

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



March 2019
Vol 19 No 3

FUN AND GAMES NIGHT 2019



If ever a title described an event, this was it. Over a hundred people filled the Village Hall. Most were engaged in challenging competition, from naming all the States in America to throwing plastic bottles in a bin, or naming unusual sports such as toe wrestling to wearing a unicorn horn and throwing hoops on it. Those that weren't competing were running the games, providing the excellent buffet, manning the bar or running the raffle. A huge thank you must go to all the volunteers who gave their time once again - this event could not happen without you. We eventually had winners:

1st place - Back for Seconds

2nd place - The Banana Splits

3rd place - Bentley's Team

And the most coveted prize of the Wooden Spoon went to Middle and Leg! Thank you to everyone involved - we'll do it again, even better next year.



WEAVERS GREEN



The vast majority of visitors to the northern based Catsby homes sales meeting, held on Tuesday 22nd of January in Boxford Village Hall, were clearly opposed to the proposed development. From what could be seen Catsby had made no effort to familiarise themselves with the village for example, placing access on Sand Hill at probably the most dangerous position they could have and referring to our Hotel? and two pubs? plus our village store called a supermarket! What a sales pitch?

Bryn Hurren, our district councillor, said he believes the proposal, in its current form, would bring nothing to the village, except "more confusion and strangulation with traffic". He added that the meeting felt more like a marketing exercise than a public consultation, and that he had observed "a hostile reaction" to the plans from residents. "This is just the sort of development that we don't want," the doctor's surgery is full, and the school needs to expand, so it just adds to existing problems."Boxford cannot cope without more roads and better facilities. Boxford is not against development, but it has got to be in the right place and there has to be these provisions, which this plan doesn't have."In April, Hopkins Homes also held a public consultation in the village hall over its plans to build 45 new homes on land off Sand Hill - opposite the proposed Weavers Green site. Plans for a further 24 homes off Daking Avenue were defeated after a planning inspector upheld a decision to refuse permission on the grounds of highway safety.



Box River News

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Final date for reserved copy for the
April 2019 Issue is:

March 15th at noon

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

ROCKING IN THE AISLES



The village was buzzing on Sunday 10th February following the enormous success of the Rock Choir concert held at St Mary's Boxford. Everybody seemed to be talking about it. St Mary's church has, I suspect, never been fuller with an audience of nearly 200 and the choir itself numbering 85. People were literally standing in the aisles. Then there was the logistical miracle of serving everybody with tea or coffee and cake during the 20 minute halfway interval - loaves and fishes, ha!

Thanks go particularly to Jane Lewis, who thought of it in the first place and got the project off the ground and to all those who provided cakes and raffle prizes. Mention should also be made of Veronica Hobbs and Sandra Gray for the catering. The event raised nearly £2,000 for the church. Full report in the Church News Section of the BRN.



FleeceJazz

at Stoke by Nayland Hotel

Friday 1 March 8 £18.00.

John Turville Quintet featuring Julian Arguelles

World-class exquisite* consistently inventive and beautifully performed throughout, Conception is one of the best jazz recordings I've heard* ***** John Adcock

For the ability simultaneously to deliver great subtlety of musical character with both emotional energy and intellectual power, [Julian] is one of the very best we have. - Peter Bacon
John Turville piano, Julian Arguelles tenor/soprano sax, Robbie Robson trumpet, Dave Whitford bass, James Maddren drums
Pianist and educator John Turville has established himself as a mainstay of the UK and European contemporary jazz scenes in his varied roles as sideman, co-leader and trio/quartet leader.

Friday 15 March 8 £18.00

Steve Fishwick Quartet

"Contemporary hard bop from four excellent practitioners." - All About Jazz)

Steve Fishwick trumpet, Alex Garnett saxophone, Mike Karn bass, Matt Fishwick drums

Well-known as a fleet and expert bebopper, Steve Fishwick is widely considered to be one of the best jazz trumpeters to come from the U.K. He is rapidly gaining a global reputation due to his flawless technique and his beautifully flowing, harmonically rich improvisations. Heavily influenced by the melodic approach of the late, great Kenny Dorham, Steve grew up in Manchester and played his first professional gigs while still in his early 'teens before leaving for London to study at the Royal College of Music. He has

played with most leading U.K. jazz musicians including Sir John Dankworth, Stan Tracey, Peter King and Mike Carr among others.

Friday 22 March 8 £20.00.

John East Project

"East and the band brought the house down" - City AM

"Vocalist and Hammond player John East leads a fine band" - TIME OUT
John East Hammond Organ and vocals, Mark Fletcher drums, Nigel Price guitar, Steve Pearce bass, Dave Lewis tenor sax, Dan Newson trombone and piano, Trumpet to be announced

The John East Project led by vocalist and organ player John East was formed seven years ago and is a regular and popular feature at the 606 Club in Chelsea and elsewhere. John has played the Hammond for many years working with musicians such as John Etheridge, Phil Robson and Katie Kissoon.

Friday 29 March 8 £18.00.

Sean Khan Quartet

Sean's blissful and gifted alto sax playing demonstrates a rare technical prowess an understanding of Jazz history and a raging determination to carve out it's future. Sean's second album was described simply by Jazzwise as "Stunning", the acclaim and success of this album led to Sean and his band playing to sell out crowds at Ronnie Scott's and The Jazz Cafe. Sean Kahn - alto & soprano sax, Sam Leake - piano, Lorenzo Bassignani - bass, Laurie Lowe - drums

Sean Khan is a London based saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist who studied classical music at Goldsmiths College during the 90s.

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

Winter Journey 6th – 8th February 2019

We set off for Aldeburgh on a bright sunny day, the hedges full of catkins and even the willows already looking yellow, anticipating Spring. The wind is fierce and buffets our small car all the way to Snape. Lunch at The Maltings and a delightful browse in the many tempting shops. The sky is now quite grey, rain in the air and so a walk by the river is abandoned and we drive to the Wentworth Hotel in Aldeburgh where we shall be thoroughly spoiled for two days – our winter break before the onset of Lent.

The next morning, in bright sunshine, we're off to see the 15th century church at Covehithe. The original nave of St. Andrew's is in ruins but inside it, and using the tower as its West end, a much smaller, thatched church was built in 1672, using material saved from the original building. They still have a ring of five bells and a service is held every Sunday at 9.30 am.

On to Southwold. The wind is even stronger. Yellow warning signs. We struggle on to the pier. The sea boils beneath our feet and crashes on to the beach while we sit in the cafe with hot coffee enjoying the spectacle. We are prevented from walking further on to the pier as it has been closed off for safety reasons. On to the town for lunch before going back to the hotel. My companion made of sterner stuff, heads off to explore Aldeburgh. I subside in the lounge with my book.

We have spent two nights at the Wentworth and must make our way home. We are due to visit my son who lives on the edge of the common at Mellis. We drive to Diss. It is market day and very busy in spite of the miserable weather. We visit a lovely book shop which has a small cafe at the rear overlooking the Mere.

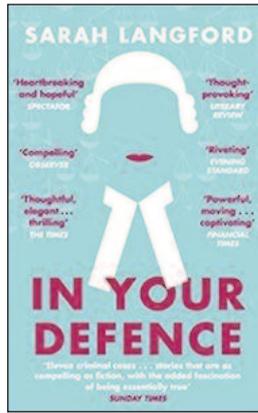
The house at Mellis is always difficult to find but the satnav saves us and we are welcomed into its snug, cosy sitting room to warm ourselves by a blazing fire.

Home, and within an hour I get a call – a very tentative request – could I write something for the Box River News, perhaps with Lent in mind? I am given time to think about it. If I think too long I shall fail to do it and so here it is.

It hasn't much to do with Lent you may say. No indeed, but it comes in the hope that Lent will bring to all of us a time of quiet reflection, prayer and thankfulness for the richness of our lives and the blessings we receive.

THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ BY DAVID LAMMING

"In Your Defence", by Sarah Langford



Whether at dinner parties or over a pint in the local pub, criminal lawyers are renowned for regaling those who would listen with their 'war stories'—tales of their court room triumphs (sometimes, their disasters) and of the interesting (to them) cases they have appeared in and the high-profile clients they have represented. Some record their memoirs in books: Jeremy Hutchinson's *Case Histories*, which I reviewed on this page in July 2017, is one. Hutchinson was a renowned defence advocate and his book (written by Thomas Grant, with a postscript by Jeremy Hutchinson) was

rightly a Sunday Times bestseller. 'In Your Defence' is a very different book, but nonetheless fully deserving of the media plaudits it has received, as set out on the front cover.

Sarah Langford, who lives with her husband, Ben, and two small boys in London and Suffolk, has been a practising barrister since 2006. In her book, subtitled 'Stories of Life and Law', she recounts (using pseudonyms) the human stories of eleven clients she has represented, seven in criminal cases and four in the family court. None is especially newsworthy, but each tells the story of an individual's encounter with the law and of the author's interaction with her client and the court: clients ranging from 'Dominic', an 18-year-old charged with assaulting three police officers—charges Langford successfully defended in the magistrates' court—to, in the last chapter 'Jude', a 12-year-old boy at the centre of a custody battle between his parents and who, in view of his age, was considered sufficiently competent to understand the issues and to have a barrister speak in court on his behalf. I won't give away the outcome of this moving story, save to say that this chapter had one reviewer 'in tears'.

Langford's prose is easy to read ("compelling, reading like page-turning fiction" is one reviewer's description) and interwoven with the human stories are insights into the working (often inadequate working) of our criminal justice system and the life of a barrister in the early years of practice. 'Notes on the law' at the end, relating to each chapter, add valuable information in a way that does not break up the narrative of each case.

In encouraging you to read the book, I can perhaps do no better than quote the views, that I fully endorse, of two other reviewers: "I loved this book, It made my heart sing. Written by a woman in the law with compassion, wit and legal know-how, these true life courtroom stories tell it like it is. All life is there, showing the importance to justice of lawyers who understand the human condition" (Helena Kennedy QC). "Revealing, moving, funny, sad, uplifting and beautifully written, with the observational skills of Alan Bennett and the heart of Charles Dickens." (Tim Shipman in the Sunday Times.)

I end with a quote from Langford herself (currently on maternity leave): "The law is human justice, designed and enforced. It will therefore always be imperfect. It makes mistakes. It is slow, sometimes chaotic, sometimes illogical. It cracks and – at times – crumbles. But it remains a pillar upon which our country is founded. Were it to break, the stability of our nation would break too, and we would be all the poorer for it." Wise words and, as another reader, former justice secretary Michael Gove, has commented: "Every citizen concerned about fairness in our society, and particularly the fate of the most vulnerable, should read it. And politicians must take to heart the lessons this dedicated lawyer teaches us."

In Your Defence is a 'Black Swan' paperback, published by Penguin Random House in 2019, price £8.99

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DISCOVERING THE GREEN MAN. A TALK BY ROGER GREEN

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Roger back to the Parish Room, to share his extensive knowledge of the enigma of the Green Man with the more than 30 members at our annual member only event. Roger also showed us a large number of the countless green man images he has taken / collected over the years, and everyone went home delighted because it was a quite superb talk from a man passionate about his subject.

He began his talk by telling us that discovering the green man could be considered an alternative view of eternity - seeking the before and the hereafter - which all in all was quite a startling opening. Mystical meanings associated with the green man seem to be very old, dating back to pre-Christian Pagan times, and now there are many varied meanings of the word green, something Roger proved by asking his audience what 'green' meant to them. From the answers from the floor, and with some additional from Roger, it was apparent that green stands for much of life, death and rebirth, as we probably all subconsciously knew:

- (Mother) Nature
- New / growing / flourishing / fertility
- Mould (this one got a few laughs)
- Eco friendly / environmental
- Politics (Green party)
- The beginning of planetary life (green algae)
- A restful colour
- Inexperienced in matters (or life itself)
- Green with envy
- The island of Ireland
- The colour of Islam
- The colour of spring
- The colour of hope
- A colour associated with fairies
- A colour associated with bad luck (unknown to most)
- A popular pub name
- A tattoo subject

Roger then mentioned Brian Stone, a reader in English Literature at the Open University, who defined the importance of the colour green by reference to the Green Knight, a character from the 14th century Arthurian poem Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (*).

It surprises me that no critic has picked up one very important medieval theological reference to

green as the colour of truth evergreen is the colour assigned to ever living and eternal truth

(*) In Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, the Green Knight (a symbol of the old religion) appears before Arthur's court during a Christmas feast, holding a bough of holly in one hand and a battle-axe in the other, and issuing a challenge - he will allow one man to strike him once with his axe, on condition that he returns the blow the next year. Arthur accepts the challenge but Gawain (a symbol of the new religion) takes his place and decapitates the Green Knight, who retrieves his head, reattaches it and tells Gawain to meet him at the Green Chapel at the stipulated time. The Knight next features as Bercilak de Hautedesert, lord of a large castle and Gawain's host before his arrival at the Green Chapel. At Bercilak's castle, Gawain is submitted to tests of his loyalty and chastity. On New Year's Day Gawain departs to the Green Chapel and bends to receive his blow, only to have the Green Knight barely nick him; he then reveals that he is Bercilak, and that Morgan le Fay had given him the double identity to test Gawain and Arthur.

We were told that a Green Man is any kind of a carving, drawing, painting or representation showing a head or face surrounded by, or made from, leaves. The face is almost always male, although a few Green Women do exist; Green Beasts, particularly cats and lions (and sometimes demons), are reasonably commonplace, and occasionally gravestones have skulls sprouting foliage. The face of the green man is generally taken to be dead, with the foliage being new growth coming from the old.

The name Green Man is also modern, stemming from Lady Raglan's 1939 article 'The green man in church architecture' for the March edition of the Folklore Journal; prior to this time reference was simply made to foliate heads. Roger also said that most green men are carved in stone, with some in wood and, just in the last century, some painted. He also referenced Giuseppe Arcimboldo, a 16th century Italian artist now best known for creating imaginative harvest festival style portrait heads made entirely from objects such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, fish and books.

It is not certain how far back in time a religious significance may be assigned to green man symbols as none can apparently be proved, but

its certainly back to the time of Celtic gods, with life affirming, rebirth, death and nature, as today - seeking the before and the hereafter. In time past forests covered far more of the earth than now and pagan man had to venture there at night in order to catch nocturnal animals for food; these were frightening places and the coming of new green growth in spring would have been more than welcome.

There are four main types of Green Man image:

- A head where the whole face may be composed of a leaf or leaves; perhaps the oldest variant, dating back to the leaf masks of Roman times.
- A face with leaves, vines or branches sprouting from the mouth, nose, ears or even eyes (sometimes called a disgorging or uttering head). The oldest example dates from 5th Century France, but this became the most popular style in the 12th to 15th centuries, especially in Britain.
- A head where the hair, eyebrows, moustache and/or beard may be made up of leaves, often bearing flowers or fruit.
- A head surrounded by foliage but where the leaves are not actually part of the face. At its simplest and most naturalistic this may just be an image of a man peering out from among dense foliage, Variations are almost infinite as there appears to be no standard representation of a Green Man and there are examples of:
 - Two-headed and even three-headed green men;
 - Whole series of heads linked together by foliate stems;
 - Foliage issuing from a Green Man forming a Tree of Life image;
 - Beasts, snakes or horns (rather than vegetation) issuing from a green man's mouth;
 - The nose of a face forming the trunk of a tree; and
 - A whole body sprouting, wearing or being composed of leaves and vegetation.

Most Green Men are found in Christian churches, the vast majority in Britain, France and Germany, and mainly dating from the medieval period between the 11th and 16th centuries. Sometimes they are hidden away behind rood screens / choir stalls, or high in the ceiling structure, but often in plain view on columns or above main doorways. In terms of size, they may range from life-sized to tiny images on roof bosses. They can also be found, though less commonly, on other buildings, both ecclesiastical and secular, and as decorations on tombs and memorial monuments.

Roger then told us of other related figures:

- Pan, the Greek God of the wild, shepherds and flocks, nature of mountain wilds, rustic music and impromptus, and companion of the nymphs.
- Jack-in-the-Green, a trickster character in traditional English May Day celebrations from the mid-18th Century onwards, represented by a man covered in a cone-shaped mass of foliage and vegetation. This fell out of popularity in the 19th Century, when largely replaced by the May Queen, but it has seen a resurgence in recent years in many towns in southern England, including Hastings, Knutsford, Rochester, Bristol, Oxford, Ilfracombe, etc.
- John Barleycorn, a character in an old English folksong personifying the cereal crop barley as a man whose life story corresponds to the various stages of barley cultivation, down to his death and re-birth each spring.
- Robin Hood. Though best known as the heroic, bow-wielding outlaw of English folklore since the 14th Century, with his green-garbed band of Merry Men and beautiful virtuous Maid Marian, Robin Hood (originally Robin of the Wood) was also traditionally seen as a protector of the old ways and of the woods and forests; he was particularly popular in medieval May Day games and plays from the 16th to 17th Century.
- Herne the Hunter, a shadowy, wild, stag-antlered folklore figure dating back to Celtic or Saxon times, but only definitively recorded since the 15th Century. His ghost is said to haunt Windsor Forest but his origins in prehistory may be connected with male fertility, similar to the horned Celtic deity Cernunnos, the Celtic god of fertility, life, animals, wealth and the underworld.
- Peter Pan, a fictional character created by Scottish novelist J. M. Barrie, a free-spirited and mischievous young boy who can fly and never grows up, Peter Pan spends his never-ending childhood having adventures on the mythical island of Neverland, as the leader of the Lost Boys, interacting with fairies, pirates, mermaids, Native Americans and occasionally ordinary children from the world outside Neverland.
- Puck (Robin Goodfellow), a lusty and mischievous sprite or fairy, often used to personify the spirit of the land and often represented as a Pan-like cloven-hoofed figure with small horns. Robin Goodfellow

was the name of one such sprite, immortalized in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

He also reminded us that many Christian ideas and concepts were taken or incorporated from pre-existing Pagan ideas and concepts, including the Winter Solstice, Easter, Harvest, All Souls / Saints, fancy bread and candles. Many Christian churches were built on the sites of pre-Christian buildings and, when later renovated, a green man was often incorporated somewhere, either inside or outside. The act of baptism itself is also essentially the meaning of the green man: temporary death under water followed by a re-birth. A symbol of death and re-birth, life within us, our relationship with the transcendent (God) and life itself (life force): all flesh is as the grass, oneness with the earth, with nature and eternity - the deeper one digs, the more one finds!

Lastly, we were treated to a poem by Paul Giovanni, as sung when the children were dancing round the May Pole in the film 'The Wicker Man'.

In the woods there grew a tree
And a fine, fine tree was he
And on that tree there was a limb
And on that limb there was a branch
And on that branch there was a nest,
And in that nest there was an egg
And in that egg there was a bird
And from that bird a feather came
And of that feather was a bed

And on that bed there was a girl
And on that girl there was a man
And from that man there was a seed
And from that seed there was a boy
And from that boy there was a man
And for that man there was a grave
And from that grave there grew a tree

In Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle

And on that tree there was a limb
And on that limb there was a branch
And on that branch there was a nest
And in that nest there was an egg
And in that egg there was a bird
And from that bird a feather came
And of that feather was a bed

In Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle

And on that bed there was a girl (Sumerisle, Sumerisle)
And on that girl there was a man (Sumerisle, Sumerisle)
And from that man there was a seed (Sumerisle, Sumerisle)
And from that seed there was a boy (Sumerisle, Sumerisle)
And from that boy there was a man (Sumerisle, Sumerisle)
And for that man there was a grave
And from that grave there grew a tree

In Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle, Sumerisle

Roger then suggested that green men were haunting images, watching our lives through their gaze, eternally watching, the face in the leaves and the laughter in the wood, before and the hear-after, always until the end, a badge of irrepressible life.

To conclude this review, Roger brought incredible passion, humour and warmth to a subject which most people have little knowledge of, and his brilliant talk was a riotous passage through numerous green man images to give an understanding of what lay behind, much enjoyed by everyone present.

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

20th February: Simply Suffolk by John Goodhand
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 all.

20th March: To relieve need and distress by Sarah Doig

The fascinating story of East Anglian almshouses.
Both events are going to be great, and we very much look forward to welcoming guests both new and old to the Parish Room in Little Waldingfield.

Andy Sheppard



Green man in St James's church Bury.



Mistress green woman plaque.

Remember

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

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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

➤ Green light to develop more specialist education placements in Suffolk

On 29 January 2019, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed recommendations to move forward with creating more specialist education places in Suffolk. Suffolk will need between 300 to 400 places for children with additional needs between now and 2020, and this figure is likely to continue to increase. The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine, and the increasing complexity of specialist needs.

The recommendations include three new special schools and 36 specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools, which combined will create over 800 new specialist education places in the county. The Cabinet also agreed that a clarified education pathway for specialist provision is created to assist families in understanding what the local offer is. Following the approval of the recommendations, the proposal to borrow up to £45.1 million to fund the new places will now go to the county council's Capital Strategy Group to be reviewed. If agreed, the decision will go back to Cabinet in the Spring for final sign-off so the recommendations can be rolled out.

➤ **Citizens Advice Bureau sees Partnership working coming to their budget's rescue.** The subject of our grant funding to Local Citizens Advice in Suffolk has been a challenge for the Suffolk County Council. A proposal to reduce this grant by 50% forms part of our 2019/20 budget - a budget which must find £11m in savings and safeguard some of Suffolk's most vulnerable residents through our statutory responsibilities for Adults and Children's Services.

However, on 11th February it was announced the excellent news that Citizens Advice will no longer see any difference in their funding for next year, following collaboration between Suffolk County Council, NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS West Suffolk CCG. The joint agreement now in place with the CCGs sees them contribute £187,000. Therefore, alongside the County Council's proposed contribution, funding will remain at the same level as the previous year - £374,000. I am sure you will agree that this is a good result for Suffolk's CABs and an excellent example of partnership working across the public sector.

➤ Suffolk's roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology

Suffolk Highways is celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology. The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county's Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk's road surface. Over the last month, Suffolk Highways has deployed three thermal road repair machines which have repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide.

The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service's much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure. The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration.

Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March.

Beyond the investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology, the £9.67m of funding will enable a programme of work which will include a focus on rural roads, when preparing these roads for next summer's surface dressing. This funding will allow for work to clear drains and gullies, cut back hedges, cut grips and clean signs.

➤ **Energy project awards its 100th grant to help businesses be more environmentally friendly.** On 2 January 2019, it was reported that 100 Norfolk and Suffolk businesses have now received a grant from The Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Anglia project. The project provides free support to eligible organisations to help them become more energy efficient.

Screenworks Limited, one of the UK's leading promotional textile suppliers based in Haverhill, recently received the 100th grant having successfully applied for £16,240 to help fund two new gas dryers. This new equipment will provide huge energy saving results, reduce their carbon footprint by 21 tonnes and cut costs by £5,700 every year.

The BEE Anglia project has now delivered £540,000 in similar grants, with £1.8million spent in total on green projects. Local organisations are still able to apply for these grants.

Grant funding is just one of the ways that the BEE Anglia project supports businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and save money. It also offers free energy reviews and the chance for organisations to work towards a Carbon Charter.

Businesses interested in the BEE Anglia Project can find out more and register online www.beeanglia.org or call 01473 350370.

➤ **Finally a reminder.** Further to my reference to this subject last month, the drop in sessions have now been confirmed in our locality as per below:- Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

Another hectic month just gone and another to come as we hurtle in and through this new year, the most difficult message at the moment is the 19/20 Budget and its horrible implications for all of us at the sharp end who have to pay our Council Tax demands. I think the Government policy to starve the District Council of funds to make them more efficient has reached crisis point and it is not possible to squeeze us any further, our staff work extremely hard to deliver the services that we all need and to run and look after almost 7,000 Council homes.

Last month I touched on our recycling rates and the importance of trying to get more in the Blue bin and recycling centres and much less in the black bin for disposal and destruction.

The main driver behind this is the Gate Fees (fines) which are imposed by the National Government. These currently stand at £50.00 per ton of recycle (Blue Bin) which is very light and equates to about a lorry load, £90.00 per ton Energy from Waste for rubbish (Black Bin) which is about twice as heavy and almost twice the Gate Fee and although no household waste goes to landfill, we still have to send what we gather from fly tipping and some bulky rubbish for instance Builder's rubble to the Blakenham pit which costs £120.00 for every ton. As you can see, these figures, along with the resaleable value of recycle, highlight the importance of recycling as much as is possible: an absolute no brainer in a modern society. Apart from the financial burden this is costing ALL of us, we should be doing what we can to reduce the impact to the world we live in.

As I am sure you have all heard the County Council are planning to cut completely the grant to our C.A.B. services throughout the County, this is a shocking decision and one that could and should have been avoided, the grant to be cut currently stands at £360,000.00 per year across the whole of Suffolk and was given to support a vital service who give help and support to our most needy families who suffer hardship and need help to deal with various trauma and crisis some of which are caused by the dear old County Council themselves. I should make it clear that Babergh will continue to aid this vital group and will work hard, myself included to give extra support to make up the shortfall, our grant currently stands at £54,000.00 for Sudbury branch and £8,000.00 for the Ipswich branch, if any one would like to also help to contribute a little time or small donation I am sure it would be gratefully appreciated.

As always if anyone in my ward has a burning issue or needs help please contact me at bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk or tel 01787 210854. Have a great spring. Bryn.

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



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A HOME FOR THE PRESS



A New Home for the Press - What a Relief!

About two years ago a search for a new home in Boxford got underway. The main criteria was: 'potential studio area with strong solid floor, able to accommodate a 600 kilo cast iron printing press'

A modest house within Goodlands proved to be perfect, and with the help of local carpenter Michael Hearnden the garage space was fitted out with shelves and benches, and became an artist printer's workshop. Now, the heavy machine could be brought out of storage where she had been in temporary accommodation with Rochat printers engineers in Herts.

The most surprising thing about this stately cast-iron beauty, is her age – much younger than you think! Just 3 years old, a reproduction of the Victorian Albion machine, she was cast in Barnet at Harry F Rochat and was the 15th press off their production line. The result was a brand new and perfectly engineered antique!

Linocuts form the main part of Anne's artwork, although she also produces woodcuts and engravings, screeprints, collagraphs, charcoal and watercolours. She exhibits regularly at Aldeburgh and Snape with 4PM, through Gainsborough's House print Workshop, and at many local exhibitions and galleries. You can browse Anne's prints on her website: annetownshendart.weebly.com or, if you'd prefer to see them at first hand, she would be happy to open her studio by appointment (01787 211501) Cards and prints framed and unframed, are for sale, often being depictions of local landscapes.



HOW COUNSELLING CAN HELP



Counselling can help people clarify their thoughts and feelings so they can arrive at their own decisions and make changes in their lives, as there are times in our lives when we experience distressing events. Sometimes we know that our feelings are due to particular circumstances, such as an illness, stress in a relationship or a bereavement. At other times, we have no idea what is making us feel the way we do, but we know that our lives have become uncomfortable, difficult and even intolerable.

The intimate relationship between a couple works best when there is trust and honesty. Conflict has a place in relationship as long as there is an eventual resolution to help understanding between protagonist. Counselling can help a couple manage the tensions in a partnership by intervening to aid good communication. People can feel very alone, feeling so fearful, self conscious and ashamed that they can suffer for months or even years without discussing their worries with anyone, even their partner. Sometimes a sexual relationship has become stale with one partner looking outside the relationship for sexual excitement, prompting a couple to look for help.

I am an accredited psychosexual and relationship therapist and clinical supervisor with many years experience treating people who come to see me to help with resolving their problems.

I first became interested in counselling in 1980's when I lived in the Far East. I joined the Samaritans as a volunteer, and on my return to this country continued my involvement with the Samaritans before training with Relate as a couple counsellor, going on to train as a psychosexual therapist. I worked for 12 years in a busy GP practice in Essex and developed my private practice during that time. I have also worked at the Priory Hospital Chelmsford taking referrals from consultant psychiatrists.

At present I work for North & mid Essex Mind as senior psychosexual psychotherapist, and I also work from my home in Kersey.

Amanda Hollingworth Counsellor
contact: 01473 824663 or
ac.hollingworth@gmail.com

LEAVING GROTON FOR LANCASHIRE, 1836: THE RUDLAND FAMILY OF GROTON

Samuel Rudland and Mary Garrard had married in Groton on the 13th January 1822. He was 24 years of age and she was 23 years. Baptism records suggest that they were non-conformists and frequented the Edwardstone Independent Chapel adjacent to Boxford. In 1836 Samuel and Mary Rudland and their eight children were sent from the Suffolk village of Groton to work for Henry Ashworth in Lancashire. The family were part of a national migration scheme that arranged for families who were receiving poor relief, to move to the north where there was a labour shortage in the cotton mills and woollen industry.

On the 14th April 1836, as they left Groton on their long journey to Lancashire, the Rudland family consisted of

Samuel Rudland, aged 38

Mary Rudland, aged 37

Cain Rudland, aged 14

Joseph Rudland, aged 12

Lucy Rudland, aged 9

Samuel Rudland, aged 6

Charles Rudland, aged 4

James Rudland, aged 3

David Rudland, aged 2

John Rudland, aged 9 months

The migration scheme was devised by the Poor Law Commissioners who realised that there were a large number of unemployed agricultural workers who had no chance of finding a job. They devised a way of moving these people to Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire to work in the cotton

mills and woollen industry where there was a shortage of labour.

It is not clear how the Rudland family travelled to Lancashire but other Suffolk families were sent from their home parish to London where they were transported via the Grand Union Canal to Manchester – a journey which was supposed to take four to five days and for which they had to supply their own provisions.

The canal boats left City Basin, Paddington every evening except Sundays and the cost of the passage was: Adults ~ 14 shillings, Persons under 14 ~ 7 shillings, Under one year ~ Free

Families were not allowed to bring any furniture with them, except their bedding, but it was suggested that the Board of Guardians who had arranged the journey should send between £3 and £5 to the future employer for the purchase of furniture. On arrival in Lancashire, Samuel Rudland and his four eldest children were taken into the employ of Henry Ashworth who owned the cotton mill at New Easley near Bolton. They were very lucky because Henry Ashworth, a Quaker, was an employer who, by 19th century standards, was both altruistic and forward-looking.

Henry Ashworth treated his textile workers with a great deal of respect and he provided good quality homes for them in the Bank Top area. He also built a schoolroom, a social club and a library to ensure that his workforce and the children were educated.

In 1841, the Rudland family were living at Bank Top, a short walk from the New Easley Mills where Samuel worked. Only five children were listed as being at home on the night of the Census. Some confusion arises in the research because the name 'Rudland' is frequently written as 'Rudlen' in official documents. It was fairly commonplace for enumerators or registrars to 'mis-hear' names when interrogating illiterate householders on their doorstep. The Rudland family had probably retained their Suffolk accent and it is understandable how 'land' easily became 'len'. When

surnames change like this it is important to check Christian names and ages very thoroughly to make sure we are tracking the same people.

Sharples, Bolton le Moors, Lancashire

Four Rudland children who left with the family in 1836 are missing from the record in 1841. We know that Lucy had died in 1838 soon after the family's arrival in Lancashire but, so far, it has been impossible to trace James and David though Charles re-appears ten years later in 1851.

Samuel Rudland and his family would have been drawn to Lancashire by the prospect of regular employment, better wages and improved living conditions. The extent to which these prospects materialised were recorded by an anonymous correspondent of the London based, Morning Advertiser newspaper. In March 1846 (ten years after the Rudlands arrived in Lancashire) the newspaper published an account with the aim "to ascertain how far these promises of better wages and better food in Lancashire had been fulfilled."

The correspondent had first interviewed Samuel Rudland in 1844 and noted that the family had increased to eleven (Isaac Rudland had been born in 1843). He recorded that the whole household brought in an income of £2. 15s. per week but pointed out that though this was "not a very liberal income" it was much more than that which they earned in

agriculture in Suffolk in 1836.

Samuel Rudland per week 8s 0d Eldest boy, 14 years of age 2. 0

Next younger boy, at cow-keeping, aged twelve 1. 0

Parish allowance, one peck of flour, worth at that time 1.4 It was also emphasised that Samuel Rudland in 1844 was still only a labourer and that a skilled operative in the cotton mill would have earned considerably more.

Rents for the workers' cottages ranged from 1s. 6d. a week to 3s. 6d. Sixty one cottages out of 155 were rented at 2s. 10d. per week. If this large family was paying 3s 6d per week to rent one of the larger properties available, then this would have represented just above 6% of their total income.

The Morning Advertiser's correspondent not only provides us with invaluable information on the Ashworth's workers' wages and rentals but he also gives us a detailed first-hand description of the workers' cottages which is worth reproducing in full:

"Now these cottages were not only good, but the greater part of them were superior to any dwellings of working men which I had ever seen, or have since seen, if I make an exception of a few other rurally situated factories and the dwelling of the workers, which I visited subsequent to that in Lancashire. They generally consisted of four rooms, with back kitchens, wash-houses, etc. They were scrupulously clean, with flower garden in front and rear. They were all fitted up with ovens and fixtures of the most substantial and useful kind. The people had all good furniture. Most of them had stuff-bottomed chairs in their parlours, carpets on the parlour floors, chests of mahogany drawers, time-pieces or eight-day clocks, little piles of well-bound books on the top of the chest of drawers, companions of the looking-glasses, which all stood there in their ornamental frames. A barometer against the wall; a pair of globes; some very respectable pictures, chiefly engravings, were also seen ornamenting some of the parlours. While in the other rooms there were such articles of furniture as the parlours would lead us to expect. On the Sunday the people were all well clothed and orderly; no drunkenness, no lounging about in dirt and idleness; the women were smartly dressed, some of them perhaps a little too fine. I did not go into many of the houses at tea time on Sunday, but in those which I did enter at that time, I saw sets of china on the tables.

There is butchers' meat in these houses every day in one shape or another. In only one instance at Easley did I find the mother of a family working in the mill. She was a widow, with two young children. She hired a woman to keep the children and the house. Her earnings in the mill were 13s a week."

In 1843, a son was born to Samuel and Mary. They named him Isaac. But sometime between the above interview which was conducted in 1844 and the year 1851, Samuel Rudland died. There is no record in the archives of his death but the 1851 Census Returns for Bank Top, Sharples, Bolton, lists Mary as a widow. Four children were still alive and living at home at this time with their mother.

Mary Rudland Head Widow 54 Boxford, Suffolk

Cain Rudland Son Unmarried 27 Carder (Cotton) Boxford, Suffolk

Joseph Rudland Son Unmarried 23 Wheelwright Boxford, Suffolk

Charles Rudland Son Unmarried 18 Blacksmith Boxford, Suffolk

Isaac Rudland Son 8 Scholar Sharples, Lancashire

(Note: Some dates do not tally with the emigration list of 1836. See above)

What happened to Mary after 1851 is unclear. Further research is required. Only Cain, Joseph and Charles seemed to have survived beyond 1861.

Cain Rudland stayed working in the cotton industry where his occupation is variously described as 'cotton carder', 'factory operative', 'cotton operative' and finally 'stripper and grinder' which was an engineering job maintaining the thousands of wire teeth on the carding machines in the cotton factory.

In 1854, Cain Rudland (now invariably spelt Rudlen) married a Nancy Whatley, the daughter of a greengrocer. His brother Charles witnessed the marriage: In 1861, Cain's family is living in Preston. There are three children aged 5, 4 and 3.

In the 1861 Census Return, Cain's place of birth is given incorrectly, but we can safely assume it is the same person because in 1871, his birth is given as "Don't know", Suffolk: There are now six children and the eldest, Samuel aged 15 is working like his father as a 'cotton operative'. Cain appears not to remember his exact birthplace though his age (48 years) is

perhaps the most accurate of all the census returns. He was 14 when he left Suffolk in 1836.

The Census of 1881 reveals that Cain was widowed between sometime during the previous ten years. He is now living with his two unmarried daughters and three youngest sons:

Cain Rudland Head Widower 55 Male Stripper & Grinder Bolton
Hannah Rudland Daughter Unm 25 Female Cotton Frame Tenter Bolton
Mary Rudland Daughter Unm 21 Female Cotton Frame Tenter Bolton
Giles Rudland Son 15 Male Labourer Iron Works Bolton
Joseph Rudland Son 13 Male Scholar Bolton
William Rudland Son 10 Male Scholar Bolton

William H. Hayhurst Lodger 21 Male Cotton Piecer Accrington
With the 1891 Census, we find that Cain has returned to Sharples and is living with his sons, Samuel (now married) and Joseph:

There is no definitive evidence of when Cain died, but there are some indications from the record that he lived to 1900. Joseph Rudland, the second eldest son, became a wheelwright. By 1861 he was married with two children and living in Wigan. He died a year later in 1862. Cain's younger brother, Charles Rudland who worked as a blacksmith, and who was only four years old when they left Groton in 1836, seems to disappear from the record after 1851. However, one tantalising lead for Charles does present itself. In 1856, a Charles Rudland, blacksmith and a Jane Rudland,

servant [sic] set sail from Liverpool for America⁹. They arrived in New York on the 27th September.

In 1870, the US Census records a Charles Rudland, blacksmith and his wife Jane Rudland living in Portage, Wisconsin. They had five children: Could this be the same Charles Rudland who was born in Suffolk in 1832?

The Poor Law Commission's Migration Scheme, 1835-37, MA dissertation, 2008 (copy in Suffolk Record Office).

The scheme did not last long because soon after the arrival of migrant families the cotton mills and woollen industry went into a decline and many people became unemployed again. Some made the long journey south to their home parishes but others remained in the north. In 1843 there was an investigation into why the scheme had failed and among the papers relating to this enquiry was a list of around 4,000 people who had migrated – over half of them had come from Suffolk.

Between 1836 and 1837 over 2,000 paupers – men, women and especially children were taken from Suffolk to work in factories in Yorkshire and Lancashire. *Chris Bornett, Lavenham*

Box River Benefice

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West Suffolk 01284 767674

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NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

3PR Stats for January 2018

In January 2019 our responders covered 446 hours (60%) and attended 18 incidents.

We are in urgent need of more responders so that we can provide better coverage for the people of the local villages. If you are interested in joining, or have any questions about responding at all, please call the group's co-ordinator, Rich Wild, on 01787 210 946.

Are You Visible

Can our first responders see your house number at night?

Lives are at risk because emergency crews cannot see house numbers and property names easily.

As illness and injuries can occur at any time, we ask you to ensure your house name or number is clearly visible from the road by day and night, so that, when you need us most, we can find you quickly and easily.

The three following steps would assist us greatly:

Check your house name or number is visible from the road

Make sure that there are no trees or bushes obstructing the sign

Switch on, when possible, an outside light.

Our first responders have the assistance of sat-navs and, of course, local knowledge. However, when visiting an address for the first time, not being able to see a name or number clearly from the roadside could result in delays for emergency services reaching people.

Some addresses can be very difficult to find, particularly in rural areas. Every second wasted because paramedics can't find the right house has a profound effect on the outcome, so we're encouraging everyone to spend a few minutes doing something about it.

We recommend making sure that numbers or house names are at least three inches in height and 4ft above the ground – and if the property is more than 75ft from the roadway, that the number is displayed on a postbox/gate or similar no further than 25ft from the edge of the street.

It can be frustrating and time-consuming for visitors and delivery people to identify addresses but, in emergency situations, it could literally be the difference between life and death.

Please help us to help you!

Boxford First Responders (3PR)

BOXFORD WI

2019 has got off to a great start for Boxford WI, both our Afternoon and Evening meetings continue to thrive and we have welcomed new members. Afternoon meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at the village hall at 2pm and Evening meetings on the third Thursday of the month at Boxford playing fields pavilion at 8pm. Here are some of the things we have planned for the rest of the Year, please come along and join us:

We have a number of interesting Speakers on a range of subjects including The Life of a Racehorse, how to weave willow baskets, hearing dogs for the deaf, Suffolk cheese tasting, all about honey and bees, the work of a lighthouse, a new approach to recycling and Curling without ice.

Our AGM in May will be followed by a cream tea, In August we are planning a trip to Thursford and in December we will have our Christmas Party lunch.

As well as our monthly meetings we have a craft group, a book club, a walking group and a lunch club visiting local Inns and Restaurants.

There are always lots of things going on and all of the Ladies here at Boxford WI extend a warm welcome to you all.

If you would like more information on either the Afternoon or Evening meetings please contact Annie Phillips, Boxford WI Secretary on 211729, annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk or Becky Stafford, Evening Co-ordinator on beckystafford@gmail.com

Future WI meetings for Forthcoming Events Diary

March	6th Angels' costumes Boxford WI	village hall 2pm
	21st After dinner party games Boxford WI	pavilion 8pm
April	3rd Life of a Racehorse Boxford WI	village hall 2pm
	18th Weave your own willow Boxford WI	pavilion 8pm

Boxford Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Results

In December, the Boxford Parish Council, supported by volunteers, distributed over 1,200 Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires across the village.

The questionnaire returns represent a 32.8% response rate – thank you to everyone who took the time to respond and to the volunteers who distributed the questionnaires. The results are available to download from the Neighbourhood Plan page of the Boxford Village website and the Neighbourhood Plan Facebook Page. There are also printed copies to view in key locations around the village including The Post Office and School.

Thank you also to those that have volunteered to assist in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. An invitation is being sent to a first meeting, being held on Monday 8th April, 7pm at the Village Hall. During this meeting a Planning Committee will be set-up and the questionnaire results handed over to the this committee for further analysis and to inform the plan. If you would like to be involved, but didn't provide your email address on your response, please email boxfordneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com.

Hadleigh & Boxford Patient Participation Group

Have you recently changed your address? Have you changed your telephone number?

This month, we asking the patients of the Hadleigh & Boxford Group Practice to confirm that their contact details, held on the practice database, are correct.

If you have recently changed your address, or your telephone number, please inform the Hadleigh & Boxford Group Practice to ensure that this information is kept up-to date as the Practice may need to contact you urgently.

You can do this by calling the Health Centre on 01473 822961 or by completing a contact details form available from Reception. If you are registered for SystemOnline, the Patient Online Service, you can update your contact details on your account page.

The purpose of this exercise is to make sure the practice lists are as accurate as possible. Accurate records help you to receive the support you need from your GP. Practice lists of NHS patients with their correct, up-to-date address and contact details are essential for making sure patients can be contacted about their healthcare.

Surgeries need to be able to contact their patients to provide them with test results, invite them for screening to protect against cancer for example, or to be vaccinated against infectious diseases such as flu or measles. Hospitals also rely on GP lists to ensure they can write to patients with appointments and results of tests or other information.

Naturally, people change address or move to a different area. This can result in the database being inaccurate and means important information may not reach patients.

Debra Elliott, Director of Commissioning at NHS England, South, said:

"It's really important that GP practices can maintain accurate lists of the patients they serve, and for this reason we call on everyone to let us know their contact details are correct.

You will be supporting your practice to provide the best possible service to all its patients and ensuring the NHS uses its resources efficiently."

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
Mark Miller on 01787 211596 or e-mail mark.miller@talktalk.net

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



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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.

Boxford Drama Group Presents:

Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb

The Borgias have nothing on the Tombs! Here is a family of professional killers that like to play together and slay together. But have they finally met their match? Darkness falls as the fog rolls in over the marsh trapping them and a deadly collection of uninvited guests in the ancient family home.

It's not only the house that slowly reveals its secrets but as one by one the inhabitants fall victim to violent deaths unlikely partnerships are exposed as the plot takes some shocking twists during the inevitable murder fest.

Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb is an irresistible combination of a comedy spoof and baffling murder mystery.

Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb – Boxford Village Hall 7.30pm 14th, 15th 16th March 2019. Tickets on sale in Boxford Post Office. £13 includes supper and there will be a licensed bar.

Polstead Village Hall Lunches

Come and Join us in Polstead.....

This year Polstead will be revamping the village hall lunches. There will be four per year and each menu will depict the season.

We have a date from our Spring lunch, Friday 26th April.

More details and menu to follow.

Don't miss out save the date.....

Hadleigh Choral Society

Hadleigh Choral Society is pleased to announce the details of their upcoming spring concert: St. John Passion by J.S. Bach. This choral work will be performed in the original German text at St. Mary's Church, Hadleigh on Saturday 6th April at 7:30 pm, and will feature professional soloists along with the Colchester Symphony Orchestra, John Cooper on harpsichord and David Butcher on organ. Christopher Phelps will conduct this musical retelling of the story of Christ's arrest, trial and crucifixion, in what promises to be a memorable evening full of wonderful music-making.

Tickets are £14 (free admission for under 25s) and will be available on line through www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk, members of the choir, or The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh. For more information contact 01473 823 791.

Stoke-by-Nayland WEA

Stoke-by-Nayland WEA is holding its AGM on Thursday 11th April 2019 in Stoke-by-Nayland Village Hall at 7.30 pm. This will be followed by a presentation entitled

Through Norway to the Arctic Circle with Frank Ranger

Following the AGM Frank will take you on a journey through Norway, travelling west and north from Oslo by train, car and boat. Share his experiences of fascinating sights and wildlife encounters, culminating in Arctic Svalbard All past, present and future members welcome to this FREE lecture and complimentary coffee

For further details please contact Sue Whiteley on - 01787 210945 or email - whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk



Shopping Day
in aid of
CANCER RESEARCH UK
Monday 29th April 2019
10.00am - 3.00pm

THE VILLAGE HALL, LAVENHAM
Church Street, Lavenham, Suffolk, CO10 9QT
Behind The Cock Horse Inn off Church St.
FREE PARKING

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

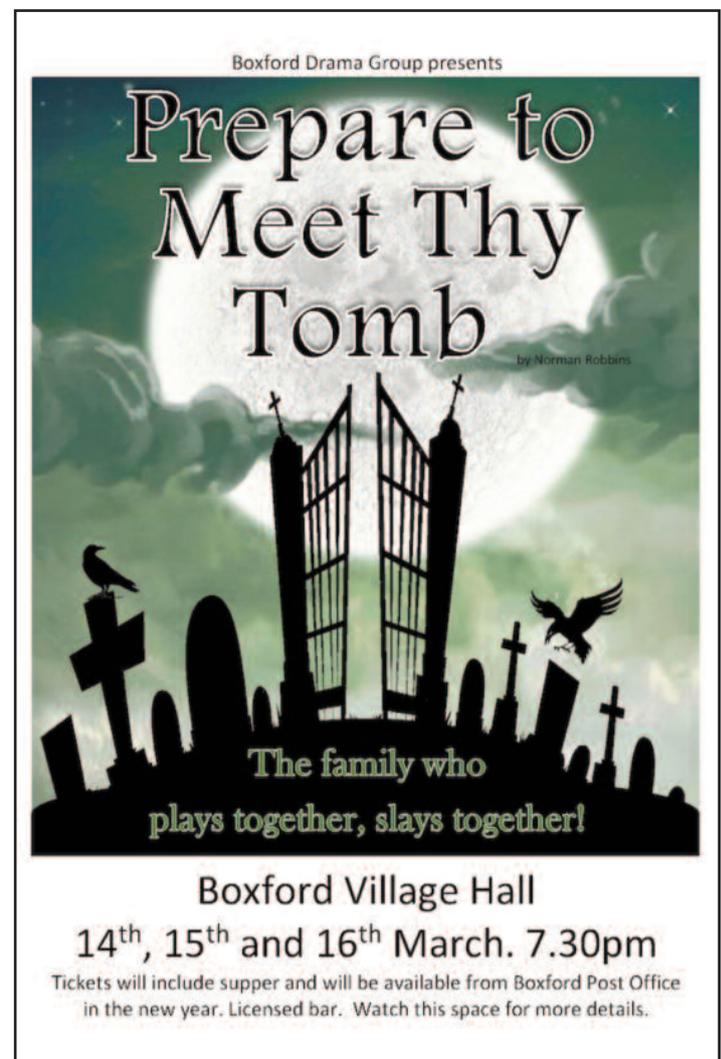
**Lots of lovely things for ladies of all ages -
Everyone welcome!**

Please join us in Lavenham to
support Cancer Research UK

Hotfooted ladies shoes & boots (a whole hall full!),
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accessories, gifts, plants & more...

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[www.facebook.com/
charityshoppingday](http://www.facebook.com/charityshoppingday)

 Approved with
PLANNING
REGULATOR Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and
Wales (1228946), Scotland (SC044020) and the Isle of Man
(1217). Northern Ireland charity registration pending.  **CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**



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.

JWB CATERING AT

NEWTON GREEN GOLF CLUB

WHATS ON

Wednesday 13th February:
Newton Green Breakfast Club
8am-4pm
£8.25 per Head with A tea or coffee

Sunday 24th February:
Two Meat Carvery From 1pm
£11.95 Per Head

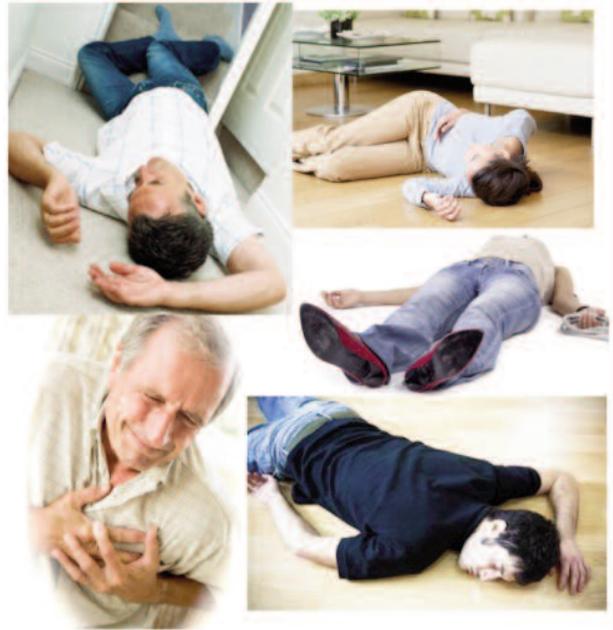
Sunday 3rd March:
Roast Dinner Event 12-4pm
Two Courses for £14.95

Everyone Is Welcome To All Events and Into The Clubhouse Day to Day
So Please Pop in for a Tea or Coffee, or A Light Lunch Today!

For Menus Please See our Facebook Page or Drop in for a copy!
Bookings Being Taken for all Events So please Contact today on
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12:30-3:30pm

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£19.95pp
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www.stokebynayland.com/events-calendar

To book please call 01206 262 836 or email reservations@stokebynayland.com

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Wot's On

Artist Elizabeth Martland DeAlwis Adult & Children Art Workshops

@ Boxford Studio, 1 Homefield, Swan Street CO10 5PB

For more info please contact me on: 01787211618 / 07846849451

emartart@hotmail.com

fb Elizabethmartlanddealwisart IG Elizabethmartlanddealwisart

Adult Art Class Tuesday or Friday or both

Starts February 26th & 28th 12.30-2.30 £120 (per class per 6 week block) or £25 paid weekly per class.

Learn about drawing, composition and painting by producing a painting inspired by a choice of David Hockney or my own work.

February Half Term Children's Workshops

Monday 18th 10.30 - 3.30 Paint a Portrait of your Pet.

Tuesday 19th 10.30 - 3.30 Illustrate a Book about You.

Wednesday 20th 10.30 - 3.30 Create art inspired by Hockney.

Easter Holiday Children's Art Workshops (April)

Tuesday 9th 10.30-3.30 Create a picture inspired by painter Edward Hopper.

Wednesday 10th 10.30-3.30 Paint a picture of your house.

Thursday 11th 10.30-3.30 Mixed media Self Portraits.

Friday 12th 10.30-3.30 Illustrate a Book About Your, use mixed media.

£40 per children's workshop, includes all materials.

Little Waldingfield Litter Pick

23 March 2019

Annual Village Litter Pick (Volunteers Welcome)

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

Parish Room 10.00am

AGM AND TALK
Stoke-by-Nayland Village Hall
Thursday 11th April 2019 7.30 pm

WEA
Adult Learning Within Reach

Through Norway to the Arctic Circle with Frank Ranger



Frank will take you on a journey through Norway, travelling west and north from **Oslo** by train, car and boat. Share his experiences of fascinating sights and wildlife encounters, culminating in Arctic **Svalbard** - Norway's most northerly island

and one of the closest land masses to the **North Pole**. This is sure to be a fascinating exploration of beautiful landscape and exciting wildlife along with a look at the impact of climate change.

All past, present and future members welcome to this **free** lecture and complimentary coffee

For further details please contact
Sue Whiteley - 01787 210945
E: whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk

Next event - Summer Day School
Saturday 6th July 2019
Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich
- Talk and Tour

WEA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 2806910 and a registered charity number 1112775

BOXFORD GARDENING SOCIETY

PETER SKEGGS GOOCH
OF THORNCROFT CLEMATIS NURSERY

A complete guide to clematis



Tuesday 5th March 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall

Stowmarket
Chorale

Music Director:
Tom Appleton

Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem

Saturday 30th March 2019

7.30 pm

United Reformed Church
Stowmarket, IP14 1AD

Tickets: £15

Students/Children free

www.stowmarketchorale.org.uk

or on door

Registered Charity: 280488

EDWARDSTONE WHITE HORSE

Winter Beer Fest

On now until Sun, 24 Feb!

Nacho Night

Every Tuesday From 5pm!

Upcoming Events

Yoga: Mondays from 7pm - Please book

Folk & Blues Nights 2nd & 4th Weds every month

Charity Pub Quiz Sun 3rd March 4.30pm - Book now

Bohemian Blues Night Sat 9th March @ 8.30pm

Mothering Sunday Lunch 12-4pm - Please book

St George's Weekend Special Menu - 21st & 22nd April

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Camping Now
Available to Book!



On Site Brewery
Little Earth
Project
Wild & Historic
Farmhouse Beers.

Kitchen Hours

Weds-Sat: 12pm-2.30pm, 6-9pm

Sunday Lunch 12-4pm

(Roast bookings available)

Contact

01787 211211

edwardstonewhitehorse@gmail.com

www.edwardstonewhitehorse.co.uk

1 Mill Green, Edwardstone, CO10 5PX

Wot's On

Coffee Morning

Little Waldingfield Parish Room

There will be a coffee morning in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance
Saturday 30th March at Little Waldingfield Parish Room, 10am-12 noon.

Sarah Lane

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

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)

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Here at Suffolk's Fostering & Adoption Service we are always looking for additional ways to boost the work we do to recruit new Foster Carers and Prospective Adopters for Suffolk's Children. We attend sessions around the County throughout the year either holding informal Information Events, or attending events such as County Shows. We are working with Councillor James Finch, to highlight this opportunity to the residents of his division in the Stour Valley.

As such we have arranged the following "one to one drop in sessions" during February & March and will be planning further ones throughout the coming year. The initial sessions have been booked for early evenings, but if you would like to attend at a different time, then please email Jade.Cuckow@suffolk.gov.uk or Emma.Whitten@suffolk.gov.uk

The Church Hall, Bear Street, Nayland, - Monday 25th February: 19.30 – 21.30

Marys House, Swan Street, Boxford - Monday 11th March: 19.30 – 21.30

The Committee Room at Leavenheath Village Hall, Wrights Way, Leavenheath - 25th March: 19.30 – 21.30



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Managing Partner

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**Terms apply*

The Chairman of Boxford Parish Council
invites all residents to the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

on

Tuesday 26th March 2019 at

7.30 for **7.45 p.m. start** in Boxford Village Hall

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND AND GIVE REPORTS

Please come along in this Election Year and hear about village projects
including Neighbourhood Planning and from Village organisations
who work hard to keep Boxford such a vibrant community.
All are encouraged to attend and contribute.

Parish Councillors:

Julian Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), Mathew Wooderson (Vice Chairman), Vince
Strafford, Roger Balls, Andrew Sargeant, Hugh Phillips, Phil Wallis and Sara
Mattocks.

Babergh District Councillor: Bryn Hurren

Suffolk County Councillor: James Finch

Will all be present and Tea & Coffee will be served at 7.30 p.m.

GROTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PRESENTS



QUIZ AND CURRY EVENING

At

Groton Village Hall

On Friday 12th April 2019 7.30 for 7.45 Start

£12.00 per head (entry plus choice of curry & dessert)

Teams of four

B.Y.O. Bar

Raffle

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

CHRISTINE BARANSKI PIERCE BROSNAN DOMINIC COOPER COLIN FIRTH ANDY GARCIA LILY JAMES AMANDA SEYFRIED
STELLAN SKARSGARD JULIE WALTERS MERYL STREEP

MAMMA MIA!

— HERE WE GO AGAIN —

LEAVENHEATH CINEMA SATURDAY 2ND MARCH
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

EDWARDSTONE PARISH HALL



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Please contact Daphne Clark for bookings and enquiries..

01787 210698, Mob: 07896414587 email:
daphne.clark@btopenworld.com

Forthcoming Events Diary

March

5 A complete guide to clematis	Boxford Gardening Society	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
6 Boxford WI	Angels' costumes	Boxford Village Hall	2.00pm
14/15/16 Prepare to meet thy Tomb	Boxford Drama Group	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
13 Little Waldingfield Litter Pick	The Parish Council	The Village	10 am
20 Ltl W Hist Soc Sarah Doig	To Relieve Need and Distress	Parish Room	7.30pm
21 Boxford WI	After dinner party games	The Pavilion	8.00pm
26 Boxford Parish Council APM	BPC	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
30 Coffee morning in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance		Parish Room	10am to noon

April

3 Boxford WI	Life of a Racehorse	Boxford Village Hall	2.00pm
12 Quiz and Currey Evening	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	7.30pm
17 Ltl W Hist Soc Pip Wright	The Amazing Story of Rev'd. John Heigham	Steggall Parish Room	7.30pm
18 Boxford WI	Weave your own pillow	The Pavilion	8.00pm
21 Boxford Youth Football Team Anniversary of the trip to USA		Boxford Playing Fields	TBA

May

22 Ltl W Hist Soc David Wood	The History of Landguard Fort	The Parish Room	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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Curry night Tuesday

Pudding and pie day Wednesday

Our new fish board Thursday to Saturday

with Fish and Fizz Friday

Sunday lunch 12 till 7pm

The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton

Rector: The benefice is currently vacant. During the vacancy please direct all initial inquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals to the acting rural dean, the Revd Stephen Morley.

Tel: 01787 227407; e-mail: steve.morley@btinternet.com

Reader: Christopher Kingsbury, Rose Cottage, Sherbourne Street, Edwardstone CO10 5PD

Tel: 211236; Fax: 211238; e-mail: ChrisKingsC@aol.com

Lay Elder: David Lamming, 20 Holbrook Barn Road, Boxford CO10 5HU

Tel: 210360; Fax: 329770; (Mobile) 07968 791135; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com

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

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

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

DIOCESAN SYNOD

The spring meeting of the diocesan synod is on Saturday 16th March 2019 at the Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

BISHOPS' 'WALKING TOGETHER' LENT PILGRIMAGE 2019

For their Lent pilgrimage this year, Bishops Martin and Mike are walking from Southwold to Stowmarket, starting with an 'ashing' service of Holy Communion on Southwold Pier at 9.00 am on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, and ending at Stowmarket on Friday 15th March in time to join the meeting there of the diocesan synod on the 16th.

The bishops welcome people to join them. You do not need to attend the whole day of walking: they are more than happy for you to accompany them for parts of their journey.

Details of the route and timings are on the diocesan website: <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/bishops-pilgrimage-2019>

BISHOPS' LENT APPEAL FOR KAGERA

Following the 'wonderful response' to the 2017 Kagera Lent appeal, our bishops are again appealing this year for financial and prayer support for our link diocese of Kagera in Tanzania. Resources to give ideas for and to help with fundraising are on the diocesan website: <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/bishops/kagera-lentappeal>

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT, 25th February to 10th March 2019:

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to celebrate the people who grow our food, people who live in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year the fortnight is focusing on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much.

£1.86 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income. Currently, a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on around 74p a day. Almost all cocoa farmers in West Africa live in poverty. For the women the situation is even worse. They may plant and harvest on the farm, look after children, carry water, collect wood, cook and clean for the family, and transport the cocoa beans to market but often with fewer rights than men. This is why Fairtrade are campaigning for a living income to become a reality for cocoa farmers in West Africa. If we can work together with governments, chocolate companies and retailers to make the commitments and policies necessary, then we can make it happen.

For details of the #SheDeserves campaign and how you could help, go to: www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SUDBURY & DISTRICT

PRAYER BREAKFASTS: Each Saturday a different church hosts a prayer breakfast from 8.00 to 9.30 am – a light breakfast followed by a time of prayer. All are welcome. For details of the venues in March, and of other Church Together events, go to the website:

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

The Rock Choir Concert on Sunday 10th February was a great success & much enjoyed by the audience who filled the church. £1908.00 was raised for church funds. We are indebted to Jane Lewis & her team for organising posters, tickets and arranging for the huge quantity of cakes for the refreshments. Sandra & Michael Gray together with Veronica & Robert Hobbs & other helpers served the tea & cakes. The choir comprised some 80 + members led by choir master Adam Hendriksen sang songs from the 60's to date. Many thanks are due to him & the choir. Rock Choir is a nationwide choir family in over 300 locations, set up by Caroline Redman Lusher nearly fifteen years ago. They rehearse locally with Adam Henriksen in Sudbury Quay Theatre and at the Curve, Ormiston Centre, performing both at local events and with other Rock Choir groups nearby and from across the UK. Their most recent large-scale venture was to the 2018 Proms in the Park, when 10,000 Rockies came together to sing in Hyde Park! They have another concert in support of the Bridge Project Saturday 9th March in St Peter's Church, Sudbury.

Suffolk Villages Festival Concert - Sunday 7th April at 6.00pm

Virtuoso pianist David Owen Norris makes a welcome return to SVF to present a specially devised recital exploring the role of counterpoint in J.S. Bach's music, and the creative ways composers from Mozart to Vaughan Williams responded to it. The programme includes a complete performance of Mendelssohn's Six Preludes and Fugues Op. 35.

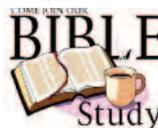
Booking office Tel: 01206366603 or visit:

www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com

The Boxford Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on **Sunday 7th April 2019 at 12.15 pm**, following Café Church. The APCM will commence with a meeting to elect churchwardens for the coming year.

A New church electoral roll is being prepared. This is done every six years for Boxford Church and commenced on 20th January 2019, with a notice placed on church notice boards. Those on the previous roll will be informed so they can re-apply. Announcements have also been made in church. The electoral roll will be closed to applications on 16th March 2019. Application forms will be available in church. Those on the current electoral roll will need to re apply please.

Lent Lunch 2019 - A Lent Lunch is to be held at the home of Frances Munro, 11 Brookhall Road, Boxford, on **Friday 15th March - 12.00-2.00pm**. Please let Frances know if you would like to come Tel:01787 211733



The Bible Study Group meets at the home of Peter & Margaret Holden, 47 Swan Street on 2nd & 4th Mondays each Month at 7.30pm.

The Alpha Course continues each Monday at 2.30 pm in Mary's House until Monday 4th March, led by the Revd Dr. Simon Gill, with tea & cakes too!

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

**Please, NO LATER THAN 12th March
Failure to meet the date will mean your
copy may not be included**

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



THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

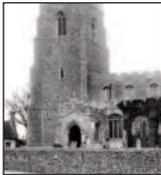
Churchwarden:
Vacant

EDWARD STONE CHURCH, Morning Worship, Sunday 17 March
Sidesman, David Saddleton
Coffee, Ineke Morris
Cleaning for the month, Caroline Williams & Melanie Childs

No flowers during Lent.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING EVENT AT EDWARDSTONE CHURCH

Back by popular demand are The Covent Garden Buskers who will come to the church for us on Saturday 29 June. Those who came last time were impressed by their professionalism as well as their enthusiasm to involve the audience in the spirit of the music they played. More details will be available nearer the date but in the meantime you can reserve your booking with any PCC member.



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

Rotas

Sidesmen

3 March Mrs. Nicholls and Mr. Duffy

Flowers

3 March Mrs. Duffy

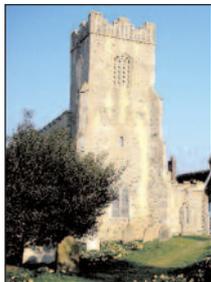
LENT

No flowers
Sunday 3 February Holy Communion was given by the Revd. Richard Tifford. A larger congregation than usual attended, and were so pleased to welcome him back after so many years.

The church walls are now plastered, and the first coat of limewash almost completed.

The Electoral Roll is being renewed this year. Forms have been sent to all those on the existing Roll. These should be returned to Mrs. Eddington, Bramley Cottage, opposite The Swan. If anyone not on the present Roll wishes to be included, forms may be obtained from Nancy Roser (01787) 882897, or Mrs. Eddington (01787) 247932. Being on the Electoral Roll entitles you to attend, if you so wish, the AGM which this year is on Tuesday 9 April.

The Lent Lunch will be served in the Parish Room on **Wednesday 3 April from 12.00-2.00pm**. All are very welcome.



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwardens:
Vacant

Acting Churchwarden:

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

ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY

Sidesman: Mrs Sheila Gooderham

Flowers: Mrs Margaret Lethbridge

Cleaning: Mrs Margaret Lethbridge

PCC MEETING: The next meeting of the PCC is on **Monday 11th March 2019 at 2.30 pm** at Mary's House. Items for the agenda should be communicated to the secretary, David Lamming (tel: 01787 210360; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com) by Saturday 2nd March.

RENEWAL OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL – A REMINDER

As announced here in the February issue, the electoral roll is being completely renewed ahead of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on **9 April 2019**. Everyone who wishes to have his or her name on the roll must complete an application form, whether or not their name is on the current roll. Application forms can be obtained from David Lamming (the electoral roll officer: tel 210360; e-mail:

djlamming@hotmail.com) and must be returned by Sunday 17 March 2019. The new roll will be published and come into effect on Sunday 24 March 2019

TOILET AND KITCHEN: PROGRESS REPORT AS AT 13 FEBRUARY 2019

The new pammments have now been laid at the west end of the church, including under the tower, to provide a level floor throughout the main part of the church. Delivery of the kitchen units and book shelves is awaited. Outside, the base has been laid for a cabinet to house the electrical equipment that is to be moved from the tower arch. Other electrical equipment will be enclosed in a new cupboard, so that the whole tower area will look much tidier. Work to erect the WC building will commence once the main electric cable has been re-routed to the new cabinet.



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwarden:
Vacant

27th January : Our first Service of the year was Plough Sunday Service. This usually takes place on the second Sunday of January, but we do not have a service until the fourth Sunday of the month. We welcomed back Roy Tricker to lead our special service .

On the Altar there were horse brasses and old photos of a ploughing match showing the actual brasses to the horses. During the service we were invited to the back of the Nave to Bless the Plough which had been dressed with wheat, corn and barley . We called out in our responses " God speed the Plough" and prayed for all as we cut our life's furrow in 2019.

We were delighted to welcome people from all the parishes and during refreshments they were chatting and reminiscing with Roy . Thank you to Nancy Roser for playing the organ for us, the bell ringer, reader and all who helped with refreshments and any other duties to create a warm, welcoming service in the cold month of January.

Notices : 20th March --- 12.00 to 2.00 pm. LENT LUNCH at LOWES , Church Road Newton . If you wish to donate -- the charity is for The Royal Papworth Hospital's --- Lung Defence Research Fund.

BENEFICE NEWS

UPDATE ON THE PROCESS TO FIND A NEW RECTOR

An advertisement for the post was published in the Church Times on 8th February and will be repeated the following three weeks. The closing date for applications is 13th March, with interviews programmed for 26th and 27th March. A copy of the Benefice Profile can be downloaded from the diocesan website: www.cofesuffolk.org/vacancies/role/rector-of-box-river-benefice.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Following Simon Gill's resignation as rural dean (see Deanery News), all initial inquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals should be directed to the acting rural dean, the Revd Stephen Morley. Tel: 01787 227407; e-mail: steve.morley@btinternet.com

'FIFTH SUNDAY' FIVE VILLAGES SERVICE

Our 'Five Villages' service this month is on Mothering Sunday, **31st March, at 10.00 am** at St Lawrence's Church, Little Waldingfield. All are welcome from across the benefice.

LENT LUNCHESES Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which this year is 6 March 2019.

Lent lunches across the benefice have been arranged as follows:

- Friday 15 March at 11 Brook Hall Road, Boxford (Frances Munro's home)
- Wednesday 20 March at Lowes, Church Road, Newton (Margaret Lowe's home)
- Wednesday 3 April at the Parish Room, Church Road, Little Waldingfield
- Wednesday 10 April at Primrose Cottage, Groton (Diana McCorkell's home)

All the lunches are from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm: just drop in for a simple lunch of soup and rolls. Each lunch will support a different charity.

March 2019

Church Services in the Box River Benefice

Note: (1) 'TBA' indicates that the person to lead the service had not been allocated at the time this issue of the *Box River News* went to press (15.2.2019); (2) Further mid-week informal services of Holy Communion may be arranged: if so, the dates will be given on a notice in the window of Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford; (3) Henry Heath, who we welcome to take two of our services this month, is a retired priest living in Long Melford. We are very grateful to all those clergy who have assisted by taking services in the benefice during the vacancy. Please look at the Church News in this issue for an update on the appointment process for a new rector.

Sunday 3rd	Sunday next before Lent	(G)
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 6th	Ash Wednesday	(P)
Boxford	10.30 Informal Holy Communion at Mary's House with imposition of ashes	Revd Dr Simon Gill

Sunday 10th	First Sunday of Lent	(P)
Groton	09.30 Holy Communion	Revd Henry Heath
Boxford	11.00 Morning Worship	Christopher Kingsbury

Sunday 17th	Second Sunday of Lent; St Patrick	(P)
Edwardstone	09.30 Morning Worship	TBA
Boxford	11.00 Holy Communion	Revd Henry Heath

Sunday 24th	Third Sunday of Lent	(P)
Boxford	11.00 Matins	Christopher Kingsbury
Newton	11.00 Holy Communion	TBA

Sunday 31st	Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday	(P)
Lt Waldingfield	10.00 Five Villages Service for Mothering Sunday with Holy Communion.	TBA
Boxford	11.00 Mothering Sunday Family Service with flowers for our mothers	Christopher Kingsbury

DEANERY NEWS

RURAL DEAN ON THE MOVE

Our rural dean, the Revd Dr Simon Gill, will be moving in May from All Saints' Church, Sudbury, to a new post as Team Rector of the 'OWLS' benefice: four villages (Over, Willingham, Longstanton and Swavesey) located just off the A14, a few miles north-west of Cambridge in the Diocese of Ely. Simon's last Sunday at All Saints' is 28th April; he will be licensed to his new role by the Bishop of Ely at 4.00 pm on Sunday 19th May at St Andrew's Church, Swavesey.

In preparation for the move Simon has resigned as rural dean with effect from 13th February. The Revd Stephen Morley, vicar of Bures, Assington and Little Cornard, will be acting rural dean until Simon's permanent successor is appointed. We are extremely grateful to Simon for all the help and support he has given to the Box River benefice during our current vacancy.

DEANERY SYNOD

The deanery synod meets at St Andrew's Church, Great Cornard at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 12 March 2019. (Refreshments from 7.00 pm)

Soap Box

I'm not entirely sure when I first started writing these articles. My records go back more than 15 years, but the piece I wrote for January 2004, which is the earliest I could find, makes reference to earlier articles and letters in response. Back then I was writing as much from the perspective of the chairman of the parish council as anything, but I know there were still earlier articles that were primarily of a financial nature, because that was the business I was in.

Interestingly, this early article to which I referred was on the topic of bureaucracy. Fifteen years on nothing much seems to have changed. In Portugal, from where I am writing this, the burden of bureaucracy seems even greater than in the UK. Any transaction needs a paper receipt, with the cash register – or whatever device is used to generate the receipt – linked to a central government computer so that they can follow what is going on.

Let me give you an example of how this particular brand of Big Brother works. At a seminar I attended recently to bring myself up to date with Portuguese tax rules and how they might be impacted by Brexit, the person delivering the main talk told his audience of how an Indian restaurant had been caught out by the system. A receipt it received for several thousand take away cartons purchased had been compared with the receipts issued for take away meals sold. An inspection revealed that no cartons remained from the original batch, yet only a few hundred meals had been paid for, according to the restaurant's records. The result – a hefty fine.

Apparently the plan is to do away with paper receipts altogether and issue businesses and traders with smart cards that will record transactions direct to the government's offices. This seems like a positive move as receipts must be issued, no matter how small the amount. It seems that Portugal is investing heavily in IT infrastructure in an effort both to simplify things and to make it even harder for people to circumvent the system and evade tax.

Efforts like this back in the UK seem often to fall flat on their face. The audit office has criticised many computer systems introduced in a wide variety of government departments as being unworkable, inappropriate or simply too expensive. Given how much we rely on computers these days, it is a wonder more effort is not made to ensure

we get it right before the big expenditure starts to mount up. Perhaps Portugal will suffer a similar fate, though with a population less than one fifth of that of the UK, they have less scale to worry about.

The fact is that many private organisations have succeeded in introducing vast complex systems that appear to work very well. As I travel around, I am amazed at how closely Google monitors my movements and tells me where I have visited. Now that is even more big brother like. And, let's face it, satellite navigation systems can track where you are and what is available around you, in case you need a meal, a hotel or simply some fuel for your car.

All this transfer of information and control to computer systems does, of course, make society more vulnerable to aggressive action from hackers who, as like or not, will be part of a coordinated and organised operation within a nation state that does not subscribe to democratic values. It is a rapidly changing world in which we all live these days. Even crime is steadily migrating to the internet. And the advance of bureaucracy through information technology is unlikely to make life any easier. Fifteen years on things certainly have changed – and not always for the better.

Brian Tora

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GARDENING IN MARCH INSPIRED BY THE LATE HARRY BUCKLEDEE

When the soil is dry enough to walk on, go through the strawberry bed and herbaceous border firming any plants which may have been lifted by frost. Raspberries should be supported by posts and horizontal wires, and the young canes which grew last year tied into this position, shortening the leading shoots a little. Gooseberries should be pruned right away by cutting the side shoots back to two buds from the main stem. Complete the planting of trees, shrubs and roses this month. Do not plant too deeply, use the present soil mark on stems as a guide and do not plant below that line.

March is a busy month in the vegetable garden, weather permitting, shallots should be planted as soon as possible. Use a trowel to plant the sets rather than just pushing them in the soil which forms a hard base which the roots have difficulty in penetrating and tend to push the bulb out of the soil. Parsnips need a long season of growth and the seed need to be sown rather thickly as the percentage of germination is not as high as most seeds. It is best to delay the sowing of red beet until right at the end of the month, a high percentage go to seed from earlier sowings.

Give spring cabbage and sprouting broccolice a dressing of dried blood or chicken pellets or any quick acting nitrogen fertilizer, loosen the soil with a hoe to let air in and they will soon make new growth.

Small tomatoe plants are on sale at garden centres, if your greenhouse is heated a start can be made now to provide a supply of fruit from early July until the Autumn. Six plants should produce enough to supply most families and works out cheaper than buying seed and raising your own plants. With some growers, white fly is a problem, it used to be with me until I grew some mint inside the greenhouse and along the outside, it seems the smell of mint leaves which are bruised every time you tread on them, may not work for everyone, but worth a try. Now that the days are lengthening and the light is getting stronger, household plants will need a little more water, though continuing to keep them a little on the dry side. Apply a weak liquid fertilizer sparingly to plants in bud and any that are making new growth. If water passes quickly through a pot it may be in need of re-potting. Tip the plant out of the pot and if the roots take up all the space, pot on to a size larger pot.

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

Continue to plant deciduous hedging plants, shrubs, trees and climbers. Stakes and rabbit guards should be put in place at the time of planting trees, to prevent damage to the rootball or bark.

This is the best month for planting roses in heavy soils or in cold areas. Avoid planting in areas where roses were previously grown, otherwise new introductions may suffer from replant disease.

Towards the end of the month, you can plant evergreen shrubs and trees left unplanted since the autumn.

In warmer areas, evergreen trees and shrubs can be moved in late March. It is better to wait until early April in colder areas. Make sure the soil is not waterlogged or frozen solid, and bear in mind that they will need careful attention to watering if they are to survive their first summer after moving. If you are hesitant to move large trees and shrubs so close to the summer, then you can prepare mature specimens for moving next autumn. Digging a narrow trench around the plant, cutting some of the roots in the process, encourages the growth of finer, fibrous roots, rather than the thick tap roots which are harder to remove successfully, and which absorb water less efficiently.

Top 10 jobs this month

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

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Parish Council Matters

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

held on Monday 7th January 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques, M Wooderson, V Strafford, R Balls, A Sargeant, H Phillips, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 3 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: P Wallis

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 3RD DECEMBER 2018: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: The Church has confirmed we can proceed with the Tree work in the Churchyard. Ourselves or the Tree Surgeon just needs to apply for Conservation Area Consent. They have also agreed in principle to the Memorial tree subject to a more suitable location being agreed, they will contact the family. On other matters, the car being driven along the croft was raised again and that cars park too close to the Bus Shelter. At Goodlands, the question of the footpath to Primrose Wood was raised as that was part of the original permission. An enquiry was made regarding checking the progress of the Cygnet Court build. Issues still arise from youths using the Bus Shelter as a meeting place and littering. Finally a resident spoke favourably about supporting the pub planning application to bring the lost facilities back to the village.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: B Hurren agreed to chase up the Primrose Wood footpath issue raised. V Strafford spoke of encouraging discussions with the Sudbury Community Wardens. They should be able to help with various issues around the Village. It was agreed to invite them to a Parish Council Meeting to discuss what they have to offer - Action V Strafford.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr James Finch attended and reported that the options report to relieve Sudbury road congestion was published on 5th December 2018. A list of suitable schemes to improve junctions will be drawn up. The County Council is considering removing its grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau by phasing it out over a couple of years. It was reported that the Sport and Physical Activity sector is worth £270m a year to the Suffolk Economy. Cllr Finch is arranging drop in sessions in the vicinity to provide information to potential Foster Carers. On local matters, he confirmed he was following through the drainage at the croft and the lining to prevent parking too close to the bus shelter. Following his report, concern and questioning followed in relation to the reduction in funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr Bryn Hurren attended and confirmed following the late receipt of information from Central Government, budget is being worked upon. The increase is likely to be at 3% to residents. Further recycling is encouraged to avoid unnecessary expenditure on landfill tax. With elections coming up, communications are restricted in the period of purdah. On local issues, he attended Cecil's funeral which was a sad but good occasion and well supported. He was supportive of the comments made in the public section in respect of improvements to the White Hart to help with the re-opening of this village facility. He continues to monitor the work at the old Homefield flats. The bottlebanks are in place at their new location.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: V Strafford reported on a 25% return rate and that most of the analysis had been completed. New volunteers had come forward and he intended to clarify with them their understanding in this regard - Action V Strafford.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. H Phillips updated the Parish Council on the Allotment Allocation complaint. Whilst no vacancies exist currently, some may arise soon. He continues to pursue the case.

STREET CLEANING PRIORITIES: Some concerning matters had been observed in relation to the Street Cleaning specific to leaf blowing. It was agreed for M Wooderson to draft a suitable communication to our contractors to seek explanations and consider whether changes are needed - Action M Wooderson. Other options will also be considered for future contracts.

NOMINATION OF TRUSTEES FOR BOXFORD & GROTON UNITED CHARITIES: Following a letter from Boxford and Groton United Charities on 17th November 2018, M Wooderson proposed to nominate the following to act, or to continue to act, as Trustees, for a period of 3 years from July 2018: -

Dr John Flather, Mr Victor Rice, Mr Michael Norman, Mr Guy Godfray
This was seconded by R Balls and unanimously carried.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 7th January 2018 were £33033.43 in the Community Account, £13364.04 in the Deposit Account and £48776.71 in the Reserve Account making a total of £95174.18.

The Precept form was duly completed and signed in accordance with the Precept of £38020 agreed at the December Meeting.

CEMETERY: A Sargeant confirmed he carried out the Risk Assessment in

the Churchyard and Cemetery resulting in 3 memorial stones requiring laying down for safety reasons. No other hazards were identified.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:

R Balls will attend to the salt boxes. It was agreed to include an Agenda item for next meeting of "Village Hall Roof Repairs Project" - Action Clerk. It was agreed to ask P Wallis for the Tree Surgeon details to enable us to make contact directly.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council

at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 7th January 2019

The following Decisions were advised from the Planning Authorities: -

A) 30 Stone Street Outline Application for new dwelling - Permission was Refused

B) Clayfield Farm, Hadleigh Road Planning Permission had been granted for single storey dwelling to serve agricultural business.

C) Chequers, 7 Church Street Condition 4 - Requirement for Inspection had been approved.

D) 15 Homefield Condition 4 (Surface water discharge prevention) and Condition 8 (Refuse and Recycling Bins) were approved.

The following were discussed: -

1) White Hart, Broad Street Planning & Listed Building Application for single storey rear extension, removal of timber stair enclosure, erection of external stair and associated access door plus concrete hard standing and removal of infill brick plinth, door and window. The Parish Council strongly recommend approval.

2) Other Planning matters - Short notice has been given of a public consultation in the Village Hall by Catesby Homes and the numbers of properties are higher than the Parish Council was led to believe. Further information had been requested. The Parish Council were invited to attend ahead of the public on the day. Further enquiries are being made about the use of the land behind Bell House. Interested parties are being contacted and enquiries are being made about the cost of providing and running a Village Car Park. A question was raised about whether the land is suitable for development as a car park in view of flood defenses and whether pre-application advice had been sought from the Planning Authority.

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: 2nd May 2019

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and Parish Council Elections
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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-fields 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.

Happy, 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@bsbarberghsuffolk.gov.uk 0300 1234 000 option 4)

THE NAMES ON OUR WAR MEMORIALS -MARCH 2019



This month marks the end of this series of articles, in which I have attempted to recall to living memory all the men whose names appear on the war memorials in our five villages. I had intended that the article would consist principally of summary information to give a more generalised context to the lives and

times of the lost villagers. However, as is so often the case in research, while resolving one uncertainty another question gets answered.

I thought it important that the age structure of this group of men was known and, whilst gathering the relevant data, I realised that there was one man for whom I remained uncertain as to exactly who he was and thus could not be certain of his age. This was Ernest King of Boxford who died on 31st July 1917. As much as was possible at the time, his story was related in the article published in the July 2017 Box River News (BRN). However, as we noted then, there were two Ernest Kings living in Boxford at the time and either one of them could have been Private Ernest King, 50244, 1st/5th King's (Liverpool Regiment). I decided to follow this up and came across some new documents which confirmed that his mother's name was Rose. With that information I was then able to place him accurately in his family history. So, before looking at the more general picture, I will briefly outline Ernest's short life.

He was born on 9th August 1895 and was baptised in St. Mary's Church on 27th October. His parents were William and Rose King. William was an agricultural labourer born in Boxford about 1861, the son of Samuel and Lydia King, and Rose was the daughter of Robert and Mary Hills and had been born in the village about 1860. Interestingly, Rose's mother, Mary, was Irish and she had been married before to a pensioned soldier, John Ward, who died around 1849. They had arrived in Assington about 1840 by way of Portsmouth and Sheerness along with two children and they had two further children before John died. Thus, Rose had four step siblings and Mary and Robert had two other children as well as Rose.

Returning to Ernest he is to be found in the 1901 Census living in Stone Street with his two elder brothers and an elder sister. However, Rose is listed as a widow working as a tailoress, as is her 13 year-old daughter Louisa. Her husband, William, had died on 12th March 1900 from what we would now call heart valve disease and it was a sudden death because the secondary cause of death was stated to be apoplexy. This was generally used in the nineteenth century to describe a death quickly following a sudden loss of consciousness. The family was still living in Stone Street in 1911 and Ernest was working as an agricultural labourer and it is from those circumstances, no doubt, that Ernest set out to join the fight on the Western Front and ultimately to meet his death during the Battle of Passchendaele. The day he died was the day a period of unseasonable rain began in France, which quite quickly turned the battlefield into a sea of mud in which men simply drowned. I have not followed any of Ernest's three siblings but it would appear that Rose died in Boxford in 1936.

Before leaving the individual biographies of our villagers I can now put on record a few more details that have come to light in respect of some of the men who we have met in the previous articles. In the article published in the August 2016 issue of the BRN, we met Private Reginald Mason of Groton, 8901, 'B' Company 3rd Battalion Suffolk Regiment, who died 24th August 1914. I noted at the time he was the first from our villages to die in the War. I had no knowledge of the circumstances of his death except that he was buried in Groton Churchyard and thus would have died in this country. Subsequently I realised that for any serviceman, who died in the United Kingdom, the death had to be registered in the usual way. I then extracted the death certificates for the five soldiers who are buried in the churchyard of their home village. Reginald's certificate is particularly sad in that it tells us that, whilst stationed at Felixstowe and serving in the 3rd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, the young man took his own life by shooting 'whilst of unsound mind'. Reginald had enlisted into the Regular Army on 16th February 1914. He was 24 years old and had been a farm labourer and so had chosen to make his way in the world in the armed forces before the outbreak of the War. We shall never know what it was that tipped the balance of Reginald's mind, but it seems fitting to me that, even in these circumstances, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) treats him no differently to those who died in active service.

Another of these certificates gives an additional insight to the injuries that

men on the front line suffered and that caused them to be evacuated from the front line and returned to England for treatment. In July 2016 I related the story of Serjeant Ernest Frederick Peachey of Edwardstone, 14858, 8th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, who died on 13th July and was the son of the schoolmaster in the village. Ernest Peachey was wounded on the fifth day of the Battle of the Somme and was sent to the hospital in Woburn Abbey for treatment. The causes of his death eleven days later are given as 'Bullet wound of thigh. Amputation of leg. Heart failure', stark reminders of the harrowing results of gunshot and shell fire.

Having raised the subject of conditions on the Western Front, for a very real understanding of what men endured, the documentary titled 'They Shall Not Grow Old' by Peter Jackson, which was first broadcast by the BBC in November 2018, is essential viewing. It combines the recorded recollections of those who fought on the Front with skilfully coloured actual film footage from the time. It is not easy to watch and has some very disturbing images. Even after all my research, I found the reality conveyed by this programme to be far worse than I had imagined. It was recently repeated on BBC2 and is available on iPlayer until the 2nd March 2019.

Moving now to my original theme for this last article, we have met each of the 92 villagers in some detail, but what sort of picture do we get if we consider them in groups and categories? I will start by looking at how they were employed before the War. The limitations of the available information mean that, in most cases, I have had to rely on the occupational description in the 1911 Census and there are 7 men for whom I lack any data. Obviously, some changes are likely to have occurred between the Census and when the men enlisted but I think the general picture is not unrepresentative. The most marked result of this analysis is that 46, exactly 50%, could be classified as farm workers. Into this category I have grouped agricultural labourers, horsemen, stockmen and cowmen. I appreciate that this ignores some of the quite important distinctions in respect of status for those employed on farms, but it reinforces the point that the farming of the land was the single largest employer of men in the villages at the time. These were the men who toiled on the land and who died in their hundreds of thousands in the various theatres of the War. Of the other men, the next largest groups were 6 regular soldiers, 4 grocer's assistants and 2 each baker's boys, house boys and groom and gardeners. Beyond that there are a further 25 occupations each represented by one man ranging from an apprentice plumber to an under chauffeur. Of those 25 men, I think it is safe to say that only 4 owned their own business and the rest were employed by someone else.

Next, we consider their ages at the time of death. The youngest to die was just 18 and the oldest was 56; 8 were under 20, 60 were aged 20 to 29, 16 were aged 30 to 39, 7 were aged 40 to 49 and just one was 50 or over. If we add together the under 20s and the 20 to 29s, a total of 68 young men, it is evident that effectively one generation made up three quarters of the deaths. This proportion is roughly mirrored in each of five villages even though the total number lost from each village varies considerably with 39 from Boxford, 14 from Edwardstone, 11 from Groton, 8 from Little Waldingfield and 20 from Newton. This proportion is significant in itself, but I also compared the number in this group against the summary information from the 1911 Census for each of the villages. By looking at the numbers of men with birth years that would place them in the up to 29 age group for the period 1914 to 1918, it turns out that in each village about one third of that generation never came home from the War.

This alone must have had a considerable impact on the village communities. However, looking beyond the men themselves, their loss also left 17 widows, at least 22 children without a father, something like 85 sets of parents grieving a son, dozens of brothers and sisters missing a sibling, many grandparents with one less grandson and countless uncles, aunts, sweethearts and just friends mourning the loss of a young man who was part of their lives. Each of these layers of loss is like a ripple in the social structure of the communities and, taken together, the dislocation caused by the conflict begins to emerge as real and apparent amongst communities with which we have, even today, much in common.

Another dimension of the loss can be gained by considering how the deaths were distributed over time. We know that 4 died in 1914, 18 in 1915, 21 in 1916, 26 in 1917, 19 in 1918, 3 in 1919 and one in 1920. By month, the data shows there were 41 different months in which news of at least one death would have reached the villages and the figures closely reflect the major offensives of the War; 5 in April 1915, the first Battle of Ypres; taking July and August 1916 together, 10 to the Battle of the Somme; the Battle of Arras in April 1917 took 7, the worst single month; July to September 1917, the Battle of Passchendaele saw a further 10 lost; and the German spring offensive in April 1918 cost another 5 lives. The deadliest single day, with 3 men killed in action, was 18th August 1916 deep in the continuing Battle of the Somme.

Turning to their actual service we find that there were 71 other ranks, 17

NCOs, and 4 officers and that all but two, a sailor and an airman, served in the Army. 62 were Privates, 11 Corporals or Lance Corporals, 5 Sergeants or Lance Sergeants, 2 Lieutenants or Second Lieutenants, one Captain and one Lieutenant Colonel, the highest rank. There was also one each of Air Mechanic, Driver, and Stoker, and 4 each of Gunners and Riflemen. The soldiers served in 37 different regiments but of those, 34 men were Suffolks and a further 7 were in the Essex Regiment and, of those in the Suffolk regiment, 26 were in battalions founded as part of Kitchener's New Army. This demonstrates the power of the locally targeted recruiting drive which characterised the early part of 1915. Of meritorious service we have one Distinguished Service Order, one Military Cross, one twice Mentioned in Despatches and two Mentioned in Despatches. Before leaving this summary of service we should not forget the three who had emigrated before the War but returned to fight and die for their country of birth, two from Canada and one from South Africa.

We also need to ask where they lie. Whilst writing these articles the phrase no known grave became very familiar, but when I analysed the data, I was shaken to find that 38 of the 92, 41%, fall into that category. So, we can say that we only know where 54 of all those men from our villages are actually buried. Adding back in those with no known grave, 51 lie in France, 23 in Belgium, 6 in Turkey, 2 in Iraq, one each in Egypt, Malta, and South Africa, and 7 here in England. As well as on our own war memorials, their names are recorded at 60 different memorials or cemeteries. 10 are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, 9 on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, 5 on the Helles Memorial, and 4 on the Arras Memorial. The rest are scattered in ones or twos across the other 56 sites.

Of all these statistics, it is those which give us a background to the lives of the men who laid down their lives that I find most moving. This was a War fought in other countries and yet, as we have seen in the context of our five small rural Suffolk villages, it was a war which profoundly altered whole communities. And it did this in almost every community in the nation and irrevocably damaged a whole generation of young people and it should never be forgotten that this is what war does to nations whatever the rights and wrongs of a cause.

For me this has been a long journey of discovery but I think, had things been different, it would have been travelled in the company of another villager, who had a keen interest in the lives of the fallen long before I took up the baton. During early 2013 I found myself in conversation with the late and greatly missed Barrie Thorpe. I remember talking through some of his ideas as to how to research the men of Boxford who had lost their lives in the War. This was in the context of the approaching centenary of the outbreak of the War the following year. Barrie had long shown a great understanding of the importance of keeping alive the collective and individual memory of the war dead. He was a member of the Western Front Association and served as its Memorials Officer. The Association, and I quote from its web site,

'...was formed in 1980 to maintain interest in the period 1914-1918, to perpetuate the memory, courage and comradeship of those on all sides who served their countries in France and Flanders and their own countries during the Great War. It does not seek to glorify war and is non-political.'

Whilst I have mentioned many times the Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorials and cemeteries, I have never had cause to mention the private memorials to lost soldiers that still exist along the course of the Western Front. Although it was the policy of the then Imperial War Graves Commission to consolidate into larger formal cemeteries the hundreds of small battlefield memorials and graves that mostly marked the spot where men died, a few families resisted this and undertook to erect and maintain private memorials to their loved ones. Over time, as relatives died out, many of these became dilapidated. Some were taken into the care of the CWGC, by arrangement with and at the expense of the family, but others languished. Barrie was acutely aware that the situation was not sustainable. The following are Barrie's words.

'Looking at some of these private memorials it was clear to me that each represented a unique part of our history which ought to be preserved. Those in churches and cemeteries were well cared for on the whole and not at risk. Generally, those to French soldiers were also well respected. But what of those "isolated" British memorials miles from anywhere – literally in "a corner of a foreign field"? These were at risk – even some of those in the care of the CWGC were vulnerable to damage which might lie undiscovered for months. Some were deteriorating, others were damaged and several marked on maps were no longer there. Further, there seemed to be no record of how many there were, nor indeed where they were.'

With this in mind, the Association adopted a policy in 1991 "to try to record and preserve the remaining British and Empire isolated private

memorials and graves on the Western Front." and in 1999 Barrie was able to write

'Nine years later I believe we have located all that now remain. We have restored some at our expense and helped others to do the same, but this would be of only short-term benefit unless each memorial had a permanent "guardian" for the future. This meant tracing families and interested parties where they existed and finding new sponsors where they did not. In this way we have been extremely fortunate and the memorials and graves are now in good hands and their future seems assured.'

From this account it should be clear that Barrie would have been deeply involved in doing what I have tried to do over the last three years and he would have done it in a more timely fashion and with great sensitivity and respect. Sadly, Barrie died in June 2013 so it was not to be. The month before he died he gave to Judith and myself a copy of his book, published by The Western Front Association in 1999, 'The Private Memorials of the Great War on the Western Front' and he signed it to us both. It is on my desk as I write and it is this book from which I have quoted his words. I hope I have done justice to his memory and have carried that baton faithfully.

I said earlier that this has been a journey of discovery for me and a constant theme in these articles has been that the past is more than just history; it is a valuable resource that can help us understand the present. In February 2017 I devoted the whole of my article to an account of the history of the CWGC. Inevitably I reflected on the millions of lives lost on all sides in the War and I wrote the following at the end, and I make no excuse for repeating this at a critical juncture in the relationship between this country and its neighbours in Europe.

'How can it be that civilised nations permit this slaughter and destruction to occur? My parents married in 1944 and I was born a few years later. I grew up and matured in a world where, despite the Cold War, there prevailed the idea that peace was best served through openness and co-operation between nation states. Now, I watch a world where that generally internationalist climate of political and economic exchange between nations is faltering, and in its place countries are assuming a more inward looking stance, where nationalism in its most divisive form gains stature. With the lasting monuments to the slaughter of previous wars in mind, we should not be afraid to speak truth to power and say, look upon these cemeteries and learn, for this is where racial and religious intolerance, the pursuit of unfettered power and greed and the hollow ring of jingoistic sentiment lead us'.

Then in November 2018, at the time of the great national remembrance of the centenary of the signing of the Armistice, I wrote,

'There has to be a future which we think we can shape for the better, but we also have to learn from the past, a lesson more necessary than ever in our conflicted times. So, as well as remembrance, these articles and the cathartic tide of memory and respect that engendered them, and countless similar projects, have to be read as the starkest of lessons, that it is all too easy for nations and states to go to war, but for ever difficult to face the appalling consequences and terrible responsibility of doing so'.

But beyond this theme I have also learnt that remembrance can be a vital force for healing divisions and I have come better to distinguish it from the glorification of conflict. For many years I was deeply ambivalent about the annual Armistice Day events held at the Cenotaph in London and in towns and villages up and down the Country because I saw it as doing just that, but I now know better and I am, I hope, wiser.

So how to end?

Two poems; the first is by William Orpen one of the few official War Artists of the Great War. William Orpen, who was Irish, was best known before the War as a portrait painter, but during his service in the War on the Western Front he painted with enormous sympathy and truth pictures that convey for all time the terrible consequences of the conflict and its effects on the ordinary soldier. The second is by Rudyard Kipling, a great advocate of imperialism who supported the powerful nationalist sentiment that took the country so easily into the War, but who also lost his own son in the conflict and came to doubt much that he had held to be true before 1914.

Orpen's poem is untitled and needs little explanation. It is inscribed on one of nine stone tablets surrounding the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines, Ypres. The park was opened on Armistice Day 1998 to commemorate the Irish soldiers from North and South of the border and from Protestant and Catholic backgrounds, who died fighting alongside each other in the War. It was one of the tangible results of the Good Friday Agreement from which sprang a new intent to heal old divisions and the significance of my choosing something from this memorial should not be lost in the light of my earlier remarks.

**'I mean the simple soldier man,
Who when the Great War began,
Just died, stone dead
From lumps of lead,
In mire.'**

Kipling's poem is titled My Boy Jack. On a first reading it seems to be deeply embedded in the patriotic fervour of the times but it is, I think, more subtle. It is at once able to recognise and honour the courage of the men who gave their all as a duty to this Country, but at the same time its dark undercurrent speaks of the futility of war and the despair that such loss engenders. It successfully navigates that fine line between the remembrance of sacrifice and the need to reject the morality of any celebration of the context that demanded that sacrifice. As such it mirrors what I have been trying to do over the last three years.

Kipling wrote this at the time of the Battle of Jutland, during which over 6,000 British sailors lost their lives, and the Boy Jack was thought to be an allusion to Jack Tar, the generic sailor. But in later writings Kipling detached the poem from that specific event and let it speak in a broader context for the War as whole. In our own time, more recent readings of it have built upon that broadening out so that it has come to resonate with the remembrance of all those who never came home from across the seas. It is within that framework that I use it here as my final words in this long journey.

"Have you news of my boy Jack? "

Not this tide.

"When d'you think that he'll come back?"

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Has any one else had word of him?"

Not this tide.

For what is sunk will hardly swim,

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Oh, dear, what comfort can I find?"

None this tide,

Nor any tide,

Except he did not shame his kind---

Not even with that wind blowing, and that tide.

Then hold your head up all the more,

This tide,

And every tide;

Because he was the son you bore,

And gave to that wind blowing and that tide.

Rufus Sweetman

Reepham, Norfolk



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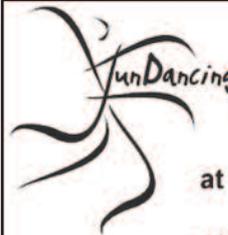
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SESAW



They thought I wasn't listening during afternoon tea the other day (yes, I do enjoy a cuppa) but I discovered Roys in Sudbury has chosen SESA W as one of its ten Charities of the Year. Money raised from the sale of plastic carrier bags will be donated via Nisa's "Making A Difference Locally" registered Charity.

There's more! This year the Nayland10K will give a portion of the admission fees to five charities including SESA W and runners can donate their sponsorship too. Anyone interested in taking part should visit the website to register, there are photos of the lovely Constable Country courses at Nayland 10k | Constable Country 10k, 5k & 1k fun run

All this will help look after the animals at the Sanctuary while they wait for new loving homes. Apart from the many cats and dogs, we have some handsome rabbits including Peter and Benjamin, both one year old, vaccinated, neutered and looking for female companions of similar age.

The fundraisers are to preparing for our Spring Fair at Whatfield Village Hall on 23rd March but they are really short of nice things for the raffle and tombola. We would be grateful for any unwanted Christmas presents or toiletries, cosmetics or general good quality items. Please leave a message on the ansaphone if you need us to collect from you.

I'm going back to the kitchen in case there is more interesting news for me Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

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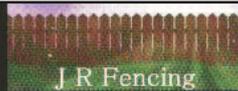
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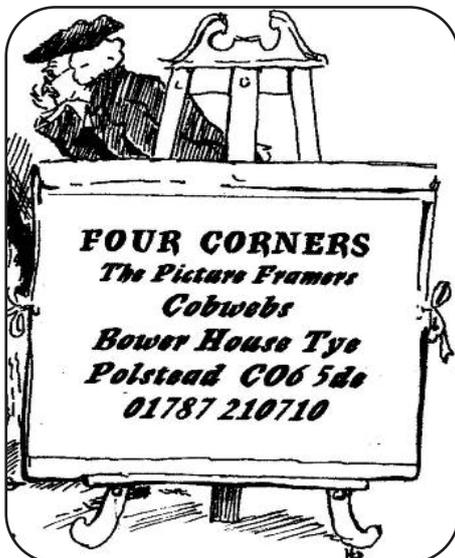
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The Festival will welcome anyone interested in either taking up the game from scratch, or in improving their game and testing their skills on the two fantastic championship courses at this renowned venue on the Suffolk/Essex border.

The event will incorporate golf clinics with the resort's highly experienced golf professionals on the first day to prepare players for competitions at all levels and a grand shot-gun start tournament on the second day. The Festival will conclude with a free family fun day on the Saturday that includes "Give Golf a Go" sessions for children aged 3+.

Those wishing to attend are invited to purchase a 2-day pass for £126.65 as part of a 15% off early bird offer before 31st March 2019 (price increases to £149.00 from 1st April). The pass includes access to all the activities on the first and second days of the festival, plus all meals and a spectacular gala dinner with entertainment on the second day.

There will also be accommodation packages on offer for those who wish to make the most of the beautiful surroundings and outstanding facilities at the resort. These include 80 hotel rooms, 5 luxurious country lodges, the AA two Rosette Lakes Restaurant, indoor pool, spa treatments and a state-of-the-art Technogym gymnasium.

Peter Osborne, Group Commercial Director at the resort said: "Stoke by Nayland offers two of the best and most iconic golf courses in the East of England, situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The resort has hosted many internationally televised PGA and European Tour golf events over the years and with this experience we are well placed to host the first event of this kind in the region.

"Our inaugural Festival of Golf is a perfect opportunity for visitors to combine a British countryside holiday with golf at a renowned venue, and the three days will be packed full of fun and entertainment.

"We hope that this event will grow, and that more people will take up golf as a result of their experience. During the festival, golfers can also raise funds for local charities by trying to hit golf balls into a hole anchored in one of our lakes!

"The Festival is open to all levels of golfers, groups of friends, societies, couples and families of all ages and we aim for this to be the first of many such events in years to come."

For more information please visit www.stokebynayland.com/festival-of-golf-2019 or to book please call 01206 265827 or email reservations@stokebynayland.com.

Were You and Your Golf Club Made for Each Other?

With spring quickly approaching, golfers around the region are beginning to think about their goals for the season. These well-intentioned targets may include playing more, joining a club, cutting your handicap or improving your swing, but how many have decided to invest in some custom-fitted clubs?

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa, home to two Championship golf courses and host venue to PGA European Tour events, is pleased to be offering free custom fitting as a new service for golfers ready for the 2019 season.

CHEQUES FOR WOODEN SPOON AND PROSTATE CANCER



Above: Alan on the right & Norman on the left

On Saturday the 2nd of February, Alan Line presented a cheque to Norman Davidson of Wooden Spoon for the money raised during his 2018 Captaincy at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club. The plaque will be displayed in the club as a thankyou from Wooden Spoon. A total of £4266.23 was accumulated & Wooden Spoon is most grateful for the generosity of members in raising these funds to help them continue their work in supporting disadvantaged children in our area. At the same time Mr Don Wiggins, the 2017 captain, was presenting his cheque to the representative from his chosen charity, Prostate Cancer UK. Don raised £4,176.20 in memory of his good friend Dick Chalmers who died of the disease whilst Don was captain.

Below: Don is on the left.



Above: Members of the Boxford Rovers under 9's team