

December 2025

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



Delivered free to every home in Boxford, Edwardstone, 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.

Wishing all our customers
a Merry Christmas!



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What's on
December

**POP-UP NORWEGIAN
BAKERS** EVERY
FRIDAY
10:30am - 2:30pm

**ONCE IN A LIFE TIME
TRAVEL AGENT** MON
1
9:30am - 12:30pm

CASH BINGO THURS
11
7pm

**CAROLS AROUND
THE TREE** MON
15
7pm

CHRISTMAS DRAW THURS
18
8pm

**NEW YEARS EVE
PARTY 'TIL LATE** WED
31

MENU

2 COURSES - MAIN MEAL & DESSERT £15

- LUNCH SERVED EVERYDAY BETWEEN 12PM-2:30PM -
- DINNER SERVED EVERY EVENING 5PM-8PM -

- BAR MENU -

CHICKEN TENDERS

£10

Crispy chicken tenders with
BBQ sauce and chips.

SCAMPI

£10

Deep fried scampi with
tartare sauce and chips.

COD GOUJONS

£10

Crispy cod goujons with
tartare sauce and chips.

CHEESE BURGER *

£10

Homemade beef cheese burger
and chips.

CHICKEN BURGER

£10

Crispy chicken burger
and chips.

VEGGIE BURGER

£10

Oriental spiced vegetable burger
and chips.

CHILLI CON CARNE

£10

Homemade chilli con carne
with rice, sour cream and nachos.

- PANINI MENU -

BACON, BRIE & CRANBERRY* £10

Bacon, Brie & cranberry in a
toasted panini served with salad
and crisps.

CHEESE & CHUTNEY *

£10

Cheese and red onion chutney in
a toasted panini served with
salad and crisps.

TOMATO & MOZZARELLA *

£10

Sundried tomatoes, pesto and
mozzarella in a toasted panini
served with salad and crisps.

CHILDREN'S MEALS

£7

Choose from any of the meals
or panini's.

BACON ROLL *

£6

Three rashers of bacon with a
choice of ketchup or brown sauce.

TURKEY & STUFFING ROLL

£6

Turkey, stuffing & cranberry sauce.

CHIPS

£4

* GLUTEN FREE ALTERNATIVE

PLEASE INFORM A MEMBER OF STAFF IF YOU HAVE ANY FOOD ALLERGIES.

Christmas Opening Hours

CHRISTMAS DAY: 12 - 2:30PM

BOXING DAY: 8AM - 8PM

NEW YEARS EVE: OPEN 'TILL LATE

NEW YEARS DAY: 8AM - 8PM

ALL OTHER DAYS OPEN AS USUAL 8AM - 10:30PM

THE WHITE HART INN BELONGS TO ALL OF US
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Contact the White Hart Inn direct on: 01787 211764

Follow us on Facebook: The White Hart Inn - Boxford



Boxford Fireworks 2025

Boxford Community Council rockets to success again!

Despite the odd shower(!) we had another fantastic fireworks evening on Sat 1st November.

Our huge thanks go to Dynamic Fireworks and Synergy for such a professional and faultless display. Many are saying it was better than ever. Also we must thank the large number of volunteers who make the event possible. Thanks to the effort from everyone, including tremendous support and donations from all the local pubs and shops, we were able to make a very worthwhile profit on the evening which will be ploughed back into village organisations who need assistance.

Approx 1,500 people attended and we look forward to seeing all of you (if not more!) next year on **Saturday 31st October 2026**.

Ward Baker
Boxford Community Council.



Photos: Peter Norris

Box River News

Trudi Wild
Editor

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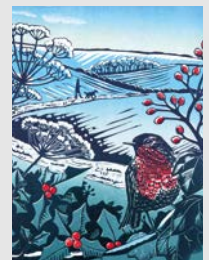
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This month's cover image

This month's cover artwork is entitled "Winter Walk" by Rebecca Drury. It is a reduction and multiblock lino-print, inspired by wintry dog walks in the countryside. A selection of Rebecca's prints are available from the Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre, Mill Tye, Great Cornard. www.milltyegallery.co.uk or you can find more of her work on her site: www.rebeccadruryprints.co.uk



The copy deadline for the January issue is Monday 15th December at midday.

Newton Village Hall Matters

Vandalism: As you may know, there has been some pointless vandalism on the playing field recently. Unfortunately some of the flower tubs outside the hall were also emptied out. A big thank you to Janet who has offered to sort this out.

Decorating: The committee room is currently being decorated as part of our ongoing maintenance schedule.

Bookings: The only number for bookings is now **07955 199 000**. To help with the booking process, please visit www.yourhall.co.uk/hall/newton-green where you will find a detailed description of the hall, along with photos and a diary of bookings. Although you cannot book on this site, you will be able to find out if the hall is available for your function. For public events and clubs there is also a description and contact details.

Little Waldingfield Charities

Our constitution allows us to make an annual Christmas donation to the elderly residents within our village. To qualify, you have to be 66 or older before 25th December 2025, be a permanent resident of the village for at least one year and not be in full-time employment.



To be added to the list, please apply before 15th December.

In addition, we are also able to give financial help for other causes such as hospital visits or specialist equipment for additional needs where help is not available elsewhere. We are also here to help assist with the costs of higher education (vocational, university & apprenticeships, for instance books or tools).

All requests are considered, are in the strictest confidence and are not at any stage made public.

To apply for the Christmas donation or any other financial assistance, please contact:

Mary **01787 247658** or
littlewaldingfieldcharities@gmail.com

Newton Fireside Club

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to attend this month's sessions, but I've had feedback from members.

The quizzes went down really well. It was a very convivial session with lots of time to chat.

The lunch was very well attended. A big thank you to Alan for making the pies and to Marilyn, Moira and Teresa for all of their hard work preparing and cooking the vegetables and serving up. And last but not least, thanks to everyone who helped with the washing up and clearing away.

Some of the comments were:

"A delicious lunch and wonderful get together." Karen

"Everything was perfect." Marianne

"The food was lovely... I inhaled it!" Vivienne

So, I'm gutted to have missed that.

The next session is a beetle drive, which is always a very noisy and competitive event. Do come and join us, you'll receive a very warm welcome and the fire will be lit.

AUTUMN 2025 PROGRAMME

Tuesday 2nd December Christmas Crafts with Mince pies & Fizz

Tuesday 16th December Christmas Lunch at Newton Golf Club (12:30pm)

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. We are excited to say that we now have a card reader, so payments can be made by card. 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.



Newton's Remembrance Service

The service was well attended with parishioners gathering at the war memorial on a warm autumn Sunday. Major Keith "Ned" Cameron (retired) delivered the Exhortation, and former REME veteran Russ Bower read the names of the village's fallen from both the Great War and the Second World War. A wreath was laid on behalf of the village by Cllr Paul Presland, Chairman of Newton Parish Council.



Photo: Wendy's World of Photography

Reviving Newton Green's Ponds

Our pond restoration project is off to a great start. The first ones have had scrub, dead trees and an overgrowth of reeds removed. Decades-worth of silt has been carted to nearby sites to enable any little creatures in it to wriggle out into nearby ditches or alternative ponds. Beetle banks have been put in place around some edges to provide safe, suitable habitat for a range of wildlife.

Many villagers have been surprised as the size of the ponds has been uncovered. They are now ready for nature to take her course in refilling so that they are more fit to support a range of flora and fauna.

We will continue to work with The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) to ensure that any planting done will enhance the biodiversity.



The Trust has been very fortunate in finding a dedicated group of experienced locals to fulfil this contract; Charlie Smith operating the big excavator, the Brooks family helping with haulage, Rick Faulkner, man of varied talents, and Guy Jones on tree work. We are grateful for their hard work and cheery manner.

Louise Evers
Newton Green Trust

The William Alston Charity

The trustees are about to meet to discuss the distribution of gifts at Christmas. We give small cash gifts to deserving members of Newton village each year. We also contribute to and manage the distribution of festive gifts and food parcels along with the Parish Council and the Trust.

Once again, this is a long-standing tradition and we need your help to identify anyone who might benefit from or deserve these gifts. Please do contact me on the number below or get in touch with any of the other trustees.

Many thanks
Sue Presland (07881 383 998), Janet Taylor, Liza Devlin - Trustees



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Belgian Week! - November 19 - 23rd
 A Belgian beer tap takeover & specials all week long!

Christmas Hours from December 17th - January 4th
 See our website for more!!

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
Thursday Nights Pizza & a Pint for £15 (5-8pm)

Christmas Carols
 with Phoebe Austin & Elliott Porter
 Saturday, December 20th 7pm-9pm

Acoustic Nights
 Wednesday, December 10th from 7pm
Christmas Acoustic! Sunday Dec 21st - 2-5pm

January Shut Down
 The pub will be closed from Sunday, Jan 5th - Jan 22nd
 Reopening Friday, Jan 23rd from 12pm!

Street Food
 Follow us on Facebook/Instagram for weekly updates!
Wagyu Burgers - Nov 29 (Sat) Fridays in Dec plus NYE!
Tasty Turk - Fri Nov 28th & Sat Dec 27th
My Thai Chef LM - Sat Dec 13th & 20th
Taqueria La Gringa - Sun Dec 21st 1-5pm

@edwardstonewh www.edwardstonewhitehorse.co.uk

TO LET: The Mill Surgery

Boxford CO10 5DU



Mark and Sarah Setterfield are happy to announce that after its closure in June, we have bought the former Boxford surgery plot.

This will protect the street view as well as safeguarding the free movement of the four properties with rights of access over the lane.

We have happily lived in Boxford since 2010 and we are committed to providing this building to local tenants or businesses who will inject new life into the building.

Preference will be given to tenants who will bring something positive to our lovely village; who will not be competing with existing amenities - and which operates only during standard business hours

Commercial use class E
 Floor area 73.5sq m/ 791 sq ft
 1 Parking Space

To register your interest or for further details please email
sarahwilliams0711@gmail.com



Set in the beautiful surroundings of Kersey Mill, Woodland's nursery offers childcare from 11 months to 4 years in four age-appropriate rooms.

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Email: manager@woodlandsnurserykerseymill.co.uk
WWW.WOODLANDSNURSERYKERSEYMILL.CO.UK

Match of the (Yester)Day – Part 2

Following last month's look back at Boxford's youth side in 1975, Richard Haining has shared three more photographs that chart the team's journey through the late '70s and early '80s.

The Last Game 1982 or 83

This photo captures Boxford Youth FC Under 17s at the end of their final match, taken by John Kent. Several of the boys who appeared in the 1975 line-up were still with the club right through to these closing seasons.



Back row: Andrew Porter, Barry Mattock, Paul McGarry, Peter Haining (manager), Michael Kent, Jake Mead, Colin Bullen, Marc Gasson (GK). Front row: Robert Hughes, Alex Luman, Daryl Gasson, Richard Haining, Kelly Wagland, Mark Saberton (hiding), Simon Havis

Boxford, Massachusetts – Easter 1979

This picture takes us across the Atlantic during the club's Easter 1979 tour to Boxford, Massachusetts. The photo, again taken by assistant coach John Kent, shows 14 of the 15 boys who travelled (youngest member Daryl Gasson is cropped off to the right). Ricky Leader, who appeared in last month's photo, had moved away shortly before the trip and was replaced by Iain Laird at the last minute.



Back row: Mark Saberton, Barry Mattock, Iain Laird, Jake Mead, Colin Bullen, Simon Havis. Front row: Marc Gasson behind Robert Hughes, Karl McDermott, Richard Haining, Paul Collins, Richard Stirling, Michael Kent, Andrew Porter, Daryl Gasson (cropped).



At first glance you might think Peter Bowles, Terry Venables and Jason King had joined the tour and climbed the Twin Towers for a photo op. In reality, it's the Boxford youth management committee Brian Porter (chairman and organising focal point of the trip) and the coaches John Kent and Peter Haining.

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Boxford Bounty Winners!

The Boxford Bounty would like to thank the customers of The Fleece, Boxford for drawing the following winners for the October draw:

Sept - Oct 2025 Winners		
1 st	£250	W. Howels, Boxford
2 nd	£125	J. Lambert, Boxford
3 rd	£75	S. Keeble, Polstead
4 th	£50	D. Simpson, Edwardstone

Well done 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'd like a ticket for next year's draws, please contact Mark Miller on 07534 953 843, email boxfordbounty@gmail.com, or complete the online form at www.boxford.me.uk/boxford-bounty.

If you are an existing member we will be contacting you 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



An independent setting within Boxford Primary school

We offer term wrap-around care and Early Education for children aged 20 months -12 years of age

Term time opening hours:
 Monday – Thursday: 7.30am – 6.00pm
 Friday: 7.30am – 5.00pm
 Set Pre-school sessions from 9.00am – 3.30pm

For school aged children, we deliver to Boxford school from Breakfast club and collect directly from the school.

School Holiday clubs for children 20m – 12 years:
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 Monday - Thursday: 8.30am – 3.30pm

15 and 30 hours Early years government entitlement sessions available

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 Web: www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk




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 or scan this QR code:



All profits assist Boxford Community Council in providing funding for projects, events and facilities for organisations and clubs in Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton.

BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
 BOXFORD, EDWARDSTONE AND GROTON

www.boxford.me.uk
boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Charity No.: 304862

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The Butcher's Wife

How I accidentally fell in love with an electric spaceship

I've said it before - I've never understood all the fuss about cars. When we've been car shopping before my only interests were whether it was big enough to get the dog in the boot and small enough for me to park it. That's it. I don't really care what colour it is, what the engine size is and I'm not interested in the fancy features.

To be honest, I'm just grateful to have a car and I never take my driving licence for granted. It took me six attempts to pass my driving test. I know that sounds horrendous but I promise you, I am a good driver! Apart from sometimes driving into stationary objects (mainly when trying to park and before the days of parking sensors), I've not had any accidents.

My poor driving instructor never understood what was going wrong, I was a confident learner driver and desperate to drive but every time I got into the car for a test, I was shaking with nerves. I made silly mistakes like not giving way to a bus, rolling back on a hill start and, probably a bit more serious, not stopping at a pedestrian crossing. By the time the sixth test rolled around, I had made the decision this would be my last test. I stopped caring and that was what I think helped, I wasn't even a tiny bit nervous and chatted along to the test examiner during the test. At the end of the test, I was waiting for the

"I'm sorry to tell you you've failed" that I was so used to hearing so when he told me I'd passed I couldn't believe it! I was so happy, I hugged him and told him I loved him!

My first car was Mickey the Metro. It was the most basic car, no radio, no headrests, just a steering wheel and a gear stick and I loved it. To me, that car was freedom! Since then, I've only had a handful of cars and whilst I appreciated the first car I got with a radio, none of the other fancy things have impressed me.

A few weeks ago, our current car started going into limp mode and needed to go back to the dealership to have a new coil pack for the spark plugs (I sound like I know what that means - I don't) and I needed a courtesy car. The dealer gave me a brand spanking new, top of the range, electric car. I'm not stupid, I know they do this to try to entice customers into upgrading and I wasn't buying into it. Or so I thought...

From the moment I sat in this car, I felt like an astronaut, it was like a spaceship! Firstly, I had to double check that I'd actually started it, it was so quiet. It took a few minutes to get my bearings - no handbrake and no gear stick initially confused me. It literally glided down the road. It had features that I never knew I needed in my life. It projected my speed onto the bottom of the windscreen so

I didn't have to keep looking at the dashboard and if I went even one mile over the speed limit, it beeped at me as a warning (that feature was actually a

bit annoying, turns out I speed a bit more than I should). Everything was automatic and it practically drove itself.

After driving this magnificent car for three days I was all-in. I wanted to keep it. The dealer's marketing trick had completely worked on me. I got back into my normal car, and my first thought was what a pile of **** it was! It was so loud, and I stalled it twice driving out of the dealership because I had already become accustomed to not having to change gear.

The electric car is about three times the cost of my current car so it's an expensive upgrade. I don't think I could convince The Butcher. Not to mention our house is too far away from the road and we don't have electricity in our garage so we'd also have to move house which I'm positive he wouldn't go for. But when do I actually listen to him?! Anyone know a good estate agent?



Beef Bourguignon

Ingredients (serves 4)

1.5kg braising steak, diced
4tbsp sunflower oil
200g smoked streaky bacon, diced
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
750ml red wine
2tbsp tomato purée
1 beef stock cube
2 bay leaves
3 sprigs fresh thyme
25g butter
24 baby onions
300g chestnut mushrooms, halved
2tbsp cornflour
Sea salt and ground black pepper
Fresh parsley, to serve

Method

1. Heat oven to 170C. Season the beef.
2. Heat 2tbsp of oil in a large pan. Fry beef in batches over a medium-high heat until browned, then transfer to a large casserole dish.
3. Fry bacon for 2-3 minutes and add to the casserole dish.
4. Add more oil if needed. Fry onion over a low heat for 5 mins. Stir garlic in, cook for 1 min. Add to casserole.
5. Add the wine, tomato purée, stock cube, herbs and 150ml of water to the casserole and bring to a simmer. Stir well, cover with lid and place in oven for 1 ½ - 1 ¾ hours.
6. Meanwhile add the baby onions to a heatproof bowl, cover with just-boiled water and leave for 5 mins.
7. Drain, cool slightly and trim the root.
8. Melt half the butter in a large non stick pan with a touch of oil and fry the baby onions over a medium heat for about 5 minutes until golden brown. Transfer to a bowl.
9. Add the remaining butter and the mushrooms to the pan and cook for 2-3 minutes over a fairly high heat until golden brown.
10. Mix the cornflour with the water until smooth.
11. Remove the casserole from the oven and stir in the cornflour mixture, add the baby onions and mushrooms. Return to the oven for 45 minutes until the sauce is thick.
12. To serve, remove the thyme stalks and sprinkle with fresh parsley.



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MILL TYE
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A Winter's Tale Printworks Exhibition December 2025

Discover 'A Winter's Tale', the festive **Christmas Printworks Exhibition** at Mill Tye Gallery, Great Cornard. Set beside the picturesque Mill Pond on the River Stour, the beautifully restored Bakers Mill building provides a stunning backdrop for this seasonal celebration of contemporary art and craft.



Ends: Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December — www.milltyegallery.co.uk

Mill Tye Gallery and Art Centre 3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0GW **Visit:** www.milltyegallery.co.uk
Open: Thursday to Sunday from 10:30am to 4pm. Free Admission.

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Reflections From The Ministry Team

Dear friends,

It seems hard to believe that it is already December, and another year has gone by. The time is fast approaching to find a tree, put up the decorations, get some mince pies cooked, buy our presents, and get our Christmas cards or emails written. Amongst all the trees and tinsel and baubles, I am sure that many of you will put up a Crib in your house as well. Nativity sets come in shapes and sizes - there is a house near where we live which has an outdoor illuminated scene!



The origins of the crib go back to 1223 and is said to have been instituted by St. Francis of Assisi. He was visiting another monastery in a mountain village called Greccio, in the centre of Italy. As he went up the mountain, he decided that it would be good to instil some Christmas joy and anticipation into the residents by setting up a stable scene in the village, which people could look at and admire in the run up to Christmas itself. And so, the crib was born!

The purpose of the crib is to help us enter the wonder of Christmas and the Christmas story and to remind us of the fact that Jesus, God's son, was not born in a great palace among great wealth but was born in a humble stable. Seeing the stable can help us to imagine the moment of Jesus's birth and this is echoed in one of the Church's special prayers for Christmas Day, where we pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen." Looking at a crib, we are encouraged to kneel before Jesus lying in the manger, just like the shepherds and the wise men. Frances Chesterton, the wife of the novelist G. K. Chesterton, wrote the words to the famous Christmas carol, "Here is the Little Door", which was set wonderfully to music by Herbert Howells. This carol invites us to enter the crib: "Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more but enter with our gift". Looking at a crib scene, we too, are encouraged to lift the latch and go into the stable in Bethlehem, to see Jesus lying on a bed of straw.

We have some wonderful services for you in the Box River Benefice this Christmas. A Christingle Service at St Mary's Boxford on Sunday 14th December at 4pm, a choice of Carol Services, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and a Christmas Morning Eucharist. It would be lovely to see you and welcome you to those services.

So, I hope that you will have an opportunity this Christmas to spend some time looking at a crib or watching a Nativity play so that you can journey with the Shepherds to visit the baby Jesus lying in the manger.

*Blessings to you all
Maggie
Lay Minister*

December

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 2nd 10am Drop in for Coffee
Mary's House

Friday 5th 10:30am Coffee Morning
St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Saturday 6th 10-11am Festive Coffee Morning & Stalls
All Saints', Newton Green

Saturday 6th 10am-3pm Christmas Tree Festival
St Mary's, Boxford

Tuesday 9th 10am Drop in for Coffee
Mary's House

Friday 12th 7-9pm Festive Drinks & Nibbles
St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Tuesday 16th 10am Drop in for Coffee
Mary's House

Saturday 20th 10am Big Church Clean
St Mary's, Boxford

Tuesday 23rd 10am Drop in for Coffee
Mary's House

ST MARY'S CHURCH BOXFORD CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

**SUNDAY, 14TH DECEMBER
AT
4.00 PM**

A WONDERFUL WAY TO BEGIN THE BUILD UP TO CHRISTMAS



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

A little something from us all at SMC



You have loved this offer in the past, so we thought we'd do it again this year – well, it is Christmas, after all!

- Spend £35 on Beauty treatments in December and receive a £10 voucher to spend in January.
- Plus this month: our **Christmas Collagen Activation Plan - £160**
Boost radiance with regenerating ampoules and replenishing cream PLUS a **FREE** full-size Firming Serum worth £75 for visibly firmer skin.

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



This month, spend £35 on Beauty and receive
a £10 voucher to spend in January... PLUS
our Christmas Collagen Activation Plan for just £160

* Cannot be used with any other offer. Valid once per person 'til 31/01/2026.

Suffolk Medical Clinic, 6 Broad Street
Boxford 01787 211 000



Service Schedule for December 2025

Wednesday 3rd December	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 7th December <i>Advent 2</i>	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 10th December	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 14th December <i>Advent 3</i>	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist with Choir	St Mary's, Boxford
	16:00	Christingle	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 17th December	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Mary's House, Boxford
Friday 19th December	17:00	Carol Service	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	19:00	Carol Service	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
Sunday 21st December <i>Advent 4</i>	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist with Choir	St Mary's, Boxford
	18:00	Carol Service	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Mary's House, Boxford
	18:00	Carol Service	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	23:00	Midnight Mass	St Mary's, Boxford
Thursday 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	09:30	Christmas Day Eucharist	All Saints', Newton Green
	10:00	Christmas Day Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
Sunday 28th December <i>Christmas 1</i>	11:00	Christmas Eucharist	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	Christmas Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford

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

If you need support, please contact the Benefice Office in the first instance,
all enquiries will be treated in confidence and passed on to the appropriate person.

BOXRIVER BENEFICE

COFFEE MORNINGS

DROP IN FOR COFFEE

TUESDAY 2ND, 9TH, 16TH AND 23RD DECEMBER
BETWEEN 10AM TO 12PM AT MARY'S HOUSE, SWAN STREET, BOXFORD

FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER
10.30 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ST LAWRENCE'S, LT WALDINGFIELD

Remembrance Day in the Benefice

Remembrance Sunday was marked with reverence and gratitude across the Box River Benefice, as congregations gathered to honour those who gave their lives in service.

Services with moving tributes, readings, and the traditional two-minute silence observed at 11am were held in Boxford, Newton, Lt Waldingfield and Groton on Remembrance Sunday and an Act of Remembrance was marked on the 11th November at Edwardstone War Memorial. Wreaths were laid at village memorials and local groups, including veterans and uniformed organisations, took part in the commemorations. We were deeply touched by the attendance and the spirit of unity shown by all. Thank you to everyone who joined us in remembering and giving thanks for the courage, sacrifice, and hope of generations past and present.

Christmas Greetings

As Christmas draws near, we warmly welcome you to join us in celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, here in the benefice. This season invites us into joy, love, and togetherness and there is no better place to share in these blessings than among our Benefice Community.

Whether you've worshipped with us for years or are stepping through our doors for the first time, you'll find a spirit of welcome and peace. We would be delighted to share this holy season with you and your loved ones.

Our Christmas gatherings offer moments of reflection and celebration, with opportunities to enjoy festive treats, joyful music and the warmth of community. We hope you'll be able to join us and experience the wonder of Christmas in fellowship.

St Mary's Food Bank: Here for You

Following the vandalism earlier in the year, our food bank shelves are not topped up as they have been previously, to avoid a repeat of these mindless acts. However, we want to reassure everyone in our community that we still have supplies available and we are here to help. If you or someone you know is in need of support, please don't hesitate to contact the Benefice Office in confidence. We understand that asking for help can be difficult, especially at this time of year, but you are not alone. We are committed to offering practical assistance throughout the year.

St Mary's Big Church Clean

Can you spare an hour or two? Join us for the Big Church Clean at St Mary's, Boxford at **10am, Sat 20th December**. Whether you're a polishing pro or just happy to dust a pew, your help makes a big difference. Come for a bit of elbow grease and good company, we'd love to see you.

Fun Quiz at Groton Village Hall

St Bartholomew's fundraising team invites you to a lively and laughter-filled Quiz Night at Groton Village Hall on Fri 23rd January 2026. Doors open 7:15pm for 7:30pm start. Gather your team of up to six and enjoy a hot supper followed by delicious puddings - all for £15 per person. Bring your own drinks and join in the fun, including a raffle with great prizes. It promises to be a fantastic evening of friendly competition, to book your team, please contact Jayne on 01787 211360.



**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
NEWTON**

**CHRISTMAS
COFFEE MORNING
WITH FESTIVE STALLS**

Saturday, 6th December
10.00 - 11.30 am



St Bartholomew's Fundraising Team
invite you to a

Fun Quiz

at
Groton Village Hall

on
Friday 23rd January 2026
7:15 for 7:30 start

Hot Supper & Puddings

Teams of up to Six
£15 per person

BYO Liquid Refreshment

* * * Raffle * * *

to book a team please contact
Jayne 01787 211360

Contact Information

Benefice Office:
Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford, CO10 5NZ

01787 828046
email: boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

**CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
BOXFORD**

SATURDAY, 6TH DECEMBER

10.00 AM - 3.00 PM

FESTIVE BAKES & CAKES
TEA & COFFEE
MULLED WINE
RAFFLE
MAGDRIGALIA CHOIR SINGING AT MIDDAY
AND SO MUCH MORE

Entry £2.00 per adult, children free includes Children's Trail, Programme & Voting Slip

A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY, CONNECTION & CHRISTMAS CHEER
RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT ST MARY'S CHURCH



Santa is here!



SANTA RUN

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2025

Listen out for Father Christmas and his Elves from 3pm
dashing around Boxford, Edwardstone & Groton on his
Sleigh.

Track us on our Boxford Facebook page with our latest
location!
Charity number 1037332




**FESTIVE
DRINKS & NIBBLES**

Friday, 12th December

at

7.00 - 9.00 PM

**St Lawrence's Church
Little Waldingfield**

£15 per ticket

Available from

Nancy Roser 882897
nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk




GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

DEC
4




'The Story of our Local Castles'

Dr Arthur Redmonds

PHD in Medieval History and Archeology, at
Exeter University

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

**£5 entry, includes Glass of Wine
(Students free)**

Boxford Drama Group
presents
our 2025 panto:



Pinocchio

by Sally Phillips

Boxford Village Hall
December 3rd-6th

Tickets on sale from 1st November
at Boxford Post Office
and online at www.boxforddramagroup.com

Wednesday: £8.00 (no supper)
- curtain up at 6:30pm (early finish, bedtime-friendly!)

Thursday to Saturday: £18.00 including interval supper
- curtain up at 7:30pm

* Email any dietary needs to bdg.catering@tolmedia.uk *

Licensed bar and raffle www.boxforddramagroup.com

FLEECE JAZZ 2022

Fleece Jazz at

Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

Bryan Corbett's Instrumental Groove Unit
Tuesday 9th December 2025 8pm - Tickets: £20



An exciting new project introduces original material and a repertoire with emphasis on the 'pocket' of groove and freedom of improvisation.

Bryan Corbett – Trumpet/Flugelhorn
Paul Deats – Fender Rhodes
Wayne Matthews – Bass
Luke Harris – Drums

Alan Barnes/Bruce Adams Quintet
Tuesday 16th December 2025 8pm - Tickets: £25



Uplifting and hard driving, this is from the 'happy school of jazz' that is guaranteed to put a smile on your face. It will send you off in a positive mood.

Alan Barnes – Saxophones
Bruce Adams – Trumpet
David Newton – Piano
Andrew Cleyndert – Bass
Clark Tracey – Drums

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath CO6 4PZ
Ample parking; fully accessible. Directions: www.fleecejazz.org.uk
Tickets: 01787 210796 or via **WeGotTickets** (booking fee applies);
or on the door (cash or cheque only; sorry no debit/credit cards)
*Friends of Fleece Jazz discount

SPECIAL OFFER: A double room with breakfast and two tickets from £129 (subject to availability) Phone: 01206 262836

CHRISTMAS FAIR
NEDGING HALL BARN'S
5TH & 6TH DECEMBER 2025
10AM - 4PM
UNIQUE ARTISAN STALLS
HOMEWARES, HANDMADE CHILDREN'S GIFTS,
SPIRITS & LIQUORS, WREATHS, POTTED BULBS,
CHIC CLOTHES, JEWELLERY, CANDLES,
MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES
AND SO MUCH MORE!
FREE ENTRY

BOXFORD

CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

7PM MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER
OUTSIDE THE WHITE HART



Mulled Wine & Good Cheer!

Boxford Village Hall – Annual General Meeting

The AGM of Boxford Village Hall will be held on
Monday, 13th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend.
Come along to hear updates on the past year
and our plans for the centenary year.

Pilates at Mildenhall Pavilion



Wednesdays 5.30pm – 6.20pm
£8 per session
(discounted if paid in a block)

Pilates at Mildenhall Pavilion is taught by
Claire Mortimer, a certified Body
Control Pilates teacher, who has been
practising pilates for over 20 years.

- ✓ Ideal for Beginners and all abilities
- ✓ Relaxation and breathing techniques
- ✓ Fantastic for overall fitness
- ✓ Improves strength
- ✓ Small friendly group

PLEASE CONTACT CLAIRE
07772074750 or 01787 210473
EMAIL
clairemortimer3@gmail.com

Mildenhall Pavilion
Church Road
Mildenhall
IP7 7AF

www.mildenhallpavilion.co.uk
Registered Charity No 304919

Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pubs

Our next 'Pop-Up Pub' night is Friday 19th December
from 6:30pm – 10:30pm. The nights are really relaxed and
friendly events in the beautiful setting of the pavilion at the
Little Waldingfield Playing Fields, and everyone is welcome
to join us for an evening of great company and a range of
reasonably-priced drinks (both alcoholic and non).

Polstead Films

The Roses

Friday 12th December, Doors open 7pm

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

"Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch
are sublime."

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Theo and Ivy:
successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. However,
a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentments
soon emerge when Theo's career nosedives and Ivy's own
ambitions take off.

Tickets £5. Email: polsteadfilms@gmail.com to reserve.
The film starts at 7:30pm.

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



Nedging Hall Christmas Fair

Nedging Hall will host their first Christmas Fair on Friday
5th & Saturday 6th December 10am – 4pm. Discover festive
cheer, unique artisan stalls, and plenty of seasonal treats –
with free admission for all.

THE FLEECE HOTEL

Charity Quiz

Wed 14th	Jan	8 PM
Wed 11th	Feb	8 PM
Wed 11th	Mar	8 PM
Wed 15th	Apr	8 PM
Wed 13th	May	8 PM
Wed 17th	Jun	8 PM
Wed 15th	Jul	8 PM
Wed 12th	Aug	8 PM
Wed 16th	Sep	8 PM
Wed 14th	Oct	8 PM
Wed 11th	Nov	8 PM
Wed 9th	Dec	8 PM

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

Up to 6 per team | 01787 211 818 to reserve a table

MADRIGALIA Christmas Choral Concert (with audience carols) St Mary's Church, Kersey



Thursday December 18th
7:30 p.m
Doors open at 7 p.m

£10 including mince pie and mulled wine
(cash or card) under 16s free
Tickets on the door or in advance from
lindanewbigging@btinternet.com
Or call 07905 731431

www.opus14live.com
Box Office: 01256-416384

**Full Information
Ticket Booking**

www.weloveconcerts.com
Box Office: 01256-416384

CHRISTMAS

*****Tickets make great Christmas Presents*****

MAGNIFICENT HISTORIC LAVENHAM CHURCH

LAVENHAM VILLAGE HALL

**SUPERSONIC
QUEEN**

SUNDAY 14th DEC 7.30pm

**SUPERSONIC QUEEN
CHRISTMAS QUEEN PECTACULAR**
A FULL EVENING OF QUEEN HITS AND CLASSIC TRACKS
WWW.QUEENTRIBUTEAND.CO.UK

CHRISTMAS PIZZA DRAG BINGO

Ms Amber Guity All Evening

Fri 19th Dec 7.30pm

Camp chaos meets cheesy crusts

BRIT FUNK CHRISTMAS

The Brit Funk Association All Evening
& DJ Mickey Logan's Disco floor fillers

Sat 20th Dec 7.30pm

**BEGGAR & CO,
HI-TENSION, & LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

SUMMER 2026

***** Summer 2026 is coming and it starts here*****

Historic Lavenham Annual August Festival Theatre

Exclusive Afternoon Matinee

RUSSELL WATSON

& Guests

Sat 8th Aug 1.30pm

Operatic power



DAVID ESSEX

& His Band

Sat 15th Aug 7.30pm

Greatest Hits
Concert



An Afternoon With

COLLABRO

Sun 16th Aug 1.30pm

West End Voices,
boyband soul



Boxford Primary School

Remembrance

School value: Respect

Mrs Lea led a number of special assemblies during November which focused on remembrance. To mark our respects, we had a two-minute silence at 11am on Tuesday 11th November 2025. Children learnt about why we observe remembrance and the moment the guns finally fell silent. Applying our school value of respect, all pupils have been reflective around this special day and the sacrifices made by so many people. A collection was made from our poppy appeal and all proceeds went to the Royal British Legion.

Oliver, a Year 5 pupil, reflected upon a whole school assembly he attended, "Mrs Lea spoke about World War I and the number of people who fought; she also spoke about how many people lost their lives. We learnt about the importance of poppies – they were the first thing to grow on the battlefields. Mrs Lea also spoke about other cultures, how they pay their respects for remembrance and why we observe this special day."



Christmas Tree Festival

School value: Creativity

Boxford Primary School are again sponsoring a tree at the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church, Boxford. Each class will be designing a decoration for the tree which will then take of pride of place in the church; Year 6 pupils will be decorating the tree again to showcase pupils' creativity. It is a superb event which promotes local organisations and it raises much needed funds for St. Mary's Church. If you would like a great way to kick-start the festive season, the Christmas trees will be on display on **Saturday 6th December**.

New School Website

School value: Positivity

We have launched a NEW school website! Our website is the window into our school and it highlights the broad and balanced curriculum we have on offer. We will be busy making further updates this term – please look out for these! Visit www.boxfordprimaryschool.co.uk or scan the QR code to find out more information.



Would you like a school tour?

If your child is looking to start school in September 2026, or move mid-year, please contact Mrs Clarke in the office on 01787 210332 or email office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk. We would be more than happy to arrange a school tour for you to see our exciting curriculum.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Mr. S. Reynolds

Assistant Headteacher

GET FESTIVE WITH OUR

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

COMPETITION

Bring the Christmas spirit to your neighbourhood and fundraise for a great cause. For more info:

www.eaaa.org.uk/christmaslights

#TogetherWeSaveLives this Christmas!

Registered Charity in England and Wales. Registered Charity number 1083876

FR Approved with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) hold an annual Christmas Lights competition. Many fantastic Christmas light displays have been put on in previous years within local towns and villages, why not consider repeating your lights this year in aid of EAAA? The competition is free to enter with a number of different prizes being awarded for displays.

EAAA is a charity that receives no regular government funding and relies almost entirely on the community to keep in the air and on the road. By joining in with our Christmas Lights competition this year, you can contribute to this life-saving work.

If you are interested in taking part, or would like to know more, then please sign up via our website www.eaaa.org.uk/support-us/christmas/lights-display.

Julian Fincham-Jacques, Volunteer
East Anglian Air Ambulance

Hollow Trees Farm

Flying all the way from the North Pole, Santa is returning to Hollow Trees Farm, but this year he has found a new home on our Farm Trail.

Join us for tractor and trailer ride where you will arrive at our Festive Village where you can get creative in the Elves Workshop and explore our magical Christmas scenes. When it's time to meet Santa, one of his friendly elves will take you to his Christmas Grotto. Once you've met Santa, enjoy more time exploring the Village before heading back to the Farm Kiosk on another tractor and trailer ride!

Available every Thursday – Sunday from 4th – 21st December

We hope to see you soon.



SUPPORT THE EPIC FOUR CORNERS WALK

A 1,600 mile journey of hope, endurance & purpose

Hi, I'm Sam - a primary school teacher from Boxford. In 2024, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Instead of stepping back, I've decided to step forward.

The Four Corners Walk is a massive walking challenge across the UK, covering more than 1,600 miles over 6 months, which will take me to the 4 extremities of the British mainland. I'll carry everything on my back and camp along the route, starting in April 2026.

I've decided to take on this epic challenge to turn a negative into a positive, to try and make a difference and help others like myself while I still can... but I can't afford to do that on my own.



Sam Sharp
Founder, Four Corners Walk

MY MISSION

- ♥ Raise over £100,000 for Parkinson's charities
- ♥ Increase awareness of Parkinson's through media, schools, and community engagement
- ♥ Promote the positive effects of walking on mental health and well-being
- ♥ Showcase the power of exercise in slowing the progression of Parkinson's



HOW TO HELP

gofundme



Search Facebook:
Sam Sharp

Search Instagram, TikTok and X:
Four Corners Walk

Summer Stars at Lavenham 2026

The Historic Lavenham August Festival Theatre in Suffolk has unveiled a trio of high-profile concerts for Summer 2026, bringing celebrated performers to its distinctive open-air setting on Bridge Street Road.

Russell Watson - 8 August 2026

The season opens on Saturday 8 August with multi-award-winning tenor Russell Watson, performing a special afternoon programme titled *Russell*



Watson's Midsummer Matinee Special. The concert runs from 1:30pm to approximately 4pm. Watson will be joined by accompanist Mike Moran and guest soprano Nancy May, who has spent the last two years touring with him on the *Magnificent Buildings* series in cathedrals and churches across the UK. Further guests are expected to be announced.

David Essex OBE - 15 August 2026

The following week, on Saturday 15 August, David Essex OBE, the singer, songwriter and actor with a career spanning more than fifty years will headline an evening performance.



Known for his distinctive voice and enduring presence in British entertainment, Essex will appear live from 7:30pm to approximately 10pm.

Collabro - 16 August 2026

Closing the announced lineup is the world's most successful theatrical vocal group, Collabro, who will return to the stage for a special matinee on **Sunday 16 August**, running from 1:30pm to approximately 4pm.



The group recently released their new album *Live in London*, and their

Lavenham concert marks their first major appearance since its launch.

Tickets & Booking Information

Tickets are now on sale. Reserved undercover seats and picnic pitches for all performances can be booked via [weloveconcerts.com](http://www.weloveconcerts.com) or by calling 01256 416384.

Farming with Nature at Nedging Hall

Nedging Hall Estate reaches Final Four in the Nature Friendly Farm Award in the inaugural Schoffel Countryside Awards

Nedging Hall Estate is a family-owned country estate, covering 5,000 acres deep in the beautiful Suffolk countryside, between Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. Nedging Hall sits in the middle of the mixed farmland and has focused on reintroducing ancient woodland areas, hedgerows and ponds.

The estate has just reached the final four in the *Nature Friendly Farm Award* in the inaugural *Schoffel Countryside Awards*. Sustainability and environmental impact are at the forefront of the Nedging Hall Estate mindset. They have created a long-term management vision to develop a thriving hub of biodiversity and it's wonderful for them to be recognised nationally.



Long term Management

The Buckle family is committed to woodland creation and management. They have added a remarkable 25 hectares of new woodland between 2020 and 2023, equating to a total of 45,000 young trees. Richard Adams runs the tree planting and pond digging with Juliet Hawkins (a conservational advisor). Juliet is one of the country's leading pond ecologists and pond historians. In 2022 Juliet surveyed the flora and fauna and the general state of all the

farm ponds, building on her previous work on the farm between 2006 and 2012. Her findings provided direction for restoration of some of the 44 ponds identified on the farm and have been shared with Suffolk Biological Information Service.

Sustainable Farming

Around 3,500 acres of the estate are used for growing combinable crops, through a joint venture between Heathpatch, A J Pratt & Sons and W D Chaplin Farms, via Brett Vale Farming Company Limited. The joint venture combines years of knowledge, expertise and machinery to provide high quality contract farming services to the shareholders' land and their clients. Crops currently grown include wheat, barley, beans, oilseed rape, sugar beet, maize and rye. The majority of the arable fields have environmental stewardship margins planted to encourage wild birds, wildflowers and insects.

Hospitality working hand in hand with the farm

The countryside of Suffolk is something they feel incredibly proud of and want to look after for generations to come. They are on a mission to preserve British hospitality and pubs - an endeavour that gained significance as more than 383 pubs closed in 2023. The hospitality branch of the business is key. The Crown in Bildeston; an award-winning pub with rooms focussing on estate-to-plate dining, The Lindsey Rose; a Suffolk country pub, Nedging Hall; an exclusive-use country house and Mauldons Brewery. The businesses work full circle, are inextricably linked and look after each other; that's key to them. We use malting barley grown on our own farm to craft the ales that go into our Suffolk pubs, The Lindsey Rose and The Bildeston Crown.

Charles Buckle, Managing Director of Nedging Hall Estate commented: "As a family farm, we've always believed that good farming and respect for the countryside go hand in hand. Over the years we've focused on improving soil health, planting new woodlands, restoring ponds and other habitats, and creating wildlife corridors right across the estate. It's been a real team effort, with everyone at Nedging Hall Estate and Brett Vale Farming sharing the same goal of leaving the land in better shape for future generations. We've worked hard to create a landscape where productive farming and caring about biodiversity go hand in hand. We're really proud of what has been achieved so far, and it's lovely to see that effort being recognised."



THE CROWN
BILDESTON

*The ultimate estate-to-plate
dining experience*

MID-WEEK LUNCH

Monday - Friday, 12pm - 2pm

Two courses £25 | Three courses £30

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

*Christmas Party menu
with all the trimmings*

Two Courses £38 | Three Courses £45

WILD GAME DINNER

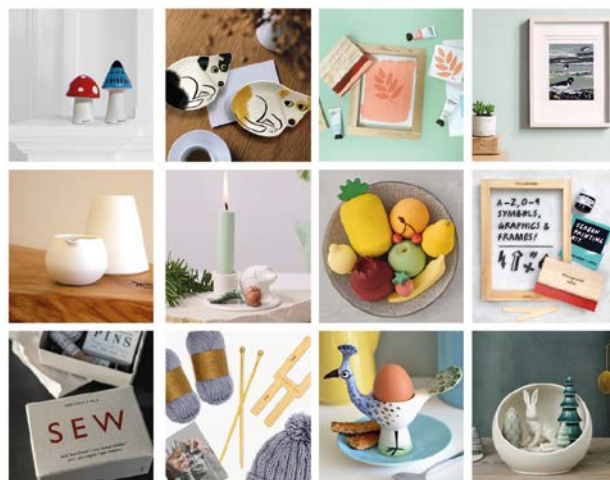
30th January, 7pm

www.thebildestoncrown.com/

Christmas at Mill Tye!

Discover a wide range of glass, ceramics, sculptures, books, Christmas cards, and home accessories - there's something for everyone at Mill Tye Gallery!

We've got Christmas all wrapped up, so come and enjoy the festive spirit with us.



Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre

3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard
Sudbury CO10 0GW ('Bakers Mill')

Opening Times: Thursday to Sunday:
10:30am to 4:00pm. **Free Entry!**

Christmas Opening: Monday 15th December
to Wednesday 24th December, open everyday
from 10:30am to 4:00pm.

www.milltyegallery.co.uk



**MILL TYE GALLERY
& ARTS CENTRE**



HOLLOW
TREES
FARM

FATHER CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

All your farm favourites
plus some new Christmas surprises..

Tractor ride to our magical Festive Village

Meet Santa and his elves in his Christmas Grotto

Includes a personal present for each child

And as a bonus includes an all day ticket
to our Farm Trail

BOOKING REQUIRED:

TICKETS FROM

£15.00 PER CHILD

£7.50 PER ADULT



SCAN TO
BOOK
ONLINE



01449 741 247

www.hollowtrees.co.uk

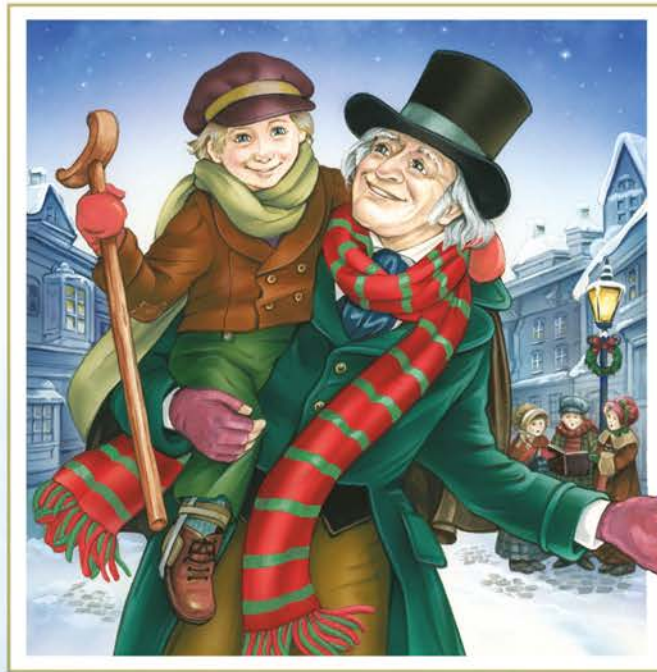
shop@hollowtrees.co.uk

Hollow Trees Farm, Semer, IP7 6HX

EVERY THURSDAY - SUNDAY FROM 4TH - 21ST DECEMBER

BYRON & THE BARD

— LAVENHAM —



Which two literary figures feature in Byron & The Bard's window this Christmas?

Last year, we featured Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim. To find out who it is this year, come and visit us in Merchant's Row, Lavenham. Guess correctly and you might win a prize! All you have to do is come and have a look at our window, fill in an entry form (available in the shop), and pop it in the Christmas post-box.

Who can be found in the Lavenham shop window, is it:

- a) Lydia Bennet and Jack Wickham?
- b) Stephen Maturin and Diana Villiers?
- c) Sophie Williams and Jack Aubrey?
- d) Frederick Wentworth and Anne Elliot?

One lucky winner will receive a £50 Byron & The Bard gift voucher.

Merry Christmas!

From your friends at Byron & The Bard

"And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God Bless Us, Every One!"

Terms & Conditions

- All entries must be received by 5pm on 23rd December 2025.
- The judges will randomly select the winner from all the correct entries.
- The £50 Byron & The Bard voucher will be valid until 24/12/2026
- There is no cash alternative to the prize offered.
- The winner will be announced on Christmas Eve.
- The judges' decision is final.

Byron & The Bard
is the bookshop
around the corner
and is here to take
the strain off your
Christmas shopping.



"The year end brings no greater pleasure than
the opportunity to express to you season's
greetings and good wishes. May your holidays
and new year be filled with joy".

Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)

Byron & The Bard is a rather quirky bookshop that also
sells complementary merchandise, housed in Merchants Row
in the heart of lovely Lavenham.

Our mantra is:
"How may we help you?"

- Free local delivery and at cost postage everywhere else
- Complimentary gift wrapping in our bespoke 100% recycled paper
- Corporate & personal gifting service – and not just books
- Byron & The Bard gift cheques
- Our AWESome loyalty programme
- Signed &/or exclusive edition books
- Book sourcing & ordering (usually within 72 hours)
- Comfy seats and a loo!

Our December opening
hours will be:

1st - 4th	10.30am - 4.30pm
5th - 6th	10.30am - 8.00pm
7th Dec	10.30am - 4.30pm
8th - 11th	10.30am - 6.00pm
12th - 13th	10.30am - 6.30pm
14th Dec	10.30am - 4.30pm
15th - 19th	10.30am - 5.30pm
20th - 21st	10.00am - 6.30pm
22nd - 24th	10.30am - 5.30pm
Christmas Day & Boxing Day	Closed
27th - 30th	11.00am - 4.30pm
31st/1st & 2nd Jan	Closed



Natural Boxford



Tina Loose explains the quiet importance of our moths

In the October 2022 issue of the BRN I wrote about the importance of moths to our planet and our village. Since then Boxford has been lucky enough to have seen the creation of the Natural Boxford Group who have asked me to write a new article on Moths. The group has worked tirelessly to promote protection of the wild environment and other ways of helping the planet at this crucial time of ever faster climate change. Moths are a very significant part of the ecosystems that drive our planet. Only a few are very annoying: for example, the small insignificant little Clothes Moth that has been appearing in some local homes lately; Bee and Wax Moths are considered pests because the larvae severely damage bee hives; and the attractive Box Moth which recently arrived on imported Box tree plants from south-east Asia. Fortunately there have been far fewer of the latter this year so perhaps people's Box



bushes will have a chance to recover and the pride of the village Box tree in the White Hart garden may continue its long life. These are the main

undesirables amongst the 2,450 moth species we can see in Britain. Most are completely harmless, many rivaling the beauty of our butterflies.

They are mysterious because the majority are creatures of the night. Different species fly at different times, busying themselves with feeding, pollinating and mating. All species have their own rituals, habits, characteristics and flying seasons so the variety throughout the year is endlessly changing providing an ongoing learning experience for those who study them. Light moth traps encourage the creatures to fly into the box where they find a cosy egg box to spend the night. For those of us recording local moths from overnight traps there seems to be one common feature - we will always get up enthusiastically the next morning to see what is there and make sure that they fly away safely. It is like opening a Christmas present every time and Suffolk has enough 'moth-ers' to help build the Suffolk County record. Its website (suffolkmoths.co.uk) makes it possible to see how common or rare a species is in the Boxford district over time.

Most adult moths live for short periods: from a few days to a few weeks depending on the species. A few species hibernate through the winter and so live for months. Most moths feed on nectar just like butterflies,

thereby contributing to pollination, but some species of short-lived moths do not feed at all (they have no mouth parts and a very short life). One might well ask what use the non-feeders are. The answer is that their larvae provide food for birds and other small creatures, while the flying moths are eaten by bats and birds by day and night.

The life-cycles of moths are carefully aligned with those of their food-plants, so that the caterpillars hatch when food is plentiful. Some predators, such as birds which rely on caterpillars as food for their young, also time their breeding to coincide with the moth life-cycles. Climate change may disrupt these carefully balanced relationships as the timing of the seasons changes. Plants, moths and their predators are unlikely to adapt at the same speed





and so breeding cycles may no longer match food supplies. This could have disastrous

consequences for some species. These include parasitic wasps and flies (both pollinators) whose larvae feed inside caterpillars, and a huge variety of other small creatures ranging from beetles, earwigs and spiders to amphibians, lizards and small mammals. As we have seen, many birds eat moths and caterpillars and hunt them especially to feed to their young. These include the Robin, Blue Tit, Wren, Blackbird and other garden birds, as well as threatened bird species like Cuckoo and the Stone Curlew, an important species in Suffolk's Breckland. The last two are listed in the List of Birds of Conservation Concern.

In my experience this year has been depressing in terms of total moth numbers and the complete absence of many of my favourite moths. Last year there was national concern about the apparent drop in numbers of insects and this year has been no better. The various species of beautiful hawk moths were particularly noticeable by their total absence or rare appearances at the trap. One might ask why this is. Fewer hawk moths this year could be due to factors like habitat loss, pesticide use, light pollution, or changes in weather patterns affecting their flight journeys and breeding and feeding. Last year's very wet spring may have had a year on year knock on effect on numbers, or perhaps a warm spring followed by a very hot summer may have affected them this year. All insects are weather sensitive. Fluctuations in nature are normal, but they are now far more frequent and dramatic. Whatever the causes, the decrease in moth numbers is a warning to us that all is not well with our environment. Add in the extinction in Britain of numerous species in the last 60 years and an up to 90% reduction in the annual numbers of some moth species, and we can see that the insect world on which we rely is not doing well.

Sadly the minute micro moths have been down by hundreds overall this year too with many not seen at all. Beetles in the trap by accident have been fewer as

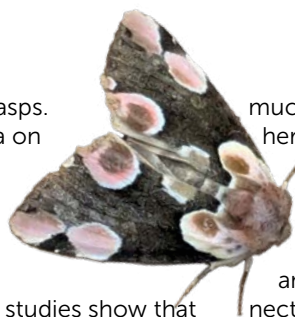


have hornets and wasps. UK government data on nearly 400 bee and hover-fly species suggest that 42% have become less widespread since 1980. Long-running studies show that 80% of butterfly species in the UK have declined since the 1970s. Half the butterfly species are now either threatened, or near threatened, with extinction. They are the ones you see by day, but they are the tip of the iceberg as all other less easy to see insects including moths are following the same pattern. Best estimates suggest overall insect abundance is declining by 1-2% a year.

On a more cheerful note our garden has been a stop off this year for a number of south coast and continental immigrant macro-moths. This may be attributable to global warming, so perhaps not so cheerful after all. There was slight indication of this in our garden last year with the first ever appearance of the Convolvulus Hawk Moth and The Delicate (both continental creatures) and the Jersey Tiger (continental and our south-west coast). This year there have been

far more unexpected visitors, the most striking being the Scarlet Tiger (generally south-west coastal and fens), Cream Spot Tiger (generally coastal cliffs) and L-album Wainscot (immigrant, coastal cliffs). Others of special interest have been first time visitors: Peach Blossom, Lobster, Black Neck and Poplar Lutestrung

We must continue to try to make our garden a welcome place to these creatures of the night by providing overwintering sites, hidden piles of leaves, 'no mow' lawns from May onwards and preferably with a patch of wildflower "meadow" being left



much longer. Not cutting back all herbaceous growth at the end of the season, but keeping a bit to trim later in Spring helps too. Our Valerian has died off so we missed hummingbird moths this year. It and Catmint would provide more nectar and night scented Sweet Rocket would add to the perfumes loved by moths produced by many of our other plants. More varied wild hedging would help too. All the other insects that keep our planet in good health benefit as well. Sadly we have had to resort to a pesticide to curb the Box Moth on our ancient Box bush, the plant our village is named after. We are hoping the treatment does not harm other creatures. If you can do something in your garden to improve the chances of the insects, we can leave the scientists and politicians to create the bigger plan for our future and theirs.

Tina Loose, on behalf of Natural Boxford



Quick Facts

Britain has around 2,450 moth species, compared with about 60 butterfly species.

Most moths are active at night, but some species also fly and feed in daylight.

Most adult moths live only days or weeks. A few hibernate and survive the winter.

Most of a moth's life is spent as a caterpillar or pupa, not as a flying adult.

Moth caterpillars are a major food source for garden birds feeding their young.

Moth numbers are declining in the UK, with several species down by more than 80% in recent decades.

Moths rely on specific host plants, so habitat loss directly reduces their numbers.

Pictures opposite clockwise from top:

Elephant Hawk Moth

Rosy Footman

Toadflax Brocade Moth (caterpillar)

Lobster Moth

This page, clockwise from top:

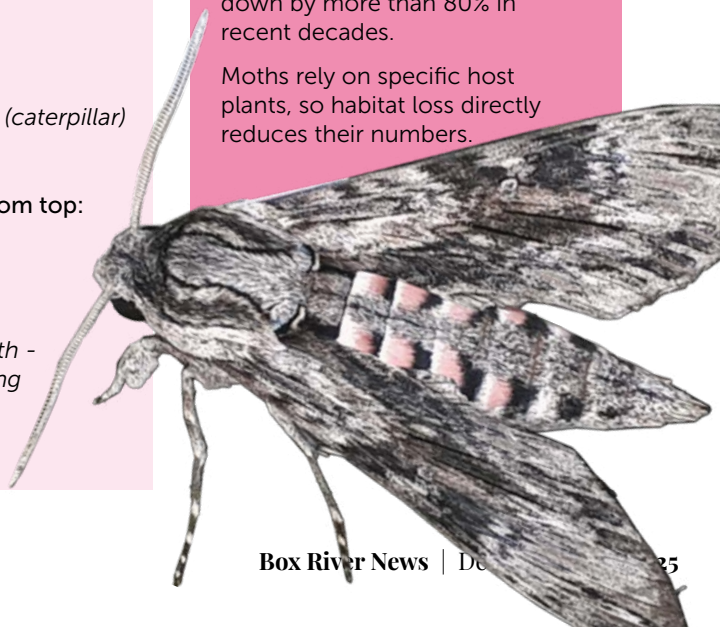
Scarlet Tiger

Peach Blossom Moth

Leopard Moth

Convolvulus Hawk-moth - a migrant visitor reaching up to 12 cm across.

Green Silver-lines Moth



A Winter's Tale

Christmas Printworks Exhibition at Mill Tye Gallery

Mill Tye Gallery is delighted to announce its much-anticipated *Christmas Printworks Exhibition*, opening throughout December in the ground floor gallery. Set in the beautifully restored Bakers Mill building beside the picturesque Mill Pond on the River Stour, the gallery offers a unique destination for art lovers and Christmas shoppers alike.



First foot by Max Angus

Visitors can explore an inspiring selection of work from over 30 contemporary printmakers, as well as sculptors, potters and glass artists, all presented in this charming setting on the Gainsborough Trail.

The exhibition features both framed and unframed artworks alongside an exclusive range of home accessories, gifts, books and cards - making it the perfect place to find unique, handcrafted presents this festive season. Many pieces are one-of-a-kind, and there are also plenty of craft kits for printmaking, knitting, and sewing, perfect for creative gift-giving.

Highlights include works by established artists *Andy Lovell, Beth Knight, Clare Curtis, Evelyn Polk, Max Angus, Rebecca Drury, and Richard Allen*. This year's exhibition also welcomes exciting new contributors, including *Greta Hansen, Hazel Theobald, Helen Maxfield, Kit Leese and Marta Dyer-Smith*.

The exhibition runs throughout December, finishing on Christmas Eve when the gallery closes at 4pm for its winter break. The gallery will reopen on Saturday 14th March 2026.

Christmas Opening: Monday 15th December - Wednesday 24th December. Open daily from 10:30am - 4pm

On Christmas Eve, enjoy free gift wrapping for purchases made in the gallery, along with a complimentary glass of mulled wine to celebrate the

season. Free entry and free parking (before the level crossing).

Whether you're searching for a special gift or simply wish to enjoy contemporary art in a beautiful riverside setting, *A Winter's Tale* promises a memorable festive experience at Mill Tye Gallery.

*Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre
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www.milltyegallery.co.uk*

Edwardstone Christmas Fair 2025

This year's fair was yet another huge success!

With wonderfully mild autumnal weather, shoppers came out in force and they weren't disappointed! We had some fantastic stalls - some of our favourite regulars as well as some great new ones - and it was lovely to see so many people enjoying our beautiful church.



As well as the loyal support of the local community and beyond, we are incredibly grateful for the generous sponsorship from RG Abrey Farms as well as additional advertising coverage courtesy of Town and Village Properties.

One of our best money earners is, without doubt, the fantastic turkey raffle, made possible entirely by the generosity of Alan Leeder. Two lucky winners will be enjoying a delicious Christmas dinner thanks to him!

An added attraction this year was dialect specialist, local historian and author, Charlie Haylock, who was on hand to give people the history and derivation of their surnames - a fascinating man who raised a substantial amount of money for our funds.

The stallholders always put on a great show and, with County Broadband's invaluable help, the WiFi coverage is such that all these small businesses can operate easily from the church. Anything that brings more visitors and allows the building to be used more widely in the community has to be good for its future.

We're anticipating a final total in excess of £4,000 and we're looking forward to being able to make a significant donation to our chosen local charity, Colchester Riding for the Disabled.

For more coverage of the fair - and news of upcoming parish events - follow us on Facebook or Instagram @edwardstoneparishevents

Once again, many thanks from us all and have a very Happy Christmas!

Diana Hawke

A gold bracelet was found in the church after the Fair. Please phone Diana on 07790 272 393 if you think it might be yours.

Whatfield Craft Fair

The Whatfield Craft Fair was declared a great success in October, despite high winds which threatened to spoil the day.



Creative stallholders offered a glorious range of crafted gifts and visitors enjoyed tasty homemade snacks in the marquee.

Thank you to all who helped to raise a total of £3,000 for *Success After Stroke*, a local charity which supports those who have suffered a life changing crisis.

Members meet three times a week at the Stevenson Centre in Great Cornard for various therapies to aid their recovery. The group also arranges fun events throughout the year, from painting to pantomime. New members welcome, phone **07434 931 962** or visit www.successafterstroke.org.uk for further information.

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Navigating festive hazards to keep our pets safe at Christmas

Christmas is a time for joy, family, and festive fun — but while we're decking the halls and tucking into mince pies, the season can also bring a few hidden hazards for our four-legged friends. Whether you have a curious kitten or a mischievous pup, it's worth knowing the common risks so everyone can enjoy a safe and happy Christmas.

Food is often at the heart of our celebrations, but many festive favourites are dangerous for pets. Chocolate is one of the most common culprits (especially dark chocolate!) which contains high levels of theobromine, a compound toxic to dogs and cats. Even small amounts can cause severe tummy upsets, tremors, or even life-threatening seizures.

Now bring us some figgy pudding! Except keep it away from our pets — consumption of raisins, sultanas and grapes can cause dangerous kidney failure in some dogs. Their action is unpredictable, as just one or two raisins can cause severe disease in some pets.

Onions, garlic, macadamia nuts, and alcohol are also on the naughty list, and rich, fatty foods like turkey skin or gravy can upset tummies or trigger painful pancreatitis. Bones, especially once cooked, can cause choking or internal injuries in the digestive system. So, if you are sharing a festive meal with your pet, stick to plain, lean meat with no seasoning, bones, or extras, and always check with your vet if you are unsure.

Christmas trees are a wonderland of shiny, dangly, chewable things, at least in the eyes of our pets. Tinsel, ribbon, and string can cause serious problems if swallowed, and they seem especially tempting for curious cats. They can get tangled in the intestines and may need emergency surgery to remove.

Glass baubles can shatter into sharp pieces, and salt dough ornaments (often made by little hands) contain high levels of salt that can be toxic if nibbled. Snow globes sometimes contain antifreeze, which is extremely dangerous to pets, even a few drops can be fatal.

Fairy lights and candles add a lovely glow, but they come with risks too. Keep wires out of reach, never leave candles unattended, and consider battery-operated alternatives for peace of mind.

Many traditional Christmas plants are toxic to pets. Poinsettias and cyclamens can cause irritation to the mouth and stomach. Holly and mistletoe are more serious, with their berries and leaves causing severe nausea and even heart problems. Lilies, often included in festive bouquets, are extremely toxic to cats and can cause kidney failure with even minimal exposure. Be sure to place festive greenery out of reach and use pet-safe alternatives.

Christmas often brings a flurry of activity — visitors, music, wrapping paper, excitement, and routines going out the fairy-lit window. While

many pets enjoy the extra attention, others may find it overwhelming. Unfamiliar faces and loud noises can lead to stress, anxiety, or even escape attempts.

Provide a quiet, cosy space where your pet can retreat if needed. Make sure doors and gates are secure and keep an eye on exits when guests are coming and going. If your pet is particularly anxious, speak to your vet about calming strategies or pharmaceutical support that might help.

If you suspect your pet has eaten anything toxic or poisonous, or is showing signs of distress, contact your vet immediately. We are experts at making things reappear from the same end it went in! Make a note of what you think they ate, how much they might have eaten, and what time it happened, as this can hugely help with our diagnosis and treatment.

Christmas should be a time of joy for every member of the family, including our four-legged ones. With a little planning and awareness, we can keep our pets safe and ensure the season is filled with comfort, love, and peace.

From all of us at The Hadleigh Vets we wish you and your companions a happy, healthy Christmas!

*Dr. Jessica Hudson BVMedSci (Hons)
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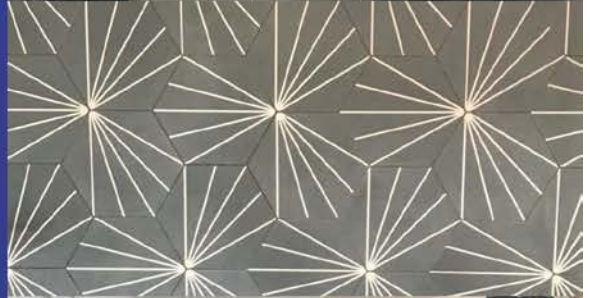
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Life at the Shelley Centre

As Christmas approaches life at The Shelley Centre seems to get even busier. In November we had two successful fundraising events: our very popular 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' Quiz which took over £1500, and our Christmas Bingo. We are immensely grateful to the team that put on these events and everyone who comes along and supports them. Our fundraising efforts are essential to help keep the centre going. We need to raise about £90k every year to cover all the costs associated with keeping horses (food, vets, farrier, etc), maintenance of the paddocks and stables and our Stable Manager's salary, to name a few – with only a very small contribution coming from riders' fees.

The winter months also bring extra work for the team looking after the horses – extra food to provide for the horses, rugs to change and shorter days to work in, and often muddy conditions underfoot! Our horses live out in the fields all year round but have shelters in their fields and they wear warm, waterproof rugs in the winter. But they still manage to get pretty muddy and often need lots of grooming by the volunteers before we can use them in the Riding for the Disabled sessions.

Once term time has finished the works goes on as the horses need to be cared every day of the year – so please spare a thought for the volunteers who go up to the centre over the Christmas and New Year period, whatever the weather, to keep this wonderful establishment going.

Our latest acquisitions, Sausage, Tiny Tim and Danny (Danny is pictured below) are all progressing well on their journey to becoming useful



RDA horses. Whilst it may look as if all they do is walk around an arena with a rider on their back, they have to learn to stand very still so we can get our disabled riders mounted and comfortable on their backs; they have put up with various gestures and noises that they would not normally encounter – riders who may not sit still or upright and all the props we use in the arena to make the riders' session interesting and therapeutic. In addition to all that they have to work with other horses in the same arena and be happy with people walking alongside as many of our riders need at least one supporter walking with them. Not all horses who come to us make the grade but those who do are very special and treasured by us all.

We thank you for your ongoing interest and support. If you would like to make a gesture of seasonal goodwill please visit our JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/charity/shelleyrda. As an example, £5 buys a bale of hay, £20 buys a bag of horse food, £30 pays for our Miniature Shetland, Chocolate, to have her hooves trimmed and £90 buys just one set of horseshoes.

Wishing you all Very Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2026, from all the horses and people involved at The Shelley Centre.

www.shelleyrda.com



Reclaim the Rain

As 2025 draws to a close, it's a great moment to reflect on the progress we've made in Boxford so far. Reclaim the Rain's goal has been to strengthen community resilience to the impacts of flooding and drought and demonstrate the value in flood water. Thanks to collaboration with Boxford's residents, businesses, and landowners, we've been successful in delivering a range of water resilience schemes that achieve these goals.

In the heart of Boxford, the Village Hall has had a water management revamp with the delivery of a new rain garden which captures and filters rainwater, reducing peak flow rates of runoff into the drainage system. The planting scheme is designed to thrive during periods of wet and dry conditions, providing resilience to flora and faunal groups all year-round.

Just opposite at Boxford CEVCP School, we've delivered a range

of projects including the delivery of sensory, bog, and rain gardens, planting of trees, native hedging, and raised vegetable planters, as well as SuDS Pods to take excess water from downpipes and offer onsite water storage solutions that reduce pressure on the drainage network. Boxford CEVCP School shared "The children have really enjoyed being part of the process with designing and creating boards for the suds pods. They have learnt about the importance of reusing water and the effects water can have on the environment. The Eco team were very pleased to be asked to contribute to the project and were especially pleased with being able to grow their own vegetables and flowers."

Across the village centre, four SuDS Pods have been installed at the Bowls Club and The Spinney hut, helping community spaces manage water sustainably at a small-scale.

In the wider catchment, we've planted hundreds of willow trees in partnership with J.S. Wright & Sons Cricket Bat Company, with plans for further planting in 2026. These trees slow the flow of water across landscape, encouraging infiltration and increasing water retention in soils. Once reaching maturity, these trees are felled to produce cricket bats and, in their space, replaced with new trees to continue the cycle, delivering both local economic benefits and flood resilience.

With the help of the Water Management Alliance and support of landowners, we've installed four leaky dams to slow the flow of water during heavy rainfall, reducing peak flows and reducing flood risk. To add to this work, we've refurbished two ponds, improving the catchments overall pond mosaic and enhancing ecological diversity. Improvements such as varied depths, scrapes, log piles, and habitat structures support amphibians, insects, and other aquatic life in these important habitats.

Reclaim the Rain set out to improve climate resilience and together, we're delivering on that promise to achieve wider environmental, social, and economic benefits too. If you'd like to learn more about each of these initiatives in more detail, please read our previous editions in the Box River News, or head over to our website ReclaimtheRain.org.

Best wishes,
Ruby and Sian
via reclaimtherain@suffolk.gov.uk



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Unwrapping Christmas

Groton History Society reveals the surprising history behind twelve of our festive traditions

Christmas is widely regarded as a time when we enjoy falling back onto time-honoured traditions. But how did many of these traditions come about and end up embodying this festive time of year? Here's the history behind 12 questions your household may be asking this Christmas.

Why is Christmas on 25th December?

An early link to this date comes from Hippolytus (170–235 CE), a prominent theologian in the Roman Church. Using the Julian calendar, he stated in his work *"Commentary on Daniel"* that Jesus was born in *"Bethlehem, eight days before the Kalends of January. The 4th day of the week."* There was another Jewish/early-Christian idea that important figures died on the same date they were conceived, so with Jesus's death being on 25th March, his conception was therefore on the same date, which meant his *birth date* was 9 months later - 25th December. This is known as the "Calculation Theory". Other theories abound also such as in 274 CE, Emperor Aurelian promoted the festival of *Dies Natalis Solis Invicti* (Birthday of the unconquered Sun) on 25th December. Some historians suggest

early Christians may have chosen the same date to offer a Christian alternative.

Why do turkeys get such a raw deal at Christmas?

We can thank good old Henry VIII. Turkey was brought to England in 1526 by a Yorkshire landowner called William Strickland. Henry is said to have swapped his regular roast goose for a turkey one Christmas when it was still rare and expensive. Later, Henry's son and successor Edward VI gave William Strickland permission to add the turkey to his family crest.

The popular tradition of turkey at Christmas didn't begin immediately. It became more common among the wealthier classes in the 18th and

19th centuries, helped along in the public imagination after the 1843 publication of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens - a big fan of the 'prize turkey' dinner. But it was not until the early 20th century, especially from the 1930s onwards, that affordable, mass-produced turkeys (fittingly at their peak plumpness in midwinter) became the widespread centrepiece on the country's Christmas Day table.

Why do we put up Christmas trees?

The tradition of the Christmas tree, is often linked to the Guild of Bakers in Freiburg, Germany in 1419 where a decorated tree is said to have been set up in the Hospital of the Holy Ghost. The wider idea of using evergreen trees as symbols goes much further back into antiquity to the Middle East and also China.

In the early 16th century, Martin Luther is traditionally said to have attached candles to a Christmas tree. The practice continued within Lutheran communities and became widespread by the 18th century.

In the UK, the popularity of the Christmas tree is usually credited to Prince Albert in 1841, though George III's Queen Charlotte actually





introduced the first known tree at Queen's Lodge, Windsor in 1800. Prince Albert imported spruce firs rather than using any old evergreen, and thanks to press coverage, this caught on across the country's middle classes.

The first mass-produced artificial tree was made in 1930 by the Addis Housewares Company. From 1947 onwards, Norway has gifted a large Christmas tree to Great Britain each year in appreciation for our support during WWII. They have continued this tradition ever since.

Why do we pull Christmas crackers?

A confectioner and baker called Tom Smith of Clerkenwell is credited with inventing the Christmas cracker in the 1840s, the same time as Prince Albert's spruce fir trees were gaining popularity. He was influenced by the French *bonbon*, a sugared almond wrapped in a twist of tissue paper. The bonbons were a huge hit at Christmas and Tom Smith added a 'love motto' to the wrapping.

A few years later he introduced the explosive 'pop', inspired by the



crackling sound of a log fire, and patented an early version of the device in 1847. He continued to refine it in the 1860s. His son Walter later added the paper hats and novelty gifts. Early examples can be found at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Why is there a coin in my Christmas pudding?

Dating as far back as the 1300s there was a tradition of adding a token into a festive cake or pudding. This could have been a simple dried pea or bean. The finder became the 'king or queen for the night'. Silver coins, e.g. a sixpence, replaced the humble dried pea in the Victoria and Albert household during the 1840s. This represented only good luck and fortune, probably as Victoria was already Queen for the night!

Where did Mince Pies come from?

Originally the mince pie was a savoury pie, not the sweet version we know today. In Tudor times they were rectangular and made from 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and his disciples. The meat was probably mutton or lamb, representing the Shepherds, flavoured with spices to represent the Wise Men. The pastry was meant to be Christ's coffin! The Reformation's general disapproval of religious symbolism led to the shape changing to a more secular round pie.

The mixing of sweet ingredients with meat and spices actually dates back earlier to the 1300s. Victorians may have used tripe instead of lamb, so that might explain the removal of meat from the pies in the 20th century!

Why does everyone have a wreath on their front doors?

Similar to the Christmas tree, the wreath at Christmas originates from Northern Europe, probably in the 1500s. Alongside the evergreen tree, these branches represented the celebration of life, surviving through the harsh winters. In the UK, we have to thank Prince Albert, who introduced the Christmas evergreen wreath alongside his spruce fir tree.

The wreath symbolises hope, renewal and the continuation of the seasons. Additionally they were viewed as a 'welcome' for guests to the home, a sign of hospitality so to speak. In ancient Northern Europe wreaths were used to mark the winter solstice (Yule).

Why is one of my socks pinned to the fireplace with a tangerine and a bit of coal in it?

St Nicholas, a bishop in the 4th century, is said to have secretly dropped bags of gold down the chimney of a poor man with three

daughters. The bags landed in their stockings which were drying by the fire. I hope this was true!

The tradition of St Nicholas Day was originally linked to 6th December, and in many parts of Europe that remains the main day for children's gifts. Over time though some countries blended the old St Nicholas customs with Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, especially as the 'Santa Claus' tradition developed.

Different places adapted the idea in their own way. In the Netherlands, for example, children's clogs would be left out to be filled with treats by "Sinterklaas" (St Nicholas). When I was a lad, an apple, orange or chocolate was the usual filler - with a lump of coal if I had been naughty rather than nice!



Why 'Boxing Day'?

An 'alms box' dates back to the Middle Ages, essentially being a donations box, placed in the churches, often just inside the south door or in a porch area. These boxes allowed churchgoers to contribute offerings, or give 'alms', as they entered or left the church. Its connection to Christmas centres on St Stephen's Day, celebrated on 26th December. St Stephen was the first Christian martyr, one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to distribute food and charitable aid to the poor. On St Stephen's Day the alms box would be opened and the donations handed out to the poor within the parish. Hence the name 'Boxing Day'.

In the 19th century, Boxing Day also became associated with the 'Christmas box', a boxed gift presented to servants or tenants by the richer households as another form of seasonal charity. Its timing, the day after Christmas Day, makes sense when you consider the servants would have been serving the master or mistress on Christmas Day! So the 26th became, in effect, their Christmas Day.

Did Oliver Cromwell really cancel Christmas?

This is a long-held accusation since 1660 and the Restoration of King Charles II. Cromwell himself did not cancel Christmas. As a staunch Puritan

he probably supported the restrictions, but he was not personally responsible for them.

In January 1642 King Charles I signed a Bill legislating for a monthly day of prayer, repentance and fasting, to be held on the last Wednesday of every month. In 1644, Christmas Day happened to coincide with this Puritan-led Parliament fast day. An ordinance issued shortly beforehand effectively told churches they could not hold special Christmas services on 25th December that year, though by then it was too late to secure full compliance.

An outright ban of Christmas (along with Easter and Whitsun) was passed in 1647. Cromwell was actually under arrest by the House of Commons at the time, owing to disputes over army pay. The ban was very unpopular with low levels of compliance. It was re-enforced in 1652 with penalties. By 1655 military authority was used to enforce the 'godly' Puritan approach: shops closed, no services - only fasting and prayer.

The ban ended with Charles II's return in 1660. Royalist propaganda tarnished Cromwell, unfairly in this instance, for the unpopular ban on Christmas. He was guilty of many other things but not this one. Myth.

Did opposing armies in the trenches really have a Christmas Day truce in 1914?

The simple answer is 'yes, but not everywhere'.

On Christmas Eve in a number of locations across the Western Front, British soldiers heard carols drifting across No Man's Land, and saw lanterns and small Christmas trees along parts of the German trenches. Messages were relayed. On Christmas



Day soldiers from both sides in location such as Frelinghien, France or Ploegsteert, Belgium, met in the middle, exchanged gifts and even played impromptu mud football. They also buried casualties, repaired trenches and held a day's truce. A moment of normal life in an abnormal hell-hole.

On other parts of the front, there was no pause in the hostilities. Naturally, neither High Command was in favour of these local truces, fearing a sapping of the will to fight the man opposite you. In the following years there were only a small number of incidents, where local truces were held.

Why do we send Christmas Cards?

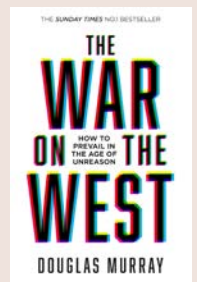
Christmas cards were first commercially produced by Sir Henry Cole in 1843. We can thank the Victorians again! The Christmas card was designed to be a time saver (!) to replace the labour of writing full seasonal letters. Initially they were only for the wealthy as they were limited and very expensive. The introduction of the halfpenny stamp in the 1870s expanded the take-up significantly, and here we are today...Christmas cards often containing long letters inside them - which rather defeats the original purpose!

Nigel Chapman
nigeljchap@gmail.com

Recommended Reading, Listening & Viewing

'The War on the West: How to prevail in the age on Unreason' by Douglas Murray.

A must read book for balanced reasoning about the history of humankind. Why only the Western nations are taking the blame.



'Under the Wig: A Lawyer's Stories of Murder, Guilt and Innocence' by William Clegg

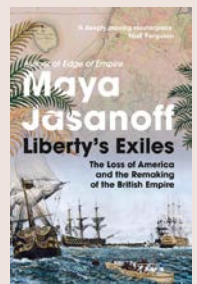
Bill Clegg recently gave GHS a talk on his fascinating High Court legal career - now read more about his high profile cases.



'Liberty's Exiles: The loss of America and the remaking of the British Empire' by Maya Jasanoff

An alternative history of the American Revolution, the stories of those who remained loyal to the British Empire.

The civil war losers's perspective and how many went on to be major shapers of the reshaped British Empire after losing America.



'Elizabeth I' podcast series from The Rest is History.

The making of one of our greatest monarchs. A multi episode series just launched.

'The Lee Miller Exhibition' at the Tate Britain, until 26 Feb 2026.

An excellent curation of Lee Miller's seminal work, including surrealist art, innovative fashion shots and her fearless war photography. Very highly recommended.

Once again, a big thank you to everyone for reading this month's article, recommending any books, podcasts or viewings and attending our events. The events are open to everyone, from wherever you are. Please come along!

As always please drop me an email with any comments, questions or recommendations.

Upcoming Events

The Story of our Local Castles with Dr Arthur Redmonds Thursday 4th December

Arthur has just completed his Phd at Exeter and has agreed to share with us, his passion and knowledge about medieval castles, with a special focus on Groton, Lindsey and Mildenhall castles. This will be popular I think! I can't wait!

A Walk around Old Harwich with Andy Schooler Thursday 12th February

Andy will take us through the histories of key parts of Old Harwich, using a slide show as guide. Andy is very keen that we follow up later in the year with a 'visit and tour' of Harwich, as Boxford Society have recently done. Harwich has a really fascinating History. Should be excellent.



This Month in the Garden

Living gifts that outlast the season, with the Red Squirrel Gardener

It may be the season to be jolly but let's face it, many of us are tightening our belts over the festive period and dreading the exchange of often pointless gifts bought under pressure to impress. So much about Christmas is bombastically commercial and becoming increasingly impersonalised and detached from what it is supposed to be about: the season of goodwill to all. Yes, a time for celebration but equally a time for kindness and reflection.

A personalised present can mean far more than something expensive, especially when it's a gift that keeps growing with a bit of care. This month, as the days darken and we may start feeling a bit cooped up indoors, my gift to you all is some creative inspiration: indoor planter ideas that will brighten a home and don't cost the earth in any sense!



You don't need an art qualification to make something bespoke. Just let your humour and imagination loose, have fun with it and see where it takes you. A good starting point is choosing the recipient's favourite colours for the plant container and reflect their personality through the plants you pick. Are they gentle pastels or bold blocks of colour? Are they more of a prickly pear or a pink-flamingo type? Are they low-maintenance like cacti and succulents, steady like a Monstera or Yucca, or little more high maintenance, like a Bromeliad or rare orchid?

An effective way to add a personal touch to a terracotta pot is to glue on decorative shells or small gem pebbles and paint the rim colourfully. I also love upcycling bean tins: give them a coat of waterproof base paint, then

hand-paint or stencil a message - sentimental or humorous, your choice. Think about how the recipient makes you feel? Do they plant *happiness*? Offer unconditional love? Bring you peace of mind? Are they the *home* of your heart, the *spark* in your sky, the person who helps you dare to *dream*?

One of my most successful festive gifts with family and friends was a set of upcycled bean tins painted with the word *PEACE*, each planted with Peace Lily and finished with a pair of miniature doves flying free. Simple, inexpensive and surprisingly powerful.

Another easy and affordable way to personalise presents is what I call my 'Bulbilicious bric a brac'. Rummage



Top left: Succulent in a retro tin

Top middle: Peace Lily in an upcycled tin with Doves

Top right: Succulent in a teapot.

Middle: Dwarf Iris bulbs in teacups

Right: Blue hyacinth in a blue bowl

around charity shops for quirky vessels, then plant bulbs such as dwarf irises or muscari in smaller teapots or cups, or larger hyacinths or daffodils in vases. Ensure the lower half of each bulb is submerged in soil-and-grit mix and add only enough water to reach the base of the bulbs to prevent rotting. Once they've finished flowering, they can be replanted outdoors in the garden.

When I worked in garden retail, and frequently when I talk to my gardening clients, they say something like, *"I don't bother with houseplants because I always kill them"*. That's when my inner plant detective appears. I gently ask whether they forgot to water them, then drowned them later out of guilt. Then I point out that plants, like people, simply need food, water and light, and I highlight common practical issues such as the poor drainage, lack of natural light, or becoming pot-bound. It's not rocket science but common sense rules that enable all living things to grow and flourish.

And don't worry — even this so-called Green Goddess has learned her lessons the hard way. So many of us have hidden a gifted dead bonsai planter in a far corner of our back garden or literally fried a plant to death by placing it on a window sill above a radiator or worse the classic error of placing large specimen plants either side of the fireplace — shock horror!

In essence, there's no real mystery to caring for houseplants. Focus on a few simple principles and you'll soon discover the joy of a thriving indoor garden. Start with these green-thumb basics for healthier, happier plants.

Happy gardening all,

Rachael (aka 'Red Squirrel')

redsquirrelgardensforwellbeing@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/redsquirrelgardens

Top tips for healthy houseplants

- **A happy home** - Houseplants thrive in a draught-free, well-lit spot out of direct sunlight or heat sources.
- **Fear of drought or drowning** - Water lightly but regularly. Check the soil first; it should never be soaked, just moistened when it's almost dry.
- **Let it all drain out** - Free drainage is vital, ensure the pot has holes and place it on a saucer of gravel to collect excess water preventing root rot and increasing humidity.
- **Get your gun out** - Cleaning leaves with a mist gun in winter to raise air humidity when the atmosphere of centrally heated rooms is as dry as desert air is beneficial.
- **Togetherness is best** - All plants look and grow better when grouped together, creating their perfect microclimate through closeness — just like friends.
- **Snip away** - Keep up appearances by removing dead, damaged or diseased leaves to keep plants healthy and promote new growth.
- **Get an upgrade** - Sickly plants often lack nutrients or become root-bound. If in doubt repot into a larger container with fresh compost and add slow-release food.

GRAZING LAND URGENTLY REQUIRED

Do you have land, or know someone who has land not being used? Our Charity desperately needs to find grazing land to buy in Suffolk. We require a minimum of 20 acres, with ideally a barn and some outbuildings. French's Care Haven has been long established and has achieved a lot helping Suffolk animals and people. We are in a dire situation and really need a land owner to come forward. Can you help? Or do know someone who can?

Please contact me on: 07747755556

Or email: jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk



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Boxford's Prisoner of War Camp

*From the **Boxford Society** archive:
how wartime newcomers became part of village history*

The Boxford Society archive was recently given a copy of a 1999 school year 9 local history project by Sam Dixon on our prisoner of war camp. I have tried to trace Sam and family with the help of our local postal service and villagers, but to no avail. Sam's excellent research has been used in part in this article along with information from the late Mr Cecil Hughes and our archive documents about the camp.

In 1939 there were only two prisoner of war (POW) camps in Britain. The small numbers of prisoners was due to the fact that most were sent to other parts of the British Empire where food was not rationed as it was in Britain. Invasion by Germany was also a concern, so it was unwise to have large numbers of enemy prisoner soldiers stationed here, however the number grew rapidly during the war and by 1948 there were 600 camps in the UK containing 59,000 prisoners.

Boxford's POW camp was set up in 1943 on some of the land on Cox Hill owned by Charlie Raynham. He lived at Brick House Farm (now Riverhall, Ellis Street). After 1948 this land and the camp reverted back to Charlie. When the prisoners left the huts were

used by Cosford RD Council as homes whilst the rest of Homefield was being built. This was to cope with the lack of housing in the village. The Russo family spent some time at the camp once it was converted. Others who lived there were Peggy and Douglas Patrick, Betty and Loll Smith, Alan King and his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Nottage. When Charlie Raynham eventually sold Riverhall, he went to live at the old camp himself.

The camp consisted of a collection of rectangular wooden huts, not the Nissen style pre-fabricated hut of semi-circular corrugated iron ones which were common elsewhere. In 1944 the 129th Italian POW labour battalion was set up at Ashford Lodge (Golden Meadow Camp) in Halstead, Essex. Boxford and Stoke by Nayland were satellite camps. The Camp commandant, Lt Col W.G. Petherick, was also responsible for satellite camps like Boxford. A man named Mr Russell was the Golden Meadow Camp labour officer responsible for allocating the required number of workers to each camp. The first men sent to Boxford were some of these Italian POWs. The war ended in August 1945 and repatriation of Italian POWs began

immediately after the harvest. German POWs then arrived in several waves at the camp, the last being German officers. The camp was finally closed in 1948 and many of the German POWs stayed in Britain, living locally, having



married English women.

It was hard for the prisoners who wished to stay when they were released, because they had to find their own work and a condition of staying was to do 12 months agricultural work because of the shortage of workers.

Nationally prisoners were paid 5/- (25p) per week to be spent in the camp shop and 4/- (20p) which could be spent at local shops or picture houses. There would have been many more shops in Boxford then than now. When the prisoners weren't working, they were often making things to make their lives better or sometimes things to sell. Mrs Raynham from Brick House farm reported that *"The Italians, although they were less hard working than the Germans, were good with their hands"*. On Sundays the Italians sold model aeroplanes, made out of wood, and other things they had made from scraps, obtained from the nearby rubbish pit. Although the prisoners continued to make models, the selling of them was eventually stopped as the officials didn't like it.

Ships in bottles, plastic picture frames and alloy cigarette lighters were amongst the things they created. The manufacture of slippers also became a highly successful venture, these being made from cardboard and rope made from re-cycled sacks. As well as making model aeroplanes, the Germans made cigarette holders out of toothbrushes. A Mr. Detze (a German POW) remembered making 24 bicycles out of metal from the scrap heap and also took great pride in wood carving. Some families in Boxford still have the items the POWs made. Probably the Germans' biggest endeavour was making a "bowling green" at the camp on which they often played.



Some prisoners worked at Red House Farm, Wicker Street Green. Billy Simpson was the horse man there and he brewed every harvest and sent a barrel of ale up to the house and a barrel for the workmen. The Italian prisoners gave high praise to Billy's beer, and rewarded him with their camp made gifts. Billy had a

wattle bung that an Italian prisoner had made for him to keep the sediment within the brewing tub when he ran it off. The Italians were also very skilful at making things from hedgerow plants. They all had a bit of garden each and these were decorated with flowers of all kinds and sometimes vegetables that they themselves could eat. The Italian soldiers were very innovative about their food, so after a storm they used to walk around the hedges kicking at them until some snails dropped out and then they would cook them to eat. One Boxford boy stayed out late one night and on arriving home his father offered him supper, but he said, *"I'm full because I've just eaten snails with the prisoners"*. Clearly an adventurous lad for his time. Lots of potatoes were grown by the Germans so that they could make alcohol. Blackberries from the hedges were also used to make illicit spirits.

Boxford did not feel very secure during the war as many village men were away in the Services. There were nevertheless only three guards at the camp. One of these was a Scottish Sergeant who used to play the bagpipes when he was on duty at night. There was no barbed wire to stop prisoners escaping because most did not want to go home to rejoin the war anyway. A very few did escape in other parts of the country but were captured. The prisoners, especially after the war, were allowed to wander around the village and go a maximum distance of five miles. Some romances and marriages resulted from this opportunity.

The prisoners' accommodation was very simple and consisted of wooden bunks and long trellis tables where they ate in the morning and in the evening. This was much like the Boxford Land Army Girls were experiencing at Leavenheath camp at the same time. The prisoners took packed lunches to the fields which they made themselves. They were taken out every morning to any farmer requesting help in open trucks sitting on the tailboards and would work for him all day. Mr. Leonardo Russo (an Italian POW) remembered going to work for Mr. Avebury in Milden and the Stiffs and the Simpsons in Kersey.

The work in the fields was optional because the Geneva convention states



Pictures opposite from top:

Boxford POWs working on a local farm.

Map from 1955 naming in red the location of Cox Hill POW camp.

This page, clockwise from top:

Ditch maintenance. Note the unique identity marker on the digger's back. They seem to have been quite varied across the country.

Two bottles with ships inside made by Boxford's Italian POWs, now owned by a Boxford resident.

that officers could not be forced to work, though the German Third Reich recommended through the Red Cross that they should work to keep them physically and mentally fit. Those that didn't work refused as they saw it as collaboration with the British and helping our war effort. To distinguish them they wore a British khaki battle dress dyed chocolate coloured with yellow diamonds or PW sewn on. Almost all Boxford prisoners worked in the fields or maintained the camp and probably would have worn green battledress. Mr. Detze said that the prisoners used to have competitions seeing who could get through the field of sugar beet first. However, in the bitterest weather some said that they would rather go back to the front than do sugar beet lifting. With snow on the ground, they had to pick up a sugar beet, in each hand, 'knock' them together and then 'top' them with an iron hook. They had sacks round their waists and would bind



their hands with sacking. However this was also quite normal for British farm workers at the time and I remember it well as a child. As many as a dozen POWs would work at a farm at the same time. Occasionally other work was required, as in the severe winter of 1946-7 when they cut hedges and cleared snow at various farms as it was nearly impossible to get crops out of the frozen fields. Other POWs kept the camp in good order and running effectively, though their days were not as long as the farm worker's day and considerably more comfortable.

When the camp closed Mr. Georg Schneider was lucky because he was told where he could get accommodation and £7 a week for work. This was in the Fordham/ Wakes Colne area and at the house there was a lovely young English girl who became his wife (Was she Bella Martin?). Strangely and coincidentally Schneider had previously been a POW in Rimini Camp, Italy in 1945 when the Battalion of Boxford's Cecil Hughes was there. He was responsible for supplies for the Italians who were charged with guarding, feeding and managing the German POWs. Mr. Detze was fortunate too because he had an injury and managed to get a job at a timber merchants in Ipswich which was, health-wise, better for him than field work. Mr. G Schneider, Mr. Detze (both German) and Mr. L Russo (Italian) all met their wives locally and remained in the area.

Today there is a dwelling on the camp site and some of the huts have been converted to barns. LBG Machinery Ltd, a farm machinery repair and sales business, is now based there.

Tina Loose

Above: Georg Schneider's passport. He was born in 1923 in Mrod, Romania where he spoke German. He joined up a few days after his 20th birthday, trained in Austria, fought in Poland, Russia, trained and fought in Czechoslovakia, surrendered to the Americans and was taken to Italy as a POW. Given the option then of being a POW in England or Russia he opted for England and it is to be hoped that he later thought it was one of the best decisions of his life. He gained British nationality in August 1955 after 11 years in England and he married here and settled into the farming lifestyle of his childhood.

Right from top: Cecil Hughes in Italy taking a break during 1945 while working on camp supplies and giving support to the Italians who guarded the POW camp where Georg Schneider was a prisoner under very unpleasant conditions. What a contrast Boxford POW camp must have been when he arrived.

Cecil Hughes' wife Daphne and their son Robert in about 1970 exploring the derelict Boxford camp buildings.

A couple of the POW huts in 1999. They had been divided into sections after WWII to help cope with the shortage of accommodation.

A further 1999 view of another hut with corrugated roofing and clap board sides.

The site of the POW "Bowling Green" in 1999.



Readers' Letters

Dear Editor,

While sorting through my late wife Patricia's possessions following her passing last month at the age of 93, I came across a small card (pictured below). It appears to refer to a prize she won when she was just six years old.



I would be grateful if any readers could shed light on what this prize might have been or provide any information about the show mentioned. Patricia clearly treasured this memento, keeping it safely through many moves over the decades.

Thank you for any help,
Gordon Mills, Sudbury

Dear Editor,

We would like to wish all our friends a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

This year we will not be sending cards, as we have made a donation to charity instead.

Best wishes,
Betty & Vic Rice

Dear Editor,

Wishing our friends, neighbours and everyone we know A very happy Christmas and good wishes for 2026.

We won't be sending cards this year and will instead be making a donation to charity.

Best wishes,
Shirley & Malcolm Grimwood

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my thanks to Jayne and members of Groton P.P.C. I was permitted to use a table at the Trash and Treasure event at St. Bartholomew's Church over the August bank holiday to offer cakes in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

I was touched by the kindness and

generosity of the people I met. The cakes were made by myself and friends who all live on the boundary of St. Bartholomew's. Also, by my daughter and her kind neighbours. Sausage rolls were provided by Alan Leeder, they were the first items to go!

The goal was to raise money to add to my son-in-law's Just Giving page for the Alzheimer's Society. His challenge was to skydive from an aeroplane to raise money for the charity, something he dreaded. He was inspired to take on the challenge by the fact that his dear father is suffering with Alzheimer's. The good news is that to date over £6,500 has been raised.

I am very proud to confirm that the Groton event raised £354, an extremely handsome addition to the funds.

Thanks so much to family and friends who help and all the wonderful people who live in the village and further afield who donated.

Kind regards,
Lesley Gill

Dear Editor,

Nigel Chapman's story of the Gunpowder Plot (*Gunpowder, Treason & Plot* - BRN November 2015, pages 31-33) made fascinating and informative reading, but I fear that Nigel is mistaken in stating under *Explosive Facts!* (p.32) that, after the plot failed, Parliament passed the Observance of 5th November Act (1606) "*making Bonfire Night legally mandatory for over 250 years.*" Rather, what the Act mandated, in an era when, unlike today (absent Remembrance Sunday) religious observance was the universal norm, was attendance at a church service. The preamble to the Act read: "*And to the End this unfeigned Thankfulness may never be forgotten, but be had in a perpetual Remembrance, that all Ages to come may yield Praises to his Divine Majesty for the same, and have in Memory this joyful Day of Deliverance*" To quote Wikipedia:

The act required that all "Ministers in every Cathedral and Parish Church, or other usual Place for Common Prayer ... shall always upon the fifth Day of November say Morning Prayer, and give unto Almighty God Thanks for this most happy Deliverance". During the service the minister had to "publicly, distinctly and plainly" read out the text of the act.

It further required all persons to "diligently and faithfully resort to the Parish Church or Chapel accustomed" on 5 November and "to

abide orderly and soberly during the Time of said Prayers, Preaching or other Services of God."

Every minister was required to give warning to his parishioners publicly in the church at morning prayer on the Sunday beforehand.

So, no fireworks or bonfires! Happily, for ministers and congregations, the Act prescribed no consequences for non-observance. It was repealed, along with several similar acts in 1859.

Yours sincerely,
David Lamming

Editor's note: A big thank-you to David Lamming for pointing this out. The detail about the Observance of 5th November Act in our Explosive Facts! sidebar came from my editorial additions, not by Nigel Chapman, whose article was entirely accurate in its historical narrative.

Walk Buys Two Doppler Machines.

At a recent gathering in the health centre, several of the organisers involved in the charity tramp 'Walk on the Wilding side' were able to see the fruits of their labours.



Practice Nurse Partner, Kate Brett, introduced the group to her 'leg team'. She thanked the walk's mastermind, Jim Wilding, and the group for coming and complimented them on impressive fundraising efforts. Kate then explained how the money had been spent. As the walk, JustGiving page, and other donations had netted over £4,500 it was possible for the practice to purchase two state-of-the-art portable Doppler machines. Apart from the convenience of using them outside the health centre (e.g. in the town's many care homes), the latest model also allows clinicians to test blood flow in a patient's toes. Patients will no longer have to travel to Ipswich Hospital for this service. Senior walker, Jim, had the final word when he thanked everyone for their contribution to the success of the day. He also noted that, thanks to James Buckle and H. H. Craske, the group had been able to enjoy walking across parts of the beautiful Suffolk countryside not normally open to the public.

Hadleigh PPG



The Glow Pro

Festive Beauty Gifts



Christmas is creeping up fast, bringing all the excitement (and a touch of chaos) that comes with it.

Some of us have our gifts wrapped with precision, while others are eyeing last year's ideas for a repeat performance.

If you're in the latter camp, there's no need to panic - after all, the gift of beauty never goes out of style.

Here's your cheat sheet to pulling it all together.

The Gift of Self-Care

In a season that's as joyful as it is hectic, the best gifts don't always come in boxes - sometimes, they come in the form of time. Specifically, time for a rejuvenating facial, a tension-melting massage, or a manicure to lift their spirits.

So, why not give the gift that truly matters... time to unwind?

With a voucher, they can enjoy self-care, their way.



ALLSKIN|MED Firming Eye Cream (£50)

For the one who's forever claiming they look tired, this sumptuous eye cream delivers instant radiance.

Powered by growth factors, light-reflecting pigments, and a silky-smooth texture, it brightens and revives the eye area, bringing back that well-rested glow.

Consider it beauty sleep in a sleek jar - the kind of gift anyone would hope to find under the tree.



ALLSKIN|MED Collagen Activation Plan (£160 - includes a FREE full-sized serum worth £75!)

For the loved one who practically speaks fluent skincare, this set is guaranteed to wow them. Science-backed and results-driven, it helps boost collagen and smooth fine lines, leaving a complexion that feels firmer and looks beautifully renewed.

It's the perfect gift to show any skincare enthusiast that you did your homework.

Stocking Fillers: Beauty Essentials

This year, skip the novelty trinkets and give beauty essentials that deserve a spot in someone's stocking.



Naf! Stuff Cuticle Oil (£10) - This manicure must-have is perfect for quick touch-ups and on-the-go nail care. A tiny pen with a big impact for anyone who loves to keep nails looking polished and healthy.

NovaLash Mascara (£20) - Made for lash extension lovers, this clump-free, hollow-fibre brush lifts and separates every lash for a flawless finish. A gift that ensures their lashes look effortlessly enhanced without compromising their extensions.



ALLSKIN|MED Purifying Cleansing Foam (£25) - Alcohol-free, antioxidant-rich, and ideal for oily or combination skin. A daily essential that creates a light, airy foam to leave skin feeling deeply cleansed and balanced.



The White Company Seychelles Bath and Body Gift Set (£30)

For those who love a long soak in the tub but are too busy making everyone else's Christmas sparkle, a blissful bath set is a gift that keeps giving.

The rich gel foams into a creamy lather, transforming every bath into a fragrant escape to the sun-drenched Seychelles - no passport required.

The Gift of Presence

Between wrapping gifts and racing through endless to-do lists, it's easy to get caught up in the glitter and tinsel. Yet the real magic of the season comes from shared laughs, fireside games, and plenty of mince pies (without judgement!).

From all of us at Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, we wish you a Christmas full of cosy pampering and a New Year that leaves you refreshed and restored.

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Thomas Gainsborough's Sudbury, Life & World

*Ashley Cooper brings the artist's genius, humanity,
and Suffolk roots vividly to life*

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Ashley Cooper back to the Parish Room to give an illustrated talk about Sudbury's most famous son, Thomas Gainsborough. As an accomplished speaker who ingeniously interweaves stories of people, places, and times, this summary can only hope to convey a

flavour of the superb talk enjoyed by an audience of more than thirty-five - we were all treated to a rare delight.

Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788), RA FRSA was, as we all know well, an English portrait and landscape painter, draughtsman and printmaker, considered to be one of the most important British artists of the second half of the 18th century. He was born in Sudbury, the youngest son of John Gainsborough, a weaver, maker of woollen goods, Freeman and dissenter

(non-conformist), and wife Mary, sister of the Rev'd Humphrey Burroughs. Gainsborough went to school at Sudbury Grammar School, just a short walk from Gainsborough's House, and where the schoolmaster was his uncle, Humphrey Burroughs.

He spent his childhood at what is now Gainsborough's House in Sudbury, later residing there after the death of his father in 1748, before his move to Ipswich. As a boy he demonstrated impressive drawing and painting skills; at ten he was painting heads and

small landscapes, including a miniature self-portrait.

His picture *Cornard Wood* was begun before he left school, and was the means of his father's sending him to London in 1740. He was just thirteen years old, leaving to study art in London and train under engraver Hubert Gravelot*; he also became associated with William Hogarth and the English School of Art.





*Gravelot was a French engraver, book illustrator, designer and drawing-master. He emigrated to London in 1732, where he quickly became a central figure in the introduction of the Rococo style into British design, disseminated from London through the media of book illustrations and engraved designs as well as by the examples of luxury goods in the 'French taste', which spread from London to towns and country houses.

In 1746 Gainsborough married Margaret Burr, illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Beaufort, who bestowed a £200 (now more than £38,000) annuity on her. This was just as well because his work, then mostly landscape paintings, was not selling well. He returned to Sudbury in 1748-1749 to focus on portrait painting. While still in Suffolk he painted *The Rev'd John Chafy Playing the Violoncello in a Landscape* (1750–1752), which now hangs in the Tate Gallery, London.

“Although he claimed to prefer landscape painting to the portraiture that made his name and paid his keep, these intimate works were a labour of love.”

In 1752, with his family, now including two daughters Mary and Margaret, he moved to Ipswich. Commissions for his portraits increased, but as his clients were mainly local

Pictures opposite clockwise from top:

Cornard Wood (c. 1748–1750). One of Gainsborough's earliest known landscapes, inspired by the scenery around his birthplace in Sudbury.

The Rev'd John Chafy Playing the Violoncello in a Landscape (1750–1752) Painted during his early years in Suffolk, this portrait reflects Gainsborough's growing skill in blending figure and landscape - now in the Tate Gallery, London.

An engraving of the early Sudbury Grammar School. The original timber-framed building was demolished in the mid-19th century; the site is now occupied by William Wood House sheltered accommodation.

Self-Portrait (1754). Painted while living in Ipswich, this work shows Gainsborough in his late twenties, already an assured portraitist.

This page, clockwise from top:

The Artist's Daughters (1758). A tender portrait showing Gainsborough's daughters Mary and Margaret, painted during his Ipswich years.

The Painter's Daughters Chasing a Butterfly (1756). An affectionate early portrait of Gainsborough's daughters, symbolising innocence and curiosity.

Gainsborough's House, Sudbury. The artist's birthplace, now restored as a museum and gallery.





merchants and country squires, he was often forced to borrow against his wife's annuity. Towards the end of his time in Ipswich, he painted a self-portrait, now in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London.

In 1759, again with his family, he moved to Bath to study portraits by van Dyck, who was then the leading court painter in England; after some time Gainsborough finally managed to attract a fashionable clientele. Beginning with the Exhibition of 1761 - the inaugural art exhibition staged by the SAGB (Society of Artists of Great Britain, of which he was an early member) - he sent work to their annual exhibitions at Spring Gardens in London.

Above:

Johann Christian Bach (1776). Gainsborough's portrait of the celebrated composer, painted during his London period - now in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Right:

Frances Browne (Mrs John Douglas) (1783-1784). A late portrait in which Gainsborough masterfully integrates the sitter within a softly painted landscape.

From 1769 he also submitted works to the Royal Academy's annual exhibitions. These exhibitions helped to enhance his reputation, so much so that he was invited to become a founding member of the Royal Academy in 1769, though his relationship with the Academy was not an easy one, and he stopped exhibiting paintings there in 1773.

Despite increasing popularity and success with his portraits of fashionable society, Gainsborough became frustrated with the demands of such work; during his Bath period it prevented him from pursuing his preferred artistic interests. In a letter to a friend in the 1760s he wrote: *"I'm sick of portraits and*

wish very much to take my viol da gamba (now simply called a cello) and walk off to some sweet village where I can paint landscapes and enjoy the fag end of life in quietness and ease" - he was so keen a viol player that he had five instruments at this time.

In 1774, the family moved to London, settling in Schomberg House, Pall Mall. In 1777 he again began exhibiting paintings at the Royal Academy, including portraits of contemporary celebrities, such as the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland. Exhibitions

of his work continued for the next six years and around this time he began experimenting with printmaking, using the then novel techniques of aquatint and soft-ground etching.

During the 1770s and 1780s he developed a type of portrait where he integrated the sitter into a landscape. An example of this is his portrait of Frances Browne (Mrs John Douglas), which can be seen at Waddesdon Manor. The sitter has withdrawn to a secluded and overgrown corner of a garden to read a letter, her pose recalling the traditional representation of Melancholy. Gainsborough emphasised the relationship between the sitter and her environment by painting the clouds behind her and the drapery across her lap with similar silvery violet tones and fluid brushstrokes. This portrait was included in his first private exhibition at Schomberg House in 1784.

In 1776, he painted a portrait of Johann Christian Bach; Bach's former teacher was assembling a collection of portraits of musicians, and Bach asked him to paint his portrait as part of this collection. The portrait now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

In 1780, Gainsborough painted the portraits of King George III and Queen Charlotte, and afterwards received other royal commissions. In 1784, the Principal Painter in Ordinary (to the monarch), Allan Ramsay, died and the

"I'm sick of portraits and wish very much to take my viol da gamba and walk off to some sweet village where I can paint landscapes and enjoy the fag end of life in quietness and ease."





Left:

Mr and Mrs Andrews (c. 1750). Painted near Sudbury, this famous double portrait unites figures and landscape, capturing both the likeness and prosperity of a Suffolk couple within their own estate.

Below:

Gainsborough's Showbox. A viewing device created by the artist to display his painted glass landscapes illuminated from behind by candlelight.



King was obliged to give the job to Gainsborough's rival (and Academy president), Joshua Reynolds; however, Gainsborough remained the royal family's favourite painter.

Around this time he began using a device he called a 'showbox' to compose landscapes and display them backlit on glass. A contemporary witness described the working of the showbox: 'The machine consists of a number of glass planes, which are moveable and were painted by Gainsborough, of various subjects, chiefly landscapes. They are lighted by candles at the back and are viewed through a magnifying lens, by which means the effect produced is truly

captivating, especially the moonlight pieces, which exhibit the most perfect resemblance of nature.' The original showbox is on display in the Victoria and Albert Museum, along with a reproduction transparency.

In his later years, Gainsborough often painted landscapes, and with Richard Wilson (a Welsh landscape painter), he was one of the originators of the eighteenth century British landscape school. He was also the dominant British portraitist of the second half of the 18th century along with Joshua Reynolds.

Gainsborough was the first British artist to regularly paint himself and his family. Although he claimed to prefer

landscape painting to the portraiture that made his name and paid his keep, these intimate works were a labour of love. He portrays his family as ordinary middle-class folk with characterful faces and stories to tell; interesting people in everyday attire, with varied preoccupations and concerns. Seen through the paintings he made of his daughters, he comes across as a protective, thoughtful and affectionate father, and not as a sycophantic lover of celebrity elites as might well be the case today.

Gainsborough died of cancer on 2 August 1788 at the age of 61. According to his daughter Peggy, his last words were "van Dyck". He is interred in the churchyard St Anne's Church, Kew, Surrey.

As noted above, our audience were completely enthralled throughout the hour plus presentation, and a very large percentage stayed afterwards to chat with Ashley - it was an absolute tour de force. I for one have now discovered a new appreciation of Gainsborough's work following the wonderful illustrated presentation, during which Ashley 'painted with words' to describe the images he was showing us; the overall impression and effect was simply magical, and I am now a fan of Gainsborough's work.

Andy Sheppard
www.littlewaldingfieldhistorysociety.wordpress.com

Next Little Waldingfield History Society Talks:

The Christmas Season in Folk Songs with Phil Lyons

Wednesday 17th December:

The Essex guitarist specialises in performing traditional British folk songs.



George Wombwell, England's Greatest Showman with Pip Wright

Wednesday 21st January:

The most famous Victorian Showman and Menagerist.



The History of US Military Aviation in East Anglia with Don Mobley

Wednesday 18th February:

Like many who served here in the military Don decided to make his home here in Suffolk, he looks at the USAAF presence in the area from WW2 onwards.





The Blooming Garden

Christmas Tussie Mussies

Tussie mussie is a word that goes back to medieval times to describe a small, fragrant posy of flowers. Victorians loved the word but it has fallen into disuse. Vita Sackville-West delighted in the old-fashioned word and so do I, and what better time to use this name for a posy of garden flowers than at Christmas?

I know that the December garden at first glance doesn't seem to have a lot to offer but it is amazing what you can find if you look hard enough. Many years ago, Tony Venison, who wrote the gardening column for *Country Life* told me that each year he went round his garden on Christmas Day and picked a posy of flowers, including just one of every variety he could find in bloom. He counted them and kept a tally for each year. His count always exceeded mine as he had so many rare treasures in his garden. Christmas Day

in my house is too busy to stroll round the garden but for years now, I have picked a posy for the Christmas table on Christmas Eve and of course I count them. The number varies from year to year according to the weather, but even in the coldest years I am surprised at how many blooms I can find, once I start searching. Hunting for flowers on one of the darkest days is a lovely thing to do.

It always surprises me how December flowers can cover every season. There are always a few ghosts of summer lingering on amongst brave spring flowers popping up too soon. I don't allow flowers from the greenhouse as this would be cheating. But there are usually a few wisps of roses hanging on to include, especially amongst the China roses. Other summer flowers putting in an appearance in dreary December vary from year to year; this year I have been amazed to find a summer iris in bloom.

Many flowers that flower at this time of the year are delightful with a delicate fragrance. They have a fragile, beauty as they need scent rather than gaudy dress to entice pollinators. This fragrance is often taken off by the wind outside so that is a great reason to bring them indoors, where the perfume will be more intense. Who needs carcinogenic scented candles when you can bring the perfumes of the winter garden inside? My favourite scented bloom is *Daphne bholua*



'Jacqueline Postill' with clusters of sugar-sweet flowers that smell incredibly delicious. *Chimonanthus praecox* is quite a boring shrub for most of the year but in winter it bears little waxy, claw-like, yellow flowers stained with red inside. They have a delicious, spicy fragrance. The sweet scent of *Hamamelis x intermedia*, the magical Witch Hazel is undetectable outdoors but when you bring a few sprigs inside, the spidery flowers smell wonderful. Varieties of *Sarcococca* smell fabulous too, even though the name has far too many c's and I can never remember where they go. It has a musky, honey overtone which some people find too strong but I love it and it makes a wonderful fragrant shrub. Fragrance too comes from winter flowering honeysuckles and viburnums such as *Viburnum fragrans*. The only one I wouldn't include here is



Viburnum tinus which smells of wet dog when it is wet. The clusters of flowers bloom all winter long but I can't love it or overlook its horrible smell.

Some years I use my Wedgewood silver lustre jug for a bit of Christmas bling, other years I use a selection of individual posy vases or my little porcelain German Heutschenreuther Christmas boots. And sometimes I use a flower block so that the flowers spill out like jewels from a jewel box. Flowers in jewel-like colours look wonderful in here; shocking pink *Cyclamen coum* with bright blue *Iris unguicularis*, which I preferred when it was called *Iris stylosa*. The bright yellow little daffodil, *Narcissus minor* 'Cedric Morris' is often in bloom for Christmas Day; it is quite rare and to be honest I can never bear to pick it as it blooms for ages in the garden. And you can have snowdrops in bloom for Christmas if you buy the right varieties. Two lovely ones with seasonal names are *Galanthus* 'Santa Claus' and *Galanthus* 'Three Ships'. Many people hate heathers and come up with that old chestnut 'The only place for heather is on the moors'. But the winter flowering heather *Erica carnea* does not grow on any moorland I know and it doesn't even need ericaceous soil. Nothing else can give you carpets of colour in winter and I always include a few sprigs in Christmas vases.

I am running out of space here to suggest all the flowers you can grow to enjoy in Christmas tussie mussies. My flower count last Christmas Eve was 26 and I am interested to know what it will be this year. Why don't you try it for your Christmas table? Forget the poinsettia or shop-bought carnations and bring some garden jewels inside this year. Don't forget to count!

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Feedback From James Finch

Smarter, Simpler Better – ONE Suffolk

Ofsted Focused Visit finds 'early signs of improvement' in Front Door Children's Services

The report noted 'early signs of improvement beginning to emerge. These include

- Children identified as at risk of harm receive prompt and appropriate responses with strong oversight and swift multi-agency collaboration
- Clear investment and support from the whole council for children's services
- High staff morale, stable workforce, strong peer and managerial support maintaining consistency for families despite leadership changes

However the report also highlighted the following areas which still need for improvement:

- Monitoring systems need to more reliably flag delays and support effective management decision-making
- More consistency in professional curiosity and threshold decisions needed
- Better recognition and response needed to patterns of concern when multiple or repeated requests are made for the same families

Since the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) report in August 2024, the follow up report this autumn found that the authority's children's services '*Require Improvement to be Good*'. Suffolk County Council's children's services have been on a transformation journey.

We welcome the report and opportunity to receive this focused visit from Ofsted. I am pleased to say that Ofsted's findings were very much as we expected. The focused visit has demonstrated that we know our service well; we know our strengths and where we are making good progress, but we also know where we need to continue to improve in this very complex area.

Suffolk's recycling centres raise half a million pounds for charity

The Benjamin Foundation, which operates re-use shops at Suffolk's recycling centres in Bury St Edmunds and Foxhall, is benefiting from the money to provide local families with childcare, mental health, youth, family and housing support services.

The half-million-pound milestone came during the national Second Hand September campaign this year, with

people pledging not to buy anything new during the month. The relationship between The Benjamin Foundation and the county council's recycling centres is helping us to protect the environment, as well as supporting our residents.

A key part of this success story is the repair and resale of white goods. They are collected at Suffolk's recycling centres, repaired by The Benjamin Foundation's skilled technicians and sold in their charity shops, giving them a second life and helping families.

Mapping project reaches major digital milestone

Suffolk County Council has reached a major digital milestone in putting the county on the map.

It has completed the Definitive Map and Statement (DM&S) consolidation project, using modern background mapping to prepare the updated legal record of public rights of way (PROW) such as footpaths, bridleways, and byways in Suffolk. The consolidation project is the process of preparing a new digital DM&S that incorporates all legal changes since the previous issue.

Moving away from hand-drawn maps and written notes, the council has created new versions of the maps from a digital database using specialist software against Ordnance Survey Mastermap base mapping. It has involved checking and digitising more than 10,500 individual routes across the county, ensuring they reflect the effects of more than 2,600 legal orders, including complex public path order packages.

This ensures that Suffolk's PROW network – which extends across thousands of miles of countryside – is properly recorded and accessible for generations to come. The updated definitive maps are clearer and easier to interpret and working from a digital database makes it easier to share data with a wide range of partners, including user groups, councils, developers, the National Trust, Natural England, and the Forestry Commission.

Working copies of the maps are available for the public to view and download from the Rights of Way and Access pages of the Suffolk County Council website: <https://tinyurl.com/suffolk-rights-of-way>

Suffolk residents safer than ever due to 70% increase in Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)

This increase in tailored fire safety advice and support comes as Candle Fire Safety Week (20–26 October) coincides with Diwali, the Festival of Lights (20 October), celebrated by Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities, when homes are illuminated with

candles and oil lamps (diyas). The timing serves as a timely reminder as Christmas approaches of the importance of fire safety, particularly when using open flames in the home.

For Suffolk residents, individuals who qualify for a Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) are visited by a specialist practitioner or operational firefighters who will help create a tailored home fire safety plan. Those deemed most at risk also receive free smoke alarms or specialist equipment. This includes the elderly, individuals with hearing or sight impairments, those with limited mobility, and people living with dementia, who may have a reduced ability to respond quickly to fire hazards. Factors contributing to this elevated risk include physical frailty, cognitive impairments, and the use of medications affecting alertness and mobility.

To help identify the most vulnerable in the community, the team has integrated with Safelincs, an online platform that allows residents or their carers to complete a virtual home fire safety check.

Based on the data entered, the platform alerts the Prevention Team to those considered most vulnerable and at higher risk. This approach ensures fire safety support reaches as many people as possible while prioritising additional resources for those who need it most. People deemed as low risk will still receive a bespoke Home Fire Action Plan.

Despite being one of the smallest fire prevention teams in the country, the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Prevention Team, has transformed home fire safety delivery across Suffolk.

The growth in HFSVs reflects improvements in working practices, stronger community engagement, staff training, and targeted support for vulnerable residents, ensuring help reaches those most at risk.

Our focus is always on protecting residents where the risk of harm from fire is greatest – in their homes.

Every visit and educational session increases the likelihood that domestic fires can be prevented.

With nearly 850 accidental fires each year across England started by candles, this month is a perfect opportunity to remind everyone to take simple precautions. Keep candles and oil lamps away from flammable materials such as curtains, decorations and soft furnishings, place them on stable surfaces out of reach of children and pets, never leave them unattended, ensure they are properly extinguished, and make sure smoke alarms are installed and working.

Tom's race with new foster carers

What started as a small local project in the Midlands is now a major nationwide campaign involving over 90 local authority fostering services, project managed by CAN Digital. 'The Run' is set to be the most ambitious jointly funded fostering film project yet.

The film focuses on Tom, an 11-year-old boy, contrasting his need to run - away from danger, a chaotic home life, to get to school in time for breakfast club because he's hungry - with running as a sport. Despite the disadvantages Tom faces before being fostered - not even having PE kit for school - he's good at running and the film climaxes with Tom taking part in an athletics tournament, running in a stadium, with the support of his new foster family.

It's Tom's chance to shine. Can Tom win his race? On the track and in his life?

The message of this project is very simple, but so important - we need foster carers and we need people to foster for Suffolk County Council. This sentiment applies across the country, which is why this project has grown into a national campaign. 'The Run' is a brilliant, emotional film none of us could have produced on our own, which is why this partnership is so important.

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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Mobile: 07545 423796

Feedback From Bryn Hurren

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward.

I hope that everyone is keeping well across my council ward, the whole of Babergh area and well beyond. Some nasty seasonal bugs around earlier than normal this year so please take care of yourselves. Lots of fresh fruit and vegetables works for me.

It was a brilliant firework display from Boxford again this year - possibly the best ever in the many years it has

been running and I don't think I have missed any since it was resurrected after a short break. I hope that a good amount of funds were raised for village charities. A great effort by Ward Baker and all of his team of volunteers. Well done everybody.

Nationally, I was transfixed by the efforts and sacrifices of Radio 2's Sara Cox to do the Great Northern Run in aid of the Children in Need effort to raise funds for those sections of our lives and charities that tend to fall through the cracks but need our help so much to keep going. Despite never having attempted something so gigantic before she was trying to run 5 marathons in 5 days. She seemed to be in serious trouble midway through the first day, battling strong winds and freezing rain and obviously being in great pain and at some points complete distress. The fact that she managed to set off each day and do what she promised as part of the BBC's great effort is indeed a magnificent tribute to her mental strength and determined nature not to let anyone down, including herself. Over £10m raised is a great achievement as the whole country took her to their hearts and willed her on each day to get her to and over the finish line. Tough Cookie. Also, tributes due to our BBC, who despite some own goals and constant criticism still remain the best value broadcaster ever - 3 quid a week for so much choice of entertainment is a snip and the greatest bargain still. Whilst I watch little TV now due to pressures of work and council duties I do tend to have the radio (where the pictures are much better) on constantly. I just can't abide the brain-numbing low grade adverts that commercial broadcasters, pump out at us constantly. Long may the brilliant Beeb continue but cut out the clangers and own goals please.

Locally and nationally it is time to focus on budgeting. Nationally, Chancellor Rachael Reeves struggles to balance the nation's books to pull us out of the biggest financial hole (mainly of our own making) ever known and to try to get us back on our feet again. Meanwhile at Babergh we are just trying to do what we do well and better than before, with less funding. At present Babergh district council costs each Band D property an average of just under £5.00 per week and after the BBC, must come in as equally good value. In Reeve's case, she has to service the massive inherited debt, which indeed she has added to, in an effort to keep us trading and afloat whilst with finding monies to compensate the victims of the infected blood scandal and the terribly-treated postmasters at the hands of

the Horizon computer software. This is with a background of money being misappropriated during the pandemic for all sorts of schemes and scams from our hard earned taxes by politicians bypassing normal protocol and fast-forwarding money grabbing schemes into a so-called 'fast lane', now being lost for ever. Some of these cases are gradually coming before our courts, mainly brought by a voluntary band of not-for-profit lawyers called *The Good Law Project* but it is slow going and I feel most of the monies are now largely off-shore and maybe lost forever.

We are now also having to bail out, some of our larger national businesses from cyber attacks, Jaguar, M&S, our NHS to name just a few, but also our utilities sold off to private shareholders who made millions for themselves but fell short of looking after the services into the future for public good. Another fine mess somebody got us into. Seems like a perfect storm doesn't it, with a string of politicians wrecking our country though self gain, greed and sheer incompetence. We will need all of the strength and determination of Sara Cox to get through all of this as individuals and collectively as a nation but get through it we must without resorting into the murky cesspit world of the far-right faction and all their associates both at home and overseas. I did not vote for the present government or leader but despite their mistakes and blunders, they have and are continuing to bring some good legislation which is and will make a difference, so we have to stick with it. The alternative is truly terrifying and will lead to a takeover of our country and much of what we hold dear. At Babergh we also have to keep calm and steer the ship steadily with a small increase in council tax, along with a small increase in charges we can make across the board to give us enough money to provide what services we can at cheapest cost to our taxpayers who are all feeling the pinch as well. The ruling coalition are also determined to keep everything going as well as we can as we sail into unitary council sunsets.

I hope everyone has as good a Christmas as they can afford, do not overdo it, everyone will understand. Just concentrate on getting up to and into the new year.

I am constantly around at all my PCs and in the villages I represent, so stop for a chat or a little moan, I am a good listener and will do what I can.

Bryn

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BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 28th October 2025

Public Forum: An update on the speed limit restriction was requested – CCllr Finch confirmed that the matter was in motion and was going through the legal process. This unfortunately is not a quick process.

Correspondence has been received from BDC that the application for the Asset of Community Value for The Mill Surgery has been rejected and a private sale has subsequently taken place. The purchaser has offered the PC first refusal to lease the building and it has been asked that the matter be added to the next meeting agenda to discuss if the PC wish to continue discussions with the new owner.

District Council Report: DCllr Hurren's full report can be found on the BPC website.

County Council Report: CCllr Finch's full report can be found on the BPC website.

Finance: The finance report was accepted and can be found in full on the BPC website.

Planning: The full planning details can be seen in the minutes on the BPC website.

Approval of estimate for tree works to the cemetery: A quote has been received for the works to the trees in the cemetery. It was resolved to accept the quote and go ahead with the works as some of the trees are becoming potentially dangerous

Application to DCllr Hurren for funds from locality budget to replace Churchyard Posts: DCllr Hurren confirmed that the locality budget is still available of up to £1000 and would be soon closing but an exact date would be confirmed at the next meeting. It was agreed that the clerk would look for quotes before the next meeting to establish how much would be required from the locality budget.

Village Bulb Planting: Cllr Troke has been obtaining prices for bulbs but it was unsure how many would be needed. It was resolved that a plan is to be drawn up to establish where in the village bulbs would be planted, therefore it could be estimated how many bulbs would be required and who would like to assist in planting, i.e. Beavers, Rainbows etc.

Stone Street Road Car Park – update

and to agree consultancy works:

The consultancy works were discussed earlier in the meeting, please see item 5 for minutes. It is being questioned whether there is a requirement for the car park to be linked with building residential properties along Stone Street Road and whether the costs are going to be achievable for the PC. It was resolved to engage with the Boxford Volunteer Consultancy group to ask for their assistance in the project.

Date of Next Meeting: 25th November 2025 at 7pm in the village hall.

Parish Council (PC) Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday each month except in August and December. They are held in the village hall starting at 7pm. All are welcome to come along and observe and there is a regular item to allow residents a short time to comment and raise items.

Full minutes and other documents mentioned above can be found at:
<http://boxford-pc.gov.uk>

Zoe Rumsey
01787 739317
clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Summary of Council Meeting 4th November 2025

Council Vacancies & Recruitment Drive: With vacancies on the council, a renewed recruitment effort is underway. Cllr Nancy Turnbull is leading the initiative, supported by fellow councillors. Strategies include leafleting, email outreach, and a potential 'meet and greet' event around the Annual Parish Meeting. Residents within a three-mile radius are encouraged to consider joining.

Children's Shed Proposal: Interested children and parents attended the meeting and a positive discussion took place regarding the proposed Children's Shed. While no final decision regarding funding support was made, the council requested a detailed proposal covering costs, location, permissions, and funding arrangements. An informal update meeting is planned for early December 2025.

Highways & Lorry Watch: The council is exploring the introduction of a weight limit on the main street to qualify for the Lorry Watch scheme with a visit from Highways to assess feasibility. Recent pothole repairs were noted, though final road markings are still pending.

Traffic & Speed Monitoring: The council discussed the potential for enforcement cameras and will continue monitoring SID data. Police will be invited to a future meeting to discuss traffic concerns.

Planning & Development: The council discussed the 'Call for Sites' process, emphasizing that no development has been approved. A specific parcel at the end of Church Road was reviewed in terms of planning policy alignment.

Footpaths & Access: Cllr Robert Wheeler reported improvements to FP6, including a new bridge and hedge trimming. Waymarkers are planned to improve access across parish boundaries, with coordination from Suffolk County Council. A batch of 200 footpath leaflets will be printed to promote local walking routes.

Finance & Budget: The 2026–27 Precept will remain at £9,312. The council reviewed and approved financial reports for August to October. Donations of £200 to Go-Start and £30 to the Royal British Legion were approved.

Governance & Community Assets: The rejection of the Asset of Community Value (ACV) application for The Swan was discussed. Mark Freeman will follow up with Babergh District Council. Internal communications and minute formatting improvements were also agreed upon.

Emergency Planning: Recruitment of community volunteers for emergency response roles is a priority. A 'recruitment day' is being considered, with Cllrs Tim Sheppard and Nancy Turnbull leading the effort.

Next Meeting: The next full council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 6 January 2026, in the Parish Room.

For more updates and to get involved, visit the LWPC website:

<https://tinyurl.com/lwpc-council> or contact the parish clerk.

Your village needs your voice!

Mark Freeman
07554 592425
clerk.littlewoldingfield@hotmail.co.uk

NEWTON

Summary of Council Meeting 12th November 2025

NPC is looking for an applicant to fill the councillor vacancy. If you would like more information on the role, please contact Dave Crimmin as below.

25/188 Planning

a. The councillors reviewed Planning Application DC/25/04401 Squirrels Oak, Sudbury Road - Erection of a new single storey annexe (following demolition of existing garage) and resolved that they supported the application.

b. The council has received a planning application for the development of 9 dwellings on the existing Manders car park, which will be reviewed at the December meeting.

25/190 Walking Infrastructure Project

Suffolk Highways has prepared the costings for the new pavement on the Green, the move of the bus shelter and the widening of the existing pavement between Church Road and Links View

but are still to finalise the costs for the signalised crossing. James Finch hopes that this will be completed by the end of November 2025.

25/191 Neighbourhood Plan

The councillors reviewed the proposal from LUC to support the review of the Newton Neighbourhood Plan (NNP). The councillors resolved to engage LUC for the support of reviewing the NNP, with no allocation of sites, at a cost of £9,608.81 plus VAT from the CIL receipts. Once the process is finalised for the allocation of sites, the remaining LUC support costs will be considered by councillors.

25/193 Walk of the Parish

The councillors were disappointed to hear that some residents were using the emergency dog poo bag dispensers for supplying their total dog bag requirements. This has meant that the bags are being used at unsustainable rates, leaving the dispensers empty in a very short space of time. They were extremely annoyed that some residents were then using the empty dispensers as dog bins. Unless there is a change of attitude

towards the use of the dispensers, then the councillors will consider their removal.

Cllr Presland is still getting the tree plaques refurbished.

25/194 Village Hall and Trust updates

Cllr Taylor informed councillors that three ponds between the Saracens and Potash had now been maintained in accordance with the wild pond specifications as agreed with the funding provider. A review of the works required for trees on the Trust land is nearing the appointment of a contractor. The Saracens licence has now been agreed. The trust will be looking at the furniture requirements around the ponds.

25/196 Questions to the Chair

Cllr Taylor updated councillors that the Christmas Lights switch-on will take place on **Sunday 30th November 2025 at 4:30pm at the Saracens.**

Full minutes can be found at:

www.newton-pc.gov.uk

Dave Crimmin CILCA, PIALC, PSLCC
01787 375085

clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk

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Hadleigh Patient Participation Group

The column may look the same but the info varies each month so please take time to read on.

Out of Hours Doctor: Need a doctor when the Hadleigh Health Centre is closed, including weekends? Call 111 for advice and details of your nearest 'out of hours' duty doctor or visit www.111.nhs.uk

Vaccinations: Final figures 1665 covid and 3433 flu

Anima Registration: Almost 83% of patients have signed up to use Anima, the practice's online triage system. If you are one of the 17% that hasn't got round to it, don't leave it until you need it. It's never too late and if you are struggling help is always available in the practice. You can register via one of the following websites www.hadleighhealth.co.uk/anima or www.nhs.uk/nhs-app

If you do not have digital access or you encounter any problems you can still telephone the surgery; a care navigator will help you. **01473 822 961**

IT Help: Once a month Communities Together offer helpful IT advice in the upstairs room of the Hadleigh Library. The next session will take place on **Tuesday 2nd December** from 10am to 12noon. Booking is essential as places are limited. Call Tracey **01449 707031** or email info@communitiestogether-ea.org

Free Parking for Patients: The patient car park is for the convenience of patients with an appointment. If you are visiting the area for any other reason please avoid using these dedicated spaces. However, should you have a genuine reason to visit the health centre and the patient car park is full, you can register your car inside the waiting area and that will give you two hours free parking at the nearby Toppesfield Hall parking area. Blue badge holders do not have to pay but must clearly display their badge.

Boxford Community Car Scheme: This service is available for patients needing transport to hospital or health centre appointments. Contact Jen Eastwood on **01787 211853** or jen.eastwood8@gmail.com

Repeat Prescription Changes: Are you aware that as of the 31st October 2025 patients should allow 5 working days for their repeat prescriptions to be completed? For further information please visit www.hadleighhealth.co.uk/news/changes-to-repeat-prescriptions or ask your pharmacist for details of the changes.

Outside Medicine Chest: This impressive machine sited in the patients' car park is there for eligible patients who traditionally collect their medicine from the practice's dispensary. This optional service will provide more flexible collection times and hopefully reduce queuing time inside the practice. Certain exclusions apply such as Controlled Drugs, Fridge Lines and large bags of medication. If you would like to know more please speak to one of the dispensing staff when you next visit.

Doppler Machines: Happily, these new portable leg reading machine are now in use so patients no longer



have to travel to Ipswich for the same service. It is hoped early recognition of leg problems will not only benefit patients but ultimately the NHS too.

Art Display: Gilly Dutton's work will be on display in the health centre for the next few weeks. Even if you are feeling poorly check out her delightful pictures. They are bound to raise your spirits.

Wishing our faithful readers a relaxing Christmas and a happy healthy 2026

Website: www.hadleighhealth.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HadleighHealthCentre

PPG Chair/ Art Work: Jan Devey deveys@btinternet.com
01473 827091 or 07881 798999

Citizens Advice

Another genuine case from Sudbury and South Suffolk Citizens Advice

The client and her husband, both pensioners and living in their own property with nearly £9,000 in savings, contacted Sudbury Citizens Advice for some advice about inheritance tax. The adviser provided them with the information they had requested, however before ending the contact the adviser asked the client if they were in receipt of pension credit. The purpose of this question was because the Government estimates that there are over 700,000 pensioners in the UK with an entitlement to claim pension credit but have not done so.

The client gladly replied to the question on pension credit by answering that "yes" the two of them were claiming pension credit of £18 a week. The adviser, being aware that the husband of the client was in receipt of a disability benefit, suspected that the amount of pension credit the couple were receiving weekly was not correct. With the couple's agreement the adviser carried out a thorough pension credit calculation, which only took 5 minutes.

The results were astonishing. The pension credit re-calculation revealed that the couple could be entitled to pension credit of over £62 a week and that the extra value could be backdated 3 months. This resulted in an increase of over £2,500 in the first year of pension credit.

Why? You may ask. Well, the client's husband started to receive his disability benefit some 3 years previous, and it is the addition of the disability benefit that gave them the entitlement to the increase in pension credit. Sadly the couple had not informed the pension service of the 'change in circumstances' at the time and it was to the adviser's regret that the increased entitlement could only be backdated 3 months.

Do you have an entitlement to pension credit? Are you receiving pension credit but may be entitled to an increase? The answers to these questions are simply obtained. Call the Sudbury Citizens Advice on **01787 321400**, you can leave a message 24 hours every day. An adviser will call you back.

Sudbury Citizens Advice offers everyone within the Babergh local authority area a free and confidential service. Can you afford not to make the call?

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Boxford & District Bowls Club

As promised, below are the photos of our last 5 winners from our Bowls Finals Day on Sunday 14th September. Congratulations to:



Men's 2 Wood Singles - Mike Bunn



Ladies Pairs - Bernadine Dwyer and Roz Mortlock



Men's Pairs - Kevin Colling and Steve Marszal



Malcolm Grimwood Trophy - Gillian Barnes



Most Improved Player - Graham Skillen

Thanks to Peter Norris for the photos

Our summer season finished at the end of September and we have many of our bowlers now playing indoors at Sudbury Bowls Club.

But work continues pretty much every day on looking after our green - our maintenance team have weeded, cut and seeded, and some of our members swish the dew and worm casts off regularly. Thanks to everyone who is involved in all this activity during the winter months.

Roz Mortlock

Quick Facts – Lawn Bowls

Ancient Origins

Modern lawn bowls can trace its roots to ancient Egypt 5,000 years ago where tomb artefacts suggests Egyptians played a game with stone balls.

Oldest Bowling Green

The oldest known continuously used bowling green is the Southampton Old Bowling Green, with recorded use from 1299.

Why Bowls Curve

The bowls used are not perfect spheres. They are shaped and weighted to travel a curved path when rolled so that players can 'bend' around other bowls, sneak behind blocks, or deliberately create tricky head formations.

Commonwealth Games Staple

The sport has been in the Commonwealth Games since 1930 (except in 1966 in Jamaica when suitable greens were unavailable).

When Bowls Was Rowdy

Early bowls could be surprisingly rough, so much so that "kicking, hacking and tripping" on the green was banned in the rules about a century ago.

Recommended Reading: Cricket Books

David Lamming of Milden Cricket Club has sent in a selection of cricket reads perfectly suited to the quieter winter months.

If you're looking for a Christmas gift for the cricket-minded, or just something to enjoy while the grounds lie silent, these picks span technique, stats, storytelling, and the inner world of an Ashes-winning captain.

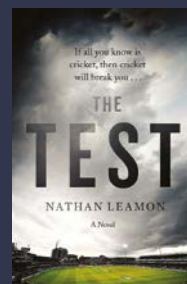
'The Art of Batting' by Jarrod Kimber

Learn the techniques of some of the world's greatest run scorers.



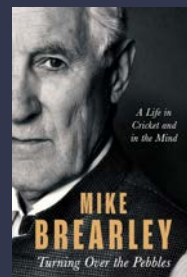
'The Test' by Nathan Leamon

Described as a novel after reading which "you will never watch cricket in the same way again".



'Turning Over the Pebbles' by Mike Brearley

England's captain in the winning Ashes series of 1981. A book in which he "delves into his private passions and candidly examines the various shifts, conflicts and triumphs of his extraordinary life and career, both on and off the field."



'Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025, edited by Lawrence Booth

The one book that actually earns its place on the shelf; the full wrap-up of the year: every major match, every stat that matters and sharp essays that don't sugarcoat. Useful, collectible, and guaranteed to outlast whatever novelty cricket mug someone else is wrapping.



Volunteers Make our Villages Thrive!

Most of the clubs and organisations listed in these pages are run by volunteers - people who generously give their time and energy to make our community a richer, more vibrant place to live.

Whether it's a local sports team, gardening group, village hall, or charity initiative, these groups rely on the goodwill and dedication of people just like you.

Could you lend a hand?

Even a small commitment can make a big difference. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills, and feel more connected to your community. It's rewarding, sociable, and more often than not a lot of fun!

If there's a club or group that interests you, why not reach out and see how you could help? They'd be delighted to hear from you.

Together, we can keep our villages vibrant, welcoming, and full of life.

Additions or corrections

This guide aims to be a comprehensive list of all groups and organisations within the benefice, so if you know of a group that isn't listed here, have a change of contact details or notice a mistake, please get in touch with the editor at editor@boxriversnews.com.

Featured club



The Boxford Bellringers are an active team in St. Mary's Church in Boxford, Suffolk. New members, including both adults and young people, are always welcome, and training is provided. St. Mary's has 8 bells with one of the bells dating back to 1440.

If you are interested in joining the team or just want to give it a try, you can contact Richard Gates on **01787 210432** for more information.

Scouting

1st Boxford Beaver Scouts	John 07966 690 313
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 boxford-suffolk.secure-dbprimary.com office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk
Friends of Boxford School (FoBS)	talktofofs@gmail.com
Sunflowers Childcare	Moir Grant 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 916 135 nataliewoods25@gmail.com
Boxford Spinney	Mark Miller 01787 211596 www.boxfordspinney.co.uk mark.miller@talktalk.net
Boxford Village Hall	booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk
Edwardstone Parish Hall	Daphne Clark 01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
Edwardstone Millennium Green	Marijke Morris 07914 767 013 marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk
Groton Village Hall	Joanna Roberts 07845 940 008 jgant87618@aol.com
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	Sue Bowen 01787 249473 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com
Little Waldingfield Pavilion	Jennie Jordan 07522 352 558 52Jennie1@gmail.com
Marquee Booking	BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com
Milden Pavilion	Pearl 01449 741 876 info@mildenpavilion.co.uk
Newton Village Hall	Alan Vince 07955 199 000

Clubs & Groups

Boxford Bellringers	Richard Gates 01787 210432
Boxford Bible Study Group	Peter & Margaret 01787 211077
Boxford Bike Club	Kevin Bridge 07876 798 617 www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk
Boxford Bowls Club	Ian Clark 01787 211133
Boxford Carpet Bowls	David Warren 01787 211067
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Macmillan 07779 303 690 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 971 701 m.eke@btinternet.com www.boxford-rovers-youth.com
Boxford Tennis Social	Sue Moore 07808 481 447
Boxford WI	Lyn Beer 07961 357 526
Fleece Jazz	David Gasson 01787 210796
Highway 12 Western Dance	Chris 01787 371006
Little Waldingfield History Society	Diana Langford 01787 248298 dianalangford765@gmail.com
Little Waldingfield Over 60s & Friendship Club	Tricia Eddington 01787 247932
Local History Recorders	Edwardstone Daphne Clark 01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
	Groton Joanna Roberts 01787 210619 jgant87618@aol.com
Madrigalia Choir	Sue Price 01787 210913
Milden Cricket Club	Richard Robinson 07807 229447 or David Lamming 07968 791 135
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	Moir Evans 01787 374652
Pilates (Edwardstone)	Claire 07772 074 750

Clubs & Groups

Primrose Wood Volunteers	Evan Flockhart 07968 336 883 obliquewoodland@protonmail.com
Swing Jive & Lindy Hop Dance	Sarah Boldock 07956 614 824
Yoga (Boxford)	Marianne Marshall 01787 210323
Yoga Paper Kite (Newton)	Sophie 01787 313662
Yoga with Lindsey (Newton)	Lindsey 07971 800 540

Charities

Boxford & Groton United Charities	Guy Godfrey 01787 211378
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Alison Barlow 07765 401 952 crossways.jemali@gmail.com
Edwardstone 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 07775 777 598 philiptaylor433@gmail.com

Community Groups

3PR Boxford 1st Responders	Alistair Horne 07887 716453 alistair.horne@eastamb.nhs.uk
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 733 934 craig.needham@me.com
Boxford Society	Jen Eastwood 01787 211853 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety
Boxford Tennis Courts	Nick Moore 07977 241229
Lt Waldingfield Playing Field	Jennie Jordan 07522 352 558 52Jennie1@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2025

28 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm
29 SAT	Christmas Craft Fayre Bull Hotel, Long Melford	11-3pm
29 SAT	Quiz Evening Newton Village Hall	7:30pm

DECEMBER 2025

2 TUE	Fireside Club - Xmas Crafts Newton Village Hall	2pm
3 WED	Boxford WI - Christmas Lunch The Fleece, Boxford	12:30pm
3-6 WED-SAT	BDG: Pinocchio Panto Boxford Village Hall	6pm/ 7pm
4 THU	GHS: The Story of Our Local Castles Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
5-6 FRI-SAT	Nedging Hall Christmas Fair Nedging Hall, IP7 7HG	10-4pm
6 SAT	Xmas Coffee Morning & Festive Stalls All Saints', Newton	10- 11:30am
6 SAT	Christmas Tree Festival St Mary's Church, Boxford	10-3pm
6 SAT	Chelsworth Christmas Fair All Saint's Church, Chelsworth	11- 3:30pm
7 SUN	Nayland Choir 'What Sweeter Music' Nayland Village Hall	3:30pm
9 TUE	Wattisham Military Wives Carol Concert Nedging Hall Barn, IP7 7HG	7-9pm
10 WED	Charity Quiz Night The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
12 FRI	Relaxation & Sound - all welcome Boxford Village Hall	6pm

DECEMBER 2025

12 FRI	Polstead Films: The Roses Polstead Village Hall	7pm
12 FRI	Festive Drinks & Nibbles St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield	7-9pm
13 SAT	FOBS Santa Run Boxford, Edwardstone & Groton	TBC
14 SUN	Boxford Christmas Market Boxford Village Hall	10-2pm
15 MON	Carols Around The Tree Outside The White Hart, Boxford	7pm
16 TUE	Fireside Club - Xmas Lunch Newton Green Golf Club	12:30pm
17 WED	LWHS - Christmas Season in Folk Songs Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
18 THU	Madrigalia Christmas Choral Concert St Mary's Church, Kersey	7pm
19 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm

JANUARY 2026

7 WED	Boxford WI - Beetle Drive Boxford Village Hall	2pm
13 MON	Boxford Village Hall AGM Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
14 WED	Charity Quiz Night The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
21 WED	LWHS - England's Greatest Showman Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
23 FRI	Fun Quiz Groton Village Hall	7:15pm
30 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm



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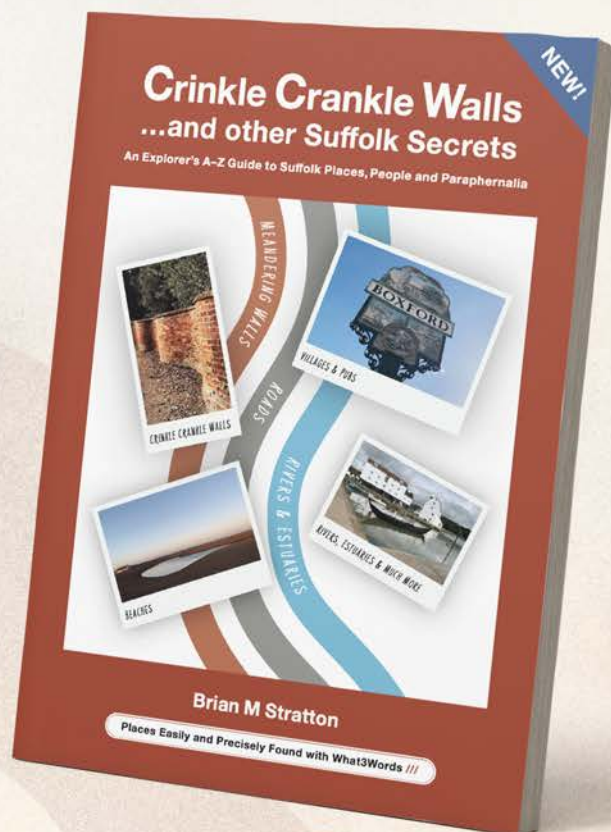
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