

BOX RIVER NEWS

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



January 2014
Vol 14 No 1

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all

Scrooge the Panto, see inside



3PR'S YVONNE HUGHES RETIRES



Yvonne Hughes, one of 3PR responders has retired from the group. Yvonne has been an active responder for a number of years and was responsible in addition for our monthly records.

Members of the group wish to thank Yvonne for her time and dedication to helping others and wish her all the best of fortune for the future. The photo above shows Yvonne receiving her leaving certificate from President Vic Rice.

SAND HILL DEVELOPMENT

Dear Editor

Parish Council Meeting 2nd December 2013 – in the School Hall

Some 50 residents of the village attended this meeting to discuss the planning application for the development of the Sand Hill site. Both the Boxford Society and the YourBoxford groups submitted well thought out and professional objections to this site for affordable housing, based on existing regulations. Unfortunately none of our concerns were discussed nor were we able to put questions on the planning application to the Parish Council. It is a sad day when concerned residents who are anxious to work with the Councillors for the best outcome for villagers who are to be rehomed in Boxford, have been dismissed

There were two residents who spoke in favour of the site, stating they were concerned their children would not be able to live in the village in the future.

Details of our concerns and residents comments can be found on the Yourboxford.org website.

If anyone still wants to add their concerns to Babergh, the end date for submitting letters is 17th December. Please write to: Mr. G. Chamberlain, quoting Application Number B/13/01200/FUL copy to Christine Thurlow who is the Corporate Manager – Development Management, at Babergh D.C. Council Offices, Corks Lane, Hadleigh IP7 6SJ.

Alternately you can e-mail it to: planning.control@babergh.gov.uk or planningcontrol@babergh.gov.uk

Sue Beven.Yourboxford.org

Box River News

Telephone: 01787 211507

e.mail: ed.kench@btinternet.com

Final date for copy for the February 2014 Issue is:

January 16th at noon



vocals. "It's danceable, good music. That's it's raison d'etre. You wouldn't want to just sit, it's for people who want to move around too" (Jack Massarik). "Terry Seabrook's band is the king of Cuban jazz-fusion" (Jazz-Wise).

Friday, 17 January 8.00, £16

Simon Spillett Quintet

A formidable musician who plays in an uncompromising hard bop style owing lots to Tubby Hayes; joined by Henry Lowther to make this gig even more exciting. With Simon Spillett sax, John Critchinson piano, Dave Green bass, Henry Lowther trumpet and Trevor Tomkins drums. Of Simon's latest recording, "Square One", Stephen Graham says "Additive free, non glossy, hoary hard bop that values core qualities. The music is beautifully played, with a speed and energy just right for what it intends". John, Dave, Henry and Trevor are the perfect collaborators.

Friday, 24 January 8.00, Ticket £15

Katie Brown Quintet featuring Leon Greening

A splendid altoist, (favoured by Scott Hamilton when gigging in the UK), joined by a Fleece favourite, who takes piano to new heights. With Katy Brown sax, Leon Greening piano, Robbie Harvey trombone, Tim Thornton bass and Matt Home drums, Katie won the Daily Telegraph Young Jazz Soloist of the Year Award in 1992 and in 1994 won a Rotary Scholarship to study jazz for a year at the University of Tennessee. Since returning to the UK she has played with the likes of Scott Hamilton as well as her own band. Leon is known to us as a very talented and passionate pianist, always welcome. Matt, Robbie and Tim make welcome returns.

Friday, 31 January, 3.00pm, Ticket £16

Sue Richardson Quintet featuring Karen Sharpe

To buy tickets for any gig, obtain further information or add your name to the mailing list please telephone the BOX OFFICE:

01787 211865

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Jazz at the Fleece, 18 The Causeway, Boxford, Suffolk CO10 5JR

Friday, 3 January, 8.00, Ticket £22

Jacqui Dankworth & Trio

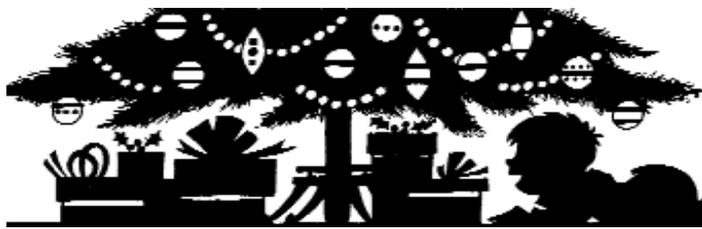
Stylish contemporary vocalist with jazz, blues, folk and soul influences. The daughter of Dame Cleo Laine & Sir John Dankworth she has a "multi-faceted voice." A very special treat to start a New Year. Jacqui Dankworth vocals, Charley Wood keyboards, Geoff Gascoyne bass and Mike Smith drums. Jacqui's latest album Live to Love has attracted reviews like "beautifully sung ballads with fine lyrics that clearly show her maturity" (Hi Fi Critic).

To have Charlie Wood allong on keys is a special treat. This is an unmissable gig for any lover of great singing.

Friday, 10 January, 8.00, Ticket £20

Cubana Bop Octet - "Jazz On The Latin Side

One of the best homegrown Latin ensembles enliven West Side Story songs, Buena Vista, Santana & standards. Lively fun! With Terry Seabrook piano, Satin Singh congas, Adam Riley drums, Shanti Jayasihna trumpet, Ian Price flute/sax/clarinet, Davide Mantovani bass, Jo Marshall vocals and Paul Roberts



THE CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM REV JUDITH

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder” ?

Can a coke tin be beautiful? If you’d asked me that a few days ago, I might have given you a very strange look. Usually – and sadly – I would normally associate coke tins with unwelcome litter. Too often they can be found accompanying discarded fast-food take-away cartons, having been thoughtlessly thrown from a car window and marring an otherwise green and lovely country lane.

Now, though, I see them differently – and all thanks to the wonderful Boxford Christmas Tree Festival. Here, amongst a myriad of imaginatively decorated trees, I found the Village Stores’ tree, hung with a dozen or more coke cans. Suddenly, seeing the design repeated in this way, all across the tree, the cans took on quite a different appearance, forming together a streamlined pattern of red and silver, the colours then taken up in the other decorations on the tree.

The metal pull-rings, so functional and so easily overlooked and discarded, now found a different purpose, as the means of hanging each can from the branches. As with so many of the trees in the Festival, I could only stop and admire the sheer resourcefulness and creativity that had taken something so everyday and turned it into something so eye-catching. All that had been needed was for someone to step back for a moment and to take the trouble to see an object in a new and different light.

On the BBC news recently, a journalist recounted a memorable meeting he had with Nelson Mandela. Although he had been late arriving to interview the great man, and began by anxiously apologising, Mandela still welcomed him warmly and put him at his ease. The journalist said that, somehow, whenever he met someone, Mandela always saw the person, not as they were, but as the best they could become, and treated them accordingly.

All of this seems so close to the heart of the Christmas story and its message of hope for our world

Through the baby in the manger, God entered our world – a world with all its messiness, all its wrongs - to show us the best that we could become and to treat us accordingly.

Not many of us on these five villages lead particularly glamorous lives, not many of us have film-star looks, but just as those ordinary coke cans took on a completely different meaning and purpose in the hands of someone creative, God, our Creator, can take the person we are and transform us into the very best we can become.

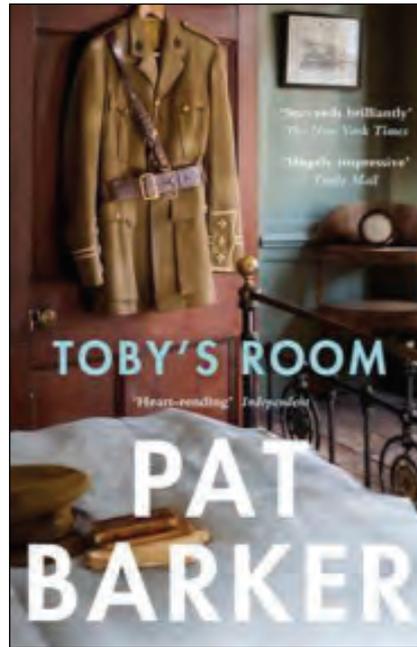
There was a pop song, back in the seventies, with the words “Everyone is beautiful, in their own way.” A little sentimental maybe, but that is the Christian message. Just as an ordinary coke can unexpectedly become a gleaming silver and red decoration on a Christmas tree - seen in a new light - the Christ-light that burns especially brightly at Christmas - every one of us has the potential in God’s hands to find a new purpose in life and to fulfil our unique potential to shine.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports the churches of the benefice in so many generous ways, seen and unseen, and to wish everyone of you in the five villages a peaceful, happy and meaningful Christmas. I hope to be able to welcome you warmly to the Christmas services. Blessings, *Revd Judith*



THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ BY JO MARCHANT

Toby's Room by Pat Barker



2014 is the centenary of the First World War, and the windows of our book shops are going to be crammed with literature relating to that period. My long held favourite novels are Robert Graves’ Goodbye to All That, Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemmingway, and Sebastian Faulks’ Birdsong. And then there is Pat Barker, many of whose novels cover this period. My favourite is Regeneration, the first novel in her Regeneration Trilogy. Based on real life accounts of British army officers who suffered shell shock during the First World War, it focuses on Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, both traumatised by war combat. They meet at Craiglockhart War Hospital where they are

treated by the famous psychiatrist Doctor Rivers. This book is convincing and memorable.

Pat Barker’s latest novel, Toby’s Room, uses as a backdrop the work of Henry Tonks, the famous surgeon who specialised in early plastic surgery and who was also a professor of drawing at the Slade School of Art. At the end of the book we are provided with references to view his drawings of the many war-damaged faces he and his fellow surgeon Gillies tried to mend.

The main protagonist in Toby’s Room is an artist, Elinor Brooke, who assists Tonks in his work. Her brother Toby is a doctor serving on the western front. They are very close and share an unspoken secret, so when Toby is declared missing, Elinor is determined to find out the cause of his death. She recruits the help of Toby’s friends, fellow artists Paul Tarrant and Kit Neville, also wounded by battle. Slowly the facts surrounding Toby’s death come to light, and they are so scandalous that they cannot be explained to his parents.

This is a dark and honest novel about the effects that war has on everyone; those at the front, and their family and friends at home who can barely breathe waiting to hear news from them. The descriptions of the front are so alive that we can almost smell the terror and see the fear in the eyes of the soldiers waiting to go over the top. When the whistle blows they place their hands on the first rung on the ladder.....and unquestioned training takes them up into the exposed battlefield to face the throw of the dice.

Compared to some war novels this is not a complicated read. Pat Barker’s writing is terse and powerful, pared to the bone. It is a good read, and the connections with Tonks, The Slade School and the war artists make the story very interesting. But in my view it does not match her earlier Regeneration, which, once read, is never forgotten.

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BVH CHRISTMAS FAYER AND MARY'S TABLE TOP SALE

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD QUIZ

Boxford Village Hall Christmas Fayer



Mary's House Table Top sale



Little Waldingfield Conservative Branch Annual Quiz night at the Parish Rooms. The event was heavily over subscribed and it was good to see with everyone doing well with the results closely bunched. The wiring in the kitchen at the Parish Rooms has been replaced since the Party Agent was nearly incinerated some years ago. The food, provided almost single handedly by Elizabeth Tora, with home made ice cream courtesy of Margaret Maybury, was as usual first rate.

Remember

The Box River News can be seen in full colour by downloading from the internet.

Just go to boxfordvillagehall.co.uk and click on the BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about two days after the published press date. ed.kench@btinternet.com



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Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's



Wow, what a great display of Christmas trees. It was very difficult for me to select the ones that I should include in the BRN the standard being so high but the two that attracted me the most were side by side. On the left above was the Boxford Garden Societies tree which has to be seen for its intricate detail. Individual designed Butterflies adorn the tree and it is amazing the amount of work that must have gone into its design and construction. In contrast the adjacent tree, by joys's shop was quite brilliant. Whilst commercial it is obvious that a great deal of thought and time went into its construction and the detail in the truck at the base of the tree was amazing. The Boxford WI knitted all their tree decorations and they go on sale in Mary's house on the 9th and 10th December.

We will be selling the decorations from our tree on the 9th and 10th December at Mary's House from 10-17.00.
All proceeds to the church.

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Images in Brochure pages only

Boxford School News



The Friends of Boxford Schools Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30th November was almost standing room only when I visited it in the afternoon. With numerous stalls selling gifts as well as an array of fun stalls and activities for the whole family, Santa flew in with one of his elves and was surrounded by excited children.

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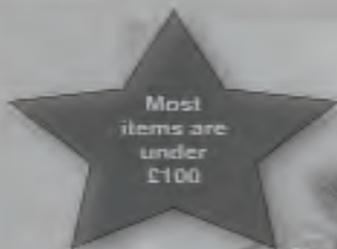
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CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING IN NEWTON



Above the cake stall and on the right a veritable wall of beautiful Christmas wreaths, just some of the many items on sale at Newtons annual Christmas coffee morning held in the village hall on Saturday 7th December.



BOXFORD ART GROUP SALE



The artists concerned would like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who visited their sale, and helped to support this year's charity. Thanks to their generosity, we raised nearly £200 for Macmillan Cancer Support. It was lovely to see so many visitors, who seemed to appreciate all our hard work!



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GROTON'S CHEESE AND WINE PARTY



Grotons annual Cheese and Wine party was a sell out this year. Villagers and guests from other Benefice parishes managed to fit themselves comfortably into the hall for a veritable feast of an enormous range of savouries to tempt the palate lovingly prepared by Jayne Foster, Pat Kennedy Scott, Sheila Gooderham, Jane wood, Elizabeth Gardiner, Sue Edwards and numerous others too many to mention. Of course no Groton event would be complete without Pat and Gerald Smith's bar.

The great thing about the Groton Cheese and wine is the ambience and conversation. Everyone mucks in and as usual it was a wonderful way to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The Groton community spirit lives on.

Ed

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Christmas Quiz of the Year!

30th Dec. Teams of 4 - 6. 7.30pm

Christmas opening/food times available online



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8.30pm

Blues Night

Wed 22nd

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Scrooge The Panto



The opening chorus

When Charles Dickens conceived the character of Ebenezer Scrooge it is unlikely that he had in mind a pantomime character. But in the raucous 'Scrooge The Panto,' the author, Sally Phillips, included all the highlights of the classic story, the meanness of Ebenezer Scrooge, his distaste for the folly and frolics of celebrating Christmas, the warning visit from his dead partner Jacob Marley and the subsequent overnight visits from the spirits of Christmas past, present and future. She also included the well-known figures of Mr Fezziwig (Derek Butler), Scrooges nephew Fred (Janice Mcmillan), the Cratchit children, Bob (Margaret Clapp) and Emily (Elaine Horne). and not to forget the confused character of Belle (Cloe Waterson), a beautiful woman who Scrooge loved deeply when he was a young man. but turns up in the panto as the Dame (Joe Barrett) also known as Carol who could only be described as ugly and a big bundle of laughs. However that is as far as it went to the original Christmas Carol. Being a pantomime all the action was over-the-top and larger than life.

Scrooge, played by Mike Keith, a newcomer to the BDG but a seasoned trooper, spent much of the show haranguing the cast and audience members in a sharp-tongued, waspish manner, he was also very funny when working with the dame..

The tongue-twisters and corny jokes were about as far from Dickens as you can get, yet, so brilliantly did Sally fuse the panto together that by the end, when Ebenezer finally saw the error of his ways, he struck a chord of genuinely warming Christmas cheer.

All the cast are to be praised for their exceptional performances, especially Hannah who has been great in every Panto I can remember seeing in the Boxford Village hall.

One of these days the audience will learn to applaud the sets put together by the BDG, I think I will start a new trend. Musical direction has much improved over the years largely due to the efforts of Ward Baker and Gareth Price. This year it was Dawn Mace who provided the Christmas Dinner, cooked to perfection. Well done everyone.

This panto may have had Dickens turning in his grave but it had us laughing our heads off and almost joining him.

Ed



Scrooge refuses to give money to Hannah Murphy



Dancing with joy at the prospect of wedding Carol, (Belle)

Boxford Bounty

Winners November – December 2013

The Boxford Bounty would like to thank members Box River News Delivery Team and Boxford Bounty Collectors for drawing the following numbers at their social evening on Thu 14th November 2013

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£75.00 ANNE SNOOK FITZGERALD MEADOW
£30.00 CHRIS SOUTHGATE HOMEFIELD
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Mark Miller 01787 211596

DEFIBRILLATOR DEMONSTRATION



Peter Hibben demonstrates CPR watched by Vic Rice president of 3PR

On 9th December the Three Parishes Response Group gave a public demonstration of CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and demonstrated how the new community public access defibrillator operated. The CPAD is to be installed in the entrance arch of the Fleece and should be up and running before Christmas.



A member of the audience tries her hand at CPR

THREE PARISHES RESPONSE

3PR NEEDS

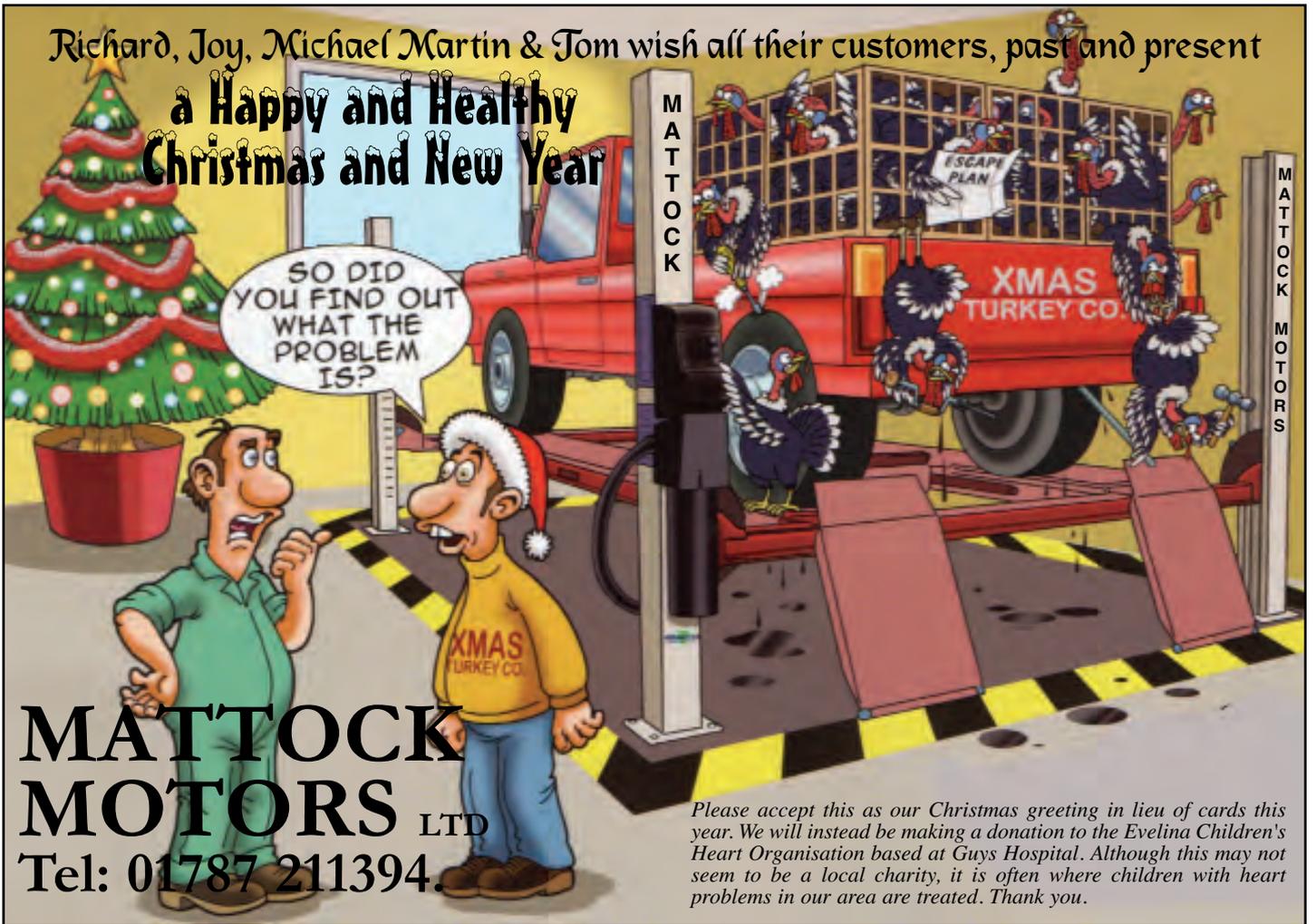
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Fresh Faced and Fabulous for '14

How about a New Year Resolution that you can stick to this year... One that will help you look and feel great?

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ANNUAL PUMPKIN COMPETITION



Photo Charlie Watson

The Fox and Hounds pub was packed to the brim with pumpkins and people for the 2013 pumpkin competition organised by Les Snell.

£400 was raised in aid of the Stroke Association, with the winning pumpkin grown by Gordon Williams, this year weighing in at a massive 208lbs, and taking several men to lift onto the scales!

BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL December Draw Results

1st No 170	S Grimwood	Swan Street	£40
2nd No 112	Mrs Young	White St Green	£20
3rd No 117	Karen Whymark	Assington	£10
4th No 99	S Watling	Daking Ave	£5

Von Eileen and Shirley wish all members a Happy Christmas and New Year
Next draw will be January 7th at the Bingo
If you would like tickets for the Village Hall Draw telephone 01787 210640
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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Another wonderful response to our shoebox campaign again! The village filled 186 boxes this year - our highest total yet.

The lorry left Sudbury bound for Belarus on Saturday 7th December and in the words of Nena Harding, our District Co-ordinator

"filled with love for the children". We are told that many children have never received a present before and can't believe that someone cares enough to send them one. To all those who helped us with bags of toys, knitted hats, gloves and scarves and to those who filled their own boxes we can't thank you enough. Also thanks to all who supported us at the "Cream tea afternoon" and the cake stall and coffee morning. We all enjoyed them and hope you did too.

Please get the knitting needles out again for next year - Ann has patterns

MILDEN CC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



photo David Lamming

The Milden Cricket Club 2013 annual awards dinner was held at Edwardstone Village Hall on Saturday 30 November 2013. As can be observe, there was curry on the menu!

Pat Humphries received the Player of the Year award.

WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATIVE SERIES

It was some time in 2012 that I began to think about the 100th anniversary of WWI and how the Box River News could play it's part. Knowing Barry Thorpes great interest in 'The Great War' I arranged to see him and discuss some of my ideas. Originally we thought we might have a monthly diary to run throughout the period of the war but that was going to be too onerous a task for any one person to research so we settled on trying to find out as much about the folk from the Box River Benefice villages who played their part in the war and publish their personal stories each month throughout 2014.

Barry threw himself into the project with a great deal of enthusiasm and we had regular updating meetings until Barry reached a point when, through ill health, it was necessary to pass the research on to someone else and that is when Tina Loose, Chairman of the Boxford Society came in to carry out research and co-ordinate the efforts of representatives from each of our villages. As a result we now have copy for each of the twelve issues to be published in 2014. The first of the articles to commemorate World War I and the people who lived in this area during the war years from August 1914 to November 1918 is published in this issue.

Sadly Barrie died on the 9th of June 2013 and will not see the fruits of his labour. The series to be published throughout 2014 is dedicated to his memory.

Eddie

Christmas Day On The Somme

'Twas Christmas Day on the Somme
The men stood on parade,
The snow laid six feet on the ground
Twas twenty in the shade.

Up spoke the Captain 'gallant man',
"Just hear what I've to say,
You may not have remembered that
Today is Christmas Day."

"The General has expressed a wish
This day may be observed,
Today you will only work eight hours,
A rest that's well deserved.

I hope you'll keep yourselves quite clean
And smart and spruce and nice,
The stream is frozen hard
But a pick will break the ice."

"All men will get two biscuits each,
I'm sure you're tired of bread,
I'm sorry there's no turkey
but there's Bully Beef instead.

The puddings plum have not arrived
But they are on their way,
I'll guarantee they'll be in time
To eat next Christmas Day."

"You're parcels would have been in time
But I regret to say
The vessel which conveyed them was
Torpedoed on the way.

The Quartermaster's got your rum
But you may get some yet,
Each man will be presented with
A Woodbine Cigarette."

"The Huns have caught us in the rear
And painted France all red,
Pray do not let that trouble you,
Tomorrow you'll be dead.

Now ere you go I wish you all
This season of good cheer,
A very happy Christmas and
A prosperous New Year."



This is the first of a series of 12 monthly articles to commemorate World War I and the people who lived in this area during the war years from August 1914 to November 1918. Some have relatives living here today.

This month we present selected extracts from 'Many a Summer' by Hardiman Scott, published 1991, which tells the life story of George Everett, a young farm worker from Boxford. George was the author's neighbour in Butchers Lane and he still has relatives in the village.

BOXFORD MEN AND HORSES OFF TO WAR



George Everett at his home of 60 years in Butchers Lane and inset, in uniform.

During the early months of the war not much news filtered through to the village. Some men had been in the Territorials, and a few others joined up immediately on the outbreak of war. Occasionally a family lost a son or a husband, and the village shared in the grief and the mourning.

"I remember early on one fellow coming back from France. He'd been in the trenches, and he'd still got blood on his great-coat. I knew it wouldn't be long before I'd have to go." So as the months lengthened, the war at last began to have its impact upon the village; the

men started to leave; and the Army came to look for horses.

The work of the land was more urgent than ever, but so was the demand for transport, and that meant the four-legged kind. Some farmers hid their horses when the Army came looking for them, either because the animals were too valuable on the farm, or because their owners could not bear to part with them.

On Friday the military authorities were busy in the Sudbury district commandeering horses. Some of the finest horseflesh in the neighbourhood was taken. Vans, dogcarts and other vehicles, to which were attached suitable horses, were stopped on the roads, and the horses demanded. The process was short, sharp and decisive. "I want your horse." "Suppose I don't want to part with it." "I must have it. What price?" "Fifty guineas." "I give you £45. Take it out and remove the harness."

George remembers a couple of officers visiting Mr Lilley's farm, looking at the horses, and making an offer for one of his favourites - the bay with the white stockings, Matchet. George took the animal, and another from a neighbouring farm, to Ipswich, where the Army were making use of a local sale yard.

"There was a sergeant-major there, and I told him where we came from. We exchanged some papers, and I handed the horses over. He said to me, "Well, are you going to stay with them?" "No," I said, "I shan't do that - not today, I won't. I'll leave it till after Christmas."

George returned to the farm, but already he knew that in a few months he would be leaving his Suffolk home for the first time in his life. Until then, the fifteen-mile journey to Ipswich was the furthest he had been.

Early in the new year of 1915 there was news of Zeppelin raids on the coast. It was said that Great Yarmouth and Cromer, in Norfolk, had been bombed, and in April a Zeppelin dropped bombs on the Suffolk coastal

towns of Lowestoft and Southwold. Full reports of the raid were given to the newspapers, but rumours were as freely available as fact, and they penetrated as far inland as Boxford. It was even said that the Germans were going to attempt an invasion from the sea.

George decided he would wait no longer, and in May 1915 he returned to Ipswich to join up. "It was Whit Tuesday, and I joined the RASC. They sent me home for a week and told me to come back the next Monday. So I did, and I found they had put me in the Suffolk Regiment."

(The Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) was responsible for land, coastal and lake transport; air despatch; supply of food, water, fuel, and general domestic stores; administration of barracks; the Army Fire Service; and provision of staff clerks to headquarters units.)

He had had a healthy open-air life and was undoubtedly strong, but on the day he joined the Army, George, at five feet nine, was slight of build and weighed no more than nine stones. He was a handsome young man, with a long oval face, well-set eyes, and a strong nose. He also boasted a crisp, slanting moustache. George was immediately packed off by train with all the other recruits to the barracks at Bury St Edmunds to be kitted out.

Ipswich Horses Commandeered.

The sale of some seventy horses, commandeered by the military authorities, took place at the yard of Messrs Spurling and Hempsion on Saturday afternoon. The owners represented all classes of the community. The task of selecting suitable horses was entrusted to a sergeant, who, accompanied by some of his men, had made a tour through the streets of Ipswich during the morning. The drivers in each case were informed that the presence of their animals was required at the yard mentioned at three o'clock. In the majority of cases they showed small reluctance in parting with the horses, for which a fair price was given. Previous to their examination the horses were drawn up outside the yard. They appeared a fine strong set of animals, and in every way fitted for their new role.

The following day George left for Felixstowe, where he did his infantry training. He was billeted to a house in Queen's Road. "We slept on straw palliasses laid on three boards on low trestles. We had to fill our own straw mattresses. And we were issued with rough brown blankets."

At night in the billet, during the day on the field behind the railway station, where the young recruits did their arms drill, or by the sea front, where the bayonet fighting was done, George still heard the familiar Suffolk voices around him. They helped to assuage the empty feeling of absence from the people and surroundings he had known all his life. He was reluctant to acknowledge homesickness, because in his practical-minded way he knew that what he was doing had to be done, and he might as well get on with it and make the best of it. Sometimes he thought of the possibility of being killed, but considering it more for the effect it would have upon his parents and his home than as something to be feared for himself.

The raucous shouting of orders, sergeants who treated rookies as though they were imbeciles, the marching up and down, the drilling with the Lee Enfield Mark 3, the proximity of the other men, sweating and swearing, the ribaldry of this new khaki life, were all an incongruous contrast with the low moaning of cattle before being fed, the grunting and rooting of pigs, and the soft plod of the horse drawing the plough, and yet George found he was adjusting rapidly, without thinking too much about what was happening.

"I never thought about the reason for the war, or anything like that. We weren't thinking of politics at that time. It was the war, and that was that, and I had my training to do. You were supposed to be a fully-trained soldier in three months. Well, I didn't find it all that difficult. Eventually I came home on draft leave, and I remember going up to the farm along of my father and giving him a bit of a hand in the harvest field. That all seemed very strange after the bayonet practice. The beer was better then, and I think it was a bit darker too - tuppence a pint for mild, and there was a very dark and strong beer at threepence a pint.

Writing to a friend in Ipswich, Driver H. Collaby, 14th Brigade, R.H.A., says:-
 We have had rough times lately, but have got through them all right. We are having snow out here, so you can guess what it is like in the trenches behind the guns. We have plenty of good warm clothing to keep the cold out, but what the boys want are gloves and Balaclava caps.
 2nd Dec. 1914 Suffolk Free Press

One day three of us were in a farm holding our horses, when a shell came-'Jack Johnsons' we call them-and struck the farmhouse. It hurt none of us, but it killed two of the horses we were holding. They make holes in the ground that you could nearly bury a horse in. I have seen a team of horses killed by them, and not a driver standing by them hurt.
 There is one consolation: we get good food and plenty of it, and a drop of rum before we retire for the night.

Altogether I spent a year at Felixstowe, and then joined the London Regiment for service in France. There were a hundred of us from the Suffolk Regiment that went to London that day. I shall never forget it, because when we got off the train at Liverpool Street station, we had to march to Waterloo, and we even got jeered at as we went through the streets of London. People shouted at us that we were conscripts. I suppose that was because they had taken our numerals and our cap badges away from us as we were going to join another regiment. We went on to Winchester, and that's where we joined up with the 24th London Regiment. That was June 1916.

We stayed at Winchester for a week, and then sailed for France. We went overnight from Southampton to Le Havre. That was a calm night, and our lot went below decks. I remember thinking to myself, 'Well, this is it, boy,' and wondering where we were going and what it would be like. When we got to Le Havre we spent a week under canvas. Then we set off up the line to somewhere near Loos. It was the first of July - the day the Battle of the Somme began"

It was during these days of forcing his horses and limbers through the mud with supplies for the big push to come that George had an experience that brought back, with a vivid nostalgia, memories of his life in Suffolk. On his section there was one water point where he had to go load his water cart. 'One day there was an artillery bloke there with his horse. "Do you know," I said to him, "that little horse you've got there, I think I knew her in 1914." He stared at me. "Go on," he said. "Yes, I believe I did." I told him. I looked at her, and I knew her all right. She was a bay and she'd got four white stockings. "I don't know what you call her now, I said, "but I know what we called her when she was broken in for work." Then I called her. "Matchet", I called. She pricked up her ears at once. She was the same horse, that she was - the horse that I took to the Army at Ipswich. When you work with a horse and get to know her, that's like a friend. You always know her.'

Matchet was one of the two cross-bred horses that George used when he first learned to plough. That day at the water point on the Somme was the last time he saw her. He never discovered what happened to her after that, or if she survived the war.

In 1917 George had news of the death of his brother, Morris. He died of wounds, aged 22. The news came in a letter from his sister.It's funny how somehow I had come to accept everything - the bombardment, the gunfire, the mud and the filth, the wounded and the dead. But now it was my own brother, and I thought of my mother again. I knew how it would affect her, and I more or less prayed that I would be spared.'

Undoubtedly George owed his survival in large measure to the skill he displayed in handling his horses under shell fire and his Suffolk wariness and judgement. He nevertheless had some 'narrow squeaks'.

'One summer's day (1918), I was unloading my horse at Lillers station, and as I was standing there I saw in the train another Boxford man - a

HORSES FOR THE ARMY.
What Canada Can Do.

The motor car is being utilised in the present war to an extent hitherto unknown and undreamt of, but on the other hand never before has war made such a demand on horses for the artillery, the cavalry and other mounted branches of the service. The wastage has naturally been enormous. Whole batteries of artillery have had to be left behind by the retreating armies, the horses having been killed, and the cavalry of all the armies has had an enormous mortality among its mounts. Whence can this loss be made good? Canada at an early stage of the war adopted a patriotic policy in regard to its supply of horses, and it is from that part of the Empire that the British War Office will hope to secure a large part of its requirements. From the three prairie provinces alone it is computed, according to a cablegram from the Hon. W. J. Roche, Minister of the Interior, to the High Commissioner for Canada in London, that 30,000 of the finest cavalry and artillery horses in the world can be drawn, and the other provinces can enormously augment these highly creditable figures.
 14th Oct 1914 Suffolk Free Press

A further early report mentions the the Native Americans of Canada (The Blackfeet Nation) offering their services at the front and a readiness to supply horses for the cavalry. Meanwhile Groton people organise a whist drive to raise funds for helmets and belts for the Navy and for the Belgian refugees who are arriving in large numbers after Germany invades Belgium.

chap called Chase Gunn. He was going home on leave. The coincidence of seeing a bloke from my own village out there made me think about home again, and I began to wonder if I would ever get there.....The next time I was to see Chase was in the village after the war. He became a bus driver for Eastern Counties.

'A dispatch rider rode up (November 11th 1918) and told us the armistice had been signed. There was a moments silence, and then we burst out cheering. Suddenly you felt safe. That made you almost light headed with relief. I thought of my mother.' (At this time George was made a full Corporal and shortly after he was given a ribbon for a military medal). 'I never knew exactly what I got it for. Of course they told me at the time, but I reckon I was too far gone to remember. I suppose it was for getting the rations up to the front at sometime or other.' (It was the morning after great liquid celebrations with French soldiers in a local Inn where they had all changed uniforms with each other!)

..In February 1919 he returned to England. He was demobbed at Thetford, in Norfolk, and returned to his parents at 6, Butchers Lane, Boxford, the small cottage where he was to live for the next sixty years.

Tina and Roger Loose

S END two penny stamps to
 —Newball & Mason,
 Nottingham, and they will
 send you enough Mason's
 Extract of Herbs to
 make a gallon of Re-
 freshing Herb Beer. **GOOD**
 it's
 Mason's.

Durbar
 BOOT POLISH
 Wins EVERY TIME
 BRILLIANT FOR SHINING - KILLS INSECTS
 GREAT SHINING & PROTECTIVE
 SO FREE SAMPLE
 The Durbar Boot Polish Co. Ltd
 305-307 CHURCH ST. BRISTOL

This is the ideal
 loaf for the
 TEA TABLE.

REYNOLDS'
WHEATMEAL
BREAD. 125 Gold Medal

Your regular Baker Will Supply. Ask for
J. REYNOLDS & CO., Ltd., Flour Mills,
 Gloucester.

NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Community Car Scheme, Boxford and Hadleigh

If you have a medical appointment and need transport, we may be able to help. Our car scheme is run entirely by volunteer helping the community. For more information please ring Sue Green on 01787 210603
We charge 45p per mile.

Lottery Award for Groton Village Hall



Yes - we are celebrating! It's the management team of Groton Village Hall celebrating a lottery grant to update the hall kitchen. As many of you know the kitchen is very basic BUT not for much longer. On the 6th of January 2014 the builders will move in, remove the old kitchen, insulate the walls and floor then build a new kitchen complete with dishwasher, water heater and new cooker. Very exciting and it's all thanks to a lottery grant. We will keep you informed of progress.

MEN GOLFERS WILL SIT ON THRONE

Golfers at Newton Green have competed for a miniature throne - and help raise nearly £300 for victims of the Philippines hurricane disaster. Two teams of 36 players took part in the annual challenge match between the ladies and seniors section of the club, with the winners lifting the Water Closet Trophy.

The seniors hosted the competition this year, with section captain Bill Havers making a popular decision to divert the proceeds of a raffle to victims of the hurricane.

Local Poppy Appeal

Thanks once again to the generosity of people in Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton, the recent local poppy collections have generated well over £2,000 to help the Royal British Legion in its vital work. On behalf of the Legion, I would like to thank all the house-to-house collectors for their hard work and dedication.

Thanks also to the various local organisations who purchased wreaths or made space for collecting boxes, and to Boxford School whose staff and pupils have given their usual support at Remembrancetide. The donations at the special service in Boxford Church made a significant contribution to the above sum. *Brian Jones* Local Poppy Appeal Organiser

Newton Poppy Appeal

All Saints Church	£143.00
Saracens Head	£49.07
House to House collection	406.00
Parish Council	40.00
Golf Club	186.00
Village Green Trust	200.00
Total	1024.07

Groton Calendar 2015

A few photos have already been submitted for our next year's calendar, but just to remind you that we would like seasonal photos of any Groton venue and so if we get any snow or hoar frosts etc, please remember to get out there with your camera, and get snapping during the winter months, and then please send them to me, either by post or email [Jpegs please] with your name, the venue, and the month. Pat Kennedy Scott, Groton House, Groton, Sudbury, CO10 5EH or pkenscott@tiscali.co.uk

BOXFORD BOUNTY

The time of year is with us once again, for the Boxford Bounty collectors to come knocking at your door asking for your continued support. The local lottery for The three villages provides financial support for many local groups and interests. The following groups have benefited from direct grants in the past few years:

1st Boxford Brownies • 1st Boxford Guides Boxford • Netball Club
Carpet Bowls Club • Edwardstone Village Hall • Breast Cancer Care
Ladies Bowls Club • Over Sixties Club • Boxford Tennis Club
Boxford Spinney • Edwardstone Mill Green Trust • Friends Of Boxford School • Sunflower Playgroup • BoxRiver Club • Bowls Club
Boxford Playingfields • Boxford Village Hall • Boxford Rovers
Boxford United Charities • 1st Boxford Scouts • Boxford Cycle Club
Tickets are available at a cost of £10.00 per year, which guarantees entry to six draws. The prizes for each draw are:

1st Prize £ 160 • **2nd Prize** £ 75 • **3rd Prize** £ 30 • **4th Prize** £ 15

If you would like to buy a ticket for the Boxford Bounty and have not been visited by a collector please apply directly by sending a cheque made payable to BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL to the following address:

Boxford Bounty, 39, Daking Ave, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 5QA
Or ring Mark Miller on 01787 211596

e-mail mark.miller@talktalk.net

and we will arrange a call from your local collector.

COLLECTORS NEEDED

If you have an outgoing personality, love walking, enjoy meeting people and would like to do something to support the community please contact Mark for further details.

The Boxford Bounty is organised on behalf of Boxford Community Council registered charity No 304862

THE RIVER STOUR TRUST

Would you like to skipper an electric launch on Constable's beautiful River Stour?

The River Stour Trust is looking for volunteers to join its team of skippers and crew operating its fleet of electric launches on the River Stour in Suffolk, made famous in John Constable's paintings.

The launches carry visitors to the river on trips from Flatford and Sudbury on weekends from April to October.

The 21ft launches are simplicity itself to drive, with smooth, quiet electric motors, and maximum speeds of 4mph. Anyone who can handle a sailing boat or motorboat will be able to drive one, but if you have never driven a boat before, then full training, and familiarisation with the river will be provided, or you could join the support crews.

The river is peaceful, with just swans and occasional rowing boats to negotiate, and you will find yourself drifting back 200 years to the days when it was a busy commercial waterway, with 50ft lighters towed in pairs by horses through 13 locks from the sea to Sudbury.

Or you can join the elite team operating our restored River Stour Lighter. 50ft long, with two powerful electric drives, it is a test of skill to manoeuvre this 160-year-old craft through locks, with only inches to spare.

The boats operate every weekend, and occasional weekdays, but you can volunteer for as many or few days as you wish.

Or you may like to join our work parties, restoring locks and the navigation.

For more information contact: administrator@riverstourtrust.org

Tel: 01787 313199. Or visit: www.riverstourtrust.org

NEWTON CELEBRATES SPECIAL YEAR

Newton Green Golf Club has held a celebration evening to mark the most successful playing year in more than 100 years.

Suffolk Golf Union president Ron Kent and Suffolk Ladies' president Pippa Beck, along with county ladies' captain Laura Low - a member at Newton - were among guests at the function.

The county presidents presented miniature trophies to members of the club's successful sides, in an evening introduced by recently appointed acting club chairman Peter Philpott.

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy for Clerk to the Council

16 hours a month

For further details and job description

please contact Clerk Sandra Gray Tel 01787 211465

Wot's On

FUN & GAMES NIGHT

BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL. We will once again be holding our Annual Fun & Games Night in Boxford Village Hall on Saturday 25 January 2014. Teams of 8 contestants will battle through the various indoor games and quizzes to claim the prestigious title. A fun night is promised for all with a licensed bar, raffle and refreshments. The evening will commence at 7.30 with registration and the first round of games at 7.50 promptly. Ticket prices are £48 per team. We have a limit of 16 teams so if you don't want to be disappointed please contact Stephanie Atkins on 01787 210444 or Mark Miller on 01787 210596, or alternatively e-mail Mark on Mark.Miller@talktalk.net We would like to get all teams listed before Christmas and, if you are not in a team but would like to help, please also let us know. It is never too early to book your place, so book it now!

Little Waldingfield Parish Room

Our programme for 2014 will start with a quiz on 8th February. Following the success of the November quiz, which was over subscribed, please contact Sue on 247173 as soon as you can to book a table.. Other dates for your diary. As last year's Themed Supper was so popular there will be another one on 12th April. Our Coffee morning will be on 6th September and the next quiz is on 25th October.

February 8 Quiz Night

Lt Waldingfield Parish Room Parish Room 7.00pm

April 12 Themed Supper

Lt Waldingfield Parish Room Parish Room 7.00pm

September 6 Coffee Morning

Lt Waldingfield Parish Room Parish Room 10.30am

October 25 Quiz Night

Lt Waldingfield Parish Room Parish Room 7.00pm

"FITNESS CLASSES - Boxford

Wednesday 7.00 - 8.00pm at Boxford Primary School, commencing 4 September. A variety of exercise techniques including circuit, weights, aerobic work and stretches. Open to both men and women. Friday 9.15 - 10.15am at Boxford Spinney, commencing 6 September. A more gentle class with objectives to improve co-ordination, balance and keeping strong in later life (50+). Both classes are payable by the term. Call 211822"

Boxford Over 60's Club (for all ages)

We will resume our meetings in the Village Hall on Monday 20th January starting at 2.30pm

I look forward to seeing you all again and anyone who would like to come along and join us in 2014.

We meet for approx 2.25 hours for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. We have a quiz or game of cards etc. and occasionally Bingo.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a very Happy New Year

Shirley Watling 210024

Box River Knitstitch Group

We now meet at Mary's House in Swan Street from 2.30pm to 4.30pm every Monday 3pm to 4.30pm. Bring your own projects to work on and get inspiration and help from others. For further details phone 01787 211488 or 01206 263301

Leavenheath Village Hall Digital Cinema

Tickets £3.50 per adult, £2.00 per young person
Telephone: Lesley (01206 262505) or Ken (01206 263266) for tickets
Arrive 7.00pm Film starts 7.30pm Sat Jan 4th - 'About Time'

Polstead Cinema Polstead Village Hall

Tickets £3.50 from the Polstead Community Shop or 01787 210029

All films start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm

17th January Blue Jasmine

Art in the time of War

Stoke by Nayland WEA course of 10 lectures in Stoke by Nayland Village Hall starting 16th January 2014 Cost £47

Tutor: Michael Baldrey, Michael was a police officer for 30 years and now teaches art history at the Institute for Continuing Education at Madingley Hall, and also for the WEA in Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex and at the Suffolk College in Ipswich. He has a particular interest in the social and political influences on art. This year we commemorate 100 years since the start of World War 1, and this course will look at mainly 20th century conflict and the way artists (some of whom came from this

region) portrayed its various aspects. Come to the first session or please contact Sue Whiteley for further information, Phone: 01787 210945

BOXFORD WI

Like many other organisations we had our Christmas celebrations at this month's meeting.

One of our members organised a most enjoyable quiz, which included some mathematics, recognising local landmarks and identifying the months that various newspaper headlines appeared.

The Christmas themed refreshments and mulled fruit juice was provided by the committee. Everyone had a present from the Santa sack as they were leaving.

To complete the Christmas festivities several of the members decorated a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in the church. All the knitted decorations were made by the craft group.

Future Meetings

January 8th - Village Hall - 2pm

Baltimore Quilts with an English Twist - a talk by Shirley Bloomfield.

February 5th - Village Hall - 2pm

Colour Expert - Thomasin Newton.

DOG WALKER/TRAINER

Experienced dog walker, good rate.

References available.

I am used to a wide range of dogs.

Looking to take on new clients either permanent or occasional.

I am also an experienced trainer only using positive reinforcement methods

Mobile 07939563282



BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Fun & Games Night
Saturday 24th January 2014
7.30pm for 8.00pm prompt start!
BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL
£48 per team - Max. 8 in a team
Contact Stephanie Atkins 01787 21044
Mark Miller 01787 210596
mark.miller@talktalk.net
BoxfordCommunityCouncil@gmail.com
www.boxfordme.uk
Registered Charity No: 308869

Wot's On

BOXFORD GARDENING SOCIETY

Unless otherwise stated, meetings take place on the FIRST Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in Boxford Village Hall and guests (£5 each) are very welcome. Just turn up! For any other information, please contact Events and Outings Organiser, Rosie Osborne as above.

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD VILLAGE WALKS

We meet at the Pavilion on the Playing Field at 10.00. a.m. on the first Sunday of each month. Walks usually take an hour to an hour and a half but there are opportunities at various points for people to return by shorter routes. Walks finish at the pavilion where light refreshments are provided. Anyone may make a donation to the Playing Field funds before, or after, the Walk.

2014 dates all Sundays: 12th Jan, 3rd Feb, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May..... 6th Oct, 3rd Nov & 1st Dec

Little Waldingfield History Society - History in the making

Jan. Roger Lane, Free members only event, featuring a display of fine evocative prints from original paintings by Roger, a local artist who lives in Acton.

19th Feb Dr Nick Sign, Boudica and the Iceni 60-61 AD

12th Mar John Cashmore, 487th USAAF Bombardment Group (H) - Lavenham Airfield, "Gentlemen From Hell". The Group had several 'claims to fame' and this talk will present the famous Mission 760 of 24th December 1944, John will also be showing examples of original equipment used by the American airman during their time at Lavenham.

9th Apr Chris Bowden, Printing in the 19th century

All talks will be at the Parish Room in Church Road, Little Waldingfield, commencing at 7.30 pm sharp. Please book & pay in advance to guarantee your place as seats are limited.

Booking Secretary: Diana Langford, Pitt Cottage. Phone: 01787 248298
Tickets Members £2.00 Non Members £4.00

Membership of LWHS costs £10.00 per person pa and entitles each member to the following benefits:

- Reduced price entry to LWHS events;
- Access to Suffolk Local history and other local events;
- Access to the Suffolk Review; and
- Access to exclusive LWHS member events

Little Waldingfield History Society hosts about 10 local history talks or other events each year on a wide variety of historical subjects with general appeal to members and guests alike. All talks are held monthly on a Wednesday evening commencing at 7.30 pm, in the lovely Parish Room in Church Road, Little Waldingfield. Presentations are summarised after the event and can be viewed on the Little Waldingfield community website, along with the programme of events:

<http://littlewaldingfie.waldorf.onesuffolk.net/organisations/local-history/>
Current fees are £2.00 for members, £4.00 for non-members which includes light refreshments.

Newton Bridge

The next drives are 6th January and 3rd February. Hope to see you all then. Alan Vince 01787 373963

Christmas Tree Festival at Lamarsh

Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd December, 10 am to 6 pm.

Come again to Holy Innocents Church, Lamarsh to enjoy some pre-Christmas magic (this is our second Festival) – a church filled with lights and trees decorated by local people, in themes from countries all over the world. Hot fruit punch and other refreshments will be available, or you could go on for a meal at the Lamarsh Lion (pre-booking advised).

Entry free: donations to the church. Parking at the Village Hall, Henny Road, CO8 5EU.

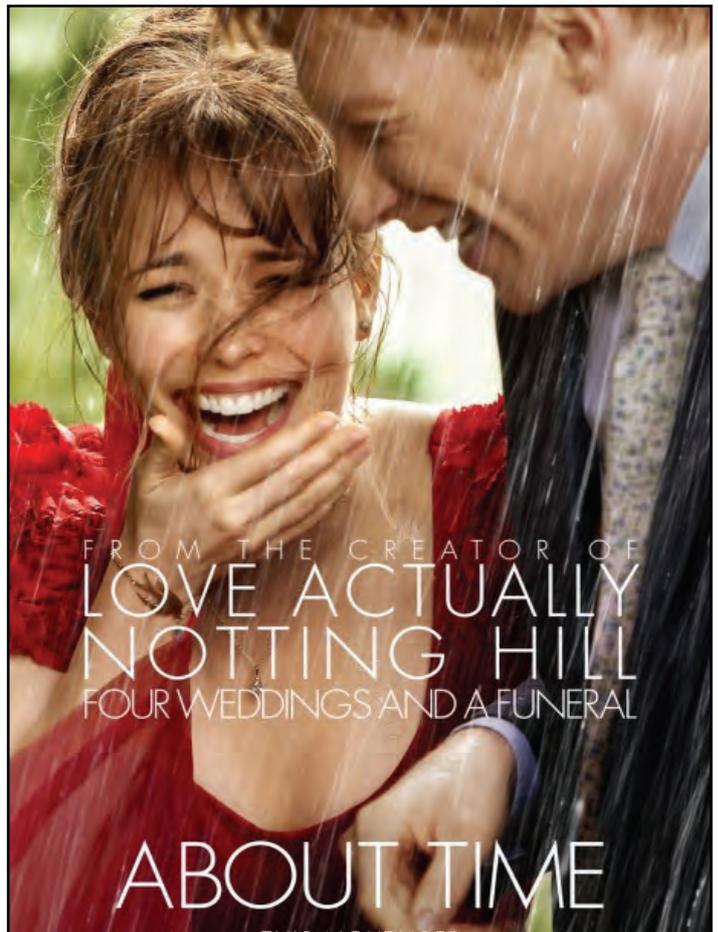
Enquiries to Fiona Adedotun – tel 01787 228707.

Christmas at the Stoke by Nayland Club

Thursday 26th December – Tribute Act: Ian Gallagher as Frank Sinatra
Ian Gallagher is widely regarded as the finest Big Band vocalist and Frank Sinatra impersonator in the UK. Tickets cost £10.

Friday 28th December – Comedy & Curry Night

The hilarious House of Stand Up returns to Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa. Tickets cost £18. **Sunday 29th December** – Tribute Act: Chelsea Francis as Adele. Tickets cost £10. **Tuesday 31st December** – New Year's Eve Gala Ball. See ad for details **Tuesday 31st December** – New Year's Eve Supper & Disco. For more information call 01206 265837 or email sales@stokebynayland.com.



LEAVENHEATH CINEMA SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY

Arrive 7.00pm Film starts 7.30pm (12A 124 mins with 20mins interval)

Tickets £3.50 per adult and £2.00 per young person

Telephone: Lesley (01206 262505) or Ken (01206 263266) for tickets

Refreshments (wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee, tea and ice creams) will be available



Polstead Digital Cinema Friday 17th January

Tickets £3.50 from the Polstead Community Shop or 01787 210029

All films start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm

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Wednesday 8th January - FILM: NOW YOU SEE ME (12A) £5.00 (£4.50 Friends) 2pm & 7:30pm
Thursday 9th January - FILM CLUB: WOODY ALLEN - £35.00 for season / £10.00 one off 10.30am
Sunday 12th January - ROCK AROUND THE SIXTIES - THE NEW HONEYCOMBS - These 4 great musicians and vocalists recreate the silver sounds of the Sixties. £13.00 (£12.00 Friends) 7.30pm
Wednesday 15th January - FILM: A HIJACKING (2012) (15) - £5.00 (£4.50 Friends) 2pm & 7.30pm
Friday 17th January - LEWIS SCHAFFER 'FREE UNTIL FAMOUS' - Fast talking, award winning New York comedian. NO UNDER 16s! Free show - collection after - give if you've laughed! 7.30pm
Saturday 18th January - ANGELA BROWNIDGE: CLASSICAL PIANO RECITAL - Hailed as "one of the world's finest pianists" by the New York Times. Popular classics and Gershwin! £12.00 (£11.00 Friends) 7.30pm
Sunday 19th January - FILMED PRODUCTION: PROKOFIEV'S CINDERELLA - Acclaimed 2011 production by the Birmingham Royal Ballet. £6.00 Adults £4.00 Children (includes tea/coffee) 3pm
Sunday 19th January - Quay Fundraisers presents: OPEN MUSIC NIGHT - All welcome. Bring your instruments and join the fun for FREE in The Quay Bar 7.30pm
Wednesday 22nd January - FILM: THE WAY WAY BACK (12A) - £5.00 (£4.50 Friends) 2pm & 7.30pm
Saturday 25th January - BOND IS BACK! - Gavin Robertson's solo comedy show pits Bond against Ian Fleming and features the smallest car chase (n)ever seen! £12.00 (£11.00 Friends) 7.30pm
Sunday 26th January - QUAY HISTORY SUNDAYS presents ROBIN DRURY: UNTOLD STORIES OF SUDBURY MILL and ROGER GREEN: DISCOVERING THE GREEN MAN - £7.00 OR season tickets (6 evenings) for £36.00 7.30pm
Friday 31st January - STEVE CHERELLE & FRIENDS, MARSHALL KING & LUCY LEIGH - Including the music of Dolly Parton, John Denver, Johnny Cash, Neil Diamond and more! £13.00 (£12.00 Friends) 7.30pm



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Boxford Calendar 2014



£7.00 per copy

Available in Newsagents & Post office. Same size as last year but now folded for easy postage. Proceeds to Church funds

Forthcoming Events Diary

December

23 Christmas Carols at the White Hart Boxfor Community Council TBA

January 2014

6 Newton Bridge		Newton Village Hall	
8 Boxford WI	Baltimore Quilts	Boxford Village Hall	2pm
20 Boxford Over 60's Club		Boxford Village Hall	2.30pm
25 Boxford Community Council	Fun and Games Night	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm

February

3 Newton Bridge		Newton Village Hall	
5 Boxford WI	Colour Expert, Thomson Newton	Boxford Village Hall	2pm
8 Quiz Night	Little Waldingfield Parish Room		7.00pm
19 Little Waldingfield History Soc	Dr Nick Sign, Boudica and the Iceni	Parish Room	7.30pm

March

4 Pancake Lunch	Groton PCC	Mary's House	12.30pm
12 Little Waldingfield History Soc	John Cashmore USAAF	Parish Room	7.30pm
29 Spring Food Market	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	10.30 to 2.30pm

April

9 Little Waldingfield History Soc	Printing in the 19th century	Parish Room	7.30pm
12 Themed Supper	Little Waldingfield Parish Room		7.00pm

September

6 Coffee Morning Little Waldingfield Parish Room 10.30am

October

25 Quiz Night Little Waldingfield Parish Room 7.00pm

First and Third Monday each month Boxford Parish Council Meetings in Bell House, Stone Street St, Boxford 7.30pm



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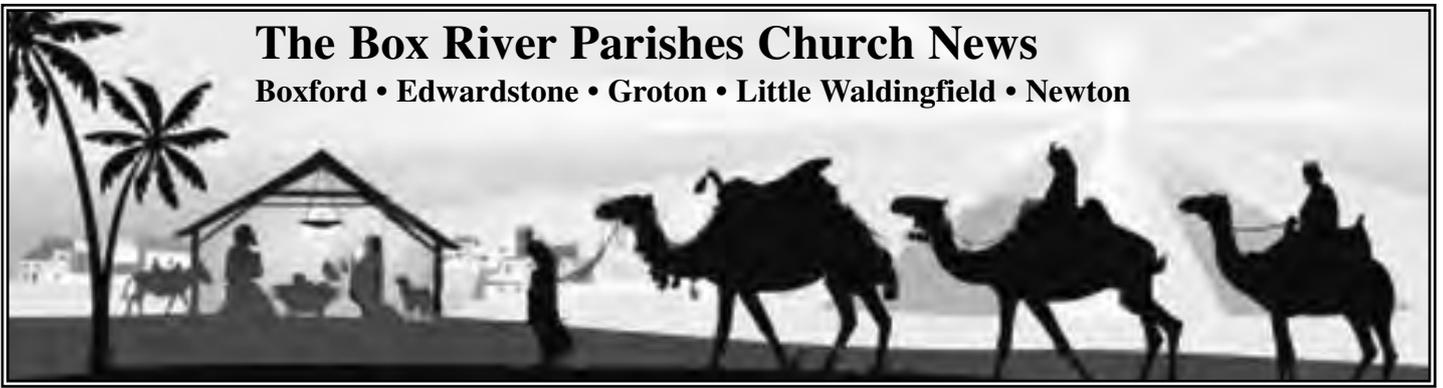
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The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton



LORD OF THE YEARS

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year"—traditional words of greeting on many Christmas cards, but a week after Christmas, as we bid farewell to 2013 and welcome in 2014, maybe for some with colourful fireworks, what are our hopes and expectations for the new year? For the optimist, perhaps for England to win the football World Cup in Brazil! Will it be happy, we wonder, and what are the ingredients for happiness?

One thing we can be sure of is that there will be a welter of books, newspaper articles and TV programmes commemorating (not celebrating, I trust) the start of the first World War 100 years ago in 1914. As we reflect soberly on that four-year period in human history—not, as the events of subsequent decades have sadly shown, the 'war to end all wars'—we can, at the same time, celebrate another centenary in 2014, that of the foundation of our diocese. We look forward, in particular, to the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to the Cathedral on 29th March and to the centenary services to be held in Ipswich on 6th July (do mark these events in your new diaries!) And perhaps we will be inspired by the centenary book 100 Years 100 Treasures to visit our many lovely parish churches across the county of Suffolk.

The theme of the diocesan centenary celebrations is "Pilgrims in Time: 1914 > 2014 > 2114": a reminder, as we look back, that we also look forward to the next 100 years; that as Christians we are a pilgrim people and part of an on going chain of witness to the gospel—the good news—of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. As the writer to the Hebrews put it, having testified to the faith of his Jewish forebears: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses... let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

So, in the words of Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith's well-known hymn: "Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way, sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided, Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today." But also, "Lord, for ourselves... for the future take us, Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone."

A very happy new year!
David Lamming



THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwardens:

Ruth Kingsbury, Rose Cottage,
Sherbourne Street, Edwardstone tel.211236
Peter Patrick, Amberley,
White Street Green. tel 210346

Christmas Tree Festival 2013 - Very many thanks to all the organisations & families who decorated their trees in such imaginative and attractive ways at the Tree Festival this year. Abigail's "pocket panto" was much enjoyed by the children & also the craft corner. The "Pop up Cafe" & hot soup lunches, mulled wine & mince pies were very much enjoyed by lots of visitors. We are very grateful indeed to everyone who helped organise, serve refreshments or helped in any way at all. Your hard work has contributed in making the event very successful & one which was much enjoyed by everyone who visited St. Mary's Church.

Christmas Worship at St. Mary's:

Christmas Eve 24th - 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day 25th - 10.30am Family service - children do bring along a favourite present! Everyone warmly welcome.

Sunday 5th January 2014 at 11.00 am All age Service - Everyone is very welcome to the "1st Sunday" all age services which are informal & have children's craft activities. We do need lots of help for these services though - if you can help or take part in any way please do speak to the Revd Judith

Boxford Calendar 2014: The calendar is still available in our village shops or in church in Boxford - £7.00 each. Proceeds from the sale of the calendars is for the upkeep of the Parish Church.

Volunteers & Help needed: Please do consider if you can help out - even for an hour or two - with any of the following: secretarial work, church cleaning, fundraising events. If you can please contact a church warden.

Looking ahead - On Saturday May 17th: we will be hosting a concert by the Colchester Military Wives choir. Those who came to the concert in May 2013 will surely have found their singing stunningly good - make a date to come in 2014 - on 6.00pm Saturday 17th May - look out for more details soon.

Copy Date for Church News section in the February 2014 Box River News:
Please, NO LATER THAN 14th January Failure to meet the date will mean your copy may not be included

Thank you. Sue Knight. 01787 210785
email address: sedwards1946@btinternet.com

MARY'S HOUSE BOOKINGS

When making a booking, please ensure that a contact name and telephone number is entered clearly in the diary in respect of every booking, as we need to know who to contact in the event of any query over, or the need to change, a booking.

Please also note that the suggested donation is now £1.00 per head for a two-hour booking for all meetings. For inquiries about bookings, please contact Pauline or David Lamming: telephone 210360.

There is now a 2014 diary for bookings in Mary's House





THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:

Vacant (contact PCC if interested in position)

Rota for January 2014

Flowers - Ineke Morris 210761 inekemorris@hotmail.com

Sidesman and teas/coffee duties:

5/1/14 - 0930 - Family Morning Prayer - Pam Dodd/Marlene Clarke

19/1/14 - 0800 - Holy Communion - Pam Dodd

Cleaning - Anita Steel/Emma Driscoll



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens: Jayne Foster:

Ramblers, Bulmer Lane. 211360

Sue Knight:

Cotlee, The Street, Groton; tel 210785

FROM THE REGISTERS – BURIAL IN THE CHURCHYARD: On 14 November 2013, following a funeral service at St Mary's Church, Boxford, the body of Ronald Charles Duce was buried in his wife Betty's grave in Groton churchyard. The ashes of Jean Woolvern, Betty's sister, were interred in the grave at the same time.

PCC MEETING: The PCC will meet at Mary's House at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 7th January 2014. Items for the agenda should be communicated to the secretary, David Lamming (tel: 01787 210360; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com) by Sunday 29th December 2013.

Rota:

Sidesman with Sacristan: Sue Knight and Jo Marchant

Flowers: Jayne Foster

Cleaning: Jayne Foster



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens

Vacant

Rota:

	Sidesman	Flowers
Jan 5	Mr Squirrel	Mrs Roser
Jan 12	Visiting	Mrs Duffy
Jan 19	Mr Bowden & Mrs Ridgeon	Mrs Ewen
Jan 26	Visiting	Mrs Squirrel



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwarden:

Christine Cornell,

"Opus", Sudbury Road, Newton, Tel: 370331

24th November: Our Service of Morning Worship was taken by Revd Judith and the theme of the readings and the address was based on the moving from darkness to the light in the celebration of Advent. Revd Judith reminded us of Benjamin Britten the Suffolk composer, who died in Advent 1976 and whose music grew from darkness into light. Thank you to Michael Colleer who played the organ and to our faithful helpers in all things.

8th December: Our service of Holy Communion was led by Revd Judith who lit the Advent candles and spoke of four "Ws" to think about during this special season. Today it was Watching. This is something that we can all do in our daily lives in a way to be ready to help others.

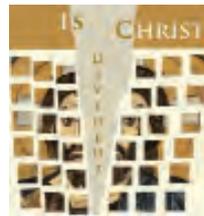
Thank you to Michael Colleer for playing the organ and to all our helpers.

23rd November and 7th December: A BIG Thank You to all the people who made these two events into such a success by organising, helping or attending them.

We wish all a happy, healthy and peaceful 2014.

General Church News

SUDBURY DEANERY SYNOD: The autumn synod meeting on 27th November 2013 heard that the parishes in our deanery are being asked to contribute a total of £426,965 in 'Centenary Share' in 2014. This is a 2.3% increase (£8,484) on what we were asked to pay in 2013 and to achieve payment in full will be a challenge. Here in the Box River Benefice the 'target' given to us by the diocesan office is £56,603, an increase of £2,965. Other benefices, though, are facing much bigger increases in their parish share and a meeting on 9th January 2014 of representatives of the eight benefices in the deanery will look at how they might be helped. As the rural dean, Gregory Webb, said at the synod meeting, "We are a deanery in it together" and we need to focus on giving in grace, responding to God's generosity. Synod also received an update on the Deanery Plan and gave a clear 'steer' to the working group, who will be meeting on 14th January with a view to bringing a more detailed plan to the next synod meeting on 6th March.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The annual Week of Prayer each January offers opportunities to meet and pray with fellow Christians of different denominations. The theme this year is, "Is Christ divided?"

Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have grown accustomed to, as though it were a creaky door that we never seem to get around to fixing? St Paul's words challenge us

as we reflect upon this question. To suggest that disunity is something acceptable is declaring that Christ himself is divided – and that really is a scandal!

2013 was the year in which churches from all inhabited continents of the world gathered in Korea for the 10th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches. We gathered for no other reason than to declare to the world that our disunity is a scandal and that we will go on praying for and working for that unity which is God's gift to the church and to the world.

The Churches of French Canada have chosen for us a key biblical text of the ecumenical movement and have invited us to think about what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith. They have also suggested that we use the Millennium Goals as a focus for our prayers for the world.

The dates and venues of the services/events in Sudbury & District are:
Saturday 18 January, 8.30 am: Prayer Breakfast at Sudbury Baptist Church

Sunday 19 January, 6.30 pm: United Service at United Reformed Church, Sudbury.

Monday 20 January, 12.30 pm at St John's Methodist Church, Sudbury

Tuesday 21 January, 12.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Great Cornard.

Wednesday 22 January, 12.30 pm at Salvation Army, Sudbury.

Thursday 23 January, 12.30 pm at Bures Baptist Church.

Friday 24 January, 12.30 pm at Living Waters Fellowship, Gregory Street, Sudbury.

Saturday 25 January, 8.00 am – 9.30 am: prayer breakfast at St Gregory's Church Hall, Prince Street, Sudbury.

Refreshments will be provided after most services



Please look at the Churches Together website for details of other forthcoming events:

www.churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk.

BISHOP'S BLOG: Our Acting Bishop, Bishop David, writes a regular blog commenting on events around the diocese (and further afield.) You will also find there the text of his presidential address to the November diocesan synod and his Remembrance Sunday sermon at Southwold, "Can we be commanded to love?" Go to <http://bpdt.wordpress.com>.

NEW DIOCESAN BISHOP: The Vacancy in See committee of the diocese holds its first meeting on Friday 24th January 2014. Please pray for the members as they begin consideration of the Statement of Needs of the diocese that will inform the work of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) when it meets later in the year to choose our next diocesan bishop. Watch this space for details of the public consultation to be held in March.

100 YEARS, 100 TREASURES: A celebration of Suffolk Churches Copies of the book, produced to celebrate the centenary of our diocese in 2014, are still available to purchase, price £5.00. Contact David Lamming: Tel 210360; e-mail djlamming@hotmail.com.

Box River Benefice The Church At Worship January 2014

Village Daily Prayers **PLEASE NOTE: NO VILLAGE PRAYERS FROM 23RD DECEMBER - 3RD JANUARY**

Each week, said in the five churches: an informal, friendly service, lasting between 30-40 minutes, with Revd Judith. We pray for those who are ill, concerns of the villages, and for the wider world. Do join us!

Please let Revd Judith know the names or those you would like prayed for, or any situations for prayer:

Confidential messages can be left on tel. 210091 or emailed: rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com. The rota is:

Tuesday 9.00 Edwardstone, 17.00 Little Waldingfield Wednesday 9.00 Groton; Thursday 9.00 Newton, 17.00 Boxford.

Sunday 5th		Epiphany	(W)
Lt Waldingfield	8.00	Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Edwardstone	9.30	Family Morning Prayer/Worship	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00	All Age Service	Revd Judith
Boxford	18.30	Evensong	Christopher Kingsbury

Wednesday 8th
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd Judith

Sunday 12th		Baptism of Jesus and Plough Sunday	(W)
Groton	8.00	Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Newton Green	9.30	Plough Sunday Service	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00	Holy Communion	Revd Judith

Wednesday 15th
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd David Abel

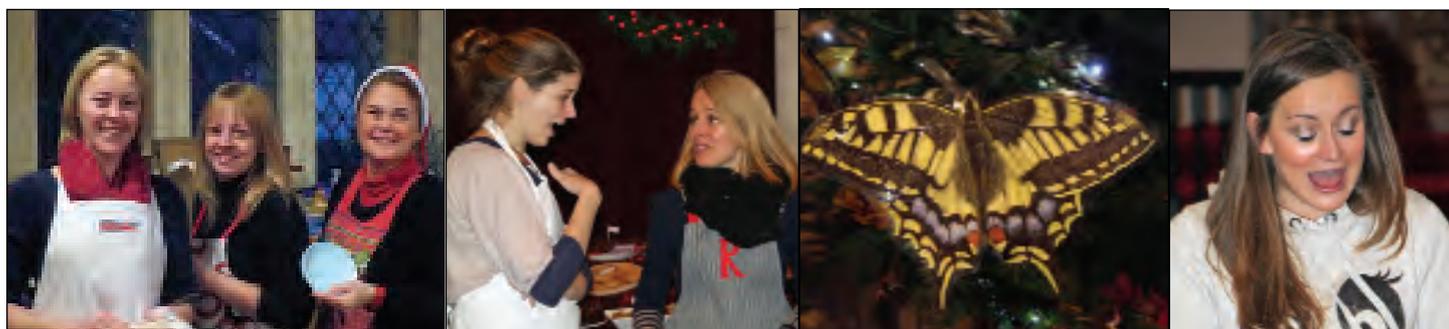
Thursday 16th
Little Waldingfield 19.00 Compline Newmans Hall Tim Harbord

Sunday 19th		Epiphany 2	(W)
Edwardstone	8.00	Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Lt Waldingfield	9.30	Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00	Holy Communion	Revd Judith

Wednesday 22nd
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House Revd Judith

Sunday 26th		Epiphany 3	(W)
Boxford	8.00	Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Groton	9.30	Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Newton	11.00	Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00	Matins	Christopher Kingsbury

Wednesday 29th
Boxford 10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House





CHRISTMAS IN FOREIGN CLIMES

I rather look forward to Christmas. No Bah! Humbug! in our household, believe me. I even enjoy the questionable weather that often accompanies the festive season. Indeed, I empathise with our elder son who, having moved to Australia, confided that Christmas in a heat wave, spending the day itself on the beach with a barbecue, felt wrong somehow. Perhaps that's why he moved back to England.

So Christmas with all the trimmings is what our family has come to expect. Chestnuts roasting by an open fire and all that. OK, we had experimented with an alternative approach once. Relieved of the responsibility of catering for our sons and an unmarried brother, we took ourselves off to a friend's flat that overlooked the sea at Felixstowe – just the

two of us. It was a great success – helped in no small measure by excellent weather – cold, but sunny. All you might wish the Christmas season to be. So we've remained pretty much true to the Christmas tradition. Until last year, that is.

Anxious to take maximum advantage of a newly acquired holiday home in the Algarve in Southern Portugal, a year ago we decided to spend most of December and January there. We chose to drive so that we could take our two dogs. Christmas wouldn't have been the same without them and, anyway, seven weeks was far too long a period to leave them with a dog minder.

Our trip did not get off to a very auspicious start. As we were travelling on an early morning ferry, we chose to stay at a pub in Surrey, about half an hour drive from the ferry terminal, so we could have dinner with our younger son who lived close by. We woke to snow falling gently on the pub's car park and surrounding streets. My wife said she would take the dogs for a walk while I loaded the car and paid our bill, This I duly did, only to lock the only set of keys to the car inside. Not easy to do, but I managed it.

Needless to say, my wife was beside herself when she returned from the walk. Fortunately I had the presence of mind to ring the AA which despatched a van reasonably promptly, despite having more rescue requests than was usual because of the weather. Doubtless they took on board my impassioned plea that my wife would kill me if we missed our ferry. Watching the patrol man retrieve the keys by slowly bending the rear door open using a rubber mallet and a series of plastic wedges before using a bent coat hanger to hook out the key was fascinating and alarming in equal measure.

Arriving at our destination without further mishap was a relief. Our house is in the coastal town of Praia da Luz, which means beach of light in English –

a place made notorious through the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. The weather in December was a welcome contrast to the conditions we had left behind. Sunny and warm enough to go around in shirtsleeves during the day, only needing to don a pullover in the evening. For the rest of that month we were able to eat our breakfast and lunch on the balcony outside our living room.

Christmas day dawned with clear blue skies and the temperature in the high teens. Being regular visitors to the church there, we had arranged to attend communion at noon, but first visited the beach where a small fair was taking place to raise money for the local fire brigade. Mulled wine and little custard tarts – pasteis da nata, found all around Portugal – were on offer, while those so minded took a dip in the sea. Talking to several people who did just that convinced me that the sea really was warm as nobody felt the need to towel themselves on coming out and all were happy to stand around and chat as if it was midsummer.

Our Christmas lunch was chicken, served in the traditional manner – a meal only marred by me incinerating the vegetables. Well, I hadn't by then quite got to grips with our Portuguese cooker. We were able to visit a local bar in the early evening – something that we would have found difficult back in England. We even saw a bus picking up passengers on Christmas Day. Indeed, on Boxing Day things were very much back to business as usual, with shops open and people back at work. Like many European countries, it is Christmas Eve which is celebrated more, with families tending to get together and exchange presents in the evening.

We enjoyed our Christmas in warmer climes and will probably repeat the experience. For this year, though, it is back to log fires and, hopefully, brisk walks around fields glistening with frost to mitigate the effects of too much Christmas pud. We expect to enjoy ourselves just as much as last year. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas too.

Brian Tora

This article appeared in the Christmas 2013 edition of the Sudbury Newstalk Magazine for the visually impaired, read by the author.

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Gardening in January

Harry Buckledee

There is still much to do in the way of general maintenance. Check tree stakes and loosen ties if necessary. Check also posts on Pergolas and other garden structures. A little time spent on repair now will prevent the collapse of plants in summer when heavy in leaf and difficult to pull upright. Inspect stored bulbs, corms and tubers and remove any that are showing signs of decay.

Remove fallen leaves from around the crown of alpiners, it only takes a very small number of leaves to cause rot in wet weather. Loosen the soil around the plants with a small hand fork to give good drainage and prevent water settling around the crowns. One of the worst pests of plants such as Fuchsias, Cyclamen, Primulas, etc., which are overwintering in a greenhouse are the grubs of the vine weevil. If you have plants which show sign of roots then you can be fairly sure the trouble is vine weevil. Scratch around in the compost and you will find little white grubs, curled in the shape of a C, with brown heads. They are not always confined to greenhouses, but it is there that they are most noticeable. They are quite hardy and survive severe winters outside. Attacks out of doors are most noticeable on plants grown in containers. The adults are most noticeable on plants grown in containers. The adults are black, wingless beetles and although they cannot fly they can travel quite fast over a fair distance. The beetles lay eggs in July around the base of plants and when they hatch the grubs feed on the roots of plants for several months before pupating. The adult weevils come out at night and feed on the leaves of plants. The usual signs of damage are irregular shaped notches around the edges. Beetles need somewhere to hide during the day and this can be provided by laying rolls of paper or a handful of straw which can be shaken onto a piece of white paper and any beetles shaken out can be destroyed. Outdoors

conifers can provide excellent hiding places during daytime and they can come out at night and attack more succulent plants. There are several proprietary vine weevil control preparations on sale at garden shops which are affective.

Never use old, once used compost, for potting as this may contain eggs or grubs.

Put a layer of strawy manure around rhubarb and cover with a large box to encourage early growth. Lift one or two crowns and expose them to frost for a few days then plant them under the greenhouse staging. Keep them in the dark and they will soon produce an early crop. Once sticks have been pulled from forced crowns they should be replanted outside and allowed to establish for a couple of years before using again.

Don't forget to keep feeding the birds, food is scarce for them over winter.

Top 10 jobs this month

1. Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
2. Ventilate the greenhouse on sunny days
3. Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already
4. Repair and re-shape lawn edges
5. Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rots or drying out
6. Prune apple and pear trees
7. Start forcing rhubarb
8. Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
9. Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
10. Prepare a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect them from peach leaf curl

This is a wet time of year in many parts of the UK, with all areas experiencing a winter peak in precipitation. However East Anglia, as usual, is one of the driest regions, expecting a mean of around 50mm rainfall in January and has the highest average sunshine with 53 hours around the region. This lack of light limits growth of plants in greenhouses, conservatories and windowsills. Moving them to a sunnier position over the winter is advised. The shorter days at this time of year can induce flowering in some plants, such as poinsettias and chrysanthemums.

As the coldest month of the year, this is a challenging time for plants that are not quite hardy especially if the extra chill persists for more than the occasional night and if the soil freezes. Protect your most vulnerable plants with bubble wrap to avoid losing them.

Relax and enjoy Christmas.

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TUESDAY	12 - 3PM & 5PM - 11PM	12 - 2PM & 6 - 9PM	
WEDNESDAY	5PM - 11PM	12 - 2PM & 6 - 9PM	
FRIDAY & SATURDAY	12PM - 11.30PM	12 - 3PM & 6 - 9PM	
SUNDAY	12 - 10PM	12 - 3PM	

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Parish Council Matters

Little Waldingfield Parish Council Meeting 5 November 2013

Present: B Tora, S Braybrook, A Sheppard, V Flute, D Kiddy & PC D Marshall
6 members of the public

Apologies: M Ewen, Cllr J Antill

Declarations of Interest: None.

Police Matters/Speedwatch: There were no reported crimes since the last meeting. PC Marshall explained the "Big Bad Wolf" campaign currently being undertaken by the police. We have a new sergeant responsible for this area – Sgt. G Goldsmith. During the storm on 28 October 650 999 and 1120 non-emergency calls were received, treble the usual number. PC Marshall requested that any concerns such as not seeing vulnerable or elderly neighbours be reported to the police as they are able to liaise with other organisations to check the situation. Prior to attending the meeting PC Marshall had performed a speed check for a period of 1.5 hours. This resulted in verbal warnings for 2 x drivers exceeding 35 mph and one driver recorded travelling at 40 mph who opted to attend a speed awareness course in place of points on their licence.

R Ridgeon presented a Speedwatch report for the month of October – 53 offenders with a top recorded speed of 46 mph. This compares to 64 offenders for the same period last year, with the top speed of 46 mph. He has met with Chris Wilder of Suffolk CC relating to the use of a mobile speed monitoring device which the Speedwatch Group hopes to use. Following their survey of the village two possible sites for this device have been identified. A meeting is to be held with Long Melford and Cavendish Groups with whom the device will be shared. Results of a 24 hour per day, week long monitoring of traffic speeds along Church Road have been discussed with M Motteram of Suffolk CC. An extremely low incidence of vehicles travelling in excess of 30 mph was recorded. Speedwatch volunteers are in any case unable to perform checks in this area. It was proposed and agreed that volunteers collecting and delivering Speedwatch equipment can claim for reimbursement of mileage at the rate of 45p per mile, in accordance with HMRC approved rates.

Minutes of the last Meeting: These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned.

Public Session: There is still a dog running free in the village so PC Marshall will arrange for another visit to be paid to the owners. The Clerk was asked to contact Babergh DC regarding the replacement of leaded lights being replaced with plastic windows at Brookwood Manor. Despite it not being a listed building or within the conservation area this is felt to have a detrimental effect on the appearance of this very attractive building.

The meeting recommenced.

Matters Arising: None.

Planning Matters: Permission has been granted for the erection of two storey and single storey extensions to Brookwood Manor and for tree works at Pink Cottage.

Financial Matters: The second half of the precept has been received. A cheque to BDOLLP was signed for the audit fee. Prior to the meeting the Clerk and A Sheppard attended an advisory meeting organised by Babergh DC on the effects of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme on the Tax Base and precept setting. It was most informative and useful.

Correspondence: None.

Village website: A statistical report was received. Local services have now been added to the site and A Sheppard expressed his thanks to D Duffy for all his work.

Broadband: High speed broadband should be in the village by December 2014. V Flute reported that County Broadband is gaining support locally.

Community Engagement/Village Review: No further progress on the Action Plan report.

Public Transport: No issues raised.

Footpaths: The new owners have moved in to Park Farm and following the report that the footpath is very overgrown the Clerk was asked to contact them regarding their responsibility to keep it clear. Trees need clearing from the path from Church Road up to High Street.

Churchyard: During the storm of October 28 the lime trees shed some branches on to neighbouring gardens and the residents of these properties have expressed their concerns on the safety of the trees. One tree appears to be in poor condition. The Clerk will request an inspection by the Babergh DC arboriculturist to ascertain any works required to the trees. Those in the closed churchyard are the responsibility of the Parish Council and in the open churchyard of the Parochial Church Council. The two organisations will work together to undertake any necessary works. A Sheppard and D Duffy will have a look at the trees adjacent to the footpath, and in the churchyard to judge if any areas require cordoning off before a tree surgeon can assess the works required to make any damaged branches safe.

War Memorial – 3 prices have been requested and to date one has been received, one company is not in a position to submit a quote, and one further price is awaited. Reverend Judith has requested that nothing be done until the diocese has given their permission for works to be undertaken.

Floodlights – It has been confirmed that there are no bequests in place to meet the cost of lighting the Church. The decision was taken to make a donation of £200 towards the cost.

The Clive Memorial: Work on the history of the Church is progressing but no costs have yet been confirmed.

Risk Register: The risk register will be circulated in readiness for review.

Any Other Business: Add S106 payments to the agenda and circulate conditions of use. Date of next meeting is 17 December.

Newton Parish Council Meeting 13th November

Present: Councillors Paul Presland (Chairman), Roy Gardner, Lee Parker, Rita Schwenk, Alan Vince and Deborah Williams.

Attending: James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), James Cartlidge (Babergh District Councillor), PCSO Barrett and D Crimmin (Clerk).

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Taylor (other commitment) sent his apologies.

Declaration of Interests: Cllr Gardner declared a pecuniary interest in item 13/142b as he is the recipient of a cheque. Left the meeting while item discussed.

Requests for councillor dispensation: None were received.

Minutes of meeting held on the 11th Sept 2013: The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Public Forum: The reports are contained in Appendix A.

Correspondence (Appendix B): Following a review of the Correspondence and the emails circulated there were no further actions requested of the Clerk.

Clerks Report (Appendix C): Following a review of the Clerk's Report there were no further actions required of the Clerk.

Planning: a. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/13/01107 Rogers Farm, Rogers Lane - Change of use of agricultural land to use as solar farm for generation of electricity from solar energy together with associated works comprising solar panels mounted on frames, security fencing, inverters, transformers and a switch gear cabinet. The councillors noted that there were no members of the public present for the discussion on the application. The councillors, having prior to the meeting visited the site of the proposed development and observed a neighbour's issues from her land, reviewed the neighbour's concerns against the planning application. After careful consideration of the issues, the councillors resolved unanimously to support the application.

Following the resolution, the clerk circulated a paper outlining similar solar farm applications over the past 18 months in Essex and Suffolk that had included "community investment funding" from the developer should the application be approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The councillors further resolved that should the LPA be minded to grant permission for the solar farm, NPC would ask that community investment funding for the residents of Newton be sought from the developer. The community in Newton has 3 ongoing projects that would benefit from community investment funding:

- Making the village hall more sustainable - the installation of solar panels would help towards this aim by reducing current electricity usage and generating a feed in tariff for the next 25 years
- Solar powered Vehicle Activated Signs for Newton's 30mph zone
- Solar powered Christmas Lighting.

In NPC's opinion these projects dovetail the solar farm in the technologies used, the lifespan of the projects and would enable the developer to have a sustainable impact upon the local community. NPC, being an accredited Quality Council and being able to use the General Power of Competence, should be the recipient of the community investment funding so that the wishes of the community are implemented from any funding.

b. No further planning applications had been received since the agenda was posted
Finance: a. The councillors resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations dated 13th November 2013.

b. All cheques signed and due for signing, as itemised in Appendix D, were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting and reviewed the Statement of Accounts against the budget and the bank reconciliation against the bank statements.

c. The councillors reviewed the Budget Proposal (Appendix E) and resolved to set an Expenditure Budget of £9,825 for 2014 / 2015 maintenance.

Playground and Asset Maintenance Programme: The councillors resolved the following actions after reviewing the RoSPA Report on the playground equipment:

- Projecting bolt threads on footbridge need attention – Cllr Gardner immediately
- Supports in fencing loose – Cllr Gardner immediately
- Grass matting on slide needs repair and re-surfacing – Cllr Gardner by Spring 2014
- Wooden supports on play equipment needs an in-depth examination to determine extent of any decay – Clerk and Contractor by Spring 2014.

Newton Fireworks: The fireworks event took place on Saturday 9th November and judging by the feedback from residents to the councillors, the evening was well received. Special thanks to the working party (Cllrs Parker, Taylor and Williams) was expressed by the Chairman as well as to the other councillors for their contribution in selling tickets and at the event. The councillors asked the Clerk to write to Russell Bower expressing the council's gratitude for all his help during the planning and the staging of the event. It is hoped that the finances of the event will be available by the 18th November 2013.

Christmas Lighting: The councillors resolved that a Christmas tree be erected on the Green in front of the Village Sign and battery operated lighting costing £100 be used on the tree. Residents will be invited to light up the front of their properties with Christmas Lighting this year.

NPC Byelaws: The Clerk updated councillors on the feedback from the Newton Green Trust on the proposed draft byelaws which were now to be submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government for an initial review on their compliance to DCLG's guidelines.

Local Housing Needs Scheme: Two housing associations are willing to partner NPC in their project to deliver the Local Housing Needs Scheme. Hastoe and Orwell will present their portfolios to NPC in January following which NPC will appoint its preferred partner

Road Safety: The councillors agreed to consult with residents in the New Year, over their priorities for the various road safety initiatives suggested for Newton.

Councillor Training: The councillors felt that the training was beneficial for them in their role and asked the Clerk to schedule the third and final session of training for Autumn 2014. The councillors were awarded their Certificate of attendance.

FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

May I give 4 "Good News items" for you in my last feedback column of the year as we all prepare for the Christmas season.

"Good news 1" – Suffolk County Council and Ministers Sign Greater Ipswich City Deal for the benefit of our youngsters

Further to my feedback last month Suffolk County Council with other local Councils have this month signed the deal with the Government which will bring in £4 million+ of new investment for the local economy. The Greater Ipswich City Deal will see thousands of young people supported into work with the introduction of 5000 apprenticeships and £4m + invested in Ipswich and the surrounding area of Babergh and beyond.

"Good news 2" – Suffolk Landscape is protected by Pylon proposals being put on hold

National Grid has announced a significant delay to its decision over the proposals to put pylons between Bramford and Twinstead. The decision has been delayed by a number of years, signalling a further window of opportunity for the people of Suffolk to continue to campaign against the proposals. I have been leading this campaign on behalf of SCC and the local District Councils against the proposals, urging National Grid to make significant adaptations by burying the entire transmission line underground, rather than leaving a large section of the line above ground in the form of pylons. This is a clear recognition that there is not a need for additional transmission capacity before the early 2020's and will allow the opportunity for new cost effective technology to develop still further.

"Good news 3" Further investment in Local Broadband

I chaired a Scrutiny Committee last month re-highlighting the importance of the urgent need for better broadband in the area. In particular we have asked for improved information on the website as to when each area will receive their updated service. We robustly requested that BT adhere to their original commitments they made at the commencement of the SCC Better Broadband project in their own "Commercial Areas".

I am delighted to say following this scrutiny meeting, Mark Bee, SCC Leader has met the Minister with our Suffolk MP's to secure additional funding in a bid to secure a another multi-million pound further investment to extend the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme to fill all these gaps because the government recognises that Suffolk has too many areas without an acceptable service. Securing access to broadband for everyone is a development in our infrastructure every bit (or megabit !) as important as the building of the railways 150 years ago. All properties will have at least 2Mbps by 2015, and most will have superfast speeds. I am and my fellow Councillors are ambitious for Suffolk, and will work with the Government to push this ambition as far as possible on your behalf.

"Good news 4" Topping-out ceremony marks first year of care-home partnership

The first anniversary of the partnership between Suffolk County Council and Care UK - which is building state-of-the-art care homes across the county - was marked with a topping-out ceremony. In December last year Care UK began operating SCC's 16 care homes and eight wellbeing centres. One year on, construction of seven of the 10 new developments is under way as part of the phased modernisation programme. Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities is a key priority. We are working to a long-term plan to identify and then deliver a long-term solution to the changing care needs of us all

My First Boxford Surgery of 2014

This is on Wednesday 8th January at 4.00pm in Mary's House and is open to all from Boxford and beyond living in my Division.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and all the readers of my "feedback column" a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year in 2014.

James Finch - Suffolk County Councillor - Stour Valley Division
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Wissington, Newton, and Stoke by Nayland
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Sir

I hope the driver of the car which knocked my son off his bike recently is suffering from a guilty conscience.

On Friday 6 December at 6.30 pm Sam was cycling down Stone Street on his way to work at The White Hart when he was aware of a car slowing down behind him , another car was coming towards him but for some reason best known to the driver behind they tried to squeeze through and in doing so clipped Sam's rear wheel throwing him into the verge. Fortunately he was unhurt but it could have been much more serious. To make matters the worse the driver didn't even stop , there is no way they could have failed to see him as he is lit up like a Christmas Tree when cycling in the dark. How anyone can fail to stop having hit someone on a bike defies belief.

Please , please take extra care when driving through Stone Street or anywhere else for that matter.

Yours faithfully
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Box River Benefice, Parish Councillors

Boxford Parish Council

Roger Balls (Chairman)	19 Daking Avenue	210136
Cecil Hughes	Kiln Place, Cox Hill	210685
Julian Fincham-Jaques	42 Homefield	210376
Richard Gates	2 Brick Kiln Hill	210432
Sue Green.	34, Swan Street.	210603
Suzanne Impett	Amberley, The Causeway	210035
Michael Norman (Vice Chair)	13 Gunary Close	210229
Robert Hobbs	7 Boxford Lane	211529
Cheryl Wilson	13 Swan Street.	211692
Debbie Hattrell (Parish Clerk)		210943
Bryn Hurren (BABERGH District Councillor.)		210854
James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor.)	01206	263649

Groton Parish Council

Carey Fraulo (Chairman)	Groton Manor Farm, Castlings Heath	210391
Jeremy Osborne (Vice Chair)	Waterside Barn Groton Place, Groton CO10 5EE	211960
Sandra Gray (Parish Clerk)	2 Stone Street Road Boxford CO10 5NP	211465
David Elliott	9 Gunary Close Boxford CO10 5QB	210802
Mark Mayhew	8 Castlings Heat, Groton	211818
Adam Dixon-Smith	Castlings Hall, Castlings Heath, Groton	210007
Colin Blackmore	The Old Rectory, Groton Street.	211134
Gerald Smith	7 Castlings Heath	210958

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

Brian Tora (Chairman)	Enniskillen Lodge The Street, Little Waldingfield CO10 0SU	247783
Roger Williams	Kirkwall, Church Road Little Waldingfield CO10 0SX	247053
Andy Shepperd	1 Grove Avenue	247980
Mike Ewen	Cobweb Cottage, High St Farm Little Waldingfield CO10 0SS	211466
Vic Flute	14 Grove Avenue Little Waldingfield, CO10 0SX	247554
Dominic Kiddy	Green Farm, Newmans Green CO10 0AB	07976577205
Stewart Braybrook	Cypress House	247043

Edwardstone Parish Council

No confirmation of make up of new council yet

Sharon Norman (Chairman)	Dormers, Sherbourne Street	210386
Claire Britcher (Vice Chairman)		211234
Sandra Grey (Parish Clerk)		211465
Paul Clarke	Hazel Cottage	210689
Shirley Flack	Mill Cottage, Mill Green	210050
Garry Peacock	Cock & Spring Cottage	211203
Jim Robinson	Logan Cottage, Groton Street	211678

Newton Green

Roy Gardner	Vice Chairman	312346
Alan Vince		373963
Rita Schwenk		210838
Lee Parker		376073
Paul Presland	Chairman	379204
Philip Taylor		211265
Deborah Williams		378437
Clerk David Crimmin		375085
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Parish Council Matters

Edwardstone Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 pm Monday 18th November 2013 at Edwardstone Village Hall

Present: S Norman (in the Chair), C Britcher (Vice-Chair) P Clarke, S Flack Garry Peacock & Jim Robinson

In attendance, James Finch, S Gray (Clerk), M Childs

Apologies for Absence: Siobhan Hemmitt, Bryn Hurren

To Receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest in any item on this agenda:

- Chairman Sharon Norman declared an interest in Agenda item 9 Planning Application No: NoB/13/01107/FUL.
 - Vice-Chair Claire Britcher declared an interest in Agenda item 9 Planning Application No: NoB/13/01107/FUL.
 - Chairman Sharon Norman declared an interest in Agenda item 10 payments of donations.
 - Shirley Flack declared an interest in Agenda item 10 payments of donations.
 - Paul Clarke declared an interest in Agenda item 10 payments of donations.
- All the above signed the Declarations of Interest Book.

Co-Option: Chairman Sharon Norman proposed that Melanie Childs be co-opted onto Edwardstone Parish Council; proposed by Sharon Norman, seconded by Vice-Chair Clare Britcher.

The Acceptance of Office was duly signed and Melanie was given the Register of Interests to complete.

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the 15th July 2013: The Minutes were approved; proposed by Chairman Sharon Norman, seconded by Garry Peacock.

To receive a report from Suffolk Constabulary: In the absence of Siobhan Hemmitt, the Clerk reported that there had been one crime in the Parish of Edwardstone for the period from 16th September to 16th November 2013. This compares to no crimes for the same period last year.

To receive a report from Suffolk County Council: James Finch had circulated his report to the Council prior to the meeting. Suffolk County Council would be consulting residents of Suffolk about the £156million savings to be made over the next four years.

National Grid has announced a delay to its decision over the proposals to the Bramford Twinstead line.

In relation to Broadband, James reported that, in chairing the Scrutiny Committee, he highlighted the importance of the need for better broadband in the area and Suffolk County Council requested that BT adhere to their original commitments. In relation to the speed sensors purchased with his locality budget the Council asked that Mill Green and Sherbourne Street be on his circulation list due to the volume of traffic seen travelling over the 30mph limit.

To receive report from Babergh District Council: In the absence of Bryn Hurren the Clerk reported on his behalf that Babergh were facing huge financial constraints and that, in four years, there would be no grant from the Government.

Planning Matters: At this point Chair Sharon Norman and Vice-Chair Clare Britcher left the room

a) Applications: Planning Application NoB/13/01107/FUL Rogers Farm, Rogers Lane, Newton Sudbury CO10 5LA. Change of use of agricultural land to use as solar farm for generation of electricity from solar energy together with associated works comprising solar panels on mounted frames, security fencing, inverters, transformers and a switch gear cabinet. Councillors discussed the above application as an adjoining parish and had no objections. It was noted that no resident in Edwardstone had approached the Council with any views.

At this point Chair Sharon Norman and Vice-Chair Claire Britcher returned to the room

Highway & Footpath Matters: The Hedge at footpath 3 is still very overgrown and it was agreed for the Clerk to contact the landowner.

Street Lighting: Councillors discussed the lighting at Mill Green and in particular the Suffolk County Council's proposed maintenance contract. It was agreed for the Clerk to clarify costs with Suffolk County Council and report to the Councillors. If the contract included the cost of energy then the Clerk was instructed to obtain quotations from contractors.

Telephone Kiosk: Vice-Chair Clare Britcher reported that there were now four panes of glass broken in the kiosk. Councillors raised the point that the kiosk was a landmark in the village and helped when giving people directions.

Dates of Future Meetings: 20th January 2014 Finance and Planning only
17th March 2014 • 19th May 2014 (AGM & APM) • 21st July 2014
15th September 2014 • 17th November 2014

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm

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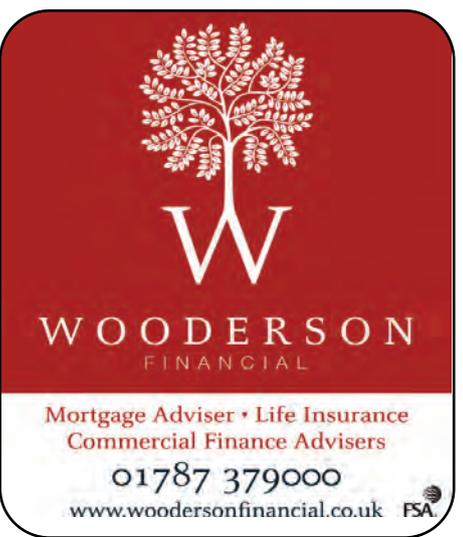
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