

# Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



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



# GROTON'S CHEESE AND WINE PARTY



*The Feast*



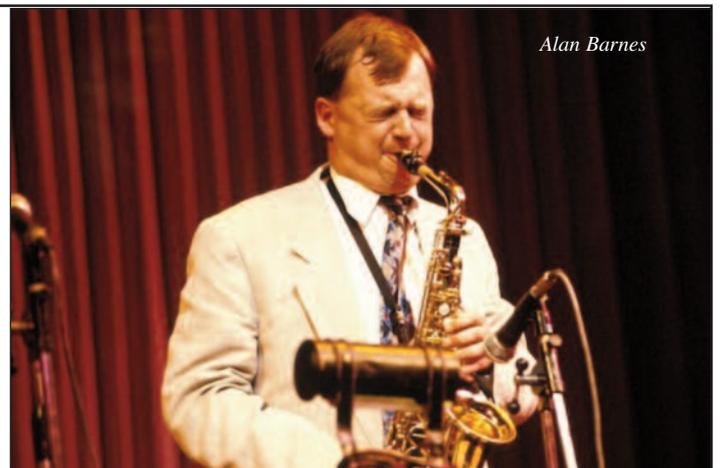
*Rosie and David – "Kiss me under the mistletoe"*



*Above: Bryn Hurren, Auctioneer.*

*Photos David Lamming*

Forty-four people attended this year's annual Cheese & Wine party at Groton Village Hall on Saturday 7 December. 'Cheese & Wine' is perhaps a misnomer, as patrons were faced with a veritable spread of delectable tasties to suit every palate. The £1 'secret present' dip provided amusement, and auctioneer Bryn Hurren cajoled bids for items ranging from a brace of pheasants to a decorative reindeer. This, and the raffle, helped boost the net proceeds of the event (to go to St Bartholomew's Church) to around £850. Thanks to all who came, and especial thanks to those who provided the food and helped in many other ways to make this another unmissable event in Groton's calendar.



*Alan Barnes*

**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 confident air. you can't find a better jazz trombone player than Mark Nightingale said John Dankworth. David Newton is a world class pianist with a great sense of humour. Simon Thorpe is one of the most popular bassists in the country. Clark Tracey is British Jazz Best Drummer two years running,

**Just a taste of the January through April season...**

**Ian Shaw and Barry Green:** sublime vocal and piano pair

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and **Derek Nash** brings "Picanti" to Fleece Jazz.

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## THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LETTER BY REV ROB



*Dear Friends,*

As we approach Christmas, I warn you that I have a tendency towards over-enthusiasm. All the joy and joviality of Christmas really can bring out the best in folk. Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. A time when we celebrate the fact that God's merciful compassion is so awesome that he is willing to give His son. As we gaze at our mysterious God, we see a God who gives, even of himself, for us.

Sadly, Christmas will not be so wonderful for everyone. Homelessness is at epidemic levels, foodbanks are overworked and once again we have seen research that suggests levels of mental illness continues to rise. Did you know that 1 in 5 children suffer from depression and there has been a 200% increase in child suicides since 2014? Or that 1 in 5 men will experience prolonged depression or severe anxiety during their lifetime and suicide rates in men are at their highest since 2002? Added to this, 1 in 4 men have no close friends and millennials (those under 40) as well as the elderly suffer from concerning levels of loneliness and isolation. The real sadness is that these figures will only increase over the Christmas period as people succumb to secular pressures of a commercialised world and its unrealistic agenda. We can easily see why *it is claimed that Western society is experiencing 'spiritual deprivation'*. There are cultures in our society that affect us all for the worse. Statistics show that the more a news report produces anger and fear in its audience, then the more individuals are likely to want to engage with it. Our society has a tendency towards unfair criticism, negativity and doesn't encourage us to see the best in others. Such a climate distorts our vision with a negative lens, if we are not careful. ***So the real Christmas message is more important and urgent than ever.*** Christmas is not about maxing out on credit cards or spoiling each other silly. Christmas is about simply sharing, giving and loving. Christmas is about unfettered generosity and joy: finding happiness and contentment in the simplest of things and rejoicing in the greatest story ever told.

***Why would you want to believe in something awful, when you can believe in something wonderful?***

Recently, Harvard University produced research on the effects of attending church regularly. The study found that children and teenagers who attended church services at least once a week were 18% more likely to report being content, resilient and happier as adults than those who never attended services. This comes on the back of other research published in 2016: that those who attend church more than once a week live longer than those who do not. All the evidence suggests that the modern obsession with possession, self-interest and striving for unrealistic personal 'happiness' is actually doing us severe harm. Church, at its best, teaches us another way – lives of genuine service are often lives lived in fulfilment.

A lot of people recognise this, but struggle because they wish to see more physical proof of the God stuff. And yet, sometimes the proof is before our eyes but we cannot see it – a little like King Herod in the Christmas Narrative. And to put it more candidly, ***if you are unable to take some things on faith, then you are limiting yourself to a life of doubt and scepticism.*** Once we can see the world through God's compassionate, self-giving eyes, our lives become transformed. ***You may not believe in God, but God believes in you!***

Church and faith is all about growing in wholeness and spiritual vitality. An individual has to be in it for the long haul. There will be ups and downs on the journey. In a spiritually impoverished world, where so many suffer the negative effects to their minds and psyche of not having a well-grounded faith, it is so important that new generations can once again see the miraculous truth of what it means to live a life more attuned to God.

When we look at the story of Jesus, we can't help but be struck by how the events of 2000 years ago feel so contemporary to our world today. A story of a single pregnant teenage girl; Her fiancée agreeing to father a child that is not his own. The Holy Family; refugees fleeing for their lives from a tyrant king (Herod). Jesus; ridiculed, beaten and killed for his compassionate and loving views. As we look at the bigger picture, we see a God who, in spite of all this, offers love, compassion and hope to all, irrelevant of race, language, creed, social status, relationship situation or age.

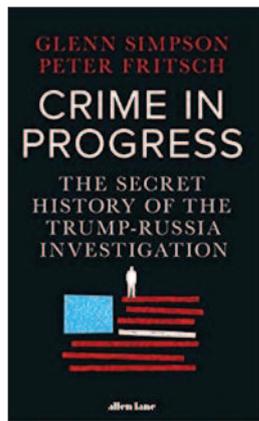
***So may the eternal blessings of the Holy Family resonate on you from the stable this Christmas and as you gaze into the eyes of the baby Jesus, may you see an eternity in which you belong.***

Merry Christmas to you and yours,

*Fr Rob*

## THIS MONTH'S GOOD READ

### Crime in Progress; A Warning; Inside Trump's White House



"Get over it": that is how Mick Mulvaney, acting chief of staff at the White House, dismissed evidence that his boss bribed a foreign government to publicise bogus charges against his chief political rival. But it's about as easy to get over Trump as it is to shrug off a cancer diagnosis. With Hillary Clinton archly hinting at her readiness for a rerun of the 2016 election, others are reinterpreting the past either to delegitimise Trump after the event or to prepare for his vindication at the polls next November.

A weary, regretful *deja vu* pervades *Crime in Progress*, written by the researchers who brought to light the notorious dossier that traced Trump's grubby dealings with

Russian gangsters; the same document described a cabaret act supposedly staged for him by some micturating Moscow hookers, commended by Putin as "the best in the world". Simpson and Fritsch hoped the FBI would use the information they provided to indict Trump, though its then director James Comey instead reprimanded Clinton for her insecure email server. They were disappointed a second time by the noncommittal Mueller report. This "secret history" of their persecution by angry Republicans who disputed their findings attempts to relitigate the case.

Simpson and Fritsch aspire to be latter-day versions of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the reporters who exposed Nixon's Watergate cover-up: their book opens with Fritsch sneakily foiling Bernstein's appeal for information, and later Simpson derides Woodward for cosying up to Trump. But the new guys lack the crusading bravado of their predecessors. Their opposition to Trump starts out as a "business opportunity", not a quest for truth or a challenge to power, and they go to work like conscientious geeks, assisted by a man they call "a human hard drive" and a woman who serves as their "in-house cyber-ninja".

The retold tale is revved up by hyperactive verbs – Simpson "cracks open" his MacBook, "pops" a beer can, and "shoots" a text message to Fritsch – and includes a strained homage to the episodes in *All the President's Men* when Woodward ventures into an underground car park for creepy confabs with the CIA informant he nicknamed "Deep Throat": summoned to testify at the US Capitol, Simpson and Fritsch are ushered into "a dimly lit chamber" in the basement where poor lighting gives their Republican inquisitor "a lizard-like appearance", then sequestered in another office that feels "like a weird terrarium out of a sci-fi movie". Yet there is no "cathartic finale" to match Nixon's fall, and the ominous title of *Crime in Progress* deflates when the authors admit that Trump's "conspiring with Russia may not be a crime provable in federal court".

Last year an unidentified White House official wrote an op-ed in the *New York Times* about the efforts of aides to frustrate the president's most "batshit" proposals. Trump denounced the article as an act of treason, but because his only means of self-defence is name-calling, he had trouble mocking his nameless detractor. At a rally in Montana "Anonymous" got entangled with "Anomalous" on his flapping tongue and, after some slurs and gobbles that suggested dodgy dentures, the compound word expired in a sibilant whistle. In *A Warning* the op-ed's covert author accuses the president of mental instability; I suppose his inarticulacy is the least of our worries.

Like Simpson and Fritsch, Anonymous reels through Trump's outrages all over again, adding a few new charges, among them a scheme to sabotage the rule of law by abolishing federal judges. Though *A Warning* traffics in scandal, its tone is classically lofty, with tributes to noble Romans such as Cicero and pious epigraphs from America's founding fathers. Anonymity is presented as a selfless patriotic virtue: the writer challenges Trump on principle, not as a disgruntled individual – but now that others are openly testifying to Congress, this impersonality could just as well be deemed a form of moral cowardice.

On his first day in office, after a squabble about crowd size at his inauguration, Trump demanded a phenomenological adjustment. "Truth and reality", as Simpson and Fritsch put it, were replaced by Kellyanne Conway's "alternative facts", AKA falsehoods. "The Trump story," adds Anonymous, "is briskly moving into a fictional universe."

*Crime in progress* was published by Allen Lane on 26 Nov 2019 priced £20 (£13 from Amazon)

# Fresh start, fresh skin

A fresh and flawless complexion may seem unattainable for most of us this New Year but Skinbase Microdermabrasion makes it easy.

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

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



*This month, see the amazing effect SkinBase Microdermabrasion can have on your complexion for just £50.*

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\* Offer valid once per person and until 31/01/2020.

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

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

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

Aids the absorption of products applied to skin after treatment making them more effective.

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

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

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

Look your best with **SkinBase™**

## MADE IN IPSWICH- RANSOMES. A TALK BY BRIAN DYES

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Brian Dyes, local historian, writer and archivist to the Ipswich Transport Museum to the Parish Room to tell us the incredible story of the world beating engineering companies that made so much history in Ipswich.

To set the scene, Brian told us some of the early history of the town, which began as a Saxon port handy for the sea but sufficiently inland to be secure. And what were people making at this time? Pottery, now known as Ipswich Ware, which was the first wheel-made pottery produced in Britain since the end of Roman rule, and the only indigenous Middle Saxon pottery with a widespread distribution outside of its production hinterland.

By 1290 Brian told us the town had grown significantly and was trading with Europe, Suffolk cloth in exchange for barrels of Bordeaux wine, which were then bottled for local distribution. Ships went all over the world at this time, and with some built on the river bank in Ipswich.

By 1780, the first detailed map of the town was printed showing four shipyards on the Orwell where ships for the East India Company - known as East Indiamen - were built.

Brian's story then moved onto Robert Ransome, whose legacy continues today. Born in Wells, Norfolk, the son of a schoolmaster whose grandfather was a miller in North Walsham and a natural engineer. On leaving school Ransome was apprenticed to an ironmonger, starting his own business in Norwich with a small brass-foundry, which afterwards expanded into an iron-foundry. Possessing inventive skill, he took out a patent for cast iron roofing plates in 1783 and published Directions for Laying Ransome's Patent Cast-iron Coverings in 1784. In 1785 he took out a patent for tempering cast iron ploughshares by wetting the mould with salt water.

In 1789 Ransome moved to Ipswich, laying the foundation of a production site - the Orwell Works - where the shipyards had been. Following a happy accident in 1803, when liquid iron was spilled (\*) onto the floor, he began chilling the underside of ploughshares by casting onto an iron mould, with the upper part comprised of sand. This chilling of the underside of the share made it harder than steel, whilst the upper part remained soft and tough. With the upper part wearing away faster than the lower, a sharp cutting edge was maintained, and the necessity of continually laying and sharpening wrought iron shares was avoided. This invention was at once adopted

(\*) *The accident occurred through the bursting of a furnace, which gave way; all the molten metal ran out and some of it ran on to some iron plates and cooled rapidly, much more quickly than that which ran on to the sandy ground of the foundry. When the metal had cooled down it was broken up, and he observed that wherever it had run on to the iron plates, it had changed its character; the surface which had come immediately into contact with the iron plates was "chilled", and very hard and white in texture for quite a good way into the metal.*

*Reminiscences of George Arthur Biddell*

Brian now began a whistle-stop run through some of the many hundreds of items manufactured at the Orwell works site. Ransome's lawnmower odyssey began with the manufacture of the world's first mower in 1832, under license from Edwin Budding's 1830 patent. They made a great many different sizes, and in 1902 produced the first commercially available motor lawnmower. Mowing machines became a huge business, so Ransomes continued to improve their mower range, producing the first mains electric mower in 1926, and larger gang mowers for parks and aerodromes.

**Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies evolved out of the original Robert Ransome company as follows:**

- 1779 Thomas and Robert Ransome
- 1785 Ransome and Co
- 1808 Ransome and Son
- 1818 Ransome and Sons
- 1825 James and Robert Ransome
- 1829 J. R. and A. Ransome
- 1836 Ransomes and May
- 1852 Ransomes and Sims
- 1869 Ransomes, Sims and Head (\*)
- 1880 Ransomes, Head and Jefferies
- 1884 Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies

(\*) Ransomes and Rapier were formed as branch of Ransomes, Sims and Head, to concentrate on the railway side of the business and other heavy works; they established the new company on another site on the River Orwell.

Ransome was from a Quaker family and he turned his back on Norwich because Ipswich was more tolerant towards non-conformists, allowing Quakers to live and work in comparative peace. From these humble beginnings the largest plough and agricultural implement manufacturer in

England began to emerge.

By 1849 Ransome and May's iron foundry, as it had by then become, employed over 1,000 workers and had moved to the new and bigger Orwell Works in Duke Street. This had the advantage of being on the dockside, giving easy access to London and facilitated imports of raw materials and the export of manufactured goods.

Charles May left to form his own company in 1854, being replaced by William Sims. The firm then went through various changes of name, but after the arrival of John Jefferies in 1884, finally settled on the name Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies Ltd.

In 1888 the company issued a catalogue on portable, traction, semi-portable, fixed, horizontal & vertical engines and boilers, portable pumping engines, steam-powered presses, centrifugal pumps, winding engines and gear, mills, circular saw benches and log frames - in other words there wasn't a lot they didn't make. A little later in 1903 they developed a prototype tractor with a 20 HP engine and a three-ratio gearbox. By 1905 the company employed 2,000 people.

In 1911 at the Smithfield Club Show, they exhibited a 4 HP compound light tractor, two traction engines and other items. By 1914 they were making portable and traction engines, stationary engines of all kinds, high-speed vertical engines for electric work, boilers of all kinds, thrashing machines, corn mills, tea machinery etc, and employed 2,500.

In August 1916, during the Great War, the company was asked to make aircraft for the Royal Flying Corps with another Ipswich company, Frederick Tibbenham, and a new factory was built off Cavendish Street; during the war Ransomes also produced munitions including: 790 aeroplanes, 650 airship sheds and aircraft hangers, 3,700 aircraft bombs, 440,000 shell cases, 300,000 shell and fuse components, 5,000 general service wagons and 10,000 bombs for Stokes guns. This was a mortar which became the standard for the British Army during the war and was designed by William Stokes, who at the time was Chairman and Managing Director of Ransomes & Rapier.

In 1920 the company showed the new motor plough called 'The Boon' at the Darlington Agricultural Show, a petrol-paraffin engine of 20 HP at 800 rpm; in October they exhibited at the Commercial Motor Exhibition at Olympia, with batteries from Batteries Ltd, a 3.5 ton electric tipping wagon and a 2 ton electric chassis.

When the last electric tram was taken out of service in Ipswich, the Corporation ordered a fleet of 30 trolley buses, half produced by Ransomes Sims and Jefferies and half by Garretts of Leiston. They also produced bodies for motor buses built by Daimler.

In 1936 the MG2 tractor was introduced, a miniature crawler machine which was aimed at market gardeners and was produced for about thirty years.

During the Second World War they manufactured parts for the De Havilland Mosquito, and in 1942 the engineering department manufactured their last steam engine. In 1955 they ceased to service steam engines, and a year later the steam engine part of the business was sold to Robey and Co.

With many of the male staff serving in the armed forces during the war, more women were employed in what traditionally had been male roles, with some recruited from the Women's Industrial National Service scheme. The start of the war saw production of most lawn mowers stopped, and the workshops were used to produce bomb trolleys and trailers for 25-pounder guns.

Post war, the company developed their large range of battery-operated trucks with some success.

As expansion continued, Ransomes became a revered name in the world of engineering and mechanical innovation, developing agricultural machinery, steam engines, fork lifts and trolley buses.

By 1961, concentrating on the manufacture of ploughs, harvesters, lawnmowers, horticultural tractors and electric trucks, the company was exporting all over the world. This was the heyday for Ransomes, which now had 3,200 employees and had moved its base to more modern premises at Nacton Works, near Ipswich Airport. Sadly, from this peak, the company went into slow but steady decline.

At the 1974 International Mechanical Handling exhibition at Earls Court, they showed a new battery powered industrial tractor, T12A, but in 1989 the whole of the agricultural implement business was sold to Electrolux and merged with their subsidiary Overum, leaving Ransomes solely manufacturing lawn mowers under the Westwood and Mountfield mower brands.

By 1989, the whole of the agricultural implement business was sold to Electrolux, leaving Ransomes solely as a manufacturer of lawnmowers, and within a decade the company had accepted a take-over offer from Textron Inc, USA and their independent existence ended early in 1998.

This was a sad ending for Robert Ransome's company, which, for over 200 years had been at the forefront of the engineering industry in Ipswich. It had long been the leading employer in the town and generations of the

same family found employment there. The history of company is the subject of an exhibition at the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Ransomes and Rapier was founded, in 1869 by four engineers, to build railway equipment, machinery and other heavy works for railways and all kinds of public works. Chairs, points and rails were made, along with steam and breakdown cranes, portable and stationary engines.

In 1875 Rapier personally took the leading part in the negotiation and construction by Ransomes and Rapier of China's first railway, the Woosung Road (or Woosung Railway) from Shanghai to Woosung, and in 1876 three small locomotives were made and exported to China. The railway opened in 1876, but was dismantled by the local government the following year because it had not received the necessary approvals.

After 1880 the company acquired the patent rights to sluices invented by Francis Gould Morony Stoney, an Irish engineer noted for his work on sluices, and they became involved with hydraulic engineering and water management projects. Such sluices were erected on the Manchester Ship Canal. Wilfrid Stokes improved their design by protecting the rollers from scour when open, by making them completely watertight and by preventing vibration of the rollers. Their sluices were subsequently used for the Aswan Dam on the Nile and for the Sennar Dam on the Blue Nile.

In 1897 two 30-ton travelling steam cranes were built for construction of Vera Cruz Harbour, and in 1904 5 sets of the largest hydraulic buffer stops were installed at Kings Cross station in London and another 5 sets at the Central Station in Glasgow.

By 1914 they were manufacturers of hand, steam, petrol and electric cranes, trawlers and turntables, capstans, tanks, water cranes and pumps, bridges, hydraulic buffer stops, castings, contractors' and railway plant, Stoney sluices, ice and refrigerating plants, concrete mixers etc. They also started building two small Steam shovels as a result of a customer request, the rope operated crowd system they built for this was patented and later sold to Bucyrus - more later.

After WWI demand for excavators increased, and in 1924 they reached an agreement to build Marion draglines from 1 to 8 cubic yards capacity. In 1927, they built Type 7 1 yard and Type 4 60 1.5 yard models. The deal to build Marion machines ended in 1936, so R&R began building their own designs with the Type 4120 followed by the 4140 of 3.5 cubic yards.

The earliest known walking dragline was from Ransomes & Rapier in 1939, using the patented Cameron and Heath walking method, the model W170 which had a 4-yard bucket.

In 1958 the Ransomes & Rapier division was sold to Newton, Chambers & Co. Ltd (NCK, where K represents the US license holder Koehring) of Sheffield, which was combined with their NCK Crane & Excavator division to become NCK-Rapier. The walking dragline division of NCK-Rapier was acquired by Bucyrus in 1988. By 1961 R&R were specialising in contractors' plant, mobile cranes, excavators, walking draglines, railway plant and equipment, sluice gates and water control machinery, with some 2,000 employees.

1965 saw the cessation of walking drag lines because of the rise of oil and consequent reduction in the use of coal. The market for draglines began shrinking rapidly after the boom of the 1960s and 1970s; this led to mergers and today P&H and Caterpillar are the only two remaining manufacturers of large draglines.

In 1972 the group was taken over by the industrial holding company Central and Sherwood; they kept the Ipswich works and in 1976 Ransomes returned to making walking drag lines in view of the increased use of coal. Bucyrus-Erie took over R&R in 1988, continuing to use their method of propulsion for these gigantic walking land machines (Rapier had built the world's largest walking draglines throughout the 1960s).

Sadly Ransomes and Rapier closed in 1987, with Bucyrus-Erie acquiring the dragline assets of the company in 1988; Bucyrus was then itself acquired by heavy equipment and diesel engine maker Caterpillar in 2011.

To conclude this review, Brian wonderfully showcased his great love of engineering, and his journey through hundreds of photos was a very happy meander down memory lane for those who've lived in the area for more than 30 years or so, and a very great and informative pleasure for all the rest.

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

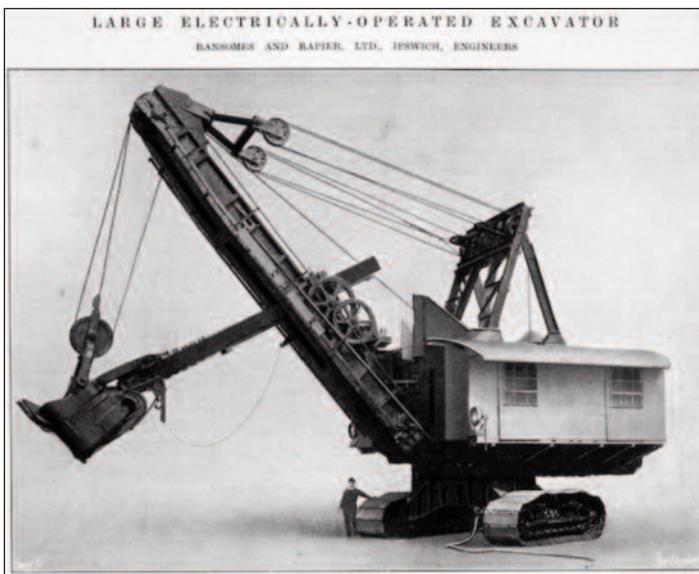
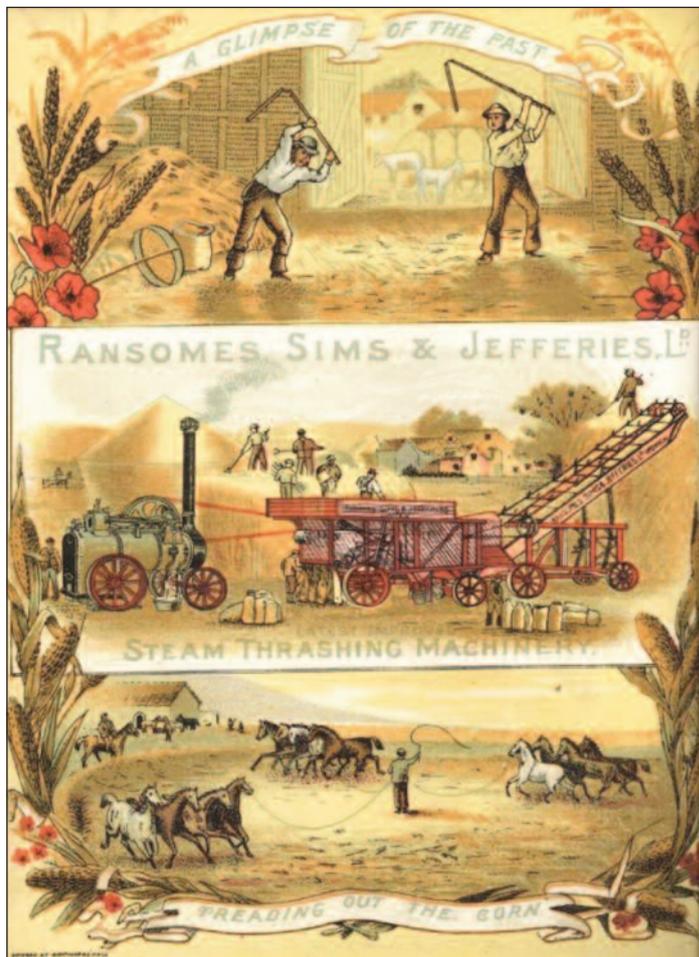
**11th December: Cakes, Ale and Partying by Dr Kate Jewell**

We are delighted to welcome Kate back to the Parish Room once again, to tell us all about feasting and fundraising in Medieval Suffolk - perfect for getting us all into the Christmas spirit.

**15th January: Broad Stripes and Bright Stars by Anne Grimshaw**

The Stars and Stripes that flew over a Baltimore fort in defiance of the British, and was also the inspiration for the US national anthem (The Star-Spangled Banner), actually began life in Cross Street, Sudbury. ,

*Andy Sheppard*



Preserved R&R diesel engine

## SEVEN DWARFS DO PANTO



**Above:** Beaky (Frances Korabik), Titch (Monica Murphy), Mick (Pam Tonks), Snow White (Emily Barlow), Munchy (Jane Elliott), Elfi (Angela Tolputt), Dozy (Michael Munn) and Dippy (Elaine Carpenter).

Although you could hardly call them the seven dwarfs you readily accepted them for what they were they having been well cast and very well rehearsed.

A Magic mirror Alexa (Cheryl Claydon), an ugly truth told to an evil step mother (James Tolputt) who in another life is Hag (Elaine Horne) who administers a poisoned red apple to the beautiful enchanted Snow White

(Emily Barlow) all came together with seven not so little dwarfs (Above), told the fabulously exciting story of Snow White.

This Production written by Janice Mcmillan (Director) and Mike Keith (Musical Director and composer), lived up the amazingly high standards of home grown productions by the Boxford Drama Group.

The production together with amazing sound and visual effects had the adult audience on the Friday night at least, joining in like a bunch of kids.

It was great to see Hanna Murphy coming out of her short retirement to play the part of The Cat and very cat like she was to. It would be wrong of me to try and pick out any particular performance except that at the beginning we were warned to be scared and when Elaine Horne came on as Hag I admit to being a little scared.

All in all a good start to the Christmas season with Brilliant singing by all the cast and Mike Keiths mastery of the keyboard together with an excellent Turkey Dinner provided by Dawn Mace and her team and the expected warm welcome by all the members of our own Boxford Drama Group.

We look forward to the Groups next production in March 19/21 "A Shot In The Dark a murder mystery with confessions, denials, and total confusion fueling what promises to be a madcap comedy. Later in June 18/20 an evening of delectation and delight a Music Hall/Cabaret entertainment with songs and sketches. Ed

**Below:** The Prince (Bronwen Cotterel) and Snow White (Emily Barlow) together at last



Hannah Murphy plays the cat



# HADLEIGH AND BOXFORD PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

## Make a New Year Resolution That Could Be a Life Saver

### NHS screening

It's easy to find a million things you'd rather do than go for a health check, and just as easy to come up with reasons why that health check isn't really necessary.

Screening is a way of finding out if people are at higher risk of a health problem, so that early treatment can be offered or information given to help them make informed decisions.

### AAA screening

AAA screening is a way of checking if there's a bulge or swelling in the aorta, the main blood vessel that runs from your heart down through your tummy.

This bulge or swelling is called an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm. It can be serious if it's not spotted early on because it could get bigger and eventually burst (rupture).

In England, screening for AAA is offered to men during the year they turn 65. Screening is not routinely offered to women, men under 65 or people who have already been treated for an AAA. This is because the risk of an AAA is much smaller in these groups.

If you're a man and you're registered with a GP, you'll get a screening invitation in the post when you're 64 or soon after your 65th birthday.

If you're a man over 65 and have not been screened before, you can ask for a test by contacting your local AAA screening service directly.

If you're a woman or man under 65 and you think you might have a higher risk of AAA, due to family history, talk to your GP. If your GP thinks you might benefit from having a scan, this will usually be done when you're 5 years younger than the age at which your relative was found to have an AAA.

### Bowel Cancer Screening

Bowel cancer screening can save lives. Screening aims to detect bowel cancer at an early stage, when treatment has the best chance of working. The screening programme uses a new simpler and more accurate test - the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT). FIT is a more sensitive test and has the potential to detect more cancers and pre-cancerous polyps. Polyps can usually be removed, to lower the risk of bowel cancer.

If you are registered with a GP, and within the eligible age range, a test will be automatically posted to you to complete in the privacy of your own home:

- NHS bowel cancer screening is only offered to people aged 55 or over, as this is when you're more likely to get bowel cancer.
- if you're 60 to 74, you'll automatically be invited to do a home testing kit every 2 years
- if you're 75 or over, you can ask for a home testing kit every 2 years by calling the free bowel cancer screening helpline on 0800 707 60 60
- If you're too young for screening but are worried about a family history of bowel cancer, speak to your GP for advice.

Always see a GP if you have symptoms of bowel cancer at any age – don't wait to have a screening test.

### Breast Screening

Women can't afford to skip breast screens. There's a one in eight chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer by the age of 85 and over 75% of breast cancers are detected in women over 50.

Breast screening aims to find breast cancers early. It uses an X-ray test called a mammogram that can spot cancers when they're too small to see or feel. If it's detected early, treatment is more successful and there's a good chance of recovery.

As the likelihood of getting breast cancer increases with age, all women aged from 50 to their 71st birthday who are registered with a GP are automatically invited for breast cancer screening every 3 years. Screening is recommended regardless of family history as nine out of 10 women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease. Yet some women remain sceptical of the need to get screened or find themselves putting it off.

If you're worried about breast cancer symptoms, such as a lump or an area of thickened tissue in a breast, or you notice that your breasts look or feel different from what's normal for you, do not wait to be offered screening. For more details, speak to your GP or visit [www.nhs.uk/breast](http://www.nhs.uk/breast)

### Cervical Screening

Women aged 25-29 are the least likely to attend for screening of any age group. Surveys indicate embarrassment and a lack of understanding of the causes of cervical cancer may be behind the fall in numbers attending. Don't let embarrassment prevent you having your cervical screening.

- Every day in the UK 9 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and around 2 women lose their lives from the disease
  - Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women under 35
  - 75% of cervical cancers can be prevented by cervical screening (smear tests)
  - However, 1 in 4 women do not attend this potentially life-saving test
- What does cervical screening involve?
- Cervical screening checks the health of your cervix. It's not a test for cancer; it's a test to help prevent cancer.
  - All women and people with a cervix, aged 25 to 64, should be invited by letter.

Women aged 25 to 49 are invited every 3 years. After that, women are invited every 5 years until the age of 64.

- During the screening appointment, a small sample of cells will be taken from your cervix.
  - The sample is tested for changes to the cells of your cervix.
  - Finding abnormal changes early means they can be monitored or treated so they do not get a chance to turn into cervical cancer.
  - You usually get the results within 2 to 6 weeks. If you get a call back please don't panic it doesn't mean it is cancer. Arrange the follow-up appointment and discuss your concerns with your Doctor or Nurse.
- For more information and support about going for cervical screening, results and treatment, contact Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust by calling the Helpline on 0808 802 8000

Wishing You a Happy and Healthy 2020

## Remember

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

Just go to <http://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/box-river-news> and scroll down to the latest BRN icon. The Newsletter is usually available about one day after the published press date. You can also drag any pics you might like onto your desktop but these will be of low resolution. If you would like a high res pic just email the address below and we will send you a PDF or Jpeg [ed.kench@btinternet.com](mailto:ed.kench@btinternet.com)

## HARE & HOUNDS LEAVENHEATH

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

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THROUGHOUT DECEMBER -  
SEE WEBSITE FOR MENU**

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EVERY SATURDAY EVENING 6 - 9PM  
AVAILABLE TO EAT IN OR TAKEAWAY**

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with all the trimmings for just £8

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TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY 12 - 3PM & 5 - 11PM  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12 - 11PM  
SUNDAY 12 - 10PM  
CLOSED ALL DAY MONDAY

**FOOD IS AVAILABLE**  
TUESDAY - SATURDAY 12 - 2PM & 6 - 9PM  
SUNDAY 12 - 3PM



[www.hareandhoundisleavenheath.co.uk](http://www.hareandhoundisleavenheath.co.uk)



01787 212396

# NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

## 3PR Stats for November 2019

In November 2019 our responders covered 227 hours (32%) and attended 7 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 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.

## Getting into the Christmas spirit!

There was a festive atmosphere in the Parish Room on Wednesday 27 November, as 26 members of Little Waldingfield's Over 60's and Friendship Club met to make Christmas wreaths. After a demonstration by Nancy Roser, some beautiful wreaths were created. Tea and homemade cakes were served, the raffle was held, and a good time was had by all.



## Shoebox Appeal 2019

Thank you to everyone once again for your generosity. We sent 91 shoeboxes to the Halstead warehouse along with more knitted hats gloves and scarves to be added to other boxes without any. They are now on their way to the children along with 6100 other boxes all processed at the Halstead warehouse in two weeks! We should hear in the new year which country they went to.

Unfortunately it looks as if our local warehouse will not open next year but there will still be a need for all the knitted hats etc. so don't stop knitting if you enjoy it!!

It is good to think how much joy we have brought to the children over the years so thank you to all who have enjoyed being part of this appeal.

Ann Porter 01473 824283 Shirley Watling 210024 Jennie Lindsley 210520

## SESAW

Let me begin with a thank you to Eddie for helping us 'talk' to our local supporters through the Box River News'. We submitted this article early to give the editorial team a Christmas break so we don't know what the weather is like as you read this, or even the General Election result. Did someone say ignorance is bliss?

Thank you also to everyone who made our Christmas Fair the best ever including three ladies from Seasalt in Bury St. Edmunds who joined our merry band of volunteers. Lots of two and four legged friends called in and £3845 was raised.

Looking ahead, I can tell you the Nayland 10K takes place on 5th July 2020. This is a family friendly event with a 1k Fun Run, 5k and 10k runs through beautiful Constable country, starting at Nayland Village Hall. Once again the Organisers have chosen several beneficiaries including SESAW.

Amongst our dogs is Oscar, a victim of circumstances through no fault of his own. He is only two years old and misses his family dreadfully. Everyone here loves him, he has an endearing nature and the younger volunteers are often found cuddling him in his bed. Oscar needs lots of training, exercise and company. It won't be easy but if you are strong enough to overcome his exuberance you will end up with a cracking dog.

I hope Oscar and our other inmates will find loving new homes soon. Best wishes for 2020 from all of us at SESAW, including me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888, www.sesaw.co.uk.

## THE BOXFORD FLEECE

There seems to have been some confusing information in the press regards the Fleece and our planning application to convert the Stables and upstairs to residential use, I'm not sure where they got their information from because it wasn't from us.

As everybody knows rural pubs are still shutting at a pace; we had hoped when we bought the pub 10 years ago that with some serious renovation of the building and some imagination, we could make the Fleece work.

The pub was bought in a very run-down state from a large pub company having been left empty, I remember there being 32 frost burst pipes and water pouring through the building then.

We carried out extensive structural works as well as cosmetic improvements, bringing the Coaching Inn back to life. After numerous attempts at creating a viable business it has become clear that the income generated has consistently failed to cover its costs.

We have had to accept that as the requirements of people and society change the shape of what the pub has to offer has to change as well.

Initially we looked at conversion into self-catering and B&B rooms, but we couldn't get the figures to work out. There seems enough supply already in the area without adding many more to it. We also thought about office/retail outlets, but struggled to make this model work either. Eventually we have concluded that affordable residential local housing would be the best option.

At present the Fleece has a long row of stables not used since 1918 and a room upstairs that we have tried to utilise, sadly the demand seems very low, organising and funding larger events have not covered their cost. I suppose there are alternative inexpensive function spaces in the village for people to use.

So now we have had to grasp the nettle and look at the conversion of the redundant and underutilised parts of the site into residential. Leaving all of the pub bars and kitchen, office etc on the ground floor as they are, the main advantage of this is that the productive part of the pub will not have to carry the cost of the unproductive parts. For example, last year the re-tiling, of only part, of the stable roof cost over £10,000.

In anticipation of planning approval, the pension funds Trustee Manager has been able to reduce the rent by 60% so hopefully improving its chances of survival.

Another huge plus to this plan is that the addition of three flats and three small mews style cottages, will improve the affordable housing supply in Boxford, a village with shop, post office, cafe & pub that all need to be kept open.

The planning application is available to view now on the Babergh Planning Website. If anyone has any further queries not outlined in the planning application myself or our architect will endeavour to answer.

John.norton@chorganics.co.uk

John Norton

# 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](mailto:dancewithussuffolk@outlook.com) or ring Phil on 07909993799 Book your tickets early this is always a sell out.

## 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](mailto:mark.miller@talktalk.net) and book it now!



**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 <sup>th</sup> December Tickets £17:50  From Sudbury Tourist Office or <a href="mailto:dancewithussuffolk@outlook.com">dancewithussuffolk@outlook.com</a> or phone 07909993799	The Delphi Centre Alexandra Road, Sudbury CO10 2RR	7:00pm for 7:30 til late Licensed bar BYO nibbles
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------

A Charity fund raiser for "UPBEAT" Heart Support for West Suffolk.



**FUN & GAMES NIGHT 2020**

PRIZES!  
BUFFET!  
LICENCED BAR!

**BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL**  
SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY  
7.30 - 7.50pm prompt start

Compete in our mad-cap challenges to SMASH the other teams!  
**BOOK YOUR WINNING TEAM NOW!**  
£60 per team - max 8 members  
phone Stephanie 01787 210444 / Mark 01787 211596  
or email [mark.miller@talktalk.net](mailto:mark.miller@talktalk.net)  
[www.boxford.me.uk](http://www.boxford.me.uk)



**Happy New Year!**

You are invited to  
**"DROP IN FOR COFFEE"**  
in the Church  
Little Waldingfield

**FRIDAY 3 JANUARY**  
**10.30 – 12.00**

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

Voluntary £1 donation to church funds

# HEAR THE ANGELS SING!

*DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF CHRISTMAS*



The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
Little Waldingfield and Newton



# Carol Services

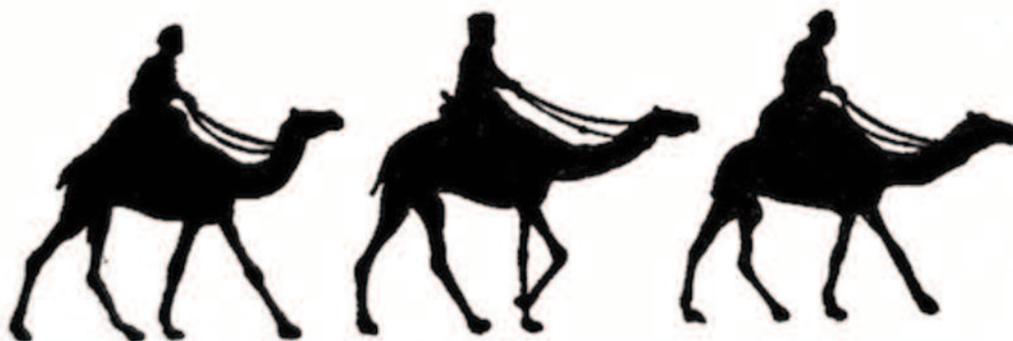
6.30pm Saturday 21st December  
St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield

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



# Wot's On

## NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

### DIARY DATES

#### REGULAR EVENTS

Monday mornings (term time only): Yoga class

(phone Sophia on 313662 for details)

Monday and Thursday evenings: Western Partner Dance Club

(call Chris 371006)

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)

### At Groton Village Hall

## 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 Update

Some eagle-eyed readers may have spotted that November's Stowmarket Chorale bulletin commented on the Christmas concert before it took place! Apologies for the confusion! Well now we can genuinely report that the concert, highlights from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, was a huge success. There was almost a full house, including our honoured patron, Terry Waite, who often supports our concerts. Concert goers commented "you don't need to go to London to see a great choir" and "it was great to hear some proper singing!" Our Musical Director Tom Appleton demonstrated great skill and passion with leading the choir and orchestra and sang the first aria himself, a surprise he had kept up his sleeve!

We are excited to be preparing for our Spring concert on 21st March, when we will sing the beautiful Faure's Requiem. We'll also be inviting guests and friends to join us for a Singing Day in Woolpit village hall on 8th February to sing Verdi's Requiem. That should be an amazing experience. Stowmarket Chorale certainly keep busy!

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[elaineeveritt.com](http://elaineeveritt.com)  
[pippettes.co.uk](http://pippettes.co.uk)



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[www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk)



Here at Suffolk's Fostering & Adoption Service we are always looking for additional ways to boost the work we do to recruit new Foster Carers and Prospective Adopters for Suffolk's Children.

We attend sessions around the County throughout the year either holding informal Information Events, or attending events such as County Shows. We are working with Councillor James Finch, to highlight this opportunity to the residents of his division in the Stour Valley.

Following the interest in the "one to one" drop in sessions locally during 2019 we are now planning further ones throughout the coming year 2020. The first group have now been booked for early evenings, but if you would like to attend at a different time, then please email [matthew.boyle@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.boyle@suffolk.gov.uk)

**The Garrad Room, Bures Community Centre – Tuesday 28th January, 19.00 – 21.00**

**The Church Hall, Bear Street, Nayland – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 19.00 – 21.00**

**Mary's House, Swan Street, Boxford – Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 19.00 – 21.00**



BOXFORD  
GARDENING SOCIETY

## Gardeners' Question Time

Rupert Eley of Place for Plants

Sarah Cook former Head Gardener at  
Sissinghurst and Iris specialist

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO MAGGIE THORPE  
maggiethorpe37@gmail.com

GARDENERS'  
QUESTION  
TIME

Tuesday 7th January 7.30pm  
at Boxford Village Hall

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

**WEA**  
Adult Learning Within Reach

## 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](http://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 10th January if preferred.

'Undiplomatic Episodes'-  
with Martin Berthoud

Thursday 2nd April 2020, 7.30 pm

For further information you may contact Sue Whiteley on 01787 210645 or email [whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whiteleysa@hotmail.co.uk)

WEA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 285910 and a registered charity number 1112775

Richard, Joy, Michael Martin & Andy wish all their customers, past and present

**a Happy and Healthy  
Christmas and New Year**

# MATTOCK MOTORS LTD

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Beaumont P. 17

P.C. "YOU WERE DOING FORTY MILES AN HOUR, SIR."

Motorist (whispering). "MAKE IT SEVENTY; I'M TRYING TO SELL HIM THE THING."

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



# MILDEN MATTERS

Another major triumph for Pearl Gee and the Milden Singers with their 'Winter Show' in Milden Pavilion and Village Hall.

This was the 10th year Pearl has staged shows with the Singers and they packed the place out once again on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

The proceeds are going to managing and maintaining the Hall with monies also raised for the Headway Charity.

The Milden Singers next show will see the Hall transformed into an Old Time Music Hall on 1st and 2nd May to coincide with the national VE Celebrations on 8th May 2020 .

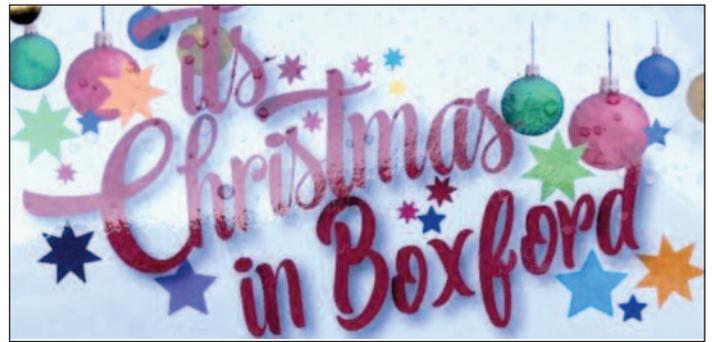


## NEWTON'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our Christmas Fayre was held on 7th December and it was very well supported. The village hall was packed with happy shoppers and the atmosphere was great. Villagers and local businesses were very generous and the raffle table was overflowing with some great prizes. There was a separate raffle for a Christmas Hamper, a Christmas Tombola and a draw for a bottle of whiskey. Gordon Kennet sold amazing Christmas Wreaths, there were beautiful felt decorations for sale, the cake stall was well stocked and there were even plants for sale. Of course the bric and books stalls were popular too.

Carole and Joan provided refreshments so it was a good opportunity for folks to catch up and have a good old natter.

Thanks to everyone's generosity over £500 was raised, so a big thank you to all.



The Grand Boxford Festive Fair held on November 23rd was a traditional Christmas fair was held in both Boxford Village Hall and the Boxford Primary School

There were Festive Stalls, Father Christmas telling Christmas stories , Crafts, a Raffle, Gifts, jewellery, pottery, food, mulled wine, a hamper raffle, jolly jars. and a grand time was had by all



**Boxford Study Centre Literature Group**  
An 8 week course on Monday afternoons 4.30-6.30pm  
Meeting in Groton Village Hall, CO10 5EL  
Starting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## War Wounds

Poetry, prose and memoirs concerning war and its aftermath.

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January. Frederic Manning – Her Privates We
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January. Journey's End – R C Sherriff
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Regeneration – Pat Barker
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February Reading Week
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February Coriolanus - Shakespeare
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February Coriolanus and two T S Eliot poems
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February The Unwomanly Face of War – Svetlana Alexievich
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March The Quiet American  
The Screenplay of The Third Man Graham Greene
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March Reading Week
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March The World My Wilderness – Rose Macaulay
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Selected Poetry

Course Fee: £30 for the complete course, payable on the first or second meeting.  
£5 for each single class.  
Newcomers very welcome.

Please contact Mr David Jones for further information and if you are interested in attending. Telephone 01787 211104.

## Forthcoming Events Diary

### December

21 Carol Service	St Lawrence, Little Waldingfield	6.30pm
22 Carol Service	All Saints' Newton	11.00am
22 Carols by Candlelight	Boxford St Mary's	St Mary's Church 6.30pm
23 Carol Service	St Bartholomew's Groton	7.00pm
24 Carol Service	St Mary the Virgin's, Edwardstone	5.30pm

### January

3 Drop in for Coffee	St Lawrence's Little Waldingfield	10.30 to Noon
7 Gardeners Question Time	Boxford Gardening Society	Boxford Village Hall 7.30pm
8 Joint Benefice PCCs	Benefice PCCs	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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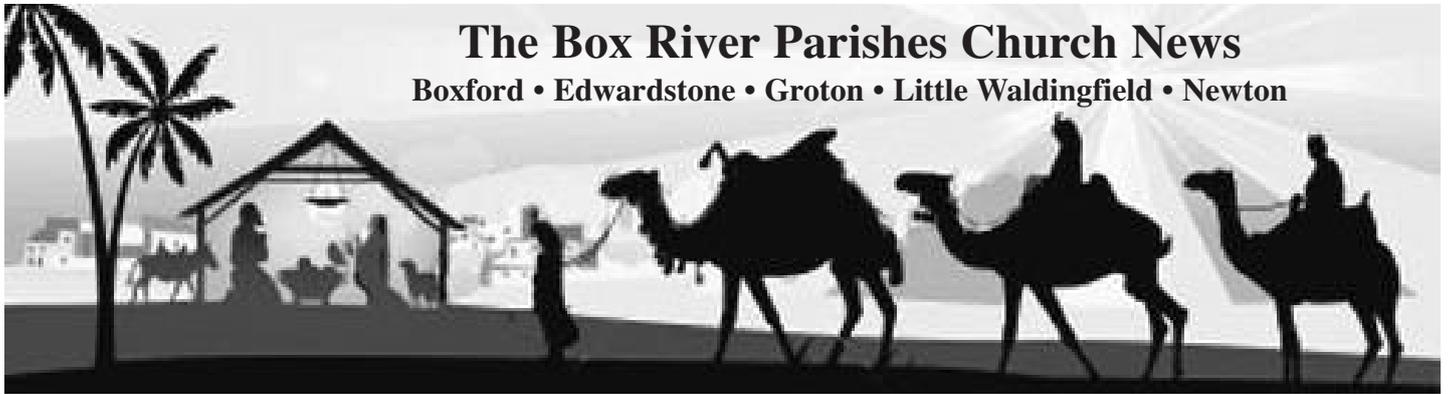
Curry night Tuesday

Pudding and pie day Wednesday

Our new fish board Thursday to Saturday

with Fish and Fizz Friday

Sunday lunch 12 till 7pm



# The Box River Parishes Church News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton

## BENEFICE NEWS

### JOINT MEETING OF BENEFICE PCCs.

The second joint meeting of the five benefice parochial church councils is to be held on Wednesday 8 January 2020, 7.00 pm at the Parish Room, Church Road, Little Waldingfield. Such joint meetings are being held roughly once a quarter, when matters relating to the whole benefice can be discussed and decisions made jointly. Lee Jukes, diocesan stewardship manager, will be joining us in January, when the focus will be on issues of finance. Towards the end of the evening the meeting will split into individual PCCs for them to deal shortly with matters requiring discussion or decision that relate to that particular parish.

As last year, this is the theme of the national church's Christmas campaign, whose aim is to encourage people into a local church service or event to share in the joy of Jesus's birth. In the gospel story, the star led the wise men to Bethlehem, where they found Jesus and 'bowed down and worshipped him.' So, among the busyness of Advent and Christmas, do come, and invite others to come, to one of the services in

the five churches across the benefice and put 'Christ' into your Christmas celebrations.

**100 YEARS, 100 TREASURES:** A celebration of Suffolk Churches David Lamming still has a small number of copies of this colourful book, produced to celebrate the centenary of our diocese in 2014 and featuring two of the churches in our benefice (Boxford and Groton). At £5 it would make a good stocking filler or small present for someone to keep in their car. Contact David if you would like to buy a copy: tel: 01787 210360; e mail: djlamming@hotmail.com.

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

**Copy Date for Church News in the February 2020 edition of Box River News:**  
**Please, NO LATER THAN 12th January**  
**Failure to meet the date will mean your copy may not be included**  
**Thank you. Eddie Kench 01787 211507**  
**email address: ed.kench@btinternet.com**

### 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



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY, BOXFORD

Churchwarden:

Peter Patrick

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

E-mail: [ppat@btinternet.com](mailto:ppat@btinternet.com)

Deputy Churchwardens:

Michael Gray 07931043926

[boxford.warden@btinternet.com](mailto:boxford.warden@btinternet.com)

Lennie Southgate Tel: 01787 210942

Karen Whymark Tel: 01787 210414

**Journey Deeper.** There is silent 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 still your mind, rest and reflect.



**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.

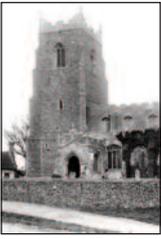
**Christingle.** The annual **Christingle service** will take place on **Sunday 15th December at 4pm**. This is a brilliant service of symbolism and fun for all the family. Easy Carols, only 35 minutes long and may well include a little tableau. Come along and bring all your friends - a wonderful way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

**Midnight Mass** will be at **11pm on Christmas Eve**. This is the most evocative service of the year, combining deep symbolism with mystery. As we come to celebrate the Lord's birth at midnight, we join together with billions of Christians from all around the world as we gather around God's Holy Altar. Whatever you are doing, make sure you pop along. Bring the children in their pyjamas. It will add that extra layer of mystery and intrigue to their Christmas. This is an extra special way to begin celebrating Christmas Day.



**Christmas Day Family Eucharist** is at **11am**. This is a slightly shorter and more all-age friendly service specifically designed to engage every generation of the family whilst retaining the rich symbolic essence of what church really is. Come and celebrate Christmas Day with us!



## 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	Flowers
5th Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Tora	Mrs. Eddington
12th Jan	No Service	Mrs. Roser
19th Jan	No Service	Mrs. Squirrel
26th Jan	No Service	Mrs. Gregor-Smith

1st December, Reverend Rob lit the first candle on the Advent wreath and his sermon told us the true meaning of Advent and how we should all be preparing to receive the blessing of the birth of Christ. He then celebrated Holy Communion with us.

### Saturday 21st December Carol Service at 6.30pm

We invite everyone to come and join us for this service. The Church will be decorated for Christmas and there will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Friday 3rd January. Our "Drop in for Coffee" mornings have proved an enormous success and have become a regular meeting place for the village. It has been good to welcome new faces each month – we even had to put up extra tables for our December meeting! Our next morning is Friday 3rd January and we look forward to seeing you there. Do come.



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EDWARDSTONE

Churchwarden:  
Vacant

Sidesman, 19 January, Maureen Cooling (with Rob Eels)  
Coffee duties, Alex Nevill  
Flowers, Ineke  
Cleaning, tba.



## THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEWTON

Churchwarden:  
Vacant

Rota  
Flowers Sue Presland  
Cleaning All willing volunteers

SATURDAY 4th January 10.00am Willing helpers are required to take down the decorations and give the church a new year clean.

SUNDAY 26th JANUARY 11.00AM COMMUNION SERVICE led by Reverend Robert

### ALL WELCOME CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our Christmas Fayre was held on 7th December and it was very well supported. The village hall was packed with happy shoppers and the atmosphere was great. Villagers and local businesses were very generous and the raffle table was overflowing with some great prizes. There was a separate raffle for a Christmas Hamper, a Christmas Tombola and a draw for a bottle of whiskey. Gordon Kennet sold amazing Christmas Wreaths, there were beautiful felt decorations for sale, the cake stall was well stocked and there were even plants for sale. Of course the bric a brac and books stalls were popular too.

Carole and Joan provided refreshments so it was a good opportunity for folks to catch up and have a good old natter.

Thanks to everyone's generosity over £500 was raised, so a big thank you to all.



## 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 JANUARY

Sidesman	Mrs Diana McCorkell
Flowers	Mrs Jayne Foster
Cleaning	Mrs Jayne Foster

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS, MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

Groton's Carol Service this year, to be followed by mulled wines and mince pies, is on **Monday 23 December 2019, 7.00 pm** in Groton Church. Do join us!

**FROM THE REGISTERS: BURIAL.** Margaret Sheila Pope, who died on 16 November 2019, aged 70 years, was interred in the churchyard on 10 December 2019 following a funeral service in the church conducted by the rector.

**PCC MEETING: Wednesday 8 January 2020, 7.00 pm** in the Parish Room, Little Waldingfield. This is a joint meeting of all five benefice PCCs: see the note on previous page 'Benefice News'. Any Groton-specific items for the agenda should be notified to the secretary (David Lamming, Tel: 210360; e-mail djlammings@hotmail.com) by Tuesday 31st December 2019.

**REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL:** Following last year's six-yearly complete renewal of the roll, this year sees the usual annual revision prior to the 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Formal notice of the revision will be posted shortly on the church, and all the dates will be given in the February BRN.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SUDBURY & DISTRICT

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

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18 – 25 JANUARY 2020

The Week of Prayer is international and offers an opportunity each day to meet and pray with fellow Christians of different denominations. The theme this year is Unusual Kindness.

The materials for the 2020 Week of Prayer have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta). On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer.

Hospitality is a much-needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith.

In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28:28) 2020 Week of Prayer events in Sudbury and District:

**Saturday 18th January**, 8.00 am to 9.30 am: Prayer Breakfast at Cornard Christian Fellowship.

**Sunday 19th January**, 6.30 pm: United Service at Sudbury Baptist Church. Speaker: The Revd Mark Ulanowski.

**Monday 20th January**, 12.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Great Cornard.

**Tuesday 21st January**, 12.30 pm at All Saints' Church Hall, Sudbury.

**Wednesday 22nd January**, 12.30 pm at Long Melford United Reformed Church.

**Thursday 23rd January** 7.00 for 7.30 pm: Open Forum at Sudbury Salvation Army.

**Friday 24th January**, 12.30 pm at Sudbury Roman Catholic Church

Saturday 25th January 8.00 am to 9.30 am: Prayer Breakfast at New Life Church.

Refreshments will be provided after most services. It is a great joy to meet with members of other churches; please come to as many of these days as you can.



## The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
Little Waldingfield and Newton

### Christmas 2019 and January 2020 Services

#### Daily Prayer

Come and join us!

<b>Monday:</b>	8.30 Morning Prayer, Lt Waldingfield; 17:00 Evening Prayer, Boxford;
<b>Tuesday:</b>	8.30 Morning Prayer, Edwardstone; 17:00 Evening Prayer, Boxford;
<b>Wednesday:</b>	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;
<b>Thursday</b>	8.30 Morning Prayer, Newton, 17:00 Evening Prayer, Boxford.

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

#### Christmas is Coming!

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	(Purple)
18.30 Carol Service (RPM/TH)	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	(Purple)
09.30 Family Eucharist (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
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	(Purple)
19.00 Carol Service (DL)	St Bartholomew's, Groton
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve</b>	(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
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day</b>	(White/Gold)
09.30 Christmas Day Family Communion (RPM)	St Bartholomew's, Groton
11.00 Christmas Day Family Eucharist (RPM)	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b>	(White/Gold)
10.00 Joint Benefice Service (TH)	St Mary the Virgin's, Edwardstone
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany</b>	(White/Gold)
08.00 Holy Communion BCP (RPM)	St Mary's, Boxford
09.30 Holy Communion (RPM)	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
11.00 Epiphany Café Church	St Mary's, Boxford
18.30 BCP Evensong (RPM)	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January Baptism of Christ</b>	(White/Gold)
09.30 Morning Worship (RPM)	St Bartholomew's, Groton
11.00 Sung Eucharist (RPM preside, CK preach)	St Mary's, Boxford
18.30 Compline (RPM)	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>	(White/Gold)
09.30 Holy Communion (RPM)	St Mary the Virgin's, Edwardstone
11.00 Sung Eucharist (RPM)	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>	(White/Gold)
09.30 Family Eucharist (RPM)	St Mary's, Boxford
11.00 Holy Communion (RPM)	All Saints', Newton Green



Talking to a cousin in the run up to Christmas, she remarked how it felt as though last Christmas was just a few weeks ago. I know what she means. Time seems to travel faster the older you get. John Mortimer, whose stories about Rumpole have given me much pleasure over the years, once remarked that at his great age, it felt as though breakfast time came around every hour. Certainly, I have a propensity to underestimate how long ago a particular event took place.

Of course, some of the events that take place in one's life are so indelibly fixed in your mind that you know exactly when they took place. Still, it can come as quite a shock when you realise quite how long ago

something happened. Was it really sixteen years ago that I was diagnosed with cancer? Actually, it is quite encouraging that I'm still here after such a long period of time. And has it been more than thirteen years since I gave up my proper day job? You bet it has.

The actress Maggie Smith once remarked that growing old is not for sissies. The challenges you face can be quite daunting. Health issues, losing old friends, finding you are simply not as sharp as once you were – all combine to provide a sense of frustration that I know many of my older friends share. Then there is age discrimination. For me this is a real issue. While I continue to be asked to broadcast or speak in public, I find getting appropriate insurance is now a tricky business.

Probably the biggest problem is travel and health insurance. Having enjoyed private medical insurance when employed, I found that paying for this protection was becoming ridiculously expensive once it was down to me. Alright, I fully understand that I have a poor recent history in medical terms and that, as I get older, my requirement for medical treatment is likely to rise, but costs are rising to an extent that I have changed to what I term a soft-landing approach. My cover only kicks in if the NHS cannot deal with me in six weeks.

Given that serious conditions are likely to be dealt with swiftly by the NHS, this seems an appropriate way to contain costs. Operations that might involve a long wait on the NHS – like hip or knee replacements – should be covered by this scheme. I hope so, though have yet to test it – fortunately. Getting appropriate travel insurance is not proving so easy, though.

Travel insurance often comes as part of a bundle with your bank, building society or credit card provider. Actually, I have found them fairly user friendly, with the (thank Heavens) rare occasions I have needed to claim in the past dealt with sympathetically and swiftly. However, one of the providers stopped covering me for medical claims when I reached 70 and another has said I won't be covered once I reach 75, which is not too far away. And this is an insurer unconnected with any other service I use to which I pay a hefty annual premium.

Shopping around for an alternative made me realise that obtaining the right cover becomes more difficult the older you get. I am particularly concerned over what health treatment might be available abroad if we do finally leave the European Union. Presently I have my health card which entitles me to treatment in other EU nations on the same basis as if I were resident there. If this no longer applies, I would need to pay for treatment and would find it difficult to insure myself against such an eventually.

So, growing older does bring with it complications that I could well do without. On the plus side, I am reasonably fit, knees, hips and arthritis aside. My brain still seems to function adequately, though my wife might take issue with that statement from time to time. And, by and large, I enjoy my life. I recognise I am lucky, both in terms of my health (it could all have been much worse 16 years ago) and my ability to pay for most of the things I like to do – like travelling abroad. So far as I am concerned, long may the pluses continue.

Brian Tora



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## Gardening in January

### The Late Harry Buckledee

Weather permitting, this is the best time to carry out alterations and constructional work in the garden. In the summer there is too much maintenance work to permit it. Pathways can be laid, pergolas built flower beds and shrubberies made. Examine posts and tree stakes for signs of rot and replace. Posts on pergolas and archways that are rotten at ground level can be supported by driving a metal stake into the ground beside them. Slacken off ties which are in danger of cutting into tree trunks. Carry on with the winter digging of the vegetable garden. Lime, in the form of hydrated lime can be applied this month, if necessary. Manure and lime should not be applied at the same time because the chemical re-action of the lime releases nitrogen from the manure in the form of gas. Allow at least three months between manuring and liming.

Many people will have received house plants for Christmas presents and may not understand what is needed to keep them as near as possible to the conditions they have become accustomed to in a nursery. One of the most difficult plants to keep in a good condition is the Poinsettia which in the nursery are grown in exactly the right environment to ensure that they are in perfect saleable condition for the Christmas market.

The temperature, humidity, light and water they received is all carefully controlled by highly skilled nurserymen, so when they are moved into our homes they are going to undergo a great change from what they have been used to throughout their growing period, and plants do not like sudden changes. To help them to acclimatise to their new surroundings keep them in a room where the temperature is fairly even and does not

fluctuate too much between day and night. Avoid draughts and do not place too close to a hot radiator. Give as much light as possible and pay particular attention to watering.

Watering is bound to be a little bit hit and miss because we do not have the highly sensitive automatically controlled system in our homes that the professionals have. Do not water from the top. It is better to stand the plant pot on a two inch layer of fine grit in a shallow tray or bowl. Add water to the level of the grit and it will be taken up by capillary action. As the level drops, add more water, but do not more than the level of the grit. The water tray will also help create the right humidity around the plant and prevent leaf drop. If you can provide the necessary heat in the greenhouse a sta: can be made with the spring seed sowing of bedding plants. Start with those that need a long growing season, such as lobelia, antirrhinums and begonias. Sweet peas can also be sown now if - like me - you did not get round to doing this in the autumn. Where there are any signs of waterlogging on lawns or around herbaceous plants, pierce the ground several times with a digging fork by inserting it to its full depth. This will help the surface water to drain away.

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

Have a Happy Christmas and a good Gardening New Year.

#### Top 10 jobs this month

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

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# Parish Council Matters

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 4th November 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.**

**PRESENT:** J Fincham-Jacques ( Chairman), A Sargeant (Vice Chairman), S Mattocks, P Wallis, M Wooderson, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 3 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** None

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS:** Nothing was declared.

**MINUTES OF 7TH OCTOBER 2019:** Accepted as correct.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Nothing was raised.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** A representative from the Brewers Arms attended to discuss their Planning Application for 5 holiday lodges together with bungalows to fund the development. He felt Boxford would want to support his proposal due to the potential for increased tourism and support to Boxford local businesses. He has discussed with his neighbours and there was 1 possible objection. The location is linked to Boxford by existing footpaths. He was happy for members of the Parish Council to attend the site to see for themselves how the layout would fit in with its surroundings. Another resident raised the previously discussed signage for Sand Hill to prevent HGV's trying to turn right with repeated impact incidents. J Finch confirmed that the order is in hand with funding support from the County Council - Action J Finch. The new Rector welcomed a chance to introduce himself to the Parish Council. He thanked the Parish Council for the excellent upkeep of the Churchyard and the provision of the Christmas tree each year. He asked the Parish Council to consider a grant towards the insurance costs again this year - this will form an agenda item. He mentioned the young people congregating in the Churchyard and porch and felt it was a positive opportunity to engage with people in the village. He has plans for the Church to provide more for children and young people in the future and also for the Church Community to work together to sustain the Church.

**REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC:** It was agreed to ask for this Parish Council to be consulted on the application by the Brewers Arms and seek extended time to consider at the December Parish Council Meeting - Action Clerk and B Hurren. An Agenda item was agreed to consider a grant towards the insurance costs of the Church for December - Action Clerk.

**COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on "Braking Point", a scheme to help encourage young people to stay safe on the roads, the installation of heating in properties without heating systems in Suffolk and the launch of the Annual Public Health Report through a child's eyes. Further Fostering/Adoption information sessions were arranged. On local matters, he confirmed the resurfacing of Daking Avenue was scheduled for next financial year. The potential scheme of double yellow lines on both sides of the road by the Churchyard was discussed and some early white lining may be possible as a temporary measure, however, a target time of next summer was agreed for the yellow lines as that could coincide with the maintenance work to the wall - Action J Finch. A Sargeant enquired about changes to school transport. J Finch explained the changes and confirmed he is happy to take up individual cases as he is currently doing.

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported on parking powers being passed to the District Council next spring and a scheme to re-allocate unused heating allowance. The District Council is managing the Elections locally and the timing has caused some issues with the usual Venues due to Christmas Fairs and School Nativities etc. The potential to re-name Babergh District Council has been postponed for the present time. Babergh District Council continue to implement greener policies and a new scheme is now planting trees for new borns in the area. The attempts to stop the misuse of the croft path that extends from Broad Street to the Playing Field continue as the owner of a patch of land being crossed are organising an injunction. Playground fencing at Goodlands is being explored. There were no objections in principle to the previously stolen memorial bench being replaced by a different individual. B Hurren has been asked to provide the new bench.

\*\* The Meeting was then re-located due to a wasps nest unsettling the meeting.

**FINANCE:** The Bank balances as at 4th November were £47689.69 in the Community Account, £13384.04 in the Deposit Account and £51881.10 in the Reserve Account making a total of £112954.83. Unsuitable for HGV's signs for Sand Hill is being organised by the County Council. Double Yellow Lines proposal for both sides near Churchyard is being costed and timescales considered. Members asked for the timing to be next summer as that would be the best time to carry out the maintenance to the Churchyard wall. J Finch is taking this forward on our behalf. A contribution towards the Street Party next May was considered. M Wooderson proposed £500 which was seconded by the Chairman and unanimously carried.

The half year budget review was discussed. P Wallis proposed a new format for our Risk Management Policy which he agreed to produce for approval at the December Meeting. No other suggestions were made - Action P Wallis and Clerk to include as an Agenda item. A further Agenda item had been agreed for the December Meeting of a Grant towards the Church Insurance Costs - Action Clerk.

**REVIEW OF GRIT LOCATIONS AND CONSIDER NEW GRIT BINS:** It was agreed to purchase 12 new slimline green grit bins for delivery to P Wallis - Action Clerk. We can then coordinate the filling by the County Council with help from J Finch or contract privately if it proves necessary - Action Clerk.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence report was discussed. The request by a resident to re-consider the area in front of the Bus Shelter was then considered. Members agreed to explore whether this would be an option with our County Councillor - Action All.

**CEMETERY:** There was nothing new to report other than on-going matters already raised in previous meetings.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** P Wallis agreed to liaise about a Christmas tree for the Churchyard - Action P Wallis. The Parish Council is happy to fund the tree as in previous years. There is now a core Neighbourhood Planning Group trying to encourage further support. They now have the Terms of Reference to consider which sets out the liaison and relationship with the Parish Council. This is particularly important in relation to the finances. BT have now taken responsibility for the raised manhole cover outside the Post Office. Doves were reported as a continuing nuisance in the village. M Wooderson agreed to put a note in Box River News about the plans to maintain and protect the Churchyard wall - Action M Wooderson.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

**Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 4th November 2019**

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

- Minor amendment to fenestration and layout at Pippettes Farm, Stone Street had been approved
  - Planning permission had been granted for installation of metal bollard at Thatch End, 1 Stone Street
  - Planning permission had been granted for new two-storey dwelling with improvements to vehicular access at Land Adj The Pippins, Calais Street - d)
- OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION HAD BEEN REFUSED** for up to 80 residential dwellings including vehicular access on land to the East Of Sand Hill -
- Consent had been granted to reduce crown volume of yew tree by up to 50% in the Cemetery, Stone Street Road -

The following were discussed: -

- Boxwood Hall, Butchers Lane - Full Planning Application to retain private pond - DC/19/04588 - There were No Objections.
- Any other urgent Planning matters: Box House, Swan Street - Application for work to trees in Conservation area - There were No Objections.

## 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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**MON 30TH DEC &**

**WED 22ND JANUARY:**

**- ELECTRIC JAM SESSION-**

**FROM 8.30PM**

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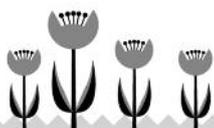
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## FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

➤ **D-Day heroes and brave ex-serviceman inspire at Stars of Suffolk awards** I was honoured to be part of the Stars of Suffolk award ceremony on 7th November. Four heroes of D-Day were among the inspirational winners this year. The ceremony, which was launched 12 years ago, honours the county's bravest, dedicated and caring individuals - from firefighters, to charity workers and life-saving teenagers.

Hundreds of nominations were put forward, before the final 46 men, women, organisations - and even a heroic Labrador - were selected as finalists in the 13 categories. Among them were James Perry, Tony Pyatt, Francis Grant and Douglas Smith - four heroes from the county who played vital roles in the D-Day landings in 1944. Marking the 75th anniversary this year, organisers were honoured to hand them the Judges Special Award.

Ex-RAF serviceman David Norris' story of bravery, compassion and selflessness earned him the overall Star of Suffolk award. The Stowmarket man broke up an attack on a 15-year-old boy in a park. A build-up of blood was stopping the victim from breathing. After putting the boy in the recovery position, David protected him from further attack until paramedics arrived.

Two Suffolk Fire Officers - Sally Hammond and Alice Guyett - received their award for their committed work for promoting and recruiting women into the Suffolk Firefighter Service.

I presented the Police Award to Matt Kidd-Stanton for his valiant and brave efforts to prevent a suicide on the Orwell Bridge. Matt suffered injuries as a result of this incident. He acted bravely, quickly and put the best interests of another before himself.

Other winners included charity Fresh Start, New Beginnings, which provides invaluable support for victims of child sex abuse. They took home the Team of the Year award.

➤ **Fines for poor parking in Suffolk to be consistent across the county from 2020** Parking fines will be the same across the whole of Suffolk from early next year, when stronger enforcement is set to take place. The long-delayed transfer of civil parking enforcement from police to local authorities is expected to take place from the end of January in Suffolk.

This means each council will be responsible for issuing parking fines, warnings and notices in their area, although a deal has been struck by Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils to have their parking enforced by Ipswich and West Suffolk officers.

With police unable to dedicate resources currently, it is expected that once the powers transfer councils will be able to crackdown on poor parking more than police. A consistent approach is being planned across the whole county, meaning fines will be the same, regardless of which authority manages parking in that area.

➤ **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service welcomes applications for new firefighters** Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is looking for new wholetime firefighters as it opens its doors to all members of the community from Monday 2 December 2019. The opportunity to become a wholetime firefighter only comes around every few years and candidates are encouraged to submit their applications sooner rather than later. The six-week window may close early if the Service receives a high volume of applications.

Around one in three of Suffolk's firefighters are wholetime, with other firefighters being "on-call" which means they often have another job and respond to emergency calls as required. Mark Hardingham, Chief Fire Officer, explains who the Service is hoping will apply:

"We want men and women from many backgrounds and with all sorts of experiences, and we want people with great and positive attitudes. Dealing with fires and many other emergency incidents is an important part of the firefighter's role, but it's so much more than that as well. As a firefighter you will work with young and older people to help them live safer lives and will visit local businesses and other organisations to ensure their buildings are safe in the event they catch fire.

More information about the role of a firefighter and what to expect during the recruitment process can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/firefighter](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/firefighter). The application window is open from 2 December 2019 to 12 January 2020, however it may close earlier if large numbers of applications are received.

➤ **App for asthmatic youngsters backed by Suffolk County Council Health Service** An app that teaches asthmatic children to use their inhalers properly is being promoted across the county after being developed by a Suffolk company.

MySpira, by Orbital Media of Stowmarket, teaches youngsters techniques in a fun way and is now being promoted in hospitals, GP surgeries, pharmacies and primary schools across the county by Public Health Suffolk.

## FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

First of all I hope everyone has a good and relaxing Christmas break and may I take this opportunity to wish all a really great new year in 2020. Last year was one of the most worrying and fractious of all my life and I hope that now the general election is over we can concentrate on the most urgent issue of our time which is what is happening to our planet and the effects of our changing climate. We need to focus on what we can do to help ourselves and try to slow down the warming effect so that our children and following generations can have a place to live as well in safety.

At the council we have declared a state of climate emergency and are putting in what measures we can to help, including skype for meetings to save travel, the promotion and use of public transport for officers and staff where possible, along with trying hard to be paperless and cut down on resources used. This should also help with the hard budget challenges that we also face. Coupled with our tree planting initiative and switch to heat pumps in our housing stock along with solar panels on 2,000 of our council homes this is a significant start to our contribution, but we will have to do much more.

Our budget next spring is going to be the most difficult ever as for the first time we will receive no grant from central government. Instead we will now receive new homes bonus for every new dwelling that we allow or encourage to be built, also we will be allowed to keep a percentage of business rates from new businesses that set up in our area. This means that we will be forced to accept growth to bring in income whether we think it is in the public interest or not, or even in the correct place. Difficult Times Indeed.

Over the last month I have tried to attend as many functions as possible over the holiday period and especially enjoyed the Mildens Singers fundraising concert and the Groton cheese and wine (and auction)

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible during this coming year and if you have an issue I do attend all the P.C. meetings in the six villages and I might even get time this coming year to start my pub crawl!

All Best Wishes, Bryn. 210854. 07771 508348.

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The app uses characters and interactions, to engage children with asthma with games they can play with parents, siblings or friends. Throughout the 20-minute experience the youngster is taught about asthma keywords, triggers, different types of inhalers, how to prepare the inhaler and spacer, and how to inhale the medicine correctly.

Research has found that as many as 97% of asthmatic children misuse their inhalers, with potentially serious consequences.

The app was developed by Orbital with the University of Suffolk, supported by Dr Simon Rudland from StowHealth surgery in Stowmarket and asthma nurse Karyn McBride. The app is available from the App Store and Google Play

➤ **More Fostering and Adoption Sessions in Boxford and the Stour Valley** Following another successful session in Mary's House in October, I give below the last date and time of a session for this year. Because of the good response to these sessions I propose to continue with these throughout 2020. *See ad elsewhere in this edition*

➤ **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

# Readers Letters



*Sir*

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

All the very best  
Von Wymark

*Sir*

BT claims "Ultra fast fibre broadband is available at your property" in Groton..... but is it?  
Their website postcode checker says, "Yes".  
Their customer service agent says, "Yes" with a connection date in 13 days.  
Their two specialist engineers say, "Yes" and verbally assure you it will be of no cost to you.  
5 weeks after placing the order you receive a call asking for a payment of in excess of £2,000 for the connection.  
When you decline because you don't have that kind of money and politely request them to honour their promise, they refuse and cancel your order.  
No apology, no compensation.  
So in answer to the question; no. Despite their claims to the government and the public and despite heavy investment by the government and taxpayers, of which you are one, no it is not available, not unless you are extremely rich.  
My advice to anyone looking for broadband or a landline is not to waste your time or money on BT. You may otherwise spend 7 weeks in your garden in the rain and cold trying to pick up a mobile or internet signal to conduct your affairs before turning to an alternative provider.

A Groton resident  
(name and address supplied)

*Sir*

On behalf of the Hospice I would like to say thank you to everyone who has saved their used stamps throughout the year.  
Also thanks to Richard at Boxford Post Office and Megan and Margaret for getting them to Hadleigh for me. I would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and please keep saving your used stamps for a very good cause

Thank You  
C Boon, Hadleigh

*Sir*

The cake stall in Mary's house held on 30th November in aid of The Early Learning School and Orphanage in Uganda raised £752.  
A big thank you to all our friends and family who helped in any way.  
Also everyone who visited on the morning  
There wasn't a crumb left

Many thanks from  
Alison Brain and Joan Smith

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# Box River Benefice, Directory of Clubs & Organisations

## Boxford Clubs & Organisations

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1st Boxford Brownies  
1st Boxford Cub Scouts  
1st Boxford Explorer Scouts  
1st Boxford Guides  
1st Boxford Rainbows  
1st Boxford Scout Group  
1st Boxford Scouts  
Vulpine Explorer Scout Unit  
3 Parishes Response  
Bellringers  
Boxford Bible Study Group  
Boxford Bike Club  
Boxford Bowls Club  
Boxford Bounty  
Boxford Car Community Scheme  
Boxford Carpet Bowls  
Boxford Community Council  
Boxford Conservative Assoc  
Boxford Drama Group  
Boxford Gardens Open  
Boxford Gardening Society  
Boxford Playing Fields  
Boxford Rovers Football Club  
Boxford School  
Boxford Society  
Boxford Spinney  
Sunflower Child Care  
Box River Lectures  
Boxford Tennis Club  
Boxford and Groton United Charities  
Boxford Village Hall Bookings  
Boxford WI  
Boxford Youth Club  
Box River News  
Community Police Officer  
County Councillor  
District Councillor  
Edwardstone and Boxford CC  
Fleece Jazz Club  
Friends of Boxford School  
Local History Recorder  
Mill Surgery  
'Madrigalia' Chamber Choir  
Babies and Toddlers Group  
Parish Council  
Parochial Church Council (Secretary)  
Poppy Appeal  
Primrose Wood  
SESAW  
Sponsored cycle ride  
Gareth Weiland Memorial Fund

Diana Taylor 210239  
Moira Grant 211513  
Neil Barkham 211916  
Adrian Gooderham 211805  
Janice MacMillan 210565  
Janice MacMillan 210565  
Richard Gates 210432  
Mark Miller 211596  
Denzil Smith 210020  
Richard Wild 210946  
Richard Gates 210432  
211077  
Matthew Shinn 211296  
Lea Blackham 210313  
Mark Miller 211596  
Jen Eastwood 211853  
Brian Porter 01473 824283  
Ward Baker 210129  
Peter Patrick 210346  
Janice Macmillan 210565  
Sara Mattocks 07484 759292  
Elizabeth Wagener 210223  
David Burden 211926  
Melvyn Eke 01473 602846  
Justine Davies 210332  
Jen Eastwood 01787 211853.  
Gordon Edgar 378983  
Moira Grant 211513  
Simon & Jo Marchant 210149  
Yvonne Woodfield 210151  
Guy Godfray (Clerk) 211378  
Veronica Hobbs 211529  
Annie Phillips 211729  
Pauls Hoare 211033  
Eddie Kench 211507  
Babergh West 01473 613500  
James Finch 01206 263649  
Bryn Hurren 01787 210854  
Iain Young (01787 210048  
David Gasson 210796  
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Trudy Wild 210946  
210558  
Sue Price 210913  
'find us on Facebook  
Debbie Hattrell 210943  
Shirley Bloomfield 211181  
Brian James 210814  
Ian Lindsley 210520  
Maggie 210888  
Ruth Kingsbury 211236  
Ben Woodfield 211922

## Newton Clubs & Organisations

Art Club  
Line Dancing  
Local History Recorder  
Newton Fireside Club  
Newton Golf Club  
Newton Green Trust  
Newton Keep Fit Club  
Newton News Views & Coffee  
Newton Village Hall  
PCC  
Police Liason Officer  
Sponsored cycle ride  
Surgeries  
  
War Games Club

Carol Langley 373548  
Jean Tomkins 377343  
Alan Vince 373963  
Wendy Turner 372677  
377217  
Lee Parker 376073  
  
Alan Vince 373963  
Alan Vince 373963  
Christine Cornell 370331  
  
Chris Cornell 370331  
Boxford Mill 210558  
Meadow Lane 310000  
Hardwicke House 370011  
Siam 370444  
Brian Lawson 312160

## Edwardstone Clubs & Organisations

Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust  
Edwardstone Parish Hall booking Secretary  
Edwardstone Parish Hall chairman  
Edwardstone United Charities  
Edwardstone and Boxford CC  
Local History Recorder  
Parochial Church Council (Secretary)  
Sponsored cycle ride  
Edwardstone Parish Council

Claire Mortime 210051  
Daphne Clark 210698  
Daphne Clark 210698  
Les Clark (Clerk) 210698  
Tom Whymark 211375  
Daphne Clark 210698  
Ineke Morris 210761  
Mrs A Tribe 211526  
Richard Jones 01473 828246

## Groton Clubs & Organisations

Groton Educational Foundation  
Groton Parish Council  
Groton Village Hall Bookings  
Local History Recorder  
Sponsored cycle ride  
Groton Parochial Church Council (secretary)  
Groton Winthrop Mulberry trust  
Anthea Scriven 01787 210263  
Richard Jones 01473 828246  
Joanna Roberts 210619  
Jeremy Osborne 211960  
Colin Blackmore 211134  
David Lammington 210360  
R Bowdidge 01787-211553

## Ltl Waldingfield Clubs & Organisations

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

## Milden Clubs & Organisations

Milden Cricket Club  
Milden Pavilion and Playingfield  
Andrew Simmons 07951 055643  
Pearl 01449 741876

## Directory of Benefice Web Sites

### VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Box River Benefice [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)  
For churches other than Boxford, follow the links under "Our other churches"  
Boxford Web Site [boxfordsuffolk.com/](http://boxfordsuffolk.com/)  
Boxford: [opsboxfordbures.com/](http://opsboxfordbures.com/)  
[boxfordbikeclub.co.uk](http://boxfordbikeclub.co.uk)  
Boxford Bike Club:  
Boxford Community Council: [boxford.me.uk](http://boxford.me.uk)  
Boxford Drama Group: [boxforddramagroup.com](http://boxforddramagroup.com)  
Boxford Gardening Society: [boxfordgardeningociety.one.suffolk.net](http://boxfordgardeningociety.one.suffolk.net)  
Boxford School: [boxford.suffolk.dbprimary.com/](http://boxford.suffolk.dbprimary.com/)  
Boxford Spinney(Scouts): [boxfordspinney.freeserve.co.uk/](http://boxfordspinney.freeserve.co.uk/)  
Boxford Sunflower: [boxfordsunflower.co.uk](http://boxfordsunflower.co.uk)  
Boxford Rovers [www.boxfordrovers.co.uk](http://www.boxfordrovers.co.uk)  
Boxford Village Hall: [boxfordvillagehall.co.uk](http://boxfordvillagehall.co.uk)  
Fleece Jazz: [dovbear.co.uk/fleece/](http://dovbear.co.uk/fleece/)  
Tornado Smith: [thewallofdeath.co.uk/Tornado.htm](http://thewallofdeath.co.uk/Tornado.htm)  
Edwardstone Cricket Club [edwardstonecricketclub.com](http://edwardstonecricketclub.com)  
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### DOCTORS

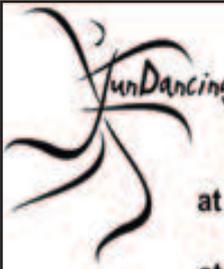
Boxford Mill: [hadleighhealth.co.uk/](http://hadleighhealth.co.uk/)

### PARISH COUNCILS

Edwardstone Parish Council [edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/](http://edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/)  
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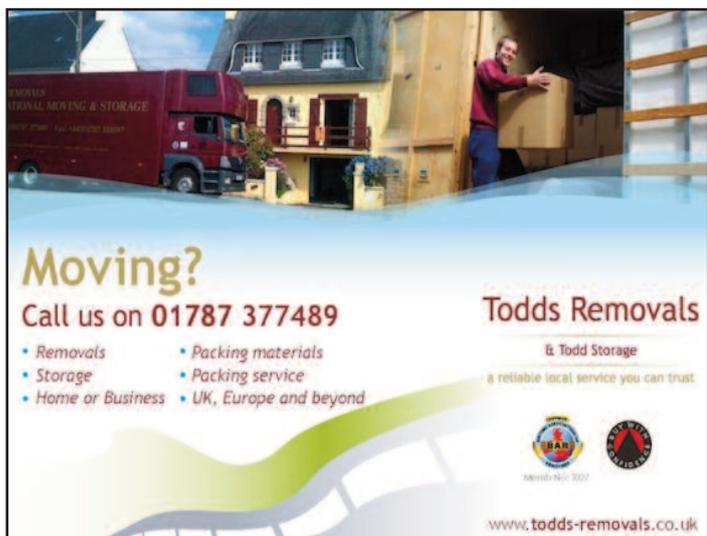
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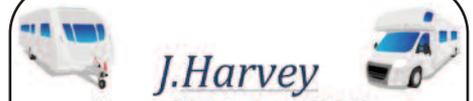
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