

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



AUGUST 2017
Vol 17 No8

GOODLANDS PHASE 2 The Boxford Society letter

The Boxford Society

To Ms K Oelman, Planning Officer ,Babergh District Council

Dear Ms Oelman,

Re-consultation on Outline Planning Application – B/17/00091 Goodlands Phase 2, Boxford.

Further to my letter of 17 February 2017 I wish to object to this Outline Application on behalf of the Boxford Society in the light of the revised topographical plan and transport statement.

The Boxford Society, with a membership of over 120 residents, objects to this Outline Application as no attempt appears to have been made to modify it in the light of our previous comments or those of other residents, and no account has been taken of the recent Suffolk Highways traffic survey.

1. Revised Site plan 4862-SK03 Version E published 18 April 2017.

We object that this latest site plan still does not include detailed provision for access to Primrose Wood (a community woodland) either during the building or after completion of the development. Our previous comments in our February letter and those of other respondents appear to have been ignored. As no further submission has been made by the applicant or amendment to the site plan, we feel it is necessary to repeat our concerns more forcibly.

The developer, Landex, failed in many ways to meet its obligations under the planning permission it was given for Goodlands Phase 1. That Application included a footpath from the Play Area down the west side of Phase 1 to the river and on to the bridge and thence to Primrose Wood. This was never constructed which shows utter contempt by the developer for the planning process and residents. The muddy, unsurfaced "path" shown to exist on the latest Phase 2 Plan stops abruptly at the northern edge of the "Green Space" which is in reality a clayey, bare spoil heap with very steep sides. In other words the so called "path" gives access from the playground to nothing other than the top of a spoil heap. This spoil heap was placed there without permission and has damaged the landscape irrevocably. The spoil heap should be removed, but if not, it must be landscaped and seeded to minimise the impact on wildlife and, in particular, the barn owls that still hunt there. Safe pedestrian paths within the proposed Green Space and routes through it to the bridge and Primrose Wood should be detailed in the Outline Planning Application and shown on a revised Site Plan.

The legal status and ownership of this Green Space are not clear in the Application. Who will actually own the land and be responsible for its long term up keep together with the associated plantings? Is it to be a formally designated and protected as a Public Open Space?

The Outline Application recognises the role of the "informal footpath" around the north and west side of the proposed development which has been the permissive access to Primrose Wood for many years. However, this footpath is now overgrown with hedges and shrubs and has become impassable. Currently access to the bridge and the Wood is gained instead via an informal path diagonally across the Phase 2 field from behind the Portacabins next to the new parking area at Daking Avenue. The security fencing for Phase 2 would enclose all of this field and shut off this informal route. It is therefore vital that the blocked footpath is reopened around the north and west side of the field. Who will be responsible for this? Why is it not shown on the latest site plan?

The Outline Application proposes a 10m wide planting around these boundaries and the turning of the "informal path" into a "woodland walk" to the bridge. The Application should make clear who will re-open this path and maintain it. The incomplete post and wire fence on the inside should be removed and the path widened to 1m when it is unblocked, so that it can start to become a "woodland walk" whilst Phase 2 construction takes place. It would give confidence to residents if all of this had been included in a revised site plan.

At present there are parking spaces next to the Phase 1 entrance road, paved and labelled as part of the Phase 1 development and set aside for visitors to Primrose Wood. These are removed on the new site plan and replaced by an access road, so we assume that the new "Visitor Spaces" shown next to the affordable housing parking spaces are intended for Primrose Wood visitors. This should be clear on the site plan, otherwise a conflict of interest will occur.

2 Revised Transport Statement:

This still makes light of the impact of Goodlands Phase 1 and other recent developments and those in the pipeline (Cynet Court) on the traffic flow in Swan Street. These have already added many additional car movements to our already congested village, most of them through Swan Street. The constant use of the phrase "perceived congestion" shows that the author of the Statement has no experience of using Swan Street or living there at busy times of day.

There has been a major increase in traffic, both because of the significant incremental housing growth that has taken place around the village and the addition of two age groups to the Boxford Primary School, bringing many more parent's cars from the surrounding villages twice a day. I believe a recent Traffic Survey was undertaken by Suffolk Highways showing the extent of this traffic growth. Surely this must be taken into account of when considering the likely impact of the additional traffic that would be generated by Goodlands Phase 2 on congestion and the lives of those living in Swan Street.

This medieval village with its narrow streets and lack of off road parking cannot take this amount of traffic without losing much of its character and quality of life. A 20 mph limit throughout the conservation area should be considered and off-street parking created to serve the village centre. This should be provided before any further development is allowed and an S106 sum should be required up front from the developer to contribute to it. In this regard the District Council should identify a suitable site with the Parish Council as a matter of urgency.

In summary, the Boxford Society wishes to emphasise the concerns of residents about the impact that ad hoc development has had on Swan Street and the centre of the village which successive developer led planning applications and the planning authority have not considered. It is imperative that detailed plans are submitted showing how congestion will be dealt with and access to Primrose Wood maintained before outline planning permission is granted. Given the developer's previous record, how can we have confidence that it will abide by its obligations without these?

Please would you have regard to these objections and take them into account in your consideration of the Outline Application.

Yours sincerely,

P T S Loose (Mrs), Chairman, The Boxford Society.

Box River News

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"A BENCH WITH A VIEW!" PRIMROSE WOOD NEWS

I have already been told that one of the two new benches we have just finished installing at Primrose Wood has the best view in Boxford. Perhaps you will go yourself to see whether you agree. The accompanying photo hardly does it justice. The bench sits at the top of the new meadow as you climb the diagonal path away from the bridge. We hope shortly it will have a wide path leading directly to it.

The other bench provides an excellent spot to rest awhile further on in your walk along the top path through the wood proper. In fact, with the hexagonal bench installed in the early spring under the black poplar by the river, you can now rest comfortably at least three times during your circular walk. Given how hot it is as I write, the benches have arrived in the nick of time.

A team of volunteers finished installing the last two yesterday in sweltering heat. The very opposite of the torrential rain two weeks ago when a large team had to manhandle the very heavy benches from the A1071 and Goodlands to their final locations using a wheelbarrow. Anyway, they are finally levelled, anchored and ready for use. Why not take a drink or a sandwich and enjoy the peace and greenery, alive with the sound of birds. Yesterday the meadow was also alive with hundreds of butterflies of several different species.

Our grateful thanks to the two Boxford families, Court Knoll Masonic Lodge and the Boxford Community Council who generously funded the whole project. We are also indebted to Realise Futures, the Ipswich company that built the benches from recycled materials, for their excellent workmanship and superb service. They specialise in building using recycled plastic which is very attractive and long lasting, with no rot or maintenance required.

Finally thank you also to the team of volunteers who provided the labour and tools and made this possible. Three of them are seen in the accompanying photo testing their work and taking a well-deserved rest in the shade.

Roger Loose



Remember

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Just go to <http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/box-river-news> and scroll down to the latest BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about one day after the published press date.
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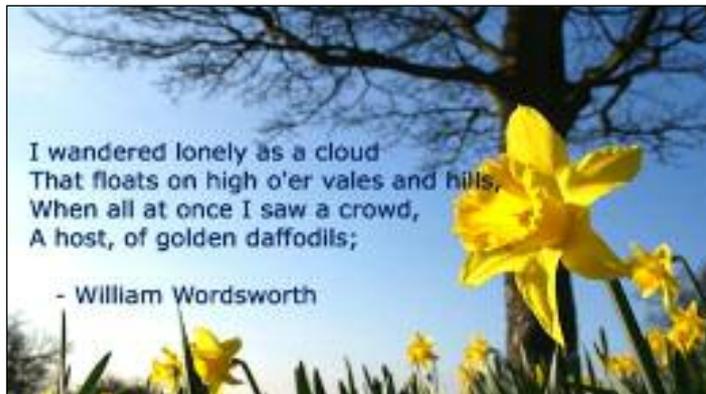
THIS MONTHS LETTER FROM REV JUDITH

Dear Friends,

Poetry please...?

Some of you might recognise this as the name of radio programme, hosted by Liverpool poet, Roger McGough, where listeners can request their favourite poem. I've only managed to catch it once or twice, but what's as interesting as the wide range of poems are the stories which go with them. Usually the poem marks a special time or place in for the one who's chosen it. Because poetry can be hilarious or hallowed, sublime or ridiculous, and everything in between, it's able to travel with us through the good and the bad in our lives, the happy and sad.

There's always been a strong impulse too for writers to find inspiration for their poetry in nature. Wordsworth's "Daffodils" is one of the more famous ones, but there are countless others. And no wonder. The natural world which surrounds us here in these five villages, is a place, if only we have eyes to see and ears to hear and time to stop, where our spirits can rest or soar.



Listen to these words, written by a nature photographer, currently taking a whole year to work round the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's reserved, capturing their magical moments:

"I've spent a lot of time immersing myself in the Norfolk landscape...sometimes in the most secret, undisturbed, tranquil places where I am often the only visitor...I've come away refreshed, renewed and enlivened by nature..." Being close to nature, God's creation, brings



healing of the spirit. He goes on, "To experience the deep contemplation and peacefulness that nature has to offer, I have to be patient and contemplative myself, prepared to let go of the busy-ness and constant thinking of my everyday life." (Richard Osbourne, in Tern, Summer 2017)

A local, published, poet, Mervyn Linford,

<http://www.southendpoetry.co.uk/littoral/biog.htm>

has also long been captivated by the sounds, sights and smells of Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex. Known to some of you as the person who wrote and read the poem "Jizz" at Peter Hamling's funeral in Boxford recently, Mervyn has been a friend of mine since we met at St Peter's Church, Coggeshall, when I was a curate there for three years between 2007-2010. Not at all the picture of a poet that you might have in your mind, Mervyn is a larger than life character, with the capacity to be both scurrilous and sensitive in equal measure! His wicked sense of humour and infectious laugh making coffee after mid-week communion at Mary's House something of a riot at times. This jovial exterior, though, gives little hint of the poetry he writes, which is at times, moving, thoughtful and profound. Above all it is evocative of the East Anglian landscape in all its moods and manifestations. I am delighted that we will be hosting an evening of Mervyn's poetry, enlivened by his anecdotes, reflections and recollections, to raise funds for Boxford Church on Sunday 29th October at 7pm. More details in next month's magazine.

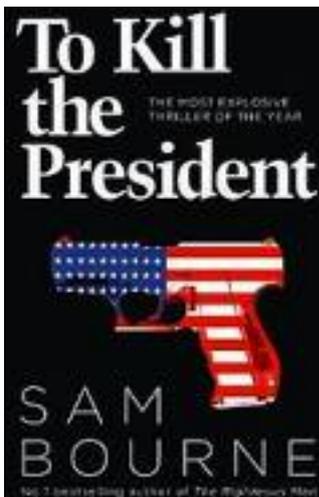
Jesus found healing for his own spirit as he walked the shores of the Sea of Galilee, rested on the slopes of a mountain, stooped to wonder at the incomparable beauty of a wild lily, watched the birds feeding and the foxes in their dens.

May you too find peace, inspiration, and God's presence in the natural world all about you.

Blessings, Revd Judith

THIS MONTH'S GOOD READS

To Kill the President by Sam Bourne



In normal circumstances, *To Kill the President* would be just another thriller. "Sam Bourne" is the pseudonym of Jonathan Freedland, a senior figure on the Guardian, our sister paper. Freedland is always worth reading, of course. But a book that began with US officials scrambling to stop their president replying with a nuclear strike to mockery of his manhood from North Korea would have seemed ridiculous only a year ago. Everyone knows the North Koreans would retaliate by reducing Seoul to rubble.

Readers would not just have to suspend their disbelief but send it off on holiday, if those same representatives of the Washington deep state had then concluded that the only safe option was to assassinate their commander-in-chief.

Now that the world's most powerful man lives in the grey area between the sociopathic and the psychopathic, no fantasy seems too far-fetched. Trump never forgets an insult. Instead of governing, he hops channels looking for enemies to abuse. His tweets obsess about blood pouring out of women he dislikes to a degree that suggests a long-term mental sickness mutating into a dark madness.

Freedland does not need to exaggerate for effect. He has his Trump tweeting a girl on a talent contest: "That skirt is far too short for a teenager on prime time television. Still, if she wants to perform a private show for me @whitehouse the answer is yes!" He grabs the crotch of a female aide and hisses: "Don't think anything. I'm the brains around here." To put it at its mildest, you cannot say that these are inventions that stretch the reader's credulity.

Like murder in Greek tragedy, Freedland keeps Trump off stage. His heroine must deal with a barely disguised Steve Bannon instead. A sadly anonymous Twitter user recently dug out a marvellous Sartre quote about the antisemites of the 1930s that applies as well to Bannon's "alt-right" (and its counterparts on the left). "Never believe antisemites are completely unaware of the absurdity of their replies," Sartre said. Their adversaries use words responsibly, while they "delight in acting in bad faith, since they seek not to persuade by sound argument but to intimidate and disconcert".

Freedland's Bannon delights in lolling around the White House. He poses as "a middle-aged rock star on a nostalgia tour". When the heroine tries to correct him, he sneers about "prissy little missies" who treat red-blooded white males as criminals. They don't get the joke, or why folks "elected the big guy".

Reading Freedland, you can see how the "big guy" may save a genre that looked exhausted. Real intelligence agencies fight Islamist extremism, Russia and China. But for the majority of thriller writers the only acceptable villain is a western villain. Commercial imperatives drive the plotlines. Hollywood wants a global audience, and a thriller with the Chinese state as the enemy, for instance, would never be screened in the vast Chinese market. Liberal writers, meanwhile, are wary of the danger of condoning racism in general and anti-Muslim bigotry in particular.

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For years, you have only needed to glimpse a politician or CEO to suspect that by the final scene he will be unmasked as the organiser of a plot of supernatural iniquity. In the west, we expect our leaders to be criminals. It is easier to blame our problems on wicked men and women than accept that they may be insoluble. But repetition had made even the best thriller writers sound tired. In John le Carré's early novels, you could say as you read of Smiley chasing Karla that the Soviet Union had real moles at the top of British intelligence. No court or newsroom has ever found the equivalent of the corrupt Foreign Office and MI6 officers in *The Night Manager*, bribed by merchants of death to facilitate murder.

He may achieve nothing else, but Trump has saved the thriller. What once was paranoid now reads as realistic. As Freedland's plot grows more violent, and Trump and Bannon's ambitions become more dictatorial, you can never quite dismiss his story as fantasy. Trump may be a disaster for the world but he is a gift wrapped in stiff, shiny paper for every writer who tackles him.

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ELSIE'S FAMOUS TAXI



Newton Vintage event will feature Elsie's famous Taxi

AN 80-year-old taxi which performed a unique role in a town's transport history is to make a rare public appearance. Elsie Elliston carried King George VI and Winston Churchill to hush-hush, war-time engagements in the Sudbury area in her six-cylinder, 16hp Austin taxi.

As a riding school owner, she always wore jodhpurs and a riding jacket when driving. Numerous brides were transported to weddings, and many mums-to-be were rushed to hospital in the vehicle. Elsie died more than a quarter of a century ago, but the taxi is still in the ownership of her family.

On August 6 her son-in-law Pat Morton shows it at Newton Green Golf Club for a 110th anniversary event. He has never previously shown the car, although it has seen service at a few family celebrations, such as weddings.

The old car still has its original engine. It has had one re-bore. Purchased from Mann Eggerton, of Ipswich, in 1936, it has travelled in excess of 500,000 miles – although Elsie reputedly never exceeded 30 mph! It was bought for £301 and was insured in its first year with the Prudential for £17.50.

Mr Morton retains the original log book and show room brochure. He

said: "It only needs turning over a couple of times for it to start. The family is pleased it has been able to hold on to a vehicle of such historic importance to the Sudbury area.

"Elsie took King George VI from Sudbury railway station to Acton airfield when he came to visit injured servicemen, and carried Winston Churchill when he came to the area during the war."

Mr Morton said the car had also transported a few unusual items in connection with Elsie's riding stable. Once, she acquired a Shetland pony for her grandson and brought it home tethered in the vehicle's rear foot well. However, she refused to allow its use in TV's Dad's Army because she feared it would be damaged.

People who had travelled to their weddings or other special occasions in the vehicle would be welcome to visit the show and have their pictures taken with the car.

Interviewed for a local history profile in 1992, Elsie said: "I did a lot of driving during the war. I used to drive servicemen back to their bases late at night, and also went up to London a lot. I knew the North Circular like the back of my hand. I've just had the one car, and it has done the equivalent of going round the world 25 times.

"Every time I came home at night - it might have been raining or snowing, I would wash or wipe it down, and look to see if anyone had dropped a cigarette inside. I did all the maternity jobs in Sudbury because women would prefer to have a woman driver. And I did most of the weddings too – I had some lovely class work."



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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOAN OF ARC A Talk by Joy Bounds

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Suffolk writer Joy Bounds to talk to us about the life and times of Joan of Arc. The subject was familiar to most, but by name only, without any detail other than that she was burnt at the stake. The audience listened attentively while Joy gave a detailed account of the last two years of Joan's short but incredibly eventful life.

She was born in January 1412 in Domrémy, a small village within territory controlled by Henry VI of England, not far from the then border with the Holy Roman Empire, during the Hundred Years war between England and France which had begun in 1337 (as an inheritance dispute over the French Throne). Prior to the appearance of Joan, the English nearly achieved a dual monarchy under their control, whilst the French army had not achieved any major victories for a generation. Joy told us that much is obscure about her life, apart from the well documented trial that led to her execution, in a world which was vastly different from today - very superstitious and religious.

Joan's parents owned about 50 acres of land and her father Jacques supplemented farming with a minor position as a village official, collecting taxes and heading the local watch. They lived in an isolated part of eastern France that remained loyal to the French crown despite being surrounded by pro-Burgundian lands. We were told Joan was one of five children, probably all illiterate, that there were several raids during her childhood and that her village was burned on one occasion.

Joy told us the family home was a simple affair, comprising just a couple of downstairs rooms with a loft above, and that the family was very ordinary; there was apparently "nothing special" about Joan until she became a teenager, when she suddenly seemed very different:

- She was affected by the war;
- She was not a part of any group;
- In 1425 she experienced her first 'vision', in her father's garden, of figures she identified as Saint Michael, Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret, allegedly they told her to drive out the English and bring the Dauphin to Reims for his coronation;
- She refused to marry, because God had told her that she would do something special.

All of this marked out Joan as someone very different, though no one could have imagined just how different at the time. When she was just 16, she asked a relative to take her to the nearby town of Vaucouleurs, somewhere the English and Burgundians were keen to take; there she petitioned the garrison commander Robert



de Baudricourt for an armed escort to the French Royal Court at Chinon. Unsurprisingly she was sent home, but she returned the following January (1429) when she gained support from two of the garrison soldiers, reportedly telling them that "I must be at the King's side, there will be no help (for the kingdom) if not from me. Although I would rather have remained spinning wool at my mother's side, yet must I go and must I do this thing, for my Lord wills that I do so".

With the support of the two soldiers, Joan obtained a second meeting with the commander, when she made a prediction about a military reversal at the Battle of Rouvray, near Orléans, several days before messengers arrived to report it. According to the Journal du Siège d'Orléans, Joan came to know of the battle through "divine grace" while tending her flocks in Lorraine, using this apparently divine revelation to persuade Baudricourt to take her to the Dauphin (her apparent). Baudricourt granted Joan an escort to Chinon after news from Orléans confirmed her assertion of the defeat, so things were now grim for the French. Joan made the journey through hostile Burgundian territory disguised as a male soldier, something later leading to charges against her of cross-dressing, although her escort viewed it as a normal precaution. The English had by now marched south to besiege Orléans and Charles' mother-in-law planned to finance a relief expedition. Joan impressed Charles VII during a private conference at the Royal Court, so she asked permission to travel with the army and wear protective armour, which was provided by the Royal government. We were then told that she depended on donated items for her armour, her horse, her sword, her banner and many other items utilised by her entourage.

After years humiliating defeat, it seems the military and civil leadership of France were both demoralised and discredited. When Charles granted Joan's urgent request to be equipped for war and to be placed at the head of his army, his decision must have been based on knowledge that every orthodox and rational option had been tried and failed - only a desperate regime would pay any heed to an illiterate farm girl claiming the voice of God was instructing her to take charge of her country's army to lead it to victory!

Joan effectively turned the longstanding Anglo-French conflict into a religious war, which worried Charles' advisers because unless Joan's orthodoxy could be established beyond doubt, Charles' enemies could allege that his crown was a gift from the devil. The Dauphin therefore ordered background inquiries and a theological examination to verify her morality, and in April 1429, the commission of inquiry declared her to be of irreproachable life, a good Christian, possessed of the virtues of humility, honesty and simplicity. The Poitiers theologians did not however render a decision on the issue of divine inspiration, simply informing the Dauphin there was a favorable presumption to be made on the divine nature of her mission. This was enough for Charles, but they also stated that he had an obligation to put Joan to the test. They recommended her claims should be tested by seeing if she could lift the siege of Orléans, as she predicted.

Joy told us that the French army, with Joan at its head, was reinvigorated and engaged in battle; just one day later the English generals were slaughtered or fled, along with their army. The French re-took Orléans, whose citizens remain grateful to this day, whilst the French army grew in confidence; Joan then took more towns and cities and halted the English advance. The English army withdrew from the Loire Valley to head north on 18 June, joining an expected unit of reinforcements under the command of Sir John Fastolf; Joan urged the Armagnacs to pursue, and the two armies clashed southwest of the village of Patay, where the battle might reasonably be compared to Agincourt, but in reverse.

Joan then decided that Charles should be crowned at Reims, where all coronations were held. Reims opened its gates on 16 July 1429 and the coronation took place the following morning. Despite Joan urging a prompt march on Paris, the royal court negotiated a truce with Duke Philip of Burgundy, who then violated the agreement by using it as a stalling tactic to reinforce the defence of Paris. The French army marched through towns near Paris during the interim, and accepted several peaceful surrenders. The Duke of Bedford led an English force and confronted the French army in a standoff at the battle of Montépilloy, on 15 August. Shortly thereafter, the King lost interest and stood down the army; by all accounts Joan was very upset. In October, Joan was with the royal army when it took Saint-Pierre-le-Moûtier, followed by an unsuccessful attempt to take La-Charité-sur-Loire in November and December, and on 29 December, Joan and her family were ennobled by Charles VII as a reward for her actions.

The truce with England quickly came to an end, so Joan travelled to Compiègne the following May to help defend the city against an English and Burgundian siege. On 23 May 1430 she was with a force attempting to attack the Burgundian camp at Margny, north of Compiègne, but she was ambushed and captured. When her troops withdrew toward the nearby fortifications of Compiègne, following the advance of an additional 6,000 Burgundians, Joan stayed with the rear guard. Burgundian troops surrounded the rear guard and she was pulled off her horse by an archer; she agreed to surrender and was imprisoned by the Burgundians at Beaurevoir Castle.

The English negotiated with their Burgundian allies to transfer her into their custody, with Bishop Pierre Cauchon of Beauvais, an English partisan, assuming a prominent role in the negotiations and her later trial. The final agreement required the English to pay 10,000 livres tournois (one of many currencies at the time) to obtain her from Jean de Luxembourg. They moved Joan to the city of Rouen, which served as their main French headquarters, and determined to hold a trial.

The trial for heresy was politically motivated, with the tribunal composed entirely of pro-English and Burgundian clerics, overseen by English commanders. Legal proceedings commenced on 9 January 1431 at Rouen; the procedure was suspect on a number of points, which would later provoke criticism of the tribunal by the chief inquisitor investigating the trial after the war. Under ecclesiastical law, Bishop Cauchon lacked jurisdiction as he owed his appointment to partisan support of the English Crown financing the trial whilst the low standard of evidence used violated

inquisitorial rules. Clerical notary Nicolas Bailly, commissioned to collect testimony against Joan, could find no adverse evidence so the court lacked grounds to initiate a trial. Opening the trial anyway, the court then violated ecclesiastical law by denying Joan the right to a legal adviser, whilst stacking the tribunal entirely with pro-English clergy violated the Church's requirement that heresy trials be judged by an impartial or balanced group of clerics. At the first public examination Joan complained that those present were all partisans against her, and asked for "ecclesiastics of the French side" to be invited in order to provide balance. Sadly for her, this request was denied.

The Vice-Inquisitor of Northern France objected to the trial at its outset, and several eyewitnesses later said that he was forced to cooperate after the English threatened his life; some other clergy were also threatened when they refused to cooperate. These threats and the domination of the trial by a secular government were violations of the Church's rules, undermining the right of the Church to conduct heresy trials without secular interference.

The trial record contains statements from Joan which eyewitnesses later said astonished the court - she was an illiterate peasant yet was able to evade theological pitfalls the tribunal had set up to entrap her. Joan should also have been confined in an ecclesiastical prison under the supervision of female guards (nuns), but instead was kept in a secular prison guarded by English soldiers; Bishop Cauchon denied Joan's appeals to the Council of Basel and the Pope, which should have stopped his proceeding. Faced with immediate execution on May 24, Joan agreed to give up male clothing and signed an abjuration document (a solemn repudiation, abandonment or renunciation taken on oath), which she probably did not understand. The court then substituted a different abjuration in the official record.

Heresy was a capital crime but only for a repeat offense, so a repeat offense of "cross-dressing" was arranged by the court. Joan agreed to wear feminine clothing when she abjured, creating a problem; according to the later descriptions of some tribunal members, she had previously been wearing male clothing in prison because it gave her the ability to fasten her hosen, boots and tunic together into one piece, which deterred rape by making it difficult to pull her hosen off. Joan was afraid to give up this outfit, even temporarily, because the judge was likely to confiscate it and she would be left without protection - a woman's dress offered no such protection. A few days after her abjuration, when she was forced to wear a dress, she told a tribunal member that "a great English lord had entered her prison and tried to take her by force." She then resumed male attire, either as a defence against molestation or, in the testimony of Jean Massieu, because her dress had been taken by the guards and she was left with nothing else to wear.

Her resumption of male military clothing was labelled a relapse into heresy for cross-dressing, though this would later be disputed by the inquisitor who presided over the appeals court examining the case after the war. In terms of doctrine, Joan had been justified in disguising herself as a pageboy during her journey through enemy territory, in wearing armour during battle, and then protective clothing when in camp and in prison. Joan referred the court to the Poitiers inquiry when questioned on the matter. The Poitiers record no longer survives, but circumstances indicate the Poitiers clerics had approved her practice. She also kept her hair cut short through her military campaigns and while in prison. Supporters defended her hairstyle for practical reasons, as did Inquisitor Jean Bréhal later in the appellate trial; nonetheless, in 1431 she was condemned and sentenced to die. Her trial described as so "unfair" that the transcripts were later used as evidence for canonising her in the 20th century.

Eyewitnesses described the scene of her 30 May 1431 execution by burning - tied to a tall pillar at the Vieux-Marché in Rouen, she asked two of the clergy to hold a crucifix before her. An English soldier constructed a small cross which she put in the front of her dress. After she died, by smoke inhalation because the executioner took pity and arranged the fire to smoke, the coals were raked back to expose the charred body so no one could claim she had escaped alive. The body was then burned twice more, reducing it to ashes and to prevent collection of relics, before the remains were cast into the Seine.

The Hundred Years' War continued for a further twenty-two years after her death. Charles VII retained legitimacy as the king of France, despite a rival coronation being held for Henry VI at Notre-Dame in Paris on 16 December 1431 (his tenth birthday). Before England could rebuild its military leadership and force of long-bowmen lost in 1429, the alliance with Burgundy ended when the Treaty of Arras was signed in 1435. The Duke of Bedford died the same year and Henry VI became the youngest king of England to rule without a regent.

A posthumous retrial opened after the war ended - Pope Callixtus III authorized the proceeding, known as the "nullification trial", at the request of Inquisitor-General Jean Bréhal and Joan's mother. The purpose was to investigate whether the trial of condemnation and verdict had been handled justly and according to canon law. Investigations started with an inquest by a theologian and former rector of the University of Paris. Bréhal conducted an investigation in 1452 and a formal appeal followed in November 1455. A panel of theologians analysed testimony from 115 witnesses. Bréhal drew up his final summary in June 1456, describing Joan as a martyr and implicating the late Pierre Cauchon (Bishop of Beauvais and a strong partisan of English interests in France) with heresy for convicting an innocent woman in pursuit of a secular vendetta (the technical reason for Joan's execution had been a Biblical clothing law). The nullification trial reversed the conviction, and the appellate court declared her innocent on 7 July 1456.

Joy said that over time Joan was then forgotten, but remembered in Victorian times when she was made a Saint, since when she has become something of a feminist icon. This concluded Joy's excellent talk, to leave our audience quietly pondering the fate of a true French heroine.

However, this is not the end. On writing this review, it is apposite to mention the recent sale of her ring and the diplomatic incident it created. As described by the Daily Mail in December 2015:

A 15th century ring believed to have been given to Joan of Arc by her parents in 1431, before she was burned at the stake, will go under the hammer in London.

Thought to have been worn by the patron saint before her death, and handed down through King Henry VII, it is set to be auctioned in February. The auction lot comes with an antique oak casket and documents supporting the authenticity of the ring. The piece of history will go under the hammer in late February, with an estimate of between £10,000 and 14,000; however, Mr Hammond said it could sell for a lot more.

In March 2016 the Telegraph reported:

Last month, a gold-plated silver ring believed to have been owned by the French martyr, who defeated the English before being burned at the stake, was sold at auction in London for nearly £300,000. Given to Joan by her parents as a devotional object for her first communion, it was seized from her prison at her death in 1431 by a pro-English bishop and taken as war booty to England, where it remained for six centuries. The French, however, finally cried victory when they won a tense bidding battle over the relic, whose pre-sale estimate was only £10,000. To mark the ring's triumphant return, the buyers, a historically-themed French amusement park called Le Puy du Fou, staged a lavish ceremony on Sunday before 5,000 people near Nantes, western France.

"The ring has come back to France and will stay here" Philippe de Villiers, the founder of Puy de Fou told the crowd before a rousing rendition of the Marseillaise. However, he then revealed there was a new twist to the saga. "The British government has sent our lawyer an unprecedented demand: the return of the ring to London" Mr de Villiers told the shocked throng. "We are told that the National Arts Council considers this ring part of those objects with, and I quote 'high national symbolic value' and as such should have part of a special legislation." According to the demand, on purchasing the ring the Puy de Fou park should have obtained a special export licence necessary under European regulations.

Auction house TimeLine's managing director, Brett Hammond, told Art Newspaper: "We handed over the ring to the buyer's solicitors in London on 3 March. We also gave them a letter, which they signed for, advising them the ring would need a UK export licence."

Mr de Villier's son, Nicolas, who runs the theme park, confirmed on Monday that he had received a letter asking to send the ring back. "It is inconceivable that the ring leaves France or is put back on the market for a British buyer to put in another bid," he told the Telegraph. Joan of Arc, he went on, remained "one of the last bones of contention between France and England" and its return was an act of "appeasement". Any attempt to reclaim it would, he went on, "be deeply traumatic for France" and the scores of private donors who helped pay for it with donations from €20 to €50,000. "We are simply putting history to rights" he said. In a final flourish, he laid down the gauntlet by stating "Ladies and gentlemen from Britain, if you want to see the ring, then come to the Puy de Fou. For the rest it's too late, the ring has returned to France and here it will stay...even if the European Commission orders it back."

In August 2016, The Guardian reported the final act in the saga:

Puy du Fou president Nicolas de Villiers, whose father Philippe, a French politician, founded the theme park, said there had never been any question of returning the ring. "The request made us laugh," he told the Guardian. "We wrote to the Queen asking her if she could help sort things out quickly. Clearly Buckingham Palace spoke in the right person's ear because we then heard we could keep the ring". De Villiers added: "It's a symbol, a relic, that has been held prisoner in England for 600 years. It's a small ring, but it has extraordinary symbolic significance for the French and we had to get it back. "It's a strong symbol of an extraordinary period in our history, and reminds us of this great woman who overcame such obstacles to get people to listen to her and lead our country to victory. We hope this symbol of hope and victory will help the French rediscover the pride and confidence that they have lost today".

Clearly the Maid of Orléans remains as much a symbol to the French today as she ever did!

Our next event will be at 7.30 in the Parish Room on 20th September, when Sarah Doig, a local writer, researcher and brilliant speaker on local and general history, will take us through her own A-Z of Curious Suffolk. As described by Amazon:

The book romps through Suffolk's rolling countryside and along its shingled coastline, unearthing the curious along the way. Sandwiched between ecclesiastical

penances handed to adulterers and fornicators, and the odd porcelain incendiary bombs commemorating the Zeppelin raids, is an alphabetical cornucopia of strange, spooky and mysterious facts about the county. Its going to be great, so make a note in your diary.

Andy Sheppard



Left
Joan of arcs ring,
a gold-plated silver ring
believed to have been
owned by the French
martyr,

PICS FROM BOXFORD SCHOOL FETE



Above: Beckett Wild receiving his medal from Miss Lesley for his first public performance with the Miss Lesley's School of Performing Arts at the Sausage Sizzle, Boxford School on Saturday 1st July. As you can see - Beckett was absolutely over the moon with his medal!

BIG BAND DANCE AT THE DELPHI



The Big Band Dance at The Delphi Centre on 24th June was a great success a sum of £700 was raised for "Upbeat" the Suffolk Heart Charity for patients and the families

Cheque presentation to Vice Chairman of "Upbeat" Brian Richell his wife Ann from Phil & Jacqui Goodyer of "Dance With Us Suffolk"

Remember

The Box River News can be seen in full colour by downloading from the internet.

Just go to <http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/box-river-news> and scroll down to the latest BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about one day after the published press date. You can also drag any pics you might like onto your desktop but these will be of low resolution. If you would like a high res pic just email the address below and we will send you a PDF or Jpeg ed.kench@btinternet.com

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A hand is pouring sparkling wine from a bottle into a glass. The glass is filled with raspberries and a fresh mint leaf. The background is a blurred blue.

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AND
DRINK
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**PROSECCO FESTIVAL
3PM TILL LATE
MUSIC**

NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

3PR Stats for June

Our responders covered 547 hours out of a possible 720 hours and attended 26 incidents.

Boxford WI – July 2017

Our Speaker Chris Hunt talked to us about being a Town Guide. Guides can work anywhere in the Country but generally cover their local area. Their work includes visits to museums, walks and places of historical interest. For example Colchester is an important town historically and the castle which is now a museum is one of the earliest stone builds in the country. Around 4/5 years ago a Roman circus where chariots raced was discovered near the old garrison and is well worth a visit. In Lavenham the old Guild Hall which is now owned by the National Trust was originally used as a religious meeting place for wealthy Catholic merchants. It has also been used as a prison, a workhouse and a social club for US troops during the Second World War. A fascinating insight into the rich history of East Anglia.

Newton Residents

No longer out of bounds on New Golf Holes

Residents of a Newton are achieving a new deal that gives them access to parts of a local golf course that have previously been "out of bounds."

A new Villager Plus membership has been agreed between trustees responsible for a 44 acre green forming part of the 18-hole Newton Green Golf Club.

Residents can play the long-established holes on the village green for free, but have to pay if they want to swing their way round the remaining 80-acres, which were developed 25 years ago on land leased for 125 years from farmer and club president Michael Oliver.

The golf club has been using the green side of the course for 110 years, and for several decades paid residents a bag of coal per household as rent. The formation of a trust a few years ago reinforced proper monetary payments. As part of latest negotiations, the club is increasing its contributions to the trust, and the parties have agreed on the new Villager Plus membership.

Residents will pay half the prevailing seven-day membership fee to play all 18 holes, although access to the new side of the course will have restrictions. Play will be available from 12.30 pm on Saturdays and 10.30 am other times. Free golf for residents continues on the village green holes.

Peter Philpott, club chairman, said "If the village players wish to gain handicaps, play in competitions and have voting rights they will have to become full members – and many already do. Village users will continue to enjoy all amenities offered by the club.

"To gain Villager Plus status, residents effectively have to pay £377, and the club will be sharing half that figure with the trust administering the green, which means both the club and the village benefits."

A condition of Villager Plus membership means taking part in an introductory, one hour, off-course session with club professional Tim Cooper.

LWHS Membership Application 2017 / 18

If you would like to join our Society or renew your membership, please complete the form below and return with your membership fee for the year from 1st September 2017, (cheques payable to Little Waldingfield History Society) to our Treasurer, Sue Sheppard at School House, Church Road, Little Waldingfield.

Lay her know your Name, Address Telephone Number (s), Email Address Membership of LWHS costs £10.00 per person pa and entitles each member to the following benefits:

- Reduced price entry to LWHS events;
- Access to exclusive LWHS member events;
- Access to Suffolk Local history and other local events; and
- Access to the Suffolk Review.

Boxford Drama Group

After the last production by The Boxford Drama Group a collection was made for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

I am pleased to advise that a cheque for £200 has been forwarded to them that I'm sure will be put to good use.

Thank you to all who supported us for the production many of whom came up to me at the end with a tear in their eye, mainly women but a few men as well, something that hasn't happened to me in many a year. Bill Horne

SESAW Open Day

At last it's time to invite you to the SESAW Open Day and Fun Dog Show on Sunday 30th July. There will be family games, face painting, competitions, stalls, a vintage corner, music, homemade snacks and cakes, a bbq and ice cream too. If you still have the energy after all that, you may pick up a bargain in our Barking Basement!

Most importantly, you can meet the animals awaiting new homes because that's what it's all about. The event starts at midday and if you are really lucky, you will also meet me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua! Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk

Bank Closures – Use the Post Office

With many local branches of High Street Banks being closed did you know you can withdraw cash pay in cash and cheques at Boxford Post Office?

You can use your bank paying in slips to deposit cash and cheques. Your Post Office has paying in envelopes for Santander, Co-op, Smile, HSBC, First Direct, M&S, Barclays, Lloyds, NatWest, TSB, Bank of Scotland, Cahoot, Yorkshire, CAF, Bank of Ireland, Clydesdale, Royal Bank of Scotland, Halifax and Thinkmoney.

There is no charge for withdrawing and depositing cash via your debit card. If you are not sure if your debit card allows you to deposit cash please pop in and we can check for you. Most banks have an agreement to do this and if it is not available on yours a quick phone call to the number on the back of your debit card should get you a card which can allow you to do this subject to your banks terms and conditions of course.

You can also deposit bags of change with us. Open those jars with the old style £1 coins in. Ask in the Post Office for coin bags and bag it up, bring in and we can deposit into your account for you. The £1 coin is being withdrawn in October so get depositing or spending them now.

The old £5 note was withdrawn in March but you can still deposit in the post office so dig them out of your money pots and pay them in or use them to buy stamps at the counter.

The Post Office nationally is encouraging use of its banking facilities and the more transactions through your post office the better its chances of survival!

All change can be taken in complete bags – the denominations are on the side of the clear ones we can give you. Just swapping them for notes does not count as a transaction which is why we encourage you to deposit them with us. You can always withdraw notes from us with your card which again uses the service.

The Post Office is always happy to provide floats for local events which we have done for many years so let us know when your event is and what denominations you need and we are happy to have it ready for you prior to your event.

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- Peppers
- Rocket
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- Pine nuts

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Wot's On

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

AUGUST 2017

Tuesday 1st 12.00 Fireside Club – Buffet lunch with Lawshall

Tuesday 15th 2.00 pm Fireside Club – Games afternoon

Friday 25th 10.00 am Fireside Club Outing – Bawdsey and Woodbridge

Tuesday 29th 2.00 pm Fireside Club – tray quiz

SEPTEMBER 2017

Wednesday 6th 7.30 pm Village Hall committee

Tuesday 12th 2.30 pm Fireside Club – Corncraft for tea

Wednesday 13th 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 26th 2.00 am Fireside Club – what are you reading

Friday 29th 10.00 am Fireside Club outing – Fullers Mill gardens

Saturday 30th 10.00 am McMillan coffee morning

REGULAR EVENTS

Monday mornings (term time only): Yoga class

(phone Sophia on 313662 for details)

Monday and Thursday evenings: Western Partner Dance Club

(call Chris 371006)

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

Friday evenings: Sudbury and District Wargames Club

(call Brian on 312160)

PF50

We are celebrating the village acquiring the Playing Fields 50 years ago. On Saturday 29th July, there will be stalls of every description, demonstrations from Birds of Prey, Dog trainers and much more. There will also be sports where everyone can have a go, either interactively or practically, with screens, computer simulation etc., competitions and prizes. Throughout the afternoon there will be performances on the stage, rides and amusements for children and from 5.00 p.m., live music featuring Reno & Rome and The Beavers. Entry is free and gates open at 2.00 p.m. Look out for our Grand Prize Draw tickets in local shops.

THE HISTORY OF SUDBURY

Dr Jonathan Belsey will give an illustrated talk on Saturday 9th September 2017 at 7.30pm at Boxford School Hall entitled “The History of Sudbury: How a bronze age encampment on a river bend evolved into a centre of Victorian rural industry.”

Jonathan is always a fascinating speaker and he is an expert on Sudbury and its history. This historic borough is on our doorstep and we have been remiss in not giving it enough attention in recent years. Come and learn more about it. This is a Boxford Society event but non-members welcome on payment of £2 at the door.

LWHS Programme of Events - 2017 / 2018

20th September Sarah Doig The A to Z of Curious Suffolk

Romp through rolling countryside along the shingled coastline of Suffolk to unearth an alphabetical cornucopia of strange, spooky & mysterious facts about the county.

18th October Martin Hedges The Miser and the Murderess

A motiveless poisoning by a 17 year-old Acton servant girl just 3 weeks married to her childhood sweetheart. A missing signature on his will then lead to a 120 year-long family dispute Dickens recreated in Bleak House as Jarndyce vs Jarndyce.

15th November Gary Edgerton The History of Colchester from the Romans to present Day

Slides take us on a walking tour: The Castle, Dutch Quarter, Jumbo, St John's Abbey and St Botolph's Priory; with an amusing section on Colchester's houses of ill repute

13th December Ian McLachlan Zeppelin

Stories from the Zeppelin raids on East Anglia 100 years ago; the first casualties in Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn and how the sky monsters were defeated.

17th January Roger Green If These Walls Could Talk

MEMBER ONLY EVENT

A short talk followed by wine and nibbles.

14th February Jenny Antill Between Heaven & Earth,

reflections on the Russian Soul over 1000 years of history.

A study of the social and cultural influence of the Russian orthodox church,

the importance of the icon, impact of C19th Slavic Revival on art / architecture and the influence of religious images and ideas on soviet authorities in the 20th Century.

14th March Geoffrey Kay A tonic to the nation

The 1951 Festival of Britain

18th April Linda Sexton Sisters in adversity

The Women's Institutes and the devastating 1953 East Coast Floods

16th May Pip Wright A Picture History of Margaret Catchpole

The story of a Suffolk adventurer & chronicler transported for stealing a horse, using paintings by Rev Cobbold. Described in the Australian Dictionary of Biography as one of the few convicts with an excellent memory and a gift for recording events.

12th June Allan Manning The battle of Waterloo

This finally broke the dominance of Emperor Napoleon over Europe and was truly the end of an epoch. Allan has created a very large and detailed map of the battlefield and will take us through the incredible events of that fateful day on 18th June 1815.

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 01787 248298

Tickets Members £2.00 Non Members £4.00

Little Waldingfield Sale Trail

There will be a sale trail around the village, along with some tables in the Parish Room (the village hall in Church Road), on Saturday August 12 between 10am and 1pm; all are invited to come along and hunt out those bargains. Maps and refreshments will be available in the Parish Room.

If you wish to sell (either from your home or from the hall) please contact Sue Sheppard on 247980, at The School House or email sheppard.susanm@gmail.com. There is a £5 charge for all sellers to cover advertising, signs, maps and a donation to Parish Room funds.

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Wot's On

Little Waldingfield Parish Room

Our next Quiz Night will be on Saturday 30th September. Tickets are £10 each, to include a 2 course meal and pre dinner nibbles and there will also be a licensed bar and raffle. If you would like to join us and support the Parish Room please contact Sue Sheppard on 247980 (or email: sheppard.susanm@gmail.com) to book your tickets - please advise any dietary requirements when booking .

THE SOMME, PASSCHENDAELE, DUNKIRK, D.DAY??

If you are interested in any of the above, then please come along to Mary's House, Swan Street, Boxford, on Saturday September 16th from 10.00am where there will be a sale of second-hand books about all aspects of both World Wars; the books will be available for a small donation, probably about 50 pence each, and all money raised will go to 'Help for Heroes'. Any enquiries to Pat Kennedy Scott, 210319.

GROTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Trustees will meet on Thursday 7th September, 2017

at Mary's House, Swan Street, Boxford at 4.30pm

to consider applications for grant aid from residents living in Groton and those parts of Boxford which are included in the "area of benefit" as laid down by the Charity Commisioners - namely, Homefield, the east side of Swan Street and pockets of land in Stone Street south of Boxford Church, i.e. those parts which were included in the Tithe Map of Groton in 1881!

Details and application forms can be obtained from the Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs Scriven, Malting Lodge, Groton, Sudbury, CO10 5ER Tel:- 01787 210263

Applications from organizations serving the above area will also be considered.

We hope that newcomers to the area will be made aware of this charity by long time residents of Groton and Boxford who have themselves benefited from grants in previous years.

Nayland Flower Show

Saturday 5th August, 2-5pm

Schedules are available for the 36th annual Nayland Flower Show. Classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers, flower arranging, photography, art, craft, cookery, family and children's sections. Non members, particularly children, are most welcome to enter. Schedules available from Nayland Post Office or www.naylandhortsoc.org.uk Entry deadline 2nd August. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the exhibits, produce stall, raffle and refreshments. Nayland Village Hall, Church Lane CO6 4JH

Hever Castle Visit

Sunday 10th September 2017

Coach leaving Nayland 9:00, departing the castle at 4pm. The cost is £30 to include travel and entry. Refreshment and picnic areas are available. Open to non-members.

We anticipate strong demand, so early booking is advisable. Booking forms available on www.naylandhortsoc.org.uk and can be returned to the Hort Soc box in the Post Office, or direct to Margaret Smy at 24 Harpers Estate. Cheques payable to Nayland & District Horticultural Society. For more information, contact Margaret on 262022 or trevor.smy@virgi

BOXFORD BRIDGE CLUB

There will be no meetings of the Boxford Bridge Club throughout July and the first two weeks of August. Meetings will resume on Thursday, 17th August as usual at The Fleece Hotel from 2.00 p.m. until 4.30 p.m. Contact: David Tolhurst on 01787 210 328 or detolhurst@gmail.com

BOXFORD SLIMMING WORLD

Why not join our fun and friendly group at:
Boxford slimming world, Boxford village hall
Stone street road, Boxford
Wednesday at 7.30pm
call Vicky for a chat on:
mob: 07931587504
home:01787376059

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

CHARITY BARN DANCE

Sat 16th Sept

7.30pm -11.30pm

Manor Farm Barn, Semer
(just off B1115)



Live band & caller – licensed bar

£15 includes supper
IN ADVANCE please:
lindanewbigging@btinternet.com
07905731431
Proceeds to Kersey Church and School

Little Waldingfield FLOWER FESTIVAL

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH
(On B1115 Sudbury to Stowmarket Road)

Theme: 'Count Your Blessings'

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 September 2017
10am – 6pm both days

FREE ADMISSION – Donations Welcome

Refreshments in the Church

Stalls Tombola Raffle

Songs of Praise Sunday 6.30pm



CAREERS ADVISER



Natalie Lusted is a qualified Careers Adviser and has recently moved into the village with her husband, and their son. Here she talks about her job and how rewarding it can be for both her and her clients ...

I have worked in careers for more than 10 years and it is an incredibly rewarding job. From meeting the client for the first time, building a relationship with them and then seeing the smile on their face when they have been handed a dream job is what it's all about for me. I have a wide range of experience within the industry - giving one-to-one guidance to school pupils and university

students through to helping high-flying professionals tailor their CV as they make their next career moves.

So what does my work entail? As a qualified careers adviser, I aim to give impartial advice and help clients through what can be a tricky and confusing time for them as they try to achieve what they want from their professional life. Once we have identified a career goal, I then help with the next steps - often searching through options for further study or new employment opportunities. I will then assist with writing CV's - a poorly written CV can stop well-qualified candidates from even getting shortlisted for the interview stage. I often help with online and paper application forms and interview preparation, giving clients tips to help them overcome nerves in front of their potential new bosses and be ready to answer questions to the best of their ability. I also have experience of working with long-term unemployed, people with disabilities and military veterans who need guidance to identify their transferable skills.

Previous clients have complimented me on my professional and friendly approach which puts them at ease right from the start, giving people the confidence to discuss their career ideas. I am originally from Sudbury and know the area well in terms of opportunities and choices, but equally have worked in London and abroad so I therefore have a good understanding of other job markets and their requirements.

With Christmas looming and those New Year's resolutions on your mind, perhaps making a change in the New Year could be something you are thinking about. If so, please feel free to contact me for a free consultation to identify your needs or with any questions you might have.

I look forward to meeting you, Natalie

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN Your Babergh District Councillor

First of all we now have a date for the councils impending move to Endeavour House in Ipswich. It will be during September and the full council meeting that month will be held in the

County Council chamber. The Babergh premises in Corks Ln Hadleigh will then be closed, mothballed prior to being developed or sold. Access to the district Councils services will then be

Via telephone, e-mail or at the town councils offices in Sudbury. This move is designed to make our services more accessible and cost effective. We will see if that is the case, time will tell.

At Babergh we are now currently undergoing a review of our council wards by the boundary commission, this will mean that the Councillor numbers will be shrunk from the current 43 down to 31, this will mean the wards will be much bigger with each councillor responsible for around 2,500 electors and the District elections in 2019 will be based on these new boundaries.

Planning is still taking up much of my time with the ongoing Goodlands Farm application for 25 extra houses still being opposed by the Parish Council and it seems all local residents, the decision on this has been put back yet again so if you have a point of view on this please make it known to myself, Parish and District Council. Your views do count.

We also have the application from Konings, the new owners of the juice making business at Hill Farm Boxford which promises an almost doubling of the workforce during the next ten years but more associated traffic as well, job's versus traffic, always a tough decision. Can I at this point make my own appeal for more sensible driving and parking in the village, we all want the shops to be busy but it is getting more and more difficult to park and drive in the village especially during peak school times. The Parish Council are currently looking hard at this issue.

I hope every one has a little time for a holiday and some time off during the next six weeks and will come back refreshed and ready for the challenges that will face us in the near future.

All Best Regards Bryn. 01787 210854.

E-Mail bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk.



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our menu is on our website www.kerseybell.co.uk

Chef/kitchen staff required. Please call Janet or Wendy

Forthcoming Events Diary

July

29 PF50 - 50th Anniversary of the Playing Fields and Boxford Community Playingfields 7.30pm

August

1 Very Wysterious Boxford Gardening Society Boxford Village Hall 7.30pm

2 Boxford WI Outing to Daws Hall Lamarsh

12 Little Waldingfield Village Sale Trail Little Waldingfield 10-1pm

September

9/10 Little Waldingfield Flower Festival St Lawrence Church

9 The History of Sudbury Boxford Society Boxford Village School Hall 7.30pm

16 Book Sale Groton PCC Mary's House 10.00am

20 Sarah Doig The A to Z of Curious Suffolk LittleW Hist Society Parish Room 7.30pm

30 Little Waldingfield Parish Room Quiz Parish Room 7.30pm

October

18 Martin Hedges The Miser and the Murderess LittleW Hist Society Parish Room 7.30pm

April 2018

8 Spring Open Gardens Groton PCC Groton Street

First and Third Monday each month Boxford Parish Council Meetings in Bell House, Stone Street St, Boxford 7.30pm

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Wedding Open Day

Sunday 17th September 2017 11am - 3pm

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The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton

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

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

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

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

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

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

St Mary Parish Church Boxford

Gift Day 16th September 2017 9-12midday

As part of the church's presence in the village we are holding a gift day to support the upkeep of our beautiful mediaeval parish church. Most of us value the presence of the church in our village if not for regular worship then for the seasonal services which help us to come together to mark Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Carol Services as villagers have done throughout the past five centuries.

In order to be there when we need it for the celebration of baptism, marriage and funerals helping add gravitas to these rites of passage we need to give thought to how the church is funded and maintained by a small group of regular worshippers. We know that there is a great deal of goodwill towards the church in the village but it may not be realised by all that it is becoming a struggle to cover the cost of £800 each week by the small number of regular givers.

An envelope will be enclosed in the September Box River News to offer your gift for the continued presence of the church in the village and the pastoral support we have come to recognise from our rector. Reverend Judith will be available in the village centre during the morning of 16th September to receive our offerings of support for the maintenance of this amazing building and the work carried out within.

Please support St Mary's church by giving what you can to ensure it continues to be central to our village life now and in the future. Thank you for your anticipated support.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

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

Please, NO LATER THAN 12th August 2017

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

Thank you. Rev'd Judith. 01787 210091

email address: rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com

MARY'S HOUSE BOOKINGS

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

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

THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwarden:

Peter Dilnot

Assistant Churchwarden:

Michael Gray

Mobile: 07931 043926

Email: boxford.warden@btinternet.com



The next **Cafe Church Service** is on **Sunday 6th August at 11.00 am** in St. Mary's Church Boxford. All are most welcome to this informal service, with good coffee, pastries and children's craft activities.



Boxford Calendar 2018 We are hoping to produce a calendar for 2018. We need lots of photos of Boxford and surroundings. Please do send to ChrisKingsC@aol.com or on a memory stick by mid-September. All proceeds to St. Mary's Parish Church

Dates for your diary

Suffolk Villages Festival Concert Sunday 27th August

This event starts at **5:15 pm** with a pre-concert talk by Professor Julian Rushton, University of Leeds entitled 'In a new and special manner': the Classical String Quartet'. This will be followed by the concert itself at **6:30 pm** consisting of three pieces: **Haydn Quartet in F minor Op. 20/5, Mozart Quartet in G major K387, Beethoven Quartet in C major Op. 59/3** played by the string quartet The Revolutionary Drawing Room, of which the festival organisers write 'The Revolutionary Drawing Room is internationally renowned for its historically informed performances of music around 1800, with a sound founded on the beautiful sonority of gut strings.' Members of the Quartet are Adrian Butterfield, violin; Kathryn Pary, violin; Rachel Stott, viola; Ruth Alford, violoncello.

For tickets please pick up a leaflet in church or visit the Festival Web Site at <http://www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com/concert-diary/the-festival/>



A Pets Blessing Service is being planned for Sunday 3rd September at 11.00 am in our church "cafe". All are welcome to bring along their pets.

A Concert is being planned for **Sunday 9th October at 3.00 pm** with an organ recital and choir music - all in aid of the restoration of the organ in St. Mary's Church Boxford. More details soon.



The Bible Study Group meets at Russets, 47 Swan Street on 2nd and 4th Mondays each month by kind permission of Margaret and Peter Holden. We are presently exploring Marks Gospel. All are welcome to this hour of fellowship.



THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:
Vacant

Rota for August

Sunday 20th August at 9:30 am Holy Communion
Sidesman/Coffees Jan Paul/Frances East
Flowers Jan Paul
Cleaning Jan Paul and Debbie Lewis

Please make a special note of **Sunday 30th July**, when we host the Benefice Five Villages Service with Holy Communion at **10:00 am**. This will be a joyful, family-friendly and upbeat service, with an African flavour in music and worship, as we celebrate our Diocesan friendship and links with Kagera Diocese, in Tanzania. Please wear bright colours!



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens:
Vacant

Early notice of **Spring Open Gardens** in Groton Street, Groton on **Sunday April 8th 2018**



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens
Vacant

Rotas

6th August
13th August
20th August
27th August

Sidesmen

Mr. Bowden and Mrs. Ridgeon
No service
No service
No service

Flowers

Mrs. Rosa
Mrs. Eddington
Mrs. Duffy
Mrs. Gregor-Smith

Our next fund-raiser will be our **Flower Festival** on **9th and 10th September**.



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

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

25th June Our Service of Holy Communion was conducted by Revd. Judith. We were pleased to welcome friends from other churches in the Benefice and from further afield.

It was lovely to hear the bells ringing -- thanks to Wendy Turner. Thank you to Nancy Roser for playing the organ and to all our willing refreshment helpers. Coming together at the end of the service for refreshments is a great opportunity to communicate with each other.

Saturday 26th August Wedding of Daisy McCarthy and Craig Lewis.
Sunday 27th 11:00 am August Holy Communion

Deanery News

Deanery Synod – A Plea

The deanery synod met at St Mary's Church, Boxford, on 12th July. This being the first meeting of the 2017-2020 'triennium', the meeting began with a service of Holy Communion, at which the Revd Judith presided. The agenda included the election of officers and the standing committee for the next three years. No one, however, was proposed as, or offered to be, the synod secretary. We desperately need someone to fill this role. It is not unduly onerous: synod meets three times a year, and the main duties are to prepare and send out the agenda and papers to synod members and to take and write the minutes. There are also three meetings of the standing committee each year. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, in taking on this position, please let David Lamming know [e-mail djlamming@hotmail.com or 'phone 01787 210360.] Please speak to David, too, if you would like to know more of what the post entails.

The synod has been without a secretary since Elke Cattermole, from Little Cornard, left to start ordination training at Westcott House, Cambridge a year ago. Elke was ordained deacon at the cathedral on 25th June and is serving her curacy at Lavenham. Synod sent Elke their good wishes for her ministry.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

General Synod

By the time this issue of the Box River News is published, a short report written by Tony Allwood (one of our diocesan representatives) of the July 2017 meeting of the General Synod in York should be available to download from the diocesan website: www.cofesuffolk.org.

A full report of all the debates was included in the Church Times on 14 July 2017. Copies of the Church Times are placed in Mary's House, a few days after publication, and you can read it there. Alternatively, David Lamming (who spoke in three of the debates) can send you an electronic copy of the 14th July edition.



Churches Together Prayer Breakfasts Saturdays 8.00 am to 9.30 am.

There are no breakfasts in August. They will resume in September.

Please look at the Churches Together website for details of other forthcoming events: www.churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk.

Box River Benefice

café church



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With fresh coffee and pastries!

Boxford Church
Sunday 4th August
11.00 am

Come and enjoy
our comfortable new chairs!

AUGUST 2017**Church Services in the Box River Benefice**

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: rydjudithboxriver@btinternet.com. *Tuesday* 9.00 Edwardstone, *Wednesday* 9.00 Groton; 17.00 Little Waldingfield; *Thursday* 9.00 Newton, 17.00 Boxford. *If attending for first time, please contact Rev Judith as can be subject to change.*

Wednesday 2nd
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd Judith

Thursday 3rd
Lt Waldingfield 16.00 Home Communion (Reserved Sacrament) Lay Team
Newman's Hall

Sunday 6th Eighth Sunday after Trinity - The Transfiguration (G)
Boxford 08.00 Holy Communion Revd Judith
Lt. Waldingfield 09.30 Holy Communion Revd Judith
Boxford 11.00 **Cafe Church** (*Informal worship*) Revd Judith
Boxford 18.30 Evensong Christopher Kingsbury

Wednesday 9th
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion Revd Judith
*** Please note: this week taking place at Beech House, Sherbourne Street. Lifts available***

Saturday 12th
Lt. Waldingfield 13.00 Wedding of James Watts and Kirsty Griggs Revd Judith

Sunday 13th Ninth Sunday after Trinity (G)
Groton 09.30 Morning Worship Revd Judith
Boxford 11.00 Holy Communion Revd Judith

Wednesday 16th
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion- Mary's House Revd David Abel

Thursday 17th
Lt Waldingfield 16.00 Compline - Newmans Hall Lay Team

Sunday 20th Tenth Sunday after Trinity (G)
Edwardstone 09.30 Holy Communion Revd Judith
Boxford 11.00 Holy Communion Revd Judith

Monday 21st
Boxford 12.30 Wedding of Gregory Davidson and Alice Suttie Revd Judith

Wednesday 23rd
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House Revd Judith

Saturday 26th
Newton 13.00 Wedding of Craig Lewis and Daisy McCarthy Revd Judith

Sunday 27th Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (G)
Lt Waldingfield 08.00 Holy Communion Rev Judith
Boxford 11.00 Matins Christopher Kingsbury
Newton 11.00 Holy Communion Rev Judith

Wednesday 30th
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House Revd Judith

Soap Box

The news that Members of Parliament would be allowed to shed their ties in the Palace of Westminster, should the temperature be considered sufficiently hot, set me thinking on how the way in which we dress has changed over the years. Ties do seem to be something of an endangered species. Once considered de rigeur in the City, they are increasingly noticed more by their absence. And that is not the only change we are seeing in terms of sartorial behaviour in the Square Mile and Canary Wharf.

Much of what we wear in the workplace might be reasonably considered to be a uniform. Wearing uniforms does, of course, start in your school days. It happens that last month I was persuaded to leave the blue skies and warm seas of the Algarve to attend a reunion at my old school, over the county boundary in Essex. Until the mid 1960s my school operated under the direct grant scheme, whereby a significant proportion of pupils (including me) had their fees paid by the local authority in exchange for a contribution to the running costs of the establishment.

Thus I had all the advantages of attending a public school without my parents having to shell out for the not inconsiderable fees entailed. Well, they couldn't have in our then circumstances. But despite around half the pupils coming from ordinary, less privileged backgrounds, it certainly felt like a public school, with a quadrangle, a chapel, cloisters, masters wearing mortar boards and black cloaks and a system of discipline administered more by the boys than the masters.

When I joined the ranks of new boys, some sixty years ago next month, our school uniform was pin-striped trousers, a black jacket and a grey waistcoat, other than in the summer term, when blazer, flannels and a boater would be worn. Today the dress code is altogether more casual, though a uniform remains. And the school today is 100% independent and is now co-educational, without any boarders (it was boys only, of which around a third boarded when I was there).

Leaving school at the age of seventeen with a handful of O and A levels, I gravitated to the City, finding employment as a stockbrokers' clerk. The uniform of the Stock Exchange was quite formal in those days. When given the opportunity to work on the floor of the Exchange, I was expected to wear a stiff white collar – with a tie, of course, a sober suit and black, properly polished shoes. During my time in the market, Hush Puppies were introduced, though woe betide anyone who dared to venture onto the floor of the Exchange wearing them. He (no women then on the floor) would be hounded out with a chorus of barking.

Members in the gilt edged market where government stocks were traded were expected to wear top hats if they had to visit the Bank of England or one of the Discount Houses that surrounded the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, as the Bank was affectionately known. Many who worked in the City in those days wore bowler hats and, as like as not, brandished a rolled umbrella on the way to and from the office. The dress code was clear and precise.

Quite why dress became more casual is not clear, though Big Bang in 1986 probably played a crucial part. Not only was face to face dealing abandoned in favour of first telephone trading and then electronic communication, but the partnership concept was also consigned to history, with many foreign financial organizations assuming control of firms, many of which were decades or even centuries old. The Americans were in the vanguard back in the 1980s and they were altogether more relaxed over what to wear.

But many attribute the death of the tie and even the suit to the advance of the hedge fund community. Again, largely born out of America, these more entrepreneurial and less establishment figures eschewed suits and ties – and even the City as a working environment. Many operated from abroad and even those which preferred to stick with London as a base chose the West End over the Square Mile or Docklands. In the environs of W1 and SW1, a multinational, multicultural society had no time for City traditions.

So in a way, all that MPs are doing is to reflect how society has changed and is continuing to develop. What do I think about this trend? Actually, I have mixed feelings. When Gordon Brown chose to abandon a dinner jacket and black tie for the Mansion House dinner he made it harder, not easier, for those concerned over what to wear. In the office I still attend in the City, suits and ties are still expected, though I suspect we are the exception rather than the rule. I'm glad that no sons of mine, though, ever had to wear heavy black jackets and waistcoats while at school.

Brian Tora is a local writer and broadcaster.

Remember

The Box River News can be seen in full colour by downloading from the internet.

Just go to <http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/box-river-news> and scroll down to the latest BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about one day after the published press date.
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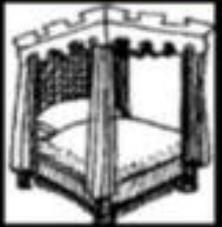


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GARDENING IN AUGUST INSPIRED BY HARRY BUCKLEDEE

If you are going away for your summer holidays and cannot arrange for someone to look after your pot plants, there are ways of ensuring that they come to no harm. Smaller plants can be watered thoroughly and then put into a polythene bag. Place a few sticks around the edge of the pot to prevent the bag touching the foliage, then seal the top of the bag tightly with a plastic band. Place out of direct sunlight and plants should stay in good condition for up to three weeks. In the case of larger plants, place the pot in a larger container which has no drainage holes, filling the space between the pots with peat. Water the peat until it is soaking wet and moisture will be gradually released to the plant.

When the harvesting of Loganberries, Blackberry and other hybrid berries has finished, cut out shoots that have fruited this year and tie in new growths. Feed black currant bushes after fruiting to keep the leaves healthy so that they continue to feed the currant seasons shoots as much as possible.

When the fruit from well trained peaches and nectarines has been picked, cut out the shoots which have borne fruit, leaving the current season's growth to replace them.

If you want strawberries to fruit the first year and to ensure a good crop, runners should be planted without delay. Later planting reduces the crop, and runner planted later than August should not be allowed to fruit the first year.

Sow seeds, early in the month of spring cabbage half inch deep in rows 6 inches apart. The old varieties Flower of Spring or Wheeler's Imperial still take some beating.

To propagate rhododendrons, choose a healthy looking shoot from a healthy plant. Cut the stem of the shoot half way through an peg the cut portion firmly into the soil using a galvanized wire pin 6 inches long. After two or three years the new shoot will have made enough root to be severed from the parent plant.

Fuchsia cuttings require to grow on as standards for following next year should be taken now. Choose sturdy young shoots about three inches long from disease free plants, cut them immediately below a leaf joint and insert them around the edge of a pot in a mixture of compost to which a portion of short sand has been added. They will root in two to three weeks and when well rooted they can be potted up individually. Allow the growing shoot to continue growing but remove all side shoots which grow from the leaf axils. Most fuchsia leaves are produced in pairs but

sometimes some shoots produce threes, these are the ones to select for cuttings. They will need to be kept growing all winter in a frost free greenhouse.

At the end of the month remove the growing point from tomatoes to encourage full development of the top trusses.

August is usually one of the hottest months of the year - making watering essential. Try to use grey water wherever possible, especially as water butts may be running low if it has been a dry summer. Take the time to prune summer-flowering shrubs.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Prune Wisteria
- 2 Don't delay summer pruning fruits trained as restricted forms
- 3 Deadhead flowering plants regularly
- 4 Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater
- 5 Collect seed from garden plants
- 6 Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready
- 7 Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries
- 8 Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
- 9 Keep ponds and water features topped up
- 10 Feed the soil with green manures

Raise the blades on the mower before cutting fine lawns. This will help reduce drought stress.

Mow lightly and frequently so that short grass clippings can remain on the lawn during hot summers to act as a moisture-retentive mulch. Excess thatch can be scarified out during autumn maintenance next month. Mulching mowers cut the clippings even finer than normal rotary blades, making the mulch less visible.

Lawns on thin soils may benefit from a high phosphate feed. This will strengthen the roots for winter, rather than encouraging lush top growth that could suffer in the cold and weaken the grass.

Avoid using lawn weedkillers in late summer - they will be more effective in the cooler, damper autumn weather.

Dig over any areas due to be grassed over later in the year. Leave them for a few weeks to allow weeds to re-emerge, and then spray with a weedkiller or hoe off to ensure thorough weed clearance before seeding or laying turf in the autumn.

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MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE RESTAURANT AT STOKE



Stunning views and Mediterranean-style lunches at the new first floor Gallery Restaurant at Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa

A new restaurant has just been launched at Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa which offers breathtakingly beautiful 270 degree panoramic views over a lake and stunning Constable Country.

The contemporary-style "Gallery Restaurant" has just opened on the first floor level of the hotel above the clubhouse which, with its huge floor to ceiling windows, makes the most of its unique location in the Dedham Vale "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty". The adjoining south facing terrace is also a welcoming open air space for a refreshing pre-lunch drink or two.

The restaurant is open to everyone for a quick and wholesome buffet-style lunch from 12 noon until 2pm from Monday to Saturday. There is a great choice of wholesome freshly made soups, colourful, Mediterranean-inspired salads, antipasti, cured and fresh meats, fish, seafood, cheeses and dips, daily pasta specials, and delicious speciality Gyros roasted meat wraps. There is also a daily selection of scrumptious desserts on offer, some featuring fresh fruit in season from the Peake family's farms surrounding the hotel.

Then from 2pm onwards The Gallery is open for speciality Afternoon Cream Teas – including their new Gin & Tonic Afternoon Tea - which you can enjoy whilst admiring the stunning views, and watching golfers hitting across (or into!) the lake towards both 18th holes below.

Booking is advisable but not essential and the number to call is 01206 262836 or email reservations@stokebynayland.com

Readers Letters

Sir

I recently visited the village of Boxford in search of the burial location of my third Greatgrandparents John and Elizabeth Nessling. There are no burial records, but they died of pneumonia on the 6th and 10th of June 1881. They lived on Ellis Street and John was a Gardener.

I knew the old Reform Church On Swan Street was converted into a 5 Bed house and the grave stones had been removed. I was in the coffee shop and was served by the sister of the current owner who was forwarding my details to her.

I had previously visited the Records Office at Bury St Edmunds, but was unable to locate any details of non conformist burials, and wondered if anyone in the local parishes knew if any records existed.

Elizabeth was born in Hadleigh Hamlet and her maiden name was Baalham so I could be hunting several names as I know she had a sister Sarah, but not sure of her parents. John was born in Mendlesham and his father in Worlingworth.

Johns son Benjamin my 2nd Greatgrandfather was buried in the Baptist Church in Laxfield along with his wife and managed to obtain their burial records. I would be grateful if anyone could assist me with these records.

Regards

Reg regnessling@yahoo.co.uk regnessling@yahoo.co.uk

Sir

I would like thank my family and friends who came to celebrate my 90th birthday at my party on Friday evening. Also for all my lovely cards and gifts that I received. The total sum raised by donations for cancer research was £305.00. Thank you once again from the bottom of my heart.

Lionel Hobbs

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THE NAMES ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS - AUGUST 2017



In the June article in this series I was able to note that the soldier commemorated in that month, Private Stanley Leech Wade, had to be added to the list of villagers who lost their lives in the Arras Offensive in the spring of 1917, making eleven in total. In fact, I can, this month, add a twelfth name, because I am now

certain, given the known whereabouts of his Division, the 40th, that one of the five men we remember in August died as a result of wounds sustained during the later battles of the Arras Offensive. His name is Frederick Hills and we will come to him shortly.

In the July article, I brought the time line of the progress of the War on the Western Front up to the end of July 1917 with the account of the opening of the Battle of Pilkem Ridge. I do not need to take it beyond that battle for the moment, because two of the other four men we meet this month died in the battle or in the ensuing exchanges immediately afterwards, and the other two died in defensive actions maintaining the territory secured during the Arras Offensive.

Thus, in August our lost soldiers are **Private Rodney Charles Clark** of Boxford, 202162, 7th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment; **Private Frederick Hills** of Groton, 11916, 20th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment; **Private Arthur Robert Rice** of Boxford, 26642, 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment; **Lance Corporal Frank Sterry** of Boxford, 24676, 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment and **Private Ernest Walter Ward** of Boxford, 49702, 32nd Battalion, City of London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.

Inside one week three families in Boxford were left grieving the loss of a son, and for one of those families it was an all too familiar event having lost another son in each of the two preceding years; Robert Rice died on the 3rd of August, Rodney Clark on the 4th of August and Ernest Ward on the 7th of August. Robert and Ernest died in the Battle of Pilkem Ridge in the Third Ypres Offensive and Rodney died away to the south near Arras.

Arthur Robert Rice was born in 1895 at Wicker Street Green on the road between Boxford and Kersey.

His parents were Arthur and Emma, neé Partridge. Arthur senior was born in Kersey Tye in 1868 and Emma, born 1870, came from Monks Eleigh in the Brett Valley. They married in 1893 and by 1911 Arthur Robert, their first born, had one brother and four sisters. Both Arthur senior and Emma came from families who were employed on the land as labourers, but Arthur set up as a poultry dealer and employed his son in the business.

Arthur junior enlisted in Boxford, probably late in 1915. By early 1916 his regiment was in France and under the orders of the 30th Division. He saw action during the Somme Offensive in the Battles of Albert and Transloy Ridges and in 1917 fought in two of the Battles of the Scarpe during the Arras Offensive.

Later that year the 30th Division came under the orders of General Gough commanding the Fifth Army, which provided the major part of the force that attacked the Pilkem Ridge. This was the battle that opened the main offensive of the Third Battle of Ypres, more commonly known simply as Passchendaele. As we saw last month, this battle and much of the subsequent three months were fought through a particularly wet summer and the battlefields became little more than quagmires. Arthur died on August 3rd, aged 22, and was probably lost to the dreadful mud, because he has no known grave. Arthur is commemorated on the stone panels of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Also on those panels among the names of the tens of thousands of men with no known grave is the that of Arthur's fellow villager, **Ernest Walter Ward**. Ernest was born in 1893 at White Street Green in the parish of Boxford. Ernest's father was James Ward, who was born in Boxford in 1854. James married Susannah Cook from Polstead in 1886. They had four children, the eldest being their only daughter, and three sons, of which Ernest was the youngest. James died in 1896, when Ernest was just three, and is buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church, Boxford. James and Susannah grew up in families of agricultural workers and by 1911 Ernest was also employed on the land along with his two brothers.

Ernest enlisted in Sudbury in 1915 and was posted to the City of London Regiment, which was formed in East Ham in December of that year as part of Kitchener's New Army. They landed in France in May 1916 as part of the 41st Division, which saw action in two of the battles of the Somme Offensive.

In 1917, under the command of General Haig, Ernest's brigade fought in the preliminary battle of the Third Battle of Ypres, the attack on the Messines Ridge. Then, like his fellow villager, Arthur Rice, he took part in the Battle of Pilkem Ridge. Ernest died four days after Arthur on August 7th aged 24.

Some 40 miles south of Ypres is the city of Arras, the scene of the first major offensive in 1917. A little to the east of Arras on the day after Arthur Rice died in the Flanders mud, **Rodney Charles Clark** lost his life somewhere near the village of Monchy-le-Preux.

Rodney was born in 1898, probably at the cottages attached to Till's Farm, which is on the left side of the main road to Hadleigh just after the second turning to Calais Street. He was one of the four sons of William and Alice Clarke. William was born in Boxford in 1862 and Alice in Edwardstone in 1874.

William was an agricultural labourer as were Rodney and his brothers Bertie and Harry. Living with the family was Frederick Death, five years older than Rodney, who was Alice's son born before she married William, though William may well have been his father. The family are recorded at the same address of Till's Farm in both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses.

We do not know when or where Rodney enlisted, because his name is, for some reason, absent from the principal source of this information, the eighty volume list compiled by the War Office after the War entitled *Soldiers Who Died in the Great War*. But we do know that at the time of his death on the 4th of August he was serving in the 7th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment forming part of the 12th (Eastern) Division. This Division recruited heavily from four principal centers in the eastern counties, one of which was Colchester, which is the most likely place that Rodney joined the ranks and left his native Suffolk, to which he did not return.

To give some idea of what Rodney would have experienced in the two years he was on the Western Front it is worth running briefly through the postings of the 12th Division. On 23rd June 1915 the Division took over a sector of the Front Line near Ploegsteert Wood, which, by the end of July, extended some 7000 yards. In those few weeks the casualty list of killed, missing or wounded amounted to 25 officers and 477 other ranks. Then in September they were detailed to join the Battle of Loos and by the end of October another 117 officers and 3237 other ranks joined the casualty list. Thereafter, in a relatively quiet period of holding trench positions between December 1915 and January 1916 another 102 officers and 670 other ranks became casualties.

April 1916 found the Division in the thick of the fierce fighting around the Hohenzollern Redoubt, a particularly strongly fortified German position, in which they suffered a further 4000 casualties. With little respite, the Division was then deployed on the second day of the Somme Offensive, 2nd July, and in just a week another 189 officers and 4576 other ranks became numbers in the grim lists of dead and wounded. As the fighting around the Somme continued, the 12th Division was engaged in the Battle of Poziers at the cost of 126 officers and 2739 other ranks. They then saw action again in the Battle of Le Transloy between 26th September and 19th October and the casualty listed grew by a further 135 officers and 3176 other ranks. On the 17th December 1916, they were relieved from the Front Line for a rest period, the first since June of that year.

The early part of 1917 brought the Division back to the Line in preparation for the Arras Offensive and in the first two weeks of April they suffered 2018 casualties followed by action in the Battle of Arleux and the Third Battle of the Scarpe at the additional cost of 141 officers and 3380 other ranks. As the Arras Offensive ended, the Division was left holding the ground gained right through the rest of 1917 and it was particularly closely associated with the area to the east of a village called Monchy le Preux.

Thus, by the time of Rodney's death, the casualty list had reached some 25,000 men. Of course, some injuries were comparatively minor and many men would have been treated and rejoined their Brigade relatively quickly. But given that a Division at full strength numbered some 18,000 men, it is immediately apparent how high the odds of suffering some sort of injury were.

But more than this, until Rodney enlisted, his experience as a young man working the land would have been governed by the seasons and circumscribed by the limits of village life in rural Suffolk. It is hard to comprehend the enormity of the transformation he had to undergo as he became, in a little over two years, a battle-weary infantryman, witness to scenes of death and destruction on a hitherto unprecedented scale. And, of course, he was just one amongst countless thousands. Such dislocation would take its toll, not just on those who returned, but on the social fabric of the Country itself.

Rodney died on the 4th August 1917, aged 19, and is buried in the Monchy British Cemetery just outside the village from which it takes its name. Rodney's mother is recorded as paying for an additional inscription on his headstone, as she had done for two of her other sons, Bertie who had died in 1916, and Frederick who died in 1915. The inscription on Rodney's stone reads 'Rest in the Lord'.

Five days later, on the 9th August, it was the turn of Groton to lose another son. **Frederick Hills** was born in 1896 in Howe Road, Groton, which runs from near the Church up to Castlings Heath. In 1911, he appears as the youngest son of a large family. His parents were Charles and Sarah, neé Holden. They married in 1883 when they were both about twenty years old and were both born in Groton. Frederick had three brothers and four sisters. Frederick, two of his brothers and his father were all agricultural labourers, his other brother was a groom and domestic gardener.

Frederick enlisted in Mill Hill, in Middlesex and his residence at the time is given as North Finchley, Middlesex. We do not know when or why he left Groton somewhere between April 1911 and July 1915, when his Regiment was assembled.

In June 1916, as part of the 40th Division, he sailed for France and would have seen action in the closing stages of the Somme Offensive in October and November. In the spring of 1917 his brigade fought in some of the fiercely contested close quarter assaults on the German Hindenburg Line during the Arras Offensive. In the middle of May, at the close of the Arras Offensive, the Division was relieved from the Front for recuperation and did not re-enter the fray until November 1917.

Frederick died on the 9th August 1917, aged 22, from wounds sustained in battle. Since the 40th Division left the Front Line in May, the inference has to be that Frederick was wounded sometime during the Arras Offensive and that he fought for his life at a hospital field station for at least two months. He is buried at the Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, near Manancourt and this cemetery is particularly associated with the 21st and 48th Casualty Clearing Stations, which supports this

theory. Rodney's mother had inscribed upon his headstone "May he rest in Peace". Lastly this month we come to **Frank Sterry**. We met his elder brother Harry in the April article, in which we recounted the circumstances of his life before enlistment and his death during the Arras Offensive.

Frank was born in 1891, almost certainly at 15 Swan Street, Boxford (though the street has since been renumbered). Frank's parents were Robert and Eleanor, nee Richer. Robert came from Groton, born 1847, and Eleanor from Rattlesden, born 1852. They married in 1878 and went on to have seven children, four sons and three daughters. Robert was a bricklayer and by 1911 was combining that with being a newspaper agent. Eleanor had her own employment either running, or working in, a shop selling fancy goods. In 1911, Frank is recorded as a house painter, as is his elder brother Robert. With two sons as house painters and Robert senior a bricklayer, it would appear that the family was operating as a small general builders.

Frank enlisted in Boxford probably in late 1915 and was posted into the 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment. They trained near Cambridge and arrived in France in January 1916 as part of the 34th Division. This division then fought right through the Somme Offensive, including on the fateful opening day in July, and on into the spring 1917 Arras Offensive, participating in three of the principal battles. Thereafter, during the summer of 1917, well away from the mud of Passchendaele, Frank would have been engaged in the unremitting static trench warfare, holding the ground won in the Arras Offensive. The 34th Division was centered on the village of Hargicourt, which had been secured in April, and it is in the cemetery which takes its name from the village that Frank is buried, having been killed in action on 26th August aged 26. When I was researching the Commonwealth War Grave Commission's documentation for evidence of his burial, I found that an additional inscription on his headstone had been paid for by a Mrs G. Bullen of Portsmouth. Initially this was something of a puzzle, but then I noticed that Frank had a younger sister called Gladys. Further research found that Gladys Sterry had married a Leonard Bullen in 1919. So, we now know that it was his married younger sister who paid for the words "Gone but not forgotten" to stand for all time as witness to the sorrow of his death and the enduring bond of the family.

Frederick will be remembered at the 09:30 service at Groton church on the 13th August; Arthur, Ernest and Rodney will be remembered at the 11:00 service at Boxford church on the same day and Frank will also be remembered at Boxford church at the 11:00 service but on 26th August.

Rufus Sweetman
The Rectory

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Parish Council Matters

GROTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

Minutes of meeting held at Groton Village Hall, Wednesday 3 May 2017 at 730pm

In the Chair: J Osborne Present: C Fraulo, A Dixon-Smith, P Roberts, D Wills, N Cox (Parish Councillors); J Finch (SCC); B Hurren (BDC); A Robinson (Parish Clerk); B Jones, D Lamming

Jeremy Osborne welcomed all those present. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 4 May 2016 were agreed and signed.

J Finch had circulated his report prior to the meeting.* He added that he had been pushing for better broadband to outlying areas. J Osborne said that the Parish Council had received a disappointing reply to its request for the long outstanding drainage work at Park Corner to be carried out. J Finch said that due to budget restraints priority had to be given for instances where property was at risk, but that he would ensure the Park Corner issue was not forgotten.

B Hurren thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to his 18th Annual Parish Meeting. He reported that he was bitterly disappointed at the decision to move BDC and MSDC out of District to Endeavour House in Ipswich, particularly as there will be no hub in Hadleigh. Devolution is no longer on the agenda. The size of the District Councils will be reduced in 2 years. Housing is the largest part of his workload, but it is difficult to link social and private housing. He is proud of the installation of solar panels on council housing, which is proving profitable for BDC and the householders alike. Grants have been given to local communities but have been reduced this year. Local planning issues have been fairly low key and he is in support of Groton PC's efforts to obtain affordable housing in the village. The phone mast on the A1071 has been installed and he will be chasing to have it switched on as soon as possible. He remains on the Joint Scrutiny Committee for both Councils and is the BDC representative on Ipswich CAB. He remains as chair of Pin Mill Bay Management Community Interest Company but has stood down after 10 years as chair of the Quay Theatre, although he is still a volunteer. D Lamming asked what the proposals for the BDC premises at Corks Lane were, including the purpose built Council Chamber. B Hurren said that they would be restricted by the fact that part of the building was listed and part was on a flood plain, but the intention was possibly to develop the site for housing. D Lamming also questioned the cost of and reasons for the recent Judicial Review of the planning decision in East Bergholt. D Lamming also expressed concern about the risk of development in the villages. B Hurren said that the recent Call for Sites had identified plenty of sites but a number of existing sites in the area, such as that at Chilton, could not be developed yet.

Suffolk Police were not in attendance and had not sent a report, which was disappointing. A generic report was produced from their website.*

Report from local organisations and charities

Groton Educational Foundation – Anthea Scriven had provided a written report which was read out by the Clerk.*

Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust – in the absence of R Bowdidge and R Kelsey, J Osborne as a Trustee read his report on The Croft.*

Groton Parochial Church Council – D Lamming as PCC secretary said that he had been elected to the General Synod. The PCC has been successful in its application to the Roof Repair Fund which should mostly defray the cost of a permanent repair following the lead theft in 2015. The architect is analysing the tenders and hopefully work should start in August. The PCC is about to apply for a Faculty to have a toilet and kitchen installed under the church tower. This has been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee but they may need to consult other heritage bodies. It is hoped this work will be carried out within the year. He thanked the Parish Council for the grant of £330 towards the maintenance of the churchyard. Some of this will be spent on some tree work on the northern boundary, and tidying up shrubs around graves. Groton is the only one of the 5 churches not to suffer vandalism to its visitors' book. There is a monitoring camera in the church. Attendance is good but the congregation is ageing, and there are no churchwardens. Connections are maintained with the USA and the PCC receives a grant of about £2000 each year from them which helps towards the Parish Share. The PCC has also received a donation specifically towards the roof from the Ampelos Trust in memory of Ruth Rendell from her son.

Groton Village Hall Management Committee – B Jones said that following on from D Lamming's report, he could personally see a situation where the church and the village hall would both be providing similar facilities and it may be that the future of the village hall will have to be considered when the lease expires (September 2023). The village hall is taking very few lettings apart from Boxford Literary Group and Boxford Study Group, and elections. However, they are financially stable following a very successful quiz and curry evening and other events. A new hall sign has been installed and a monthly cleaner taken on. New committee members will be needed and it is hard to attract younger people. The AGM is on 21 June and all are invited. He welcomed Debbie Wills who is a new member as the Parish Council representative.

Groton United Charities – J Osborne read his report.*

Boxford Playing Fields – Mrs P Lamming had written to the Parish Council thanking them for their grant.*

Financial Report - The Parish Clerk read her Financial Report, and provided copies of the Receipts and Payments Accounts and the Income and Expenditure Accounts which had been approved by the internal auditor.*

Affordable Housing - J Osborne reported on the current position of this project.*

Chairman's Report - J Osborne read his report.* There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

*Copies of the full Minutes and all the reports and accounts are available on the Parish Council's website Groton.onesuffolk.net/ Anita Robinson, Clerk

Minutes of Newton Parish Council, 14th June 2017

Present: Councillors Paul Presland (Chairman), Russell Bower, Sue Crawte, Lee Parker, Rita Schwenk and Philip Taylor.

Attending: James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Lee Parker (Babergh District Council), Jane Hatton (Clerk), Dave Crimmin and 2 members of public.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Poole (commitment) sent his apologies.

Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation: Cllr Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17/108c as the applicant and agent are clients of his business and did not take part in the discussion or vote. Cllr Parker also declared a local non-pecuniary interest in item 17/108e as he is now Babergh's cabinet member for Planning and Chilton Woods is a strategic site in their local plan and did not take part in the discussion or vote.

Minutes of meeting held on the 10th May 2017: The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Public Forum: Lee Parker reported that Babergh had now implemented its Leader and Cabinet governance and that there is a heavy backlog of planning applications now being reviewed by the Planning Committee, which had been held up due to the legal challenge to Babergh's CS11 policy. He advised councillors that the latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the Ipswich area had now been published on the Babergh website.

James Finch updated councillors on his preciously circulated report which covered school allocations, Tour of Britain, Suffolk Records Office and the Energy waste Plant Visit on the 21st June 2017. He also informed councillors that the revised A134 speed restrictions are likely to be re-consulted upon shortly.

Multi Use Games Area: John Wyman from Hintlesham & Chattisham Parish Council updated councillors on how his council have looked at installing a MUGA in Hintlesham. With the initial driver being to spend \$106 money the council sought a mandate from parishioners to proceed with the MUGA project. After fully engaging with residents they obtained a mandate and went about setting key objectives for the project, researching similar schemes, setting a budget and looking for funding. As they near their funding target they are now applying for planning permission for the scheme which comprises a high specification 38 by 18 meter MUGA. From inception to submission of the planning application the project has taken 18 months to date. John agreed to be available to NPC should the councillors wish to consider a MUGA for Newton.

Correspondence (Appendix A): Following a review of the Correspondence and the emails circulated since the last meeting the councillors agreed to support the July Speed Watch survey(s) following a request from Graham Parry.

Clerks Report (Appendix B): Following a review of the Clerk's Report the Clerk was asked to write to the owners of Woodean to request that the hedge be cut back to allow residents to use the full width of the pavement in Links View. Lee Parker was asked to determine with BDC the progress on the submission of a planning application for 15/069. Cllr Parker is scheduling the work to remove the concrete (17/046a). The Clerk updated councillors that the application for the reinstatement of the byway is now being considered by SCC and that the Babergh Ward Boundary Review consultation was now underway. The councillors agreed to respond to the Boundary Review at the July meeting.

Finance: a. All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix C), were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting, agreed the Reconciliation of Accounts against the Bank Statements and reviewed the Statement of Accounts against the budget. It was noted that Dave Crimmin had repaid NPC the £0.21 income tax outstanding for 2013 / 2014.

Planning: a. The councillors noted Planning Application B/17/01124 Valley Farm, Valley Road - Notification Under Part 11 of Schedule 2 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 - Demolition of 2 No. modern farm buildings within the curtilage of listed building (Valley Farmhouse). b. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/17/01049 Valley Farm, Valley Road - Application for Listed Building Consent- Re-roof farmhouse and farm buildings, repoint 3 no. chimneys and rebuild additional chimney and resolved to support the application.

c. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/17/01105 Red House Farm, Sudbury Road - Erection of replacement four-bedroom dwelling (Plot 2), 3 no three bedroom dwellings and 2 no four bedroom dwellings and resolved to support the application.

d. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/17/01072 Caravan, Wheldons Fruit Farm, Joes Road - Application for Certificate of Lawfulness of an Existing Use - Static caravan used as a residential dwelling and councillors agreed that the caravan had been used for this purpose for the last 15 years.

e. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/15/01718 Chilton Woods Mixed Use Development, Land North of, Woodhall Business Park, Sudbury - Re-advertisement - Outline application (with all matters reserved except for access) - Erection of up to 1,150 dwellings (Use Class C3); 15ha of employment development and resolved to object to the planning application on the following grounds:

i. NPC is disappointed that the Highways amendments set out in the Planning Comments document are so limited in scope. The councillors welcome the acknowledgement that the A134 / Valley Road junction requires work, but are not convinced that creating a right turn lane on the A134 is safe or sufficient. The proposal does not address vehicles turning right out of Valley Road and indeed a queue of vehicles waiting to turn right into Valley Road could obscure the visibility of traffic turning right out of Valley Road. Both for the emerging traffic and westbound traffic proceeding along the A134 which will be passing the waiting queue on the inside at 40mph. In any case, how long can the proposed right-hand turn lane be, before the queue still backs onto the main carriageway – only now potentially much closer to the bend just outside Newton – Loss of

Parish Council Matters

hedgerow would be needed to provide sufficient visibility for traffic coming up behind that queue. A mini roundabout would surely serve for better traffic flow and safety, which would also suit (and enforce) the lower maximum speed limit proposed for the road.

ii. NPC is disappointed that there are still no proposals to improve the junction at Northern Road / Milner Road (Martin's Buildbase) junction on the industrial estate. This is now a busy turning in the morning with northbound traffic queuing behind vehicles turning right into Milner Road regularly backing up to the KFC roundabout. The additional traffic generated by the Chilton Woods development coming southbound in the morning will make turning opportunities even rarer and therefore back up the queuing traffic for longer, snarling the KFC roundabout.

iii. There is also no mention of dispensing with the idea to put a light-controlled pedestrian crossing phase in at Acton Lane onto the A134, for pedestrians heading for Stanley Wood Avenue, to walk into town. There are no desire lines tracked on the verge to indicate anyone crosses here – not surprising as there is the footbridge and footpath network directly adjacent to this. Bringing pedestrians and cyclists down into the cutting to cross the bypass is downright dangerous and entirely a pointless duplication of the existing provision.

iv. The above issues suggest to NPC that the S106 Highways improvements are just not being thought through properly. Why has the developer dispensed with the community consultation group meetings? They were told most of these issues at previous meetings.

v. The decision to open up the employment land and Western access to Chilton Woods earlier in the development timeline is welcome. However, this must be used as the construction vehicle access for the site for the duration of the development. This will enable the Construction Management Plan to restrict the flow of construction traffic to the A134 to and from Bury St Edmunds and remove this traffic from the other roads and roundabouts around the site.

f. A further planning application had been received since the agenda was posted. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/17/01137 2 Tudor Cottages Sudbury Road - Application for Listed Building Consent - Installation of new bathroom on first floor with new stud wall and resolved to support the application.

g. The status of previous applications and appeals were reviewed:

Community Led Plan: The councillors reviewed their meeting with Babergh's Bill Newman and discussed the development of neighbourhood plans with Lee Parker in his capacity as Babergh's Cabinet member for Planning. The councillors agreed that at the July meeting the proposed engagement process with Newton residents should be formulated so that their views on developing a neighbourhood plan can be ascertained.

Playground and Asset Maintenance Programme

The councillors reviewed the current projects:

- Cllr Taylor is planning to meet Advantage Environmental regarding the repairs to the playground fencing and gates
- Cllr Schwenk is meeting an equipment suppliers on the 15th June to review the existing provisions and to offer suggestions of enhancements
- With permission from the Saracen's for an electrical supply for the Christmas Tree lighting, the Clerk will obtain a quotation from OT Electrical for the works to create a permanent location for the tree.

Village Hall and Trust representatives' reports: The NGT are finalising the easements for residents adjoining The Green, and have given permission for the sleepers to be retained on The Green as they are protecting the land. The new agreement with the Golf Club has now been exchanged and full details of the agreement will be published in the July newsletter. Blyth & Vaughan, who are developing the homes opposite the Saracen's, have agreed to repair damage to the trust land by the pond caused by any of the vehicles during the development. The Village Hall has recently lost its regular booking on Tuesday evening for line dancing.

Welcome Booklet: This item was deferred until the next meeting.

Questions to the Chair: The Clerk was asked to report the dip in the recently repaired road near Red House Farm, following works by Anglian Water.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday 12th July 2017 starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting of Boxford Parish Council

The next full meeting of Boxford Parish Council will be on 4th September.

Report of the Meeting held Monday 5th June

Public Forum: Items raised by residents included the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Playing Field, the cost of a new Defibrillator, work being carried out by Anglian Water at Homefield and the School fencing and other fund raising ventures. Agenda items were agreed for the next meeting in respect of the financial items.

District Council Report: District Cllr Bryn Hurren attended and confirmed the District Council has implemented a Leader Cabinet model from their AGM. He outlined his new and on-going responsibilities including stepping down from the Quay Theatre after many years and that he is starting a new role on the Standards Board. On local matters he discussed the Sports Pavilion application and their high water bills. The final touches to the bus shelter were being arranged and only one of the five sites considered within the Boxford Parish remains on the Babergh "Call for Sites" List which is the location for Goodlands phase 2. This is subject to a current planning application. The sites for Boxford and elsewhere will go out to Consultation shortly.

Correspondence: The Parish Council had been advised the mobile mast was due

to be operational by 30th June. A litter bin was to be relocated in the vicinity of Station Field, Sand Hill.

Cemetery: Two memorial applications were approved.

Reports from Members: Cllr Balls agreed to follow up the reports of motorcycles on the RUPP (the path that leads from the centre of the village near the Fleece to the Playing Field). The dog bin in Stone Street was to be repaired. Concern was expressed regarding trees obstruction vision at the Stone Street junction with the A1071.

Planning: The Planning Authority had confirmed permission had been granted for the following: -

- 1) Tree work at 3 The Causeway, Causeway House and 9 Broad Street.
 - 2) Extensions at the Sports Pavilion, 15 Swan Street and Sparrows, Cox Hill.
- The Parish Council had No Objections to an application for a single storey dwelling at The Pippins, Calais Street.

Debbie Hattrell, Clerk to Boxford Parish Council

Healthwatch

Communities share views to improve health and care services in Suffolk

We're Healthwatch. We listen to your views about local NHS and social care services so that we can make them better for everyone.

We have just launched our fourth annual report, which covers the year 2016/17. It tells you how we have been working and using people's experiences to shape, influence and improve local services throughout the year.

Five ways that health and care services have improved:

1. Maternity services increased support for birthing partners and changed policies so that birthing partners can stay with mum and baby overnight.
2. People will receive improved support and information to help them manage their risk of complications from foot disease caused by diabetes.
3. Residential and nursing homes have made changes that will improve the experience of some of Suffolk's most vulnerable people following visits by our volunteers.
4. We made safeguarding alerts that have led to immediate improvements to people's care.
5. We delivered patient feedback that helped to shape pathology services in Sudbury, including improvements to IT systems and access to appointments.

In our annual report, we highlight outcomes from our work that has included specific research projects, visits to local services and work across all levels of health and social care. Further examples include:

- Decisions to keep In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and Marginalised and Vulnerable Adults services were strongly influenced by public feedback we obtained in partnership with NHS leaders.
- Prompted by calls from young people for more information, we developed a new poster and information card that will help young people to find support.
- We worked closely with new GP partnerships to shape their plans for developing services by engaging patients within surgeries.
- We were central to the launch of a new Dementia Forum for Suffolk that will aim to change the way dementia support is provided in Suffolk.

In addition, we have helped many people that contacted our free Information and Signposting Service to find support with their health and wellbeing needs.

Andy Yacoub (Chief Executive) said:

"People have a keen interest in their health and social care services and rightly so. Throughout the year, we have met many people; talking to them about their experiences and using them to influence decisions about our local services. We are proud of the impact we have made and, with increasing awareness of Healthwatch throughout the County, we know that our voice and influence can only increase with positive outcomes for patients, service users and carers throughout Suffolk."

More information is available within the Healthwatch Suffolk Annual Report 2016/17. Visit: www.healthwatchesuffolk.co.uk. You can also call 01449 703949 to find out more.

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

Attending: Frank Lawrenson (Babergh District Councillor), Dave Crimmin (Clerk) and 2 residents.

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Minutes of annual meeting of Little Waldingfield Parish Council 16th May 2017

Election of Chairman: It was resolved that Andy Sheppard be appointed as the Chairman of Little Waldingfield Parish Council (LWPC).

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Coomber (unwell) sent his apologies as did Colin Spence (Suffolk County Councillor) and Margaret Maybury (Babergh District Councillor).

Election of Vice Chairman: It was resolved that Barbara Campbell be appointed the Vice Chairman of LWPC.

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th May 2017: The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Representatives to Outside Bodies:

a. It was resolved that Cllrs Braybrook and Campbell be appointed as LWPC's representative to the Playing Field Committee and that Cllrs Coomber and Andy Sheppard be appointed as the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) representatives.

Public Forum: Frank Lawrenson updated councillors on Babergh's achievements in the last year which included:

- the decision to relocate to Ipswich
- the introduction of a cabinet model
- building council houses
- being voted in the top 25 rural local authorities in the country
- the review of the district council's ward boundaries.

He also talked on issues such as the emerging local plan, the proposed Sudbury Bypass, a Sudbury masterplan including the Hamilton Road proposals, Chilton Woods and the regeneration of Sudbury.

Clerk's Report: Following a review of the Clerk's report the councillors agreed that Colin Spence be approached regarding the replacement of the No Parking signage in Church Road (17/046).

Planning:

a. There were no further amendments to Planning Application B/17/00411 Boston Cottage, Church Road which councillors reviewed at the meeting held on the 11th May 2017.

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

Neighbourhood Plan: The councillors reviewed the outcome of discussions on the proposed establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) that had taken place since the last scheduled meeting in March.

a. The councillors resolved that the NPSG be established in order to develop a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the residents of Little Waldingfield

b. The councillors resolved that the group would have a minimum of 5 members with Cllr Tim Sheppard as Chairman, two councillors (Cllrs Campbell and White) and two volunteers. They will be supported by a non-voting Secretary. It is hoped that a Babergh officer will be allocated to join the NPSG in a non-voting capacity and attend meetings as required. There will be a quorum of 3 for the NPSG. Cllr Tim Sheppard is currently liaising with all those residents who had indicated that they were prepared to help develop a neighbourhood plan and it is hoped that the 2 volunteer members of the NPSG will join within the month.

c. Cllr Tim Sheppard will circulate a proposed Heads of Account Budget to councillors for their review ahead of the next LWPC meeting. The NPSG will also make a pre-application for a Locality / My Community grant to ensure that this funding scheme is available for the project.

A definitive Terms of Reference for the NPSG will be circulated to councillors by Cllr Tim Sheppard for review and agreement at the next LWPC meeting.

Closed Churchyard: The Clerk confirmed that after writing to the Archdeacon permission to undertake the tree works in the closed churchyard had now been received. The Clerk will liaise with Reverend Judith Sweetman and then commission the works with Sudbury Tree Services for the autumn.

Despite communicating with the person responsible for the damage to the church wall, no payment has been forthcoming to settle the £560 bill for the repairs. The councillors resolved to give the person one last chance to make settlement, but if this is not forthcoming within 7 days then the Clerk to forward the person's contact details with the insurance claim to Community Action Suffolk.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Scheme: The councillors were updated that SCC has provided alternative wording for the clause that is causing LWPC's insurers concern. There have been some changes proposed to SCC on this and their response is awaited. The councillors resolved that subject to LWPC's insurers agreeing that any revised clause is fully covered by LWPC's insurance provisions, the Clerk to proceed with the project subject to LWPC's funding commitments of £500 towards the SID capital costs being the same as previously agreed.

Defibrillator: The councillors were extremely pleased with the attendance for the defibrillator awareness session and the training provided by the Community Heartbeat Trust. The councillors agreed to discuss a donation to the CHT at the next meeting. The councillors reviewed the issues surrounding the disclosure of the defibrillator cabinet access code and resolved to leave the disclosure of the code to the Ambulance Service when a 999 call is activated. The councillors are keen to establish a Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) which will aid people when alone with the patient suffering a cardiac arrest. The Clerk was asked to contact CHT for help in setting this up in Little Waldingfield.

Questions to Chair

Cllr Campbell updated councillors on the Playing Field committee discussions which covered:

- The new constitution has now been adopted
- The playing field land registration was now being handled by the PFC solicitor
- Quiz night and Fete events are now confirmed
- An issue involving asbestos in the playing field is now being resolved.

Clerk Vacancy: With an advert being placed in the Box River News the councillors agreed to advertise the vacancy through SALC.

Boxford Bounty Winners

May - Jun 2017

The Boxford Bounty would like to thank members of the community for drawing the following numbers at their meeting on 21st June 2017.

£160.00	Mr & Mrs Norman	Gunary Close
£75.00	Mr B Bowdidge	Horners Green
£30.00	Mrs Maggie Rayner	Calais St
£15.00	Mrs Carol Webber	The Causway

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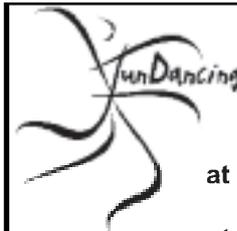
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BOX RIVER BENEFICE

MAKE UP OF PARISH COUNCILS 2015 – 2019

following the elections on Thursday 7 May 2015

[All members elected unopposed, except in Newton]

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Roger Balls	19 Daking Avenue	210136
Julian Fincham-Jacques	42 Homefield	210376
Cecil Hughes	Kiln Place, Cox Hill	210685
Vince Stafford	The Old Schoolhouse	211026
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
Mathew Wooderson	Birdsong 16 Goodlands	211204
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
Phil Baker	Mulberry Farm, Round Maple	211452
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	Groton Manor Farm	210391
Nick Cox	3 Groton Place, Groton Street	210339
Adam Dixon-Smith	Castlings Hall, Castlings Heath	210007
Jeremy Osborne (Chairman)	Waterside Barn, Groton Street	211960
Piers Roberts	Brook House	210619
Roland Cheeseman	1 Rose Cottage Daisy Grn	07770 237921
Debbie Wills	Doggetts Groton Street	210484
Clerk	Anita Robinson	211673
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Andrew Sheppard Chairman	The School House, Church Road	247980
Stewart Braybrook Vice Chair	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
Tim Shepherd		
Chris White		
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
Clerk. David Crimmin		375085
District Councillor	Lee Parker	
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

South Suffolk Member of Parliament

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Classes must be booked in advance; a three week trial is £15. To join in with these exciting classes or to get more information please call Miss Abigail on 07580693747 or check out our website www.babyballet.co.uk

Readers Letters

Sir

Moira, Vic, Holly, Bronwen and Adam

Would like to say Thank you for the overwhelming support, cards, flowers, food and help we have received since our Beautiful Daughter and Sister Izzy Cottrell lost her life of 17 years on Saturday 17th June in a car accident. We finally laid her to rest on Friday 14th July at Seven Hills Crematorium.

Moira Grant

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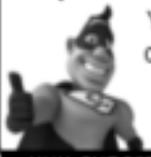
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USA COMMEMORATION TRIP

Boxford Youth FC 40 year commemoration of trip to the USA

Easter 2019 will be 40 years since 15 twelve and thirteen year old boys representing Boxford Youth FC (forerunners of the current Boxford Rovers FC) went to the USA and played "Soccer" against and stayed with boys from Massapequa, New York state and also Boxford Massachusetts

Plans are afoot to commemorate the 1979 trip and the "boys" all now over 50 have been messaged and are being rounded up from round the world to be here that weekend and contact being made with those over in the USA to see if some can come over and join the festivities.

Four adult helpers arranged and were foolhardy enough to go over with the lads and one of them Brian Porter is co-ordinating the collecting of information surrounding the trip and its origins and subsequent visit of the Massapequa boys to our village the following year. including their infamous ad-hoc soccer game on the Boxford bowls club green, you can be assured there will be no repeat of that!

We will be playing a game against Nayland including many of the Nayland Eagles boys we went to school with and this will include a walking football game for those unable to do more than crawl !

All information and ideas for easter 2019 (year after next) are welcomed. contacts are :-

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"I worked in the London office of Bankers Trust Company and whilst on a business trip to the head office in New York in 1978 I discovered that a colleague there had a son who played soccer, a sport that was just becoming popular in the States, for the Massapequa Club on Long Island. I also had a son who played for Boxford Youth and my colleague and I both thought it would be great if the two sons could play each other.

After many telephone calls, letters and meetings we began to put together a two week trip for the Boxford team to Massapequa over the Easter period in 1979. Much fund-raising had to be done and together with generous donations and loans all fifteen boys in the squad were able to go. Only one boy had been abroad before so passports had to be obtained for all the others and then visas from the American Embassy. A local company generously donated track suits and we were ready to go.

The day before we went both the BBC and ITV local programmes filmed us at the Homefield Playing Field and we appeared on their early evening shows. One of the presenters who interviewed us was Steve Rider. We were also visited that day by Tony Woodcock, the then England player, who brought with him the League Cup which had been won by his club, Nottingham Forest.

At Heathrow TWA had a special check-in desk for us, took photos of us on the tarmac in front of our plane and allowed us into the cockpit on arrival at Kennedy Airport.

The families of the Massapequa boys very generously housed us and looked after us very well during our stay and the following year many of them came to Boxford so we were able to repay their hospitality.

Whilst in the States we also spent three days at Boxford Massachusetts with whom our village has had very close ties for a long time and while we were there took part in a Boxford versus Boxford football match.

Brian Porter.



EDWARDSTONE CRICKET CLUB NEWS

As always the cricket season is a busy and demanding one. We have been playing league and friendly games as well as running the Junior Colts sessions on Saturday morning and getting games for their teams.

Our newly promoted Hunts County League Division 2 team have been adjusting to the step up in opposition and have played 10 games, winning 5 and are sitting mid table. There have been a number of stand out performances by opening bat Sam Chapman who has scored 3 centuries so far this season, while James Thorogood has also made good contributions with bat with a highest score of 71. Tom Whymark has already taken 22 wickets and is the leading wicket taker in the league. His best figures were 5-30 v Hartest back in May. A great team spirit has helped to get some hard fought results, including a win at league leaders Long Melford.

The team has a great mix of youth and experience and we have been encouraged by the number of players who have played this year. We have also played some friendly fixtures including a game against old rivals Twinsted where we were able to field a team which included 4 new players, Austin and Alex Dakers, Louis Elgar and Aimee Collins, moving up from the Juniors to play their first adult games

Aimee was the first female player to represent the adult team and this caused a great amount of interest in the local press with very positive articles appearing in the East Anglia Daily Times and Suffolk Free Press. Congratulations to all of them and we look forward to seeing them develop their cricketing skills.

The Edwardstone Juniors training sessions have once again been very popular with 37 players signed up. We recently took two teams to the Long Melford Kwik Cricket tournament and both came away with 100% winning records. Particular mentions should go to Farran Kirkham for losing a few balls with some big hitting, Frank Rogers for his elegant batting style and I would like to mention Helena Bishop who surprised a few boys with the pace of her bowling. We also have 2 Sam Newcombs who continue to be enthusiastic team members. All the players contributed to a very successful evening's cricket. We would like to thank Tim Beven, Adrian Gooderham and Barry Dakers for all their efforts with this years players coaching.

Finally we will be at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Boxford Playing Fields (29th July). We will be offering everyone the chance to try the game in the nets. We are always looking for new members of the club. We hope to see you there, www.edwardstonecricketclub.com

