

January 2025

Box River News

Boxford • Edward Green • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green

25

Delivered free to every home in Boxford, Edward Green, Groton, Little Waldingfield, Newton Green, Bower House Tye, Milden & White Street Green and available to residents in Acton, Assington, Brent Eleigh, Great Waldingfield, Hadleigh, Kersey, Lavenham, Leavenheath, Nayland, Polstead, Shelley, Semer, Stoke-by-Nayland, Sudbury and parents of children at Boxford School.

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£4.50
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(7:30am early link
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UPWARDLY MOBILE!

Look out for the mobile library in Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Little Waldingfield and Newton Green.

Did you know that the mobile library, run by Suffolk Libraries, visits every four weeks? You may have seen it passing through but may not realise how easy it is to access and use the service.



If you've not already got a library card it's free and easy to get one and you can join Suffolk Libraries next time it visits. You can borrow 20 items for eight weeks at a time and if you're worried you won't find something you like on board, the mobile library driver can help you reserve something from the entire Suffolk Libraries catalogue to collect next time it visits! So you can pick from nearly a million items and you're not restricted to what's on board! The mobile vehicles also have lifts to help those with mobility issues to get on board.

The mobile library stops in **Edwardstone, Groton & Boxford every fourth Saturday** and will next visit on the following dates:

11 January, 8 February, 8 March, 5 April, 3 May, 31 May, 28 June, 26 July, 23 August, 20 September, 18 October, 15 November, 13 December 2025.

Edwardstone:	<i>Mill Green</i>	9:45am – 10:00am
	<i>Walnut Tree Cottage</i>	10:05am – 10:15am
Groton:	<i>Park Corner</i>	10:20am – 10:35am
	<i>Old Rectory</i>	10:40am – 10:50am
Boxford:	<i>Gunary Close</i>	10:55am – 11:15am
	<i>Brook Hall Road</i>	11:20am – 11:35am
	<i>Primary School</i>	11:40am – 11:55am

The mobile library stops in **Little Waldingfield every fourth Thursday**, 9 January, 6 February, 6 March, 3 April, 1 May, 29 May, 26 June, 24 July, 21 August, 18 September, 16 October, 13 November, 11 December 2025.

Little Waldingfield:	<i>The Swan</i>	3:35pm – 3:50pm
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And the mobile library stops in **Newton Green every fourth Saturday**, 25 January, 22 February, 22 March, 19 April, 17 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 29 November, 27 December 2025

Newton Green:	<i>Church Road</i>	10:00am – 10:20am
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Please do check us out and come aboard next time we're in your area!

Visit: www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries for more information or contact our customer service team at help@suffolklibraries.co.uk or by calling **01473 351249** between 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday.

Janine Woolston
Community Outreach Manager
Suffolk Libraries

BOXFORD BOUNTY WINNERS!

The Boxford Bounty would like to thank Steve Mayhew and members of Boxford Community Council for drawing the following winners for



December 2024, during their meeting at The Fox and Hounds, Groton. We would like to thank Steve and his family for all the support they have given to the Community Council while at The Fox and wish them all the very best for the future.

November - December 2024 Winners

1 st	£250	E. Rowe, Butchers Lane
2 nd	£125	D. House, Ash Street
3 rd	£75	A. Seagar, Fen Street
4 th	£50	C. Richardson, Homefield

Congratulations to all the winners!

We are currently inviting members and those wishing to join the Boxford Bounty to renew their subscriptions for 2025. The Bounty costs £20 per year for a ticket that is entered into 6 draws during the year.



If you would like a ticket for next year's draws please contact boxfordbounty@gmail.com or complete the online form at www.boxford.me.uk/boxford-bounty

Scan the barcode for more details.

If you are an existing member we will be contacting your shortly to invite you to renew your ticket.

Boxford Community Council

Registered with Babergh District Council under Schedule 11 to the Gambling Act 2005. Registered Charity No 304862

A BIG THANK YOU

As 2024 comes to an end and 2025 begins the Box River News would like to thank everyone involved in the creation of this publication. From the fabulous writers of columns who cope admirably with my increasingly-demanding emails to write something interesting to read every issue, to our amazing local businesses and community groups that advertise and allow us to pay for the costs of getting this magazine into your hands. Thank you to our brilliant printers Spingold for their professionalism and speed each month. A huge thank you must of course also go to our wonderful distributors who tirelessly go out in all weathers, unpaid, to deliver through your doors. Finally, thank you to our wonderful readers, who support our community and keep our local businesses alive and thriving.

Thank you so much to you all, and we hope you have a fantastic, healthy and fun 2025!

Trudi

Box River News

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www.facebook.com/BoxRiverNews

www.instagram.com/boxrivernews

Deadline date for the February 2025 Issue is:

January 15th at midday

NEWTON FIRESIDE CLUB

The 12th November was a day that was dry but cloudy and we met with our usual anticipation of a fun afternoon to play games of Beetle Drive.

This is a fast moving game and very much fun. There were 5 tables of players all hoping to win some Quality Street. This game usually proves to be quite rowdy and this was no different to the other times we have played. Everyone enjoyed the prospect of winning and the noise was enough to raise the roof. When we had finished playing, we all sat down quietly to enjoy some lovely cakes and either tea or coffee. Whilst this was being enjoyed there was a quiz entitled 'Hollywood Walk of Fame'. Everyone participated and the winners were awarded some more sweets.

On 19th November we met to enjoy a film called *The Holdovers*. This is an enjoyable film set in 1970. It tells the story of a strict classics teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go on the Christmas break. This is a classic comedy - a story of a hated teacher and the spoilt school pupils getting to know each other and building respect for each other. It was funny and poignant and a few tears were shed but everyone said they enjoyed the film.

This was the last meeting for 2024 and everyone is now looking forward to our Christmas lunch together at the Shoulder of Mutton.

We look forward to meeting up again on 7th January 2025 for more fun and frolics with the Newton Green Fireside Club.

AUTUMN 2024 PROGRAMME

Tues 7 th Jan	A chance to catch up with games and a new year toast.
Tues 21 st Jan	Fish & Chips 12:30 for 1pm
Tues 4 th Feb	A talk on discovering your family history
Tues 18 th Feb	Gin Tasting TBC
Tues 4 th Mar	Pancake Day - Time TBC
Tues 18 th Mar	A Make-up Demonstration by Emma Quinn
Tues 1 st Apr	'Fooling About'
Tues 15 th Apr	Easter Crafts

All meetings are held in the village hall and start at 2pm unless otherwise stated and anyone is welcome. Subs for members are £25 this term and must be paid in advance. This includes refreshments, activities and subsidised events. Non-members are welcome to come along to any session. The fee will be between £5 and £10 depending on the activity. New members are always welcome. Usually the first session is free.

Please contact Moira on **01787 374652** or Sue on **07881 383 998** if you would like more details.

Sue Presland

DO YOU LIVE IN NEWTON?

Would you like to support our community? Would you like to help organise village events?

If you can answer 'yes' then we are planning to form a group to organise village events and would love your involvement. In the past there have been fetes, firework displays and picnics in the park to celebrate important national events and the suchlike.

Please contact Sue Presland 07881 383 998 or Lee Parker 07970 196 884 for further information or visit the 'Newton Newsletter' Facebook page.

We look forward to hearing from you!

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

The current Trustees are:

Alan Vince	<i>Chair, Treasurer & Bookings</i>
Janet Weavers	<i>Secretary</i>
Fiona Garman	<i>PCC Rep</i>
Rita Schwenk	<i>NPC Rep</i>
Sue Presland	<i>Newton Charities</i>
Teresa Parry	<i>Fireside Club</i>
Graham Ferguson	<i>Elected</i>
Joan Linney	<i>Elected</i>

We are currently looking for new trustees to help us to manage our beautiful village hall. We hold four meetings each year with the April meeting also being the AGM.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance of the hall and the administration of its finances. This is not an onerous responsibility, especially if we can share responsibilities between a number of people. I am sure you will agree that we are very fortunate to have such a lovely village hall and we need to keep it in good condition. Please do contact one of the trustees if you would like to learn more about the role - no obligation.

I am pleased to report that 200 days after the start of the installation, full fibre has now been installed. It was a complex procedure that started with the need to register the hall's address with Royal Mail. The actual connection of the cable involved a specialist team and input from the research team at Martelsham. There are still a few teething problems to ensure we get a strong signal, but it is up and running. The WiFi code will be displayed in the hall. We are sure this will be a valuable addition to the hall's resources.

We are also pleased to report that funding has been secured to replace the windows in the original part of the hall. The windows are currently being manufactured, so we hope that installation will commence in the near future.

The provisional dates for next year's coffee meetings have been set. They start at 10am and the raffle is usually called at about 11:15am. These mornings are a great opportunity to catch up as well as to support the village organisations.

Sat 22 nd February	Village Hall
Sat 29 th March	Parish Council (and litter pick)
Sat 26 th April	St Nicholas Hospice
Sat 24 th May	Fireside Club
Sat 27 th September	Macmillan
Sat 25 th October	Newton Charities
Sat 22 nd November	Village Hall

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DO YOU KNOW AN INSPIRING YOUNG PERSON?

Nominations are open for this year's winner of The K&S Cup - an award that celebrates Boxford's brilliant youth population. The K&S Cup is given annually to a young person in the village who has made a positive difference to the Boxford community over the last 12 months. The winner receives £50 in cash and gets awarded the cup with their name engraved on it.

Do you know of a young person who has campaigned, fund-raised, or given up their time to improve the lives of others and help make their community a better place? They must live in Boxford and be aged 19 or under to qualify.

If there is someone who you feel is a worthy winner, please let us know by nominating them online at:

www.boxfordsuffolk.com/KandSCup

500 SUFFOLK REASONS

500 Suffolk Reasons is a local fundraising initiative launched by five friends involved in the Voluntary Sector in Suffolk. It addresses hidden needs and hardships in the county which were intensified by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. It aims to support individuals and families in need by inviting 500 people to donate £1 weekly by standing order. Donors can nominate someone facing financial difficulties, such as a frontline worker needing car repairs or a low-income family desperately needing a new washing machine. Inspired by the original 500 Reasons group, it focuses on tackling the inequalities revealed by recent crises, helping those living in poverty, those affected by job loss, ill-health and other challenges. The group emphasises a simple, non-bureaucratic approach to aid. By recruiting 500 participants, they aim to distribute up to £500 weekly to struggling households in Suffolk. Residents and workers in the area are encouraged to join and make a positive difference.

- Ann Osborn: *CEO, Rural Coffee Caravan*
- Sue Hughes: *Independent Chair of Suffolk Dementia Forum & Non-Exec Director of Healthwatch Suffolk*
- Andy Yacoub: *CEO, Healthwatch Suffolk*
- Jo Reeder: *CEO, Communities Together East Anglia*
- Sally Connick: *Community Development Officer, Fifth Sense*

For more information about how to join 500 Suffolk Reasons, please email 500suffolkreasons@gmail.com

NEWTON RESIDENTS' GOLF

One of the great benefits of being a Newton resident is the ability to play golf on the common land that forms part of Newton Green Golf Club course. Estate Agents often describe the benefit of 'Free Golf' in their sales particulars when looking to entice new purchasers to move to the village, but what does that mean and how does it work in practical terms?

Whilst it is a right for villagers to be able to play golf, there are some long established requirements that need to be observed to ensure rounds run smoothly and to the benefit of all. So, for those newer residents of the village and, as a refresher to everyone else, here is a reminder of the protocols agreed between Newton Green Trust and Newton Green Golf Club.

Residents need to register annually with the golf club office. A proof of residency, e.g. council tax or utility bill will be required. You will be issued with a bag tag specific to villagers so the Clerk of the Course can identify the different types of players on the course at any given time. If you don't have a tag available and on

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Opening Hours
Wednesday - Sunday from 12pm

Wide selection of drinks from independent UK producers
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Festive Hours
Open every day (even Mon & Tues)
December 18th-Jan 2nd.
For opening & food service times, please check our website.

January Holidays
We will be closed from the 2nd of Jan for 2 weeks,
Reopening on Friday January 17th from 12pm!

Open Mic Night - Every 4th Wednesday of the month
Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025

Sourdough Pizzas & Boards & Bites Menu
Boards: Wed-Sat 12-8, Sun 12-4
Pizzas: Sit in/Takeaway - Thurs 5-8pm, Fri & Sat 12-8, Sun 12-4

Street Food
Follow us on Facebook/Instagram for weekly updates!
No Wagyu in Jan! (they're on holidays!) Back in Feb!
Wagyu Burgers - SATURDAY, Dec 28th
Taqueria La Gringa - Friday, January 17th
My Thai Chef Melford - Dec 31 (NYE)

   @edwardstonewh www.edwardstonewhitehorse.co.uk

display, you may be asked to leave the course.

Villagers will need to book their round of golf, in advance, using the golf club's booking app, BRS. You will be given access to it upon registration. If you don't have access to the app for any reason but wish to play, you can book with the pro-shop directly, but it will be at their discretion as to whether tee times are available or not.

You will be required to pay £1 every round in order for insurance cover to be provided – essential on a course that shares its fairways with members of the public and motor vehicles.

Villager golf is available only on those holes on the green. That is to say, hole 1, before joining holes 12-18 with a specially created village hole situated between holes 12 & 13. On competition days when there could be lots of golfers on the course and, to ensure smooth play, the pro-shop might allow holes 1-9 to be played but this is entirely at their discretion and will be advised by them at tee off. In all other circumstances, if you wish to play on the full course, you will need to pay the prevailing course rate. If villagers use the holes situated on the non-green part of the course without having paid the required fee and, without the permission of the pro-shop, they will be asked to leave.

Newton Green Trust have negotiated a special class of membership with the golf club, called 'Villager Plus' for those residents that might want to play the full course regularly. The membership cost to residents is 50% of the full club membership but precludes you from obtaining a handicap or taking part in competitions. The newly refurbished club house is open to all however for that well deserved refreshment. In all other circumstances you will need to join the golf club at the prevailing rate.

We hope you find this reminder guide useful and wish everyone a safe and harmonious round.

Newton Green Trust & Newton Green Golf Club

OFSTED VISITS BOXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We were delighted by the outcome of our recent Ofsted visit. The inspection lasted two days and inspectors were able to speak to nearly every pupil in school. We were immensely pleased with our parent feedback and we would like to thank all stakeholders for their continued support. The report reflects the ethos of our very special school:

This school has a culture of kindness and respect. Pupils receive excellent support with their well-being. This is especially so for vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The school compassionately helps families where needed. Pupils are able to support their peers because their own emotional needs are deeply met. For example, Year 6 pupils started a high-quality 'well-being team'. As a result of this ethos, pupils are safe and happy.

Behaviour is orderly. After breaktimes, pupils return calmly to lessons. In class, they focus and work hard. Pupils are polite and friendly. They open doors to adults and tidy up after themselves. Children in early years respond well to clear routines. Bullying is rare. Any incidents of unkindness get speedily resolved.

Pupils learn an ambitious curriculum. They achieve well. There is an exceptionally wide and well-planned set of opportunities. Pupils initiate whole-school charity work. They live and breathe the school's motto of 'living life in all its fullness'.

Boxford Primary Ofsted Report, October 2024

Would you like a school tour?

Please contact Mrs Clarke in the office on 01787 210332 or email office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk if you would like to book a school tour. We look forward to seeing you soon!

*Mr Scott Reynolds
Assistant Headteacher*

COURT KNOLL LODGE DONATION

The Masonic Lodge, Court Knoll Lodge 9194, in the Province of Suffolk, who meet at the Boxford Village Hall, made a donation of £250 to the St Marys food bank at their December meeting.

The Lodge are pleased to make this donation to a very worthy local cause and plan to support local events further from our charity account .

The photo shows the Rev Rob Parker - McGee receiving the cheque with members of Court Knoll Lodge WBro Green Worshipful Master WBro Dundon Charity Steward WBro Neil Provincial Charity Steward and Bro Leeder.



READER'S LETTER

Dear Editor

I am concerned by the amount of dog foul waste being left by owners who are walking their dogs on the playing field and not clearing up after them. As a responsible dog owner I find this disappointing as it will start giving all dog owners a bad name.

If you walk your dog on the playing field please clear up after it. This is even more important now the field is being used by local junior football teams.

Dog faeces can be a serious hazard because they may contain microorganisms that are both pathogenic to humans and resistant to several classes of antibiotics.

PLEASE ACT RESPONSIBLY.

Thank you.
Anonymous Resident of Little Waldingfield

BABERGH CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE 2024-25

Refuse (general rubbish) and recycling collections will take place as normal up to, and including, Tuesday 24 December 2024. Refuse and recycling collections will be on an amended schedule from Wednesday 25 December 2024 to Saturday 11 January 2025.

	Usual collection date	Amended collection date	Change
Recycling	Mon 23 December	No Change	None
	Tue 24 December	No Change	None
	Wed 25 December	Fri 27 December	2 days later
	Thurs 26 December	Sat 28 December	2 days later
	Fri 27 December	Mon 30 December	3 days later
Refuse	Mon 30 December	Tue 31 December	1 day later
	Tue 31 December	Thurs 2 January	2 days later
	Wed 1 January	Fri 3 January	2 days later
	Thurs 2 January	Sat 4 January	2 days later
	Fri 3 January	Mon 6 January	3 days later
Recycling	Mon 6 January	Tues 7 January	1 day later
	Tues 7 January	Wed 8 January	1 day later
	Wed 8 January	Thurs 9 January	1 day later
	Thurs 9 January	Fri 10 January	1 day later
	Fri 10 January	Sat 11 January	1 day later

From Monday 13 January 2025, refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

GARDEN WASTE (BROWN BIN) COLLECTIONS

Collections will take place as normal up to, and including, Friday 20 December 2024.

From Monday 23 December 2024 to Sunday 5 January 2025, there will be **no** garden waste collections.

From Monday 6 January 2025, garden waste collections return to the normal schedule.

Please put your bin out by 6:30am

To check for delays and report a missed collection please visit www.babergh.gov.uk. Alternatively, phone **0300 1234 000** (option 4)

GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

NEW EVENTS:

We are extremely excited about the following events planned for the new year.

17th January - *'What does history teach us about Russia today?'* Hugely relevant question for us all! This will be a talk led by Jennifer Antill, a local Historical Novelist and Student of Russian Language, Culture and Political History. Jenny has 2 Books published, based in 1825 - 1830 Russia: *'Small Acts of Kindness'* & *'Fortunes Price'*.

21st February - *'An Evening with David Long'* David is a historian and author of many history books for both adults and children. He is very local, living in Stone Street, Boxford.

This is a fantastic opportunity to discuss with David his career before and after starting his fascination with history and telling its stories.

Late March/early April - *'What does history teach us about America today?'* Again this is highly relevant with Trump v2 'elect'. I will lead this talk, walking through America's history, starting here in Groton coming all the way to 'today'. It is only 248 years old. America, the land of the free and democracy's greatest experiment? And yet divided more than ever. What does history say?

30th May - *'First World War Memorabilia from the Trenches'*. Major (Ret) Neil Perriton has an extensive collection of WW1 Memorabilia, collected over his lifetime that he will share with us. From trench craftwork, medals, uniforms to weaponry, Neil will have lots on display and stories to tell about all of them. This is almost a once in a lifetime opportunity to see such a collection.

I hope you are as excited as we are about these events coming up in the new year. All events will be £5 entry, which includes a glass of wine!

Please put these dates in your diary and email me if you would like to reserve seats.

80 Years ago with the 1st Suffolks:

It's all about the Kangaroos! At the beginning of January, a German force had crossed back over the River Maas and taken up position at Wanssum Wood, near the village of Well. To attack the wood, the British would need to advance over



flat, featureless terrain, visible to the Germans all the way. The South Lancs tried first, sustaining heavy casualties and had to abandon the attack. Forward the Kangaroos and the 1st Suffolks!

The Kangaroos were basically Sherman tanks without their turrets. If all the stowage was removed 10 men could just about fit in, albeit it was 'open top'. A quick bit of embussing and debussing training, familiarisation with each 'Roo' was essential for speed of operation. They would need to go in hard and fast. It was freezing weather. A snowstorm negated the need for smoke rounds to cover the advance. Rapidly advancing they debussed about 15 yards from the woods, the two platoons of C Company, 1st Suffolks, went charging in. The woods were captured, along with German prisoners, with only two men killed. Mines caused ten other wounded. This was a great morale boost for the new year and the 1st Suffolks were the very first unit to advance into battle in Kangaroos! 15 reporters descended on the Suffolks, including one from the Bury Free Press, who was given preferential treatment and a personal tour by the CO!

Other key January Events in History:

- 1st Jan 1863: Abraham Lincoln issues Emancipation Declaration, freeing all slaves in the rebelling states.
- 6th Jan 1066: Harold Godwinson is crowned King of England. Was going to be a very short and bloody reign.
- 10th Jan 1863: The world's first underground railway is opened, The Metropolitan Line, between Paddington and Farringdon.
- 13th Jan 1893: The British Independent Labour Party is founded. Kier Hardie was its first leader.
- 15th Jan 1559: Elizabeth Tudor, somehow surviving her 'bloody' sister, is crowned Queen Elizabeth. She reigned for 45 years.
- 21st Jan 1924: Lenin dies, Stalin takes over, Soviet Union formed, millions die.
- 30th Jan 1649: King Charles I is executed by order of Parliament. A decade of chaos ensued.

Recommended Reading, Listening and Viewing :

- *'Shrines of Gaiety'* by Kate Atkinson. Based partly on Kate Meyrick aka 'The Night Club Queen'. A story of 1920s sordid glitz and crooks in London.
- *'Nixonland'* by Ron Perlstein. Brilliant insight in to the Rise and Fall of Richard Nixon.
- *'Luther: The man who changed the World'* from the 'Rest is History' podcast. 4 part series. A strong candidate for the Greatest Person of All Time?!
- *'The Russian Revolution'* from 'Empire' Podcast. A series of 4 episodes tracing the overthrow of the Tsar to his murder. Quick, listen before we hear from Jenny Antill on 17th January!
- *'Colosseum'* on iPlayer. 7 part series traces the rebirth, in 4th C AD, of Rome's once proud symbol of its 'glory'. A must see before watching Gladiator 2.

What if..?:

What if... Abraham Lincoln had not been assassinated? Well, that is a good question. We will get into this a little when I lead the talk on *'History teaching us about America today'*, in late March/early April. Would the 'reconstruction' have gone differently? Would there really have been widespread emancipation and equality? Given the division and the hatred within the vanquished states, I fear not. If Wilkes Booth failed, then I suspect others would have tried. Only takes one! But ...it's a great question for the optimists. The legacy of his assassination lives on today.

What if... Imperial Japan had not attacked Pearl Harbour in 1941? If Imperial Japan was to expand eastwards and southwards it would have to come up against the USA either in the Philippines or at Midway, sooner or later. They would probably fail in all estimates. Their only shot at success was to force the USA to seek peace not war. To do that they needed to 'destroy' the Pacific Fleet in one go. As we know, they failed with that silver bullet. Maybe the better question is: What if Hitler had not declared war on USA in support of Japan? The year 1941 was not a good year for his strategic decision making. In June he declared war on Soviet Union. In December he declared war on USA. Both these miscalculations effectively saved Britain though. On such decisions is history made.

Please send me an email if you want to recommend any reading, listening or viewing. Also if you want to reserve a glass of wine at our next events! All are very welcome from across the BRN community! I am also keen to hear your suggestions for topics to be included in this monthly article on history.

Nigel Chapman
nigeljchap@gmail.com

HADLEIGH & BOXFORD PPG

Out of Hours Doctor: 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.



Comings & Goings: Sadly, after many years, Dr Everitt has retired. Our sincere thanks for her many years of dedicated, caring service. We wish her a well-deserved, long and happy retirement. Dr Khalid, who has already joined the medical team, has added many additional appointment times for patients.

Call Back Option: Have you tried the 'save my place in the queue' option yet? Many patients are still not aware of this very helpful, efficient return call option believing that they will lose their turn in the queue. Rest assured you do not as your call will be returned once it reaches your turn. Choose the 'call back' option and then hang up. It beats the tedium of hanging on.

Non-Urgent Appointments: Avoid the early morning scramble by using Econsult. Available 24/7 and your requests will be dealt within 48 hours. This will also free up the line for more pressing appointment needs.

The NHS App: Did you know you can order your repeat prescription via the NHS app, view your medical records and much more via the NHS app? Do you have access to this very useful app? You will be surprised how much useful information can be found there. If you ever have reason to use a doctor outside Hadleigh they can immediately access your medical records; saving valuable time and a lot of stress.



Sincere apologies to anyone who went to the Hadleigh Library for the December IT training session. I also went. Unbeknown to the duty librarian, the IT guru was in the upstairs room. There will be better communication and signage in future to avoid this happening again. The sessions will continue.

Medicine Wastage: The statistics for medicine wastage are staggering. You could easily do your bit to improve these shocking statistics e.g. check your stock of prescription drugs before re-ordering more, keep your repeat prescription up to date and stop ordering medicine you no longer take, before you leave the pharmacy check the contents of the bag and return unwanted items for re-use. If you wait until after you have left the premises their cost becomes part of the £110 million medicine wastage.

Volunteer Drivers: Jen Eastwood coordinates a group of volunteer drivers who are willing to take patients needing transport to their doctor or hospital appointments. If you are a driver with a few hours to spare please contact Jen jen.eastwood8@gmail.com 01787 211 853 and support this invaluable service. Insurance issues are addressed when you sign up.

Art in Practice: A new display for you to enjoy. This time the work of local artist Bob Hogan. Our thanks to Hazel Bradshaw's students for brightening the health centre's waiting area for several weeks. One of her student's pieces was sold and 10% of the purchase price went to the practice's charitable trust. If you are interested in buying any of the artwork please contact me and not the practice personnel.

Wishing patients and readers a happy, healthy 2025.

Both Practices: 01473 822 961

NHS App: www.nhs.uk/nhs-app

Chair: Jan Devey 01473 827 091 or 07881 798999

Website: www.hadleighhealth.co.uk

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

PPG & Art Sales: deveys@btinternet.com

THE BUTCHER'S WIFE

I am poorly sick with the world's worst cold. When I was a kid and we were ill, we always had tomato soup and a cheese sandwich. The sandwich had to be made with mayonnaise and the cheese had to be grated and then it had to be cut into triangles. This is important, made any other way and it's not the same. I still make myself this as an adult when I'm ill and it always makes me feel better.



It's only when you are ill that you realise how much you take for granted. For example, breathing through your nose or being able to take a deep breath. As awful as I feel, my biggest fear is that The Butcher catches this cold because we all know that he will be twice as ill as me. I do not have the patience for that.

So wish me luck in (a) not dying from this cold and (b) not killing The Butcher when he gets it.

Creamy Tomato Soup

Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 110g unsalted butter
- 4 large carrots, diced
- 2 medium onions, diced
- 3 tins whole tomatoes, crushed roughly by hand
- 950ml chicken stock
- ¼ tsp baking soda, plus more as needed (optional)
- 220ml double cream
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper, or more to taste
- ½ tsp ground cayenne, or more to taste
- A handful of fresh basil leaves, torn

Method

- In a large stainless steel pot, melt butter over medium heat until foaming, then add carrots and onions.
- Cook, stirring occasionally until butter starts to brown on the bottom, about 15 minutes.
- Add tomatoes and chicken stock. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until quite thick, about 1½ hours.
- Taste. If flavour is too sharp, add ¼ tsp baking soda and stir well (it will foam at first). Taste and repeat if needed.
- Purée soup until smooth.
- Stir in cream, then season with salt, pepper, and cayenne to taste. Stir in basil just before serving.




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RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends

Christmas is finally upon us and thank God for that! What will you be doing over the Christmas period? Make sure you celebrate – life is too complicated and messy to turn down an opportunity for a good party. Christianity is all about prayer and parties. If we get the balance wrong, we end up in trouble.

I wonder if partying was one of the impulses of the shepherds as they witnessed the Angels united in song and dancing in merry splendour in the night sky? As these lowly farmhands descended from the hilltops and made their way into town, I wonder what these night watchmen expected to see? Whatever it was, they got that and much more besides as they moved into sight of the stable and, nestling within it, the holy Christ-child resting in his radiant mother's arms. Not only were they invited to celebrate something mysterious, they witnessed the birth of a bearer of unshakable truth that, until this time, the world had lacked. In the same way, maybe Christmas is the invite we need to begin to explore more deeply the things that will provide us with that bit of stability in our lives that is so often missing.

In church at this time of year, we are given a delectable delight of musical offerings as we sing some of the most wonderful carols and hymns that bring joy to our souls. There is something about music and singing that adds unspeakable breadth and depth to our understanding. Hymns are a great way of exploring our faith, as they contain within them some profound theological thinking that, together with melody and song, reveals eternal truths and feeds our souls at the deepest level.

One of my favourite hymns is called *'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy'*. It encapsulates what I consider to be one of the most important bits of Christian teaching - and one that so many of us are prone to forget when we are in disagreement with another person – that God's love for us is so broad that nothing we can do will separate us from it. This is an eternal truth that applies to us and to every other person as well. So be very careful who you choose to condemn and curse!

In that hymn, there is one verse in particular that really hits home and makes me sit up and consider my thoughts anew. It goes:

*'But we make God's love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.'*

God sends us Jesus as a physical example of his boundless, all merciful, forgiving and compassionate love for us. That love is open to all. Not one person is excluded from it. That is the central message of Christmas and Christianity.

The baby Jesus in a manger that we celebrate at Christmas calls each of us to emulate the boundless love that he brings. Imagine living in a world that really believed that! Perhaps we need more prayer and parties!

With much love and every blessing this Christmas,

Fr Rob



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

MADRIGALIA NEWS

After a brush with Covid just before our Spring Concert at Groton Church left us a couple of singers short and



having to replace our accompanist at short notice, we were greatly relieved that it went well. We joined forces with the harp ensemble *'Melody of Harps'*, so it involved more than twenty musicians and as well as all the preparation that went into the music, the committee at Groton Church had been busy organising publicity and refreshments. Thankfully, we didn't have to cancel and all was well.

We enjoyed very much singing for the Boxford Friendship Group in the summer, and we also gave another joint concert with the harp ensemble at Sudbury Arts Centre in July.

Our year ended with the Christmas Concert for the Borley Church Illuminations with all the atmosphere of an old fashioned village Christmas.

At the close of 2024 our choir numbers have increased and we're very much looking forward to our singing engagements in 2025.

Ideally, we'd like to increase our tenor section from 3 to 5 singers to match our bass section, so we're looking for two more tenors, and then I think our lounge won't be able to accommodate any more singers!!

*Wishing you a very Happy New Year,
Sue Price*

A Fresh Complexion for 2025

Our faces hate winter! Cold air, central-heating and rich Christmas food and alcohol all play havoc with our skin. So, if sorting your complexion is a resolution for you this year – we can help!



Medical Microdermabrasion is the ultimate treatment to improve the look and feel of your skin. A painless alternative to chemical peels, it has similarly impressive results.

Our medical microdermabrasion intensively exfoliates, resurfaces and rehydrates the skin using a fine jet of crystals - stimulating blood flow; leaving you with brighter, tighter, younger-looking skin. Add on a **Dermalux LED treatment** to accelerate the skin's natural rejuvenation and repair process - this treatment duo will really pack a punch.

January Skin Special

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* Offer valid until 31/01/2025. Must not be used in conjunction with any other offers.

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SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2025



Sunday 5th January <i>Christmas 2</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 8th January <i>Epiphany</i>	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 12th January <i>Epiphany</i> <i>Baptism of Christ</i> <i>Plough Sunday</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist with Choir</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	16:00	<i>BCP Evensong with Choir</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 15th January	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 19th January <i>Epiphany 2</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	<i>Holy Eucharist with Baptism and Choir</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 22nd January	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 26th January <i>Epiphany 3</i> <i>Plough Sunday (transferred)</i>	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	<i>Family Service</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 29th January	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	St Mary's, Boxford

Morning Prayer - join Father Rob at St Mary's, Boxford or streamed live on Facebook at 8.00 am

- most Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mornings

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

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



BOXRIVER BENEFICE COFFEE MORNINGS

DROP IN FOR COFFEE EVERY TUESDAY BETWEEN 10AM TO 12PM AT
MARY'S HOUSE, SWAN STREET, BOXFORD

FRIDAY, 3RD JANUARY

10.30 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ST LAWRENCE'S, LT WALDINGFIELD

WEDNESDAY, 15TH JANUARY

10.00 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ALL SAINTS', NEWTON

SATURDAY, 18TH JANUARY

10.00 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ST MARY'S, BOXFORD

EVERYONE WELCOME, COME ALONG FOR CUPPA AND A CHAT

BRING AND SHARE



St Mary's Church, Boxford
(in the North Porch)

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN NEED, PLEASE VISIT THE FOOD BANK OR
YOU CAN CONTACT FATHER ROB OR THE BENEFICE OFFICE IN CONFIDENCE
IF YOU NEED A FOOD PARCEL

ALL DONATIONS OF NON PERISHABLE GOODS, ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN

Thank You



The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - JANUARY

- Fri 3rd 10:30am** *Coffee Morning, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield*
Tues 7th 10am *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House, Boxford*
Tues 14th 10am *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House, Boxford*
Wed 15th 10am *Coffee Morning, All Saints', Newton Green*
Wed 15th 7:30pm *Boxford PCC, Mary's House, Boxford*
Sat 18th 10am *Coffee Morning, St Mary's, Boxford*
Tue 21st 10am *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House, Boxford*
Tue 21st 7:30pm *Edwardstone PCC, TBC*
Tue 28th 10am *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House, Boxford*
Tue 28th 7:30pm *Groton PCC, Mary's House, Boxford*

THANK YOU FROM THE BENEFICE OFFICE

Happy New Year! May this new beginning bring renewed hope and opportunities for growth in our faith and communities. As we reflect on the joyous Christmas season, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our incredible volunteers who made the celebrations in our churches so special. Your dedication, hard work, and generosity of spirit have truly made a difference.

From decorating the church to organising events and offering a warm welcome to all who attended, your contributions have been invaluable. The festive atmosphere and the sense of community we experienced would not have been possible without your tireless efforts.

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us. Your commitment to our church and community is deeply appreciated, and we are grateful to all of you.

LIGHT UP - ST MARY'S, BOXFORD

On the 7th December, St Mary's Church was lit up in memory of Rosaleen Loyd, our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

If you would like further information about lighting up St Mary's Church in 'Memory of a Loved one or In Celebration of an Anniversary, Birthday or Special Occasion', please contact the Benefice Office for further information.

FESTIVE DRINKS AND NIBBLES IN LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

We started off the Christmas celebrations with a wonderful evening on 6th December. There was a lovely atmosphere in the church, with people enjoying the food and wine. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to such a successful and happy event. We raised £755 for church funds.



FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING AT NEWTON GREEN

We were delighted to see so many new faces as well as familiar ones, it was a wonderful success and we couldn't have done it without your support. Thank you to everyone who joined us and braved the terrible weather. Don't forget to come along to one of our monthly coffee mornings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, starting on 15th January at 10am, everyone is welcome.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN BOXFORD

At time of going to press, the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Boxford, has not happened yet! Don't think we have forgotten to include, we will report back in February's edition of the Box River news.

BRING AND SHARE FOODBANK AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, BOXFORD

We are deeply grateful for the generous donations made to the food bank over the past few months, enabling us to help us provide essential food and supplies to families and individuals who are facing difficult times.

Thank you to everyone who attends the Boxford Fleece monthly quiz. We were selected as a charity for one of their quiz nights, raising over £100 for the foodbank.

Thank you to 1st Boxford Cubs, who raised £138 by carrying out sponsored events to raise money for the foodbank as part of their Community Impact activity badge.

Thank you to the Court Knoll Lodge 9194, who donated £250 to the foodbank.

Thank you for the kindness and generosity shown by everyone and for your unwavering support and for making a difference in the lives of so many. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community.

VOLUNTEERING WITHIN THE BENEFICE

Sitting at the heart of our villages, our churches are always on the lookout for new volunteers to support our existing volunteers within the Benefice. Our volunteers do an incredible job keeping our church and communities alive. You don't have to be a church-goer to volunteer, levels of commitment also vary, everyone is welcome. Come along and feel part of your church and community.

Is 2025 the year for you to try something new? There is something for everyone: - bellringing, choir, flower arranging, opening/closing churches, helping at coffee mornings, helping at Mary's House, cleaning, maintenance, gardening, fund raising and helping at the foodbank. Please contact the Benefice Office in the first instance for more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Benefice Office

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

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



PILATES IN EDWARDSTONE

Starting Wednesday 8th January, 7pm, at Edwardstone Village Hall, drop in or book a block at discounted price of £8 a session. Ideal for both beginners and those who have done pilates before. Pilates is fantastic for overall fitness, strength and also relaxation. Taught by Claire, a certified Body Control Pilates teacher, who has been practising pilates for over 20 years.

Contact Claire for further details: 07772 074 750 or 01787 210473. Email: clairemortimer3@gmail.com

POLSTEAD FILMS

CONCLAVE

Certificate 12A

Friday 10th January, Doors open 7pm

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

From director Edward Berger. Starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, Isabella Rossellini.

Conclave follows one of the world's most secretive events, the selection of a new Pope. With its gripping performances, striking visuals, and a smart mix of suspense and wit, *Conclave*, based on the book by Robert Harris, is a suspenseful thriller that feels both grand and surprisingly relevant.

"Ralph Fiennes is phenomenal as Cardinal Lawrence."

"If he doesn't win an Oscar I'll eat my hat and yours too!"

Tickets are £5. Email: polsteadfilms@gmail.com to reserve or buy in Polstead Community Shop

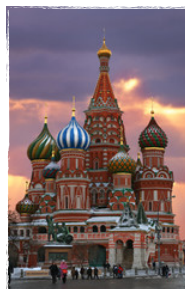
The film starts at 7.30pm and will finish around 9.45pm

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



GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

JANUARY
17



"What does History teach us about Russia today? "

Jennifer Antill

Historical Novelist and Student of Russian Language, Culture, Politics & History

@ Groton Village Hall: 19:30 - 21:30

£5 entry, includes Glass of Wine

QUIZ FOR THE COMMUNITY!

A big THANK YOU to all of you who have supported the Fleece charity quiz in 2024. We really do appreciate your support and have loved hosting the events. They have been super popular and so far we have raised money for FOBS, the Boxford Food Bank, Fresh Start Charity, Boxford First Responders, Lighthouse Women's Aid, Boxford Playing Fields and others too!

So for those of you who may be currently unaware, this is a monthly charity quiz, (teams up to 6 people), held at the Fleece pub in the centre of Boxford, usually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Please check in the BRN for dates for 2025 or look at the posters in The Fleece.

It is a relaxed fun night - nothing too taxing - raising funds for charities and non-profit organisations local to Boxford.

It is completely free to enter – all we ask is that you support the charity of the month with a donation. You also get free nibbles at half time!

Please do come and support us – AND if you represent a charity or have a worthy local cause which you would like to be included if possible please let us know. Call **01787 211818** to book.

Jenny, Sarah and Bex

KERSEY TABLE TENNIS CLUB

We are a small and friendly club and welcome players of all abilities. We operate from Kersey village hall on Thursday evenings between 7:30pm and 9pm.

Our fees are: Adults £2 for one hour or £3 for the full session. Juniors (under 18) £2 irrespective of duration.

Contact Adrian Blyth **01473 827805** (amblyth1@gmail.com)

**BOXFORD
GARDENING SOCIETY**

**Ruby Shepperson & Sian Watson
RECLAIMING THE RAIN,
BOXFORD**

Find out what it's all about and celebrate
our new Village Hall garden!



**Tuesday 4th February 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall**



Fleece Jazz at
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

**Ben Crosland's All-Star Band
plays the Ray Davies songbook**

Wednesday 8th January 2025 8pm - Tickets: £25



Bringing a fresh jazz-infused perspective
to Davies' iconic music, with strong
grooves, a natural swing and evocative
melodies.

*John Etheridge – Guitars
Theo Travis – Saxes
Steve Lodder – Keys
Ben Crosland – Bass
Nic France – Drums*

Jazz at the Movies

Wednesday 22nd January 2025 8pm - Tickets: £22



One of the finest combos in the country
and a seriously talented vocalist
promising a great evening for both jazz
and movie buffs.

*Joanna Eden – Vocals
Mark Crooks – Sax
Chris Ingham – Piano
Joe Pettitt – Bass
George Double – 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

THE FLEECE HOTEL

Charity



Wednesday 15th Jan	2025	8PM
Wednesday 12th Feb	2025	8PM
Wednesday 12th Mar	2025	8PM
Wednesday 9th Apr	2025	8PM
Wednesday 14th May	2025	8PM
Wednesday 11th Jun	2025	8PM

**Free to enter, please donate on the night to the
charity of the month!**

**Up to 6 people per team, call 01787 211 818 to
reserve a table!**



THE ARTS
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or simply click the QR code which will take you direct to our
website www.TASstourvalley.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY

**CREATING AN IMAGINARY WORLD:
THEATRE DESIGN FROM TEMPLE TO PLAYHOUSE**

Theatrical scene design is one of the world's most
beautiful, varied and lively art forms.

This talk looks at the relationship between actor and
audience showing how this has transformed the space
and architecture of theatre from Ancient Greece
to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

MILDEN SINGERS

Despite setbacks earlier in the year when their concerts had to be cancelled, the Mildens Singers made sure the wait was worth it when they performed their Festive Concert at Mildens Pavilion. The evening included Christmas classics and popular songs, along with poems, a violin duet, readings and sketches filling the audience with Christmas cheer. The choir are pleased to announce they raised £600 in aid of Mildens Pavilion and the raffle was generously supported, raising £200 for Leukaemia UK.



Pearl's passion for singing with the joy it brings her and others saw her founding the Mildens Singers in 2009. Over the years their concerts and rehearsals have raised a staggering £21,000 to support Mildens Pavilion, for which we are extremely grateful. During each concert the choir hold a raffle to support a charity of their choice and over the 15 years they have raised up to £2,000; this has been shared with a wide variety of charities which have included the following local and national organisations: Headway, Bildeston Food Bank, Compassion, MND, Shelley Riding Centre, Cardiac Unit at Bury St Edmunds Hospital, The Children's Appeal at Ipswich Hospital.

Over the winter the choir are taking a break and they will be returning to rehearsals in March. In May they are looking to hold a new cabaret style concert with a 1940s tea party to coincide with the national VE80 celebrations.

To keep up to date with the Mildens Singers and their concerts please visit www.mildenspavilion.co.uk or via Facebook at Mildens Pavilion and Playingfield

BOXFORD WI UPDATE

In December the Boxford WI enjoyed a very festive lunch at The Fleece. A huge thanks must go to the staff for providing such a wonderful meal.

The ladies were also treated to our annual quiz, provided by one of the members, and a raffle, where three lucky ladies won a hamper each.

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in finding out what the WI are up to, come along to the village hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm where you will receive a warm welcome. Our first meeting next year will be on 8th January 2025.

Once you are a member you will be able to enjoy the following interest groups which we hold on a regular basis:

- Dining Divas (lunch group)
- Chatterbox (afternoon with tea and cake)
- Knit and Natter
- Book club
- Women who wander (walking group May - September)

For more information please contact our Secretary, Lyn Beer on **07961 357 526** or email lyn@the-brook.net



VOTE FOR THE CROWN

Vote for The Crown in the Eat Game Awards

The Bildeston Crown is an *Eat Game Awards* 2025 Finalist! Not only have they made the shortlist for Best Pub, but Greig Young, Executive Chef, has made the shortlist for Best Game Chef.



With a focus on estate to plate dining our team are committed to cooking up the plentiful supply of Suffolk produce and wild game sourced on the estate. Our sustainability mission continues as we have just recently announced our Gamekeeper's Supper.

"We are incredibly lucky as our pub is part of an expansive and bountiful estate that allows us to grow and much of the food we serve. Our Nedging Hall kitchen gardens are what provide us with herbs and the vegetables that accompany our tasty dishes, and so much more. Our menus are ever changing as the seasonality of our produce does too. Our Gamekeeper's Supper also aligns with this same ethos, as the game too is sourced from the estate. The shoots are held on the estate, to maintain a healthy population and ensure a balanced ecosystem."

Our focus on game and its sustainability has also earned us recognition from Eat Game which is a group 'aiming to educate, inspire and promote benefits of sustainable, delicious game meat.' This recognition has earned us a place on their shortlist for the Eat Game 2025 awards in the Best Restaurant/Pub category. We are especially excited to receive this news and encourage all to support us by voting!

<https://eatgame.co.uk/voting>

AN EVENING WITH FREDDY PASKE

The Bildeston Crown is excited to launch another 'Evening With' on April 3rd 2025, 6:30pm. An evening of tales, tomfoolery and, of course, good food. You'll sit down to a delicious three-course supper alongside interesting stories from a Suffolk personality.

Freddy Paske is an award-winning wildlife artist and an internationally acclaimed British artist known for his vibrant paintings of the animal kingdom. His art has been collected by royals, celebrities and art dealers from across the world, and in 2022 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II appointed Freddy as her Artist-in-Residence for the Platinum Jubilee.

Freddy now lives in Oxfordshire but was born and raised in Suffolk.

Book a table by calling us on 01449 740510

THANK YOU FROM WINSTONS WHEELS

On 9th November we ran a tombola stall in Bridge Farm Barn, Monks Eleigh and on 30th November we were at The Bull Hotel, Long Melford selling Christmas gift ideas and held a Christmas themed tombola with a kiddies one too. We are pleased to announce that this enabled us to purchase several sets of wheels for disabled dogs, but we could not have accomplished this without your marvellous support.

A happy new year to you all - see you in 2025!



*With a focus on locally sourced produce,
our menus change like the surrounding
Suffolk landscape through the seasons*

SET LUNCH MENU

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NOTES FROM A BEEKEEPER'S DIARY

It's mid-December now but in spite of the best efforts of storms Bertie and Darragh autumn is still clinging on by its fingernails. Or maybe the high winds that have caused so much damage and flooding in the West Country, Wales and the North-West have kept the northerly airflows at bay in our corner of Suffolk. Temperatures up to double figures are forecast into the week before Christmas, and beyond – who knows?

As temperatures cooled the queen bees stopped laying and the comb that the bees used all summer to raise brood became vacant. The bees use the free space to store honey to keep themselves fed until springtime when flowers will once more start producing nectar.

The last sources of nectar for the bees gave out in September so since then our colonies have been living off the stores they laid by for the colder months. Only those colder months have yet to start, although we have had two or three nights of frost. Our hives are well insulated with expanded foam so a few hours of low temperatures go hardly noticed by the occupants. But they still need food to eat and 6 months until next spring is a long time.

Once upon a time we had four seasons in a year, proceeding in a regular and predictable annual rhythm. All that is no more because of climate change. Now we just have – weather.

At first glance mild winters might seem to be a bonus for the bees. After all, who wants to be shivering in sub-zero temperatures? But bees stay active in the hive until they sense a drop in temperature, when they slow right down to conserve energy. Eventually they form a slow moving, almost comatose mass, kept warm by the heat generated as a by-product of digestion. In warmer temperatures the bees stay more active, so using up more of their precious supplies.

The last flowers died off four months ago, and there won't be any more until the snowdrops open in late January, and crocus the following month. By then the hives will be empty of stored food, and without help from the beekeepers the bees will starve and die.

Two years ago many beekeepers were lulled into a false sense of security by a mild winter and an unusually high number of colonies were lost because they ran out of food. So this year we have been feeding the bees with a heavy sugar syrup right up to early December. This will continue, feeding all our hives as needed through January. By February we may with luck be greeted by the first glimpse of spring. Pollen being taken into the hives is a sure sign that the queens are starting to lay again.

Until then I shall be checking our hives regularly. So much for a few winter weeks' beekeeping relaxation and leisure time to catch up with other matters!

In many ways we were lucky this summer. Wasp populations were hit by the late spring and even in July and August when they can be a real pest there were few around compared to recent years. Thanks to effective publicity and increased public awareness the Asian hornet threat is still under control. A few were spotted in Sussex and Kent but the nests were spotted in good time and quickly and ruthlessly exterminated. As a sceptered isle we have been protected from the seemingly unstoppable spread of this fearsome bee parasite along the Channel coastline of Northern Europe.

So, as the days draw closer to the deep depths of winter and Christmas who would have thought that the year would be dominated by brutal conflicts in Eastern Europe, Palestine and elsewhere. Let us all hope for better things, for ourselves as well as the bees, in the year to come.

Tony Rand

FRENCH'S CARE HAVEN

Hello to our readers, I hope as always you have all been keeping well.

As some people already know our charity does not only help animals in need, we also work with people who need a little help with all sorts of things, from loneliness, depression and mental health problems. I welcome along anyone who could do with something like the animals as a new focus into their lives, which can be uplifting as well as rewarding, to help by giving an animal some love and care.

In our photo this month is a chap called Ian. He asked to bring along his mother Kay who is in her early 80s and has dementia.



Kay used to own horses and donkeys years ago and Ian thought it would be good for his mum to come and meet some of

our lovely rescues.

Kay got to feed and stroke all of the animals in the photo plus little Annie our Shetland and of course Lucy, our Therapy dog. Lucy welcomed Ian and Kay by bringing them my glove with a smile on her face and staying by their side all through the time they were at the farm. Ian took this photo of Lucy. Ian made a donation as he could see all the hard work and huge financial outlay that French's has and need help with to keep us going.

I always appreciate people's kindness when they make a donation to us. Speaking of this a thank you as always goes out to the handful of people who do make a regular donation, Cherry, Gale who are both stars, John, Debra, Emma, Geoffrey, Diana and Romina, wishing you all a Happy New Year along with our readers.

Finally with a deep heart of sadness 2024 ended with the loss of a wonderful lady who I had not long before the dreadful day had a cuddle and catch up with. Maggie from Sesaw will be greatly missed by all of her close friends and family members and those who helped out at her charity, which now I am sure will close, as Maggie is no longer around to battle on and keep it going. You did a great job over the decades Maggie, rest in peace lovely lady.

For all our readers please consider making a personal donation to us if you can, your help will keep us going in our time of financial struggle and would be very much appreciated by our team and of course our dear rescued animals, my contact details are at the bottom of this page.

If you would like any information about becoming part of our small team and helping care for our lovely horses and donkeys please do get in touch. All donations are also welcome with open arms and much gratitude.

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

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CITIZENS ADVICE

Damp and mould has built up in our home over the winter. It started around the windows but now it's spread. I've been chasing our letting agency, who say they'll speak to our landlord but there's been no action and I'm really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn't up for six months, what can I do?

**citizens
advice**

You've done the right thing by reporting the issue to your letting agency. It's not always easy to work out the cause of damp and mould, and your landlord might suggest that something you're doing is contributing to it. However, your landlord will be responsible for the issue if it's being caused by structural problems or disrepair such as a leaking roof or bad insulation.

Damp is when an area of your property doesn't dry out, often because it's cold. Damp can lead to mould, which is a fungus that grows in areas where warm damp air condenses on cold surfaces, like window frames. On our website you can find information which will help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do about it <https://bit.ly/ca-damp>. You should also check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp.

Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example, this could be if it's affecting your health or the health of someone living in the property with you. Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, for example if the roof is damaged. They would also have to cover the cost of repairs to any items damaged by the damp, including carpets and furniture.

One of the things that can contribute to damp and mould is condensation. One of the best ways to prevent condensation is to keep homes well-heated and ventilated, but high heating costs and cold

weather can make this difficult for lots of us. If you're finding it hard to insulate and heat your home, check our website to see if you're eligible for support. <https://bit.ly/ca-improvements-help>

There are steps you can take to make sure you're not contributing to a damp problem, and making it worse. Our website has advice on what to avoid, like drying clothes on heaters, blocking air vents, or using portable gas heaters <https://bit.ly/ca-damp>. However, showering, cooking, and laundry are the kinds of things everyone expects to be able to do in their homes. If the property can't be heated and ventilated adequately to cope with normal day-to-day living activities, then it's the property that's the problem, not your behaviour.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your home but doesn't do anything about it, there are steps you can take, like reporting them to the local authority. And as a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

As a last resort, you might decide you just want to leave the property but getting out of a tenancy agreement early can be difficult. There's information on our website about how to go about this but remember this can be hard and there might be things you haven't tried yet. <https://bit.ly/ca-ending-tenancy>

If you're feeling stuck, always speak to your local Citizens Advice or call our Adviceline on **0800 144 8848** for personalised support.

For more information visit the Citizens Advice website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call Sudbury and South Suffolk 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

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BRIAN TORA'S SOAP BOX

Well, here we are in 2025. Once we move into January, already a quarter of the first century of the third millennium will have passed. Yet it seems only a little while ago that we were preparing ourselves for the big change as we moved into the new millennium. It felt a big deal at the time. All manner of problems were forecast but in the end, it was just another marker in the inexorable progress of time.

Back 25 years ago, the so-called 'Millennium Bug' was being cited as the big risk. The doom mongers warned of ATMs failing to operate and even planes falling out of the skies. Yet we survived and the millennium bug looked like a device that simply allowed IT workers to charge even more for their services. It did, though, carry with it some unexpected consequences.

Alan Greenspan, the saxophone playing head of America's Federal Reserve Bank – the US equivalent of our Bank of England – pumped money into the US economy. The justification was that banks should not be allowed to run out of cash at a time when celebrations were taking place and the potential consequences of entering the new millennium were still not fully understood. This surplus cash inevitably found its way into the pockets of traders and helped fuel the technology boom that came to an abrupt end when Mr Greenspan asked for all the money back in March 2000.

Yet a quarter of a century on, technology now looms large in all our lives and tech companies are amongst the most valuable in the world. A little over 30 years ago, I wrote a book on the likely consequences of the technology revolution (which was how I saw it) on the financial services industry in which I had worked since the early 1960s. The final chapter speculated on how the investment world might look 50 years into the future. Remarkably, much of what I predicted came to be far more swiftly than I imagined.

Certainly, time seems to move much more quickly these days. Perhaps it is an age thing. I recall the late John Mortimer, author of the Rumpole stories, saying that now he was in his eighties, he felt as though he was having breakfast every hour on the hour. I sympathise. Time for me moves much faster than I would like, the progress being marked by increasing issues with health and the need to constantly renew one's supply of medication.

Talking to an acquaintance in the waiting room of a doctor's surgery recently, he remarked that once upon a time we would have met in train stations or airport lounges. Now it was in medical institutions. Time marches on and we need to adapt to the changes that surround us. Some are dictated by external forces others are a consequence of what is happening to us – to our bodies and to our immediate circumstances.

If I am sounding more than a little reflective, then blame it on the seemingly rapid approach of my 80th birthday. I am reluctantly coming to terms that I can no longer achieve what once I did, physically and mentally. Time plays an increasingly important role in my life. Aside from the fact it is running out, everything seems to take so much longer the older I get. Once I would rise at 6am in the morning and within 30 minutes be breakfasted, dressed and in my car commuting to London. Today it can take me a full two hours to progress from the bed to the breakfast table.

But if time seems to be passing in an accelerating fashion, at least I am still able to enjoy life. The stories that assail us on a daily basis reinforce the message that we are so much luckier here in Suffolk than in many places in the world. And even closer to home, there are those who life has treated far less favourably than the majority of we Box River residents. As we start a New Year – and the second quarter of this century – we should count our blessings and pledge support for those less fortunate than ourselves. This is on my resolution list. After all, the amount of time left to me to make a difference is uncertain and limited.

Brian Tora

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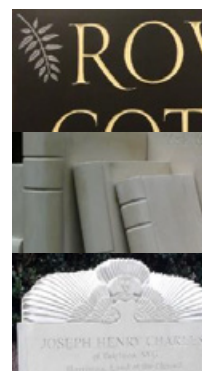
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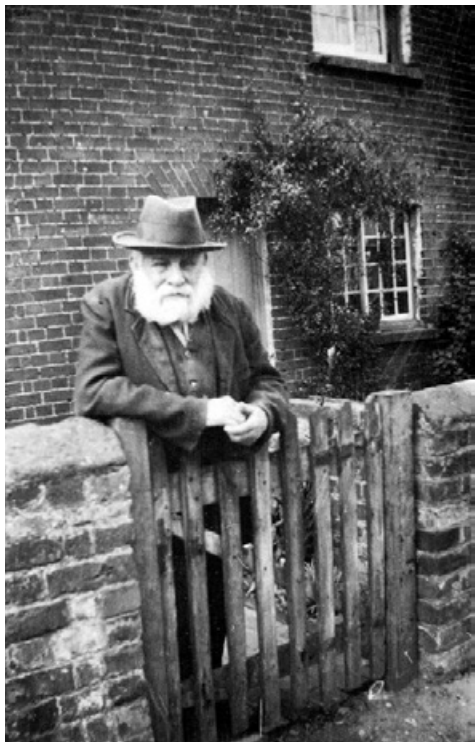
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PHOTOS AND STORIES FROM BOXFORD SOCIETY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

This month I have selected a miscellany from my favourite pictures. These include a number of recent acquisitions. They add to some stories already told and others waiting to be written in later editions. We need your help in identifying some of the people.

If you recognise anyone or have a story to tell, please contact Tina Loose on tina.loose@gmail.com or 01787 210538



This is from Cecil Hughes's extensive photograph collection. He was not sure who it was. The old gentleman is leaning over a Brookhall (now Cox Hill) cottage gate. Census householders' names for those cottages in 1911 were Hughes, Sparrow, Squirrel, Rice, Stephenson, Munson, Tatum, King and Tricker. Is he from one of these families or a Raynham or Mann? Do you know who he is?



Cecil Hughes's mum's sister Elsie who married a Griggs. They lived on the Sudbury Road (now Boxford Lane). Did she marry twice? Can anyone help with this picture?



Marriage of Peggy Smith aged 19 and Douglas Patrick in 1942. They lived in the converted Italian prisoner of war camp up the hill from Brookhall after the war. Peggy later lived in a bungalow on The Drift off Brookhall (now Cox Hill). Peggy was related to Tornado Smith and spent her childhood in Stone Street.



Above: Some years ago Doreen Jarmin supplied this friends and family picture with the details. It has been carefully restored and is a beautiful representation of the time. Elsie Speller (nee Tricker), Ron Tricker, Ted Speller, Mr & Mrs Self, Cordelia (Dee) & Walter Tricker; (Doreen Jarmin's grandparents). Where was it taken?

A few years ago Ann Kingsbury presented us with some details of the Kingsbury family. This is the wedding of her father Philip Bloss Kingsbury and Jean Margaret Bates in 1950. Philip was born in 1923 and came from a long line of Kingsburys who were major Boxford employers for the building industry over generations. At their peak they employed over 200 men and boys. Their men travelled as far as Colchester and Bury St Edmunds, often by cycle. Significant numbers of new houses were built, others re-fronted and walls created here over the years. They built Boxford Village Hall and were engaged in major restoration and improvement to St Mary's Church through the centuries. The archive contains a significant amount of information about the family, thanks to research by Ann Kingsbury (Leavenheath), Sue Whiteley (Boxford) and a number of American Kingsbury descendants.

L-R: Elizabeth Brain, Kathleen Bates (Bride's mother), Robert Bloss Kingsbury (Groom's brother), Philip Bloss Kingsbury (Groom), Jean Margaret Bates (Bride), John Bates, Eva Mabel Kingsbury, (Groom's mother), Betty Hunt, Walter Bloss Kingsbury, (Groom's father).



Left: We recently acquired this picture via Dr Frank Salmon at Cambridge University, supervisor of Sebastian Marshall, recently of Boxford. Harry Baker, miller 1882-91, known as 'Grandfree', is posing in the centre alongside a host of local characters, whom Frank Salmon's own father could name, but their names are now lost in time. Harry Baker was the great-great grandfather of Frank Salmon. Baker was living in Boxford by the end of 1882 and had moved to Edwardstone by 1891. In Boxford he tenanted both the Water Mill where the Surgery now sits and the Smock Mill that was on Boxford Lane. Frank assumes that Baker was the tenant of the mills' owner Stephen Scarfe - perhaps in succession to the journeyman miller, Ernest Gowing.



The Eau-de-Cologne or Honey Cart outside the Congregational Chapel in Swan Street. This picture came from Percy Fletcher who contributed a good deal of information to the archive. He had rather un-fond memories of the school bucket toilets and recalled the cart workers who emptied them, along with those then still found in the majority of houses in the village. No one ever mentions this when talking of the 'Good Old Days'! Has anyone got a better original of this picture that we could scan for the archive? It came from an old newspaper and is of poor quality.



Dorothy Laflin (née King), a child in Boxford in the late 1940s. She visited us with a number of lovely pictures of her family. She is the daughter of Harold Edgar King (known as Bob) so Kenny King, Tessa King, Marina King and her sisters mentioned in previous articles are her cousins. She was prompted by Kenny's story to fill out the family tree with more archive stories for the future.



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THE RED SEA PATROL

A Talk to LWHS by John Johnson-Allen

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome John Johnson-Allen to the Parish Room to share with us his incredible knowledge of The Royal Navy's role in creating the legend of Lawrence of Arabia, as expertly set out in his book of the same title.



Lawrence in 1919

However in the book there appears to be absolutely no reference to the very significant role played by the ships and men of the Royal Navy's Red Sea Patrol, the subject of this talk.

John began by showing us a map of the Red Sea, demonstrating just how big it is, more than 1,250 miles from top to bottom. It averages about 130 miles wide over its length, and nearly 200 miles near the bottom, covers an area of some 174,000 square miles and has a greatest depth of nearly 10,000 feet. This was a huge area for the navy to cover, particularly with the old slow and obsolescent ships at its disposal, ships that could not have successfully taken on the modern Kriegsmarine. Possibly the title of John's book should have emphasized the Royal Navy's role more and that of Lawrence less: *The Red Sea Patrol, T.E. Lawrence and the Arab Revolt* perhaps.



John told us that during 1915 the Red Sea was divided roughly into two parts at the 21st parallel, a northern and southern patrol. Overall naval control was exerted by British naval command (initially under Vice Admiral Peirse) at Port Said. The north patrol was based at Suez and its political role regarding the Arabs was largely directed by the authorities in Egypt. The southern patrol was based at Aden, with its political activity determined from India via the Political Resident in Aden. This double control was not always helpful, and in 1916 the two zones were amalgamated, with political direction coming under Indian authority via Aden and naval command directed from Port Said, on the Mediterranean coast.

During the Great War, the Red Sea was a vital communications conduit, with merchant ships and troopships moving from the Empire to the Mediterranean and on to the fronts in Europe. The Suez Canal turned the Red Sea from a backwater into a highway of communications and strategic importance in its own right, even without it being used as a launchpad to support the Arab Revolt and

to assault the Turks in the Hejaz and Islamic Holy Lands.

John told us that during early 1916 the Red Sea Patrol was used to transport arms, munitions, provisions and money (gold) from Suez at the top and Port Sudan halfway down, to the Arabian coast, and to carry secret agents back and forth. Happily, with the Turkish fleet holed up in Constantinople (Turkish war efforts at sea were essentially defensive in character throughout the Great War), there was little naval danger to the ageing flotilla. In addition, the relatively benign climatic conditions made seaplanes far more effective in this theatre, as the calm seas and warm winds meant they could be used extensively with little danger to pilots when taking off or landing.

The Red Sea Patrol was made up of a motley crew of Royal Naval, Royal Indian Marine (RIM) and repurposed merchant marine ships, crewed by an even wider variety of Royal Navy, reserve, merchant and Indian marine personnel. The top speeds of many were not great, with the Indian troopships the most modern and quickest. However, despite their age, the warships could do what was asked of them as they had large crews, a good thing when landing parties were required. Also their 4 or 6 inch guns were large enough to add significant artillery support to any bombardment of Turkish positions or port facilities, whilst their armour made them nearly invulnerable to any guns firing back. The Royal Naval Air Service also offered reconnaissance, and intimidated enemies who had never seen air power before; quite a few engagements were determined by the presence of air power, not so much for any firepower or bombing, but due to the awe the planes inspired by their very existence above the battlefield.

In January 1916 the situation in the Red Sea in both the northern and southern parts was that a blockade was supposed to be in force but in neither case was it effective. Owing to fears of arousing Moslem susceptibilities in India and elsewhere, no hostile action was allowed to be taken on the coast between Wejh and Jeddah. When ships or boats approached the shore on that part of their patrol, Turkish troops adopted a defiant attitude

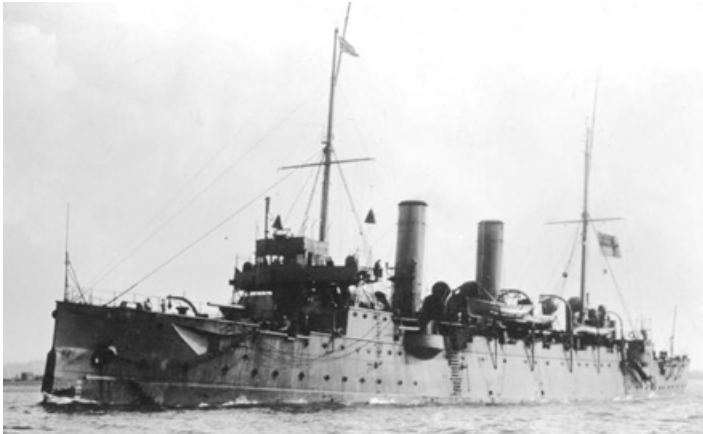
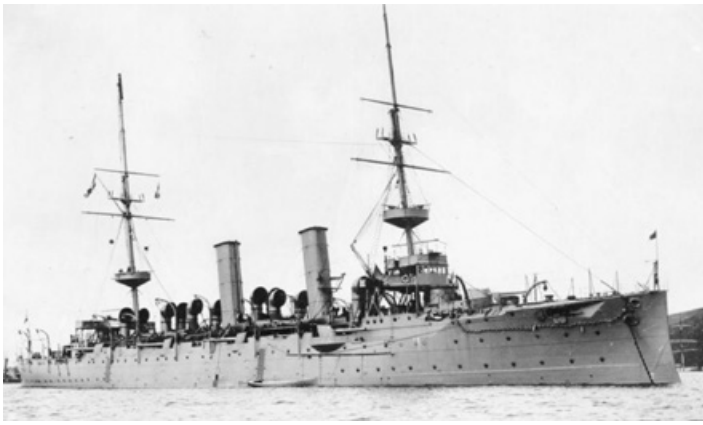


Vice Admiral Wemyss in 1918

and succeeded in impressing the Arabs with their power and British helplessness. At this time Rear Admiral Sir RE Wemyss became C in C, and in March he abolished the divided control and formed the ships into one Red Sea patrol. Coincident with this he convened a conference at Aden where representatives of the Indian and Egyptian governments and of the Navy met under his presidency. As a result of this a better understanding was arrived at. He was determined to make the blockade (of the Turks) effective, and the necessary warnings were sent out to those who would be affected.

The ships forming the patrol were: HMS Fox (2nd Class Cruiser), HMS Minerva (Protected Cruiser), and the RIM (Royal Indian Marine) vessels Dufferin (armed troopship), Northbrook (troopship), Hardinge (armed troopship) and Minto, the armed boarding steamers Lunka, Lama, Perth, Suva, Scotia and Enterprise, with an armed launch and tug.

With a coastline of 1,200+ miles to watch, no close blockade could be established, so ships were placed at focal points of trade with frequent visits paid to various ports, where all dhows were made to haul up and dismast. At Jeddah over 100 were made to do this, which had the dual advantage of stopping traffic and showing the Arabs how powerless the Turks were to protect them. In the north, dhow trade was almost completely suppressed as the result of the more



Top: HMS Dufferin. Middle: HMS Fox. Bottom: HMS Hardinge.

stringent blockade, but in the south not only were the conditions more difficult, but certain treaty obligations also had to be observed. The policy was to make the Arabs realise that allowing the Turks to stay among them resulted in many discomforts. In addition to these blockade duties, patrol ships were utilised for the transport of arms, munitions, provisions, and money, from Suez and Port Sudan to the Arabian coast, and to carry secret agents backwards and forwards. The Gulf of Suez also had to be patrolled, and touch kept with small garrisons maintained at Tor and Abu Zenima on the coast of Sinai.

The first hostile action on the Holy part of the coast was on 21st March, when the Fox and Suva destroyed the Turkish forts at Umlejh and Wejh, old masonry buildings used as barracks and local headquarters. Turkish truculence on the coast ceased. During the spring of 1916 preparations for revolt were well advanced, and at a conference held on board the Dufferin at the end of May it was decided that the revolution should begin at 9pm on June 9th.

On that day the Fox and Hardinge were anchored off Jeddah ready to support the rising at that place. It was evident the Turks had wind of the Arab intention, for the whole garrison was out during the day throwing up defences against assault from the land side. Those to resist attack from the sea had been perfected for many months (or so they thought).

At 9pm as arranged the ships switched on their search lights and opened fire on the Turkish trenches to the north and south of the

town and on the barracks. On the following day the Dufferin and Perth joined, and for six days the ships maintained an intermittent bombardment. However, much difficulty was experienced owing to Arab refusal to allow establishment of observation posts, their failure to carry out agreed arrangements and their ignorance of the situation of Turkish positions. Their leaders also had no idea of time, so the only real assault by the Arabs started two hours before the covering fire was to commence. By the time ships had opened fire to support the attack it had already collapsed, and the plain was full of fleeing Arabs pursued by Turkish shrapnel.

The Turks however had no chance of relief. The risings which had taken place simultaneously at Mecca and Ta'if, which were the only garrisons that could send help, had been successful and the Turks there were either besieged in their barracks or had already capitulated. On the 5th day, HMS Ben-my-Chree (sea plane carrier) arrived with her seaplanes and a combined bombardment and bombing attack brought out a white flag. Next morning 45 officers and 1,460 men with 16 guns surrendered to the Arabs; a considerable amount of military stores were also captured, which were of great value to the insurgent cause. The capture of Jeddah was hugely significant because it provided the necessary seaport through which supplies could be sent to the interior, and allowed unrestricted communication with Cairo.

The Jeddah-Suakin cable cut at the beginning of the war was quickly put into working order by the Eastern Telegraph Company; buoys and beacons on the outlying coral reefs removed by the Turks were replaced or renewed, and full use was made of the possession of a port. Egyptian artillery was sent over to Mecca to assist in the reduction of the Turkish barracks, which they quickly brought about. Egyptian officers also went to assist the Arabs in organising their supply and transport, and to act as liaison officers generally. Lt Col. CC Wilson, governor of the Sudan Red Sea Province and a Major-General in the Egyptian Army, also crossed over and established himself as British representative. His ability, tact, energy, single-mindedness and integrity completely won over the Arabs, and ultimate success of the rising is principally due to him.

In preparation for the revolt the Grand Sheriff had made overtures to the Idrissi (Idrisid Emirate of Asir) to induce him to take common action against the Turks. The Idrissi, though professing agreement, was suspicious, jealous, and seemingly inclined to "sit on the fence". To force his hand, the bait of Qunfudah (a city south of Mecca) was offered and readily taken. On July 7th the Fox, Suva, Minto and Enterprise assembled off the town, HMS Fox having two Idrissi representatives on board. The Commandant was summoned to surrender but refused. The Turkish positions were therefore bombarded, and after sustaining this for a short time the garrison gave in, its officers and 195 men taken prisoner, with 2 guns and 40 mules captured. At the request of the inhabitants of the town, fearful of being looted by Bedouins, 2 officers and 30 men were landed from HMS Fox to garrison the place pending the arrival of Idrissi Arabs.

Meanwhile in the north HMS Hardinge captured the Turkish post at Yambo and disembarked an Arab force there. With the possession of Jeddah, Mecca and Ta'if, control of the country south of Medina passed into Arab hands.

Turkish forces covering Medina were estimated at 10,000 rifles commanded by Falui Pasha, an energetic soldier, though one rather handicapped by having to cover the railway - the only means by which supplies and reinforcements could reach him. Before any move could be made against Medina, a force which could act as a trained nucleus to the Bedouins needed to be formed. The townspeople of Mecca, with the Sherifial family's dependants, slaves and retainers, formed the native material, and to these were added a considerable number of Turkish prisoners of war of Arab blood, captured but who elected to throw in their lot with the nationalist movement. As expected, not all these renegades turned out well, but the great majority did, and from among them were procured the artillerymen who would not otherwise have been obtainable.

Everything for the creation and maintenance both of this force, and

the Arabs generally, had to be supplied from Egypt or the Soudan; the ships of the patrol were kept busy transporting water, provisions, guns, munitions, uniforms, saddlery etc, as well as forage both for horses and camels. For this work the RIM ship proved invaluable. A distilling ship was sent down and moored, with a pipe line to the shore, and wireless stations established both there and at Jeddah, manned by the Navy. An X (stores) lighter was lent from Egypt, proving a valuable adjunct to the dhow transport which was most unsatisfactory. More Egyptian troops came across and proved useful, doing all the manual work required. The Arabs were content to look on as they would not work, and though in considerable fear of a Turkish offensive, could not be induced to dig for their own defence.

During the formation of the base there was considerable anxiety as to Turkish intentions. A 'flight' of the RFC (Royal Flying Corps) arrived and encamped ashore; their tents, together with those of the Egyptians, probably gave the Turks the idea that a considerable body of troops had been landed. At this time two or three ships were generally in the harbour, in addition to the one British and one French vessel which always remained there. By the autumn of 1916 a force had been collected and partially trained, and Sherif Ali moved up country and obtained touch with the Turkish outposts. Despite some reverses to Arab forces, the revolt eventually succeeded, in very large part due to the efforts and persistence of the Royal Navy's Red Sea Patrol

To his credit, Lawrence never underestimated the importance of the Red Sea Patrol to the success of the Arab Revolt, calling it the 'Fairy-Godmother of the Revolt'. As noted from the above, the Red Sea Patrol delivered supplies, provided gold to local warlords, blockaded goods from getting to the Turks by sea, moved soldiers and diplomats, hosted important meetings with revolt leaders, carried religious artefacts, bombarded Turkish positions, captured or supported the capturing of all the ports along the coastline, supplied water and water facilities (critical in a desert campaign), and provided expertise and their own landing parties in some of the fighting. The Patrol had some impressive leaders in a war not always known for great leadership; Admiral Wemyss and Captain Boyle deserve the lion's share of praise, though many of the Captains did a highly professional job when called upon. Again, Lawrence understood the importance and value of these leaders, and did not underplay their helpfulness and resourcefulness in any way.

Given how important the taking of Aqaba was to the mystique of Lawrence of Arabia, it is almost comedic to hear how the Royal Navy would use the port as a punching bag, literally using it to range their guns, and to blow up anything of significance; there could not have been much left for Lawrence to capture when he turned up to take it! Likewise, the Royal Navy landing at Jeddah port in the early stages of the Revolt, de-masting all the dhows and destroying all the Turkish positions showed the Arabs how impotent the Turks were in the face of determined Royal Naval action.

The book makes it clear that it was not all one way traffic in this conflict. The Arab Revolt did stutter and stumble on a number of occasions and it was usually the Royal Navy that supplied the resources, personnel or equipment to rectify it at key times. Arab leadership was not exactly inspired, and their timing could be hopeless, making coordinating attacks very challenging.

Our next talk is on 15th January, for members only. Robert Halliday will tell us about the Billy and Charly, or Shadwell Dock forgeries. These were the large scale manufacture of medieval lead / lead-alloy artefacts, from 1857 to 1870, which fooled many antiquarians, despite being crudely made; today they are sought after collectibles in their own right, with collections now held in some museums.

Then on 12th February, local heritage guide, Martyn Taylor gives us an illustrated talk showing how Bury St Edmunds has physically changed over the last 100 years.

We very much look forward to welcoming guests both old and new to the Parish Room, Little Waldingfield on these dates.

Andy Sheppard

EBONY'S DIARY

Christmas activities are over and with a New Year comes a new term. For the centre there are new horses

to integrate into the team which means some of our riders will have to get used to riding a different horse. It's all part of their therapy and about accepting change, which can be quite challenging for some.

It is also the time when many people think about New Year's resolutions. I'd like to suggest one to you: becoming a volunteer at Shelley.

I started as a volunteer nearly ten years ago, doing the minimum required which is half a day a week, but only during term time. I was immediately made welcome and the team gave me lots of help to understand how the centre and the RDA sessions work. I was happy dealing with the horses but had no experience of working with children and adults with physical or mental challenges – but I soon found the whole experience very rewarding and

often emotionally moving. After a while, because I so enjoyed being up at the centre and being part of a wonderfully friendly team, I began helping with the horses at weekends and during the holidays, and became a member of the riding team that helps the Stable Manager with their care. As with many organisations, the more you get involved, the more you get out of it and before long I was helping with fund raising events, writing this blog and general maintenance around the centre. Seeing the happy faces of the riders as they achieved even the smallest progress gives me immense satisfaction (we all like to be needed don't we?) and I get lots of fresh air and exercise (no need to pay gym fees) as well as real friendship.

You don't have to have experience with horses to join us – our ex-chairman (now president) came to us with no horse knowledge, progressed from side-walking alongside riders to leading ponies, to riding herself, becoming a coach and trustee! All of us start with different skills – the common factor is a desire to help others and a willingness to give a little bit of time. If you don't want to commit to helping at regular RDA sessions we always need people to help with the maintenance jobs, from picking up horse poo from the paddocks (not the most popular job!), painting, mending and all the activities associated with fund raising – especially baking lovely cakes.

If you fancy learning more about this fabulous opportunity, give the centre a call and arrange a visit to see us and our work. It changed my life, provided new friendships and gave my retirement a new purpose. Maybe it could do the same for you in 2025.

www.shelleyrda.com

Telephone: 01473 824172



Volunteers taking riders out into the countryside for a hack.

JACK & THE BEANSTALK

Some things in life are intrinsic British traditions: the ravens at the Tower of London, fish and chips, rain when you've planned a BBQ. Christmas in the Box River Benefice really wouldn't be Christmas without a trip to the annual Boxford Drama Group pantomime.

We're all aware of the story of Jack and the Beanstalk but this version, penned by Joe Barrett, delightfully meandered off on its own winding path, as befits the ancient storytelling style of oral folklore. The original story itself has undergone many changes (researchers estimate the core tale of Jack and the Giant to be more than 5,000 years old!) and the original standout line of "*Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum! I smell the*

blood of an Englishman" was actually penned by Shakespeare in 1604 (King Lear). The inherent comparisons between The Bard and Mr. Barrett aside, this version was hilarious and lovingly performed by a cast clearly keen to run with it.



Top: Bronwen Cottrell as Sissy with Nick Elliott as Mrs Potts

Right: Harry Hodson-Barnes as Simon Above: Alison Barlow as Jack Potts with Angela & James Tolputt as Daisy the Cow

properly) is in dire straits. With the family cow (hilariously played by husband and wife team James and Angela Tolputt to the delight of the audience) barely producing any milk and with the greedy, evil landlord (Mike Keith as Mr. Grubbypaws) threatening to unleash his violent heavies if no rent money is forthcoming, Mrs. Potts tells Jack to sell the cow to raise much-needed funds. Mention has to be made here of Elaine Horne and Will Carpenter's hilarious show-stealing thugs, Ron and Sid, who had the audience in stitches every time they popped up on stage to cajole and menace with barely-restrained malevolence.

Having fallen foul of a strange old man's smooth sales patter (Jeremy Morgan hardly needing to act here), Jack and pals soon face the all-encompassing terror



Top: Ron, Mr Grubbypaws & Sid played by Elaine Horne, Mike Keith & Will Carpenter Middle: Elaine Carpenter's Mrs Giant Bottom: David Philips's Giant Gogmagog with Alison Barlow.

of consumption by David Philip's towering and booming giant (a unique vision that's still popping up in my dreams). Rescued by Mrs. Giant (Elaine Carpenter) and discovering the unique golden ovulatory talents of the giant's magical hen, Team Jack pilfer the clucker and rescue young captive Freda (Lenka Netopilikova) from her Oirish-goblin-gaoler Slugmuncher (Hannah Carpenter) before heading back to finally face nasty old Grubbypaws and live happily ever

after. Aww.

It is always a genuine delight to watch these delightful actors donning the greasepaint, treading the boards and being very, very silly all in the name of entertainment, and they do it with an accomplished self-irreverent style that is all their own. Thank you to all of the cast and crew (including Dawn Mace and her team for the interval Christmas dinner), for a wonderful night out and as always, a cracking start to Christmas in the Benefice.

Boxford Drama Group's next production will be Elaine Horne's time-flipping double-play, *Now and Then*, on 27th, 28th and 29th March 2025.

Thank you to Jeremy Morgan for the photos.



NATURAL BOXFORD

Celebrating a busy first year, and Keep the Heat update

It's likely you are reading this on those in-between days at the end of December. As I write equinox is coming up bringing the subtle welcome shift into lengthening daylight, and there is a quickening of the festive and Christmas spirit in the air. We land more fully in the natural seasonal energy of rest, conserving energy and regeneration after the busyness is done and these days before New Year can afford a sense of just being that resonates with the stillness of the natural world in winter. It feels like a good opportunity to offer a review and celebration of all that Natural Boxford members have been up to in this first year of getting together.

What a treat to meet new people and get to know each other through engagement with shared passions and interests: in this case love and appreciation of the natural world, and the desire to reverse the destructive effect we humans have had on our environment and find ways of living in harmony with it instead. Recently our steering group reviewed the enormous list of possible projects we first looked at in our inaugural meeting in November 2023 and were amazed to realise just how much we have achieved. Here's a romp through what we have done..

- supported the parish council in formulating a biodiversity statement and plan
- installed 5 sets of swift boxes, plus Richard's multiplex bel-fry cabinet, working with *Wilder Together* and the *Suffolk Bird Group*
- started mapping and recording the biodiversity of our village
- liaised with Babergh DC on trialing meadow cutting of verges to encourage valuable wildlife habitat, and taken on the Causeway bed under licence from SCC to similarly manage it for natural habitat and particularly insect biodiversity
- liaised with the church's eco-church focus and the PC to establish a wild-flower area in the churchyard as desperately needed habitat to support insects and birds, as well as contribute to flood risk management
- received training from the Essex and Suffolk Rivers' Trust, and the RiverFly Trust, resulting in regular water quality testing, and environmentally indicative invertebrate surveying; and started a comprehensive plan to clear the invasive Himalayan Balsam
- collaboration with the Woodland Trust to build stag beetle pyramids
- visits from Suffolk Wildlife Trust's community biodiversity, and wilder river advisors looking at what is present in Boxford, and what we can do to enhance our natural environment for wildlife, as well as us
- inspiring visits to Bower House Farm, and Chequers to see what is being done in support of nature recovery
- stall and wildflower display for the Open Gardens

...and there are several more projects underway including Keep the Heat - update below. In the meantime, huge thanks to everyone who has joined and got stuck in, what an amazing team! And gratitude to all the organisations mentioned above, as well as the Boxford and Groton United Charity, BDC Bryn Hurren, Boxford PC, Box River News and St Mary's church.

Keep the Heat update: please see our back page ad for full details. Don't forget to book in for a thermal imaging visit and drop by our free event on Saturday 25th Jan. There will be an abundance of advice and guidance available from the Climate Change Partnership, HEAT Energy Champions, support around



fuel poverty, Warm Homes Healthy People, Community Energy South, and Warm Homes Suffolk with information on an interest free loan scheme for retrofitting. Retrofitting refers to changes that can be made to existing homes to improve their energy efficiency: Retrofit Connection (SCC) will be sharing their voucher scheme gifting retrofitting survey visits which usually cost £250. This is a great opportunity to have an expert look at what could be done to keep the warmth inside. We are hoping to have loft insulation, heat pumps and solar power representatives too, and there will be a model house demonstrating some of the easy win things we can do to Keep the Heat.

Refreshments will be available during the morning with tables to sit and chat and we warmly invite you to come along.

We hope to see you soon, and for now, wishing all beings a fruitful and peaceful 2025

Much love, Louise, on behalf of the Natural Boxford group.

BOXFORD ROVERS

Mid season report: A great first half of the season. The Under-8s performing brilliantly and winning all but one of their matches a superb performance in their first season.

Not to be outdone, the Under-10s have achieved the same results in a very competitive league.

The Under-15s are second in division 5 with a strong run of successful results, and finally the Under-17s are also second in their league.

So a super first half of the season for all 70 plus players and 12 coaches.

Bring on 2025!



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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

County Councillor for the Stour Valley

Suffolk celebrates as local organisations are awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service

It has been announced that five voluntary organisations in Suffolk have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. Created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and previously known as The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), the Award has been shining a light on the fantastic work of voluntary groups from all across the UK for many years.

Equivalent to an MBE, the Kings Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.

The local organisations are:

- **Ipswich Outreach.** Supporting the homeless people of Ipswich to improve their health, wellbeing and life opportunities.
- **Let's Talk Reading.** Working to improve literacy of children and adults in Ipswich.
- **Still Good Food.** Rescuing surplus food, reducing waste and redistributing it to the needy.
- **Tattingstone Good Neighbour Scheme.** Providing vital support, promoting social interaction and community integration in Tattingstone.
- **The Caribbean & African Community Health Support Forum.** Promoting a community legacy of health and wellbeing in Suffolk.

Stronger Families Partnership keeps children out of care.

The Stronger Families Partnership which delivers innovative family therapy has as of 30th September supported 584 children at risk of being taken into care, or who have returned to their families from care, to remain safely with their families.

The Partnership – made up of Bridges Outcomes Partnerships, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, and Family Psychology Mutual – has cumulatively saved the equivalent of 1,000 years of days in care. Keeping these families together is directly linked to cost reductions for the local authorities in both care costs avoided (where children are on a trajectory to care) and immediate cost savings (where children have been reunified with their families). *During the initial 18-month tracking period, the delivery saves between £39,000 and £88,000 per family that successfully completes the intervention, in relation to the estimated cost of supporting a child in care – amounting to a total net savings to date of at least £29.4m.* When compared to pay-for-inputs approaches, outcomes-based family therapy delivers an average 25% better outcomes for 80% more families at 20%-50% lower cost per family, keeping more children safely out of care.

Of the service, one young person reflected: *"The therapist helped us understand each other. Thank you so much for your help, I appreciate it millions. [I] don't know what we'd [have] done without you."*

Department for Education welcomes SEND improvements and evidence of impact, but recognises there are still challenges to overcome.

The Department for Education (DfE) met with senior leaders from Suffolk County Council and the NHS to review the impact of wide-ranging improvement plans for special educational needs and disabilities services (SEND). Following the meeting, a letter was sent from the DfE outlining the extent of progress made within SEND services across Suffolk over the past six months.

In summary, it 'welcomes the improvements and the evidence of impact' and recognises 'the considerable challenges that remain to reach the required targets'.

Key achievements listed within the letter include:

- improvements in the timeliness and quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs);
- outstanding academic progress for children participating in

the Raising Achievement – Delivering Better Value academic interventions;

- better coproduction between partners; and a significant reduction of permanent exclusions in primary schools and for children with EHCPs.

The Department for Education also outlined key areas for development including:

- governance and use of data;
- ensuring that improvement work continues at pace, specifically with regard to timeliness and quality of EHCPs;
- achieving consistency across all families so that improvement is felt by all;
- and that the voice of children and young families continue to be heard at the heart of decision making.

Suffolk's new gritting fleet to keep county safe and moving during the colder weather

With temperatures forecast to drop this week, Suffolk's new gritting fleet will commence its winter season shortly, treating thousands of miles of roads to help minimise risk for highways users.

During the warmer autumn months, highway teams were planning for the winter gritting operations, preparing for the potential snow and ice that winter will bring. In total, there are 36 gritters ready for action, with two additional spare vehicles available to be deployed to any location, if needed.

The new fleet is equipped with advanced digital systems and the latest route planning software to support winter maintenance drivers and enable them to grit their routes efficiently and effectively.

All gritters in the fleet use hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), which reduces carbon dioxide emissions by around 90%, supporting Suffolk County Council's continued commitment to protect and enhance our environment.

Our highway teams are responsible for gritting 36 Priority 1 (P1) routes, which amounts to around 1,259 miles, including all A and B roads, roads to fire stations, hospitals, main bus routes and rail stations.

There are also 34 Priority 2 (P2) routes, which amounts to around 843 miles of the network. This includes other bus routes where the service level is 5 days a week in the school term, roads leading to rural villages and access to schools.

P1 treatments are considered when road surface temperatures are forecast to drop below 1°C, whilst

P2 routes are carried out when the forecast predicts there to be a longer period of cold weather conditions.

More information on gritting can be found at <https://bit.ly/scc-roads-gritting>

New Deputy Chief Fire Office for Suffolk is appointed

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has appointed Henry Griffin as its new Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

Henry is currently Area Manager for People & Resources at SFRS, with which he has served for 20 years, and will take up his position in the New Year. He has led initiatives such as introducing electric vehicles to the fire service fleet, implementing cultural improvement programmes, and managing major incident responses including for the summer fires of 2022. His expertise includes strategic planning, workforce planning, and operational training. Henry, succeeds Deputy Chief Fire Officer Dan Fearn, who has retired.

Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley

Fostering is a flexible role with options for short term care from a weekend a month to longer term opportunities, all providing life-changing support for local children. If you want to find out more about what it's like to foster or adopt with us, please call a member of the team on 01473 264800

James Finch

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Tel: 01206 263649 / Mobile: 07545 423796

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

I sincerely hope that this coming year brings hope and security to all residents of my Box Vale ward and across the wider area of Babergh/Mid Suffolk and all of our great country also.

A time of reflection as well as we leave behind a very chaotic time of government and move into hopefully a more stable time and type of governance with some hope for all our residents and not just those who seem to have priority to the huge money trough of cash and our public assets.

For those of us who are following the Covid enquiry, the mega millions of our taxpayer's money that went to private individuals for services that were not delivered, or were unfit for purpose is eye watering.

Proper funding of our public services and local government that serves our residents as a whole will be a good place to start and this does seem to be happening very slowly.

Proper, fair and just tax plans for everyone, including those at the top of the food chain with fancy lawyers and friends in government and high places, can be acceptable to those who work hard just to pay their bills, raise a family and have a decent existence with good public services.

The inheritance tax on those who work hard to provide our food within these shores without massive travel miles, along with looking after our precious countryside and heritage assets for our even bigger tourism industry, is truly an unwanted own goal, even worse than the ones at Portman Road this season. Not a great move for our region's two biggest industries and employers. The family farm must be preserved for those that have the expertise to continue to provide the homegrown food security and high welfare standards that this country needs.

This desperate move will drive genuine sons and daughters of our current farmers to leave the industry and let in investors who will just use and misuse the land for their own benefit.

A much better system would be to levy realistic taxes on our fuel giants who have made mega billions at the expense of the other 99% of residents and businesses as a whole in recent years.

Even better would be to levy the same fuel duty on aviation fuel as those that drive to work or go about their personal business have to pay. It might also be a good idea to make our major polluters redress at least some of the damage done to our precious climate and environment a sensible governance with sensible communication to the people and the gentle gagging of those who shout the loudest because of ignorance, greed, massive wealth and self-importance.

Hopefully the parliamentary committee recently set up to examine standards (or the lack of them) in recent years, will report with fair justice and appropriate penalties for those that break our trust for their own gain, who hopefully will be suitably punished and barred from future public office. This must be made clear to future wannabes from all political groups as it is my own. It must also be as clear to those at the top tier, as it is at the bottom.

Nearer to home, the realisation that more affordable housing is needed without the stock-draining right to buy is refreshing and achievable with the right infrastructure to support it with proper public transport, employment and health facilities. Also, a renewed training project for our future generation and a realisation that it is not a crime to get one's hands dirty and that we cannot all be celebrities, pop stars or computer wizards, somebody has to do the hard graft to make the society and infrastructure we live in actually work for all of us.

I am thrilled to be able to sponsor the *Keep The Heat* project from my locality budget. this is a joint initiative from Suffolk CC and Babergh DC to make our homes more economic to run and to cut down on heat loss and expensive fuel bills.

Through this scheme, thermal imaging will take place throughout January on any house in the village of Boxford who requests it,

please see enclosed elsewhere in this issue and take part if you can.

This project will be carried out by volunteers within the village and the findings will be given to those residents that take part, and others can learn and benefit as well.

This scheme has already been carried out in another part of Box Vale ward very successfully.

Congratulations to those on the public transport group within the village, who have certainly been listened to and which is reflected in the better service within the village and the increased take-up in passenger numbers. The school and student travel situation is certainly still a big problem and needs urgent attention and reform, providing affordable transportation to the high school for Boxford Primary School children must become a priority for the village and surrounding catchment areas.

At the present time, all local authorities await the next stage in the consultation process from national government regarding having one less tier of local government and possibly more devolution from national jurisdiction. I am very much in favour of this approach but worry about the lack of funds to do it properly and the areas it might represent. Please watch this space and have your say if consulted.

It is getting harder for us all who take on the public mantle of being a local community representative on a higher local authority of local government, especially those with a demanding other significant employment as well. Although the financial rewards are minimal at this level, personally I feel that the job satisfaction is huge when I can make a difference to constituents' lives and wellbeing in the villages I serve in.

Thank you to all who read this brilliant BRN magazine and to all who produce and deliver it.

I hope all who read my column find it of some interest and enjoy it. To those I offend, well, at least you are reading it. I am easily contactable on the details below or just rugby-tackle me in the street, limping badly now, so not hard to catch until late February when I hope a second knee replacement will take place. Have a great New Year.

Bionic Bryn xx

bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

EDWARDSTONE

Summary of Council Meeting 18th November 2024

Present: M Gibson, T Wood, R Norman, L Smyth, J Morgan, R Jones (Clerk) **Guests:** J Finch (Suffolk County Council), B Hurren (Babergh Mid-Suffolk District Council) E Breeds (Parishioner)

Financial Matters: Statement of Finances & Orders for Payment and Q2 accounts were approved. The clerk had requested payment for renewal of Norton anti-virus subscription for the PC's laptop at a cost of £99.99 for the year. Councillors felt that this was excessive and advised that a Microsoft built-in protection would be sufficient to protect the computer. Use of CIL Funding – The clerk reported that the council had received a payment of £1,674.09 from BMSDC, giving a total of £2,444.09 in the council's CIL fund. It was suggested that some of this money could be used to supply and fit more play equipment on the Millenium Green, specifically for younger children. **Other Financial Matters:** Banking – L Smyth to provide the clerk with the required identification to become a signatory. T Wood to contact Unity Trust Bank to sort out signing in problem.

Planning Matters: Planning Applications Received - DC/24/04763 1 Mill Green View – the council raised No Objection to this application which was in accordance with the Edwardstone Neighbourhood Plan. DC/24/05020 Land to The South of Daking Avenue – the council had No Comment on this application which is mostly covered by Boxford Parish Council. Planning decisions received – DC/24/02204 Land West of Mill Green – Application refused.

Neighbourhood Plan Update: The chairman reported that the result of the referendum had gone well with more than 90% of voters in favour of its adoption. He was pleased to add that the Edwardstone Neighbourhood Plan had now been formally adopted.

Chairman's & Clerk's Reports and Correspondence: A resident had spoken and written to the clerk regarding a hunt that had been in and around the Millenium Green on 13 November. It was agreed that the clerk write to the correspondent advising them to contact Councillor Norman in his capacity as a member of the Millenium Green Trust Committee as the hunt did not have permission to access the green.

Councillor Vacancies: The clerk reported there had been no response to the advertisement placed in the Box River News and on notice boards. It was agreed that the notice was a bit too formal and Councillor Smyth agreed to 'revamp' the advertisement to make it less formal and maybe, more appealing.

Climate Change: Wildfires and Community Emergency Plan – T Wood reported that he had now contacted every member of the volunteer group. Electric Vehicle Charging Points – M Gibson reported that there were concerns expressed from the White Horse management over the proposed siting of the charging points. In view of this, he had requested a site meeting and was awaiting a response from SCC and Connected Kerb.

Highway & Footpath Matters: Footpath Cutting – the third cut had taken place. It was agreed that for future years the cuts should take place at specified times to avoid any confusion. It was also agreed to put feelers out to see if there were any other contractors interested in carrying out the work. Other Highway and Footpath Matters – a parishioner had complained about the advertising for the Church Christmas Fayre. As this was only an annual event it was not felt to be an issue.

Other Highway & Footpath Matters – It was agreed that the clerk would write to SCC Highways regarding the regular flood

areas to ask for preventative action to be taken to try to avoid the flooding of previous years.

Meeting Dates 2025:

Monday 20 January

Monday 17 March

Monday 19 May - AGM & Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 21 July

Monday 22 September

Monday 17 November

Full minutes can be found at:

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

Richard Jones

01473 828246 / edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com

NEWTON GREEN

Summary of Council Meeting 11th December 2024

24/188 Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility report: The councillors reviewed the issues raised by James Finch that NPC must address to move the pedestrian crossing project forward:

- The councillors agreed on a zone in which the preferred location for the crossing would be although, if this were not feasible, then any alternative suggested by SCC Highways would be considered by the council
- Newton Green Trust has agreed in principle that the lay-by and land required for a footpath between School Lane, Rectory Road and the road to the Golf Club can be dedicated to the public highway
- NPC has reviewed the options for funding the project with its CIL receipts and a loan from the Public Works Loan Board and it is feasible to fund the indicative costs presented for the scheme in this way. Once the cost of the designed scheme is known, the councillors will review the funding options with the residents.

The clerk was asked to confirm the above items to Darren Smith and James Finch, and to review the dates of the traffic and pedestrian surveys with SCC Highways.

24/191 Finance:

- a The councillors authorised all payments made and due for authorisation, as itemised in the RFO report. They also noted the income received since the last meeting, the bank reconciliation, and the actual vs. budget for receipts and payments.
- b The councillors resolved to add Cllr Presland to the Unity Trust Bank mandate, remove Ian Cole, and signed the authority accordingly.
- c The councillors resolved to donate £100 towards the Christmas Parcels.
- d The councillors resolved to award the 2025 grass and hedge-cutting contract to Flowers Groundcare at a total budgeted cost of £1,380
- e The councillors resolved to award the 2025 footpath-cutting contract to David Gotts at a total budgeted cost of £360
- f The councillors reviewed to revised conditions of the SLA for the Sudbury Town Council's Community Wardens for 2025 / 26 and resolved the following terms:
 - i The hourly rate of £32.50 for up to 40 hours
 - ii That all communication and task allocation with the wardens will be by NPC's clerk
 - iii The clerk will review the quarterly invoices upon receipt and, if all is in order, will raise the payment for authorisation by councillors.

g The councillors reviewed the quotation from Wicksteed and agreed to place the order for a maximum cost of £2,755.03 + VAT.

The councillors reviewed the Budget Proposal and resolved to set an Expenditure Budget of £31,181.85 for 2025 / 2026.

24/194 Councillor Vacancy: Babergh has informed NPC that it can now proceed with the co-option of a councillor to replace Ian Cole. The clerk will now issue the co-option notice.

Full minutes can be found at: www.newton-pc.gov.uk

Dave Crimmin PS LCC

01787 375085 / clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk

OTHER PARISH COUNCILS

Boxford PC

Clerk: **Zoe Rumsey** - 01787 739317

clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk

<http://boxford-pc.gov.uk>

Groton PC

Clerk: Richard Jones - 01473 828246

grotonclerk@yahoo.com

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

Little Waldingfield PC

Chris White Councillor & Clerk - 07541 133535

clerk.littlewaldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk

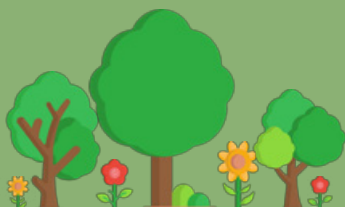
<https://bit.ly/LW-parish-minutes>

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Applications will be reviewed by the Parish Council.

NEWTON GREEN TRUST

Summary of Meeting 10th December 2024

Present: Phil Taylor (Chair), Lee Parker, Paul Devlin, Shiona Shipp, Louise Evers, John Hughes, Dave Crimmin.

Public Forum: Before the meeting began John Hughes, the new Golf Club representative, was introduced. Dave Crimmin was also present as he has kindly agreed to be the treasurer for the trust.

An enquiry had been received from a resident on 'Little Green' asking if the chippings left in the village hall car park could be used to fill the large potholes along the track. The trust agreed that this could be done on this occasion, with the understanding that this is not a responsibility of the trustees and is a temporary measure.

Correspondence: Email from village hall committee asking if a member of the NGT would like a seat on its committee. No members were available to commit to an additional role at this time.

Finance: Bank balances: Deposit Acc £23,668, Current Acc £43,425. Dave Crimmin has agreed to become treasurer.

Golf Club Report: It has been agreed that villagers must register with the club annually if they wish to play the village green part of the course. These villagers will be given a specific tag for their golf bags.

It has been agreed that villagers have to book on the BRS system, although if they arrive at the Pro Shop to play without booking it is at the discretion of the Pro Shop to allow them to tee off.

All villagers must book at the Pro Shop and pay £1 before teeing off. In the rare circumstances that a tournament is underway which may be affected by villagers going from the first green to the 12th tee, it is at the discretion of the Pro Shop to allow them to play the first 9 holes.

The club will be writing to each villager whose name appears on the club database advising them of the above. For 2025 Villagers will be required to register with the club from 1st February in order to receive a tag.

Donations: Trust agreed to make donations to Alston and Plamplin charity of £150 towards Christmas parcels and £250 to the main charity.

Maintenance: A new field gate is still to be ordered.

The collapse of the culvert on the golf course between the end of the avenue and Rotten Row Farm entrance was discussed.

Maintenance of the ponds was briefly discussed.

Damaged sign on playing field to be replaced.

Next Meeting TBC 25th February 7.30 pm village hall.

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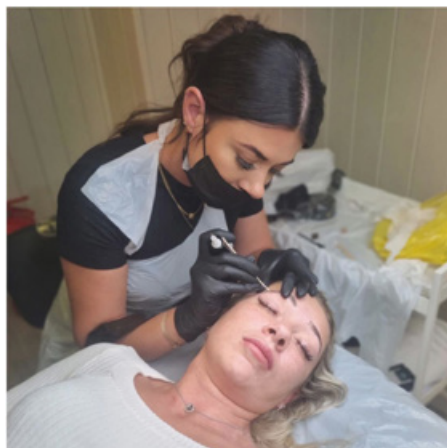
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The Breakdown

- ✓ **Treatment Time:** Up to 3.5 hours of getting your brows perfected
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- ✓ **Follow Up:** A touch-up (included in the price) will be scheduled after 6 – 8 weeks
- ✓ **Longevity:** Enjoy your brows for up to 18 months before needing a refresh
- ✓ **Cost:** £350. A £50 consultation and patch test are required but deducted from the total cost



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CLUBS & GROUPS

Boxford Bellringers	Richard Gates	01787 210432
Boxford Bible Study Group	Peter & Margaret	01787 211077
Boxford Bike Club	Kevin Bridge	07876 798617 www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk
Boxford Bowls Club	Lea Blackham	01787 210313
Boxford Carpet Bowls	David Warren	01787 211067
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Macmillan	07779 303690 janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk
Boxford Friendship Group	Alison Warren	01787 211067
	or Wendy Hills	01787 210342
Boxford Gardens Open	Audrey Zuck	07852 102 455 audrey@a2zriskservices.com
Boxford Gardening Society	Elizabeth Wagener	01787 210223 elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com
Boxford Literary Group	David Jones	01787 211104 audav@hotmail.co.uk
Boxford Rovers Youth FC	Melvyn Eke	07873 971701 m.eke@btinternet.com
www.boxfordrovers.co.uk		
Boxford Tennis Social	Sue Moore	07808 481447
Boxford WI	Lyn Beer	07961 357526
Fleece Jazz	David Gasson	01787 210796
Highway 12 Western Partner Dance	Chris	01787 371006
Little Waldingfield History Society	Diana Langford	01787 248298 dianalangford765@gmail.com
Little Waldingfield Over 60s and Friendship Club	Tricia Eddington	01787 247932
Local History Recorder Edwardstone	Daphne Clark	01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
Local History Recorder Groton	Joanna Roberts	01787 210619 jgant87618@aol.com
Madrigalia Choir	Sue Price	01787 210913
Milden Cricket Club	Andrew Simmons	07951 055643
Milden Singers	Pearl	01449 741876
Natural Boxford	Louise Carpenter	01787 211862 louisecarpenter@proton.me
Newton Arts & Crafts Club	Carole Langley	01787 373548
Newton War Games Club	Brian Lawson	01787 312160
Newton Fireside Club	Moiria Evans	01787 374652
Pilates (Edwardstone)	Claire	07772 074 750
Primrose Wood Volunteers	Evan Flockhart	07968 336883 obliquewoodland@protonmail.com
Swing jive & Lindy Hop Dance	Sarah Boldock	07956 614824
Yoga (Boxford)	Marianne Marshall	01787 210323
Yoga Paper Kite (Newton)	Sophie	01787 313662
Yoga With Lindsey (Newton)	Lindsey	07971 800540

CHARITIES

Boxford & Groton United Charities	Guy Godfrey	01787 211378
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Marijke Morris	07914 767013 marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk
Edwardstone United Charities	Nick Raymond	01787 210461 ncraymond@hotmail.co.uk
Groton Educational Foundation	Stephen Watkins	01787 210977 stephen_watkins49@yahoo.co.uk
Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust	James Wills	01787 210484
Little Waldingfield Charities	Mary Thorogood	01787 247658 littlewaldingfieldcharities@gmail.com
Newton Green Trust	Philip Taylor	01787 211265 philiptaylor433@gmail.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS

3PR Boxford 1st Responders	Rich Wild	01787 210946 office@boxfordresponders.com
Boxford Allotments	David Burden	01787 211926 d.burden379@btinternet.com
Boxford Bounty	Mark Miller	01787 211596
Boxford Community Car Scheme	Jen Eastwood	01787 211853 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com
Boxford Community Council	Ward Baker	07850 941 831 boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com www.boxford.me.uk
Boxford Playing Fields	Craig Needham	07970 733934 craig.needham@me.com
Boxford Society	Jen Eastwood	01787 211853 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety
Boxford Tennis Courts	Hugh Phillips	01787 211729
Lt Waldingfield Playing field	Jennie Jordan	07522 352558 52Jennie1@gmail.com

SCOUTING

1st Boxford Beaver Scouts	Not currently active	
1st Boxford Cub Scouts	Susie	07843 280396
1st Boxford Scouts	David Talbot-Clarke	07946 550519
1st Boxford Explorer Scouts	Neil Barkham	07734 108257
1st Boxford Rainbows	Janice Macmillan	07779 303690
1st Boxford Brownies	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
www.boxford-suffolk.secure-dbprimary.com	office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk
Friends of Boxford School (FoBS)	talktofobs@gmail.com
Sunflowers Childcare	<i>Moiria Grant</i> 01787 211363
www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk	info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk
Boxford Baby & Toddler Group	facebook.com/Boxfordbabyandtoddlergroup

HALLS & FACILITIES TO HIRE

Boxford Pavilion	Natalie Woods	07772 916135 nataliewoods25@gmail.com
Boxford Spinney	Mark Miller	01787 211596 mark.miller@talktalk.net
www.boxfordspinney.co.uk		
Boxford Village Hall	booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk	
Edwardstone Parish Hall	Daphne Clark	01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
Edwardstone Millennium Green	Marijke Morris	07914 767013 marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk
Groton Village Hall	Joanna Roberts	07845 940008 jgant87618@aol.com
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	Sue Bowen	01787 249473 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com
Little Waldingfield Pavilion	Jennie Jordan	07522 352558 52Jennie1@gmail.com BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com
Marquee Booking	Pearl	01449 741876 info@mildenpavilion.co.uk
Milden Pavilion		
Newton Village Hall	Alan Vince	07955 199000

The Blooming Garden

A Fabulous Nursery and the Scandalous Tale of the Vicar of Stiffkey.

We have plenty of garden centres in our area, but as gardeners it is fun to seek out proper nurseries which are dedicated to growing their own plants and can offer us something unusual. My favourite independent nursery is West Acre Nursery in north



The walled garden West Acre.

Norfolk. It is tucked away down lonely lanes and you will need a satnav to find it, but it is worth the visit for the abundance of well-grown plants, many of them very unusual. The plants are also much more reasonably priced than at other nurseries. There is a lovely walled

garden to enjoy and a café. It is open from February to November. I usually come home with a boot full of plants and you probably will too if you visit. And of course, a visit to Norfolk isn't complete without a stroll on the wonderful coast and a drive round some of the pretty villages with their flint cottages. If you are in the area, then do look at Stiffkey where Sir



Stiffkey Towers

Nicholas Bacon built his Great Hall in 1576. He was Keeper of the Great Seal for Queen Elizabeth I. He intended to build a hall with ten towers, but in the end he only built six and you can still see their ruins. There is a very nice pub here, the Red Lion, and the church is worth looking at. The story of the vicar of Stiffkey is one that I just have to tell you, even though it has nothing to do with gardening.

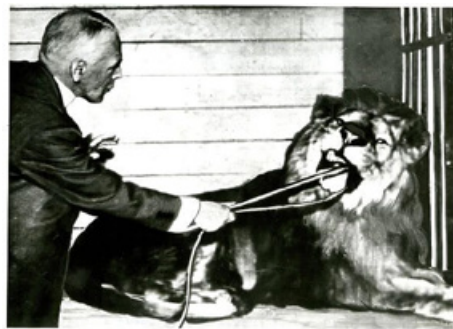


Stiffkey Church

The vicar of Stiffkey, Harold James Davidson was born in 1875. He spent some time as an actor before he became a vicar. The living of Stiffkey was a good one with a beautiful Georgian Rectory, 60 acres of glebe land and a stipend of £503 per annum, which was very good for the time, 1906. His particular obsession was saving fallen women and with a village of only 300 souls there was not much scope for this work in Stiffkey, so he took the train to London each week and spent his time there, only rushing back in time for the Sunday service. He served as a naval chaplain during the First World War. When he came home he was upset to find his wife had fallen a bit herself and was 6 months pregnant after becoming too friendly with the lodger. But he forgave her and they had several more children. After the war he resumed his weekly visits to London and styled himself the Prostitutes' Padre. He worked tirelessly with women who had fallen and pretty girls who seemed to him likely to fall. His finances suffered because he gave them money and took them for dinner or for tea at the Lyons Cafe. He was barred from some cafes because he was a bit of a nuisance with his importunate pursuit of girls who needed saving. Despite his neglect of the parish, the villagers all liked him and nicknamed him 'Little Jimmy' because of his small stature. They were probably entertained when as many as 20 young girls were

living at the Vicarage whilst they were being saved. This went on for some years until the gossip reached the ears of the tabloid newspapers. He was causing annoyance in some quarters because of his neglect of his parochial duties. The final straw was when he was late for an Armistice Day service. Eventually, in 1932 he was prosecuted by a church court for 'immoral behaviour' and he was publicly disgraced and defrocked. Of course, he had been neglecting his parish, but some of the evidence given was rigged and although incredibly eccentric and very naive, he probably wasn't as bad as he was made out to be. His behaviour was probably in the weasly, modern term, more 'inappropriate' than immoral.

No longer a vicar and with a family to support, Davidson went back to acting for a while. But then he had the idea that he would raise money by declaiming his innocence in public. He decided the best place for this was on the Golden Mile in Blackpool alongside the bearded lady from Russia, the three-legged boy and the dog-face man. He sat in a barrel with a little chimney for his cigar smoke and charged people twopence a peep into his barrel. He presumably saw himself as a modern day Diogenes, although I imagine the classical reference would not have been obvious to the frequenters of the Golden Mile. He then tried being frozen in a glass case followed by sitting in an oven being prodded on the



buttocks now and again by a mechanical demon. For his final show he moved to Skegness as he was tired of 'the blatant vulgarities of Blackpool'. Here he would passionately assert his innocence and his appalling treatment, in front of a cage with two lions. He would then enter the lions' cage and carry on with his rant in there. One day, possibly because he accidentally trod on the lion's tail, or possibly because he was fed up with the rant, Freddy the Lion attacked Davidson. He had no teeth, but he picked up Davidson and mauled him, or gave him a jolly good gumming. The crowd thought it was part of the act and cheered. The lion tamer rescued him but he died later in hospital. His funeral at Stiffkey church attracted a crowd of 3000 people, so at last he had the audience he craved. Friends and well wishers paid the funeral expenses and for his headstone.



I hope you enjoyed this story which, for once, is totally unrelated to horticulture. If you are more interested in gardening than eccentric vicars, then don't forget, the beautiful five-acre walled garden at Houghton Hall is only ten miles away from West Acre and well worth a visit.



Chloris.

Houghton Hall

EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 2025

7	Fireside Club - New Year's Toast & Games	2pm
TUE	Newton Village Hall	
8	Boxford WI - Beetle Drive	2pm
WED	Boxford Village Hall	
10	Polstead Films - 'Conclave'	7pm
FRI	Polstead Village Hall	
15	LWHS - The Billy & Charlie Forgeries	7:30pm
WED	Little Waldingfield Parish Room	
15	Charity Quiz Night	8pm
WED	The Fleece, Boxford	
17	Groton History Society Talk - Russia	7:30pm
FRI	Groton Village Hall	
21	Fireside Club - Fish & Chips	12:30pm
TUE	Newton Village Hall	
25	Keep The Heat Drop In Session	10-1pm
SAT	Boxford Village Hall	
27	Boxford Friendship Group	2-4pm
MON	Boxford Village Hall	
31	Pop-up Pub	6:30-11pm
FRI	Little Waldingfield Pavilion	

FEBRUARY 2025

4	Fireside Club - Discover Family History	2pm
TUE	Newton Village Hall	
4	Boxford Gardening Society - Talk	7:30pm
TUE	Boxford Village Hall	
5	Boxford WI - Kate Baker, Suffolk Author	2pm
WED	Boxford Village Hall	
12	LWHS - Bury St Edmunds Through Time	7:30pm
WED	Little Waldingfield Parish Room	
12	Charity Quiz Night	8pm
WED	The Fleece, Boxford	
14	Relaxation & Sound - all welcome	6-7:30pm
FRI	Boxford Village Hall	
18	Fireside Club - Gin Tasting	TBC
TUE	Newton Village Hall	
21	Groton History Society - David Long	7:30pm
FRI	Groton Village Hall	
22	Village Hall Coffee Morning	10am
SAT	Newton Village Hall	
22	Barn Dance	7:30pm
SAT	Boxford Village Hall	
24	Boxford Friendship Group	2-4pm
MON	Boxford Village Hall	
28	Pop-up Pub	6:30-11pm
FRI	Little Waldingfield Pavilion	

MARCH 2025

4	Fireside Club - Pancake Day	TBC
TUE	Boxford Village Hall	
4	Boxford Gardening Society - Talk	7:30pm
TUE	Boxford Village Hall	
5	Boxford WI - Line Dancing with Rosie	2pm
WED	Boxford Village Hall	
12	Charity Quiz Night	8pm
WED	The Fleece, Boxford	
18	Fireside Club - Make-up Demonstration	2pm
TUE	Newton Village Hall	
19	LWHS - We'll Meet Again	7:30pm
WED	Little Waldingfield Parish Room	

24	Boxford Friendship Group	2-4pm
MON	Boxford Village Hall	
27-29	Boxford Drama Group - 'Now & Then'	7pm
THU-SAT	Boxford Village Hall	
28	Pop-up Pub	6:30-11pm
FRI	Little Waldingfield Pavilion	
29	Parish Council Coffee Morning & Litter Pick	10am
SAT	Newton Village Hall	



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WHY PEOPLE WHO WON'T SET FOOT IN CHURCH LOVE NATIVITY PLAYS

Dame Judi Dench tells a story about her daughter Finty's first steps in the family profession when she was cast as the innkeeper's wife in a school nativity. For weeks, she solemnly rehearsed her line. A visitor to the house, told that Finty was in a play, asked what it was. "It's a nativity," the child replied. "And what is it about?" they asked. "Well," Finty said, "it is all about this innkeeper's wife..."

Every child is the star (sometimes the Star) in a nativity. Every shepherd No 5 or deputy sub-angel is just as important, to themselves and their family at any rate, as the girl playing Mary. My son, Humphrey, was cast last year in the small but crucial role of Herod's special adviser. I had wondered how the manifesto pledge to kill all boys under the age of two would play with focus groups, not to mention school rolls, but the former Supreme Court justice who was there to watch his granddaughter wearing a tea-towel on her head may have thrown it out.

That was my sixth and (sob) final nativity as a parent. In reception, Humph and his older sister, Hattie, had played angels in bedsheets and tinsel. Then came the animal year, with a creative menagerie to bolster the sheep, ox and ass. Hattie was not impressed to be cast as a chicken (one child unsuccessfully asked to be a Tyrannosaurus Rex), but in her final year she played the narrator. I was Joseph more than 40 years ago. My mother recalls me looking bored and picking my nose, which is probably what the original Joseph did.

People have been retelling the story of the birth of Christ through nativity plays for 800 years. The first was put on in the Italian hill town of Greccio in 1223 by John of Assisi, the son of a silk merchant who had chosen a life of monastic poverty. He was later better known by the nickname he acquired from his French mother and his father's business interests in her country.

Tableaux nativities using statues had long been created but when the future St Francis encouraged the townspeople to bring their animals to a stable for Midnight Mass, he created a new form of devotion. Thomas of Celano, Francis's first biographer, wrote that, inspired by a visit to the Holy Land, he had wanted to "bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes, the discomfort of his infant needs; how he lay in a manger; and how, with an ox and ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay". The reality of the scene enhanced the wonder at the story.

So, Thomas went on, those who witnessed this first living nativity were filled with "a new and indescribable joy". The priest then celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, linking their remembrance of Christ's future sacrifice and his rise in glory to the humbling simplicity of his birth. The King of Kings came into this world small, poor and defenceless; in need, like us all, of love.

As we get older, we lose our sense of wonder. Tiredness, cynicism, a realisation that life is precarious and difficult: these drive away the simple joy of youth. Yet when the next generation put on a nativity



play it can help us to see again the story of Christ's birth in a stable through a child's eyes and realise, if our hearts let us, that a miracle took place on that cold, star-blessed night.

Hattie had one more form of nativity when she was seven. Each year for decades there has been a Christmas Eve procession at dusk through Blackheath, southeast London, ending outside All Saints' Church, where I am a warden. It is led by two children as Mary and Joseph riding on a donkey. Or not, when Hattie played Mary. The regular donkey had gone lame and his understudy refused to leave his trailer, so Mary and Joseph led the community through the village on foot.

And by community, I mean far more than those who worship at church on a Sunday. A vast crowd formed behind the children and along both sides of the road as they walked down Tranquil Vale to the heath (in the distant past, I'm told, they even stopped at The Crown inn to be told there was no room). An estimated 1,500 people joined the throng at All Saints', where they sang carols to a brass band and gave money for Crisis, the homelessness charity.

What brings so many people out to take part in this religious ceremony when they might not set foot in a church the rest of the year? I suspect it is a hard-to-explain impulse to recapture that childish sense of wonder, to park their daily worries by joining in a simple ritual and to contemplate, perhaps, as they sing Away in a Manger that there is some deeper reason for our existence. Like the shepherds in the original story, they feel summoned to see the Holy Family.

One year, it was especially magical. As we gathered on the heath, a bright light suddenly passed overhead, cutting through the clear sky and leading some to whisper to their children that it was the Star of Bethlehem or Santa Claus making an early start. That Christmas, the International Space Station joined our community nativity, sending our eyes and our wonder up to the heavens.

Patrick Kidd

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taylormadebabygifts@gmail.com

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info@greeneyegardendesign.co.uk

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