

# Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



September 2020  
Vol 20 No 9

## SCHOOL TRAVEL FOR SEPTEMBER

### Preparations for Suffolk County Council funded School Travel for September

Suffolk County Council are making preparations to ensure that all pupils who are eligible for SCC funded school travel can be transported to school safely for the start of term. SCC transports approximately 12,000 eligible pupils to school each year, this is roughly 12% of the school population.

The Department for Education has now published official guidance on the measures that need to be in place to ensure that school transport is covid-19 safe.

On vehicles carrying only school children social distancing will not be required. This means the one metre plus rule will not apply on these routes. This will allow SCC to arrange and fund transport for the majority of eligible pupils, approximately 10,000, to school as usual. There will be some other measures in place to ensure pupils safety, for example children need to make sure they wash their hands before and after travelling and no eating and drinking will be allowed on these vehicles. Face coverings are also recommended for children aged 12 and over.

School travel passes are currently being issued. To date approximately 8,000 passes have been sent out to families.

SCC also arranges and funds travel to school for approximately 2,000 eligible pupils on public transport. The government have advised councils to dedicate routes to school children where possible and have announced £40million of funding to help local authorities create extra capacity and allow more students to use alternatives to public transport. Therefore, SCC are undertaking a route by route review of about 90 bus routes with transport operators to determine where routes can be dedicated to carry just school children. SCC is also exploring other options such as providing additional buses and zoning of buses.

For pupils with special educational needs, routes are being finalised and families will be contacted in the next two weeks regarding arrangements for the new term.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to invite parents to apply for spare seats at this stage but once transport arrangements are in place for all eligible pupils it will be reviewed to see if there is the capacity to offer spare seats. SCC has been in contact with the 225 families who have had a spare seat this year and will continue to keep them informed. If a parent has no means whatsoever of getting their child to school, SCC may be able to help by using discretionary power to offer transport arrangements. However, this would only be done where it is clear that this is absolutely essential to enable a child to attend school.

Councillor Mary Evans, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills said;

"I appreciate how unsettling this is for parents who are preparing for September but I would like to assure them that the school travel team are working extremely hard to ensure transport is arranged for all eligible students for the start of term.

"I welcome the announcement that local authorities will receive additional funding this year to provide dedicated transport to eligible pupils. Our priority is to ensure the safety of children on their journeys to and from school and we will continue to update families as we work through the guidance."

For the most up to date information parents can visit  
[www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel)  
[www.suffolkonboard.com/faqs](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/faqs).

## REPORT FROM BOXFORD WI

Boxford WI has been active through lockdown. We have been holding weekly zoom meetings for those who have wanted to join. Members have shared craft projects, recipes and other activities they have been doing. The book club has also been using zoom for their regular meetings.



A small 'thinking of you' gift of Goats milk soap was given to each member to compensate in some way for lack of meetings.

A few members made face masks which were donated to the Boxford Community Hub.

When we were allowed we met on the Boxford playing fields for an afternoon cuppa and chat.



More recently a few members hosted a 'bring your own lunch' in their gardens.

## Box River News

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Final date for reserved copy for the

October 2020 Issue is:

**September 15th at noon**

**Delivered Free** to every home in Boxford, Groton, Edwardstone, Newton, Little Waldingfield, White Street Green and Milden and is available to residents in Kersey, Assington, Leavenheath, Gt Waldingfield, Polstead, Shelley Stoke by Nayland, Nayland, Monks Eleigh and parents of children at Boxford School not within the Benefice

## THE SEPTEMBER LETTER BY FR ROB

“To be in the world, but not of the world.”

*Dear Friends,*

It is nearly five months on from when we first went into lock-down and we are still passing through difficult times as Covid-19 continues to trouble our lives in many ways. And we have also been reminded these past few weeks that the other troubles of our world have not left us either. We've seen increased persecutions of Christians and religious minorities by China and other authoritarian regimes, mass explosions in Beirut, an oil slick in Mauritius that is disastrous for the natural world and records broken by the extremely hot weather reminding us that climate change is still a pressing issue. This pandemic has also further highlighted issues of inequality with the poorest being disproportionately hit by the worst consequences of the virus, both at home and abroad.

When we live in beautiful villages such as these, it may be easy to think that these issues do not affect us, but to do so would be a mistake. If Covid-19 has taught us anything, it is that we cannot hide away or run from the world. Neither must we collude in what is wrong through our actions or inactions. What we can do is take action to ensure that risks are reduced, the worst damage is avoided for the good of all and that the most vulnerable are protected.

There is an awful lot in the Christian tradition that can help us to avoid escapism and empower us to live in the moment – whatever the moment may look like.

As Jesus is preparing before his arrest and subsequent murder, he prays to God the Father for all the followers he will leave behind. As he does so, he says something very telling: “Father, I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one”. (John 17:15)

This passage is very important: “I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them...”. Here we see that Jesus does not foresee his followers living in an ideal world, but rather one affected by disorder. ‘The evil one’ in this instance is a reference to every kind of unjust, unkind, destructive, manipulative, damaging force that can negatively affect our lives, be it material or spiritual. We have to live in the world as it is and not as we may sometimes wish it to be. To believe in Jesus does not automatically place us into paradise (though we can strive for it). In his prayer in the garden before his death, Jesus does not ask the Father to take his followers out of this world, but to protect them in the world so that their souls may not be damaged.

Of course, today's concerns are not the first nor will they be the last calamities since Jesus began building his Church on earth. Looking back through history, we see that right from the beginning Christians had to learn the painful experience of what it meant to be ‘in the world, but not of the world’. The early followers of Jesus were often exposed to an environment that was anything but friendly or comfortable. Nonetheless, they did not fall into collective self-pity, but instead continued to engage in the society in which they lived. We find in early times that Christians committed themselves to public and social life. They did not segregate themselves off from among the people they belonged to but lived a holy and committed Christian life whilst amidst a difficult and often hostile society. In a letter written to Diognetus around 150 years after Jesus' death, we get a picture which also speaks to us today. The author writes:

Christians are indistinguishable from other citizens either by nationality, language or customs... With regard to dress, food and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to live in, whether it is Greek or foreign.

And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They live in their own countries as though they are only passing through. Christians love all men, and yet all men persecute them... They live in poverty and yet enrich many; totally destitute and yet they possess an abundance of everything.

There are many similar records from the early centuries. These writings continue to pose a question to the Church of today: how can it constantly renew itself whilst detaching itself from ‘worldliness’? History has shown, time and again, that when the Church becomes less ‘worldly’ its missionary witness shines more brightly.

To remain ‘in the world, but not of the world’ is always a challenge for both the Church and her members. We have to accept reality as it is and move forward, knowing that “our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour” (Phil 3:20). The present pandemic has the potential to awaken us all out of the sleep of false security.

Many of us are overjoyed that we have been able to open up the church buildings in our benefice once again and start holding public services, albeit with necessary restrictions and safeguards. But the churches in our benefice have seen the average age of those attending increase significantly whilst at the same time the total number of those attending has decreased over the past few decades. I don't believe for one minute that local people have begun to see no value in the local church or its spirituality, but we may have all become a little too complacent. And we are left with the uncomfortable truth that this

aging and decline can't continue for too long if our churches are to survive, and God-willing thrive. This crisis will bring many things into sharp focus for our churches both locally and nationally.

Pandemic came upon us in an instant. Everything seemed stripped away in a second and the effects will rumble on for a long time yet. Many have suddenly experienced the fate of the prophet Job: “The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away”. But are we also able to say with Job, “Blessed be the name of the Lord”? (Job 1:21)

If the pandemic is showing us one thing, it is that we are not self-sufficient. By ourselves we are lost. Covid-19 has the potential to physically kill infected people, but also to damage and kill true human relationships. We need each other and we need God. But we know that so long as our faith is strong then there will be no shipwreck. Things may have to change and this may feel uncomfortable, but when we look for God he will be there. Because this is God's strength, turning even the bad things into good for us. He brings serenity into storms – in God life never dies.

May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and all the Saints come to your aid and the protection of Jesus Christ surround you as you journey on.

*Fr Rob*



## Greetings from your new Associate Priest.

Hello! My name is Fr. James Ridge and I've just been licensed as an Associate Priest to serve in the five Parishes of the Box River Benefice. It's very good to be with you officially following my licensing which took place via Zoom with Archdeacon David a couple of weeks ago.

I live in Acton with my wife Ruth who is Minister of St. John's Methodist Church in Sudbury as well as the Methodist Churches in Bradfield and Glemsford, and our son Joshua who is nine and goes to Great Waldingfield School. I was Ordained in Chelmsford Diocese and spent four years as Curate of the Halstead Area Team before briefly being Priest in charge of St. Peter's Bocking. I then spent seven years as Anglican Chaplain and subsequently Managing Chaplain of HMP Chelmsford. I then spent two years in Norwich Diocese as Managing Chaplain of HMP Wayland.

Many of you will know me as I've helped out a bit in the Benefice in recent years but I am looking forward to spending a bit more time with you. However, you won't be seeing me too often unfortunately as I also have a reasonably busy day job – I work as Chaplain General and Head of Faith Services for Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service – co-ordinating the ministry of around 1,600 Chaplains from 18 different Faith traditions in 120 prisons in England and Wales and also as Archdeacon to Prisons in the Church of England and the Church in Wales, advising the Archbishops of Canterbury, York and Wales on matters to do with Prison Chaplaincy.

That being said, I'm really looking forward to working with you all alongside Fr. Rob as we seek to grow God's kingdom and serve the people of these five Parishes. The recent Coronavirus lockdown and the restrictions that we still have in place have given us much to think about as a Church. We have a challenge to ensure that our worship is relevant, accessible, prayerful and focussed on serving God and his people. I'm up for the challenge – I hope you are too!

If I haven't met you yet – I hope to do so before too long.

Wishing you every blessing, *Fr. James*

## 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](mailto:ed.kench@btinternet.com)

# 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>

## St Mary's Church Fund Raising

The 3 fundraising events I organised in May June and July raised the following amounts

**Cake Stall** £115.00

**Savoury stall** £195.00

**Raffle** £263.00

**Grand total** £573.00 for St Mary's Church

Thank you to Audrey Zuck and David and Jacky House for their help and to the many who baked donated and came along to support these events  
Thank you all Veronica Hobbs

## Friends Of Lavenham Airfield.

Interested in the US Army Air Force's presence in East Anglia in WWII? Then spend a morning walking in the steps of the Mighty Eighth's 487th Bomb Group on Lavenham Airfield. You will be accompanied by guides who will take you to areas not usually accessible to the public, whilst painting a picture of operational life on the base in WWII and how the airfield will forever be associated with the creation of the film 'Twelve O'Clock High'. The next walk takes place on Sunday, September 13th from 10.00 – 1.30. Places are limited so booking is essential. Adult tickets cost £10, under 16s £5 (sorry no dogs) and can be booked in person at Lavenham Blue Vintage Tea Rooms in Lavenham or by telephone on 01787-248295.

All proceeds go towards the completion and upkeep of the memorial to all 487th Bomb Group personnel who served at Lavenham Airfield during WWII.

## Your Village Needs You !!

Boxford - I'm seeking your support as your Parish Council Chairman. I, like my fellow Parish Councillors past and present, feel passionate about giving the Village a voice in Local Council matters. I, like others, take pride in our beautiful Village with a heart. We have a vibrant community, businesses and organisations all working hard to enhance village life. At Boxford Parish Council, we are now down to only 4 members, which leaves 5 Vacancies. You will appreciate the considerable challenge involved operating with such low numbers and the likelihood of cancelled meetings as a result. Our meetings are currently held by video conferencing, so you can participate from home. We work closely with village organisations and provide grants for important village services. We are consulted on various matters affecting the quality of Village Life including Highways and Planning. The low numbers really limits our opportunity to pro-actively resolve and improve things important to the Village. So, if you ever think why can't the Council do something about .....? this is your opportunity to get involved. A strong Parish Council representative of the whole community has huge benefits to the Village and you could play your part. If you would like to get more of an idea on what the role would involve, why not take a look at our meeting minutes on:

[www.boxfordsuffolk.com/BoxfordParishCouncil.cfm](http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/BoxfordParishCouncil.cfm).

If you feel you could contribute to your Parish Council team, please apply to the Clerk on [pc@boxford.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@boxford.suffolk.gov.uk). Full training from the Association of Local Councils can be provided, so don't be put off by lack of direct experience. I urge you to step forward to make a real difference to our Village, the village that very much needs your support!!

Julian Fincham-Jacques

Boxford Parish Council Chairman

The Community Hub Management Team



**COMMUNITY HUB**  
**BOXFORD EDWARDSTONE GROTON**  
**07395 914959**  
[BoxfordCommunityHub@gmail.com](mailto:BoxfordCommunityHub@gmail.com)

Boxford Community Hub is still going strong, collecting prescriptions and the occasional shopping for both those who remain and are newly isolating. We are also providing whatever support is necessary for those who have recently returned from hospital.

We must thank the Boxford WI for expertly making over 20 face masks which we are distributing to those in need. We have also been able to provide face masks in the local shops. If you are unable to obtain face masks, please contact us and we will be able to help.

Although not all have been called to service, we still have a large cohort of volunteers willing to help in any way, so please call if you need us.

Please keep safe and obey the rules - we are not through this yet and we do not want to be in the situation where the area goes back into lockdown.

## Balloons and Sky Lanterns

This cow, found by a warden at RSPB Frampton reserve, died after ingesting a helium balloon. We stand with #EoEPlasticsCoalition & @mcsuk in banning balloons and lanterns on our reserves and we call on everyone not to release balloons and sky lanterns



*Editors note:* We live in a farm cottage backing on to a fat stock farm. Only last week a helium balloon landed on farmland at the back of our house. Calves are very curious creatures and the deflated balloon was soon surrounded by them pushing it around with their noses wondering what it was. We made enough noise for them to retreat a little and called the farmer who arrived quickly to remove the balloon. He then showed us that he had others in his truck. Please Please enjoy your birthdays with balloons if you must but do not release them to cause damage to our precious livestock and countryside. **Never use Chinese Lanterns.**

## The Boxford Fleece update.

Following my letter to BRN in March where I asked if anybody had an interest in the Fleece PH to contact me I thought I should update everybody on the situation. Obviously the Corona Virus lock down has not helped, but we are now renewing our efforts to find somebody interested in taking on the Fleece PH so we have asked specialist pub agents Everard Cole to help us in our search. If any of your readers have an interest please contact the agents for further details on 01223370055.

John Norton

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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

**General Enquiries:** Colleen Pearce *Benefice Administrator*,  
Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford, CO10 5NZ  
Tel: 01787 828046 boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

**Associate Priest:** Fr James Ridge Tel: 07394 715223  
James.Ridge@justice.gov.uk

**Children and Families:** Sarah Parker-McGee Tel: 01787 210434  
boxriveractivities@gmail.com

**Reader:** Christopher Kingsbury

**Lay Elder:** David Lamming

**Churchwardens:**

**Boxford:** Peter Patrick (retiring Sept 2020) & Audrey Zuck (Designate)

**Edwardstone:** Vacant

**Groton:** Diana McCorkell

**Little Waldingfield:** Vacant

**Newton:** Vacant

# Gary Jarvis

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### 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** – Fridays

### Divine Worship

**Sunday 6th September 2020**

9.30am – St Lawrence's Little Waldingfield

11am – St Mary's Boxford

**Sunday 13th September 2020**

9.30am – St Bartholomew's Groton

11am – St Mary's Boxford

**Sunday 20th September 2020**

9.30am – St Mary the Virgin Edwardstone

11am – St Mary's Boxford

**Sunday 27th September 2020**

9.30am – St Mary's Boxford

11am – All Saints' Newton Green

Daily prayers throughout the day and the Sunday Service will continue to be streamed online over our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice](http://www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice)

Please note that due to the Covid-19 situation, that services may be subject to change at short-notice. We are currently trying to discern how we may be able to hold Harvest Festivals safely in individual churches. Once we have more information, we will publicise them widely. Thank you for your understanding.

Your prayer list is prayed at services across the benefice and at home and includes people who are sick, those who have recently died and prayers for other significant concerns. If you would like someone or something adding to the prayer list, then please contact our Benefice Administrator. The list is renewed each month.

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# Parish Council Matters

**Draft MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 6th July 2020 at 7.30 p.m. by Zoom Video Meeting.**

**PRESENT:** J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), S Mattocks, M Wooderson, D Hattrell (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** A Sargeant (Vice Chairman), P Wallis, J Finch and B Hurren (District Cllr).

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS:** Nothing was declared.

**MINUTES OF 1ST JUNE 2020:** Accepted as correct.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Nothing was raised.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** A progress report was requested in relation to the maintenance of the Churchyard wall. It was confirmed that the white lining on the road has been approved and once applied, the maintenance can be progressed. Following the Daking Avenue resurfacing, the yellow lines will require painting.

**REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC:** In relation to the repainting of the yellow lines at Daking Avenue, it was agreed to seek assistance from J Finch if the lining doesn't appear in due course following the works.

**COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch had sent apologies. His report out-lined Covid-19 related news including the critical test and trace. People undertaking journeys on buses are being encouraged to travel at quieter times if they can. The temporary relaxation of concessionary travel rules will end shortly. The County Council's Renewable Energy Fund is open to eligible businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint through solar power. Virtual Events will take place on the subject of fostering and adoption as demand has increased significantly. He is pleased to report that the re-surfacing of Daking Avenue has now been completed and that it has been well received by residents.

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr B Hurren sent his apologies. His report out-lined that the priorities from Babergh District Council is to get services running again. The brown bin collection has resumed and recycling centres re-opened. During the lockdown fly tipping increased along with the volume of refuse waste and glass at the bottle banks. Planning continues and Committee Meetings have resumed which included the Decision to approve the Sand Hill development despite the strong objections including from the Parish Council. Parking Enforcement has now passed to the District Council. Their main focus has been the fight against Coronavirus and he praised the work at District, Parish and local volunteer level and front line workers. Unfortunately scams and fraud are on the increase currently, so in his report he urged vigilance.

**FINANCE:** The Bank balances as at 1st July were £52822.50 in the Community Account, £13399.01 in the Deposit Account and £54363.57 in the Reserve Account making a total of £120585.08.

Members then considered a contribution towards the Footpath Leaflets - which included contributions so far from the County Council of £400 and Boxford Society of £100. This leaves a shortfall of £300. Members were minded to support, however, had a question as to whether the scheme could attract sponsors from local businesses in response to advertising. It was agreed for the Clerk to enquire with the Footpath Warden - Action Clerk.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING:** There was nothing further to report at this stage as the Steering Group was due to meet that week. The Steering Group will need to consider their position following the disappointing Planning Committee Decision which did not give any weight to the Neighbourhood Plan in Boxford in view of its early stage.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. No response has been given from Flagship in relation to preventing the driving along the croft. No action points resulted.

**CEMETERY:** Administration and grave marking is on-going. Our representative for the Cemetery, A Sargeant, has agreed to review the sycamore trees in the Cemetery with a Tree Surgeon.

**UPDATES FROM THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE:** Consideration is being given by Village organisations to the government guidance on re-opening Community Buildings and Play Parks. The Playground at the Playing Field has been re-opened with appropriate safety signage.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** Members were reminded that the August Parish Council Meeting only takes place if there is current Planning to consider. An extraordinary meeting may be required depending on developments with a potential legal challenge to the Sand Hill Planning Decision. The meeting closed at 9.01 p.m.

**Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 6th July 2020**

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

A) Planning permission has been refused at Homestead, Hadleigh Road for a dwelling and detached garage - DC/19/04816 - this is due to insufficient ecological information. An assessment on bats would be required as there are plans to demolish the existing bungalow.

B) Consent has been granted to fell willow tree and replace with a feature tree at Ramree, Clubs Lane - DC/20/02234 - In view of the condition of the tree, the Parish Council had No Objection to the felling. However, a comment was made that this was a magnificent tree in recent times and the reason for its sudden decline should be given. Obviously a replacement tree that should be equally magnificent in time is vital and the exact timing and specification for this should be made.

The following were discussed: -

1) Twelve, 12 The Causeway, Boxford. Application to reduce hornbeam by 40% - DC/20/02301. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline. There were No Objections.

2) Land At Orchard House, Roylands Lane, Boxford - DC/20/02336 - Outline Planning Application (some matters reserved, access to be considered) for the erection of 1 single storey dwelling and garage. There were No Objections.

3) Riverhall, Ellis Street - DC/20/02311. Trees in Conservation Area application. There were No Objections.

4) The Sand Hill Development Approval was then discussed. The meeting was closed to allow others to contribute. The village objector who spoke at Planning Committee had followed up with some questions to the Monitoring Officer. Members commented that the lack of face to face or even video contributions was a disadvantage compared to previous Committee procedures. A brochure provided by Catesby, the applicants, to the Planning Committee Members was discussed. Concerns were expressed that the Planning Officer demonstrated undue support to the scheme, the Planning Committee demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the Planning Policy team position and too readily dismissed their own relevant policies despite having adequate land supply. Consideration of a Community Building became central to discussion by the Planning Committee where the application only includes an allocation of land for such a Building (not a demonstration of need nor the funds to construct and manage a building).

The merits of other local Appeals were then discussed whilst the meeting was still closed. These included those at East Bergholt and Long Melford. .

The meeting re-opened and S Mattocks proposed that this Council seek legal advice on the merits of a Judicial Review to challenge the Planning Decision with costs up to the region of £5,000 to secure the opinion. This was seconded by M Wooderson and unanimously carried. We had already contacted B Hurren to see if the District Council could be asked to provide the meeting transcript. It was agreed for the Chairman to seek quotations for the legal work and others in the meeting will feed information into that process - Action Chairman. It was agreed to also seek information from East Bergholt Parish Council in relation to their legal challenge - Action Clerk.

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With the removal of minor skin blemishes no longer available on the NHS, people are turning to private practices like **Suffolk Medical Clinic** in nearby Boxford for treatment.

Minor lumps and bumps like cysts, warts, some moles and skin tags are usually harmless but can be irritating and unattractive. If you have a skin lesion that is bothering you, removal is often quick and simple.



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Moles are a different matter due to their potential link with skin cancer. It is really important that you have any mole that is worrying you examined. Changes in size, shape and colour are all cause for concern. If you are worried about a mole, don't wait - let us take a look. We can reassure you if a mole is healthy and advise / refer you if it is not. Healthy moles can also be removed for cosmetic reasons.

*"I went to Suffolk Medical as I had a mole very close to my eye. It was hard to put trust into someone to do this procedure but finally I found someone I trusted and they took care of it for me. I've never been happier. IT'S CHANGED MY LIFE!! Thanks, Dr. O'Neill! Even the ladies at the front desk are down to earth! They made me feel so at ease, I will go to these guys in the future and would recommend them to everyone! Zoe, Dec 2019.*

If you have a blemish that is bothering you, please give us a call and arrange to see one of our medically trained staff.

*Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, 6 Broad Street, Boxford.*

*Tel: 01787 211 000 [www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk](http://www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk)*



# Back in Business!!

We are excited to announce that after a testing few months in lockdown, Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic is finally able to fully open again. Hurray!

Our medically trained staff are offering the full range of medical-aesthetic treatments, including anti-wrinkle injections, dermal fillers, laser / IPL, Aqualyx (fat-reducing treatment), mole checks and minor surgery clinics.

And our previously limited Beauty Therapy is now back in business and we are able to offer the full range of treatments: facials, massage, manicures & pedicures, facial and body radio-frequency skin tightening, medical micro-needling, lash and brow treatments including Novolash eyelash extensions, microdermabrasion, waxing and ear-piercing\*.



Our main priority is to keep you all safe, which means we've introduced some new processes and protocols (PPE, temperature and wellness check, deep-clean between appointments, a one-way system etc). This will all be explained to you when you book.

We can't wait to welcome you back to the clinic. If you have any questions, worries or concerns about the new systems we have in place or just want reassurance that you will be safe and comfortable in the clinic, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

*Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, 6 Broad Street, Boxford.*

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*\* Details all correct at time of going to press.*



# GARDENING IN SEPTEMBER INSPIRED BY THE LATE HARRY BUCKLEDEE

Cuttings of Rosemary, Lavender and many other shrubs can be taken now and inserted in a cold frame. The cuttings should be made of half-ripened wood. This denotes shoots which have lost their softness, but are not yet woody like the older parts, but have been partly ripened by the sun.

Penstemons tend to get woody at the base after a few years resulting in a lack of vigor and fewer flowers. Now is the time to renew your stock by taking three inch long softwood cuttings and inserting them round the edge of a pot filled with a mixture of 50-50 compost and grit, sand or vermiculate. Keep the compost moist, cover with a polythene bag and keep out of direct sunshine. They root very quickly and will need frost protection throughout the winter before planting out next April.

If the lower leaves of tomatoes have turned yellow, they should be removed. Healthy green leaves should never be removed as they are necessary to supply food needed to swell the fruits.

Christmas is only four months away and if you need Hyacinths in flower for the festive season now is the time to plant. You must buy prepared hyacinth bulbs. These bulbs have been given special treatment in store to encourage them to flower a few months earlier than normal. If you are planting several bulbs in a bowl it is best to keep to one variety in each bowl to ensure they are all in flower at the same time. Rather than plant them directly into the bowl it is best to plant them individually in small pots which can be planted into the bulb bowl later, this will ensure that all bulbs in the bowl are at the same stage of growth. In bowls that have no drainage holes you must use special bulb fibre which has oyster shell and charcoal to prevent the moisture turning stagnant. Place the bulbs in a dark place until well rooted.

In the vegetable garden a sowing of white turnips can be made for winter use and early in the month sowings of Japanese type of onion such as Senshyu Yellow or Exprese Yellow can be made to overwinter and supply an early crop in May - June next year. Later in the month plant out spring cabbage plants, a good idea is to draw out a V shaped drill 6" deep and plant the cabbage at the bottom. Later as the plants get established soil can be drawn into the drill to give added support and protection.

Finish clipping of evergreen hedges such as conifer, yew and laurel as soon as possible, they will not make any more growth this year. Keep up the fortnightly spraying of roses against rust, black spot and mildew right

up until leaf fall. Remove faded blooms regularly to encourage longer flowering. To assist new wood to ripen and withstand winter frosts, scatter a little sulphate of potash around each bush and hoe it lightly into the soil

Roses are remarkably adaptable plants. They can be used to excellent effect in a variety of different ways. There are many different varieties available and I would always find space in the garden for at least one rose. Many of the old fashioned roses only flower once a year, whereas most modern roses have several flushes throughout the year. These include English roses, patio roses and groundcover roses. Some of the modern climbers and ramblers also produce a second flush later in the season. Some of the larger bush roses make excellent small climbers trained against a wall, over an arch or pergola. This is ideal for the smaller garden and means you can do your maintenance more easily and without the use of ladders. And with the flowers being closer to the ground you will be able to smell the flowers better!

A Shropshire Lad is a modern English rose that will form a superb climber of eight feet or more. It has lovely peachy pink flowers with a deliciously fruity fragrance. Another advantage of this rose is that it has very few thorns, unlike the traditional climber and rambler roses.

Now is a good time to search for roses for your garden and field grown roses will be available bare root from October through to April. Planting bare root roses during the dormant season allows the plants to establish quickly because this is when the soil is moist. It causes little or no disturbance to the plant. Also, there is a far wider choice of bare root roses and they should be more economical than pot grown roses if you need to buy a few of them.

Roses are prone to mildew, blackspot and rust and these often occur when the plants are under stress. It is worth considering growing roses with a good disease resistance and some roses have thicker leaves and are naturally disease resistant.

Deadhead roses at least once a week to produce more flowers, cutting back to strong growth and remove any weak spindly stems. Try to always cut just above a healthy looking rich-green leaf. That is where the hormones concentrate and the plant will be able to produce a new flowering shoot faster.

## Soap Box

So, we are officially in a recession. Surprise, surprise. As if the economy could have shrugged aside the best part of three months of near total lock down. The real wonder is that things are not worse than they currently are. Even more remarkable is that some sort of a recovery seems to be underway even now, though whether it will endure is anybody's guess.

Certainly, it is much too early to say the effects of the pandemic are behind us. New Zealand, which has been a positive paragon of virtue when it comes to handling the Covid crisis, has had to reintroduce tougher restrictions to attempt to stave off a second wave. And countries in Europe, like Germany, France and Spain, are demonstrating that coronavirus is still very much with us. We'll get through this, I'm sure, but it will be a bumpy road to recovery.

Given my financial background, you won't be surprised to learn that I've been poring over the figures released by the Office for National Statistics to try to establish just how much of a mess we are in. A 20% drop in our national economic output for a single quarter demands coining that much over used word – unprecedented – yet again. Yet these devastating figures were not without a silver lining.

It seems that in June our economy bounced back by around 8%, with manufacturing and industrial output beating expectations. Mind you, what that says to me is that April and May must have been really dire. And we do seem to have suffered more than other countries, in terms of both deaths from Covid-19 and economic performance. Quite why is far from clear and is made more difficult to assess by the fact that the statistics, and the way they are calculated, are being constantly amended, adding to the general state of confusion.

Naturally, I have also looked at the position in Portugal, which remains outside the list of safe countries to visit for reasons I fail to understand. As in Spain, there has been a modest uptick in Covid cases reported recently, while the economy has also shrunk markedly, though not as much as here in Britain. The contraction of 14% in its gross domestic product (GDP) is better than Spain's 18.5% fall, though worse than the eurozone as a whole, which saw its GDP drop by some 12% in aggregate. But what of the future? There seems little doubt we are in the middle of a global recession that will need considerable governmental intervention

to reverse. Already central banks are priming the pumps by printing money like it is going out of fashion. Such action usually stimulates a rise in the cost of living, but this is how the recession that followed the financial crisis of 2008 was dealt with and inflation remained muted, allowing interest rates to stay at historically low levels.

Interest rates here are at rock bottom levels – good news for borrowers, but not for those who rely on bank or building society interest to supplement their income. The Bank of England has become a little more upbeat on our economic prospects of late, forecasting a decline of a little less than 10% in our GDP for the year as a whole. This clearly assumes a steady recovery of sorts during the second half of the year and takes no account of any action taken to head off a second wave of the virus. It was lock down that caused all the damage earlier this year.

They are less sanguine about the speed of the recovery, expecting it to take the whole of 2021 for us to rebuild our economy to close to the pre pandemic levels. And, of course, 2021 will be our first year outside the European Union, with all the economic uncertainty that will produce. I'm not being pessimistic here, merely realistic because of the myriad of unknowns that make determining what the future may hold even more difficult than usual.

Some things do seem most likely, though. Government debt has already spiralled and will remain exceptionally high for the foreseeable future. Some of the changes wrought by the action taken to limit the effects of the pandemic will remain with us, like a greater propensity to shop online and more of us working from home for at least some of the time. This in turn will impact on our high streets and on office property. We will get through this, but the world will never be quite the same.

*Brian Tora*

## 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.

[ed.kench@btinternet.com](mailto:ed.kench@btinternet.com)

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

## Growing up in Lindsey, Suffolk in the 1920s by Harry Buckledee Parts 8-10

### 8. COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

For most girls the first job after leaving school was in domestic service, and it was quite common for a girl to have to move away from home. Very often she would meet her future husband at or near her workplace. Or sometimes a boy would start work on a farm in a different village and would take a fancy to a girl from the parish. I don't remember any cases of parents trying to interfere when two young people met in this way. Perhaps you could say this was an advantage of being poor; I'm sure better-off families were a lot fussier about who their son or daughter started going out with.

Of course, there were also couples who had met when they were still at school and started officially courting when they left. Once it was public knowledge that two young people were a courting couple, both were out of bounds as far as others were concerned. There were no rules about the duration of courtship: some couples got married young, others waited till they were well into their 20s and I remember some who were courting for decades and never got married. A girl who had elderly parents to look after might feel obliged to stay at home and give up on marriage, while a few boys elected to stay single and often went on to become funny old bachelors in later life.

As is clear from the last chapter, sex before marriage happened but in those days no parents would allow it to take place under their own roof. It had to be outside, and it wasn't difficult for a young couple to find a secluded spot protected by high vegetation. I am glad to say that a practice that had been common some years before had died out by the time I came into this world, or at least in Lindsey it had. It was called "foxing", and was quite simply being a peeping-tom. The same vegetation that allowed a couple to think they were hidden also made it possible for three or four "foxes" to creep up and get near enough to hear, and possibly see, what was going on. I remember listening to some men laughing and reminiscing about when they foxed some years before. They could remember the precise words that the two sweethearts used as he wanted their petting to go a lot further but she wanted to wait until they were married. In the end he said, "Dang it, Mo, ya gotta het some toime so ya moight as well het neow." Well in the end she het, and as a consequence their wedding day had to be brought forward. Apparently, the change of date was not much appreciated by the young man's employers, who made it clear to him they had expected better behaviour from him. I remember the names of the couple concerned, and of the foxes, but I won't mention them here. The incident must have taken place about six years before I was born and I never heard of any foxing going on in my time.

I'm pretty sure that a marriage licence cost seven shillings and sixpence. I remember that because when we played housey-housey – as bingo was called in those days – during my army days, whoever was calling the numbers would say, "Seven and six, was she worth it?"

Weddings were nothing like the elaborate and expensive affairs that they are now. People just didn't have the money to have a grand reception or anything like that. There was no such thing as a honeymoon, so weddings were always on a Saturday so that the newly weds at least had Sunday together in their own house, which was likely to be furnished with the bare essentials only.

The groom wore his Sunday suit – the only suit he possessed – and the bride's white dress had often been worn by other women before her and was then destined to be passed on to others after her. No one could afford the luxury of buying an expensive dress that would only be worn once, so this eminently practical solution was adopted. A plain gold-plated wedding ring cost about ten shillings.

The party after the ceremony was a modest affair. Female relatives and friends all helped by preparing a dish of some kind and a few bottles of beer might be bought to supplement the home-brewed ale and home-made wine.

It was no different when Linda and I got married in those days of rationing and austerity in 1946. I wore my demob suit (for younger readers, that was the civilian suit given to a man when he was demobilised from the armed services at the end of the Second World War). The only extravagance I permitted myself was buying a barrel of beer for the wedding guests.

How things have changed. Today there is a reception that costs a fortune, the guests buy expensive presents and the newly-weds have a honeymoon abroad. Then they get divorced after a few years. In our day we couldn't have a swanky wedding, but when we got married we stayed married.

### 9. COUNTRY WISDOM AND LOST SKILLS

Artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides and weedkillers started to be developed during and after World War Two when the Government realized that the country was excessively dependent on imported food from the Empire. In the 20s and 30s we had to rely on traditional methods to prevent the soil becoming impoverished and to combat weeds and pests. Farmers practised a four-crop rotation system:

Year 1: barley

Year 2: beans and black straw crops

Year 3: wheat

Year 4: oats

Barley, wheat and oats don't require any explanation but black straw crops certainly do. They were mostly fodder crops for horses or cattle, and included red clover, beans for animal feed, and tares, which are very small peas in flat pods. Ordinary garden peas come into the same category. Cereals, or white straw crops, take nitrogen out of the soil, so they couldn't be grown on the same land year after year (there is no problem today, of course, because we have artificial fertilizers). Black straw crops, and especially red clover, put nitrogen back into the soil.

Barley and red clover could actually grow together. Winter barely was sown in November or December, then red clover was sown on top of the young barley crop in April. The barley was harvested in August and the red clover was left to grow on. By June of the following year it was 8-12 inches high and was ready for mowing. It was then dried like hay, and just as grass changes its name to hay when it's dry, so red clover became stuvver, a word that has totally disappeared from everyday speech today. The stuvver was then stacked, and in the winter months represented a very rich horse and cattle feed.

After mowing red clover continued to grow and by September or October the plants had produced seed. This was thrashed and either sold or kept for future sowing. All black straw crops are good for the soil but red clover was the best, and you could be pretty sure of getting a bumper crop of wheat the following year. Then in the fourth year oats were grown.

Black grass and spear grass were a big problem in those pre-weedkiller days. Black grass produces a fine seed that can smother a crop and if a field was very badly affected you sometimes had to leave it fallow, i.e. with no crop sown, but you still had to work the soil to stop the black grass seeds from germinating. Fallowing wasn't essential if the weeds were not too thick; you could instead plant another black straw crop, followed by wheat and oats, but then you normally had to fallow the land. So rotation not only prevented impoverishment of the soil, but was also a natural way to combat weeds. Chemical weedkillers made fallowing unnecessary but, of course, you wonder what is seeping down into the water table. I don't think I'd fancy beer made with pond water today.

The wheat varieties we have today have fairly short stems. In the 1920s and '30s wheat grew quite a bit taller and the long straw was useful because it was used for thatching. It also made stacking easier, and was needed in pigsties and cowsheds.

Oats are not grown so much now because tractors have replaced the cart horses that pulled ploughs and waggons in those days. There is also less stock on farms in East Anglia nowadays, and one fodder crop we grew in the past, mangolds, has practically disappeared. Mangolds are from the turnip family and they were kept in clamps like potatoes and fed to cattle. Children made Jack o'lanterns from them for Guy Fawkes Night.

Another word that, like stuvver, has disappeared from our daily language is withe, which some people pronounced as withy. I think I've already explained that the only heating most of us had was an open fire. To get coal burning you obviously need kindling of some sort, and people used to make sure they had a good supply of stuff that would catch fire easily and produce a good flame. All fields had proper hedges around them in those days, and men would willingly trim back a farmer's hedges in the autumn in order to have the cuttings as kindling. The job was done with a tool we called a slasher, which was not unlike a machete. The cut branches then had to be tied up into faggots that were easy to move and stack. A withe was what we used instead of string to tie up the faggots. You needed a branch of flexible wood; willow would be available near a stream, otherwise hazel wood. In Lindsey we used a hazel branch that was thin and bushy at the top and thickened out to a broad base at the bottom. Twisting the top end would cause the branch to split, but it wouldn't break because the wood was green and the splitting would stop at the knob at the bottom. To bind your hedge cuttings you raised the two ends of the hazel branch to make a loop and forced the knob through the split part at the top, where it was then locked into place by the two halves

of the split branch snapping tight. A withe would last last two or three years, which was more than enough because the faggots would be dry and ready to be chopped up and burnt long before.

Another word that very few people remember today is slod. For cart horses it was hard work pulling a loaded waggon up a hill, but going downhill was a problem as well. Going down a steep hill a cart would soon pick up momentum, and if it was carrying a heavy load the horse or horses would have no chance of holding it. To save horses from injury, before the descent was started a slod was put on one of the wheels. This was a metal sheet with a chain at each end. The sheet went under a wheel and the two chains were firmly attached to the chassis of the cart, and in this way the wheel was prevented from turning. It was enough to block just one wheel to stop the cart rolling down the hill of its own accord.

The same technique was used with thrashing machines. When they were moved from place to place you had a steam engine with two trailing vehicles – the drum and the straw pitcher respectively – in tow (once in a field the three parts of the thrashing tackle were connected). The danger was that going downhill the trailing vehicles would jack-knife, but a slod under one wheel was enough to eliminate that risk.

After the war slods became obsolete because lorries with braking systems were increasingly used for moving heavy loads.

## 10. "LITTLE BLOATER" AND OTHER NICKNAMES

In the preceding chapters I've referred to a lot of people by their nicknames, and in a fair number of cases I never knew their real names. A lot of men had nicknames but hardly any women did. In some cases the nickname originated from a physical characteristic a person had, or occasionally, as in the case of "Little Bloater", it all started with something someone said decades before, which then stuck for the rest of their lives. With most people, however, I have no idea why they got saddled with their nicknames. In the following examples, if I don't give a man's real name it's because I never heard anyone call him by his proper name.

We'll start with "Little Bloater" Martin from Kersey, whose real name was Jack. A fishmonger's van used to come round the villages and when Jack was still a boy his mother sent him out to see what was available. Faithfully repeating his mother's instructions, he asked, "You int got a little bloater, hev ya?" A few people heard him and were amused by how he'd said it, and that was that for poor Jack: he was known as Little Bloater for the rest of his days. His brother, Bill, who was to become my father-in-law, was always called "Pop", but I don't know how that started. Pop Martin couldn't do much with his left arm as a result of being wounded in the First World War, but he did the same jobs on a farm as

everyone else and no one ever accused him of not pulling his weight.

I've already mentioned "Kettle" or "Kittle" Hills from Groton, who bred goats and gave me a goat kid when I was a small child. His father was "Mopsey" Hills and one of his sons was "Dolly" (real name Henry). After we moved to Newton Green in 1965, I remember Dolly telling me that he'd called in for a drink at Newton's only pub, the Saracen's Head: "I hed a pint in the Sargen's Hid."

I've already mentioned "Fillens" Fosker, and another Fosker was "Jiggins", who worked on a farm in Monks Eleigh and had a reputation as a very good stockman. I remember that Jiggins had lost an eye in the First World War.

Another man who'd been wounded in World War One was "Dorgal" Whymark from Lindsey, who walked with a limp. His brother was known as "Laddie", and Laddie's son was "Stumpy". I never heard any of them referred to by their proper names, whatever they were.

Old "Fuddy" Elmer lived at Butt's Cottage in Lindsey and from the age of about seven I had the job of walking to Dr Truman's surgery at Knoll Gate, Boxford to get his medicine. Fuddy's son was known as "Tossy" (real name name Ernie), and Tossy's legacy from the 1914-18 conflict was to suffer problems with his chest in the winter months as a consequence of having been gassed. For Tossy's medicine I had to walk to Dr Everett's surgery in Hadleigh. I collected medicine for several people in Lindsey but Fuddy and Tossy were my regular customers, and they paid me 4d for each trip. On one occasion Bob Farthing gave me the handsome sum of one shilling for getting medicine from Dr Rigby in Bildeston, but unfortunately for me (though not for Bob), he only got ill that once.

Other Lindsey men were "Bogal" Goymour, "Sharper" Willis, "Tater" Hazell, "Plucky" Partridge, "Narky" Farthing and "Shirker" Smith. Tater Hazell was the warden at Lindsey Church while Shirker Smith used to cut my hair when I was a little boy. Narky Farthing went a bit funny in his old age and took to sleeping during the day and walking about the roads at night.

In other villages I remember three from Groton: "Rabbits" Gant, "Pop" Herbert and "Mod" Herbert. "Straddles" Gant, a roadman from Edwardstone, probably got his nickname from the way he walked because he had a bit of a deformity that gave him a funny gait. At Hadleigh Heath there was "Sugar" Rice and in Kersey "Crongie" (real name Herbert) Frost.

Men who'd got a nickname never made a fuss about it and just seemed resigned to their fate. If anyone had tried to insist on use of their proper name, I don't suppose it would have done a bit of good anyway. Once you'd been given a nickname you were stuck with it, whether you liked it or not.

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## To plough, to sow, to reap, to mow and be a Farmers Boy.

### A Tribute to Derrick Whymark 1933 - 2020

Sadly but peacefully, well known local Boxford resident Derrick Whymark died on the 1st August .

He was also known as Fon to his family and Vonny to his friends. Fon was a familiar figure in Boxford where he lived all life, as a child, at Mill Cottage on Schools Hill and later at Firs Farm, Hagmore Green. The 'Firs', a group of mature Scots Pine trees are a local landmark.

Derrick was born on 5th of June 1933, the youngest of 9 living children to George and Mary Whymark. The family lived at Mill Cottage, Schools Hill Boxford. He was named Derrick 'Alfonso' after Alfonso XIII King of Spain as the Spanish Uprisings were in the news at the time. He had 6 sisters and 3 brothers: Margaret, Doris (known as Jack), Rose, Violet, Bertha (known as Pimpy) Sheila. Donald, Cyril and Edward although Edward died at 10 days old. His ancestors are recorded at Boxford in the Doomsday Book.

His father was head gardener and chauffeur at School House, Boxford. Apart from bringing up children, his mother would take in laundry to help the family budget. His father grew vegetables to feed the family on his allotment on Stone Street and it was here that Derrick's own love of growing vegetables began. Derrick walked with his father to help him to water the allotment from the stream, calling at the Compasses for a well earned glass of lemonade when it was finished.

'No flowers', he would often say, as his father before, 'the only good flower was a cauliflower!' Although he always grew sweet peas for Eileen his wife.

Derrick attended Boxford school, under the headmaster Mr Saw until the age of 13. He then went to Hadleigh school. He was one of the first to have to stay on at school until the age of 15 instead of 14. When he left school his first job was at the Boxford dairy delivering milk with his

friend Brushie. They had a horse and cart and milk was served from a jug around the surrounding villages. After he left the dairy he went to work at Red House farm, Wicker Street Green as a Backhouse Boy. The first job on a farm.

In November 1951 he was called up for National Service. He travelled by train to Bulford Camp in Wiltshire and became an ambulance driver with the RAMC. Derrick used to drive an Austin K2/Y Ambulance better known as a 'KATY' and was the most well known military ambulance of WW2 immortalised in the film 'Ice Cold in Alex'. Between 1950 -53, 100,000 British troops took part in the Korean War. Derrick and his KATY collected the disembarking injured troops at Southampton and delivered them to military hospitals all around Wiltshire and the New Forest. Up until then Derrick had never been out of Boxford.

He would recall childhood days in the village in minute detail, keeping his audience captive as long as he could! He would recall the American airmen who were station at Gt Waddingfield airfield coming to Boxford. During the war almost everything was in short supply, and many a hapless GI would find the tyres on their bikes had deteriorated considerably after a visit to the White Hart. Whilst the village boys always seemed to have good american tyres on their bikes? Beer bottles had a deposit on them and enterprising boys would 'obtain' bottles at the back of the White Hart and present them at the Fleece for refund!

He would tell you his memories of Tornado Smith walking his Lion along Broad Street and the day a Doodlebug crashed in Assington Lane. There were so many stories and never enough time.

Derrick recalled a happy childhood, being the youngest of 10 he was never lonely and although very poor, they were never hungry. As a

young man, he played football for Boxford and was always a keen supporter of Sudbury Town football club, the highlight being the FA Vase final at Wembley in 1989 (He always said we should of won it.)

In 1953 he met Eileen Hazell at a cousin's wedding at Monks Eleigh. The next day, he went looking for her riding his ex-army Enfield motorbike around the lanes like Steve McQueen in the Great Escape. Things, in Derrick's words "took off from there" and soon he and Eileen were, "courting strong". He visited her on leave and wrote love letters in between. Derrick and Eileen married in 1954 at Lindsey Church. Later they had two children, Marilyn and David.

In 1956 Derrick went to work for T G Harris at Firs Farm, Hagmore Green, Boxford. He stayed the rest of his life with the family on the farm for a total of 50 happy working years in agriculture for which he received an award from the Suffolk Agricultural Society.

It was a mixed farm, cattle, pigs and arable. He lived and worked through a period of immense change in agriculture, from the land dereliction between the wars, through the post war modernisation and the intensification of production to previously unthinkable levels. He began working on a 'little grey Fergi' when the use of horses went into decline and technology and science came to the farm. Harvest would take 6 weeks in 1956 and now it takes 1 week on the same farm with twice as much yield.

Sugar beet harvest went on all winter either hand pulling or a single row harvester. Today it is done in 2 days. During his lifetime the hard, backbreaking farm work declined and things became easier for those on the land.

The Firs was always rich in wildlife but latterly, farming has become kinder to nature and the incentivised planting and environmental management schemes have brought a richness back to that farm that it pleased him to see. It was a magical place to raise a family. Apart from the farm animals, the family had pet goats, chickens, rabbits and geese to call the alarm! Four times a year, a travelling salesman would stagger up the drive with suitcases of wares. Once he tried to haggle with Derrick and exchange a smart new shirt for a goat. Derrick was fond of his goat and suspected it would end up on the table surrounded by vegetables. The man persisted and Derrick said, "I hint got n' goats", at this moment the goat stuck its head through the viewing hole in the shed and went BHAAAAAAA! Derrick stood his ground and goat survived.

Derrick's love of his village, sparked his interest in local history and he gathered a large collection of old photographs of Boxford. His pride and joy, he would show them to anyone who was interested and describe the scenes in great detail, recording the dates and names of the subjects. Day books of the Boxford Saddler give a fascinating view of what was bought, by whom, for how much, at the turn of the century. Photographs of the Boxford butchers with three whole sides of beef hanging in the window. Whole families lining the streets to wave the village men off to war in 1914.

He was a Suffolk born and bred and his local accent mystified many an incomer. In a series on local dialects, the BBC recorded him talking and singing for posterity. 'The cow with the crumpled horn' was one of his favourites. He enjoyed following 'the Bumpstead Boys', the local group singing old Suffolk songs.

He was a keen dart player for over 40 years and well known for playing at the Compasses in Stone Street, he was one of the founders of the Boxford dart league and enjoyed the friendly rivalry.

Over the years he raised many thousands of pounds for the Village Hall Fund running the 100 club. He delivered the Sunday papers in the Boxford area for many years, never missing the opportunity for a chat. In later years, Derrick and Eileen were also regulars at the Boxford Bingo Club until Eileen passed away.

It is no secret that Derrick loved to talk. He would talk to local people for hours on the telephone, until the bill came in, then he would blame his wife for talking too long. This happen to such a degree that Eileen bought her own mobile phone to prove the point!

He had a big garden he would grow lots of vegetables enough for most of the year and enough beetroot to feed Boxford for three years! He was well known in Boxford for distributing his gifts of vegetables. Perhaps he never got over his childhood love of growing things with his father and the food shortages of the war and post war years?

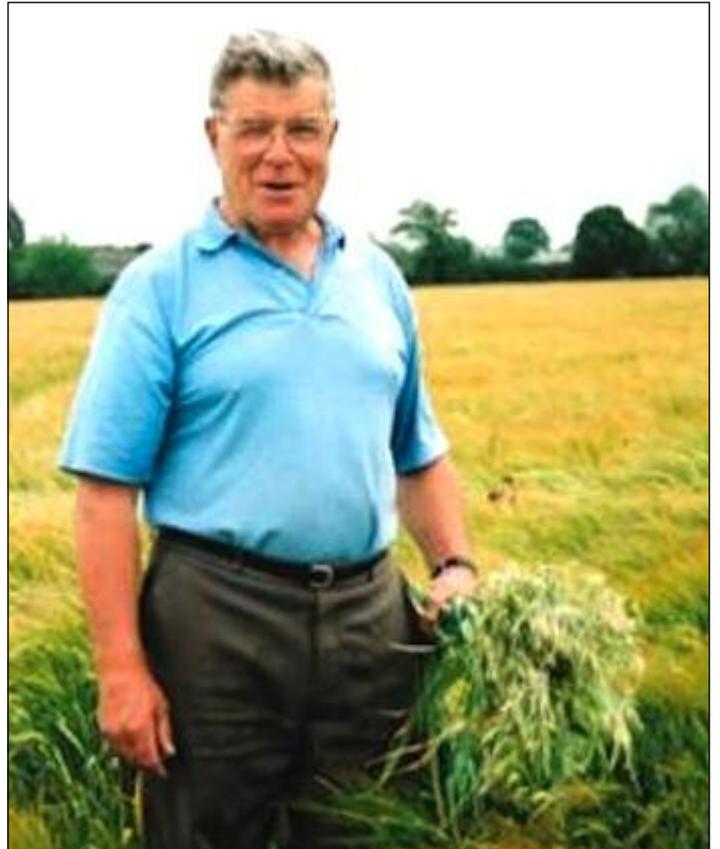
Sadly, as his health declined he was no longer able to live alone at the Firs. He had to move to Sudbury to more sheltered accommodation. However, his heart never really left Boxford and now he is coming home to be buried with his wife Eileen and his parents George and Mary.



*The House where Derrick grow up on the left. Although the windmill was demolished by 1933 the houses remained until 1970.*



*Derrick checking the farm machinery*



*Derrick pulling wild oats at the Firs 2004*

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Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October Shakespeare, Henry VIII

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Shakespeare Henry VIII

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November Reading Week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November Chaucer, The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November Francis Spufford, Golden Hill

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Reading Week

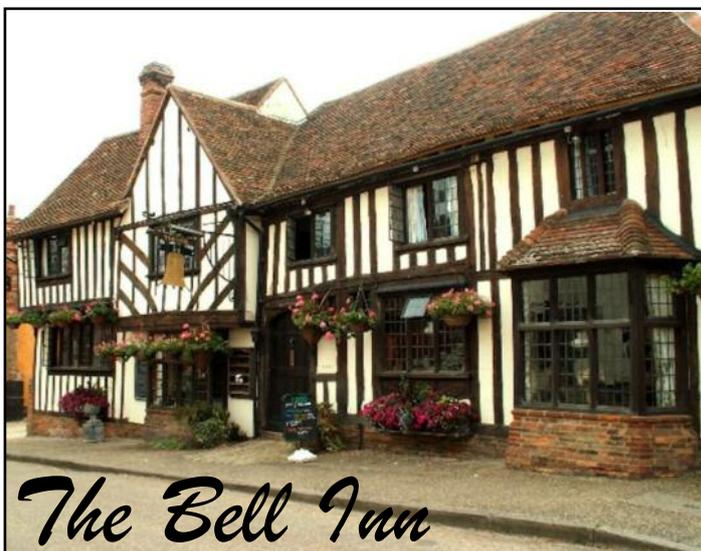
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November George Eliot, Adam Bede

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December George Eliot, Adam Bede

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November Timberlake Wertenbaker, My Country's Good

Course Fee: £75 for the complete course, payable on the first or second meeting.  
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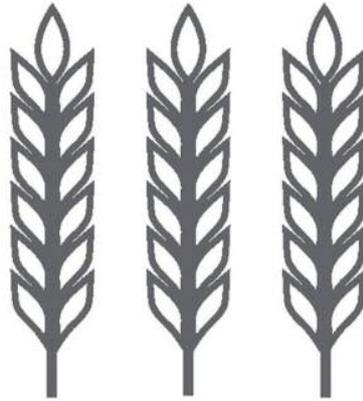
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During lockdown, you may have discovered that the Hadleigh & Boxford Group Practice is offering an online service.

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eConsult provides medical advice at the click of a button. Patients can use the service to check their health symptoms and find information and advice about a condition and also services that are available locally. You will also be able to request test results, extensions to fit notes and health advice.

Please visit the practice website at <https://www.hadleighhealth.co.uk/> and click the eConsult link - 'Contact our doctors online'. Here you will be able to learn more about your condition and contact the practice by completing an online form to describe your needs and request a response from the practice or a specific GP. This will allow the practice to decide upon the most appropriate treatment options.

### Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice Facebook

Visit the Practice Facebook pages. The Practice is using the space to keep you fully informed on the changing situation we all find ourselves in. It is the intention to keep the pages updated on a regular basis. <https://www.facebook.com/Hadleigh-Boxford-Group-Practice-102959274690621/>

For information about the PPG, visit:

<https://www.hadleighhealth.co.uk/patient-participation-group>

### MACMILLAN COFFEE Morning

There will be a **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING** again this year on **FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER** from 9.30 onwards  
Hopefully in the garden at Pauline and David's House  
**20, Holbrook Barn Road, Boxford CO10 5HU**  
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If really wet, please phone either Pauline (210360), Barbara Golding (211315) or Lisa Hockley (212238) to check if it is still happening!

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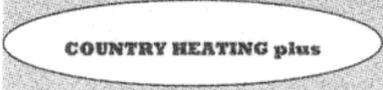
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## FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

### ➤ COVID-19 related news

• **Stick with it Suffolk – wear a face covering.** Suffolk residents are being asked to keep looking out for each other and combat Covid-19 by wearing a face covering in shops. As of 24 July, it is mandatory, in the majority of cases, to wear a face covering in shops – as it is when using public transport. Under the new national changes, measures can be taken if people do not comply with this law on face coverings: Shops and supermarkets will be expected to encourage compliance with the law and can refuse entry.

Transport operators can deny service or direct someone to wear a face covering. In both cases, if necessary, the police have the powers to enforce these measures, including through issuing a fine of £100 (halving to £50 if paid within 14 days). People are also strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in other enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where they come into contact with people they do not normally meet. In addition, 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 CoronaWatch launches.** Suffolk’s Public Health Knowledge and Intelligence Team have produced a suite of resources called CoronaWatch. The online ‘CoronaWatch’ dashboard, which launched in the week of 11 July, gathers all publicly available data on COVID-19 in Suffolk into one place. This data is in the public domain and free to access and use. You can access national and local data, including confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), deaths from coronavirus, care home outbreaks, and Google social mobility data. You can also access a series of briefings which have been produced on related topics, all from publicly available sources. You can visit the CoronaWatch dashboard at: [www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch](http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch)

➤ **The sale of Chilton Woods moves towards completion.** The long-awaited sale of the Chilton Woods development site on the edge of Sudbury has reached its final phase. On 23 July, it was reported that Suffolk County Council is exchanging contracts with housing developer Taylor Wimpey, selling the land as a single lot. The sale had been planned to be exchanged and completed in March, but was delayed due to the coronavirus lockdown.

Lying within the parishes of Chilton, Acton, Sudbury and Long Melford, Chilton Woods has been allocated for development in Babergh District Council’s Core Strategy and was granted outline planning permission by Babergh District Council in 2018. The development will see 1,150 new homes built, a quarter of which will be “affordable” – for rent or shared ownership. A new primary school with pre-school facilities built will be built on the site, as well as a village centre with new local retail units, a pub and village hall. 50% of the site is allocated as green space. The completion of the sale is expected in the next six months. The next stage after completion will involve Taylor Wimpey, as the new owner and developer, bringing forward their final plans for the site to Babergh District Council for approval.

➤ **The Hold, the new home for the Suffolk archives, moves a step closer to completion.** Monday 20 July marked the practical completion of The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront and the ‘handover’ of the site to Suffolk County Council. When finished, The Hold will be the new home for Suffolk Archives’ Ipswich branch, safely housing the bulk of Suffolk’s nationally and internationally significant archives.

With more than 900 years of the county’s rich and diverse history to discover, when it opens this exciting new building will allow people of all ages and backgrounds to step inside and discover more about where they live and their own heritage. The Hold will be open to everyone, offering not only archive-specific services in the search room, library, and education room, but also state-of-the-art public facilities and teaching spaces for staff and students from the University of Suffolk. An exhibition gallery, café, shop, and garden will complete the visitor experience.

➤ **Funding secured for summer holiday activity and food programme.** On 10 July, it was reported that £963,000 of funding has been secured from the Department of Education to deliver a holiday activity and food programme for children in Suffolk. The programme which is named ‘Summer in a Box’ will support the most disadvantaged families, children in care and young carers over the six-week summer holiday. This will include the distribution of 1,600 activity packs to children and young people.

➤ **Vans, trailers and trade waste now accepted at Hadleigh & Sudbury recycling centres.** As of 1 July 2020, people with vans, trailers and trade waste can now book to visit the local recycling centres. All visitors will need to pre-book an appointment online, where they will be asked what type of vehicle they will use and whether they are bringing household or business waste. To prevent queuing on neighbouring roads, people without a booking will not be able to enter the site. Social distancing measures also operate on site.

There are some restrictions in place to help support social distancing at sites and to make sure waste is dealt with efficiently. These include:

- Vans with trailers will not be allowed on any site.
- Only one visit per household or vehicle within seven days. This allows more visitors on site, while maintaining social distancing and protecting the health and safety of site staff and users.
- Trailers must be no more than 750kg max gross weight, single axle and unbraked. No other trailer size or type is permitted.
- All waste should be pre-sorted to make your visit as quick and simple as possible and to maximise recycling.

The easy-to-use booking system is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres). If you do not have access to the internet call 0345 606 6067. Residents must not arrive on site more than five minutes before their allocated time. Appointments are released on a rolling seven-day basis.

## FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

At last some signs that life and work are returning to some sort of normality across the Babergh District. Having said that life can never be the same and I hope that we can learn to live a little differently with minimal overseas travel and much more local shopping and trading to boost the local economy which will help to keep us safer and bring big environmental rewards. We have a long way to go to ensure that the world we leave our children and grandchildren is as fit for them to live in as it has been for us.

At the Council all staff and Councillors are still working from home or from hubs within the District to ensure minimal contact and spread of the virus and it seems this will remain the case until at least the end of this year. On Tuesday I chaired the latest Audit and Standards committee which looks at the retrospective budget to see that all your money has been spent and invested as wisely as it can possibly be, also we look at all the risks for the future that we can, to make sure that we continue to run and provide value for money services for you into the future and that none of your money is wasted.

I feel that I can say honestly that this is the case with every penny accounted for and spent on just what it should be and audited every step of the way as it should and has to be.

This seems to be in total contrast with national government where never before has so much money been wasted by so few on so many catastrophic failed projects. Is it the politicians or the new Civil Servants who used to be so diligent that are failing us so miserably.

Maybe somebody with a bigger calculator and a better brain than myself can total it all up, starting from the contract to run a port, awarded to a new firm who had no ships, right up to the recent contract for masks which turned out to be not fit for purpose and unusable (150m) wasted on that one. Several pints in the White Hart can be awarded for that one, or even a nice meal for someone who can write it all down for me and even begin to explain how they get away with it. Remember it is our money for a generation ahead that is being squandered.

Babergh are once again running our tree for life scheme which entitles every family with a newborn child during 2020 to apply for a sapling tree to plant at their home or at another place of their choice for then to see grow into a fine specimen along with their offspring, as well as making the child aware of the environment, the tree will also be part of nature’s lungs and will combat pollution into our future lives. We are also pressing on with big refurbishments to our leisure centres at Hadleigh and Sudbury with the massive overhaul at the Kingfisher swimming pool completed in time for most of the summer holidays remaining. Self Distancing measures in place but please contact for a timeslot.

On the downside we are still suffering from flytipping across the district and especially around this local area, a variety of building materials, paint and electrical equipment were deposited along Wash Ln this week but were cleared up very promptly by our man with a van upon request, this is a very good service but we should not have to be doing it when we have so much else to do and the cost is increasing. Please everyone be vigilant and report reg number of vans driving along remote places usually very early or late in the day.

Please stay Safe, Happy, Busy, Kind to each other and Sane. Our future will be what we make it.

Bryn. [Bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:Bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk) 01787 210854. Mob 07771 508348

### ➤ Fostering and Adoption Sessions in the Stour Valley have gone 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 increased but the need is as vital as ever !!

Therefore, those who would like to find out more

- can refer to the website - [www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk) and / or
- join one of the following events during the next three 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 - 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November 2020 - all 7:00pm in your home.

For those wanting more information on Adoption only:-  
Thursdays - 3rd September, 8th October, 5th November - all at 7:00pm in your home.

To book a place please email [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@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. Please spread the word.

### ➤ My Priorities

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## Readers Letters

*Sir*

Early on a Sunday morning I was surprised at the volume of traffic coming in and out of the village. I had just returned from a litter pick from the top of Sand Hill to the junction with Ellis St, with 3 bulging carrier bags of rubbish mainly consisting of beer cans and confectionary wrappers, most apparent coming down into the village presumably hurled out of car windows. What is wrong with people when it is so easy to dispose of rubbish or recycle in household bins? I shall endeavour to do a litter pick on a regular basis but this should not be. However I cannot bear to see this unsightly rubbish and the impression it leaves when entering our beautiful village. If you happen to be guilty of the above, take heed - take it home - BIN it!!

A Boxford Resident

*Sir*

My grateful thanks to the editor, Eddie Kench, for keeping our Box River News coming at what must be such a difficult time. And thanks too for its delivery.

On a dreary empty day, the newspaper is read cover to cover, what a pleasure to find the BRN on my doorstep. There's no doubt that our local news is far less depressing than that of the world today. Every page full of interest, even those of local tradesmen. All is welcome

Thank You  
Vera S. James

Thank you Vera. Much appreciated. Ed

### MARGARET LOWE

Some sad news: Margaret Lowe, who had been seriously ill for some time, died at home on 7th August. For many years Margaret was the Newton correspondent for the Box River News. Her funeral will be at West Suffolk Crematorium at 12.30 pm on Friday 21st August.

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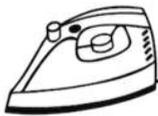
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Photo above is of Milden CC v Old Newton CC at the Milden Cricket Ground on Sunday 2 August 2020: Milden's first match (a 40-overs-a-side friendly) of the Covid-19 truncated 2020 season. The match was won by Old Newton by six wickets, but the result wasn't really important: what mattered was that recreational cricket was being played at last in 2020. Scores: Milden 180 for 8; Old Newton 181 for 4.

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If you, like most of us, have gained a few extra Lbs during lockdown, we may have just the treatment you need. Launching next month, Aqualyx fat dissolving injections are a safe, effective way to reduce fat cells in the treated area. Find out more next month...



### A reminder of the new normal...

Our main priority at present is keeping you all safe, which means we've had to introduce some new processes and protocols that we hope will reassure you that you will be safe and comfortable during your time with us. For a short video tour of our new set-up, see here.

- In the days before your appointment, you will receive a consent form to confirm that you do not have any symptoms or feel unwell. If you do, we will reschedule your appointment to a later date.

- When you arrive at the clinic, we will take your temperature and you will be given hand sanitiser, a mask and over-shoes (so please wear flat shoes).

- We will not be able to offer any refreshments so please bring a bottle of water with you, if you think you will need a drink.

- There will be a one-way system in the clinic, which will be clearly marked.

- In order to reduce contact when making payments, we ask that you pay in a contactless manner, if possible. If you need to use cash, please bring the exact money as we won't be able to give change.

### Pick up the phone...

If you have any questions, worries or concerns about the new systems we have in place or just want reassurance that you will be safe and comfortable in the clinic, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you soon.

Anthony, Jenny, Fi, Rosie and Chloe



Suffolk  
Medical  
Clinic