

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green

January 2019
Vol 19 No 1



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

Nanny Nora (David Phillips) and Favor (Margaret Clapp)



Photo Trudi Wild

GRAND CHRISTMAS FAIR



The Grand Christmas Fair held in Boxford Village Hall on Friday 7th December raised £600 For the Village Hall funds.



GROTON'S CHEESE AND WINE PARTY



Groton's Cheese & Wine – Thanks to everyone who attended the Cheese & Wine Party. It was a very happy and fun event and I would like to thank Sheila & her helpers for the wonderful food, Anthea for manning the gift stall, Val for a well stocked Bar, Lisa for organising the Secret Santa, Stephen W. for all his help, all those who brought raffle prizes and Bob for being Master of Ceremonies. A grand total of £730.00 was raised for Church Funds. Thank you All. Happy Christmas and New Year. Our next fundraising event is the Quiz & Chips evening (with Quiz Master Peter) on 18th January 2019. Jayne Foster.



Photo's David Lamming

FleeceJazz

at Stoke by Nayland Hotel

Friday 28 December 8 £25.00.
Sax Appeal

Sax Appeal – showcasing saxophone and sax players, blowing away cobwebs and having so much fun for (try to believe this) over 40 years! The perfect late Christmas gift to yourself. Derek Nash Saxophone & Compositions, Matt Wates Saxophone, Brandon Allen Saxophone, Paul Booth Saxophone, Bob McKay Saxophone, Pete Adams Piano, Phil Scragg Bass, Mike Bradley Drums Derek Nash has been an irregular regular at Fleece Jazz both as player and leader almost from its start. Sax Appeal first played The Fleece on October 18th 1996, sandwiched between Tim Richard and Elaine Delmar. Derek always gives 100%, whether he is producing or engineering, protecting the beat, providing a picante evening, playing acoustically, featuring in Ronnie Scott's Blues Explosion, leading Sax Appeal or hamming it up with someone's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. Watch as he tries to upstage everyone on Hootenanny!

Friday 4 January 8 £118.00
4CHRIS INGHAM AND MARK CROOKS
GETZ: A MUSICAL PORTRAIT

'Ingham has a warm and generous way with music... his style is based on rhythmic presence and dynamic propulsion' DOWNBEAT
Chris Ingham PIANO Mark Crooks SAX/CLARINET Arnie Somogyi BASS George Double DRUMS

Friday 11 January 8 £20.00.
TONY KOFI AND THE ORGANISATION:
'POINT BLANK

'A killer band with real bite' JAZZWISE
Tony Kofi BARITONE SAXOPHONE Pete Whittaker ORGAN Simon Fersby GUITAR Pete Cater DRUMS

Friday 18 January 8 £18.00.
NIGEL PRICE QUARTET

'Lovers of jazz across the UK –prepare to be taken by storm' THE JAZZ MANN
Nigel Price GUITAR Jim Watson PIANO Vasilis Xenopoulos TENOR SAX Pete Levett DRUMS

Friday 25 January 8 £18.00.
ALAN BARNES QUARTET

Whether on alto, baritone or tenor, Barnes' melodic sense bypasses the usual scale-running clichés that pepper the playing of lesser bop disciples PETER MARSH · BBC MUSIC REVIEW
Alan Barnes SAXES Robin Aspland PIANO Arnie Somogyi BASS Sebestiaan de Krom DRUMS

Friday 1 February 8 £16.00.
BASIL HODGE QUARTET

Basil's rhapsodic style gives the Band a thick full sound. He is a fleet and driving pianist.
Basil Hodge PIANO Ed Jones TENOR SAX Oli Hayhurst BASS Winston Clifford DRUMS

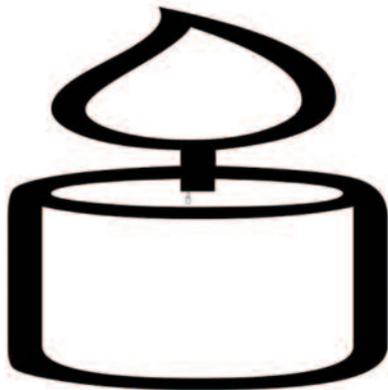
To buy tickets for any gig, obtain further information or add your name to the mailing list please telephone the BOX OFFICE:

01787 211865

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

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

THE JANUARY LETTER PAULINE LAMMING



As I write this we must all be aware of the uncertainty of our future here in the UK. Politically, we are in a state of turmoil, and who knows what the outcome will be. People more learned than me have offered countless opinions on the far-reaching effect Brexit might (or might not) have upon our lives. We need also to remember and pray for the many people across our world who live with huge uncertainties every day: in places of war or famine, living under harsh

regimes or where there is a lack of freedom, or in extreme poverty, as well as those who are ill or dying.

And so, we approach Christmas... and the word that stays with me is HOPE.

We repeat the Christmas story each year to give us a sense of familiarity in an unsettling world. That familiarity can give us a sense of security, which in turn may prompt a springboard for hope for the future—that life will somehow be better: we will weather the storms as in times past, and maybe we can contribute to that hope in our own small ways and in our own families and neighbourhoods and workplaces. Only today there was a story reporting on the advance made with genomes, that had brought healing to a little girl with complex medical problems. My sister had her stolen purse returned intact by someone who had found it discarded, and she didn't even want the postage. Good things in our world to give us hope in, and for, humanity, which sadly don't make the headlines!

And New Year? Our resolutions traditionally at New Year are often all about hope: to be fitter, healthier, nicer, slimmer (usually failing in my case!), but the New Year, with its promise of lighter evenings and the return of spring and new life after the dark of winter, is all about new beginnings, new potentials, new hopes. Yes, life may feel a battle at times, but the hope is that we will be able to manage it, to find new ways around difficulties and, as the Minnie Louise Haskins poem says, "*Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way... And he led me toward the hills and the breaking of day...*"



So, we hear the Jesus story again, of a baby born in uncertain times, who grew up to offer humankind a hope and vision of a different path – of peace and tolerance and inclusiveness and love towards our neighbours, to teach us of an ongoing walk with God following his way. I am reminded of the words from an earlier prophet "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6 v.8). As Jesus grew up to teach those around him, he simplified even this to "Love God, and love your neighbour." May we again try and live as well as sing the

Christmas message, and go into the New Year with hope for a better world—both globally and locally—and play our part where we can.

"The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in Thee tonight"

A PEACEFUL AND HOPEFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Dear Friends,

Christmas greetings, thanks and blessings from Reepham!

I can't believe that it is only four months since Rufus and I left you all to retire to Norfolk! It feels like a lot longer, as I miss you all so much! For those of you who have also retired recently, some of you, like me, will have no doubt discovered that the change can be a huge shock! Going from often over busy, sometimes stressful lives, to having initially an almost empty diary and email folder, and leaving behind colleagues, friends, and also, in my case, loved parishioners, can make the days seem very empty. So adjusting slowly to retirement for both Rufus and for me has been something of a rollercoaster! Of course, not only did we retire, but we also experienced other major changes, moving to a new, more open-plan house and a completely new area.

We are so lucky (blessed) though, in our wonderful new modern home – very light and in a lovely courtyard setting just a minute's walk from shops, cafes and of course, the church. We have been made very welcome by our neighbours and I have already got to know many people (if not all their names!) through church services and events and through the weekly "village" coffee morning. One surprising thing is that I now swim weekly with three other ladies in a small private heated pool – which is bliss! On the ministry front, I have already applied for, and received my official "Permission to Officiate", so will be joining the local benefice team and, from January, taking a service probably about once a month, plus helping out with clergy holidays. Even before I received that, I was added to the intercessions, reader and sidesperson rotas! The church here is very lively, welcoming and inclusive. As well as the traditional services, there is monthly Messy Church and Café Church and occasional Taize or Celtic services.

Rufus has worked so hard sorting out all kinds of things for the new house and garden and continues to research and write the last few articles for the BRN about those who died in WW1. We have also been delighted to welcome several visitors from the Box River Benefice who have made the journey into the wilds of Norfolk (only 2 hours from Boxford, and mainly dual carriageway in fact – A11, A47!). It is lovely to keep up the contact with you and I hope that will continue to happen (contact details again below).



As you know, we were overwhelmed by your wonderful generosity in individual gifts and the collection you made for us and I thought you would like to the two major items we have bought with your gift. Firstly a wonderfully comfortable reclining chair for my study - very good for reading, praying and reflecting, remembering you all – and dozing! And secondly a small sofa for our attic guest room. Both hugely appreciated – thank you again so much.

Well, it will feel very

strange not to be preparing for and leading all the Christmas Services this year! I know I will miss it all, but it will be very good for the first time in many years to be able to spend more of that seasonal time with Rufus. I will be thinking of those so kindly leading your services and will pray over the coming weeks for the right person to come as your new rector. Meanwhile, I send you my love and wish you all a very peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Blessings, *Judith*

Tel (or text) 07484 862962; Email: judith.sweetman@btinternet.com

Address: 15, The Dial, Reepham, NORWICH. NR10 4LX



New Year, New Youthful Glow...

SkinBase Medical Microdermabrasion is the easy way to flawless skin. And this January, you get 1/3 off!

Our best-selling Microdermabrasion facial is the ultimate treatment for anyone wanting to improve the look and feel of their skin. A painless alternative to chemical peels, it has similarly impressive results.

This treatment intensively exfoliates, resurfaces and rehydrates the skin using a fine jet of crystals. This stimulates blood flow and encourages cell-renewal; leaving you with brighter, tighter, younger-looking skin.



And this month, we are offering our SkinBase Microdermabrasion treatment for just £50

January Skin Special

*Experience the incredible effects of a Skinbase facial for just **£50.00** (usually 75.00)**

Call: 01787 211 000 to book

* Offer valid until 31/01/2019.

Results are progressive, with each treatment you will continue to see an improvement in your skin's appearance.

Uses a combination of abrasion and vacuum action to unblock pores and **remove impurities** from the skin.

Polishes away the very outermost layers of skin revealing a fresh, healthy and **radiant complexion**.

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Exfoliates deeper than traditional exfoliation methods which makes it **more effective** treating fine lines and wrinkles and removing pigmentation and scarring.

Creates a smooth and even skin surface, ensuring makeup glides on for **flawless looking skin**.

The vacuum action increases the rate of skin rejuvenation, **stimulates collagen** production, consequently skin is plumper & more elastic.

Look your best with **SkinBase™**

THE SILK TRADE OF ENGLAND - A Talk by Richard Humphries

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Richard to the Parish Room to share his knowledge of the English silk trade over the centuries and the key involvement of our royal lineage. Reflecting his local silk industry fame, more than 40 guests came along to hear him speak; they all went home delighted as it was a quite superb talk from a man passionate about his craft.

Richard began by giving us a potted history of his 52 year career in the silk weaving industry, which began in the mid 1960s. Leaving school at an early age he was apprenticed into the trade as a design trainee with Warner and Sons Ltd, learning all areas of the business, and he was the last to graduate when the firm ceased trading in 1971. He saw an opportunity and decided to start his own weaving company with his £50 redundancy money (roughly £600 today), managing to buy the machinery at scrap value. He was just 20 years of age in 1972 when he founded the business, in the same building where the firm operates from today - Ashburton Lodge in Cornard Road, opposite Sainsburys.

Richard then told us the history of silk weaving, which began in China around 3000 BC. According to Confucius, in 2640 BC Chinese princess Xi Ling Shi was the first to reel a cocoon of silk, which had allegedly dropped into her cup of tea - the Chinese had discovered the life cycle of the silk worm which they were to keep secret for the next 3000 years.

In the 3rd Century BC Chinese silk fabrics found their way throughout the whole of Asia, transported overland to the west along the Silk Road and by sea to Japan. The Romans discovered the wondrous fabrics in Asia, though they knew nothing of their origin, so in 552 AD Emperor Justinian sent two monks on an industrial espionage mission to Asia. They returned with silkworm eggs hidden inside bamboo walking sticks, and from then on, sericulture (silk farming) spread across Asia Minor and Greece.

In the 7th Century Arabs conquered the Persians and captured magnificent silks in the process, helping to spread sericulture and silk weaving through Africa, Sicily and Spain. By the 10th Century Andalusia was Europe's main silk-producing centre. Marco Polo's journeys in China then led to the development of commercial exchanges between East and West, and to an increasing use of silk; in this way, Italy started a silk industry as early as the 12th Century.

Between 1450 & 1466, Lyon became a major warehouse for foreign silks, creating a massive outflow of capital, so in 1466 Louis XI declared his intention to "introduce the art and craft of making gold and silk fabrics in our city of Lyon". In 1536, François I gave Lyon the monopoly of silk imports and trade, effectively creating the Lyon silk industry. Later, in 1598, a French royal decree - the Edict of Nantes - established toleration for Huguenots, granting freedom of worship, legal equality and ending the Wars of Religion. This Edict was later revoked by Louis XIV in 1685 and French Huguenots once again were subject to religious persecution. They fled the country in large numbers, and as many were expert throwsters and weavers, contributed to the development of the silk industry in Germany, Great Britain, Italy and Switzerland. Richard then told us about the history of cloth weaving in England, in which East Anglia excelled in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Before the industrial revolution, most trades were controlled by Guilds and Liveries; the Worshipful Company of Weavers was formed in 1133, and by 1155 had been granted a royal charter. Weaving width of cloth was regulated, along with the weavers who made it; masters were limited in the number of journeymen and apprentices allowed, and paid rent based on the number of looms operated.

Most wool was sheared locally and hand spun in a cottage industry by hundreds of spinners who supplied the demand from hand weavers from London to Norwich. Spinners in the town of Worsted discovered they could spin finer and tighter yarns by combing the fibres, which meant that weavers could make more refined and stronger cloths in and around the city of Norwich. Most popular were plain weaves and twills, but sadly we were not very good with colour, so a trade developed selling cloth to Holland and the low-countries, to be bought back as coloured cloth at much higher prices.

After revocation of the Edict of Nantes, around 150,000 Huguenots came to England; they were initially much welcomed, but because they were better weavers, it was not long before there were complaints from the natives about losing jobs, creating much panic. Authorities decided the solution was to bring all the Huguenots together into one area. Spitalfields in London was the chosen area, which at the time comprised fields and nursery gardens, so peasants were removed from the land and streets laid out for the silk weavers. According to Richard, this cost around £200,000, or some £42 million today, but had been repaid by the Huguenots within 10 years, very clearly demonstrating the profitability of the new silk weaving business.

It seems there then followed a period of rapid development of different

fabrics between the Huguenot silk weavers and the Norwich wool weavers, with each trying to outdo the other. Spitalfields produced a lustrous silk fabric, in Prince of Wales green, used as backdrops to paintings; then it was discovered that woollen cloth could be given a shiny look by glazing, or pressing down very hard on the fabric.

Richard then told us a story about a bed his company had recently restored, originally belonging to George II. At that time when a monarch died, the Lord Chamberlain, then the Duke of Devonshire, was entitled to take, as a perquisite for personal use, 'any furniture from the royal palaces regarded as worn-out or out dated'. A large 4-poster bed subsequently found its way via Devonshire House, the Duke's London residence, to Chatsworth House where it remains. Working closely with the house curator and independent textile historian Annabel Westman, Humphries Weaving Co reproduced the fabric on the state bed to make new treatments for the headboard and window drapes - pure silk damask in crimson and gold. As Richard commented, "the king must have needed sunglasses when in bed!"

He told us how damaging sunlight is to silk, rotting it within perhaps just 10 years if fully exposed to bright sunlight, which explains why so many of our historic houses and palaces have such dark interiors, and why restoration of nationally important fabrics has been at the core of Richard's work.

We were then treated to see, though sadly not touch (because silk is easily damaged) a great number of samples of many of the restored fabrics. What follows is a small selection from the tremendous range displayed to us, with photos taken from the Humphries Weaving Co website; it is highly recommended readers visit this which also has a superb 10 minute video showing the many stages Richard and his team had to go through to restore the fabrics of the Brighton Royal Pavillion: <https://www.humphriesweaving.co.uk/>

Audley End

A largely early 17th Century family country mansion, now under the management of English Heritage and renowned for being one of the finest surviving Jacobean properties in Britain. I have been many times to this superb estate, having no idea that a local firm was so involved with interior restoration - on my next visit I will be sure to pay much more attention to the work done.

The Great Drawing Room,

The whole interior scheme of the room was personally designed by Robert Adam, from the furniture to the ceiling and even the pattern for the silk wall hangings and curtains. Silk tissue was narrow woven in crimson, green and straw by Humphries Weaving for festoon curtains, the design being redrawn from the best surviving documents.

The Saloon

Previously the King's Great Chamber, the present Saloon was created by Sir John Griffin Griffin (this really was his name) in the 1760's to display portraits of the heritage line of Audley End's owners. The 19th Century sitting room became a favourite family sitting room and the family were said to take advantage of breakfast in the bay window where the floor is raised to take advantage of the view (I can personally attest that the view is fantastic). Humphries Weaving supplied silk damask curtains with glazed wool tammy (*) linings in the Saloon to match with the existing mid 18th Century decoration.

(*) *A plain-woven often glazed cloth of fine worsted or woolen and cotton, formerly used for dresses, curtains, and linings*

The Library

The family sitting room when there were no guests in the house, with furniture and decoration chosen for comfort rather than elegance (another superb room, though sadly the books are all locked away). Humphries Weaving were commissioned to make silk damask (*) curtains with glazed wool tammy linings for the restoration of the window drapes in the Library.

(*) *A firm lustrous fabric (of linen, cotton, silk, or rayon), made with flat patterns in a satin weave (+) on a plain-woven ground on jacquard looms (+) A weave in which warp threads interlace with filling threads to produce a smooth-faced fabric*

The Dining Room

The current room was made by combining two rooms in 1825, of Jacobean design, less formal and grand, offering comfort and a more intimate dining experience. With stunning double aspect views of the surrounding Capability Brown landscape (which is itself simply stunning and well worth a visit), the walls were painted green to blend both inside and outside. Humphries Weaving produced a Moiré silk and linen green taboret stripe for the pull up curtains described in the house inventory; reproduced from a surviving original fragment discovered in one of the dolls house rooms, where two tiny curtains were made from the fabric.

I was hoping to give definitions of moiré and taboret, but it seems this

The Brighton Pavilion

The Saloon

Described as 'His Majesty's Geranium and Gold', and working from a watercolour of the room, Annabel Westman described to Richard that the design included 'yellow bird flower and scroll pattern'. Diving into the Humphries Weaving archive incredibly Richard found a black and white photo of a design fitting the description. From this small 6x4 image a colleague began redrawing the design by hand to the full scale of 21 inches wide and 50 inches in length. A further 50 hours of CAD work followed, carefully plotting the trellis of rosettes that form part of the pattern and quarter drop repeat.

The Geranium and Gold pure silk tissue woven by Humphries Weaving has been used in wall panels, magnificent drapery and to cover furniture.

The talk now moved ahead in time, to when the weavers of Spitalfields were taxed at the behest of the Norwich weavers who could not compete, in reality a tax on making or weaving silk. It was not long before Huguenots moved out of London to where the new tax did not apply - Braintree, Halstead and Sudbury - also around this time the traditional 'three hand span' or 21 inches width of cloth (still the width of wallpaper today) was superseded, with additional hand span widths now being made.

Windsor Castle

Following the huge fire in November 1992, more than 100 rooms were destroyed or damaged at the Castle, including much of the State Apartments.

King's Drawing Room

Fabric for restoration of this room was the first project undertaken by Humphries Weaving following return to Ashburton Lodge in Sudbury, supplying a green silk and cotton damask for the room walling.

Crimson Drawing Room

The decorative scheme of the Crimson Drawing Room preceding the castle fire was designed by Queen Victoria, in a far more restrained taste than that of the George IV interiors. She favoured an Italian design called the Torcello (from an Italian island in the Venice Lagoon), using it abundantly in many of her residences. Pure silk in crimson woven wide width for the restoration of furniture, window drapes and walling panels. Wide woven fabric was often used to display wealth and opulence as it was more expensive than the standard narrow woven - it required the weaver to hold a much wider stance.

Green Drawing Room

A long room with an impressive bay window. A deep green pure silk damask woven wide width for the restoration in 'George and Mary Damask'. The fabric can be seen in wall panels and on the furniture suite, as well as the restoration of the window drapes.

Grand Reception Room.

Crimson and gold damask in pure silk were used for the furnishings and window drapes. Fragments of the original fabric from the Royal Collection were copied and redrawn in the company studio, with design restoration overseen by Pamela Lewis, Richard Humphries and Derek Chatten. The window drapes replaced the fire destroyed Farleigh Tissue, which was one of the largest most complicated hand woven fabrics ever produced by Warner & Sons at New Mills in Braintree.

Guilt furniture restoration and fabric for walling

The Torcello design is prevalent around the castle in many rooms, and a favoured design of Queen Victoria. Humphries Weaving were commissioned to weave a silk and cotton version in crimson, which was used for the restoration of various pieces of guilt furniture and for the restoration of the State Crimson Drawing Room.

State Dining Room window drapes

Private apartments created for George IV include the State Dining room, amongst the most richly decorated interiors in the Castle now used by the Queen for official entertaining. The room features a large bay window, with pure silk narrow woven damask in crimson and straw for the window drapes.

What Richard started as a very small operation has now become a highly prestigious and renowned silk weaving company designing fabrics for many of the most important interiors in Britain and abroad. We had been given a wonderful insight into the restoration world of interiors of international importance that requires research, development and crucial planning, as well as working with architects, conservators, curators and interior decorators - including the crucial colour matching, quality control and finally production which must all be in place for a successful outcome.

Richard's work at Hampton Court and the Royal Palaces restoring the State Apartments was fully recognised in 1985 when he was awarded the MBE for services to the textile industry, and his company rightfully takes its place with the other local silk weavers, which together ensure that Sudbury really is the capital of silk weaving in the country.

To conclude, Richard brought incredible passion, humour and warmth to

a subject of which most people have little knowledge; his brilliant talk was an absolute tour de force thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present, and I for one can't recall when a speaker had so many questions afterwards, reflecting the interest generated by his magnificent talk.

Our next events will be at 7.30 in The Parish Room on:

12th December: Bonfires and Bells

Kate Jewel will tell us all about the rituals and Festivals in the Medieval Suffolk Landscape.

January: The Green Man - Our annual Member Only event

Roger Green, a real favourite of LWHS, will tell us about these symbols & motifs which exist in cultures around the world though remain something of an enigma; together we will explore this fascinating subject through his talk, which will include many picture examples.

silkworm cocoon on mulberry leaf



Sample weaving for Windsor castle



FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

➤ Suffolk County Council plan proposals for up to £10m of junction improvements in Sudbury.

A multi-million pound programme to upgrade busy road junctions in Sudbury is being considered by Suffolk County Council, as part of its works to ease traffic congestion in the town.

In spring 2018, Suffolk County Council commissioned independent experts from WSP to look at options to relieve traffic congestion in and around Sudbury. Schemes considered included a western or southern bypass, changes to parking and public transport and junction improvements.

That detailed and technical work is now nearing completion, and the county council has been advised by WSP that the junction works will be the most cost-effective way of relieving traffic congestion.

Whilst the option of a building bypass would provide a lot of benefits to the town, the cost at between £50m to £70m is prohibitively high, resulting in a low benefit cost ratio. This option will therefore not be taken forward at this time, with junction improvements being looked at in more detail.

Suffolk County Council will continue to work closely with the community stakeholder forum which includes elected representatives of local organisations such as Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, Essex County Council, Sudbury town council and nearby parish councils.

➤ Suffolk's Most Active Community Award winners announced

On 7 November, it was announced that Clare, Brantham, and Hintlesham and Chattisham have scooped the honours in this year's Suffolk's Most Active Community Awards.

The awards, now in their fifth year, are organised by Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Their purpose is to recognise and celebrate communities in Suffolk that are going the extra mile to encourage their residents to be active.

➤ Suffolk wins praise at the National Community Energy Awards 2018

On 5 November, it was announced that the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership has received a national award for supporting local communities to be more energy efficient.

An expert panel of judges awarded the Local Authority Award to the Partnership for its close working with local organisations. This includes exploring how organisations can be more energy efficient, helping to source funding, producing a community energy toolkit, providing technical support and investing in energy efficiency installations. In addition, over 120 community buildings have received in-depth advice and support to be more energy efficient.

➤ The Hold – A New Building for the Suffolk Archives - Construction is underway

Construction of The Hold building is well underway, with groundworks, piling, and foundations all part of this phase of construction.

The Hold will deliver a new home for the majority of Suffolk's unique archival collections, as well as state-of-the-art public facilities including seminar rooms and a 200-seat auditorium.

The new building, which will be situated near the junction of Fore Street and Grimwade Street in Ipswich, will be part of the University of Suffolk campus and will be run by the county and the university together. The construction will focus on the strongrooms first, where the archives will be kept. The building will formally open to the public in Spring 2020. Once finished, more than 100 direct and indirect full-time jobs will be created as well as training and apprenticeships.

➤ Have you spotted the new Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service vehicle on the road? Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has a new-look vehicle taking to the roads of Suffolk.

The fire appliance used to train its drivers has been wrapped in new graphics, showing the fire service's commitment to being open and accessible to everyone. It is keen to share the message that there are career opportunities in the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service for all.

It does not matter what your background is or where you live, you can pursue a career with the service.

Being a member of the team does not only involve being called to put out fires, firefighters attend many other emergencies such as dealing with chemical spillages, rescuing animals or supporting emergency service colleagues at road traffic collisions.

The service also invests a lot of time in ensuring accidents do not happen in the first place. Their prevention work and involves going into schools, working with local businesses and communities.

The service also has non-operational staff who maintain their vehicles, uniforms and equipment, manage their IT and provide crucial administration support.

Vacancies with Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service are published on www.suffolkjobsdirect.org.

On call firefighters are constantly being recruited and recruitment for full time firefighters is expected to take place again in 2019. For more information, search for Suffolk Fire and Rescue on www.suffolk.gov.uk.

Wishing all my readers a very Happy Christmas

Tel 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796 Email:

james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

First of all I would hope that everyone has had or is having a great Christmas Holiday and also I wish everyone a great and successful 2019. While we are all I am sure hope that things turn out well in the end I feel that we may have some difficult times ahead for our great country. Like many others I talk to I am nervous about the direction we seem to be taking as a country and the lack of statesmanship and leadership from those who have been elected to lead us is truly alarming. Politics it seems is a dangerous thing both Nationally as well as locally, especially when those of supposedly the same persuasion fight amongst themselves and forget those of us who work hard to just earn a living, pay our bills and bring up the next generation who if we are not careful will be left the poorer by our mistakes and lack of thought for the future. They will not thank us for this.

Nearer to home the issues concerning Babergh are setting a balanced budget for 2019 with the ever decreasing grants allocated from Central Government, we are keeping most of our services intact but it is getting harder to do so and we are constantly seeking innovative ways to provide as good a service as we can with less funding, this has not been helped by our move to Ipswich and the increased costs of travelling for Councillors and Staff alike, we are also now remote from our electorate which does not look good and the working conditions are alien to many of our staff who are trying to keep their heads up and the services afloat, we owe a real debt of gratitude to all of them.

Locally I am being asked about what will happen to the spare piece of land at Goodlands farm now that the application for 24 houses has been quashed, this is still in private ownership but I will hope to make some approaches next year to see how we stand and whether the village can be allowed to use it for other purposes than houses.

Thankfully our waste services are back up and running well in time for Christmas and we are relieved and thankful that we now have a full complement of drivers to run the service effectively and keep up our green recycling efforts. The Bottle Banks that are currently situated at the White Hart will very soon be moved up to the corner of the playing field beside the storage containers, this is for a trial period but hopefully can be made permanent if it is successful, this will leave the centre of the village without a convenient recycling point for bottles but efforts will be made to place a facility back in the centre as well in the near future.

It was great to see so many people attending the Groton Local Needs Housing consultation and thank you for all the comments which were mainly positive, I am hoping this much needed local scheme for those who either live in or have a strong connection to Groton will now proceed to a planning application some time around the end of this year.

Please everyone in Boxford try your best to complete and return the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire as it is our village and we should all have a say in how it is shaped for the future.

Feeling much stronger now and almost recovered from surgery so short break for me and then back to work and Council duties. Have a nice Christmas.

FEEDBACK FROM JAMES CARTLIDGE MP MP for South Suffolk

As attention turns to Christmas – and a welcome escape from Westminster drama – it falls on me to make my annual festive appeal. It's very simple: please support our local shops, pubs, restaurants, kiosks, markets, social events and village halls. For all the gloom around the future of the high street, we have some fantastic outlets in South Suffolk to buy gifts or enjoy a few hours of pleasant socialising. I hope that all readers take full advantage.

Of course, some may say – so what are you doing about it and what action is the Government taking? Personally, I always try to support my local farm shop, particularly with an order for a locally reared turkey, and if we eat out it's usually at one of the excellent pubs in the constituency where the standard of dining continues to go from strength to strength. It is unrealistic to expect everyone to do all of their Christmas shopping in local family owned stores, and I imagine most people reading this article will do a fair chunk of their shopping online and at supermarkets, as well as in smaller shops. But we can all 'do our bit', and I am included in that.

As for the Government, we should be clear that there is no easy answer to the structural challenges facing businesses that sell via conventional retail premises. The rise of internet shopping has been blistering, and has brought many economic advantages, driving down prices in a range of retail channels. But, as the headlines of well-known chains struggling to adapt have underscored, these are challenging times.

Thus, for me, a priority has been a fairer tax system, so that shops and family firms pay lower business rates, and - without hitting internet start-ups - mega-wealthy web firms contribute more. I therefore warmly welcomed the Budget's twin track approach: cutting business rates for small business rates by up to a third; introducing a new tax on 'tech giants'.

However and wherever you spend this festive break, my I take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best for Christmas and the new year.

James



Elaine Carpenter

N.R.H.P., C.H.P., Dip Psychology
Phone: 01787 210601
Mobile: 07929 744072

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BOXFORD'S NEW LITTLE WINE SHOP



Box Valley Wine is a great little wine shop run by Vanessa van Heerden and her partner and local business owner, Steve Egglestone from Box Valley Building Services.

Vanessa studied Viticulture and Viniculture in South Africa and has bought her passion, enthusiasm and wealth of experience back to her home village to run a much welcome addition to Boxford's village centre. They have a great range of wines from all over the world, however are not just limited to what's in stock. Vanessa has access to an extensive range of wines and is more than happy to source by request. They also offer a free gift wrapping service and local free delivery so whether its a special surprise gift or a case of party wines, they will deliver at your request.

Open Hours

Monday - CLOSED Tuesday - 2pm - 6pm Wednesday - 2pm - 6pm
Thursday - 10am - 6pm Friday - 10am - 6pm Saturday - 10am - 6pm
Sunday CLOSED

2 Broad Street, Boxford, Suffolk.

Email: boxvalleywine@gmail.com

Telephone: 01787 211689


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HARRY BUCKLEDEE



Today, December 11th, our beloved Mum and Dad returned home to Kersey. This is where they were married in September 1946 and they wanted their ashes to be buried in the church yard.

A small group of close family attended a lovely ceremony conducted by the Reverend Jackson Crompton-Battersby and afterwards we raised a toast to them in Kersey Bell.

So they are together forever and much missed.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2019.

Look out for Dad's daffodils in Newton next Spring.

Janet and Steve and families

Bates Wells & Braithwaite



& Braithwaite

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NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

3PR Stats for November 2018

The group's First Responders covered 221hrs and had 7 call outs.

Stowmarket Choral

Stowmarket Choral finished the year on a high, by being part of the BBC Radio Suffolk Children in Need concert at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds. The evening was recorded to be broadcast on Christmas Eve.

We will start the new year's rehearsals on Wednesday 9 January at Chilton Community Primary School at 7.30pm, when we will begin rehearsing Brahms' German Requiem for our next concert on Saturday 30 March at the United Reformed Church, Stowmarket.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact secretary@stowmarketchorale.org.uk.

Hadleigh Boxford Patient Participation Group (PPG)

One New Year resolution we'd like you to make for 2019, it's this one: "I promise not to miss any health appointments"

In November 2018, Hadleigh and Boxford surgeries had a combined rate of 274 missed appointments for GP's and Nurses. For the 6 months, June to November the figure was 1132. Please help the Practice to help you and keep your appointment or, if you can't attend, ring in and cancel. Here are some of the most common New Year health resolutions, with a link to help you get started and achieve your goal.

- Get active: boost your fitness with fun and practical ideas to help you get into shape, by signing on to our new 'Inactive2Active' Wellbeing Service (details available at reception) or by using the link to visit Couch to 5K, Strength and Flex and the NHS Fitness Studio.
- Lose weight: get practical tips to lose excess weight, including getting started, healthy food swaps, and our 12-week weight loss plan.
- Quit smoking: we've got all you need to help you achieve your goal to stop smoking, including the free NHS Smokefree app.
- Drink less alcohol: calculate your units, get tips on cutting down, track your drinking and find out where to get help and support.
- Eat more fruit and veg: whether you're cooking for a family or eating on the go, our tips and recipes can help you get your 5 A Day.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/10-tips-to-keep-your-new-years-resolution/>

The members of the Hadleigh & Boxford PPG wish you all A Happy and Healthy 2019

Shoebox Appeal 2018

Thank you so much for your generosity again. We have sent 111 boxes from the village this year to make a lot of children very happy. We had lots of knitted hats, scarves and gloves, bags and hand puppets thanks to those who knit for us throughout the year. Please keep knitting for next year. We have easy patterns for all of them. We don't know yet which country the boxes will go to but wherever they go you can be sure they will bring joy to the children waiting for them.

Any information from Ann Porter 210581 Shirley Watling 210024 Jennie Lindsley 210520

Children in Uganda

At the recent sale in Mary's House an amazing £680 was raised for children in Uganda. Joan and Alison would like to thank all those who came and supported us. Special and heartfelt thanks go to those who donated cakes and preserves and those who helped on the day. Many thanks *Joan Smith and Alison Brain*.

MADRIGALIA

In March 2018 I started a small choir called Madrigalia which made its debut at the Boxford Open Gardens & has been invited to sing again next year. Our numbers have steadily grown & we've sung at 2 further events: the last one being Sat 8 Dec when we took part in a Carol Concert to raise money for Great Waldlingfield Church, & The Rotary Club has invited us to sing in their charity concert at St Gregory's next Feb to raise funds for 3 local charities. We are a small friendly non profit making group meeting fortnightly in Boxford. We sing for enjoyment, but our repertoire is interesting & challenging with mostly unaccompanied songs from madrigals to present day. We are looking for 2 or 3 more men to join us. They must have a good singing voice, & some facility in reading music is an advantage but not essential.

If you are interested in joining us or wish to enquire, please contact Sue at e Mail: woodlandcot@tiscali.co.uk or alternatively give me a call on 01787 210913 or visit our website <http://madrigalia.uk/>

Laura wins the K&S Cup



Photo David Lamming

The 2018 Winner of the K&S Cup is Laura Flockhart.

The cup is awarded to recognise the fantastic contribution Laura has made to the Boxford community. Laura has always been ready and willing to help at village events, especially those involving Boxford Bike Club. She has donated seemingly endless amounts of time and enthusiasm and for that we all thank her.

Do you know of an inspirational young person?

To celebrate Boxford's brilliant youngsters, The K&S Cup is given annually to a young person in the village that has made a positive difference to the Boxford community over the last 12 months.

The winner receives £50 in cash and is awarded the cup with their name engraved on it. Do you know of anyone aged 19 or under that you feel would be an ideal winner next year? If so, let us know by nominating online at <http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/KandSCup.cfm>

BOXFORD BOUNTY

The Boxford Bounty is a local lottery for Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton. Through the Community Council, the Bounty provides financial support for many local groups and interests. The following groups have benefited from direct grants in the past few years:

1st Boxford Brownies	Boxford Guides	Boxford Fireworks
Carpet Bowls Club	Boxford Village Hall	Breast Cancer Care
Boxford Bowls Club	Over Sixties Club	Boxford Tennis Club
Boxford Spinney	Edwardstone Mill Green Trust	
Friends of Boxford School	Sunflower Playgroup	BoxRiver Club
Boxford Bridge Club	Boxford Playingfields	Boxford Rovers
Boxford United Charities	Boxford Scouts	Boxford Cycle Club

Tickets are available at a cost of £10.00 per year, which guarantees entry to six draws.

The prizes for each draw are:

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

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

Boxford Bounty, 39, Daking Ave, Boxford, Suffolk CO10 5QA

Or ring Mark Miller on 01787 211596

e-mail mark.miller@talktalk.net and we will arrange a call from your local collector. The Boxford Bounty is organised on behalf of Boxford Community Council registered charity No 304862

Wot's On

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

JANUARY 2019

Wednesday 9th 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting
 Tuesday 15th 2.00 pm Fireside Club - tba
 Saturday 26th 10.00 am Newton Green Trust coffee morning
 Tuesday 29th 2.00 pm Fireside Club - tba

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)

ALL THAT JAZZ!

The Jazz Century - Cakewalk to Culture by Dr Graham Platts

Stoke-by-Nayland WEA presents a series of 10 weekly lectures starting on Thursday 17th January 2019 in Stoke-by-Nayland Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

A decade by decade jazz journey, from 1900 to the 1990s (and beyond), with guided commentary/discussion and numerous musical examples. From the dance halls and sporting houses of New Orleans to Carnegie Hall and the greatest concert stages around the world, jazz has travelled far both geographically and culturally. America's greatest indigenous musical form, soon to become a world music category, prompts us to ask about the men and women behind its development and what they contributed. What would jazz become by the end of the twentieth century? This course celebrates some of the many pioneers who have kept us dancing and enriched our lives

While Graham was growing up in the 1950s he discovered the infectious drive and fun of early jazz and learned about the Swing era of the 'thirties from his father who was an enthusiastic and skilful amateur jazz pianist. The greater complexities of jazz after WW2 took a little longer to grasp, so we shall be embarking together on a voyage of further discovery as the course progresses!

Fees: Adult £55 (payable after the first session). Try the first session (free).

For further information please contact Sue Whiteley.

Phone: 01787 210945 or email: whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk

Boxford Bounty Summary of Winners 2018

Jan - Feb

MRS	R	OSBORNE	GROTON PLACE	£160.00
MR	S	LEEDER	GROTON STREET	£75.00
MR	D	LAMMING	HOLBROOK BARN RD	£30.00
MR	D	MEEKINGS C/O SARGENT	HOMEFIELD	£15.00

Mar - Apr

MR	R	GATES	STONE STREET	£160.00
MR	I	YOUNG	MARSH ROAD	£75.00
MRS	A	BECKER	GROTON	£30.00
MR	J	BURDALL	COX HILL	£15.00

May - Jun

MRS	K	SMITH	BOXFORD LANE	£160.00
MRS	C	CHALKLEY	BROOK HALL RD	£75.00
MR	I	HOLDGATE	HOLBROOK BARN RD	£30.00
MRS	J	MARTIN	ASH STREET	£15.00

Jul - Aug

MRS	J	MARTIN	ASH STREET	£160.00
MISS	A	PENNELL	GUNNARY CLOSE	£75.00
MRS	J	HOWE	ROYLANDS LANE	£30.00
MRS	J	NEWBLE	CORAM ST, HADLEIGH	£15.00

Sep - Oct

MR	C	TAIT	COX HILL	£160.00
MRS	F	GILL	GROTON	£75.00
MRS	C	CUTHBERT	DAKING AVENUE	£30.00
MR & MRS		CULL	SWAN STREET	£15.00

Nov Dec

MRS		TWILTON	ASH STREET	£160.00
MRS	S	JARVIS	HADLEIGH ROAD	£75.00
MRS	P	SANDERSON	BUTCHERS LANE	£30.00
MRS	J	HARVEY	HADLEIGH ROAD	£15.00

St. Bartholomew's Church Groton

Presents a

Quiz and Chips Evening

at

Groton Village Hall

on

Friday 18th January 2019

7.00 for 7.30 start

Teams of up to Six

B.Y.O Bar

Tickets £11.00

With your chips you get a choice of Fish, Chicken,
Sausage or Pies

Ring Sheila 210494 or Jayne 211360 to book your place
& to order your food

rock choir concert



St Mary's Church, Boxford
Sunday 10th February 2019

at 3pm

tickets £8

free to children under 16

tickets include tea/coffee & cake - all proceeds go to the church

raffle - wine - refreshments

tickets available from Boxford Post Office

enquiries: Louise Renshaw 01787 210298

Jane Lewis 01787 210111

Wot's On

Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

Further information from: Mrs Etain Todds, Moat Farm Cottage, Edwardstone, Sudbury CO 10 5PY.
Telephone 01787 210344 Please contact Mrs Todds if you are interested in attending.

Stoke by Nayland Bridge Club

Are you and your partner looking for an afternoon game of Bridge? We play Duplicate Bridge every Thursday in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere at Stoke by Nayland Village Hall. If you are already Bridge players, you would be most welcome to join us. Previous experience of Duplicate is not necessary, but you and your partner will soon discover that this is the most enjoyable way to play. It provides a proper competition where everyone plays the same hands and this enables you to improve your play. We meet by 1.45 for a prompt 1.50 start with a short break for tea and always finish by 5.0 pm. Why not give us a try? There is no joining fee. Please contact Roger Loose on 01787-210538 for further details.

Nayland Horticultural Society

Nayland Horticultural Society's Spring Flower Show takes place on Saturday 23rd March which is an ideal time to buy some plants for a good summer's show. There is also a cake stall and raffle. Or maybe you would like to enter some Spring flowers in the Show for fun and see how you do! Entry forms on the website. All very friendly, tea, coffee and cake available!

Nayland Horticultural Society's Spring Meeting will be in the Church Hall, Nayland, CO6 4HY on Tuesday 26th March, 7pm for 7.15pm start. Subject to be confirmed.

CAROL SERVICE, CHRISTMAS EVE, EDWARDSTONE CHURCH

The Christmas Eve Carol Service at Edwardstone church will commence earlier this year, at 5.30pm, so make sure you note the change in your Christmas schedule. This special event has always been very popular with locals and their Christmas visitors with the choir singing to a packed church. All the children take delight in their "candle oranges" and the adults attending sing out loud and heartily to celebrate the birth of Our Lord.

So.....to all of you who regularly attend this joyful evening, remember the earlier time to avoid disappointment.

Boxford Drama Group presents

Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb.

As the darkness descends on Monument House Hotel and Alternative Health Spa, the last surviving members of the Tombs family receive a series of unexpected and uninvited visitors. Amongst them are well known novelist Philippa and her assistant Daphne who seek sanctuary from a mysterious stalker who may or may not be the notorious "Norfolk Strangler". Hot on their heels comes TV historian Quentin Danesworth followed closely by honeymooners Robert and Miranda. It doesn't take long for the unwelcome guests to start snooping around the secret passages of the eerie old mansion and asking far too many questions, so it's no surprise when they start to fall victim of unnatural deaths. No secret panel is unoccupied, no cup of tea untouched, and nobody seems to be who and what they appear to be. How many will make it to final curtain?

An intriguing combination of spoof and baffling murder mystery, with some colourful characters and shocking plot twists – enter Monument House if you dare!

Boxford Village Hall 14th, 15th 16th March 2019

CHRISTMAS WINE TASTING AT BOXFORDS WINE SHOP

We will have a range of wines, port, fizz and a couple of gins open for an all day open tasting on Saturday 1st December in store between 12pm - 7pm. So why not come and join us to help you choose your Christmas wines or just to discover something new..

We look forward to seeing you in store!

Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

An 8 week course on Monday evenings 4.30-6.30pm
Meeting in Groton Village Hall, CO10 5EL
Starting on Monday 14th January 2019

Tutor: Steven Trerise

ANGLO – IRISH ATTITUDES

The Literary imagination in a hyphenated culture

We will explore five novels and some poems which reveal Irish notions of the English and English notions of the Irish, both experiencing the peculiar constraints that the troubled history of their shared relationship exerted on the creative imagination.

January 14 th	The Last September	Elizabeth Bowen	(Penguin) 1929
January 21 st	The Last of Summer	Kate O'Brien	(Virago) 1943
January 28 th	Reading Week		
February 4 th	Mount Music	Sommerville and Ross	(1923)
February 11 th	Mount Music	(Amazon and Abe Books)	
February 18 th	The Story of Lucy Gault	William Trevor	(Penguin) 2003
February 25 th	Reading Week		
March 4 th	Troubles	J.G.Farrell	[J. Cape/Flamingo 1970]
March 11 th	Troubles		
March 18 th	A selection of Poems – to include Heaney, Yeats, Mahon. To be provided		

Course Fee: £75

Details available from:

Mrs Etain Todds, 01787 210344
etodds@btinternet.com

Boxford Drama Group presents

Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb

by Norman Robbins



The family who
plays together, slays together!

Boxford Village Hall

14th, 15th and 16th March. 7.30pm

Tickets will include supper and will be available from Boxford Post Office in the new year. Licensed bar. Watch this space for more details.

Wot's On

New Years Eve in Boxford - NO PUBS - NO PROBS

We will not be downhearted this New Year, so have cleared the decks for a Village Party.

Dance your feet off to the sounds of P J Roadshow, eat at the Buffet and drink and be merry at the fully licensed bar.

Village DISCO PARTY in Boxford Village Hall from 8pm (Bar closes at 12.15am) New Years Eve

Tickets available from 1st December at Boxford Post Office.

Adults £10.00 Children £2.00

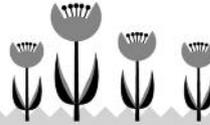
From 8pm on New Years eve till 12.30am.

Buffet and Disco and licensed bar

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NO PUBS - NO PROBS!
NEW YEARS EVE
DISCO PARTY
@BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL

FROM 8pm TO 12.30am
Refreshments and Bar till 12.15

Tickets £10.00 adults £2.00 Children
Tickets from Boxford Post Office

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ALL THAT JAZZ! **WEA**
Adult Learning Within Reach

The Jazz Century - Cakewalk to Culture
A Series of 10 Weekly Lectures by Dr Graham Platts
Thursday 17th January 2019, 7.30 pm at Stoke-by-Nayland Village Hall

A decade by decade jazz journey, from 1900 to the 1990s (and beyond), with guided commentary/discussion and numerous musical examples. From the dance halls and sporting houses of New Orleans to Carnegie Hall and the greatest concert stages around the world, jazz has travelled far both geographically and culturally. America's greatest indigenous musical form, soon to become a world music category, prompts us to ask about the men and women behind its development and what they contributed. What would jazz become by the end of the twentieth century? This course celebrates some of the many pioneers who have kept us dancing and enriched our lives.

While Graham was growing up in the 1950s he discovered the infectious drive and fun of early jazz and learned about the Swing era of the thirties from his father who was an enthusiastic and skilful amateur jazz pianist. The greater complexities of jazz after WW2 took a little longer to grasp, so we shall be embarking together on a voyage of further discovery as the course progresses!

Fees: Adult £55 (payable after the first session)
Try the first session (free)
For further information please contact
Sue Whiteley
Phone: 01787 210945
or email whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk

Future Event - AGM
Thursday 11th April 2019 at 7.30 pm
All welcome

WEA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 200910 and a registered charity number 111275

Boxford BIKE CLUB Quiz Night

Boxford Village Hall Saturday 23rd of February

£12.50 per person

Teams of 6 preferred but not essential **SAVE THE DATE!**

Supporting **Children with Cancer UK** Keeping families together

Fish and Chips Included in the price!
Licenced Bar

Email: boxfordbikeclub@gmail.com to register your team or phone Ian on 01787 210031.

Wot's On

LWHS

Programme of Events - 2019 / 2020

16th January Roger Green

The Green Man (Member Only Event)

These symbols / motifs exist in cultures around the world, though remain something of an enigma, which Roger will explore through his talk with many picture examples.

20th February John Goodhand

Simply Suffolk

Inn signs are part of our history, but which is the commonest, where can you find a gallows, which is the oldest and what is Elvis doing in Botesdale? John has been photographing Suffolk inns and their signs for over fifty years and will tell us.

20th March Sarah Doig

To Relieve Need and Distress

The Story of East Anglian Almshouses

FUN & GAMES NIGHT

BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL. We will once again be holding our Annual Fun & Games Night in Boxford Village Hall on Saturday 26 January 2019. Teams of 8 contestants will battle through the various indoor games and quizzes to claim the prestigious title. A fun night is promised for all with a licensed bar, raffle and refreshments. The evening will commence at 7.30 with registration and the first round of games at 7.50 promptly. Ticket prices are £60 per team. We have a limit for the number of teams, so if you don't want to be disappointed please contact Stephanie Atkins on 01787 210444 or Mark Miller on 01787 211596, or alternatively e-mail Mark on Mark.Miller@talktalk.net. We would like to get all teams listed before Christmas if possible and, if you are not in a team but would like to help, please also let us know. It is never too early to book your place, so book it now!



Saturday 26th January 2019

7.30pm for 7.50pm prompt start!

BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL

£60 PER TEAM - MAX. 8 IN A TEAM

Contact Stephanie Atkins 01787 210444

Mark Miller 01787 211596

mark.miller@talktalk.net

BoxfordCommunityCouncil@gmail.com
www.boxford.me.uk
Registered Charity No.: 304662

**BOXFORD
GARDENING SOCIETY**

Gardeners' Question Time

Rupert Eley of Place for Plants

Sarah Cook former Head Gardener at

Sissinghurst and Iris specialist

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO MAGGIE THORPE

maggiethorpe37@gmail.com

**GARDENERS'
QUESTION
TIME**

**Tuesday 8th January 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall**

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Hastoe

●●●● East

Proposed new build properties
Newton

OPEN MEETING
Wednesday 16th January 2019
‘Drop in’ anytime between 4.00 – 6.30 pm
At Newton Green Village Hall
Newton, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 0QS

Hastoe Housing Association has been working with Newton Parish Council and Babergh District Council and is proposing to build a small development of affordable homes.

The properties will only be available for local people or people with strong local connections – priority for these dwellings will be given to applicants from Newton.

We are displaying our current proposals with a view to seeking constructive comments and interest before we submit a planning application. You will be able to look at plans and can obtain application forms. Staff will be on hand to answer any queries you may have.

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

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* Only available on certain dates in February. Please check website for details.

AWARDS FOR 3PR'S RESPONDERS

Many thanks to our terrific responders for the huge amount of hours they have donated in 2018.

Elaine Carpenter (560 hours), Jasmine Lait (980 hours) and Trudi Wild (1350 hours) received awards, signed by the three parishes' councillors on behalf of the community.

Over the past 12 months they were called out to 84 emergencies in the local area.

On a sad note, we lose Jasmine this year as she has decided to take a well-earned break from responding. Jasmine has been a responder for 5 years and we are all hugely indebted to her for her selfless contribution of both time and care to patients in need.

In addition, our amazing co-ordinator team of Michael & Eileen Norman are stepping down. They've put in a huge amount of time and effort over the last 2 years, liaising with the ambulance service and ably handling all the bureaucracy that running the organisation involves. We just can't thank them enough. They are succeeded by Rich Wild, who takes over the back-office responsibility.

There is light at the end of the tunnel: 3PR welcomes back Vince Strafford as a responder. Vince brings a huge amount of knowledge and professionalism to the role and it is great news that he's been able to return.

We still desperately need new volunteers to join us! If you can spare any time at all, have a full driving licence and access to a car then please do consider training to become a first responder. You will receive free training from the ambulance service and full equipment is provided. It's a hugely rewarding and fascinating thing to do and you will be helping a very grateful community in dire need of assistance. Please call Rich on 01787 210 946 and he'll be happy to answer your questions and take you through what's involved.



Elaine Carpenter



Jasmine Lait



Trudi Wild



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Managing Partner

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Above: Boxford Rovers Under 11's Below: Under 15's



Above: Boxford Rovers Under 12's Below: Minis Training



LEAVENHEATH CINEMA SATURDAY 5TH JANUARY
 Tickets Telephone: Lesley (01206 262505) or Ken (01206 263266)
 £3.50 per adult and £2.00 per young person doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm



Polstead Digital Cinema Friday 18th January
 Tickets £3.50 from the Polstead Community Shop or 01787 210029
 All films start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm

Forthcoming Events Diary

December

24 Carpl Service		Edwardstone Church	5.00pm
31 New Years Eve in Boxford	Boxford Village Hall		8.00pm

January 2019

16 The Green Man (Member Only Event)	LWHS	Parish Room	7.30pm
8 Gardeners Question Time	Boxford Gardening Society	Boxford VH	7.30pm
14 for 8 Mondays ANGLO - IRISH ATTITUDES	Boxford Study Group	Groton Villagr Hall	4.30pm
18 Quiz and Chips	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	7.30pm
26 Fun and Games Night	Boxford Community Council	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm

February

10 Rock Choir Concert	Boxford PCC	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
16 Simply Suffolk	LWHS	Parish Room	7.30pm
23 Quiz Night	Boxford Bike Club	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm

March

14/15/16 Prepare to meet thyToomb	Boxford Drama Group	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
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First and Third Monday each month Boxford Parish Council Meetings in Bell House, Stone Street St, Boxford 7.30pm

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Thank you

MILDEN SINGERS



Milden Singers perform all-time classics in their Best of Broadway Concerts. The Choir, who were dressed and sparkled like the cast of 42nd Street treated the audience to songs from this and other hit Broadway Musicals including Carousel to Showboat.

As always their concerts include fun elements, solos and on this occasion a Male only Choir! The rousing finale which included 'We're in the Money' was a fitting ending to the show, as all proceeds from the concerts, which totalled £1350 was donated to Motor Neurone Disease Association. This was gratefully received by both Mandy Coll's who have been raising money locally for MNDA.

Milden Singers next concerts will be on 17th and 18th May with more details to follow in due course.



Above: The Hastoe Housing open consultation session at Groton Village Hall. The layout has been revised since the first consultation. All comments were positive and Hastoe now hope to submit a planning application before Christmas

WINTER WARMERS



Carol Abbott, together with her husband has been trading in the local area for over 40 years now. They specialise in Treework, Hedges, general garden work and driveways.

They are probably best known for supplying logs in bulk and have recently added to their range Kiln Dried Logs packaged in nets as well as Firewood by the load. The nets are hardwood and will be ideal for someone wanting only a small supply to see them over Christmas and the coldest part of winter.

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on 01473 829130
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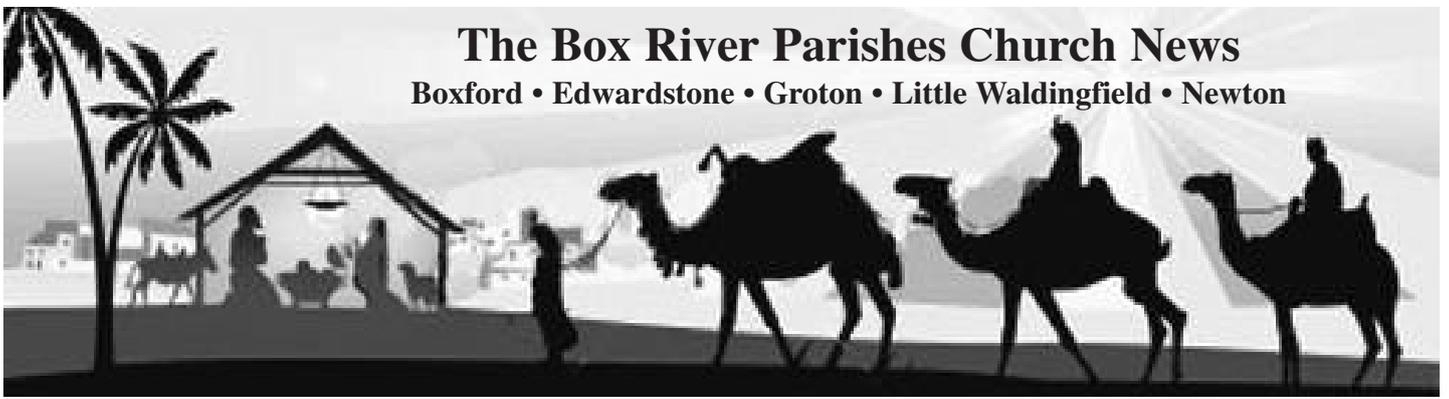


Please accept this as our Christmas greeting in lieu of cards this year. We will instead be making a donation to the Evelina Children's Heart Organisation based at Guys Hospital. Although this may not seem to be a local charity, it is often where children with heart problems in our area are treated. Thank you.

I should have taken notice of Richard's advisories

The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton



BENEFICE NEWS

HIS HONOUR THE REVEREND BRIAN WATLING QC — RIP

Readers will remember the Revd Brian Watling who, with his wife, Noelle, lived in the Red House in Boxford for a few years in the 'noughties' before moving back to Nayland. During these years (which was in David Matthews's time as rector), Brian served as an NSM minister in the benefice and many will recall his robust preaching. Brian and Noelle had previously lived in Nayland during the time when Brian was the resident circuit judge at Chelmsford Crown Court. In 2014 they moved from Nayland to Lavenham. After a lengthy period of ill health, Brian died, aged 83, on St Andrew's Day, 30 November 2018, and our thoughts and prayers are with Noelle at this sad time. "Brian will be buried in Polstead churchyard after a private funeral service on 21 December, but there is to be a memorial service at St James's Church, Nayland, at 2.00 pm on Friday 18 January 2019 (time to be confirmed) to which all are welcome."

THE PROCESS TO FIND A NEW RECTOR: AN UPDATE

The drafting group, comprised of one representative from each of the five benefice PCCs and tasked with producing a draft 'Benefice Profile', met on 3 December 2018. Tim Harbord from Little Waldingfield is working on a first draft and it is hoped to circulate this before Christmas to all PCC members for comment ahead of the 'section 12' meeting on 14 January 2019 with Bishop Mike Harrison and a representative of the Patron (the Lord Chancellor) when, hopefully, the profile will be finalised. The intention then is that the post should be advertised. Please pray that the right person will apply and be appointed as rector to lead our benefice as we seek to 'grow in God' in the coming years.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

'Follow The Star'

This is the theme of the national church's 2018 Christmas campaign, whose main aim is to encourage people into a local church service or event to share in the joy of Jesus's birth. In the gospel story, the star led the wise men to

Bethlehem, where they found Jesus and 'bowed down and worshipped him.' So, among the busyness of Advent and Christmas, do come, and invite others to come, to one of the services in the five churches across the benefice and put 'Christ' into your Christmas celebrations.

100 YEARS, 100 TREASURES: A celebration of Suffolk Churches

Looking for a stocking filler? A small number of copies of this colourful book, produced to celebrate the centenary of our diocese in 2014 and featuring two of the churches in our benefice (Boxford and Groton), is still available to purchase, price £5. Contact David Lamming if you would like to buy a copy: tel: 01787 210360; e mail: djlamming@hotmail.com.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SUDBURY & DISTRICT

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 20 – 27 JANUARY 2019

"Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (*Deuteronomy 16, v.18*)

The Week of Prayer offers local opportunities to meet and pray with fellow Christians of different denominations. The theme this year is "Only Justice."

Sunday 20th January, 6:30 pm at St John's Methodist, Church, Sudbury.
Speaker: Lt Rachel Hepburn (Salvation Army)

Monday 21st January, 12:30 pm at St Gregory's Church, Sudbury

Tuesday 22nd January, 12:30 pm at Suffolk Road Church, Sudbury

Wednesday 23rd January, 12:30 pm at St Mary's Church, Long Glemsford

Thursday 24th January 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Open Forum at Sudbury Catholic Church

Friday 25th January, 12:30 pm at Freedom Fellowship, Gregory Street, Sudbury

Saturday 26th January 8.00 am to 9.30 am. Prayer Breakfast at Sudbury Baptist Church.

Refreshments will be provided after most services

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



THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwarden:

Peter Patrick

Amberley, White Street Green, Boxford, CO10 5JNTel: 01787 210346

E-mail: ppat@btinternet.com

Assistant Churchwarden:

Michael Gray 07931043926

boxford.warden@btinternet.com

Boxford Calendar 2019- The calendar for 2019 is now available in Boxford Post office - £7.00 per copy. All proceeds to St. Mary's Parish Church, Boxford

Food Bank Collections: We continue to have regular collections of food items at St.Mary's Church Boxford, which we take to the Storehouse Food Bank, Tudor Road, Sudbury. Please kindly bring items to church services where a collection point will be available. (food well in date please!)

The Revd Dr. Simon Gill (our rural dean) assisted by Christopher Kingsbury would like to run an **Alpha Course** in the Benefice early in the New Year. If you would like to take part or learn more please do contact Simon at: vicar@allsaints-sudbury.co.uk (or see contact details above) or Christopher

Everyone has questions: We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the world, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation. We plan to hold the course on **Mondays: 4th,11th,18th,25th February & 4th March 2019**

A Rock Choir Concert will be held at St.Mary's Church Boxford, on **Sunday 10th February 2019 at 3.00pm** Tickets £8.00 (free to children under 16) Tickets include tea/coffee & cake wine available by donation - There will be a raffle too. All proceed to St. Mary's Church.

Tickets will be available from the Post Office & the Coffee Box.

Enquiries: Louise Renshaw 01787210298 Jane Lewis 01787210111

The Boxford Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on **Sunday 7th April 2019 at 5.00pm** following Choral Evensong.

The Renewal of the church electoral roll 2019 for Boxford Church will commence on 20th January 2019, with a notice placed on church notice boards. Announcements will also be made in church. The electoral roll will be closed to new applications on 16th March 2019. Application forms will be available in church. Those on the current electoral roll will need to re apply please. Members on the current roll will be reminded about this.

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

**Please, NO LATER THAN 15th January
Failure to meet the date will mean your
copy may not be included**

**Thank you. Eddie Kench 01787 211507
email address: ed.kench@btinternet.com**

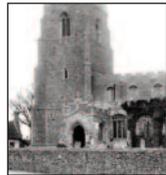


THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:
Vacant

Edwardstone PCC held a reception for parishioners and villagers at the church on Friday 23 November and was delighted to have nearly 40 attendees. It was a very lively and engaging event and a small draw raised just over £300 for PCC funds. A great start to the beginning of Christmas and the PCC is looking forward to a 'full house' at the annual Carol Service on Christmas Eve.

Edwardstone service, **Morning Worship, 9.30am Sunday 20 January:-**
Sidesman, Jan Paul
Coffee, Frances East.
Cleaning for January, Emma Driscoll
Flowers, Ineke Morris.



THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Churchwardens

Sandra Harbord and Timothy Harbord
 2 Rivish Lane, Long Melford, CO10 9TH
 Tel: 01787 311707
 E-mail: t.harbord@btinternet.com

Rota

	Sidesmen	Flowers
6 Jan	Felicity Gardiner & Jocelyn Pettit	Tricia Eddington
13 Jan	Greta Martin & Tricia Eddington	Jill Duffy
20 Jan	Vicky Nicholls & Dennis Duffy	Fran Gregor-Smith
27 Jan	Felicity Gardiner & Jocelyn Pettit	Joy Squirrel

If for any reason you cannot attend, please ring Tricia on 01787 247932.

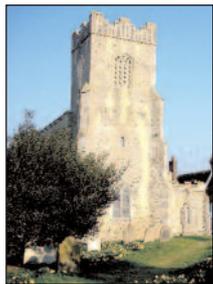
2 December 2018

On the first Sunday in Advent we were happy to welcome the Rev. Elke Cattermole to Little Waldingfield to conduct Holy Communion. The first candle in the Advent Ring was lit. Friends from other parishes were with us to enjoy her ministry. During refreshments we were able to meet Rev. Elke and her husband, Roger Cattermole, and friendly chats with them were enjoyed by many of us. Afterwards, they even joined us in clearing the church and covering seats in readiness for the builders.

We have, at last, obtained permission to begin knocking the old, damp, blown plaster from the walls up to window height. The new lime plaster will be applied, three coats in all, each one to be dry before the next is applied. This is costly, and will be paid for out of the Appeal Fund to which so many of you generously contributed, and continue to do so by Bankers Order.

The Fund has already paid for repairs to the Chancel roof, the oak insert above the west window, repairs to the floorboards under pews by the north aisle, and treatment for death-watch beetle in both ancient chests, also to wooden floors nearby.

We look forward to a busy 2019, and wish you all a very Happy New Year.



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 JANUARY

Sidesman Mrs Diana McCorkell

Flowers Ms Danice Finch

Cleaning Mrs Jayne Foster

CHRISTMAS CAROLS, MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

Groton's Carol Service this year, to be followed by mulled wines and

mince pies, is on **Wednesday 19 December 2018, 7.00 pm** in Groton Church. Do join us!

FIVE VILLAGES SERVICE – SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER 2018

A reminder that Groton will be hosting the "5th Sunday" Five Villages Service at 10.00 am on 30 December 2018. 2019 promises to be a significant year for both the UK and our benefice. Do please join us as we meet in worship as Christians from across the benefice to look forward in hope to the New Year (see Pauline's letter on page 3), a year in which, aside from Brexit, we hope to welcome a new rector. The Revd Mary Cantacuzene from Bures will be presiding and preaching at the service of Holy Communion: all are welcome.

TOILET AND KITCHEN UPDATE: GOOD NEWS!

Further to last month's news that the Environment Agency had given approval for the proposed trench arch drainage, the PCC has now signed the building contract with R M Wilks Ltd (the successful tenderer) and work is scheduled to start on 17 December, with a completion date of 17 April 2019—the Wednesday of Holy Week. So, Easter 2019 in Groton should be a double celebration! (Details of any formal opening/cutting of the red ribbon to be arranged.) During the work there will be signs in the churchyard directing people around any excavation works, and it may be necessary to lock the church overnight, but the monthly service on the second Sunday of the month will take place as normal.



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwarden:
Vacant

11th November : After heavy rain, the sun came out ready for Our Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion. The bells rang out to welcome all to join us.

Revd. Gerald Drew took the service and spoke movingly for the need to make peace in the world. As part of the service two members of the church read The Act of Remembrance and the names of the twenty men who died in the First World War and one in the Second War. Being a small rural, agricultural village, Newton must have been devastated when so many men did not return.

After the church service, another was held by the War Memorial on the Village Green. Revd. Drew started the service with a prayer then followed by a member of the village laying a Wreath of poppies and reading out the names of the men named on the War Memorial. One of our churchgoers asked children and adults to each place 20 individual poppies in the greenery in front of the Memorial which was a touching gesture. In his address the Revd. Drew emphasised the need for peace - making in the world concluding with prayers. He went to speak with as many people as possible making them feel welcome.

25th November: Our Service of Holy Communion was conducted by Revd. Elke Cattermole who is from St. Peter and St. Paul Lavenham. We had a special service to remember one of the men from the First World War, who did come home but died two weeks later. Rufus, Revd. Judith's husband had researched the history of Private Fredrick Elijah Smith and this was read out at the beginning of the service. Revd. Elke included Fredrick in her sermon and prayers. We had photos on the Altar of his history notes and his War Grave, which is in our churchyard and being one of 1,332 such graves in Suffolk.

We were delighted to welcome Revd. Elke and her husband Roger to our refreshment time after the service giving us a chance to chat with them and for them to meet people from the other churches who had joined us. We hope to welcome Revd. Elke again if it is possible for her to come. Thank you to Nancy Roser for playing the organ and for everyone who helped in any way to make this service special.

8th December: Our Annual Church Christmas Coffee Morning was held in the Village Hall. Many attended and there was a very friendly feeling as people bought items from the stalls and partook of the Raffle. Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare the Hall, stalls and the raffle and clearing up afterwards.

Very best wishes for 2019.

January 2019

Church Services in the Box River Benefice

Sunday 6th	The Epiphany	(W)
Lt. Waldingfield	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Dr Simon Gill
Boxford	11.00 Café Church	Revd Liz Law
Boxford	16.00 Evensong	Christopher Kingsbury

Wednesday 9th
 Boxford 10.30 Informal Holy Communion at Mary's House Revd Stephen Morley

Sunday 13th	First Sunday of Epiphany (The Baptism of Christ)	(W)
Groton	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd David Stranack
Boxford	11.00 Morning Worship	Christopher Kingsbury

Sunday 20th	Second Sunday of Epiphany	(W)
Edwardstone	09.30 Morning Worship	David Lamming
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Dr Simon Gill

Sunday 27th	Third Sunday of Epiphany	(W)
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	TBA
Newton	11.00 Plough Sunday service	Roy Tricker

Wednesday 30th
 Boxford 10.30 Informal Holy Communion at Mary's House Revd Dr Simon Gill



Just a few of the pics taken by David Lamming at the Annual Christmas Cheese and Wine party held at the Groton Village Hall in aid of funds for St Bartholomews Church. A great evening out. Congratulations to the organisers who worked so hard to make it a success



This article is being written on the wonderful island of Madeira, though by the time you read this I will have been back for some days. I had fully expected this to be my last trip there as the timeshare we bought more than 20 years ago expires at the end of 2018, but fate has conspired to allow me to extend our ownership by a few more years. My wife and I look forward to continuing our relationship with this dramatic, green and friendly island – recently voted the best island holiday destination at the Travel Olympics. This fresh purchase has also prompted me to consider whether timeshare really is a bargain or simply a packaged holiday product cleverly sold.

Although I had visited Madeira more than 30 years ago whilst working on a cruise liner (honestly) – and my wife had travelled there even earlier – it was in the mid 1990s that we took a holiday on the island together. Then, as now, there were plenty of people standing on street corners trying to separate holidaymakers from their hard earned money by offering once in a lifetime deals to secure their holiday of a lifetime for the next few decades. We duly fell victim to one such salesman, but felt able to decline the offer on the table, though we were mightily impressed with the place in which the job of selling took place.

To cut a long story short, we bought a second hand apartment from the established resort that was used for the sales pitch, rather than the brand new resort which the salesman was trying to shift. We've never regretted it and take considerable comfort from the fact that the same staff are still there after 22 years – including the salesman who first approached us, though his hair is a little greyer these days. Moreover, the cost of maintaining our interest in the apartment which we effectively owned for three weeks of the year has only risen in line with inflation over this period.

This, I fully realise, is not everyone's experience in the sometimes murky waters of the timeshare business. We know many people who have seen the annual maintenance charge sky rocket over the years, making their dream holiday far less affordable than when they set out on their journey, encouraged no doubt by a sweet talking sales person. Moreover, some timeshare properties were sold in perpetuity, meaning that it could be passed to your heirs – probably sold as a virtue at the time, but creating a millstone for many. Little wonder that those pesky claims companies that irritate the life out of me by ringing constantly to urge me to allow them to investigate

whether I have been missold PPI or are due compensation from a car accident have turned their attention to timeshare owners.

As it happens, the concept behind timeshare has been heavily undermined by the internet. While some of the larger, well-resourced companies that have operated in this field are maintaining a presence, it is usually alongside other holiday offerings that can guarantee a more regular flow of customers. Our timeshare resort was part of a five star hotel owned by the largest holiday firm in Portugal. The end of our lease will allow a full refurbishment to take place and, while a number of apartments are being sold on the traditional timeshare basis, the leases are much shorter (we had bought 22 years of a 30 year lease – the longest leases currently available are 15 years and most are only ten).

Moreover the greater majority of these refurbished apartments will either be used as suites to complement the hotel's stock of bedrooms or be made available to those who sign up to the company's Vacation Club scheme, which involves prepaying to allow use of the many resorts and hotels the company has on offer worldwide. The problem facing this and other businesses in the so-called vacation industry is that the internet has allowed accommodation to be commoditised. In other words, prices will vary according to supply and demand, in much the same way as has happened in air travel.

By all accounts the world's largest provider of accommodation does not own a single property, but AirBnB is a major success story and has changed the face of booking your holiday stay. Personally, we prefer the certainty of knowing what our accommodation will be like when we arrive – hence the success for us of timeshare (a financial success as well it must be said) and our decision to purchase a home abroad. We know we have been fortunate, but we also recognise that new ways of booking holidays will benefit a far wider public. This may not be a particularly Christmassy story, but it would be most remiss of me not to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Brian Tora

Remember

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

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

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GARDENING IN JANUARY INSPIRED BY THE LATE HARRY BUCKLEDEE

In some ways the lawn is the most important part of any flower garden, especially in small gardens. A lush green, well maintained lawn sets the framework for every feature of the garden. Grass is a plant like any other plant in a border and needs just as much care and attention to feeding and watering. When preparing ground for a new lawn it is advisable to put drains in, grass will not thrive in waterlogged conditions. Dig the land as deeply as you would for any other crop. This work is best done in early autumn to allow winter frost and rainfall to break down and consolidate the area ready for seed sowing in April or turf laying. Some excellent lawns are made from seed sowing and it is cheaper than turf but it does give you the choice of grass for your lawn. Turfing is the most expensive way but it gives you an instant lawn. Make sure you buy turf from a reputable firm, one that grows especially for the trade, and you should get turfs full of fibrous roots, consisting of fine grasses free from weeds. If the weather is dry, the turfs will need watering to prevent them drying out and shrinking leaving gaps between the turfs.

At this time of the year some people may be designing a new garden or re-designing their old one. When designing a new garden, privacy is important to most people and this can be achieved by planting high hedges and trees round the perimeter which will also provide shelter. It is important that the height of the trees and hedges should be in proportion to the size of the garden, if too high they will exclude light and create too much shade. Care should be taken not to plant large trees too near your boundary, these will eventually grow too large and spread onto neighbours property. For most small gardens a 6ft wooden fence is sufficient, it does not take up much space and can be used to support many flowering shrubs and fruit trees. This sort of fence lends itself to the training of fruit trees like apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums and cherries. Training them as espaliers or fans involves bending and training the branches horizontally which has the effect of producing more fruit buds giving a bumper crop from a small space. Also being trained to a fence makes it easy to protect blossoms from late frosts and protect the fruit from birds later on.

Most people like to see something on flower all season in the flower border. This can be achieved by a careful selection of herbaceous plants

and dwarf shrubs. The earliest perennials to flower are *Doronicum caucasicum* which will provide a bright splash of yellow daisy flowers from April to June. *Euphorbia polychroma*, will provide colour from June to August, Penstemons will give a good display of spikes of tubular flowers during July and September and there are many varieties to choose from. No garden should be without Pinks, a front of the border plant, which will give a display and provide cut flowers from June until Autumn.

January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants. Enjoy the fresh air, on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather. Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
- 2 Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
- 3 Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already
- 4 Disperse worm casts in lawns
- 5 Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Cannas for rots or drying out
- 6 Prune apple and pear trees
- 7 Start forcing rhubarb
- 8 Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
- 9 Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
- 10 Make a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect against peach leaf curl

Houseplant care

Check that light levels are sufficient for houseplants. They will need light to carry on over the winter, and can easily be forgotten in a back or spare room that receives little natural light, or with the curtains left drawn. They are best moved to sunny windowsill until March. Don't leave houseplants on windowsills behind the curtains on frosty nights, especially if your windows are not double glazed.

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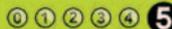
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THE NAMES ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS - JANUARY 2019



January 1st 1919 was the first New Year to be celebrated in peacetime since that of 1914. But the relief that the peace brought was tempered with the all too apparent consequences of the conflict. To many people in the United Kingdom, that interval of five years must have seemed much longer. It is likely that there was not a single village or hamlet that

could not count at least one of their menfolk among those who died in the War. The Armistice had silenced the clamour of battle on the Western Front and yet British troops remained in action in such places as Mesopotamia, the Caucasus, and Afghanistan, as the seismic shifts in power that were caused by the collapse of the old Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, German and Russian empires reverberated out across the world. The official account of the War published by the War Office in 1922 is entitled **Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire during the Great War 1914 1920** (my italics). In addition, large numbers of troops were still returning from the various theatres of conflict in their thousands bringing with them the damage and dislocation that warfare inflicts upon a population. Happy New Year, yes, but as the day dawned it did so on a world in which the old certainties of the long period of Victorian and Edwardian stability were no more and the post war future was difficult to envisage.

Whatever hope and anticipation the dawning of 1919 had given Charles and Susannah Sparrow of Boxford were dashed most sorely when the death of their first born son, Charles Herbert, reached them sometime in early January. **Air Mechanic 2nd Class Charles Herbert Sparrow, 407973, 142nd Squadron, Royal Air Force** is one of two men from Boxford whose stories we will hear this month. The other is **Corporal Walter Griggs, 275976, 1st/1st Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Rangers)**. Charles died on 6th January 1919 and Walter almost two years later on 18th December 1920.

Charles Herbert Sparrow was one of nine children, two of whom died in infancy. He takes both his names from his parents. His father was just plain

Charles, born in 1865 to William and Elizabeth in Ellis Street, Boxford. Like his father, Charles senior became a bricklayer, which he remained all his working life. Charles Herbert's mother was Susannah Herbert, born to John and Eliza, in 1868. Her family lived in Groton near Parliament Heath and her father was an agricultural labourer. Charles senior and Susannah married in the summer of 1887 and set up home at Brook Hall, Hadleigh Hamlet, a curiously administratively separate part of Boxford in the vicinity of Ellis Street, Sand Hill and Cox Hill.

Charles, born in 1891, was their first son. He was baptised in St. Mary's church on 17th May the same year. Twenty years later Charles was still living with his family at home at Brook Hall and was recorded on the Census of that year as an under chauffeur. A little over three years later and just three days after Britain declared war on Germany, Charles enlisted into the Suffolk Regiment in Bury St Edmunds as Private, 2057. He was posted into the 1/5th Battalion of the Territorial Force, all of which, at the time, was being rapidly brought up to strength and trained for active service in the front line. This battalion was initially part of the Norfolk and Suffolk Brigade, East Anglian Division, which through the later part of 1914 and the spring of 1915, was deployed on coastal defences in Suffolk. In May 1915 it was reformed and attached to the 153rd Brigade, 54th (East Anglian) Division and was put in readiness for service overseas. On 8th July it was given orders to sail for Gallipoli, setting sail a week later and arriving in the eastern Mediterranean in early August. On the 10th of the month the Division took part in one of the landings at Sulva Bay.

As we saw in the article in this series in June 2016, the Gallipoli campaign was a disaster, costing many thousands of lives not only through the dreadful stalled trench warfare but also through illness arising from the truly shocking conditions in which the troops lived and fought. Charles's division was ordered to prepare to evacuate on 26th November and it left the Gallipoli peninsula in the first week of December, with a strength of only 240 officers and about 4,500 men, which is probably about 60% of full complement. However, Charles was not with his fellow Suffolk's. An entry in his medical record shows that he was evacuated to number 19 General Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt, arriving on 6th October diagnosed with dysentery. Thus, we know that Charles was among those tens of thousands of troops who fell ill as a consequence of the sanitary conditions prevailing throughout the camps and front line. Later in October he was transferred to the nearby Shebin-el-Kom hospital for convalescence, but he was back in Alexandria on 5th November, now suffering from pleurisy. The decision must have been made to evacuate him to England, because he is next recorded as being admitted to University College Hospital, Gower Street, London on Christmas Eve 1915 still suffering with pleurisy. Two weeks later he was transferred to the Woodcote Convalescent Hospital at Epsom and then on 12th February he was granted nine days furlough, and probably was able to return to Boxford and see his family. Thereafter he rejoined his unit in Egypt.

On return Charles would have found his unit mustered around Cairo as part

of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) and then deployed to the defence of the southern section of the Suez Canal from April 1916 through to March the following year. The politics and complexity of the state of the Middle East in 1914 are vast subjects in their own right and they can only be touched upon here to illustrate the events that would have impinged on Charles's service in the region. The Suez Canal was a vital link for the United Kingdom, providing the means by which it could move troops, equipment and supplies to and from the home ports and Australia, New Zealand and India, via the Mediterranean. The British had occupied Egypt in 1882 and declared it a British Protectorate at the outbreak of the War. From here they faced in the east the mostly Turkish troops of the Ottoman Empire, which stretched from Turkey down through Syria and Palestine into Arabia and all the way south along the eastern shore of the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. The troop build up in Egypt was quite rapid to ensure the defence of the Canal and during the years 1914 to 1916 several determined attempts to take control of the Canal were made by troops of the Ottoman Empire, which was allied to the Central Powers, and which were now strengthened by German forces. The Ottoman troops had built a well fortified line from the Mediterranean near Rafah south to the port of Eilat at the head of Gulf of Arabia. This roughly concurs with the current border between the present day states of Israel and Egypt. From this line the various attempts to capture the Canal were mounted.

By 1917 it was becoming increasingly obvious that to secure the future of the Canal the Ottoman troops needed to be pushed back north and east into Palestine. At the same time Lloyd George was keen to secure some sort of victory as the stalemate of the Western Front dragged on at enormous cost of life. A successful attack on the Ottoman line would serve both these purposes. It would also force open a way to secure Jerusalem and return it to Western control for the first time since the Crusades. This it was hoped would damage the morale of Muslim aligned countries in the region, which had made several attempts to stir up a Muslim revolt in India, something that would have been catastrophic for British influence in the sub-continent.

So it was that a new Palestine Offensive was opened on 24th March 1917 and which continued until mid April. During these operations the first and second Battles of Gaza were fought. Neither of these was successful and considerable losses were sustained, though nothing on the scale of the continuing carnage in France and Flanders. Lloyd George was now running out of patience and he replaced General Sir Archibald Murray with General Sir Edmund Allenby, who took a new approach and quickly established himself as a popular and compassionate, though forceful commander. During the summer he re-invigorated the EEF, brought in fresh troops and equipment and secured as many aeroplanes as possible, which proved essential in the ensuing offensive. This opened on 31st October with the third Battle of Gaza with Allenby choosing to attack via Beersheba to the south of Gaza in a pincer movement. Just two weeks later the Ottoman and German troops were defeated, their line broken and they were in rapid retreat north into Palestine. At this point Allenby paused and reorganised and then later in the month began the advance on Jerusalem, which was entered and secured on 9th December. This strategic victory captured the imagination of much of the Western World and was a powerful morale booster on the Home Front. However, in 1916 the Anglo-French plan known as the Sykes-Picot agreement, drawn up as a means of partitioning the Middle East after the War, had required Jerusalem to be an international city. But now in British hands Lloyd George was unwilling to consider that option and he held tightly onto the Holy City through all the negotiations following the end of the War. Thus it is that we live today with the consequences of those few months in 1917, all of which Charles would have witnessed and fought through.

It is at this point that Charles's service career takes a seemingly unexpected turn. On 23rd December 1917 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corp with the rank of Air Mechanic Second Class, 407973, roughly equivalent to his Lance Corporal rank to which he had been promoted during his army service. The reasons behind this are unknown. Was he 'poached' so to speak, because his civilian employment as a chauffeur would have required him to have a good knowledge of internal combustion engines? Or did he choose to make this move himself? Personally, I think it is likely to be the former because the 142nd Squadron, to which he was posted, was formed in Egypt in early 1918 as part of the build up of air support, which was to be key to the continuing success in pursuing the Ottoman troops north through Palestine and towards Lebanon. Allenby wanted all the air power he could get and knew that he was limited as to how much could be re-deployed from the Western Front. This objective could be met by identifying individuals with the required skills already present in the EEF and transferring them to the RFC.

Through 1918 Charles's former Division was involved in the steady push northwards from Jerusalem keeping the retreating and demoralised Ottoman troops on the defensive. Charles's new Squadron was part of this and on 1st April 1918, when the RFC became the Royal Air Force, it was stationed at Julis north of Gaza. By the beginning of October the EEF was at Haifa and was massing ready to attack Beirut at the end of the month, where the Ottoman troops were preparing to make a stand. But on the 31st, exactly a year after the second Palestinian Offensive began, the Turkish Government capitulated and sued for peace by signing an armistice with the Allies. The EEF was taken off a war footing and Charles would have returned south to Egypt reaching there sometime in late November early December. Demobilisation began in January 1919 and was completed by the end of September. However, Charles was not going to be among those Suffolk men who were to be reunited with their friends and family. On 5th January 1919

he was admitted to number 17 General Hospital, Alexandria 'dang(erosly) ill', as the terse wording on his medical records puts it, with pneumonia. The following day he died. Charles was 27 years old and he is buried in the Alexandria (Hadra) Memorial Cemetery, which is located in the southern part of the modern city just a few hundred yards from the Mediterranean shoreline. He rests here with about 1,700 other souls who died serving their country two thousand miles away from their home. Charles's mother should have the last word in this long account of her son from Boxford which she does with the two lines she had placed upon his headstone;

*"Now the labourer's task is o'er
and the battle day is past"*.

Turning now to Walter he has the dubious distinction of being the last person from our five villages whose death is attributed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to the effects of his war service. We have met Walter Griggs twice before in these articles. He was the father of Private Ernest Stanley Griggs, who died in the Arras Offensive in May 1917 and Corporal Bertie Griggs, who died in the Battle of Amiens in August 1918. But in this brief account we meet him again in his own right as a soldier serving in the War as Corporal Walter Griggs, 275976, 1st/1st Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Rangers). The shire Yeomanry regiments were the mounted arm of the Territorial Force. They were formally established in 1908 out of various militia and volunteer units dating back in some cases to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Regrettably there are, as far as I can tell, no extant records of Walter's service in the Sherwood Rangers so I have no knowledge of when he enlisted nor when he was discharged. There is one record that suggests Walter served under another number, 2788, Corps of Hussars, but that cannot be substantiated, and the Corps of Hussars is simply the grouping of all the regular cavalry regiments and some of the yeomanry regiments, so it is too vague to help in placing Walter any more positively.

Irrespective of this, the Sherwood Rangers spent most of the War posted abroad. They took part in the Gallipoli campaign in 1915, fought in Salonika on the Balkan front in 1916 and then were moved to Egypt to fight with the Egypt Expeditionary Force through 1917 and 1918. Depending on when he enlisted, Walter would have experienced some or all of this active service. Given that he was closing on 40 years old in 1914, and that he attained the rank of Corporal, I would suspect that he joined the forces early on, if not at the beginning, of the War.

What we do know of Walter as a villager is that he was born in 1874 in Kersey Tye. His father was also Walter, an agricultural labourer born in Groton in 1845 and his mother was Ann Maria Grimsey, a tailoress, born in Hadleigh Hamlet in 1843. Walter and Ann Maria married in 1864. Walter junior appears in the 1891 Census as an agricultural labourer lodging with George and Emma Rice in Kersey Tye. In 1893 he married Emma Townes, sometimes spelt Towns. Emma was born on 29th July 1873 in Kersey. Her mother was also Emma, nee Vince, born in the same village in 1835. Emma junior's father, Robert, was an agricultural labourer, born in 1832 in Kersey.

Walter and Emma set up home in Sherbourne Street, probably at what is now The Maltings, with Walter employed as a poultry man on a farm. They had four children, all sons. The first was Walter Grimsey, born in 1894, then Bertie, born in 1895, who were both baptised in St Mary's Church on 21st June 1895. In 1897 came Ernest Stanley followed by Victor Harold who was born on 3rd June 1899. These two sons were also baptised in St Mary's, Ernest on 24th November 1897 and Victor on 20th August 1899.

I have spent sometime detailing Walter's family because to do so enables us to picture a very ordinary labouring family living on the edge of Boxford. The 1911 Census gives us more information. Walter senior was still looking after poultry on a farm, Walter Grimsey was employed as a milk boy on a farm, Bertie and Ernest were both employed as house boys and Victor was still at school. This was presumably still the case in 1914, though Walter Grimsey would by then, being 14, probably have been at work. A little over six years later at the end of 1920, Emma was left on her own with only her youngest son, Victor, having lost two sons, aged 20 and 23, in action during the War, her eldest son to natural causes on 31st August 1920 aged 27 and her husband in 18th December 1920, aged 47, due to the detrimental effects upon his health arising from fighting in the War. His name does not appear on the village memorial, it having been dedicated 2nd October 1919. Walter is buried in St. Mary's Churchyard and his grave is marked by a memorial erected by Emma, which also commemorates her two sons who died on active service and her eldest son Walter Grimsey (spelt Gremsey) on the memorial. The memorial is recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as marking a war grave and is thus in their care for perpetuity. Emma remained living in Boxford and can be found as a widower in Swan Street in the 1939 Register. She died in 1963. Victor married a Mary Whymark in 1920 and they appear to have had at least one child, Stanley Victor. In 1939 Victor was running the Cock Inn on the Green in Polstead and he died in 1983 and Stanley Victor died as recently as 1997.

As an aside, in order to understand better the Griggs family as a whole, I obtained a copy of Walter Grimsey Griggs death certificate. At the time of his death he appears to have been living with his youngest and only remaining brother, Victor, at Parsonage Farm in Stone Street. He died in St. Leonard's Hospital in Sudbury and the causes of his death are given as 'Suppurative arthritis of knee joint' and (probably) 'Pythisis'. Suppurative arthritis is an infection of the fluids in a joint damaged by arthritis. The infection can spread to the blood. Pythisis is a general term for a pulmonary disorder, usually, in the 1920s, tuberculosis. The most intriguing

thing is that Walter's occupation is given as 'Coal Miner'. Pulmonary diseases and joint injury are consistent with that occupation, but why and where was Walter employed as a coal miner? He would have been 20 at the outbreak of the War, but there is no evidence of him serving in the armed forces unlike two of his brothers and his father. Did he opt to serve in an essential civilian occupation? Was he required to do so if he refused military service when conscription was introduced in January 1916? We shall probably never know, unless there are relatives of the family who can shed some light on this enigma.

Both Harold and Charles will be remembered on 13th January at the 11:00 service of Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church, Boxford.

We are now left with the three last soldiers, whose brief lives we need to recount to complete this litany of loss that has, so far, stretched across thirty five articles in the Box River News. Two are men from Edwardstone, brothers Arthur and Frederick Griggs, and one, George Peggs is from Newton. We will encounter them next month. Then in March, my final article will attempt to provide some statistics in respect of the names on our War Memorials. Thereafter, as did the Western Front in November 1918, I will fall silent.

Rufus Sweetman
Reepham, Norfolk

Readers Letters

Sir

Hear Hear D.Butler!.....

we too are getting this silent assassin let his dog relieve itself on our driveway, we find it unbelievable! & am thinking of getting a camera fitted to catch this person, I do believe there is a fine for allowing such a thing, talking of driveways & the football traffic again!.....someone took it upon themselves to sit on a stool on our driveway & eat there packed lunch whilst there child was at football!!!, I find this unbelievable too!, this is the second time this has happened! also parents insist on banging their children's muddy boots all over the pavements!, but still, nothing will get done about it!...it never does!, & still the sign doesn't get put out!, so I'm am just venting & wondering wether anyone else gets frustrated with it all or is it just me!

A very frustrated....
Homefield resident.

Sir

I would like to wish all my family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I will not be sending cards this year but instead will be making a donation to the Three Parishes Response Team

All the very best
Von Wymark

Boxford Community Council

The Editor wishes to thank all those members of the Boxford Community Council who put so much work into the BRN Social evening on Thursday 6th December. Their efforts have been rewarded by the many emails and phone calls I have received from our guests telling me what a great evening it was.

Thank You
Eddie

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Parish Council Matters

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 5th November 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

PRESENT: M Wooderson (Chaired the Meeting), V Strafford, R Balls, A Sargeant, C Hughes, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 5 members of the public. J Fincham-Jacques arrived late.

APOLOGIES: None.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 8th OCTOBER 2018: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: M Wooderson and the Parish Council were thanked for their part in successfully fighting the plans for a second phase of Goodlands. The Appeal Decision upheld the Refusal to Grant Permission. Attention turned to Boxwood Hall Planning which is intended to replace a bungalow. Concern was expressed about the height of the building proposed. A representative from the Village Hall explained their plans to accommodate the bottle banks following removal from the White Hart. The Owner of the Fleece was present to answer questions and explained profitability issues and that he was looking at options to convert part of the premises to residential in the hope that the pub element will be more sustainable. Members had doubts about the potential plans and expressed their support of the principle of keeping two well managed pubs in the Village. Tree work is required in the Churchyard and a quotation was being obtained. V Strafford agreed to store the Village Model until a public display location is found. The owner of the White Hart was present and explained that following some building work, it will re-open.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: There was nothing further to discuss.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

See General News

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

See General News

COOPTION OF MEMBERS: Two written applications were received ahead of the deadline and were to be discussed following the meeting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: The printing quotes for the survey were discussed. All agreed to proceed with the printing. A notice will be put in Box River News.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. The options discussed by County Highways at the recent site meeting on Cox Hill were discussed. The Parish Council agreed in principle to option 5 and agreed to seek full details of the work needed together with costs and timescales - Action Clerk.

BUS SHELTER: It was agreed to chase Sudbury Community Wardens for a response. The problem appears to have shifted to other parts of the village, but general assistance from the Community Wardens is still valid - Action Clerk.

GRIT PROVISION: R Balls agreed to get a quote for grit replenishment - Action R Balls

BOTTLEBANK: There was no interest in a bottle bank at the Spinney and members had heard in the public forum an application being progressed by the Village Hall to re-locate the banks to their site.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 5th November 2018 were £39082.17 in the Community Account, £13357.38 in the Deposit Account and £48146.85 in the Reserve Account making a total of £100586.40.

The Annual Risk Assessment Policy was examined and approved.

The expenditure on the printing of the Housing Needs Survey was proposed by V Strafford, seconded by J Fincham-Jacques and unanimously carried. The Church grant will form an Agenda item at the December Meeting (last year's donation towards insurance costs was £1750) - Action Clerk.

CEMETERY: The advice from the Heritage team was considered in relation to the Churchyard Wall. V Strafford agreed to take photo's and approach County Highways about the potential to put metal protective posts in white to match the bridge structure nearby to keep the vehicles away from the Churchyard wall. This follows advice from the Heritage team to keep protective measures in keeping with the street furniture in the vicinity or nearby villages - Action V Strafford.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: Further excessive speed was noted in the village and there were safety concerns at Cygnet Court as a result.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 5th November 2018

The following Decisions were advised from the Planning Authorities: -

A) The Bereley, Cox Hill Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling. Planning Permission had been granted.

B) Pipettes Farm, Stone Street, Boxford Conversion of existing barn to ancillary residential accommodation. Planning Permission had been granted.

C) 22 Swan Street Conditions were approved as discharged relating to Fenestration.

D) Old School House, School Hill Reconstruction of entrance gates. This application had been withdrawn.

The following were discussed: -

1) Boxwood Hall, Butchers Lane, Boxford DC/18/04316 - Application for detached replacement dwelling and outbuildings following demolition of existing and change of use of agricultural land to residential garden land. The Parish Council objected due to the disproportionate size and scale and the visual impact on its surroundings.

2) Melody House, 26 Cox Hill DC/18/04552 - Application for a two storey front extension and alterations to fenestration. No Objections

3) 9 Broad Street - DC/18/04620 - Application for works to trees in Conservation Area. No Objections.

4) Goodlands Appeal - V Strafford led a vote of thanks to M Wooderson for all his efforts and skilled hard work in relation to successfully defending the Appeal. The files were put in Bell House for future reference.

Boxford Bottle Bank update:



Due to some exciting changes planned for The White Hart pub in the New Year, we have had to find a new home for the bottle banks within the village of Boxford.

Mr Chaytor (who owns the White Hart) along with Babergh Cllr Bryn Hurren, Boxford Parish Council, the Playing-field Committee, Babergh DC Waste Services, Indigo Waste Services and Boxford Community Council, have all been working hard behind the scenes to identify a new site for the bottle banks.

Happily, a new site has been found up at the Playing Fields car park (CO10 5PB), which can be accessed by car via Homefield, and on foot via a footpath off Broad Street roughly opposite The White Hart.

The new bottle bank site will be managed on a day-to-day basis by the Boxford Playing Fields Management Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Boxford Community Council. (boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

The new bottle bank site will be overseen by Babergh District Council Waste Services team (recycling@baberghmktsuffolk.gov.uk 0300 1234 000 option 4)

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BOXFORD IN THE 18TH CENTURY

This time last year I wrote a series of three articles about Gainsborough's painting of "Woodland Setting with Peasant Resting". I will now widen, and shift, my focus to the context of Georgian England in which Gainsborough and Boxford existed. Many aspects recorded then are recognisable now.

An early description says "Boxford... is situated in a fertile and highly cultivated valley, between two brooks, which unite a little below it. The parish consists of ninety-nine houses and 536 inhabitants. The town, consisting of several streets, carries on a considerable trade in malt and has a manufactory for dressing sheep and deer skins." Furthermore, "Here are two yearly fairs, on Easter Monday and December 21." (Suffolk or Original Delineations by Frederick Schoberl 1818).

Much of what is described would have existed in the previous century along with many other features for which the 18th Century is noted. This included the introduction of small shops, and the construction of brick built dwellings of a variety which ranged from the smallest dwellings of one or two rooms, to the largest, which contained many rooms, often dedicated to specific functions. Shops too would be specialised- butchers, bakers, dairies, shoe shops, general provisions- and some of these were present in Boxford where they would, in some cases, be visited on a daily basis. In addition there was a forge, inns and public houses, mills and a Grammar School. Many of the non-brick built dwellings, including those containing shops, were painted white. (See Gainsborough's St Mary's Church, Hadleigh)

Boxford was not isolated; it was set within, and responded too, a national, even international, context. If not the village shops themselves, most certainly in and around the village itself, there were individuals who had access to, and availed themselves of, the goods provided by the expansion of trade in the 18th Century. Goods such as sugar, tobacco and calico came from the West Indies and America, while from the East, tea, coffee and spices arrived. Not only, of course, was there an influx of goods but there had been an export of local products, such as wool.

Where trade flowed so too did ideas and individuals.

The 17th Century witnessed the outflow of Puritans to the New World in the West where they saw a future of tolerance and opportunity that was perceived and realised in commercial terms as well as spiritual. In the 18th Century the Hanoverian Kings became established which led to a period of political and religious stability that was reflected in growth, innovation and prosperity. An uneasy acceptance and tolerance grew between Catholics and Protestants.

It was in this culture and social world that Gainsborough pursued his career. His observations captured elements of the changes taking place in Suffolk and his landscapes, in the main, provide a record of what Suffolk, including around Boxford, was like. His record of 18th Century Suffolk depicted the polar opposites of the poor or the wealthy. He rarely painted elements of the urban setting. Not for him were the tradesmen, craftsman and service providers such as millers and carriers that were steadily increasing in line with the expanding economy. Unlike Hogarth, who also depicted the poor and the wealthy, he did not portray dysfunction and excess and rarely real hardship. (see the late Cottage Girl with Dog and Pitcher)

Gainsborough's landscapes consist mostly of woodland (which does not imply that Suffolk was mostly woodland, just as the absence of townscapes does not imply there were no towns). These views picture a variety of human activities including travel on foot, horseback or cart; the collecting or transportation of wood; the use of the woodland for recreational or social pursuits; the presence and tending of livestock or animals in the woodland environment. Travel is along woodland paths or rutted lanes and streams are forded with occasionally a low wooden bridge for pedestrians. Dwellings are isolated, small, in the main, with brick chimneys and coarse thatch. They rarely appear to be of brick construction but have the characteristics of wattle and daub. They are frequently cabin like dwellings with no upper storey and perhaps only two rooms. The door opens directly into the habitation. There is no sign of cultivation of gardens around the dwelling but there is evidence that pigs were kept by some. There seems no indication of boundaries: fences and hedges are absent. This seems like pre-enclosure common land. Occasionally more substantial dwellings which I take as farmhouses have been painted; one even has a working yard depicted beside it. (Landscape with Milkmaid)

In the landscape "Woodland Setting..." which I discussed last year, there is, in the distance, a church, together with a few houses. Fields in front of the church are full with ripening crops. Beyond the

woodland, which contains some figures is a more cultivated, productive landscape. This cultivated landscape is shown in greater detail in the portrait of Mr and Mrs Andrews.

In their portrait their land is characterised by enclosed spaces, an untended flock of sheep on rich pasture, with a precisely drilled field which has produced a plentiful harvest. In the background the Suffolk countryside seems expansive and full of further possibilities. Only the sky is threatening and has the capability to spoil the gathered crop. The woodland and the characters which populate it are far away.

A second portrait, of three coevals, Muilmann, Crockatt and Keable contains, I think, a further reference to the new ways of working the land. The three appear cultured and educated- in fact two are very wealthy, with a wealth based upon foreign trade. (See James Hamillton's "Gainsborough A Portrait") But what is growing at their feet- could it be turnip? If so, was Gainsborough mocking them? I think not. This was a commissioned portrait and turnip growing was a respected innovation introduced into the practice of crop rotation which impacted upon soil productivity and provided cattle feed in winter. When corn crops failed it provided food for the poor. Perhaps this was a statement that these members of the mercantile class were overtaking the landed gentry despite their improvements.

Another source of information about 18th Century Boxford society comes from the pen of the Reverend Church.

I have mentioned before Reverend Church's interest in developments in contemporary arts and sciences. From a letter he wrote in 1735, the year he was appointed rector of Groton and Boxford, it becomes clear that he had undertaken a cultural tour, the so called Grand Tour, of the lowlands- The Netherlands, Germany and France- which became an increasingly popular activity for wealthy young men during the 18th Century. His account of his tour, providing insight into what he did, together with our knowledge of what he read, creates a fuller picture of an important and influential figure in the Boxford community. (Illustrations of the Literary History of the 18th Century by John Nichols)

Where did he go, and what memories and experiences did he bring back to share with his congregation? He mentions, firstly, visiting Chantilly and Versailles where he saw bears, wolves, camels, ostriches and lions. He then visits the Palais Het Loo connected with the Dutch House of Orange. Understandable really, considering that William of Orange had been King of England from 1689 to 1702. He then travelled to Wesel in Germany where he watched the King of Prussia's soldiers before travelling to Cologne and Dusseldorf where he saw an 'invaluable' collection of pictures. From there he travelled extensively in France where he read - in French- items written by Mary Stuart including her will, written shortly before her beheading. By 1745, in a letter written in Boxford to an acquaintance, it is clear that he was also something of an antiquarian, helping, as he did, a draper in the locality dispose of a library of 2000 books that he had purchased.

Together, Thomas Gainsborough and the Reverend John Church provide a personal view of parts of the Suffolk landscape and society. Other evidence exists, fortunately, but it is generally in the form of legal documents. Their personal testimonies by brush or pen give a unique vibrancy and relevance to our knowledge of our local area at this time. Perhaps there are some more testimonies to be found.

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CECIL HUGHES MBE

The sad news that Cecil passed away peacefully on 3rd December at the grand age of 92 means that Boxford has lost a local legend who made an immense contribution to the village during his life.

Cecil Charles Hughes was born in May 1926. His parents, George and Jessie, lived in Stone Street close to where the by-pass is now. He was one of six children and was educated mainly at Boxford school which he left at the age of 14.



He then did various jobs including delivering bread for Peacheys, the local bakers. In 1942 he joined the Air Training Corps as his ambition was to join the RAF but, when he reached the age of 18, he was called up to the Army. After his basic training with the Suffolk Regt, he was sent with them to France, to reinforce the advance after D Day. He was quickly transferred to the 9th Parachute Battalion for the advance across the River

Rhine and then rapidly across Germany to counter the Russian advance. A transfer to the Royal Ulster Rifles followed for peace-keeping duties in Italy and Austria, until he was discharged in late 1947.

On his return to Boxford, like many others, he worked for Kingsburys builders. He was with them for 30 years until they ceased trading and he then worked night-shifts at CAV in Sudbury and built his present house, with help from former colleagues, during the day!

Cecil married Daphne Knock at Nedging in 1955 and they lived at Homefield, where Gillian was born and then to his self built bungalow Driftway, where Robert was born.

He became a Parish Councillor in 1952 and has continued to serve Boxford for 66 years, being involved with the acquisition of the Playing Field, the planning of the new estates and campaigning for the by-pass which included meeting the Prime Minister at the time, Harold Wilson. Cecil has always "kept an eye on things" and his knowledge of past developments in the village has been an invaluable help to the Parish Council over the years. When Boxford in the USA celebrated the US bicentennial, Cecil and Olive Tarbet were sent over to represent our village. He has also been a member of most village organizations and really enjoyed the village occasions organised by the Community Council. His last "celebrity" appearance was, appropriately, at the moving Drumhead Service on Remembrance Day.

Cecil received The MBE for services to the community in 2005 and typically stated that the honour was also "for all the Parish Councillors that I have worked with over the years". When he met the Duchess of Cornwall at a D Day reunion and she noticed his MBE, he told her that "I got this from your mother-in-law".

Cecil returned to France on many occasions for reunions and became a much loved celebrity there as well, culminating in him being awarded the Legion d'Honneur in 2015. He will be greatly missed by his French friends and his old comrades from the war.

After the sad loss of his wife, Daphne, Cecil benefitted from the love and care of his family, two children, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He eventually embarked upon a social life which would exhaust most of us, gaining a host of new friends and admirers.

Cecil was a real "Boxford Boy", quiet, modest but very determined and always with a twinkle in his eye. He was so proud of his family for the love and support that they gave him and I know that they are justly proud of him and his achievements. Our thoughts and sympathy are them at this sad time.

The Parish Council

Cecil's Funeral will take place on Monday 7th January at 10am at Boxford Church. It was his wish that all his friends, colleagues and acquaintances would come and celebrate his life. His family would love to meet everyone at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club afterwards.



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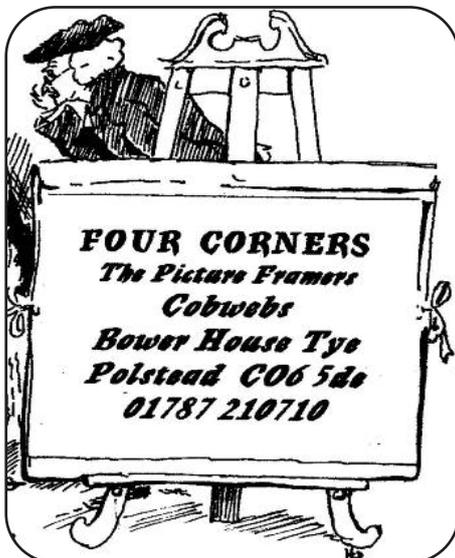
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Front Row: LtoR Grace (Jane Elliot) Harmonia (Alison Barlow) Melinda the Malvolent (Elaine Horne) Fairy Godmother (Elaine Carpenter) Venus (Francis Korabik) Favor (Margaret Clapp) Spinning Wheel Lady (Cheryl Claydon) Grunt (Steve Claydon)



This years Drama Group Panto 'Sleeping Beauty', was without doubt one of Joe Barrett's best, but then he could not go far wrong when supported by such a great team. It would be wrong of me to pick out any individual performance, they were all quite brilliant. I am a little deaf and this time I did not miss a single word. I will say a few words about the relatively new comers, they have improved their stage presence and projection 100% and should be proud of their performances.

We look forward to the Drama Groups 2019 productions.

In March we have **'Prepare to meet thy Tomb'** . The Tomb family are in the business of murder., a family wjo play together and Slay together.

May sees a new musical by Bill Horne **'Up From the Ashes'** WW1 story with the female workforce of Laithwaites Horse Blanket Co towards the end of the war.

In September another play **'Love Letters'** . A 50 year relationship between 2 people who loved but never married through their notes, cards and letters



Photo's Trudi Wild