

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



December 2015
Vol 15 No12

Photo's David Lamming and Your Humble Wordsmith

BOXFORD 2015





Photo David Lamming

POPPY DAY AT MARY'S HOUSE

At the Poppy day coffee morning sale in Mary's House, ladies from Boxford and Groton sold beautifully hand crafted poppies together with cakes and buns in aid of the British Legion. Over £330 was raised at the event. The total of donations in Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton for this year's Poppy Appeal is expected to just exceed £2400, a record for the three villages. Once again, thanks are due to the generosity of the parishioners, to the unstinting efforts of the house-to-house collectors and to the organisations who had collecting boxes. As usual, a significant donation was made to the Royal British Legion from the collection at the remembrance service in Boxford Church.

Brian Jones

Box River News

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Final date for reserved copy for the January 2016 Issue is:

December 11th at noon

FleeceJazz

at Stoke by Nayland Hotel

Friday 4 December 8.00 £20 Ian Shaw and Sarah Jane Morris

Jamie Cullum said "the incomparable Ian Shaw... absolutely fantastic." He could also have used "incorrigible." Ian nearly forsook singing for stand up and still excels as a comedian. He emerged with Julian Clary, Rory Bremner and Jo Brand and was invited by Barry Humphries to take his alternative comedy to Oz. (Heckling not advised). Fortunately for us, Dave Illic, critic for City limits, saw his musical talent and identified him as "voice of the decade." This continues to be true, as the decades pass. Sarah bills the gig as "Fleece Jazz Christmas Special" No need to add to that IT WILL BE. For all that the evening may be stimulating and emotional, I guarantee that above all else it will be musically excellent and tremendous FUN.

Friday 11 December 8.00 £18 Brandon Allen Sextet

The Australian born Brandon Allen flourishes in the UK, playing with the best in jazz, funk, R&B, classical and pop genres, including Eric Clapton, Kyle Eastwood and Keith Tippett and writing, composing and directing a jazz festival. Expect explosive moments, passion, and discover, as Tony Hall says, "his phrasing... unashamedly emotional, soaked in a blues tradition." Brandon Allen tenor, Alex Garnett alto, Mark Nightingale Trombone, Ross Stanley piano, Sam Burgess bass, Ian Thomas drums

An absolutely perfect way to escape pre-Christmas stresses, with an early present to you, and nothing to wrap!

Friday 18 December 8.00 £15 African Jazz Quintet

Frank Williams brilliant band with its roots in South African township music will keep your moving parts moving! Frank Williams sax, Winston Delandro guitar, Alastair Gavin piano, Michael Bailey bass, drums to be announced. Frank Williams, who leads from the tenor sax, has been bringing his African Jazz Quintet to Fleece Jazz since 1993, with performances that sold out in advance

Friday 30 December 8.00 £16 Alan Barnes Quintet

Multi award winning Alan Barnes plays hard urban post-bop with passion and energy with this stellar quintet Alan Barnes reeds, Robert Fowler saxes, David Newton piano, Dave Green bass, Matt Home drums World class reeds player, inspirational band leader, composer, arranger, master of the humorous quip, educator, music businessman and potential Eurostar ticket inspector (see David Newton's website), Alan Barnes is always at his most exuberant leading his own band.

"Barnes, plays music that was radical 50 years ago - hard, urban post-bop - but he infuses it with so much passion and energy you could believe it was minted on the spot, which is Jazz" - John L. Walters, The Guardian.

With the pianistic heroism of our Presidente, David Newton, the mellow reeds of Robert Fowler, the eminent and jolly pair of Dave Green and Matt Home, this will be a gig to savour.

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

THE NOVEMBER LETTER FROM REV JUDITH

Dear Friends,

Dipping a toe into the shiny world of celebrity...? Well not quite! In fact far from it, thank goodness. But I was still quite nervous as I arrived at the tiny and unprepossessing car park squeezed in behind the Ipswich-based offices of BBC Radio Suffolk. I was to be a “sofa guest” on the Lesley Dolphin afternoon show. Somebody – I have yet to find out who – was it you Eddie? - had dropped me



Lesley Dolphin

in it! Lesley, in each of her shows, asks people to get in touch with her, to suggest the names of people who might be prospective interviewees, and one of my parishioners, it seems, unbeknown to me, had done just that. What I could offer to listeners of any interest was a bit of a mystery, but after a second phone call from Radio Suffolk, I didn't really feel I could refuse.

As it was, it turned out to be a really enjoyable and fascinating experience. After having been cared for and reassured by the welcoming lady on the front desk, I was taken into the bowels of the building and settled in a small waiting room immediately outside the door of the small studio from which the show is broadcast. Waiting for the dentist, is what came to mind, as I sat there watching the minutes slowly tick towards 3pm when I was due to be asked in.

Sitting (yes, on a sofa – though only perched on the edge of it!), I faced Lesley across the desk, each of us with our microphone close at hand, and Lesley with an impressive console of slider bars. Using this with consummate ease, Lesley could fade music or our voices in or out, and cut to outside broadcasts coming in. Her computer screen seemed to do everything except make the tea (and yes, I was brought a cup, by one of the lovely staff there).

Almost as soon as I sat down, Lesley started asking me questions about myself. “You will tell me when I'm on air?”, I said, slightly apprehensively. Oh yes, she said, this red light will go on. Good! At least I hadn't yet managed inadvertently to put my foot in it, though there was time enough ahead for me to do so.

In fact I needn't have worried. The conversation flowed easily, with Lesley's encouragement, and the time flashed past, taking me by surprise when I found Lesley was thanking me for coming on the show, ready to move onto the next item.

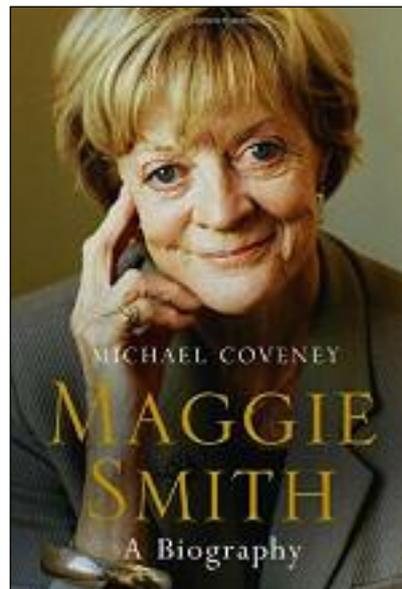
Perhaps what struck me most was not being temporarily in the limelight, in a small way, but how the progress of the programme reflected in some way, our progress through life. We moved from reminiscences of past days, through accounts of funny and sad times, ending with thoughts and hopes for the future, both for the church and for myself. But, more than that, every few minutes, there was the sobering reality check of news bulletins. That day, these were reporting on two serious accidents, involving injury, if not worse. And at those moments, where I was, and what I was doing, fell away in significance, as my thoughts and prayers, as a priest, went up for the people we were hearing about and for the police trying to sort it all out.

As I write this, the people of France are still reeling with the shock of the carnage inflicted on innocent people in Paris. Just as in the radio programme, life for those people was carrying on as usual. They were enjoying themselves in ordinary ways – in a stadium, at a concert, in cafes and restaurants. Suddenly their lives were interrupted by the cruellest reality check of all. By the indiscriminate violence and hatred of people who purport to be carrying out the will of God. The God I believe in suffered himself, through his Son, on the cross, the violence and hatred of men, but amazingly met it with love and forgiveness. Jesus always shunned celebrity, but his birth - that life-changing event, that promise of hope - which lies at the heart of all our Christmas services, at the heart of Christmas itself, is definitely something to celebrate.

Blessings. *Revd. Judith*

THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ

Dame Maggie, the dowager of discretion



In his epilogue, Michael Coveney reveals that when he first proposed a biography to the famously publicity-averse Dame Maggie Smith, she seemed horrified by the idea, exclaiming: “Ooh, how absolutely ghastly. How absolutely awful. I can't think of anything worse... Ooh, but there's nothing to write about... I haven't done anything. I don't know what it is I do.”

That said, during a subsequent conversation she invited him backstage after a Broadway matinee performance of Peter Shaffer's *Lettice and Lovage*. At that meeting, while still appearing resistant to the idea of the book, she gave him the

telephone number of her then husband Beverley Cross, who she would “warn” to expect a call. When Coveney, a critic, spoke to Cross, the latter was encouraging.

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All this took place in the early Nineties in preparation for a previous edition of this book, but it remains one of the sprightliest and most revelatory passages, since, suddenly, Smith is not being reported at a second-hand distance but is there on the telephone and in a dressing room. Generally she seems to have treated Coveney as one might expect her *Downton Abbey* character, the Dowager Countess of Grantham, to respond to the clamour of a more intrusive age: as something to be kept at arm's length and endured rather than encouraged.

Most of the information here seems sourced at one remove – from siblings, colleagues, husbands (she was married to the actor Robert Stephens before Cross), her two sons by Stephens (the actors Toby Stephens and Chris Larkin) and an archive of memorabilia built by her adoring father.

There are hints that Smith, who was born in Ilford, Essex, to aspirational lower-middle-class parents but raised in Oxford, where her father worked as a university lab technician, had a remote relationship with her dour Scottish mother. There are also suggestions that at times she regretted her career meant long stretches away from her sons. But these are small conjectures in what is a solid and admiring portrait of a beloved actor's craft and career. Whatever it is that Smith does, or why, remains something of a mystery.

After 4 years as our book reviewer, Jo Marchant decided to retire following the October review.

We would like to thank Jo for all that she has done for the Box River News over those years.

If there is anyone or a book club out there that might be interested in taking over as our book reviewer

please contact the editor on 01787 211507

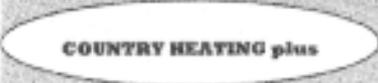
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FOR THEIR TOMORROWS



Percy Fletcher, D Day Veteran, reads the names of the fallen






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CECIL HUGHES

On the front page of the November Box River News we published a report and photographs of Cecil Hughes receiving the Legion D'Honneur. The write up that went with this item was reprinted from a report of the event in a local French newspaper published in Merville. It was the editors decision to use this report, not Cecils. The report implied that Cecil was involved in the D Day landings and the taking of the Merville Battery on 6th June 1944. Cecil did not take part in these events since in his own words he did not join the army until late 1944 and went to France with his Regiment to be attached with the 9th Para Battalion in February 1945.



When D Day occurred, Cecil was only 17 years old and a member of the Air Training Corps preparing to join the Royal Air Force when called up. When his time came however, just before he was 18 he was told that no more airmen were needed and so "it's the army for you my lad".

After completing his training with the Suffolk Regiment in 1945 Cecil was posted to join the 9th battalion of the paras in Amiens and was involved with them on operation 'Varsity', (Operation Varsity was a successful airborne forces operation launched by American, British and Canadian troops that took place toward the end of the war), the Rhine Crossings and The 400 mile Long March from the Rhine to the Baltic until they met up with the Russians at the port of Wismar on the Baltic Coast.

In his Citation for the Legion D'Honneur it states
"Mr Hughes you were sent to France in Amiens in February 1945 with the Suffolk Regiment as a reinforcement for the troops already there and then joined the 9th Battalion in March,
You took part in the Rhine Campaign and fought in Italy. You escaped explosions but you are here today to testify for the younger generations."
(Translation of the French)

Cecil is a member of the Parachute Regiment Association - East Anglian Branch

SUFFOLK APPLES AND ORCHARDS by George Hodgkinson

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome George and his wife Sarah to the Parish Room where 42 people, mostly members, came along to the second event of our new season, which coincidentally was on "Apple Day" - they were not to be disappointed.

George began his talk (with Sarah orchestrating the slide show) by telling us what an orchard was - somewhat surprisingly just a piece of land with five or more fruit trees on it according to the official DEFRA definition - and then described the different types of orchards. These range in size from large acreage commercial orchards with their limited range of dwarf root stock trees planted close together, to long established low density large root stock traditional orchards and then on to the recently introduced Community orchards, which exist primarily to ensure continuing survival of heritage fruit trees that are not grown commercially.

Commercial orchards are far more mechanised than previously, as all pruning and picking can be done from ground level, whereas traditional orchards comprise trees that may be 30 feet tall, necessitating pruning and picking from precariously tall ladders, so all tree work is done by hand.

George established his own small commercial orchard business in December 2004 on some 4.5 acres in Monks Eleigh, growing traditional varieties of English apple with an emphasis on those raised in Suffolk, his aim being to help preserve old varieties by growing and selling to a wider clientele as most are not available in the shops. He also planted a plum orchard with some unusual varieties, including Coe's Golden Drop, a handsome dessert plum raised in Suffolk in late C18th. Produce is marketed locally, mainly through greengrocers, farm shops, restaurants and farmers markets. George also sells apple juice produced from his apples, and in October 2010, St Edmunds Pippin juice won 2nd prize at the National Fruit Show. 12 varieties of apple and 6 varieties of plum are grown and George brought the following with him for sample tasting, much to the delight of our guests:

Dessert Apples

ST Edmund's Pippin (September and October)

An early russet, raised about 1873 at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk and named after the town's Saint - quite sweet with a nice balance of acidity.

Egremont Russet (October to December)

Best known of all the russets, with a rich nutty flavour; believed to have been raised in the C19th on Lord Egremont's estate at Petworth in Sussex.

Ribston Pippin (October to December)

Late dessert apple discovered in Knaresborough, Yorks in the C19th century. Good flavour, with a nice balance of acid & sugar and a slight hint of pear drops. One of the best loved apples of the Victorian era.

Cox Lavera (October to January)

A modern cross between the Cox Orange Pippin, raised in about 1825 in Slough, and Lavera. Sweet with intense aromatic flavour.

Sturmer Pippin (January to April)

A late season apple raised in Sturmer, near Haverhill, in 1831. It formed the basis of the Australia/NZ apple export trade to UK as it takes a long time to mature - roughly the length of a 10,000 mile ship voyage. A dual purpose apple that stores well - a cooker before Christmas and a dessert apple in the New Year - with a strong aromatic flavour that is both juicy and crisp.

Cooking Apple

Lady Henniker (November to January)

An old English dual purpose apple with angular shape, raised at Thornham Hall, Eye around 1850. Flavour as dessert is mildly acidic and aromatic but when cooked remains acidic with lovely flavour. Lady Julia Henniker reportedly said of this apple: "It is a lovely and useful apple as it keeps well after Christmas and makes marvellous baked apple as it is so large" - what more needs saying.

All in all it was a great experience and hopefully LWHS has played a small part in raising awareness of English, and particularly Suffolk raised heritage apples to help preserve these varieties into the future.

Our next event is on 18th November at 7.30 in The Parish Room, when Robert Halliday, local historian and author will share tales & anecdotes about the phantoms & paranormal activity seen across Suffolk.



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A MESSAGE FROM JAMES CARTLIDGE MP



I was saddened to hear that the Church of Bartholomew in Groton had been targeted by lead thieves earlier in the autumn – along with many other churches in our county, hit by lead thieves since late August. Unfortunately, though the Listed Place of Worship Roof Repair Fund is in place, churches that had experienced lead theft were not eligible to apply for financial assistance. As such, and given the huge cost of making good associated roof damage, I wrote to the Chancellor to request that the fund be opened up to include the victims of theft.

I can confirm that I have now heard from Tracey Crouch MP, the Heritage Minister, confirming the excellent news that the fund has been extended to include churches that have been the victim of lead theft under the proviso that they have alarm systems fitted. I will be meeting officials to work through the details.

As your MP, one of my biggest concerns surrounds the lack of mobile signal in the rural areas of the constituency. Boxford is a notorious 'not-spot' and as such, I was delighted that the government had identified your village as an area in need of a subsidised mobile mast, given that the commercial sector was not willing to build one.

Unfortunately, this funding has been lost after an application for a mast was withdrawn late in the day. It will not now be possible to re-apply. I do not criticise anyone involved – landowners are entitled to withdraw applications; neighbours are entitled to express opposition – but I know that there was overwhelming support for this new mast and lessons must be learned around all parts of the process. Going forward, there is no current proposal for another round of mobile mast funding from Government, but technology is improving all the time and I will do my best to press the case in Parliament.

Regards,

James

James Cartlidge MP

Member of Parliament for South Suffolk

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Boxford Primary News

Making Links

Having been in post for the past two months, I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting many, many people from our school's community. Of course, at a school like Boxford's, those community ties go well beyond the school grounds and so I have had opportunity to meet even more people connected to the wider school community. And, yet, it feels as though I have only just scratched the surface! I do look forward to continuing in this vein as time progresses.

One event that demonstrated the size of this wider community was the school's Harvest Festival Service in September. A packed church consisting of the extended family of our pupils and the church's own network further emphasised the scale of support around the school.



And so, our challenge is apparent: how is it possible to engage with this community more and to build links for the benefit of all?

Our Harvest offerings have been a long standing tradition where school families make donations in support of the wider community. I'm pleased to say that the children have enjoyed seeing the messages of thanks that have come back in response. I then also asked Reverend Judith whether she might be able to access

anything from local church groups for display in our reception area. We, in turn, were delighted to receive a full knitted Harvest scene that we have been able to share with pupils. And so, in this way, the interplay between our school and the community groups around us is underway!

To further extend this we have planned to re-introduce a Christmas Service to our school calendar on Thursday 17th September. One project that we hope will reach outward to the local community is being undertaken by our oldest pupils. Year 5 & 6 will perform a selection of Christmas Carols from across the world at our own school service, in addition to the village Carol Service on December 20th. We hope to find opportunity to reach even further with this project in the coming weeks. Finally, to bring something from our community into school, we would love to know about any interesting nativity scenes that we could borrow to share with our students during Advent. Please do contact the school if you would be able to assist us!

I truly do look forward to developing this ongoing relationship in the future. These many links make for a rich experience for all.

Mr Toby

Boxford CEVC Primary School



Boxford CEVC
Primary School

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Boxford Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and adults within our community. Our staff and volunteers share this commitment.

As with all school positions, DBS checks will be required for this post.

FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

➤ Thousands attend Suffolk Skills Show

Suffolk businesses turned out in their hundreds to support the second annual Suffolk Skills Show; a skills and careers event reaching over 4,500 young people. The event set out to engage with Suffolk's young people and provide an insight into the career opportunities available to them locally. The show, which took place at Trinity Park in Ipswich, targeted those aged between 11 and 24. The diverse range of businesses exhibiting at the event worked hard to ensure those attending left with their eyes opened to the many career streams across Suffolk. There were many interactive indoor and outdoor stands; showcasing opportunities in energy, IT & technology, finance and business services, creative digital, agriculture, construction, motor vehicle, advanced manufacturing, ports and logistics as well as HM Forces and a 'have a go' area where attendees were able to try their hand at new skills.

➤ Suffolk's five-year-olds overtake national average

More five-year-olds in Suffolk are 'school ready' according to new figures just published by the Department for Education. With an 8% increase in the proportion of Suffolk children achieving a 'good level of development' at the end of reception, this puts the county above the national average at age five. Nationally 66.3% of pupils achieved this level, with Suffolk pupils 1.3% above this at 67.6%. The 'good level of development' measure is the assessment of children at the end of reception class, or Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Teachers assess whether children are achieving the expected levels in literacy and maths, as well as in physical development, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development.

➤ Parents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation

SCC is seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2017/18 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way. The consultation runs until Monday 14 December 2015. As part of this, the council is considering whether or not to include the children of staff employed by a school within the oversubscription criteria to give them some priority for school places. These criteria are used to rank applications when a school receives more applications than it has places available. There are different ways we could introduce this and your views are important to us.

Other proposals include: minor changes to the Suffolk Co-ordinated Admission Scheme, which sets out the details of our arrangements for the 2017/2018 school year; and some amendments to the Fair Access Protocol which supports the admission of unplaced young people who live in Suffolk, especially the most vulnerable, so that they are offered a suitable place as quickly as possible. The governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation, academies and free schools are responsible for admissions to their schools. If you want to view the arrangements for these schools you should contact the school directly. To view the consultation documents and to have your say on the proposals, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations, alternatively you can write to Georgina Beard, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

or email: admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk

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Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength
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NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Constituency Surgery with James Cartlidge MP.

If you would like to talk to your South Suffolk MP, he will be in Hadleigh Thursday 10th Dec'2-4pm. Please ring 020 7219 4875 or email helen.harris@parliament.uk

REWARD

To the miserable thief who recently stole the *Ion Block Buster Sound System from the store at Boxford Village Hall

In your rush to avoid detection you forgot to take the other box that contained the connection leads, microphone, batteries etc. Without these the machine is of no use to you. Sadly, without the unit you now have, the kit I have at home is of no use to our Garden Club. To re-unite everything, please ring me so that we can meet and solve the problem. My number is 01787 211314. If I am not there to answer your call, please leave your name and number and I will call you back.

To any honest person who has noticed the sudden arrival of this unit in their home and wonders how it came to be there, please ring me on the above number. The Garden Society will be glad to give you a reward for the safe return. Thankyou.

Boxford Fireworks



Once again the Boxford Fireworks proved a great success. Approximately 1300 people made their way to the Playing Fields to watch the display and enjoy the BBQ and bar. Another fantastic Lantern display led by the Bury St Edmunds Boys' Brigade Marching Band looked spectacular going through the village and up Swan Street. Around 100 lanterns were made during half term this year, superbly supervised by Mark Miller and Karen Baker. Our sincere thanks go to all the villagers who gave up their time to help (over 50). This event would not be possible without them. At the time of writing, we don't have a final figure, but it looks as though we have once again made significant funds for the Community Council to be able to distribute to the Benefice.

GROTON PARISH COUNCIL

still has a vacancy for a Councillor. If you are interested please contact the Clerk, Anita Robinson at Logan Cottage, Groton Street, Groton CO10 5EE, 01787 211673, clerk.groton@btinternet.com

GROTON UNITED CHARITIES

The Trustees of Groton United Charities will be meeting to review applications for grants in November, and will be pleased to receive requests from individuals living in Groton and from organisations in Boxford whose activities benefit the residents of Groton.

Requests for grants should be sent to the Clerk to the Trustees, Jeremy Osborne, at Waterside Barn, Groton Street, Groton CO10 5EE or by e-mail to jeremyosborne1@btinternet.com

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD CHARITIES

Also known as John Wincoll – 209981

The purpose of the charity is to relieve "conditions of need, hardship or distress".

However, if you are over sixty-five, retired and have lived in Little Waldingfield for a year or more you may be eligible for the Christmas gift.

Please apply by 30th November to the Clerk, Sue Mitchell on 247173.

BOXFORD UNITED CHARITIES

Registered Charity Number: 207861

The Trustees of Boxford United Charities will meet on Monday 30th November 2015 and will consider applications for grant aid from residents living in the three parishes of Boxford, Groton and Edwardstone, for educational, medical and general charitable purposes. Applications from individuals or organisations (serving the above area) are invited and should be made in writing to Guy Godfray, Clerk to the Trustees, 17 Swan Street, Boxford, Sudbury CO10 5NZ.

St Bartholomew's Church, Groton

For the last two years (since August 2013) a team of recorders from Sudbury NADFAS (the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies), led by Sarah Roper, have been conducting a meticulous survey of St Bartholomew's Church, Groton and its contents. The result of their labours is a superb bound volume, presented to the rector on behalf of Groton PCC, at the meeting of the PCC at Mary's House on Tuesday 10th November.



The book will be a valuable source of information about the church and its history for years to come. Further copies of the book are being deposited in the Suffolk Record Office and provided to the Victoria & Albert Museum, Historic England, and the ChurchCare Library.

RICHARD GATES RETIRES FROM BOXFORD P.O.



After many years of loyal service to the Post Office, Richard Gates has finally decided it is time for him to retire. The future of the Post Office is now secure to everyone's pleasure and as the whole store is now open and utilised the Post Office's future should be assured for years to come which would not have happened had Richard not strived to stop its closure.

Moving forwards, negotiations are taking place with The Post Office regarding modernising the systems and introducing the new open plan counter being rolled out in cities of the UK and Boxford is to be one of the first villages to incorporate this into their layout. Richard feels he does not wish to be a part of this new development and will be leaving the post office on the 4th December.

In the mean time Richard Haining who, as many of you will know, has been working in the Post Office for some months now, has taken over as Temporary Post Master.

We wish both Richards well for the Future



In Aid of
Groton Church Roof Fund

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

At
Groton Village Hall

Saturday 12th December 2015

Choose Morning or Afternoon Session

Bring your own greenery & decorations.

All other materials provided.

To book phone Jayne on 01787 211360

Cost £12.50



The Bell Inn

The Sreet, Kersey, Suffolk, IP7 6DY

Tel: 01473 823229

Carol Singing at the Bell on Tuesday 22nd December

We are now taking bookings for our Christmas and New Years menu. Please call or view our website for details.

Next quiz night Sunday December 7th.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Our New Years Eve Theme is Glamour and our menu is on our website www.kerseybell.co.uk

OPEN ALL DAY EVERY DAY



Sessions starting from £14.50

Unwrap your Personal Trainer this Christmas



Packages of 3, 5 and 10 sessions available!

Contact Paula Pines on 01256 26830/822 or email paula@stokebynayland.com for more information or to book your free trial!

www.stokebynayland.com

Paola Pines is a qualified Personal Trainer, Sports Law, Law & Health, Certificate CIM 402



John & Judith welcome you to

The Fleece

Serving Great Beer & Fantastic Food



Fantastic Fleece Food!

Seniors Lunch Offer: Tuesday – Friday. Main Course £6.00. 2 courses £7.50
Take away Service: Telephone or come in & order. We will deliver to your home!

Normal Food Service is:
Mon – Sat : 12 – 3pm & 6 – 9pm
Sunday: 12 – 4pm

We have fantastic special food nights, including curry night Fridays. See our website for full details or Call us now on 01787 211183 to book.

Christmas Party Menu – Available now

Our fantastic Christmas Menu is available now. See it online or in the pub!
Bookings being taken – so call now on 01787 211183.

FABULOUS NEW YEARS EVE HOGMANAY PARTY

Free Disco, Free entry and even better Free Buffet
(donations to the Air Ambulance Service)

Karaoke Night

Every 1st Friday 6-8pm we have a karaoke evening in partnership with MENCAP. This is a fantastic night for a brilliant cause so come along and be apart of it!

Burns Night

Black Tie Dinner – Jan 23rd

A delicious 4 course meal for just £25 per person! Including Whisky. Places are limited so please do book early to avoid disappointment.

Open Mic night –

Every 4th Weds
Everyone welcome to play or just listen.

Live fleeceFolk

The Churchfitters – Live
Sunday 13th December 3pm



Tickets available online

Weekly Pub Quiz – Every Sunday 8.30pm

Join in our weekly quiz nights. Test your knowledge against the best of Boxford

www.boxfordfleece.com – boxfordfleece@outlook.com – 01787 211183

BOXFORD GARDENING SOCIETY AGM AND PARTY



On 4th November the Boxford Gardening Society held their AGM and annual party. Maggie Thorpe, the chairman, gave an account of the past years outings and talks and promised an exciting year of events in 2016 including a very special speaker made possible by the success of this years special event. The committee was as always re-elected en bloc. The food served at the party was expellant, especially the sweets and puddings that had been provided by the members.



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2015

This year we have over 200 shoeboxes from the village (final total next month). This exceeds all other years so a big thank you to everyone - to those who packed their own boxes and to those who gave us fillers and supplied us with bags of knitted hats, gloves, puppets and bags. A special mention for Daphney Griggs who knitted over 200 scarves for us. What a star!

Thanks also to Barbara and Bernard for our cream tea in their lovely garden in August where we raised £583.80 to pay for the transport of the boxes which increases every year.

So another successful year and thank you so much once again for your enthusiasm and generosity.

For further information please contact:

Ann Porter 210581. Shirley Watling 210024. Jennie Lindsley 210520

BOXFORD GROUP WINS GREEN AWARD

Hot on the heels of becoming one of the East Anglian "Green 100" companies the family owned Boxford Group - which incorporates Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa and Boxford Suffolk Farms - has just won another prestigious green award at the Suffolk Agricultural Association's annual awards dinner last week. The award for Best Green Enterprise business was presented to the two companies in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the environment. They have built a 750 watt Anaerobic Digester unit which is fed with pomace from the Copella juice plant and maize, and they have also installed five Biomass Boilers on their farm and at the hotel which are fed with wood chip from the golf courses and fruit orchards. These processes together provide power to Boxford Suffolk Farms, Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa resort and to the Copella processing plant. Solar panels have also been installed on all of the hotel, country lodges and farm buildings and environmentally friendly practices are strongly adhered to in the management of the golf courses and fruit orchards.



The Anaerobic Digester plant at Boxford Farms

Family Group Director, Tamara Unwin said: "We are really thrilled to have been presented with this award which recognises our substantial efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, and to hopefully eventually become self-sustainable in both our farming and our hotel and leisure businesses. Our parents started farming here over 60 years ago - and were founder members of the Soil Association. They were always very conscientious about taking care of the environment and so would have been very proud to see the next generation continuing to follow these practices in all areas of the business".

Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

An 8 week course on Monday afternoons 3.30-5.30pm
Meeting in Groton Village Hall, CO10 5EL
Starting on Monday 18th January 2016

Tutor: Hugh Black-Hawkins,
Chairman of the T.S.Eliot Society

INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE

Innocence can suggest weakness but also goodness and hope. Experience equates with age, innocence with youth. Experience is necessary protection in a world where innocence can be dangerously vulnerable. Innocence is not guilty. Experience suggests strength but also cynicism and worldliness.

We shall explore these themes through poems by William Blake and Wordsworth, Shakespeare's "Winter's Tale", George Eliot's "Silas Marner", Henry James' "The Turn of the Screw" and Tom Stoppard's play "Arcadia."

Course Fee: £70 for the complete course, payable on the first or second meeting. Newcomers to these classes are very welcome.

Further information from:

Mrs Etain Todds, Moat Farm Cottage, Edwardstone, Sudbury CO10 5PY.
Telephone: 01787 210344

Chimney Matters

Town and Country



Professional Chimney Sweeping & Stove Installation

- Open fires, Wood burners swept and serviced for maximum efficiency.
- Wood and Multi-fuel Stoves installed.
- Sweeping and Installation Certificates issued.
- Cowls & Bird Guards fitted.
- Fully Insured.

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Phone: 01284 789663

www.chimneymatters.co.uk

Wot's On

Monks Eleigh Whist Drives 2015-16

Come and join a group who play whist every third Monday of the month (apart from December when it's the second!) in Monks Eleigh Village Hall. We play 12 hands, homemade refreshments are provided and we have a raffle.

We aim to have a social game of cards and a fun evening so beginners to experienced players are welcome.

Dates:

- Monday October 19th • Monday November 16th
- Monday December 14th • Monday January 18th
- Monday February 15th • Monday March 21st

Contact Angela Forrest on 01449 740414 for further details.
ook!

Cake Stall

Sale of cakes, savouries, and preserves

On Saturday 28th November at 9.00am in Mary's House, Swan Street In aid of The Early learning orphanage and School in Entebe, Uganda Also, Raffle, Coffee and Scones, Alisons Beads and Gifts Everyone welcome
Joan Smith, Alison Brain and friends



The magic of Christmas

prepares to be sprinkled over Lavenham

Plans for a magical three-day Christmas fair are gathering pace to ensure the festive season gets off to a great start in Lavenham.

The Dickensian-themed fair starts on the evening of Friday 4 December with the lighting of the village Christmas tree in the Market Place and the arrival of Father Christmas who will be visiting the village throughout the whole weekend.

The festivities and entertainment continue in the Market Place and the historic Guildhall and Little Hall through to Sunday 6 December with organisers promising something for everyone.

Martine Crepy, from the Christmas fair organising committee, said: "We are very excited about this year's three-day festive fair.

"Lavenham is a magical place 365 days of the year but we are working hard to ensure there is an extra sprinkle of festive celebration for our big weekend event."

Among the attractions are late-night shopping, around 80 stalls selling a unique selection of gifts, clothes and stocking fillers as well as an array of food and drink stalls and Father Christmas paying a special visit to the village over all three days.

The big wheel, offering bird's eyes views over the historic village and surrounding countryside, will be returning while entertainment is planned all weekend including the Lavenham Upbeat Contemporary Choir, Sabrina Summer, Peter Hepworth and famous accordionist Martina Schwarz as well as Lavenham Falconery.

A grand raffle with fantastic prizes donated by the Great House, Weavers' House Spa at the Swan Hotel, Lavenham Clinic and Lavenham Photographic has also begun with tickets priced at just £1 meaning you could win a Christmas bargain.

The fair will run between 5.30pm and 8.30pm on Friday 4 December, 11am and 5pm on Saturday 5 December and 11am and 4pm on Sunday 6 December.

For more information go to www.lovelavenham.co.uk or visit the fair's very own Facebook page www.facebook.com/LavenhamChristmasFair.

Nayland Farmers' Market

Saturday December 12th

9.30am – 1pm

Nayland Village Hall

Mrs H's Cheese Stall

Cavendish Smokehouse

Brooke Lynne Farm Vegetables

Totham Bangers

Deersbrook Beef

The Farmers' Wife Pies

The Jam Shed & lots more plus a great café selling bacon rolls, freshly baked cakes and tea and coffee.

Further info from Justine Paul on 07704 627973

www.suffolkmarketevents.co.uk

justine@suffolkmarketevents.co.uk

Please note the farmers market will be closed in January returning on Saturday February 13th



JUDI DENCH MAGGIE SMITH BILL NIGHY
DEV PATEL CELIA IMRIE PENELOPE WILTON RONALD PICKUP
WITH DAVID STRATHAIRN AND RICHARD GERE

**THE SECOND
BEST EXOTIC
MARIGOLD
HOTEL**

LEAVENHEATH CINEMA SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
Tickets Telephone: Lesley (01206 262505) or Ken (01206 263266)
£3.50 per adult and £2.00 per young person

Wot's On

Sounds of the Past OPEN DAYS

The new museum of sound and broadcasting with live performances. Something for all the family, 1st Sunday Every Month all year. 10.30am to 4.00pm at The Old Chapel, Monks Eleigh, Refreshments available. Donations to Prostate Action and MacMillan Nurses For more info telephone Paul Goodchild 01787 372478

GROTON'S CHRISTMAS CARD

Our colourful Christmas cards are now available for sale in Mary's House, Boxford Post Office, the Wine and Cheese Party on December 5th, or from any member of Groton PCC. The small cards are a snip at £3.50 for 10 and the large ones are £4.50 for 5. All cards sold will help to boost the fund for the loss of lead on the Church roof, so please send a Groton Christmas card to all your friends.



St Mary's Church, Boxford

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2015

Friday 11th December 1.00pm - 6.00pm

Saturday 12th December 10.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday 13th December 12.00 m - 5.00pm

Children's Activities, plus nativity scenes on display

Delicious hot soups & rolls for lunch.

coffee, tea & cakes in our Cafe

Festive cakes & goodies for sale

Mulled wine & mince pies Saturday & Sunday afternoon

Olivias' Pantry Gift Boxes

Christmas Raffle

Admission £2.00 adults, children free (proceeds for St Mary's Parish Church)

Teaching core elements in
DANCE
DRAMA
SINGING
MUSICAL THEATRE

With a strong emphasis on confidence building and fun!

For more information please contact us:
Call: 07957 351941
Email: lesley@misslesleysperformingarts.co.uk
Visit: www.misslesleyschoolofperformingarts.tel

FUN & GAMES NIGHT

Saturday 30th January 2016
7.30pm for 8.00pm prompt start!

BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL
£60 per team - Max. 8 in a team

Contact Stephanie Atkins 01787 21044
Mark Miller 01787 211596
mark.miller@talktalk.net

Boxford Community Council
www.boxfordcc.org.uk
Registered Charity No.: 304862

Wot's On

Newton Village Hall Events REGULAR EVENTS: h DECEMBER 2015

Wednesday 2nd 7.30 pm Village Hall committee
 Saturday 5th 10.00 am Church Xmas coffee morning
 Tuesday 8th 2.00 pm Fireside Club -Xmas decorations
 Thursday 10th 11.00 am Wendy's Walk Xmas party
 Monday 14th 12 noon Fireside Xmas lunch at Golf Club

JANUARY 2016

Tuesday 5th 2.00 pm Fireside Club - tba
 Saturday 9th 10.00 am Newton Green Trust coffee morning
 Wednesday 13th 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting

REGULAR EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Milden Singers

Their next concert is on 20th and 21st November and will have a Classical Theme. An eclectic mix of music some classic pop songs along with Gilbert & Sullivan, Ivor Novello, Opera and a selection from West Side Story. We are now an all Girl Choir and would love to hear from any one who would like to join, the ability to read music is not essential just a love of singing and having fun! We start rehearsals at Milden Pavilion on Monday 7th September at 7.30pm. For more information please contact Pearl 01449 741876

Milden Plant Sales

Over the past year Tracy Northwood of Powney Street. Milden has sold plants in aid of Milden Pavilion Fund and raised £1200. Milden Pavilion and Playingfield Committee thank Tracy for choosing Milden Pavilion as her charity for the year and for raising such a terrific amount of money. With this donation we are upgrading our storage facilities at the playingfield.

In the coming year Tracy has chosen to support The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Great Ormond Street Hospital where her eldest daughter Laura received treatment as a newborn baby. The price of the plants has increased to £3 and we hope Tracey manages to raise even more money this year for such a worthy charity and one close to her heart.

Yoga classes

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

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

Leavenheath Village Hall Digital Cinema

Tickets £3.50 per adult, £2.00 per young person
 Telephone: Lesley (01206 262505) or Ken (01206 263266) for tickets
 Arrive 7.00pm starts 7.30pm This months film on SAT 3RD JAN - "PRIDE"

Polstead Cinema Polstead Village Hall

Tickets £3.50 from the Polstead Community Shop or 01787 210029
 Arrive at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm. Friday our next film will be the 2015 "Far from the Madding Crowd" on September 25th.
 We also have the Common Ground Theatre Company coming on 19th Sept. with "Count of Monte Cristo" (adapted by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries.)

BOXFORD WI

Our speaker this month was Malcolm Crowe from Capricorn Crafts. Malcolm has been making wooden toys and games since the 1980's. It all began with a visit to a well know toy shop where his young daughter was rather taken with a string puppet. After seeing the price, Malcolm thought I am sure I could make one and so he did and to this day Henry still accompanies him on his talks and demonstrations. The range of toys Malcolm showed us were amazing in their detail, they are all handmade and extremely intricate. There were spinning tops, fire engines, trains and a Noah's Ark complete with all the animals. There were also games of solitaire and Chinese chequers which are made on a lathe out of Canadian pine. Malcolm uses all the off cuts of wood to make items such as candle holders, ducks and rabbits. There were beautiful memory boxes and family trees (all in wood) which can be made to order for special occasions. It was a fascinating talk and demonstration which was enjoyed by us all.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2nd December	Christmas Party	village hall 2pm
10th December	Christmas decorations	Mary's house 2pm
6th January	Beetle drive	village hall 2pm
14th January	Adult colouring	Mary's house 2pm
3rd February	Fun dancing	village hall 2pm
11th February	Craft club	Mary's house 2pm
24th February	Book club	Mary's house 2pm

EDWARDSTONE PARISH HALL

NIGHT MAIL

Directed by Harry Watt, Basil Wright | UK
 1936 | 78 minutes 
 UK Cinema Release: 1936

An account of the operation of the Royal Mail train delivery service, showing the various stages and procedures. Follow the London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS) mail train as it makes its way from London to Scotland.

As the train nears its destination, there is a sequence in which W.H. Auden's spoken verse and Benjamin Britten's music are combined over montage images of racing train wheels.



SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

Starting at 3 pm

TICKETS FREE - MUST BE PRE-BOOKED

Followed by coffee and cakes

Please contact Daphne Clark 01787 210698 or
 Email - daphne@clark-home.me.uk

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD PARISH ROOM

COFFEE MORNING

AND

BOOK SALE

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

10 AM

**IF YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS CLUTTERING YOUR
 SHELVES WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY
 DONATIONS. PLEASE BRING THEM ALONG**

Wot's On

Dates for Innocence and Experience (see ad)

Week 1	January 18	Songs of Innocence and Experience	Blake
Week 2	January 25*	The Lyrical Ballads	Wordsworth
Week 3	February 8*	Silas Marner	George Eliot
Week 4	February 15*	Silas Marner	George Eliot
Week 5	February 29*	The Winter's Tale	Shakespeare
Week 6	March 7*	The Winter's Tale	Shakespeare
Week 7	March 14	The Turn of the Screw	Henry James
Week 8	March 21	Arcadia	Tom Stoppard

Art@The Box

Art@The Box is a new initiative to promote local art. On Saturday 28th of November 6pm till 9pm, the people of Boxford are invited to a private view of original oil paintings by artist Elizabeth Martland DeAlwis, at the CoffeeBox, Boxford. Prints and cards of her work will also be available. The work will also be on display Sunday from 11 until 3pm.

ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, NEWTON

SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 4.00pm.

WELCOME TO OUR CANDLE LIT CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

with

THE MILLWHEEL SINGERS

making a very welcome return.

then join us for mulled wine & mince pies.

BOXFORD CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAIR
 Hosted by the Friends of Boxford School
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
2PM - 5PM
 Boxford CEVC Primary School
 Stone Street, Boxford
 CO10 5NP
ALL WELCOME
FREE ADMISSION
 eg charity no. 1037332

"Mirren is outstanding in a film that will stay with you forever!"
JUSTICE IS PRICELESS
 HELEN MIRREN RYAN REYNOLDS DANIEL BRUHL
WOMAN IN GOLD
Polstead Digital Cinema Friday 18th December
 Tickets £3.50 from the Polstead Community Shop or 01787 210029
 All films start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm

BOXFORD DRAVA GROUP presents
ALADDIN & the Magic Lamp
2nd to 5th December
 Tickets on sale 31st October Boxford Village Hall 9am to 10am
 Then in Boxford Post Office
 See The Box River News "What's On" for full details

Wot's On

Little Waldingfield History Society

Programme of Events - 2015

All talks will be at the Parish Room in Church Road, Little Waldingfield, commencing at 7.30 pm sharp.

Please book & pay in advance to guarantee your place, as seats are limited.

Booking Secretary: Diana Langford, Pitt Cottage

Phone: 01787 248298

Tickets, Members £2.00 Non Members £4.00

16th December, Dave Steward

Hampton Court Palace and Gardens.

The finest Tudor building was 500 years old in 2014 - walk round the palace & gardens with Dave to see what Cardinal Wolsey started and Henry VIII cont'd.

13th January, Fiona Raymond

Member only event.

Fiona and her brother Guy will speak about their late painter father Clive Madgwick.

17th February, Robert Leader *In search of Secret Suffolk*

Illustrated with over 100 images it covers the heritage and history of Suffolk. Focusing on abbeys, castles, guildhalls & stately homes, the talk follows the course of major rivers to build a comprehensive picture of Suffolk as a whole.

16th March, John Newman *Recent excavations at Sutton Hoo.*

20th April, Pip Wright *Plague in the 17th century.*

Plague was the most feared disease of the 17th century since its reappearance in western Europe in the 1340s - the Black Death. Come and hear Pip give an impression of the effects on the population of the time - grim but fascinating.

FUN & GAMES NIGHT

BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL. We will once again be holding our Annual Fun & Games Night in Boxford Village Hall on Saturday 30 January 2016. Teams of 8 contestants will battle through the various indoor games and quizzes to claim the prestigious title. A fun night is promised for all with a licensed bar, raffle and refreshments. The evening will commence at 7.30 with registration and the first round of games at 7.50 promptly. Ticket prices are £60 per team. We have a limit of 16 teams so if you don't want to be disappointed please contact Stephanie Atkins on 01787 210444 or Mark Miller on 01787 211596, or alternatively e-mail Mark on Mark.Miller@talktalk.net We would like to get all teams listed before Christmas and, if you are not in a team but would like to help, please also let us know. It is never too early to book your place, so book it now!

World Cinema Classics with James Clarke

Stoke-by-Nayland WEA presents a series of 10 Lectures Starting on Thursday 21st January 2016 in Stoke-by-Nayland Village Hall at 7.30 pm

This is a 10 week course that will take us through a number of landmark films in the development of cinema, including films from the UK, Italy, France, Germany, India, Japan and the USA. Each film will be explored in terms of how it was created, what its achievements are and what its legacy has been.

James Clarke has a BA (Hons) Film and Literature from the University of Warwick and a Postgraduate Diploma from the University of Bristol in Film and Television Production. Over a ten year period he has taught film studies at a number of Universities as well as delivering talks to the British Council the British Library and other organisations. He has also written a number of books on the same subjects.

Fees: Adult £48 (payable after the first session). Try the first session (free).

For further information please contact Sue Whiteley. Phone: 01787 210945 or email: whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk

BOXFORD COMMUNITY THEATRE OUTINGS TO THE QUAY SADBURY.

This is proving to be very successful and really enjoyed by the participants who otherwise would have difficulty getting out in the evenings due to isolation and the lack of public transport in the evenings. Last Saturday we went to see a tribute to The Man in Black Johnny Cash which was incredibly good and got everyone singing along. Our next trip will be to see the pantomime at the Quay The Snow Queen. It runs from 18th Dec to Sunday 3rd January. If anyone would like to join us let me

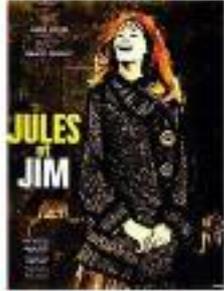
know and I will book the Boxford Bus at the best time to suit all. Call Bryn on 01787 210854 or E-Mail bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk All Best Wishes *Bryn.*



**Spring Series of 10 Lectures
at Stoke-by-Nayland Village Hall
Starting Thursday 21st January 2016, 7.30 pm**

WORLD CINEMA CLASSICS

With James Clarke



This is a 10 week course that will take us through a number of landmark films in the development of cinema, including films from the UK, Italy, France, Germany, India and Japan. Each film will be explored in terms of how it was created, what its achievements are and what its legacy has been.

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Fees: Adult £48 (payable after the first session)
Try the first session (free)
For further information, please contact Sue Whiteley. Phone: 01787 210945 or email: whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk

Future Dates
ACM: 21st April 2016
SUMNER SCHOOL: 6th July 2016

WEA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 200013 and registered charity number 111275.



Elizabeth R. DeAlwis
November 28th 6-9pm
29th 11-3pm

 **The CoffeeBox, Boxford**

Forthcoming Events Diary

November

28 Cake Stall at Mary's House	Entebe	Mary's House	9.00am
28 Christmas Fair	Boxford Primary School	At the School	2-5pm
28/29 Art at the Box	Elizabeth Martland	Coffee Box, Broad Street	6-9pm and 11-3am Sun

December

2-5 Alladin	Boxford Drama Group	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
2 Christmas Party	Boxford WI	Village Hall	2 pm
5 Cheese and Wine	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	7.30pm
5 Church Christmas Coffee Morning	Newton PCC	Newton Village Hall	10.00am
5 Night Mail (Film)	Edwardstone Parish Hall		3.00pm
10 Christmas Decorations	Boxford WI	Mary's House	2 pm
10 Wendy's Walk Xmas Party		Newton Village Hall	11.00am
11/13 Christmas Tree Festival	Boxford PCC	St Mary's Church	all day
14 Fireside Club Christmas Lunch		Golf Club	12 noon
16 Hampton Court Palace	Little Waldingfield History Society	Parish Room	7.30pm

January

6 Beetle Drive	Boxford WI	Boxford Village Hall	2pm
14 Adult Colouring	Boxford WI	Mary's House	2pm
30 Fun and Games Night	Boxford Community Council	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm

February

17 In Search of Secret Suffolk	Little Waldingfield History Society	Parish Rooms	7.30pm
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First and Third Monday each month Boxford Parish Council Meetings in Bell House, Stone Street St, Boxford 7.30pm

Need Computer Help and Advice

Support and advice for the home user.
No problem is too small.
Give me a call with all your PC problems.
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Help with setting up email accounts / Internet / Anti Virus / Wireless networking etc.

Phone Ian on
01787 210031 Evening /Weekend or 07866 015953 Daytime

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Phone Mark on: 01787 880371
Mobile: 07904 594957

CALL: 07904 594957
FULL VALET

Bates Wells & Braithwaite

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The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton

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

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

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

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

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

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

General Church News

NEW BISHOP OF DUNWICH:

It was hoped that the name of the new suffragan Bishop of Dunwich would be announced around St Edmund's Day, 20th November. It now seems unlikely that the name of the new bishop will be known much before Christmas, and it may not be known until the new year.

DEANERY SYNOD:

A reminder that Sudbury Deanery Synod is meeting at All Saints' Church Hall, Sudbury, at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm, on **Wednesday 25th November 2014**.

DIOCESAN SYNOD:

The synod held its autumn meeting on 14th November in Ipswich. The meeting, the first of the new triennium, commenced with a Eucharist at which Bishop Martin presided. In his sermon he began by referring to the terrorist atrocity the evening before in Paris, encouraging synod members to be 'persistent in prayer' for peace. In his presidential address the bishop spoke frankly of the financial challenge facing the diocese, saying that we all knew that "at its heart it is a spiritual problem." He identified four 'facets' of the diocese that he had detected in his first six months as bishop. The address is available is available for viewing on YouTube: go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_A6PSJK4Bs.

GENERAL SYNOD:

As mentioned last month, the first session of the newly-elected Synod will be formally inaugurated by the Queen on 24th November, preceded by a service of Holy Communion in Westminster Abbey. Among the business to be discussed at the two-day meeting in London is a debate on the migrant crisis, a presentation on the report (recently covered by the media) on 'Public perceptions of Jesus' and (an issue very relevant to us in Suffolk with over 400 'listed' churches) a debate on the recent report of the Church Buildings Review Group, to be "commended for discussion in dioceses, deaneries and parishes." More on this next month, but meanwhile please pray for the Synod, for the leadership of Archbishop Justin, and for all those who will be attending, including Bishop Martin, the Dean, and the six elected representatives from our diocese.

100 YEARS, 100 TREASURES:

A celebration of Suffolk Churches

Copies of this colourful book, produced to celebrate this year's centenary of our diocese in 2014 and featuring two of the churches in our benefice (Boxford and Groton), are still available to purchase, price £5.00. It would make a good Christmas present or stocking filler, or why not buy one to keep in your car? Contact David Lamming, who has a stock of the books, if you would like to buy one. (Tel: 01787 210360; e mail: djlamming@hotmail.com)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SUDBURY & DISTRICT

Please look at the Churches Together website for details of the various activities taking place over the Advent season:
www.churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk.



THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwardens:

Ruth Kingsbury, Rose Cottage,
Sherbourne Street, Edwardstone tel.211236
Peter Patrick, Amberley,
White Street Green. tel 210346

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at St. Mary's Boxford, on Sunday December 6th at 4.00pm. A service for all the family – where we raise funds for the Children's Society



Christmas Tree Festival 2015. Opens on Friday 11th December-13th .

Opening times

Friday 11th 1.00pm - 6.00pm

Saturday 12th 10.00am – 6.00pm

Sunday 13th 12.00pm – 5.00pm

- Delicious hot soups& rolls for lunch 12-2.00pm each day.
- Coffee, tea & cakes at our Café
- Mulled wine & mince pies Saturday & Sunday afternoons
- Olivia's Pantry Gift Boxes
- Christmas Raffle
- Children's activities & Nativity Scenes

Admission £2.00 adults (children free) – proceeds to St. Mary's Church Boxford Calendar 2016 - The 2016 calendar is now available in the shops Priced at £7.00. All proceeds to the care of St Mary's Parish Church- do buy your copy now!

Our traditional Carol Service is on 20th December at 6.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Boxford

Christingle Service

Sunday 6th December at 4.00pm



When we raise funds for the *Children's Society*. Do come along & join the fun!

Copy Date for Church News in the JANUARY 2016 Box River News:

Please, NO LATER THAN 9th December 2015

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

Thank you. Sue Knight. 01787 210785

email address: sedwards1946@btinternet.com



THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:
Vacant

Edwardstone Carol Service will be held as usual on Christmas Eve. at 6.00 pm A warm welcome to everyone.

Rota

20th December 9.30 am Morning Worship
Sidesman/Coffees Pam Dodd/Anita Steel

Flowers: No flowers in Advent. Christmas – all arrangers

Cleaning: tbc



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens: *Jayne Foster:*
Poplar Farm, Goslings Green.. 211360
Sue Knight:
Cotlee, The Street, Groton; tel 210785

GROTON'S WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

Saturday, December 5th 7.30pm at Groton Village Hall

We hope to see lots of people at our annual popular Cheese and Wine Party; all the usual attractions, excellent food, bar, raffle and our new feature "Buy-A-Bauble"! so spread the word, and get your tickets soon [£7.50 each] from Pat Kennedy Scott [210319] Jayne Foster [211360] or any member of Groton PCC. Mr Edward Babbs, will talk to us about Borley Rectory and its paranormal happenings. There will be an opportunity to buy copies of his book on the subject, and all proceeds of the sale will go towards the roof fund.

All proceeds of the evening to St. Bartholomew's Church.

GROTON'S CHRISTMAS CARD

Our colourful Christmas cards are now available for sale in Mary's House, Boxford Post Office, the Wine and Cheese Party on December 5th, or from any member of Groton PCC. The small cards are a snip at £3.50 for 10 and the large ones are £4.50 for 5. All cards sold will help to boost the fund for the loss of lead on the Church roof, so please send a Groton Christmas card to all your friends.

Christmas carols

Groton's Carol Service this year is to be on Monday 21st December 2015 at 7.00 pm. Do join us for this traditional service of readings and carols when we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. As the bidding prayer puts it, "Be it our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in the manger." Or, as the familiar verse from John's gospel (quoted on this year's presentation pack of Royal Mail Christmas stamps) puts it: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Lead theft.

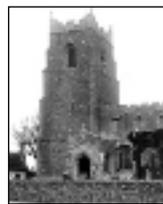
Pending a decision by the PCC on the permanent repair to the church roof, following the theft of lead on 2nd/3rd October (see last month's BRN), tarpaulins are keeping the church watertight. Our enormous thanks to Sue and Howard Knight for their swift action in organising this on 3rd October, which ensured that the church did not suffer the water damage experienced in other churches that only discovered that their lead had been stolen after it rained. An alarm system has now been fitted, with half the cost covered by a grant from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Our thanks, too, to James Cartlidge, MP, whose lobbying of Government has secured a commitment to make the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund available to churches that have been the victims of the recent spate of lead theft. However, we will almost certainly have to cover some of the repair cost locally, so watch this space for news of future appeals or fundraising.

Rota:

Sidesman: Mr Lamming

Cleaning: Mrs V Riddleston

Flowers: no flowers in Advent; Festival Arrangements for Christmas



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens
Vacant

Reverend Judith has presided over large congregations both for our Harvest Festival in October and Holy Communion on the first Sunday of this month. Tim Harbord returned to us to take our Remembrance Service, which was simple and poignant, beginning in the Church and processing to the War Memorial. Colin Humphreys, a serving army officer, laid the first wreath for the British Legion. He has recently moved into the village with his wife, Hannah, and eight week old son, Oliver. Dennis Duffy laid a wreath for the American airmen, who were stationed here during World War II. A wreath from the Parish Council was laid by Andy Shepherd and one from the P.C.C. by Peter Simpson. We now look forward to Reverend Judith and the lay team who will take our Reflective Service on 15th November. Its theme will be 'Preparation for Advent'.

Rota:

	Sidesman	Flowers
Dec 6	Mrs Rattee & Mrs Eddington	No Flowers - Advent
Dec 13	Visiting	"
Dec 20	Visiting	"
Dec 22	Mrs Nicholls & Mr Duffy	All
Dec 24	Mr & Mrs Simpson	All
Dec 27	Visiting	All



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

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

25th October: We welcomed Mrs Penny Thewlis, a reader from St. Andrew's Great Cornard to take our service of Morning Worship. Fortunately for us, a small congregation, she had a strong singing voice to lead us through the first hymn. The perils of playing the organ for a service in another church and depending on the time of that service finishing, plus narrow roads and traffic issues were a challenge, but our organist overcame all to arrive to play for the rest of our service. Sincere thanks to Nancy Roser for making such an effort to be with us. Thank you to all our helpers.

8th November: Revd. Gerald Drew made a welcome return to our church to take the Remembrance Day Service as Revd. Judith was officiating at Boxford. The theme was to love one another, which was especially poignant on this day of remembering the results of wars. Harry Buckledee placed a wreath by the Altar and read the names of the men who died in the two wars. Thank you to Nancy Roser for playing the organ. Then we were joined by a big crowd from the village at the War Memorial for the service taken by Revd Drew. The weather was kind and the Service with two minutes silence where each had their own thoughts, was very well received. Harry Buckledee read the names of the fallen and the prayer for remembering them. Revd Drew read the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae. Thank you to Revd Drew and his wife and to all who came to join us for the service.

Notices:

5th December: Church Christmas Coffee Morning and Raffle. 10.00 am to 12.00 at the Village Hall.

13th December: Candle Lit Christmas Carol Service in church with the Millwheel Singers at 4.00 pm. followed by mulled wine and mince pies. All are very welcome.

MARY'S HOUSE BOOKINGS

There is now a new 2016 diary in Mary's House for making bookings.

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

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

Box River Benefice The Church At Worship December 2015

SPECIAL SERVICES THIS MONTH

****Christingle, Carol Services, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services ****

Village Daily Prayers Each week, in the five churches: informal, friendly service, 30-40 minutes, with Revd Judith. We pray for those who are ill, concerns of the villages, and for the wider world. Do join us!
Please let Revd Judith know of any people or situations for prayer: Confidential messages can be left on tel. 210091 or emailed: rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com. **The winter months rota is:** Tuesday 9.00 Edwardstone, Wednesday 9.00 Groton; 16.00 Little Waldingfield at Newman's Hall; Thursday 9.00 Newton, 17.00 Boxford.

****Please note: there will be no village prayers between 21-24 Dec and 28-31 Dec****

Wednesday 2nd
Boxford
Thursday 3rd
Lt Waldingfield

****Please note that there is no Mary's House Communion today ****

19.00 Holy Communion – Newmans Hall (Reserved Sacrament) Lay Team

Sunday 6th	2nd of Advent	(P)
Boxford	8.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Lt Waldingfield	9.30 Morning Worship	Revd Judith
Boxford	16.00 <i>Christingle Service</i>	Revd Judith

Wednesday 9th
Boxford

10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House Revd Judith

Sunday 13th	3rd of Advent	(P)
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Newton	16.00 <i>Carol Service with the Millwheel Singers</i>	Revd Judith

Wednesday 16th
Boxford

10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House Revd David Abel

Thursday 17th
Little Waldingfield

19.00 Compline – Newman's Hall Lay Team

Sunday 20th	4th of Advent	(P)
Edwardstone	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	18.30 <i>Carol Service</i>	Revd Judith

Monday 21st
Groton

19.00 *Carol Service* Revd Judith

Tuesday 22nd
Little Waldingfield

19.00 *Carol Service* Revd Judith

Wednesday 23rd
Boxford

10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House Revd Judith

Thursday 24th	Christmas Eve	(W)
Newton	15.00 <i>Crib Service</i>	Revd Judith
Edwardstone	18.00 <i>Carol Service</i>	Revd Judith
Lt Waldingfield	21.00 <i>Christmas Communion</i>	Revd Judith
Boxford	23.30 <i>Midnight Communion</i>	Revd Judith

Friday 25th

Christmas Day (W)

Groton 09.30 Family Communion
Boxford 10.30 Family Service

Revd Judith
Revd Judith

Sunday 27th	Christmas 1	(W)
Boxford	10.00 <i>Five Villages Service with Holy Communion</i>	Revd Judith

Wednesday 30th
Boxford

****Please note that there is no Mary's House Communion today****

Soap Box

I am becoming increasingly concerned over this country's ability to maintain services, given the growing demographic pressures that will weigh upon successive governments' attempts to balance the books. The reality is that we have an aging population, which places an increasing burden on welfare and health services. With the percentage of those in work and contributing to the tax take falling in relation to those retired and taking the state pension, a reckoning cannot be too far away.

Writing this, as I am, a week or two before Chancellor George Osborne delivers his Autumn Statement, I realise any conclusions I reach may be overtaken by events. Still, having read about the increased pressure being applied to government departments and ministries to trim expenditure – and given the continuing need to ensure we live within our means – it strikes me that looking at how our taxpayers money might be used and where it is going to come from is a relevant topic.

It is also rather timely that the prime minister's campaign to have change introduced into the European Union has commenced. At the core of arguments he is using to create a better deal for the UK is the vexed question of benefits paid to EU immigrants. It is suggested that 40% of those who enter this country from other EU member states claim benefits from the beginning, though I am less certain how many remain on welfare once they have got a job. These and other benefits have to be paid for through taxation.

The choice is often cited as being between cutting back on benefits and other taxpayer funded services or putting up taxes. The trouble is that life isn't that simple, not in the global community in which we now live. There is evidence that raising taxes on the very wealthy actually reduces the amount raised from them by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. What is more, it is not difficult to understand why. If you are seriously well off, then you have choices – choices over where you live, how you spend your money and how you are taxed.

For the merely comfortably off the choices are altogether more limited. Moving abroad or utilising tax avoidance measures are unlikely to be an option. But hitting the middle classes and perhaps

also the less well off is difficult to justify if at the same time you are not attempting to tax the better off in our community. In the end it becomes more of a political judgment, rather than one based on economic theory and past experience, as there is no guarantee higher tax rates at the top end will generate more revenue.

Meanwhile, we are meant to take comfort from those parts of the public sector allegedly protected from austerity – most notably the National Health Service and Education. Even here there are issues. Our schools are facing increasing pressure from an influx of immigrants, with all the attendant problems this can bring to an education system that is required to be multi-cultural and increasingly multi-lingual. Moreover, evidence suggests that most immigrant groups are younger, while many are likely to have a higher birth rate than the traditional population.

Don't get me wrong. I am not opposed to immigration per se. A healthy flow of immigrants can be good for the economy. It has certainly helped the United States over the years, though even there tensions exist. But it does add to cost pressures in the short term, even if longer term benefits can accrue.

As for the NHS, two diseases are adding to the undoubted problems that exist there – diabetes and dementia. Both are the result in some measure of an ageing population, though diabetes is arguably also a consequence of leading more sedentary lives, with too easy access to unsuitable foods. A tendency to move away from fresh produce to pre-prepared, packaged food is one example of the time poor society we now live in – and it doesn't do our health any favours. With the proportion of health resources committed to these two problems, you have to worry if simply protecting the spend will be sufficient.

As a nation we are not alone in facing these issues. Nor do I have any quick fixes for solving the growing problem of funding so-called essential services. We do need to mull over the situation, though, and hope our leaders are up to the tricky task of steering us through troubled waters. I am also increasingly of the view that we baby boomers are a blessed generation and that the world will become more difficult for our children and grandchildren.

Brian Tora is a local writer and broadcaster.

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- **Boxing Day Brunch** - Saturday 26th December from 11am
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- **Irish Soul Singer** - Sunday 30th December from 8pm
An incredible entertainer - book by popular demand!
- **New Year's Eve Gals Ball** - Thursday 31st December from 7.30pm
5 course menu with a live band (Jukebox Party)
- **New Year's Eve Supper & Dance** - Thursday 31st December from 7.30pm
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GARDENING IN DECEMBER HARRY BUCKLEDEE

Now is a good time to be planning and preparing a new herbaceous border. Given the right treatment a herbaceous border can give years of colour for a reasonable amount of money.

I often hear people say 'perennials look after themselves', nothing could be further from the truth, everything needs attention to give at its best. Positioning of the border is important rather than plant up against a wall or hedge it is best to create an island bed, such as can be seen at Bressingham. This type of border can be viewed from all sides and plants get plenty of light and air which is essential for sturdy disease free growth and they will require less staking. Choice of plants is important, very tall plants in a narrow border will look out of proportion and slow growing plants next to vigorous growers will soon be crowded out. Most hardy perennials like a well cultivated, well drained soil which has had plenty of compost dug into it, if this work is carried out thoroughly then most plants can be grown successfully. Planting distances vary from five per square yard for smaller plants to three per square yard for the more vigorous growers.

Hyacinth bulbs that have been forced for early bloom need to be brought indoors, given plenty of light and enough water to keep them moist at all times. Too much water will cause the fleshy roots rot, while insufficient water and too much heat will cause the lower spikes to die off prematurely.

Although our winters have been milder this last few years, we must always anticipate a spell of severe weather and be ready with materials such as hessian sacks to cover frames and plants. Additional protection will be needed during a prolonged spell of severe frost and newspaper and cardboard are good insulators. If plants do get frozen, leave the protecting covering on and let them thaw out slowly. Damage is done by allowing frozen plants to be exposed to warm sunshine and thaw out quickly.

Newly planted Rhododendron's and Camelias are easily killed off by hard penetrating frost. Cover the roots with a thick layer of straw, leaves or compost and a sheet of polythene or fleece draped round the plant will protect the foliage from drying winds.

Continue to keep house plants and those over wintering in the greenhouse on the dry side. Pay special attention to watering, yellow and drooping of leaves can indicate either over watering or under watering.

Poinsettias should be kept away from droughts and fluctuating temperatures. These conditions and over watering are usually the cause of leaves dropping.

Carry out the pruning of climbers and make sure they are fixed securely to supports. Make sure supports are in sound condition otherwise the whole lot may collapse in summer when heavy in leaf and it will be impossible to pull them upright. Check all tree ties to make sure they are not cutting into the stem.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place
- 2 Check that greenhouse heaters are working
- 3 Prevent ponds and stand pipes from freezing
- 4 Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls)
- 5 Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
- 6 Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops
- 7 Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted
- 8 Take hardwood cuttings
- 9 Keep mice away from stored produce
- 10 Reduce watering of houseplants

In the vegetable garden, this is the ideal opportunity to work in goodness in the form of organic matter. The contents of the compost heap, well-rotted manure or even composted bark can be worked into the bottom of the trench, where the worms will redistribute it to improve soil consistency. Be systematic: Remove a trench a spit deep and take it to the far end of the plot to turn into the last trench when you finally reach it. Fork over the bottom of the trench if your soil is very heavy and add the organic matter in a generous layer before turning in the next spit.

On "new" ground, where you are preparing beds, you can go through the same process. If it is lawn that you are taking up, turn the sod into the base of the trench where it will rot down, but on weed-infested ground you need to fork out live roots as you go. Super-heavy soils can have a generous layer of sharp grit spread over the surface after digging, but light soils are best dug at the end of the winter and the organic matter spread over the surface now. The mulch will protect the soil from winter rains and can be forked in rather than trenched in late February and March.

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Parish Council Matters

Meeting of Boxford Parish Council

Report of the Meeting held on 2nd November

The next full meeting of Boxford Parish Council is scheduled for Monday 7th December at 7.30 pm.

Public Forum

A representative from the Church attended to explain concerns about theft of lead from Churches in the area. Consideration is being given to an alarm. A donation was requested from the Parish Council towards the insurance costs of the Church. Other matters raised by the public included the field access from the Sand Hill Development, bird mess in the Bus Shelter, disposal of bulk waste in the litter bin, the state of the telephone box, cars displayed for sale, verge cutting, vandalism at the playing field and Village Street Cleaning.

County Council Report

County Cllr James Finch attended and reported on the Suffolk Skills Show that intended to engage young people in career opportunities locally. He reported improvement in the proportion of Suffolk 5 year olds being 'school ready' at the end of reception. Parents are urged to have their say on the school admissions consultation - www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations. The County Council is inviting bids from the County's publicly funded schools for money to enable projects to boost the attainment of disadvantaged students. Cllr Finch was to attend a clinic in the village on 11th November.

District Council Report

District Cllr Bryn Hurren attended and handed an information pack to Cllr Talbot-Clarke on the subject of Neighbourhood Planning. He confirmed the layby at the entrance to the Sand Hill site will remain open at this stage and all parking during construction should be on the site itself. Views are being sought for a name for the development at Sand Hill. There is considerable disappointment with the failure of the telecommunications mast project and enquiries are still being made to see if anything can be done. On planning, Goodlands Enforcement enquiries continue and Cllr Hurren is monitoring developments with the Cygnet Court proposal.

Finance

In addition to the usual business, the Parish Council purchased the staging for the Village Hall.

Junction of Sand Hill/Cox Hill

The Parish Council is requesting a safety review of the junction following concerns from residents.

Neighbourhood Planning

The meeting with interested residents and representatives from Lavenham was scheduled for the following day.

Planning

The Planning Authority had approved tree work at Little Field, Cox Hill and Listed Building Consent was granted for amendments to barn conversion proposal at Goodlands Barn. The Parish Council had No Objections to the applications at 6 The Causeway, 1 Broad Street, 3 Swan Street and 7 Swan Street. Further information is being sought on the discharge of surface water condition relating to the Sand Hill Development.

Meeting dates for Boxford Parish Council:

7th December and 4th January.

Debbie Hattrell, Clerk to Boxford Parish Council

Groton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7 pm Wednesday 4 November 2015 at Groton Village Hall, Broad Street, Groton

Present: C Fraulo (in the Chair), J Osborne (Vice-Chair), N Cox, R Kelsey, A Dixon-Smith In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk); B Hurren (BDC); J Finch
Casual Vacancy – no candidates had come forward and the position will continue to be advertised

Reports - Suffolk County Council - J Finch had previously provided a copy of his Report, covering the Suffolk Skills Show, Early Years education, school admissions consultation, a fund to help disadvantaged students, and the search for Short Stay Stopping Sites for travellers. J Finch said that he was still working on the problems caused by the sugar beet lorries. He reported that the winter salt and grit supplies were in place. He advised that there should soon be progress with additional fibre optic broadband provision.

Babergh District Council - B Hurren reported that BDC was working with MSDC to build new council housing. He, along with the Councillors, expressed disappointment that the phone mast was not going ahead. He said that according to current records there was a small demand in Groton for affordable housing. It might be that a joint approach with Edwardstone, where the expressed need was higher, might be beneficial. R Kelsey said that she had expressed interest in attending the Boxford Neighbourhood Planning meeting but she had not been advised of the date of the meeting.

Reports and questions from Councillors and members of the public – R Kelsey had attended the recent SALC meeting. She felt that the Community Emergency Planning information was useful and it was agreed to put this on the next agenda.

Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence - C Fraulo will pass the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey to John Norton, who prepared Groton's entry. She will ensure that the poppy wreath is passed on to someone who can lay it at the service on Sunday. She reminded the Council that the doors for the notice board were still at her house and they needed to be mended and glazed.

Highway and Footpath matters

Cutting of footpaths – this has now been carried out. A notice has been received from SCC that Groton Street will be closed for resurfacing from 3 to 8 December

between 8am and 6pm.

Planning Matters: B/15/01326 – 3 Groton Place, Groton Street CO10 5EE – erection of side extension and alterations to outbuilding to create home office – N Cox did not take part in the discussion. The Council had no objections to the proposals.

B/15/01401 – Borehouse Manor Farm, Groton Street CO10 5EE – Change of use from agricultural barn to dwelling house to include change of use of agricultural land to residential and erection of 2 bay cartlodge and store – some Councillors had visited the site. The Council had no objections to the proposals.

Planning decisions received – B/15/00945 – Bulls Cross House, Round Maple – erection of two storey rear extension – approved.

Financial matters: The Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment were approved as under and all requested cheques were approved and signed.

Reserve Account as at 30 September 2015

£2516.46

Current Account as at 30 September 2015

£5534.70

Total

£8051.16

The Responsible Financial Officer had drafted a budget for 2016-2017 which was approved. It was agreed that the precept could remain the same for the next financial year, proposed by C Fraulo, seconded by R Kelsey.

The draft Financial Regulations based on NALC's 2014 model were considered and adopted by the Council.

Transparency Code Funding – Government funding is now available to help Councils comply with the Code. The Council agreed that the Clerk should apply for funding for a replacement computer and to cover the hours spent on uploading documents to the website to comply with the Code.

The Responsible Financial Officer advised that the bank had written to confirm that the changes to the bank mandates had finally been made. The Council agreed to transfer £1000 to the Reserve Account as originally agreed.

Councillors checked the first 6 months' accounts and bank reconciliations and found them to be correct.

The Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that the Council was signed up to the Automatic Enrolment for pensions, although as she only works 16 hours per month for the Council she will not be entitled to any contribution from the Council.

Dates for meetings in 2016 were agreed as 13 January, 2 March, 4 May, 6 July, 7 September and 2 November.

For full Minutes and additional information please see the Parish Council's website at Groton.onesuffolk.net

Boxford Bounty Winners July August 2015

The Boxford Bounty would like to thank members of the community for drawing the following numbers at the community council Fireworks meeting on 14th September 2015.

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Problems can arise when the car is inspected after its return to the leasing company, which does a thorough inspection and the customer is then presented with an expensive repair bill for what the customer says were minor defects to the bodywork.

Here are some complaints we have heard:

"The car was collected and an inspection completed with only a minor scuff to one of the alloy wheels noted on the sheet (collector advised that this would probably be classed as fair wear and tear). Otherwise the car was classed as in good condition.

"I have now received a letter stating that at a further inspection it has been noted that a repair to a small dent on the rear wing / bumper has not been completed to the required standard."

The customer is still disputing this.

Another unhappy customer said: "When I returned a Citroen Grand Picasso, saying the vehicle was dirty plus damage to one wheel and bodywork damage. They were asking for £235."

Fortunately, the customer had taken plenty of photographs and the person collecting the vehicle had spent an hour checking it over. The customer disputed the lease company's claim citing the BVRLA's guidance on fair wear and tear (<http://www.bvrla.co.uk/advice/guidance/returning-your-leased-vehicle>).

The BVRLA is the British Vehicle Rental and leasing Association, the trade body for companies engaged in the leasing and rental of cars and commercial vehicles.

Remember that any defects found fall into two categories, what is called "fair wear and tear" (covered by the Sale of Goods Act) and actual damage as a result of an incident.

Taking photographs of the condition of the vehicle at the time of inspection and collection is a very good idea in case there is a subsequent dispute.

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Readers Letters

Sir

St Elizabeth Hospice

On behalf of St Elizabeth Hospice I would like to thank everyone who has saved their used stamps, it's very much appreciated.

Also thanks to Richard at the post office and Rhona for the lovely big bag of stamps that she sent. Last but not least thanks to Margaret and the great grand children for bringing them to Hadleigh for me

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy 2016 and please keep saving your used stamps for the hospice

Many Thanks, *C Boon* Hadleigh

Sir

Re: the permissive path, Stone Street, Boxford

We would like to give a huge thank you to Mr. Scurlock and Ms. Chatten of The Parsonage and Mr Sims of Simbo's Gun Dogs for letting us have a safe path to walk along Stone Street.

When the traffic zooms past at break-neck speeds we're so grateful that we can walk our children into the village and to school safely.

We would like them to know we really appreciate all the hard work they put in to keeping it nicely fenced and nettle free.

With grateful thanks, *Trudi and Rich Wild* Stone Street

Sir

re. Mobile Phone Mast

I am disappointed that we are not going to get the long-awaited improvement in mobile phone signals. It is a scandal that one very vocal, selfish person can stop something that would be of enormous benefit not just to Boxford, but all of the surrounding villages. We must all now suffer as a result of this and it may be a long while before there is another chance to give us mobile coverage. Next time I hope that people will be more aware of the plans and that there will be a loud clamour to ensure any objections don't override the wishes of the majority.

Yours faithfully *John Ward* Tills Farm Boxford

Sir

The mobile Phone Mast

The person or persons who objected to the Phone Mast should be made aware of the problems that a poor signal causes the emergency services in Boxford and surrounding villages. Our own First Responders rely on a mobile phone supplied by the ambulance service in order to respond to emergencies. In the case of a Stroke or Heart attack the first 8 minutes are critical. With a mobile signal depending on the vagaries of the weather it can take more than 8 minutes for a text message to get through thus putting lives at risk.

Objecting to the mast has proved to be a very selfish attitude with little consideration for the vast majority of villagers.

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following the elections on Thursday 7 May 2015

[All members elected unopposed, except in Newton]

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Roger Balls	19 Daking Avenue	210136
Julian Fincham-Jacques	42 Homefield	210376
Sue Green	34 Swan Street	210603
Cecil Hughes	Kiln Place, Cox Hill	210685
John Moles	40 Homefield	210203
Andrew Sargeant	39 Homefield	211048
David Waspe	22 Stone Street	828953
Suzanne Impett.	Amberly, The Causeway.	210035.
David Talbot Clarke.	18-22 Broad Street.	211976.
Clerk	Debbie Hattrell	210943
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clare Britcher	Tudor Cottage, Mill Green	211234
Melanie Childs	Edwardstone Lodge	07952 956417
Paul Clarke	Hazel Cottage, Mill Green	210689
Shirley Flack	Mill Cottage, Mill Green	210050
Sharron Norman	Dormers, Sherbourne Street	210386
Clerk	Anita Robinson	211673
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

GROTON PARISH COUNCIL

Carey Fraulo (Chairman)	Groton Manor Farm	210391
Nick Cox	3 Groton Place, Groton Street	210339
Adam Dixon-Smith	Castlings Hall, Castlings Heath	210007
Rona Kelsey	Winthrop Cottage, Church Street	211799
Jeremy Osborne	Waterside Barn, Groton Street	211960
Piers Roberts	Brook House	210619
Clerk	Anita Robinson	211673
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Stewart Braybrook	Cypress House, Church Road	247043
Barbara Campbell	Appleton House, Church Road	
Jeremy Coomber	Gatehouse, Holbrook Hall Park	
Matt Foster	Surprise Cottage, Church Road	07779 003635
Vicky Mound	Surprise Cottage, Church Road	
Andrew Sheppard	The School House, Church Road	247980
Clerk. David Crimmin		375085
District Councillors	Frank Lawrenson	
	Margaret Maybury	
County Councillor	Colin Spence	

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Russell Bower	4 Nicholsons Court	
Sue Crawte	South Hill, Church Road	
Jonathan Parker	2 Hall Cottages, Church Road	
Colin Poole	Stow Cottage, Sudbury Road	
Paul Presland	Redwoods, Church Road	379204
Rita Schwenk	1 Assington Road	210838
Philip Taylor	Trotts Cottage, Boxford	211265
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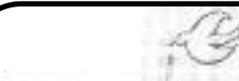
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MILDEN CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Milden Cricket Club held its annual presentation evening on 10th October at the Edwardstone White Horse, fantastically hosted by landlord Mick and his team. A terrific curry meal was cooked by Jamin and his team which was quickly polished off by the players and their guests.

Mick presented Chairman Martin Roffey with a generous cheque to go towards club funds, and he continues to support our club in many ways, showing terrific community spirit and support. All players and members are very grateful for your support and generosity.

Milden had one of its most competitive seasons, at one point leading the table for a few weeks before a couple of losses saw them fall away. However, the top 5 teams were separated by no more than 3 points, a close finish for many a year.

Will Ward deservedly won the Player of the Year award and also scooped up the Batsman prize, Sam Whymark and Richard Robinson shared the bowling prize this year for most wickets taken, 13 a piece.

James Pipe won most improved player, showing what a bit of effort and dedication can achieve. New boy Alex 'no car park is too big for me' Zahid walked away with the Cow Corner prize. Tim Lucas picked up the fielding award as well as the much prized Duck award too.

Richard Harding and Scott Hurrell were commended and recognised for their tireless efforts for Milden Cricket Club, in particular with their time spent preparing the ground for match days. Tom Konopka was awarded Clubman of the Year award.



SOLID SEASON AT ECC



This summer at ECC the cricket was good albeit the weather not so at times. With a league record of 8 wins, 7 losses and a league finish of 5th, it represents a reasonable year for a rapidly developing side who were promoted the season previous.

Some stand out players this year include the young keeper/Batsman Sam Chapman, in particular his 162* v Horringer. Bowling was on point with both Tim Beven and Tom Whymark leading the attack. Our true strength, as always, was fielding, where everyone excelled themselves with 100% commitment 100% of the time. As captain it has been a pleasure to spend Sundays with them and play some very exciting cricket.

Once the season had ended we celebrated the success in usual style with a dinner and presentation at the Groton Fox and Hounds where we were very well accommodated for. It was a fantastic night with players and fans alike and here is a photo with the award recipients. Special mention to Ray Gibbons, who received a self portrait thanks to Martin Doman. It's recognition of his 30 years service to the club and tireless work all year round. Thank you again Ray, from us all Jack - Captain



Finally, Richard Robinson, after eight years of being club captain, decided to stand down. Richard started Milden eight years ago and has grown the Club from an initial idea to a welcoming, friendly and established cricket club in our community. Everyone associated with Milden Cricket Club thanks Richard for his efforts and dedication.

Milden are always looking to grow our club and new players are always welcome and encouraged to join our club. Lots of details can be found at www.mildencec.com and how to contact us can also be found there or via Milden Cricket Clubs facebook page.

Milden CC will be holding its AGM soon when a new captain will be voted in, please follow us on Facebook for more details. We are all looking forward to the 2016 season, with ambitions to provide more teams, more cricket for next season. If you are interested in getting involved with our club, either in a playing or supporting capacity, please do get in touch. Up the Meldes

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In the latest encounter Seniors captain Mike Barnes (right) led his team to a 12-9 victory, and ladies captain Sheila Barnes did the honours of presenting the trophy.

Remember

The Box River News can be seen in full colour by downloading from the internet. Go to boxfordvillagehall.co.uk and click on the BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about two days after the published press date.

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