

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



August 2020
Vol 20 No 8

CATESBY ESTATES PLANNING APPLICATION

As I am sure you all know by now but on 17th June 2020, Babergh's Planning Committee approved Outline Planning Permission for 64 houses on Sand Hill.

Andrew Good, on behalf of the Boxford Society, Roger Loose, on behalf of the Parish Council and Bryn Hurren our District Councillor put up a valiant fight against this proposal – quite difficult in the 3 minutes allocated to them. However, various factors worked against them.

The meeting was a virtual one with everyone in their own bubble. This led to a rather fractured meeting as everyone wrestled with the technology and this format did not lead to any meaningful discussion of the application itself. Most of the Committee seemed reluctant to approve – in fact no-one was even prepared to second the motion so the Chairman had to do this - they were perhaps fearful of the repercussions of rejection as Babergh has recently had to pay for two successful planning appeals that went against them.

The significant objection by Babergh's own Policy Planning Officer, which was included in the report, had obviously not been read by any of the Committee and when the Case Officer was asked to comment replied that 'policy matters are a matter of balance' and no further discussion ensued.

Some of the Councillors appeared ignorant of the implications of the application and one suggested that the new Community Centre could be used as a Nursery freeing up space at the School. What new Community Centre? Catesby Estates have merely offered land on the site with no funding for building or maintaining such a Centre and as we have said before, we don't need another Community Centre as we already have an excellent Village Hall, a Sports Pavilion and The Spinney..

We are in a Climate Change Emergency, Planning Committees should not be approving unsustainable developments like this which will potentially lead to 200 more cars in the Village. Just think of the pollution this will cause, not to mention all the traffic conflicts.

Catesby will now sell the site to a developer who will undertake the building of this estate, probably starting within 18 months. We will have to wait and see what amendments they wish to make to this Outline Planning Approval in order to maximise their profit - we can expect major changes.

So, despite vociferous objection at the original consultation meeting, a petition, many written objections, opposition from the Boxford Society, the Neighbourhood Plan Group and the Parish Council, Outline Planning Permission was approved. This is so wrong. On behalf of the Boxford Society, I will be writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting a root and branch review of Planning Legislation. I know it won't change this decision, but think we should let him know how outraged we feel that our views were able to be completely ignored. This situation has highlighted the importance of getting our Neighbourhood Plan in place which would give the Village opinion a legal voice in future applications. Hopefully our actions will prevent other villages being subjected to the same treatment.

Jen Eastwood, Chairman of The Boxford Society

BOXFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The dismay at the outcome of the Catesby Estates Planning Application, expressed by the Boxford Society, is certainly shared by those working to produce Boxford's Neighbourhood Plan. That work has inevitably been slowed but far from halted by Covid 19 restrictions. We had planned to present ideas for sustaining our village by smaller housing developments, designed to fulfil local requirements and to be agreed at public meetings and eventually by a referendum vote.

Whether or not the 64 dwelling development comes to pass, we remain determined to proceed with producing the Neighbourhood Plan and to take our village with us in earmarking suitable locations for appropriate market and affordable housing and other development while looking after our facilities and infrastructure and laying down community led and agreed markers for the future. It will not belong to individuals, interest groups, planners or developers; it will be the village's plan belonging to all. We will not be at all averse to new housing providing it benefits the village in its variety; some low cost and affordable, some catering for first time buyers and some to allow up and down-sizing for young and old alike.

We already have an excellent history of the village, a vision for the future which will very possibly need now adjustment before seeking public approval and we are being guided by an experienced professional consultant, Andrea Long, who we look forward to introducing to the village when circumstances permit.

Of course our plan is not just about housing. It must cover Boxford, past, present and most importantly, the future of its infrastructure, facilities, utilities, health and education, roads, parking, transport, green spaces, pollution and, importantly, the public buildings including the church and our sustainable commercial outlets, the shops and pubs. Our children deserve a strong and safe environment and the plan must play a small but vital part in providing a thriving community.

The last few months have proved the resilience of Boxford and its hamlets. The Neighbourhood Plan should belong to its residents and help ensure the future; if current planning disappointments come to fruition (by no means certain), we must make a virtue out of necessity and have our own aspirations properly presented to decision makers. The completed Neighbourhood Plan will achieve this aim and have considerable strength in preventing the granting of planning approval for any further unwanted development in the village.

David Burden Hugh Phillips

Co-Chairmen Boxford Neighbourhood Plan

Box River News

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August 15th at noon

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THE AUGUST LETTER BY FR ROB

Dear Friends,

Are You Being Called to Something New?

Isn't it strange how even though we have been in lockdown these last few months we nonetheless feel as though we have been on a journey?

It has been a bit of a roller coaster ride with things seeming to change every other day and our emotions bashed about as though they were James Bond's favourite drink - shaken not stirred.

There have been all kinds of challenges for us during this period, but we've also been presented with an opportunity to take stock and reflect.

During this journey, have you felt that strange feeling deep down as though this is an opportunity, but you haven't been able to put your finger on it? Have you had moments where you felt as though something has been nudging you, as though someone were speaking directly into your heart?

Many people have been re-evaluating what is important in their lives. The reality is that the old post-Covid world lacked meaning. The ravenous demands of our consumerist culture take their toll, and having abated for a while, we have found more space and time to sit, reflect and observe. We have re-found a love of nature, community, family: walking in the countryside, reading more and praying more. Many people who have previously had a very sparse relationship with the spiritual life, have said that they have now found themselves praying much more often. They have felt more spiritual and more in touch with the supernatural in some deep probing way during this time.

The meaning we crave cannot be found in material objects, wealth or by being a workaholic.

Each of us are on a journey, but it isn't a journey which began at lockdown, it is a journey which began before we were born, for God knew and loved us even before we were in our mother's womb. God communicates with us somewhere deep down in our soul, and this time of lockdown has afforded us the space to begin noticing it. We cannot intellectualise it; it has been a part of each of us since before we were formed. None of us have the vocabulary to explain it, and yet we know God, this higher supernatural power, is there speaking into our hearts his still small voice of encouragement and reassurance. And as we look deeper, so we begin to find the very meaning we crave. And so we continue on the journey until we find our rest in him. 'Come to me all who are heaven leaden and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28).

The problem is, we so often put barriers in the way of that journey. Maybe you feel embarrassed or silly. Maybe it doesn't seem fashionable. Maybe you're worried what will happen if your friends find out. Maybe you feel embarrassed to step through the church door in case someone sees you. Maybe you have a sceptical spouse. Maybe you are going through a difficult time in your personal life, and you find yourself blaming God. You might be anxious, fearful or resentful that to follow God will inconvenience your routines. Maybe you do want to move things on in your spiritual life, but you can't really be bothered. These are just a tiny number of the many barriers people put in the way of pursuing their yearning for God. It takes real courage and commitment to stay journeying, but only by doing so can we find that stillness at our core that can only be found in God alone.

But we can't drive with the handbrake on, otherwise we will not get to where we need to go and we will burn out in the process.

When we are on a journey, planning in rest stops is really important. Long journeys can be especially difficult and if you don't put in enough rest stops, you can find yourself losing your ability to concentrate and notice what's around you. You might even end up falling asleep at the wheel. Rest stops help us to refresh and nourish ourselves, to rest a little, to reflect on the journey so far and to think about and prepare for the journey ahead. Only then are we in the best possible place to set off towards our final destination.

Church is our rest stop! As we journey on through life, it is important that we take adequate breaks when we are consciously in God's presence so that we can rest, refresh, nourish, reflect and explore deeper for ourselves. Just attending at Christmas and Easter aren't nearly enough - just as not stopping for a rest break during a journey between Edinburgh and London would not be enough. If that is your regular practice, then you shouldn't wonder if you come of the road occasionally.

God is faithful and if we trust in him completely, he will never leave us. But we must do our bit to keep the relationship strong. We must trust him and not be afraid to put ourselves in situations of difficulty, trouble or danger, because he will follow through with his promises.

Becoming Christ-like and entering heaven is your final destination, but your journey to get there will last a lifetime. So don't give up or allow other distractions to get in your way.

We know that God is love. 'Those who live in love live in God and God lives in them' (1 John 14:16). During this time of pandemic many of us have relied heavily on that love to get us through, as we have said prayers for our families, friends, communities, the world and ourselves. Which of us don't pray to God whenever we are in trouble or need? When you sit at the bedside of a dying relative in hospital, do you not say a prayer or sit in the hospital chapel a while? You know God loves you! If you know God loves you, why

would you question where he wants you to go? Why would you put limitations on how far you will travel with him? His way will always be the right way and the best way.

So, when you feel God leading you, just follow. Don't delay, just obey! It might feel a little inconvenient at times. Church will not always be entertaining. Neither will the journey God leads us on always be easy. The world is not easy. Following God won't remove you from the troubles or irritations of the world, but it might help you to deal with them in a healthier way. Jesus' wisdom reminds us, 'I have said these things to you that you may have peace. In the world you may have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome these things.'

This moment presents an opportunity for us all as we begin rebuilding life after lockdown. An opportunity to make some much needed change for the better in our own lives and in the world around us. Don't let this moment pass. Our church is trying to rebuild after many years of decline and it needs you. And you would likely benefit from being involved in church too. There are lots of ways that you can become involved, and we are always keen to hear of any ideas or talents you may have to offer to help.

So, now that church is once again open for worship, why not make a commitment of an hour just once a week?

May the prayers of Mary, Joseph, the Holy Family and all the Saints surround and strengthen you, and may the immeasurable blessings of God wash over you and keep you safe. *Fr Rob*

Church News

Our New Administrator Has Started!

Hello. My name is Colleen Pearce and I have just started in the role of Administrator for the Box River Benefice.

I have lived in Boxford for 14 years with my partner, of 18 years, Stephen Faiers together with our daughter Olivia who is 12 years old.

Many of you may already know me. I've been involved with lots of fundraising within the parish, such as The Christmas Tree Festival and helping out with the Open Gardens by serving the luncheons within the village hall. Previously, I have worked in the Fleece Public House and most recently worked at Boxford Church of England Primary School as a Lunchtime Assistant and a helper in KS1 classes.

I have a keen interest in cooking, gardening and sewing. I'm also the Ferguson Ladies Ploughing champion for 2 consecutive years (unfortunately, the 2019 match was cancelled due to severe rain and flooding).

I'm very excited to take on the role of Administrator, where I will be handling much of the administration behind the scenes for our 5 parishes and working alongside Fr Rob, our Rector.

I will be based in the upstairs office in Mary's House, Swan Street, Boxford. I will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9.30 and 1.30pm. If you would like to contact me with any queries regarding administrative matters or enquiries about church, please do so on the Benefice Office Phone Number 01787 828046 or email boxriverbenefice@gmail.com. I'm really looking forward to being a part of the Box River Benefice team and meeting everyone.

Thank you for your patience as I settle in. Kindest Regards, *Colleen*



We had been planning to hold a **Summer Holiday Club** in Church for children aged between 6 to 10 years old during the Summer Holidays, but because of the Covid-19 restrictions this will no longer be able to go ahead. We are contemplating replacing it with light lunches instead. If you would find this helpful, please do let us know by email at boxriverbenefice@gmail.com or phone 01787 828046 (on Mon, Tue, Thur between 9.30am and 1.30pm).

We are looking to organize a walking pilgrimage for all ages around the benefice one day in August with the option of joining us for the whole route, part of the route or at individual churches. We will stop for refreshments at various points along the way. To register interest, please email boxriverbenefice@gmail.com or phone 01787 828046 (on Mon, Tue, Thur between 9.30am and 1.30pm).

We are starting a regular intercessions prayer list for people who are sick or who have recently died, which will be prayed around the benefice at services and at home. If you would like someone adding to the list, please email boxriverbenefice@gmail.com or phone 01787 828046 (on Mon, Tue, Thur between 9.30am and 1.30pm). The list will be renewed each month.

NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

GROTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Trustees will meet on Thursday 1st October, 2020 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 Commissioners - namely, Homefield, the east side of Swan 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, Anthea Scriven, Malting Lodge, Groton, Sudbury CO10 5ER Tel:- 01787 210263

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.

Peter Norris <peter.norris12@gmail.com>

Dear Fellow Recyclers and Eco-Warriors!

Just to flag up a couple of websites for any spare hands during the holidays.....

ecobricks.org invite us to fill plastic bottles with our used plastic that would otherwise find itself in our blue bins. All you need is a pair of scissors! Poke any clean, dry plastic into your empty bottle. Deeply satisfying to know its going from 'cradle to cradle' We can use them ourselves or give them to another project who are collecting. Read about the origins on ecobricks.org What a story!

morsbags.org is the go-to place for transforming pre-loved fabrics, curtains, duvet covers and clothes, into super simple bags.

I have a supply of labels to get you stitching. Is there anyone out there with an industrial sewing machine?

Whats you best hands-on thing?

As my tea-towel says, "Lets just tip-toe gently upon our lovely world"

Love from Rosie

Daisy Green Lockdown Enterprises

Twentieth Anniversary

This is the twentieth anniversary of my becoming the editor of the Boxford Newsletter later to be known as The Box River News once Newton came on board. It was to have been a celebration, after all twenty years is a long time (not however as long as the 61 years of my marriage). Unfortunately the virus has intervened and instead of a bumper edition reviewing the last 20 years we have instead a much reduced edition with little room for frivolity. This edition at 20 pages is smaller than the August 2000 edition which featured the millennium

Celebrations in Boxford. However in the hope that things have improved by then, we will celebrate 20 years of the BOX RIVER NEWS in January instead together with 20 years of Soap Box by Brian Tora my most loyal contributor.

Note: The reason for the much reduced size is the lack of advertising. The BRN relies on advertising to meet its production costs. We hope this does not last and that our advertisers realise how important it is for them to let our 4000 readers know about the services they provide. Work has been building up over the last 4 months or so and once folk have got their confidence back there should be plenty for our services directory advertisers to do. Eddie

Suffolk Medical Clinic Ltd

The Suffolk Medical Clinic are delighted to be able to be open again – even if it is for limited treatments – so please contact the clinic on 01787 211000 or info@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk and we will do our best to fit you in if it is a treatment we are currently allowed to do or put you on our waiting list and hopefully it won't be too long

Jenny

STARTER



Call for Recipes

St Mary's Church Boxford are creating a recipe book to be used as a fundraiser.

Your participation and support can make this a success!

Please submit your favourite starter, main, dessert or cocktail recipe for inclusion in our recipe book.

You can do this by sending an email to Sarah at spm456@hotmail.co.uk

dessert

THE MAIN DISH

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The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton

Rector:

The Revd Fr Rob Parker-McGee SR
The Rectory, School Hill, Boxford, CO10 5JT
Tel: 01787 210434
Email: rparkermcgee@gmail.com

We are starting a regular intercessions prayer list for people who are sick or who have recently died, which will be prayed around the benefice at services and at home. If you would like someone adding to the list, please email boxriverbenefice@gmail.com or phone 01787 828046 (on Mon, Tue, Thur between 9.30am and 1.30pm). The list will be renewed each month.

We are Open for Private Prayer and Divine Worship

Open for Private Prayer:

St Mary's Boxford – Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

All Saints' Newton – Sundays

St Bartholomew's Groton – Mondays and Fridays

St Mary the Virgin Edwardstone – Saturdays

St Lawrence's Little Waldingfield – Wednesdays

Divine Worship

Sunday 26th July 2020

9.30am – St Mary's Boxford

11am – All Saints' Newton Green

Sunday 2nd August 2020

9.30am – St Mary's Boxford

11am – St Lawrence's Little Waldingfield

Sunday 9th August 2020

9.30am – St Mary's Boxford

11am – St Bartholomew's Groton

Sunday 16th August 2020

9.30am – St Mary's Boxford

11am – St Mary the Virgin Edwardstone

Sunday 23rd August 2020

9.30am – St Mary's Boxford

11am – All Saints' Newton Green

Sunday 30th August 2020

11am - St Mary's Boxford

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer (plus Reflections and Compline [Night Prayer], where possible) and the Sunday Service will continue to be streamed online over our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice

NB – Because of the extensive measures that we are taking to ensure everyone's safety during Covid-19 restrictions there is a slight possibility that a service may have to be cancelled at relatively short notice if we do not have the volunteers necessary to enable a service to be conducted safely. We hope you understand if this occurs and can only apologise in advance.



Making our Church
Safe for All



The 9.30 am Holy Communion service at Groton on Sunday 12 July was an 'open-air' service in the churchyard.

GARDENING IN AUGUST INSPIRED BY THE LATE HARRY BUCKLEDEE

Encourage Hybrid T and Floribunda roses to bloom again by removing faded flowers regularly. If this is not done, especially on those varieties which produce hips, the rosebush will not produce many more flowers for the rest of the season. Give the plants a boost by feeding with a rose fertiliser. There are several types available which can be applied as a root dressing or as a foliage feed which has the advantage of being taken up through the leaves. Avoid giving too much Nitrogen as this will produce soft new shoots which may not ripen sufficiently to withstand hard winter frosts. Keep up the fortnightly spraying against black spot, mildew and rust. This is the time of the year when roses are most prone to attacks of rust and a severe attack can completely defoliate the bush.

Buds are now forming on outdoor flowering chrysanthemums and if large blooms are required they should be disbudded to one flower stem. Disbudding is sometimes called 'taking the bud' or 'securing the bud'. It simply means removing the side buds which appear at the leaf joints below the main bud. Allow the side shoots to grow an inch long removing them carefully otherwise the main bud may be damaged, causing the flowers to be malformed. Complete the disbudding early in the month to ensure blooms are produced before the bad weather. When the buds have been secured give a feed of high potash fertiliser to fatten them up. Discontinue feeding when the buds show colour. Water once a week if the weather is dry. Flowering stems will need support to allow for the increasing weight of the blooms. Earwigs can be a problem, a ring of vaseline around the stems below the flower will prevent them reaching and eating the open florets.

When cutting gladioli, leave as many leaves as possible to ensure that the corns have a good source of nourishment to build them up for flowering next year.

The mottling and discolouration of leaves together with stunted growth of dahlias indicates the presence of virus disease. Mark any plants that are suspect and destroy them at the end of the season. Cuttings taken from such tubers would be affected by the virus.

If you have room in the flower garden, sowings of hardy annuals such as clarkia, godetia, candytuft etc can be made outside and they will come through most winters, flowering better than spring sown.

Rhododendrons, azalias and camelias set next years flowering buds now

and should not be allowed to become short of water for the rest of the season. Dryness at the roots can cause the failure of bud formation resulting in few flowers next year. Feeding twice weekly with a liquid ericaceous fertiliser will promote healthy growth and strong flower buds. This applies particularly to plants which are grown in pots. The bulb catalogues are dropping through the letterbox, so order soon to avoid disappointment should your favourites sell out. Order wholesale to get larger numbers, as a good show is everything after a long winter. Think tens and hundreds and reduce the number of varieties to keep clarity.

A fortnightly feed of pot-grown plants will keep them looking good now until the end of the summer. Annuals and tender perennials are producing flower constantly and need replenishment to keep the show going. Liquid seaweed is organic and can be used as a foliar feed on recurrent blooming roses. They will thank you for it.

A few minutes every day of deadheading will keep the garden looking smart. It encourages plants to produce more flower and not to run to seed. Harvesting also encourages plants to keep producing, so pick dahlias with regularity and beans and courgettes while they are still young and fresh. Water if the weather is dry.

Wisteria can still be given its summer prune. Remove old flowering shoots of rambling roses after they have flowered. They should be cut out completely close to the ground. Tie in any new branches to replace them.

Lavender, santolina, and artemesia can start to look a bit scruffy once the flowers have faded, so use a good sharp pair of shears to trim them back. Topiary and hedges can be continually trimmed to keep their shape. Cut down spent raspberry canes.

It's the beginning of harvest time, and vegetables such as sweetcorn marrows, squashes and pumpkins will be ready. Pinch out the tops of outdoor tomatoes when three trusses of fruit have developed and continue to remove side shoots (except on bush tomatoes). Provide support for branches of plum trees as the weight may break brittle branches, this applies to any heavily laden fruit trees. Lift and dry onions and garlic.

You can begin harvesting apples, pears and other like fruits. Harvest your beans and freeze them. This the last month to sow salad crops. A crop of parsley can be sown now to last through out the winter.

Soap Box

Not only are the pubs open again, so are the churches. In Little Waldingfield we may have had to wait until the beginning of August for a service to take place in St Lawrence's, but elsewhere in the benefice the pews have been occupied for much of July, albeit with even more space than usual between members of the congregation and without the communal singing of hymns. It does make things feel a little bit more normal, though when – indeed, if – we can return to pre-Covid conditions is anybody's guess.

Even travel is returning to some form of normality in some measure, but with Portugal excluded from the first wave of safe destinations, it does not make our chances of returning to the Algarve any easier. We'll get there, second spikes and other possible interruptions excepted, but doubtless life will be that little bit different there as well. And in the meantime, how is all this going to be paid for? By us, as tax payers, no doubt, but debt – of the government variety – looks like becoming a prominent issue.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has ruled out austerity as the means of covering the additional expenditure this pandemic has demanded, but that doesn't mean tax rises are off the agenda. Indeed, they seem a positive certainty. But before new fiscal measures start to provide revenue for the exchequer, the gap between what the government is forking out on keeping the economy afloat and how much the tax receipts are providing in a recessionary environment will need to be funded. And borrowing is the only answer.

It happens that interest rates are at an all time low. Good news for borrowers, particularly if you are a developed nation, as are we. Indeed, I've been monitoring the government's bond issuance – the way in which they replenish the coffers to ensure public expenditure requirements are met. The rates of interest these bonds have attracted have been remarkably low, even for longer dated securities. Even more surprising is that some of the shorter dated bonds have commanded a negative interest rate. In other words, the lenders have been effectively paying for the privilege of lending Her Majesty's Government the money they need to keep the wheels of state turning. Scary, or what?

It is much the same around the world, although not all countries will have the ability to command rock bottom interest rates. The United States central bank, known as the Fed – short for Federal Reserve, has been printing money like it is going out of fashion. They did this in the wake

of the financial crisis of twelve years ago, but to nothing like the extent they are doing it today. Action like this is normally expected to stimulate a rise in the cost of living, but it didn't then, so no one expects it to do so this time.

It will not just be sovereign powers that will be adding to their debt burden. Many companies will have needed to borrow to cover the drop in their revenue that lock down has engendered. Some individuals will also see their borrowings rise, perhaps as a consequence of not having the wherewithal to maintain their mortgage repayments, or even to help maintain even a basic standard of living. The disruption this pandemic has caused - and will continue to cause - should really not be underestimated.

On a more cheerful note, the measures to combat Covid-19 has shown how resourceful we can all be when faced with unprecedented situations. And how caring too, when it comes down to it. While there may have been some poor behaviour, by and large the need to support friends and neighbours has brought out the best in people. But the extent and cost of the various stimulation packages introduced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak shows how bad the potential economic problems could turn out to be. At some stage the piper will need to be paid. The rest of this year is unlikely to be easy for many.

Brian Tora

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I'll tell yew sarfin' now, but ut man't goo na fudder

Growing up in Lindsey, Suffolk in the 1920s by Harry Buckledee Part 6/7

6. CRIME

It was tempting to start and finish this chapter with the sentence, "There wasn't any." Theft was practically unknown. No one even thought about locking the doors at night. In fact, it was considered sensible to make it easy for people to get into the house in case you needed help, and since most cottages had thatched roofs the most likely emergency was a fire. You could leave your bike and a basket of groceries unattended for an hour or two safe in the knowledge that no one would pinch either. I suppose one of the reasons no stealing went on was that we were all pretty hard up and no one had anything worth taking anyway. In rural Suffolk people didn't begin to get security conscious until the 1960s, precisely when the good times started to roll and we had a bit of money at last.

I don't remember any cases of domestic violence either, and since I liked to be around adults and was a good listener, I think I'd have found out if a woman or her children were being badly treated. When I was very small I used to walk miles and miles and no one ever worried that someone might want to do me harm. It just didn't happen.

The local policeman was P.C. Long, who was based first in Kersey and later in Semer. He used to go around on his bike but he didn't charge anyone very often. If a child was getting up to mischief he could deal with it with a clip round the ear, and that was the end of it. You might get fined for riding a bike at night without lights, but only after you'd ignored at least one warning. Occasionally someone would be prosecuted for poaching; snaring rabbits was all right but game birds like pheasants and partridges were the property of the landowner. Teenage boys and young men often like to show how tough they are, and it was not unknown for a group of boys to go to a neighbouring village with the specific intention of having a punch-up. The worst injury anyone ever got would be a black eye, and I suppose the main cause was boredom. There was no organised football or rugby to allow youngsters to vent their aggression. In fact, there wasn't much social life at all. There were pub games like darts, shove ha'penny and the most popular of all, quoits. The Fearnley family started the first social club in the school in the evenings, so from then on we had a gramophone and could do a bit of dancing. And that was about it.

That was about it as regards crime as well; it wasn't a bit like *Midsomer Murders*. Yet we did have one murder, and it was never solved. The victim was Miss Sydney, who lived in Chelsworth and earned a living giving piano lessons. One dark winter's evening – it must have been about 1930 when I was eleven or twelve – she was cycling back to Chelsworth after a lesson at the Red Rose pub in Lindsey, but she never reached her home. The first person to see her bicycle and her body on the side of the road was a friend of mine, Eddie Bull, but he was frightened and went right by and didn't say anything about it at first. The next person to see the body was Wally Allen, the roadman, who was on his way to Chelsworth for a pint in the Peacock. He reported it and the police quickly concluded that Miss Sydney's fatal injuries were not the result of an accident.

You can imagine the effect such a dramatic event had on sleepy Lindsey. It was the only topic of conversation, and I kept hearing the same thing over and over again: "The police know who did it but they can't prove it." I think a lot of people had a shrewd suspicion as to the identity of the culprit, but they had no proof either. Although I was normally pretty good at finding out about things, I reckon people thought I was too young to hear certain details, so that's as much as I can say about it. Convicted murderers were hanged in those days, but whoever killed poor Miss Sydney never felt that noose around his neck.

7. RELIGION AND MORALITY

All women and children and quite a lot of men went to church on Sunday, and there were services both in the morning and in the evening. A vicar only had one parish in those days and our parson in Lindsey was the Reverend Stroud. What I most remember about the services in Lindsey church was the organ that had to be pumped while the organist was playing it. The man who had the job of pumping the organ was Farmer Clifford, who wasn't a farmer at all but just a farm worker, but for some reason he acquired the nickname of Farmer. If I remember correctly, when Kersey church got a new organ, they gave their old one to Lindsey, and it was one that didn't need to be pumped.

When I went to Kersey school I soon got involved in the church there. The Kersey vicar, the Reverend Ambrose, asked me, Eddie Bull and Frank Jarvis if we'd like to join the choir. To be honest, it was an offer we couldn't refuse because in those days the parson had a lot of authority in the community and if he asked you to do something it was difficult to say no. So that meant we had to attend both services on Sundays and choir practice on Friday evenings with the organist Cissie Stiff. Once we started the Reverend Ambrose made it clear that he wouldn't put up with us

skipping choir practice; he told us that the only legitimate excuse for being absent was a broken leg.

Reverend Ambrose was a clever chap and you couldn't get one over him. Once the three of us knocked heads together and missed choir practice. On the Monday morning he was waiting for the school bus to arrive, and as it happened I was the first one off, so he tackled me about our absence. I gave him the excuse that we'd thought up together, i.e. that we'd run out of the carbide that we needed for the gas lamps on our bikes. He didn't accuse me of lying but I had the feeling he didn't entirely believe me. He asked me how much a tin of carbide cost and how long it lasted. I told him that we bought it from Stiff's shop in Kersey for 4d and a tin lasted about a month. At the next choir practice he gave each of us a tin of carbide and continued to do so every month for as long as we were in the choir. It was very generous of him, but it also meant that the most credible excuse we had been able to come up with could never be used again.

One Saturday every summer the whole choir – adults as well as children – went on a trip to Felixstowe. Kersey to Felixstowe was quite a long bus journey on the roads we had in those days, and we always stopped off at the village of Weeley, where the men went straight into the Black Boy for a pint. Then, when we got to Felixstowe and were going down the hill towards the seafront, they would stop the bus and get out at another pub (I can't remember the name), and that was the last we saw of them till it was time to go home. They might just as well have spent the day in Kersey Bell.

They might have had a better pint in Kersey Bell. I remember one year, when we stopped to pick them up on our way home, the vicar asked Bob Glead – who was always known as Suetu Bob – if the beer was good.

"That int a mucha," Bob replied. "Tha'ss all arms'n'ligs."

Naturally the Reverend Ambrose wanted to know what he meant by that. "Well, it's like this," Bob explained. "Ut int got na body to it, you can't git a hid on't, so tha'ss why ut's all arms'n'ligs."

But there was time for Suetu Bob to have a better pint because the journey home entailed another stop at the Black Boy in Weeley. We used to get back to Kersey at about nine in the evening, some of us having enjoyed a rare experience of sea air, others having preferred the smoke-filled atmosphere of the pub.

I left the choir when I was fourteen, officially because the Reverend Ambrose reckoned my voice was about to break, but I think he was sharp enough to understand that my priority by then was to work and contribute to the family budget.

I think most people believed in Christianity but they didn't go on too much about religion. One exception was Marshal Smith from Boxford – I never knew whether Marshal was his real name or a nickname – who was a thatcher by trade and known to be a good one. He was a lay preacher in various chapels, and when he was working he would sing hymns and punctuate his speech with expressions like "Praise the Lord". He was well liked though because he was no hypocrite; he really lived by his Christian values and he brought his children up well.

In general those who talked most about religion were not Church of England. I remember the Pryke family from Kersey, who were Salvationists and went to Hadleigh for their Sunday Services. Also from Kersey, the Partridge farming family (whom I later worked for) were Congregationalists who built a chapel on their land. Years later, when I had my own family, first my daughter then my son went to Sunday school in that little chapel, which gave Linda and myself a bit of peace for a sleep after Sunday lunch. Like Marshal Smith, the Partridges (who didn't smoke and never touched a drop of alcohol) and the Prykes took their religious faith seriously and couldn't be accused of hypocrisy. Tev Partridge also did quite a lot for the village.

All marriages took place in church and the bride always wore white to symbolize purity. In reality she was often already pregnant as she made her vows, but that was no great scandal. It just meant that a wedding that was going to happen anyway had to be brought forward a bit, and I don't remember any cases of a young man trying to wriggle out of doing the right thing.

In the Book of John we are told "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her", and that lesson seemed to hit the target. Occasionally a young woman got into trouble and did not have a fiancé to "make a decent woman of her", but she would not be ostracized by the community or treated with contempt. After I was married and went to live in Kersey I got to know a lovely lady who was one of the most highly respected people in the village though she had brought up her daughter alone.

To sum up, pretty well everyone believed in God and most people's personal morality was shaped by Christian teaching, but there was no nasty fanaticism or intolerance.

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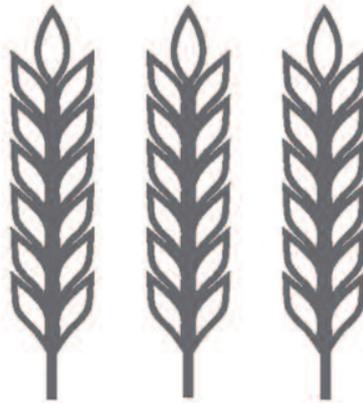
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CITIZENS ADVICE, SUDBURY AND DISTRICT

In more normal times I do a lot to help my elderly mum, like picking up shopping, sorting out her finances, making important calls and organising her post. But, unfortunately with lockdown in place I'm not able to see her as frequently, and though I've still been able to drop off her shopping, I'm no longer able to help her with the other things. I'm particularly worried about how much I've read about scammers at the moment, and I wondered whether there's anything I can do from a distance to help protect my mum?

There are a few steps you can take from a distance to keep your mother safe and lessen your need to worry.

With your mother's permission you can register her landline with the Telephone Preference Service. It's free to register and doing so will reduce the amount of unwanted sales and marketing calls you receive. This won't block all unwanted calls (it won't work on calls from abroad or companies she's given her number to already, for example), so your mother will need to continue to remain vigilant, but it'll certainly lessen the number of them.

You can encourage your mother to talk to her phone provider to see what privacy services and call-blocking services are available. These services aren't always free but are useful in ensuring any call coming through is from a trusted or known source.

In terms of unwanted post, with your mother's permission you can contact the Mailing Preference Service to have her name removed from any marketing lists. You can also contact Royal Mail and opt out of receiving any leaflets or unaddressed promotional material. Attaching a 'no junk mail' sign to her front door may also help with this.

When it comes to your mother's finances, if you supply an organisation with a letter of authority from the account holder, this may allow you speak to them on her behalf. This may not always be accepted, so if you find yourself needing to take over your mother's finances in the future, it's worth looking into a long-term solution like a Power of Attorney.

It's also vital that you chat to your mother to help her spot the marks of a scam herself. At Citizens Advice we always advise the following:

- Be suspicious if you're contacted out of the blue, even if it's from a name you recognise
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is
- Never give out your bank details unless you are certain you can trust the person contacting you
- Don't be rushed – you never need to make a decision straight away and if you feel pressured say “no”, hang up the phone, or close the door.

Lastly, if your mother is receiving care from her local authority and you think she might be being scammed, it's worth reporting your concerns to their Adult Safeguarding team.

Please note we are no longer seeing clients face to face until further notice

If you need help or information about a problem, you can telephone Sudbury & District Citizens Advice on 01787 321400 (answerphone) leave a message and someone will call you back. Alternatively, telephone Suffolk Adviceline on 0300 330 1151 from Monday to Thursday between 10am and 3pm or the national Adviceline on 03444 111 444 from Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.

You can also contact us via email at advice@sudburycab.org.uk or have a look at our website www.sudburycab.org.uk for further information.

Contact: Elaine Gorman

Email: elaine.gorman@sudburycab.org.uk

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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

➤ **COVID-19 related news.** The new action which is key to continuing the reduction of infection is "TEST AND TRACE". Tracing virus spread is critical to containing it locally. So from now on, if you have symptoms, you MUST immediately self-isolate and make a request for a test on line <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or call the telephone number 119.

Moving from national to more locally recommended guidance, the Suffolk County Council is forming a local Outbreak Control Programme (LOCP) overseen by a COVID 19 dedicated health protection board chaired by the Director of Public Health for Suffolk - Stuart Keeble. This board constitutes of leaders of all the County, District and Borough Councils together with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The LOCP will be triggered where there are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in any setting or community within the county. The plan outlines measures to prevent, manage, and contain outbreaks of Coronavirus and protect the public's health. It builds on existing relationships and processes in place with partner agencies across Suffolk. It outlines how complex cases will be managed in more than 30 high-risk places, locations, and communities, particularly care homes and schools. It also outlines local testing capacity, use of data to identify and proactively manage outbreaks, and contact tracing in complex settings. An outbreak is defined when there are two or more cases in high-risk settings, or a greater than expected occurrence of COVID-19 compared with the usual level for a particular place and time. Please continue to ensure in your parish and community that there is no one who is vulnerable not being supported. Please continue to promote "Home but not alone" with the help line 0800 876 6926

➤ **Suffolk Corona Watch.** I wanted to bring to your attention a new service named 'Coronawatch', led by the Public Health Function of the County Council. The online dashboard gathers all publicly available data on Covid-19 in Suffolk in one place. Based on the logic that "a picture tells 1000 words", these data and graphics can be found here - www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch - well worth a look.

➤ **Temporary relaxation of concessionary travel arrangements in Suffolk to end 6th July.** As more people return to work, public transport operators face the challenge of meeting this extra demand and ensuring adherence to Government guidance. Passenger numbers are highest at the beginning and end of the day, so people who need to make essential journey for shopping, care or health reasons are being encouraged to travel after 9.30am when buses are currently quieter. Suffolk County Council and bus operators in the county have agreed to end the temporary relaxation of concessionary travel rules from Monday 6 July .

➤ **First business benefits from council's free solar panel scheme.**

As part of the County's Climate emergency plans to be carbon neutral by 2030, a Lowestoft-based charity is the first organisation to benefit from free solar panels, as part of Suffolk County Council's Renewable Energy Fund. Nirvana Health and Fitness, on Pinbush Road in Lowestoft, is now hosting a 70kWp solar panel installation and is benefitting from zero-carbon electricity. The council's £400,000 Renewable Energy Fund is open to eligible businesses looking to reduce their energy costs and carbon footprint through solar power. Successful applicants will have solar panels supplied and installed for free. Once the panels are installed, the business is sold electricity at a better rate than their existing tariff, so they will see immediate savings. The Fund itself benefits from income generated by the sale of the solar-generated electricity. This means money goes back into the pot, allowing more solar panel applications to be considered by the Fund and installed across Suffolk. Businesses with a relatively high daytime energy demand and large roof space, and who are interested in applying to the Renewable Energy Fund, can contact Sarah Gill at Groundwork Suffolk sarah.gill@groundwork.org.uk or call 07720 098980.

➤ **Fostering and Adoption Sessions in the Stour Valley - Go Virtual**

Regrettably all recruitment events based locally in the parishes have been cancelled due to Covid-19. Since the incidence of COVID 19 sadly the demand for this service has increased significantly. I am pleased to say that despite these sad circumstances the recruitment of foster parents and adoptees has also increased. Sadly the need is as vital as ever !!

Therefore, those who would like to find out more

- can refer to the website - <https://www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk/> and / or
- join one of the following events now arranged during the next two months which will be conducted VIRTUALLY face to face with one of the team following the government guidance:-

For those wanting more information on Fostering only:-

Wednesdays - 5th August, 2nd September - both at 7:00pm in your home.

For those wanting more information on Adoption only:-

Thursdays - 6th August, 3rd September - both at 7:00pm in your home.

To book a place please email Claire.Gwatin@suffolk.gov.uk. She will then send instructions on how to join the virtual meeting. As always, our team will be happy to answer any questions you have about fostering or adoption! They normally will have a foster carer or adoptive parent available to help you too at these events. For other questions please telephone 01473 264800.

Please spread the word.

➤ **My Priorities**

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FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

While life may seem to be returning to something that resembles a bit more like normal it really is not and may never be again. It is up to us all to be careful, for ourselves and especially for others, who although presenting themselves with a brave face may have vulnerability and underlying health problems which will put them in danger from the dreadful coronavirus.

At the Council we have adopted the slogan Stick with It Suffolk to try to distance ourselves from the rather mixed messages coming from central government and I do think this has worked better and has established more than a little local pride. Politics has become more about money for the privileged few and less about the well-being of everyone else who are just trying to bring up their families and survive in their own world. As well as praising our fantastic N.H.S., which should be fought for with every breath we have against any form of privatization and government sell offs and underhand interference, we must also thank and remember our key workers who have manned shops and facilities, made deliveries and many others too many to list who have worked to keep our life as normal as possible while we have adjusted our lives to cope with our very much changed circumstances. I would hope and urge that we can continue to support those local businesses that have stayed with it to feed and supply us in difficult times and build up a future for them as well. Local is definitely best and doesn't use gallons of fuel and create pollution to get there.

Although unsung and often maligned our own Babergh Council Staff have gone many extra (virtual) miles to keep services running and food and help to the needy and isolated.

With the deep cleansing and opening of public toilets we now have most of our services up and running again and most of our staff are back where they should be apart from those needed to distribute the Government business help and support money which has been so vital.

On the down-side we are having ever-increasing reports of scams and various criminal activity mainly through pestering phone calls and the usual email try-ons. If it doesn't seem right and too good to be true, then it probably is just that. Please alert Suffolk Trading Standards if worried.

Just as bad as this is the roadside dumping of rubbish that so degrades our countryside and villages, while the fast food chuck-outs have not been so visible in the last four months during lockdown, the constant dumping of fridges and tires in laybys and ditches has remained a constant pain and expense for our man with a van (x2) who have put in long hours to pick up what they can upon reports coming in. This is we think mainly commercial waste coming from over the district border and will only be brought to a halt by the public being vigilant and reporting dumping incidents near where they live and possible vehicle sightings and reg No.s, so that the police can be brought in to seek convictions. publicrealm@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk to report.

Finally as many will now know the application for 64 homes at Sandhill, Boxford was approved for outline planning permission on 17th June despite total village opposition and good representations against such a massive estate attached to the edge of the village on good quality farming land on the edge of the conservation area. It seems the present Government obsession to Build, Build, Build has finally cowed our planning committee, who are disillusioned by the bullying tactics of the planning inspectors who follow the government guidelines into giving in and no longer supporting common sense and local concerns. This is the first major battle that I have lost on your behalf in 21 yrs as your councillor and it has taken me a little while to come to terms with what has happened and the detrimental effect it will have on Boxford and the local villages. Despite the planning office press release promising benefits, apart from five acres of green space on the edge of the estate there are no other gains from this huge build out into our countryside. On the downside,

The loss of many acres of good, precious arable much needed food growing land. The narrowing of the Ellis St pinch-point even more to allow for the provision of an unworkable footway down the roadside which will displace the area for the cottage parking. No provision of local needs housing for local applicants, just for wider general needs.

The bussing of even more children out of our village as the village school cannot expand on its present site to increase numbers, years one and two have been full for the past years and already children are being turned away and bussed out to other not so local schools and the developer has had to pay a sum of just over £100,000.00 to the local authority to pay off this anomaly. Disgraceful !!! What has happened to the green agenda and climate emergency.

Our Doctors surgery is at bursting point and cannot take any more patients.

We will soon not be able to travel through our village safely to shop or walk because of vehicles and lorries passing through, we will have the Swan St problems on the other side of the village as well with no highway safety for young and old alike.

The total decimation of the villages own Neighbourhood Plan which would have provided a space for school expansion with a forty space off road car park along with local needs housing for Boxford families and retirement properties along with a river crossing to a designated wildlife area with access for young and old alike.

The carefully constructed rainwater soakaway which has served and protected Stationfield and the rest of the village for the past five years is allegedly to be enlarged to take the water from 89 houses, those living downstream need to be very afraid. Whatever has happened to democracy and common sense, we are being governed by idiots. If anyone has any advice or solutions to any of the above, or ways to fight this crazy decision please contact me at bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk or call 01787 210854 mob 07771 508348

Stay well and positive Bryn. XX.

Readers Letters

Sir

In Boxford we are so lucky to have access to Primrose Wood. I am fortunate enough to live very close, just a few moments away and would like to say how much pleasure my woodland walks have given me, particularly through this time of 'lookdown'. Witnessing the gentle beginnings of Spring, marvelling at all the new tree-planting, grateful for the empty swathe of grass thoughtfully left unplanted from the high bench towards the church spire, thus preserving that vista. Then, all the wild flowers and beautiful grasses unfolding in turn, the jewel in the crown being the purple orchids amongst the yellow buttercups. On the glummost of days my spirits were lifted!
So a big thank you to the woodland trust, and the village volunteers for the management and upkeep of this beautiful, peaceful refuge.

Anne Townshend,
Goodlands

Sir

The Ansell family would like to thank all those who sent kind messages of condolence on the sad passing of Shirley. These were a great comfort at a time of intense sadness.
We would also like to thank Fr Rob for the graveside service, W A Deacon Funeral Services and Jayne Foster for the floral arrangements. Special grateful thanks to the first responders who attended Shirley on a number of occasions during her long illness.
Grateful thanks also to West Suffolk, Addenbrookes, Papworth, Colchester and Ipswich hospitals who have all cared for her during the last several years and to Dr Mark Hainsworth her long-standing GP. Particular thanks to the staff of Pinford End Nursing Home, Hawstead who cared for her in the final week of her life.

Our sincere thanks, we are very grateful.
Fred, Angela, Olga, Derek and family

Sir

I am writing regarding a party held in Groton Street the evening/night of 4/5th July. I have no wish to publicly shame the organisers and if I knew of the exact address of where it was held I would have written directly to the occupiers of the address. However I am not sure of this as I had no desire to wander the street in the middle of the night in my nightwear!

The party began early evening with loud music and what sounded like adolescents from the screaming we could hear. My family and other Groton residents with whom I have discussed this have absolutely no problem with young people enjoying themselves and they clearly deserve to let their hair down at the moment and we, ourselves, enjoy a party as well as anybody. What we do object to is that the music continued past 2am. I eventually fell asleep at this point but one neighbour was kept awake until approximately 3am. Both households toyed with the idea of calling the police but both felt they had enough to contend with that particular weekend.

All we ask for is that people wherever they live have a thought for others. It was a windy night which no doubt carried the sound perhaps more than intended but whoever organized it should in future take such factors into consideration. Amongst our immediate neighbours we give advance notice of parties and ensure the music and people don't disturb others after a certain time. We would ask that the music be turned down low or off at midnight in future.

Yours faithfully,
Groton residents
Name and address supplied

Sir

I would like to say a Big Big Big thank you to all the NHS staff, and also a Big Bog Big thank you to Alan Leeder, Boxfords Butcher and Jack and Ben and the rest of the staff for delivering meat, veg, bread and fruit to all the villages in these difficult times.
Also my dear lady friend Sally for helping out driving the van. My two sons Scott and Kelly for taking me shopping and keeping my garden ship shape. Also Justine who is always on hand and my neighbour plus my two friends Tony and Steph

Thank you
Maurice and Gillian, Milden

Dear Friends of Fleece Jazz.

We will be bringing you live jazz as soon as circumstances allow us. We are sorry for you, missing great music, and sorry for the musicians who cannot work.
To ameliorate the lack of jazz a little bit, we have some suggestions for you. These are keeping me sane.
If you use facebook, there is a wealth of live recordings. Lianne Carroll will be online with her husband on bass Wednesday at 8pm. Andreas Panayi has daily (mostly) chances to play with him. If you missed Matt Ford & Pete Long with the Len Phillips Big Band Rhythm Section live streaming from the garden, (I missed it), you can catch up on youtu.be/qAgcxllynBM.
Jim Hart was stunning on vibraphone in 2015, recorded at Fleece Jazz - see www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1dFw5c5M0M
Keep your ears attuned to jazz by listening to our very own Gerry England's Jazz Grooves. on Ipswich Community Radio, <https://www.icrfm.com/show/jazz-grooves/>, Thursday Nights from 8pm to 10pm. Do take good care of yourselves,

Dave Fleece Jazz

Sir

We are very fortunate to live in a picturesque village, however since the lockdown restrictions have been eased I have noticed a large increase in discarded rubbish. While exercising our dog up the playingfield he unfortunately cut himself on a shard glass. A large bottle had been smashed against the pavilion and the glass was everywhere. This mindless behavior has resulted in 4 visits to the vets, which is not only costly but has caused unnecessary stress to our young dog. Maybe the person or persons responsible should take a moment to think how their behavior impacts others! Bins and bottle banks are provided, so please use them so we can all continue to enjoy the great open spaces we have on our doorstep.

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All clients are being offered video or telephone consultations for situations where a visit to the surgery might not be possible or essential. The vet will assess each situation individually and provide the safest solution for you and your pet. If following the consultation the vet does need to examine your pet, we will book you a drive-in appointment and ask that you call us on your arrival and one of our team will come out to collect your pet. For any emergencies we'll ask you to attend the practice immediately.

Services we are currently providing:-

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- Delivery of pet food
- Essential vaccinations
- Essential operations
- Supply of animal medicines and supplements
- Emergency services.

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Self-Isolating Clients

For our elderly and vulnerable clients who are unable to leave the home, please call us to see how we may help you during this time.

Our NHS colleagues, carers and many others are fighting a difficult battle at this time and we are committed to supporting them in reducing the risks of COVID-19 spread.

We thank you for your co-operation in advance and for your support of our teams that are working under immense pressure in these difficult times to help keep your pets healthy.

Ipswich Veterinary Centre – 01473 555000

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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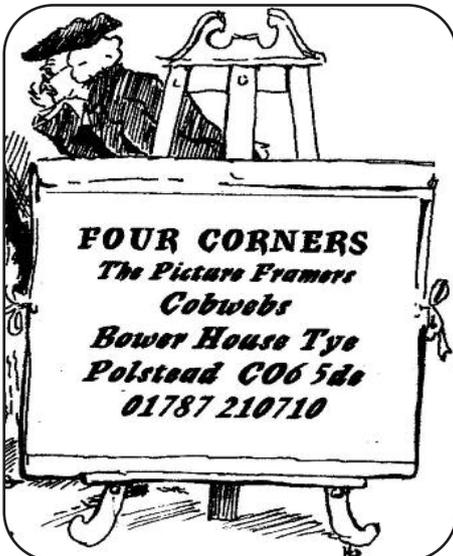
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COMPETITIVE GOLF RETURNS TO STOKE BY NAYLAND

After 7 weeks with the golf courses closed due to the lockdown, Stoke by Nayland Golf Club finally got back to competitive golf on Saturday 4th July. Golf has been introduced slowly sticking to the social distancing guidelines throughout. Members have been good at abiding by the new protocols, designed to keep players and staff safe throughout.

The first Men's competition was the Standard Trophy, which is traditionally our first major competition of the year on Good Friday. We had 113 entrants with Adrian Cherry (14) scoring 40 points. Adrian won on countback from Callum Hensby (+2), Danny Goddard (13) and Byron Long (10). The golf course looked great, despite the number of greenkeepers still down following the lockdown.

During the lockdown a couple of innovations were introduced to the courses. The Men's section purchased Slow Play Clocks for the 6th and 12th greens of both courses to measure players' progress against an expected time.

Devices were also fitted to every hole to facilitate removal of the ball without touching the flag.



Adrian Cherry - Mens Standard Trophy

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