

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



March 2018
Vol 18 No 3

BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUN & GAMES NIGHT



The Winners, 'New Lease of Life' with captain Angela Tolputt holding the trophy

Our 27th Annual Fun & Games Night held on Saturday 27th January proved to be yet again a very enjoyable, sociable, hectic and at times very competitive evening, which seemed to be enjoyed by all whether regular competitors or several new teams this year. For those of you who may not have heard the outcome, the top three places were:

- 1st A NEW LEASE OF LIFE
- 2nd TRI HARDER
- 3rd THE CYCLEPATHS

A very big thank you to everyone who helped with this event, which requires a lot of hard work: organising teams and helpers, buying all the food and drink, preparing the food, serving behind the bar, printing all the tickets, score sheets and rules, setting the games up, manning each game and clearing up afterwards. We are indebted to all who helped in any way, as we could not have done it without you. Thank you also to all the local businesses and individuals who kindly donated raffle prizes, which is much appreciated. Finally, thank you to the 12 teams who took part and we hope you all enjoyed the evening, which is essentially about having fun. It also helps us with our fundraising, where the funds are then granted out to organisations in the local villages and help fund events such as the Senior Citizens Outing. We look forward to seeing you all again next year! Boxford Community Council



Photo Trudi Wild



Photo Trudi Wild

Box River News

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ed.kench@btinternet.com

Final date for reserved copy for the
April Issue is:

March 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.

FleeceJazz

For 25 years, Fleece Jazz has been presenting the best in UK, European and world modern jazz weekly. The stars that have illuminated our stage are too numerous to relate, but they range from international stars such as Jamie Cullum, Clare Teal and Stan Tracey to many brilliant young musicians, the stars of the future.

To celebrate our anniversary, and the 1200 gigs we have loved, we are presenting a Sunday afternoon of top UK jazz, at our home, Stoke by Nayland Hotel.

We start off at 2pm with singer Georgia Mancio, of whom The Observer said "[Mancio] has everything covered – technical mastery, expressive range and a remarkable versatility – FOUR STARS". She is joined by guitarist Chris Allard, noted by Jazzwise for delivering "Full-blooded solos...right on the money", and Jamie Cullum believes that Chris is "One of the great guitarists in this country".

Then at 3:30pm until about 6pm The Alec Dankworth All Star Quintet will delight us with two sets of music. This band is at the top of the jazz tree. Bassist Alec Dankworth who will lead the quintet, is famed for "elegant stability, big sound, sure beat, and thoughtful spontaneity" (John Fordham). Two starry and contrasting saxophonists, Alan Barnes and Dave O'Higgins form the front line. Joining Alec in the great rhythm are pianist Dave Newton and drummer Clark Tracey.

Here are some endorsements of this amazing lineup:

Alan's "stylistic range is quite phenomenal, from Dixieland to post-bop". (Dave Gelly)

Dave O'Higgins "plays with quite exceptional fluency and his fund of ideas never runs out." (The Observer)

"There is a sophistication about Dave [Newton]'s playing that runs deep, whether ballads, swingers or flag wavers, it's all there. This was great jazz and the audience let him know it." (Bernard McAlinden, Crescendo Magazine)

Clark Tracey is the best - Best Drummer in the British Jazz Awards 2016 & 2017

The gig will be held at the beautiful Stoke by Nayland Hotel Keepers Lane, Leavenheath, Colchester, CO6 4PZ. Parking is easy, and the hotel

is completely accessible. Refreshments will be available.

Tickets are £25, and are available by phoning 01787 21185, at We Got Tickets (<http://www.wegotickets.com/fleecejazz>) and at the door.



Georgia Mancio and Alec Dankworth

Friday 20 March 8.00 £18 Pete Oxley & Nicolas Meier

Pete and Nicholas have been performing as a duo since 2011. They launched their scintillating double album "Colours of Time", with 10 tracks of duets and 8 of quartets, in February 2017. That April the duo performed at Fleece, as part of a 59 gig, 5 nation tour themed around the album. It was one of the highlights of the year, so be prepared for a big crowd to greet the whole quartet. Ralph is a classically trained cellist and multi-instrumentalist, at home from early music to modern jazz.

Paul studied at Berklee College of Music. This sensitive drummer is a popular, frequent performer at Fleece Jazz with a variety of bands.

"This duet of guitar virtuosos comes close to perfection. Their roots lie in jazz, but they cover a whole bunch of genres..... Latin, Middle Eastern, English pastoral and their own brand of simply music" - John Fordham, The Guardian.

Friday 30 March 8.00 £16 Matt Wates Sextet

"A seriously good band containing six of Britain's finest jazz musicians, regardless of age or style" - Dave Gelly, Observer
Matt Wates alto sax, Steve Fishwick trumpet, Steve Main tenor sax, Leon Greening piano, Malcolm Creese bass, Matt Skelton drums

Friday 6 April 8.00 £18 Ed Jones

"A formidable saxophonist... he's an improviser to his fingertips, a player of forceful imagination, and one of the UK's most distinctive saxophonists." - John Fordham

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

FleeceJazz

at Stoke by Nayland Hotel

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. See Above

Friday 20 March 8.00 £20 Julian Siegel

"Siegel's tunes are a mix of fiendish, time-twisting grooves, building riffs and brightly hummable melodies . . ." - Edward Randell Music OMH

Julian Siegel sax, Liam Noble piano, Oli Hayhurst bass, Gene Calderazzo drums

Julian Siegel is an in-demand saxophonist on the British and European Jazz scene. He has played with the best, and has co-lead the influential group Partisans with guitarist Phil Robson for the last eighteen years. In 2007, Julian was awarded the BBC Jazz Award for Best Instrumentalist; in 2011, the Julian Siegel Quartet won the Jazz Award in the London Festival Fringe Awards for Art and Performance; in 2017, the Quartet was awarded a prestigious showcase at the JazzAhead Festival in Bremen.

"Julian Siegel, the classically trained multi-instrumentalist who in the 90's blossomed into one of Europe's leading jazz player-composers, plays most reed instruments ... but he approaches the tenor saxophone with a special forensic aplomb" - John Fordham

THIS MONTHS LETTER FROM REV JUDITH

Dear friends,

Moving from grey to gold....

I am writing this on a cold, bleak, wet, late afternoon. It is Ash Wednesday. Night has fallen outside and it is dark and rainy the other side of my study windows. Inside, however, there is colour and warmth. So what on earth should make me, along with a handful of others, leave the comfort of our own homes and venture out to a church service where there will be no music and no friendly chatter afterwards?

The reason is that this is the special time in our spiritual lives when we try to face up honestly before God to those things about ourselves which we so often prefer to ignore or overlook. Most of us hopefully try to do our best most of the time, but we all know those faults and tendencies in ourselves which we are not so proud of.

I think it puts it really well in one of the confession prayers we use: "we have sinned against You and against our neighbour in thought word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault." So often – and I address this to myself primarily - it is what we have failed, forgotten or not bothered to do, which has had an detrimental effect on other people, or which has meant that they have not received the comfort, relief or happiness they should have from our hands.

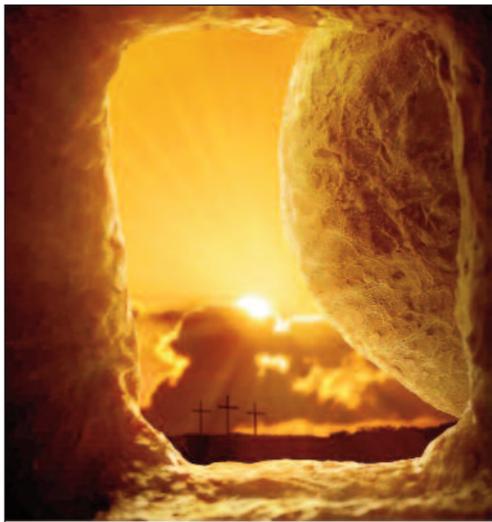
So that is why I, and a few others, will be making our way out shortly into the cold and the wet, to ask for forgiveness and for help and strength to change. And as a sign of our weakness and mortality, we will receive the sign of the cross made in ash on our foreheads.



Ash Wednesday is for much more than that too, though, because part of the service also acknowledges the wider wrongs, of our communities, societies, governments, countries. There is so much in our world to rejoice

over, but there is so much to regret too: pollution and the damage we inflict on our environment and climate, violence and wars, injustices, greed. And so, we also pray that each of us may become - in however small a way - part of the solution.

But Ash Wednesday is only the beginning of an amazing spiritual journey each year which all are invited to travel. It moves us from the greyness of ashes and confession, through the events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to the pure shining gold of Easter, when we rejoice in the promise of new life, a new future opened up and offered to every one of us.



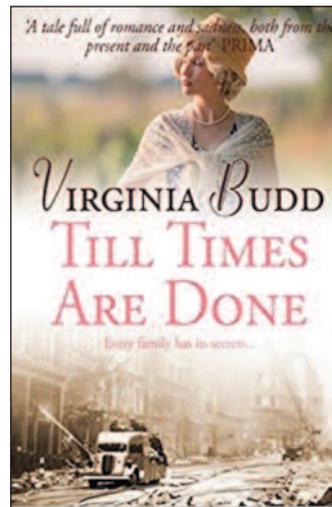
Each of those special days resonates with the experiences, the joys and sorrows, ups and downs, of our ordinary lives as well as our spiritual lives: on Palm Sunday: the joy and exuberance of festivals and partying; on Maundy Thursday: time for quietness and reflection; on Good Friday: the recognition that God shares, and bears, our suffering; and on Easter Day: the unshakeable reality that life is stronger than death and love than hate.

I invite you warmly to join me, and my fellow travellers, imperfect as we all are, on this journey of spiritual exploration and growth, through these special services and events of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. You will be warmly welcome.

Blessings,
Rev. Judith

THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ, MARCH 2018

Till Times Are Done by Virginia Budd



What does love mean...? It's 1927, and in a home for unwed mothers, young Janie McGavie gives birth to a son. But when she tragically dies, the boy is put up for adoption. England, 1993 The famous author Wald Ingman has died and the news has hit Midge Brace-Percival, hard. As she sits in her cottage, she remembers the passionate yet brutal relationship she shared with a man who married many others, but never Midge. From the moment they met as school children, there has always been an inexplicable chemistry between Midge and Wald. Born into an aristocratic family, the Brace-Percival clan has never been conventional. Growing up on a country estate in Rood, Wiltshire, Palmer – Midge's father – was the only one to go to school, the rest being educated at home. Whilst her father and his brother Digby had a massive falling out, they cleared the air just enough for Midge to visit Rood, where she meets the charming and charismatic Wald. They quickly embark on an illicit affair that provides the background for his future bestselling novel, *The Beginning*. But the affair soon turns sour and Midge marries Henry, a merchant banker, and they welcome a son, Rowley. Whilst Wald is no longer in her life, he still holds a certain power over Midge, and when he shows up years later, Midge leaves her family behind to start a new life in Paris with Wald. Midge tries desperately to hold their tempestuous relationship together, but when she falls pregnant, Wald is far from happy. Things go from bad to worse when Midge suffers a traumatic miscarriage whilst visiting her other family, bringing her relationship with Wald to an end once more. And then Midge's daughter from her second husband hears a rumour, a rumour that could devastate many, and Midge sets out to discover just who Wald really was, and how he was connected to her father's falling out with her uncle. Part memoir, part love affair, *Till Times Are Done* is a beautifully written novel that will leave you wondering just what love really is.

Praise for Virginia Budd

'A tale full of romance and sadness, both from the present and the past' – PRIMA Virginia Budd has worked in PR and advertising and her experience in these, as well as her studies of local history, have combined to add authenticity and originality to her writing. She lives in Boxford. Her books include *An Affair to Remember*, *Running to Paradise*, *A Change of Pace* and *Family Ties*.

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. You can also drag any pics you might like onto your desktop but these will be of low resolution. If you would like a high res pic just email the address below and we will send you a PDF or Jpeg ed.kench@btinternet.com

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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.

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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.

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"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.

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John Ward
Leader, Babergh District Council

I wish to address some of the points raised and false claims made in last month's anonymous attack on the proposal for Babergh and Mid Suffolk to be replaced with a new local authority covering the centre of Suffolk. The reason why we are revisiting this is that a lot has changed in the seven years since the 2011 referendum. All local authorities are facing difficult financial challenges due to cut backs in government support funding. Many are already responding by joining up in one way or another: Babergh and Mid Suffolk are sharing a work force and office premises, whilst district councils in the west and east of Suffolk are committed to full merger next year. Similar things are underway elsewhere in England. We owe it to our residents to ensure we continue to deliver services as cost effectively as we can.

The initial engagement programme, comprising presentations to town and parish liaison meetings and the telephone and online surveys, was started in December with a significant amount of publicity. This stage closed on 5th February. We have now embarked on further information gathering and the development of a business case. This will be followed by more public engagement to enable us to present the information to residents. In the case of Babergh, if the business case for a new authority is clear (and evidence so far suggests that it will be) and supported by the cabinet, the process will culminate in this case being put to the electorate in a referendum.

To be clear, the process we are going through is designed to ensure we have all the information we can get and to maximise public engagement and understanding of the facts. This will ensure that residents will be able to make an informed decision about the future in the referendum.

In terms of the perceived bias in the ComRes survey that a few people have alleged, this is an unwarranted attack on a reputable business.

ComRes is one of the UK's leading research firms and abides by the Market Research Society's Code of Conduct. It has a great deal of experience of conducting local and regional surveys of this nature. Babergh and ComRes understand and appreciate the often passionate debate over such matters which is why ComRes goes to great lengths to ensure objectivity and neutrality in survey questions.

Measures are put in place to ensure questions are balanced and do not lead respondents into a particular response. The questions offer participants the opportunity to respond on a full and balanced scale of options. There are also several open questions, giving respondents the opportunity to provide individual responses. All this information will help us to gauge what residents are thinking on a range of subjects and which will then be fed into the business case.

Any suggestion that the questions being asked of residents in this survey are leading is false and some of the media reporting of them has been highly selective and thus misleading.

The claim in last month's BRN that a new authority will mean more cost to residents in terms of higher council tax and the introduction of car parking charges is untrue and merely designed to scare people. The difference in council tax between Babergh and Mid Suffolk is minimal: only £3.92 per year for an average property in the forthcoming year. And there is no necessity to harmonise car park charges across a new authority. Indeed, it is a fallacy to suggest we don't already have car park charges and, moreover, we don't have a single system of charging within Babergh even now. At all our major car parks only the first 3 hours are free with charges imposed for longer stays. At Pin Mill, there is no initial free period.

We are in a position now that just continuing with our current joint working with Mid Suffolk is not an option and we must do something to address our projected budget shortfalls and protect services in the next few years. A merger will provide us with additional cost savings and greater opportunities for housing provision and economic growth. If we don't work with Mid Suffolk on a solution, they will, by necessity, look elsewhere and we will be left to fend for ourselves. That really will mean higher council taxes and additional car parking charges.

John Ward
Leader, Babergh District Council

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN
Your Babergh District Councillor

Firstly I was interested to read the reaction of the anonymous contributor to the B.R.N. last month, having had feedback from about a dozen people who have been selected to take part in this poll about Council merger this one was synonymous with the rest all expressing shock and disquiet at the Questions and that these methods should be used on such an important issue. We are all used to surveys to ask us which washing powder we use and what sort of food our cats prefer but to use a telephone survey firm to conduct a series of interviews with people who have not been briefed on all the issues or have had the alternatives explained to them before the interview starts rather seems a desperate move by the ruling administration at Babergh, also at a cost of £20,000.00 I could think of better ways this portion of taxpayers money could have been spent, along with the £48,000.00 spent on the alternative sites for working consultation which was subsequently ignored, this makes £68,000.00 of taxpayers money totally wasted, this sum is almost 2% of our council tax bills which are a real hardship for many lower paid workers especially as the bills are likely to rise by close on 5% this coming financial year. I hope the new cabinet at Babergh now desist in this quest and if they want a merger it can be put to the electorate in May '19 for free and see how many Babergh residents vote for it then. I think strongly that elected councillors should be doing things FOR people not TO them. A quick plea for all residents to keep recycling and to do it seriously and well, contrary to many beliefs China is still taking our recycled items and will pay us good money for it but they no longer will take poor quality recycle or rubbish. The message has to be that we should all be careful what we buy and what we do with it afterwards. Planning issues continue to take up much of my time and I am becoming shocked at the lack of thought that goes into the issues of need, infrastructure and whether what we build is what we actually need, everyone needs somewhere to live and to be part of some sort of community but we must not destroy what we value and what other people come to see. A big thank you to those people who moved their vehicles on Wed 14th so that our sweepers could clean the roads of Boxford of all the leaves, rubbish and general debris, a good job done by all, especially the contractors who are dedicated to doing the best job they can. Finally I have placed Quay Theatre brochures in Mary's House and the Post Office showing a full programme for the spring, please come and support and as always I am willing to drive the community bus if there are enough numbers. Keep well and avoid this terrible flu. All Best Bryn. 01787 210854 bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk

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IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK - A Talk by Roger Green



Rogers House

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Roger once again to the Parish Room, to tell members about the history of the previous owners / residents of his own house. This is a timber-framed construction, vernacular to the 15th century (built in a local style of the period), and forms part of a terrace of three variously interconnected dwellings. The houses were altered during the C17th, C19th and C20th, and incorporate some flying freeholds, common to this part of Suffolk, but as he put it, often a source of annoyance to the neighbours living 'down below'.

Roger told us his house has been joined with and separated from its neighbours many times during its life, which he evidenced with a lovely tale of a discovery soon after moving in some 30+ years ago; he was removing pieces of timber from an upstairs cupboard next to a chimney when he suddenly found a staircase leading downstairs, to next door!

The house is known as Crooked Cot (short for cottage), but despite appearing on maps from 500 years ago, it is not known exactly when the terrace was first built. Roger has speculated why they were built where they are, which took some investigation. Firstly he advised us that Sudbury town centre was not where it is now, but was originally centred on Gainsborough Street and School Street, a bit to the west of Gainsborough's House. St Peter's Church, now a community / arts centre, was built on the extreme eastern edge of the town, which itself then gradually moved east over time - originally the terrace was fairly close to the town centre and the Priory, which at the time was a little to the west of the current cricket ground. The Dominican Priory itself was founded in 1272, outside the town ditch on a site covering about 5 acres.

From the early C14th, Friars Street was formed, which lead from the Priory buildings to the town. From the early C15th additional buildings, including the priory gatehouse, and possibly nos. 62a, 62 and 64 Friars Street (the terrace), were constructed for use by the Priory. After

dissolution of the priory on 8th October 1539, the last Prior, John Cotton, moved across the road into Roger's house on the carriage sweep, and the remaining friars were pensioned off. Many of the Priory buildings were demolished with architectural features removed and incorporated into other buildings, including, it is thought, the carved bressumer beam (*) in the dining room of Roger's house. Some of the houses show signs of tunnels leading towards the road, though why and what they would have been used for is unknown, though perhaps there were used by the priory monks. (*) A bressumer beam is a load bearing beam in timber framed houses, usually the sill of the upper wall above a jetty, or otherwise any beam spanning an opening and supporting a wall above.

In 1750, Richard Gardiner purchased all of the terrace to use as his workshop, whilst his wife Susan, nee Gainsborough (and elder sister to the more famous Thomas) started a millinery business in what is now Roger's study, which still retains a shop like bay window at the front. Richard became Postmaster, and during renovations 30+ years ago, an old window was found through which transactions could be undertaken with members of the public outside.

The terraced buildings were extended to the rear in the C19th, with clay pipes being manufactured on the land to the rear of Roger's house - he was digging out a raised bed and suddenly hit upon an almost solid layer of white 'stuff', as he put it. Analysis subsequently identified this was partly burnt clay from the bottom of a kiln. Many pieces of pipe were then unearthed, bearing the initial CW, which further research identified as Charles Woolnough, who worked in Sudbury in the 1830s before moving to Beccles in the 1840s. Maps of the time show a large outhouse, presumably his workshop, which it is thought he rented, with the pipes being fired in the kiln discovered by Roger.

Many people lived in / owned the houses during the C20th, including



Oak bressumer beam detail





Charles H wells (of BWB fame) and Edward Hills (of the jewellers of the same name). Edward's brother Joseph, then Sudbury postmaster, purchased the house next to Roger's to house his daughter and daughter in law so they could look after him in his dotage, which seems to have worked.

By 1947 Roger advised the houses were becoming dilapidated, with holes in their roofs - not really surprising as they were well over 400 years old at the time - so No 62 became the first renovation project for the father of Peter Minter (of Bulmer brick and tile fame). The ground floors were dug down below the sole plate uncovering many medieval bricks in the process, something Peter Minter clearly remembers to this day.

In 1963, Charles Cecil Wells (also of BWB fame) was in residence, famous for summoning his secretary by means of a starting pistol; this sounds extraordinary now, but clearly didn't harm his career because in 1968 he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk.

In 1983 Roger bought one of the houses, though he doesn't consider that he owns it - because he says he feels like a midget - but is simply looking after it for a little while longer until someone else takes up the baton - if only everyone generally felt this way.

To conclude, Roger brought incredible passion, humour and warmth to a subject dear to so LWSH members - his brilliant talk really was a tour de force and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present - we can't wait until we invite him back again.

14th March:

Geoffrey Kay will tell us about the 1951 Festival of Britain in a presentation entitled 'A tonic to the nation'. Having previously given us a super presentation on the Great Exhibition of 1851 in 2016, this also is going to be a superb talk and we very much look forward to welcoming



FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

guests both new and old to the Parish Room. Andy Sheppard

➤ Sadly Council Tax has to rise

On 8th February I attended Suffolk County Council's Council meeting which voted to increase council tax in Suffolk for the first time since 2010. A 2.99% increase was approved, along with a 2% adult social care precept, meaning taxpayers will be paying an increase of a little under 5% more for county council services than last year. A council tax rise was not surprising - we had mentioned it last year, with a 1.99% increase put forward, with the adult social care precept at 3%. Despite the small change in the way the tax is being divided, the increase remains the same. We spend about half a billion pounds providing services every year in addition to the circa £600k which is direct government funding (ring fenced) for our schools. Like the majority of councils in England, we accepted a four-year financial package from the Government, covering the period from 2016/17 to 2019/20. It also, helpfully, provides some certainty about our funding. However, we can't rely on this alone. We were successful in our bid to be one of 10 areas where we can retain 100% of business rates generated here in Suffolk, which will help. But there still remains a budget gap.

In 2018/19, the gap is £26.8million. That is the difference between the amount of money it will cost to provide essential council services in Suffolk and the amount of money we actually have to spend. We are required by law to have a balanced budget so we have therefore had to find ways of closing that budget gap. We have proposed a range of savings totalling to £23.9m, leaving us with a gap of £2.9m remaining - which will come from our reserves. We have been careful to limit the use of our reserves as once that money has been spent it's gone forever and won't be available to close any future budget gaps.

This isn't a new way of working for Suffolk County Council. We've successfully managed the financial challenges laid down in the Government's austerity programme and have made savings of £236 million between 2011 and 2018. The response to these challenges has been measured, pragmatic and innovative, and designed to protect front line services as much as possible.

Demand for services has increased since the last council tax increase and it continues to. We also have an investment programme totalling nearly £100m this coming financial year, which includes building new schools, extending and improving existing schools, investing in Suffolk's road network, continuing to provide better broadband coverage across the county and delivering two major river crossing projects - the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft and the Upper Orwell Crossings in Ipswich.

Being clear about your goals, listening to people and being accountable for your actions are fundamental principles in public services. When the people of Suffolk voted in this council last May, it was on the basis of a clear manifesto. We are introducing business plans, which set out how we will deliver services and how we will measure performance. These are based on three core priorities - inclusive growth, healthcare and wellbeing, and efficient and effective public services.

These are deliverable because of the hard work and commitment of our councillors and staff - working with our partners, businesses and residents to make Suffolk a healthier and more prosperous place to live and work.

Yes, the latest Autumn Budget confirms that the pressure on public spending is likely to continue. But this is not news to us and we have a positive response. We don't hang about in Suffolk, we get on and do everything we can to get the best possible outcomes for the people we serve. We do this by listening to what people say and giving them an opportunity to influence the difficult decisions we have to make. This council tax increase wasn't taken lightly and every penny will be put to the best possible use. Our staff, I and my fellow councillors will make sure of that.

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

NEWS FROM BOXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



We are half way through the academic year and my second year at Boxford School; it is a good time to reflect upon the achievements of our school community. We have worked hard over the last 18 months to meet, and in some cases exceed, national expectations – supporting children to reach Early Years, Phonics, Keystage One and Keystage Two milestones. Every day new learning and experiences happen in our classrooms. During the final week of this half term I saw a dragon dance, watched fractions being converted into decimals, was read to by a group of 5 year olds and saw Year 6 experience Ancient Egypt through a time-travelling workshop.

We have tried to live our termly values - Thankfulness, Compassion and Caring for others. Each Friday we celebrate the achievements of our children and staff. Our pupils raised over £200 for the NSPCC and our swimmers did well at the local schools' gala. We are also proud of the good links we have made with our local Church and Church Schools and that we are able to provide inspiration and support for other local primaries.

During a time of funding uncertainty we have been very grateful for the ongoing support of our parent association – The Friends of Boxford School. Their sales and initiatives have provided us with contributions to trips, library books and technology for our children. We will continue to work together for our local children and look forward to a great Spring and Summer.

Justine Davies

The Village Players Present

Agatha Christie's

THE UNEXPECTED GUEST



6:30pm March 22 (Early Show)
8:00pm March 23 & 24

Nayland Village Hall
CO6 4JH

Tickets £7.50 (under 16s £6)
from our website
villageplayers.co.uk
or from Nayland Post Office
from mid-February

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

Selling? Letting?



Ask our advice first – it's FREE

Get in touch today – we're a lovely bunch.

01787 327 000

sudbury@fennwright.co.uk

FennWright.

fennwright.co.uk

25 GLORIOUS YEARS OF FLEECE JAZZ



Above: Members of the 1993 Committee, Carol and Michael Burgess, David Gasson, Steve Robbins, Donald Muir, and Peter Hasler.

For 25 years, Fleece Jazz has brought and is bringing world class modern and contemporary jazz to eastern England.

They won the parliamentary best venue of the year in 2009. Almost every Friday, the doors open at 7:30 for a gig at 8:00 with some of the best musicians in the UK, Europe and beyond. their 25th Birthday Celebration should be something special details of which are on page two of this edition of the BRN

Jazz at the Fleece was started in February 1993 when it took over a gig that had been booked to appear at a pub that suddenly stopped promoting jazz after a change of landlord. The club's original venue was situated in the function room of The Fleece. They stayed there for fifteen brilliant years until sadly they had to leave. Their next home, for just fifteen months this time, was The Kersey Mill, a few miles up the road where they had a very nice space but again unfortunately had to be vacated.

In 2009 the club re-located to The Stoke by Nayland Club which it is sincerely hoped will be their home for many years to come.

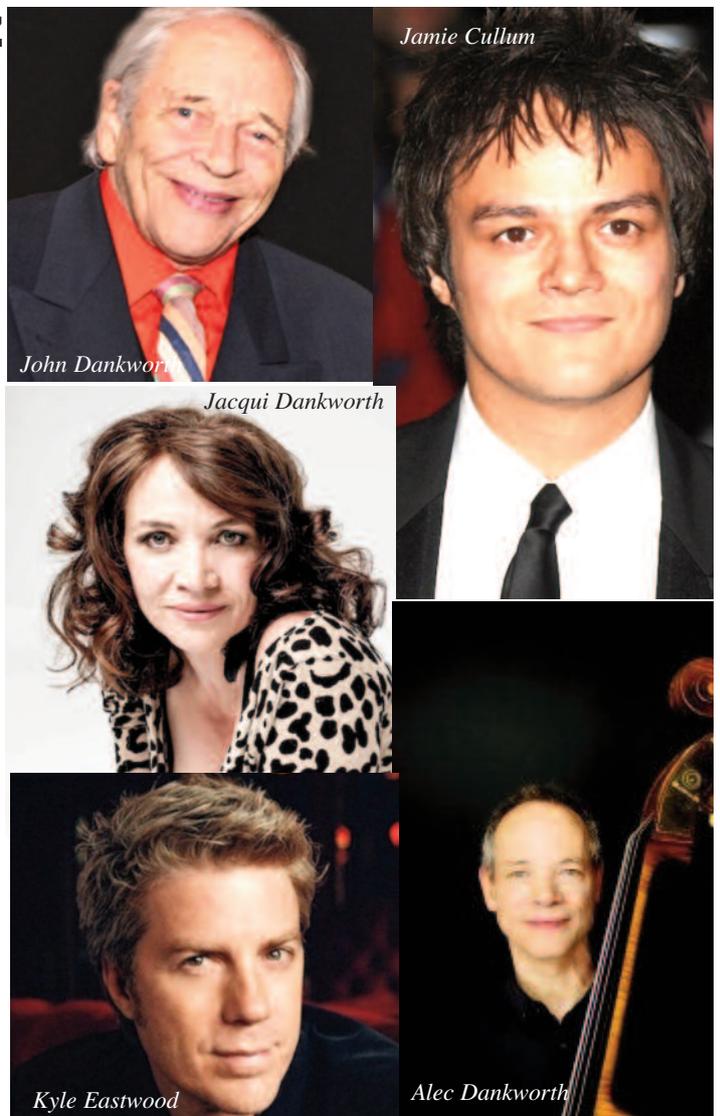
The Stoke by Nayland Club is in a beautiful setting and they have been made very welcome there and have been provided with a space so perfect that it could have been built just for them.

The club has an excellent rep with all the musicians who appear and many have said that it is their favourite venue. This is due not only to the fact that they are treated well but also because the audience actually listens.

There is not enough space to list all the wonderful musicians that they have had the pleasure of presenting over the years so here are a few: Stan Tracey, Peter King, Andy Shepherd, Martin Taylor, Dave Newton, Alan Barnes, Ian Shaw, Claire Martin, Bobby Wellins, Jim Mullen, John Etheridge, Martin Drew, Tina May, Barbara Thompson, Miek Hanson, Ken Peplowski, Scott Hamilton, Gordon Beck, Stacey Kent, Elaine Dehnar, Steve Melting, Dave Green, Mornington Lockett, Mari Wilson, Guy Barker, Norma Winstone, Annie Whitehead, Winston Clifford, Michael Garrick, John Dankworth, Jacqui Dankworth, Alec Dankworth, David Rees-Williams, Steve Brown, Sarah Jane Morris, Jamie Cullum, Barb Jung, and Kyle Eastwood and some artists the jazz world has now said goodbye to, among them are the ever popular and much loved Spike Robinson, USA trumpeter. Bill Beny, the wonderful Marion Montgomery who made just one very memorable Fleece appearance, the great basset Lermie Bush and very Pat Cnnriley, Lennie Bush, Pat Crumley and not forgetting Martin Drew.

Here's to the next 25 years.

Jazz at the Fleece is independent, non profit making and run voluntarily by committee.



SUDBURY CURTAIN WORKROOM

**We are an established curtain making
company in Acton with over
35years experience.**

**We make quality bespoke curtains
and blinds.**

**We hand sew with careful attention to
detail ensuring a beautifully
finished result.**

Measuring service available.

**Please phone Jane on 01787 374457.
info@sudburycurtainworkroom.co.uk**

NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

3PR Stats for January 2018

Our responders covered 387 hrs . There were 7 call outs.

Boxford Open Gardens 21st Anniversary Year

Sunday 3rd Jun 2018

Calling all Gardeners, allotment owners, artists and craftspeople - please open your gardens and studios for one day to the public this June.

- Whatever the type of garden, wild or tamed , large or small, vegetable patch or kids garden

- Whatever art you create in your studios, paintings, sculptures or crafts

We ask you to share it with your community and take part in an enjoyable and rewarding day. All proceeds to St Marys Church, Boxford. Please do get in touch with me for further details

Sarah : 01787 210276 M: 07879 997640

Sarah.williams@rmcurtis.co.uk

Hadleigh Ukulele Group

HUG BEGINNERS' GROUP LAUNCHES ON 6TH MARCH 2018

Hadleigh Ukulele Group is launching a sub-group for complete beginners. It will meet on the same night as our regular group, i.e. the first and third Tuesday of every month. Anyone over 16 is welcome and the first session will be on Tuesday 6th March at 7.30pm in Hadleigh's United Reformed Church (Committee Room entrance). There will be a small charge of £3 per session to cover costs (I put out an honesty box for the subs). So if you are a beginner, or you know someone just starting, this message is for you.

Anyone who loves music and wants to make music is ready to join the happy, ego-free world of the ukulele player, and HUG Beginners' can be a great starting point. Come along, on your own or with a friend, and a warm welcome awaits you.

For more information, visit our website by clicking the link below.

Happy strummin' Peter

Little Waldingfield Litterpick -

Saturday March 24th from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 Midday.

If you are available for this most worthwhile service, please congregate at the Parish Room in Church Road (just down from the Parish Room) by 10.00, where litterpicks, bags and hi-vis vests will be available. Please also wear stout shoes and gloves because undergrowth can be prickly. We look forward to seeing many old and new friends.

Groton Parish Council is seeking a Parish Clerk

Groton Parish Council is seeking a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. This position is for 16 hours per month at current NJC salary scales dependent on qualifications and experience. The Council meets 6 times a year, usually on the first Wednesday evening of the month. The Clerk would be required to work from home and a laptop will be provided. CiLCA qualification would be an advantage but the Council would be prepared to fund training if required. Applications should be made by sending a CV and covering letter, setting out evidence of relevant skills and experience to the current clerk, Anita Robinson by email at clerk.groton@btinternet.com (01787 211673). Please contact the Clerk if further information is required.

Edwardstone Parish Council is seeking a Parish Clerk

Edwardstone Parish Council is seeking a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. This position is for 16 hours per month at current NJC salary scales dependent on qualifications and experience. The Council meets 6 times a year, usually on the third Monday evening of the month. The Clerk would be required to work from home and a laptop will be provided. CiLCA qualification would be an advantage but the Council would be prepared to fund training if required. Applications should be made by sending a CV and covering letter, setting out evidence of relevant skills and experience to the current clerk, Anita Robinson by email at clerkedwardstone@gmail.com (01787 211673). Please contact the Clerk if further information is required.

HELP!

Does anyone have a double candlewick bedspread they no longer require? I am in urgent need of one for my next production 'An Englishman's Home is his hassle'. If you can help can you please telephone me (Elaine) on 01787 210643. Many Thanks.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN GROTON

Following a Housing Needs Survey organised by Groton Parish Council with the assistance of Community Action Suffolk, a need was identified for a small affordable development. This was supported by over 90% of the respondents in Groton.

The Parish Council then interviewed possible developers and chose Hastoe Housing Association as the most suitable organisation to carry out the project. They specialise in small developments in rural areas and are currently handling projects in Lavenham and Newton Green.

The agreement with the landowner has been finalised and Hastoe is now planning to arrange an open consultation meeting in March or April to present the plans to Groton residents and those who are interested in renting the properties, which will consist of two one-bedroom bungalows and two semi-detached two bedroom houses.

Potential tenants should ensure that they have registered on the Gateway to Home Choice website, and preference will be given to Groton residents and those who can demonstrate close connections to Groton.

Details of the consultation meeting will be published in the Box River News if time permits and on noticeboards in Groton. They will also be published on the Parish council website www.groton.onesuffolk.net in the Notice Board section.

Contact details for the Parish Council are shown on the website and are published regularly in the Box River News.

Hadleigh Boxford Patient Participation Group



Who can see my health record?

There are often situations where it would help medical staff outside our GP surgery to help us if they had access to our health records.

These staff could be in hospitals and A&E departments or they could be out of hours doctors or from the ambulance service.

But you have to give permission for these people to view your records and it is very easy to do this. You can pick up a form headed 'Who can see my health record?' from reception at the Hadleigh or Boxford surgeries, or you can go onto the Practice website and click on Summary Care Record and Record Sharing and download the same form.

Since November, over 400 patients have consented to share their information and the PPG hopes that many more will join them over the coming weeks.

All it takes is two ticks and a signature on the form and you will be helping medical staff who may be treating you in an emergency.

Why not join the Virtual PPG?

We appreciate that everyone leads full busy lives and may not have time to attend PPG meetings. With this in mind, we have created a virtual discussion group to encourage wider patient participation and representation. This means we can keep in touch via an on-line discussion board.

If you are a patient at Hadleigh or Boxford, if you are passionate and committed to improving quality care and would like to have your say, we would like to hear from you.

To join the Virtual PPG, email us at hadleighboxfordPPG@gmail.com.

For any further information about the PPG please contact Lindsay Panton, PPG Chair hadleighboxfordPPG@gmail.com or Tracey Squirrell, Practice Manager tracey.squirrell@nhs.net 01473 8201217

Wot's On

THE ASSINGTON ART GROUP

Cordially invite you to
an **EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS**
In ASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL CO10 5LW
OPENING TIMES

Friday April 27th 7pm>9pm

Saturday April 28th 10am<5pm

Sunday April 29* 10am<4pm

For more information please contact Belinda King

Tel 01787 210932 Email belindakingartist@gmail.com

Groton's Lent Lunch

Thursday, March 15th at 12.00 noon at Groton House

There will be a simple lunch, soup etc, at Groton House for anyone who would like to come, all are welcome. Donations to a charity will be gratefully received. Anyone who would like directions, please phone me on 210319. Pauline Lamming and I will look forward to seeing you then, Pat Kennedy Scott.

Spring Open Gardens

Sunday, April 8th in Groton Street, Groton.

Plans are forming for Groton Church's fund-raiser for the Open Gardens Event on April 8th; more details next month, but please put the date in your diary now, and plan to visit lots of gardens in Groton Street on April 8th; there will be teas as well!

Essential Oils for health and well-being

Come along to these free information and sampling events and find out how Certified Pure Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils can be safely used to support and assist the body in achieving and maintaining wellness as well as being valuable aids for mental and emotional health. Focusing on applications for children and their busy/stressed parents! All welcome.

Boxford Village Hall

Monday 5th March 1-3pm Friday 9th March 9-10:45am

Contact Louise on 01787 211862 for more information or just come along.

THE FOX & HOUNDS GROTON



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

BOOK NOW FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY 11TH MARCH

SIX NATIONS RUGBY SUPER SATURDAY 17TH MARCH
ST PATRICKS DAY - GUINNESS £2.80 A PINT

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

COME CELEBRATE ST GEORGES DAY AT THE GROTON FOX
MONDAY 23RD APRIL - BOOKINGS ONLY.

4 REAL ALES ALL £2.50 A PINT

FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST BETWEEN 8AM - 11AM

AFTERNOON TEA BETWEEN 12PM - 4PM

GEORGES EVENING MENU BETWEEN 5PM - 8.30PM

BOOK A TABLE NOW ON 01787210474



STOKE BY NAYLAND
GOLF CLUB

Play a **FREE** round of golf at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club!

Claim your free round between
Sunday 25th March - Sunday 8th April

We're giving golfers the chance to play a round of golf on one of our two championship golf courses absolutely free!
Experience the two well-established courses which will again play host to PGA and European Tour Men's and Women's events in 2018.

Join us during our Two Weeks of Golf from Sunday 25th March to Sunday 8th April, to play your free round and check out our fantastic facilities.

Simply head to

www.stokebynayland.com/special-offer/free-golf to claim your round!



For more information please call Mary Saward on 01206 265841 or email mary.saward@stokegolfandleisure.com

Stoke by Nayland Golf Club, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath, Colchester CO6 4PZ

Wot's On

LWHS Programme of Events - 2017 / 2018

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 to 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

The Suffolk Villages Festival Spring Concerts 2018

Artistic Director: Peter Holman

SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2018, 6.00 p.m. St Peter's, Sudbury

Margaret Faultless violin Steven Devine harpsichord

Johann Sebastian Bach: Sonatas for violin and harpsichord

Our series of Bach's chamber music continues with sonatas from the great set for violin and obbligato harpsichord BWV 1014-1019. With these ground-breaking works, written in the early 1720s, Bach modernised the Baroque trio sonata, elevating the role of the harpsichord from accompanist to equal partner with the violin. Steven Devine also plays Bach's scintillating Italian Concerto and the rarely performed Aria variata all maniera Italiana BWV 989, a youthful anticipation of the Goldberg Variations.

Margaret Faultless is one Britain's most distinguished and sought-after violinists specialising in period performance. He plays a copy by Colin Booth of a harpsichord made by J.C. Fleischer of Hamburg in 1710, the sort of instrument used by the Bach family.

MONDAY 28 MAY 2018, 6.00 p.m.

St Mary's Church, Hadleigh

Philippa Hyde, Emma Bishton, Gill Wilson soprano

Helen Charlston mezzo-soprano, Daniel Auchincloss tenor, Benjamin Bevan baritone

members of Psalmody, Essex Baroque Orchestra

directed by Peter Holman harpsichord

'endless pleasure, endless love'

John Eccles: *Semele* (1707) concert performance of the opera with words by William Congreve

Semele is a lively retelling of the story of Jupiter's pursuit of the Theban princess. Planned for the opening of London's Italian opera house, *Semele* was never performed at the time, and the libretto is best known today from Handel's later oratorio. Peter Holman directs his regular team of singers and period instrument players. They are joined by Helen Charlston, who impressed everyone in our Bach concert last May, and Benjamin Bevan, recently attracting attention at English Touring Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne.

This performance is supported by The Anthony King Memorial Fund and performed in association with Opera Restor'd.

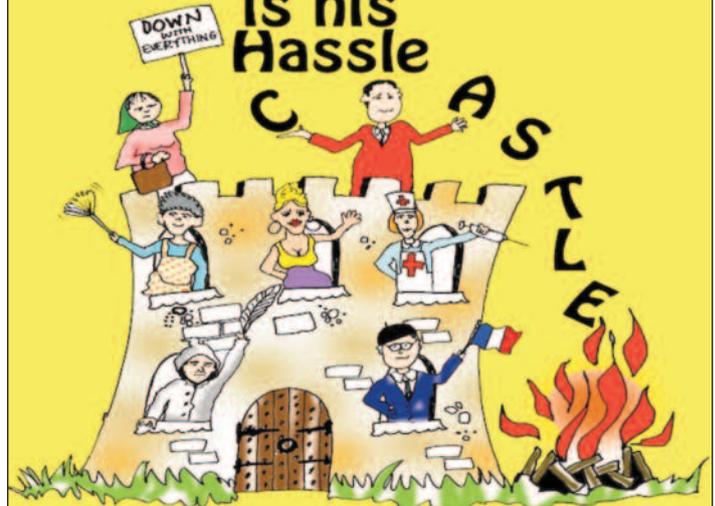
Box Office: www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com 01206 366603,

box@suffolkvillagesfestival.com

(www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com), 01206 366603

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

**ROB EVANS OF PHEASANT ACRE PLANTS
GOLD MEDAL WINNER**

Gladioli at Chelsea



**Tuesday 6th March 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall**

Newton Art & Craft Club

ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION AND SALE
IN AID OF ST NICHOLAS HOSPICE

SATURDAY 14TH APRIL

10AM – 3PM

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL



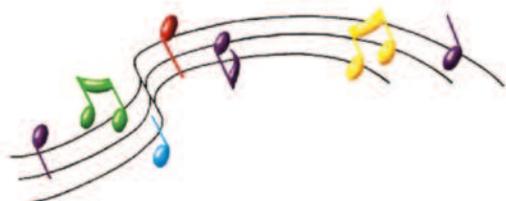
Refreshments Available

blue town jazz at the fleece



from 8pm free entry
saturday 28 april

see and hear us on
www.bluetownjazz.co.uk



MILDEN SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

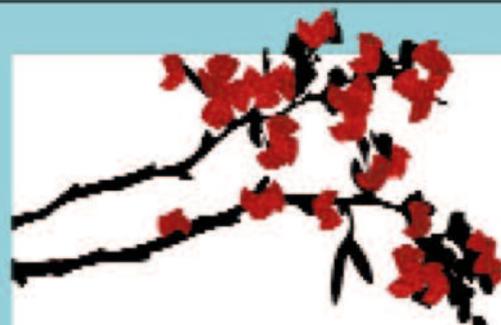
Enjoy a mix of 60's Pop, some classic tunes plus a selection of songs from High Society and Cabaret

Friday 4th May 7pm for 7.30pm
with buffet

Saturday 5th May 1.30pm for 2pm
with afternoon tea

At and in aid of Milden Pavilion

Tickets £6 available from Pearl 01449 741876 Both performances with licenced bar and charity raffle.



BOOK NOW FOR MOTHERS DAY
AT THE FLEECE

BOXFORD FLEECE MOTHERS DAY

TREAT YOUR MOTHER THIS MOTHERS DAY TO ONE OF OUR
FINEST RESERVE
FRESH FROM THE PRESSURE COOKER
MOTHERS DAY SPECIALS WHICH WILL BE SERVED TO YOU
WILL RECENT A FREE GLASS OF PROSECO ON ARRIVAL.

Wot's On

Nayland Horticultural Society

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 24Harper's Estate, Nayland, CO6 4LB, telephone: 01206 262022 or e-mail him at trevor.smy24@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

MARCH 2018

Saturday 3rd	10.00 am	Fireside Club coffee morning
Wednesday 14th	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)

The Shelley Centre (Riding for the Disabled)

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Saturday 17th March 2018, 6.30 for 7pm

Langham Community Centre, School Rd, Langham, CO4 5PA

Teams of 6. £12.50 per person includes fish and chip supper (veg alternative with advance notice) Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.

Tickets: Send SAE and cheque payable to Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding to Ms Coralie Marshall, Greys Hall Corner, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0QG

All proceeds to The Shelley Centre. Reg Charity No. 1113636

What's on at Stoke by Nayland Hotel and Spa

25th February 10am – Wedding Open Day

11th March 12pm – Mother's Day Lunch or Afternoon Tea

17th March 7:30pm – 80's Disco

1st April 12pm – Easter Sunday Lunch

16th May 7pm – VIP Fashion Show

17th May 11:30am – Ladies Who Lunch & Fashion Show

Nayland Village Players

The Village Players will be performing 'The Unexpected Guest' - an Agatha Christie whodunnit.

6:30pm March 22 (Early Show) 8:00pm March 23 & 24 Tickets are £7.50 or £6 for under 16s.

Tickets are on sale now at villageplayers.co.uk or at Nayland Post Office from mid-February.

POLSTEAD WI

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

March 13th

Fused Glass Artist

April 10th

Open Meeting –

April 19th

Life and Laughs of a Local Journalist

April 26th

Three Valleys Group Meeting – Nayland

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

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.

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



BOXFORD Gardens Open

Sunday 3th June 2018 11.00am-4.00pm

- Gardens open in Boxford, Groton & Edwardstone
- Featuring new gardens
- Refreshments, light lunches and cream teas in Boxford Village Hall
- Church tower open (TBC) breathtaking views
- Free shuttle bus from village centre

Tickets £6 (children under 16 FREE)

Main ticket desk at the Church or look out for the 'Garden Open' signs and pay at the first garden you come to

For more details contact:

Sarah Williams

01787 210276

Sarah.williams@rmcurtis.co.uk

All funds raised benefit

St Mary's Church Boxford



THE BOXFORD



WHITE HART



NOW OFFERING DELIVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK 5-9PM

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

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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.

GROTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PRESENTS



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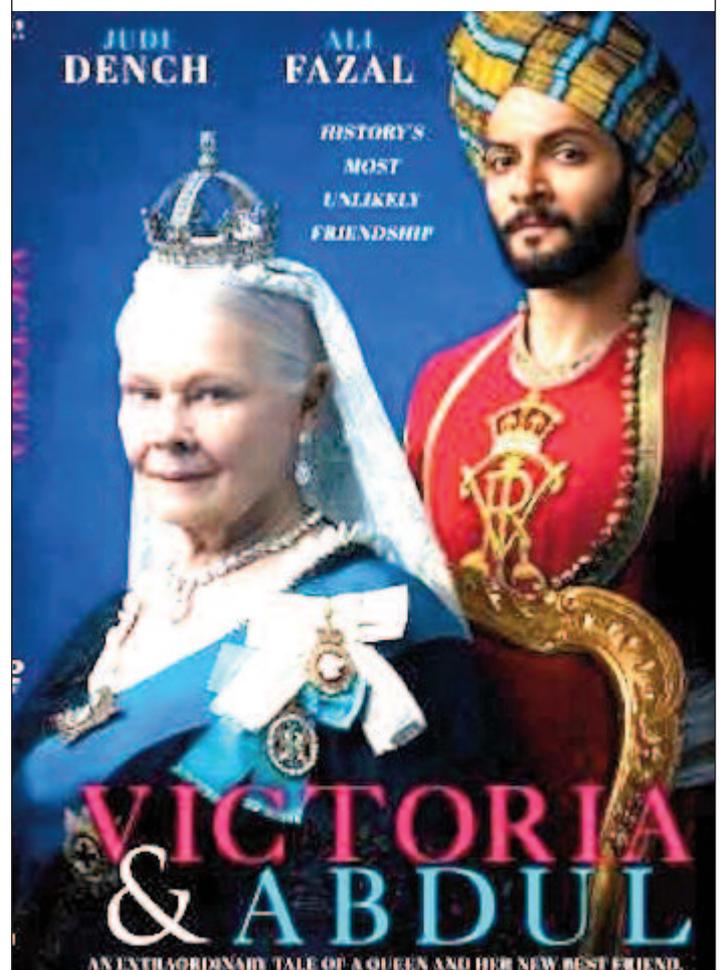
Raffle

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



Polstead Digital Cinema Friday 16th March

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Forthcoming Events Diary

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
15 Lent Lunch	Groton PCC	Groton House	12.00 noon

April

8 Spring Open Gardens	Groton PCC	Groton Street	
14 Newton Art and Craft Club Exhibition		Newton Village Hall	10-3.00pm
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
28 Boxford Society AGM.	Uncle Sam's roots in Eastern England.	School Hall	7.30PM

May

4/5 Milden Singers Spring Concert		The Pavilion	See Ad
16 Pip Wright A Picture History of Margaret Catchpole	Little W Hist Soc	Parish Room	7.30pm

June

3 Boxford Gardens Open	Boxford St Mary's		
13 The Battle of Waterloo	Little Waldingfield Historical society	Parish Room	7.30pm

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

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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.

Easter Services in the Box River Benefice

Everyone will be very welcome at any of our services as we move through the week from Palm Sunday to the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday

Palm Sunday 25th March

Edwardstone 10:00 Holy Communion with procession from Temple Bar

Maundy Thursday 29th March

Groton 9:30 Informal reflective service with Holy Communion

Good Friday 30th March

Little Waldingfield 09:30 Family Service with Hot Cross Buns and craft
Boxford 14:00 Reflective Service "at the foot of the cross"

Easter Sunday 1st April

Groton 06:20 Sunrise Service with Holy Communion by the War Memorial Sunrise predicted at 06:30)

Edwardstone 09:30 Family Communion (by extension)

Little Waldingfield 09:30 Family Communion

Boxford 11:00 Family Communion

Newton 15:00 Family Communion followed by an Easter Egg hunt

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

General Synod At the recent group of sessions in London, our diocesan motion on food wastage was passed (with a small improving amendment) and received good media attention. See last month's BRN for the text of the motion, which includes a call for all church members to use food resources responsibly and minimize waste in their own homes. Other items of business covered that received media coverage were the presentation on 'safeguarding' on the Saturday morning, and the final debate in the afternoon about valuing people with Down's syndrome. We also received an encouraging report on how the church is expanding the use of social media to proclaim its essential gospel message. At Christmas, this was #GodWithUs and this Lent the theme is #LiveLent: Let your Light Shine. To join in, just text LENT to 88802.

Walking Together Following last year's successful walk from Dunwich to Bury St Edmunds, this year Bishops Martin and Mike are undertaking a 10-day Lent Pilgrimage in the west of the diocese, starting on **Monday 19th March** with a Eucharist at **9.00 am** at St Stephen's Chapel, Bures (the site where St Edmund is reputed to have been crowned king), and ending at the Cathedral on Maundy **Thursday, 29th March**. Details of the itinerary will be published shortly on the diocesan website (www.cofesuffolk.org) as the bishops are keen for as many people as possible to join them along the way.

Annual 'Justice' Service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

On **Sunday 18th March 2018** the regular service of Choral Evensong at **3.30 pm** will be a special service for Her Majesty's Courts of Justice in Suffolk.



THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwarden:

Peter Dilnot

Assistant Churchwarden:

Michael Gray

Mobile: 07931 043926

Email: boxford.warden@btinternet.com

Cafe Church will be on **Sunday March 4th at 11.00 am**. Everyone is very welcome to this informal service with coffee and pastries and lots of craft activities for young and old alike!

"Messy church" is fun filled and takes place at Boxford Primary School. **3.15 pm to 4.30 pm**, monthly.

Parents and grandparents are welcome from 4.15 pm. Further information from Helen Heath

bootsieheath@hotmail.co.uk

Tel. 01787 204036

Mothering Sunday this year is on **Sunday March 11th**. We will have a Family Service at **11.00 am**, at St. Mary's Boxford, with flowers for our mums! Everyone is very welcome.

Some Mothering Sunday "facts"; Mothering Sunday was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptised or where they attended services when they were children.

This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people, who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

Traditionally, people observed a fast during Lent. Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. During the Lent fast, people did not eat from sweet, rich foods or meat. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering Sunday and many people prepared a Simnel cake to eat with their family on this day.

A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, Simnel cakes are decorated with 11 or 12 balls of marzipan, representing the 11 disciples and, sometimes, Jesus Christ. One legend says that the cake was named after Lambert Simnel who worked in the kitchens of Henry VII of England sometime around the year 1500.

The Bible Study Group meets at Russets, 47 Swan Street on **2nd and 4th Monday** each month by kind invitation of Margaret and Peter Holden. All are welcome to this hour of fellowship.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is planned for **Sunday April 8th**. Notices concerning the details of the meeting will be placed on church notice boards and in the "New Wine"

The Annual Revision of Church Electoral Roll for Boxford will take place prior to the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**. The revised roll will be placed on the church notice board 2 weeks before the meeting. Those on the roll are entitled to attend the Annual Meeting and stand for election to the PCC. If you would like to add your name to the roll please see the Acting Church Electoral Roll Officer, Mr Dennis Picton, or the Revd Judith. Please refer to the notice boards for the dates for this revision.

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

Please, NO LATER THAN 12th March

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

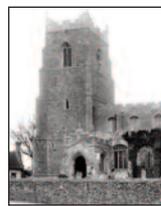


THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:
Vacant

Rota for March

Sunday 25th at 10:00 am Five Villages Palm Sunday Service with Holy Communion and procession from Temple Bar
Sidesman/Coffees To be confirmed
Flowers Lent
Cleaning To be confirmed



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens
Vacant

Rotas

4th March
11th March
18th March
25th March
30th March

Sidesmen	Flowers
Mrs. Duffy and Mrs. Nicholls	Lent
No service	Lent
No service	Lent
Mrs. Gardner and Mr. Powell	Lent

Good Friday

Hot Cross buns served in the Parish rooms

Easter Sunday

All

1st April

Reverend Judith presided over two funerals this month. Shirley Hobson lived in our village for many years. She was a staunch churchgoer and gifted flower arranger until her illness. Ken Horsley, of Sudbury, had also lived here: he was a member of a large family resident here in the village and a great cricketer. We think of Ken's and Shirley's relatives and friends at this time of mourning and send them our prayers and condolences. On both occasions the sun shone on the lovely snowdrops in the churchyard. They were planted by Barry Squirrell, who used to tend the churchyard and died just last winter. Each year in full bloom they herald Spring.

7th March Lent Lunch 12 noon to 2.00 pm at Newman's Hall, kindly lent by Anne Miller and Louise Smith.

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

28th January Revd. Judith, wearing white robes, celebrated our special service of Plough Sunday, which was held late in January as we have our monthly service on the fourth Sunday of the month. It is a celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year by bringing a plough share into the church for a blessing. We are fortunate to have a plough in the church permanently. As part of the service we went into the Nave and had readings when we said "God speed the plough" and Revd. Judith blessed the plough, and all of us, by sprinkling water using a sprig of Rosemary. On returning into the Chancel, Communion was celebrated by Revd. Judith assisted by our amazing Jean Adams. Thank you to Nancy Roser who played the organ and to all, who really worked as a team preparing the service and afterwards, because a number of our members were away.

14th March Lent Lunch 12 noon to 2.00 pm at 'Lowes', Church Road, Newton.

18th March at 09:30 am Service of Holy Communion Note that this service replaces our normal fourth Sunday service this month, because the Benefice Palm Sunday Service falls on that Sunday.

1st April Easter Day Service 3.00 pm including an Easter Egg Hunt and refreshments.

BENEFICE NEWS

Lent Lunches Please see notices in the parish news sections.

Annual Meetings of the PCCs

Each year every church holds a series of three connected meetings which take place consecutively. First is the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) the sole purpose of which is to elect churchwardens for the coming year. This is a joint meeting of all residents living in the ecclesiastical parish registered on the civil electoral roll and all of those on the electoral roll of the ecclesiastical parish, which can include people who live outside the parish. This meeting is then followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). This is the meeting that elects representatives to serve on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the coming year. The PCC will present its report and accounts for 2016 and there is an opportunity at the meeting to ask questions or raise any matter of parochial or general church interest. Only those whose names are on the church electoral roll are entitled to attend and vote at this meeting.



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 March

Sidesman	Mrs Sheila Gooderham
Flowers	Mrs Valerie Riddleston
Cleaning	Mrs Valerie Riddleston

PCC Meeting Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 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 djlammings@hotmail.com]

Lent Lunch

Thursday March 15th at 12.00 noon at Groton House

There will be a simple lunch, soup etc, at Groton House for anyone who would like to come, all are welcome. Donations to a charity will be gratefully received. Anyone who would like directions, please phone me on 210319. Pauline Lamming and I will look forward to seeing you then, Pat Kennedy Scott.

Electoral Roll Revision: As announced last month, the annual revision of the church electoral roll is shortly to take place prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on **17th April 2018**. The revision period will be from **18th March** to **1st April**. The revised roll will then be published by being exhibited on the church noticeboard from 2nd April until the date of the APCM. Forms of application for enrolment must be returned to me by **1st April**. Anyone qualified for enrolment is encouraged to apply and to take a full part in the life of their local church. 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 and ask me for an application form. More details of the APCM, and the linked meeting to elect churchwardens, next month.

David Lamming (Tel: 210360; e-mail: djlammings@hotmail.com).

We Have Our Faculty! Good news – there were no objections to our application for a faculty (i.e. permission from the diocesan chancellor) to carry out the re-ordering of the church to provide servery facilities under the tower and erect a timber building in the churchyard to house an equal access WC. The PCC are now proceeding to invite tenders for the work. The faculty also permits two new noticeboards (one by the Groton Hall gate to the churchyard and the other by the Groton Street gate) and we hope to have these in place very shortly: they are being custom-made for us by Bryn Hurren and will enable us better to advertise church events.

Church Roof Repair: At long last we are in a position to carry out the permanent repair of the north aisle and chancel roofs, following the lead theft in October 2015. Scaffolding will be going up during Holy Week and the work to replace the lead will start on Tuesday 3rd April. This should be completed by early May.

Advance Notice of Spring Open Gardens

Sunday April 8th in Groton Street, Groton.

Plans are forming for Groton Church's fund-raiser for the Open Gardens Event. More details next month, but please put the date in your diary now, and plan to visit lots of gardens in Groton Street; there will be teas as well!

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 to her day off changing or other commitments.*

*For details of Easter Day Services next month – see separate listing in this issue***

Thursday 1st

Lt Waldingfield	15.00	Holy Communion - Newmans Hall (Reserved Sacrament)	Lay Team
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Sunday 4th

Boxford	08.00	Third Sunday in Lent Holy Communion	(P) Revd Judith
Lt Waldingfield	09.30	Morning Worship	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
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Sunday 11th

Groton	09.30	Fourth Sunday in Lent- Mothering Sunday Holy Communion	(P) Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00	Family Service for Mothering Sunday	Revd Judith

Wednesday 14th

Boxford	10.30	Holy Communion - Mary's House	Revd Judith
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Thursday 15th

Lt Waldingfield	15.00	Compline - Newmans Hall	Lay Team
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Sunday 18th

Newton	09.30	Fifth Sunday in Lent Holy Communion	(P) 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

Edwardstone	10.00	Palm Sunday Family Service with Holy Communion <i>with Palm Sunday procession commencing at 9.50 at Temple Bar</i>	(R) Revd Judith
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Wednesday 28th

Boxford	10.30	Holy Communion Mary's House	Revd Judith
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Thursday 29th

Groton	19.30	Maundy Thursday Reflective Service with Holy Communion	Revd Judith
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Friday 30th

Lt Waldingfield	09.30	Good Friday Family Service with Hot Cross buns and craft	Revd Judith
Boxford	14.00	Reflective service: "At the foot of the Cross"	Revd Judith

Soap Box

I think it was Dame Maggie Smith who once remarked that old age was not for sissies. I have an increasing level of empathy with this comment. Suddenly (well, actually, not so suddenly) I am feeling rather old and worried about coping with the future. Perhaps this is due to the fact that two friends of mine have died recently – both younger than me, admittedly by months rather than years – but their deaths served as a reminder that our lives are finite. Then again, it could be all the aches and pains I increasingly seem to have to bear.

Whatever the cause, growing older seems to be taking over more of my thought processes as time progresses. And time does seem to progress at an accelerating rate these days. John Mortimer, the writer and barrister, once disclosed that he felt at his great age breakfast seemed to arrive on an hourly basis, so fast was time travelling. With me it is a case of constant amazement that my son has reached the grand old age of 40, or that it is six years since we bought a house in Portugal (it feels like last week) and did I really attend a sixty years on reunion at my old secondary school last year?

Can time really pass that rapidly? It does – and you really don't notice it happening. But to return to the issue of feeling old, in the interests of balance there are some pluses I can relate to. For a start, I am a cancer sufferer who has survived, albeit after considerable, invasive and life changing surgery. I am also younger than many of my friends, than the esteemed editor of this journal and, no doubt, to a large number of Box River News readers. And by and large my health is not that bad. It's just that I do not function at such an efficient level as once was the case.

The negative side is more worrying. My mother-in-law and her younger brother both have dementia. Watching them both deteriorate has been an upsetting experience. My mobility is also suffering. Once I would stride out on the fields or, if in Portugal, the beach at a cracking pace. Now my wife accuses me of slowing her down when we take our dog for a walk. Arthritic knees and lower back pain are to blame. I've tried to tackle both, but with only limited success. Indeed, having been told by my doctor to have my back X-rayed in case the pain was an indication of something more sinister, the radiologist's conclusion was "reasonable wear and tear".

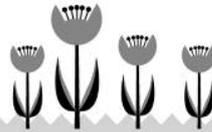
My ability to absorb new techniques is also less good than I would like. I refer principally to what might be termed the technological revolution.

While I welcome and use devices that allow me to communicate more effectively, enjoy finding things out through the internet and increasingly rely on my satnav to get me from A to B, learning how to use each new application seems to take an increasing amount of effort. I envy the ease with which younger folk navigate all things technological in a seemingly effortless manner.

Perhaps I'm just turning into a grumpy old man. Certainly, I do lead a very full life and am constantly on the go, but deep down inside I can feel myself slowing down – and I'm not enjoying it. Thinking back to when I was fully gainfully employed, I can't help wondering why I do not appear to have a lot of extra free time, given that my work output is a fraction of what it once was. Mind you, time management was never my long suit, even when in senior management a few decades ago. Oh well. Perhaps I just have to learn to live with the process of ageing and count my not inconsiderable blessings. At least I still have the time to continue my writing. I just hope you can find the time to read my very personal outpourings. Perhaps this one might even strike a chord with some of you.

Brian Tora

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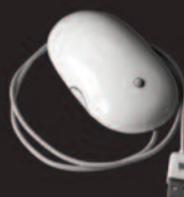
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GARDENING IN MARCH INSPIRED BY HARRY BUCKLEDEE

Established lawns will be in need of attention this month. Rake the surface vigorously a few times and spike two or three inches deep with a four tine fork to aerate the surface of the turf. This treatment is important to maintain a healthy turf and aid drainage, so that water is not allowed to remain on the surface. Reseed any areas of lawn that have worn bare, and crumbled edges can be repaired by cutting out a strip of turf and turning it round so that the sound turf is at the edge. Later in the month, if the weather is warm, apply a spring fertilizer. There are many suitable proprietary mixtures available which should be applied at the manufacturers instructions.

If not already done so roses should be pruned without delay otherwise you will be late getting the first crop of blooms.

Prune hard back all summer flowering shrubs which flower on the current seasons growth such as *Garryopteris clandonensis*, the deciduous species of *Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles* and *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*. Willows and *Cornus*, grown for their brightly coloured stems in winter will also need to be cut down to ground level.

Chrysanthemums grow best in soil well enriched with organic matter such as farm yard manure or well rotted compost. Now is the time to dig over the ground and take care not to bury the compost more than six to eight inches deep. Chrysanthemums are not deep rooters and all the nutrients should be in the top six inches. They are all best grown from newly rooted cuttings. Plants increased by division or what is known by growers as Irishman's cuttings, will not produce the same results. March is the main month for Chrysanthemum propagation. Cuttings taken from old plants at or near the base tend to root more quickly and give the best results. Select shoots about an eighth of an inch in diameter and two and a half inches long with leaves of good colour, showing no signs of disease or insects and no sign of buds at the tips. Root the cuttings in boxes containing a mixture of two thirds seed compost and one part sand. Remove the bottom leaves and trim just below a leaf joint, dip the lower-end of the cutting in hormone rooting powder and insert them A inch deep and 2 22 inches apart. Water them well and cover them with a sheet of polythene to conserve moisture and provide shade in sunny weather.

This is the month to plant asparagus crowns. Select a part of the vegetable garden which has been well cultivated and is free from weeds especially the perennial ones. Open up a trench 15 inches wide and six inches deep

at the sides and three inches deep in the centre. Plant the crowns on the ridge in the centre of the trench with the roots sloping down to the sides so that when you fill the soil back into the trench the crown will be three inches below soil level with the roots sloping down to six inches deep. Do not leave the crowns uncovered before planting, even for a few moments. Asparagus roots dry out very quickly and once they are dry they will be of little use. Plant each crown as it is removed from the packing and cover immediately with soil. Water the bed after planting and keep moist until after they show signs of growth. In sheltered positions, sowings of salad crops, like spring onions, lettuce and radishes can be made provided they are given some protection from birds.

Brussels sprouts need long season of growth to produce good results, sow in the green house early in the month in cell trays, one seed per cell. F.I varieties give best results and will produce even size sprouts all the way up the stems.

Early in the month sow parsnip seed in ground that was manured for a previous crop. Before sowing, rake in a mixture of two parts bone meal and one part sulphate of potash at a rate of about three oz per square yard. Parsnip seed is slow to germinate and the percentage of germination is lower than most vegetables so don't be too sparing with the seed.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- 2 Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- 3 Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- 4 Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- 5 Top dress containers with fresh compost
- 6 Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
- 7 Cut back *Cornus* (dogwood) and *Salix* (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
- 8 Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
- 9 Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
- 10 Prune bush and climbing roses

Spring arrives

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden

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THE NAMES ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS - MARCH 2018



These articles last covered the actions along the Western Front in the November issue of the Box River News by giving some brief account of the Cambrai Operations, which ended in early December 1917. In this we learnt that, like so many previous attempts to break out of the stalemate of the trenches,

the action had resulted in very little territorial gain at the cost of many lives. Indeed, at Cambrai the German counterattack was so effective, that there was a net loss of ground for the Allied forces. However, we also noted that Cambrai was to prove significant as the first really effective use of the combined and co-ordinated force of artillery, tanks, infantry and air reconnaissance and attack, a strategy that came to be known as 'all arms' warfare. This was to prove decisive later in 1918, but before that came to be, Cambrai had left the Front Line south west of the town shaped like an 'S', and curvilinear defences are weak in that they have flanks open to attack and stretch the defending troops thinly, as compared with a straight frontline. So it is not surprising that this was chosen by the German armies as the northern point of departure for the massive offensive action they launched on 21st March 1918.

Before continuing with the chronology of this campaign, it is worth considering the reasons for the German offensive. Inevitably, we have been concentrating on the Western Front, because this is where most of the men, who we have remembered, died. But this was a global conflict, and events away from France during 1917 were proving influential in the course of the War, and these had a bearing upon the thinking of General Ludendorff, the commander of the German forces in the field.

For the first two years of the War, American sentiment had been against any involvement in the War, other than supplying goods to the United Kingdom. This had changed quite dramatically when, in early 1917, the German navy effectively made the Atlantic Ocean a war zone by declaring a blockade on any shipping trying to reach the UK mainland. Very soon several American merchant vessels had been sunk by submarines. Not long after this, the infamous Zimmerman telegram was made public. In this the German Foreign Minister, Arthur Zimmerman, had offered Mexico support in its aspirations to recover territories lost to the USA, including California and parts of several other states, if it declared war on the country, in the hope it would deflect American attention from Europe. All of this outraged public opinion and on the 6th of April 1917, the United States of America declared war on Germany.

Initially this had little effect in Europe. The strength of the American armed forces was not great, the country relying on its isolationist policies to obviate the need for a large standing army. Even the navy was relatively small for the area of the seas that bordered the continent. But this did not last long. Very soon the USA was arming, equipping, and training a substantial army and Ludendorff knew it was only a matter of time before those troops began to reach the eastern shores of the Atlantic.

On the opposite side of Europe, other political processes were in motion. In Russia, the war with the Central Powers had resulted in massive losses of men from the poorly trained and equipped army, and the diversion of food and materials towards the war effort was causing increasing hardship for the populace. In the spring of 1917, the absolute power of the Tsar was finally broken, when he was forced to abdicate in early March. Over the next few months, the Provisional Government attempted to establish its authority, but all of this was overtaken by the Bolshevik revolution of October. By mid-December 1917, Trotsky had initiated an armistice with the Central Powers, and other eastern European countries such as Ukraine and Romania followed suit. The Brest-Litovsk conference was then convened to conclude a peace on the Eastern Front. Although this did not reach fruition until March 1918, the effect was almost immediate, in that it released a large number of German divisions from that theatre of war, which were then redeployed westwards. Thus, Ludendorff was able to reinforce the army on the Western Front, and so change the balance of power markedly in favour of the German forces.

In addition to these more international factors, Ludendorff also reasoned, quite correctly, that the British and Commonwealth forces were wearied by the four major offensives they had mounted during 1917, and German intelligence advised, again correctly, that there was a hiatus in effective recruitment to make up for the casualties incurred during the year. He also knew that the French army, whilst still able to maintain a fighting force, had suffered a severe blow to morale with the near annihilation that arose following the catastrophic losses resulting from the Arras offensive.

There was also one other local factor that came to the attention of the German

high command. More or less since the Western Front had been established in late 1914, the British Expeditionary Force, and later with the Commonwealth forces, held the line from Nieuport on the Channel coast in the north to St. Quentin about 100 miles to the south. Beyond that, the French forces took over all the way to the Swiss border. In the Autumn of 1917, the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, held discussions with his own generals and the French commanders about extending the line held by the British forces for a further 28 miles southwards. The background to this is a complex web of political intrigue at government level and rivalry between the British generals, that I will not elaborate upon. Suffice to say, Lloyd George overrode his generals and agreed to the French request and then followed it up in December 1917 with an agreement to take on yet another length of about 37 miles. The task of manning this new length fell to General Sir Hubert Gough and his Fifth Army. On arrival they found the defences in a shocking state with virtually no rear support lines. The work to make the lines fit for purpose began in January 1918 and such was the scale of the work and the manpower involved (by March 1918, there were 68,000 men of the Service Corps working in this sector) it was obvious to Ludendorff that this was a weak point matching the weakness at Cambrai in the north.

So it was that Ludendorff understood that he had a window of opportunity to strike a decisive blow against the Allied forces that would not present itself again. His initial strategy was to mount a major attack against the British lines, using the two weak points we have discussed as the two ends of the sector of the Front Line, which he planned to break through. He would concentrate most of the fire power a little to south of the centre of this length, along the Somme valley and force a path towards Paris. At the same time, he intended to drive north westwards towards the coast and effectively encircle the British and Commonwealth forces in a narrow strip of Flanders. Thus, he would render them powerless to prevent his march on Paris and unable to come to the aid of the less well organised French forces. Within this early strategy Ludendorff placed great emphasis on crushing the British and Commonwealth forces, even if that meant delaying the move towards the capital city.

Within two weeks the British and Commonwealth forces had been forced back by forty miles in the centre of a new front of some 60 miles in length. Gough's fifth army had been more or less destroyed, such was the inadequacy of the defences they had been desperately trying to rebuild. The situation looked dire. However, as so many previous commanders had found, a rapid and deep push through occupied territory is of no use if it cannot be sustained by the rearward organisation of munitions and other supplies. The attack ground to a halt as the resupplying of the German forward troops tried to catch up, and in that interval Ludendorff hesitated, which probably cost him his victory.

The main area of success had been in the south and on this lay the route to Paris, but the advance in the north had been less effective. Ludendorff worried that this northern end of the deep salient into France might not be sustainable. However, most commentators believe that all he needed to do was maintain the line from Ypres up to the coast, even if that meant retreating from some of the newly won ground, because his original plan of encirclement would still have the desired effect of containing the British and Commonwealth forces. But inexplicably, he decided to split his forces sending many divisions north to open a new offensive near Ypres, whilst he continued the direct push towards Paris. His momentum was now lost and the Allied forces were able to regroup and begin the counterattacks. But these did not come without enormous cost, and such was the concern of the British generals when the actions around Ypres began, that Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig issued what is probably the most famous battle instruction of the War which read;

"There is no other course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man: there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. The safety of our homes and the Freedom of mankind alike depend upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment."

It would take far too long to go into the detail of the whole of this major German offensive which lasted from March 21st through to July, when Ludendorff knew he no longer had any realistic chance of succeeding. In all, there are about eighteen named battles within the German offensive. Apart from the two principal actions I have outlined, the German forces also mounted two more major attacks, each of which was designed to reach Paris. Indeed, these were initially successful, and the Germans crossed the River Marne and were within 56 miles of the City. But, the tide turned through the bitter determination of the Allied forces not to give in and the swelling number of American troops now landing in their thousands.

That turning point is identified as July 18th, when the Allied action changed from defensive to offensive and the start of the long run of effective forward moving actions by the Allies began and which would, in about 100 days, cause Hindenburg and Ludendorff to petition the Kaiser to surrender.

We are, of course, now way in advance of the immediate purpose of these articles to remember month by month the villagers from this corner of Suffolk, who lost their lives during these mighty upheavals just a relatively short distance across the Channel. But it is within the context of the German offensive of March to July that the next ten of our soldiers died. As I come to each of them in turn, I will,

where relevant, expand a little more on the specific battles and engagements that caused them to be numbered among those who did not return to their homes and families.

The first of these ten is **Gunner William Edward Lingley**, 155965, 'B' Battery, 315th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, of Newton. In the 1911 Census William is recorded as a thirteen year old "shepherd lad on farm". Just under seven years later he is recorded by the War Office as dying of wounds he sustained in action on the 22nd of March 1918, not yet twenty one. He was born in the last quarter of 1897 and baptised in All Saints church on the 14th November the same year. His parents were Edward and Ellen. The Lingley family had already been directly affected by the conflict, having lost Edward's brother, another William, on 2nd of November 1917. Edward was born in the village in 1870 as was Ellen who was baptised Ellen Chinnery in August 1871. Both Edward and Ellen were from long established farm working families, Edward being a horseman.

William enlisted in Sudbury probably in 1916 or 1917. It is always difficult to comprehend what it must have been like to go from being a farm worker in rural Suffolk to a soldier serving in a war, but if we briefly consider the structure of a gun battery of the time we might gain a little understanding of William's experience. Each battery consisted of 6 field guns and these required 5 officers and 193 men to maintain, move and fire them. As well as the guns themselves, there were 6 ammunition wagons, 3 supply wagons and 2 or 3 carts. Amongst the men there were 5 smiths, 2 saddlers and 2 wheelwrights. The officers and NCOs rode on riding horses and 70 men rode the heavy team horses that pulled the guns themselves and the ammunition wagons. When underway the other non-mounted men rode on the limbers (the detachable wheeled rear support of the guns) or the ammunition wagons. The whole battery could, on good roads, move at a canter, which must have been a thrilling sight, though this would always be tempered by the knowledge of the real purpose of this assemblage of men and horses.

William's battery was stationed near the town of Roye about 25 miles south east of Amiens and about 20 miles west of the Front Line. This places him in the sector behind the lines only recently taken over from the French as described above. That he died on the second day of the German offensive such a distance from the front suggests his battery took fire from the German guns, because in this attack the German strategy was to fire over the forward trenches in order to destroy and disrupt the rear organisation including all the gun positions.

We know almost exactly where he died, because he was first buried by German forces as they advanced across the battlefield, who carefully recorded each and every body and marked them in lists that were after the war passed to the Allies. This information was used by the Concentration Teams to disinter and rebury the men in the Roye New British Cemetery, which is where our shepherd lad now lies.

Much less is known about the circumstances of the death of our other villager this month, **Private Harry Frederick Fletcher**, M2/022021, 5th Motor Ambulance Convoy, Royal Army Service Corps, of Calais Street, Boxford. He is buried in the Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension Number 1. Doullens is a town about 25 miles due north of Amiens well to the west of even the furthest extension of the Front Line. It was used by Marshall Foch, the Commander-in-Chief of the French forces, as his headquarters early in the war, and it became an important railhead. Around it were organised two major hospitals and around these sprang up several busy casualty clearing stations. Marshall Foch returned to Doullens in the spring of 1918, when he assumed the command of all the Allied forces on the Western front just two weeks after the German offensive began.

The Motor Ambulance Convoys were specialist teams charged with the evacuation of casualties from the front lines and rear organisation areas. Harry's company, number 323, was attached to the Second Army, which was placed near Ypres as the offensive began. Whilst the infantry and artillery of this Army were not directly involved in the fighting at this stage, the Service Corps attached to the army would have been deployed as needed. So, it seems likely that Harry would have been working to recover casualties from the northern end of the sector under attack not too distant from Cambrai. Somewhere in the thick of the fighting, on the 26th of March, Harry, aged 21, became a casualty himself and, his body was, no doubt, returned to Doullens by his own comrades in arms.

Harry was born in Polstead to Samuel and Sarah Ann, nee Humphrey. Harry was baptised in St Mary's church Polstead on the 5th of April 1896. Sarah was born in Hadleigh Heath in 1866, and Samuel was born in Polstead a year earlier. They married in 1887. Their families were farm workers, but Samuel set himself up as a Fowl and Fruit dealer. Harry took a different route in employment and is recorded as an apprentice to the cycle and motor trade in the 1911 Census, which probably explains his deployment to a motor transport company in the Service Corps, when he enlisted in Colchester, probably in 1916. Quite when he reached France is not known, but we do know he did not come back.

Although William Lingley's home village is Newton, there is no service at All Saints in March because the benefice Palm Sunday service falls on the fourth Sunday of the month, the usual Sunday for Newton services. Thus, it will be during this Palm Sunday service at Edwardstone on the 25th of March at 10:00 that we will bring to mind his short life. Harry Fletcher will be remembered at the 11:00 service of Holy Communion at Boxford on the 18th of March.

1st Boxford Scouts Open-day A fun day out for all the family



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Parish Council Matters

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 15 January 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present: P Baker (Chair), S Norman, C Britcher, S Flack, P Clarke, D Williams, M Childs

In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk), B Hurren (BDC) and 2 members of the public

Reports: B Hurren (BDC) advised that he had bought the materials to repair the noticeboard at Mill Green and the work will be done as soon as possible. There is no further news on Goodlands. Konings have been asked to amend their planning application for the former Copella site. The BDC move to Endeavour House is now well over budget and there are other controversial issues at BDC.

Highway and Footpath Matters – The deteriorating condition of the U8339 from the phone box past the White Horse was noted. The Clerk will report this once again, copying in B Hurren. The National Speed Limit sign north of S Norman's property on Sherbourne Street has still not been repaired and the Clerk will chase this up. The footpath sign next to the kissing gate at the entrance to the field near the church has also not been repaired and again the Clerk will chase this up.

Broadband coverage – no response has been received from the Clerk's correspondence with Suffolk Better Broadband and she will chase this up. An email had been received from G Peacock advising that the SBB website is now saying that the estimated time for connecting outlying areas has been amended to read an unhelpful 2018 to 2021. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to James Cartledge MP and Matthew Hancock MP (Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) asking them to push for connection for the whole parish.

Planning Matters – Land Adjacent Well House, Round Maple, Edwardstone CO10 5PR – erection of 2 x 2 bed dwellings – the majority of the PC was in support of this application, though concerns were expressed about the potential setting of a precedent and the size of the proposed properties. It was resolved that the PC would advise BDC that it was in support of the application.

General Data Protection Regulation – SALC have confirmed that despite some contradictory advice, the position is that the Clerk cannot be appointed as the Data Protection Officer. It was resolved that the PC would continue to express an interest in the services offered by The DPO Centre Ltd, probably at the lowest level offered.

Enhancing public engagement – Following discussion of various potential methods, it was resolved that the PC would take up D Williams' offer to draft a questionnaire to be circulated to all households in the parish. He will then circulate to Parish Councillors and B Hurren for their comments. Emergency **Telephone** – the Council resolved to sign the ongoing agreement for the Community Heartbeat Trust 999 Emergency phone which is in the phone box with the defibrillator. P Baker signed the document.

Financial Matters - The Statement of Finances & Order for Payments was approved and the cheques were signed. The accounts to date were checked and approved.

Business Savings Account as at 31 December 2017	£2518.20
Business Current Account as at 31 December 2017	£6118.79
Total	£8636.99

Local charities – D Williams had obtained from the Charities Commission details of some local charities and will provide further details for consideration either at the next meeting or in the next financial year.

The adequacy of the budget for 2017-18 was considered and approved. The PC considered and approved the draft budget for 2018-19. The PC resolved to increase the precept from £5625 to £5710. This is the first increase since 2014 and is an additional £0.52 per year on a Band D property. The Precept document was signed by 3 Councillors. The Financial Risk Assessment was carried out with no issues arising.

Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence – The Clerk advised that she had been unable to access the website to deal with D Williams' Register of Interests but will contact BDC and get this done. She has booked herself onto free Audit training at SALC's offices to deal with the new audit regime. Her travel costs can be shared with Groton PC. It was resolved that the Annual Meeting would be on 21 May at 7pm followed by the APM the same evening at 7.30pm. The Clerk advised that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations need to be updated and she will try to get this done before the next meeting if time allows. She also advised that she would be leaving her role as Clerk this year, once the PC has obtained a replacement but with the end of November as a longstop. She will advertise the vacancy with SALC and in the BRN.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 19 March.

A full copy of the Minutes can be found on the Parish Council's website edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/

Meeting of Boxford Parish Council

Report of the Meeting held Monday 8th January

Public Forum: Drainage issues were raised at the bottom of the Croft (opposite the White Hart) and also outside the Village Hall. Various empty bottles and snack wrappers are being littered in the Bus Shelter. The mechanical sweeper attended recently without notice, so cars were blocking their path. The Cemetery gates are in need of some maintenance.

District Council Report: District Cllr Bryn Hurren attended and was still chasing information about the young persons' travel card. There was to be a meeting in Sudbury on the subject and he was informing the family who raised the issue. He has been urging Babergh Council to address the lack of grounds maintenance at the old Homefield flats. He will continue to monitor the agreed program is carried out. A new leader is now in place at the District Council. Concerns continue over the waste of money surrounding the proposed combined Council. Attention is being given to disposal of the Corks Lane premises in Hadleigh and internally it has been cleared.

Correspondence: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. A new road works information link has been provided by Suffolk Highways which gives information area by area of forthcoming road closures www.roadworks.org.

Finance: In addition to the usual business the Suffolk Local Code of Conduct was adopted and the Parish Council's Internal Control Policy was updated. A working group was formed to review the Parish Councils Financial Regulations.

Cemetery: It was agreed for Site meetings to be arranged with the Babergh Heritage Team and Suffolk Highways in order to consider options for maintenance and protection of the Churchyard wall. Church representatives will also be invited to those meetings.

Village Car Park: Consideration is still being given to the potential to provide a village car park. A meeting had taken place with a landowner of land accessed from Stone Street Road near the school site. Information will be sought from other Parish Councils of the maintenance and running costs of car parks.

Planning: The Planning Authority confirmed permission had been granted for extension and conversions at Boxbank, Rules Yard and side extension at 32 Swan Street.

Hopkins Homes do not have anything substantial to share at this stage as they are still investigating the site behind the Causeway. They are proposing a preliminary meeting with the Parish Council ahead of arranging a public event.

Debbie Hattrell, Clerk to Boxford Parish Council

Groton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7 pm Wednesday 24 January 2018 at Groton Village Hall, Broad Street, Groton

Present: C Fraulo, P Roberts, A Dixon-Smith, D Wills, J Osborne (from 7.35)

In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk), B Hurren (BDC)

C Fraulo took the Chair as J Osborne had advised that he would be late arriving.

Reports – B Hurren (BDC) confirmed that the Goodlands application had been turned down. An application for the Sand Hill development is anticipated. Fees for planning applications are increasing. The Council Tax budget will increase from SCC, BDC and the Police. The Local Plan consultation is now closed and is being considered. The Boundary Review response is expected shortly. There are problems at BDC with serious financial repercussions from the move to Endeavour House. He is happy to help with any broadband issues as raised by C Fraulo.

The Minutes of the meeting of 1 November were approved and signed.

Reports and questions from Councillors – J Osborne took the Chair. D Wills said that there were problems with the paper recycling bank in the Fox & Hounds car park. People were putting cardboard in which meant that the bank was not being emptied. The Village Hall Committee had asked who had responsibility for the bank. It was confirmed that it was the pub's responsibility as it was on their land, with the income going to the Village Hall. D Wills also advised that the VH Committee had asked how big the Community Emergency Plan box would be and it was confirmed that it would not be large. J Osborne advised that at the Boxford United Charities meeting last year proposals for uniting it with Groton United Charities were agreed. It has been confirmed that the name should be Boxford and Groton United Charities. The PC should nominate two trustees to represent Groton.

Boxford and Groton United Charities - it was resolved that Catherine Lucas and Jeremy Osborne were nominated.

Readers Letters

Sir

On a recent dog walk I noticed the bizarre spectacle of a unique type of tree decoration; namely hanging plastic bags containing dog poo.

Could whoever does this explain their logic? Is there a magic fairy who comes and removes them in the dead of night? If not, then a better option might be to take the bag and dispose of it in the nearest bin provided for this purpose (of which there are several dotted in and around Boxford).

If you're going to bother putting it in a bag then please take it with you, otherwise let nature do its work. It's a disgusting and lazy habit.

#therearenofairies !!!

Yours, Confused dog owner



Sir

"The Rev Judith may be 'delighted' that David Attenborough has now changed his position from Atheism to Agnosticism but she should restrain her pleasure somewhat until she learns what kind of agnostic he is. As a lifelong atheist I have had many conversations with other non-believers and I have never been able to discover, in practical terms, more than a hair's breadth of difference between the agnostic intellectual position and mine. For example, I have never met an agnostic who, while accepting the possibility of a creator or first cause of the universe, also believes that the preposterous trappings of religion might be true. In other words – God, possibly, religion, never. Unfortunately, many believers suffer from the delusion that agnosticism means having 'an open mind' on religious matters when the word actually means something like 'awaiting proof'.

My friend Fred, a physicist and the cleverest person I know, declares himself to be 'a political atheist and a scientific agnostic'. A sensible distinction. The non-scientific world isn't comfortable with subtle distinctions but the Scientific Method is, by definition, agnostic in that it requires evidence and proof before belief. I cannot disprove the existence of God but then, why should I have to? If you tell me there are fairies at the bottom of your garden I will believe you if, and only if, you provide sufficient proof. It's not up to me to 'disprove' your fantasies.

As regards the argument about clever people being believers, my answer to that is that I have heard very clever people talk about their specialist field in ways that display a level of intelligence far beyond my own. Unfortunately intelligence is not a homogeneous quality. When these people talk about religion their intelligence seems to desert them. And even when religion is their 'specialist subject' they fail to make any kind of sense. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams was guilty in this respect. I have heard him talk about Dostoevsky in a very interesting and illuminating fashion. I have also heard him (particularly in a recorded conversation with the playwright David Hare) talk prolix and impenetrable drivel about God. I also saw him silence Richard Dawkins in debate not because of the power of his argument but simply because it was not at all clear to Dawkins (or to myself and the rest of the audience) what on earth he was on about. And, of course Rowan Williams is a patently decent man and the best of the believers. Let's not even get started on the fundamentalists.

"O Lord how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all" A reckless assertion, Rev. Judith. When asked what he would say when facing God on judgement day, Bertrand Russell famously replied that he would say 'Not enough evidence, God. Not enough evidence!'

Jeff Wells

Crown House, Groton.

Sir

Fun and Games Night

Well done to the Boxford Community Council & everyone involved in organising another successful 'Fun and Games Night' on January 27th. Everyone appeared to have a great, 'busy' time & much appreciated the super buffet provided at half-time. Huge thanks to Finlay, Lois, Daniel, Laura, Joe, Tegan and Josh from the Boxford Scouts who helped run the games and worked tirelessly all evening.

Looking forward to next year!

Rachael Rogers

Sir

I don't know if anyone else is similarly concerned but I am increasingly aware that our Village of Boxford has become very untidy in recent times. The evidence of waste being left in the gutters, the bus shelter and around the village in general, up the croft, in the playing field (children's play area). We are a dirty village with it would seem little thought for the surroundings that we live in. We are lucky to live in such an environment so why not take care of it?

In evidence of the lack of consideration by fellow members of the community, on the evening of Saturday 20th January Swan Street was blocked by inconsiderate persons, parking inappropriately to the extent that should emergency vehicles had need to get by they would have been unable to do so. If the situation was of its self an emergency then why not have people standing by to move the obstructing vehicles.

We need to get back to being a community that considers its fellow man/woman and become involved in the life of the Village. There are numerous organisations/clubs that need support so if you are so inclined put yourself forward, I'm sure different groups would welcome your help.

Yours a grumpy old man having a moan, I could go on about the speed of the traffic and more,

David House

29 Ash Street, Boxford.

Sir

I refer to the article in the last BRN about a possible merger between Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils.

I recently moved from Gt Blakenham in Mid Suffolk to Little Waldingfield in Babergh. I therefore have experience of both District Councils. I am also an auditor.

A merger between the two Councils is an obvious move in my opinion. The workforce delivers joint services, they have a single CEO and management team and they now all work from Endeavour House in Ipswich. Surely the Councillors should now make the final step and further reduce their overheads ?

I have viewed the on line financial accounts of both Councils and it is clear that Mid Suffolk's finances are stronger than Babergh's. There is hardly any difference between the Council Tax but Mid Suffolk has the greater capacity to use its income whereas Babergh is cash poor.

Babergh needs to get its act together because it needs Mid Suffolk's financial stability and political common sense of all parties If Babergh's residents are not to lose out.

Yours faithfully

Robert Tabias



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Box River Benefice, Directory of Clubs & Organisations

Boxford Clubs & Organisations

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1st Boxford Brownies	Moira Grant 211513
1st Boxford Cub Scouts	Neil Barkham 211916
1st Boxford Explorer Scouts	Adrian Gooderham 211805
1st Boxford Guides	Eloise Britcher 828710
1st Boxford Rainbows	Janice MacMillan 210565
1st Boxford Scout Group	Richard Gates 210432
1st Boxford Scouts	Mark Miller 211596
Vulpine Explorer Scout Unit	Denzil Smith 210020
3 Parishes Response	Michael Norman
Bellringers	Richard Gates 210432
Boxford Bible Study Group	211077
Boxford Bike Club	Matthew Shinn 211296
Boxford Bowls Club	Les Clark 210698
Boxford Bounty	Mark Miller 211596
Boxford Car Community Scheme	Sue Green 210603
Boxford Carpet Bowls	Brian Porter 210581
Boxford Community Council	Ward Baker 210129
Boxford Conservative Assoc	Peter Patrick 210346
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Macmillan 210565
Boxford Gardens Open	Sara Mattocks 07484 759292
Boxford Gardening Society	Elizabeth Wagener 210223
Boxford Over 60s Club	Shirley Watling 210024
Boxford Playing Fields	David Burden 211926
Boxford Rovers Football Club	Melvyn Eke 01473 602846
Boxford School	Justine Davies 210332
Boxford Society	Tina Loose 210538
Boxford Spinney	Gordon Edgar 378983
Sunflower Child Care	Moira Grant 211513
Box River Lectures	Simon & Jo Marchant 210149
Boxford Tennis Club	Yvonne Woodfield 210151
Boxford United Charities	Guy Godfray (Clerk) 211378
Boxford Village Hall Bookings	Veronica Hobbs 211529
Boxford WI	Annie Phillips 211729
Boxford Youth Club	Pauls Hoare 211033
Box River News	Eddie Kench 211507
Community Police Officer	Babergh West 01473 613500
County Councillor	James Finch 01206 263649
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren 01787 210854
Edwardstone and Boxford CC	Iain Young (01787 210048
Fleece Jazz Club	David Gasson 210796
Friends of Boxford School	Talktojobs@gmail.com
Local History Recorder	Trudy Wild 210946
Mill Surgery	210558
Babies and Toddlers Group	Caroline Williams 210836 or Nicola Coote 371788
Parish Council	Debbie Hattrell 210943
Parochial Church Council (Secretary)	Ref to Rev Judith 210091
Poppy Appeal	Brian James 210814
Primrose Wood	Ian Lindsley 210520
SESAW	Maggie 210888
Sponsored cycle ride	Ruth Kingsbury 211236
Gareth Weiland Memorial Fund	Ben Woodfield 211922

Newton Clubs & Organisations

Art Club	Anne Gardner 312346
Line Dancing	Jean Tomkins 377343
Local History Recorder	Alan Vince 373963
Newton Fireside Club	Wendy Turner 372677
Newton Golf Club	377217
Newton Green Trust	Lee Parker 376073
Newton Keep Fit Club	
Newton News Views & Coffee	Alan Vince 373963
Newton Village Hall	Alan Vince 373963
PCC	Christine Cornell 370331
Police Liason Officer	
Sponsored cycle ride	Chris Cornell 370331
Surgeries	Boxford Mill 210558
	Meadow Lane 310000
	Hardwicke House 370011
	Siam 370444
	Brian Lawson 312160
War Games Club	

Edwardstone Clubs & Organisations

Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Claire Mortime 210051
Edwardstone Parish Hall booking Secretary	Fiona Raymond 210461
Edwardstone Parish Hall chairman	Daphne Clark 210698
Edwardstone United Charities	Les Clark (Clerk) 210698
Edwardstone and Boxford CC	Tom Whymark 211375
Local History Recorder	Daphne Clark 210698
Parochial Church Council (Secretary)	Ineke Morris 210761
Sponsored cycle ride	Mrs A Tribe 211526
Edwardstone Parish Council	Anita Robinson 211673

Groton Clubs & Organisations

Groton Educational Foundation	Anthea Scriven 01787 210263
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Groton Parish Council	Anita Robinson 211673
Groton United Charities	Jeremy Osborne 211960
Groton Village Hall Bookings	Joanna Roberts 210619
Local History Recorder	Jeremy Osborne 211960
Sponsored cycle ride	Colin Blackmore 211134
Groton Parochial Church Council (secretary)	David Lamming 210360
Groton Winthrop Mulberry trust	R Bowdidge 01787-211553

Lt Waldingfield Clubs & Organisations

Gt Waldingfield WI	Linda Lutz 378888
Little Waldingfield History Society	Andy Sheppard 247980
Lt Waldingfield Parish Council	Dave Crimmin
Lt Waldingfield Parish Room	Sue Sheppard
Little Waldingfield Playingfield Committee (Chair)	Charles Miller 249111
Little Waldingfield Charities	Sue Mitchell 247173
Local History Recorder	Sue Sheppard 247980

Milden Clubs & Organisations

Milden Cricket Club	Richard Robinson 211114
Milden Pavilion and Playingfield	Pearl 01449 741876

Directory of Benefice Web Sites

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Box River Benefice	churchnearyou.com/boxford-st-mary
For churches other than Boxford, follow the links under "Our other churches"	
Boxford Web Site	boxfordsuffolk.com/
Boxford:	opsboxfordbures.com/
Boxford Bike Club:	boxfordbikeclub.co.uk
Boxford Community Council:	boxford.me.uk
Boxford Drama Group:	boxforddramagroup.com
Boxford Gardening Society:	boxfordgardeningociety.one.suffolk.net
Boxford School:	boxford.suffolk.dbprimary.com/
Boxford Spinney(Scouts):	boxfordspinney.freeserve.co.uk/
Boxford Sunflower:	boxfordsunflower.co.uk
Boxford Rovers Youth Football Club:	boxfordroversyfc.co.uk
Boxford Rovers Youth:	boxfordrovers.intheteam.com
Boxford Rovers FC (Men's teams)	www.boxfordrovers.co.uk
Boxford Village Hall:	boxfordvillagehall.co.uk
Fleece Jazz:	dovbear.co.uk/fleece/
Tornado Smith:	thewallofdeath.co.uk/Tornado.htm
Edwardstone Cricket Club	edwardstonecricketclub.com
Milden Cricket Club	www.mildenc.com

DOCTORS

Boxford Mill:	hadleighhealth.co.uk/
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PARISH COUNCILS

Edwardstone Parish Council	edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/
Newton Parish Council:	newton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/
Little Waldingfield Parish Council:	littlewaldingfield.onesuffolk.net/
Groton Parish Council	Groton.onesuffolk.net/

PUBS

The Boxford Fleece:	boxfordfleece.com/
The Boxford White Hart	whitehartboxford.com
The Groton Fox:	thefoxandhounds.webeden.co.uk/
The Edwardstone White Horse:	edwardstonewhitehorse.co.uk
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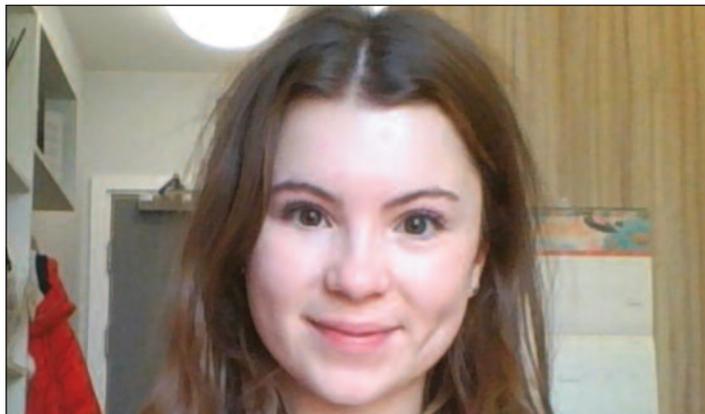
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On 31st March 2018 we have organised a Bingo evening at Boxford village hall.

My name is Emily Collins and I am currently in my first year at Bath University studying Biology. The Travelteer charity contacted the University looking for students to undertake some marine & wildlife conservation volunteering work in Sri Lanka for 2 weeks in June. I will be working in an animal hospital, helping with Jungle replantation, a beach & river clean up project & also volunteering in a turtle hatchery. I am so excited to have this chance in a lifetime opportunity.

The Bingo evening is to raise money for Travelteer. I have to raise £ 150 to take part in this project. Any further money raised will be used towards travel costs & much needed equipment, to maintain current projects & develop their program further to increase their conservation efforts in Sri Lanka.

We are regulars at Boxford's Friday Bingo & know how much fun they are!

Doors open at 7.00 pm for 7.45 start. The cost is £ 10 per adult which includes 3 ticket books & £ 5 per child for 1 book. Admission will be shared equally between the charity & cash prizes.

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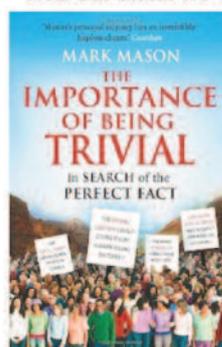
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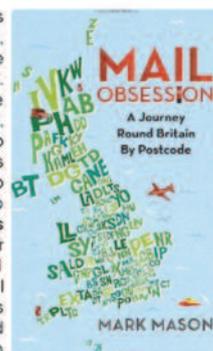
'In Pursuit of the Trivial'

by Local Author Mark Mason

Mark writes: Before becoming a writer I did jobs as varied as selling Christmas cards in Harrods, playing guitar in a blues band that toured Europe and making radio programmes for the BBC. Wherever I went, though, I found it was always the trivia that excited me most. The intriguing stuff,



the little facts that slip down the back of life's sofa. So I've ended up as the sort of guy who knows that Harrods dropped their apostrophe in 1921 (Sainsbury's still haven't), that Istanbul is the only city in the world to straddle two continents and that The Archers' theme tune was produced by a young George Martin. It's an attitude that keeps life interesting. I find, whatever you're up to at any particular point in time, whether you're living in the West End of London (as I used to), or a village in Suffolk (as I do now).



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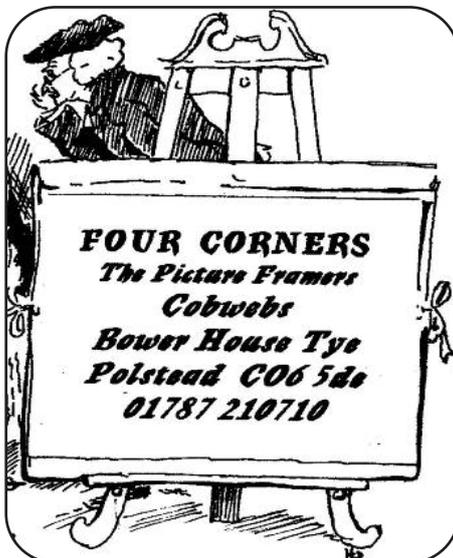
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018 WORLD INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS – LEA BLACKHAM



Lea Blackham

Lea Blackham, an outdoor member at Boxford & District Bowls Club, qualified for the Singles held at Potters Leisure Resort in Norfolk.

There are 16 seeded players in the competition and a further 16 players who are selected from all over the world. Lea had to play eight matches, in a day long qualification tournament, to secure his place as one of only four non-seeded bowlers from England.

Unfortunately, Lea was unable to topple the World Number 1, Paul Foster MBE, at Potters, on Monday 21 January, but he came incredibly close. The match was televised live on BB2

Lea won the first set with some superb bowling.

The second set saw Paul putting up short jacks which proved challenging. Lea was unlucky to lose out on a measure and lost the second set.

In the tie-break Lea won the first game, Paul won the second game and in the third Paul managed to rest his wood against the jack and Lea was unable to shift it. Paul won the tie-break and the match.

It was a very exciting game to watch and Lea gained a great deal of credit for the quality of his bowling. Paul Foster acknowledged that during his post-match interview.

It was great to see supporters there from Boxford Bowls Club, some of them wearing their Club shirts. They were picked up by the cameras.

The match can be found on YouTube at world bowls tour 2018 session 26. *Les Clark*, President, Boxford & District Bowls Club

REVAMPED GOLF CLUB WELCOMES FARMERS

Caterers at Newton Green Golf Club have come to the rescue of a local group of agriculturalists after their annual dinner venue shut up shop at the 11th hour.

The old-established Bures and District Agricultural Club will now be holding their prize giving event at the recently revamped golf club.

The golf club is looking to enhance its catering offer following the completion of a £45,000 refit. Similar expenditure on paving and landscaping round the perimeter of the club house has completed the transformation.

Newton has also been boosted by being named the club of the year by one of East Anglia's golfing societies.

Agricultural club chair, Una Oakes, said: "We were let down by the venue we had used for many years for our annual dinner and I visited the golf club as it came highly recommended. It has excellent access for the disabled and I found its function room to be lovely and bright, and just the right size.

"We now hope to use it as our regular monthly venue when we have speakers, other than when we go outside in the summer for visits."

Club manager Ben Tawell said: "Our course has become increasingly popular with visiting golf societies, but we have become conscious our club house interior and surfacing round the building, was not matching the quality of our catering and golfing experience.

"We took a radical look at what we were offering and have come up with a modern look in the main function room, including the hanging of contemporary art.

"It may be a bit of a culture shock for some of our members, but we are conscious many of the people visiting our premises for private functions want to be refreshed by their experience, rather than feel inhibited by a dull, old fashioned interior.

"However, we are a club proud of its rich history and we have taken advantage of turning our secondary, smaller dining room into a traditional stud bar.

"It has been renamed Jimmy's Bar after the late Jimmy Whittle, who was a stalwart figure during the days of us adding a second nine holes. The room features honours boards, photos and clubs made by Arthur Davey, our late professional whose 60 years made him the world's long serving professional."

*Newton has been voted club of the year by the Golden Sausage Society. The 40-strong group has played nearly 300 tournaments in the last three decades and its award is based on course condition, friendliness of staff and members, and quality of food and service.

NEWTON SENIORS CONTINUE WITH TEAM INITIATIVE.

An experiment in holding monthly team events has been a success and will become a regular part of play for the seniors at Newton Green Golf Club.

The annual meeting of the group heard of the intention to make the events on-going feature of Tuesday morning rolls ups.

Retiring captain John Ford said well in excess of £1,000 had been raised for the Jude Brady Foundation, and incoming captain Harry Wordley said supporting the joint cause picked by all captains in the club would again be followed.

This year support would go to Hope for Tomorrow, a national charity which provides mobile chemotherapy units, including at Sudbury Health Centre.

Wordley has already twice been the main men's captain at the club, and his vice-captain will be Nigel Gerrans.

It was agreed to replace the senior open day on May 10 with a guest day

EDWARDSTONE CC TO PLAY IN SUFFOLK T20 CUP

A new year should have a new challenge, so when the club were invited to take part in the Suffolk T20 Cup it was decided to give it a go. The club has over many years encouraged youth development and the teams in the league must play at least three Under 18 players in each game. This offers us the opportunity give our younger players a chance to play in this exciting form of the game.

Teams will play in the multi coloured kit so popular in the professional game. Each side is also encouraged to bring a party atmosphere to each game.

Suffolk Cricket who organise the Cup state the competition is run 'to support the retention and recruitment of club cricketers' and we hope this will be the case.

Although we have many eligible players we are always looking for new recruits. As this is the shorter form of the game we are looking for players aged 14 and over who may not be able to commit to a longer day of cricket on weekends but are interested in a shorter midweek evening game.

If you are interested please contact:

secretary@edwardstonecricketclub.com

Following our promotion to Division 1 of the Hunts County League we are confirming fixtures and preparing the pitch for the new season. This will be a challenge for this group of players but we are looking forward to a new season even when it is still cold and wet!

Finally we will once again be running the Saturday morning cricket coaching sessions for girls and boys aged 8-13 which will begin at the end of April. We will soon be putting details of the coaching sessions on our website and there will be a registration form for those wishing to reserve their place early. www.edwardstonecricketclub.com

KENNY'S NEWS FROM SESAW

At last, Spring is around the corner and it can't come too soon! At the time of writing everyone at SESAW is fed up with the biting cold wind and squelchy, sticky mud. Ollie (the Black) Cat is back on duty, patrolling the estate with Mum each evening as she checks water, food and bedding supplies and makes sure all doors are secure. The kennels are repaired and insulated thanks to work parties from local companies last summer. Nevertheless, just like any home, there are always more jobs waiting including new paths when the weather improves.

Meanwhile our talented crafters are busy knitting and sewing beautiful handmade items for our fundraising events, starting with a Gift and Craft Fair on 10th March. There will be plenty of things to buy for Mothering Sunday and Easter at Whatfield Village Hall, Rectory Road, IP7 7QU, doors open at 11am. Two weeks later on 24th March we are holding a Bargain Book Sale from 11am at the Community Centre, Timperleys, Hintlesham, IP8 3PS.