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POST OFFICE - USE IT OR LOSE IT!

With all the banks closing local branches and rural post offices shutting down, with areas being served by occasional mobile post offices on an infrequent basis, here is an update on the services you can access



in Boxford and use to keep your post office in the village

Banking - Pay money in using your debit card, pay in cheques or convert old notes and £1 coins you might find in old purses or coats! Withdraw cash up to your daily limit - large or small amounts are no problem! Send funds abroad to friends/family with Moneygram.

Travel Money - Boxford PO is a Euro and Dollar on-demand branch - both are always in stock, and it's a great gift idea too! For all other currencies if you order by 2pm they will be delivered the next morning/working day. We also supply travel money cards which can be loaded and/or topped up with whichever currency you require

Postage - Both Royal Mail and Parcelforce collect daily Monday to Saturday. Special delivery and Express 24 will get your important items there next day, even in the Christmas rush.

Also consider 'Signed For' which ensures important items like passports, driving licences, tax returns etc are delivered to those organisations less likely to admit they've received something!

Special stamps and presentation packs are always on sale, which are another lovely gift idea. Current ones are the fabulous Christmas stamps and Shirley Bassey packs.

Online sales - packages for eBay, Vinted etc are accepted so you get your proof of posting. eBay in particular are very often incorrect on postage prices so if unsure please come in and we can weigh and price correctly so you don't end up losing out. Up-to-date price lists and Christmas last posting dates are here to put on your pinboard and/or by your devices.

Returns and prepaid mail are all accepted here. *Please do not use the 'collect at home' option - you will lose your post office!* Postal workers don't like them and the majority fail and have to be brought to the post office anyway. You can also ask for items to be sent here for local collection for your convenience if you have missed a delivery.

Amazon - Boxford is an Amazon hub - all the types of Amazon returns can be processed here. Again you can choose the convenient collect option and have items delivered here to avoid missing items or for those gifts you don't want others at home to see. (With Amazon and all other returns needing to show a QR code, a handy tip is to download your QR code at home and take a screenshot of it so you can locate it easily when here and save frustration!)

Gift cards - Both 'One For All' and Amazon cards are sold here in your chosen denominations. Both can also be used online (for the youngsters in your household) and in retailers.

Services - Bill payments, mobile phone top-up vouchers, utility cards and keys can be topped up, car tax and Statutory off-road notifications, apply for driving licences and replace lost vehicle registration documents. All the services DVLA won't let you do online and more!

Supporting locally - Boxford Christmas cards and calendars are on sale here as are the Boxford Drama Group pantomime tickets with card payments accepted. We sell St Mary's Church items - mugs, bags etc for gift ideas - the shop also has a wide range of Boxford-branded items to complement these.

All surveys and events will always have their collection boxes located and their tickets available to purchase as this is very much a village hub.

Cash floats can be provided with a list of requirements and by withdrawing on your debit card (not swapping for notes please)

New services are due including Evri and DPD - Boxford is on the list for the next roll-out and Tracked 24 and 48 services should also be able to be purchased here from January onwards.

All new services will be uploaded as soon as confirmed onto the local Boxford and surrounding villages' Facebook pages or check my own: Richard Haining. Please send me any questions, as your local Postmaster I'm always happy to help!

SAND HILL APPEAL HEARING

Tuesday 12 December 2023

Readers will recall the report in the September BRN (page 5) that the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') had determined that the appeal by Catesby Development Land Ltd against Babergh's refusal of planning permission for up to 64 houses on land east of Sand Hill should be decided after an informal 'hearing', rather than on the basis of written representations, as Catesby had sought. A date has now been set for the hearing, Tuesday 12 December in the Boxford Spinney Scout Hut, Fen Street CO10 5HL, starting at **10am.** Those who have made representations about the scheme, other interested parties, and the owners/occupiers of houses in Station Field, Cox Hill, and on the Running Waters estate, should have received a letter from Babergh dated 8 November giving these details, and saying that they may attend the Hearing and "at the inspector's discretion, give your views." However it is a public hearing and anyone may attend, whether or not they received the letter.



Unless there is a late change, the inspector nominated to hold the hearing is J Sargent BA(Hons) MA MRTPI. The hearing is likely to last all day, with the inspector carrying out a site visit—which, in this case, will obviously include the road network in the village—the following day.

The appeal will be decided on planning issues, in particular compatibility of the scheme with the Local Plan (which now includes the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan) and its highways/traffic impact on the village.

It's been a long and exhausting road to get to where we now are, so, even if you don't wish to speak, please attend to show your support for your parish council, who will be making a strong case for the appeal to be dismissed.

David Lamming

Box River News

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Telephone: 01787 210946
email: editor@boxrivernews.com

www.facebook.com/BoxRiverNews
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Deadline date for the January 2024 Issue is:

December 15th at midday

CITIZENS ADVICE

I do most of my shopping online. I am always on the lookout for a bargain, especially with the festive season coming up but I'm worried about scammers. What should I look for, to avoid getting caught out?



You're not alone. Lots of people do their shopping online these days -it's convenient and can save you time. However, as more and more of us move online, so are the scammers, with their tactics becoming more sophisticated all the time.

While scams can be tricky to recognise there are always things you can look out for and steps you can take to protect yourself from falling foul to a scammer.

The golden rule to remember is that if it seems too good to be true then it very probably is. This goes for products which are 'musthaves', are sold out at major retailers, or are heavily discounted.

If you're buying from a site you haven't used before, do some research before hitting 'buy'. Find the company's return and refund policies so you know your rights if something goes wrong with your purchase. 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.

Also take some time to see what other people have said about the website. Start with an internet search and look at different review websites, don't rely on reviews the company has put on its own website.

Be very wary of people contacting you out of the blue on social media or via text and email offering an item for sale or deal on something. Scammers will often ask you to pay in unusual ways or put you under pressure to buy very quickly. For example, they'll ask you to send money through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union or pay via vouchers.

If you do fall victim to a scam, firstly don't feel embarrassed or ashamed. Scammers are very clever and regularly adapt their methods, making them harder to spot. Anyone can get scammed, even people experienced in online buying and selling.

Secondly, please do report it - it alerts authorities to scammers' techniques and focus areas and reporting helps prevent others from being taken advantage of. You can report a scam to Citizens Advice:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/reporting-a-scam or Action Fraud:

www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime

If you've transferred money in the last 24 hours contact the police via the non-emergency number 101, however if you feel unsafe use 999. Also contact your bank to let them know you've transferred money - you should still do this even if 24 hours have passed.

You can find out more about your rights via the Citizens Advice consumer advice pages www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or by contacting our Consumer Helpline if you need more help. Tel 0808 223 1133 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

For information and advice on this or anything else, visit 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 or by using the contact facility on our website, www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact

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

EDWARDSTONE CHRISTMAS FAIR 2023

The residents of Edwardstone and the surrounding villages along with stallholders from much farther afield - battled horrible weather conditions to support the return of the Christmas Fair this year. We are so incredibly grateful to you all!



Along with some generous donations from Chapman Stickels and Wolsey Probate, many thanks also go to County Broadband for their invaluable assistance and to Alan Leeder for his headline prize!

Against all the odds, it was a fantastic occasion - everyone had fun, the stallholders did great business and who doesn't love seeing someone wandering around, dressed as a turkey?!

We raised over £3K towards the upkeep of the church and also for our chosen charity, SESAW.

We hope this might be the first of more annual events so watch this space.

Christmas really did start here!





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BOXFORD CALENDAR 2024

The St Mary's 2024 Church calendar is now for sale in Boxford Post Office priced at £8.50 or 2 for £16 - so why not buy one for yourself and one for a friend or family member?

All proceeds from the sale of the calendars are donated towards the substantial amounts required to upkeep St Mary's Church.



BOXFORD CHRISTMAS CARD

This is the new 2023 Boxford Christmas card which is priced £4.50 for a pack of 10. This year the profits from the sale of each pack will be donated to 'Boxford Friendship Group'.

Now on sale in Boxford Post Office.



INFORMAL RAINWATER COLLECTION SURVEY

The purpose of these questions is to see if there is enough interest locally to try to obtain the best discount possible for residents in the village (and maybe surrounding villages), to enable them to make use at a later time of the occasionally abundant rain we receive.

Please send your answers to theresa_munson@hotmail.com

- Do you have any rainwater butts or tanks on your house?
- If yes, what do you use the stored water for? (watering plants, washing cars, etc)
- If no, would you be interested in having some:
 - a) water butts?
 - b) larger above ground storage tanks?
 - c) underground storage tanks with pumps, filters, etc?
- Or, if no, is the cost of installing these preventing you from installing them?

Looking forward to hearing from you. *Theresa Munson* 07786 448361

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Wide selection of drinks from independent UK producers Craft beers, real ales, ciders, wines & spirits. On-site microbrewery - Little Earth Project Takeaway draught & bottle list

November Break

We will be closed for 2 weeks for a much deserved break from Nov 15th. Reopening Wed, Nov 29th at 12pm!

Acoustic Jam Night

Wednesday, November 8 from 6:30pm Join in or sit back & enjoy with a pint

Sourdough Pizzas & Boards & Bites

Pizzas: Serving Thurs 5-8pm, Fri & Sat 12-8, Sun 12-4 Boards: Wed-Sun 12-8, Sun 12-4

Festive Hours

Please check our website/social pages. Open Christmas Day 12-2 drinks only!

Food Truck Pop Ups

Occasional Fridays or Saturdays Please check our socials for updates!

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Book via our website! Available to book up to March 2024!

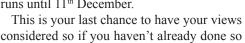
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EDWARDSTONE NP CONSULTATION

Thank you to everyone who made it to our exhibition on November 6th, we hope that you found it useful and informative.

The formal consultation on the policies that will affect Edwardstone from now until 2037 runs until 11th December.



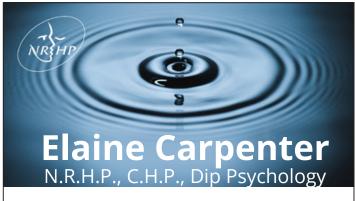
please complete our response form. These are available in Boxford Post Office and the Edwardstone White Horse, where there are also copies of the plan that you can study.

The plan, associated documents and the response form can also be downloaded from http://edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/edwardstone-neighbourhood-plan

Following the consultation the steering group will look at the comments received before producing a final version of the plan. This will then be passed to Babergh District Council who will hold a referendum in 2024 for Edwardstone residents to vote on whether or not they want the plan to be adopted as part of the planning process.

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE IN KERSEY

The Nightingale Trust has 2 allotment plots available for rent - 1 full plot, 1 half plot. Have you ever wanted to grow your own tasty, fresh vegetables, fruit, flowers etc.? Now is your chance. The allotments are situated behind The Bell, within beautiful and peaceful countryside. The rent is £35 for a full plot, £25 for a half plot - cheaper than a gym membership and better for you!! For more information, please contact Natalie Blyth - 01473 827805 - 07487 816966 - nablyth1@gmail.com



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BRIAN TORA'S SOAP BOX

This column was renamed Soap Box after a village friend complained that the articles I wrote were more to do with financial markets and the wider economy and had only limited relevance for local residents. I took his criticism on board, even though I felt most people did not realise how they could be affected by market movements. To be fair, I had been a writer on financial matters for many years, so what was more natural to me to continue this line of approach when I was asked by Eddie Kench to provide an article each month. As I was then contributing to both national and regional newspapers, it was easy to distill what I had written elsewhere into the BRN column.

My neighbour's concerns were quite valid. And it was good for me, too. My output broadened to cover all manner of issues – and quite a lot of personal matters as well. Indeed, a journalist friend once remarked that my piece for this esteemed publication was worthy for syndication – that is, for distribution amongst other publications, for a fee – praise indeed. But my view has been – and remains – that this is a personal message to those of us who are fortunate enough to live in this much blessed part of the world.

The trouble is that I do not know what the readers think of my meanderings through the wide range of subjects that catch my attention each month. Recently I castigated the BBC for their approach to local broadcasting, with which I have been closely involved for more than three decades. So far I am not aware that anyone has responded to my concerns. Other, admittedly mild, rants have similarly failed to fill the letters pages of this publication with comment, be it for or against the stance I have taken. Perhaps you don't read what I write, but I would like to know if you do.

The *Box River News* is fortunate in having some excellent contributors. I would like to pay particular tribute to the Butcher's Wife, who never fails to both amuse and inform in her most readable pieces. Of course, she is writing about something which we can (most of us anyway) relate to. Bringing up and feeding a family. Perhaps, as I approach my dotage, I am too divorced from these circumstances. But only you, dear reader, can tell me this. I would like to get just a little feedback that what I contribute is appreciated, though.

In August I wrote my final piece for the *East Anglian Daily Times*. A month later the last article I had written for a magazine was published. My final broadcast for the BBC was even earlier, so I now feel properly retired. Well, I did start proper gainful employment more than 60 years ago, so feel I am due some slack on the treadmill of work. Whether this should extend to contributing to this most useful publication is, in the end, due to you, dear reader.

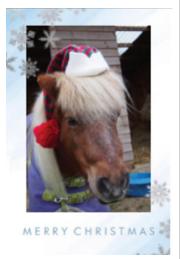
Commercial publications often employ highly paid research agencies that run all manner of complex and inscrutable focus group activities to determine whether their contributors are appreciated. I have usually fared well under their scrutiny, but such high-end evaluation is perhaps not quite so appropriate for a community newsletter such as the one you hold in your hands.

An equivalence though would be a deafening silence in the readers' letters to tell me all I need to know. In the meantime, I hope you have gained at least a little benefit from my thoughts on the world in general. If, instead of this most personal rant, I had decided to single out an appropriate Soap Box topic for this edition, I suspect it would have been the decision to rename St Peter's in Sudbury as the Sudbury Arts Centre. Let's face it, those of us who have grown up around here will only ever think of this iconic market place church as St Peter's. Might the renaming of St Peter's to "Sudbury Arts" promote the town? You will doubtless have your own opinions. Enough said.

Brian Tora

FRENCH'S CARE HAVEN

Hello to our readers, I hope as always you have all been keeping well. The festive season is fast approaching and our Christmas raffle starts on 1st December with some wonderful prizes including spa days, Jimmy's farm visit and Easton Farm Park to name a few. Please go to our Facebook page or website for more details or to buy your raffle tickets contact Sharon on: 07999 051 401 or email frenchs.100club@ gmail.com the draw will take place later in the month around Christmas.



We have a new event coming up on 1st February so look out for further information in next month's magazine edition as well as on our Facebook/website. We are holding a singles/speed dating evening at The Stoke by Nayland Resort. This will be for people aged from around their 40s to late 60s. We are going for this as there are many people out there in these age brackets who are single, can get lonely and I am sure would like someone to date or spend time with, so here is your chance to go out for an evening, have a nice night meeting people and who knows what future happiness it will bring.

I would like to say thank you to Rebecca for organising a yoga evening to raise some money for us, everyone enjoyed your class. Thank you to Colchester Institute for letting us have wood shavings from their workshops, which we use for the laminities shelters. Shavings are not cheap, so this donation that Sharon goes and picks up from them is very much appreciated and a great help to



Our photos this month: Lucy in her winter overalls at the farm, thinking she is helping with the straw and Lady our Shetland wishing you all a merry Christmas.

I would like to thank Boxford Friendship group for inviting me to do a talk for them along with Lucy our therapy dog. They are a group of really nice people and it was a pleasure meeting the group and giving the talk, I would like to thank those who made a donation to our charity on the night.

The weather again this year has caused no end of problems for us at the farm, the richness in the grass full of sugar caused more laminitis and the constant wet fields have been causing abscesses in some of the horse's feet, it has been hard work, upsetting to see and costly with vet fees. The vets and farriers have not seen anything like this and are inundated with horsey people calling them with the same problems we are experiencing, it is a worry.

If anyone would like to help out and volunteer over the Christmas period please give me a call.

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 me for an appointment. Jann on: 07747 755 556 or email: jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk

BOXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Trips and Promoting Wellbeing

It has been extremely busy at Boxford Primary since my last entry to Box River News! At Boxford, we pride ourselves on hav-



ing a broad and balanced curriculum. Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Sutton Hoo recently. They travelled back in time, learning about the history of this beautiful landscape. They learnt about the warrior leader who was laid to rest at Sutton Hoo over 1,000 years ago, surrounded by his

golden treasures. They also heard about the extraordinary 1930s excavations that took place as Britain was on the brink of a war, along with the people



involved. All in all, a fabulous day out!

We have an inclusive culture in our school and we pride ourselves on promoting social and emotional wellbeing. Mrs Lea, our headteacher, recently introduced Zones of Regulation. The approach increases self-awareness, a common language for communication and embeds ours healthier, more inclusive school climate. Our Zones of Regulation are displayed in all classrooms and this is a great way for children to express how they are feeling.

We continue to promote resilience in school. Using our new marking policy, our books are beginning to look fantastic. Pupils are using their blue pens to explain their answers or complete next steps set by teaching staff. Our current school value is positivity and it is great to see so many children with a positive mindset towards their learning.

If you would like your child to join our school, please contact Mrs Clarke in the office on **01787 210332** or email office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk to book a school tour.

Scott Reynolds Assistant Headteacher



THE BUTCHER'S WIFE

Last month I wrote about how I didn't understand how our boiler works. Well, that is one of many things my brain can't fathom and in the interests of entertainment, here is a list of a few other things I just don't understand.

Traffic – I get that there will be traffic leading up to a roundabout or

traffic lights or if there's been an accident but what I don't understand is when there are queues of traffic and then nothing. What's the hold up? If I'm going to sit in a line of traffic, I expect there to be a damn good reason for it.

Fingerprints – you're telling me that every single person that has ever lived, is living now and will live in the future will have a different set of fingerprints? That absolutely cannot be the truth.

Mobile telephone numbers – and on that theme, how can everyone in the UK have a different mobile phone number? Surely they will run out of combinations?

The stock market – what is it? What do stockbrokers actually do? Who decides which stocks go up and down and what does it even mean? I don't even really understand what I don't understand about the stock market. Madness.

Money – who are countries in debt to? If we are short of money, why don't we just make more of it? I don't understand. Don't get me started on the accounts!

Colours – how do we know that what I see as the colour red is the same colour that you see as the colour red? We could be looking at two completely different colours but have just been taught that it's red.

Feel free to shed any light on any of the above, I can't guarantee that it'll help my understanding though!

This month's recipe was really fun to cook. Every time one of the teenagers came into the kitchen while it was cooking they said how amazing it smelt but it was short lived when I dished it up as it looked a mess on the plate. In the words of the youngest 'it looks like dog food'. That was the *best* description (and the only BRN-friendly one!). They soon shut their faces though when they tried it – it was incredible and they *all* had seconds! This recipe is from *Nadiya's Simple Spices*, available here:



Dhansak Bake

Ingredients (Serves 8)

For the beef:

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3 tbsp curry powder
- 1kg diced beef, cut into 1cm pieces
- 400g tin lentils
- 4 tbsp beef gravy granules

For the mash:

- 1kg potatoes, peeled, chopped
- 200g butter
- · 200ml full fat milk
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise
- 2 garlic cloves, grated
- 75g crispy fried onions
- Small handful fresh chives
- 2 spring onions, thinly sliced
- 200g red Leicester, grated

Method

- 1. Add oil to a large pan on a high heat. Once hot, add the onion and salt. Cook until the onion is lightly browned and translucent.
- 2. Add cinnamon, curry powder and beef and cook for 20 minutes with the lid off, stirring occasionally. Add the lentils and 500ml of water and cook over a medium heat for 20 minutes

until some of the liquid has evaporated.

- 3. Add the beef gravy granules, lower the heat and simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- 4. For the mash, cook the potatoes in boiling salted water until soft, then drain well and put back in the pan. Warm the butter, milk and a little salt in another pan until the butter is melted.
- 5. Mash the potatoes. Add the milk mixture then mix in the mayonnaise and garlic. Add the fried onions and mix through until they begin to soften.
- 6. Add the chives, reserving a few for the top then add the spring onion and half the cheese.
- 7. Preheat the oven to 220C / 200C Fan / Gas 7.
- 8. Spoon the beef mixture into a 30cm rectangular roasting dish. Cover it with the mash, sprinkle on the remaining cheese and bake in the oven for 40 minutes.

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTORY

For many, this winter is going to be a challenging one. Reports in the media predict a rise in homelessness of up to 33%, huge numbers are living on the breadline and loneliness is at concerningly high levels. We may convince ourselves that we are immune to some of these challenges in our rural communities, but rural poverty and isolation is often far more hidden and harder to identify than in urban settings. The chances are a number of people you know are



going to be struggling this year through no fault of their own. My plea to you is not to be blind to their plight; help where you can.

The broad scan of human history shows a moment in time when a marked change in attitude began to develop around how we should treat one another. Prior to the birth of Jesus, mercy and compassion were not seen as virtues - quite the opposite. In dominant cultures prior to the coming of Christ, mercy and compassion were seen as weakness. If you were in positions of power, one of the privileged or the strong, then it was expected that you use that power to supress others, showing no mercy towards those who were lower than you in social ranking or those who had previously wronged you. Christ's call to love your neighbour and your enemy alike changed all of that. This was a cry not to walk by on the other side of the road when you see a sister or brother in peril. That when another person cries out in pain or despair, our duty under God was to reach out in love and compassion. Slowly, over two thousand years, this teaching has slowly worked its magic. It is not that we don't see oppressive or nasty attitudes in our world any longer. They persist. The difference is, most of us now consider them to be wrong and unfair; when we see them unfolding around us they rightly leave a sour taste in our mouths. Christianity has implanted in us a more mature understanding of the dignity of every individual and it is important that we don't lose sight of that, especially when times are tough.

At the beginning of St John's Gospel, the author looks to supplement the narratives of Jesus' birth that we read in the other Gospels with something more philosophically rooted, giving us a richer understanding of who Christ is. In beautifully poetic language, we see his birth into the world bringing love, light and life, which he implanted at the beginning of time. In that same chapter, we are told that 'From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace'. Unlimited grace cascading over the whole world like a waterfall of sweetness flowing from the river of life. An endless grace that comes to each of us without limitation or favour. For us, we have a choice over whether or not to be conduits of that grace and open ourselves up to let the grace of God flow through us to others.

This Christmas, remember the simple gift given with a generous and joyful heart is by far more valuable than an expensive one given out of some kind of misappropriated duty. Equally, being with others and giving them your time is by far more precious than any material item. The richest Christmases are the ones that are filled with companionship and joy. And with loneliness in our society at such high levels, time is perhaps the most transformative gift you can offer someone this Christmas.

Throughout the benefice this December, we will be offering a whole raft of events and services to help bring that little bit extra love and joy to our communities this Christmas. We would be thrilled if your presence might add to that. Do join us.

May you be enfolded by the blessings which radiate from the Christ-child in the manger this Christmas,

Fr Rob

boxriverrector@gmail.com Tel: 01787 210434 OUR BEAUTIFUL PARISH CHURCH STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED, LOVED AND MADE BOXFORD THEIR HOME THROUGHOUT THE AGES AND AT NIGHT THE TOWER SHEDS LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS

"LIGHT UP" St Mary's Church Boxford

In Memory of a Loved One

or

In Celebration of an Anniversary, Birthday, or Special Occasion

FOR A SUGGESTED DONATION OF £15.00, THE CHURCH WILL BE LIT UP IN REMEMBRANCE OR CELEBRATION AND A COMMEMORATIVE POSTER WILL BE PUT UP IN THE CHURCH TO MARK THE OCCASION.

CONTACT_BOXRIVERBENEFICE@GMAIL.COM OR 01787 828046 FOR MORE INFORMATION

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BOXFORD



ADVENT CAROL & CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



SUNDAY, 10TH DECEMBER

ΑТ

4.00 PM

FOLLOWING THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

A WONDERFUL WAY TO BEGIN THE BUILD UP TO CHRISTMAS

BOXFORD SCHOOL CHOIR WILL BE SINGING

EACH CHILD WILL RECIVE A SMALL GIFT

THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN DURING THE SERVICE



CHRISTINGLE IS A JOYFUL CELEBRATION THAT BRINGS FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO SHARE & SPREAD A MESSAGE OF HOPE



Just to say...



You've told us how much you loved last December's offer so again this year, to mark the festive season, we wanted to give you all a little something from us, to you...

Spend £30 on Beauty, retail or vouchers in December, and get £10 off a beauty treatment in January.

Vouchers are available online (www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk) and make the most perfect gift for those hard-to-buy-for people in your life.

This month, spend £30 on Beauty, retail or vouchers and receive £10 towards a beauty treatment in January!*

* Minimum spend in Jan £30. Voucher cannot be used with any other offer. Valid once per person til 31/01/2024.

See you soon!







SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2023



Sunday 3 rd December	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
Advent 1	11:00	Morning Praise	St Mary's, Boxford
Wadnesday (th Daganshay	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Mary's House, Boxford
Wednesday 6th December	18:00	Holy Half Hour Meditation	St Mary's, Boxford
Sunday 10th December	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Bartholomew's, Groton
Advent 2	16:00	Advent Carols & Christingle Service	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 13th December	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Mary's House, Boxford
	18:00	Holy Half Hour Meditation	St Mary's, Boxford
Sunday 17th December Advent 3	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
	18:00	Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 20th December	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Mary's House, Boxford
Wednesday 20 December	18:00	Holy Half Hour Meditation	St Mary's, Boxford
Thursday 21st December	19:00	Carol Service	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
Friday 22 nd December	19:00	Carol Service	St Bartholomew's, Groton
Sunday 24 th December Christmas Eve	11:00	Carol Service & Christmas Mass	All Saints', Newton Green
	17:00	Carol Service	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	21:00	Pre-Midnight Mass	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	23:00	Midnight Mass	St Mary's, Boxford
Monday 25th December	09:30	Christmas Day Communion	St Bartholomew's, Groton
Čhristmas Day	11:00	Christmas Day Communion	St Mary's, Boxford
Sunday 31st December Christmas 1	09:30	Joint Benefice Service	St Mary's, Boxford

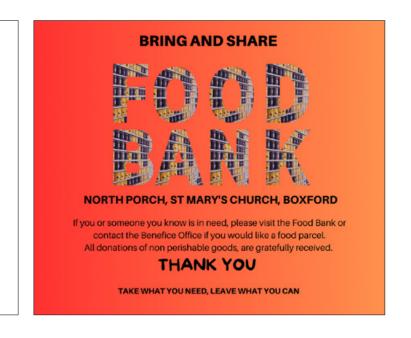
(Morning Prayer online every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning from 8.30am) All our churches across the Benefice are OPEN EVERY DAY for Private Prayer.

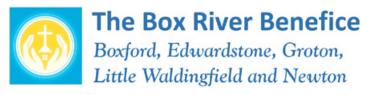
If you need support, please contact Fr Rob or the Benefice Office



ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH LITTLE WALDINGFIELD FRIDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 10.30 AM

EVERYONE WELCOME JOIN US FOR COFFEE, CAKE & A CHAT





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 1st Dec 10:30am *Coffee Morning*, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield **Fri 1st Dec 7-9pm** *Boxford PCC Thank You Cheese & Wine Evening*, St Mary's, Boxford

Sat 2nd Dec 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Cheese & Wine, Groton Village Hall (see poster for ticket information)

Tues 5th Dec 10am Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House

Thurs 7th Dec 7:30pm Joint Benefice Council Meeting

Fri 8th Dec 7-9pm – Festive Drinks & Nibbles, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield (see poster for ticket information)

Fri 8th Dec 7:30pm – Madrigalia & The Boxford String Quartet Christmas Concert, St Mary's, Boxford (see poster for information) Sat 9th Dec 10am-12 – Festive Coffee Morning with stalls, All Saints', Newton

Sun 10th Dec 10am–3pm *Christmas Tree Festival & Stalls,* St Mary's, Boxford *(followed by Carols & Christingle Service at 4pm)*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas from the benefice office. You will find a leaflet in this month's Box River News detailing all the events and services that are taking place around the benefice this December. We look forward to celebrating with you, everyone is welcome.

JOIN ST MARY'S, BOXFORD SINGING GROUP FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is all about joy and merriment. Singing can bring real joy to us and others. We would love you to join our Church Singing Group which will add that little bit extra to our Christmas services. Everyone and all ages are welcome. All we ask is that you commit as much as possible to attending three practices: Thursdays 30th November, 7th December, 14th December all at 6pm; as well as the Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 17th December at 6pm. If you'd also like to sing at the other Christmas services: Advent Carols and Christingle Service at 4pm on 10th December, Midnight Mass at 11pm on 24th December or Christmas Day Service at 11am on 25th December, you'd be very welcome indeed.

If you'd like to know more, then please contact Tom on thomas.cogan@btinternet.com

BOXFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Sunday 10th December will be a wonderful day in Boxford and we hope that you will be able to join in the Christmas fun!

There are still a couple of Christmas trees available, so it is not too late to reserve your tree! If you wish to take part in the festival, please could you email boxriverbenefice@gmail.com or telephone 01787 828046. There will be a prize for the best dressed tree as voted for by you.

There are also a few stallholder spaces available for more information please email Sarah at <u>boxriveractivities@gmail.com</u>.

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.

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, CONFESSION & PASTORAL VISITING

The benefice offers a rich ministry of spiritual guidance, confession and pastoral visiting. Our priests and ministers accompany people from all walks of life. If you would like spiritual guidance, confession, house blessing, pastoral visiting, home communion, hospital or prison visiting for yourself or someone you know, please do get in touch with Fr Rob or the benefice office.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Benefice Office

Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford CO10 5NZ **01787 828046** email: <u>boxriverbenefice@gmail.com</u>

Fr Rob Parker-McGee SR **01787 210434** email: boxriverrector@gmail.com

















LEAVENHEATH CINEMA

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

The most loved Christmas film, rated U (4+yrs) Starring James Stewart & Donna

Arrive 7pm for 7:30pm start. 2hr 11 mins with 20 mins interval.

Leavenheath Village Hall, CO6 4NS Please book early to avoid being disap-

pointed. Tickets £4.00 per adult and £2.50 for under 12s

You can pay by cash or card on the door.

Reserve your seat online at www.leavenheath.org.uk or phone Marion on 01206 263301 to book your tickets.

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

Proceeds towards LVH Capital Project Fund (Charity no 262816)

POLSTEAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair will be on Sunday 3rd December and will focus entirely on the festival of Christmas, with all stalls geared towards the Christmas theme.

Festive Village Stalls, Raffle & Tombola, Mulled Wine, Bakes & Cakes, Kids Christmas Stalls and Meet Father Christmas!

Polstead Village Hall

12noon to 4pm.

HISTORY OF ENGLISH **SURNAMES** with **Charlie Haylock**



Friday 19th January 7pm at Milden Pavilion £10 per person

Enjoy a fun and informative evening when you can discover the history of your surname, maiden name or a family name. Please advise names when booking.

Please visit www.mildenpavilion.co.uk to buy tickets via Eventbrite or phone 01787 248145

Evening to include licensed bar, Cheese Board and charity raffle in aid of The Befriending Scheme at Red Rose Community Farm, Lindsey

> Church Road, Milden IP7 7AF www.mildenpavilion.co.uk info@mildenpavilion.co.uk





Registered Charity No 304919



Friday 15th December, 7 for 7:30pm (New Date) POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

"Absurdly entertaining and witty"

Email: polsteadfilms@gmail.com to reserve or buy at Polstead Community Shop.

More information about the film on the Polstead website: polstead.onesuffolk.net

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

POLSTEAD FILMS

O Brother, Where Art Thou? A Coen Brothers film starring George Clooney



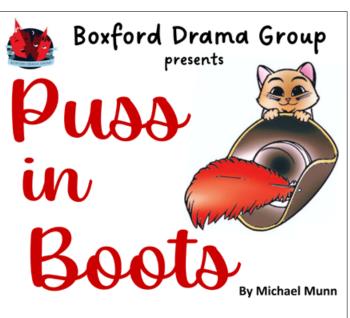


male or female, 25 - 35 (ish) For Boxford Drama Group's Spring Production 'Spirit Level' by Pam Valentine April 11-13

> Casting at The FLEECE, Boxford Tuesday 5th December 7:30pm

contact David 07711 225 542 / jetsum01@gmail.com





29 November - 2 December

Tickets on sale from 1 November at Boxford Post Office and online: www.boxfordshows.uk/tickets

Wednesday – Tickets £8.00, no supper and curtain up at 7pm

Thursday to Saturday - Tickets £18 includes a meal in the interval and curtain up at 7.30pm. Email catering@boxfordshows.uk any specific dietary needs.

Boxford Village Hall

Licensed bar and raffle www.boxforddramagroup.com



Fleece Jazz at

Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

Ed Jones' Quartet

Wednesday 13th December 2023 8pm - Tickets: £18



Award-winning saxophonist Ed Jones returns to Fleece Jazz. A mainstay of the London Jazz scene since the late '80s, Ed brings his brilliant quartet.

Ed Jones – Tenor sax Ross Stanley – Piano Ryan Vosloo – Bass Tim Giles – Drums

Ben, Bean, Bird and Barnes

Thursday 28th December 2023 8pm - Tickets: £20



The music of Ben Webster, Coleman Hawkins and Charlie Parker played with joy by a world-class quintet

> Alan Barnes – Alto sax Vasilis Xenopoulos – Tenor sax Jim Watson – Piano Andrew Cleyndert – Bass Clark Tracey – Drums

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath CO6 4PZ

Ample parking; fully accessible. Directions: www.fleecejazz.org.uk
Tickets: 01787 210796 or via WeGotTickets (booking fee applies); or on the door (cash or cheque only; sorry no debit/credit cards)

*Friends of Fleece Jazz discount

SPECIAL OFFER: A double room with breakfast and two tickets from £119 (subject to availability) Phone: 01206 262836

PUSS IN BOOTS

Hello to all you lovely people out there! Well, here we are again, pantomime time is upon us and I can't believe it! (Oh yes I can)! It certainly doesn't feel like a year ago that Boxford Drama Group were getting ready to enter-



tain you, but it was - and now all our actors have been furiously



learning their lines and songs to entertain you again in our upcoming production of 'Puss in Boots', written by our very own Michael Munn before he passed away last year. Tickets are now available at Boxford Post Office

and online via: $\underline{www.boxfordshows.uk/tickets}$ so please grab yourselves some before they sell out.

As usual, it will be an evening of fun and frolics, with a bar each night and supper on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. These photos were taken at one of our recent rehearsals, just to give you a taste of what's to come. I shall look forward to seeing you there! We are always looking for new members to boost our group so do feel free to contact us if you'd like to know more.

www.boxforddramagroup.com



Groton Village Hall Saturday December 9th 10am - 1pm

Cost £15

includes moss, ring and wires Please bring accessories and ribbons if using

Phone Jayne on 01787 211360 to book

All profits donated to 3PR First Responders

Sudbury, Suffolk Christian Spiritualist Church

All beliefs and denominations are welcome!

We meet at:

The Stevenson Centre, Great Cornard, Stevenson Approach, CO10 0WD

Meetings:

Every Sunday

(except December - we re-start on January 14th 2024)

at

1:45pm for 2pm to 4:30pm

There is **NO ENTRY FEE**

We only respectfully suggest that donations are made during the service

For more information,

Call Maureen on 07931 366 610



with retiring collection for local charities

www.bmsb.co.uk

www.boxford.me.uk

boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

DON'T BE A LEMMING!
OPT OUT OF THE
SEASONAL RUSH
AND TAKE A BREAK



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

We provide Culture, Coffee and Friends as well as offering a series of illustrated Monthly Talks, Visits, Special Interest Days + an Arts Magazine - all at a very reasonable cost.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Contact: <u>info@TASstourvalley.org.uk</u> quoting **BRN30** or via our website www.TASstourvalley.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER

The Art of the Cartoonist by one!

From Cruickshank & Hogarth to contemporary cartoonists like Giles & Schultz, with live drawings produced during the talk.



Charity No.: 304862









CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 1st December, 10.30am - 7pm

Come & join us for our Christms gift fair in our Winter Garden Tipi!

Gifts & Homewares

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Charity Raffle in aid of the Charlie Watkins Foundation

Free Entry & Parking



For more infomation visit crowninn.net







Celebrate your special occasion with us!



- Exclusive hire, private car park, 5 double en suite bedrooms plus 1 self contained lodge with private hot tub and patio area overlooking the countryside.
- Our restaurant opens Wednesday to Saturday from 8:30am - 4pm, serving breakfast, brunch, lunch and afternoon tea. It's the perfect place to meet up with friends or just pop in for one of our delicious coffees!
 We also have our alcohol licence.

THE FOXES DEN
Further Street, Assington CO10 5LD
01787 703 500

f TheFoxesDenAssington

o thefoxesden.assington

www.thefoxesdenassington.com

A WINTERS TALE

This year's exhibition 'A Winter's Tale', showcases a range of works from contemporary printmakers, sculptors and potters, showcased in the gallery's beautiful setting beside the picturesque Mill Pond, in Mill Tye.

It provides a unique destination for Christmas gifts, home accessories, art, books and cards.

The contemporary Christmas



A Winter's Tale by Elaine Marshall

exhibition runs throughout November and December, up to 4pm on Christmas Eve. It features works from renowned and undiscovered talents in the world of printmaking, pottery, glass and sculpture, and includes exclusive pieces of work that have been created for Mill Tye Gallery. We also have a range of home accessories, gifts, books and cards, offering something for everyone.

Profiled artists and makers include Adam Marshall, Alison Coath, Andy Lovell, Anne Townsend, Beth Knight, Clare Curtis, Colin Moore, Elaine Marshall, Hannah Forward, Max Angus, Noel Myles, Paul Cleden and Dominic Upson.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre 3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 0GW (In the old 'Bakers Mill' building) Tel. 01787 376 796

Open: Thursday to Sunday: 10:30am to 4:00pm.

Christmas Week Opening: Monday 18th December to Sunday 24th December, open everyday from 10:30am to 4:00pm.

For Exhibitions, Art Classes, Workshops and more, visit www.milltyegallery.co.uk

KENNY'S NEWS FROM SESAW

Brrrr! I don't like these cold. dark days and nor does Ollie (the Black) Cat. He sprawls across the desk, swipes Mum if she tries to access her paperwork then walks over the keyboard which spews blank pages out of the printer!

One of my other housemates, Buttons, is a Norfolk Terrier, a good solid no nonsense member of the family. She was the ideal companion for Mum at a Thanksgiving



Service for animals to celebrate the love and care between pets and their owners. They received a warm welcome at St. Mary's in Stoke by Nayland and the collection raised over £200 for SESAW.

It's been a difficult year for all animal charities with many people forced to give up their pets due to health or financial problems. Other animals are brought in, having being abandoned at the side of the road and often in need of urgent veterinary attention. Like most rescue centres, SESAW has been full to bursting and short of volunteers but we keep going, hoping the situation will ease up

Now that winter has arrived, please check our website or Facebook pages before visiting us as our seasonal shutdown begins in December. Meanwhile, very best wishes for good health and happiness to all our friends and rehomed animals, from Ollie (the Black) Cat and me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888 Web: www.sesaw.co.uk



Nedging Hall, with its classic Suffolk Pink façade, sits proudly atop a hill at the heart of Nedging Hall Estate, a stone's throw from Bildeston.

During recent storms Babet and Ciaran one of the most significant oak trees in both the estate and county fell. The tree was referred to as the "Nedging Oak" and is said to be a thousand years old. Even the historic col-



leges at Cambridge University, founded in 1209, are substantially younger at 814 years old.

There are some incredible trees across the 5,000-acre estate, but this ancient Oak was the most significant. Such was its significance that it was the tree that one of their early logos was based on.

The team's thoughts turned to how best they can use the fallen oak across the estate. Sustainability sits at the heart of everything they do and in time, you'll find this ancient tree as furniture in their pubs, The Lindsey Rose, The Bildeston Crown and The Brewery Tap. A large part of the tree is simply being left to nature, creating



a natural habitat for wildlife. Nedging Hall Estate have also planted another Oak that will hopefully have its own story to tell in 1,000 years.

Owned by the Buckle family since the late 80s, Nedging Hall Estate is now marketing their country house for exclusive-use rentals. The Hall is nestled in 80 private acres, and features a

saltwater indoor pool, sauna, Billiards room and tennis court.

Charle Buckle, Managing Director of Nedging Hall Estate commented: 'It is very sad to see the end of such a magnificent tree. But it will be a tribute to bring it back to life as characterful furniture for our restaurants. We are also leaving the main trunk where it fell, it is a wonderful habitat for beetles and bugs to thrive within.

My grandmother, Gill Buckle, was particularly fond of the ancient oak. She would walk around the gardens embracing the beautiful flowers and vegetable gardens, but always had an admiration for this beautiful tree'.

BREWERY'S GOT TALENT!

The Brewery Tap is in the heart of Sudbury and attracts some incredible talent. The pub realised it needed to create events worth talking about, and the regular live music, quizzes and comedy have made it busier than ever.

Jason Rampling hosts a

full afternoon of live music at The Brewery Tap on the last Sunday of every month. These feature 30-40 minute performances by a variety of local musicians. There is so much incredible, raw local talent in the area, and you can watch live music in a proper pub with a pint in hand.

If you would like to perform, get in touch with the team at The Brewery Tap. We want to uncover the amazing local performers there are in Suffolk.

MAULDONS









THE BOTTLE SHOP
Pop in and pick up
our real ales

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES
Order online or head to
The Bottle Shop

13 Church Field Rd, Sudbury CO10 2YA 01787 311055 | www.mauldons.com



THE BILDESTON CROWN



with a festive menu Live music from Anneka Rand

January 26th 2024 BURNS NIGHT

Traditional Burns Supper & Bagpipes

GIFT VOUCHERS

Give the gift of The Bildeston Crown

Bildeston, Suffolk IP7 7EB 01449 740510 | www.thebildestoncrown.com





Woodlands Nursery

Set in the beautiful surroundings of Kersey Mill. We offer outstanding care and education from 11 months to 4 years.

Forest School Sessions within our enchanting garden help forge a love of the outdoors while sing & sign classes further develop your child's communication and independence.

Children will make cherished memories with lasting respect for each other and the environment.

Toddler Group & Weekly Baby Classes

also running term time

WWW.WOODLANDSNURSERYKERSEYMILL.CO.UK

CHRISTMAS AT MILL TYE

With a wide range of ceramics, sculptures, books, christmas cards and home accessories, there is something for everyone at the Mill.

We have Christmas all wrapped up!

























Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre

3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard Sudbury CO10 0GW (old 'Bakers Mill' Building) Opening Times: Thursday to Sunday: 10:30am to 4:00pm.

Christmas Week: Monday 18th December to Sunday 24th December, open everyday from 10:30am to 4:00pm.

Free Parking and Free Entry - Everyone welcome.



www.milltyegallery.co.uk

STORIES FROM BOXFORD SOCIETY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

David Elliott – a farming life

David Elliott will be well-known to many locally, as he has lived in this area all his life. He has been kind enough to tell us his story and provide photographs for the Boxford Society Archive. We thought this was so interesting that it should be included in the BRN.

David's grandfather, also called David, was a farmer and lived through one of the most difficult periods for agriculture. In 1875 the Great Agricultural Depression began with a series of four cold wet years and bad harvests. Mass importation of cheaper wheat and meat by the new fast steamships from overseas made matters worse for farmers. The depression in British farm prices continued through to 1939, with the exception of some relief during the First World War. Being a farmer or farm worker was a hard life on the land for little reward.

David's grandfather brought his family from Coggeshall via Henny and Assington, arriving at Groton Place Farm in 1927. They had five boys and a girl. David's father Stanley was the second eldest and in 1917 (aged 13), he was allowed to forego the last year of school in Henny so that he could work on the land. This was wartime and he was badly needed on the farm as all the young men were away fighting. Stanley and his three brothers, Harold, Horace and Edgar were all farmworkers. Stanley married in 1935 and moved to the Park Corner houses, Groton. Sadly in 1938 Horace was kicked on the thigh by a horse causing a haematoma from which he died.

milk cart calling daily from Brickhouse Farm, Ellis Street (now Riverhall). It was pulled by a pony and driven by "Cockerel" Hughes. David cycled to school each day from Mannings Farm and particularly enjoyed doing jobs in Hilda's garden. She would assiduously collect the plentiful horse poo from the street for it. David soon realised that he preferred working with his hands to formal school work.

At the age of 6 David was moved full time to Edwardstone



David Elliott aged 10

School which was next to the village hall (Groton school closed in the 1930s). He biked 3 miles to get there with his sister Ann aged 5.



Edwardstone School pupils and staff in 1952. David Elliott: 3rd row from front, 3rd from left.



Mannings Farm 1931, Horace on grass mower with shire horses Daisy & Bowler.

In 1939 the family all clubbed together and bought the 60 acre Mannings Farm at Castlings Heath, Groton. They were already renting and living at Groton Place, a farm of 250 acres. Grandfather David died in March 1950, but the family continued to farm over 300 acres until 1972. Larger farms were essential for profitability and to make best use of the new machines now required.

Stanley's son, our David, was born in March 1942 at Mannings Farm and he was also destined to become a farmworker all his life. He had an older brother named John. His younger sister Ann was sadly killed in a car accident in 1965 at Kersey, aged only 21. His first memory is of being bundled under the dining room table, which was covered by a blanket, during wartime German aircraft alerts. This was government advice to rural areas with no air raid shelters. In 1944-5 German prisoners of war from the camp at Acton were brought to work on the farm and David remembers sitting on their knees in his dad's car whilst they were taken back to Acton at the end of the day.

At the age of 5 David was sent for half-days to Hilda Peck's "Dame" school at No 26 Swan Street, Boxford where he was joined by Peter Rose, Wendy Gregg (whose father Alfie Gregg took over Coe's shoemakers) and Ann Skinner. He remembers Raynham's

Young children everywhere were expected to be much more independent in those days, but of course there was much less traffic. He remembers the games at Edwardstone, rounders and netball, but was most interested in life back on the family farm.

At the age of 8 David would cycle into Boxford with rabbits the family had snared, carrying them over his shoulders and handlebars to deliver them to "Sugar Tin" Humphrey who kept a shop in Ellis Street. Mr Humphrey then cycled to Colchester market to sell them on. He kept his money in jam jars in the cooking range and paid David from these. David remembers being 12 and going to Sudbury Market Hill with his father to buy a new push bike at Flacks with money he had earned from selling rabbits. During the war and rationing, which continued in some form until 1955, rabbits became a very cheap (or even free!) source of meat for families in rural areas. The family had a radio, but only got a TV in 1955. For the 1953 Coronation, which many in towns and cities were able to watch on a new TV, David went to a children's tea party at Groton Village Hall and afterwards the adults had their own party there.

After his 12th birthday David went to Hadleigh Secondary School by bus, which he caught in Castlings Heath. He loved metalwork, woodwork and gardening, but not much else. Aged 15 he left school to work on the farm with the family, making 9 men in total. His father and brothers Harold and Edgar worked alongside the other men as a team, hoeing sugar beet for example. Women from the village joined them to single the sugar beet, until improved seed clustering made this hard labour unnecessary. David was already skilled on the farm as he had been using a horse-drawn hoe from 12 years old to weed sugar beet and peas.

When he began work full time at 15, he was paid £2-10s a week compared with the men who were earning £5-£6 a week. After 18 months he earned £3 a week for 5 and a half days, 7 until 5, and 7 until 1 on Saturdays. Eventually Saturday work was gradually dropped. Each morning in the 1950s, before joining the men, David had to go to Hole Farm on the road to Boxford to feed and water the

60 pigs and 20 bullocks. This was 7 days a week and again in the evening - a very long day for a 15 year old. The men on the farm all had gardens or allotments in the village which they would tend in the evenings, providing fresh and healthy cheap produce all year round for their families. By the time he was 17, though slight in build, David could carry twice his body weight in a sack of wheat weighing 18 stones (114 kg). His father Stanley could carry sacks weighing 22 stones!

The farm had a small amount of permanent pasture, but it was largely arable, growing wheat, barley, peas, field beans, and cabbages and runner beans for seed. The bean seed was sold to Cundys at Sudbury Station Road or to a firm at Witham. The beans were heaped up on a layer of straw to dry in small thatched stacks. One year the whole bean crop was lost to mould in the stacks. In the winter they were flailed by hand, or a horse was led round on them to tread them out on the barn floor. In times gone by the beans would have been picked out in the house or barn by hand!

Mechanisation with ever improving farm machines came rapidly from 1950, raising yields and reducing the need for labour. The family farm had ordered an early Massey combine harvester in 1939, but the government redirected it to the larger farm next door as part of the war effort. The family were not pleased! They finally owned a combine harvester by 1947 or 1948. As the machines became more complex and expensive, contract hire became the norm.



Groton Church Field 1956 David Elliott on left tractor Neville Gant right



Suffolk Show 1957 David on plough.

David first met his wife to be, Rose (Rosemary), at Ufford where she lived. They met in late 1964 at the Ufford Crown Inn. David had his first Ford Thames 7cwt van in 1959 and later a Ford Anglia and Vauxhall Viva. He had driven to Ufford with a friend. General car ownership really widened horizons - and choices! After many Saturday visits to each others homes, they were married in July 1967. Their first home



David Elliott with the cup he won at a ploughing match in 1970.



Mannings Farmhouse and Fordson E1A tractor, early 1960s.



New combine entering Groton Croft 1970, David Elliott driving as Frank Doe & Edgar Elliott look on.



Fox field Groton David Elliott driving 1986.



Taylor's contract hire combine harvester at Mannings Farm 2015.

was at Place Cottage in Groton Street. Their two sons, Robert and Paul, were born there and have since made good skilled lives for themselves outside agriculture.

David believes the biggest change in farming over his lifetime has been the move from needing a lot of men for manual labour to a fully mechanised industry, where one man sits in a comfortable cab and lets the computer do the work. It can be lonely. Larger fields and contract farming with heavy machinery on large areas has led to compaction and loss of soil structure, although their wider wheel base and wider implements means that more soil is covered on each pass. David says that the soil now smells less healthy though. He still looks after two pieces of land at Groton with the help of his nephew Richard – once farmer always a farmer!

We are most grateful to David and Rose for sharing their story and memories with us.

Roger Loose

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NOTES FROM A BEEKEEPER'S DIARY

Heavy rain has finally brought an end to our short and long delayed summer and the last chance for the bees to go foraging for their winter stores. A busy time for beekeepers

everywhere, feeding the bees with sugar syrup to fill every last empty corner of comb to ensure they have sufficient to survive the winter.

Now the bees will have just the one thought. To protect the queen, shelter her from the cold and ensure she does not go hungry. The queen is the only bee to have survived through the summer. The eggs from which her winter companions finally emerged were laid at most no more than a couple of months ago. Any of her children from earlier months died off long ago.

It doesn't matter how many workers and drones there are in the colony - there is only ever one queen. Her life started just like the workers, from a fertilised egg laid by her predecessor. The workers recognised the egg as a future queen because it was laid in a larger, extended cell, so when it hatched the worker bees fed the larva with a richer form of food. After a mere 16 days the queen was ready to emerge from her cell as a fully formed bee.

But she was not the only queen about to emerge. Nature always provides a spare, or more. Desperate to leave the cell which has been her home for the past fortnight, she vibrates her wing muscles against the cell wall. The workers rally to the sound, and help her tear down the walls of the cell. She rampages through the nest, ripping down the cells of any other queen cells and stinging the occupants. The workers help her by clustering round the victims, until they die from suffocation. Peace in the colony can now then resume.



Four days after emerging the virgin queen is ready to embark on the next stage of her life. Over the coming days when weather permits she will leave the nest and fly off to a drone congregation area, a local spot where the drones from all the nests in the surrounding area come together to attract virgin queens. The queen flies repeatedly through the drones, attracting more and more with the pheromones she leaves in her path. She may mate with 10 drones or more over a period of three or four weeks, after which her window of opportunity will close. Any reluctance on her part will be met by increased aggression from the hive workers until she has completed her mating flights.

The queen stores the drones' contribution in a specialised gland called a spermatheca. The spermatheca can store up to 6 million sperm, and internal secretions of over one hundred different proteins and anti-microbial compounds ensure the contents remain viable for up to 5 years.

A few days after her last mating flight the queen starts to lay eggs, her sole function within the colony. An unfertilised egg will grow into a male drone. A fertilised egg will grow into a female worker or, if the workers decide, into another queen. In the height of summer she will lay around 2000 eggs every day, equivalent to her entire body weight. As she moves through the colony she is surrounded by

an ever-changing retinue of attendant bees who clean her, lick her and feed her.

The queen is the mother of every bee in the colony, and it is her genetic make up that determines the character and make up of the colony. Every worker is a sister or half sister of her siblings, but each worker could carry the genes of any one of the drones the queen mated with. It is this multiplier effect of genetic diversity that has accelerated the evolution of honeybees and led to their success.

No creature in nature is eternal and honeybee queens are no exception. After three or four seasons the queen will start to reach the end of her egg-laying capability. During her lifetime she continually releases a pheromone known as "Queen substance" (or *oxodecenoic acid* if you are an entomologist). The royal retinues spread this pheromone throughout the hive and the effect is to suppress any desire for the workers to create a replacement queen. However, as her productivity starts to decline, so does the quantity of queen substance released and the workers soon notice. They respond by building special cells in the middle of the frames. These resemble unhusked peanuts and hang down prominently from the surface of the comb. When the queen releases a fertilised egg into the cell the workers feed the resulting larva with a richer form of food. The larva eventually emerges as a new virgin queen. Within a few days the old queen will disappear. The cycle starts all over again.

Tony Rand

READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editor,

We would like to wish all our friends and neighbours a very merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful new year! We won't be sending cards this year but will make a donation to 3PR instead.

Best wishes, Betty and Vic Rice

Dear Editor,

We would like to wish all our friends a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

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

Best wishes,

Malcolm & Shirley Grimwood

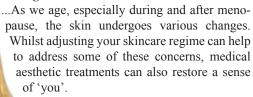
Dear Editor,

I saw your ghost story in the November issue. The thing is, in 1999 I lived in Great Waldingfield. I used to cycle down Folly Road to Groton. I went through Jordan's Pit (Lynns Hall) and by the metal bridge over the stream a woman in a coat with a headscarf and a black labrador dog came out of the hedge. I slammed on the brakes, collided with the bank and came off my bike covered in mud. I used a few four-letter words! When I got to the Groton Fox Paul Elmer told me it was a ghost and he had damaged his car there. If you go further along that road by Milden crossroads a woman on a bike rides by you or comes over the way. She goes into the chapel along there. She disappeared! It put the wind up me!

Yours, Mr T Coe Newton Green

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When considering these treatments, the most important step is to discuss your options with a qualified medical aesthetic practitioner, who will work with

you to create a tailored treatment plan.

Remember, there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution!

Strengthen your skincare routine...

Whether or not you're considering medical aesthetic treatments. establishing a robust skincare routine is key for maintaining a healthy complexion. For example, if dry skin is your main concern, focus on using rich and hydrating products both morning and night. Products such as these will help to promote a supple feel whilst retaining moisture.



In addition, incorporating vitamin C and retinol, while diligently using SPF, are key strategies to improve the skin's tone and texture.

For saggy skin...

As we age, our bodies produce less and less collagen. Treatments such as Microneedling and ENDYMED Radiofrequency Skin Tightening are excellent options, as they stimulate collagen and elastin production. Although it's important to have realistic expectations, investing in collagen-boosting treatments can help to enhance the overall firmness, tightness, and quality of the skin.

For double-chins, love handles, saddle bags & more...



If you're dealing with persistent pockets of fat that seem resistant to exercise and a healthy diet, regardless of your overall weight, fat-dissolving treatments can offer visible results.

Whilst Aqualyx® isn't a weight loss treatment, it can effectively dissolve the membranes surrounding stubborn fat cells, complementing a wellrounded fitness routine.

For pigmentation...

Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) can be a transformative solution for blotchy complexions. It works by breaking up the pigmentation, resulting in a smoother and more rejuvenated skin tone. To ensure



its effectiveness, it's crucial to avoid being tanned before and during the treatment

With the cooler months ahead, now is an ideal time to consider this option.

For frown lines & more...

Anti-wrinkle injections have several purposes and work by relaxing targeted muscles. Though renowned for their ability to soften frown lines and prevent static lines from forming, they can also alleviate teeth-clenching (Bruxism), support migraine prevention, and reduce excessive sweating (Hyperhidrosis).

It's important to remember that this is a prescription-only medication, therefore only seek advice and treatment from a

medically trained aesthetic practitioner.





For hollowness...

Dermal fillers can replenish lost volume, reshape facial contours, and can smooth out unwanted furrows.

When composed of hyaluronic acid, which is a natural substance found in the body, dermal fillers work by binding water beneath the skin.

This makes them ideal for plumping out any hollow areas, such as the mid-face, which can occur naturally as we age.

For dry, crepey skin...

Profhilo® is an anti-ageing treatment infused with a potent dose of hyaluronic acid, which effectively addresses tissue regeneration and skin laxity. Frequently referred to as an 'injectable moisturiser', Profhilo® boosts hydration and stimulates the natural production of collagen and elastin. However, unlike dermal fillers, it doesn't add volume to your face. Instead, this treatment



restores the skin's radiance whilst providing a firming effect.

At Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, our medical team and beauty therapists are on hand to provide a personalised range of treatments to meet your specific needs and desires. To schedule a skin analysis or a consultation, contact us on: Telephone: 01787 211 000 or Email: office@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk

Suffolk Medical Clinic | Sudbury, Suffolk

Heléna x

office@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk 01787 211 000



HADLEIGH & BOXFORD PPG

Covid Vac Clinic: There will be no Covid vac clinics at the Practice until further notice. Should you require a Covid jab please call 119 or visit the relevant website below to book an appointment.

Nurses' Appointments: In October over 130 appointments with a Practice Nurse were not kept or cancelled. To avoid this massive waste of time and resources please cancel your appointment by calling 01473 822 961 and selecting option 5.

Online Appointments: Available from 6am Mondays and from 7pm Tuesdays – Thursdays.

E Consult: Available 24/7 whereby requests will be triaged by the Reception Team.

Queries: Please call after 10am if you have a query and do not need to book an appointment.

Out of Hours Doctor: If you need a doctor when the Health Centre is closed, including weekends, call 111 for advice and details of your nearest 'out of hours' duty doctor.

Updating Contact Details: Are your contact details up to date? This can be done by completing the form on the Practice website via contact us then non-medical enquiry or via the NHS app. Please be sure you only use your own primary contact number.

Help with NHS App: If you wish to download and make use of the NHS App but lack the IT skills to do this help is at hand. There is an easy peasy, free online tuition website. See below for details.

Art Display: There are some amazing wildlife photos for you to enjoy in the Waiting Area of the Practice.

Surgery Staff Training: 6th December from 1pm. The Hadleigh Dispensary will re-open from 5pm. The Boxford Dispensary will not re-open that afternoon.

Christmas & New Year Hours: Closed 25th, 26th December and 1st January. Call 111 for out of hours service.

Christmas Eats: Enjoy your traditional Christmas food but everything in moderation. Avoiding excessive amounts of sugar will keep you healthy and diabetes free.

Happy Christmas to the regular readers of this column. All the very best for a healthy, enjoyable 2024.



PPG: Chair Jan Devey 01473 827091 PPG Email: deveys@btinternet.com **Both Practices:** 01473 822 961

Out of Hours: 111

Cancel Appointment: 01473 822 961 option 5

Website: www.hadleighhealth.co.uk

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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

County Councillor for the Stour Valley

The Government has allocated £1.8m for 2 years to Suffolk to enhance the local bus network.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) have £1.8million to spend each year in 2023/24 and 2024/25 on enhancements to the current passenger transport network in Suffolk. There will be 3 areas of funding:-

- 1. Some of this will be going to the bus companies in order to support existing services,
- 2. Some will be going into design work on Bus Priority schemes to get them ready for delivery when capital funding is available.
- 3. To support new or improved services at a local level where demand can be proven.

Parish Councils, Bus Companies and other groups are now being asked to submit ideas and suggestions for these improvements. Our preferred method for this is via an online application form which can be found here: https://bit.ly/scc-bus-improvement We believe that the web page and form are self-explanatory, but will be able to answer questions if required.

I have submitted an outline of our wishes for an improved service in conjunction with the local parish councils and attended a consultation meeting on 14th November with the local bus partnership group and await now feedback of feasible options. For more information: https://bit.ly/scc-bus-improvement

Financial aid for flooded properties in Suffolk imminent.

Suffolk residents who experienced exceptional property flooding during Storm Babet will start receiving financial support during November. Following the recent Government announcement of grants and council tax reductions through the Flood Recovery Framework, councils in Suffolk have received 750 reports of internal flooding to homes or businesses, and this number is expected to increase.

Suffolk councils are working together, with Suffolk County Council collecting information and assessing the reports, and the district and borough councils distributing the funding to eligible property owners. All reports of property flooding need to be submitted via the Suffolk County Council reporting tool now.

Households and businesses that suffered internal flooding between 19 - 25 October 2023 due to Storm Babet may be eligible for:

- A grant (£500 for homes and £2,500 per business) to assist with initial recovery costs.
- Households and businesses that suffered internal flooding between 19 -25 October due to Storm Babet may be eligible for 100% discount to council tax / business rates for a minimum of 3 months.
- Flooded property owners will also be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding. Suffolk County Council is working to set this scheme up at the earliest opportunity, but it is not currently available. Suffolk County Council is working in partnership with Babergh and Mid-Suffolk, East Suffolk, Ipswich and West Suffolk councils to ensure these discounts and payments start during November.

Reporting your flood damage is the first step to receiving a potential payout. If you have experienced flooding to your property as a result of Storm Babet, you need to visit: https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk; Click on: 'Report It' & follow links to Drainage and flooding For those who aren't able to submit their report online, please call 0345 606 6171.

New fund delivers digital boost for Suffolk.

Almost £250,000 of funding was announced at an event on 25 October, giving a boost to the county's ambitions to reduce the number of people excluded from the benefits of digital technology. Suffolk County Council has contributed £100,000, with £143,000 coming from District and Borough Council funding, earmarked for digital inclusion projects.

Suffolk's Digital Inclusion Fund will be open to bidders from early November for initiatives that will support people of all ages, but particularly those who are at risk of being disadvantaged by being excluded from accessing digital support and information.

The fund has been created as a collaboration between Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, voluntary and private sector partners and Suffolk Community Foundation. It is a direct result of Suffolk County County's Policy Development Panel, held in 2022, which recommended a series of actions to reduce digital poverty and its effects in Suffolk.

The event called on key partners to support the new fund, making a further commitment to playing their part in the ambition for a digitally enabled Suffolk. Prospective bidders are encouraged to apply through Suffolk Community Foundation's website www.suffolkcf.org.uk

Evidence suggests that by not having the skills or the means to use online services – everything from online shopping, looking up important information and advice and using transactional services such as applying for bus passes – people are at risk of poorer health, reduced income and even a lower life expectancy.

Council seeks your views for next year's budget

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses, and local communities, as it decides how it will spend money next year. An online consultation has been launched, and focus groups will be held, to explain the council's current financial situation, along with the chance for Suffolk residents and businesses to have a say on Council Tax proposals.

When this survey was ran last year, there was an excellent response from around 2,700 Suffolk residents and businesses. I would welcome even more people completing this year's short survey, to contribute to our decision-making. It gave an excellent insight into the public's priorities, with social care services for adults and children being high on that list. This aligned with the council's thinking, and we invested an additional £50m in these areas for this current year.

The council's budget consultation helps to explain the council's finances, what it has been doing to save money, and how it can generate more money to spend on public services.

The two main ways in which the council can increase the budget, are an increase in the money it receives from government, and/or through Council Tax. Therefore, the three key questions are:-

- 1. Which services have you recently used,
- 2. Your thoughts on providing a greater contribution to Council Tax to help fund public services,
- 3. On which service area you would like to see more money spent.

Developers risk 'treating Suffolk communities with contempt' as the latest round of large-scale energy projects in Suffolk emerge Energy developers who are bringing forward large-scale energy projects without speaking to councils or communities, were criticised heavily by Suffolk County Council following the latest publication of National Grid's Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register.

The TEC Register is a list of projects, which often end up as large nationally significant infrastructure projects (called NSIPs), that have secured the right to connect to National Grid's network if they are consented, under the Planning Act 2008 by government, not local councils. These connection offers, which form a legally binding contract with National Grid, are routinely published and made, prior to the development and consenting of electricity generation or storage projects.

The current list of connection offers published by National Grid shows that new projects have been offered connections at National Grid's sites in Suffolk, at Bramford near Ipswich, and at Yaxley, near Eye, in north Suffolk. These new projects are large-scale solar panel and battery storage proposals in the same style as the recent SUNNICA scheme in West Suffolk, which is a proposal to create a 2500-acre Solar Farm on the Suffolk Cambridgeshire border.

Residents invited to help shape the future of library services.

A public consultation has been launched Monday 30 October,

encouraging Suffolk Residents to tell Suffolk County Council what they want from their library services in the future.

Suffolk County Council's contract with Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) Limited, the independent charity that runs the library service, comes to an end on 31 May 2025, with a new contract set to begin in June 2025. The Council is therefore seeking views from the public about what is important to them, ahead of awarding the new contract.

The 13-week consultation will be followed by a competitive Tender Process, before the new contract is awarded in November 2024. See P38 for details of the consultation.

Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley

A Foster Carer Recruitment Event is held the 1st Wednesday of every month, and an Adoption Event is on the 1st Thursday all 7:00pm in your home. To book a place please email Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk.

James Finch james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: **01206 263649**

Mobile: 07545 423796

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

Normal local government has had to take a back seat this month to concentrate on the flooding issues and the clearing up of all the mess and damage in the aftermath. Boxford just about escaped serious damage, partly down to work carried out along the stream from Cox Hill all those years ago by BDC, which enables the water to get away quicker and not be held back through the housing estates along the way. Also, other work carried out by the Environment agency down stream and along the rear of houses in Stone St towards the Wash has helped.

No time to be complacent though with yet another storm forecast, this one I believe is to be called Debi, I sincerely hope we do not get too far through our alphabet as the winter and spring progress. Other villages did not fare so well with houses in Monks Eleigh and especially Long Melford suffering devastating damage which will need serious drying out and renovation before becoming habitable again. With much more varying weather and the sea levels increasing by frightening levels, we are truly in for some challenges in our uncertain future. With sea levels expected to rise by over a metre in a middle-aged person's lifetime and not much sensible movement towards carbon neutral or even better, carbon plus, we are in for more challenges and disasters. A metre (3'3" in old money) will mean that the hallowed turf at Portman Rd will be damp and in really high tides, too wet to play on safely. Sobering thought.

Thank you to all who helped neighbours and fellow villagers throughout this emergency and also to the many council staff, who as always stepped up to help in these difficult times. If anyone did suffer damage to property or business, we do have at the council some funding to help out financially. Please call or email me for a chat and a view to see if we can assist.

At this time we also need to spare a lot of thought for our beleaguered farming community. Since the disastrous exit from the second largest trading block in the world there is no doubt that incomes have dropped and support for those that look after our valuable countryside and try to feed the nation has become so much more difficult. This is amid unclear, unhelpful and non-existent strategies from national government who are clueless about what the agricultural industry and those that are affiliated with it provide for us. The drop in production and health standards for food produced in some of the shabby overseas deals post Brexit

are truly alarming. Best we all scan the labels and look for homegrown and more natural/organic products to eat, whether it be animal or vegetarian.

I do intend to hold a meet and greet meeting at the Fleece Hotel in the spring along with political colleagues to listen to our farming friends and those who depend on agriculture for their income, living and way of life. With national elections due next year, it is obvious to most that this present government are not representing the views and concerns of those that try to grow our food for us and look after the natural environment for the next generation as well. Maybe other candidates can show a better way for all our futures.

I pray that the floods recede soon and yellowing crops recover to vet make bread and beer.

As many have now heard, the appeal by Catesby against the refusal by the planning authority (BDC) to allow their application for 64 houses at Sandhill to be built, will be heard on 12th December, starting at 10am. With the village hall already booked for another event and the pavilion being upgraded to enable FA standard Football to be played by adults, women and girls. We have managed to secure the Spinney building for this event, which will be the first of its kind within Boxford. Often these appeals are held at Endeavour House or The Best Western Hotel at Copdock but why not in our own village where locals can watch, speak (with permission), and take part in this important decision. My stance remains the same as ever and that is that Boxford should be left to decide its own destination and allowed to provide local houses for local people, along with much needed infrastructure and not a massive housing estate whose only purpose is to make money for landowners and greedy developers.

My sincere thanks go to the Spinney management team and others who have helped and enabled this to happen.

So much now to do at Baberghmidsuffolk with the cost-ofliving crisis and mortgage rate increases now beginning to bite hard into family budgets and pockets. Please anyone reading this, do not suffer in silence and let the situation get you down beyond salvation.

We do at the council have some capacity to help and advise with some financial help as well.

For general help with debt, family problems and legal matters, it is best to seek help from the local branch of Citizens Advice Babergh Council support the Sudbury branch financially and they have stretched but willing volunteers who despite the numbers coming to them, are managing to see and speak to all who present themselves as in need of help. We should all extend our thanks and gratitude to those who give their time so generously to help others, maybe those who can afford a little donation, could do so in their favour to help those bearing the brunt of the circumstances that they are placed in, for which they are not responsible.

Other matters taking up my time at the moment are the ongoing stages of the district's Joint Local Plan, and the relaxation of listed building constraints to enable some insulation and double glazing to take place in these properties to keep inhabitants warmer and the carbon footprint down. A tough schedule indeed but worthwhile for everyone.

Please don't spend too much on Christmas, it is just another day, mark the day Jesus was born, enjoy lunch and brace yourself for more challenges to come.

Look forward to the huge challenges that 2024 are going to bring and stay united together.

If you need your District Councillor, then contact me on the details below or just accost me in the streets, you will have to be quick though as I'm incredibly busy with much to do.

Brvn

bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk

Tel: 01787 210854 / Mobile: 07771 508348

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 24th October 2023

Meetings - meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday each month except in August and December. We now hold meetings in the village hall with a video link when requested. The usual start time is 7pm. Our next scheduled meeting is for Tuesday 28th November at an earlier time of 4pm as a one-off due to another booking. All are welcome to come along and observe and there is a regular public forum to allow a short time for residents to comment and raise items.

Public Forum - Items raised by residents included a comment on generally good relationships with the managers of the foster home on Brook Hall Road. Representatives from Jesscare are happy to attend a future Parish Council Meeting in relation to parking concerns. Another resident raised a concern about parking outside a Holbrook Barn Road property and it was suggested that if it is causing safety violations, reports should be made to the police. In answer to further questions, it was explained that uncontested elections still incur administration costs and that Bell House is no longer needed by the Parish Council. It was noted that the Sand Hill Appeal hearing is scheduled for 12th December and the venue has since been fixed as the Spinney, Fen Street. It was suggested the parish council requests the Environment Agency clears gullies and rivers more than once a year. It was explained that this council has already pursued the Environment Agency on numerous occasions.

Cemetery - Cllrs Phillips and Warren gave reports about the progress of tree work in the churchyard and cemetery and plans to restore the churchyard boundary wall. Having cleared the ivy from the boundary wall, it was clear less work is needed than previously envisaged - only spoiled bricks need to be addressed. Quotes were being obtained. The cemetery contractor will now use a leaf-blower to clear grass cuttings from graves. Tree work was to start on 31st October.

Environmental and Ecology - The sub committee are looking into bringing some greenery to the road bridge in the village centre. They are considering bringing forward some events. They intend to work with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) and County Council Wilder Together to introduce projects to increase biodiversity and enhance wildlife habitat. SWT are booked to look at the churchyard and cemetery. Consideration is being given to establishing a wild flower area at the top of School Hill with the WI. Expressions of interest are being received in relation to a village ecology group. A bike rack idea for the centre of the village is being looked into. Some suggestions for flood mitigation are coming from the Reclaim the Rain project.

On-going matters - The PC website (http://boxford.suffolk.cloud) is now up and running with a link from the community site. The bus survey results were to be circulated and taken forward with the relevant parties. The PC is to have a regular table at the monthly market. Cllr Wortley has chased the hedge cutting on the Roylands Lane Footpath. The Stone Street permissive path has been cleared but is currently closed due to the broken fence. Quotes were being obtained and the Chair had approached the land owner regarding continuation of the path. The issue of Station Field street lighting being on all night is carried over to next meeting as the County Council will not adopt the area until brought up to standard.

Finance - In addition to the usual business, it was agreed to increase the hours of the Community Wardens litter duties by 1 hour per week and the standard of work will be monitored carefully for the remainder of the contract period. The Parish Council Risk Management Policy was reviewed and accepted. It was resolved to adopt the Model Publication Scheme as suggested by our Auditors.

District Council Report - District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported on the flooding in the area. He confirmed stage one of the

Joint Local Plan is ready for approval with stage two to follow. The council leader has stepped down due to ill health and Cllr Ward is leader at present. Cllr Hurren spoke of the range of grants available and of ways to make them better known in the village. A venue was to be found for the Sand Hill Appeal on 12th December. *This has since been confirmed as Boxford Spinney Scout Hut, Fen Street.

County Council Report - County Cllr J Finch attended and his report, issued in advance was as printed in the November issue of the BRN. The traffic survey results had been shared by Cllr Finch. He was questioned about rural transport, flooding, the grit box at Homefield, the clearance of gullies, verge cutting and the clearance of Butcher's lane. There may be funding for the latter out of his Locality Budget.

Planning - A number of planning applications were discussed, details on which can be found on the parish council website.

Full minutes can be found at: http://boxford.suffolk.cloud

Debbie Hattrell

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GROTON

Summary of Council Meeting 8th November 2023

Present: P Roberts (Chair), S McGrath, N Chapman, C Hearn, M Mackay-Morris, A Dixon-Smith, R Jones (Clerk) **Guests:** B Hurren (Babergh DC)

Suffolk County Council Bus Service Improvement Plan: The Government has allocated £1.8mn to Suffolk to enhance the local bus network and a community-based consultation organised by SCC had been set up which was asking for comments by 5pm on 6th November (i.e., two days prior to the meeting). Councillors' expressed indignation at the lack of notice given and time for considering a considered response to this important village issue. The Council asked the clerk to convey its frustration at the clearly inadequate timetable for consideration and response, particularly as the issue of school transport had been raised and discussed at the previous meeting. It was also agreed that, aside from the issue of school transport, Groton bus needs should be considered in the context of demands and requirements for a village bus service. The clerk to pass these concerns on to SCC.

Groton Traffic Assessment: Suffolk CC had identified two places for the traffic assessment to take place. The Council had requested a meeting with SCC to discuss appropriate sites for the assessment but there had been no response. Councillors' agreed that there were two separate issues:

- Places where the 30mph speed limit was not being adhered to and motorists were speeding
- Places where the national speed limit applied which would benefit from a reduced speed limit

It was agreed to tackle the speeding issue first and to that end, Councillors' proposed the following places for traffic assessment to take place: 1. The road between Partridge Close and The Fox & Hounds. 2. Groton Street between the Church and the new housing development. 3. Church Street between the village green and the first junction on the right. The Chair to pass this information to Councillor Finch.

Financial Matters: Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment and Q2 accounts were approved. The clerk requested permission to source and purchase a new laptop and printer due to ongoing reliability issues. The laptop is to be purchased by Groton Parish Council for exclusive use of council business, while the new printer will be purchased jointly with Edwardstone PC. Councillors' agreed with this request in principle and asked for the clerk to send details of the proposed laptop and printer to be purchased so that formal permission could be granted.

Neighbourhood Plan Update: Councillor Chapman reported that

the Housing Needs Assessment was due to end on 10th November. From 111 forms issued 8 hard copies and 13 online responses had been received. A reminder had been posted on the Groton Facebook page. Babergh DC to collate responses and add hard copies to the online application.

Wildfires & Emergency Support Plan Update: Working group met in mid-September and a draft plan had been produced which would be discussed at the next meeting.

Millenium Book 25th **Anniversary Update:** Four people had attended the meeting on 6th November. The original book had taken four years to plan and produce so it was felt that it would not be possible to produce anything by 2025. However, it was agreed to hold further discussions to agree how to move forward as there were individuals who were involved in the original project who had expressed a wish to help. It was also agreed to refer to the book in future by its title 'A Garland of Hamlets' rather than 'Millenium Book'.

Highway and Footpath Matters: The clerk had still not received an invoice from Andy Adams for the footpath cutting. A Dixon-Smith to chase up.

Date of next meeting: 6th January 2024

Full minutes can be found at:

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

Richard Jones

01473 828246 / grotonclerk@yahoo.com

the tree will be decorated. 4:30pm on Sunday 3rd December 2023 the lighting of tree and carols.

23/208 NPC Meeting dates in 2024 - The councillors agreed the following meeting dates in the village hall during 2024: 10th January, 14th February, 20th March, 10th April, 24th April - Annual Parish Assembly, 8th May - Annual Meeting of Parish Council, 12th June, 10th July, 14th August - Provisional Planning Meeting, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November, 11th December.

Full minutes can be found at: www.newton.onesuffolk.net

Dave Crimmin PSLCC

01787 375085 / <u>clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk</u>

OTHER PARISH COUNCILS

Edwardstone PC

Clerk: Richard Jones - 01473 828246

<u>edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com</u>

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

Little Waldingfield PC

Chris White Councillor & Clerk - 07541 133535 clerk.littlewaldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk https://bit.ly/LW-parish-minutes

NEWTON GREEN

Summary of Council Meeting 18th October 2023

23/186 Finance - a) The councillors authorised all payments made and due for authorisation, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix B). The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting, the reconciliation of accounts, the Statement of Accounts vs Budget and the spending commitment. b) The councillors resolved that Cllr Sherwood be made a signatory to the Unity Bank Trust accounts and signed the mandate accordingly. c) The councillors resolved to donate £100 to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

23/189 Allotments - The councillors reviewed the pack of information received from Bates Wells & Braithwaite including the covering letter on the acquisition, the report on title and the HM Land Registry's TP! - Transfer of part of registered title(s). In response to several issues raised in the documents, the councillors resolved the following: Report 2.7 The councillors do not have an issue regarding contamination from a malthouse that may have been located on the land. Report 5.3 The councillors are happy that the plan edged red accurately reflects the extent of land forming the allotments. The councillors were satisfied with the information on the solicitor's due diligence revealed in the report. It was noted that the list of existing tenants and contact details had not been provided to the council.

23/190 20's Plenty - The councillors reviewed the aims of the 20's Plenty campaign but felt that these did not align with the issues that residents in the village currently had which primarily related to the A134.

Summary of Council Meeting 8th November 2023

23/199 Emails Circulated - Following a review of the emails circulated by the clerk, the councillors noted the agreement on the salary scales from NALC, which took effect from 1st April 2023. The clerk's salary will be adjusted from the December payroll.

23/202 Planning - The councillors reviewed planning application DC/23/04914 St Michaels, The Green - Erection of outbuilding with garaging and first-floor accommodation to be used as a studio/store and resolved to support the application.

23/205 Christmas Lights - The councillors agreed the plan for the Christmas Lights as follows: 10am on Saturday 25th November 2023

RECLAIM THE RAIN PROJECT UPDATE

Hello Boxford residents! The Reclaim the Rain project continues to gain momentum, with the continued and dedicated support of our Community Working Group.

One option which is picking up speed is a potential willow plantation, which we believe would offer social, environmental, and economic benefits to the area. Hydraulic modelling for this option is underway, and will give us a more informed understanding of the increase in flood resilience to the village of Boxford downstream.

Another option, which we hope would be enjoyed by the wider community, is the creation of a Community Rain Garden which we will soon have outline designs for, and look forward to sharing with you in the future. The other ideas for sustainable water management, as touched on in previous BRN editions, continue to be explored too.

In other exciting news, we're working with a local production company to launch drones in Boxford very soon, with the aim of capturing the main surface water flow paths in the catchment. This will provide us with valuable aerial footage of the catchment before any sustainable water management features are installed in and around the village, as well as producing a short video showcasing the natural beauty of Boxford from above.

In 2024 Reclaim the Rain will be starting a project Newsletter, which will provide more detailed updates for each of our six communities, specifically covering any progress as we enter the detailed design and delivery stages of the project. If you wish to receive future editions, please get in contact to express your interest in being added to our growing mailing list. You can contact your Suffolk team, Ruby and Sian, via the Reclaim the Rain website (reclaimtherain.org) or using our email: reclaimtherain@suffolk.gov.uk.

Reclaim the Rain Project Team www.reclaimtherain.org

JACK'S HOME TRUTHS

As someone who runs our editor as close to publishing deadline as it is possible to do, I have been fortunate in being rewarded this month with the news cycle providing some welcome news to the ear of every estate agent in the land. The surprise drop in inflation reported will increase calls for interest rate rises to cease and whilst one's view on whether higher interest rates are beneficial or not are somewhat reliant on individual circumstances. very few (if any) people I



have ever spoken to are in favour of high inflation. As has been well reported, inflation is essentially a tax on us all and sees the pound in our pocket not go as far as it once did. This is especially pressing when taken into the context of the housing market, given how many hundreds of thousands (and occasionally millions) of pounds it requires to purchase a property in our wonderful part of East Anglia.

Whilst the bulk of my career has been spent in a rising property market, 2023 has presented challenges not seen for over a decade as property prices have experienced real decline with advice and guidance having to be tailored to a new set of circumstances. This is all part of working in a cyclical market and whilst the easier part of my job is telling people all is rosy and well with the market and house prices, the more genuine test is being strong enough to provide what might be a difficult message to hear although is one that will ultimately aid a client in the long run. It has become more and more apparent that those properties that are marketed at a sensible and appropriate sum from the outset are achieving success with those that have to be reduced in price because of an overambitious starting point often achieving less than they otherwise would have done. This is always a difficult message for sellers to hear as the natural inclination is to test the market to see what can be achieved although as should always be stressed, any perceived losses in what you are sellling will be reflected in any property that you are looking at purchasing onward.

Any challenges in the sales market are often counterbalanced by a strong lettings market (and vice versa) and 2023 has been no different. We have seen a sustained boost in new letting opportunities to the market, rising rents and tenants looking for a new home. This trend is typical to other periods in history during which the relative monthly mortgage payments are higher than renting the same property would be. On the optimistic presumption that inflation continues to decline and mortgage rates continue to decline then we forecast a gradual reversal of this trends into 2024.

As the days continue to shorten the natural assumption is that the property market will lay dormant through the remainder of Autumn/Winter. In reality we often agree sales on a number of properties via our discreet, low key marketing service for properties that are taking a break from Rightmove and other property portals towards the end of the year. We have a mailing list of approximately 5,400 potential purchasers presently on our mailing list and whilst not all of them will be looking in the same village or area of the county, there will invariably be some that that have viewed other similar properties in the region and may have discounted the one they eventually end up going on to purchase. Good estate agency is all about keeping an ear to the ground, understanding the changing requirements of purchasers and always having a name in

the back of your mind of an individual or couple that would be just perfect for the latest opportunity coming to the market.

Finally, a grateful thanks to those that have been in touch to confirm that they actually read this monthly article. It is very satisfying to know that even if the information within is not something that that those reading need to action at the time during which they are browsing their parish magazine, there may be one or two items that on occasion that may prove useful in the future. If as a consequence that allows any element of the property selling or purchasing process to be slightly less stressful than it can otherwise be, then it has been well worth writing.

Jack Thornley

Director, David Burr Estate Agents https://davidburr.co.uk | 01206 263007

EBONY'S DIARY

I must apologise for not writing anything in the last few months. It's been very busy at The Shelley Centre with lots of changes happening.



As a reminder or for those new to my diary, I'm Ebony, a mechanical simulator. I live indoors with my little friend Babs, and we supplement the therapy that the live ponies give. I'm here for our riders whatever the weather and for some of our riders, I'm the most important horse! I am often the first step for new riders before they start riding my real-life friends.

Sadly we've had to say 'happy retirement' to Lyn Bensusan who has managed the stables for over 40 years and goodbye to several of our ponies. But with goodbyes come new beginnings and we welcomed Abi Sinclair as the new, and very experienced, stable manager together with three new ponies – Fletch, Cloud and Dave. And we hope to welcome more ponies shortly as all my friends old and new are having to work very hard.

To get the new ponies used to working with our range of riders takes a lot of hard work and the dedicated riding volunteers spent



a busy summer helping Abi get them ready for their important therapy work. And, as always, the autumn term brings new riders and new volunteers. All are settling in well and enjoying getting used to the new ponies, when the weather allows. The photo shows

the new horse Dave, being ridden by Teresa, and my old friend Tilly, being ridden by Bronwen.

We always have room for more helpers and would love to welcome even more fresh faces into the centre. Most volunteers give a morning or an afternoon per week, during school term times only. Please contact us if you would like to know more – you don't have to be horsey, just willing to learn and kind.

We always need help and support for our fundraising activities, which are essential for the running of the centre as well as being great fun. One way to help is to sponsor one of the ponies, and if you do they promise to keep in touch with you throughout the year. You can find out how to be a sponsor from our new web page: www.shellevrda.com

The Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding, Shelley, IP7 5QY Reg. Charity No. 1113636

Tel: **01473 824172** www.shelleyrda.com

BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

At our November AGM, our current secretary and competition secretary, Malcolm Grimwood, decided it was time to step down from his post which he has held for 35 years. Although we are all sorry about this, everyone agreed his total dedication and com-

mitment to the club in general and indeed in holding this post since 1988 were exceptional and we all took great pleasure in applauding him for such long service and a 'job very well done'.

As a mark of the club members' great appreciation, our chairman, Lea Blackham, presented Malcolm with a beautiful silver carriage clock engraved on the back -



Malcolm Grimwood and Lea Blackham

"With our great appreciation, From all your bowls colleagues."

A photo of Malcolm in his bowls attire and with the clock will be taken and put into our hall of fame in the club house.

Malcolm was also presented with a gift card for Center Parcs as Lea told us that Malcolm apparently enjoys the 'wild water rapids and tropical cyclones....as well as the food!' Just a lovely relaxing break in one of those luxury guest apartments sounds good Malcolm!

Also, as a mark of Malcolm's esteemed service, the Boxford & District Club's September Trophy will now be known as the Malcolm Grimwood Trophy, and he will also be nominated for the Bowls England Certificate of Merit - a most prestigious award in the bowls world presented to individuals that are deemed to have provided outstanding service to the sport at club and county level in England.

Malcolm thanked us for his gifts and told us that when he was first elected on to the committee in 1988, there had only been 12 members of the club....and very often he had to find players from other clubs to play for Boxford in the league! We now have 80 members!!

He also told us that he has played bowls at every level since he began all those years ago, had made many friends and had enjoyed every minute of his 35 years in office. However, he felt it was now time to pass on his knowledge to someone else - but said he will still be around as an active member of the club and can help answer any questions anyone may have. And of course he will still be playing bowls!

Malcolm also takes responsibility for maintaining our bowls green which he has done admirably all by himself (with a little help for holiday cover by our President George Bullett!) until very recently, when some of our members volunteered to help him. It is an important role in the club as without a great green, we won't be able to play our best game. As you may remember reading, this year the old green (100 years old) was taken up and replaced with a new green - and Malcolm played an important part in making this happen.

Lea concluded the presentation by reiterating the sentiments of all the club members - that we owe Malcolm a huge debt of gratitude and thanks for everything he has done for the club during his long service as Secretary and Competition Secretary.

THANK YOU Malcolm from everyone at Boxford & District Bowls Club - you can now enjoy just playing great bowls!

BOXFORD ROVERS

We have been sponsored by Opus for all the player of the month trophies for



the 2023-4 season for the Under 9, 14 and 16 teams.





Boxford Rovers U16 team with manager Melvyn Eke & coach Andy Chatfield



Boxford Rovers U14 team

Meet the Under 9 Coaches: Toby Gooch, Colin Humphreys, Dan Statham & Dan White. The newly formed Under 9 team with all the coaches' sons playing have had a great start to their first season remaining unbeaten



having won five and drawn one of their matches to date.

MILDEN CRICKET CLUB

Milden CC's 'End of Season' social evening is on Friday 1 December at The Bell Inn, Kersey. An opportunity before Christmas to meet up with club members and reminisce about the highs and lows of the 2023 season.

A room has been booked from 7pm and the pub will provide food for those who want to eat. But just come for a beer or two, if you'd rather just do that. Please let Ed Stevenson (Mobile 07702 851954) know if you intend to come, especially if you'd like to eat as the pub would like food to be pre-ordered and Ed has the menu. (We have the chairman's verdict on WhatsApp that the Bell serves 'great pub grub'!)

The Blooming Garden

Winter Solstice Blooms.

'Tis the year's midnight' as John Donne said in his not very cheery poem, 'A Nocturnal on St Lucie's Day'. St. Lucy's day falls on the 13th December which before the Gregorian calendar reform

was the winter solstice. How this day became associated with the Catholic Saint Lucy I don't know. I suppose the Nordic pagan goddess of light was adopted by the Catholic Church and adapted to suit their beliefs. The Sicilian Saint Lucy met a suitably gory end and is often depicted holding a dish containing her eyeballs which were supposedly gouged out before her death. The Catholic Church enjoys a bit of blood and gore with its virgin saints' myths. This year the winter solstice which marks the period with the fewest daylight hours of the year occurs on the 22nd December.

'The year is spent and now his flasks
Send forth light squibs, no constant rays,
The world's whole sap is sunk,
The general balm th'hydropic earth hath drunk.
Whither, as to the bed's feet, life is shrunk.
Dead and interr'd; yet all these seem to laugh
Compared with me who am their epitaph'.

OK, the shortest day can be depressing, especially for the gardener; but I think John Donne should pull himself together, it's not that bad. There can be quite a few blooms in the garden to cheer us. But then Donne died in 1631 so, we'll excuse him; he didn't have our vast choice of plants from all over the globe to enjoy. Here are just a few of my December favourites.



Jasminum nudiflorum

If sunshine is lacking in your life, you need *Jasminum nudiflorum* or winter jasmine for masses of sunny yellow climbing up your wall. It is great for picking for Christmas arrangements.

For more bursts of yellow, winter- flowering mahonia is marvellous and fragrant too with a scent of lily of the



Above: Mahonia x media 'Winter Sun' Left: Chimonanthus praecox

valley. Mahonia x media 'Charity' starts blooming in November. It is an evergreen shrub with spiny leaves. It needs regular pruning or it will get leggy. Another choice is the very similar Mahonia x media

'Winter Sun' which has more upright blooms.

The mahonia is only lightly fragrant but the rather dowdy flowers of *Chimonanthus praecox* smell absolutely delicious. The shrub

is rather boring in summer and it needs a special sunny position to bloom well, but the little yellow claw-like flowers with maroon centres blooming in December are worth it. If you cut a posy of this for a vase you can enjoy its spicy fragrance inside. It is easy from seed but you have to be patient as it will take seven years to bloom, so perhaps it is best to buy a mature one unless you are very patient.

There is even a fabulous clematis which lights up the darkest days. It is the well-named *Clematis cirrhosa* 'Freckles' which has purple spots on its creamy, nodding flowers. Two other lovely varieties of winter flowering *Clematis cirrhosa* are 'Wisley Cream' and the seasonally named 'Jingle Bells'.

Right: Clematis cirrhosa 'Freckles' Below: Prunus x subhirtella 'Autumnalis



You can even have dainty cherry blossom in bloom in December. *Prunus x subhirtella* 'Autumnalis' starts blooming in winter and carries on until the spring. If we get a

very frosty spell it will stop for a while only to start again when the weather improves. You can get it in white or pink.

The lovely blue Algerian *Iris unguicularis* blooms in December and is great in vases if you pick it in bud. It needs a sunny, sheltered spot and will bloom all winter if happy. Even prettier in my eyes is the close relation *Iris lazica* from the Black



Iris lazica

Sea. I think it blooms much more prolifically. In theory, it blooms a bit later than *Iris unguicularis*, but my clump blooms at the same time. Mine has larger flowers than normal and is called 'Richard Mutt'.



Galanthus 'Three Ships'

People are always surprised to see snowdrops blooming in my garden in December. I have *Galanthus* 'Barnes' which starts flowering in November, but for Christmas Day I have two beauties named appropriately enough for the season, *Galanthus* 'Santa Claus' and *Galanthus* 'Three Ships'. 'Santa Claus' doesn't increase very well but 'Three Ships' makes a nice

clump and always seems to be in bloom for Christmas. I've saved the most exciting flower for the last. It is a perfect little daffodil which usually blooms in time for Christmas in the garden. It is called *Narcissus minor* 'Cedric Morris' and it is difficult to get hold

of and expensive but worth every penny. Beth Chatto sometimes has

a limited number but you have to order it as they get snapped up quickly. It looks far too dainty and fragile to be hardy, but nevertheless it doesn't falter whatever the weather throws at it. I can't think of a lovelier treat for a

gardener at Christmas.



Narcissus minor 'Cedric Morris

Chloris.

DIRECTORY OF CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

CLUBS & GROUPS

Boxford Bellringers Boxford Bible Study Group Boxford Bike Club

Boxford Bowls Club Boxford Carpet Bowls Boxford Drama Group

Boxford Friendship Group

Boxford Gardens Open

Boxford Gardening Society

Boxford Literary Group

Boxford Rovers Youth FC www.boxfordrovers.co.uk

Boxford Tennis Social

Boxford WI

Edwardstone Cricket Club

Fleece Jazz

Highway 12 Western Partner Dance

Little Waldingfield History Society

Little Waldingfield Over 60s and Friendship Club

Local History Recorder

Edwardstone

Local History Recorder Groton

Madrigalia Choir Miss Lesley School of Performing Arts (MLSPA)

Milden Cricket Club

Milden Singers Newton Arts & Crafts Club

Newton War Games Club

Newton Fireside Club

Primrose Wood Volunteers

Swing jive & Lindy Hop Dance Yoga (Boxford)

Yoga Paper Kite (Newton) Yoga With Lindsey (Newton)

Boxford & Groton United

Edwardstone Millennium

Edwardstone United Charities

Richard Gates 01787 210432 Peter & Margaret 01787 211077 Kevin Bridge 07876 798617

www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk

Lea Blackham 01787 210313 Brian Porter 01473 824283 07779 303690 Janice Macmillan

janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk

01787 211067 Alison Warren 01787 210342 or Wendy Hills

Audrey Zuck 07852 102 455 audrey@a2zriskservices.com

Elizabeth Wagener 01787 210223 elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com

> **David Jones** 01787 211104 audav@hotmail.co.uk

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Sue Moore 07808 481447 07961357526 Lyn Beer

Tom Whymark 01787 211375 David Gasson 01787 210796

Chris 01787 371006

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Moira Evans 01787 374652

Evan Flockhart 07968 336883

obliquewoodland@protonmail.com Sarah Boldock 07956 614824

Marianne Marshall 01787 210323 Sophie 01787 313662

Lindsey 07971800540

COMMUNITY GROUPS

3PR Boxford 1st Responders

Boxford Allotments

Boxford Bounty

Boxford Community Car

Scheme

Boxford Community Council

Boxford Playing Fields

Boxford Tennis Courts

Boxford Society

Lt Waldingfield Playing field

Rich Wild 01787 210946 office@boxfordresponders.com

David Burden 01787 211926

d.burden379@btinternet.com

01787 211596 Mark Miller Jen Eastwood 01787 211853 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com

Ward Baker 01787 210129 boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

www.boxford.me.uk

Hugh Phillips 01787 211729 hughvcphillips@hotmail.com

Jen Eastwood 01787 211853

jen.eastwood8@gmail.com boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety

Hugh Phillips 01787 211729 Jennie Jordan 07522 352558

52Jennie1@gmail.com

SCOUTING

1st Boxford Beaver Scouts

1st Boxford Cub Scouts

1st Boxford Scouts

1st Boxford Explorer Scouts

1st Boxford Rainbows 1st Boxford Brownies

Not currently active 07798 765419

Jo Colclough David Talbot-Clarke 07946 550519 Neil Barkham 07734 108257

Janice Macmillan 07779 303690

Janice Macmillan 07779 303690

janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk

1st Boxford Guides Bethany Ireland bethanyireland11@gmail.com

CHILDREN FAMILIES & LEARNING

Boxford Primary School

01787 210332 office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk

www.boxford-suffolk.secure-dbprimary.com

Friends of Boxford School (FoBS)

Sunflowers Childcare www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk

talktofobs@gmail.com Moira Grant 01787 211363 info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk

Boxford Baby & Toddler Group

facebook.com/Boxfordbabyandtoddlergroup

HALLS & FACILITIES TO HIRE

Boxford Pavilion

Boxford Spinney www.boxfordspinney.co.uk

Boxford Village Hall

Edwardstone Parish Hall

Edwardstone Millennium Green

Groton Village Hall Little Waldingfield Parish Room

Little Waldingfield Pavilion

Marquee Booking Milden Pavilion

Hugh Philips 01787 211729 hughvcphillips@hotmail.com

Mark Miller 01787 211596 mark.miller@talktalk.net

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BOXFORD FIREWORKS 2023

Boxford Fireworks never disappoints, and this year was no exception. Despite the bad weather forecasts, people turned up in huge numbers to participate in the fantastic annual lantern parade from Broad Street up to the Boxford Playing Fields, led by the booming Glenmoriston Pipe Band from Bury St. Edmunds. Paper lanterns bobbed up and down behind the band in a myriad of brilliant forms and models.

Up at the playing fields the hungry crowds descended upon the waiting burger, sweets and beer tents as they gathered for the firework spectacle - and what a show it was! The theme of this year's soundtrack was aptly chosen as 'Weather' with a selection of weather-related hit songs as backing to the amazing pyrotechnics. No-one could fail to ignore the joke as The Weather Girls blasted out "It's Raining Men" to the illuminated light show as the rain fell on the onlookers.

A great night out, and all organised to perfection by the Boxford Community Council and its team of volunteers.

Next year's fireworks marks the 10th anniversary of the Boxford Lantern Parade, so it'll definitely be something to look forward to and get involved in!

Thanks to Peter Norris and David Lamming for the photos.



















EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2023

22 WED	Whist Drive Monks Eleigh Village Hall Meeting Room	7pm
25 SAT	Psychic Mediumship & Psychic Drawing The Stevenson Centre, Gt Cornard, CO10 0WD	7pm
27 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
29-30 WED-THU	Boxford Drama Group - Puss In Boots Boxford Village Hall	7pm

WED-THU	Boxford Village Hall	7pm
DECEN	MBER 2023	
1-2 FRI-SAT	Boxford Drama Group - Puss In Boots Boxford Village Hall	7pm
1 FRI	Christmas Fair The Crown, Stoke-by-Nayland	10:30am - 7pm
1 FRI	Festive Pop up pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30- 10:30pm
2 SAT	Chelsworth Christmas Fair All Saints Church, Chelsworth	11-4pm
2 SAT	Boxted Methodist Silver Band Concert St Mary's Church, Stoke-by-Nayland	6pm
2 SAT	Leavenheath Cinema - It's a Wonderful Life Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
2 SAT	Cheese & Wine Evening Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
3 Sun	Christmas Fair Polstead Village Hall	12-4pm
5 Tue	Fireside Club - CAB Christmas Music Newton Village Hall	2pm
8 FRI	Christmas Concert Madrigalia & Strings St Mary's Church, Boxford	7:30pm
8 FRI	Festive Drinks & Nibbles St Lawrence's Church, Little Waldingfield	7-9pm
8 FRI	Wine Tasting Lavenham Village Hall	7-9pm
9 SAT	Christmas Coffee Morning & Festive Stalls All Saint's Church, Newton	10- 11:30am
9 SAT	Wreath Making Workshop with Jayne Groton Village Hall	10am- 1pm
10 SUN	Christmas Tree Festival St Mary's Church	10- 3:30pm
10 SUN	Christmas Market Boxford Village Hall	10-3pm
12 TUE	Sand Hill Appeal Hearing Spinney Scout Hut, Fen Street CO10 5HL	10am
12 TUE	Carols Around the Chip Van Swan Street, Boxford	6pm
13 WED	LWHS - Dad's Army Parish Room, Little Waldingfield	7:30pm
15 FRI	Fireside Club - Christmas Lunch The Saracens Head	12noon
15 FRI	Carols Around The Tree Outside The White Hart	7pm
15 FRI	Polstead Films - O Brother, Where Art Thou? Polstead Village Hall	7pm
15 FRI	Relaxation & Sound - all welcome Boxford Village Hall	6-7:15pm
19 TUE	Fireside Club - Christmas Flowers Workshop Newton Village Hall	2pm
21 THU	Borley Illuminations & Carol Concert Borley Church	7pm





SUFFOLK LIBRARY SURVEY

Suffolk has a nationally recognised Library service, and I am proud that we are seen as leading the way for other library services.

We know that Libraries play an integral role in our communities, offering so much more than books; from places to meet others, learn new skills and get involved in activities at all ages, libraries play a special and unique role in people's lives.

The contract with our current provider ends in May 2025 and since that contract began, the needs of local people have changed. We are therefore taking this opportunity to seek views from the public about what is important to them, ahead of awarding the new contract.

Last week, Suffolk County Council launched a consultation asking Suffolk Residents to tell us what they want from their library services in the future.

Holding a public consultation as part of the procurement process gives an opportunity for Suffolk residents and workers to share their views on what they value in the current service and how they would like to see it develop in the future.

The feedback will ensure the changing needs of our communities are reflected within the tender for the future contract.

As a largely rural county, it's important that everyone in Suffolk has an opportunity to access library services, wherever they live.

A key focus of the consultation is the council's Library outreach services, which include three mobile library vehicles, serving more than 500 stops across rural parts of the county each month, for the pickup and exchange of books.

The mobile library vehicles are coming to the end of their life and therefore changes will need to be made as part of the new service, to ensure we can continue to deliver mobile libraries and other Outreach services. This could include replacing the existing vehicles with smaller, more agile and economically friendly vehicles, making it easier to drive on rural roads and helping us to reach more people.

Library Outreach services also include Pop-up Libraries, and a home library service run by local volunteers for Suffolk residents that find it difficult to access a library building or mobile library.

Whether you are an avid user of your local library, or if you do not currently use your library regularly but would like to make more use of it – we want to hear from you! This is your chance to shape the future of library services in Suffolk.

Please visit <u>www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation</u> to give your feedback, before the closing date of Friday 26 January.

Easy read and translated versions of the consultation are available on request, please email: <u>Libraries.consultation@suffolk.gov.uk</u>

Those who cannot access the consultation online, can request a printed copy, or assistance with completing the survey by calling 0345 603 1842.

Cllr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, Suffolk County Council

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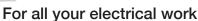
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