As usual, it was a wonderful way to mark the beginning of the Christmas season – good food, good fellowship and good fun. The team of ladies who prepared the delicious buffet excelled themselves again, providing an enormous range of savouries to tempt the palate. No Groton event would be complete without the usual "Pat and Gerald" bar, and this time they brought along the delightful three week old Molly, who charmed us all. Bob led the customary auction in his own inimitable style – as he said, it was billed to be a quiet auction, but that would have been foreign to his own instincts – and David Lamming persuaded each of us to invest in the raffle.

Apart from being an enjoyable social event, the evening raised about £700 for church funds. Sincere thanks are due from all who were there to everybody who helped to organise the occasion and so foster the Groton community spirit.

Brian Jones

Rotas:

Sidesman with Sacristan:	Mrs McCorkell
Flowers:	Mrs Foster
Cleaning:	Mrs Fearis & Mrs Foster



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwarden:

Diana Stock,

12 Links View. Tel: 312828

John Turner, '

Severn', Church Road. Tel: 372677



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens

Vacant

Rotas:

	Sidesman	Flowers
Jan 4:	Mr Squirrell	Mrs Ewen
Jan 11:	Visiting	Mrs Eddington
Jan 18:	Mrs Pell & Mr Bowden	Mrs Pell
Jan 25:	Visiting	Mrs Grunsell

General Church News

From the Rector:

As you are aware Joan and I have been through a very difficult time and have made some decisions, which have ultimately been very costly. What the future holds for us is quite uncertain at this point in time. However, I want to reassure you, the people of the benefice, that I will be doing my best to ensure your needs are met. As we spend time reflecting and asking the Holy Spirit's guidance on the way forward, whether here or elsewhere we would appreciate your patience and your prayers.

David

MARY'S HOUSE BOOKINGS: There is now a new Bookings Diary for 2009 in Mary's House. Would anyone making a booking for a meeting or event please ensure that the details, including a contact name and telephone number, are entered in the diary. Any inquiries about bookings to Pauline or David Lamming (tel 01787 210360).

BOX RIVER BENEFICE TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Every four months the diocese produces an Intercession Paper with a calendar suggesting people and places to pray for each day, both in our own diocese and in the wider Anglican Communion, in particular in our link diocese of Kagera in Tanzania. During the period 2 – 23 January the diocesan focus is on Sudbury deanery, with our benefice and its ministry team mentioned specifically on Thursday 8 January. On 23 January we are asked to pray especially for the church schools in the deanery.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 18-25 JANUARY:

"Reconcile Your People" is the theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with services and events locally arranged by Churches Together in Sudbury & District (CTiSD).

The week begins with a united service at the United Reformed Church in Sudbury at **6.30 pm on Sunday 18 January**.

The times and venues of other services/events are as follows:

Monday 19 January, 12.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Great Cornard.

Tuesday 20 January, 7.30 pm at Sudbury Baptist Church.

Wednesday 21 January, 12.30 pm at St Gregory's Church.

Thursday 22 January, 12.30 pm at the Friends Meeting House, Friars Street.

Friday 23 January, 12.30 pm at Sudbury Roman Catholic Church, The Croft.

Saturday 24 January, 8.00 am to 9.30 am at Cornard Christian Fellowship, Broom Street (A light breakfast followed by a time of prayer.)

Churches Together in Sudbury & District - Calendar From December 2008

Christmas Afternoon, 25th Dec, 2.30pm in St Peter's – A Time to Remember & Be Thankful.

Next year:

18th to 25th January 2009 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Saturday 28th February & Sunday 1st March - Birmingham Salvation Army Choir visits Sudbury.

Sunday 10th May 2009 – United Service for Christian Aid Week, 6.30 pm at St Gregory's Church. Speaker: Mr Colin Kemp, from CA Headquarters.

10th to 16th May 2009 – Christian Aid Week.

Sunday 5th July 2009 – Praise on Market Hill. (Not 12th July).

Sunday 18th October 2009 - United Service.

Sunday 6th December 2009 – 'Light up a Life' United Service for Hospice.

The Church At Worship

Sunday 4th	EPIPHANY		
Little Waldingfield	8.00	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Edwardstone	10.30	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Boxford	9.30	Box River Club	TBD
	18.30	Evensong	Chris Kingsbury
Wednesday 7th	10.30	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Little Waldingfield	19.30	Mary's House Home Communion*	Tim Harbord
Sunday 11th	Baptism of Christ		
Groton	8.00	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Newton Green	9.30	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Boxford	11.00	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Abel
Wednesday 14th	10.30	Holy Communion Mary's House	The Revd. David Matthews
Sunday 18th	Second Sunday of Epiphany		
Edwardstone	8.00	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Little Waldingfield	9.30	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Boxford	11.00	Family Service with Baptism	Chris Kingsbury
Wednesday 21st	10.30	Holy Communion Mary's House	The Revd. David Matthews
Little Waldingfield	19.30	Compline	Tim Harbord
Sunday 25th	Third Sunday of Epiphany		
Boxford	8.00	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Groton	9.30	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Newton Green	9.30	Morning Prayer	Diana Stock
Boxford	11.00	Holy Communion	The Revd. David Matthews
Wednesday 28th	10.30	Holy Communion Mary's House	The Revd. David Matthews

Please note we are in Year B of the Lectionary

Copy Date for Church News section in the February 2009 Box River News:

Please, NO LATER THAN 14th January

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

Thank you. Sue Edwards. 210785
email address: SEDWARDS1946@aol.com

MARY'S HOUSE, Swan Street, Boxford

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30 to 12:30

Drop in for a chat and a coffee Everyone welcome

Below: Photographs from Grotons Nativity courtesy David Lamming



NEWTONS CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



This years Newton Christmas Coffee Morning was held in the newly decorated and extended Village Hall. The Hall has a feeling more like a home than a converted school and the new Coffee and Meetings area at the back of the hall is most welcoming.

With stalls selling cakes, Christmas table decorations and craft items there was also probably the biggest raffle I have ever attended with it taking at least 20 minutes to complete the draw for items donated to the hall. The first prize was won by Dawn Bridge who also won the litre bottle of Famous Grouse



ROY HILL GIG A GREAT SUCCESS



The Roy Hill Show at The Fleece on 22nd November and sponsored by The Box River News was a great success despite adverse weather conditions preventing many of those travelling any distance from making the journey. Roy likes the venue so much he plans to return in the spring possibly accompanied by the lead singer of SLADE II, an event that is expected to be sponsored jointly by the Boxford Community Council and the Box River News.

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Christmas Memories

At a recent Luncheon Party I was asked by a new friend if I was still writing? that seemed to give undue importance to my odd thoughts, from time to time, but was kind. Today I am.

When we were first asked to help with, or arrange, social functions for the Church, some forty five years ago, we soon learned that one of the most regular and willing helpers, and the vicars right hand man was a certain Johnny Griggs, one of a large village family, who is named as he was an institution. His main aim was to have sales of every description, which were well supported, in order to make enough money to provide toilets in the village hall, as at that time there were none. On our visits to the cottage, we always enquired after the project and were delighted, after some considerable time, to hear that builders had been contacted and were about to start.

More time passed and when all was accomplished it seemed right to ask Johnny, the main fund raiser, to perform the opening ceremony. The Village Cheese and Wine party was thought to be a suitable venue, so half way through the evening, after a pause in the happy chattering and laughter, Johnny was given the key to the new toilets, opened the door and went in. The we waited and waited, silently, until some flushing of water was greeted with loud applause and Johnny's beaming face appeared saying it was the happiest day of his life! (We had wanted them to be officially 'opened'. though not necessarily 'Christened!').

If you look to the right when entering the gate to the churchyard, several of the Griggs family are together there. There may well still be some in the village, all fondly remembered.

After retiring, Christopher was asked to do more in the church; the vicar asked him to arrange the Carol Service among other things, and would I do something with the children (delighted on both counts). I drove around the village like the Child Catcher and soon had plenty of little girls, but was rather short of boys (one father had two in the garden "Do you want these two?" I asked "You can have them now" was his reply.

It was all all delightful. They dressed at home, then sat by the organ until the appropriate carol and then slowly walked down the aisle and up the centre, no speaking, smiling or waving to Mummy. There was a slight panic one day as a worried mother rushed to the gate as we were going to the church, "Sorry, she can't come, she has the flue". That was Mary's mother! Another mother was wonderful calmly taking the 'Angel' costume off her daughter saying "Now you are going to be Mary, isn't that nice". Apart from the two fifteen year old angels arguing about who was going to be Gabriel and stand up in the pulpit and the year that baby Jesus was left on a kitchen table and a kind father had to rush home and rescue him, all went very smoothly.

We always managed to have four wise men, as a small brother wanted to follow on in his anorak and sat in the centre of the steps in front of the 'stable' tableaux and one year a little grandson from America, joined in with the other children, wearing trainers with flashing lights. Why not? A small boy from the present should have a part at the centre of things.

Have you ever known two elderly readers, both conversing on the lectern, insisting it was their turn to read! Christopher did.

Best wishes for all Christmas Celebrations
Clunis Porteous



These photographs, supplied by Sue Edwards the Church News editor, have been reproduced from a Postcard dating from 20's/ 30's. What's interesting is the pair of cottages near Crown House which are now demolished. Sue wonders if anyone can identify the people standing outside their front doors - only visible when scanned and zoomed!(right) Also - does anyone remember when the extensions on the front of "Byeways" and "Cotlee" were demolished?

BOXFORD SCHOOL PHOTO'S FROM 1949



Miss Chamberlins class of 49

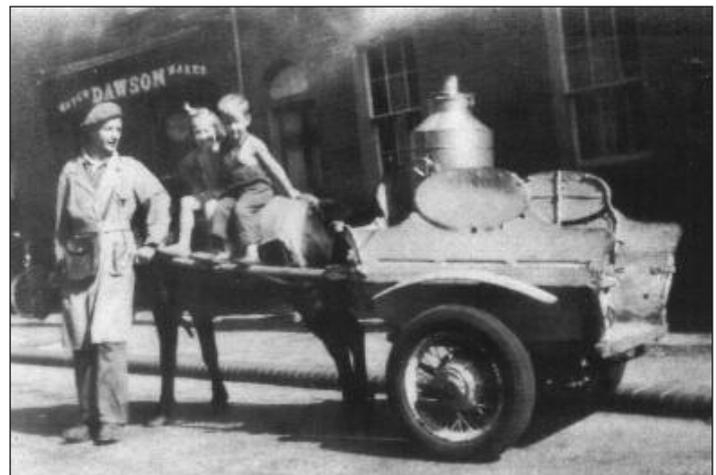
Back: D.Ince, L Meekings, J Sargeant, W Simpson Unknown, M Gant

Middle: Grice, M Smith, Unknown?, P Gant, B King.

Front: J Whitman, M Tricker, K Partridge, D Buckle



Anyone know the names of the above bunch of reprobates, probably also from Circa 1949. the four lads are outnumbered



Above: The milk cart in Swan Street, Boxford probably mid 40's. The milkman was Stan Hughes and the children are Marion and John Sargeant. John supplied the above photographs

WHO IS IT?



In some ways the lawn is the most important part of any flower garden, especially in small. A lush green, well maintained lawn sets the framework for every feature of the garden. Grass is a plant like any other plant in a border and needs just as much care and attention to feeding and watering. When preparing ground for a new lawn it is advisable to put drains in, grass will not thrive in waterlogged conditions. Dig the land as deeply as you would for any other crop. This work is best done in early autumn to allow winter frost and rainfall to break down and consolidate the area ready for seed sowing in April or turf laying. Some excellent lawns are made from seed sowing and it is cheaper than turf but it does give you the choice of grass for your lawn. Turfing is the most expensive way but it gives you an instant lawn. Make sure you buy turf from a reputable firm, one that grows especially for the trade, and you should get turfs full of fibrous roots, consisting of fine grasses free from weeds. If the weather is dry, the turfs will need watering to prevent them drying out and shrinking leaving gaps between the turfs.

At this time of the year some people may be designing a new garden or re-designing their old one. When designing a new garden, privacy is important to most people and this can be achieved by planting high hedges and trees round the perimeter which will also provide shelter. It is important that the height of the trees and hedges should be in proportion to the size of the garden, if too high they will exclude light and create too much shade. Care should be taken not to plant large trees too near your boundary, these will eventually

grow too large and spread onto neighbours property. For most small gardens a 6ft wooden fence is sufficient, it does not take up much space and can be used to support many flowering shrubs and fruit trees. This sort of fence lends itself to the training of fruit trees like apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums and cherries. Training them as espaliers or fans involves bending and training the branches horizontally which has the effect of producing more fruit buds giving a bumper crop from a small space. Also being trained to a fence makes it easy to protect blossoms from late frosts and protect the fruit from birds later on.

Most people like to see something on flower all season in the flower border. This can be achieved by a careful selection of herbaceous plants and dwarf shrubs. The earliest perennials to flower is *Doronicum caucasicum*, will provide a bright splash of yellow daisy flowers from April to June. *Euphorbia polychroma*, will provide colour from June to August, Penstemons will give a good display of spikes of tubular flowers during July and September and there are many varieties to choose from. No garden should be without Pinks, a front of the border plant, which will give a display and provide cut flowers from June until Autumn.

BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL December Draw Results

1st No 184	Colin Lewis	White St Green	£40
2nd No 65	Steven Skinner	c/o Calaise St	£20
3rd No 7	V Whymark	Firs Farm	£10
4th No 75	Susan Palmer	Turks Hall	£5

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Subscribers
Next Draw is on Tuesday January 6th 2009 at the Boxford Bingo

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Boxford School News

Here we go again. As I sit here writing this, the last newsletter of 2008, I am recovering from our first performance on the stage of this year's nativity play *The Grumpy Sheep*. As usual the Angels wriggled, the shepherds danced a jig and the camels gave us all a good laugh but there is something very special about this time of year in school and watching the children's faces as events unfold is always a treat. By contrast the long periods of exhausted silence in the staffroom say everything about dedication and effort everyone puts into ensuring that Christmas for the children is still a very special time.

This year has been a very busy one for us all and on reflection it is difficult to remember a year when so much has happened. Alongside the normal events that take place every year we have been subjected to two major inspections, one from OFSTED and the other from SIAIS the group charged with inspecting the quality of collective worship in church schools. As you will be fully aware we were awarded an outstanding grade in both which I feel is rich reward for everyone, the staff, pupils, parents and all those who put so much effort into ensuring that our school continues to thrive and offer an excellent standard of education for our pupils.

Most recently we have had a full audit/inspection of the financial management systems within the school. This involved two officers from the Local Authority spending a whole day pouring over the procedures and paperwork related to the way in which I and the Governing Body manage the school's finances. I am delighted to be able to announce that our financial procedures have been given a clean bill of health and that we have been awarded the Financial Management Standard in Schools mark. I look forward to receiving a letter and yet another certificate from the DCSF in due course! Whilst on awards I am pleased to announce that following a re-assessment last Wednesday we have been told that our Basic Skills Quality Mark Award has been renewed for another three years. This award recognises the quality of teaching and learning in the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy and in many ways is the most pleasing of all as these skills are central to our children's prospects in their future education and beyond.

The pace of change in the education system seems never ending and before leaving for work this morning there was an article on breakfast time saying that at primary school age children would benefit from a skills based education rather than the current knowledge based one promoted by the national curriculum which is built around the traditional secondary school curriculum of individual subjects. Apparently the authors of the report are proposing that we abandon the current subject based curriculum and move towards a themed approach constructed around six key areas of learning. Unlike many primary schools we have never subscribed to a subject based approach and have always grouped subjects like History, Science and Geography together to form units of work e.g. The Romans, Our School, Forces etc. This would fit in very well with this 'new' thinking. Interestingly far from being new thinking themed units of work based around key areas of learning was the way in which I was taught to teach in the late 1970s! I guess in reality it is not what you teach that matters but how you teach it and a child who is interested and stimulated by what he/she is learning will learn much better than one who is bored and disinterested.

This Saturday was the FOBS Christmas bazaar and I am pleased to report that it was once again a great success. It was good to see so many people from the local community joining the many parents and pupils in supporting the school. My thanks to everyone who took the trouble to come to the Fayre and also to the many FOBS members who put in a huge amount of time and energy to ensure it was a most successful day. I am not yet able to report the final total but I am sure that it will be a good one despite the current economic climate.

Finally all it remains for me to do is to thank everyone who has done so much to ensure that 2008 has been another excellent year for Boxford School and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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- Storytelling
- Coppicing
- Food for free
- Stained glass
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- Hedgerow basketry
- Celtic drawing
- Fruit tree pruning
- Book restoration
- Woodcarving & letter cutting
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- Hedgelaying
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- Massage for couples
- Singing

Further details from Anne Holden:
info@assingtonmill.com
www.assingtonmill.com
01787 229955

Parish Council Matters

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

The council met on 22nd December. 6 councillors attended plus PCSO Bignell

Declarations of Interest. P Baker declared an interest in the proposed lease of land to EDF.

Police matters. Between September and December two offences reported. These were of a domestic nature, involving cars. Willingness to take part in Membership of the speed gun partnership confirmed. Phil Hart has agreed to be co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Smartwater will be available to members when the scheme is active.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising. None

Financial matters. A final cheque had been sent for grass cutting. £77.69 received for glass recycling. The precept for 2009/10 was set at £3,300, to enable us to meet our responsibilities. A review of the precepts throughout BDC showed that ours is below the average. BDC have been asked if they have preferred designs for bus shelters and what grants are available.

Planning matters. EDF wish to erect a sub-station on the grass area on the corner of Croft Lea and The Street. This application is to be vigorously opposed due to its location on amenity land in the heart of a conservation area, close to the path and adjacent to a bungalow for the elderly. The Hammonds Holt appeal now delayed till 17th December.

Correspondence. Recycling bags will be available over the Christmas period.

Footpaths. Waymarks have still not been replaced. S Coomber will reply to SCC re grass cutting programme.

Churchyard. D Oakley is unable to carry out the minor repairs to the wall until the Spring. R Mitchell will obtain a valuation of the War Memorial and seek an insurance quote.

Any other business. SCC should have inspected the path in The Street. The Chairman is investigating an event to raise the funds for the speedgun.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 20th January at 7.30 in the Parish Room.

Mini Crime Wave in Boxford Area

The following is a police report of a number of incidents that took place on the evening of 4th December:

The Barracks, Assington between 8pm and 9.30pm 04/12/08 Offenders have broken into a blue Mercedes in a car park by smashing a window and stolen a handbag and a folding chair. A window was also smashed in a blue Toyota Aygo and an iPod was stolen.

Stone Street, Boxford between 7.25pm and 10.45pm 04/12/08 Offenders have broken into a black VW Passat in a car park by smashing a window and stolen a laptop, a briefcase and a bag.

Stone Street, Boxford between 7.30pm and 9.30pm 04/12/08 Offenders have broken into a silver Ford Mondeo by smashing a window and stolen sat nav.

Officers continue to urge motorists not to leave valuables in their vehicles even if they are only being left for a short time. Do not make it easy for the opportunist thief to steal your belongings.

Were you in the area at the time, did you see anything suspicious? Do you know the name of the offender or offenders? If you have any information please contact Suffolk Police on 01473 613500 quoting reference HD/08/2030.

Or Please use the following link to pass any useful information to Suffolk Police about this incident.

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/News+And+Appeals/Report+Information+To+The+Police/Tell+The+Police.htm>

Boxford Bounty

Winners November - December 2008

The Boxford Bounty would like to thank Bounty collectors and Newsletter deliverers for drawing the following winners at their social evening in the Village Hall on Friday 21st November 2008

£160.00	Heather Hunter	Ash Street
£75.00	Gary Jarvis	Dakinf Avenue
£30.00	Mrs J Wagland	The Causeway
£15.00	Mrs S Southgate	Sand Hill

If you would like tickets for the Boxford Bounty call

Mark Miller 01787 211596

Registered Charity No 304862

Police Warning

On Monday 10th November between 8.50am and 12.20pm on Whatfield Road, Elmsett offenders entered a property through an insecure window and stole jewellery.

Also on Monday 10th November between 8.30am and 5pm on Barn Close, Monks Eleigh and The Street, Whatfield offenders have entered properties and stolen a laptop computer and jewellery.

Officers continue to urge homeowners not to leave properties insecure even if they are only being left for a short time. Do not make it easy for the opportunist thief to steal your belongings.

Were you in the area at the time, did you see anything suspicious? Do you know the name of the offender or offenders? If you have any information please contact Suffolk Police on 01284 774100 quoting reference HD/08/1884.

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VACANCY FOR THE POSITION OF "CLERK TO THE TRUSTEES"

The present Clerk is looking to step down from the post in the New Year and therefore a vacancy for the position will be available for anyone that may be interested.

It is an opportunity for a resident of Boxford to put something back into the Community but at the same time it is only a small commitment spread over the year.

The number of meetings is a minimum of three within the twelve months but this may be increased due to whatever business is to be transacted. However in the past year it has been just the three statutory meetings as required under the deed set up by the Charity Commission.

If you are interested and would like to know more before offering your services, please contact the present Clerk who will be happy to discuss what the job entails. It is an honorary post.

David House. Clerk to the Trustees Telephone 01787 - 210918

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Groton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 pm Wednesday 5th November 2008 at Groton Village Hall Broad Street Groton

Present: C Blackmore (from 19.55), D Elliott, M Mayhew, N Roberts & G Smith (in the Chair).

In attendance: S Gray (Clerk) & B Hurren (District Councillor)

1) Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from, Selwyn Pryor Vice-Chair Jeremy Osborne, J Dunklin & M Gaylean. The Councillors consented to these absences

2) To Receive Councillor's Declarations of Interest in any item on this agenda:

There were none.

3) To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the 3rd September 2008 & 26th September 2008

The Minutes of the 3rd September 2008 and the Minutes of the 26th September 2008 were approved; proposed by David Elliott; seconded by Mark Mayhew.

4) To receive a report from Suffolk Constabulary.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email stating that as from the 13th October 2008, Melissa is now placed in the newly formed Babergh West area so she will still cover Groton as well as areas of Sudbury.

5) To receive report from Suffolk County Council

No report was given but Selwyn did state that, if there was anything he could do, Groton Parish Council should inform him.

6) To receive a report from District Council

The next discussion regarding the Boundary Review would take place after the Commission had released their decision in January. The proposed housing at Homefield was discussed, including completion of the work at the end of Partridge Close/Homefield, the clearance of the electricity pole, and the forthcoming Public Enquiry in January.

7) To receive reports and questions from Councillors and Members of the Public

The Clerk reported on behalf of Vice-Chair Jeremy Osborne that Groton United Charities had made recent payments to the Boxford Playground Committee and Boxford Sunflower Group. The next meeting of the Trustees is on November 20th 2008. The Clerk reported on behalf of Vice-Chair Jeremy Osborne that some parishioners have requested that Groton Parish Council express their concerns at the changes in local dispensing, particularly with Groton being a rural community. The Council agreed for the Clerk to respond to the Consultation with the concerns of Groton as a rural parish losing the local dispensing function of the surgery in Boxford. The concern is that if Hadleigh lost its dispensing facility then the Boxford surgery would no longer have medical supplies for its patients.

Mark Mayhew reported that the next Boxford Community Council meeting will take place on the 11th November 2008. Discussion will take place regarding a street fair in Boxford providing one day of fundraising for all local organisations. Groton Parish Council would consider their involvement with the fair, particularly in relation to the Village Hall Committee, at the Council meeting in January.

8) Highway Matters:

a) Roads

David Elliott reported that a parishioner commented on the hedge trimming by the Old Schoolmasters House, and how well it was done. The Clerk reminded the Council that the public can report pot holes etc. direct to Suffolk Highways by either calling Customer Services Direct on 0845 6066067 or visiting their website www.csduk.com.

b) Hedgerow Survey

The Clerk reported that the completed survey from Bob Bowdidge had been sent to John Norton who would forward it to the appropriate authority.

c) Footpath behind Partridge Close and Homefield

David Elliott reported that he had met with Patrick Scrivens of Suffolk

Highways to discuss the problem of the water retention at the footpath. The Council believed that the water would drain better and be safer when frozen (due to its sheltered position with the hedge), if the footpath consisted of broken tarmac pieces. The Council agreed for David Elliott to discuss this proposal with Patrick Scrivens.

9) Village Hall Maintenance:

It was agreed for the Clerk to request the Locality Budget to help towards the repair of the Village Hall doors. Chairman Gerald Smith reported that the outside of the Village Hall had been decorated and the back door repaired. The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Brian Jones, had reported to Gerald Smith that the Boxford Drama Group would no longer be using Groton Village Hall and that this had been a large part of the Committee's income. Therefore, the Council would be asked to continue to pay for the Village Hall Insurance as in previous years. The Council unanimously agreed for the insurance cost to be taken into consideration when the precept for the year 2009/10 was discussed.

10) Date of Next Meeting: 7th January 2009

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm

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Readers Letters

Sir

Hope that you can pass on best wishes for 2009 to all our friends in Boxford, Groton and Edwardstone via the Box River News, from Carol Harrison and family . We are all settled in here in New Zealand and loving our new lives

Thanks to everyone who has kept in touch via email.

Sarah Simmerson & family, Kate Jacob & family, Annie Locke & family

Carol Harrison

Sir

Boxford Village Hall

Boxford Village Hall Management committee had some unfortunate news last month. Our Bookings secretary Shirley Grimwood owing to family commitments had to retire from the committee. It is a tremendous loss as her contribution and dedication to the village hall over the last thirty years, maybe more, has been far and beyond what anyone would expect.

This committee and indeed the residents of Boxford owe her a debt of gratitude for all she has done for the village hall. This thank you is not really adequate, but we hope to say a more public thank you in the new year. Until then Shirley, we sincerely thank you and wish you well.

Finlay Hunter Boxford Village Hall Management Committee,

Sir

As a relative newcomer to Boxford I have felt most welcomed by local people and would like to thank the people of Groton church for the use of Mary's house for my recent exhibition of paintings of local scenes. We are most fortunate to have this welcoming haven on our doorstep. During the ten day exhibition the usual coffee, tea and biscuits were served by a variety of friendly warm people each morning.

I would encourage anyone young or old to stop by for a 5 or 10 minutes to taste the lovely coffee or tea for just a small donation, never knowing who you might meet.

Thankyou

Liz Martland De Alwis Boxford

Sir

Oh what a beautiful morning walking down the new footpath on Stone Street early this morning. A good way to start the day. Many thanks to all who have made this possible

Eileen Sargeant, Stone Street

Sir,

As so many people in the surrounding area have taken so much interest in our renovation of 'The Old School' Groton, we are pleased to announce that, after 37 very happy years at ' Cloptons', we shall be moving into our new abode on 19th December and look forward to the next 37 years

Roger and Susan Vipond Groton

Dear Editor,

"... and in the morning we will remember them."

With millions of others throughout the country, the 25 people who attended the Remembrance Sunday service at Groton on the morning of 9 November stood in silence at 11 o'clock to honour and remember before God all those who have died for their country in war, especially those from our own community.

But the two minutes were not completely silent. Wafting in the air from Boxford were the sounds of boys playing football on the playing field. Sounds of freedom, certainly, but what a pity that the footballers, too, could not stop for that two minutes to remember those whose sacrifice secured their freedom. Hopefully, next year and in future years they will do so.

Yours sincerely,

David Laming, Groton

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 Lt Waldingfield Parish Room
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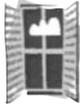
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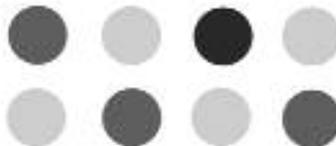
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Above: Boxford Schools Angels await their turn

NEWS FROM BOXFORD ROVERS YFC



A happy Under 12 squad is pictured above, having just completed a 6 – 3 victory over Wivenhoe. Scoring goals seems to be no problem for this team although the defence is sometimes a bit too generous to the opposition. Although the weather has forced the cancellation of matches throughout the league programme over the last month, the U12's still managed two wins and a very narrow defeat.

Team of the moment must be the Under 18's, who have just won through to the semi-finals of the league cup with a convincing 3 – 0 victory, also over Wivenhoe. We wish them luck in the next round.

The Under 9's have won their last two matches in style and are really coming together as a team. Playing in the muddy conditions we've had recently must suit the younger ones as the Under 10's have won five of their seven league games and only suffered the one defeat.

As the Christmas break is almost on us, we at Boxford Rovers look forward to 2009 and hope for more success to match what has been a very good 2008.

Follow the progress of the Boxford Rovers teams at www.intheteam.com/boxfordrovers

Local Walks

Lavenham Rambling Club

18th January Brettenham Park and Dux Street. Meet at Brettenham Village Hall Car Park (GR TL 962536)

Leader Derek 01787 371068

This is a two hour walk on Sunday starting at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to join the walk. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.. For general enquiries phone Graham 01787 248178

Ramblers Association Walks

Sunday 4th January Foxearth. Meet at Rodbridge Picnic Area (GR 857437) to make a 10.30am start. Distance 6 miles.

Leader Sue 01787 279325

or

Sunday 4th Claypit Festival Morning Walk. Meet Claypit Avenue off Nayland Road, Bures St Mary off B1508 (GR TL 910339) to start at 10am. Distance 5 miles.

Leader Derek 01206 570168

Wednesday 7th January Semer Church/Chelsworth. Meet for a 10am start at the Village Square, Bildeston (GR TL 993495) for a morning walk to Chelsworth. Distance 6 miles.

Leader Jean 01206 852200

Sunday 11th January Figure of eight Leavenheath. Meet The Beehive, Little Horkelesy (GR TL 962321) to make a 10am start. Lunch at The Beehive, bar snacks or Sunday Roast available. Distance am 5 miles, pm 4 miles.

Leader John 07714 106827

Wednesday 14th January Brent Eleigh. Meet for a 10.30 an start at Church Street Car Park Lavenham (GR TL 914489) Distance 5 miles.

Leader Margaret K 01787 280996

Sunday 18th January Stoke by Nayland Meet to make a 10am start at the weir, Stratford St Mary (GR TL 045340) to walk along the Essex Way in the morning and return along the Stour Valley Path. Picnic lunch Stoke by Nayland. Distance 10 miles.

Leader Michael M 01206 867863