

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



April 2018
Vol 18 No 4

THE LOTTERY RETURNS TO BOXFORD



Ever since the Newsagents in Broad Street (Now the hugely successful 'Coffee Box') closed down the village, in fact the Benefice, has been without access to the National Lottery. Not any more, after three and a half years as the owners of the Village Stores, Kunal and Komal Odedra (above) have finally got the lottery in their store and after successful training are now able to make it available to villagers again. No more trotting off to Hadleigh, Sudbury or messing about on the internet it is back with us again thanks to the perseverance of the young owners of the village stores.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN GROTON

Open Meeting on Wednesday 4th April 2018

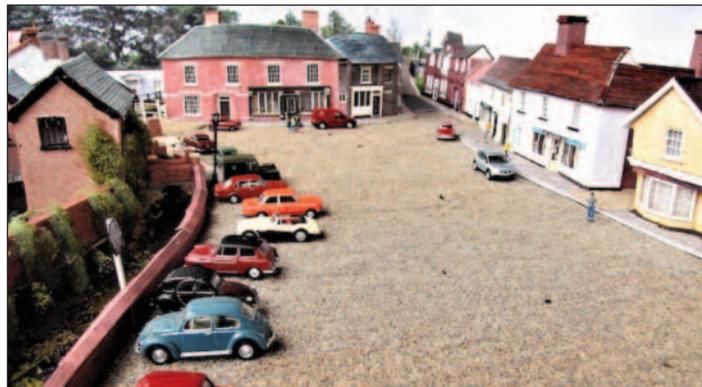
At Groton Village Hall, Broad Street, Groton

Drop in anytime between 4.00- 6.30pm

Hastoe Housing Association will be displaying the current proposals with a view to seeking constructive comments before the final planning application is submitted.

If you are unable to attend but would like further details, please contact Hastoe on 01799 532130 or e-mail eastdev@hastoe.com

BOXFORD MODEL VILLAGE IS ON DISPLAY



After a long search we are delighted to say that the magnificent model of the village made by Mr Geoffrey Winters has found a home for display at Howard Watt's garage. We are very grateful for this offer from Howard and it is perfectly placed so that people can view it from outside in the front corner of his showroom. Mr Winters has been building this model over a period of six years with many, many hours of exacting work. He finished it very recently. It is perfectly to scale as all measurements were taken for every part of it. It has been finished off by a panorama of photographic landscape images as a backdrop which adds a further sense of excellent perspective to the model. The model now has a glass cover which will keep it in good condition. Mr Winters would like to thank Richard Keens for solving the problem of a cover, building it and giving it to him. Mr Keens of Kersey also built and donated the stand. We hope the school will be able to take children to study it when they do the local project on their village.

Mr Winters has given the model to The Boxford Society Archive for its long term care. We are delighted to receive it and hope that people will take the opportunity to view it and that parents especially will take their children to see it. There will be a donation to a charity in recognition of the generosity of Mr Keens in assisting Mr Winters with the display cabinet.

Tina Loose



Box River News

Eddie Kench, Kiln Cottage, Stone Street, Boxford CO10 5NR

Telephone: 01787 211507 e.mail: ed.kench@btinternet.com

Final date for reserved copy for the May Issue is:

April 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.

CELEBRATING FLEECE JAZZ'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Left LtoR, Dave O'Higgins sax, Alan Barnes saxes, Dave Newton piano, Alec Dankworth bass ClarkTracey drums .

Below: Georgia Mancio, and Chris Allard take a bow.



On a cold Sunday afternoon the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Fleece Jazz began at 2.00pm with the UK's star singer, Georgia Mancio, accompanied by Chris Allard. All About Jazz says of Georgia: 'an object lesson in subtlety. in the impact of nuance... It's beautiful'. Freelance guitarist Chris has performed at the Royal Festival Hall, and most of the worlds major venues. His fourth and most recent album received critical acclaim in Guitarist Magazine.

They were followed by a collection of the country's great instrumentalists. The band was lead by master bassist Alec Dankworth. with two stunning but contrasting saxophonists, Alan Barnes and Dave O'Higgins, the superb pianist David Newton, and the wonderful Clark Tracy on the drums; top people at the top of their game. The two sets they played were brilliant and tinged with humour. They had all, except the drummer, been regulars at Fleece Jazz over the years and as with most gigs at the venue, they new they were appreciated by lovers of Modern Jazz

FleeceJazz

at Stoke by Nayland Hotel

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
Ed Jones saxes, Ross Stanley piano, Riaan Vosloo bass Tim Giles drums

The work featured tonight will be the band's new highly acclaimed album "For Your Ears Only" of which Ian Mann writes "Musically the album covers a broad stylistic, emotional, and dynamic range - it's much more than just a 'blowing session', despite its obvious hard bop lineage." John Fordham sums it up as "Freewheeling jazz with post bop swagger." It will be fantastic, that is certain. Ed has been leading great bands for over 30 years. Ross is almost the house pianist and organist: a stunning performer. The terrific bassist Riaan, and the award winning drummer (at 12!) Tim complete the quartet.

Friday 13 April 8.00 £15
John Law's Recreations

John Law's new project: playing well known tunes from the world of jazz and pop, featuring award winner saxophonist Sam Crockatt John Law piano/keyboards, Sam Crockatt saxophones, Yuri Goloubev bass, Billy Weir drums/percussion
Londoner John was a child prodigy, who went the Royal Academy aiming to be concert pianist. He turned to jazz in 1983, during further study at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. He is now one of Europe's leading jazz pianist/composers.

In this project the quartet develop other composer's well known tunes from the world of jazz, pop and classical music. They could include tunes, by the Beatles, Sting, Adele, etc.. Tipped for the gig are a baroque version of Summertime and a funky version of In The Summertime, from the Quartet's just released second CD.

Friday 20 April 8.00 £18
Gill Manly

"Gill's voice is nothing short of electric...singers with this much control and technique are a scarcity nowadays" - Jazz On Cd Magazine
Gill Manly vocals, Trevor Hyett mandola/guitar/vocals, Thomas Coffey guitar/vocals

Friday 27 April 8.00 £20
Barb Jungr

"Barb Jungr is the alchemist among jazz singers. She takes dubious songs, and turns them into gold. And she takes songs we already knew were gold, and makes them interestingly different." - Ivan Hewett, The Telegraph.
She is known as a performer of "contemporary cabaret" and a chansonnière, or singer of chansons—in the sense of classic, lyric-driven French songs; in the broader sense of European songs in the cabaret style; and in the even broader sense of a diverse range of songs interpreted in this style. She is also an acclaimed jazz and cabaret singer, and has become best known for her work with, or "interpretations" of, the songs of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen.[1] Jacques Brel, The Beatles[2] and, most recently, Sting.[3] A song-stylist incorporating jazz and blues, her approach often includes radical re-readings of known writers as well. as original material.

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

01787 211865

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

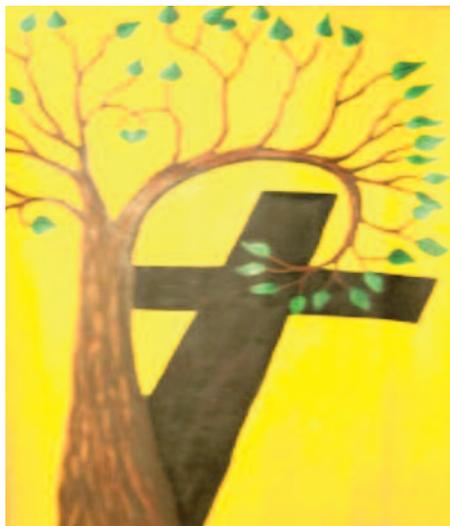
Jazz at the Fleece, 18 The Causeway, Boxford, Suffolk CO10 5JR

THIS MONTH'S LETTER FROM REV JUDITH

Dear Friends,

Trees

My mother used to hug trees! Usually the really big ones that you find in National Trust properties. Sometimes called “Veteran trees”, their girth is enormous and she would only be able to hug a small part of that immense circle of growth. She would lay her head against the trunk and commune with them. I expect some people thought she was a bit barmy, and perhaps some readers of this letter may too! But I think she was really onto something. These massive natural organisms are certainly worthy of our respect and admiration. Some of the oaks and sweet chestnuts are more than 500 years old and so have witnessed the rising and falling of many a king, queen or politician.



I don't hug trees myself, but I do admire their resilience and the hidden life within in them. From my study window I look out onto an old lilac. About half the tree collapsed some time ago and it had to be cut hard back. It was a sorry sight for quite a while. But now there are lots of young branches growing from the old stump. What appeared to be dead was still capable of producing vigorous new life. Rufus spotted that new life recently, gathering itself

up in swelling buds on a beech tree in the rectory garden ready in a few days to burst out into fresh green leaves.

The Easter story centres on a tree, a tree in the shape of a cross – the cross on which Jesus dies. It is a tree of shame that becomes, in God's hands, a tree of glory, because, somehow, mysteriously, Jesus' death leads not to an ending, but a beginning. Not to a closing down of the light, but to the dawning of a new light.

The religious leaders, the Roman rulers, wanted to eradicate Jesus' presence, to erase his influence on people's lives, thinking and beliefs. But instead, after Easter morning, Jesus' presence became so vividly real, so all pervasive, that, like the new branches springing from the old wood of the lilac, new life, new faith, new hope surged up in all who had followed him. Their joy, their utter conviction that Jesus was with them once more – and this time forever – was irrepressible, bubbling up and over like champagne out of a bottle.

The poet Ann Lewin writes in her poem “Christ the Tree”:

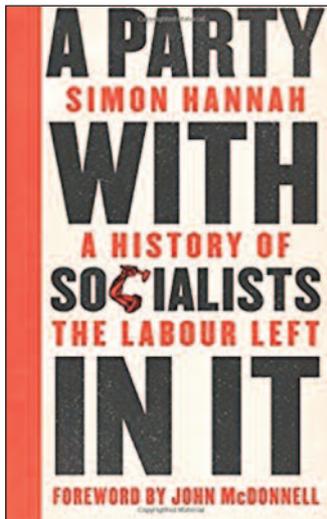
*Deep-rooted in the
Love of God the Father,
Moving, responding to
The Spirit's power;
Drawing all people
By your ageless
Wisdom, giving
To all who come
Healing and strength;
Life bursting forth,
Disturbing, powerful;
Cut down,
But bearing fruit.*

*Here will I rest,
And wait until sap rises,
Your life in mine,
My resurrection.*

May that springing up of hope, that irrepressible joy, that promise of life which can never be ended by death, be yours this Eastertide and always.
Revd Judith.

THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ, APRIL 2018

A Party with Socialists in It Simon Hannah



In writing about a party as muddled together and misrepresented as Labour, clarity is a powerful weapon. Authors who accurately describe the party's competing factions and traditions, and the ever shifting balance between them, are relatively rare. They are also a threat to Labour's many enemies, who have often relied on portraying the party, and the left of it in particular, as a vast but hazy conspiracy.

This pithy book, “intended mainly for those who have been drawn into politics” since Jeremy Corbyn stood for leader, aims to “introduce the major historical struggles” of the Labour left and “explain what was at stake”. Simon Hannah is a young leftwing Labour activist, and there is an avuncular foreword from the shadow chancellor, John McDonnell. Yet Hannah's approach to the Labour left, from its quarrelsome 19th-century origins to its present golden age, is unsparing rather than triumphalist or romantic.

From the start, he argues, Labour had two distinct impulses: one “transformative”, to “challenge the existing power relations in society”, as he neatly puts it; and the other “integrative”, to “take society as it is ... incorporating the interests of the labour movement into the establishment”. At first, this distinction seems a bit obvious: Tony Blair was an integrator; Corbyn is a transformer. But Hannah judges the Labour left by what it does rather than says, and so tells a story that is more about unfulfilled promise than excited Corbynistas may like.

In quick, lucid passages of a few pages each, almost like very good revision notes, Hannah describes the left's occasional breakthroughs and long periods of near-impotence. It found the first four decades of the 20th century especially hard work. While socialists in other countries mounted revolutions, in Britain, he writes, the left “introduced” an “ambitious house-building programme” during the Labour government of 1924, a government that lasted nine months; held the party leadership for three beleaguered years in the 30s under the rather Corbyn-ish London radical George Lansbury; and otherwise produced a stream of ideas about making Britain more equal that did not “survive contact with government”, as Hannah puts it with a welcome hint of black humour.

Many of the left's early difficulties will be familiar to observers of current Labour politics. Leftwingers were dismissed as “middle class” by the right of the party and depicted by the press as unpatriotic subversives. Some of the left's stars, such as Harold Wilson, defected to the Labour mainstream in search of better careers. Some leftwing activists abandoned the party, tempted by purer political bodies, or were expelled by the intermittently intolerant Labour bureaucracy. Radicalising the party, let alone the country, writes Hannah, was “the left's labour of Sisyphus”.

Then came the landslide election of the Attlee government in 1945. Policies that the left had been struggling to promote for years, such as a hugely expanded welfare state and nationalisation programme, appeared to become widely acceptable almost overnight. Yet really this change was a consequence of the failures of capitalism during the 30s, and the successes of state planning during the second world war. Public opinion had shifted, deep down, in the left's favour. Corbyn and McDonnell are working on the assumption that, since the financial crisis and the onset of austerity fatigue, the same thing has happened again. They may well be right.

Unlike many leftwingers now, Hannah doesn't mythologise the Attlee government, pointing out that it contained lots of ministers from the Labour right, and pursued a militaristic foreign policy, which would have horrified Lansbury and Corbyn. Less fresh is the material that follows, about the period from the 50s to the 80s. The long rearguard action fought for Labour socialism by Nye Bevan; the out-manoeuvring of the left by Wilson as prime minister; the unions' belated embrace of the left during the 70s, and that potent alliance's determined crushing by Margaret Thatcher – these are all key episodes, but Hannah's summarising approach leaves little room for anything beyond the most familiar details.

This book astutely appraises British politics' most frustrating but important dissident tradition. The next few years may be uncomfortable for those who don't.

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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

- **More than 97% of students receive their preferred Secondary School on National Offer Day**

This year, Suffolk County Council received its highest number of applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to be educated at from September 2018 in Year 7. The total was 7,447. Last year it was 7171. 91.61% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and 97.23% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools. This percentage figure of 91.61% equates to a total of 6822 pupils.

Families who applied online will be able to log on to the council's Online Service from today to see their school place offer, and will receive an email to confirm this offer. We will also send letters by second class post today (March 1), to all applicants, including those who made a paper application, to give more details about the next steps open to them.

With the current extreme weather, some letters may be delayed by a day or two as the postal service works hard to maintain their services and schedules in this cold spell.

Any parents or carers with children born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007 and who have not yet applied for a school place should make an application immediately by downloading the CAF1 application form from the council's website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

For further information, such as how to view your offer online, and for guidance on what to do if you have not received your preferred offer, please read our School admissions FAQ page.

www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/school-admissions-faq

- **Proposal to change home to school travel**

On Wednesday 28 February 2018 the consultation to help find a long-term solution to providing affordable home to school transport closed. In Suffolk, £21 million of taxpayers' money is spent every year getting children to and from school. Suffolk County Council has already introduced a number of efficiency changes to the service saving around £2.6 million. Now, like many other councils across the country, the authority needs to consider making more significant changes across a number of areas, including home to school travel.

The consultation highlights the challenges faced with funding and asks residents for their thoughts on how we adapt to the changing education landscape in Suffolk as schools continue to become more independent, moving away from being historically under local authority control, with new powers to set their choice of admissions, adjust term dates and manage school travel plans.

The council's current school and post-16 travel policies go above legal requirements, the consultation seeks views on changing these policies, giving the opportunity to explore local solutions as well as three alternative options for children aged 5-16 and 16 plus.

Over 3500 people have already responded to the school and post-16 travel consultation surveys, over 151 people attended one of the consultation workshops and 36 people attended the 'Have your say' event where alternative solutions were presented.

All of the feedback gathered will be carefully and thoroughly considered by Suffolk County Council's Cabinet in June 2018. www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel.

My Priorities

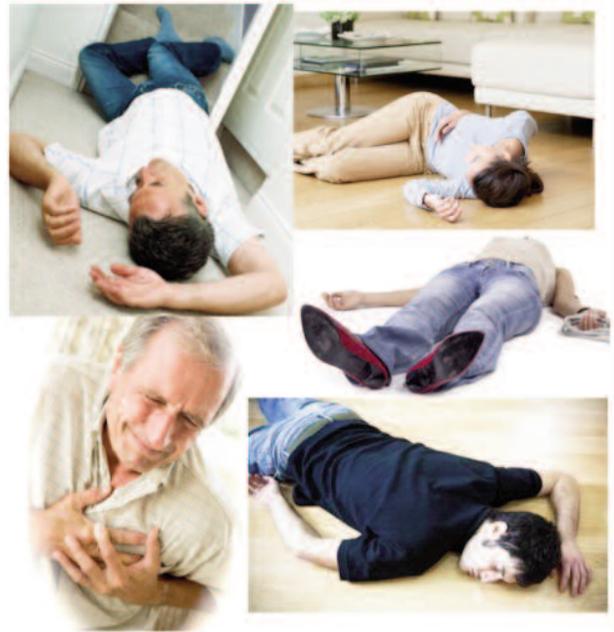
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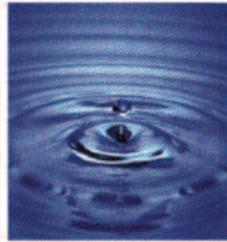
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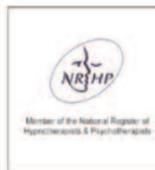


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BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH - A Talk by Jenny Antill

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Jenny once again to the Parish Room, to take us through the history of the Orthodox Christian church in Russia, and what a fascinating 1,000 years of history it turned out to be.

The story begins in the Kievan Rus (a loose federation of East Slavic tribes in Europe, now Belarus, Ukraine and Russia) in the late 9th century, with the introduction of Christianity by Greek missionaries from Byzantium. By the mid 10th century, a Christian community existed among Kievan nobility, although paganism continued as the dominant religion.

Influenced by his Christian grandmother (Princess Olga of Kiev, the first Kievan Rus ruler to convert) and a proposed marriage alliance with the Byzantine imperial family, Jenny told us that Prince Vladimir of Kiev (Vladimir I, Vladimir the Great and Saint Vladimir of Kiev) chose the Byzantine rite from amongst several options. The Prince wanted a religion with 'just one god', in order to restore order among the various tribal factions - he apparently didn't like the German religion, wasn't too keen on Judaism, whilst Islam forbade drinking alcohol - something that would not have been popular with the locals. In 988 he sent emissaries to Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, and was impressed with what they told him - "Only this we know, that god dwells there (*) among men" - looking at the interior of Hagia Sophia, it's hard to disagree.

(*) *Hagia Sophia served as an Eastern Orthodox cathedral from construction in 537 AD until 1453, except between 1204 and 1261, when Crusaders converted it to a Roman Catholic cathedral. In 1453 it became an Ottoman mosque, until 1931, when it was secularized, finally becoming a museum in 1935. It was the world's largest cathedral for nearly one thousand years, until Seville Cathedral was completed in 1520.*

The choice of Eastern Christianity also reflected his close personal ties with Constantinople, which dominated the Black Sea and hence trade on Kiev's most important commercial route, the Dnieper River. Vladimir led Kievans to Christianity via a mass baptism of the residents of Kiev, around 988, when he ordered the conversion of all Russians to Byzantine (Orthodox) Christianity. This date is often considered the official birthday of the Russian Orthodox Church, so in 1988, the Russian Church celebrated its millennial anniversary.

Jenny then introduced us to Icons, those beautiful paintings of a holy person or event, typically Mary and baby Jesus, created by an iconographer following the strict standards of the Orthodox Church. They are made with paint on wooden board or in/with other materials, including mosaic, fresco, metal and embroidery. To the Orthodox believer, they are considered a window or portal into the holy, and are traditionally unsigned, making authentication difficult, especially as they are often over painted.

An iconographer carves out the surface of the wood to create a self-contained border. Several layers of gesso, a paste prepared by mixing whiting with size or glue, is applied and the image is etched onto the surface. Egg yolk and crushed mineral pigment are mixed to form tempera paint. The tempera is applied to the board in layers from dark colours to light, and completed paintings are usually sealed with linseed oil. Iconography is a living tradition, and icons today are painted in the same way that they have been for hundreds of years.

The most famous is the Byzantine Vladimir icon of the Mother of God, originally painted in Constantinople and brought to Kiev in 1130. After conquering the city in 1160, Prince Andrei Bogolubsky took it to Vladimir, where he had transferred his capital to, and from where the icon got its name. In 1395 it was brought in procession to Moscow, to protect the city from Mongol's hordes, so becoming a Russian symbol of the struggle against the invading Mongols.

We were then told three significant facts about icons:

- They are not real, in that they represent a 'window into heaven';
- They are part of the 'Holy Trinity'; and
- They are usually anonymous and much copied over the years.

Icons are not to be considered as works of art in any sense, which is something that can upset Christians; it seems its their efficacy that matters - how closely they can take you to god.

Orthodox Christian homes often have a small worship space in their homes (the equivalent of a home altar in Western Christianity), called the icon or red corner, as famously painted by Vassily Maximov in a work entitled 'The sick husband'. Orthodox Christian churches do the same, but on a much grander scale with an iconostasis, a wall of icons and religious paintings separating the nave from the sanctuary.

Jenny then pulled out all the stops with her explanation of the meanings of each of the five tiers of icons - although there is some room for variation, a number of guidelines govern which icons are on which parts of the iconostasis:

Bottom: The place (or Local in English) row, sometimes called Sovereign. In the centre are the Tsar, or Royal Doors, just above which is an image of the Mystic (or last) Supper. a Transfiguration icon, if present, shows that the church is named for the Transfiguration.

Deisis: The Worship level. In the centre is a large icon of Christ enthroned in his heavenly court with rows of supplicant saints approaching from both sides.

Feasts /Festivals: This level depicts icons for the 12 great feasts of the liturgical year, from the birth of Christ to the elevation of the cross.

Forefathers: Old testament Patriarchs Adam to Moses - a biblical history of the plan of salvation. A Trinity icon is shown in the centre - old testament images show three individuals as appearing to Abraham, whilst new testament images depict the Father (an old man), Son (a youth) and Holy Spirit (a white dove). Six apostles appear to each side.

Passion of Jesus: The sixth and highest row of icons not seen in all iconostases. Comprises icons depicting the passion Jesus.

Jenny then told us that saints are very important to Russians, with churches often showing boards listing various saint's days in the calendar (which is lengthy - see Google) - their saint's days are different to ours (e.g. Valentines day is in July). Many Russians, like the Queen, have two birthdays, their real one and the saint's day associated with their name. It also appears there are three main types of Russian Orthodox saints, as follows:

1. **Monks** St. Anthony of the Caves (in Kiev) first introduced the concept of personal asceticism to Russia, which had formally become Christian just five years after his birth in 983. He chose a cave at the Berestov Mount, overlooking the Dnieper River, and a community of disciples soon grew. Prince Iziaslav of Kiev gave the mount to the Antonite monks, who founded a monastery built by architects from Constantinople - Kiev Pechersk Lavra, also known as the Kiev Monastery of the Caves.

2. **Holy Princes** We were told there are more princely saints in the Russian church than any other church - they've even pinched our own Patron Saint George to be their patron saint of Moscow!

3. **Fools for Christ** Jenny began this section by telling us about Simeon of Stylites, an Assyrian ascetic saint who spent 37 years atop various pillars of increasing height on platforms around a metre square, in order to get away from the ever-increasing numbers who came to him for prayers and advice, leaving him little time for his private austerities.

Foolishness for Christ refers to behavior such as giving up all one's worldly possessions upon joining a monastic order, or deliberately flouting society's conventions to serve a religious purpose, particularly Christianity.

Saint Basil's cathedral in Moscow's Red Square is actually a church, originally Trinity church, comprising eight churches arranged around a ninth central Church of Intercession. A tenth church was erected in 1588, over the grave of venerated local saint Vasily (Basil); it is shaped as a flame of a bonfire rising into the sky, a design with no parallel in Russian architecture. Inside is a labyrinth of narrow vaulted corridors and vertical cylinders, the largest being the Central Church of the Intercession, at 151 ft tall internally, but with a floor area of just 690 sq ft.

As part of the program of state atheism, the church was confiscated from the Russian Orthodox community as part of the Soviet Union's anti-theist campaigns, and has operated as a division of the State Historical Museum since 1928 - it has been part of Moscow's Kremlin and Red Square UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1990.

The view from the west side is much better than that from Red Square, but Jenny than wowed us all with an aerial shot from directly above, which really shows off the design.

The Great Moscow Synod of the Eastern Orthodox Church finally convened in 1666, including many high officials of the Russian Orthodox Church as well as the whole Eastern Orthodox Church. Patriarchs of Constantinople and Jerusalem attended. As expected, the Synod deposed Nikon imprisoning him to the Ferapontov Monastery and demoting him to a monk. Patriarch Lokim took over as the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, archpriest Avvacum was found guilty of heresy and imprisoned in Pustozesk, where he languished in a deep hole until Tsar Feodor II ordered his burning at a stake 12 years later.

The Synod maintained integrity of Nikon's reforms, declaring the one true form of the Russian Orthodox to be the reformed one. They agreed the Tsar was above the Church, thus ending the conflict between Alexis and Nikon, but not that between Old Believers and the reformed church. Old Believers continued opposition and began to believe and spread rumours that the Tsarist Regime embodied the Anti-Christ; up to the 1690's, many dramatically self-immolated rather than submitting to the reforms. The Solovetsky fortified Monastery rejected the reforms and began an armed uprising, so Government forces besieged it from 1668 until 1676, culminating in the death of the defenders.

The talk now switched to the post revolution era and the impact upon the church. After the 1917 revolution, the Russian Empire was dissolved, the Tsarist Government overthrown and, when the Bolsheviks took power in October, a separation of church and state was declared. The government seized church lands and the Russian Orthodox Church found itself without state backing, whilst the new communist government declared freedom of "religious and anti-religious propaganda". This led to a marked decline in the power and influence of the Church, which was also caught in the crossfire of the Russian Civil War that began later the same year; many church supported what ultimately turned out to be the losing side (the White movement). The Russian Orthodox Church supported tsarist Russia, creating another reason for the Bolsheviks would to diminish their influence on the Russian people and government.

The official Soviet religious stance was one of 'religious freedom or tolerance, but the state established atheism as the only scientific truth; criticism of atheism was strictly forbidden and sometimes led to imprisonment. The Soviet Union was the first state to have as an ideological objective the elimination of religion, and toward that end, the Communist regime confiscated church property, ridiculed religion, harassed believers, and propagated atheism in the schools.

Actions taken against Orthodox priests and believers, in addition to execution, included torture, prison or being sent to labour camps or mental hospitals. Many Orthodox were also subjected to psychological punishment or torture and mind control experimentation, to force them give up their religious convictions. Thousands of churches and monasteries were taken over by the government and either destroyed, or used as warehouses, recreation centers, 'museums of atheism, or even Gulags. It was impossible to build new churches.

The result of state sponsored atheism transformed it into a persecuted and martyred Church; in the first five years after the Bolshevik revolution, 28 bishops and 1,200 priests were executed. In the early 1920s, Lenin expelled the leading Russian religious thinkers. Forced to leave Russia, these intelligentsia settled in various European cities and the vessels carrying them became known as the Philosophers' ships.

The main target of the anti-religious campaign in the 1920s and 1930s was the Russian Orthodox Church, with the largest number of faithful. Nearly all its clergy and many believers were shot or sent to labour camps; theological schools were closed, and church publications prohibited. The sixth sector of the OGPU (secret police), led by Yevgeny Tuchkov, arrested and executed bishops, priests and devout worshippers for refusing to hand in church valuables (incl. sacred relics). Some 20,000 people were executed outside Butovo, including many clergy, ascetics and laymen. Mass closure of churches continued until 1939, when there were only a few hundred left.

According to the official data of the government Commission on Rehabilitation:

- In 1937, 136,900 Orthodox clerics were arrested and 85,300 were shot dead;
- In 1938, 28,300 were arrested and 21,500 shot dead;
- In 1939 1,500 were arrested and 900 shot dead;
- In 1940 5,100 were arrested and 1,100 shot dead.

The Solovki Special Purpose Camp was established in the monastery on the Solovetsky Islands in the White Sea. Eight metropolitans, twenty archbishops and forty-seven bishops of the Orthodox Church died there, along with perhaps hundreds of thousands of laity. Some 95,000 were put to death, by firing squad. Many thousands of victims of persecution were subsequently recognized in a special canon of saints known as the 'new-martyrs and confessors of Russia.

Between 1945 and 1959 the church was greatly expanded, although individual clergy members were occasionally arrested and exiled; the number of open churches reached 25,000. By 1957 around 22,000 Russian Orthodox churches had become active, but in 1959 Nikita Khrushchev initiated his own campaign against the ROC and forced the closure of about 12,000 churches; by 1985 fewer than 7,000 churches remained active, and the number of functioning monasteries was reduced to less than twenty. Members of the church hierarchy were jailed or forced out, and their places taken by docile clergy, many of whom had ties with the KGB.

After Khrushchev's overthrow, Church and government remained on unfriendly terms until 1988. In practice, the most important aspect of this was that openly religious people could not join the Communist Party, meaning that they could not hold any political office; however, among the general population, large numbers remained religious. By 1987 the number of functioning churches in the Soviet Union had fallen to 6,893 and the number of functioning monasteries to just 18. In 1987 in the Russian SFSR (Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic), between 40% and 50% of newborn babies were baptized and over 60% of all deceased received Christian funeral services.

In the late 1980s under Mikhail Gorbachev, new political and social

freedoms resulted in many church buildings being returned to the church, for restoration by local parishioners. A pivotal point in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church came in 1988, the millennial anniversary of the Baptism of Kievan Rus. Throughout the summer, major government-supported celebrations took place in Moscow and other cities; many older churches and some monasteries were reopened. An implicit ban on religious propaganda on state TV was finally lifted, a for the first time in the history of the Soviet Union, there was live transmissions of church services on tv.

Since the Soviet Union's collapse, the role of the once-persecuted Russian Orthodox Church has transformed dramatically, and it has become a defining characteristic of Russian identity, actively promoted by the Kremlin. President Vladimir Putin, a former KGB agent of the atheist Soviet Union, now embraces his Orthodox Christianity and is often shown on national television attending church services and paying respect to the church leadership. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, is a respected member of the country's elite.

18th April: Linda Sexton will tell us how the Women's Institute helped communities cope in the aftermath of the devastating 1953 East Coast Floods. We very much look forward to welcoming guests both new and old to the Parish Room.



St Basils cathedral Moscow



Saints Zosima L and Savvatiy R with their lives



Groton Church

photo David Lamming



Boxford St Mary's

photo David Lamming



Wash Lane

photo Ed



Road to the Fox

photo Michael Norman

NEWS FROM BOXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

This month we have been watching things grow. Our gardening club has been busy planting seeds – our asparagus, beetroot, carrots and peas are yet to appear but our bulbs, tomatoes and cress are looking promising. We are very grateful to Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery who donated 100 ceramic pots to us this week; we will be using them to brighten up our garden area at the back of the school.

Over the last few weeks we have also seen our Early Years area grow into a wonderful learning space. The arrival of the outdoor canopy has enabled our children to utilise the learning environment even on cold, wet and windy days.

In other areas we are growing our minds with knowledge of books, other people and places. Our children and staff celebrated World Book Day with book character and fictional teacher costumes. Next week our children will be fundraising for Sport Relief and Keystage One have trips planned to Hollow Trees Farm and Colchester Zoo. It is safe to say we will have lived this half term's value of Joyfulness.

Finally we would very much like to grow our role in village life. Our children and families enjoy supporting the community with activities such as our Harvest drop off in the Autumn Term and the Christmas Santa Run. We also offer our hall for lettings after school hours and at the weekend. We are currently exploring ways to utilise our swimming pool and improve the area at the back of the school. If you are able to help in anyway, or would like to use our site, please contact the School office.

Justine Davies

SOUNDS OF THE PAST
MONKS ELEIGH
 Methodist Chappel
BRYAN at his 1938
 HAMMOND (Tonewheel) Concert ORGAN
 FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
 Between 11am - 4pm

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 242 hrs . There were 8 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

JOB VACANCIES

Groton Parish Council and Edwardstone Parish Council are both seeking a Parish Clerk. Each position is for 16 hours per month at current NJC salary scales dependent on qualifications and experience. The Councils each meet 6 times a year, Groton usually on the first Wednesday evening of the month and Edwardstone on the third Monday. 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 or clerkedwardstone@gmail.com (01787 211673). Please contact the Clerk if further information is required.

Boxford Christmas card

As a result of the sale of the Boxford Christmas card a donation of £229.70 has been made to the Boxford Playing Field and £77.00 to the Boxford Guides.

Many thanks go to Richard in the Post Office for his 'smooth' salesmanship and, of course, to all who purchased the cards

I am working on a new design for this years card but as you will appreciate finding a new view of Boxford after 20 year gets increasingly difficult.

Bill Horne

Babysitter required.

We are looking for a reliable and caring person to watch out for our 9-year-old son, in our home. From mid-April:

Term time: Pick up from Boxford school, 3 days a week from 3:15 - 18:00. School holidays: 3 days a week from 8:30 - 18:00. (With 2 weeks off in Early August)

Rate: £8/hour

We are happy to consider 2 people for the term time and school holidays, and we are flexible on the days of work between Monday - Friday. Age is (young or old!) is not a barrier, we just ask that you are reliable, patient and like being around children.

Interested? Please email: tharwig@yahoo.co.uk or ring 01787211916.

HEAVY METAL BAND LOOKING FOR RECRUITS.

The Boxford bell ringers are looking to add members to their band. If you think you would like to try bell ringing please get in touch with Richard Gates on 01787 210432 or richardgates1066@outlook.com

Any one from eight to eighty + is welcome.

P.S. The heavy metal is the one ton bell

Boxford Litter

There has been a noticeable increase in litter around the village in the past few months; especially around the High Street and the playing fields area. If we could impress on our families and friends to utilise the bins around the village – specifically we are finding that the bus stop is becoming a hot spot, despite there being a bin placed immediately outside.

The Village does have a cleaning contract, but if we could all make an effort to keep the village litter free it would be much appreciated.

Your help and support is much appreciated in keeping our lovely village lovely!

Boxford W.I. Report

Our March meeting was well attended and included two members of our newly formed evening group. The business matters were quickly dealt with and we are pleased to report that our lunch group, craft club and walking group all continue to thrive. Plans for our summer outing to Norwich were discussed. Our speaker for the afternoon was Alex from East Anglia's Children's Hospices. He spoke to us about their three centres in East Anglia, how they are financed and the ways in which they help and support children and families. The charity relies on fundraising in various ways including money raised in their shops, individual donations and various sponsored activities. It was an interesting and informative talk with questions taken at the end. The meeting close after refreshments and social time.

Val Clark

Boxford Village Hall

Set out below are the future dates on which the Boxford Village Hall Management committee is intending to meet. It is proposed that the meetings should be held on the second Thursday in the month in the committee room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm. All interested parties are invited to attend and all members of the public also, in order that they may give their thoughts on matters relating to the future running of the Village Hall

15th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November, 13th December

You are welcome to come along and give your thoughts and opinions so the management looks forward to seeing you.

David House

Have you heard about Care Navigation?

The role of the receptionist in our surgeries is evolving, changing and expanding. As part of the valuable work they do they will ensure that patients are directed to the right person for their particular need at the right time and the right place.

This means our reception staff will not necessarily book everyone with a GP, but will recommend the most appropriate medical professional, which may include a practice nurse, a healthcare assistant or a pharmacist to name but a few. They may also use a comprehensive directory of information about services in the community as well as in the practice. These could include, for example, leisure and social community activities, befriending, carer respite, dementia support, benefits advice, employment support and sensory impairment services.

This will help to reduce GP appointments, releasing about 5% of the demand for GP consultations, and will at the same time benefit patients by giving them a faster access to the right service, helping to improve quality of life for patients and carers alike.

Receptionists acting as care navigators can ensure the patient is booked with the right person first time. It will be quicker for patients to get an appointment with the GP when needed and the receptionists will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making a significant contribution to the success of the practice by helping patients to get the most appropriate treatment or advice.

For any further information about the PPG please contact Lindsay Panton, PPG Chair at hadleighboxfordPPG@gmail.com or Tracey Squirrell, Practice Manager tracey.squirrell@nhs.net 01473 820127



Suffolk Cruse Bereavement Care

We are a charity set up to help bereaved people to understand their grief and cope with their loss. We provide information, one to one support and offer advice, education and training services. We also have a specialist Children & Young People Team.

If you would like to volunteer to support bereaved people, help on our Area Committee or with publicity and fundraising please contact us.

For help or information please telephone your local Branch:

Ipswich 01473 230888

North Suffolk & Great Yarmouth 01502 722234

Suffolk Coastal 01394 670770

West Suffolk 01284 767674

Further information can be found at www.cruse.org.uk, www.suffolkcruse.co.uk or email suffolk@cruse.org.uk

"I felt my counselling with my volunteer was very helpful indeed, at a time when I felt isolated and at times desperate".

Wot's On

LANDERMASON Concert,

Little Waldingfield

Friday 13 July 2018 at 7.30pm

We are delighted that LANDERMASON, the very talented folk/jazz duo, will be returning to Little Waldingfield to give us another concert in the Church. Fiona Lander (vocals, piano, whistles, saxophones, clarinet and recorder) and Paul Mason (guitar and vocals) gave us an unforgettable evening, and we very much look forward to their return. They will also be launching their new CD. A concert not to be missed! Reserve the date in your diaries. More details in next month's BRN.

Little Waldingfield Parish Room

Our next Quiz night will be on Saturday 12th May. Tickets cost just £10.00 for a two course meal with pre-dinner nibbles. The quiz will comprise 6 rounds of questions, with a break halfway for dinner; there will also be a raffle in support of the Parish Room. Please bring your own alcohol.

To book your tickets, please contact Sue Sheppard on 247980, or email: sheppard.susanm@gmail.com.

Polstead WI

Lynne's Polstead WI would like to invite you to an "Open Evening" at Polstead Village Hall on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.30pm, to listen to a talk given by Lynne Mortimer titled "Life and Laughs of a Local Journalist", £2 per person, to include tea/coffee and cake. Lynne Mortimer is a journalist for the Eastern Daily Press, and she also writes a fashion column and a TV preview for the Ipswich Eastern Daily Times. Lynne studied politics and economics at University. Later in 1989 Lynne began training with the EDP, covering law, local government and shorthand. Then a stint in the newsroom as a court reporter. talk on the 10th April should prove very entertaining and we look forward to welcoming you.



Shopping Day
in aid of
Cancer Research UK
Monday 30th April 2018
10.00 am - 3.00 pm

The Village Hall, LAVENHAM
Church Street, Lavenham, Suffolk, CO10 9QT
Behind The Cock Horse Inn off Church St., - Free parking

Lots of lovely things for ladies of all ages - Everyone welcome!
Please join us in Lavenham to **support** Cancer Research UK

Hotfooted ladies shoes & sandals (a whole hall full!), collections of ladies clothes, jewellery, fashion accessories, gifts, plants & more...

£3 Entrance to **Cancer Research UK** (£2 after 1pm)
Refreshments & light lunches available

Please Like and Share our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/charityshoppingday

Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England & Wales (1009494), Scotland (SC041666) & the Isle of Man (1103).

In aid of
CANCER RESEARCH UK
Let's beat cancer **sooner**



NAYLAND CHURCH FETE

NAYLAND PLAYING FIELD
GATES OPEN 1.30pm - STALLS OPEN 2pm
MONDAY 28th MAY 2018
The Victory Jazz Band

Raffle £150 1st Prize
Classic Vehicle Display
Children's Sports • Novelty Adult Sports
Tug-of-War • Sideshows for all ages
Stalls include: Plants, Jewellery, China, Toys, Vintage, Glass, Garden Tools

Ice Cream, Homemade Teas, Hot Dogs,
Strawberries & Cream

Admission: Adults £2, Children 50p, Concessions £1
FREE CAR PARKING

Many thanks to all our sponsors. All proceeds to St. James Fabric Fund

 Reeman Dansie 01206 754754	 www.stokebynayland.com 01206 262636	 Bugg Skip Hire 01206 262605	 Gladwinstam 01206 262261	 DAVID BURR 01206 263007
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**LITTLE WALDINGFIELD
OPEN GARDENS**

(On B1115 Sudbury to Stowmarket Road)

Sunday 17 June 2018
11am to 5pm

Admission £5 per Adult
Includes programme with map
from Parish Rooms, Church Road

Children under 16 Free

Refreshments
Plant and Produce Stalls
Parking on Playing Fields

Proceeds go to our **St. Lawrence Church**



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 29th 10am >4pm
For more information please contact Belinda King
Tel 01787 210932 Email belindakingartist@gmailcom

Spring Open Gardens

Sunday, April 8th in Groton Street, Groton.

Groton Church has got about a dozen wonderful gardens for you all to visit in Groton street on April 8th, all in their Spring clothes there will also be an artist's studio open! We hope that there will be Car Parking available on Groton Croft, accessible from Church street, but there will be signs out on the day. When you visit your first garden you will be able to pick up a leaflet which will show where all the gardens are, and also where you can obtain refreshments. This will be your entrance ticket to all the other gardens, and will cost £4 per adult, children under 16 free. We hope for good weather and a good turn-out of visitors.

Acton Book Sale

Book Sale, Saturday 14th April in All Saints Church, Acton, near Sudbury. CO10 0BA 10.00 – 2.00, Free Entry. Thousands of books. Refreshments available. All profits to the church.

Mark Mitchel's lecture about Mozart [New Date] Tuesday, May 1st at Groton Village Hall at 2.30pm.

Unfortunately the heavy snow meant that we had to postpone this talk, but we have now re-organised it for May 1st [see above] Just to remind you, Mark is an excellent lecturer, and this should be a very good afternoon especially as he will be giving one of his favourite lectures, which will have slides and musical excerpts; the talk will be followed by Tea, and all for just £6 each, so please get your tickets from Pat [210319] or Jayne [211360] soon

THE FOX & HOUNDS GROTON



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

NEW SPRING MENU STARTS TUESDAY 3RD APRIL

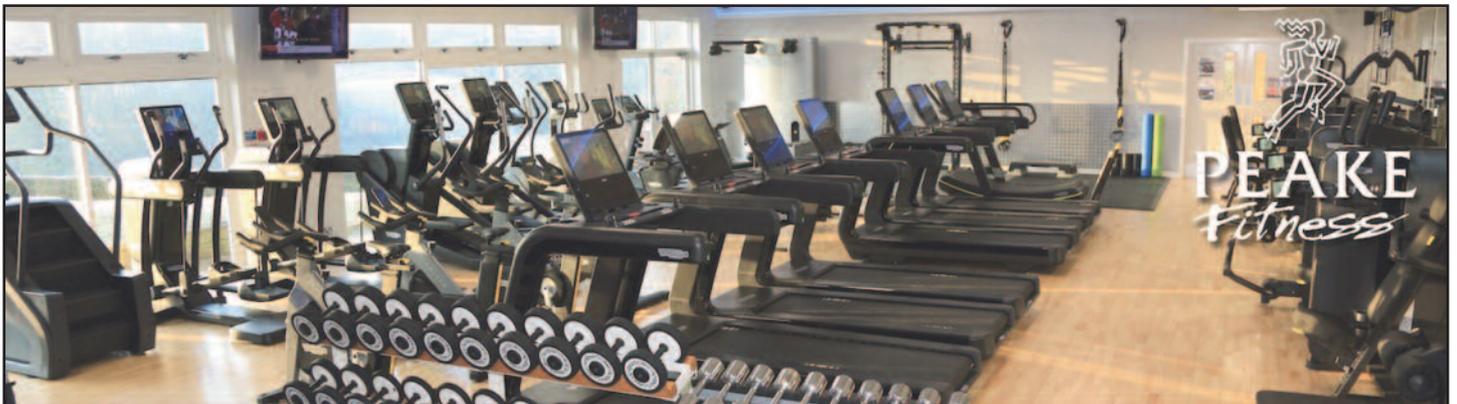
HORSE RACING AT NEWMARKET THURSDAY 19TH APRIL
BREAKFAST, COACH, TICKET & EVENING MEAL £45 PER PERSON.

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

CURRY NIGHTS SPECIAL WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY & THURSDAY 10TH MAY

BOOK A TABLE NOW ON 01787210474



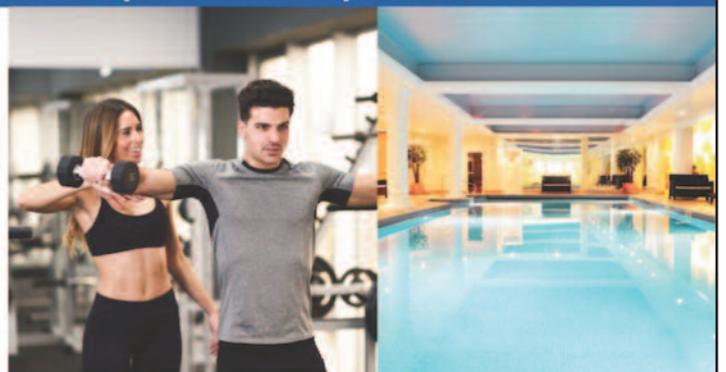
Free 7-day Peake Fitness Experience Claim your one week complimentary trial

Peake Fitness is one of East Anglia's premier health clubs offering the latest Technogym equipment and technology.

We're giving you the chance to join us on a 7-day trial to experience our club. If you decide to join after your 7-day trial you'll save £100 on your joining fee, plus receive a welcome pack with vouchers worth over £100!

T&Cs apply. Offer valid until 31st May 2018.

www.stokebynayland.com



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

Peake Fitness at Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath, Colchester CO6 4PZ | Tel: 01206 262836

Wot's On

LWHS Programme of Events - 2017 / 2018

18th April Linda Sexton Sisters in adversity

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

16th May Pip Wright A Picture History of Margaret Catchpole

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

13th June Allan Manning The battle of Waterloo

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

All talks will be at the Parish Room in Church Road, Little Waldingfield, commencing at 7.30 pm sharp.

Please book & pay in advance to guarantee your place, as seats are limited.

Booking Secretary: Diana Langford, Pitt Cottage 01787 248298

Tickets Members £2.00 Non Members £4.00

A MADCAP MUSICAL COMEDY

Thursday 26th April to Saturday 28th at 7.30pm

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

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

On sale at Boxford Post Office from March 23rd

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. Box Office:

www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com 01206 366603

box@suffolkvillagesfestival.com

(www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com), 01206 366603

Eastern Angles Theatre Company

"Eastern Angles Theatre Company" are coming Polstead Thursday 12th

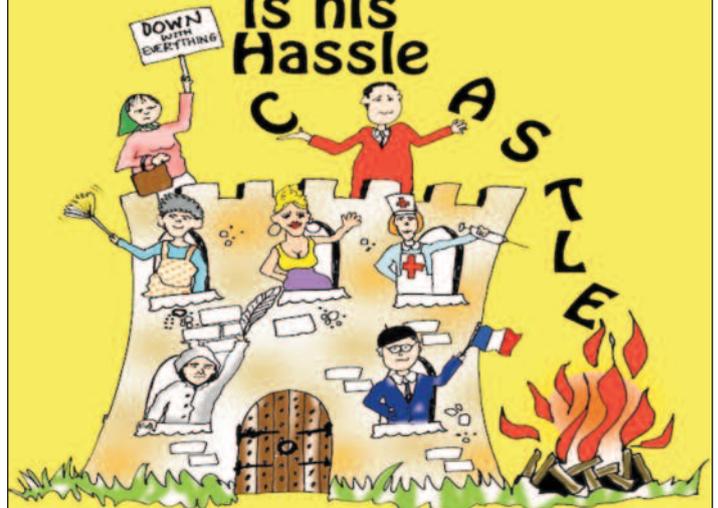
April. They will be performing "GUESTHOUSE" by Nicola

Werenowska at Polstead Village Hall Tickets £8-50 to book: ring

01787 210029

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

Neil Bradfield

Ulting Wick through the seasons



Tuesday 3rd April 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.m.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.



HEY! BARGAIN HUNTERS
This is a community event, organised by FOBS and open to everyone. It's easy to be involved, simply set up a stall in your front garden selling your unwanted items or your creations.

It's back
**The 2nd
Boxford
Edwardstone
and Groton
Sale Trail**
Sunday 6th May
12-4 pm

Stalls are priced at **£7.50** and all the profits you make are yours.
Maps will be available for **£1** from the school Hall on sale day
Stalls can also be rented inside the school hall

For more information and to book a stall please email:
Talktofobs@gmail.com



FOBS
Friends of Boxford School

Charity number: 10370332

Wot's On

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

DIARY DATES

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)

What's on at Stoke by Nayland Hotel and Spa

1st April 12pm – Easter Sunday Lunch

16th May 7pm – VIP Fashion Show

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

The Shelley Centre, Riding for the Disabled presents
An Evening with Claire Bannister, Colour Stylist and Consultant

THE LANGUAGE OF CLOTHES

Boxford Village Hall, Thursday 19th April 2018, 7 for 7.30pm

Do you know what your clothes say about you? Clothes, Jewellery and Scarves stall. Scarf-tying demonstration (bring your own scarf). Licensed Bar. Raffle.

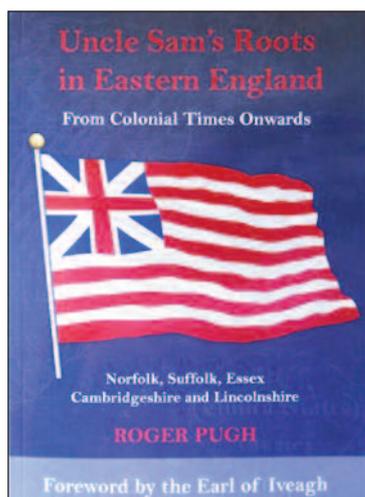
Tickets £7.50. Send SAE and cheque payable to "The Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding" to Diane Godfrey, Stable House, Tye Lane, Bramford Tye, Ipswich IP8 4JZ

All proceeds will benefit the Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding. Reg Charity No. 1113636

'Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust:

Volunteers needed for the spring work party at the Millennium Green, Saturday, 14th April, from 9am. Tools are provided. The work will include general tidying and maintenance of the Green. Please come along and help support the work of the Trust in looking after our Green

“Uncle Sam's Roots in Eastern England”.



A talk about “Uncle Sam's Roots in Eastern England” will be given at the Boxford school hall on Saturday 28th April, commencing at 7.30 pm. The speaker, Roger Pugh, author of the book of that name, will include the epic story of our local man, John Winthrop, who became illustrious in American history as the first Governor of Massachusetts. The talk will also feature other vivid stories about the massive contribution made by men and women of Eastern England to the creation of Colonial America and the USA. These will include ‘the scandalous and malignant priest’ who was President George

Washington's direct ancestor; the traitorous tax collector from Norfolk who was the first to call for the new nation to be named ‘The United States of America’; the East Anglian soldiers who burned down The White House and most of governmental Washington; the founding family of Harley-Davidson motorbikes and numerous other memorable East Anglian characters.

This promises to be a fascinating story of East Anglia's contribution to a great nation.

There will be a brief Boxford Society AGM for members after the talk, but all interested people are welcome to the talk itself at 7.30pm Saturday 28th April 2018. Free for members £2.00 for visitors.

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

April 10th

Open Meeting –
Life and Laughs of a Local Journalist
Three Valleys Group Meeting – Nayland
Federation Annual Meeting –
The Apex, Bury St Edmunds

April 19th

April 26th

Annual Meeting
Escape the Rat Race
Silk Weaving in Sudbury

May 8th

June 12th

July 10th

August

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th

No Meeting
The Trinity House Story
Town Pastors
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.

Milden Singers Concert

Friday 4th and Saturday 5th May

Enjoy a mix of 60's Pop, some classic tunes plus a selection of songs from High Society and Cabaret. Friday Night is from 7pm for 7.30pm and Saturday from 1.30pm for 2pm. Both performances with buffet or afternoon tea plus licensed bar and charity raffle. Tickets £6 available from Pearl please phone 01449 741876.

Milden Singers are looking for young sopranos to join them, the ability to read music is not essential, they have lots of fun and meet on Monday evenings at Milden Pavilion.

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@rmcortis.co.uk

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and goat cheese

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Topped with pepperoni, ham and bacon

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Topped with cheese, pepperoni, jalapeño peppers

Extra topping £1.00

DRINKS £1.00

Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Sprite, Fango

PASTA & CURRIES

Penne Pomodoro (v) £7.00

Tomato sauce, cherry tomato, fresh basil

Creamy Chicken Alfredo Linguine £8.50

Chicken Korma with rice and nan £9.95

Chicken tikka masala with rice and nan £9.95

BURGERS, CHICKEN & SALADS

Vegan Burger (v) £4.50

Chicken Burger £5.50

Hamburger £5.50

Bacon £0.50 Cheddar £0.50 Fresh mozzarella £1.00

Chicken Wings (10 pcs) Spicy or BBQ £7.50

Caesar Salad Chicken £5.50

Caesar Salad King Prawn (v) £7.50

SIDES/DESSERTS

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

BEER & WINE

Can of Beer £1.50 or 4 for £5.00

Bottle of Vino Italiano white/red wine £13.00

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Wot's On

80's Night at The Delphi Centre

The first tribute band to visit The Delphi Centre turned out to be a great success on Friday 16th February. This was the first event following the internal improvements at the centre and it was really good to see the ballroom changed for the top UK's Kylie Minogue tribute show. The show which included backing singers and fabulous dancers lasted for approx. an hour with continuous music of many of Kylie's best known songs. The seating was arranged on the large dance floor to provide for a dancing area in front of the stage. A short interval to refill from the licenced bar which now has debit card facilities was followed by the second show with two great female singers taking us back by time machine to the songs of the 1980's; the audience were up dancing and singing to some great songs. Hits from Madonna, Wham, Whitney, Culture Club and many more sung really well.

If this first show is anything to go by the next which is a Genesis tribute band on March 17th should really be something to look forward to. Tickets available from Sudbury Tourist Office.

The "Backlash Ballroom" explosion of Latin and Ballroom dancing which is on 14th April will be a real treat for those who love Strictly Come Dancing.

Six professional Dancers will put on a great show of dance, the DJ for the evening Richard Miller, whose dance weekends at Potters Resort are always a great success will also do some dance instruction. This is a Charity evening in aid of Age UK & Barnardo's, tickets are £20 each and available now call 07850 383011.

Tickets for the Barn Dance on 23rd June are available now from Sudbury Tourist Office priced at £11.50 each including ploughman's supper, book early to avoid disappointment.

In next month's issue an update on the Open Afternoon at The Delphi Centre which would have been held on Friday 23rd February will be written up as the dead line for this issue had passed.

Milden Pavilion Annual General Meeting Tuesday 20th March 2018 - 7.30pm

If you would like to get involved to help run this facility or would like to know more please come along or email Justine589@btinternet.com.

We have 3 meetings a year but always need help to maintain and run the pavilion and playing field.

GROTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PRESENTS



QUIZ AND CURRY EVENING

At
Groton Village Hall

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

Teams of four

B.Y.O. Bar

Raffle

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



Polstead Digital Cinema Friday 20th April

Tickets £3.50 from the Polstead Community Shop or 01787 210029
All films start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm



LEAVENHEATH CINEMA SATURDAY 7TH APRIL

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

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Forthcoming Events Diary

April			
3 Utting Wick	Boxford gardening Society	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
8 Spring Open Gardens	Groton PCC	Groton Street	
15 Boxford Tornado			
14 Newton Art and Craft Club Exhibition		Newton Village Hall	10-3.00pm
16 BCC AGM		The Pavilion	7.00pm
18 Linda Sexton Sisters in adversity	Little Waldingfield History Society	Parish Room	7.30pm
19 The Language of Clothes	Shelley Centre	Boxford Village Hall	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			
1 Mark Mitchel's lecture about Mozart	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	2.30pm
4/5Milden Singers Spring Concert		The Pavilion	See Ad
6 Sale Trail	FOBS	Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton	12 till 4pm
12 Quiz	Little Waldingfield Parish Room		7.30pm
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
17 Little Waldingfield Open Gardens			11am to 5pm
July			
7 Milden Fete		Playing Field	
October			
13 Landermarston Concert	Little Waldingfield PCC	St Lawrences Church	7.30pm
November			
11 National Beacon Lighting Scheme		The Beacon	7.pm
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.

BENEFICE NEWS

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. Do come to this important meeting in the life of the church and have your say. A copy of the accounts and the annual report will be on display on the church noticeboard at least a week before the meeting. The APCM is then followed by a short PCC Meeting at which will be appointed by election the PCC officers and the members of the Standing Committee for the coming year.

Please see the news items for the individual parishes for the dates, venues and times of these meetings.

DEANERY NEWS

Deanery Synod

The synod met on Tuesday 13th March 2018 in St Mary's Church, Boxford. The main item on the agenda was a presentation on 'safeguarding' by Craig Hutton, Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer and Training Co-ordinator.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

Diocesan Synod The synod met at the Cathedral on Saturday 24th February 2018. Among the business transacted was the adoption by the synod of an amended Environment Policy and the approval of a revised Parish Share allocation system for 2019. Synod members also saw a video report by Bishop Darlington (the new Bishop of Kagera – our 'link' diocese in Tanzania) and heard that the bishops' 2017 Lent appeal for Kagera raised £53,635, with Gift Aid to be added. For 2018, the bishops' challenge is for PCCs to nominate a local charity to support – to "make a difference in our own backyard" – as Bishop Martin put it in his presidential address. His message was for people to ask "how God is calling us to show and share God's love in every one of our communities." Bishop Martin also told synod that a new cathedral dean had been appointed, but he could not announce the name just yet.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SUDBURY & DISTRICT

Please look at the Churches Together website for details of forthcoming events: www.churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk.

STOP PRESS: The diocese announced on 15th March that the new Dean is to be the Revd Canon Joe Hawes, currently the Vicar of All Saints' Church, Fulham. Canon Hawes will be installed as Dean in a service at the Cathedral on Saturday 14 July 2018. You can read more about him on the diocesan website: <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/news/article/a-priest-has-been-chosen-as-the-new-dean-of-st-edmundsbury>

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

Please, NO LATER THAN 12th April

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, BOXFORD

Churchwarden:

Peter Dilnot

Assistant Churchwarden:

Michael Gray

Mobile: 07931 043926

Email: boxford.warden@btinternet.com



Easter Services at St. Mary's Boxford

Good Friday March 30th A Service of readings, seasonal music and reflections for **Good Friday at 2.00 pm** in church. All are welcome.

Easter Day Sunday April 1st at 11.00 am A service of Holy Communion for everyone.



Easter Thoughts: Jesus came and stood among them and said, "peace be with you." John 20:19. There is a tremendous build up to Easter Sunday. During the 40-day season of Lent we allowed Jesus to ask us questions (such as why do you worry or do you want to be made well). These questions invited us to look inward and notice the places that needed pruning to make way for the new attitudes to take root within us and our church. And it is not just we humans who are in a season of resurrection. At this time of year, all of creation is building up towards resurrection. From the flowers that have bravely withstood the long winter, to the seemingly dead branch fashioning a new bud of bright green. There is a slow and steady rhythm towards new birth; a yearning for renewal. And so we understand why Easter is at the heart of our identity as followers of Christ.



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 at St. Mary's, Boxford, will be held at **4.15 pm on Sunday 8th April**. Please note that refreshments will be available at 4.00 pm before the meeting. The first part of the meeting is for the election of churchwardens for the coming year (The vestry meeting) and then to receive reports on church activities for the past year (The Annual Parochial Church Meeting). A short PCC meeting will follow for the election of church officers. Please do come and support your church. Notices about the meeting will be given in church.



Help required Keeping the church going does require some help with the day to day tasks. If you can help in any way, do please speak to Revd Judith.



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

The Palm Sunday service will commence at 9:45 am with the procession starting at the Temple Bar and the donkey leading the way up the beautiful drive to the church. The service in the church begins at **10:00 am**.

Sidesman/Coffees Bill Dastur and David Saddleton / Frances East, Ineke Morris and Marlene Clarke

Flowers Lent

Cleaning Melanie Childs and Caroline Williams

Rota for April

Flowers All

Cleaning Frances East

Sunday April 1st at 9:30 am Easter Sunday Family Communion (by extension)

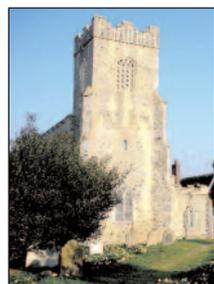
Sidesman/Coffees Jan Paul / Ineke Morris

Sunday April 15th at 9:30 am Holy Communion

Sidesman/Coffees Bill Dastur / Sally Hoskins

Sunday April 22nd at 8:00 am Holy Communion

Sidesman Bill Dastur



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 Anthea Scriven

Flowers Easter flowers (various flower arrangers)

Cleaning Mrs Jayne Foster

Easter Day 2018 Sunrise Service "On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them...the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



At Groton again this year we will meet 'very early in the morning' as we recall this account of Christ's resurrection in St Luke's gospel at a 'sunrise' open air celebration of Holy Communion at 6.30 am on Sunday 1st April on the war memorial triangle. After the service, there will be a 'coffee and croissants' breakfast in St Bartholomew's church. Everyone welcome. Do set your alarm and join us!

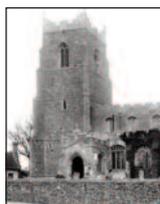
Annual Meetings

This year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners (to elect churchwardens) is on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 7.30 pm in Groton Village Hall, Broad Street, Groton. It will be followed at 7.40 pm by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM"). This is the meeting that receives the PCC's report and accounts for 2017 and elects members of the PCC for the coming year. Anyone whose name is on the church electoral roll is

entitled to attend and vote. Do come to this important meeting in the life of the church and have your say (wine and nibbles will be served!). A PCC Meeting will immediately follow the APCM (to appoint PCC officers and to elect the standing committee for 2018-2019).

Spring Open Gardens

Sunday April 8th in Groton Street, Groton. See separate notice elsewhere in this issue for more details.



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens

Vacant

Rotas

1st April

8th April

15th April

22nd April

29th April

Sidesmen

Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Eddington

No service

No service

No service

No service

Flowers

All

Mrs. Squirrel

Mrs. Duffy

Mrs. Eddington

Mrs. Gregor-Smith

23rd February The Bridge Drive organised by Nancy Roser in aid of church funds, took place in the Parish Room. It was very successful. Seven tables, lots of tea and cakes. The PCC thank Nancy for all her hard work and her cake-making! The afternoon raised £322.00.

4th March Our Morning Worship was taken by Reverend Judith. When we arrived to prepare the church, we found a kind of journeyman, complete with bicycle, buggy and dog. He had sheltered there overnight. He joined us for the service, stayed for refreshments, and then prepared to continue his journey to Lincoln.

7th March Lent Lunch at Newman's Hall. A small gathering enjoyed home-made soup, bread, cheese and coffee. They created a very happy atmosphere, good conversation, and raised over £100 for a farming charity. Many thanks to Anne Miller, Louise Smith, and a group of volunteers.

10th April PCC AGM

19th May Christian Aid Coffee Morning, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, Parish Rooms.

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

25th February Our Service of Holy Communion was conducted by Revd. Judith wearing purple garments for this time of Lent. Instead of an address Revd. Judith read a 'wisdom story' about the master of the garden and his relationship with the female dancing bamboo plant and the ultimate need to cut her down, which was a painful time for both. Eventually the bamboo was used to help with watering the rice in the next field. This story made us think how in real life we have difficult decisions to take and being able to compromise for the good of both sides. One family remembered two members of their family by lighting candles on the Altar. Thank you to Nancy Roser for playing the organ and to all helpers. After the service members from the other parishes chatted with us over a hot drink and biscuits.

Notices

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

19th April at 7.00 pm PCC Annual General Meeting in All Saints' Church

MARY'S HOUSE BOOKINGS

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

Please note that the suggested donation is £1.00 per head for a two-hour booking for all meetings. For inquiries about new bookings, please contact Pauline or David Lamming: telephone 01787 210360.

April 2018

Church Services in the Box River Benefice

Village Prayers

** Please note there are no village prayers on 3rd, 4th or 5th April as Revd Judith is on leave **

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: revjudithboxriver@btinternet.com ; **Tuesday** 9.00 Edwardstone, **Wednesday** 9.00 Groton, 16.00 Little Waldingfield (*Newman's Hall); **Thursday** 9.00 Newton, 17.00 Boxford (*Mary's House). *If you do not usually attend, please phone Revd Judith first, as occasionally these have to be cancelled due her day off changing, or other commitments.*

Sunday 1 st	EASTER DAY	(W)
Groton	06.20 Sunrise service with Holy Communion (by the War Memorial)	Revd Judith
Little Waldingfield	09.30 Family Communion	Revd Judith
Edwardstone	09.30 Holy Communion (by extension)	Christopher Kingsbury
Boxford	11.00 Family Communion	Revd Judith
Newton	15.00 Family Communion (followed by an Easter Egg Hunt)	Revd Judith

Wednesday 4th

Please note – there is no Mary's House Communion today as Revd Judith is on leave.

Thursday 5th

Lt Waldingfield	15.00 Holy Communion (reserved sacrament)	Lay Team
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Sunday 8 th	Second Sunday of Easter	(W)
Groton	09.30 Morning Worship	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

Wednesday 11th

Boxford	10.30 Holy Communion - Mary's House	Revd Judith
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Sunday 16 th	Third Sunday of Easter	(W)
Edwardstone	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith

Wednesday 18th

Boxford	10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House	Revd Judith
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Thursday 19th

Lt Waldingfield	15.00 Compline - Newmans Hall	Lay Team
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Sunday 22 nd	Fourth Sunday of Easter	(W)
Edwardstone	08.00 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Lt Waldingfield	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Judith
Boxford	11.00 Morning Worship	Christopher Kingsbury

Wednesday 25th

Boxford	10.30 Holy Communion Mary's House	Revd Judith
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Sunday 29 th	Fifth Sunday of Easter	(W)
Newton	10.00 Five Villages Service with Holy Communion	Revd Judith

Soap Box

Back in February, while we were at our house in Portugal, my mother-in-law died. Losing a parent is always challenging and upsetting, though in some measure this was a release, both for her and for her family. Dementia had robbed her progressively of her independence, her ability to walk, to care for and feed herself and, perhaps saddest of all, to interact with others. By the very end we were not even certain she knew who her immediate family were. Helping to arrange a funeral from afar, using principally email – though phone calls were needed on occasions – was a time-consuming and, at times, frustrating experience. I reached the conclusion that there was probably scope to write a book about what transpired. No less than four ordained priests became involved at one time or another, along with an honorary Canon and a churchwarden, not to mention numerous members of my wife's family and all the other bit part players that are necessary at times like this.

I'll spare you all the details, but it did make me reflect on the fact that few organisations are devoid of politics, including the Anglican Church. When Richard Titford was our priest in charge here in the benefice, he would often lace his sermons with references to the way in which the established church operated. They were without doubt some of the most entertaining sermons I have ever heard and taught me a great deal about the Anglican Communion. It did bring him into conflict with fellow members of the clergy at times, as I learned from other priests of my acquaintance.

In Portugal the congregations are generally far larger than those which I see when I attend church services in our village. Interestingly, the priest in charge was a minister just across the county boundary in Essex before he transferred out to the Algarve last year. He gave a sermon while we were there on our last trip – the trip when we learned of Elizabeth's mother's death – which included references to the size of a congregation. It seemed that the more people a priest could rely upon in church, the better they felt.

Quite why the church in Luz attracts such big congregations is not easy to determine. Partly it will be because the catchment area is so large – there are just two Anglican churches in the whole of the Algarve, though there are other English speaking denominations. As it happens, the church we attend is actually a Roman Catholic one, but the Anglicans are allowed to use it and three services are regularly held each week, two on Sunday and one mid-week.

Another reason will be the influx of holiday makers. This means that the make-up of the congregation varies from week to week, though there are quite a number of stalwarts from the local ex-pat community. And, of course,

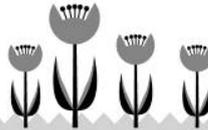
there are the part-timers, like us – people who have a house there but only visit comparatively occasionally, though this could amount to four or five months in any one year. These part-timers are known locally as "Swallows" – they fly in and fly out again, although in our case we generally drive.

The bottom line is that congregations of 100 plus are not rare for the 11.30 am service, while we generally get a dozen or more for the 8 am communion, which is our service of choice. I doubt many rural parishes could muster that kind of attendance. This may be a pity, but it is also a fact of life. It occurs to me that the next decade or so is likely to see some considerable changes taking place in the Church of England if its network of churches and parishes is to survive.

This makes it sad for me that arranging this particular funeral turned out to be such a tortuous affair. In the end it all turned out well, but the complications that arose at the beginning were unwelcome and, in my personal opinion, unnecessary. We try to attend church whenever we can and have both spent time as sidesmen in Little Waldingfield, though our absences abroad made us too unreliable to continue. Let us hope the churches locally can continue to provide the important service to our community that they presently do.

Brian Tora

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GARDENING IN APRIL INSPIRED BY HARRY BUCKLEDEE

Silver and grey foliage plants should now be pruned back hard to keep them in good shape and to prolong their productive life.. These include rue, sage, santalina, curry plant, senecio, dwarf lavenders like those of the munstead and hidcote varieties. If not pruned back regularly each year they will become woody, unsightly and sprawling in habit.

With some newly planted hedges of yew or beach, the tendency is often for some plants to grow horizontally rather than upright. The aim should be to get the plants up to the required height as soon as possible. Any branches that are growing away from the hedge line should be cut back hard so that all the plants energy goes into growing upright. Some plants may be reluctant to throw up a leading shoot in which case a side shoot should be encouraged to grow upwards by tying it to a cane or stake.

Do remember to water plants in their pots and tubs outside, and also newly planted trees and shrubs. More plants are lost in April through a lack of water than for any other reason. Camelias in tubs or planted in west facing situations as protection from the early morning sun may suffer from lack of moisture and flower buds may fail to open.

Although it may be bitterly cold outside on sunny days, the temperature in greenhouses can soon build up to the eighties and nineties so keep the house well ventilated. Plants will cease to grow in extremely high temperatures, young seedlings and newly potted plants should be shaded. Most seeds will germinate now in an unheated greenhouse that is insulated with bubble polythene. It should also be safe to plant tomatoes at the end of the month.

Woolly Aphis, usually a pest of fruit trees, particularly apples causing infected stems to be covered with woolly, cotton wool like tufts. It can attack other plants, someone I know has it in hydrangeas. It can be wiped off with cotton wool soaked in methylated spirit.

Pinks and border carnations will be making good growth and will benefit from the support of some twiggy sticks. Push the branching twigs into the ground close to the clump so that the stems can grow up and through the supports.

Towards the end of the month, healthy dormant dahlia tubers can be planted in the garden. Discard any tubers which are shrivelled or showing signs of rot. Prepare the ground well and plant the crown of the tubers at least 3 to 4 inches below the surface and three feet apart with the same distance between rows. If shoots appear above ground before the danger of frost is over draw some soil over them for protection.

Lift and divide old clumps of herbaceous plants and replant only the young outside shoots of each plant. Always dig the ground deeply before replanting, mixing some well rotted compost and a dressing of John Innes Base fertiliser, bone meal, hoof and horn or any fertiliser which is high in phosphates and potash. The taller kinds like rudbeckias, monardas, heleniums and mickaelmus daisies are most in need of this treatment. By the amount of growth they make, they take all the goodness out of the soil, producing progressively smaller flowers, losing their lower leaves. Replanting revitalises them and they will produce greener foliage and fine flowers.

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors. Just watch out for frosts...

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Keep weeds under control
- 2 Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- 3 Tie in climbing and rambling roses
- 4 Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors
- 5 Start to feed citrus plants
- 6 Increase the water given to houseplants
- 7 Feed hungry shrubs and roses
- 8 Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- 9 Prune fig trees
- 10 Divide bamboos and waterlilies

General maintenance

Put supports in place for perennials before they get too large. Criss-crossing strings from hidden or decorative posts work well, allowing stems to grow up in the gaps between strings.

Apply a general-purpose fertiliser to borders and beds. Take care not to damage emerging shoots, or to burn them with fertiliser.

Top dress spring-flowering alpines with grit or gravel to show off the plants and to help prevent stem rots.

Bulbs coming up in the rock garden or in containers may benefit from overhead protection from the rain - a sheet of glass or perspex placed on bricks will do the job.

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THE NAMES ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS - APRIL 2018



At 04:15 on the morning of the 9th of April 1918, the German artillery situated on the Western Front just west of Lille opened up a barrage on the British and Commonwealth lines between Armentieres in the north and Bethune in the south. This was a sector of the Front directly south of Ypres. The barrage lasted

for four hours and twenty minutes. At 08:40 the German troops came out of their forward trenches and began the infantry attack. This action was the start of what became known as the Battle of the Lys. Within 48 hours one Boxford man and one Newton man had perished in the fierce close quarter fighting. By the time the Battle of the Lys ended 20 days later, two more men from Boxford had been lost. The Battle of the Lys actually comprised 9 separate battles, all of them concentrated in area about 20 miles north to south and about 7 miles east to west, through the centre of which ran the River Lys. This offensive was the second major phase of General Ludendorff's overall strategy for the spring of 1918, which I outlined last month. It came about, as we noted, as his first phase, the offensive mounted along the Somme valley, to the south, in Picardy, ground to a halt, and he seemed to lose his nerve. By breaking out of the line south of Ypres, Ludendorff hoped to reach the coast some 25 to 35 miles in the west and cut off the two major Allied supply routes running from Calais and Dunkerque up to Ypres and box the British and Commonwealth troops into a small corner of Flanders.

In the sector of the Line which was attacked, the 34th Division held the northern part around Armentieres and the 55th Division were placed to south. In the middle was the 40th Division supported by a force of Portuguese battalions. The Portuguese troops seem an anomaly in this War, but on the 9th of March 1916, Germany had declared war on the previously neutral country. Portugal had become a republic in 1908 after the assassination of the King, Carlos I. As the war progressed the new government became increasingly concerned over the fate of its colonies in Africa at risk from German expansion on the Continent. As much to sound a warning as anything else, in early 1916 Portugal impounded all the German and Austro-Hungarian merchant ships in Lisbon harbour, which had been holed up there since the outbreak of the War, and this was the trigger for the German declaration of War on the Republic.

The Portuguese troops were poorly trained and suffered from low morale and were unable to hold the line in the centre of the attack. The 40th Division tried to fill the gaps but had to fall back. This left the divisions on the flanks heavily exposed. Within the 34th Division were the 11th Suffolks and in the 55th Division were the 1st/5th Battalion, King's (Liverpool Regiment). Three of the four of our villagers, who died in this offensive, were in the Suffolks and the fourth was in the King's. The 34th Division defended the ground south of Armentieres near the River Lys and its associated canal. It eventually gave way and had to retreat, and such was the damage inflicted on it, that it was withdrawn from the Front at the end of the Battle of the Lys and had to be entirely reconstituted with new battalions. The 55th Division put up fierce resistance around the village of Givenchy-lès-la-Bassée and was noted in German reports as particularly courageous in its defence. The Division held the line and the German troops eased back to concentrate on the weaker middle and northern sections.

Rifleman Sidney Samuel Bloomfield, 235012, 1st/5th King's (Liverpool Regiment), of Newton, died on the first day of the assault. Sidney was born to Nathan and Mary Ann, neé Rawlinson, on the 28th June 1881 in the village of Ampton, east of Bury St Edmunds, and he was baptised in the parish church in September that year. Mary Ann and Nathan were the children of farm working families, both being born in Norton, in 1856 and 1852 respectively, a few miles east of Ampton, and Nathan was a gamekeeper. I lose track of his parents, but in the 1891 Census I find Sidney age 9 as a boarder at the village school in Ampton. Ten years later, Sidney was working as a groom and domestic gardener in Church Street, Hundon, close to the border with Essex.

On the 12th of April 1904 Sidney married Lavinia Kate Medcalf in Hundon parish church. Lavinia, more often recorded simply as Kate, was the daughter of Walter, an agricultural labourer, and Lavinia, neé Lewis. Walter was born in Clare in 1847 and Lavinia in Luton in 1846, so I presume she was in service in Clare or thereabouts. In the 1901 Census Lavinia is recorded as living with her parents in The Street, Hundon, only a short distance away from Sidney, and, interestingly, she had the occupation of a telegraphist, perhaps in the village Post Office. By 1911, Sidney and Lavinia had three children, two sons and a daughter, and they were living in Newton, Sidney still being occupied as a groom and gardener.

Sidney enlisted in Sudbury, though I do not know when he entered the War. Initially he was Private number 19852 in the Suffolk Regiment, but I cannot trace the date or reason for his transfer to the King's (Liverpool Regiment). As a

consequence, it is not possible to determine what other action Sidney would have seen during his service. Whatever the case, his life came to an end on the 9th April 1918, when he was 36, and his death was such that he has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial near Lens a few miles south east of where he died fighting.

Lavinia did not remarry. In 1939 she was living in North Street, Clare, with her eldest son, Walter, who was himself a widower at the age of 35, and a grandson. She died in 1962 across in the east of the county in the Woodbridge/Southwold area.

The day after Sidney died, **Private Oliver Daniel Grimwood, 40517**, 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, of Boxford, lost his life some 20 miles north near Armentieres. Oliver, born 1889, was the son of Daniel and Anna Maria, both of whom had been born in Boxford. They had married in 1886, Daniel, born 1860 to a carter, being a grocer and draper. Anna Maria's family name was Underwood, her father, who died when she was young, being a blacksmith. Anna, who was born in 1863, supported her widowed mother, a small shopkeeper, as a dressmaker. Oliver had three brothers and two sisters, all of them born in Boxford, and all the sons of the family worked as assistants in their father's shop, which was in Stone Street.

In 1915, Oliver married Clarissa M Kingsbury, the daughter of Walter Bloss Kingsbury and Alice, neé Makin. Walter, born 1856 in Boxford, was a builder and the son of a builder and Alice a milliner, born 1859 in Hadleigh, was the daughter of a butcher. They had married in 1883. Oliver and Clarissa had one son, Oliver Walter Kingsbury Grimwood, who was born on 30th September 1918, five months after his father's death.

Oliver enlisted in Boxford, which would suggest he signed up during the Kitchener recruiting drive in 1914/1915. His regiment reached France in January 1916 and the 34th Division saw action in four of the major battles of the Somme Offensive of 1916, three of the Battles in the spring 1917 Arras Offensive, and 1918 found them initially being deployed back in the Somme valley trying to stem Ludendorff's first phase of his major offensive, before being moved up to Armentieres just prior to the Battle of the Lys. He died in action on the 10th April 1918, aged 28, and is buried in the Suffolk Cemetery, La Rolanderie Farm, Erquinghem-Lys. La Rolanderie Farm was the Brigade Headquarters of the 34th Division, and the cemetery was made between the 8th and 19th April 1918. It contains the graves of 43 soldiers, 36 of whom belonged to the Suffolk Regiment including Oliver. Clarissa paid for an additional inscription on her husband's gravestone which reads "Until the day breaks and the shadows flee". I have been unable to trace Clarissa after 1918, but Chris Kingsbury, our Lay Reader, has given me the following details of Oliver junior's life. He continued to live in Boxford and became a director of the well known building firm W.B. Kingsbury and Sons Limited. He served in the Second World War and was evacuated from Dunkirk, an episode which severely affected his health. In 1971 he married Queenie Beatrice Damant, neé Bates, and they lived at Hill House in Ellis Street. Oliver was killed crossing the Boxford bypass in 1990. Queenie died in 1996.

Private Albert Harry Elmer, 20907, 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, of Boxford, was born in 1894 to George and Emma, neé Palmer, who had him baptised in St Mary's church on 20th January 1895. George and Emma had married in 1872, aged 24 and 18 respectively, both being the children of agricultural labourers. George was born in Boxford and Emma came from Monks Eleigh, brought up by her father, her mother having died when she was three. George was a horseman, though on the 1911 Census, with the family living in Stone Street, he is recorded as a retired horseman and Albert, at 16 years of age, was a farm labourer.

Albert enlisted in Sudbury into the same battalion as Oliver Grimwood, probably quite early in the War, and served with his regiment through many actions as outlined in the section on Oliver above. There is uncertainty as to when Albert actually died. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the panels of the Ploegsteert Memorial situated just north of Armentieres. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission gives the date of his death as somewhere between the 9th and the 19th April. Whatever the actual date was, it is indicative of the confusion of the battle grounds on which Albert died at the age of 23.

Lastly, we meet our third Boxford soldier and the third member of the 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, to die in April 1918, **Private Edgar Thomas Mann, 40701**. Edgar was born in 1884 in Chelsworth out of wedlock to Alice Mary Mann. He was baptised on the 8th June 1884 in the parish church and there is no father's name recorded in the Register. Alice, born in 1866, was the daughter of William and Sarah Mann. William appears initially in the Census records as a labourer, but by 1891 he is a pork butcher living in Swan Street. In 1890, Alice went on to marry John Charles Roper of Ipswich, the son of a coal carter, born in 1862. Edgar appears to have been brought up by his grandparents.

In the 1911 Census, Edgar is recorded as a grocer's assistant living in Stone Street, with his wife Bessie. We noted that Oliver Grimwood was a grocer's son at a shop in Stone Street and it is this fact that links two of our soldiers in a deeply tragic way. Edgar had married Bessie in 1909 and the wedding register records her name as Bessie Florence Grimwood. Bessie was the eldest child of Daniel and Anna Maria Grimwood and thus Oliver's elder sister. At the age of 31 Bessie lost first one of her brothers and then, 11 days later, her husband and was left a widow with two children aged three and eight.

Edgar enlisted in Boxford almost certainly at the same time as Oliver during the recruiting drive that took Kitchener's recruiting parties, which toured the Country, into many small villages as well as the towns and cities. Whether Edgar and Oliver served together is uncertain, because initially Edgar was posted into the Northamptonshire Regiment as Private number 19856. However, by the time of their deaths they were both fighting the same battles around the River Lys.

Edgar died of his wounds sustained in action on the 21st April age 33. It is not known when he suffered the injury that would prove fatal. Edgar was evacuated from the Front to Wimereux, a small town a few miles north of Boulogne. It was the headquarters of the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, originally the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the women's unit of the British Army. Wimereux and Boulogne served as important hospital centres and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps provided most of the nursing staff in the hospitals. Edgar is buried in the Wimereux Communal Cemetery.

Edgar and Bessie's children were son, Daniel Thomas, born in 1910 and daughter, Florence, born in 1915. When the headstone to her husband was erected Bessie had engraved upon it the additional wording "Peace Perfect Peace". I lose track of Bessie after 1918, but Daniel married and is found working as a carpenter and joiner in Swan Street in 1939. Florence married in 1940 in the Ipswich area.

Albert and Oliver will be remembered at the 11:00 service of Holy Communion in Boxford on the 8th April. Edgar will be remembered at the 11:00 service of Morning Worship in Boxford on the 22nd of April, and on the same day Sydney will be remembered at the 11:00 service of Holy Communion at Newton.

Campaign for Postman Kevin

Need for new campaign for postman Kevin to stay in Boxford

Kevin Pike—postman Kevin—is a familiar and popular figure in Boxford, who has served us well for the last eight years. Four years ago, when Royal Mail were proposing the reallocation of rounds in the Sudbury area, a successful campaign by Boxford residents ensured that he would remain the village's postman. Once again, if we are to keep Kevin as our postman, we need to act. Royal Mail are about to make fresh adjustments to a number of delivery rounds in the Sudbury area and in consequence, as in 2014, all rounds have been up for reallocation, with the choice of rounds being determined by length of service. This is the case even with rounds, like Boxford, that are not being varied. As a result, a postman slightly more senior to Kevin has chosen Boxford and, unless the decision is reversed, Kevin will be moving to a round in Great Cornard early in April.

As in 2014, Kevin does not want to move to another round and it does not make sense to require him to do so. Over the past eight years he has got to know his 'customers', including which neighbours he can ask to take in a packet when the addressee is not at home. If enough of us write (to the Royal Mail delivery office at 11 Church Field Road, Chilton, CO10 2GT, and to the local press), perhaps even Royal Mail's 'mindless middle managers' can be persuaded to change their decision, but we need to act quickly. Now that Royal Mail is a business, perhaps we can persuade them that the principle that "the customer is always right" should prevail.

David Lamming

Spring Concert 2018

After a very successful and enjoyable Singing Morning in February where we were able to persuade half a dozen new members to join the choir with more to join for the Summer term. Sudbury Choral Society goes back to their roots this spring with a performance of "The Creation" by Haydn. This tour-de-force of the choral repertoire depicts the creation of the world from an opening orchestral introduction depicting utter chaos to some of Haydn's most wonderful arias and choruses. We are very fortunate to have "local boy" Mark Saberton back with us for this performance. He has been a regular soloist with the society over the years and it is great that he has been able to fit us into his busy schedule for this concert. Mark has performed with many of the leading opera companies in the country including Royal Opera, English National Opera, Opera North, Raymond Gubbay and Scottish Opera to name but a few.

Sudbury Choral Society presents "The Creation" by Haydn

Where St Peter's Church, Market Hill Sudbury

When 7:30 p.m. Sunday 15th April 2018

Cost Adults £1211-18's £5 Under 11's free

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Parish Council Matters

Meeting of Boxford Parish Council

Report of the Meeting held Monday 5th February

Public Forum Issues raised included litter in the village particularly in the Bus Shelter, outside The Fleece and in the ditches at the Playing Field. The pavement along Ash Street is overgrown from the Garage boundary. Drainage is still prevented due to changes to the grill at the bottom of the croft.

District Council Report District Cllr Bryn Hurren attended and confirmed the post 16 bus travel subsidy has been affected by the cut backs. He is chasing the maintenance in and around the Homefield flats. The road sweepers had confirmed they hadn't scheduled a visit recently and advance notice would be provided. Cllr Hurren is still following up the relevant Highways issues. The Konings application is on hold currently. Recycling still continues at the District Council as before and clean blue bin items were encouraged to cut down on the waste for incineration. New venues are being hired as the original meeting rooms at the District Councils' former premises are no longer available. Cllr Hurren agreed to collect fly tipping at the A1071/School Hill junction on behalf of the District Council.

Correspondence The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. School traffic was agreed for the March Agenda in response to safety concerns expressed by residents.

Finance Repairs to the bin near the bus shelter was approved together with a temporary notice to discourage littering and smoking in the shelter.

Cemetery Cllr Sargeant agreed to attend to fencing repairs on the boundary of the Cemetery and the Rectory Walkway.

Village Car Park Consideration is still being given to the potential to provide a village car park. A meeting had taken place with the owner of land accessed from Stone Street Road near the school site. The landowner was formulating his own plans and was considering allocating an area for Village Car Parking.

Planning The Planning Authorities confirmed approval of the following applications:-

- reduction in cart lodge floor area at 15 Boxford Lane
- canopy application at Boxford Primary School

The Parish Council had No Objections to Listed Building application for a concrete slab in the basement at 18 Swan Street.

Hopkins Homes were still working on substantial plans for land behind The Causeway and had agreed to meet the Parish Council on 26th February ahead of arranging a public event for the Village.

Debbie Hattrell, Clerk to Boxford Parish Council

Readers Letters

Sir

I would like to thank David Elliott for his initiative in fixing the broken posts of the dog waste bins at Partridge Close and Daking Ave using the same posts he has made a good job and saved money well done David

Regards

Michael Norman

Sir

1st Boxford Brownies would like to say a massive thank you to the Boxford Drama Group for their very generous donation of £120. Whilst we have not decided how to spend it as yet, be sure that it will not be wasted but be put to very good use.

Thank you from all the Brownies and volunteers at 1st Boxford Brownies.

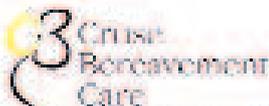


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WHAT DID THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH PAINT IN WOODLAND SETTING WITH PEASANT RESTING?

In this third and final part of my discussion of Thomas Gainsborough's Woodland Setting with Peasant Resting I am going to look a little more at the content of the picture and compare it with other paintings by Gainsborough. To reiterate: I think Gainsborough has painted himself and his brothers, Humphery and John, with Boxford in the distance.

I have said previously that Gainsborough would have been familiar with Boxford and may even have painted George Dashwood, who had properties at Woodhall, Sudbury and Peyton Hall Boxford. Hugh Belsey's, soon to be published, catalogue raisonne of Gainsborough's portraits will confirm whether he is the painter of Dashwood's portrait or not. I also thought it fitting that Gainsborough painted Boxford because it's circumstances were similar to Sudbury and Sudbury's fortunes impacted directly on the Gainsborough family.

Yet there are further reasons to link Boxford to Gainsborough. The Reverend Thomas Church of Boxford and Groton was widely read and well educated. His tombstone, centrally placed in St Mary's church, Boxford, reflects his centrality in the Boxford community of the mid Eighteenth Century. His subscriptions to significant and influential publications of his day reflects his relationship to the culture and ideas of his time. In some areas they overlap with the Gainsborough brothers' interests. Thomas Rutherford's A System of Natural Philosophy touched on Mechanics and Hydrostatics among other aspects of applied science which interested both Humphery and John. Reverend Church subscribed to this publication too. Together with George Dashwood, the Reverend John Church were subscribers to an edition of Milton's Paradise Lost. Gainsborough may have been aware, even familiar, with this poem which inspired one of Hogarth's pictures (the unfinished Satan, Sin and Death). Finally, a Reverend Mr Church (I have only found a John or J or Reverend Mr listed as subscribers in the different publications, so think it reasonable to think them the same) and Mr Thomas Gainsborough were subscribers to Joshua Kirby's Doctor Brook Taylor's Method of Perspective Made Easy: central to Thomas Gainsborough's work. There were, of course, others listed in the books mentioned that were subscribers and possibly known to Gainsborough. In some cases, certainly known as they sat for him. Although known as a conversationalist - and known at one point to regularly converse with the King - Gainsborough's interests, and his brothers's as evinced above may well have been a common denominator between them and the Reverend Mr Church ...and a reason to visit and be interested in Boxford.

Turning once more to the picture itself, I have found Joy Baileys thesis useful for highlighting aspects of "Woodland Setting ..." The full discussion can be found here http://theses.whiterose.ac.uk/3843/1/JOY_BAILEY_-_THESIS.pdf The thesis focuses on the motif of the road and the associated ideas of travel and movement in the early Suffolk landscapes of Gainsborough's Suffolk period.

Despite there being no discernible road in "Woodland ..." there is the suggestion of an informal diagonal path in the painting. There is also a clear depiction of direction, travel and movement in the two figures making their progress in opposite directions along the path. The further figure is making his way away from the viewer on a pale horse while the second figure is making his way riding -or walking, the image I have is a little less clear- towards the viewer accompanied by a dog. The third figure is sedentary but gazing fixedly on a hawk hovering near a neighbouring tree.

Like many other Gainsborough Landscapes of this period the view contains people and buildings but apart from their presence together in the picture there appears to be an absence of relatedness between the three figures portrayed. In the majority of Gainsborough's landscapes, the figures are united through proximity or purpose. They are engaged in activity or resting after it. Often they are country people engaged in their livelihood. Not here, it seems.

Unlike many of Gainsborough's other landscapes, there is no road or path in the landscape which leads the people portrayed, or our eyes which follow them, into the scene. The space which the individuals occupy seems untamed, and yet there is direction and a route through this natural setting: there is perspective, which provides order and direction. Closer to the village the nature has been brought under control and our eye is led there, and to the church, which locates the community and the culture. The concentration of the composition makes the three individuals as much "of" the countryside as other Gainsborough Landscapes which portray individuals of the countryside.

Gainsborough's Mr and Mrs Andrews, painted around the time of "Woodland ...", are also of the countryside, but they are of their tamed, cultivated, countryside. Details such as the precision of the drilled crop, the sporting gun, the enclosed fields and animals proclaim their

proprietary place in the countryside. Their costume distances them from the dress of the countryperson and asserts their place in the social and cultural world we are reminded of when we see the distant churches in the background.

Later portraits of the Gentry, landed gentry like John Pamplin excluded, are of significant and important individuals placed in but not of the countryside. They are often painted with a "backcloth" of foliage or a glimpse of countryside but primacy, rightly, is given to the subject of the portrait.

To my mind there is a uniqueness about "Woodland Setting..." that makes it difficult to place securely and exclusively in a given artistic genre. I have already found the title problematic, the location problematic and now I find it problematic to identify what kind of painting it is. It is more than a landscape and, some might argue, less than a portrait.

My solution is to suggest that this is a picture of an emotional landscape. As such, it anticipates a genre of art not yet greatly explored in the 1740's. If it is seen as such, is this a reason why Constable admired Gainsborough's landscapes? This painting has many qualities of a Romantic work. Briefly, the characteristics of Romanticism I see here are the close observation of sky and nature, the individuals proximity to, and harmony with nature and the emotional content of the painting.

If I am right, "Woodland Setting .." is an intensely personal painting, not a commodity but a visual representation of the relationships and associated feelings within the group of brothers.

Despite having had the opportunity to look at the Tate records I cannot trace the picture's ownership back before the 1880's but I think that it was retained in the family because of its significance. The confusion over titling may have arisen because the family knew what it was about; they didn't need a title. By the time it came to market the significance was lost to those who handled it and their best guess was incorrect.

So what is the emotional content? What is seen and created by Gainsborough here?

Firstly, his oldest brother Humphery, riding away in the picture, who literally went off to church. Like the Reverend Church of Boxford, he was a man of wide interests and, moreover, one of inventiveness and ingenuity. His practical application of the science and knowledge of his day brought him fame and success and his work with steam technology rivalled, some even say, enabled, James Watt's invention.

Secondly, riding towards Gainsborough is his older brother John. Behind us, looking at the orientation of the church, in the South West is, of course Sudbury. Around this time he had returned to make a life for himself in Sudbury. Reported by James Hamilton to be known as Scheming Jack, "erratic" and destined not to stray far from Sudbury on his return, the image of the accompanying dog provides a more nuanced reading of his character.

Finally, there is Gainsborough himself, focussed on the bird hovering above the scene, and like the artist, with sharp eyes taking in the detail. Humphery's perspective is out, John's is home and Thomas's is towards what is around or before him. He had already been away once, he had had his talent recognised and nurtured, he was on the cusp of taking his career forward. With his walking stick beside him, he is bareheaded, with his hat, cup-like on the ground. He is eager, alert, concentrating, receptive and respectful. He is in, and of, his element.

Nicholas Bristow

Editors Note:

It has been suggested that it is not boxford St Marys Church in the picture but St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone. However if you compare the tower of St Mary the Virgin with the tower in the painting it is fairly obvious that this could not be the case since Edwardstone does not have a spire none are there any houses in the foreground See Below



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following the elections on Thursday 7 May 2015

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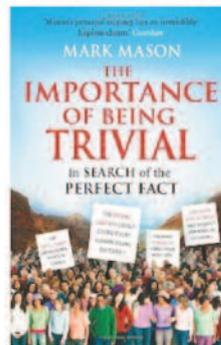
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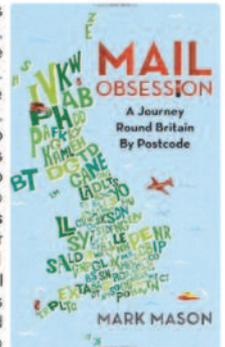
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the little facts that slip down the back of life's sofa. So I've ended up as the sort of guy who knows that Harrods dropped their apostrophe in 1921 (Sainsbury's still haven't), that Istanbul is the only city in the world to straddle two continents 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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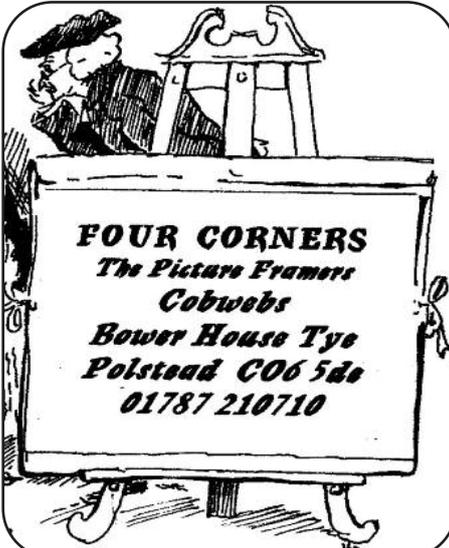
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Members of Milden Cricket Club travelled to the Hunts County Cricket League Presentation Evening to be awarded the Division 4 Championship trophy which they secured during the 2017 season. Matthe Hoggard MBE and 2005 Ashes winner was on hand to present the trophy to the Mildeners who in turn presented Hoggard with their new club tie which was gratefully received. A great evening was had by all, mixing with other successful clubs from the league and listening to some interesting and funny anecdotes from Hoggard. The Mildeners then continued their celebrations at the Edwardstone White Horse and were excellently looked after long into the evening by Mick Fallon who has been a massive contributor to our success.

By the time you read this pitch preparations will be well under way and the players will be netting on a Sunday morning right up until the first friendly fixture which is away at Twinstead and the full league programme in Division 3 of the Hunts County League gets under way on Sunday 22nd April, at home to Hartest and Coldham. All details of fixtures, nets and news about the club can be found on our website, www.mildencricket.com or our facebook page.

The 2018 season is an important one for Milden Cricket Club as it is 10 years since it was reformed as an active cricket club and we have progressed to have a vibrant, friendly and inclusive club. We aim to celebrate this milestone with events during the season but one we have earmarked is the John Bailey Cup that we compete against our friends at Edwardstone Cricket Club, this year Milden will host at the MCG and hopefully provide a bar and BBQ for everyone to enjoy. The fixture will be played on Sunday 1st July and will be a tough test for Milden as the holders of the cup, Edwardstone now play in Division 1. It would be fantastic if the residents of our surrounding communities attend, support and enjoy some cricket with us.

If you would like to get involved with Milden Cricket Club, please do contact us via the facebook or website. #UPTHEMELDES

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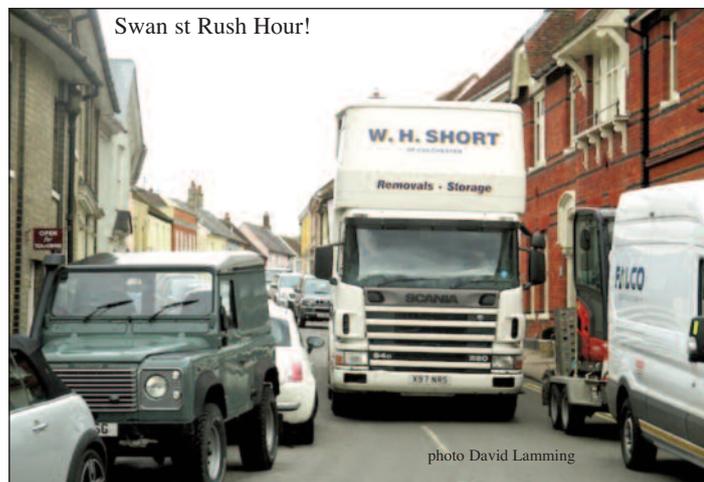
A chant of "Who Let the Dogs Out – Woof, Woof" went up as Newton Green's new ladies' captain sent her drive-in tee shot 133 yards down the first fairway.

Lizzie Johnson has a pet Flat Coated Retriever she walks when not striding the fairways of her golf club.

In a morning themed round Pets Are Us, many of her fellow members wore animal costumes, and vice-captain Cate Fraser appeared as cartoon character Deputy Dog.

In very cold and bitter weather, 50 ladies showed dogged determination as they set out on a 10-hole Delaney scramble competition, which had been preceded by Lizzie witnessing retiring captain Rebecca Evans putting out on the 18th green to complete her season.

Competition winners: 35 Gwyneth Ferriera, Sue Thurgate, Carol Durston and Elizabeth Underwood, 35.5 Pam Guilbert, Sally Cade, Jill Symon and Maggie Manby.



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photo David Lamming

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