

December 2022

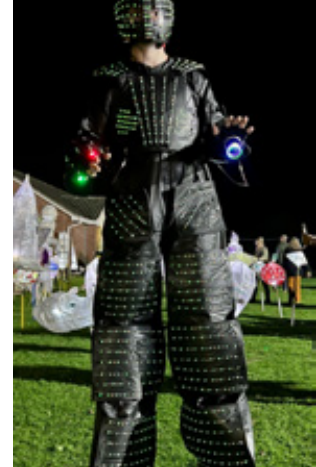
# Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



Delivered Free to every home in Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Little Waldingfield, Milden, Newton & White Street Green and is available to residents in Assington, Gt Waldingfield, Hadleigh, Kersey, Leavenheath, Nayland, Polstead, Shelley, Semer, Stoke-by-Nayland, Sudbury and parents of children at Boxford School.







## BOXFORD REFERENDUM

A big thank you is due to all of those who took the opportunity to cast their vote in the referendum on 27<sup>th</sup> October on the approval of the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan. I am very pleased to record that it was approved by a resounding majority for use by Babergh District Council to help it deciding planning applications in the parish of Boxford. The statistics were as follows:



In favour of approval	<b>321</b>	95.2% of the votes cast
Against approval	<b>16</b>	4.8%
Ballot papers rejected	Nil	
Electorate 1090	Turnout 30.2%	

Babergh District Council has now adopted the plan so it is in force for to influence the council's planning decisions which is great news. Now the Parish Council can get to work to put the plan into effect!

*Hugh Phillips Co-Chair*

*Boxford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

## GROTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

We would like to thank the many Groton households who completed the Groton Neighbourhood Plan survey during October. There was a fantastic response and lots of constructive feedback for us to work on. Firstly, you gave us approval to take the Neighbourhood Plan to the next step, with over 70% "Yes" and 0% "No" responses. This was an overwhelmingly positive reaction.



So what is the next step? We are already consolidating your feedback into groupings so we can start to identify a 'vision' and the key focus areas for the Plan e.g. Community, Environment, Housing etc. In parallel we will also be setting up a website, linked to the Parish Council website, as well as establishing a contact email address for you to use for correspondence with us. Additionally this affirmative confirmation triggers the request for the external Neighbourhood Plan Grant to fund the next steps. In parallel, like our neighbouring villages, we will seek to appoint a specialist consultant to help steer us through the many required processes. Not least of all we will engage with the many volunteers to establish a Steering Group to help manage the Plan.

When can you see the feedback? The plan is to have this packaged for a couple of community sessions at the Village Hall on the evening of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and afternoon of Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

These will be great opportunities to meet and discuss the proposed themes and plans with you all, resulting in an agreement to take the subsequent next step. In the interim we will look at posting updates on the Groton Neighbourhood Plan website, once available. I will also communicate all of this on Boxford/Groton Facebook Groups.

Once again we would like to offer our thanks to all those who have embraced the process so far. The Raffle Draw will take place at the 21<sup>st</sup> January session in the Village Hall.

If you have any queries please contact Groton Parish Council and we will do our best to answer them for you.

*Nigel Chapman, Steering Committee,  
Groton Neighbourhood Plan*

## BOXFORD FIREWORKS 2022

It was such a great event again at Boxford Fireworks 2022! Over 1,500 people turned up to watch the amazing spectacle despite continued spells of wet weather for days before. Fortunately the weather held off as numbers swelled in the centre of the village for the traditional lantern-lit parade up to the event.

The Essex Caledonian Pipe Band, swathed in a fusion of tartan and electric lighting, led a bustling band of marchers up Swan Street; the bobbing army of fantastically-crafted lanterns excitedly flowing up the hill. There were so many brilliant ones this year it's hard to pick only a few, but special mention must be made of the huge Dracula face, the Frankenstein's Monster, the giant cat face, the rhino and of course, the life-sized figure holding a tankard proclaiming it "the last pint in Boxford". Amongst the lantern-marchers a giant futuristic robot towered, casting dazzling laser-beams at the many onlookers who turned out to support the event. The annual pre-fireworks parade is always a much-loved and enjoyed tradition, especially amongst the young marchers and this year proved no exception.

Up at the Playing Fields hungry and thirsty event-goers found their appetites ignited by the irresistible sausages and burgers being cooked up by Alan Leeder's crack-BBQ Team. The candy-floss stall was in huge demand as ever, and the beer tent smoothly delivered pint after pint to thirsty crowds enjoying the chance to meet up with friends and neighbours whilst excited children burned off some energy on the inflatables.

And then, the fireworks began - a classical score to match the majesty of the light show. It was a truly magnificent spectacle that lit up the night sky - a huge thanks must go to Dynamic Fireworks. Thank you also to Weston's Bakery in Sudbury for the very generous donation of all the fresh rolls for the BBQ tent. Thank you to Celine Keaney-de Graaf, David Lamming and Peter Norris for photographs from the night. Molly at MLC Media ([www.mlcmedia.co.uk](http://www.mlcmedia.co.uk)) also created a brilliant video, which can be viewed online here: <https://bit.ly/boxford-fireworks-2022>. A huge thank you also to Boxford Community Council. Such an event requires many hours of meticulous planning and the Community Council showed tireless energy in doing so on behalf of our community. Thank you to the many volunteers, from ticket outlets to marshals to food and drink staff that helped to keep us all safe, happy and gave us such a fun night out.

The fireworks is just one of the events organised each year by the Boxford Community Council and it brings in much-needed revenue that helps it to fund and run many other events each year.

As BRN readers may already know, over Christmas there will be no pub in Boxford for several weeks, and so the Community Council will be running three pop-up pub events for jolly revelers (Friday 16<sup>th</sup> & Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec and New Year's Eve), as well as Carols Round The Tree (Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec), a barn dance in February and a race night in March.

All of these events will help raise funds to pay for a big Street Party for King Charles's Coronation in May, so please turn out and support your village!

## Box River News

Trudi Wild, Twin View, 18 Stone Street, Boxford CO10 5NR

Telephone: 01787 210946

email: [editor@boxrivernews.com](mailto:editor@boxrivernews.com)

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Deadline date for the January 2023 Issue is:

**December 15<sup>th</sup> at midday**

# NEWTON FIRESIDE CLUB

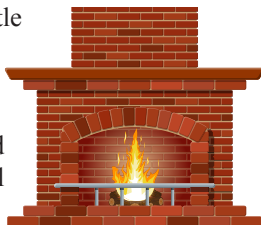
On the 1<sup>st</sup> November we met a little earlier at 1pm for our lunch of pumpkin soup, homemade soda bread and puddings.

Our members always appreciate food related sessions, so the lunch was well attended. The fire was lit and there was a wonderful friendly atmosphere.

A big thank you to everyone for their cooking, baking and washing up!

On 15<sup>th</sup> November we had a talk from 2 volunteers from the Royal British Legion who provide a lifeline for thousands of serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

The session was open to anyone who might be interested and proved to be very popular, so there was a mad dash to put out more chairs. Fortunately, extra cake was at hand!



Alan and Jane who came to talk to us, have been case workers for many years and have a wealth of experience and an abundance of stories about the support they have provided. Some of their stories were hard to hear but reinforced how important the work of the Legion is. But also made us realise the importance of these amazing volunteers who go above and beyond to provide support.



Unfortunately, Heather was unable to join us on 29<sup>th</sup> November for the Art Club Demo so it was decided that we would have a 'Bring and Share' afternoon tea – with prosecco! More on this next month.

We would like to thank Newton Trust and Newton Parish Council for their kind donations to club funds. This will help us to continue to provide a wide range of activities to members and to ensure that nobody is excluded from our meetings or activities during these difficult financial times.

## Autumn 2022 Programme of Events:

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Decorations

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Lunch at Newton Green Golf Club

All meetings are held in the Village Hall and start at 2pm unless otherwise stated and anyone is welcome.

Please contact Moira on **01787 374652** or Sue on **07881 383998** if you would like more details.

Sue

# NEWTON NEWS

## ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

50 Newton residents gathered around the village war memorial to quietly remember all those who have died in wars, past and present, and those who have been injured and affected by conflict. We were very grateful to Christopher Kingsbury for leading the Act of Remembrance service and for providing us with the opportunity to remember; those who were killed in action, the bereaved, the lost, the families that were shattered, the maimed and injured and those who held and still hold in their minds unspeakable acts of warfare.

The names of the Newton men that fell in the WW1 were read out by army veteran, Russell Bower and, on behalf of Newton Parish Council, a wreath was laid by chairman, Paul Presland.



## THE BIG GOLF RACE

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, 32 villagers and friends took part in a charity golf day to raise money to fight prostate cancer. Newton resident Paul Kelshaw organised the event which involved playing two rounds of golf at Newton Golf club followed by a chilli con carne. Teams of 4 played a 9-hole Scramble in the morning followed by team Stapleford in the afternoon. With the weather unseasonably warm and the course being in such great condition, everybody had a brilliant day and some of the scores were quite respectable given that a few drinks were had during the lunch break.

On behalf of all the players who took part, I would like to thank the golf club for their support, hospitality and for making everybody feel so welcome.

Finally, two huge votes of thanks; to Paul for organising the event and secondly, to all the people who played and helped raise £1215 all of which goes to the Prostate Cancer Charity. Brilliant and well done all!

Paul Presland

Men's Vice Captain Newton Golf Club.

## LITTLE WALDINGFIELD CHARITIES

Also known as John Wincoll – 209981

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

Please apply by 30<sup>th</sup> November to Sue Mitchell on **01787 247173**.



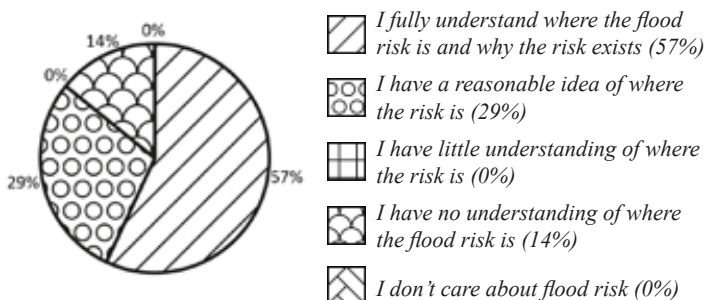
# A FLOOD OF RESPONSES

The results are in! A big thank you to all who responded to the Reclaim the Rain survey, which was almost 100 of you!

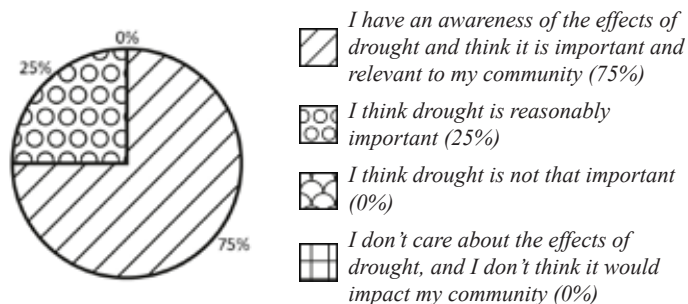
Overall there is strong knowledge of where flood risk exists in Boxford, with over half of you considering yourself to have "full understanding". 'Why' the risk exists is less understood. Most of you considered drought to be important and relevant to the village. Ultimately, it feels as if you're open to the idea of implementing change to increase your personal resilience to the impacts of flooding and drought, but acknowledge different factors are preventing you from doing so at this moment in time.

A large proportion of responses came from residents and tenants, which is great, but we'd love to hear from more of Boxford's local businesses and landowners too! Your local input is very important to us, and we look forward to working with your community more closely in the future.

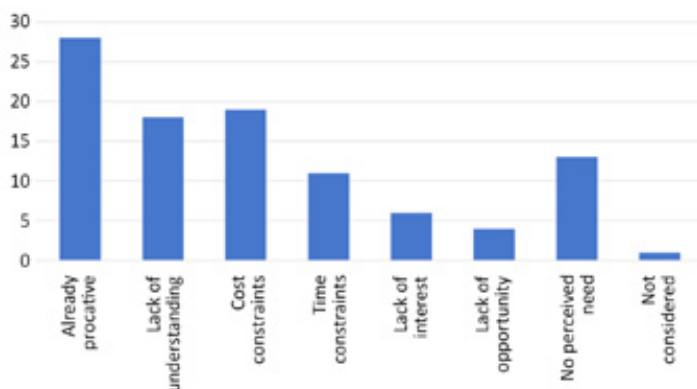
## Understanding of Flood Risk in Boxford



## Opinions on Drought in Boxford



## What is Preventing Boxford from Taking Action Against Flood Risk and Drought?



To view the rest of Boxford's survey results, visit:

[www.reclaimtherain.org/project-news](http://www.reclaimtherain.org/project-news)

To get in touch with us, contact [reclaimtherain@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:reclaimtherain@suffolk.gov.uk)

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**Terrarium Workshop - Wednesday, December 7th**  
Join us for a fun evening of terrarium creation with the folks from Nell & Green (Sudbury) £50, includes welcome drink & supplies.  
Booking required via pub.

**Acoustic Jam Night**  
Second Wednesday of the month - December 14 from 7pm  
Join in or sit back & enjoy with a pint

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Please check our website/social media for holiday hours & extra events over the festive season!

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## HADLEIGH & BOXFORD PPG

The surgery completed an amazing 3700 Covid boosters and 3000 'flu jabs in October. Thanks to both Practice personnel and volunteers who manned their stations inside and outside the Health Centre throughout the many vaccination clinics.

Any outstanding jabs will be administered during surgery hours by appointment only.

Although there were some initial IT teething problems, the new Pharmacy inside the Practice is now dispensing medicine to those patients who live outside the Hadleigh area. All other patients continue to be served by Mill Pharmacy or Boots.

We are fortunate to have a phlebotomist at the Practice. Her function is to draw and prepare blood for medical testing, transfusions or donation. Phlebotomists are trained to collect blood via venipuncture, finger pricks, or in the case of infants, heel pricks. Patients first need to be referred to the phlebotomist by their doctor then they can book their own appointment online.

Yet another friendly reminder, once you have made the necessary arrangements at Reception, you can take advantage of online booking from the comfort of your own home and at any time. N.B several appointments for the next day are also offered online after 7pm the evening before.

The money held by Hadleigh and Boxford Charitable Trust is there to assist in the "protection and preservation of health and relief of sickness". If you are struggling with health issues and there is something that will improve your day to day living or make life easier for you please do not hesitate to request help from the Trust. All applications for assistance will be given serious consideration but must be health related. Please contact The Practice Manager [tracey.squirrell@nhs.net](mailto:tracey.squirrell@nhs.net)

**Website:** [www.hadleighhealth.co.uk](http://www.hadleighhealth.co.uk)

**Facebook:** <http://bit.ly/Hadleigh-Group-Facebook>

**Email:** [hadleighboxfordppg@gmail.com](mailto:hadleighboxfordppg@gmail.com)

**PPG Chair:** Jan Devey 01473 827091



## BOXFORD CHRISTMAS CARDS

The much-sought-after 2022 Boxford Christmas cards are here! Featuring a suitably festive snowy Boxford scene, these beautiful cards are a great way to celebrate our picturesque village and help raise money for good causes. Don't get left out in the cold - they're just £4.50 for a pack of 10 whilst stocks last. This year we will be donating £1.10 from each pack to 'Friends of Boxford School'. They're now on sale in Boxford Post Office.

*Queen Bee Designs*



## CITIZENS ADVICE

**citizens  
advice**

*Last year I fell for a scam when I was doing my Christmas shopping. The scam was clever. I thought I was getting a good deal but didn't realise I was being scammed until it was too late. How can I avoid the same thing happening again this year?*

Scammers' tactics become more sophisticated every year, making scams tricky to recognise, but there are things you can look out for.

If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. For example, tickets to an event that are much cheaper than they're being sold elsewhere, or a holiday that's a lot less than you'd expect to pay.

Be wary of people contacting you out of the blue on social media sites or via text and email offering an item for sale or deal on something.

Do your research. If you're buying from a website you haven't used before, spend a few minutes researching it. A good place to start is finding a website's terms and conditions. You should also look up the company's address, this can normally be found in the website's 'contact us' section and should have a street name, not just a post office box. If it's a registered UK company, you can check its details on the Companies House website.

Check to see what people have said about the company. It's worth looking at different review websites to see other people's feedback - don't rely on reviews the company has put on its own website.

Scammers will often ask you to pay in an unusual way, or very quickly. For example, you're asked to send money through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union or pay via vouchers.

Remember never give away your personal information like a password or PIN and never click on or download anything you don't trust.

To find out about scams across the country, you can sign up to the Trading Standards email alert on their website.

If you've been scammed, there are organisations you should report the scam to. If you've transferred money in the last 24 hours, speak to your bank and the police. You should also contact the police if the scammer is in your area, or you feel unsafe. You can also report the scam to Citizens Advice and Action Fraud, telephone 0300 123 2040.

Don't feel embarrassed about reporting a scam - scammers are clever, and it can happen to anyone. Reporting a scam helps track down and stop scammers, helping to prevent it from happening to others too.

For information and advice on this or anything else, visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or call Sudbury and District Citizens Advice on **01787 321400** and leave a message and someone will call you back when available.

We will attempt three times to call you back, so please expect a call from a withheld number. Alternatively, contact us via email at [advice@sudburycab.org.uk](mailto:advice@sudburycab.org.uk) or by using the contact facility on our website, [www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact](http://www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact)

We are providing advice by telephone and email Monday - Thursday, 10am - 3pm.

### ***Remember!***

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## THE BUTCHER'S WIFE

I know I'm in the minority when I say I don't really enjoy the run up to Christmas. There's too much pressure to make it a perfect day. I'm essentially a Butcher's widow during the month of December and have to do all the Christmas preparation. From buying presents, getting the tree and putting up decorations, right down to the dreaded food shop and the Christmas Eve panic clean! Luckily the mini-Leeders are past believing in Santa so at least the pressure of being a fat old man for the evening has gone!



One thing I am eternally grateful for is online shopping. I'm not a fan of shopping at the best of times but Christmas shopping is the worst. There are so many people. You have to wear your coat because it's freezing outside but all the shops have the heating on full whack so you end up being sweaty with numb fingers while trying to dodge the crowds. No, thank you. I'd much rather sit in my PJs on the couch.

We have a houseful of family on Christmas Day and I am super organised. I cut, peel and prep all the veg, set the table and get all the pots and pans out the night before. On Christmas morning I make a timetable – what needs to go in at what time. We always get up early, although now the teenagers aren't too excited for Santa, it's not silly early like it used to be. We have champagne when we open presents and by about 9.30am my organised timetable has gone to pot. Too much alcohol for me means the Butcher has to take over!

My favourite day of the year is Boxing Day. As much as I love having everyone over for Christmas Day, it's nice to have a chilled out day. There's still loads of food and drink leftover and we normally have a dog walk and then spend the day playing cards and watching movies. And eating, lots of eating. It's perfect. This recipe is an easy way to use up some of those leftovers and even better, no timetable is required. Pass the champagne!

### Turkey & Ham Pie

Serves 4

#### Ingredients

- 250g cooked ham cut into chunks
- 400g cooked turkey cut into chunks
- 3 leeks finely sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 500ml turkey (or chicken) stock
- Ready roll puff pastry sheets
- 1.5tbsp wholegrain mustard
- 50g unsalted butter
- Pinch of dried thyme
- 3tbsp plain flour
- 2tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 150ml double cream
- 1 egg, beaten

#### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C.
2. Melt the butter in a pan over a low heat. Add the leeks, thyme and a pinch of salt. Cook gently for about 10 minutes then add the garlic and cook for a further 5 minutes.
3. Stir in the flour, cook for a minute or two, add the vinegar and then gradually add the stock making sure to keep stirring.
4. Add the cream and bring to the boil (keep stirring!) and simmer for a couple of minutes until the sauce thickens up. Take off the heat and stir in the mustard, ham and turkey.
5. Spoon your filling into a pie dish and cover with the puff pastry. Press down the edges and trim. Make a small hole in the centre of your pie to let the heat escape.
6. Brush the pie with the egg and bake for 40-45 minutes.



**Elaine Carpenter**

N.R.H.P., C.H.P., Dip Psychology

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# THE DECEMBER LETTER FROM FATHER ROB

*Dear Friends,*

How are you feeling as we approach Christmas? I think this Christmas is going to be another strange one for many. I'm mindful as I say this that we have had a number of 'strange' Christmases these past few years. Many are going to feel the pinch again this Christmas and things may certainly need to be simpler for many. If we can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Together with the headteacher at our very fine CofE school in Boxford, I have been exploring how we can encourage and celebrate curiosity and imagination in our young people. On the face of it, this is not easy. So much of how a school must be run nowadays is dominated by a bureaucracy, which may well be necessary in parts, but can equally stifle the very freedom children need to grow into curious, well-rounded and joyful young people. League tables and the aggressive push towards progress and achievement can put unnecessary pressure on both staff and pupils whilst inciting the worst reactions in parents. This is not only an issue for schools: our society often demands progress for its own sake, even when we have no idea what 'progress' might look like. When is enough, enough?

The Covid pandemic had so many negative consequences, but life simplification was one of the few positives many took from it. People expressed how they found more time to stop and be curious about the meaning of life or the things around them, especially in nature. This generated a sense of imagination and joy in many. It is no bad thing for us to return to basics from time to time.

The other day, I was presented with a beautiful photo of a friend's new baby boy. If there is one thing that speaks of a timelessness beyond ourselves, it is the incredible and perfect miracle of new life. As I looked, I saw sparkling blue eyes staring back at me as though this little baby were speaking timeless wisdom into the centre of my being, creating within me a sense of elation and joy, and yet slightly unnerving. It was as though this baby's purity and innocence penetrated my soul revealing the best and worst of me. His perfectly smooth skin, yet free from the marks and scars left by the world, his little munchkin nose so perfectly-formed (which, unlike mine, is yet to be broken by an ill-advised attempted overhead-kick in football). New life: a miraculous gift that science may copy, but will never invent for itself.

It is good for us to be called back to simplicity – to see things as they truly are. Christmas is such a time. One of the greatest gifts of Christmas is a reawakening within us of the profound and unfathomable gift of life.

For me one of the most inspiring images is that of the Virgin Mary holding the baby Jesus in her tender arms. The biblical narratives of Jesus' birth are no less filled with wonder and awe. These are



not just some fairy-tale stories to help us feel better. I invite you to read them afresh, with new curious and imaginative eyes. Look deep into the meaning of the text. Imagine the complex emotions of the characters. Put yourselves into the shoes of the Holy Family without shelter, Mary the virgin mother embarking on an unknown journey with God, Joseph the supportive step-father looking to protect his new young family, the inn-keeper over-worked

and over-booked, the lonely shepherds on the hillside, the angry and threatened King Herod, the Angels (messengers from God), and (a while later) the curious and honourable Wise Men from afar.

But, if we want to know the true meaning of Christmas, perhaps we need to flip to near the end of the story, where the adult Jesus is on the cross with two criminals hanging either side of him. The first, unable to see the bigger picture, simply ridicules, jibes and makes fun of him. The second sees Jesus for who he is, repents of his sins and then receives Jesus' assurance that "today you will be with me in paradise". This is the purest Christian vision. But it all starts with those bright, beautiful, inquisitive and curious eyes speaking timeless wisdom from a manger in Bethlehem.

Don't lose the wonder. Don't lose the joy. Don't lose the curiosity to imagine something more.

May you be blessed this Christmastime,

*Fr Rob*

[rparkermcgee@gmail.com](mailto:rparkermcgee@gmail.com), Tel: 01787 210434

## BRING AND SHARE



North Porch, St Mary's Boxford  
&  
St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield  
(in the church)

If you or someone you know is in need,  
Please visit the Food Bank.

All donations of non perishable goods are gratefully received.

Thank You  
TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN

Fr Rob & Sarah invite you to  
St Mary's Church  
Community Christmas Day  
Lunch  
Boxford Village Hall  
1 pm to 3 pm  
on  
Saturday, 25th December  
2022

Are you or your family going to be on your own  
this Christmas Day or you are finding things a bit  
of a struggle, please do join us for a delicious,  
home cooked Christmas Lunch and wonderful  
company, families are welcome.

Or do you know someone who is isolated at home  
and would value a home delivery of a proper  
Christmas Day Lunch?

.....Because no one has to be alone or  
suffering at Christmas

To book your place or arrange a home delivery  
please email:

[boxriverbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverbenefice@gmail.com) or call 01787 828046  
by 15th December



# Festive Cheer



We love Christmas here at Suffolk Medical and Beauty Clinic. The clinic is always busy and buzzing with activity at this time of year.

We thought we'd spread a little **festive cheer** again this month with our favourite Christmas offer: Spend £30 on Beauty or Retail in December and receive a voucher for £10 towards a beauty treatment in January.

**Also this month, save an incredible 20% on all retail!!**



This month, spend £30 on Beauty or retail at Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic and receive £10 towards a beauty treatment in January!\*

\* Minimum spend in January £30. One voucher per person. Valid until 31/01/2023

## Merry Christmas!



Suffolk Medical Clinic, 6 Broad Street, Boxford, 01787 211 00





# SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2022



Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00	<i>Midweek Eucharist</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	16:00	<i>Christingle and Carol Service</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00	<i>Midweek Eucharist</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	All Saints', Newton
	17:00	<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	18:00	<i>Christmas Carol Service</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	10:00	<i>Midweek Eucharist</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
	18:00	<i>Christmas Carol Service</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11:00	<i>Christmas Carol Service</i>	All Saint's, Newton
	17:00	<i>Christmas Carol Service</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	21:30	<i>Pre-Midnight Mass</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	23:00	<i>Midnight Mass</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00	<i>Christmas Day Communion</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	10:00	<i>Christmas Day Communion</i>	St Mary's, Boxford

(Morning Prayer online, most weekdays from 8.30am)

All our churches across the Benefice are OPEN EVERY DAY for Private Prayer.

If you need support, please contact Fr Rob or the Benefice Office

**KEEP WARM THIS WINTER  
AT MARY'S HOUSE**  
**"A WARM, WELCOMING SPACE"**  
**OPENING TIMES**  
 Tuesday, 9.00 am - 12.30 pm  
 Wednesday, 9.00 am - 12.30 pm  
 Thursday, 9.00 am - 12.30 pm

**OUR REGULAR ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE  
BUT EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US**  
 Tuesday, Drop in for Coffee, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm  
 Wednesday, Midweek Eucharist, 10.00 am - 11.00 am

 **The Box River Benefice**  
 Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
 Little Waldingfield and Newton

*Advent*  
*The Season of Hope and Expectations*



**St Mary's Church, Boxford**  
**Advent Carols & Christingle**  
**Sunday, 11th December @ 4.00 pm**

**A WONDERFUL WAY TO BEGIN THE  
BUILD-UP TO CHRISTMAS**







# The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
Little Waldingfield and Newton

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 10:30am** *Coffee Morning*, St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 7pm** *Christmas Thank You for Parishioners & Volunteers*, St Mary's, Boxford

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 7:30pm** *Cheese & Wine*, Groton Village Hall

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 7:30pm** *Candlelit Concert*, St Mary's Boxford

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 7:30pm** *Christmas Drinks & Nibbles*, St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am**, *Festive Coffee Morning with festive stalls*, All Saints' Newton

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am** *Christmas Tree Festival & Christmas Fayre*, St Mary's, Boxford

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am** *Coffee Morning*, St Mary's, Boxford

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 1pm** *Christmas Day Community Lunch*, Boxford Village Hall

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 3pm** *Wedding*, St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas. Within this copy of the Box River News, you will find a handy leaflet letting you know about the Christmas Events and Christmas Services around the Benefice. We look forward to celebrating with you.

We pray for those in need at Christmas, please remember that our Food Banks are here for you if you need some extra help and if you are able to donate to them, we thank you. Our Community Christmas Lunch and Delivery Service still have spaces available, contact the Benefice Office for more information and to reserve your place.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December will be a wonderful day in Boxford and we hope that you will be able to join in the Christmas fun! The Christmas Tree Festival, the Christmas Fayre, Santa's Grotto and the Advent Carols & Christingle Service will ensure that there is something for everyone.

There are still a couple of the 5-foot Norway Spruce trees available, so it is not too late to reserve your tree! The trees are £22.50 each. If you wish to take part in the festival, please would you email [boxriverbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverbenefice@gmail.com) or telephone **01787 828046**. The trees will be available, for your decoration on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December and all day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December (battery operated lights only please). There are also a few spaces available, if you wish to hold a stall, for more information please email Sarah at [boxriveractivities@gmail.com](mailto:boxriveractivities@gmail.com). There will be a prize for the best dressed tree! All proceeds will be donated to St Mary's Church, Boxford.



## WARM SPACE AT MARY'S HOUSE

Opening times may vary but Mary's House, 5 Swan Street will be open most Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Please don't sit at home in the cold, pop along to keep warm. Contact the Benefice Office for more information.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Boxford Calendars, Mugs and Tea Towels being sold in support of St Mary's Church available for sale at Boxford Post Office. These make perfect Christmas presents, essentials for every home.

## GIVING

Whether or not you attend church regularly, it is likely that you benefit in some way from a Church being in our villages. The church helps build community, provides a reassuring presence marking the

seasons of the year and during challenging times in our lives. We live in a world where local community is threatened, public service undervalued and individuals all too often get lost in the system. It is no surprise that isolation, loneliness, depression and poor spiritual and mental health are at frightening levels in our society. The Church provides a counter to this at a local level. In many villages up and down the country, once the pub has closed, the Church remains the only remnant of community spirit and focus. We need to secure such assets if we do not wish for them to disappear from our national life. But a church is more than just a building. Are you able to contribute the cost of a coffee or newspaper each week, to help our churches survive and thrive?

Please do get in contact the Benefice Office if you would like to talk to find out more about giving.

## BOXFORD CHURCH CHOIR

We have had a brilliant response following our appeal for occasional singers to bolster Boxford Church Choirs' singing over the Christmas period and we are now up to 27 people and we are sounding joyful. We would love for you to join us, come along, and help make Christmas extra special for the community this year. Rehearsals will be taking place on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December, all levels of experience, including none, very welcome. Please contact Tom: [tommaggiocogan@btinternet.com](mailto:tommaggiocogan@btinternet.com) or phone **01787 310588** for more information.

## EDWARDSTONE HARVEST FESTIVAL

A big thank you from Edwardstone PCC to all the people in Edwardstone who donated so generously on Harvest Festival Sunday in St. Mary the Virgin, Church. It was a lovely service. There was also a Christening, and the church was very well attended. All the proceeds went to the food bank in Boxford.



## NEW FOR 2023 - NEWTON COFFEE MORNINGS

There will be a coffee morning at All Saints' Church, Newton on the third Wednesday of each month, between 10am – 11.30 am, starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. Please come along, you will be assured of a warm welcome.



## COFFEE TIME



You are invited to  
"Drop in for Coffee" around the Benefice

**Every Tuesday @ 10am**  
**Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford**

**Friday 2nd December, 10:30 - 12:00**  
**St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield**

**Saturday 17th December, 10:00 - 12:00**  
**St Mary's, Boxford**

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE, CAKE AND CONVERSATION**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Benefice Office

Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford CO10 5NZ

**01787 828046** email: [boxriverbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverbenefice@gmail.com)

Fr Rob Parker-McGee SR

**01787 210434** email: [rparkermcgee@gmail.com](mailto:rparkermcgee@gmail.com)



# Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 18th December 2022  
at 5pm

Christmas is not Christmas without a  
traditional Carol service.  
All welcome.

St Mary's Church, Boxford

## Festive Drinks & Nibbles

Friday 9th December  
7.00 - 9.00 pm

St Lawrence's Church  
Little Waldingfield

£10 per ticket

Available from:  
Tricia Eddington - 01787 247932  
or  
Nancy Roser - 01787 882897

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH  
NEWTON

## CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING WITH FESTIVE STALLS

Saturday, 10th December  
10.00 - 11.30 am

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S  
GROTON

ARE HAPPY TO INVITE YOU  
TO THE ANNUAL

## CHEESE & WINE PARTY

ALL WELCOME, GET IN THE MOOD FOR CHRISTMAS!!

AT  
GROTON VILLAGE HALL  
ON  
SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2022  
AT 7.30 PM

ENTERTAINMENT & BAR

TICKETS £10.00

PLEASE RING 01787 211360  
TO BOOK

## ST MARY'S CHURCH, BOXFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

(in conjunction with Boxford Christmas Fayre & Santa's Grotto)

Entrance to the Christmas Tree Festival is only  
£2 per adult, children free.  
Includes programme, voting papers and  
children's trail.  
All proceeds towards keeping St Mary's open  
and operational

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER  
10AM - 3.30PM  
FOLLOWED BY CHRISTINGLE & CAROL SERVICE  
AT 4PM



Boxford Church Building Fundraiser

**Friday December 9th 2022**  
**7.30 pm**

St Mary's Church, Boxford. CO10 5DU

**Corelli Christmas Concerto**  
**Mendelssohn Octet**

Violins Rhianwen Gold, Pia Jeppeson, Jon Acton, Dom Seymour  
Violas Hilary Cheek, Geoffrey Irwin  
'Cellos Edward Gold, Simon Williamson

Adults £10 Under 18s FREE  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/boxford-concerts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/boxford-concerts)  
Boxford Post Office or on the door



LITTLE WALDINGFIELD PARISH ROOM TRUSTEES  
ARE HOSTING A

# WINE TASTING EVENING

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2022**  
**7.30 PM**

**LITTLE WALDINGFIELD PARISH ROOM**

Tickets £16.50 per person  
(includes all wine and nibbles)



An opportunity to order great, reasonably priced wines delivered in time for your Christmas celebrations.

George Unwin of Baythorne Wines will provide expert advice to guide us through an evening tasting a range of interesting wines from around the world.

Tickets to be purchased by 27<sup>th</sup> November from Sue Bowen  
01787 249473  
Heathfield House, The Street, Lt Waldingfield  
[sd.bowen@btopenworld.com](mailto:sd.bowen@btopenworld.com)



**FLEECE JAZZ**

**Fleece Jazz** at  
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

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**Derek Nash Acoustic Quartet**  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 8pm - Tickets: £22/£18\*



Performing original compositions and unique arrangements of jazz classics, this quartet features some of the best exponents of jazz in the U.K.

**Derek Nash** – Saxes  
**David Newton** – Piano  
**Oli Hayhurst** – Bass  
**Sebastiaan De Krom** – Drums

"From smooth cool to groovy funk, the music fizzes with energy, even at its most restrained"

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**Glen Manby's Homecoming**  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 8pm - Tickets: £18/14\*



"This well-balanced and finely integrated quintet speaks bebop fluently . . ."

Jazz Journal

**Glen Manby** – Alto sax  
**Steve Waterman** – Trumpet/Flugelhorn  
**Leon Greening** – Piano  
**Jeremy Brown** – Double bass  
**Matt Home** – Drums

"Hard bop lives and is in no better hands than the Glen Manby Quintet."

London Jazz News

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**Alan Barnes' Octet plays Copperfield: A Dickensian Jazz Suite**  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022 8pm - Tickets: £25/21\*



"Like the Dickens classic itself, Alan Barnes' Copperfield has something for everyone. A great night out that is also a treat for the jazz connoisseur."

Live review

**Alan Barnes** – Saxes, clarinets & raconteur  
**Bruce Adams** – Trumpet  
**Mark Nightingale** – Trombone  
**Robert Fowler** – Saxes and clarinets  
**Karen Sharp** – Saxes and clarinets  
**David Newton** – Piano  
**Simon Thorpe** – Bass  
**Clark Tracey** – Drums

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\* Friends of Fleece Jazz special ticket price  
Students half price  
**PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE: [www.fleecejazz.org.uk](http://www.fleecejazz.org.uk)**  
Jazz every alternate week (usually Wednesdays)

**Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath CO6 4PZ**  
Ample parking; fully accessible.  
Go to [www.fleecejazz.org.uk](http://www.fleecejazz.org.uk) for directions.  
Tickets via box office: 01787 210796  
or via **WeGotTickets/fleecejazz** (booking fee applies)  
or on the door (cash or cheque only; sorry no debit/credit cards)

**SPECIAL OFFER: A double room with breakfast and two tickets from £109 (subject to availability) Phone: 01206 262836**



# The CHRISTMAS SOLDIER

BOXFORDS VERY OWN PANTO!

## FAMILY NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 30 November  
7pm £10 adults £5 Children

THURSDAY 1 December  
7.30pm £12  
light refreshments served to  
your table in the interval

## CHRISTMAS BEGINS!

FRIDAY 2 & SATURDAY 3 December  
7.30pm £18  
Full 2 course Christmas Dinner  
served to your table in the interval

Bar and raffle every night



**Friday 2nd December**  
3:15pm - 5pm: Christmas Fayre.  
Taking place in the school hall.  
Hamper prize draw to take place at 5pm!

**Sunday 11th December**  
10am - 3pm: Santa's Grotto  
Taking place at the Farmers Market,  
St Mary's Church, Boxford  
Tickets available from the school office.

For further details please contact  
talktofobs@gmail.com

FoBS charity No: 1037332



in concert with

*A Melody of Harps*

perform

**Christmas music with carols**

The Hive, Sudbury

Lawshall Church

Fri 9<sup>th</sup> December 7:30pm



Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December 7:30pm

Donations

£8 cash on the door

Madrigalia return to Borley Church for a  
**Christmas Carol Concert**

At 7pm on Thursday 22nd December 2022

Mmm... magical music, mince pies & mulled wine

and for one night only

**BORLEY CHURCH ILLUMINATIONS**



*Madrigalia*



*Carols Round the Chip Van*



**Frying Tonight!**  
TRADITIONAL FISH & CHIPS



From 6:30pm

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Swan Street, Boxford







# XMAS LEGO COMPETITION

**CALLING ALL LEGO® MASTER BUILDERS OF ANY AGE FROM 0-99!!**

If you are a Lego enthusiast, you won't want to miss the Friends of St Matthew's Christmas-themed Lego competition and display on **SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** in Leavenheath Village Hall.



There are **FANTASTIC LEGO PRIZES** to be won. Your build must have a Christmas theme – perhaps Santa's grotto or a nativity scene, a jolly snowman or a family eating Christmas dinner. Let your imagination run riot!

Pre-registration is required and it costs £2 to enter your build.

Deliver your build to Leavenheath Village Hall between 9:00-9:30am on 10<sup>th</sup> December so it can be added to the display. Invite your family and friends along to view all the entries free of charge from 10am-12pm. Enjoy delicious refreshments and buy raffle tickets for Lego prizes. The competition will be judged at 11.30am and Lego prizes awarded. All entries will be returned to the builders at 12pm.

To register or for more information, please phone Jane 07909 875892.

## PROGRESSIVE WHIST DRIVE

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm Monks Eleigh Village Hall**

We play 18 hands with a break for refreshments. £3 to play, we hold a free 'bring a prize, win a prize' raffle.

## POLSTEAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December in Polstead Village Hall 10 - 3pm.**

Lots of stalls, a raffle, a tombola and refreshments.

**YOUR CULTURAL APPRECIATION NEED REFOCUSING?**

**THE ARTS SOCIETY STOUR VALLEY MIGHT BE FOR YOU**



We offer illustrated Monthly Talks, Visits, Special Interest Days + a quarterly magazine & much more – all at a very reasonable cost

**On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11am at Long Melford Village Hall, CO10 9QJ (opp The Bull)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to a surge in popularity since our Autumn programme launched, a membership waiting list temporarily exists.

**For further details:** and to get your name onto the waiting list

**Contact:** [info@TASstourvalley.org.uk](mailto:info@TASstourvalley.org.uk) quoting **BRN19**

or via our website [www.TASstourvalley.org.uk](http://www.TASstourvalley.org.uk)

**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS AT COVENT GARDEN  
300 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS SHOWS**

Most of what we now consider to be quintessential pantomime can be traced back to the operas and ballets put on at Covent Garden during its first 200 years. Panto has moved to the Palladium but you can still see its components every Christmas in the operas and ballets at the Royal Opera House. The original magic shown evolving through the ages.

BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL PRESENTS

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DISCO

Tickets available on select days from Boxford Village Hall. Email: [boxrivermums@gmail.com](mailto:boxrivermums@gmail.com) to find out how to get yours

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
5:30pm – 7:30pm**

Dance the night away at the first BVH Children's Christmas Disco.  
**Prizes for best dressed and best dance moves!**

**Tickets £5**

THERE WILL BE A **SHACK SHACK** RUNNING SELLING DRINKS AND SNACKS AS WELL AS SOME OTHER FUN STUFF SO REMEMBER SOME POCKET MONEY!

Tickets on sale from 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 [boxrivermums@gmail.com](mailto:boxrivermums@gmail.com)

## LEAVENHEATH CINEMA

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Doors open 7pm**

**DOWNTON ABBEY - A NEW ERA**

2022 (PG)

2h 4 mins with 20 mins interval

Tickets £4 per adult & £2.50 per child.

You can now pay by card at the door.

or reserve your seat online at

[www.leavenheath.org.uk](http://www.leavenheath.org.uk)

Telephone **01206 263301** for tickets

Refreshments, wine, beer, soft-drinks, coffee, tea will be available before the film starts and ice creams during the interval.

*Proceeds towards LVH Capital Project Fund (Charity No 262816)*



## POLSTEAD FILM NIGHT

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**Doors open 7pm film starts at 7.30pm**

**THE RAILWAY CHILDREN RETURN**

"A delightful dose of nostalgia!"

Tickets **£4.50** each.

To reserve email: [polsteadfilms@gmail.com](mailto:polsteadfilms@gmail.com)

or buy in advance at Polstead Community Shop

All proceeds in aid of Polstead Village Hall Charity No. 304933





# Friends Of Boxford School Santa Run

Saturday 10th December 2022

Listen out for Father  
Christmas and his elves  
from 3pm dashing around  
Boxford, Edwardstone &  
Groton on his sleigh!!



Track us on our Facebook page!  
Charity number 1037332



## LIGHT UP NEWTON!

Join us for the Christmas tree lights switch-on

Sunday 4th December  
at 4pm



The official start of  
Newton's Christmas 2022!

## MILDEN AND LOCALITY HISTORY AFTERNOON Saturday 21st January 2 - 6pm



1937 Sale brochure  
of Milden Hall  
and 18 cottages in Milden

A DISPLAY OF OLD  
PHOTOS, MAPS AND  
DOCUMENTS FROM  
MILDEN AND OUR  
NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES  
KINDLY PROVIDED BY  
CHRISTOPHER HAWKINS  
ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW AT  
MILDEN PAVILION

£1 DONATION PLEASE  
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS



Milden Pavilion  
Church Road  
Milden  
IP7 7AF

[www.mildenpavilion.co.uk](http://www.mildenpavilion.co.uk)  
[info@mildenpavilion.co.uk](mailto:info@mildenpavilion.co.uk)



Registered Charity No 304919



## MILDEN SINGERS

A fun and friendly singing group. We meet weekly from 7-9pm at Milden Pavilion: the ability to read music is not essential and we sing everything from Mozart to Queen! We are looking for new members to join us and we are very much looking forward to performing again at our concerts.

For more information please contact Pearl on 01449 741876.

## BOXFORD WI UPDATE

In November the ladies at the WI were given a demonstration on how to make Christmas wreaths and table decorations, by one of our own members, Jayne Foster. The arrangements were then raffled and six ladies were lucky enough to win one.

Other interest groups within the WI are:

*Dining Divas* (lunch group)

*Chatterbox* (afternoon with tea and cake)

*Knit & Natter*

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in joining please contact our secretary,

Annie Phillips.

01787 211729

[annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN





# BRIAN TORA'S SOAP BOX

I hope you missed me last month. It is rare, but not entirely without precedent that I do not contribute an article to this venerable publication. In the past, though, the absence of my by-line has been because someone else has offered to write a column. The late and much lamented Nick Athorne was one such stand in for my otherwise personalised rantings. In part such substitutions have been because I have harboured desires of retiring. Last month was quite a different kettle of fish.

Those who know us well will be aware that Elizabeth and my house was up for sale earlier this year. There is no secret why. We have lived there for more than 37 years and, frankly, the house – and particularly the garden – are far too big for us. Despite rumours, we were not planning to decamp to Portugal (attractive as that might seem), but rather to join a growing band of those of our age group in downsizing into Sudbury, where we can walk to the shops and have at least a half decent transport service.

So far so good, but sadly the sale we believed we had negotiated fell through, so we decided to take a brief trip to our house in the Algarve to check that all would be well for the winter.

Travelling with Boris, our Jack Russell terrier, does complicate matters as we are not prepared to leave him behind for any length of time and crossings that provide pet-friendly cabins are hard to come by. So, given we arranged to travel at short notice, we opted for the less attractive – and more gruelling – option of driving through France.

So far, so good. We arrived towards the end of September and, having just settled in, Elizabeth promptly fell and broke her femur. Not so good. Tough lady that she is, she refused to accept it was anything other than a severe bruise until a week after the fall she found she could no longer mount the stairs to bed. A trip to the hospital the following morning disclosed the fracture and led to an operation to pin her thigh bone together and a stay in the local hospital.

Now, I have never been one to discount the efforts of a two person partnership, where each plays their part in ensuring the business of running the home and all ancillary activities are dealt with in a timely and efficient manner. But losing one half of the partnership can throw an undue strain on the remaining active participant. My role had been finance, including household bills, banking and investments, plus anything computer related (Elizabeth doesn't do technology).

Elizabeth dealt with shopping, cooking, cleaning, walking our Jack Russell and generally making certain our household operated at a satisfactory level. Suddenly she was not there! Adding in her multitudinous tasks robbed me of time I might otherwise have spent in sharing with you my views on the countless issues which I am sure keep you all awake at night. Hence my absence from the pages of the Box River News last month. But there has been something of a plus, albeit of a rather unexpected kind.

Those of you who travel abroad regularly will be aware – I hope – of the European health card which existed pre-Brexit. The aim was to ensure that any citizen of an EU country would be entitled to the same care through the National Health Service of whichever country he or she had cause to seek medical help. When we left the European Union, this option disappeared, though it has been replaced with a Global health card, the benefits of which I have yet to confirm.

Aware that these protections would no longer be available, we registered with the Portuguese health service, which proved to be a wise move as Elizabeth's accident was treated as an emergency and dealt with through the health service with no insurance ramifications. When you are our age, health insurance can be an unacceptable cost. This gave us cause to reflect on the different approaches of the health services of our two civilised nations.

Elizabeth was treated promptly and well in hospital. I would like to think the same would have happened if she had ended up in the West Suffolk hospital. Her stay in hospital was in a small bay of three beds, as opposed to six that would be the norm in an NHS hospital. Her ward companions were elderly Portuguese ladies who spoke no English, but most of the staff were bilingual. The food, however, was not up to Elizabeth's standard.

It would be inappropriate to make a judgment at this stage, particularly as we still have hospital and clinic visits pending as I write this. But I have been encouraged so far to believe the health service in Portugal is robust and can be trusted. Indeed, I am reminded of a survey I saw several years ago, pre-Brexit, contrasting the national health services of the 28 or so EU member countries. I can no longer find the details on-line but, as I recall, the UK came in at 19, Portugal at 9. France topped the poll I believe.

With nurses balloting for strike action and a clear shortage of key workers in our NHS, swift remedial action is needed. By the time you read this, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's autumn statement will have been announced. I am not privy to his disclosures, but I cannot see anything other than sticking plaster being attached to our NHS. We surely live in difficult times.

## KENNY'S NEWS FROM SESAW



What a cheek! Last month Ollie mocked me 'writing' our news for ten years when I claim to be eight? Well, the laugh is on him because he was older than me when he arrived in 2013!

Our resident black cat was found nearly dead, came in after a week at the vet's, broke out of a pet carrier and headed straight for the house. We get on alright really and he gives a different view of SESAW life which is still very busy.

Only last week two lovely tabby cats came in when their owner sadly died. They have always been together and they are used to living with two big dogs.

We also have Signe, a ten year old Eurasier spitz type of dog that was living in a car with her owner when they lost their home. She is used to having company all the time so needs a loving human companion, maybe with another dog.

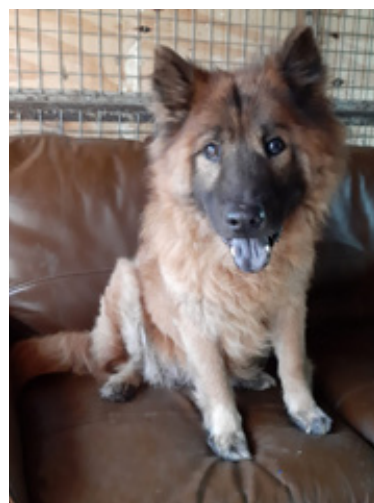
At this the time of the year we express our appreciation for those who support the work of SESAW in many different ways. The list is endless but you know who you are and we send you a massive **THANK YOU**.

That includes the shops and vets that host our food collection bins and the lovely Trudi, Editor of this magazine, for giving us a 'voice' to talk to you. As we all face the future during such a worrying time everyone at SESAW wishes you peace, good health and happiness, including me, *Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua*.

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## NEWS FROM BOXFORD SCHOOL

Our entries for Boxford River News are changing, just very slightly! Year 6 Reporters have been roaming the corridors to find about the latest news in school, and we cannot wait to share these with the local community.



Recently, there have been a number of very exciting events at the school. Some of us year 6s attended a schools' basketball competition hosted by Ormiston Academy, Sudbury. It was a fun experience for everyone and it showed off our basketball talent.

A number of games were played over one basketball court – a **BIG** thank you to Mr Griffith and Mrs Flockhart for organising this.

Key Stage 1 children have been enjoying learning about materials in Science. In Lower Key Stage 2, some of the class have enjoyed reading *The Iron Man*. Teddy, in year 4, said, *"I like writing about the Iron Man because I have been hooked on the subject and I am really pleased with the outcome of my story."* We can't wait to hear about their next exciting stories!

Further up the school, Year 6 enjoyed a trip on The Lady Orwell riverboat. There were many interesting sights and sounds which could be seen. Luckily, the river was calm, it flowed gently and *no-one* was seasick!

There are a number of exciting things which we are looking forward to this month! Reception and Key Stage 1 are busily preparing for their nativity, which is always a lot of fun. There will be a special 'Decoration Day' before Christmas. A dress-down day will let us get us into a festive mood by wearing our colourful Christmas outfits!

The Christmas fete will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 3:15-5:15pm, and we can't forget about the annual school Christmas dinner we have in the hall which we always all look forward to - but you can keep the sprouts thanks - *bleargh!*

We've heard about a new project we'll be getting involved with called *Reclaim The Rain*. We spoke to Mrs Flockhart, who is in charge of this extremely important project in school, and she explained, *"We hope local families will get involved with the new Reclaim The Rain scheme to help our village over the coming years. A number of villages in East Anglia will be provided a share of £6 million to improve flood defences and water saving solutions."* Thank you to all parents who have supported this so far.

Phew, well, it's been a very busy term but we're all really looking forward to the Christmas holidays. YAY! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you don't eat too many mince pies. We'll be writing again in the New Year!

*Year 6 Roving Reporters,  
Boxford Primary School*



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# PHOTOS FROM BOXFORD SOCIETY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

Thank you to everyone who has contacted us recently and villagers who provided us with information over the years.

Contact us by email at [tina.loose@gmail.com](mailto:tina.loose@gmail.com), phone: **01787 210538** or visit 16 Clubs Lane, Boxford, CO10 5HN.

*Right:* L-R: Graham Peachey, Claude Humphrey with Mick the dog, Alfred and Maggie Peachey in 1938.

Alf ('Puff' - his cream horns were renowned!) and his wife Maggie ran the Newsagents, Bakers & Confectioners beside the Croft track facing the White Hart, today The Old Bakery.

As an adult Graham ran a bakery in the 1980s at 36 Swan Street.



*Left:* Boxford had a large number of butchers over time. This is Stanley's, at what is now Graham House on Broad St, at Christmas 1924. Moving fresh air helped preserve the meat, hence it hanging in the removable windows. For meat to have stayed in healthy condition there must have been a substantial turnover. Flies must have had a field day! All butchers also preserved various meat cuts by salting. Our bacon and hams are the last common survivors of this method of preserving.

Butchers at this premises as well as others in the village bought their own stock and slaughtered it. Stanley's sharpened their knives across Broad Street on the coping stones topping the brick wall by the bridge. The oldest known butchers in the village was at Bridge House (current Post Office/Store) and overlooked the river. Rychard Mathew, butcher, hired it from 1532 from the Church for eight shillings a year.



*Bottom Left:* Cookery Class 1933. These girls were the 'seniors', pupils could attend the village school until they were 14. Back row L-R Eileen Carpenter, Mary Rule, Una Tricker, Doris Griggs, Violet Whymark, Doris Meekings, ?, Grace Humphrys, Joan Martin, Doris King, Joyce King, Barbara Raynham. Middle row Miss Rogers, Dunphy, Owen, Mrs Dansie, Miss Purdy. Front row Queenie King, Eva Humphrey, Ada Hills, Joy Hills and Joan Smith.





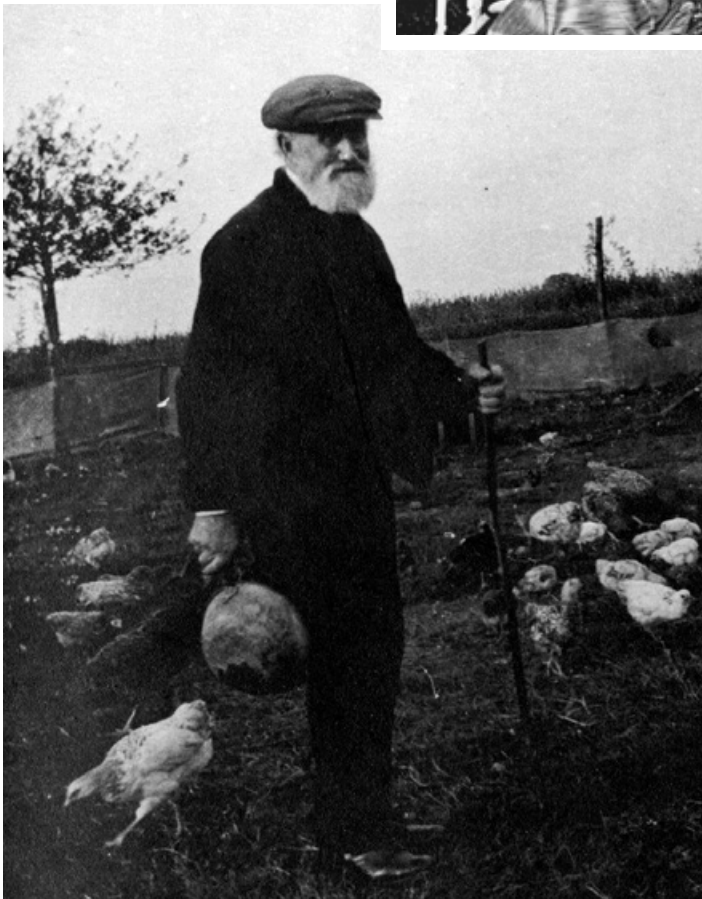
*Left:* Boxford has a long history of its magnificent and popular lantern parade and firework night at the Playing Field managed by Boxford Community Council.

Here the villagers are preparing outside the old gaol for the walk up Swan Street to the playing field in 1977, long before we had risk assessment for burning torches and enormous bonfires!

Around this time pupils at Boxford School would make a 'Guy' which took centre-stage in the parade and was then burnt on the huge bonfire.

*Right:* Nativity Play at the Congregational Chapel, Swan Street.

In 1823 Robert Ansell of Brantham Hall funded the building of the Congregational Chapel in Swan Street. Before this Congregationalists met in houses in the village. It was later known as the United Reformed Church. This picture of the Nativity Tableaux may be from just before it closed in 1992. Does anyone recognise the children?



*Left:* Percy Fletcher's Grandfather, George Fletcher at Turks Hall. Percy Fletcher (1924-2016) came to live in Falcon House, Swan Street, Boxford as a small boy and spent time with his Grandfather George at Turks Hall. Turks Hall is situated in Hagmore Green, a medieval hamlet of Boxford.

In 1531 there was a Church House at Turks Hall for housing the poor and destitute. The Church paid dues for it to The Knights of St John. These Crusader Knights were established in Jerusalem in 603 but it is not known when they were first linked to Boxford. The Crusades were over by 1300 and there is a record of a Boxford man setting off for Jerusalem during that period.

## BOXFORD through the ages.

By Roger Loose

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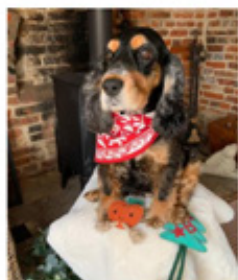


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# RECHARGE YOUR CAR - AND YOURSELF - AT STOKE BY NAYLAND RESORT

Stoke by Nayland Resort is making it simple for guests and local residents to recharge during their visit, with the installation of ten new 22kw VOLLT Electric Vehicle (EV) Fast Chargers. Surrounded by lush golf courses and beautiful Constable Country, the Resort is the perfect spot to enjoy a coffee or a bite to eat whilst powering up your EV.

With their commitment to green initiatives and the increasing demand for sustainable transport, encouraging green travel is a natural step forward for the eco-conscious Resort. Part of the family-run Boxford Group – an award-winning green enterprise – the business has invested over £5 million in the creation of renewable and sustainable sources of energy, including an Anaerobic Digester (AD) plant, solar and photovoltaic panels, air-source and ground-source heat pumps, and biomass boilers.

Using the speedy electric vehicle chargers is simple. Drivers can start charging by plugging in their EV, downloading and signing in to the VOLLT app (or tapping their RFID card), and then leaving the rest to VOLLT. The app will notify users when their charging session is complete, so they can simply unplug and head out onto the open road. An email will then be sent to the user with a receipt for their charging session, with more information available in the app.



SbN Resort Managing Director, Matt Manning commented, “With growing numbers of our visitors owning electric cars, we are thrilled to be able to offer efficient charging stations for guests to use here at the Resort. Helping to reduce our carbon footprint and protecting the environment is core to the Boxford Group’s values, so it is fantastic that we can encourage more eco-friendly travel to the Resort”.

Local residents can also make the most of recharging at the Resort whilst enjoying some fantastic discounts across dining, spa and accommodation with the venue’s excellent Community Card scheme. Joining the scheme is free of charge and can be easily done via their website: [www.stokebynayland.com/community](http://www.stokebynayland.com/community).

Full details of the Boxford Group’s and SbN Resort’s eco-credentials can be found on the website at [www.stokebynayland.com/green-credentials](http://www.stokebynayland.com/green-credentials).



Ten fast chargers are now available at SbN Resort for guests and visitors.

# MARTIN RICHARDS

In October we were extremely saddened to hear of the death of Martin Richards. Martin had been a first responder with Sudbury First Responders for many years, and was an official ambulance trust trainer who regularly ran our training sessions here in the benefice.

Many Box River Benefice residents will remember him as he and his wife Janis regularly attended village events as official first aiders via their charity, Gryphon First Aid.

Martin was an extremely kind man, full of energy and tireless enthusiasm for helping people, and he always supported and encouraged all of our responders at 3PR.

As a Royal Air Force veteran he was always actively engaged in the Royal British Legion and frequently coached the younger generation through his involvement with the Scouts.

His loss is profoundly felt and he will be extremely missed by so very many of us. We were lucky to have known him and we would like to pass on our sincerest condolences to Janis and his family.

RIP, our friend, Martin.

*Rich Wild*  
3PR Group Co-ordinator





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## THE GLOW PRO.



The countdown for the big day has begun and, as we all know from last-minute panic-buying, (or is that just me?) the best beauty gifts fly off the shelves.

I personally can't think of anything better to wake up to than a bundle of skincare/makeup/haircare... *hint, hint*

From stocking must-haves to statement surprises, I've put together a few products that you can wrap up for your nearest and dearest. Just call me *Santa's Your Little Helper!*

### Charlotte Tilbury The Pillow Talk Look - £175



If your recipient is a makeup fan, then trust me they'll love this iconic gift set!

Based entirely around the radiance-boosting Pillow Talk palette, this set includes a range of elegant shades and velvety formulas that will compliment all

skin tones for every occasion - sign me up!

### ALLSKIN|MED Professional Skincare - In Clinic Only CHRISTMAS OFFER - 20% off ALL Retail!



The festive season is about indulgence and the same goes for skincare! Bursting with the finest, clinically proven ingredients, ALLSKIN|MED has something for everyone. For anyone on your gift list who's a skincare fanatic, or perhaps their New Year's resolution is calling for a better regime, here's a few of my top picks:

#### Firming Serum - £75 £60

A juicy mix of anti-ox, vitamins C & E and growth-factor ingredients for plumper, bouncier and more youthful skin. Working deep into the dermis, this miracle serum repairs and regenerates the skin to help smooth out lines and wrinkles.

#### Replenishing Cream - £70 £56

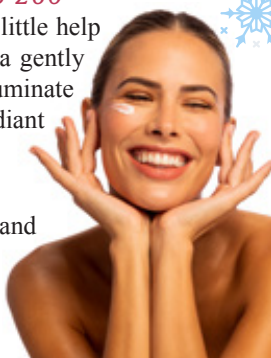
Rich and nourishing, this holy grail cream contains a powerful skin-firming complex to hydrate, soften and moisturise. It's like a giant swig of water for your skin, making it more robust with every sip.

#### Pigmentation Control Serum - £75 £60

A sparkling gift for anyone who needs a little help to get glowing. This triple action formula gently exfoliates to brighten dull skin and illuminate photo-damaged spots, unveiling a radiant complexion.

#### Cleansing Foam - £25 £20

Here to wake your skin up in the morning and gently wash away makeup and impurities by the evening, this Aqua Maris micellar cleanser lathers into a satisfying foam and will result in clean, calm and happy skin.



### The White Company Seychelles Lip Balm - £6

Your loved ones will be transported to a warm, tropical island this Christmas with The White Company's much-loved and ultra-hydrating lip-balm.

Packed with fresh bergamot, bright orange and sweet coconut, this Seychelles inspired lip balm will leave lips feeling smooth and supple. Who wouldn't want to carry a small piece of paradise around in their handbag?



### Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic Gift Voucher

When they're well thought out, gift vouchers spark joy. I love this option because it allows the recipient to pick their own present, which is ideal for people who seem to have everything.

At the clinic, we're all about helping people to look and feel good and we have an array of medical aesthetic and luxurious beauty treatments to choose from for the ultimate gift voucher.



### Jo Malone Pear & Freesia Travel Collection - £53

Jo Malone never disappoints when it comes to heavenly scents. Neatly packaged in a minimalist canvas pouch, this set includes all the essentials to spoil a loved one: a glorious cologne, a refreshing body & hand wash and a silky body crème. The fragrance alone will light up anyone's face!



### Naf! Stuff Cuticle Oil Pens - In Clinic Only CHRISTMAS OFFER - £8 £6.40

This year, why not swap out the Christmas socks and fill their stocking with essential nailcare instead? Easy to use and intensely moisturising, these cuticle oil pens make the perfect gift. Offered in a variety of uplifting, fruity scents, you'll nail it whichever design you choose.



### Olaplex Style & Strengthen Haircare Gift Set - £38

A limited-time set which promises smooth, shiny and healthy-looking hair. Sold? Me too!

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What's on your gift list this year?

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Helena x





# MY WISH CHARITY

As we say goodbye to 2022, we would like to reflect on a challenging but often rewarding year as we continue to support the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust.

As you may know, our aim as your local NHS charity, is to enhance the care of you, if you are a patient, to support your loved ones and also to support the staff who care for us.

With that in mind we will start back in **January** when we handed over timers to the Parkinson's nurse. These timers ensure that patients get their medications exactly when needed as time is vital to ensure their symptoms don't suddenly flare up. Each ward, including Newmarket Community Hospital and Glastonbury Court, were given a Parkinson's box with the timers and information.

**February** saw us give a T Roll to the stroke ward. These specialist positioning rolls enable patients with neurological conditions to be positioned to prevent loss of range of movement and to help them avoid pain.

**March** saw World Kidney Day and the renal staff receiving an ECG machine, thanks to local company Treatt plc.

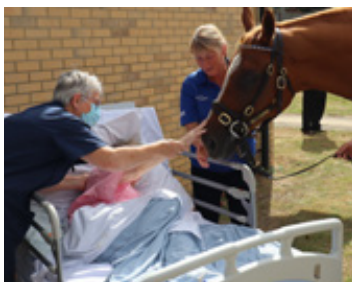
**April** was about parents, in particular those that suddenly found themselves spending the night on the Rainbow ward. Comfort packs were introduced, containing things such as a toothbrush and paste, water, notepad and pen, tissues and wipes, and a bit of chocolate just to make that first night in hospital a little easier

**May** meant DVD players. These large screen DVD players have proved a hit across the hospital, and we have now provided several wards such as the stroke unit, the learning disability nurse and the dementia team with one as well as having some in the charity office for all to borrow if their patients need it. Plus, an array of DVDs from Dad's Army to David Attenborough for them to enjoy.

**June** allowed us to support the community with a donation meaning we could provide the paediatric speech and language team, based at St Helen's House in Ipswich, with toys galore to aid their therapy sessions.

**July** saw us donating to both the paediatric day unit and the Rainbow ward. The day unit got a portable measuring stick to take to the patient's bedside and the Rainbow got some wonderful fun chalk boards for their outside play area.

**August** was about horses as we welcomed Godolphin and their champion retired racehorse, Papillon to Newmarket Community Hospital. You can see the video on our YouTube channel; it was an emotional day which is worth a watch. We hope to repeat this again next year.



**September** not only saw us bring back our annual Soapbox Challenge, but we also gave some nebulisers to the community respiratory team. These nebulisers mean patients can be treated in their own homes, avoiding hospital admission, and so also freeing a much-needed beds.



**October** meant we supported our maternity unit with memory boxes for parents who sadly lose a baby. These boxes ensure all memories are captured and we hope they help at such a difficult time.

**November** was about caring for family members as we handed books over to the cancer unit. These books are aimed at children who have a relative that is undergoing cancer treatment. With such a hard subject to explain, especially to younger children, these books help open up the dialogue for a bigger conversation and to explain it in suitable terms.



**December.** Our final aim for the year is to provide each patient with a gift on Christmas Day. Once again, we have launched our Virtual Christmas Gift appeal which allows the wards to hand out a gift to every patient. It's hard enough being in hospital over the festive period but we hope that these gifts will show patients that the community care and are thinking of them.

You can donate a gift at <https://visufund.com/wishchristmas>

Thank you for reading a small round up of our year. As you can see, we cover a huge range of care across all ages. If you want to find out more or you would like to fundraise for us in 2023, then please head over to [www.mywishcharity.co.uk](http://www.mywishcharity.co.uk). We would love to hear from you.

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## FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

### Your County Councillor for the Stour Valley

#### Could you help a Ukrainian family in need? There is still more need for help

Guests on the Homes for Ukraine scheme who are not yet ready to leave sponsorship and move into their own alternative accommodation, but who cannot stay with their current host after 6 months, can move to a new host. We are now looking for hosts for these families as well.

We also sadly continue to see more people fleeing the conflict each day. We are therefore asking anyone who thinks they may be able to help a family in need to sign up to the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

For more information see this link: <https://bit.ly/suffolk-support-for-ukraine> to find out more, including the experiences of people who have hosted Ukrainian families in their homes.

#### Deadline to apply for Primary School Places - 15<sup>th</sup> January 23

Parents and carers can now apply for primary school places for September 2023. The deadline for applying for a primary school place, including infant and junior schools, is Sunday 15 January 2023. The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school was Monday 31 October. However still apply ASAP.

#### Cost of living to impact Suffolk County Council's budget

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities, as it decides its budget for next year. An online survey has been launched, and a number of focus groups will be held, for you to have your say on the services which are important to you - <https://bit.ly/scc-budget-survey>

A summary of your responses will be included in the report considered by the council when agreeing the budget in February 2023. The budget setting process includes your thoughts, advice from council officers, elected members from political groups, businesses and partners in health and other public service organisations across Suffolk.

Setting our budget each year is always challenging, but we always strive to offer taxpayers the best possible value. We work hard to maintain all our services and invest where we can, which is what we were able to achieve last year.

**However, this year is going to be much more difficult.** Many people that I speak to think that councils are not affected by the increase in the cost of living – unfortunately this is not the case. A proposed budget will be presented at a County Council Cabinet meeting in January 2023 and the final budget will be discussed at full council in February 2023.

#### Suffolk Archives at The Hold received national accreditation.

The Suffolk Archives Service has received its Provisional Archive Service Accreditation from The National Archives.

Representatives from The National Archives visited The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront on Friday 11 November, where they met staff from Suffolk Archives and were given a tour of the new archives and heritage centre building. The Hold is a partnership between Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk and was partly funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Members of partnership organisations, heritage groups and volunteers from across the county also attended the celebratory event, which showcased the work that has been achieved in transforming and diversifying the archives service.

The visit comes just over a year since the building was officially opened by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester and provided an opportunity for Suffolk Archives to be officially presented with their Provisional Archive Service Accreditation.

The accreditation defines good practice and agrees standards for

archive services across the UK. It allows the archive services in Suffolk to participate in a scheme supporting the ongoing development of their service against a nationally agreed standard.

#### Suffolk care leaver wins prestigious UK fostering award

Charlotte (21) from Bury St Edmunds has won a national Outstanding Achievement by Young People Award at this year's Fostering Excellence Award, the UK's most prestigious fostering accolades. Charlotte who entered care at the age of 13 won the award for her dedication to ensuring that voices of young people in care and care leavers are heard. She has put her all into supporting Suffolk fostering service, including helping with staff recruitment, training, and events.



Charlotte being given her award by BBC reporter and presenter, Ashley John-Baptiste.

Earlier this year Charlotte organised the Suffolk Care Fare where she brought together children in care, their carers, care leavers, and all teams and organisations across Suffolk for a day of celebration and activities. The day was such a big success that Suffolk Fostering Service plan to make it an annual event and Charlotte has already started the planning for next year. Charlotte spent her time in care in both foster and children's homes now has her own flat. She has gone on to complete a level 3 course in health and social care and works caring for the elderly at a residential home.

#### Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley

A foster carer recruitment event is held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, and an adoption event is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday - all 7pm in your home online.

To book a place please email [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk).

#### My Priorities

*Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax.*

[james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)

Tel: 01206 263649

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## FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

### Your Babergh District Councillor

Congratulations to the Boxford Parish Council and all those involved in getting the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan up to and through the recent referendum. This was a huge achievement as much of the work was done during the lockdown when meetings and engagement were proscribed and people were reluctant to mix and take part in the normal way of life we were all accustomed to.

However, the joint chairs persevered, and all the assessments and policies were formulated to give the village a working document to take us well into the future. There is no doubt that this exercise is well worth doing as the planners have to take notice of it, but I do fear that more interference at government level could yet render all the work a waste of time. We can but hope that the villages' views are listened to in the future and I would like to put on record my thanks to all who came out to vote at the referendum.

Best wishes to Edwardstone and Groton parishes who are also at various stages along this path and to Monks Eleigh and Brent Eleigh who are examining the merits of trying to achieve one jointly. I will try to help in any way that I can.

The next Babergh full council meeting will be interesting as the ruling groups are working together to question and debate the discharge of sewage into our local rivers. It turns out that this has happened **288** times during this current year, with the Brett and the Stour being the most polluted on the most occasions.

In their annual report to shareholders Anglian Water stated that pollution of waterways was avoided wherever possible. It seems in reality this is not the case at all, maybe to avoid the costs of improvements to the very shareholders they are making this promise to. It should be a very interesting debate.

At the last council meeting it was agreed that the new intake of councillors elected from 23<sup>rd</sup> May will have a more realistic allowance to cover their expenses, if not their time. I would have done it for the love of helping people but I do agree that we have to be more realistic and try to encourage a wider intake of able folk from across the spectrum - not just political wannabees hoping to use it as a step up their political ladder or as a notch on their CV. Having said that, the current group at Babergh are the best ever. In 24 years I must have worn all the others down.

It has been promised by the new version of the old government that Suffolk is promised £10m of new money to support businesses and families suffering from the cost of living crisis and for 'leveling up', whatever that means. Maybe this is like the extra policemen and women we are getting which is actually only about 10% of those that were previously laid off during the austerity times. If Babergh is allocated any of this £10m it *must* be used wisely and to the advantage of those most in need during this difficult winter period, which I promise will happen. We certainly need to keep a strong hand on the tiller at the moment. While a small local Council cannot be expected to make up for all the national Government's mistakes, failures and gross cock-ups, we will do our best to do just that and not to have too many of our own.

I am conscious that this is the last BRN of this current year and I must take this opportunity to wish everyone a good festive season and entry into a better new year. 2023 is nearly here and will bring us new challenges on the local, national and even global front with the climate changes and strange weather patterns.

Thanks to the magnificent Trudi for her indulgence and patience for editing the best newsletter and for waiting until the eleventh hour for my column.

Please have the very bestest 2023 you are able to.

Bryn xx

[bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk)

Tel: 01787 210854 Mobile: 07771 508348

## READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editor,

One of the delights of the BRN is the column written by The Butcher's Wife. She has such a marvellous turn of phrase with her stories of bringing up the mini-Leeders, poking fun (but oh so gently) at the Butcher and at the time giving us all some tempting recipes. When there are enough contributions, might she (and the Butcher of course!) agree to have a small book published with the proceeds going to a local charity?

Yours sincerely,  
Jeremy Wagener  
Boxford

---

Dear Editor,

I would like to wish all my friends a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2023.

I will send a donation to charity in lieu of Christmas cards.

Thank you,  
Shirley Grimwood

---

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

I will not be sending Christmas cards this year and instead will be making a donation to 3PR.

Bill Seager

---

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank everyone who kindly took me to and from Ipswich hospital to see my husband Christopher Duncalf when he was ill.

Also I would like to thank everyone for all the lovely cards and flowers after his death.

Veronica Duncalf

---

Dear Editor,

Boxford Fruit Farms has recently sent an over sized tractor to cut the hedge along Wash Lane. They have left mud and debris everywhere, and decimated many trees and parts of the hedge.

This is a cycle route and a popular walk. There's not much left for wildlife, never mind making a barrier to mask part of their proposed giant fruit cages on A.O.N.B. land. I think people need to be aware of what is happening in this part of our parish. I personally, think that this disregard is unacceptable.

Thanks  
Fiona Bonny







Stoke by Nayland  
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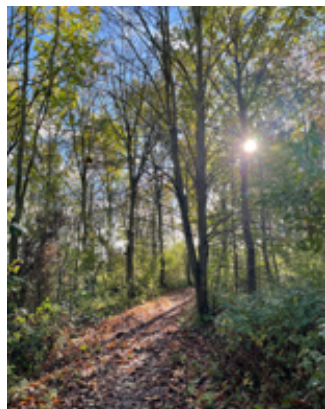
# WOMAN WHO WALKS

## Tour of Edwardstone and Groton (about 4.5 miles)

Here's an undemanding but rewarding walk around our villages for those people who have asked me for some shorter routes. This one will also appear in the Box Valley walks leaflet which is being produced by Discover Suffolk and the Parish Councils and which we expect to see published some time in the new year.

The walk starts at the White Horse in Edwardstone. If we can drag ourselves away from the temptations of stopping for refreshment before we've even started, we take the footpath directly opposite the pub.

Today, I was out much too early for a pre-walk pub stop, so I set off down the path which leads round the edge of the playing fields and through the woods. It was a blustery, but dry and bright November day. In the mainly oak woods the trees were still almost entirely in green leaf. With the sun filtering down through them, it could have been a woodland walk in high summer.



I followed the path to the edge of the trees, then right, across a field of young rapeseed plants, hunkering down for the winter. Now there was no doubt that this was a late autumn walk, as sticky mud clung to my boots and I had to skip and hop to avoid the many puddles. The sun, however, managed to keep its head above the fast-moving waves of grey cloud and bounced sparkles off even the muddiest of the puddles.

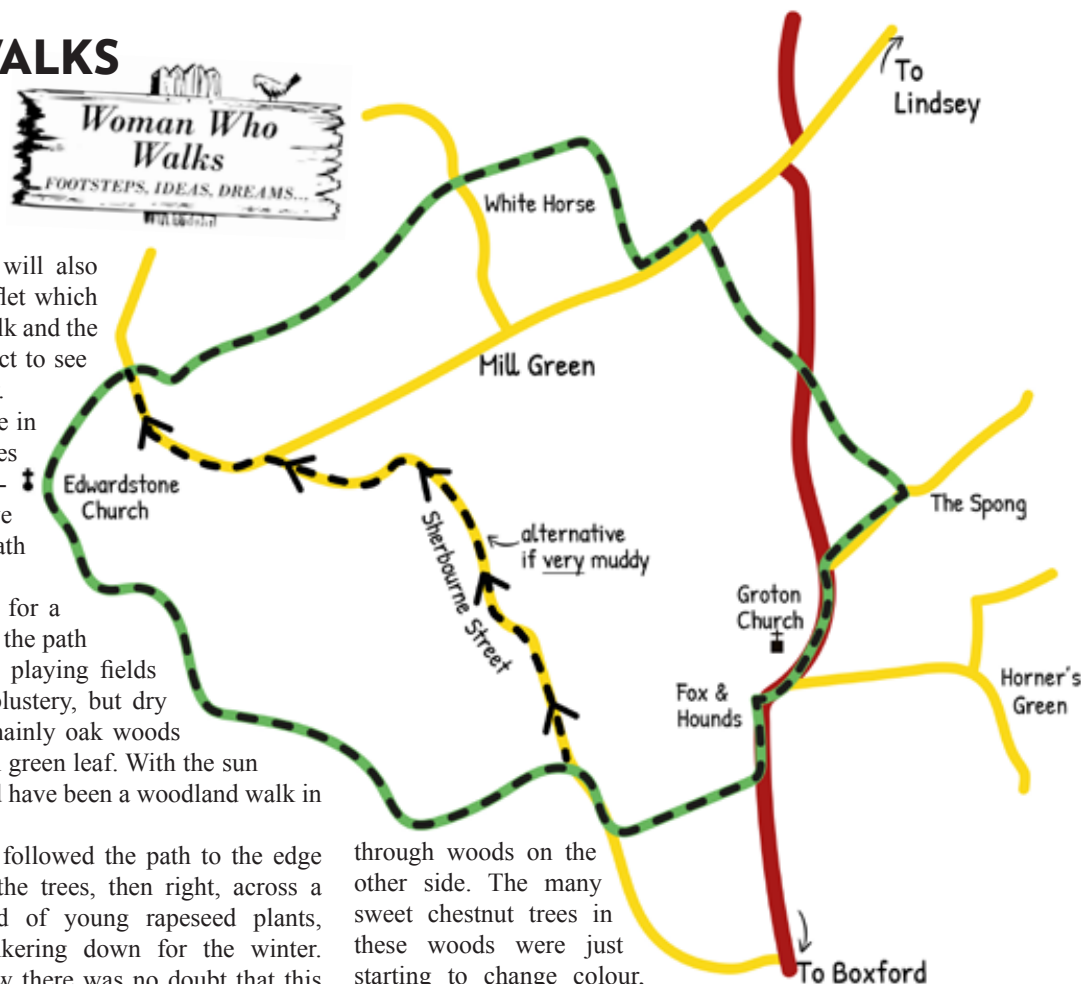
At Mill Green road I turned left then right at the footpath sign. The path leads between a garden fence and a hedge, then across two fields, past a large stand of poplars. They must be about 25m high, reaching up to where the breeze was even stronger. They, too, were still in almost full leaf and it was a lovely place to stand for a moment and just listen. With eyes shut, the sound of the wind blowing through the branches could have been a waterfall.

I crossed the road at the end and squelched through the bushes to where the next path runs along a sloping field next to a stream, meeting the road again at The Spong. Here, I turned right and followed the road up towards Groton Church. St Bartholomew's pale stone tower glowed in soft, autumn light, in defiance of the BBC weather forecasters who had promised me a drenching.

I turned left at the road, followed it past the church and past the Fox and Hounds (another chance for refreshment if you're feeling the need), then on down the hill towards Boxford. I took the footpath on the right, across to Sherbourne Street. A single tree stands in the middle of this field, spiky-looking and entirely leaf-stripped, unlike the woodland trees I had seen earlier. Perhaps it's an example of how trees thrive better when they're surrounded by others, even of different species. (Anyone interested in this idea should read a wonderful book by Peter Wohlleben, called *"The Hidden Life of Trees"* – you'll never see them in the same way again!)

At Sherbourne Street I turned right then left at the footpath across the fields towards Edwardstone Church. Mud and more mud greeted me, but I slithered across without too much difficulty. If it's too muddy, continue on the road and rejoin at the map point I've marked.

The footpath across the fields ends at a farm track, then continues



through woods on the other side. The many sweet chestnut trees in these woods were just starting to change colour, while the oaks stood defiantly green. The path emerges into another field, then left, past a small pond, now beginning to refill after the summer drought.

The next field has a number of very large and ancient oak trees and is guarded on the far side by a line of tall horse chestnuts. Unlike the oaks, these had lost all their leaves and were now skeletal shapes, revealing distant views of the countryside towards Waldingfield, one of the most extensive vistas in the area.

I walked past the church and on to its tree-lined driveway, also now stripped of all its leaves. Here, there is a choice between taking the path leading diagonally across the large meadow, where cows and horses usually graze, or following the driveway down to the road. I chose the grassy path today and emerged on to the road the other side of a stile.

\*Directly opposite (or on your right, if you have walked along the road), is another path, leading through another small wood. At the edge of the wood, there are some steps leading up to the bottom of a sloping field, where the path turns left. This field had recently been ploughed and its dark brown expanse was shining in the sunlight like an uphill sea, with a brilliance that is hard to imagine possible for mud.

I followed the path along the edge of the next two fields, then left at a junction where it meets more trees. This path eventually comes to a small ditch on the left, then leads between two houses and back to the road at Edwardstone. Here, I turned right and arrived back at the starting point outside the White Horse.

If you have reached this far without refreshment, go ahead and treat yourself – you've earned it!

Lisa

[www.womanwhowalks.com](http://www.womanwhowalks.com)

Instagram: [@womanwhowalks](https://www.instagram.com/womanwhowalks)





# PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

## BOXFORD

### Summary of Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Vacancies** – The Parish Council were sorry to accept Cllr Pamela Edward's resignation. She had worked tirelessly since joining the Parish Council particularly as cemetery representative. Please note we now have 3 councillor vacancies. The current Parish Council includes Julian Fincham-Jacques as Chairman, Lisa Wortley (Vice Chairman), David Warren, John Moles, Theresa Munson and Howard Watts. Further applications would be welcomed. Debbie Hattrell continues as Clerk to Council.

**Neighbourhood Planning** – We are delighted to report that the referendum was held and the electors voted conclusively to adopt the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council is grateful to all on the steering group headed by Hugh Phillips and David Burden and their consultant for all their hard work on behalf of the Parish which has made this possible.

**Public Forum** – Around 18 residents observed the Parish Council Meeting and some took the opportunity to speak in the public forum. Some had attended in relation to the planning application at 30 Stone Street. There were no objections overall and it was seen as a welcome improvement, however, some stipulations were considered important relating to a recently opened substandard and unsafe access, the closure of which was previously recommended by Highways in 2019 and also restricting the number of vehicles parking at the proposal. County Cllr J Finch agreed to ask SCC Highways to repeat their recommendation in this respect to the planning authority. It was also reported that in the garden of 30 Stone Street what neighbours described as obscene topiary was on display. This was reported to the Parish Council by email and the clerk was given permission from a neighbouring resident to circulate their complaint regarding this topiary to the full Parish Council. Whilst the Parish Council could not take on the matter, it was agreed to share the information we had gathered of the relevant legal basis for a complaint.

Attention then turned to the structures erected on Box Valley Farm Orchard for fruit growing. A resident explained that 67 acres of farmland would be involved in the AONB. Boxford and Polstead Parish Councils had written expressing concern and asking for a detailed explanation in relation to the requirements for planning permission. A very limited response had been given via our district councillors categorising the structures as temporary. Residents argued loss of cultural and visual amenity, impact on their mental health and loss of habitat for wildlife. The planning authority was considered to be failing in their duty to protect the AONB. It was felt that if a formal planning application was made then a full consultation would result considering matters such as neighbour amenity, the AONB and environmental matters. County Cllr J Finch had listened to concerns and agreed to discuss in his role on the AONB.

A resident then asked what would be happening in relation to the flower bed at the entrance to The Causeway. It was agreed later in the meeting for some further investigation in relation to the tree canopy project. The Sand Hill bus stop had recently been cleared by a volunteer and the village was thankful for this community action. It was noted this should be the responsibility of the County Council and in future it could be reported on the highways reporting tool.

**On-going matters** – The Christmas tree for the churchyard has been reserved by Cllr Munson. Cllr Wortley liaises with the footpath wardens and confirmed the footpath leaflets were with Discover Suffolk for final consideration. The community volunteers continue to research improvements in the village by meeting relevant councillors and officers and reporting back to the Parish

Council. The Parish Council elections will take place next May and it was agreed to take steps to raise awareness in the parish.

**County Council Report** - County Cllr J Finch attended. He reported on a bid by the County Council for investment zones at Lowestoft, Sudbury and Mildenhall. More special educational needs places have been funded. Suffolk Road-safe Partnership are rolling out ANPR devices to target speeding motorists. The speed is displayed encouraging the motorist to slow down and there is follow up for persistent offenders. The autumn exhibition at The Hold has opened. It was noted the ditch by the village hall opposite the cottages was to be cleared by 17<sup>th</sup> November and the traffic survey was to start on 31<sup>st</sup> October. The community volunteers were scheduled to have a walk around with the County Councillor the following week. Of particular concern was clearance of drains and gullies identified in the village audit.

**Finance** - In addition to the usual business, it was agreed to contribute up to £10,000 (subject to budget) towards the coronation celebrations on the understanding that the Community Council who have agreed to organise the event will also attempt to secure funding from other sources. It was also suggested that finance committee should look to reserve around £1500 towards potential improvements to the bus shelter. Our risk management policy was agreed for a further year.

**Cemetery** – It was agreed to contact our tree surgeons for potential dates for the autumn cemetery/churchyard review of trees and circulate to our newly formed cemetery sub committee. The Clerk will also pass on correspondence from residents neighbouring the cemetery and churchyard who were seeking our assistance in reducing tree cover. The Parish Council was pleased to take up the offer from Pamela Edwards to continue to liaise with the contractors regarding refurbishment of the church clock face.

**Planning** – A number of planning applications were discussed, details on which can be found in the full minutes found online. The concerns relating to Box Valley Farm Orchard were noted and a full detailed explanation was still required from the planning authority. It was agreed to write to the planning authority pressing for this and asking them to confirm a deadline for providing this information. Cllr Wortley agreed to provide a draft for this purpose.

Full minutes can be found at:

<https://boxfordsuffolk.com/BoxfordParishCouncil/minutes>

**Debbie Hattrell**

01787 210943 / [d.hattrellhattrell@btinternet.com](mailto:d.hattrellhattrell@btinternet.com)

## LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

### Summary of Council Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

#### Reports from County And District Councillors

*SCC Phillip Faircloth-Mutton.*

Support from Highways will be encouraged to allow communities to best celebrate the King's Coronation in May in a similar way to the support given for this year's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Highlights from the October cabinet meeting were that, through the Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) fund, a new SEND satellite school will be created in South Suffolk which will be particularly beneficial to children in the Babergh area. Furthermore, there will be a brand-new purpose built SEND school at Moreton Hall, in Bury St Edmunds which is due to be completed by September 2024.

*DCC Clive Arthey.*

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property company CIFCO made a £6.7m profit last year and generated £3.7m in net income for the councils to plough back into services.



The tree canopy survey has been published on Babergh's website. Interestingly the Lavenham ward scored lowest out of all the wards in Babergh & Mid Suffolk for tree canopy.

### Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was reviewed and Members agreed the following: -

- a **Village Sign:** Following discussion on various ways to restore/repaint the Village sign it was proposed by Cllr Sheppard that it should be completely renovated and made double sided, this was seconded by Cllr Foster and agreed unanimously.
- b **Footpaths:** The Footpath Working Group would continue to discuss a new grass cutting schedule for 2023.
- c **Speeding:** An application be submitted for the periodic fitting of an ANPR Camera to the Speed Indicator Device on The Street.

### Planning Applications

Members discussed application DC/22/04808 - Erection of a two storey and single storey rear extension - Surprise Cottage, Church Road, Little Waldingfield.

It was agreed unanimously to support the application

### Finances

- a Members reviewed and approved the financial statements and reports presented by the RFO for the period since the last meeting. Full details can be seen in the draft minutes on the Council website.
- b Annual Budget, Reserves & Precept 2023/24. The Clerk presented a comparison of budget figures for the last 2 years and draft figures for the 2023/24 Budget, Reserves & Precept. Following discussions on possible effects of inflation, and some minor adjustments, the figures for draft budget and reserves were agreed. Full details are given at Annex D to the draft minutes on the website. It was further agreed that the Parish Council would not request any increase in the Precept. The final budget will be set at the next meeting

### Highways

- a Members reviewed the last SID data from the Haymarket site which showed that nearly 15% of all vehicles were exceeding 35 mph approaching the bend, some 2000 vehicles in a 10-day period. There followed extensive discussions with the Suffolk County Councillor covering various options to reduce speeding through the village. These included marker gates at the entrances to the village, restricted width priority passing stretches, designating Church Road a 'Quiet Lane, and reducing the overall speed limit to 20mph.
- b The Footpath Working Group presented their annual report which can be seen in Annex E to the draft minutes.

### Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:30pm.

Full minutes can be found at: <https://bit.ly/LW-parish-minutes>

**Chris White** Chair & Acting Clerk

07541 133535 / [clerk.littlewalingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk.littlewalingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk)

## NEWTON GREEN

### Summary of Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

#### 22/170 Councillor Vacancy

No application had been received for the councillor vacancy at NPC.

#### 22/172 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/22/05063 Land At Fairways, The Green** - Erection of 1No Dwelling (following demolition of existing annexe & outbuildings) and they resolved to unanimously object to the planning application

as it did not meet the policies in the Newton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NNDP).....

- b. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/22/05206 Land Rear Of Juglans, Sudbury Road** - Erection of 6No. single storey dwellings, ancillary outbuildings and alterations to existing vehicular access (re-submission of withdrawn application DC/22/03566) and they resolved unanimously to object to the planning application.....
- c. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/22/04938 Lily Fields, Rotten Row** - The use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes and the erection of day room and laying of hardstanding ancillary to that use. The councillors reviewed this application alongside the approval given for the existing pitch in planning application B/12/00706 on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013: Within the permission the following conditions were included:

**4. The occupation of the site hereby permitted shall be carried on only by the following and their resident dependents: Mr and Mrs P. Street.**

**7. When the land ceases to be occupied by those named in Condition 4 of this decision notice the use hereby permitted shall cease and all mobile homes/caravans, structures, hardstanding, domestic paraphernalia, materials and equipment brought on to the land in connection with the use hereby approved, shall be permanently removed. Within 3 months of the cessation of the use, or other agreed timeframe, the land shall be restored to its condition before the use commenced (a grassland paddock).**

From the documents submitted, it is unclear if the proposed pitch is for the occupation by the "resident dependents of Mr and Mrs P. Street" or another family connection.

The councillors have therefore made the following conditional resolutions based on who is planning to occupy the proposed additional pitch:

- If the occupation is not for the "resident dependents of Mr and Mrs P Street" as defined in condition 4 of the planning permission for B/12/00706, then the councillors object to the planning application.
- If the occupation is for the "resident dependents of Mr and Mrs P Street" as defined in condition 4 of the planning permission for B/12/00706, then the councillors support the application subject to clauses 4 and 7 being included in any permission.
- d. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/22/04977 2 Hills Farm Cottages, Sudbury Road** - Application for Listed Building Consent - Mounting of new solar panels on the south east facing roof of the 2008 extension granted under B/08/00406 and the councillors resolved to support the application.

### 22/181 Christmas Lights

The councillors agreed to change the Christmas Lights switch-on on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 4pm.

Full minutes can be found at [www.newton.onesuffolk.net](http://www.newton.onesuffolk.net)

**Dave Crimmin** PS LCC

01787 375085 / [newtonpc2@gmail.com](mailto:newtonpc2@gmail.com)

## OTHER PARISH COUNCILS

### Edwardstone PC

Clerk: Richard Jones - 01473 828246

<http://edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/minutes>

### Groton PC

Clerk: Richard Jones - 01473 828246

<http://groton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/documents/>



## FRENCH'S CARE HAVEN

Hello to our readers, Our quiz night went well and those who came had a good night of fun, food, drink and entertainment, so well done to Sharon who organised it and all our team who helped on the night.

Last time I mentioned that someone had said they would supply us with a kitchen for our first aid, well Sid did not fail to do what he said and what a super job he did, I could not have ask for more, Thank you Sid. We now have a camping gas stove that is kept in a safe place, where we can boil water if needed. Gone are the days of me running up the road knocking on houses for a bucket of hot water, like I have done before when one of our donkeys had an abscess in his foot that I needed to poultice.



At the moment we have a small good team of helpers, one of those ladies is Sarah pictured, who got on with the morning's jobs even though it was flooded, muddy and poured with rain the whole day. That is dedication. If you would like to join our team of happy helpers then please do give me a call, we can never have enough help, as more volunteers mean more TLC time that goes to the animals.

We have our yearly Christmas raffle coming up, tickets are on sale now, contact Sharon on: **07999 051 401** or email: [frenchs100club@gmail.com](mailto:frenchs100club@gmail.com). Tickets are £5 each and we have a mix of super prizes, with our top two prizes being a round of golf for 4 people at The beautiful Stoke by Nayland Golf Club and the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a Spa Day at the resort. They have great bars and restaurants where you can finish the day having some good food. A big thank you goes to Mary who supports our Charity each year and gives us these wonderful prizes. We need the help and support of local businesses and individual people like this, so that we can continue to do what we do best and keep our rescued animals loved and well cared for and give additional help to people who suffer with loneliness or their mental health. If you would like to do something for us or have any ideas then please contact me.

The rugs are back out and on the horses and ponies, now all the rain and low temperatures are here for the winter. In the picture little 34 year old Chrystal is dressed and ready for the winter. I cannot remember a year where they have not had to have them on until November, because it is still warm, it has been crazy. As I sit and write this I am looking out of my upstairs office window into a bird nest full of baby birds, in November! Like a lot of plants and wild life they are confused by the weather.



We are looking for a chap who likes to do a bit of strimming and has a couple of hours spare a week, please call me. Here is hoping for a healthy, happy, prosperous New Year. Sending Best wishes from all of us at French's Care Haven.

**French's is a charity on your doorstep: can you help, either with time, donations, or sponsorship? You are welcome to come along and meet our animals - Call Jann for an appointment on: 07747 755556 or email: [jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk](http://www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk)**

## EBONY'S DIARY

This has been a very short term for us. The building works took away the first half, and the second half has



raced by. We are closing on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, with only the lovely Carol Service to come on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. That is when riders and their supporters from home join the Shelley team to celebrate the birth of that amazing human, Jesus. All the live ponies will be represented, and the Shetlands usually play a part in the tableau. Babs and I can listen in with ears forward. (Well, Babs has no ears, poor thing.)



The finishing touches to the extension should take place over the holidays. Feedback from all the workers is positive, the new space works well. They are all grateful to Lyn for overseeing the plans, and to our wonderful benefactor who made this possible. The committee is deciding about naming the space after him, but I'm not telling tales right now!

We had a great Christmas Hamper raffled in November but the winner won't be announced before my copy has to be filed! I'll tell you in January.

There are so many good causes to be supported at this time of year that nobody can attend to them all. We at Shelley are so grateful for the help we do get, I'll say a big thank you now on behalf of all the horses and their riders.

May this Christmas be a lovely one for you, even whilst you are struggling with war and recession-induced constraints. We all send our kindest best wishes and hopes for peace, goodwill to all, and many blessings.

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## BOXFORD BOWLS CLUB

Boxford and District Bowls Club will celebrate their Centenary next year and have chosen to update the Club logo and design new Club shirts. It is important to Boxford Bowls Club that members of the village community be involved in the new design and Year 5 pupils at Boxford Primary School were asked to help with a design for the Club logo. The pupils made a visit to the bowls club in the summer for an afternoon of bowling after which 29 designs were submitted. After careful consideration, 2 designs were chosen.



The winners, Leanei del la Rey and Edward Bates were both awarded £25.00 WHSmith vouchers and a £50.00 WHSmith voucher presented to Head Teacher, Emma Lea for school equipment. The presentation was made at the school by the Bowls Club President, George Bullett and Colleen Newsum, Centenary Committee member.

All the children's designs have been used to make 'bunting' which will be used to decorate the clubhouse for all centenary celebrations and can be seen by everyone when the bowls season opens next April.

## SBN CAPTAIN'S DRIVE IN

Stoke by Nayland ladies had their 2022 AGM followed on by new Ladies' Captain Corinne Jackson's "Drive In" on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November after a celebratory drink in the bar. The ladies gathered to watch Corinne hit her first drive of her captaincy. Fortunately the ball went straight down the middle to much applause and cheers.

The ladies then played a 9-hole Greensomes Competition on the Gainsborough course before meeting back at the club house for Corinne's first prize-giving as Ladies' Captain.



*New Ladies Captain Corinne Jackson, getting ready to Drive In*

1st.	Fran Chandler and Anne Hemmings	22pts OCB
2nd.	Pamela Randall and Angie Cudmore	22pts OCB
3rd.	Jill Pottle and Elaine Harris	22pts OCB

## SBN SENIORS' SECTION

The Stoke-by Nayland Seniors' Section held their monthly stableford and Seniors' Captain drive-in on Monday November 7<sup>th</sup> and we welcomed our 2023 captain, Malcolm Norton.

The competition was won by Trevor Waterhouse in Division 1 with an impressive 39 points. Division 2 winner, with an equally impressive 42 points was Kevin Price.

Malcolm's chosen charity for the year will be the East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

Full scores:

### Div 1

Trevor Waterhouse	39
Ian Mckay	39
Andy Cracknell	38

### Div 2

Kevin Price	42
Pete Robins	37
Terry Mitchell	36



*L to R: Pete Robins (Outgoing Captain), Malcolm Norton (Captain 2023), John Parkinson (VC 2023).*

Earlier in the Month, outgoing captain, Pete Robins, had been able to make a donation to the Brain Tumour Charity of £6,538, being the monies raised during his captain's year 2022.



*Pete Robins, outgoing captain presenting his cheque to Liam Macinder of the Brain Tumour Charity.*



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# The Blooming Garden

## Immortal Yews.

This year, an ancient yew, the Waverley Abbey yew, has been nominated as Tree of the Year by the Woodland Trust. Waverley Abbey in Surrey was founded in 1128; it was the first Cistercian monastery in Britain. The gnarled old tree has tangled roots sprawling over the ruins of the old Abbey building and a huge domed canopy; it is an amazing sight. But very old yews are not rare in the UK; The Ancient Yew Group has identified 978 ancient or veteran yews, they are all more than 500 years old and many of them are extremely ancient. The oldest of all, the Fortingall Yew in Perthshire, is supposed to be somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 years old. Some estimates have dated it as more than 5000 years old which means it predates Stonehenge. It is the oldest yew in Europe, in fact it might be one of the oldest living things on Earth. Dating yews is notoriously difficult as they become hollow with age so you cannot count the rings. Age is usually estimated by the girth. The yew is known as the tree of immortality because of its ability to regenerate itself. The hollow inside fills up with foliage and matter to create rich compost in which over the centuries aerial roots can grow down and eventually become new trunks. It is a great pity that many ancient yews have had their hollow centres filled up with cement in a misguided attempt to preserve them.

*Taxus baccata* is one of only three British native conifers. It has always been part of the British landscape. Fossil remains show that it is at least 15 million years old. *Homo sapiens* has only been around for a blink of the eye compared to that. The world's oldest surviving wooden artefact is a 250,000-year old spear found at Clacton, so yew has clearly always been appreciated for its qualities. Long bows made of yew were used by English archers at the Battle of Agincourt. Apart from its practical uses, Pre-Christian religions venerated the yew and it was planted in sacred groves and holy places. As Christians took over many of these sites you often find very old yews in churchyards.

Suffolk does not have the ideal conditions for yews, but nevertheless we have one or two very old ones. There is a magnificent one in the churchyard at Preston, it is more than 800 years old and predates the 14<sup>th</sup> century church. I find it sobering to look at a tree like



Above & right: Yew topiary at Levens Hall in Cumbria

this and imagine that it was there when Genghis Kahn and his Mongol hordes were sweeping across Eurasia. Other old yews in Suffolk are at Coddtenham, Ickworth Park and Christchurch Park in Ipswich. In Norfolk, Blickling Hall has an amazing yew hedge.

Yew makes wonderful topiary. Levens Hall in Cumbria has the world's oldest topiary garden. It dates back to the 1690s and still looks wonderful. Closer to home, Borley Churchyard has beautiful clipped topiary. Yew makes a wonderful hedge and is quicker growing than many people realise. Years ago, I had a lovely yew hedge and I used to get paid for the clippings which were made into a drug for cancer treatment. Nowadays, I believe taxol is made synthetically. All parts of the yew are poisonous apart from the 'aril' or berry flesh. Birds eat the berries and excrete the poisonous stone without suffering any ill effects but we couldn't get away with that. In Macbeth, '*slips of yew, silvered in the moon's eclipse*' are part of the witches brew.

Many myths have arisen about yew, one of them is that yew trees give off hallucinogenic vapours and standing under a yew will cause strange dreams. I haven't tried out the veracity of this. In the past it was thought that yew trees draw up poisonous vapours from graves. It was even believed by some that 'Yggdrasil' the sacred Tree of Life in Norse mythology was actually a yew, rather than an ash.

Whatever the myths, ancient yews are fascinating and beautiful trees. There is an upright form of *Taxus baccata* called *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigata' or Irish Yew. Every one of these dates from a mutant form of *Taxus baccata* found in County Fermanagh in 1780. These trees look good as long as you can keep them growing nicely upright. With age they can suffer from middle-age spread. In any case, nothing can compare with the mystery and beauty of a centuries-old English Yew.

*Chloris.*



The yew tree in Preston Churchyard



Beautiful clipped topiary at Borley Churchyard



Irish yew *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigata'



# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

## CLUBS & GROUPS

Boxford Bellringers	Richard Gates	<b>01787 210432</b>
Boxford Bible Study Group	Peter & Margaret	<b>01787 211077</b>
Boxford Bike Club	Matthew Shinn	<b>01787 211296</b> <a href="http://www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk">www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk</a>
Boxford Bowls Club	Lea Blackham	<b>01787 210313</b>
Boxford Carpet Bowls	Brian Porter	<b>01473 824283</b>
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Macmillan	<b>07779 303690</b> <a href="mailto:janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk">janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Boxford Gardens Open	Sarah Williams	<b>07879 997640</b> <a href="mailto:sarah.williams@rmcurtis.co.uk">sarah.williams@rmcurtis.co.uk</a>
Boxford Gardening Society	Elizabeth Wagener	<b>01787 210223</b> <a href="mailto:elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com">elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com</a>
Boxford Literary Group	David Jones	<b>01787 211104</b> <a href="mailto:audav@hotmail.co.uk">audav@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Boxford Rovers FC	Melvyn Eke	<b>07873 971701</b> <a href="mailto:m.eke@btinternet.com">m.eke@btinternet.com</a>
Boxford Tennis Social	Sue Moore	<b>07808 481447</b>
Boxford WI	Annie Philips	<b>01787 211729</b>
Edwardstone Cricket Club	Tom Whymark	<b>01787 211375</b>
Fleece Jazz	David Gasson	<b>01787 210796</b>
Little Waldingfield History Society	Diana Langford	<b>01787 248298</b> <a href="mailto:dianalangford765@gmail.com">dianalangford765@gmail.com</a>
Local History Recorder Edwardstone	Daphne Clark	<b>01787 210698</b> <a href="mailto:daphne.clark@btopenworld.com">daphne.clark@btopenworld.com</a>
Local History Recorder Groton	Joanna Roberts	<b>01787 210619</b> <a href="mailto:jgant87618@aol.com">jgant87618@aol.com</a>
Madrigalia Choir	Sue Price	<b>01787 210913</b>
Miss Lesley School of Performing Arts (MLSPA)	Miss Lesley	<b>07957 351941</b> <a href="mailto:lesley.mlspa@gmail.com">lesley.mlspa@gmail.com</a>
Milden Cricket Club	Andrew Simmons	<b>07951 055643</b>
Milden Singers	Pearl	<b>01449 741876</b>
Newton Art Club	Carol Langley	<b>01787 373548</b>
Newton Line Dancing	Jean Tomkins	<b>01787 377343</b> <a href="mailto:JT.Steppers@talktalk.net">JT.Steppers@talktalk.net</a>
Newton War Games Club	Brian Lawson	<b>01787 312160</b>
Newton Fireside Club	Moir Evans	<b>01787 374652</b>
Swing jive & Lindy Hop Dance	Sarah Boldock	<b>07956 614824</b>
Yoga	Marianne Marshall	<b>01787 210323</b>

## SCOUTING

1st Boxford Beaver Scouts	Greg Roberts	<b>07578 825971</b> <a href="mailto:beaversboxford@gmail.com">beaversboxford@gmail.com</a>
1st Boxford Cub Scouts	Liv Hoy	<b>07801 548854</b> <a href="mailto:livkarine@hotmail.com">livkarine@hotmail.com</a>
1st Boxford Scouts	Neil Barkham	<b>01787 211916</b>
1st Boxford Rainbows	Janice Macmillan	<b>07779 303690</b>
1st Boxford Brownies	Janice Macmillan	<b>07779 303690</b> <a href="mailto:janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk">janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk</a>
1st Boxford Guides	Bethany Ireland	<a href="mailto:bethanyireland11@gmail.com">bethanyireland11@gmail.com</a>

## CHILDREN FAMILIES & LEARNING

Boxford Primary School		<b>01787 210332</b> <a href="mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk">office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk</a> <a href="http://www.boxford-suffolk.secure-dbprimary.com">www.boxford-suffolk.secure-dbprimary.com</a>
Friends of Boxford School (FoBS)		<a href="mailto:talktofobs@gmail.com">talktofobs@gmail.com</a>
Sunflowers Childcare	Moir Grant	<b>01787 211363</b> <a href="mailto:info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk">info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk</a>
Boxford Baby & Toddler Group		<a href="https://facebook.com/Boxfordbabyandtoddlergroup">facebook.com/Boxfordbabyandtoddlergroup</a>

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

3PR Boxford 1st Responders	Rich Wild	<b>01787 210946</b> <a href="mailto:office@boxfordresponders.com">office@boxfordresponders.com</a>
Boxford Allotments	Karen Coleman	<b>07970 945646</b>
Boxford Bounty	Mark Miller	<b>01787 211596</b>
Boxford Community Car Scheme	Jen Eastwood	<b>01787 211853</b> <a href="mailto:jen.eastwood8@gmail.com">jen.eastwood8@gmail.com</a>
Boxford Community Council	Ward Baker	<b>01787 210129</b> <a href="mailto:boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com">boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.boxford.me.uk">www.boxford.me.uk</a>
Boxford Playing Fields	David Burden	<b>01787 211926</b> <a href="mailto:d.burden379@btinternet.com">d.burden379@btinternet.com</a>
Boxford Society	Jen Eastwood	<b>01787 211853</b> <a href="mailto:jen.eastwood8@gmail.com">jen.eastwood8@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety">boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety</a>
Boxford Tennis Courts	Yvonne Woodfield	<b>01787 210151</b>
Ltl Waldingfield Playingfield	Jennie Jordan	<b>07522 352558</b> <a href="mailto:52Jennie1@gmail.com">52Jennie1@gmail.com</a>

## CHARITIES

Boxford & Groton United Charities	Guy Godfrey	<b>01787 211378</b>
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Claire Mortimer	<b>01787 210051</b>
Edwardstone United Charities	Nick Raymond	<b>01787 210461</b> <a href="mailto:ncraymond@hotmail.co.uk">ncraymond@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Groton Educational Foundation	Stephen Watkins	<b>01787 210977</b> <a href="mailto:stephen_watkins49@yahoo.co.uk">stephen_watkins49@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust	James Wills	<b>01787 210484</b>
Little Waldingfield Charities	Mary Thorogood	<b>01787 247658</b>
Newton Green Trust	Philip Taylor	<b>01787 211265</b> <a href="mailto:philiptaylor433@gmail.com">philiptaylor433@gmail.com</a>

## HALLS & FACILITIES TO HIRE

Boxford Pavilion	Hugh Philips	<b>01787 211729</b> <a href="mailto:hughvcphillips@hotmail.com">hughvcphillips@hotmail.com</a>
Boxford Spinney	Mark Miller	<b>01787 211596</b> <a href="mailto:mark.miller@talktalk.net">mark.miller@talktalk.net</a> <a href="http://www.boxfordspinney.co.uk">www.boxfordspinney.co.uk</a>
Boxford Village Hall	Jane Elliott	<b>07721 880521</b> <a href="mailto:BVHbookhall@gmail.com">BVHbookhall@gmail.com</a>
Edwardstone Parish Hall	Daphne Clark	<b>01787 210698</b> <a href="mailto:daphne.clark@btopenworld.com">daphne.clark@btopenworld.com</a>
Edwardstone Millennium Green	Gordon	<b>01787 211605</b>
Groton Village Hall	Joanna Roberts	<b>01787 210619</b>
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	Sue Bowen	<b>01787 249473</b> <a href="mailto:sd.bowen@btopenworld.com">sd.bowen@btopenworld.com</a>
Little Waldingfield Pavilion	Jennie Jordan	<b>07522 352558</b> <a href="mailto:52Jennie1@gmail.com">52Jennie1@gmail.com</a>
Marquee Booking		<a href="mailto:BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com">BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com</a>
Milden Pavilion	Pearl	<b>01449 741876</b> <a href="mailto:info@mildenpavilion.co.uk">info@mildenpavilion.co.uk</a>
Newton Village Hall	Alan Vince	<b>01787 373963</b>

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# EVENTS CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2022

<b>26</b> SAT	<b>Shelley Christmas Bingo</b> Hadleigh United Football Club, IP7 5NF	7pm
<b>26</b> SAT	<b>Film Matinee - Sing 2</b> Polstead Village Hall	2pm
<b>29</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Art Club Demo</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm
<b>30</b> WED	<b>BDG Panto - The Christmas Soldier</b> Boxford Village Hall	TBC

## DECEMBER 2022

<b>1-3</b> THU-SAT	<b>BDG Panto - The Christmas Soldier</b> Boxford Village Hall	TBC
<b>2</b> FRI	<b>FOBs Christmas Fayre</b> Boxford School Hall	3:15 - 5pm
<b>3</b> SAT	<b>Cinema - Downton Abbey - A New Era</b> Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
<b>3</b> SAT	<b>Cheese &amp; Wine Party</b> Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>3</b> SAT	<b>Wine Tasting Evening</b> Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
<b>4</b> SUN	<b>Polstead Christmas Fair</b> Polstead Village Hall	10-3pm
<b>4</b> SUN	<b>Light Up Newton</b> Newton Green	4pm
<b>5</b> MON	<b>Carols Round The Tree</b> Outside The White Hart, Boxford	8pm
<b>8</b> THU	<b>The Nutcracker &amp; The Mouse King</b> St Mary's Church, Chilton Industrial Estate	7pm
<b>9</b> FRI	<b>Festive Drinks &amp; Nibbles</b> St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield	7-9pm
<b>9</b> FRI	<b>Christmas Concerto</b> St Mary's, Boxford	7:30pm
<b>9</b> FRI	<b>Madrigalia &amp; A Melody of Harps</b> The Hive, Sudbury	7:30pm
<b>10</b> SAT	<b>Coffee Morning with Festive Stalls</b> All Saints, Newton	10-11:30
<b>10</b> SAT	<b>Lego Competition</b> Leavenheath Village Hall	10-Noon
<b>10</b> SAT	<b>FOBs Santa Run</b> Boxford, Edwardstone & Groton	From 3pm
<b>10</b> SAT	<b>Madrigalia &amp; A Melody of Harps</b> Lawshall Church	7:30pm
<b>11</b> SUN	<b>Boxford Festive Fayre and Market</b> Boxford Village Hall	10:00-1:00
<b>11</b> SUN	<b>Christmas Tree Festival &amp; Santa's Grotto</b> St Mary's Church	10:00-3:30
<b>13</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Christmas Decorations</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm
<b>14</b> WED	<b>Progressive Whist Drive</b> Monks Eleigh Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>16</b> FRI	<b>Fireside Club - Christmas Lunch</b> Newton Green Golf Club	2pm
<b>16</b> FRI	<b>Film Night - The Railway Children Return</b> Polstead Village Hall	7pm
<b>16</b> FRI	<b>Pop-Up Pub</b> Boxford Village Hall	6-11pm

<b>18</b> SUN	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b> St Mary's, Boxford	5pm
<b>19</b> MON	<b>Children's Christmas Disco</b> Boxford Village Hall	5:30-7:30pm
<b>20</b> TUE	<b>Madrigalia Carols Round The Chip Van</b> Swan Street, Boxford	6.30pm
<b>22</b> THU	<b>Madrigalia Christmas Carol Concert</b> Borley Church	7pm
<b>23</b> FRI	<b>Pop-Up Pub</b> Boxford Village Hall	6-11pm
<b>25</b> SAT	<b>Community Christmas Lunch</b> Boxford Village Hall	1-3pm
<b>30</b> FRI	<b>Pop-Up Pub</b> Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30-10:30
<b>31</b> SAT	<b>New Year's Eve Pop-Up Pub &amp; Disco</b> Boxford Village Hall	8pm-1am

## JANUARY 2023

<b>4</b> WED	<b>WI - Game of Call My Bluff</b> Boxford Village Hall	2pm
<b>21</b> SAT	<b>Milden History Afternoon</b> Milden Pavilion	2-6pm

The BRN would like wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! A huge, huge thank you also to all our contributors and distributors, without which the BRN couldn't exist.

*Merry Christmas!*



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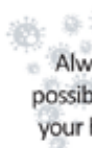


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Damp spores can affect the immune system.

Always treat any mould and damp you discover as early as possible. It will ultimately save you money and reduce the time your health is subjected to the detrimental effects it can have.



Give your property a fresh look, while at the same time improving the thermal resistance of your exterior walls and benefit by saving up to 30% of the heat lost through your walls and stop penetrating damp.

**FREEPHONE**  
**0800 978 8313**  
[www.mydamp.co.uk](http://www.mydamp.co.uk)



*Making Homes Safe & Warm*







# nexus

## ENERGY

## Wood Pellets

- Sustainably sourced
- 100% made in the UK
- sustainably sourced FSC certified virgin softwood
- Biodegradable
- Dust extracted
- Perfect for animal bedding, cat litter & burning




## Kiln Dried Logs

- Guaranteed low moisture content (avg 15%)
- Lights easier, burns cleaner
- Reduced tarring and maximises heat output



 [info@nexusenergyuk.com](mailto:info@nexusenergyuk.com)

 [www.nexusenergyuk.com](http://www.nexusenergyuk.com)

 **0800 689 3029**

 **07767 615 580**