

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



December 2019
Vol 19 No 12



BOXFORD FIREWORKS 2019

Did the weather dampen the enjoyment of yet another Boxford Fireworks Event? Judging from the comments received after the event, no it didn't.

This year, those that built the lanterns excelled themselves, producing masterpieces themed on the 50th anniversary of the heroic first landing of men on the moon.

We were treated to a parade through the village led by the Glenmoriston Pipe Band, who regaled us further on the Playing Field with a wonderful marching display, whilst playing drum and bagpipe tunes familiar to many of us.

Fireflow delighted us with their stunning Firedancers, captivating us with their unusual extraordinary entertainment. They really do seem to enjoy their Firedancing performance and creativity, helping to make this year's event one to remember.

As for the fireworks themselves, just how do Dynamic Fireworks make their display better year on year? Introducing the 'fan-shape' firework for the first time this year was absolutely brilliant. With the ignition of the fireworks being synchronised with the tone and volume of the music, the choreography could not have been bettered by the Strictly team.

In 2014, after a break of some years, the Boxford Fireworks Event was reinstated. The team suggested lessons were learnt from that event and endeavoured to improve the event in the future. That they did so has been evident over the last few years and none more so than this year.

The team of volunteers who helped produce the event must be thanked for their efforts which started many weeks before the night of the display itself. They are too numerous to mention individually (you know who you are), nonetheless we'd love to have yet more volunteers please. I'm already looking forward to the 2020 Fireworks Event. *Ward Baker*



Photo Trudi Wild

BOXFORD BIKE CLUB £6,000 FOR CHARITY THIS YEAR



Boxford Bike Club are pleased to announce that they have achieved their charitable donations for the year with a donation of £4,500 to 'Children With Cancer', the leading national children's charity dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer. This is in addition to the over £1,500 donated to community council for the benefit of the village.

Boxford Bike Club, adopted Children with Cancer as their charity of the year for 2019. We have members with relations who have grandchildren and children who have suffered with leukaemia, and other cancers, which made this support more personal for all the members.

Two major events raised the money. In February the club held a Quiz Night in Boxford for all members and local residents that raised a remarkable £1,500 due to the generosity of the entrants and the donations of raffle prizes for the evening.

In April, the Boxford Tornado, the club's annual sportive (organised and signed ride – not a race) was held attracting over 500 entrants. The event saw the riders do a 60 or 40 mile ride over the quiet and scenic roads of Suffolk north of Boxford. This raised a further £2,500 and the total was rounded up to £4,500 from the club's coffers.

The cheque for Children with Cancer was handover at a meeting in Boxford on Saturday the 12th of October attended by club members and a representative from the charity.

Over the last eight years Boxford Bike Club have now raised nearly £20,000 mainly for local charities and village events. For the coming year Boxford Bike Club will be adopting another local charity and hope to raise a similar amount with the continued efforts of the club and the generosity of all the Tornado and quiz entrants.

Box River News

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Final date for reserved copy for the
Christmas and New Year 2019/20 Issue is:

December 12th at noon

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

BOXFORD GARDENING SOCIETY AGM



Members enjoy their supper

Following the very successful and jolly AGM and party held on Tuesday 5th November it is now time to think of 2020. For those of you who were not able to attend the AGM you might like to know that the Society starts the new year in a healthy financial position thanks to a successful Plant Sale and some speakers who only charged a charity donation or travel costs for their time. Also that the Photographic Competition, on the subject of Gates, was a great success with 40 beautiful entries received. The subject for the 2020 competition will be announced shortly



Maggie Thorpe Chair of
The Boxford Gardening Society

EDWARDSTONE GOES BACK TO THE 80S !!



On Friday 12th October Edwardstone went back to the 80s with a fundraising evening based on a some of those famous and favourite game shows we all loved and watched on a Winter's Saturday evening back then.

With a capacity of 80 filling the Village Hall our Bruce Forsyth look-alike and local extrovert (Nick Tribe) with his very own Anthea Turner (Anthea Tribe !) reprised a number of game shows as the attendees were split into teams competing in variants of Blankety Blank ,The Price is Right , and Play your Cards Right. We finished with a traditional Generation Game stalwart of icing the cake blindfolded and finally the famous Conveyor Belt with all the electrical and household favourites from the eighties including a Pifco Teasmade and, of course, a cuddly toy. A superb supper was provided by Miranda Cox, Anthea Tribe and Sally Hoskyns (who masterminded the evening) which featured coq au vin, mandarin cheesecake, arctic roll , the legendary viennetta ,iconic vol au vents and many other well-loved party foods from that era. These creative geniuses together with their husbands worked so hard all evening and ensured the whole event was a superb success raising just under £1,900 for Edwardstone Church.

FleeceJazz

at Stoke by Nayland Hotel

Friday 6 December 8 £22.00. Sarah Jane Morris and Tony Remy: Sweet Little Mystery

Sarah Jane sings the songs of John Martyn. This amazing singer is a Diva for our time. Her voice is a force of nature.

"One of the finest of improvisational jazz voices and most fluid of intricate guitarists has joined their supple skills together to create a supreme homage to one of folk/jazz's more colourful personalities."

Paul Davies, The Express

Sarah Jane Morris Vocals/Arrangements, Tony Remy
Guitars/Vocals/Arrangements, Tim Cansfield Guitars/Vocals

Friday 13 December 8 £18.00. David Newton Trio

"The One and Only" is back with this stunning Trio.

David Newton Piano, Simon Thorpe Bass, Winston Clifford Drums
David Newton, 13 years elected "Best British Jazz Pianist", was born in Glasgow. He studied piano at Leeds College of Music & Dance, where he is now a Fellow and a Principle Lecturer in Jazz Piano.

After working in Yorkshire and Scotland, Dave moved to London in 1987, soon working with Leeds contemporary Alan Barnes, guitarist Martin Taylor, and Carol Kid, as well as top visiting musicians. In 1993, in the Boxford Fleece, Dave gave our Club's first ever gig, in partnership with Mick Hanson. Dave has played for us many times since, and advised on the purchase of the Club's current piano. Dave is our Honourary Presidente.

Friday 20 December 8 £18;00. Kevin Flanagan Quartet

Kevin is a man with wonderful musical ideas, and the ability to express them clearly and joyously. Kevin Flanagan Tenor sax, David Gordon Piano, Tom Hooper Drums, Joel Humann Bass
Kevin comes from Lowell, Mass. USA.. He settled in the UK in the mid-80's and worked on the London jazz and pop scene, playing and recording with B.B.King, Paul Weller, and members of Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, The Sex Pistols and Portishead, as well as various West African High Life and salsa groups.

Friday 27 December 8 £25;00. Alan Barnes Octet

"Mr Music" himself returns with his Octet to amaze and delight us. Alan Barnes Saxes, Robert Fowler Sax, Karen Sharp Sax, Bruce Adams Trumpet, Mark Nightingale Trombone, Dave Newton Piano, Simon Thorpe Bass, Clark Tracey Drums. I can't think of a better band for a holiday gig than the Alan Barnes Octet. Just look at the lineup. Alan Barnes is on anything with a single reed in it, with his virtuosic playing and comedic presentation (posh for the guy is very funny). Robert Fowler has a reputation as a broad-toned, swinging tenor player. Of Karen Sharp, Downbeat said this February, "Sharp loves melody, whether composed or improvised Bruce Adams' top grade trumpet action, in the grand manner, is redolent of the great days of swing but with an updated confidant air. you can't find a better jazz trombone player than Mark Nightingale said John Dankworth. David Newton is a world class pianistwith a great sense of humour. Simon Thorpe is one of the most popular bassist in the country. Clark Tracey is British Jazz Best Drummer two years running,

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

01787 211865

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

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

THE DECEMBER LETTER BY REV ROB

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter, you'll probably be in the middle of Christmas preparations. The build-up to Christmas can be a terribly busy time for us all. We can find ourselves becoming more anxious and short with those around us, as we rush around trying to get everything done in time (and then there is the worry about how we are going to pay for it all). This, I suppose, is one way to prepare. But amidst all of the hubbub, pressure and spending, maybe we are being prompted to prepare in a different kind of way?

The four weeks leading up to Christmas are the time in the Christian calendar known as Advent. In the spiritual cycle of the Church, Advent is a season of self-reflection and preparation. It is a time when every person is called into a period of 'making-ready' for the joy of Jesus' coming at Christ's Mass Day. Decorations and presents have their part to play, but far more important is our internal spiritual preparation. So, during Advent many Christians will fast, be more robust in implementing their daily prayer routine and begin renegotiating their personal commitments so that more of their time and resource can be spent focussing on God and each other. And the two always go hand in hand.

So why do Christians do this kind of preparation? Well, it is partly to help bring back a little balance and partly to ensure that the full joy and meaning of Christmas can be experienced when Christ's Mass Day comes.

Rowan Williams, the last Archbishop of Canterbury, was once asked at a live interview, 'what or who is God?' This is what he said: 'God is first and foremost the depth around all things and beyond all things, into which, when I pray, I try to sink. But God is also the activity that comes to me out of that depth, tells me I'm loved and opens up a future for me that offers transformations I can't imagine. God is very much a mystery, but also very much a presence, very much a person'.

We see that person exemplified most perfectly in Jesus, born to a lady who conceived him out of wedlock, in a stable, into poverty and soon to become a refugee fleeing the hands of a tyrant king. God is not born into the comfort of a palace, but into the most difficult of circumstances. We too will find God present where there is most need. When we stop and search, God is the depth out of which all things have their being, and we'll find him most present in the compassionate core of our hearts. So amidst all of the busyness in the lead up to Christmas, remember to remember what Advent is and what it is for. Simplify things, bring back that little balance and search for that depth out of which all things exist. Find time to sit with your family, reach out to those in need and prepare to embrace the true meaning of Christmas. Not a commercialised money-go-round, but a freedom that can only be found in God and each other.

With much love and every blessing, *Rob*



Rev Rob at the Burger Bar, Boxford Fireworks

Remember

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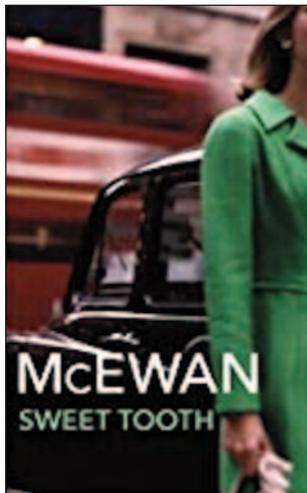
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THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ BY DAVID LAMMING

"Sweet Tooth", by Ian McEwan

"Agent Running in the Field", by John Le Carré

Spying and espionage have rarely been out of the news in the last two years, especially with the novichok poisoning of former Russian spy, Sergei Skripal, and his daughter in Salisbury in March 2018 and, more recently, reports of suspected Russian interference in the US presidential election. It is timely, therefore, to review these two spy novels, written by two of Britain's foremost contemporary authors.



Sweet Tooth is set in the early 1970s: the Cold War is not yet over and Britain is confronting economic disaster and industrial unrest. Serena Frome, the beautiful daughter of an Anglican bishop is in her final year at Cambridge. After a brief affair with an older man she finds herself being groomed for MI5. Sent on Operation Sweet Tooth – a highly secret undercover mission – she meets Tom Haley, a promising young writer. First, she loves his stories, then she begins to love the man. Can she maintain the fiction of her undercover life? And who is inventing whom? To answer these questions, Serena must abandon the first rule of espionage – trust no one. This is a highly readable novel (as much a love story as a spy novel) and, as we face a December General Election at which Brexit is a key issue, there is particular sense of déjà vu in this passage (relating to February 1974): "People had stopped worrying about the miners and 'Who governs?' and had started worrying about 20 per cent inflation and economic collapse and whether we should listen to [Enoch] Powell, vote Labour and get out of Europe." *The Sunday Times* fairly summed the book up thus: "A web of spying, subterfuge, deceit and betrayal... Acute, witty...winningly cunning."



By contrast, **Agent Running in the Field**, Le Carré's latest novel, is set in 2019. The hero and storyteller is a 47-year-old veteran of MI6 who believes his years as an agent-runner are over. Back in London, and with the growing threat from Moscow Centre, the Office has one more job for him: to take over The Haven, a defunct substation of London General with a ragbag band of spies. Nat is also a passionate badminton player and the novel centres around his relationship with Ed, an introspective younger man who becomes his regular Monday night opponent at the Athleticus club. Exposing Le Carré's own politics

(something on which some reviewers have commented adversely), Ed hates Brexit, hates Trump, and hates his job at some soulless media agency. I won't spoil your enjoyment of the book by revealing the plot, but to quote the review in *The Times*: "A fine piece of storytelling. It is a neat, compact, slow-burning tale with just the right amount of twisting and turning and misdirection. Divided loyalties, uncertain motives, Russian agents, bureaucratic infighting, jaded spies, tatty offices - all of the things you want and expect from a high-quality Le Carré thriller are here." At the age, now, of 88 Le Carré continues to provide a gripping read.

'*Sweet Tooth*' was first published in 2012 by Jonathan Cape. It was published in paperback by Vintage in 2013 at £9.99 (£6.49 from Amazon). '*Agent Running in the Field*' was published by Viking on 17 October 2019, price £20.00 (£11.83 from Amazon or £10.00 at Morrisons).

Spend now, save later...

Whether you pop in for a pre-Christmas spruce up for yourself or to do a spot of gift shopping for loved-ones, the elves here at **Suffolk Medical Clinic** have a festive treat for you...



This month, spend £30 at the clinic on beauty treatments or retail products and receive £10 off any beauty treatment or retail product in January*.

**Clients must spend a minimum of £30 before 31/12/19 to be eligible for offer. £10 voucher will be valid until 31/01/2020. One voucher per person.*



Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, 6 Broad Street, Boxford.

Tel: 01787 211 000 www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk



General Election 2019 – Local Candidates

David Beavan Liberal Democrat



David Beavan has been selected as the new Liberal Democrat PPC for South Suffolk, following Ross Henley's decision to step down for personal reasons.

David is a well-known figure in East Suffolk and is the respected councillor for Southwold. He is an experienced campaigner who has successfully fought for the interests of his local communities and will do the same for South Suffolk.

David grew up in North Hertfordshire where he farmed and became only the second grower in the country to supply organic vegetables to supermarkets. He stood for the SDP in Waveney in 1987 gaining the best third party vote ever. Afterwards he moved to Southwold when his wife suddenly died and he had to look after two young children.

He combined water sports instruction with lecturing and teaching until he became a professional sail training skipper in the 1990's, restoring a 127 year old racing boat and taking underprivileged young people to sea from Lowestoft.

He won the safe Conservative council seat of Southwold for the Liberal Democrats in July 2018 with 70% of the vote and he was re-elected last May with 80% support, the highest personal vote in East Suffolk.

Last year, he successfully persuaded the Government to look at a loophole which allows second home owners to get away without paying either council tax or rates.

He lives with his partner Pamela. His son Jake works for Citizens Advice as a policy adviser and lives in Dedham with a French wife and two boys. His daughter Emily is a high-flying architect in London. David has helped run Southwold Rugby Club for 20 years and has returned from supporting England at the Rugby World Cup in Japan.

Robert Lindsay, Green Party



Councillor Robert Lindsay - Green Parliamentary candidate for South Suffolk, Suffolk County Councillor for Cosford and Babergh District Councillor for South Cosford.

I have for a long time been convinced that the way politicians are running the world – driving for infinite economic growth when we have finite natural resources and putting big business before quality of life – is not achieving happiness and is wrecking the planet. I am a former national newspaper journalist having

last worked as a business correspondent for The Times. For the past four years I have lived in South Suffolk with my wife and two young boys running a smallholding and a PR and media consultancy. Last May I became Babergh District Council's first elected Green councillor.

South Suffolk needs someone to defend our market towns and villages from the wave of suburban over-development that is about to wash over them thanks to a supine local authority and the most aggressive pro-developer legislation this country has ever seen, legislation that is supported by all three major parties.

I want to put bus and train investment before new road building; independent businesses, the local economy and local communities before multi-nationals, and properly insulated, affordable homes above quick developer profits. Putting people's well-being before economic growth will ensure both a better, more equal society and an economy that is environmentally sustainable.

James Cartlidge, Conservative



James Cartlidge is seeking re-election as the Conservative candidate for South Suffolk, having served as its Member of Parliament since 2015. He lives in Assington and three of his four children attend Boxford Primary school. Prior to being an MP James ran his own business for over 10 years, steering it through the challenging years of the 'credit crunch'.

When James was first elected in 2015 a huge issue was digital connectivity with mobile phone 'not spots' and slow broadband access dominating constituency correspondence. Although there is more to do, today South Suffolk now has 95% access to superfast broadband, and even a mobile mast off the A1071 – serving the 'not spot' of Boxford - that James was directly responsible for.

More recently James's time in office has been dominated by the Brexit issue. He has argued consistently since the referendum that as a democracy Britain should respect the majority vote to leave and negotiate a good deal to deliver that result. However, without a majority to pass the PM's Brexit deal into law an election is now needed to break the deadlock. James is confident that if the PM can secure a majority in the election, we can finally pass a deal into the law of the land and then move on as a country from paralysing uncertainty. The Government will then be able to focus more of its attention on the things that really matter: the NHS; fighting crime; giving Suffolk a fairer share of school funding."

Elizabeth Hughes, Labour Party



Elizabeth works as a quality assurance technician in the consumer goods and manufacturing industry, auditing companies based in the UK and Europe.

She said she is delighted to stand in South Suffolk, where she will champion jobs and vocational training and said she welcomed Labour's election pledge to spend £3 billion on adult education if elected. "I was dismayed to read a survey recently that showed some of our poorest paid workers are from Suffolk. Some of our manufacturing salaries are not great.

"There are not a lot of opportunities for vocational training and I am absolutely delighted to hear the news about £3 billion pledged for adult education."

Mrs Hughes added that she was interested in encouraging more business vocational training.

EXPLORING A MEDIEVAL MANOR - A TALK BY ASHLEY COOPER

As one of our most popular speakers, Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Ashley back again to the Parish Room, to share his story of the Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) archaeological excavations at Goldingham Hall in 2013, 2014 and 2015. The results of these excavations are detailed in a comprehensive 129 page report, from which many extracts have been selected below, but happily Ashley condensed things down considerably, also giving us the history of the site that before ACA were involved.

He began by telling us where Goldingham Hall actually is, which is just off the Sudbury Road on the way to Gestingthorpe, a little beyond Bulmer on the opposite side from the Roman Villa; the hall site is situated very close to Splinter's Catering, not far from the wedding venue of Belchamp Hall.

Ashley told us the land runs gently downhill to Belchamp Brook, where originally there was a lake, but over aeons topsoil washed down and eventually filled the lake, just leaving the brook. Willow trees had been planted nearby, but some picked up Willow Watermark disease, meaning large areas were then unsuitable for willow growing. With government inducements to dig ponds, he began to dig in 1997, noticing as he did so a white area with a layer of white flints about two foot thick. The flints were all cracked and crazed as they had all been used to boil water, by heating in a fire before dropping into cold water. He also found a large bone from an Auroch, a now extinct species of large wild cattle which is the ancestor of domestic cattle. He then recounted how, a little later on when trialling a new tractor and plough combination, that he unearthed some deep clay, not something any farmer wishes. On further inspection, and following his father's advice to always "Keep Your Eyes Open", he observed little patches of black soil every 5 to 10 metres; heeding this advice further, he then marked every patch with a white cane for later investigation.

After harvesting the crop, he undertook trial excavations of some black areas, expecting to find Roman remains - the location is only around 1 kilometre from the Villa - but it was the remains of medieval pottery, with many oyster shells, whelks and other sea food shells, and lots of bones - Ashley recorded everything, with a view to continuing his investigation later. Later turned out to be much later, when in 2012 he met Carenza Lewis (of Time Team fame) at the Hadleigh Show; she was looking for one more site for ACA (which she had set up) to excavate, and a year later she came to Goldingham to have a look. As later detailed in the final ACA report, the seven test pits hand dug by Ashley during August / early September 1997 are described in his own words, as follows:

Test Pit 1

About 25cm from the surface, a layer of black soil 2.5 to 3.5cm thick was observed. Subsequent test pits suggested this 'disturbed layer' extended over much of the surrounding hectare. Further excavation revealed that a pit or ditch like feature commenced some 30 cm from the surface and continued down a further 50cm. A large quantity of oyster shells, together with a few fragments of burnt wood, burnt clay and animal bones were recovered from the middle layer of the profile.

Test Pit 2

Also revealed black soil in a layer extending from 25 to 50cm below the surface. A few oyster shells were recovered, however there were many more whelk shells, together with fragments of medieval pottery and also several pieces of clinker. On September 9th this trench was deepened with the assistance of members of Bulmer History Group. The bottom of the feature was approximately 80cm from the surface and was irregularly shaped, as if animals may have walked through it before it was filled in.

Test Pit 3 (Fire site)

Flecks of reddish black soil were noted. A test pit revealed discoloured soil at a depth of 30 to 35cm, in a layer 5 to 10cm thick. A lead weight, possibly covered in bronze was recovered. This is of special significance as it is believed to be close to the main building, suggested by Trench C, which was excavated in 2013 to 2015, though no hearth has been found in that building.

Test Pit 4

A trench, some 2.5 meters in length was cut. A layer of black soil measuring 1 to 3cm was revealed, some 30cm beneath the surface. Fragments of burnt wood were also noted. Bands of black soil and burnt wood were also observed lower down in the trench. These bands were approximately 15cm wide and 9cm in depth. Some of the deeper lines of black soil were beneath a thin layer of yellowy clay which was some 1.0 to 2.5 cm thick.

Test Pit 5

Produced more black and burnt material. This feature was then marked with a wooden post. The latter was ploughed, drilled and harvested around for the following seventeen years. In 2014, this test pit was renamed Trench E and excavated by members of the SVCA, exposing a ditch and other archaeological features.

Test Pit 6

Several flecks of black soil had been brought up by the plough near to this position. A test pit revealed black soil and small fragments of carbonised wood. This test pit is to the South of Trench A, excavated in 2013 to 2014 and then known as trench A.

Test Pit 7

A small test pit revealed a layer of black soil, approximately 5cm thick, at a depth of 25 to 30cm - approximately eleven meters to the west of test pit 5. The 1755 Estate Map shows a boundary running roughly parallel to the contemporary field edge, from the pond to the 'Tea Shed'. Oyster shells and discoloured soil were noted along this line. Each of the Test Pits was carefully measured and recorded. As the measuring wheel was used on un-level ploughed land, all positions should be regarded as approximate.

The locations of the test pits was subsequently recorded within the ACA report, as below:

As part of the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Managing a Masterpiece project', ACA ran two fieldwalking events on the 8th and 8th November 2012, undertaken by 74 local residents and volunteers, including 30 pupils from Bulmer Primary School and accompanying staff, all under the watchful eye of Ashley. With just one field walked, the results were difficult to interpret, but suggested the site was lightly used throughout most of the prehistoric period, with a short episode of localised more intensive use in the late Neolithic and early Bronze age. Small amounts of pottery hinted at some human presence, possibly related to the manorial site of Goldingham, to the east of the walked area up, to about 1400 AD. Thereafter the site appeared to have been used as fields, with very little post-medieval or modern material recovered, apart from a spread of roof tiles which may have come from Goldingham Hall itself.



Field Walking Team

ACA returned to Goldingham Hall in October 2013 to run a four day programme of community archaeological excavations. Following a geophysical survey of the area to the north of the current hall, see image below, two trenches were sited over a possible rectilinear feature (reference B and C) and a third larger square trench (A) was opened over a cluster of potential features just to the north.



Proposed trenches

A range of features were excavated from all of the trenches, dating from the C10th to the later C14th. A likely late Anglo Saxon boundary ditch was recorded from the eastern end of trench A, probably part of the original Saxon manor complex originally situated just to the east. Later C11th to C12th features included a very large east-west orientated boundary ditch from trench B, possibly associated with the changes and expansion to the manor at that time. Further field boundaries were also recorded in trenches A and C. The last phase of activity on site dates to the late C12th to the

late C14th - the date of the two ovens that were excavated in trench A and their associated pits. A possible beam slot or gully was also recorded from trench C, with a series of large pits that may have been used for storage.



Volunteers at work in 2013

In 2014 / 15, the Stour Valley Community Archaeology group (SVCA) was founded, and with Ashley's co-operation, as landowner and SVCA patron, excavations at Goldingham Hall continued on the original 2013 trenches, with support from ACA. This involved the opening of further trenches based on additional geophysical data undertaken over the field.

The first of these tennis court sized digs was over two weekends in May 2014, with a follow up over four days in early September 2014 that also saw the opening of two new trenches: D, parallel to Trench C and E, to the north west of Trench A. In 2015 a four day dig was undertaken at the end of May, with two trenches (A and C) backfilled and a new trench F opened between trenches D and C. The final dig of this series of excavations was at the beginning of September 2015, when the baulk between trenches D and F was removed to create one large trench, D/F, and a small trench G also opened just to the west of the pond. Clearly a lot of work was going on.

As Ashley told us, they came across large black areas, around which were circular red areas about 1 metre in diameter - the bases of some outdoor cooking areas. There was also a lot of pottery, bones and shells, but little metal. One cooking area also went down about a metre, which apparently is very unusual. A ditch was then also found, about 10 or 12 feet across, within which was a 'great big black layer' - this was originally a defensive ditch, possibly from the C6th or C7th later used as a dump for the ashes from cooking fires.

Quoting from the final ACA report, the results of all excavations suggested an original Saxon manor site had been identified, with the presence of a number of ovens in trench A, as well as a possible timber post structure in the large trench D/F. A number of associated gullies, ditches and pits dating to the medieval period were also recorded, along with some residual prehistoric and Roman pottery providing background information to the wider landscape.

Evidence is mixed as to whether the site was high status or not, although as it is known the original manor was sited close by, the finds excavated represent the choice made by the owners at the time, rather than that that expected from a manor of the period. The faunal (or animal) remains across all the trenches suggest heavy reliance on domestic animals throughout the medieval period, with a preference for pig rather than the wild fauna certainly present in the landscape and along the valley at the time, and somewhat changed from the Anglo Saxon occupants who had a slightly more varied diet.

The pottery identified is also quite typical for this part of Essex, with only the single sherd of imported later Saxon / early medieval pottery from the Rhine Valley hinting the site may have been of higher status with good access to trade links through Sudbury. A Jew's harp from trench D/F, an instrument often played by medieval musicians, also hints at a slightly higher status site with entertainment being paid for. All the excavated pottery suggests the site was out of use by the late C14th, with later medieval wares of the C15th onwards nearly entirely absent, apart from a few spot finds in the sub soil likely due to ploughing.

It is not known why the site appears to have been abandoned at this time, and where, if at all, it was sited, as the current hall was not built until the 1830's, to replace one on the same site lost to fire in the early C19th. The quite sudden halt of activity may have been due to the Black Death, which swept through the region during the mid C14th, though possible political upheavals or a change of ownership of the manor may also have been the cause.

Environmental data recovered from two of the ovens in trench A also gave a sense of the natural environment around the manor during the medieval period, with the presence of a number of wild seeds that found their way into the oven. Some of the surrounding land, as expected, was utilised for cultivation of crops, but environmental results suggest the land was often

damp and prone to seasonal flooding. The main crop grown was wheat, but there was evidence of oat seeds, fruit stones, wild peas and spike rush (creeping spike-rush or marsh spike-rush, is a species of mat-forming perennial flowering plants in the sedge family Cyperaceae), with the use of hazel brushwood for fuel, all of which was quite common during the medieval period.

Small flint tools were notably absent from those excavated, but this is likely due to the sieving strategy utilised on site, which incorporated a 10mm mesh. The type of flint also utilised in these tools was sourced locally, and widely available along the river terraces of the Stour valley and its tributaries. The damage noted on the majority of the flints excavated suggest they experienced a certain amount of disturbance since they were discarded; they had been in plough soil a long term.

The report concludes that although the original Anglo Saxon manor at Goldingham Hall was not positively identified, the trenches yielded a range of features relating to occupation on site from the C5th or C6th AD through to the C13th or C14th. From the geophysics, large areas of the site were enclosed by boundary ditches that also defined areas specifically within the settlement for different activities. These large ditches were noted from three of the trenches, B, E and G also generally contemporary from around the 12th century.

13th November: Made in Ipswich

11th December: Cakes, Ale and Partying

Feasting and Fundraising in Medieval Suffolk

Both events are going to be great, and we very much look forward to welcoming guests both new and old to the Parish Room.

Andy Shepherd

HADLEIGH & BOXFORD PPG

Could it be lonely this Christmas?

Nearly one million older people say they feel lonelier at Christmas. However, loneliness can affect anyone from any walk of life especially if they have been through bereavement, a relationship breakdown, have moved to a new area or suffer from physical or mental health challenges.

Christmas on your own, particularly the first one, can be really hard. People often feel that there is a pressure to be happy and we are bombarded with images of smiling couples and close-knit families by the media. The Mental Health Foundation has found that loneliness is an even bigger concern for young people than the elderly.

What can you do if you're on your own?

You might decide to curl up with your favourite snacks and a movie or go for a walk in the frosty air.

If you haven't chosen to spend Christmas alone and you'd like some company, have a think about what you might like to do.

You can visit the Community Christmas website for older people, meetup.com for younger age groups or visithadleighsuffolk.co.uk to find details of community Christmas events taking place in your area.

You could consider volunteering at the Christmas Present Trust (01473 829246) who provide a traditional meal and party on Christmas Day for those in the Hadleigh area who, for whatever reason, are by themselves at Christmas. You will also be welcome as a guest.

Volunteering can be a great way to meet like-minded people. Visit Do-it.org to see where your nearest volunteering opportunity is.

If you know other people who are also spending Christmas alone you could suggest that you go out for a meal as a group or organise a get-together where each person brings part of Christmas lunch.

What can I do to support someone who is lonely?

If you're having a Christmas party, think about inviting people in your neighbourhood or others who you know are going to be on their own - the more the merrier! Don't forget that some people may prefer to spend Christmas on their own, so keep any offer casual - you don't want to put anyone under pressure.

It can also be tough to spend Christmas Day surrounded by someone else's family all opening presents, so consider inviting someone for just part of the day, like Christmas Lunch, or for a drink in the evening.

You could drop a gift round to someone's house part-way through the day, invite someone out for a walk or a trip to the local carol service or just pop in for a cuppa and a chat.

If you know an older person who is lonely, you could offer to help them find local community events over Christmas. Community Christmas has listings of events for lonely older people happening across the UK. A Merry Christmas to All

from the Hadleigh & Boxford Patient Participation Group



ALL SAINTS CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 2019

10.00 to 12.00

VILLAGE HALL

REFRESHMENTS

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
CAKES
BRIC a BRAC
BOOKS
PLANTS
CHRISTMAS WREATHS
TOMBOLA
GRAND RAFFLE

Carols by Candlelight

St Mary's Church,
Boxford

Sunday 22nd December
at
6.30pm



The Box River Benefice

*Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton*

HARE & HOUNDS LEAVENHEATH

traditional country freehouse with 3 real ales
pool table - open fire - beer garden & patio - play area

**CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT DECEMBER -
SEE WEBSITE FOR MENU**

**WE NOW SERVE HOMEMADE PIZZAS
EVERY SATURDAY EVENING 6 - 9PM
AVAILABLE TO EAT IN OR TAKEAWAY**

BURGER WEDNESDAYS (6 - 9PM)

A pint of your choice plus a choice of homemade burger
with all the trimmings for just £8

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12 - 11PM
SUNDAY 12 - 10PM
CLOSED ALL DAY MONDAY

FOOD IS AVAILABLE

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 12 - 2PM & 6 - 9PM
SUNDAY 12 - 3PM



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NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Stowmarket Chorale

At the end of November, Stowmarket Chorale performed their Christmas concert at the United Reformed Church, excerpts from J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and a great start to the Christmas season. During December, the choir will be singing carols at the Icanho centre in Stowmarket and holding a sponsored carol sing to boost choir funds. Looking forward the choir have planned an exciting programme to keep them busy. They have arranged a Singing Day in Woolpit village hall on 8th February when members and other singers will sing Verdi's Requiem. That promises to be an amazing experience and will begin to prepare the choir for their appearance at The Apex in 2021!

Stowmarket Chorale has stepped up their advertising and promotion efforts which is paying off because the choir continues to grow with new members, and ticket sales are better than ever. The choir has a website www.stowmarketchorale.org.uk, and a Facebook page.

Choirs are gaining in popularity, due to the knowledge that singing is said to be hugely beneficial for many reasons, including the feel-good factor of taking part and creating something beautiful with a group of like-minded people. This fortunate choir will enjoy learning the music of Faure's Requiem in the Spring Term, which they will perform in Stowmarket on 21st March 2020. Future concerts include Will Todd's Mass in Blue and Handel's Messiah. For further information contact secretary@stowmarketchorale.org.uk

Do you know an inspiring young person?

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

The winner receives £50 in cash and gets awarded the cup with their name engraved on it.

Do you know of anyone aged 19 or under that you feel would be an ideal winner this year? If so, let us know by nominating online at <http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/KandSCup.cfm>

History on Film With James Clark

Stoke by Nayland WEA presents a series of 10 weekly lectures starting on Thursday 16th January 2020 in Stoke by Nayland Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

James will present a series of 10 weekly lectures in which he considers ten feature films that interpret a range of historical moments including films about World War 1, World War 2 and the Spanish Civil War. We will also look at a number of films concerned with specific people who left their mark on history.

Each session will consider how cinematic technique and film style is used to bring the past back to life.

James has been teaching with the WEA since 2015. He currently also teaches screenwriting at the London Film School and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He has had a number of books about movies published and has new book to be published in March 2020 entitled "Bond: Photographed by Terry O'Neill"

Fees: Adult £58.

Enrolment for the course should be done directly with the WEA either online at www.wea.org.uk or by telephone at 0300 303 3464. Course Reference: C2226721 Fee payment can be made with a credit/debit card. Advance booking for the course is recommended but you can enrol after the first, free 'taster' session on 16th January if preferred.

For further information you may contact Sue Whiteley on: 01787 210945 or email: whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk

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:

Boxford Brownies - Boxford Guides - Boxford Fireworks
Carpet Bowls Club - Boxford Village Hall - Breast Cancer Care
Boxford Bowls Club - Over Sixties 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 for entry to six draws.

The prizes for each draw are:

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

3PR Stats for September 2019

In October 2019 our responders covered 243 hours (33%) and attended 13 incidents.

Many thanks to our amazing volunteers who give up their precious time to help our community. 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.

Boxford Indoor Fun and Games Night – Sat 1st Feb – Boxford Village Hall

This year's annual Fun and Games night will be held in Boxford Village hall on Saturday 1st February. Teams of 8 contestants battle through indoor games, challenges and quizzes to claim the prestigious title. Though the choice of games is a closely kept secret, recent events have included; skittles, table tennis, indoor archery and table football as well as some novelty games and challenges.

A fun night is promised for all with a buffet included in the ticket price as well as a licensed bar and raffle. The evening commences with team registration at 7:30 and then the fun begins. The Ticket price is £60 for a team of 8 players. We are limited to a maximum of 16 teams so please make sure your team place is booked as soon as possible as you don't want to be disappointed. If you are unable to raise 8 players please let us know, we may be able to put you in touch with others groups missing some players. If you are not in a team but wish to help run one of the games please let us know that as well as this is ticket only event.

It is never too early to book your place, usually we have all the booking completed before Christmas. Contact Stephanie Atkins on 01787 210444 or Mark Miller 01787 211596 or email mark.miller@talktalk.net and book it now!

Boxford PC are planning maintenance work to the church wall between the road and churchyard during the school summer holidays 2020. We are also currently speaking with highways and local residents in formulating a plan to protect the church wall from further large vehicle damage. We are looking at a number of options, including a white line on the road, wall side and the option of double yellow lines both sides of the road. If you would like to voice your opinion please contact the Boxford PC secretary or come to our next meeting.

Boxford PC

Madrigalia

Sing We and Chant It

Personall

Soprano

Sing we and chant it. While love doth grant it. Po

Madrigalia is a small choir in Boxford which meets fortnightly on Thursdays. We are looking to recruit a few more good singers especially in the Alto, Tenor and Bass range.

Interested in singing?

Call: Sue Price 01787 210913

Alto

Sing we and chant it. While love doth

Bass

Sing we and chant it. While love doth

Copyright © Sue Price

Wot's On

Big Band Dance Night Saturday 28th December:

White Tie Glitz & Glam big band night at The Delphi Centre Sudbury CO10 2RR with "Swing Machine" a 17 piece band playing music to dance to from the 1920's to 1950's including local professional singer Nettie Osman with two sets of 60's songs to make it a great party night for the year end. This evening will be in support of "UPBEAT" the West Suffolk Heart Charity. Tickets £17.50 from Sudbury Tourist Office and direct from dancewithussuffolk@outlook.com or ring Phil on 07909993799 Book your tickets early this is always a sell out.

7 DWARFS DO PANTO.

Seven mischievous and very tuneful dwarfs guide us through the timeless story of Snow White. But this is not the Snow White you would imagine. The Prince has his work cut out to release her from the evil spell of the Wicked Queen. The tale is played out against an ever-moving backdrop, a tapestry of music, sound and light unfolding before your eyes. Not-so-trusty Henchmen, a platoon of trees, a playful mirror and a crusty butler all conspire to thwart the Wicked Queen. But will they succeed? Join us - you can make the difference.

Come dine, laugh, sing and be scared with us...if you dare.

7 dwarfs do panto 4th-7th December 2019. Boxford Village Hall. Be there.

Tickets from Boxford Post Office from October 5th.

Wednesday December 4th Curtain up at 7pm

Tickets: Adults £10 Children £5 - There is no supper this night.

Thursday to Saturday December 5th to 7th Curtain up at 7.30pm.

A Christmas Supper will be served on these nights.

Tickets £15.

There will be a fully licensed bar and raffle every night

The Trinity Singers would like to welcome you to

An afternoon of Christmas Carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

Saturday 7th December.

3pm URC Long Melford

Tickets £8 on the door. Children under 16 free.



White Tie Glitz & Glam Dance Night

Featuring big band "Swing Machine" from Suffolk
Playing music from 1920's to 1950's
with a special Guest appearance of Nettie Osman
singing 2 sets of 60's songs to get the party swinging

Saturday 28 th December Tickets £17:50 <small>From Sudbury Tourist Office or dancewithussuffolk@outlook.com or phone 07909993799</small>	The Delphi Centre Alexandra Road, Sudbury CO10 2RR	7:00pm for 7:30 til late Licensed bar BYO nibbles
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A Charity fund raiser for "UPBEAT" Heart Support for West Suffolk.



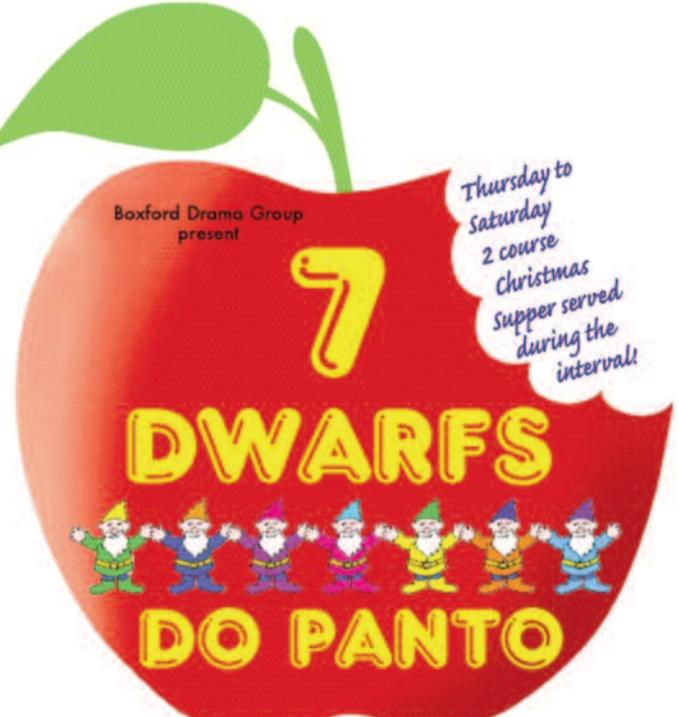
St Mary's Church, Boxford
welcomes
you to our -

Christmas Coffee Morning & Cake Stall

December 14th
9.15am - noon in St Mary's Church

Enjoy Fresh Coffee and Mince pies

Homebaked Christmas treats -
decorated cakes, puddings, biscuits
Decorations Gifts Raffle



Boxford Drama Group
present

Thursday to
Saturday
2 course
Christmas
supper served
during the
interval!

7 DWARFS DO PANTO

December 4th to 7th

Wednesday Tickets Family Night £10 adults £5 children
(No supper - Curtain up at 7.00pm)

Thursday - to Saturday (Christmas dinner in the interval)
Tickets £15 Curtain up at 7.30pm
Licensed bar and raffle all evenings.

Tickets from Boxford Post Office from October 5th 2019

Wot's On

Keep Fit For All Abilities in Little Waldingfield

Tuesday evenings, from 18:30 to 19:30,

Groton PCC Events

Both at Groton Village Hall

Annual Cheese & Wine Party will be taking place on the 7th December 2019 from 7.30pm. Come and join us for this relaxing and fun evening.

Quiz and Chips, Saturday 18th January at 7.30pm Come and enjoy the Quiz with delicious Fish and Chips More details next month

“Stowmarket Chorale”

On Saturday November 30th 2019 at 7.30, Stowmarket's long-established choir “Stowmarket Chorale” will assemble on the stage at The United Reformed Church to perform highlights from the marvellous Bach Christmas Oratorio. The choir rehearses every Wednesday at Combs Ford Primary School under the expert leadership of Tom Appleton and pianist William Baldry.

As the skies darken and Autumn changes into Winter, the enthusiasm of the singers sparkles, as they prepare this concert to bring us nearer to the festive season. The evening promises to be a joyful occasion! Tickets are £15 (free for children and students) and can be purchased from www.stowmarketchorale.org.uk or ordered on 07901 758009.

A Wartime Christmas'

An illustrated talk by Dr Pat Murrell.

Providing a temporary home to numerous military personnel and evacuees, the talk explores how people on the Home Front in Suffolk made the most of the festive season despite bombing, personal tragedies, relentless austerity measures and rationing. A small number of refreshments based on wartime recipes will be available to try - especially if you dress the part!

Wednesday, December 11th. Lavenham Village Hall 7.30pm. Tickets: £5. Bookings: Lavenham Village Hall Tel: 01787-248599. All proceeds go towards the USAAF 487th Bomb Group Memorial Fund.



Friday 6th
Saturday 7th
Sunday 8th
December 2019

Lavenham Market Place, High Street
& Water Street



To raise funds for...
Lavenham Dementia Alliance &
Good Neighbours Scheme

GRAND CAKE SALE

Saturday 30th November
9am Mary's House



In aid of The Early Learning Orphanage
& School in Entebbe Uganda

Cakes • Savouries • Jams • Marmalade
Coffee & Raffle

Special display of Alison Brain's gifts and beads from Uganda

Joan Smith & Alison Brain



St. Bartholomew's Church
Groton

Annual

Cheese & Wine Party

at
Groton Village Hall

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7th 2019
Doors open at 7.30pm

Bar/Raffle Etc

Tickets £10.00

Tickets from Sheila 210494 or
Jayne 211360



Wot's On

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2019

Wednesday 4th 7.30 pm Village Hall committee meeting
Saturday 7th 10.00 am Church Xmas coffee morning
Sunday 8th 10.00 am Christmas Fair (for charity)
Tuesday 10th 2.00 pm Fireside Christmas party
Wednesday 11th 7.30 pm Parish Council meeting
Tuesday 17th 12.30 for 1.00pm Fireside Club – Xmas Lunch at Bull Hotel
Thursday 19th 11.00 am Wendy's Walk – Xmas lunch

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)
Tuesday evenings (7 – 8.30) Fun Dance to Music
(call Sharon 07747 513326)
Friday afternoons: Art and Craft club (call Carole on 373548)
Friday evenings: Sudbury and District Wargames Club
(call Brian on 312160)



Chelworth Christmas Fair -

Saturday 7th December - 11am-4pm

20+ stalls selling quality gifts, crafts and food
Seasonal refreshments available
Musical entertainment from Serendipity
Fabulous Christmas Raffle
Entry is £3 for adults, children free and also free entry
for Chelworth residents. Car parking is free at a
nearby farm.
Chelworth is on the B1114 between Lavenham and
Bildeston.

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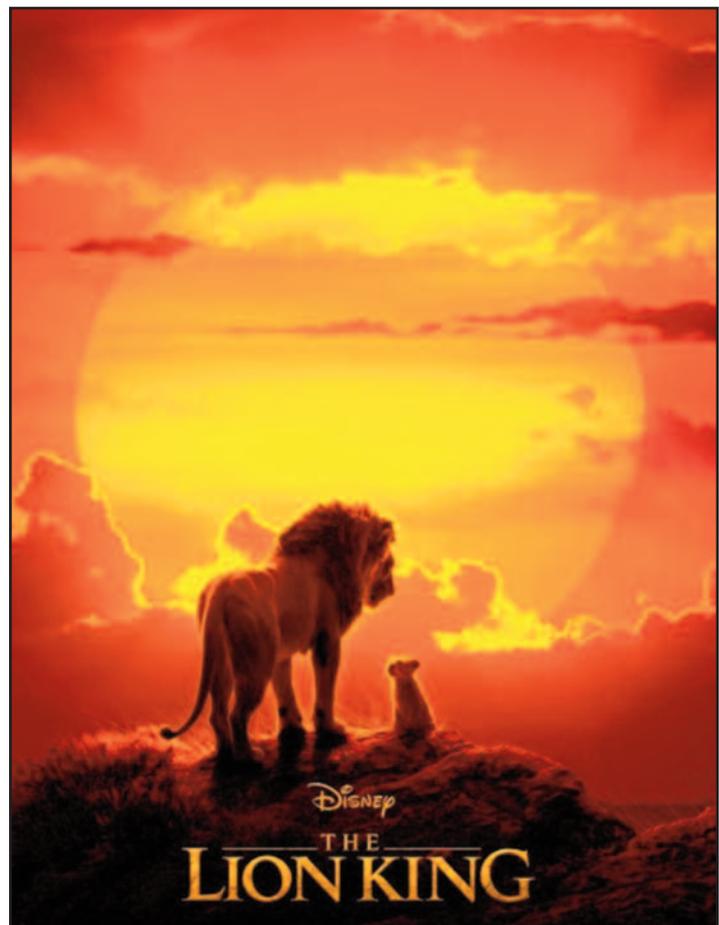


EVERYONE IN THE WORLD HAS FORGOTTEN THE BEATLES.
EVERYONE EXCEPT JACK....



LEAVENHEATH CINEMA SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

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



Polstead Digital Cinema Friday 29th December
Tickets £3.50 from the Polstead Community Shop or 01787 210029
All films start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm



You are invited to
“DROP IN FOR COFFEE”

and Mince Pies!

in the Church
 Little Waldingfield

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER
10.30 – 12.00

Join us for a coffee,
 a little music and
 friendly conversation.
All welcome!

Voluntary £1 donation to church funds

Spring Series of 10 Lectures
 Stoke by Nayland Village Hall
 Thursday 16th January 2020,
 7.30 pm



History on Film

With James Clarke



History on Film considers ten feature films that interpret a range of historical moments including films about World War 1, World War 2 and the Spanish Civil War. We will also look at a number of films concerned with **specific people** who left their mark on history.

Each session will consider how cinematic

technique and film style is used to bring the past back to life.



James has been teaching with the WEA since 2015. He currently also teaches screenwriting at the London Film School and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He has had a number of books about movies published and has new book to be published in March 2020 entitled "Bond: Photographed by Terry O'Neill"



Fee for the term: £58

Future Event : AGM and TALK

Enrolment for the course should be done directly with the WEA either online at www.wea.org.uk or by telephone at 0300 303 3464

Course Reference: C2226721

Fee payment can be made with a credit/debit card. Advance booking for the course is recommended but you can enrol after the first, free 'taster' session on 16th January if preferred.

For further information you may contact Sue Whiteley on 01787 210645 or email whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk

WEA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 2809910 and a registered charity number 1112775

'Undiplomatic Episodes'-
with Martin Berthoud

Thursday 2nd April 2020, 7.30 pm

SbN

Stoke by Nayland Hotel

Winter Wonderland Spectacular

Come and enjoy our Christmas Party Nights and fabulous Festive Events*
 Experience SbN's transformation into an enchanting white Wonderland.



£18.00pp
 £10.00 children (under 12)

Brunch with Santa

A real pre-Christmas treat for parents and tots! Enjoy a delicious buffet brunch before meeting Santa and receiving a special gift.

1st & 15th December | 9.30am - 11.30am



£45.00pp

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

We'll be showing you how to create a festive wreath that's the envy of all your neighbours! Tea, coffee and mince pies included to keep those creative fingers well fueled!

19th November | 10am - 1pm



£39.95pp

Christmas Cooking Masterclass

Learn to cook a last-minute Christmas pudding with our award-winning Executive Head Chef, followed by a Q&A session and a delectable 2 course festive lunch.

6th November | 11am - 3pm



£99.50pp

New Year's Eve Gala Ball

Dress up and celebrate 2020 at our fabulous Gala Ball! You'll enjoy champagne and canapes before a delicious four course dinner and dancing to a fantastic live band.

31st December | 7pm - 1.30am

*For details on our full range of Christmas Party Nights and all Festive Events please visit www.stokebynayland.com/christmas, email sales@stokebynayland.com or call 01206 262836.

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath, Colchester, CO6 4PZ

BY THE WAY Nicholas Bristow

Footpaths are the result of reasoned choices made by individuals in the attempt to move around the area where they lived. The choices based upon distance, difficulty of the terrain and significance of the destination were created in a time when the most common means of moving around, for the majority, was on foot. Walking, both stimulated, and constrained, the informal creation of a network of communicating paths. Footpaths, now mainly used for recreation, were originally created out of necessity.

This walk takes about four hours as it is around 10 miles without a meander around Kersey. There are gradients, sheep and stiles (dogs would have to be lifted over one). There is a short stretch of busy road to walk beside and cross at a junction on a bend.

Boxford and Kersey, once closely shared ties of commerce and industry as well as the familial and social ties that accompanied economic activity. The shortest and most convenient way of travelling between the two was along the road leading up Cox Hill and out of Boxford. No doubt, that was the choice for the majority and, what was once a path, evolved into a road where pedestrians, carts and carriages shared the way (and provided a ride). Our route to Kersey is less direct and leaves Boxford from Broadstreet, with The Fleece on our left, to walk up past the garage to enter Clubs Lane on the left. Continue along the lane, over a roadway, to a path between fences, to turn right beside a ditch up to a road. Crossing diagonally to the right enter the footpath and walk ahead through a muddy section in a spinney to reach a field. Follow the path to the left and then right around the field edge and then up the track directly ahead. Continue to a T junction of paths (1) where you turn left. Follow the path ahead to reach a road which you cross to enter a track diagonally opposite. About 100 meters along the track the footpath goes up into a field on your left and on it you now turn right to continue the walk. Walk along until you reach a footpath on your right pointing across a narrow piece of open field which you cross to a hedge. Keeping the hedge on your right walk up to the road and turn right.

Continue along the road for 200m approximately until you can turn right onto a footpath beside buildings to then turn left onto the path leading ahead beside field edges to a road with a wood to the left and houses on the right. Walk along the road until, passing houses, you arrive at a junction where you take the lane on your left. Walk down the lane until, where a footpath crosses, you can turn right and continue on the path ahead until you reach a stile, close to an electrical transmission cable, at a path which leads down a grassy field to the valley bottom where you walk between fences to arrive in Kersey village. During this part of the walk we are relatively close to Lindsey Castle on the Western route to Kersey, which, together with Pitchers Mount, on the Northern route to Boxford, were constructed in the 12th Century and belonged to the same family. Already in the 12th Century, both Kersey and Boxford were showing their importance and need to be defended.

To inform your walk, the Kersey website has a useful walk map and the Suffolk Churches website makes some interesting observations on the two St Mary's of Boxford and Kersey.

When ready to return to Boxford, climb up the hill and leave the road to enter the churchyard where please pause to look back over the village. Continue through the churchyard to turn right onto the road and follow it round to the left. Take the left fork at the junction ahead and continue right as you walk down the hill. Continue along the lane until you reach a house where you turn left and then immediately right to follow the path along the bottom of the valley, hedge on your right, to pass through the hedge, down steps, and then continue along until you turn left through the hedge again to climb the slope to the A1071.

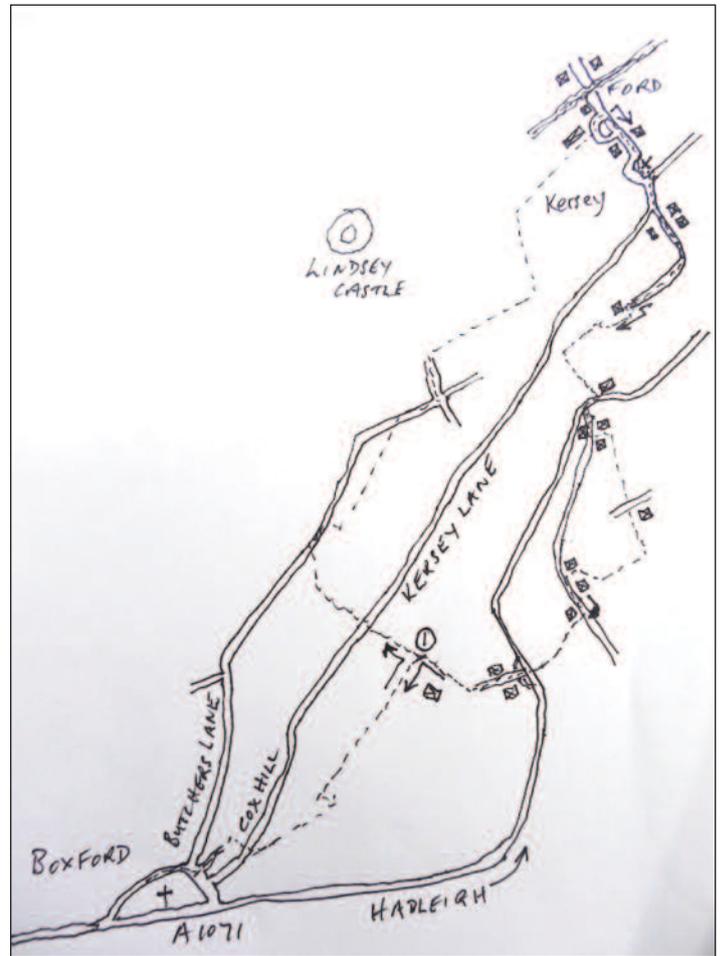
At the road, turn right and walk along the grass verge until you reach the corner where you cross to the road opposite. Walk 150m up the road to enter a narrow footpath, indicated on the left, beside a house, which you follow found the back and then ahead over a road, a bridge and a field to reach a T junction by a hedge where you turn right. Continue to the field corner, where you turn right and then left, to reach a road where you turn left. Walk 200m along the road and then join a foot path, on the right, which you follow across two fields, a lane, around another field and a final short stretch of path on your left to cross the A1071 again.

After crossing the main road continue up the road ahead until you access a footpath on the right near where the road ends. Walk along through trees until you reach a path coming in from the left. This is point (1), above, and you can now retrace your steps to Boxford.

This completes the series of walks from the centre of Boxford. There is scope to modify and add to all these routes and I hope you will find something of interest and use in them. If there is a problem on any of the paths in Boxford Parish please contact me through the Parish Council and I will do my best to sort it out.

Enjoy your walking.

Nicholas Bristow



EDWARDSTONE PARISH HALL



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The Hall has a fitted kitchen plus:

Chairs, Tables, China, Cutlery

Wine & Beer Glasses

Hot Water Heater for Drinks

Facilities for the Disabled

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Full Sound System

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To book, or for more details, please contact:
Daphne Clark (Chairman) on 01787 210698

Forthcoming Events Diary

November

30 Grand Cake Sale	Early Learning Orphanage Entebe	Mary's House	9.00am
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December

4/7 The Seven Dwarfs do Panto	Boxford Drama Group	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
6 Drop in for Coffee	St Lawrences PCC	The Church Ltl Waldingfield	10.30 till 12 noon
7 Church Xmas Coffeese Morning	All Saints PCC	Newton Village Hall	10.00am
7 Cheese and Wine party	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	7.30pm
8 Christmas Charity Fayer	All Saints PCC	Newton Village Hall	10.00am
14 Christmas Coffee Morning	St Mary's PCC	St Mary's Church	9.15 to Noon
22 Carols by Candellight	Boxford St Mary's	St Mary's Church	6.30pm

January

8 Joint Benefice PCC's	Benefice PCC's	Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7.00pm
18 Quiz and Chips	Groton PCC	Groton Village Hall	7.30pm

February

1 Fun and Games Night	Boxford Community Council	Boxford Village Hall	7.30pm
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First Monday each month Boxford Parish Council Meetings in Bell House, Stone Street St, Boxford 7.30pm

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The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton

Rector: The Revd Robert Parker-McGee, MA, SR
The Rectory, School Hill, Boxford, CO10 5JT
Telephone: 01787 210434 E-mail: rparkermcgee@gmail.com
Rob's day off is normally Friday, but this may vary according to circumstances

Reader: Christopher Kingsbury,

Lay Elders: David Lamming, 20 Holbrook Barn Road, Boxford CO10 5HU
Tel: 210360; Fax: 329770; (Mobile) 07968 791135; e-mail: djlamming@hotmail.com
Tim Harbord, 2 Rivish Lane, Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9TH
Tel 01787 311707; e-mail: t.harbord@btinternet.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.

Carol Services

6.30pm Saturday 21st December
St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield

11am Sunday 22nd December
All Saints', Newton Green

6.30pm Sunday 22nd December
St Mary's, Boxford

7.00pm Monday 23rd December
St Bartholomew's, Groton

5.30pm Tuesday 24th December
St Mary the Virgin's, Edwardstone



The Box River Benefice
Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton

Copy Date for Church News in the Christmas and New Year 2019/20 Box River News:

Please, NO LATER THAN 10th December
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

MARY'S HOUSE BOOKINGS

When making a booking, please ensure that a contact name and telephone number is entered clearly in the diary in respect of EVERY booking (including regular church and PCC bookings), as we need to know who to contact in the event of any query over, or the need to change, a booking. (Not everyone is complying with this requirement.)

Please note that the suggested donation is £1.00 per head for a two-hour booking for all meetings.

For inquiries about new bookings, please contact Pauline or David Lamming: telephone 01787 210360. Please contact one of them before making any booking

After dealing with some of the complexities and workload of the parish during the interregnum, and after many years of serving the church in various organisational capacities, Chris Kingsbury is stepping down from organisational duties. To assist him in this, please direct all church related business to the relevant churchwarden or the Rector. Chris will continue to lead occasional services and to preach in his role as Reader to the Benefice.



THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwarden:

Peter Patrick

Amberley, White Street Green, Boxford, CO10 5JN Tel: 01787 210346

E-mail: ppat@btinternet.com

Deputy Churchwardens:

Michael Gray 07931043926

boxford.warden@btinternet.com

Lennie Southgate Tel: 01787 210942

Karen Whymark Tel: 01787 210414



Follow the Star! 25 golden stars are to be placed around the village, with each one having a different name. Children are invited to follow the trail and find out all 25 names and then bring their completed lists to Café Church on 1st December at 11am for a chance to win an exciting prize. There will be different prizes for each age group. All are welcome to Café Church, which offers a more informal style, with children's activities and good tea, coffee and pastries throughout!

Journeying Deeper. There is short meditative prayer every **Wednesday at 5pm**. It gives us all a chance to spend just a little time in silence and stillness. The benefits of meditation and mindfulness are now well-known. The Christian tradition has held this at the centre of its life for over 2000 years. Come along and take the opportunity to rest and reflect.
Advent Quiet Morning: Advent is a time of reflection and preparation. To help you in this, there will be a lightly-guided quiet morning in St Mary's Boxford on Saturday **7th December between 10am and 12 noon**. Lots of material will be available to help with reflection during the morning. Light refreshments will be available.

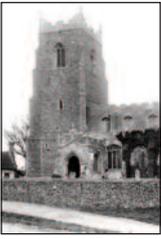


Sunday School: As of January, St Mary's will be starting a Sunday School. It will initially take place twice a month on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays in Mary's House, Swan Street starting at 10.50am. All Primary aged children are most welcome. We are still on the lookout for a helper or two to add to the team so that duties can be shared - if you are a parent with primary or secondary aged children, this might be an especially good opportunity. Do get in touch.

A Christmas Coffee Morning and Cake Stall will be held in St Mary's Church on **Saturday 14th December from 10am**.

Christingle. The annual Christingle service will take place on **Sunday 15th December at 4pm**. This is a brilliant service of symbolism and fun for all the family. Easy Carols, only 35 minutes long and may well include a little tableau. Come along and bring all your friends - a wonderful way to begin the build-up to Christmas.

Carols by Candlelight will be held on **Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm**. Join us for this traditional service filled with evocative symbolism and music.



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

1 Dec Mr. and Mrs. Tora

8 Dec No service

15 Dec No service

21 Dec Mrs. Harritt and Mrs. Eddington

24 Dec Mrs. Gardiner and Mrs. Nicholls

Flowers

Advent - no flowers

Advent - no flowers

Advent - no flowers

Flower Team

Flower Team

On 3 November Revd. Rob celebrated Holy Communion with us. Friends from the Benefice came to the service and stayed to have coffee afterwards.

On 11 November Tim Harbord led us in our Remembrance Service in the church and outside at the war memorial. The names of those in this parish who died in the two world wars were read out and wreaths were laid in their memory.

In December we observe Advent, a time of preparation for the birth of Christ.

On Saturday 21 December we shall hold our carol service at 6.30pm. The church will be decorated for Christmas, and we shall serve mulled wine and mince pies after the service.

Tuesday 24 December Holy Communion at 9pm.



THE PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GROTON

Churchwarden:

Diana McCorkell

Primrose Cottage, Parliament Heath, Groton,
CO10 5ER Tel: 01787 210927

E-mail: dianah.mccorkell@btinternet.com

ROTAS FOR DECEMBER

Sidesman Mr David Lamming

Flowers Mrs Maureen Bloys

Cleaning Mrs Sheila Gooderham

FROM THE REGISTERS: On 17 October 2019 the cremated remains of the late Clarice Brown-Roberts, who died on 11 September 2019, aged 87 years, were interred in the churchyard.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Thirty-three people attended the short service of remembrance around the Groton war memorial, held this year in bright sunshine on 10th November. As in recent years, small crosses, each with the name of one of the servicemen from the parish who died in the two world wars, were placed in front of the memorial as their names were read out just before the two-minute silence. (Details of their military service, where they died and where they are buried, are contained in a memorial book in the church.) Lay elder David Lamming led the service and chairman of the parish council, Piers Roberts, placed a wreath of poppies on the memorial stone. A six-foot 'Tommy' silhouette (provided as part of the 'There But Not There' campaign) stands guard over the stone.

CHRISTMAS 2019: Details of all the Christmas services around the benefice are on the services page. In Groton, the **carol service** this year will be on **Monday 23rd December starting at 7.00 pm**. Do please join us as. As the traditional bidding prayer puts it, "Be it our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and the babe lying in the manger." Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. On Christmas Day we celebrate Christ's birth with a service of **Family Communion at 9.30 am**.

Benefice News

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SUDBURY AND DISTRICT: Following the decision made at the joint benefice PCCs meeting in September, the benefice has now joined. See below for details of the prayer breakfasts this month.

General Church News

'CHURCHES TOGETHER' PRAYER BREAKFASTS:



SATURDAYS 8.00 AM TO 9.30 AM.
CTiS&D prayer breakfasts in December, to which all are welcome, will be held at the following venues:
7th St Mary's Church, Bures
14th Cornard Christian Fellowship, 1 Broom Street, Great Cornard
21st Suffolk Road Church, Sudbury

KETTLE & FISH



'Kettle & Fish' at St Peter's Church, Sudbury, a Christian presence in the centre of the town, will be open on **Thursday 12 December from 9.45 am to 2.00 pm** (to coincide with both market day and polling day in the General Election) where you can find spiritual and physical refreshment. Coffee, tea, soup, quiches filled rolls and cakes are available, together with a Fairtrade stall, a Christian bookstall and a prayer corner. 'Listeners' are available to talk to – or just come and talk with friends over a coffee etc.

For other CTiS&D dates and news, visit the website:
www.churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk



THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:

Vacant

Rota for December

Cleaning duties, Emma Driscoll

Flowers, everyone

Sunday 15 Dec, (HC), Sidesman David Saddleton; **coffee** Ineke Morris

Tuesday 24 Dec, CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 29 Dec, Sidesman Maureen Cooling; **coffee** Marlene Clarke.

"Please don't forget to come to the **Edwardstone Carol Service** at Edwardstone Church on **Christmas Eve starting at 5.30pm**. This is the perfect way to start your Christmas and with the traditional Nativity Story, actively involving all the children, ensures it is truly a must for all your family. Your Christmas will not be complete without such a great start."



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwarden:

Vacant

Notices December

Saturday 7th 10.00 – 12.00 Church Christmas Fayer
Please see separate poster

Saturday 14th 10.00am In the Village Hall
Decorating the church for Christmas
all help gratefully received.

Sunday 22nd 11.00am COMMUNION SERVICE with
carols led by Reverend Robert



The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton

December Services 2019

Daily Prayer

Come and join us!

- Monday:** 8.30 Morning Prayer, Lt Waldingfield;
17:00 Evening Prayer, Boxford;
- Tuesday:** 8.30 Morning Prayer, Edwardstone;
17:00 Evening Prayer, Boxford;
- Wednesday:** 8.30 Morning Prayer, Groton;
10:30 Mid-week Communion, Mary's House, Swan St, Boxford
17:00 Holy Half Hour, (Silent Prayer/Meditation) Boxford;
- Thursday** 8.30 Morning Prayer, Newton,
17:00 Evening Prayer, Boxford.

If Fr Rob is waylaid, please do not let that put you off praying!

Main Services

Sunday 1st	1st Sunday of Advent	(Purple)
08.00 Holy Communion BCP (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford
09.30 Holy Communion (RPM)		St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
11.00 Advent Café Church (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford
18.30 Advent Evensong (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford

Sunday 8th	2nd Sunday of Advent	(Purple)
(& Feast of the Immaculate Conception)		
09.30 Holy Communion (RPM+ <i>The Ven. James Ridge</i>)		St Bartholomew's, Groton
11.00 Holy Communion (RPM + <i>the Ven. James Ridge</i>)		St Mary's, Boxford

Sunday 15th	3rd Sunday of Advent	(Purple)
09.30 Holy Communion (RPM)		St Mary the Virgin's, Edwardstone
11.00 Holy Communion (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford
16:00 Christingle (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford

Christmas is Coming!

Saturday 21st		(Purple)
18.30 Carol Service (RPM/TH)		St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Sunday 22nd	4th Sunday of Advent	(Purple)
09.30 Holy Communion (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford
11.00 Holy Communion with Carols (RPM)		All Saints', Newton
18:30 Carols by Candlelight (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford

Monday 23rd		(Purple)
19.00 Carol Service (DL)		St Bartholomew's, Groton

Tuesday 24th	Christmas Eve	(White/Gold)
17.30 Carol Service (RPM)		St Mary the Virgin's, Edwardstone
21.00 Pre-Midnight Mass (RPM)		St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
23.00 Midnight Mass (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford

Wednesday 25th	Christmas Day	(White/Gold)
09.30 Christmas Day Family Communion (RPM)		St Bartholomew's, Groton
11.00 Christmas Day Family Communion (RPM)		St Mary's, Boxford

Sunday 29th	1st Sunday of Christmas	(White/Gold)
10.00 Joint Benefice Service (TBC)		St Mary the Virgin's, Edwardstone

Soap Box

So, we are to go to the polls in the run up to Christmas. What Joy. Aside from the fact that the early days of campaigning suggest this is likely to be the most bad-tempered confrontation between the main parties we have seen in our lifetime, it will surely only underscore the deep divisions that have arisen in our society as a consequence of the 2016 referendum. Moreover, a combination of tactical voting and the likely effect of a winter election on turn-out (short days, poor weather) could mean some wild and unpredictable swings in the individual results.

And while the run up to polling day is not likely to be a comfortable experience, with the news media obsessed with the latest opinion polls and gaffs perpetrated by leading campaigners, the fact that the result is likely to be announced on Friday 13th December is hardly a cheering prospect either. It all bodes ill, whatever side of the Brexit argument you sit. The only good news, so far as I am concerned, is that I largely missed the first half of the election campaign as I was abroad. By the time you read this I will have returned to Suffolk and will doubtless be bombarded by exhortations to support one side or the other.

Make no mistake, my political colours were run up the mast many years ago. As a past chairman and president of the South Suffolk Conservative Association and a lifelong fully paid up member of the Party, I am hardly likely to jump ship at this stage. But I have never experienced such a polarised debate as that which we are going through at present. With members of all leading parties crossing the floor – as the saying goes (OK, I accept we have not seen LibDem defections yet) – some senior, you have to question whether old alliances still hold good.

Don't forget either that the great British public are becoming tired of what they see as their political leaders' inability to manage one of the most important decisions ever reached through the ballot box. It is true that the Labour Party has achieved a resurgence in their membership, following Jeremy Corbyn's appointment as leader, but he remains a marmite character. And membership of a political party is still a minority occupation for the electorate, so floating voters could turn any which way come December 12th.

In the certain knowledge that predictions are pointless at this stage, I prefer to turn to other interesting (to me, at any rate) items that have crossed my desk in recent days. For example, which city in the UK is

considered the most attractive when it comes to choosing where to live? A recently published report rated those towns and cities with populations exceeding 250,000 according to a variety of criteria and concluded that London was becoming less popular as a place in which to live and work. London now ranks 16th in the table compiled by Price Waterhouse Coopers, with the top slot going to Oxford. The highest ranking town in East Anglia was Cambridge, which came in at number nine. Quite what measures were used is not certain, but the fact that Reading came in at second place and both Milton Keynes and Swindon were placed higher than Cambridge makes me doubt whether I should believe the findings of this report. Anyway, I suspect most people would rather live in smaller conurbations than big cities and towns.

With Christmas rushing towards us, I am hopeful that my attention will be diverted from the upcoming election. Depending upon the final outcome, some politicians and civil servants could find their plans for the festive season somewhat disrupted. Given the number of hoops we've had to leap through to prepare for two deadlines that came and went without any actual change taking place (International Driving Permits, Green Cards, rabies certificates, to name but three), I feel it would serve them right.

Brian Tora



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GARDENING IN DECEMBER INSPIRED BY THE LATE HARRY BUCKLEDEE

Now is a good time to be planning and preparing for a new herbaceous border. Given the right treatment, a herbaceous border can give years of satisfaction and colour for a reasonable amount of money. I often hear people say: "Plant perennials, they will look after themselves." This is not so since everything needs attention to give of its best. As regards outlay, this can be cut to a minimum by begging pieces from people with established borders.

If possible, try to avoid sitting the border up against a high wall or hedge. Leaving a space between the backing wall or hedge not only makes easy access to the border for viewing and maintenance, but more importantly, it allows the plants to get the light and air needed to produce sturdy growth. Plants that are deprived of light and air become tall, weak and spindly and are easily broken down by wind and rain. The choice of plants is important; although plants are adaptable to soils and situations, there are limitations to what they will put up with. For instance, if you place plants that like moist conditions in hot, dry situations, or shade-lovers in hot, full, sun, then you are sure to have failures.

Most hardy perennials like a deep, but well-drained soil, losses that sometimes occur in winter are usually caused by water logging and slug damage. Plants that like moist situations can be grown in ordinary soil providing plenty of compost is dug into the soil and plants are given a good, thick mulch to conserve the moisture and to keep the roots cool. The height of the plants should be governed by the width of the border, the tallest plants should be no more than half the width of the border they will otherwise look out of proportion. Planting distances vary from five per square metre for smaller plants to three per square metre for the more vigorous ones. Do not plant slow-growing plants next to vigorous growers as they will be quickly swamped. Mix plants with flat-topped flowers next to those of a spikey nature for better effect. The planting of a border prepared now should be left until early spring.

House plants. Many people receive house plants as Christmas presents and some of these require special attention:

Azaleas and Solanums (winter cherry) both need extra humidity and should be mist sprayed frequently with tepid water. Cyclamens should not be watered until they show signs of flagging when they should be given only enough water to wet the whole compost. Make sure that only

surface water is drained off. Poinsettias should be kept away from draughts and fluctuating temperatures. These conditions and over-watering are usually the cause of leaves dropping.

Hyacinth bulbs that have been forced for early bloom need to be given plenty of light and enough water to keep the compost moist at all times. Too much water will cause the fleshy roots to rot, while insufficient water will cause the flower spikes to die off prematurely.

Now is the time to box up little pots of your assorted dried herbs, or packages of garden pot pourri or lavender bags, for presents. And to set, aside the very late-flowering greenhouse chrysanthemums which prettily bunched with glossy leaves, berried holly, and sprigs of *Eleagnus pungens aurea variegata* - make such heartwarming nosegays with which to rush around at the end of the week to gardenless friends. Decide exactly what flowers you are going to use, and look out the containers that suit them best.

If Christmas gets to be too much why not escape into the garden and fork over a nice undemanding bed somewhere, or have another look at the seed catalogue and start a new list of musts, preferably out of reach of anybody.

As we approach the shortest day of the year in December you will need work to keep you warm outside, such as digging and tree pruning. Check your winter protection and if you have a greenhouse make sure the heater is working. Hopefully there are not too many jobs left to do this year so you will have time for some fireside garden planning.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place
- 2 Check that greenhouse heaters are working
- 3 Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing
- 4 Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls)
- 5 Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
- 6 Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops
- 7 Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted
- 8 Take hardwood cuttings
- 9 Keep mice away from stored produce
- 10 Reduce watering of houseplants

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Parish Council Matters

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), A Sargeant (Vice Chairman), P Wallis, M Wooderson, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: were received from S Mattocks.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 2ND SEPTEMBER 2019: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: W Baker from the Community Council shared plans for a street party next May. Entertainment has been booked and applications to close the road to traffic are in progress. The Parish Council were asked for a donation towards the overall costs which are estimated at £6000. It was agreed to include an Agenda item for November - Action Clerk.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: An Agenda item had been agreed.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on the response to EDF Energy's Sizewell Consultation, the application process for school places, the construction of the new archives and heritage centre, awards to Fire Service personnel and their volunteers, new listening events for residents to chat with senior Council officials and the progress of Chairman Finch's charity walks. Further Fostering and Adoption Sessions have been arranged. Cllr Finch was questioned about local issues in view of some unrest in the Village about the lack of perceived support to village matters. Some have expressed concern at neglect by the County Council due to the cut backs leading to inevitable vulnerability to a range of problems. Concern was also expressed that the assessment from Highways in relation to potential plans fail to take on board local knowledge. The Inspector hearing an important Appeal did take into consideration local factors which led to a fair decision. However, the failure of Highways to put weight to such considerations does put the Village at a disadvantage against developers. The Parish Council was pleased with the successful rejection of a recent proposal for 80 houses outside the building envelope. However, members expressed to J Finch that the views from Highways in accepting assumptions from the developers and not listening to local knowledge hampered the Village to achieve this result. M Wooderson and J Finch agreed to work together to try to find a better way forward in this respect. Residents and the Parish Council were also feeling let down by the altered plans for Sand Hill HGV's and the lack of funding by the County Council. J Finch agreed to investigate further. It will form an Agenda item at the November Parish Council Meeting - Action Clerk. M Wooderson shared plans to meet at the Churchyard wall in respect of protection and moving forward with maintenance to the wall. J Finch advised the cost of the suggested approach is in the region of £10,000.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported on the meeting with Flagship regarding their land being driven over to access the rear of 30 Swan Street. The Parish Council had been involved in site meetings, writing to the person concerned and reporting to the Police. The Police had been pursuing the matter. Flagship were investigating what they could do to assist. B Hurren then went on to talk about the potential name change of the District Council which has been very poorly received. He then spoke of a proposal a resident has for part of the bus shelter. He agreed to find out more information and update the Parish Council Meeting in November - Action B Hurren.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES: It was agreed to put new adverts on the website and in Box River News - Action Clerk.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 7th October were £49619.48 in the Community Account, £13384.04 in the Deposit Account and £51578.10 in the Reserve Account making a total of £114581.62.

The External Audit Report was discussed. All were found to be in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters of concern came to their attention.

The Sudbury Community Wardens Service Level Agreement was considered and approved.

The quote for "Unsuitable for HGV's" signs for Sand Hill would be put on the Agenda for the November Meeting to give the County Council further time to consider a contribution - Action Clerk.

The effectiveness of Internal Controls including the Internal Audit process were considered. The Parish Council reviewed the Internal Control Policy at the September Meeting. They are pleased with SALC as the Internal Auditors and are comfortable that all reasonable measures are in place to protect public money.

Cemetery Contract

REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS: The draft of the most up to date NALC Model with amendments to reflect Boxford Parish Council had been circulated ahead of the September Meeting. Members had reviewed between Meetings. The Chairman proposed adoption of the new Standing Orders. This was seconded by A Sargeant and unanimously carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report was discussed and members agreed to do their best to help with any requests from our Footpath Warden for local knowledge to assist him with the footpaths.

CEMETERY: A Sargeant agreed to meet contactors tendering for the Cemetery Contract. The Clerk will check with our existing Contractor first - Action Clerk and A Sargeant. M Wooderson agreed to arrange a meeting at the Churchyard wall - Action M Wooderson.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: The Clerk had adapted a Neighbourhood Planning Terms of Reference for another Council and the Chairman and Clerk had worked together to adapt for the purposes of Boxford. It was agreed to circulate the draft to Councillors and once approved, the Chairman will liaise with the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group to seek their input before considering approval at a future Parish Council Meeting. This document sets out the relationship which is particularly important in respect of public finances. A Sargeant reported a raised manhole outside the Post Office. The Clerk agreed to make an on-line report - Action Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford
on Monday 7th October 2019

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

- The application for part two-storey, part single-storey garage and workshops with associated storage/ancillary space at Riddelsdell Bros Garage, 4 Ellis Street had been withdrawn
- Planning permission had been granted for two storey cart lodge with external staircase at Pro Tem, Calais Street
- Planning permission had been granted for new vehicular access to allow access to existing poly tunnels and shed on site at Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery, Hadleigh Road
- Work can commence to ash in conservation area at 24 Stone Street -
- Planning permission had been granted for conversion of roof space to form additional living accommodation at 15 Goodlands - DC/19/03948
- Work can commence to ash and alder in conservation area at The Old Forge, Church Street - DC/19/03965

The following were discussed: -

- It was agreed to continue to monitor the Joint Local Plan and liaise with the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group in this respect.
- The successful rejection of the plans for 80 houses on Sand Hill at Committee was discussed. This involved considerable teamwork in securing and meeting the Planning Officer on site, attendance at the Committee Site Meeting and the Committee hearing with P Wallis speaking on behalf of the Parish Council. M Wooderson had given the benefit of his experience which helped guide the process, S Mattocks drafted our written representation and liaised with nearby residents. Our Chairman was involved throughout and had written directly to the Committee Members. B Hurren worked closely with the Parish Council and residents throughout the preparations. Representatives from the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group were present on the day. The Planning Officer had recommended approval and Highways did not have an issue, so this achievement seemed remarkable in the circumstances.

Remember

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

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

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SATURDAY 21ST -

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WINTER SOLSTICE SOFOLK GIG**

TUE 31ST: FROM 8PM -

N.Y.E. 'GAMES NIGHT'

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JANUARY:

SAT 25TH 7.30PM -

'CURRY & BIG FAT QUIZ OF 2019'

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- ELECTRIC JAM -
JAN 22ND
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BOX RIVER BENEFICE

MAKE UP OF PARISH COUNCILS 2015 – 2019

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Hugh Phillips	1 Boxford Lane	
	211729	
Vince Strafford	The Old Schoolhouse	211026
Andrew Sargeant	The Annexe 18 Stone St	210661
Phil Waller		
Mathew Wooderson	Birdsong 16 Goodlands	211204
Clerk	Debbie Hattrell	210943
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Michael Gibson	Maple Barn, Priory Green	211188
Paul Clarke	Hazel Cottage, Mill Green	210689
Phil Baker Chairman	Mulberry Farm, Round Maple	211452
Sharron Norman	Dormers, Sherbourne Street	210386
David Williams Vice Chair	Lodge Farm House	07447403041
Clerk	Richard Jones	01473 828246
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

GROTON PARISH COUNCIL

Nick Cox	3 Groton Place, Groton Street	210339
Adam Dixon-Smith	Castlings Hall, Castlings Heath	210007
Piers Roberts	Brook House	
	210619	
Roland Cheeseman	Rose Barn, Daisy Grn	07770 237921
Debbie Wills	Doggetts Groton Street	
	210484	
Clerk	Richard Jones	01473 828246
District Councillor	Bryn Hurren	210854
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Stewart Braybrook	Cypress House, Church Road	247043
Barbara Campbell	Vice Chairman Appleton House, Church Road	
Matt Foster	Surprise Cottage, Church Road	07779 003635
Tim Sheppard		
Alan Wells		
Chris White		
Clerk. Simon Ashton		
District Councillors	Frank Lawrenson	
	Margaret Maybury	
County Councillor	Colin Spence	

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Russell Bower	4 Nicholsons Court	
Sue Crawte	South Hill, Church Road	
Jonathan Parker	2 Hall Cottages, Church Road	
Colin Poole	Stow Cottage, Sudbury Road	
Paul Presland	Redwoods, Church Road	
	379204	
Rita Schwenk	1 Assington Road	
	210838	
Philip Taylor	Trotts Cottage, Boxford	
	211265	
Clerk. Adrian Beckham		373725
District Councillor	Lee Parker	
County Councillor	James Finch	01206 263649

South Suffolk Member of Parliament

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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

➤ **“Braking Point” returns to help young adults stay safe on Suffolk’s roads** The Suffolk Roadsafe board (SRB) is working with 16 and 17-year-old students to encourage young people to stay safe on Suffolk’s roads. SRB is a partnership between Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary, Highways England, and the East of England Ambulance Service.

The Braking Point project was relaunched in the week of 7 October and will be visiting 20 schools across Suffolk to deliver a “Braking Point play”. The play, delivered by Performance in Education, is designed to encourage the safe behaviours of both drivers and passengers.

Once the theatre tour ends, just before the autumn half-term, the Road Safety team will provide classroom-based follow-up sessions in schools, which will continue to run into 2020. These sessions are designed to change student behaviour by normalising sensible decision making on the highway. These interactive sessions have been shown to shift students’ attitudes to road safety and to provide them with more knowledge which they can take forwards as they become responsible drivers on Suffolk’s roads. Find out more information about Braking Point on the Suffolk Roadsafe website

➤ **First time central heating systems for Suffolk residents**

A further 200 Suffolk homes without central heating will soon be able to have their first ever system installed.

On 7 October it was reported that Suffolk’s local authorities have secured an additional £760,000 of funding from the Warm Homes Fund. This will enable the installation of 204 first time central heating systems in eligible, fuel-poor households across Suffolk over the next three years.

This is in addition to the original funding secured by the partnership in 2017 for 514 systems, over 200 of which have already been delivered.

Around four million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

I would encourage anyone who does not have a central heating system and finds it a challenge to afford their energy bills to contact Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People on 03456 037686 quoting the Warm Homes Fund or visit www.greensuffolk.org/whf to find out more.

➤ **Launch of the Annual Public Health Report - Suffolk Through a Child’s Eyes**

The Annual Public Health Report, ‘Suffolk Through a Child’s Eyes’ was launched at the Health and Wellbeing Board Conference on 2 October. This year’s Annual Public Health Report – an independent report from the director of public health – focuses on what it is like to live and grow up in Suffolk from a child’s perspective.

Integral to this year’s report is the accompanying short film produced in conjunction with Signals (an arts and education charity) and Public Health Suffolk, to capture what Suffolk children and young people think about four topics; Friends and Family; Feelings; Fit and Healthy and Future Hopes and Dreams. Watch the film on the Healthy Suffolk website <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk>

Their feedback has been used, together with local and national evidence, to produce the report’s recommendations. These recommendations form areas for action, and focus on how families, practitioners and policy makers can continue to support all children in Suffolk to reach their full potential. The Health and Wellbeing strategy has recently been refreshed for 2019-22 and identifies four key priorities:

- Every Child in Suffolk to have the Best Start in Life
- People of working age are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing
- Older People in Suffolk have a Good Quality of Life
- People in Suffolk have the Opportunity to Improve their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Annual Public Health Report addresses the Health and Wellbeing Board’s first priority: ‘Every child in Suffolk to have the best start in life’. The full report can be viewed on the Healthy Suffolk website <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk>.

➤ **Boxford Highway projects to make Boxford safer**

The following schemes are now being prioritised by Suffolk Highways for the benefit of pedestrians and motorists:-

1. Sand Hill – This will be labelled with blue graphical advisory signs as “Unsuitable for HGV traffic” entering from the A1071.
2. I am working with the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council road safety team to provide a scheme that protects the Church wall from damage by large vehicles.
3. Dakin Avenue – I am pleased to confirm that the resurfacing of Dakin

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

Another busy month at Babergh with the Christmas break fast approaching.

This has been further complicated by the snap election that we now have to hold. Running an election is the duty of the District Council and the election is coming at a time when many village halls are pre-booked for seasonal functions, parties and fund-raising activities. Despite all this every village will have a polling booth for everyone to cast their vote and I hope everyone exercises this right. Our democracy is not perfect but there is a lot at stake and our very path and future is now at a crossroads where we must decide in which direction we wish to travel. Social care, Education, our N.H.S., an increased number of residents of a pensionable age and above all the most serious issue of our changing climate and the care of the world we live in should be uppermost in all our minds as we go to the polls on 12th December. If you are not registered to vote, please get in touch with myself or Babergh and we will help you with this. If you think you may be away on polling day you can apply for a postal vote up to the 26th November.

During the Christmas holidays anyone under the age of 16 can swim for free at the Hadleigh leisure pool or the Kingfisher in Sudbury, both council-run facilities.

Babergh have also launched their own initiative of a tree for life, this is a tree given to every new-born or adopted baby born after the 1st Jan 2019 up until the very end of this current year. If you qualify all parents need to do is to apply to the Council and a presentation will happen early in the new year, the new tree can be planted in the family garden or with permission in a public place of their choosing, hopefully as the child grows into an adult then so will the sapling turn into a tree to be cherished and admired.

This offer will also be extended to any family who have had the misfortune to lose a baby and can be given as a memory tree for loved ones to see grow.

In case anybody was wondering, the proposed name change of the Council from Babergh to South Suffolk has been delayed to give councillors time to think about the issues involved. Watch this space.

Whatever your plans may be for Christmas I hope you will have a good one and although things have been a bit grim raise a glass in the hope that 2020 will be better.

If you need your District Councillor try bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk or call me on 01787 210854. Mobile 07771 508348
Happy Christmas Bryn.



BOXFORD ALLOTMENTS



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➤ **More Fostering and Adoption Sessions in Boxford and the Stour Valley** Following another successful session in Mary’s House in October, I gave below the dates and times of the last two sessions for this year. Because of the good response to these sessions I propose to continue with these in 2020.

My Priorities

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

Readers Letters

Sir

Roger and I would like to thank the Committee and the members of The Boxford Society for the tremendously generous and unexpected gifts we received at the recent AGM at which we stood down as officers. By the time you read this we will have already enjoyed a meal from the gift token at The Great House, Lavenham. The rest of the gift is being used to purchase a book to help Tina identify her many tiny moths so they can join the list of the 350 varieties of large moths already found and named in our garden. Some will also be used to frame a collection of pictures of the village by Boxford artists that we already own. This gift came as a shock but was greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to the long lasting pleasure it will give us.

Thank you everyone,
Tina and Roger Loose



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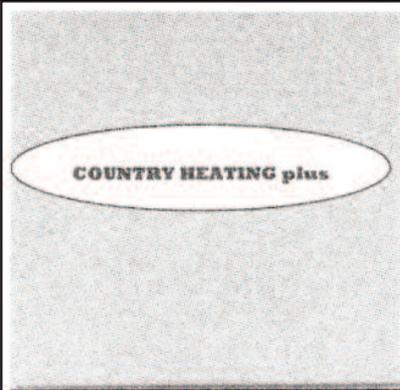


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KEN KING, LAST OF OUR D-DAY HEROS

Kenneth Parker King, was born on the 27 June 1922 in Boxford Suffolk, and was educated at the Boxford Village School

When war was immanent Ken joined the TA Suffolk Regt with 16 other boys from the village, and was mobilized on 22 August 1939. The Suffolks' went to Singapore, but Ken was under age and so was transferred to the Royal Artillery and joined the ante aircraft guns defending southern and midland areas. A lot of their time was spent defending the engine plants of Rolls Royce. At this time he volunteered for training to be a paratrooper but sadly Ken broke his ankle during training, and was returned to his Unit before he could qualify. During this time he met his future wife Ann Tunnicliff, she was 15 and they spent time together whilst Ken was stationed in Derby. Ken became a part of her family and was always proud to be so loved and accepted by them. He said they were like sisters and brothers to him.

In 1942 Ken was sent to join Wavell's army in North Africa where he fought along the African coast. When Ken arrived in Libya, he was interviewed by an officer who told him that he had been selected for a special team and was being relocated back to Weybourne Gun Ranges in Norfolk. After a month training his new unit, The Royal Artillery Demonstration Battery, were told to board a ship, the Isle de France, in Scotland, in order to guard German prisoners of War. They were part of a large convoy initially, but one morning awoke and found themselves alone. The following day they docked in New York. Only then, were they told that their mission was to train American gunners on their equipment. The Gunners received a very warm welcome and during their 8 month stay they travelled from the east to the west coast, hosted by the American people and were even entertained by film stars, such as Cary Grant and Hedy Lemar.

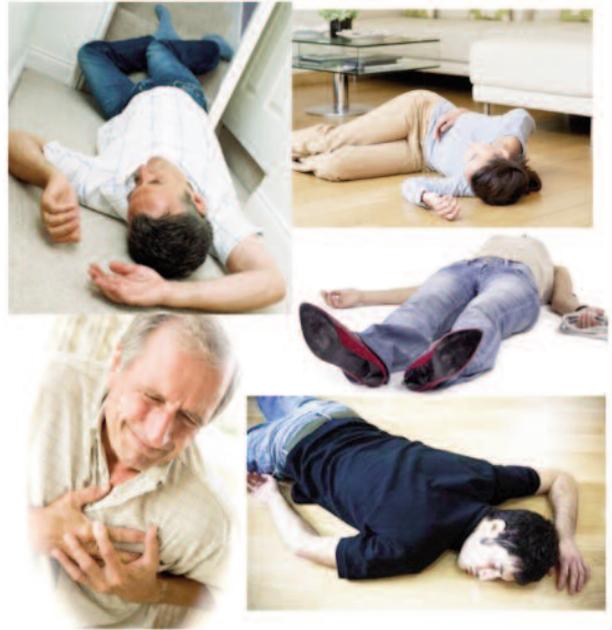
On his return to the UK, Ken went straight into training for the D Day Landings in the Kent area. On the 6th June 1944, Ken landed with the Americans, on Omaha Beach. Within 4 hours of landing, his Bofar Gun misfired, and exploded seriously injuring the crew and leaving Ken blinded by the cordite from the shell. He was airlifted back to an eye hospital in Banstead Red Cross Hospital in Surrey, where they managed to save the sight in one eye but were unable to much improve the vision in the other, and sadly, his eyesight deteriorated badly during his lifetime because of his wartime injuries. He then recuperated at the Military Recovery Unit at Kingston, and during this time married his sweetheart Ann in Boxford on the 28th October, 1944.

He recovered sufficiently to be sent to the Gold Cost of North Africa to train the Africans to use rifles and machine guns. Ken was finally demobbed in 1946 and returned home to live in Boxford where he became a Bricklayer. He later moved to Derby for about 20 years, before returning home to Boxford in 1972.

Ken passed away peacefully at Ipswich Hospital, on September 29, 2019, aged 97 years. Loving husband to Ann, dad to Jackie, grandad to Richard and Chris, great grandad to Jess, Grace and Ella. Uncle, great uncle and great great uncle and a friend to many. A service to celebrate Ken's life took place at St. Mary's Church, Boxford, on Monday, November 4, Bright colours were requested

Whilst recovering in Bansted Red Cross Hospital in Surrey between June 8th and 12th 1944 where he stayed for four months he wrote . "One evening some of the Red Cross nurses invited us to a dance in the village. Of course, we wanted to go but not in our 'hospital blues' so this nurse arranged to put our army uniforms in the boiler room and we all went to the dance. Except for an unfortunate friend who had lost both his hands and his eyes in an explosion. We put kit bags in our beds but this did not escape the notice of Matron who came looking for us. We escaped from the dance but she caught us as we jumped back in to our beds. She informed the authorities that she didn't think that I should be discharged."

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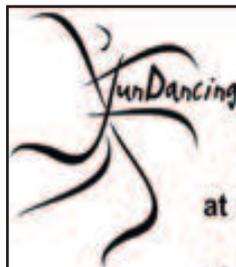


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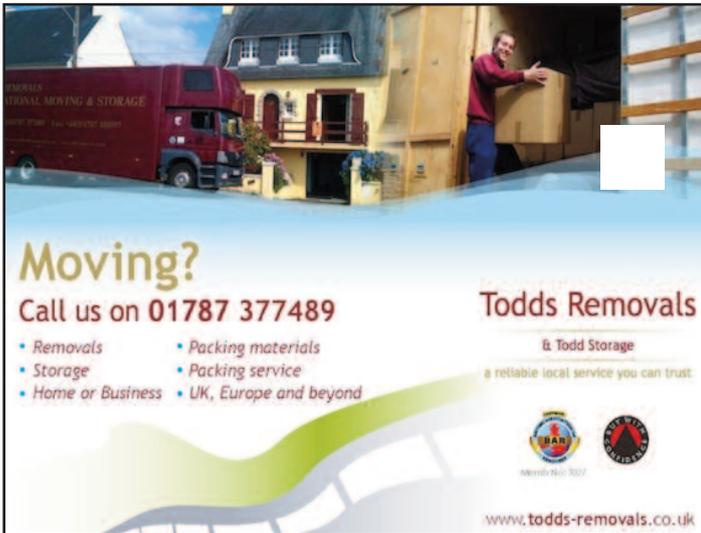
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Photo Trudi Wild

Christingle Service

St Mary's Church,
Boxford



A wonderful way to
begin the build-up to
Christmas.

Bring the whole family!

Sunday 15th December 2019
at
4pm



The Box River Benefice
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