

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



February 2018
Vol 18 No 2

BIG
Garden
Birdwatch

Your guide to the
Big Garden Birdwatch
27-29 January 2018

Big Garden Birdwatch is almost here. Last year, more than 76,000 people in the East, and close to half a million people nationally, joined in with the world's largest garden wildlife survey, counting more than eight million birds.

Over just one hour, on either the Saturday January 27, Sunday January 28, or Monday January 29, we need you once again to sit back, relax and enjoy recording the birds in your garden – the best bit? You don't need to be an expert to take part!

All the information that you accumulate gives us a comprehensive snapshot of how our garden birds are doing.

It's more than birds though: we want to know about the other wildlife you've seen in your garden throughout the year, so look out for badgers, foxes, grey squirrels, red squirrels, muntjac, roe deer, frogs and toads.

If you ask us 'which birds will I see?', the simple answer is: we don't know! We can't predict which birds you will see in your garden, which is one of the joys of taking part in Big Garden Birdwatch. You might see your usual visitors, or you might see a rarity, but you won't know unless you take part.

For instance, Big Garden Birdwatch 2017 revealed an explosion in the number of recorded sightings of waxwings, a more unusual garden visitor. These attractive-looking birds flock to UK gardens in winter once every seven to eight years, known as an 'irruption', when the berry crop fails in their native Scandinavia.

Yet, more familiar tit species took a hit last year, and were seen in a lot less of our gardens following weather changes throughout the year.

In 2017, some familiar garden birds topped the charts, which you might see in your gardens once again this year:

- 1 House Sparrow** - noisy and gregarious little birds, weighing in at
- 2 Starling** - at a distance starlings look black, but when you see them closer they are very glossy with a sheen of purples and greens.
- 3 Blackbird** - males live up to their name but, confusingly, females are brown often with spots and streaks on their breasts.
- 4 Woodpigeon** - the UK's largest and commonest pigeon weighing in at 450g. It is largely grey with a white neck patch and white wing patches, clearly visible in flight.
- 5 Blue tit** - a colourful mix of blue, yellow, white and green makes the blue tit one of our most attractive and most recognisable garden visitors.
- 6 Collared dove** - pale, pinky-brown grey coloured birds, with a distinctive black neck collar (as the name suggests).
- 7 Goldfinch** - a highly-coloured finch with a bright red face and yellow wing patch.
- 8 Robin** - the UK's favourite bird - with its bright red breast it is familiar throughout the year and especially at Christmas! Males and females look identical.
- 9 Great tit** - the largest UK tit, is green and yellow with a striking glossy black head with white cheeks and a distinctive two-syllable song.
- 10 Long-tailed tit** - easily recognisable birds with distinctive colouring, long-tailed tits look like a ball on a stick with long tails (bigger than their body) and small bodies.

For your free **Big Garden Birdwatch pack**, which includes a bird identification chart, plus RSPB shop voucher and advice to help you attract wildlife to your garden, text BIRD to 70030 or visit www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

BABERGH PHONE SURVEY FARCE

Having failed to get the answer they wanted back in May 2011 when Babergh residents voted 39.1% yes with 60.9% voting no, with a turnout of 31,468. the supporters of the proposed merger between Babergh and Mid Suffolk are carrying out a telephone survey by choosing residents at random with a questionnaire that lasts approximately 10 minutes.

At a cost of £20,000 pounds to Babergh Rate Payers, a call centre based in Halifax is asking questions with multiple choice answers heavily loaded to ensure that the result will indicate that Babergh rate payers are in favour of the merger which could not be further from the truth

I had the misfortune to be one of the selected ratepayers chosen to take the survey and am still wondering what it was all about.

The young lady that telephoned me unfortunately had a stong presumably Halifax accent and spoke so rapidly that questions could not be understood first time around. Clearly she had no idea where Babergh was and whenever I raised a question it was ignored and she would move on to the next question having entered an answer in the questionnaire that suited her

For example Question: The merger will save a million pounds, do you think this is a) very good b) good c) neither d) Not Good etc. When asked where the evidence of these savings were to come from she moved on to the next question. I would like to see a printed copy of the Questionnaire so that I have some idea of what I was being asked. Most of the answers were made up by the questioner and not by me. How unreliable can we get. There are few if any advantages to Babergh Rate payers, Mid Suffolk already pay higher rates and do not have free parking. Merging would mean increases in rates and car parking charges in Babergh, Not a good idea

Early in December Jennie Jenkins quit as head of Babergh Council in Suffolk before a motion to have her removed from the council was due to be raised.



John Ward

Opposition councillors had objected to plans for the council to merge with Mid Suffolk Council without a referendum.

The Conservative leader refused to guarantee referendum approval

John Ward has been voted in as the leader at Conservative-run Babergh District Council and has pledged that there will be a second public referendum on a full merger with Mid Suffolk, So why are we spending £20,000 on a loaded telephone consultation?

Box River News

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Telephone: 01787 211507 e.mail:

ed.kench@btinternet.com

Final date for reserved copy for the

March Issue is:

February 15th at noon

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

HARRY'S NEW BOOK



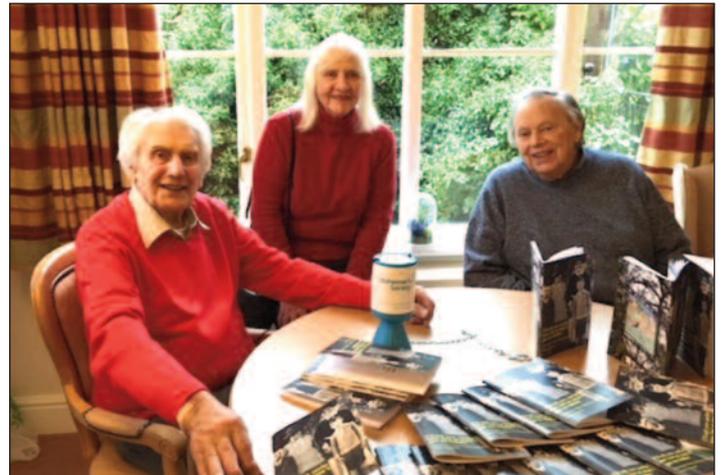
Harry Buckledee, the Box River News Gardening expert has, at the ripe old age of 98 coming on 100, written another book this time about his life as a young boy in Lindsey where he was brought up by his grandparents.

Life was hard in the 1920's, no mains water or drainage, no electricity or gas and no local transport.

Harry said "I want to tell people what life was like for ordinary men and women in a Suffolk village in those difficult decades between the wars when money was scarce and nothing was ever wasted".

"In a way I felt duty-bound to write about these things, partly because there are not many of us left with first-hand experience of those times, but also because, having been blessed with such a good memory at my advanced age, I felt I ought to make use of it. Huge numbers of elderly people do not share my good fortune. On the contrary, many old people, my late wife Linda included, have their memories wiped away by Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia. I feel privileged to be able to recall so clearly things that happened more than ninety years ago, and this book is my way of telling others about a way of life that younger readers will find difficult to imagine."

The book, Published by the Boxford Newsletter, is available via donation only and all proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Society. It is now available at Boxford Post Office and also from myself in Stone street 01787 211507 Eddie.



FleeceJazz

at Stoke by Nayland Hotel

Friday 2 February 8.00 £18
Charlie Wood Band

"the growl and moan of Eric Burdon, the otherworldly lilt of Donald Fagen, and the scorched majesty of Kurt Elling." - Jazz Times
Charlie Wood piano/vocals, Chris Allard guitar, Dudley Phillips bass, Nic France drums

Charlie Wood is a musician whose eclectic musical style incorporates elements of jazz, blues, soul, traditional R&B and popular music. In his early 20s, Charlie toured with legendary blues guitarist Albert King, before securing a long-term residency on Beale Street with his Hammond organ trio. He so impressed touring musicians such as B.B. King, Georgie Fame, Joey DeFrancesco and Mulgrew Miller, that they asked to sit in with him. Charlie's albums have received stellar reviews. R2 Magazine opined that his well-honed, literate lyrics are "written with the technical precision and linguistic flair of a classic from the Great American Songbook."

Friday 8 February 8.00 £16
Mick Foster Sextet Celebrating Gerry Mulligan

Michael has received commissions from Arts Council England and the Britten Sinfonia to write and perform new jazz and classical chamber music. Michael Spearman guitar, Rob Palmer electric/acoustic bass, Tom Jiggins drums/percussion
Michael Spearman has been a professional musician for most of his life, playing as a freelance guitarist, and working in all sorts of bands and groups. He holds the post of 'Associate Artist at Colchester Arts Centre', sponsored by the Arts Council East, Colchester Borough Council, and Signals Media Arts. He is a jazz

tutor at Colchester institute.

Friday 16 February 8.00 £16
Percy Pursglove/John O'Gallagher Quartet

"Somehow Pursglove created a completely whole musical world of his own. That is a rare achievement." – Jazzwise.

Mr. O'Gallagher is an exploratory alto saxophonist with a clear melodic streak." – New York Times.

John O'Gallagher alto sax, Percy Pursglove trumpet/flugel, Tim Giles drums/cymbals, Sam Lasserson bass

A freelance Jazz musician, composer, arranger and recording artist (trumpet & double bass), Percy Pursglove trained in Birmingham and New York where he performed with many other top class Jazz performers.

Friday 23 February 8.00 £16
Martin Speake Quartet

"Speake is a strikingly talented improviser with a seemingly bottomless well of inspiration." - Encyclopedia of Popular Music
Martin Speake sax, Mike Outram guitar, Fred Thomas bass, Jeff Williams drums

Sunday 4 March 8.00 £25
Alec Dankworth All Star Quintet and Georgia Mancio/Chris Allard Duo
Celebrating Fleece Jazz's 25th Anniversary with the top of the British jazz tree.

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

01787 211865

All cheques (with S.A.E. please) to:

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

THIS MONTHS LETTER FROM REV JUDITH

Dear Friends

I thought I had a bone to pick with David Attenborough.....

Like many of you, I suspect, I was bowled over by the most recent documentary made by this extraordinary nonagenarian, “David Attenborough and the Sea Monsters”. Starting with a bone fossil found on Lyme Regis beach, he followed one of the most exciting discoveries of past years, a possible new species of ichthyosaur – a sort of dinosaur-dolphin – over four metres long, which swam in our then warm oceans, 200 million years ago.



Like many of you also, I hold in huge respect, admiration and awe, the towering intellect and unparalleled career as a presenter, of this, the world’s perhaps best loved naturalist and scientist.

So what was the bone of contention that I had the temerity to want to air, seeing that disagreeing with such a man would be a bit like a mosquito picking a fight with a mammoth?

Well, I remembered, some years ago, reading or hearing – I can’t remember which now – his views about life, in which he firmly advocated atheism, as the only possible intelligent response to what we know of the universe and world around us, particularly as understood in the light of evolution. As someone of such huge influence, not least over the millions of young people inspired and engaged by his life and output, I felt this was an unfair and one-sided view. It reduced and relegated Christianity to the realm of “pie in the sky when I die” fantasies and fictions invented by the human race. And yet I was aware of other extremely clever and thoughtful Christians who were also scientists – including a PhD ordinand training for the priesthood with me at Westcott House – but who would never be able to command the airspace, media coverage or attention that David Attenborough could.

I was delighted, therefore, to discover that, in later years, at the age then of 85, Sir David was taking rather a different line. On the 70th anniversary broadcast of Desert Island Discs, he described himself no longer as an atheist, but as an agnostic, saying that he did not believe that an understanding of evolution was incompatible with faith in God, nor did he rule out the possibility of the existence of a supreme being.

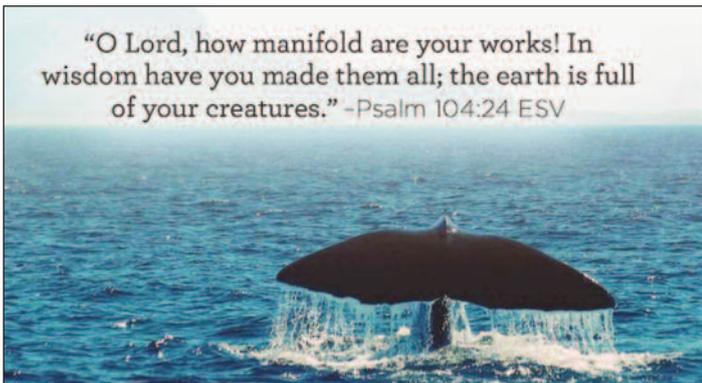
Only the other day, someone new to the benefice, in conversation with a churchgoer who was welcoming them, explained their lack of involvement or interest in the church by stating simply: “I am a scientist.” I hope that the likes of Sir David Attenborough, Sir John Polkinghorne and Dr Keith Ward may give pause for thought to anyone who feels that facts are incompatible with faith.

And if you are interested to take these thoughts further, I commend to you, out of the many books on the subject of science and faith, just these two for starters: “A faith to live by: what an intelligent, compassionate and authentic Christian faith looks like” by Roland Ashby (Darton, Longman and Todd), which contains interviews with Polkinghorne, Ward and O’Murchu, and “How to read the Bible (without switching off your brain) by Simon J. Taylor (SPCK) – particularly the chapter, “In the beginning: creation in the Bible”.

For these scientists, as for many of us, the wonder and order of the universe, the beauty of its mathematical and physical laws, point in a very different direction.

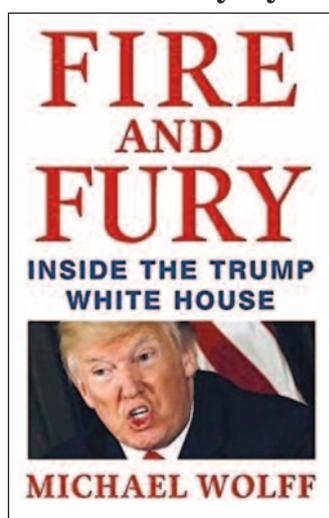
As the psalmist says: “O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.” Blessings.Revd Judith

“O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” -Psalm 104:24 ESV



THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ, FEBRUARY 2018

Fire and Fury by Michael Wolff



There is something deliciously fitting in the fact that it is the American journalist and author Michael Wolff who has taken the axe to Donald Trump in *Fire and Fury*, his account of life inside the White House in the first year of Trump’s reign.

Wolff, whose trade is writing about big business and media, and most famously a book about Rupert Murdoch, is a man of whom few have a good word to say, a journalistic bruiser in designer suit and spectacles, considered by many to be ruthless, untrustworthy, possibly sociopathic, who is accused of often making up things to suit his own agenda. He may remind you of someone.

The first thing to be said about *Fire and Fury* is that it is absolutely tremendous and impossible to put down. Delivered in a punchy, abrasive style – “From the start,” Wolff writes, “the leitmotif for Trump about his own campaign was how crappy it was, and how everybody involved in it was a loser” – what it lacks in refinement and elegance it more than makes up for in its remorseless accumulation of sometimes confounding detail about life in Trump’s inner circle.

But even as you race through it, you have to keep stopping to ask yourself – is this the unvarnished truth? In his introduction, Wolff claims to have based the book on conversations with more than 200 people, including Trump himself, beginning with a meeting in May 2016, at Trump’s home in Beverly Hills – “the then candidate polishing off a pint of Haagen-Dazs vanilla”. Encouraged by Trump, Wolff then took up “something like a semi-permanent seat on a couch” in the West Wing, “more a constant interloper than an invited guest”.

If this is true, given Wolff’s reputation as a controversialist, it is a more damning indictment of Trump’s judgement than almost anything contained within the book’s 320-odd pages. Trump, for his part, has tweeted “I authorized Zero access to White House (actually turned him down many times) for author of phony book! I never spoke to him for book. Full of lies, misrepresentations and sources that don’t exist.” So who to believe?

Trump’s definition of “fake news” is anything he doesn’t want to hear. Which is clearly most, if not all, the contents of this book. But you can’t help feeling that in some respects at least he might have a point. Critics have already begun to catalogue the book’s numerous factual inaccuracies. Certainly, Wolff’s narrative non-fiction style of reported dialogue and vivid description, combined with his vagueness about sources, invite the suspicion that, given half the chance to make Trump look even worse than he is, he will have seized on it with relish.

Wolff’s reporting technique in the past famously consisted of him sitting at the prime table at Michael’s, a fashionable watering hole in New York, where he would soak up tidbits of gossip and recycle them into stories. It’s a method of sorts, if not always conforming to the rigorous standards of accuracy journalism properly demands. And one suspects that Wolff, if he really was allowed to loiter in the ante-rooms of the White House, must have been pressing his ear against a glass held to the wall of the Oval Office in order to have been able to hear some of the high-level conversations that he reproduces here.

Curiously, reading *Fire and Fury*, I was reminded less of past political biographies than of the books written in the 1980s by the university professor turned literary assassin Albert Goldman about those two great cultural heroes of the age, Elvis Presley and John Lennon. Written in an overheated, hyperbolic style, they were attacked for their sensationalism, and questioned for their accuracy. But they somehow felt right – as if in their mixture of exaggeration and nudging innuendo, they had achieved a deeper – or more lowering – truth.

The same is true here. It portrays a President who is crude, impulsive, “no more than semi-literate”, a blank page – “or a scrambled one” – and utterly devoid of intellectual curiosity. A man whose view of the world at large is distilled from what he watches on Fox News while wolfing cheeseburgers, or from whatever the person he last talked to has told him, and whose “instinctive response was to lash out and behave as if his gut, however confused, was in fact some clear and forceful way telling him what to do”. In all of this, you feel it is completely true to its subject. And all the more alarming for it.

Blemishes... *Banished!!!*

With the removal of minor cosmetic skin blemishes no longer available on the NHS, people are turning to private practices like Suffolk Medical Clinic, in nearby Boxford, for treatment.

Minor lumps and bumps like cysts, warts and skin-tags are usually harmless but can be irritating and unattractive. If you have a skin lesion that is bothering you, removal is usually quick and simple.

Moles (raised or flat) can also be removed using local anaesthetic. It is important that any mole worrying you is examined by a doctor. Changes in size, shape and colour; or itching or bleeding, can be cause for concern. If you are worried about a mole, don't wait - let us take a look.

Minor Surgery Clinic

Mole checks and minor surgery to remove unwanted blemishes like cysts, warts and skin tags.

Call 01787 211 000 for more information or visit our clinic on Broad Street, Boxford.



"I had a large raised pale mole on my chin that the NHS refused to remove. It had been a huge issue to me for years. The staff at Suffolk Medical Clinic were just so welcoming. The procedure was very quick and efficient, and I will definitely be visiting again." Alison, Hadleigh.

If you have a lump or bump that is bothering you, please give us a call or pop in and arrange to see one of our medically trained staff.

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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

> Suffolk school travel consultation – Have you had your say ??

Suffolk County Council is still for unity in efforts to find a long-term solution to providing affordable “home to school” transport from the major public consultation which is underway. People who give their views on the future of school travel in Suffolk will be listened to carefully and have the opportunity to influence the final outcome.

The two and half month consultation, which started in December invites people to help the council shape the future of school and post-16 travel policies. Suffolk County Council has already listened to headteachers and included additional options in the consultation document.

In Suffolk, £21 million of taxpayers’ money is spent per year getting children to and from school. Suffolk County Council has already introduced a number of efficiency changes to the service saving around £2.6 million. Now, like many other councils across the country, the authority needs to consider making more significant changes. It is therefore consulting on changing its school and post-16 travel policies so the service can be affordable, sustainable, and capable of meeting growing demand in the future.

The council’s current school and post-16 travel policies go above legal requirements, which means around 2400 children and young people receive free/subsidised school or post-16 travel that Suffolk County Council is not legally required to provide and that they wouldn’t get in many other parts of the country. In addition, around 2400 children receive free travel to schools further away than legally required to provide. The proposed consultation seeks views on changing these policies and includes three alternative options, pre-and post-16:-

Option 1: In September 2019, change the school travel policy so that it is in line with the legal requirements. This would mean implementing all the changes in one go, including ceasing free travel to the transport priority area schools where it is not the pupils’ nearest.

Option 2: From September 2019, introduce the changes year by year as a child joins or moves school so that it is in line with legal requirements. This means that we would introduce all the changes on a phased basis. This option would cost Suffolk County Council an estimated £8.8 million to implement.

Option 3: Make no changes to the school travel policy but make savings from other services provided by Suffolk County Council.

Suffolk County Council is also asking for feedback on several other matters, including using Rights of Way as part of the way distance to a school is measured and a range of local solutions, such as Local collection hubs and opt-in to travel, which we have developed with a range of schools. Further details on these options can be found on the consultation website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel

Do have your say and please fill out the consultation survey, alternatively you can download a hard copy from the website and return to: Suffolk County Council – school and post-16 travel consultation, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP1 2BX. This will run until 28 February 2018

> Fully funded first-time central heating systems for Suffolk residents.

Suffolk’s local authorities are now able to provide fully funded central heating systems (subject to survey) to 514 fuel poor households across Suffolk over the next three years from a £150m fund established by National Grid from the proceeds of the sale of their distribution business. Around 4 million UK households nationally are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

The local authorities working together as the **Suffolk Climate Change Partnership** have been successful in securing funding from the first round of the **Warm Homes Fund** for a project worth £4.3 million. The Suffolk project is being managed by the County Council, administered by Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People based at Suffolk Coastal District Council and supported with further funding from the District and Borough Councils. Alongside the first-time heating system, households will also be able to benefit from new insulation measures to make the homes more energy efficient as well as grants from the Suffolk Community Foundation’s ‘Surviving Winter Appeal’ where eligible. If you would like more information on this scheme please ring the Warm Homes Healthy People service on **03456 037 686** (local rate) or visit the website: <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/projects/warm-homes>

My Priorities

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

James Finch County, Councillor Stour Valley Division

Tel: 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796

Email: james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

Firstly I hope that everyone in my Boxford Council area has a good and successful year. As expected 2018 has started as 2017 ended in turmoil at what is left of Babergh D.C. Following a revolt by members of her own ruling party Council leader Jennie Jenkins was forced into resignation and John Ward has succeeded her as leader of the Council. While I have wished him well I have made it very clear to him that I will expect better leadership from his administration than we have had previously, leadership is about listening to all the electorate, competence especially in financial matters because the Council Tax is a burden to many who are not so well off, and finally respecting our democracy and being honest. While politics can be a dirty game at national level people elected to local government should always put people first above personal and political gain. The subject that has caused so much angst is the possible merger of Babergh and Mid Suffolk as one sovereign Council with one joint budget, totally integrated staff and management and very much the same policies across the whole new region. While I might be in favour of this in the long term it would be a bitter pill for some to swallow and the administration should be mindful of that, we have a lower council tax base in Babergh and free car parking which would both have to be lost in the longer term as everything becomes equalised up.

Nearer to home I am pleased that the much needed work on the original Homefield flats has begun and will hopefully continue to fruition as it was much needed, also the school has begun the new term with great ambition for the future education of our local children.

One thing that is going to feature during this coming year is the activity which you all may have noticed going on at the Sandhill field behind the Causeway, we have been told to expect an application for housing on this site sometime in the late spring and the Parish Council and myself will address this by calling a public meeting and having as much input as we possibly can. If you need your district councillor I am on 01787 210854. Bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk Happy New Year Bryn.

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NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

3PR Stats for December

Our responders covered 329 hrs . There were 8 call outs.

HADLEIGH AND BOXFORD PPG

Patient Participation Group

Working with South Suffolk Leisure

At our November meeting we welcomed Tracey Loynds, the Chief Executive of South Suffolk Leisure, as a speaker and a new member of the PPG.

Tracey told us about the initiatives to inspire people in Babergh to improve their health by being more active and taking part in a series of enjoyable activities in the four centres in Hadleigh and Sudbury.

We look forward to working closely with South Suffolk Leisure for the benefit of our patients.

PPG Annual General Meeting

All patients are welcome to attend our AGM to meet PPG members and hear what we are doing.

The meeting will be in the Hadleigh Health Centre from 10-12am on Tuesday January 30th, and apart from the AGM itself, normal PPG business will be conducted.

In March we will be organising an Open Meeting to give patients another chance to meet PPG members and give us their views. There will be presentations about developments in the Practice and the National Health Service in general.

The Virtual PPG

We are now following up with 122 people who expressed an interest in joining this group.

A number of you have already signed up and we are beginning to receive comments on the website named 'Trello', which is our chosen communication platform.

For further information or if you would like to join us please contact

Lindsay Panton, PPG Chair on 01473 823503 or at hadleighboxfordppg@gmail.com or Tracey Squirrel, Practice Manager on 01473 820127 tracey.squirrel@nhs.net

BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:- 304863 URGENT APPEAL

This is an urgent appeal for someone to help the Village Hall. As you will know from various adverts placed in the Box River News, Boxford Village Hall Management Committee is looking for someone to take over as Honorary Treasurer.

The present Treasurer is resigning with effect from the end of this financial year, 31st. August 2018.

This is a vital post in order for the Village Hall to continue functioning, as one of the most important facilities in Boxford, as a venue for all forms of social events and a meeting place for clubs and organisations.

Your involvement would be up to two hours a week with the addition of a monthly Management Committee meeting once a month, lasting about one hour.

If you feel you can help but would like to know more of what is involved you can contact our current Treasurer, David House (01787-210918) who is happy to explain the duties and answer any questions you may have.

BOXFORD GARDENS OPEN 2018 URGENT!!!

Do you like gardens?
Do you enjoy organising events?
Do you have a modicum of IT skills?

Then this is for YOU!!

We are urgently seeking one or two people to co-ordinate the Open Gardens event in Boxford this year. It involves meeting friendly, enthusiastic gardeners, caterers, etc and is a wonderful day, much enjoyed by all involved and the many people who visit the beautiful gardens.

If you are interested, please contact Linda Blake on 01787 211461, lindablake@metronet.co.uk or Sara Mattocks, smattocks55@gmail.com

POLSTEAD COMMUNITY SHOP CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair on 2nd December was a huge success, with a wide variety of stalls having been booked. They included handicrafts, woodturning, decorative baubles, toys, gardening, cards, origami, art, beads and Christmas wreaths.

Despite his busy schedule, Santa managed to drop in for a couple of hours, much to the delight of the children present. The decorations really set the scene, both in the Hall and in Santa's Grotto.

The day was greatly enjoyed by a large number of people, not only from Polstead, but also from many of the neighbouring villages.

This sort of event does not happen overnight, it requires a lot of planning. However, numerous offers of help were received, for which we were extremely grateful.

Thanks go to everyone who booked a stall, to those who helped on the day in running stalls for the Shop and to those who helped in the kitchen. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the businesses and individuals who donated gifts for the tombola and raffle, and cakes for the cake stall. Everyone was so generous.

All the feedback we have received has been extremely positive, with many suggestions that we repeat the occasion on an annual basis. We will certainly consider it.

Again, thank you to everyone for your efforts in making this occasion such a successful and enjoyable one.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

GROTON CHURCHYARD Important notice

Under the Churchyard Rules laid down by the Diocesan Chancellor, and to enable the churchyard to be more easily maintained, only bulbs and small annual plants may be planted in the soil of a grave. In breach of the rules, shrubs and bushes have been planted in several graves in Groton churchyard, some of which are now quite large. This prevents effective mowing of the grass.

As primary responsibility for maintenance of a grave rests with the next-of-kin of the person buried, the Parochial Church Council wish to give them the opportunity to remove the non-compliant shrubs etc from the graves listed below. Accordingly, would they, or anyone who knows the name and address of the next-of-kin, please contact the PCC secretary,

David Lamming: Tel 201360; e-mail djlamm@hotmail.com.

Oliver Vero Hughes (d 1959) and Emily Maud Hughes (d 1991)

Mabel Eleanor Law (d 1979) and James Gilbert Law (d 1980)

Rosa Mary Gates (d 1990)

Margaret Victoria Williams (d 2007) and Philip Henry Williams (d 1980)

Edward Chellew Harrison (d 2004)

If the PCC have not been notified of the name of the next-of-kin of any of these graves by 28 February 2018, action will be taken to remove the shrubs etc and mow over the areas.

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makeover it deserves!

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A.H.C

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· PRICES ·

Child 0-12	£7.00	PERMS	
Dry Cut	£15.00	Half Head	£28.00
Wet Cut	£20.00	Full Head	£40.00
Cut and finish	£30.00	COLOURING	
Blow Dry	£17.50	Half Head Highlights...	£40.00
Set	£17.50	Full Head Highlights ...	£55.00
Restyle	£37.00	Full Head Colour.....	£40.00
Gents	£10.00	Re Growth	£25.00
Gents.....	£13.00	Cap	£45.00
(Inc. Beard & Brow)			

To make an appointment call: 01787 211928

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LUNCHTIMES 12PM TILL 2.30PM
EVENINGS 5PM TILL 8.30PM

NEW WINTER MENU

FREE SUGAR & LEMON PANCAKES
ON SHROVE TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

VALENTINES SPECIAL MENU ON WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
(FREE BOTTLE OF PROSECCO AND CHOCOLATES PER BOOKING)

HORSE RACING AT NEWMARKET THURSDAY 19TH APRIL
BREAKFAST, COACH, TICKET & EVENING MEAL £45 PER PERSON.

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Free gift
for all
mums!

SbN

Mother's Day at SbN - Sunday 11th March 2018

Treat your mum this Mother's Day and celebrate with a choice of delectable dining experiences
at Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa

Lunch - Adults £25.00pp, Children (under 12) £12.50pp

Enjoy a delicious three-course carvery with the whole family. Served from 12pm - 3:30pm.

Afternoon Tea - £19.95pp

Enjoy a sumptuous feast of sandwiches, homemade cakes and scones specially crafted for Mother's Day. Served from 12pm - 5pm.

www.stokebynayland.com



Booking is strongly advised. Please contact our reservations team on 01206 265835 or email reservations@stokebynayland.com.

Wot's On

LWHS Programme of Events - 2017 / 2018

14th February Jenny Antill Between Heaven & Earth, reflections on the Russian Soul over 1000 years of history.

A study of the social and cultural influence of the Russian orthodox church, the importance of the icon, impact of C19th Slavic Revival on art / architecture and the influence of religious images and ideas on soviet authorities in the 20th Century.

14th March Geoffrey Kay A tonic to the nation

The 1951 Festival of Britain

18th April Linda Sexton Sisters in adversity

The Women's Institutes and the devastating 1953 East Coast Floods

16th May Pip Wright A Picture History of Margaret Catchpole

The story of a Suffolk adventuress & chronicler transported for stealing a horse, using paintings by Rev Cobbold. Described in the Australian Dictionary of Biography as one of the few convicts with an excellent memory and a gift for recording events.

13th June Allan Manning The battle of Waterloo

This finally broke the dominance of Emperor Napoleon over Europe and was truly the end of an epoch. Allan has created a very large and detailed map of the battlefield and will take us through the incredible events of that fateful day on 18th June 1815.

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 01787 248298

Tickets Members £2.00 Non Members £4.00

A MADCAP MUSICAL COMEDY

Thursday 26th April to Saturday 28th at 7.30pm

Boxford Drama Group present *An Englishman's home is his Hassle* written by Elaine Horne with original music by Mike Keith. This tale of dysfunctional family life, mistaken identity, bizarre behaviour and comings and goings. A comedy, a farce and a musical with a twist all rolled into one. Guaranteed to having you rolling in the aisles at the play and tapping your feet to the music, this is a unique Horne/Keith production not be missed.

Tickets £13.00 for each night include supper served in the interval and there will be a bar and raffle on all nights.

On sale at Boxford Post Office from March 23rd

Yoga classes

Yoga classes running in Boxford Village Hall on Thursdays (following the school term timetable).

9.00-10.00am wake up and stretch

10.15-11.15am gentle yoga

and 5.45-6.45pm stretch and relax.

All abilities welcome. If you've been meaning to come along or want to try yoga do come!

Please phone Marianne, a fully qualified British Wheel of Yoga teacher, for more information 01787 210323. Mobile 07973 523211.

Men's yoga also running on Fridays 11.00-12.00.

Mainly chair based this is a gentle class is suitable for the older gentleman who would like to help their mobility, improve balance and relax. Please get in touch for more details. Marianne 01787 210323.

Bridge Drive, Friday 23 February

A light-hearted Bridge Drive will be held in the Parish Room, Little Waldingfield, from 2pm - 5.30pm. Tickets £10 per person to include refreshments. Please telephone Nancy Roser on (01787) 882897 to book your place. In aid of Church funds.

MURDER MYSTERY

The Monks Eleigh Village Hall Trust are excited to announce their murder mystery evening at the Chamberlin Hall in Bildeston on Saturday 24th February 2018 at 7.00pm. The evening will include a 2 course supper, bar and raffle and will feature actors from Lavenham Players, who will enact the murder and take parts as the suspects. You will carry out the investigation as the detectives! You can all work individually or as small teams. The murder scenario will be based upon a commercially produced game, with various clues and an official solution. So it is down to you as the sleuths to find out the truth and the guilty party.

Come along and have some fun! Tickets are available from: Bank Stores in Bildeston, or at the Monks Eleigh Community Shop. Alternatively call 01449 740414 to obtain yours. The price per ticket is £13.50, with the proceeds going to the Monks Eleigh Village Hall build fund.

Boxford Drama Group presents
at Boxford Village Hall

An Englishman's Home is his Hassle



A new musical comedy written by Elaine Horne with original music by Mike Keith

Thurs April 26th to Sat 28th

7.30pm

Supper served in the interval and bar and raffle every evening

Tickets £13.00

From Boxford Post Office

BOXFORD
GARDENING SOCIETY

JOHN FOSTER Snowdrops & early Spring flowers



Tuesday 6th February 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall

Wot's On

Little Waldingfield Parish Room

Our next quiz night will be on Saturday 3rd February 2018. Tickets cost just £10.00 for a two course meal with pre-dinner nibbles. The quiz will comprise 6 rounds of questions, with a break halfway for dinner; there will also be a raffle in support of the Parish Room. To book your tickets, please contact Sue Sheppard on 247980 or email: sheppard.susanm@gmail.com

Murder at Chamberlin Hall?

It's a mystery, come and help solve who 'done' it. Come and enjoy a Murder Mystery that evolves over a two course Supper, you are the detectives who accuse the murderer. There will be a full bar and a raffle
When:- Saturday February 24th Where:- Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston
Time:- 7.30 for 8pm Price per ticket £13.50 All funds raised will go to Monks Eleigh Village Hall (Charity No. 1164623)

Nayland Horticultural Society

Notes for your diary!

The Spring Show is on the morning of Saturday 24th March 2018 at the Church Hall, Bear Street, Nayland.

Come along for coffee, cake, raffle and a friendly chat! Everyone is welcome to have a go at exhibiting daffodils and other Spring flowers. The schedule is available from Trevor Smy at 28 Harper's Estate, Nayland, CO6 4LB, telephone: 01206 262022 or e-mail him at trevor.smy@gmail.com or via the website.

Nayland Horticultural Society

Our Spring Speaker is Ian Seager who will be talking about Wildlife Gardens and Conservation on 27th March. This is held in the Church Hall, Bear Street, Nayland, 7.30pm for 8 o'clock start and it is Free! All welcome but get there early as the hall fills quickly!

Nayland Horticultural Society's AGM is due to take place in the Church Hall, Bear Street, Nayland on 17th April. There is usually coffee, a raffle and a Fun Quiz with a horticultural twist to test your gardening knowledge and win a prize! Come along and meet other like-minded, green-fingered folks! Why not join us? Single membership is £3 per annum, joint £5. Contact Trevor or Margaret Smy, details on the website

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

DIARY DATES

JANUARY 2018

Tuesday 30th 2.00 pm Fireside Club – meditate with Joyce

FEBRUARY 2018

Saturday 3rd 10.00 am Newsletter coffee morning

Wednesday 7th 7.30 pm Parish Council

Tuesday 13th 2.00 pm Fireside Club – Pancake day

Tuesday 27th 2.00 pm Fireside Club – Quiz & plan coffee morning

MARCH 2018

Saturday 3rd 10.00 am Fireside Club coffee morning

Wednesday 7th 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 13th 2.00 pm Fireside Club – Bingo

Tuesday 27th 12.30 – 1.00pm Fireside Club – Alan's lunch

Saturday 31st 10.00 am Parish Council coffee morning

APRIL 2018

Wednesday 4th 7.30 pm Village Hall AGM & Committee Meeting

Tuesday 10th 2.30 pm Fireside Club – Feely bags

Wednesday 11th 7.30 pm Parish Council meeting

Saturday 14th 10.00 am – 3.00 pm Art Club Exhibition

Tuesday 24th 2.30 pm Fireside Club – Indoor Games

Wednesday 25th 7.30 pm Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting

REGULAR EVENTS

Monday mornings (term time only): Yoga class (phone Sophia on 313662 for details)

Monday and Thursday evenings: Western Partner Dance Club (call Chris 371006)

Friday afternoons: Art and Craft club (call Carole on 373548)

Friday evenings: Sudbury and District Wargames Club (call Brian on 312160)

POLSTEAD WI

Happy New Year everyone!

We've had a thoroughly enjoyable 2017, with several trips to the Theatre, Coffee morning and a Cookery demonstration at Assington Barns amongst other trips. The Members are looking forward to celebrating the New Year with a meal in February.

If you would like to join us for a taster session during the year please come along to Polstead Village Hall, the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

2018 PROGRAMME FOR POLSTEAD WI

January 9th	Cake Decorating
February 13th	Physiotherapy & Mental Health
March 13th	Fused Glass Artist
April 10th	Open Meeting – Life and Laughs of a Local Journalist
April 19th	Three Valleys Group Meeting – Nayland
April 26th	Federation Annual Meeting – The Apex, Bury St Edmunds
May 8th	Annual Meeting
June 12th	Escape the Rat Race
July 10th	Silk Weaving in Sudbury
August	No Meeting
September 11th	The Trinity House Story
October 9th	Town Pastors
November 13th	Hair Care



Bridge Drive

Friday 23rd February 2018

2pm – 5.30pm

£10 per person
(in aid of Church Funds)

Refreshments included

The Parish Room, Church Road
Little Waldingfield

Please book a place through
Nancy Roser 01787 882897

Valentine's Day

TO START:

Chicken Liver Pate

Served with Warm Bread

Camembert Fondue

Served with a Selection of Fruit, Crudités and Cured Meats

Prawn Cocktail

Served with Warm Bread

~*~

MAINS

Chateaubriand for Two

Served with Chips, Tomatoes, Mushrooms, Onion Rings, Stilton and Peppercorn Sauce

Seafood Platter for Two

Scampi, Whitebait, Calamari, Mussels, Smoked Salmon, Mackerel, Prawns, Salad

Smoked Garlic and Mushroom Tagliatelle for One

Served with Garlic Bread

Sirloin or Moules Mariniere for One

Sirloin Served with Chips, Mushrooms, Tomatoes, Onion Rings

Mussels Served with Chips and Garlic Bread

~*~

Freak shake for Two

Giant Vanilla Milkshake Filled with Ice-cream, Sweets, Topped with Whipped Cream

Fruit Skewers

Served with Chocolate Dipping Sauce

Strawberries and Cream

Served with Dipping Sugar

Cheese and Biscuits

2 Course £21.00

3 Course £25.00

Wot's On

Stowmarket Chorale, at the Apex

"Stowmarket Chorale, together with children from 3 local schools: Rougham Primary, Great Finborough Primary and South Lee School, Bury St Edmunds, will perform Zimbe! - songs of Africa, accompanied by the composer, Alexander L'Estrange and his Jazz Quintet, at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 18 March at 4pm. This performance is a celebration of African music combining traditional songs with jazz, Western choral and pop influences, and sung with enthusiasm and fun by adult 4-part chorus and unison children's choir. Conducted by the Chorale's Music Director, Leslie Olive, and following on from last year's performance of Ahoy! this is the second collaboration between Stowmarket Chorale and Rougham Primary School, Great Finborough Primary School and South Lee School, and Alexander L'Estrange and his Jazz Quintet.

Tickets are available from the Apex Box Office, www.theapex.co.uk or 02184 758000 - £15 adults, £6 concessions..

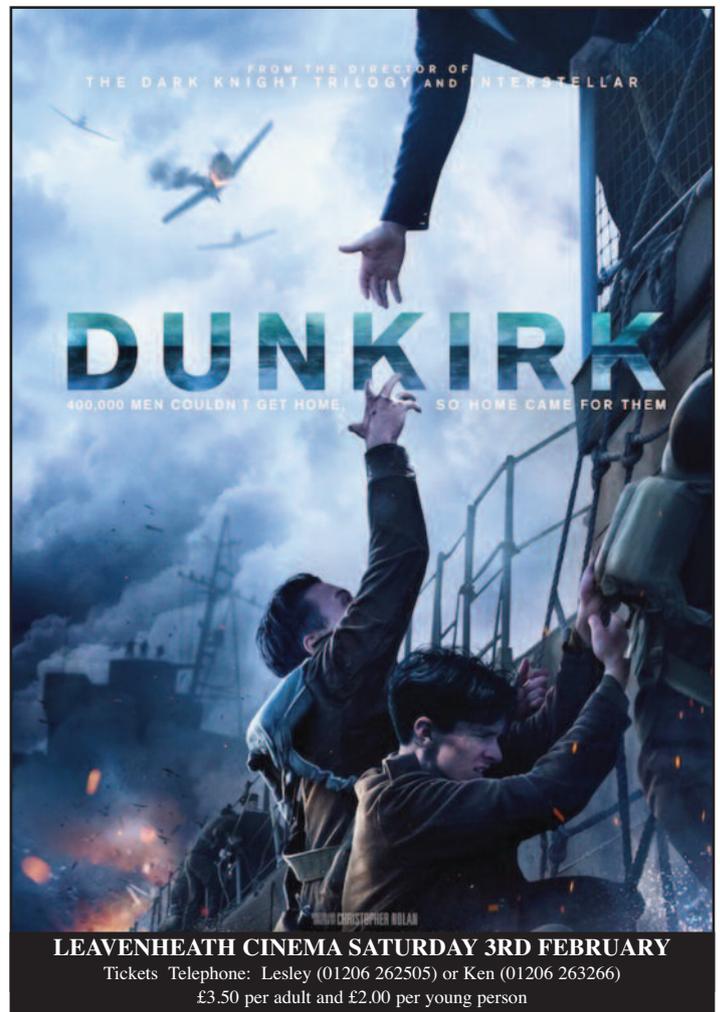
Mark Mitchels Lecture about Mozart

Groton Village Hall, Friday, March 2nd at 7.30pm

We are most fortunate to get Mark Mitchels, who is a very entertaining speaker, to come and give us his "Mozart" Lecture, which is one of his favourite lectures; here's what his website says about it:--- Mozart: A Life in MusicMozart's music has never been more popular and each generation appropriates his story for their own purposes. He has endured the portrait of a pretty child displaying his musical talents before finely dressed aristocratic audiences. He has found a new public in popular perception as the foul-mouthed rebel who had to fight and suffer to achieve anything, and who finally died in obscurity and poverty. But these portraits of him are superficial and detract from his extraordinary biography. Mozart was a genius, but he also lived in the real world and wrote his music to earn money! This lecture places Mozart in the musical life of Salzburg and Vienna and shows how he produced his music and won the hearts of many of his contemporaries, especially Haydn. Throughout, there is the music he composed and the comments of his fellow musicians.

This illustrated talk includes many recorded musical extracts.

So please do come and hear this lecture; refreshments will be provided, but please bring your own drinks. Please phone to book your place [Pat 210319 or Jayne 211360] Ticket price will be £6 each.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY AND INTERSTELLAR

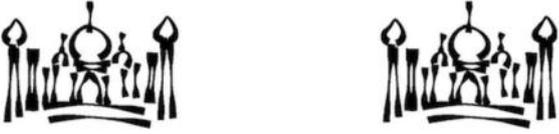
DUNKIRK

400,000 MEN COULDN'T GET HOME. SO HOME CAME FOR THEM

LEAVENHEATH CINEMA SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

Tickets Telephone: Lesley (01206 262505) or Ken (01206 263266)
£3.50 per adult and £2.00 per young person

GROTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PRESENTS



QUIZ AND CURRY EVENING

At
Groton Village Hall

On Friday 20th April 2018 7.30 for 7.45 Start
£12.00 per head (entry plus choice of curry & dessert)

Teams of four
B.Y.O. Bar
Raffle

Phone Joanna: 210619 or Jayne: 211360 to book your place

Valentines Dance

Saturday 17th February

Live music from Jolly Polly & the Pirates

The Fleece Boxford

8.30pm

Complimentary drink on arrival

Tickets £10 each or £18 per couple

Tickets available from FOBS, The Fleece & CoffeeBox





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HOMEMADE PIZZA

MARGHERITA (v) £7.95

Tomato, cheese

HAWAIIAN £8.95

Topped with cheese, ham and pineapple

PEPPERONI £9.00

VEGGIE (v) £9.50

Topped with mushroom, onion and peppers

5-CHEESE (v) £9.50

Topped with blue cheese, mozzarella, parmesan, pecorino
and goat cheese

MEAT FEAST £9.95

Topped with pepperoni, ham and bacon

SPICY £9.95

Topped with cheese, pepperoni, jalapeño peppers

Extra topping £1.00

HOMEMADE PASTA

Penne Pomodoro (v) £7.00

Tomato sauce, cherry tomato, fresh basil

4-Cheese Creamy Penne (v) £8.50

Gorgonzola blue, pecorino, mozzarella, Parmesan

Creamy Chicken Alfredo Linguine £8.50

BURGERS, CHICKEN & SALADS

Vegan Burger (v) £4.50

Chicken Burger £5.50

Hamburger £5.50

Bacon £0.50 Cheddar £0.50 Fresh mozzarella £1.00

Chicken Wings (10 pcs) Spicy or BBQ £7.50

Caesar Salad Chicken £5.50

Caesar Salad King Prawn (v) £7.50

SIDES/DESSERTS

- Garlic Bread £2.50
- Onion Rings £2.50
- Chocolate cheesecake £3.50
- Chips £2.50
- Sweet Potato Fries £4.00
- Apple pie £3.50

DRINKS £1.00

Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Sprite, Tango

BEER & WINE

Can of Beer £1.50 or 4 for £5.00

Bottle of Vino Italiano white/red wine £13.00

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Forthcoming Events Diary

January 2018

27 Fun and Games Night Boxford Community Council Boxford Village Hall 7.30pm

February

3 Quiz Night Little Waldingfield Parish Room 7.30pm
 6 Snow Dops and Early Spring Flowers BGS Boxford Village Hall 7.30pm
 7 Boxford WI Gems – Rowley Collier Boxford Village Hall 2.00pm
 14 Jenny Antill Between Heaven & Earth Little Waldingfield History Society Parish Room 7.30pm
 17 Valentines Dance FOBS The Fleece 8.40pm
 23 Lighthearted Bridge Parish Room 2pm to 5.30

March

2 Mark Mitchels, Mozart lectures Groton PCC Groton Village Hall TBA
 7 Boxford WI East Anglian Children's Hospice Boxford Village Hall 2.00pm
 14 Geoffrey Kay A tonic to the nation Little Waldingfield History Society Parish Room 7.30pm

April

8 Spring Open Gardens Groton PCC Groton Street
 18 Linda Sexton Sisters in adversity Little Waldingfield History Society Parish Room 7.30pm
 20 Quiz and Curry Groton PCC Groton Village Hall 7.30pm
 26-28 An Englishmans Home is his Hassle BDG Boxford Village Hall 7.30pm

May

16 Pip Wright A Picture History of Margaret Catchpole Little W Hist Soc Parish Room 7.30pm

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

Stowmarket Chorale Music Director: Leslie Olive

Zimbe!

songs of Africa

By Alexander L'Estrange

Accompanied by
Alexander L'Estrange
and his Jazz Quintet

Mass of the Children

By John Rutter

Featuring children from
Rougham Primary School,
Great Finborough Primary School
South Lee School, Bury St Edmunds

Sunday 18th March 2018

4pm

The Apex

Bury St Edmunds

Tickets: £15 adults, £6 concessions
 10% discount if booked before 18 February 2018
 Box Office: 01284 758000 or www.theapex.co.uk

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Helen Kempson – Nutritional Therapist

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www.hknutrition.co.uk



MEMBER
BANT



The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton

Priest in Charge:

The Revd Judith Sweetman
The Rectory, School Hill, Boxford CO10 5JT
Tel: 01787 210091; e-mail: rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com

The Revd Judith's day off is normally Friday but this may vary according to circumstances

Reader:

Christopher Kingsbury, Rose Cottage, Sherbourne Street, Edwardstone CO10 5PD
Tel: 211236; Fax: 211238; e-mail: ChrisKingsC@aol.com

Lay Elder:

David Lamming, 20 Holbrook Barn Road, Boxford CO10 5HU
Tel: 210360; Fax: 329770; 07968 791135; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com

Please let any of the above or a Churchwarden know if you would like a home visit, home communion or a hospital visit, or of any cases of sickness or otherwise where they might be of assistance.

Benefice house:

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

For much more information about the five parishes in our Benefice please go to our Church Near You web site at www.achurchnearyou.com.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

Fair Trade Fortnight Fair trade fortnight this year runs from **Monday 26th February to Sunday 11th March**. Fairtrade Fortnight is an action-packed highlight of the year, when campaigners, businesses, schools and places of worship show their support for the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries. Find out more about this year's theme and how you can be involved at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight>.

General Synod The Church of England's General Synod meets in London over three days from **1.30 pm on Thursday 8th to 4.00 pm on Saturday 10th February 2018**. A timetable has been published and full details of the agenda and the supporting papers will be available shortly on the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org. On the Thursday afternoon Synod will consider and debate the report, 'Discerning in Obedience - a theological review of the Crown Nominations Commission'. The CNC is the body that decides on the appointment of diocesan bishops and recommends a name to the prime minister. The session ends with 'questions,' similar in format to PMQs: this promises to be a lively and provocative 1½ hours, especially in the light of the official Church responses to the Carlile report on the 'Bishop George Bell' case, which was published shortly before Christmas. Friday will commence with a service of Holy Communion and then, before lunch, the Revd. Andrew Dotchin from Felixstowe will introduce a debate on the St Eds. & Ips. diocesan motion on food wastage that originated in Loes Deanery Synod. [See the text of the motion below]. After lunch, Archbishop Justin will give his presidential address and then Synod will consider various items of legislative business. Saturday morning will begin with a presentation on the topical subject of 'Safeguarding,' to be followed later by another presentation on digital evangelism and (to end the day) by a debate on a motion about 'valuing people with Downs Syndrome'. It remains to be seen whether the agenda will be altered to allow a formal debate on the Carlile report.

If you would like to know more, whether about General Synod or the Carlile report, do contact David Lamming, one of the three lay members on the synod representing our diocese: e-mail djlamming@hotmail.com. You can follow the synod proceedings, when in session, via a live video stream accessed via the CofE website. Go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/about-general-synod> and click on the link.

The Food Wastage Motion, That this Synod, mindful of the problems of food poverty in Britain today and the excessive tonnage of edible food wasted by retail outlets:

- affirm the Biblical principle of ensuring that the poor and vulnerable are not excluded from the harvest;
- commend those retailers who are working creatively with food banks to distribute food that might otherwise be wasted;
- urge all dioceses and parishes to work with other voluntary initiatives to lobby all local food retailers to review their policy on waste food so that the amount made available to combat poverty is maximised;
- request Her Majesty's Government to consider bringing forward legislation that would effectively minimize food waste by food retailers; and
- call upon all church members to use food resources responsibly and minimize waste in their own homes.

Diocesan Synod The spring meeting of the diocesan synod is at St Edmundsbury Cathedral again this year, but earlier – **on Saturday 24th February 2018**. The agenda was not known at the date this issue of the BRN went to press, but watch for details in the weekly New Wine news sheet.

Please look at the **Churches Together** website for details of the various activities taking place over the Advent season: www.churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk.

THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwarden:

Peter Dilnot

Assistant Churchwarden:

Michael Gray

Mobile: 07931 043926

Email: boxford.warden@btinternet.com



Cafe Church at St Mary's Boxford, on **Sunday 4th February at 11.00 am**. Everyone is especially welcome - we serve good coffee and pastries to enjoy at this time of very informal worship.

The Bible Study Group next meets at 47 Swan Street at **7.30 pm** by kind invitation of Margaret and Peter Holden. All are welcome to this hour of fellowship. The group meets usually on the **1st and 4th Mondays** each month.



We often joke that the Easter Eggs appear on the shop shelves on Boxing Day and this year was no exception. Lent is also early this year, with Ash Wednesday being 14th February. The word "Lent" means "Spring Season" and we can begin to look forward to Spring. During the period from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday we remember the time that Jesus retreated into the wilderness, where He fasted for 40 days, and was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-2, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-2). He overcame all three of Satan's temptations by citing scripture to the devil, at which point the devil left him, angels then ministered to Jesus, and He began His ministry. Jesus further said that His disciples should fast "when the bridegroom shall be taken from them" (Matthew 9:15), a reference to his Passion.



Messy Church is held in school near the beginning of each month 3.15 pm - 4.30 pm on days advised by Helen Heath and her team.

Copy Date for Church News in the March Box River News:

Please, NO LATER THAN 12th January

Failure to meet the date will mean your copy may not be included

Thank you. Rev'd Judith. 01787 210091

email address: rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com



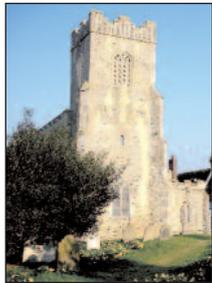
THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:
Vacant

Rota for February

Sunday 18th at 9:30 am Holy Communion

Sidesman/Coffees Jan Paul/Ineke
Flowers Anne Suckling
Cleaning Anthea Tribe and Liz Henderson



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens:
Vacant

Acting Churchwarden:
Diana McCorkell

Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath, Groton,
CO10 5ER Tel: 01787 210927
E-mail: dianah.mccorkell@btinternet.com

Rotas for February

Sidesman Mrs Diana McCorkell
Flowers Mrs Pat Kennedy Scott
Cleaning Mrs Pat Kennedy Scott

From the Registers

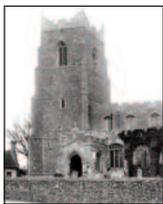
Holy Baptism James Arthur Weaver was baptised in St Bartholomew's church by the Revd. Judith on 31st October 2017.

Ipswich Winter Night Shelter Thank you to those who came to the Carol Service on 20th December, to those who decorated the church so beautifully, to the benefice choir who led our singing, to the readers, and to Nancy Roser who played the organ for us. Following the service, £225 was sent to the Selig (Suffolk) Trust for the benefit of the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter: many thanks to all who contributed.

Electoral Roll Revision It is nearly time for the annual revision of the electoral roll ahead of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which this year is on **Tuesday 17th April 2018**. The revision period will be from **18th March to 1st April** (Easter Day). The revised roll will then be published by being exhibited on the church noticeboard from 2nd April until the date of the APCM. Formal notice of the revision period will be posted on the church noticeboard on **1st March 2018**.

The roll is important as it is those whose names that are on the roll who are entitled to attend the APCM and stand for election to the PCC. If your name is not currently on the roll but you would like to be on the roll and think you qualify for enrolment, please get in touch with David Lamming and ask for an application form. (Tel: 210360; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com). There is no need to wait until the formal revision period.

PCC Meeting Tuesday 6th March 2018, 7.00 pm at Mary's House. Items for the agenda should be notified to the secretary, David Lamming, by **Sunday 25th February**. [E-mail djlamming@hotmail.com]



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens
Vacant

Rotas

	Sidesmen	Flowers
4th February	Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Eddington	Mrs. Duffy
11th February	No service	Lent
18th February	No service	Lent
25th February	No service	Lent

Having to cancel our Christmas Carols round the village was a sad blow. With so many people either ill or away, it became impossible. We shall try again next year.

Our Carol Concert proved very popular. The church was decorated with floral displays, a lovely tree and innumerable candles. The Benefice Choir sang for us, Reverend Judith presided and made the appeal for Church Funds. The congregation was very generous, and we raised over £300.

Mulled wine was given and served by Rita Baker and Mary Thoroughgood, and Victoria Nicholls organised the mince pies and other refreshments. Jill and Dennis Duffy provided the tree. Flower displays were given by Felicity Gardiner, Nancy Roser, Joy Squirrel, Fran Gregor-Smith, Greta Martin and Tricia Eddington. The PCC would like to thank them all for their generous contribution to the success of the evening.

23rd February A Bridge Drive to be held in the Parish Room **2.00 pm - 5.30 pm**. Tickets £10 per person to include refreshments. In aid of church funds. Please telephone Nancy Roser on 01787 882897 to book your place.

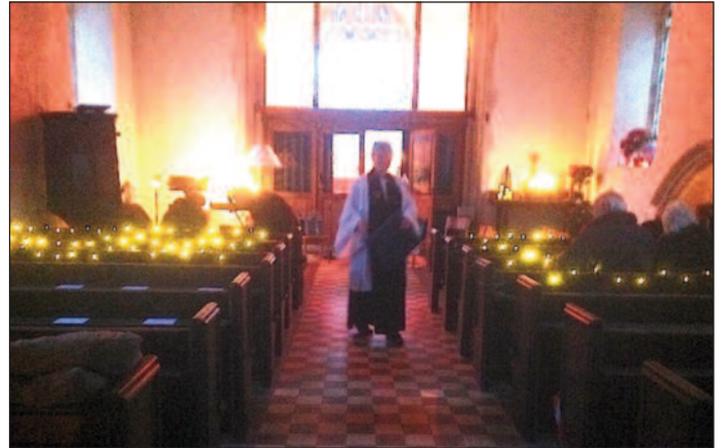
17th June Open Gardens

13th July Lander Mason, the folk/jazz group, will be returning to give us a concert and to launch their new CD.



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwarden:
Christine Cornell,
"Opus", Sudbury Road, Newton, Tel: 370331



The deadline for the January issue of the Box River News was too early for us to be able to report on our Christmas Services, so it follows below. 17th December A Christmas tree welcomed us as we approached the 14th century Nave for our Carol Service. With the Nave bedecked with greenery and lit by candles and little lights along the back of the pews, the service started with the magical sound of the Millwheel Singers singing O Magnum Mysterium from the back of the church.

Revd. Judith welcomed all and said the Bidding Prayer and that was followed by 8 year old William singing the solo of Once in Royal David's City from the dark in the back of the church. We are so fortunate that the Nave has such amazing acoustics which makes the singing appear to float upwards. The service continued with traditional Christmas readings, poems, songs and carols. Revd. Judith said the Blessing and the two youngest in the congregation took the collection before everyone moved into the welcoming warmth of the beautifully decorated Chancel for mince pies and mulled wine and with happy chatting giving the feeling of the beginning of Christmas.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who took part in the preparation, the actual service, especially the Millwheel Singers, and the clearing up. A HUGE thank you to all the brave souls who joined us in the unheated Nave and we hope to see you at our next Carol Service.

24th December Our Crib Service was very well attended especially with many children all willing to take part in telling the Christmas story. 8 year old William sang the solo of Once In Royal David's City. Revd. Judith told the Christmas story with so many interesting things that she had prepared for the children to take part in and she has the ability to make them feel completely at ease. As the people left they were given traditional biscuit rings to hang on their Christmas trees. Thank you to Nancy Roser for playing the organ and to all who helped in any way to make such a lovely service. Thank you to all who joined us and we hope that you will come again this year when there will be a warm welcome for you.

Our Plough Service will be on **Sunday 28th January at 11.00 am**

Sunday 25th February at 11.00 am Holy Communion

Village Prayers

Each week, mainly held in the five churches*: informal, friendly service, 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 of any people or situations for prayer: Confidential messages can be left on Tel. 01787 210091 or emailed to: rvdjudithboxriver@btinternet.com. The winter months' rota (October –Mar): **Tuesday** 9.00 Edwardstone; **Wednesday** 9.00 Groton, 16:00 Little Waldingfield (*Newman's Hall); **Thursday** 9.00 Newton, 17.00 Boxford (*Mary's House). *If you do not usually attend, please phone Revd Judith first, as occasionally these have to be cancelled due her day off changing, or other commitments.*

Thursday 1st

Lt Waldingfield	15.00	Holy Communion - Newmans Hall (Reserved Sacrament)	Lay Team
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Sunday 4th	2nd Sunday before Lent	(G)
Boxford	08.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Lt Waldingfield	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Cafe Church	Revd Judith
Boxford	18.30 Evensong	Christopher Kingsbury

Wednesday 7th

Boxford	10.30	Holy Communion - Mary's House	Revd Judith
---------	-------	-------------------------------	-------------

Sunday 11th	Sunday next before Lent	(G)
Groton	09.30 Morning Worship	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

Wednesday 14th

Ash Wednesday	(P)	
Boxford	10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House - with ashes	Revd Judith
Boxford	19.30 Holy Communion with imposition of ashes	Revd Judith

Thursday 15th

Lt Waldingfield	15.00	Compline - Newmans Hall	Lay Team
-----------------	-------	-------------------------	----------

Sunday 18th	First Sunday of Lent	(P)
Edwardstone	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

Wednesday 21st

Boxford	10.30	Holy Communion Mary's House	Revd Judith
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Sunday 25th	Second Sunday of Lent	(P)
Newton	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Morning Worship	Christopher Kingsbury

Wednesday 28th

Boxford	10.30	Holy Communion Mary's House	Revd Judith
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Soap Box

As I have mentioned in the past, from time to time I contribute to the Sudbury Newstalk's magazine for the visually impaired. This is, of course, a sound magazine, delivered on a memory stick for recipients to play on devices provided by the organisation. Last month the magazine topic was "Treasure". It set me thinking, so I thought I'd share my contribution with BRN readers – not least because I'd be interested to know if there are any others locally who are familiar with the 9.5mm cine gauge or who have experience of turning cine films into digital recordings. Read on.

The Oxford English Dictionary's definition of Treasure covers a lot of ground. The word can, of course, be a noun or a verb. As a noun it can refer to "things", such as precious objects that may or may not be valuable in their own right, or to people. How many times have you heard someone referred to as "such a treasure"? Well, probably less often these days as it seems to have fallen out of use, other than to the older generation.

Personally, treasure to me conjures up the image of an oak chest with iron bands, lying open on a white, tropical beach with all manner of gold, silver and bejewelled items tumbling out onto the sand. Standing around the chest would be pirates, perhaps one with a wooden leg and a parrot on his shoulder. Have I ever seen such a sight? Only in pantomimes. Still, a request for reflections on the subject of Treasure did set me thinking about what treasures I might have in my life. For my wife, our little Jack Russell would surely qualify. For me the choice is more difficult.

Leaving people aside, one treasure must be my late father's cine projector and his collection of films. My father was a supporter of the 9.5mm film gauge – considered by many to be the outstanding film type for amateurs as it had a frame size nearly as big as 16mm – the semi-professional gauge and used by real film makers – but was much smaller overall as it had a single sprocket hole in the centre of the reel, rather than two sets of sprockets at the side. Unfortunately, this was also its weakness as, if the film slipped off the sprockets, the picture was more easily damaged. In the end this gauge was overtaken in the amateur market by 8mm, which was actually 16mm film cut in half.

My father started filming before the outbreak of the Second World War and continued after he was demobbed, recording the growing up of me and my brother. After his death shortly before his 97th birthday, my brother gave me the projector, camera and reels of film, much of which would have been shot

by him, but also such delights as old Popeye, Betty Boop and Felix the Cat cartoons – all in black and white and all remembered with great affection for those days in the 1950s when we were treated to a film show. We didn't have a TV back then, but it really didn't matter.

Sadly, this particular treasure has remained in my loft ever since. A brief and unsuccessful attempt to contact the 9.5 Group, publishers of the 9.5 magazine for 9.5mm cine enthusiasts, marked the only effort I have put into turning this treasure into something more tangible than a mere memory. Perhaps the impetus provided by the need to reflect on what real treasures are might prompt me to revisit this project. First I have to find the box. Knowing the state of my loft, this really could turn out to be buried treasure.

But to return to my earlier thoughts of what the word treasure makes me think of when I hear it, I have a little anecdote to share which, if not about treasure as such, does feature pirates. Several years ago my wife and I visited Barbados to celebrate a special birthday for her. She had been there before, but for me it was my first trip to a Caribbean island and my experience of the white sands, waving palms and laid back islanders made me wonder just where that iron bound oak chest filled with treasure might be hiding.

My wife insisted we visited a rum shack on our travels around the island to gain an insight into local life. Pulling into a car park outside one such shack, we entered, to find half a dozen dusky occupants all gazing fixedly at a television high up on the wall above the door through which we came into the bar. Far from being friendly, the bar keeper responded to our request for rum by pushing two glasses and a small bottle in front of us while keeping his eyes firmly on the TV above our heads. In the absence of conversation from mine host or any of the other residents, we poured our drinks and turned to face the television. It was the film *Pirates of the Caribbean* that was keeping them all so engrossed. You couldn't have made it up.

Brian Tora

Remember

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Just go to <http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/box-river-news> and scroll down to the latest BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about one day after the published press date.
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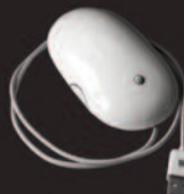
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GARDENING IN FEBRUARY INSPIRED BY HARRY BUCKLEDEE

A careful selection of heathers will provide colour for ten months of the year. Once a bed of heathers is established it requires little maintenance and is almost weed free. Heathers like an open sunny situation away from overhanging trees. As well as flowers, colour can be provided by the inclusion of gold and silver foliage varieties. A few upright slow growing conifers can be added to give height and colour. Heather should be planted in groups of three, five or seven or more, depending on the size of the bed. The object is to get ground cover as quickly as possible, they can be planted closer than the planting distances indicated in the catalogue, and with good preparation the plants should cover the ground in three years. All are lime haters except the winter flowering Erica carnea and darleyensis varieties. The summer and autumn flowering varieties will give you good results if plenty of peat, and if your soil is heavy, some sand as well is mixed well into the top six inches of soil. Carnea varieties grow to a height of six inches and are therefore suitable for the front of the border, there are many varieties available and most flower from December to May. Darleyensis varieties are similar to carnea but taller and will grow to eighteen inches or more in height. The first of the summer flowering heathers is Erica tetralix. of bushy compact habit, flowering in June, Pink Star and Alba Mallis maintain their silver foliage all the year round.

This is followed in July by the Erica cinerea with it's white, pink, and magenta flowers and dark foliage which contrast well with the other colours. Probably the most spectacular of all the Calluna or Scottish heather with it's six inch long flower spikes of white, pink, red and lavender flowers. They flower from August to October but make a show all year with their wide range of coloured foliage. It is most important to leut off the flowering stems of Callunas and Vagans when flowering has finished. A well prepared heather bed will give colour and interest for twenty or more years for a minimum of maintenance.

Look at fuchsia plants that bare resting in the greenhouse and give a little water. Prune last years growth back to two buds and spray the remaining wood with tepid water to start them into growth.

At the end of the month, provided the weather is good, roses can be pruned. Hybrid T's should be cut back to three buds from the base, Floribunda's to four or five buds. Don't be afraid to cut back hard - rose bushes will last longer and stay healthier and give a better display by hard

pruning.

The weather we have had this winter has helped the spread of moss and lichens on paths, patios and other surfaces making them dangerous to walk on. There are several chemicals available to treat these conditions but I have found Armillotox as good as anything. Badly affected areas may need scrubbing with a stiff broom.

Ferns need repotting if the soil ball shows full of roots when tapped out of the pot. Red-pot in John Inns Nol and remove any dead or discoloured fronts. To increase your stock of fern, divided the old plants and use the vigorous outside crowns to pot up into three inch pots. Discard the weak ones from the centre.

Where lime is necessary, it should be applied this month. Lime helps by neutralising soil acidity, providing calcium which is an essential plant food by helping to break up heavy clay soils and by releasing certain trace elements which are locked up in the soil. It should not, of course be applied to ericacious subjects such as Rhododendron's.

Spring is in sight

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover
- 2 Chit potato tubers
- 3 Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches
- 4 Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
- 5 Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- 6 Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'
- 7 Prune Wisteria
- 8 Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
- 9 Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea
- 10 Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

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THE NAMES ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS - FEBRUARY 2018



We left the War in November last year, and thus November 1917, when the sequence of articles was interrupted by my ill health at the beginning of the month. This resulted in a brief note to fill the gap for the December issue, which happened to be a month in 1917 in which there were no losses of

servicemen amongst our villages. I had fully expected to be able pick up the threads and to write an article at the beginning of December for publication in the January 2018 edition. However, I then encountered another episode of ill health, which resulted in me spending three days in hospital. Whilst I am recovered from the immediate cause of concern at the time, I am still somewhat limited in what I can do and how much I can take on, and currently have further follow up investigations booked in at Ipswich. To try and catch up, rather than attempt to outline the progress of the conflict as it affected our villages and write the brief biographies of the relevant casualties, I will this month just give belated accounts of the two men we need to remember in January. Then, in the March edition, there being no losses incurred in February 1918, I hope to be able to catch up on the time line of the War on the Western Front and bring to our minds the two men who lost their lives in March 1918. Before I leave this resumé, and the subject of my health, may I, through these pages, send my sincere thanks to all those who have enquired after me and sent their best wishes through Judith. It has meant a lot to me to know of that care and concern so thoughtfully expressed.

Our two subjects this month are **Private Alfred Ashley Willis, 8547**, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, of Newton, who died on the 15th January 1915, and **Private Walter William Whymark, 20695**, 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, of Boxford, who died on the 22nd January 1918. As I explain in the next paragraph, I have only recently identified Alfred Willis, hence the overdue account of his presence in our villages.

When I started this series of articles two years ago, Alfred Willis's name appeared in the list of ten men, who I could not positively identify in the available resources and about whom I had very little, if any, information. Since then, further research and more extensive resources have enabled me to place each of these soldiers within the context of our villages. Alfred's name is on the War Memorial in Newton, however he is not listed on the framed Roll of Honour, which stands on a window sill in the chancel of All Saints. This anomaly I have yet to understand. Initially, I had few clues as to Alfred's identity. The official War Office publication, *Soldiers who died in the Great War*, listed a Private Alfred Willis (sic), 8547, born in Kersey. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission identified Private Alfred Willis, 8547, as being the son of Charles Willis, and step son of Jane Willis, of Cobbold's Corner, Leavenheath. (The contemporary Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 (6") maps of the area do not show a Cobbold's Corner, and it is not listed in the present day Post Code index; if anyone can identify where this was, I would be pleased to know). But, nothing connected this Alfred with Newton and the surname of Willis did not appear in any of the available relevant Censuses.

To bring Alfred back to life, so to speak, I could just give a brief account of his parents, his date and place of birth and his occupation, (all of which I have now established), as I generally do for each of the subjects of these articles. However, the detailed research that I had to do to identify Alfred has provided a broader background to the circumstances and experiences of the lives of Alfred's parents' generation, and consequently Alfred's childhood, which is, I believe, as a piece of social history, worth setting out. It is a story of extraordinary hardship and loss and illustrates in particular the reality of married women's lives in rural society in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Alfred's father was, indeed, Charles (Alfred) Willis, born in 1851 to John and Mary Ann Willis, who at the time were lodging with John's parents in Lindsey. John and his father are recorded as agricultural labourers on the Census forms and Charles also began his working life as such and remained so employed throughout his life. In the 1861 Census, Charles is listed with his parents, now at Lindsey Tye, but by 1871 Charles has his own family, though he remained living in Lindsey. He had married on the 12th of March 1870, aged 19, and his wife was Jane Farthing, also aged 19 according to their marriage certificate (on which Charles's father is recorded as a groom), though I think she was, in fact, 20 or 21. Jane was the daughter of Robert and Esther Farthing also of Lindsey. Robert was an agricultural labourer. Esther died, aged 42, when Jane was only 2 years old and her father died when she was about 12 in 1861.

Charles' and Jane's first born was a daughter, Alice Jane. She was baptised at Lindsey Church on 28th August 1870 five months after the marriage, though little Alice's death appears in the Lindsey Registers on 23rd April 1871 and was almost certainly less than a year old. Sadly, this loss then sets the pattern of the lives of

this family, and the greatest burden of pain and suffering would fall on Jane throughout her marriage.

All I can do now is list the significant dates of Charles' and Jane's children and let the reader form their own understanding of the harsh lives these people endured in rural Suffolk, which was probably not atypical.

After Alice comes

Frederick Arthur	Baptised 6th July 1872	Died 28th February 1873
Arthur George	Baptised 1st June 1873	Died 5th July 1874
Frederick Charles	Baptised 2nd August 1874	Survived into adulthood
Ada Clarinder	Baptised 3rd October 1875	Died 13th January 1876
Arthur Edgar	Baptised 2nd December 1877	Died 10th April 1879
Kate	Baptised 3rd September 1879	Died 27th April 1880
Alfred George	Baptised 15th September 1880	Buried 25th September 1880
Agnes Julia	Baptised 18th January 1883	Died 25th April 1883
Minnie	Baptised 6th July 1884	Died 9th January 1885
Elsie Francis	Baptised 21st September 1886	Died 19th April 1887
Gurney W	Baptised 5th April 1888	Survived into adulthood
Minnie (again)	Baptised 6th July 1890	Died 21st February 1891
Alfred Ashley	Born 5th June 1892	Survived into adulthood

By now Jane was about 43 or 44 and she had born fourteen children, three of whom were still alive, and one of those was to die in the War, her last born Alfred, though she would not live to bear that loss.

Somewhere between 1871 and 1881 the family moved from Lindsey to The Street, Kersey, which is where Jane died on the 15th April 1903, aged 53, with Charles being present at her death. The cause of death would now be described as cervical cancer, which had been diagnosed 15 months previously, and which, by the time of her death, had spread to her liver.

But Charles' need for a larger family was not diminished and on 2nd July 1904 he married another Jane. This Jane was the 28 year old unmarried daughter of George and Eliza Fosker of Monk's Leigh, which is where Jane was born. Her father was an agricultural labourer, born in 1850 and her mother, also born in the village, was eleven years younger. In the 1901 Census Jane is a domestic servant at the home of John and Ellen Crickmore of Hitcham Street, Bildeston, John running a grocer's and draper's business with his eldest son Harry.

Charles' second family was as follows, but in this account in most cases I only have the dates of the civil registration of the birth to the nearest quarter year. Also, I have no evidence of any of the children dying young, though I have not followed up each name. However, the 1911 Census shows the number of children of the marriage being five all of who were living at the time.

Their first born was John Harold and once again he was conceived before the marriage, the birth being registered in the last quarter of 1904. There then followed

Arthur George	Registered first quarter 1906
Percy Frederick	Registered third quarter 1907
Kate Jane	Registered first quarter 1909
Sydney	Registered third quarter 1910
Ethel M	Registered third quarter 1912
Bertha A	Registered third quarter 1914
Alfred Ashley (again)	Born 4th April 1916
George Henry	Born 12th September 1919

George Henry was Charles' 23rd and last child.

What is striking is the comparative survival rate of the children between the two families. Perhaps Jane Farthing's own health was a contributory factor to losing so many of her children in their infancy, but just as likely as causes were the poverty in which the family no doubt lived and the medical care available to women such as Jane. Certainly, it seems significant that two of the three surviving children from Charles' first marriage were born around the beginning of the last decade of the nineteenth century, and, without doubt, medical knowledge and care advanced rapidly as the twentieth century dawned and progressed towards the cataclysm which would take one of those three survivors. And it was this progress which must have helped secure the lives of the children of Charles' second family.

In all of this we seem to have lost sight of our soldier, Alfred Ashley senior and why he should appear on the Newton War Memorial. Well the clue is on Alfred Ashley junior's birth certificate. This records the family living at Newton, though unfortunately does not give an address. From the Registration Districts recorded for Ethel and Bertha, we know that somewhere between 1912 and 1914, Charles moved his family, probably for need of work, to Newton. But by 1919, when George Henry was born, they had moved on to Cobbold's Corner, but on George's birth certificate this is recorded as being in Polstead parish, not Leavenheath, though again I cannot find this name on contemporary maps of Polstead. Perhaps the most poignant discovery here is that Charles and Jane chose to call their fifth son in the name of Charles' son lost to the War, presumably as a living memorial to the sacrifice made by that young man just over a year before. Charles had collected the pay due to Alfred around the time that his namesake was conceived.

We could leave the story there, but we should record that Charles died in the winter of 1926 leaving Jane with two children still of school age. But Jane herself remarried in 1932, by then living in Wash Lane, Boxford, to one Samson Rampling (sometimes spelt Ramplin), a widower and chimney sweep of Mill Street, Nayland. 1939 finds them still in Nayland, but now in Birch Street, and

with them is Jane's youngest son, George, and a William Ramplin, who I take to be a son of Samson, though I have not researched his family.

Jane saw the Second World War out and died aged 71 in 1948, the year I was born, and Samson lived on, a widower again, until 1969, by then living over the border in the Braintree Registration District.

Returning to Alfred Ashley senior, we know he enlisted in Colchester and his regiment, the 2nd Suffolks, were very early entrants to the growing conflict, having been in Ireland at the outbreak of the War, but by mid August had landed at Le Havre and formed part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). It is possible, therefore, that he chose to enlist before the War. Certainly, the BEF consisted of Regular Soldiers. We also know that Alfred had the foresight and the time to make a will (in favour of his father), which is not the action of an individual spurred into action by the hyperbole of the recruiting parties that were to come later in the year.

The BEF was engaged in all the early stages of the fast moving defensive actions and positioning manoeuvres that took place as the German forces swept through Belgium and powered on towards Paris. Alfred's battalion was attached to the 3rd Division and he would, by late Autumn, have found himself digging in near Ypres as the Front ground to a halt and the pattern of more or less static trench warfare developed. There were various actions and operations in the vicinity of Ypres that went on through the winter of 1914 and 1915, but it not clear in which of these Alfred lost his life. What is known is that he has no known grave and his name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, just one among 54,615 other names.

Of Walter William Whymark, are other soldier to remember in January, I have, in comparison, rather limited information, but there is an echo of the Alfred Willis's childhood circumstances evident on the 1911 Census form which includes Walter. For the first time, the 1911 Census had a section headed 'Children born alive to present marriage' and then three columns 'Total Children Born Alive'; 'Children still Living' and, curiously, 'Children who have Died'. For Walter's family the numbers are 14, 11 and 3.

Walter's parents were Fredrick Whymark, who was born in 1859 in Lindsey, and Ann Goodall who was born in the adjacent village of Milden in 1858. Both Frederick's and Ann's fathers were agricultural labourers as was Fredrick himself and his son Walter. Frederick appears to have moved his family around the locality, no doubt always seeking better work and accommodation. Frederick and Ann married in 1880 and the Census the next year finds them in Lower Canada, Lindsey. Ten years later they are in Priory Green, Edwardstone. By 1901 they are in Ellis Street, then partly in the parish of Hadleigh Hamlet, which is where they appear to have settled, for they are still there in 1911. Walter, by then was 29 years old, having been born in 1882 and was unmarried living with his parents. He is recorded as a stockman and his father a horseman. Interestingly, along with Walter, two of his grown up brothers, both still single, were also living with their parents; Robert James, a housepainter, who was 25 and George Henry, another horseman, who was 23.

Walter enlisted in Sudbury, probably in early 1915 during the great Lord Kitchener recruiting drive, and joined the 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. This had been formed in Bury St Edmunds in August 1914 and was attached to the 12th (Eastern) Division, which reached Boulogne in May 1915. This Division saw action in the Battle of Loos in 1915, three of the major engagements of the Somme offensive, followed by three of the battles of the spring 1917 Arras Offensive. They were then deployed to the Cambrai Operations (which I will mention next month) in the autumn of that year. The winter of 1917/1918 saw them moved back to Albert in the vicinity of the Somme, and then on a long way north beyond Arras and Lens to Merville at the beginning of January 1918. Throughout this month there were a series of trench raids in this locality, as each side jostled for better ground in the muddy stalemate. Somewhere in these raids it is likely Walter fell in action. He is now buried in the Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery near the village of Fleurbaix. This lies a few kilometres east of Merville. However, most of the 1918 and later graves in the Cemetery were made subsequent to the Armistice as the long process of grave concentration began. So Walter was almost certainly buried very close to where he fell on the front line and only later laid finally to rest amongst his fellow countrymen in one of those corners of a foreign land that are forever England. He was 37 years old and his parents paid for his headstone to be inscribed with the words "Deeply Mourned. From Loving Parents."

Alfred will be remembered in the prayers at the 11:00 service of Holy Communion at Newton on 28th January and Walter in the prayers at Boxford on 21st January, also in a service of Holy Communion.

Parish Council Matters

Meeting of Boxford Parish Council

Report of the Meeting held Monday 4th December

Public Forum A representative from the Church attended and thanked the Parish Council for the Christmas tree again this year. He drew the attention of the Parish Council to the condition of the boundary wall and the risk of traffic scraping the wall due to the narrowing of the road with parked cars. Management of the ivy in the Churchyard was also requested. The well used path through the Churchyard, in his opinion, is too narrow. It is believed it is the responsibility of the County Council who provided the path.

County Council Report

County Cllr James Finch was unable to attend due to ill health.

District Council Report District Cllr Bryn Hurren attended and spoke of the excellent news of the Planning Committee refusing permission for the further proposal at Goodlands. He was remaining vigilant as the applicants may decide to appeal. He was still investigating the situation of the post 16 transport subsidy. He was also pursuing County Highways to cut back obstructing trees at the Stone Street/A1071 junction. The District Councils are now working out of Endeavour House. The move had consequences in respect of staffing and additional journey time. Talks of merger of the District Councils continue which is being challenged. Supportive comments were issued by the Parish Council of the proposed grouping of Parishes with Boxford in the Boundary Commission Review.

Correspondence The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. It was agreed to leave the Parish Council Street Lights on all night on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. A letter from a resident who is receiving regular misdirected deliveries due to confusion regarding the address of the new property at the corner of Swan Street/Sherbourne Street was read. Members were supportive of getting the matter resolved.

Finance The Budget and Precept for next Financial Year was discussed. An increase of 1% was agreed. A contribution of £1750 was agreed towards the insurance costs of the Church.

Cemetery A resident had written in strong terms requesting the boundary wall to the Churchyard be restored by using reserves if necessary. Officials from the Church had raised the need to review some maintenance items including the wall, ivy and the path. It was agreed to acknowledge the remarks and ensure this matter goes on the Agenda for the New Year. Members are keen to ensure the wall is maintained to preserve the appearance and condition of the wall and prevent it from becoming a safety concern. A program of annual maintenance will be sought for further consideration. Members stressed the importance of working together with representatives from the Church to ensure effective solutions are devised which represent good value to residents.

Reports Grit replenishment was to be chased and the new grit bin at Station Field was to be added to the list. Members all agreed to record their thanks to Cllr Mathew Wooderson for all his efforts which helped bring about the decision not to approve the further Goodlands Planning proposal.

Planning The Planning Authority confirmed permission had been granted to replace gates and alter brick piers at Boxford House, Stone Street.

The Parish Council had No Objections to the following applications:-

- Rear extension at 22 Swan Street
- Listed Building for internal works at Old School Ho, School Hill
- Reduction of ash tree from Anglian Water, Stone Street
- Planning and Listed Building for a rear extension at 45 Swan Street.

On other planning matters, the Parish Council had been approached by Hopkins Homes who would like to develop in the village behind The Causeway. The Chairman and other Councillors met them to listen to the early stages of their proposals and representatives from Hopkins Homes intended to come along to a full Parish Council Meeting in the New Year with further details.

Debbie Hattrell, Clerk to Boxford Parish Council

Although we have gone past the shortest day it is still dark before Mum finishes getting all the animals fed, watered and bedded down for the night. Ollie still stays home more now and says I must tell you we have some lovely cats waiting for new homes including Lunar and Jensen, a friendly family pair who are used to dogs. There are also another four who came in together when their owner died. I've attached a photo of Geordie, one of the four, who looks just like Ollie to me - but don't tell him I said so!

Remember

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

Just go to <http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/box-river-news> and scroll down to the latest BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about one day after the published press date.

ed.kench@btinternet.com

Readers Letters

Sir

The article in BRN titled 'Did Gainsborough paint St Mary's church' prompted me to send this photo of a painting by Caffyn who we believe rented a room in our house in the 1940's or simply new the owner. It is actually painted direct onto plaster in our shower room! It was the only wall painting that could be saved together with his signature dated 1947. We have not been able to identify the church but wondered if any reader could. It has the attributes of many Suffolk churches but may be just a mythical scene complete with a cow. Caffyn was a celebrated lithographer and war artist.

If you could publish this and perhaps the photo to follow that would be really appreciated.

Best wishes

Andrew and Jill Good, Hill House Ellis Street



Sir

Frances Munro and Family would like to thank everyone who sent us so many wonderful cards and letters, and those who phoned to express their sympathy and care at this time of our sad loss of Ian, Husband, Dad and Papa

All so much appreciated

Francis and Family

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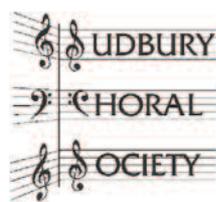
SESAW, A LETTER FROM KENNY



Although we have gone past the shortest day it is still dark before Mum finishes getting all the animals fed, watered and bedded down for the night. Ollie still stays home more now and says I must tell you we have some lovely cats waiting for new homes including Lunar and Jensen, a friendly family pair who are used to dogs. There are also another four who came in together when their owner died. I've attached a photo of Geordie, one of the four, who looks just like Ollie to me - but don't tell him I said so!

Have you started the New Year full of good intentions and resolutions? I ask because we desperately need new volunteers as our happy team dwindles due to changed personal circumstances. Our carers and fundraisers struggle to keep up with all the jobs, both when caring for us animals and when organising events but it's worth all the hard work. We also need materials for our "crafters" who have been busy knitting and sewing during the long winter evenings. If you can spare anything they could use, please bag it and label "CRAFT" or leave a message on the ansaphone if you want it collected. The finished results will be on sale at our Easter Fair in Whatfield on 10th March.

We wish you a healthy, peaceful 2018 and if you decide to volunteer you will receive a warm welcome from our friendly bunch, from the animals and particularly from me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua, Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Reg.Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Open 10-1pm Thurs-Sun. Tel: 01787 210888.



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BOX RIVER BENEFICE

MAKE UP OF PARISH COUNCILS 2015 – 2019

following the elections on Thursday 7 May 2015

[All members elected unopposed, except in Newton]

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Roger Balls	19 Daking Avenue	210136
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Cecil Hughes	Kiln Place, Cox Hill	210685
Vince Stafford	The Old Schoolhouse	211026
Andrew Sargeant	39 Homefield	211048
David Waspe	22 Stone Street	828953
Suzanne Impett.	Amberly, The Causeway.	210035.
David Talbot Clarke.	18-22 Broad Street.	211976
Mathew Wooderson	Birdsong 16 Goodlands	211204
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District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

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Melanie Childs	Edwardstone Lodge	07952 956417
Paul Clarke	Hazel Cottage, Mill Green	210689
Phil Baker	Mulberry Farm, Round Maple	211452
Shirley Flack	Mill Cottage, Mill Green	210050
Sharron Norman	Dormers, Sherbourne Street	210386
Clerk	Anita Robinson	211673
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

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Carey Fraulo	Groton Manor Farm	210391
Nick Cox	3 Groton Place, Groton Street	210339
Adam Dixon-Smith	Castlings Hall, Castlings Heath	210007
Jeremy Osborne (Chairman)	Waterside Barn, Groton Street	211960
Piers Roberts	Brook House	210619
Roland Cheeseman	1 Rose Cottage Daisy Grn	07770 237921
Debbie Wills	Doggetts Groton Street	210484
Clerk	Anita Robinson	211673
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

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Jeremy Coomber	Gatehouse, Holbrook Hall Park	
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Chris White		
Clerk. David Crimmin		375085
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	Margaret Maybury	
County Councillor	Colin Spence	

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Sue Crawte	South Hill, Church Road	
Jonathan Parker	2 Hall Cottages, Church Road	
Colin Poole	Stow Cottage, Sudbury Road	
Paul Presland	Redwoods, Church Road	379204
Rita Schwenk	1 Assington Road	210838
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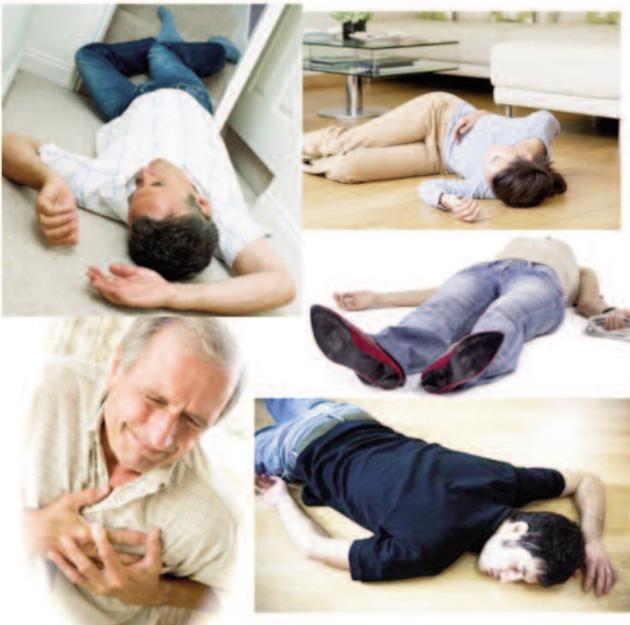
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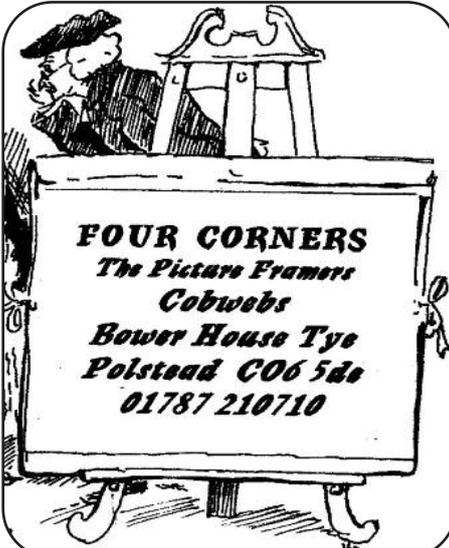
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DID GAINSBOROUGH PAINT A SELF PORTRAIT OUTSIDE BOXFORD by N R Bristow

For this second article concerning Gainsborough's possible painting of Boxford I wish to expand a little more about what he saw and painted in 'Woodland Setting with Peasants Resting'. This may necessitate a little faith on your part and a big suspension of disbelief. If you can't accept that this may be the earliest colour picture of Boxford perhaps you will accept it is an early colour view of somewhere in Suffolk.

Both Hugh Belsey and Tate Britain have told me that when the Tate purchased it in 1888 or 1889 it was known as a view of Dedham. This title was retained, according to Mr Belsey, until about the 1970's from when it was known as Woodland Setting with Peasants Resting. Both titles seem inappropriate to me.

St Mary's church Dedham, despite the presence of pinnacles, obviously lacks a spire, doesn't nestle in a valley but seems to occupy high ground. St Mary's Boxford, although built on a rise above the River Box, is nevertheless firmly located in a valley. There is an absence of a visible cluster of buildings in the pictures I have seen of Dedham church.

Perhaps the most telling argument is to compare 'Woodland Setting...' with John Constables' different views of 'Stour Valley and Dedham Church' painted around 1814. The six decades between the Gainsborough and Constable works did not see a radical restructuring or geological transformation of the Suffolk countryside: the difference between the landscapes is because they are of different places. It is not the same place (Dedham) at two different times.

As for the change to 'Woodland Setting with Peasants Resting' this title seems particularly inappropriate. The term peasants can be contentious in social discourse and value laden in usage. It can range from a denigrating description and image of the poor through to a romanticised view of inhabitants of a bucolic rural past. It encompasses poverty and dispossession as well victim hood and/or nobility. Basically, the meaning has shifted to and fro over time and there has been contradiction rather than consistency. (see J.V. Beckett *The Peasant in England* for a fuller discussion)

Who has Gainsborough painted? Well, for me, he has painted himself. Not peasants for sure. In Gainsboroughs' day peasants meant the poor, dispossessed and hardworking. In Gainsboroughs' day artists, including Gainsborough himself, painted pictures of the poor in a context of work, gleaning, gathering, cutting, carting, tending and herding. In their depictions there is reality, rather than romanticism, although there is that too, at times, no doubt. If there was rest, for the poor, it was the rest of exhaustion or refreshment.

In this woodland setting there are men occupied in riding, walking their dog or contemplating or observing: they are pursuits still seen in the 21st Century unlike the work tasks I listed before. Now, like then, they are leisure pursuits. Even in Gainsboroughs' day few, if any, peasants rode (horses, when you see them, are generally engaged in pulling carts and implements or used as pack animals) and I wonder if many rural poor had a dog. Gainsborough did. These are Gainsborough's pursuits. From my recent reading of James Hamilton's excellent biography of Gainsborough it is clear this woodland setting is his natural setting, and these are his activities.

What about their dress? Gainsborough, son of a weaver, could recognise and reproduce dress. Here are men in clothes that surely no poor person—particularly peasant—could emulate. Bright clothes certainly weren't worn by peasants 250+ years ago. Plainer hues, washed out colours and looser fitting garments were more likely and can be seen in Gainsborough's landscapes containing country people.

Gainsborough was aware of the history and decline of the wool industry and the ascendancy and threat from calico, not least, as his father was reduced to bankruptcy and forced to leave the weaving trade (because calico threatened the silk industry too?). The Calico Acts were part of the political zeitgeist and especially relevant to Sudbury and Suffolk. How fitting that Gainsborough is painted outside a village that, like his family, mirrored the fortunes of the cloth trade, experienced a decline in it's prosperity and was living through the consequences.

Returning to the Tate commentary on the picture, Gainsborough, post-London, is still full of the conversations he had, the ideas he was exposed



Is this Thomas Gainsborough?

to, as well as full of the images of the early Hogarth narratives of disfunctionality. Suffolk, however, different perspectives came to the fore with a young wife and family to feed, the knowledge and experience of a father and communities that had experienced the trauma of changing economic conditions and fortunes. Boxford, for example, had a burgeoning and prosperous community with a variety of trades and shops and two different annual markets but it was changed and was still adapting, and, lamentably, slowly declining in prosperity.

No sheep are to be seen in the picture -once a common sight around Suffolk villages. What can be seen before Boxford is the new agrarian reality: it is Summer, and the patchwork of small fields has either ripe, or ripening corn. Corn, which is at the mercy of the skies, looks ready to harvest. Without action the harvest will be lost. Or is no action necessary? In the absence of sheep has the grass, if it is grass, instead of corn, no longer been grazed and become overgrown and wasted

I think around 1747 was a pivotal moment in Gainsborough's life. Hard existential choices had to be made regarding his career and his life. As he painted what we know as 'Woodland Setting ..' was he, like the sitter in the painting, not occupied in a leisure pursuit but thinking about his future? Was he thinking of the threat, or the potential, of the skies or the energetic engagement of the bird as symbolic of influences on his own life or an indication of how he should act? Could it be that here is Thomas Gainsborough sitting, his brother Humphery has already left for church and John is walking the dog?

What is, I think, clear is that the present title could be improved upon: perhaps the village featured in the painting could be identified. All knowledge relating to Gainsborough's life in Suffolk and his professional development would contribute greatly to the attraction and authority of the expanded Gainsborough's House.