

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



January 2021
Vol 21 No 1

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happier and Healthier New Year to you all



In Loving Memory of the Late Great Bill Horne

CAB JANUARY'S ADVICE PAGE

"I'm a bit concerned about buying goods online. What happens if something goes wrong, or if I change my mind after seeing something in reality? I don't have money to lose right now."

You're not alone being cautious about shopping online. Over the last year Citizens Advice Consumer Service has dealt with just under 123,000 cases in relation to online shopping.

Most of the time, when you buy something online you automatically get a 14-day 'cooling-off period' which starts the day after you receive your order. There doesn't need to be anything wrong with the item for you to get a refund. Many online sellers may offer more time, so make sure you check the terms and conditions before purchasing.

There are some exceptions, like buying something bespoke or perishable, like flowers or chocolates. There are also exceptions if the product is sealed, like face masks or CDs.

If you do decide to return your item, you need to tell the seller you don't want the item within 14 days of receiving it. Once you've told the seller, you've got 14 days to send it back. The seller has to pay you the refund within 14 days from when they receive the item.

You may have to pay the cost of posting something back to the seller, but you don't have to return the item in its original packaging as long as you've wrapped it safely. If you don't wrap it safely and the item gets damaged, the seller can reduce your refund.

It's a good idea to get a certificate of posting from Royal Mail when you post the item. You can use this to prove to the seller that you posted the item.

If you buy something online and the product is faulty (i.e. it's broken, unusable or doesn't match what was advertised), you have 30 days to ask for a refund from when you receive it. However, you can choose to accept a replacement or repair. After 30 days (and before six months) the seller must offer you a repair within a reasonable timeframe. If this isn't possible, they must offer you a replacement or a refund. Ask the seller for the easiest way to send the item back. You shouldn't have to pay.

If you order something and it doesn't arrive, it's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. If the seller used a courier, they should chase the courier to find out what's happened to your order - it's not your responsibility.

Check the delivery address you gave the seller. Then contact them and

ask where your order is. If the seller claims they've delivered it or don't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might also be able to get a refund in some circumstances.

Check out the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact the Consumer Service helpline on 0808 223 1133 if you need more help.

Please note we are no longer seeing clients face to face until further notice

We are providing advice by telephone and email, Monday – Thursday, 10am – 1pm. Please phone 01787 321400 if you need advice and leave a message and someone will call you back when available. We will attempt three times to call you back, so please expect a call from a withheld number.

You can also ring our Advice line on 0800 144 88 48 or 0300 330 1151. Alternatively, contact us via email at advice@sudburycab.org.uk or by using the contact facility on our website www.sudburycab.org.uk.

Contact: Elaine Gorman

Email: elaine.gorman@sudburycab.org.uk

Sudbury & District Citizens Advice, Keyse House Acton Lane CO10 1QN

Gary Jarvis
Paper Hanger and Interior Decorator
01787 211471 or 07733 325669
garydjarvis@gmail.com

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NEWS FROM CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Sr Mary's Cookbook

Fundraising

Ready, Steady Cook - if you have any yummy recipes for either starters, mains, desserts or even a boozy cocktail, please email boxriveractivities@gmail.com where we shall be putting together our very own St Mary's Cookbook. Watch this space for more information on when the book will be on sale. All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Boxford.

Box River Benefice Vacancies

Organist and Director of Music - We have an exciting role for someone with musical prowess to help shape the future feel of St Mary's Boxford for a good many years to come. St Mary's Boxford is looking for someone to help lead our music and, together with our Rector, help us to develop the role of music in church-life. For more information see www.boxriverbenefice.com or email rparkermcgee@gmail.com

PCC Treasurer - St Mary's Boxford will be looking for a new PCC Treasurer in the New Year. If you feel that you might be able to help fill this voluntary role, please do get in touch with either Rob our Rector on rparkermcgee@gmail.com or Audrey our Churchwarden on audrey@a2zriskservices.com

PCC Secretary - St Mary's Boxford will be looking for a new PCC Secretary in the New Year. If you feel that you might be able to help fill this voluntary role, please do get in touch with either Rob our Rector on rparkermcgee@gmail.com or Audrey our Churchwarden on audrey@a2zriskservices.com

Suffolk Community Foundation:

During the first month of this year's appeal, over 350 applications have already been received and 300 homes heated. Equally important is that it has already been identified that 221 households may be able to receive other help with improvements to their heating and insulation, energy tariffs, debt advice, access to other benefits and support with issues of loneliness and isolation.

This is a truly tremendous start from our colleagues at Citizens Advice. But we have 4 months of winter and potentially much harsher conditions still to come, so it's vital that Suffolk people keep giving as generously as they have so far.

With the festive season upon us, Suffolk is bracing itself for a dramatic increase in need. Last year our annual Surviving Winter Appeal raised enough money to heat over 1,000 homes and connected many hundreds of people to other services to help tackle isolation, address physical and mental health challenges, improve poor living conditions, solve debt problems and assist with access to services to help them stay safe and well.

This year, we are expecting more people to need our help than ever before, so we are merging the Surviving Winter Appeal with the central Rebuilding Local Lives initiative that we have been running since the start of the pandemic. We hope that this action will deliver a much louder and easily understood central message to increase local giving and ensure that every vulnerable person in our 'Caring County' is supported to 'Stay Warm, Stay Well and Stay Connected'.

Call 01473 602602 to donate or go to <https://www.suffolkcf.org.uk/>.

Dear Boxford Bounty members,

This very unusual year has interrupted the smooth running of the Boxford Bounty. A number of collectors were late collecting subscriptions for the Bounty at the start of the year and their collections were interrupted by the first lockdown. Subsequently, they became involved in the Community Hub, providing support to people who have needed to self-isolate, providing shopping, prescription collection and other essential services. As a result collection was suspended. As a consequence many bounty members have been unable to renew their membership. It was felt that it would be unfair to run the draws without all the members being entered.

Our intention is to roll over existing subscriptions to next year in order to collect outstanding subscriptions and allow for new members to join before a draw takes place. The first Draw is expected to be at the end of March 2021.

Membership of the Boxford Bounty costs £10 a year. Your ticket is entered into 6 draws during the year and the following prizes are awarded for each draw:

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

Income from The Boxford Bounty is used to support community projects and organisations such as; the playing fields, scouts, guides, the village hall, drama group, cycling club, Boxford school, primrose wood, Boxford Community Hub and many other local organisations that may need assistance.

If you would like to join the Boxford Bounty please contact Mark at the address below.

If you are a member of a group in need of financial or other support please contact us for details of how to apply for a grant.

Mark Miller

Deputy Chair, Boxford Community Council.

Boxford Bounty co-ordinator, Mark Miller, 39, Daking Ave, Boxford Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 5QA

Newton's New Outdoor Leisure Facilities.

Newton Parish Council is pleased to announce that its new recreational facilities should be finished by the middle of February 2021. The Multi Use Games Area and the Forever Fitness Zone were finished in December and work on our two new playgrounds is scheduled to start in January 2021. If Covid allows, we are hoping to have a Grand Opening in April 2021. These new resources are free to use and a simple book APP allows people to reserve a slot.

Readers Letters

Sir

Marina and I, would like to thank friends and relatives in the village and surrounding area for all the messages of support and kind thoughts following the sudden passing of Geoff In October. We are very grateful.

Anthony Gant

Wicker Street Green

Sir

We are interlopers from London who arrived in March to self-isolate from Covid. However we have got to like the area very much and have decided stay on. But we need to move out of our current home in the next couple of months (by end of Feb latest). So we are looking for somewhere to rent. If by any chance you know anywhere I would be very grateful if you could let me know. In an ideal world we are looking for:

Within about 5 miles of Lindsey

3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms

Small garden

Preferably furnished (but if necessary we can take our stuff out of storage)

6 months rental or 1 year with a six month break

Budget up to £2,000 per month

Kind regards

David Wallace

david@repgr.com

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HEAR THE ANGELS SING!

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF CHRISTMAS



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



CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS!

FOLLOW THE STAR

The Follow the Star Trail once again be held across the village this year between Saturday 12th to Saturday 19th December. The stars will be in windows of shops and houses around the village. Find all 25 stars' names and bring your completed trail sheet to our Christingle service on 20th December at 5.30pm for a chance to win 1 of 3 tubs of Cadburys chocolates. If you would like more details, please email spm456@hotmail.co.uk or boxriverbenefice@gmail.com. Trail sheets will be available from St Mary's Church Boxford, the Post Office and the Primary School.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please note that due to the current situation, these services may be subject to change at short notice.

Sunday 20th December, 5.30pm at St Mary's Boxford - Christingle Christingle, The annual Christingle service. This is a brilliant service of symbolism and fun for all the family. Only 35 minutes long and filled with seasonal delights. Come along and bring the family - a wonderful way to begin the build-up to Christmas.

Monday 21st December, 6.30pm at Lt Waldingfield - Carol walk around the village Starting at the Church, we will walk the village singing hymns and sharing a few of the good old familiar Christmas readings. Bring your bobble hat and scarf and help us to create that perfect Christmas card scene for all the residents of the village.

Tuesday 22nd December at 6.30pm Groton Croft - Benefice Drive-in Carols Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are not allowed to sing in church this year, which means we cannot hold our usual Carol services. Instead, we are planning to hold 2 Benefice-wide Drive-in Carol Services, where we can all sing from the safety of our cars. We plan to live-stream the service over our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice.com so that you can tune in from inside your car to get an all-round experience. Please book.

Thursday 24th December, 3pm at All Saints' Newton - Crib Service A light and engaging Christmas service with elements to engage the whole family. And we are putting in place extra elements to make sure that even though we cannot sing indoors, it will nonetheless retain that rich Christmas feel.

Thursday 24th December, 5pm at St Mary the Virgin Church Edwardstone - Drive in Carols This is a brilliant service of symbolism and fun for all the family. Live Carols, only 45 minutes long with other seasonal delights. Come along and bring all your friends - a wonderful way to begin the build-up to Christmas. Please note that we currently only have spaces for 30 people inside the church, a maximum of 20 car park spaces outside, and space for standing outside in household groups. Please make sure you book.

Thursday 24th December, 9pm at St Lawrence's Lt Waldingfield - Pre-Midnight Mass

Thursday 24th December, 11pm at St Mary's Boxford - Midnight Mass Our Midnight Masses are the most evocative services of the year, combining deep symbolism with ethereal 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.

Friday 25th December, 9.30am at St Bartholomew's Groton - Christmas Day Family Eucharist

Friday 25th December, 9.30am at St Mary's Boxford - Christmas Day Family Eucharist

Christmas Day Family Eucharist is an all-age friendly service specifically designed to engage every generation of the family, whilst retaining the rich symbolic essence of what Christmas really is. Come and celebrate Christmas Day with us as one community.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there is a limit on the numbers we can safely accommodate at each event. As such all our Christmas services will require you to pre-book your place if you would like to attend. Please contact boxriverbenefice@gmail.com or call 01787 828046 to reserve your place.

*Worship the Lord in the
Beauty of Holiness*
The Holy Bible: Chronicles 16:39

Divine Worship

Sunday 20th December 2020

9.30am - St Mary the Virgin Edwardstone - Morning Eucharist

11am - St Mary's Boxford - Sunday Eucharist

Wednesday 23rd December 2020

10.30am - St Mary's Boxford - Midweek Eucharist

Sunday 27th December 2020

11am - St Mary's Boxford - Morning Worship

11am - All Saints' Newton Green - Sunday Eucharist

Sunday 3rd January 2021

9.30am - Little Waldingfield - Sunday Eucharist

11am - Boxford - Sunday Eucharist

Wednesday 6th January 2021

10.30am - Boxford - Midweek Eucharist

Sunday 10th January 2021

9.30am - Groton - Sunday Eucharist

11am - Boxford - Sunday Eucharist

Wednesday 13th January 2021

10.30am - Boxford - Midweek Eucharist

Sunday 17th January 2021

9.30am - Edwardstone - Morning Worship

11am - Boxford - Sunday Eucharist

Wednesday 20th January 2021

10.30am - Boxford - Midweek Eucharist

Sunday 24th January 2021

9.30am - Boxford - Family/All-Age Service

11am - Newton - Sunday Eucharist

Wednesday 27th January 2021

10.30am - Boxford - Midweek Eucharist

Daily prayers and the Sunday Services will continue to be live streamed on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice. Please note that due to Covid-19 these services may be subject to change at short notice. Our prayer list is prayed at services across the benefice and includes people who are sick, those who have recently died and prayers for other significant concerns. If you would like someone or something adding to the prayer list, then please call Colleen our Administrator on 01787 828046 or email boxriverbenefice@gmail.com. This is renewed each week.

New Year, New Youthful Glow...

Christmas is never good for the skin. Late nights, alcohol and lots of naughty food can play havoc with your complexion.

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THE JANUARY LETTER BY FR ROB



Dear Friends.

We have now entered the season of the church year known as Advent. Advent is a time of self-reflection and preparation prior to Christmas, the day of Jesus' birth. It is a time of great anticipation and excitement. All very good, but the danger is that in all the eagerness, we can begin celebrating Christmas before it is even on the horizon.

Of course, the commercial drivers of our economically-obsessed world draw us in, because Christmas is a real money spinner. The earlier the money starts rolling in the better. The trouble is, it rips the heart out of the season as the deeper meaning and joy are turned into excesses and personal over-indulgence as the profit margins of the big corporations swell.

But the real danger is that, if we fail to properly prepare through the season of Advent, then Christmas loses its deep ability to transform our souls – all we get is some superficial fluffiness that will be long since departed once January arrives.

To take faith seriously requires asking some really searching questions of oneself. It means looking at the very deep parts of ourselves, even those parts we have been hiding for years. Rather than speaking sweet-nothings into our ears, Jesus speaks eternal truths. He doesn't tell us what we want to hear, he tells us what we need to hear. To follow Jesus means a complete change of lifestyle and that change is ongoing throughout our life. Just when we think we have nailed it, so God reveals to us new parts of ourselves that need the corners knocking off. We know somehow that the person God is calling is the real 'me', but we fear facing up to the false parts, the parts we so often revel and delight in.

The Christmas story cuts right to the heart of what it means to be human. It reveals psychological and spiritual truth that is impossible to run away from. Think of the people who recognise Jesus' true divine identity first.

His mother – a pregnant single teenager from a faithful but poor family, only married to her betrothed weeks before the birth. The husband is not the boy's real father. But, there is no doubt that Jesus (God in human form) transforms her whole being as she becomes the mother of God and in turn now mothers humanity for an eternity through her Son.

Shepherds in the field – uneducated, simple of living (and mind?) and outcasts from society. Dirty, poor, only good for chasing off wolves. And yet it is this simple living and undistracted life that enables them to see Jesus for who he is, God's Son.

Wise Men from the East – foreigners with strange customs. Feared by the native people of the land, open to false accusations and little respected. The king uses his power over them to try and trick them into being his spies. But their preparation and hope leading up to them spotting the star, mixed with their vulnerability of travelling through a strange land, help them to see this Jesus with clarity, instantly recognising him as a gift from God and giving him gifts in return.

King Herod – a jealous, judgemental and manipulative king who sees the baby Jesus as a threat. His fear and anger blind him from seeing the goodness and the wider truth. He too recognises who Jesus is, but is too afraid of the change Jesus will bring to his comfortable world, and so he refuses to move closer to God. Selfishly worried only for his own status and earthly power, he commits terrible atrocities, all the while turning his soul black.

As we gaze into the crib on Christmas morning, we find a little child's kindly, loving eyes gazing back at us. This child can be a gateway into a living hope that transforms lives and whole societies. The Christ-child, Jesus, imparts such goodness that it can cleanse the depths of our souls. This gentle gift from God has the power to heal us. We must not be too afraid to move closer. Do not fear what he may find and bring out into the open in order to heal it. Do not turn away and return to self-destructive ways.

If we can bear to let him in, things become so very different. A cleansed soul is a freed soul – able to live in truth and love. But this deep healing and joy doesn't happen with a fleeting glimpse once or twice a year, it requires commitment to the continual journey. This Advent, be careful of jumping straight into Christmas without first walking the self-reflective way of the season. Take time to properly prepare, though self-examination and prayer and come one second past midnight on the morning of Christ's Mass, the joy of the season will truly be yours. All the burdens of the soul will be lifted, the darkness that so often overshadows the vision will be removed and the fear that clings so closely will be banished from the heart.

May the Holy Family in poverty by the manger inspire you this Christmas and may the simplicity of a baby born to transform and save the world be ever your strength and guide.

With every blessing this Advent and Christmas,

Fr Rob

WEAVERS GREEN LATEST: PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

Readers of the Box River News will recall that on 17th June Babergh's planning committee resolved (by 6 votes to 3) to approve the grant of outline planning permission to Catesby Estates for 64 houses on land at Sand Hill, adjacent to Station Field. [See BRN, August 2020, page 1]. The formal resolution was: "That authority be delegated to the Chief Planning Officer to grant outline planning permission subject to the prior completion of a Section 106 Legal Agreement on terms to their satisfaction to secure the following heads of terms..." The heads of terms included the following:

- 35 % affordable housing
- Creation of footway from the bottom of Sand Hill, into Cox Hill junction and Ellis Street
- Community Building consisting of a Unit to be set on an area of no less than 0.08Ha
- Development contribution consisting of: - £107,520 (Schools Transport)

Conditional planning permission has now been granted. A copy, dated 11 December 2020, was e-mailed to the clerk to Boxford Parish Council at 3.43 pm that day. The decision notice grants outline planning permission for "Erection of up to 64 no. dwellings and provision of land for a community building (Use Class D1)". The decision, with the full list of conditions, can be downloaded from the planning pages of the Babergh website (*type in application number DC/20/00330*). Other than access, all other matters are reserved, with, broadly, application for approval of reserved matters to be made within 18 months after 23 January 2021.

The Parish Council, who opposed the application, has already taken legal advice on the prospects of success of a judicial review (JR) challenge to the decision. Any such challenge is likely to focus on whether the planning committee were misled about (i) the ability to provide a proper footpath in Ellis Street in view of the road width, and (ii) whether Catesby were promising to provide a community building or only land for such a building (there is an obvious conflict between the terms of the planning permission and one of the heads of terms of the section 106 agreement). To date, the parish council has not seen the section 106 agreement, but is pressing for a copy. If the council does make a JR application, notice of this will be posted on the council website: www.boxfordsuffolk.com/BoxfordParishCouncil/planning.

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Gardening in January

Inspired by

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 pergola's 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 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 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 no more than to the level of the grit. The water tray will also help create the right humidity around the plant and prevent leaf drop.

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 it full depth. This will help the surface water to drain away.

Your lawn is a great contributor to the welfare of the environment. That's a net reduction in carbon emissions from a great play area that can look great and that acts as an interesting foil to colour flower borders. A well-tended lawn will not only absorb 0.5 tonnes of carbon per acre per year they also absorb heat and prevent wasteful water run off. As grass now seem; to grow throughout the year, it can soon grow long in patches and look untidy during winter. To keep the grass length reasonable a mid-winter cut during a mild spell in January is a valuable job. Best results will be achieved if you cut the grass on a dry afternoon when dew has dried.

During frosty weather, try to keep everyone off the grass. Trampling over a lawn that is white with ice crystals will bruise the grass leaves and leave behind dark footprints that will be visible for a couple of months.

While most plants are dormant, it's a good time to prune back rampant climbers to reduce leaf growth and to ensure they bloom well. Do this now while the plant is dormant. The tangled growth of late flowering clematis can also be cut back to within a few inches of the soil, thus encouraging strong new shoots and taking away any growth that continues to carry any powdery mildew on the dead leaves.

Newly arrived bare root roses and fruit trees can be "heeled in" by covering the roots in compost in a container in a cool, frost-free place until the ground defrosts. It is fine to prune fruit trees in frosty weather. If it's when you have most time, prune hardy foliage plants now, too.

Remove any snow-damaged branches from shrubs and small trees, cutting cleanly back to a healthy branch or the trunk. Partly broken branches you can try to wrap or bolt together, but they are highly unlikely to rejoin and may attract fungal problems. Wound paints are not recommended.

There's no need to clear ice from ponds. Oxygen will still be available for wildlife and plants. Fish may benefit from extra oxygen, so keep the pump running to prevent freezing.

Control small flies (fungus gnats) in houseplant compost by applying Westland Plant Rescue Bug Killer Ornamental Plants as a compost drench. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,



As it happened, our return journey to Suffolk went pretty much as planned, with no significant delays or problems. Even the weather was kind to us, though the extent of the rain that had been falling while we were away was evident by the swollen doors and gates back at home which took some effort to open. Of course, the snow that fell just a few days after we got back was a bit of a shock to the system – particularly to Boris the terrier who hates getting wet.

We returned to our routine fairly swiftly, with regular fires and the odd Zoom meeting, though under quarantine rules it was socially a bit dull. At least meeting with people through the facility of the

World Wide Web delivers a bit of social interaction. This proved quite important as we were unable to attend the first church service in our village because of self-isolation, but were able instead to connect with the church in Portugal. Indeed, I'm due to read a lesson on the Sunday after I write this piece. Isn't modern technology remarkable.

Talking of modern technology, I was able to attend an online conference using the Webex system. As you might expect, it was on the topic of investment, but specifically how the pandemic was affecting various industries. Healthcare and Retail were featured, but the most interesting amongst them was Technology, clearly one of the winners in the upheaval that accompanied all the measures introduced to combat coronavirus. And the way in which technology is affecting other industries is something of which we all need to be aware.

Let's take our shopping habits as an example. We all know that online purchases have been making inroads into traditional buying patterns, but the pandemic accelerated this trend to an amazing extent. Ten years ago, it appeared that shopping through the internet accounted for just 5% of retail sales. By the beginning of 2020 this had grown to a little under a fifth of all purchases. The lockdown introduced in March this year caused a massive leap in online buying. By the end of the spring, more than a third of all our purchases were conducted online.

True, the easing of restrictions in the summer did see more of our buying power directed into physical shops, but even so around 30% of retail sales had migrated to online. Moreover, with some 20% of those buying through the internet being first time purchasers, it was clear that a trend already established had received a massive boost from the restrictions imposed to fight coronavirus. The implications for the high street are enormous. Witness the recent demise of Debenhams and Arcadia, the shop brands of which include such long standing names as Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop, Miss Selfridge and Burtons.

But interestingly, the retail analyst speculating on the future of the retail sector was far from negative on the likely outcome for those shops and stores with which we are so familiar. The pandemic has encouraged a move towards shopping locally, which is no bad thing for a variety of reasons. Aside from supporting what are very often local businesses, it should encourage fewer journeys being taken to city centres and retail parks, cutting back on emissions and saving money for shoppers.

Then there could be a blending of offerings from companies able to embrace both online and physical shopping. We know that one of the reasons that several well-known names on the high street have collapsed is that their business model failed to embrace internet shopping. Those companies able to incorporate both options could well have a bright future, according to this analyst. We are, after all, a sociable people. Visiting shops so that we can meet with friends and perhaps have a drink or coffee together will most likely return once the tough restrictions currently in place have been eased.

So, I emerged from the first ever virtual conference I've attended feeling heartened by the message delivered. Healthcare seems set to absorb an increasing proportion of the national budget across a wide range of nations as a consequence of recent events. Shopping will change more rapidly as a result of the developments of the past year, but will remain a core activity for us all. As for technology, make no mistake, it will be changing all our lives in a variety of ways at an increasing pace as the years unfold. Embrace the future. It will certainly be different, but shouldn't be that bad, once we shrug off this Covid-19 pestilence.

Brian Tora

'BOY TEDDY'

Part 3 A Wartime Christmas"

Christmases were something else, they were fantastic. With visits to Gamage's, Hamley's, Selfridges and Jones and Higgin's the build up to Christmas took place from about mid November onwards. There were very few toys available in the shops and Christmas 1942 was a memorable one because of an American wartime film called Holiday Inn. In it Bing Crosby sang White Christmas which became the second most popular Christmas song after Silent Night. Irving Berlin the songs writer said in bewilderment at it's extraordinary success "It came out at a time we were at war and it became a peace song in wartime - a meaning I never intended". For the millions involved in the war Christmas developed a special poignance recalling peace time, contentment, and goodwill and. The goodwill could be felt, I felt it, the warmth that I as a child was able to experience is with me until today and I only have to think back to the wartime Christmases to get into a very sentimental mood not generated since. Despite visits to all the best known toy shops in London there were great shortages of books and toys but I never went without. Food and drink could have been a problem but we were fortunate. Having a pub we had drink to trade with. Dad would not like me to say that but the local traders were a close community and the Herne was their local and we were never without a turkey from Cranfield's at Christmas and Dads pigs in Nelson's Bakery provided a joint and sausages. Mrs Pardoe supplied the Vegetables as also did our garden with tomatoes that had been wrapped for the occasion. Mum used every bit of the Turkey to make brawn, a beautifully tasteful clear brown jelly with meat in it that you might otherwise not eat. The making of the Christmas pudding, well laced with rum and beer, was a major ceremony with all of us needing to stir the pudding and make a wish. Mince pies were produced in quantity and a cake was baked and left to stand with brandy being introduced at intervals prior to icing. Some of the ingredients used were changed and carrots were in fashion but I knew nothing better and it was all magic.

Dad ran a loan club throughout the war and after. I do not know if they still operate in pubs now but the principle was that members had a paying in book and paid certain amounts in each week throughout the year. The club acted like a bank and if you wanted to borrow money it would be lent at a rate of interest to be paid out before the books were closed before Christmas. If you did not borrow money you could be penalised and get less back at the end of the year than those who had. Monies were also invested in a bank at the usual bank rate. Christmas was really heralded when the loan club officers and auditors would arrive at the Heme and spend the whole day calculating how much each member should get and counting this out and putting it into envelopes.

That night the bar would be full as members collected their Christmas money and of course start to spend it at the bar. I would be allowed to help by counting out the pennies and halfpennies that were supplied in the shilling bags by the bank into stacks of shillings to save time later. At the end of the day Dad would present me with my club money, always a ten shilling note in an envelope addressed to me. This was for me to buy Christmas presents to hand out on Christmas day and it's surprising how far that ten shillings would go. I still get a special warm feeling whenever I see a ten Shilling note at an antiques and collectors fair.

Because we lived over the pub Christmas began early with the decorating of the bars. Christmas decorations were not available in the shops and so pre war stuff was taken out of the loft and supplemented with paper chains made out of coloured paper and Flower Paste. We would all sit for hours making lengths of chain for use in the home as well as in the bar and this became quite a family occasion with the decorating of the bar becoming a bit of a party with friends joining in. Cuttings of laurel, holly and other evergreen bushes and shrubs were provided by friendly park keepers and these would be strung together in long garlands across the bar. We were never without a Christmas tree and sometimes these would be lit by candle but only for short periods because of the fire hazard. Dad always had piped music available with a collection of 78's for most occasions and of course 'White Christmas' was top of the list. The whole atmosphere was warm and friendly, especially towards children and the Herne's festivities culminated in singing and dancing until after midnight with 'Knees Up Mother Brown' in the public bar almost bringing the house down. Most Christmases my bedroom was on the top floor on the side of the house over the Public bar and Darts room. This was where most of the singing and dancing occurred but with one whole floor between

me and the noise I was able to get to sleep eventually, or so everyone thought. The chances of my getting to sleep before Father Christmas came were very slim. After supper on Christmas eve mum would stick me in the bath and tell me tales of Christmas past when she was a little girl and generally try to calm me down. Every Christmas I would have gone through a ritual of searching every nook and cranny, under Mums bed, in the wardrobe, down in the wine cellar, up in the loft, in the dark room (a long narrow room without windows used as a box room and with the ladder leading to the massive loft.) in all the chests of drawers and anywhere that presents could have been hidden. I had plenty of opportunity to do this without detection because both Mum and Dad would be working in the bar together during this busy period. I would always manage to find some of the things that were to go into my pillow case but these would have been so heavily wrapped that identification would be difficult so I was always very very excited on Christmas eve. Clean suitably powdered and armed with a gleaming white fresh ironed pillow case I would make my way to bed. I do not remember any raids that took place over the Christmas period until towards the end of the war when Adolf was getting worried so a good nights sleep was possible but never achieved until after midnight.

Christmas 1942 was no exception, Dolly was with us this being her last Christmas with us before she joined the Wrens and went off to Ceylon (see annex 1) . I did not sleep, there was so much going on in the house, We'll Meet Again, Pack Up Your Troubles, When The Lights Go On Again, Lille Marlene, Roll Out The Barrel, Nellie Dean, and other songs too many to mention reverberated throughout the house culminating in a final session of dancing The Hokey Kokey and Knees Up Mother Brown with at least three encores finishing off with The Conga which was the only time the public bars mixed with the Saloon and Lounge Bars. The Bars would be cleared by about 12.30 am and some attempt would be made to clear up the enormous mess left behind, cash up, stoke up the fires and boilers with dampers down and have a final Christmas drink with the staff before mounting the stairs for bed. I was able to judge what was going on and would become more and more excited. I wanted to believe in Father Christmas, after all I had met him and written letters to him, but I knew it was going to be Dad that finally delivered the filled pillow case to the side of my bed. Finally, with all the lights out I would hear the treads of the stairs creaking and my excitement began to build up. I could see a torch being flashed just outside the ill fitting door and the nob turned. The floor boards in my room creaked like mad and with only lino covering them Dad had great difficulty keeping quiet. By now I had faced the wall with my head under the bed clothes holding my breath listening to every move and the rustle of paper wrappings in the pillow case. Finally the full pillow case would be deposited just at the side of my bed and the empty one removed and all would be silent except for the gentle re-assuring mumbles of Mum and Dad chatting together quietly in their bedroom below. After a short interval of time out went my hand to see if I could feel anything. It was not possible to undo the pillow case without Mum and Dad knowing and if I got out of bed they would hear me so a slow gentle feel all over the outside was carried out. It was rare for me to be able to tell what was in the packages but I assured myself that all was in order, it was full to the brim and only then did I get to sleep.

Sleep lasted no more than four and a half hours and by 5.30am I would be wide awake and with the coming daylight and curtains drawn back I was able to start to examine the outside of the Pillow case in more detail. Some things could be easily recognised, sweets, fruit, balls, and books but others had been packed so as to disguise them. John and Sylvia were of course excited about Christmas but John at eleven and sylvia in her teens were relegated to Christmas socks rather than sacks. We were gathered together by Auntie Dolly outside my room and it was there that I discovered another huge present. I could not wait and tore the wrappings off it to discover a perfect miniature Barrel organ with proper handle for turning, wheels and a collection of tunes one of which was considered suitable for 5.45 am in the morning. Dolly helped me down the stairs to the door of Mum and Dads room and we were gathered in almost silence waiting for the nod from Dolly who had decided that the kettle had to be put on first. At six o'clock I turned the handle of the barrel organ and we all began to sing a Christmas Carol. Dad opened the door and we all excitedly bundled in. I climbed into my place on the bed between mum and dad, the electric fire was turned on to warm the

room and whilst waiting for the tea to come in I was allowed to open my Pillow case and remove one present. I have no idea what it was but despite the war Dad always excelled himself, most of the presents being second hand bought by deals over the bar, at jumble sales, through ads in the paper or made by a customer, I was a very lucky little boy. After our cups of tea, (and Dolly could down tea by the gallon I think that must be why she was posted to Ceylon) I would continue to open the presents from my pillow case and John and Sylvia would join in with gifts being handed round to everyone present until all had been exhausted, or almost exhausted because there were always other presents on the Christmas tree that I had examined in great detail over the last few days. These tree presents were not to be opened until after Christmas Dinner.

Breakfast was a big affair, usually as full an English breakfast as one could get during the war, Sausages and Bacon from the pigs, Eggs from our hens and tomatoes from the green house that had been wrapped green and allowed to ripen on the window sill just before Christmas. Lashings of tea and toast and home made jams and a blend of butter and margarine to make the ration go further. After breakfast I played with my toys but also spent some time in the bar with Dad and the others getting the place clean and stocked up for the lunch time opening. One of the things I had been quick to learn was how careless folk could get after a few drinks. Around the Saloon Bar counter was a narrow tiled strip about 9 inches wide and then another rubber matted strip about 2 feet six inches wide contained within a shallow well. This was about half an inch thick, in three feet long sections for ease of cleaning and had holes in which were about one inch in diameter. These holes were big enough for half pennies, thrupenny pieces, Sixpence and Shilling coins to fall in and get trapped, larger coins would either stay on top or get kicked into the tiled area. I soon became aware that by lifting the mat sections I could collect quite a lot of money on a good night and this helped to supplement my pocket money of three pence a week.

The bars had to be swept, the floors mopped down, fires raked and stoked up, counters washed and polished, glasses sorted. The shelves had to be stocked with bottled beer and mineral waters, pipes cleaned and new barrels tapped ready. During the war the slops, over fills from glasses, and sometimes the contents of half empty glasses, would be tipped into a bucket and poured back into the barrels. Barrels would be emptied and the hops used as fertiliser on the gardens, ashtrays would be emptied onto the fires and empty bottles crated ready for collection, there was no waste during the war. The bar opened at 12.00, Sunday opening hours, and closed again at 2.00pm. It had been full of men getting away from their kids and their wives for a couple of hours peace and quiet!.. After a quick tidy up Christmas could begin in earnest and we did not open again until Boxing Day.

By the time all the bar work was finished Mum was ready to serve Christmas Dinner, Crackers were pulled, party hats worn, scarce wine poured, and the feast began. We were not short of anything and the meal was polished off with a large helping of Christmas pudding and Brandy Sauce, then came one of the recognised highlights of war time Christmases, The Kings Speech. Absolute silence greeted the broadcast. The King always had problems making a speech but as the war went on so he improved and it was always a great moral booster, I don't remember much about it because all I wanted to do was to get down from the table and play with my toys until it was time for the Christmas tree presents to be distributed. The table would be cleared and Nellie, a pensioner who lived nearby and had worked for us for some years, having shared our meal, did the washing up whilst we gathered round the fire in the lounge for the present distribution. Nellie was well paid for her help and usually went home clutching a bottle of Brandy.

John and I with a little help from Sylvia used to do the tree present distribution and despite the fact that these gifts were quite small we had great fun opening them however simple they might be. There was always a special centre piece that Dad had prepared and on this occasion it took the form of a large drum with string pulls on each side. John and I took one of each of the pulls and on the command from dad pulled in opposite directions. The drum burst open distributing a large number of cotton wool snow balls around the room each of which provided a small gift. The greatest fun was had with a mock snowball fight that went on for some time until one of us got hurt. then it was time for a rest, a nice cup of tea and chestnuts baked on the open fire. You would never believe it was war time.

It always seemed to be one long round of eating, God knows where it all came from, Mum must have been saving coupons for ages to provide the spread for Christmas day. Of course I am seeing Christmas from a child's point of view and what would seem to be a mountain of food to me might not be quite the same for adults holding back for the

children. However our next meal was tea with jellies, blancmange, the cream collected from the top of the milk and the Christmas cake lit over all with candles for me to blow out. I never had the cake, only about as much of the icing as I could eat after removing the marzipan. Whilst this was being cleared some of us would go down to the bar to play shove halfpenny, darts, bar billiards, bar skittles or make use of the space to try out some of the toys we had received. Roller skates, toy cars, tricycles etc Went well on the tiled bar floors and ball games could be played like a kind of soft ball tennis, cricket and even indoor snowballs and fireworks, the later being made out of magnesium sulphur and the caps off matches.

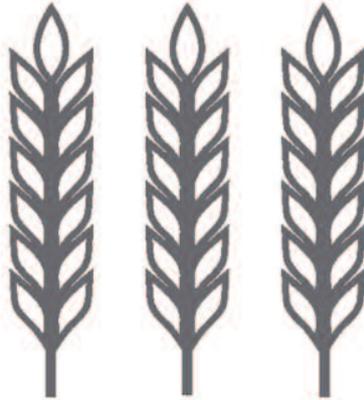
Upstairs again for the evening of games usually starting with Monopoly which could go on for hours. I can remember one Christmas when a game of Monopoly went on for three days on and off. I had to be helped but as with most games I played in If I lost I tended to sulk and Dolly would go on at me about being a bad loser until she lost and the boot would be on the other foot. Mum never seemed able to understand any of the games we played, she joined in but somehow managed to get everything wrong which added to the noise we created. None of our games were quiet, especially when Dolly was around. She knew everything, she could answer any quiz question by going on for ages about how she knew the answer, "It's on the tip of my tongue, wait, wait I know it for sure, I said it only the other day, Gladys, you remember, it's on the tip of my tongue" etc etc. her excitement knew no bounds and she kept us all amused as well as frustrated. Eventually the monopoly board would be put to one side to clear up later and the game either declared over or just on hold and out would come the horses. We always played a horse racing game with dice and a Jong track marked out with spaces for each move. There were six horses and John Sylvia and I would be the jockeys, or at least tried to against the odds when Dolly was there bless her. Each horse was numbered from one up to six, the first throw of the dice chose the horse, the second throw determined how many moves forward it would go until one of the horses crossed the finishing line. Dad would bring out one of the banks blue bags full of copper and this enabled bets to be fairly low with maximum stakes established as the evening went on. No one made a fortune and this was one game I used to do quite well at, especially since Dad would stake me to start with. Then out came the cards and pontoon was played seriously until midnight. Whilst all this was going on the sweet ration, hot chestnuts, crisps and other goodies were washed down with beer and spirits by the adults and occasionally 'Hot at the end' for me. This was what I called ginger wine which remains my favourite Christmas drink to this day, especially with a we dram of Whisky, a Whiskey Mac by another name, makes all colds tolerable.

A little before midnight Mum would disappear and at about 15 minutes after we would have our first meal of Boxing day. The dining room table would be weighed down with all the left overs from dinner, turkey pork, ham, sausages, stuffing plus salads, potato salad (always referred to as Russian salad by Mum), pickles, many of them home made, red cabbage, pickled walnuts, pickled onions by the ton, cold Christmas pudding and mince pies and brandy sauce and out would come Mums favourite liquor, 'Green Chartreuse' in slender glasses. This became my second favourite Christmas drink. We also always had Sauterne and Graves on the table, these and a few bottles of Champaign were kept for our personal use in the wine cellar, the Champaign being kept to celebrate Victory whenever it came. All managed to survive the bomb and flooding that had occurred earlier. A new set of Christmas crackers would be provided and silly hats were again the order of the day. Supper, as this late meal was called, went on for an hour or so at the end of which, despite very loud protests I would be prepared for bed. The preparations took some time as I would keep remembering things I had to do but eventually I would be passed around for the obligatory good night kisses and bundled upstairs to bed. I had no problem falling asleep on Boxing morning.

Boxing day was quite different. The Herne would open for fairly normal hours with an extension for the evening and I would take the opportunity of trying out toys, taking walks in the park to see football matches, seeing my friends to compare our Christmas day and of course eating, traditionally Boxing day roast pork day with all the trimmings followed by Christmas Pudding and mince pies of course. With Mum and Dad in the bar the evening was not quite as noisy as Christmas day and Monopoly marathons tended to be the norm.

However after closing Dad would sometimes invite a few friends in and on one memorable occasion all the bar staff were included in our Boxing day celebrations. Games were extended to include 'Murder' 'Sardines' 'Dancing; and a good deal more drinking than on Christmas day.

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Combining Service with Safety

By the time this goes to print we can only hope that the second lockdown rules will have had an effect and it will be possible for all of us to have more freedom of movement. Until then everyone has had to re-think their daily routines to help prevent the spread of the Covid virus. The frontline services have had to be even more vigilant and at a local level this includes the Hadleigh and Boxford Health Centre. As ever it is a juggling act to maintain safety without jeopardising patients' health needs. For this reason the Practice has had to adapt to current circumstances so that they can continue safely but still ensure patients' access to vital services. The use of telephone and video consultations with clinicians has greatly helped to reduce the number of personal visits. Although, rest assured, a face to face consultation is always possible if felt necessary after the initial triage. At Boxford this is available four mornings a week.

Apart from personal telephone and video consultations, a wide variety of other medical services are still available as follows.

- Blood tests • Cervical smears • Coils • Dressings • ECGs
- Long term condition reviews as above
- Medication reviews either via telephone or face to face
- Suture removal • Vaccinations – for non-travel reasons.

Hopefully patients will appreciate the need and reasons for the current changes so that their access to healthcare, during these unprecedented times, will not be compromised and everyone's safety including the NHS, is also assured.

Hadleigh and Boxford PPG:- hadleighboxfordppg@gmail.com

www.hadleighhealth.co.uk/hadleigh-health-centre

www.facebook.com/Hadleigh-Boxford-Group-Practice-

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THE MEMBERS OF THE HADLEIGH AND BOXFORD PPG

WISH YOU ALL THE VERY BEST FOR 2021.

Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice

Patients Participation Group (PPG)

The present member of the PPG who takes a particular interest in the Boxford area has moved to Hadleigh and the PPG would like to recruit a new member who lives in Boxford, Groton or Edwardstone.

Details of the PPG can be found on the practice website under the heading 'Patient Group'. Meetings (currently held on Zoom) are every two months on Tuesdays from 10.00-12.00.

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Growing up in Lindsey, Suffolk in the 1920s
by Harry Buckledee

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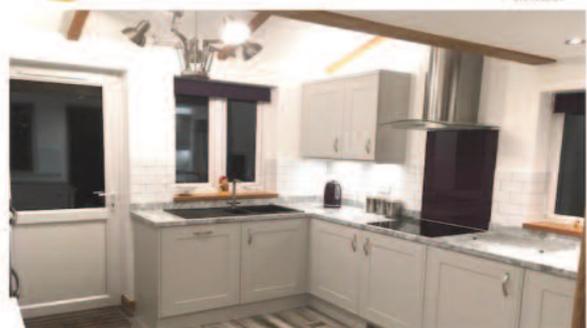
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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

> COVID 19 up – date - Current infection rates and pressure on county's hospitals among reasons for Suffolk entering tier two restrictions

Suffolk's current COVID infection rates, local hotspots and pressure on hospitals are among the reasons why the county has entered tier two local restrictions on Wednesday 2 December.

Following the decision by central Government to place Suffolk in the High Alert Tier 2, public sector organisations in Suffolk have set out their goal to get the county out of local restrictions as quickly as possible. They have also moved to help residents, business owners and employees to understand the restrictions that will apply across the county, and the reasons for them.

Stuart Keeble, Suffolk's director of public health, said: "I fully understand that many people will be disappointed that Suffolk has not emerged from the national restrictions in a lower tier, or indeed no tier at all. I am too. Suffolk has done well at keeping our infection rates lower than many other areas in the country, and for that I would like to thank people for what they have done.

"The facts facing us today are clear however. With current infection rates and pressure being put on health services, we need to do more of what we have been doing. We need to stick with it.

"We know what we need to do to get Suffolk back on track. Every one of us needs to keep following the rules to stop the spread of COVID-19. We need to ensure our hospitals can continue to care for people who urgently need help, including those without COVID. We need to be responsible today for a better tomorrow."

Rachel Kearton, Suffolk's deputy chief constable and chair of the group of public sector organisations leading the fight against COVID-19 in the county, said: "This week's news about the success of COVID vaccine trials shows us clearly that there is light at the end of this tunnel, but there is still some way to go.

"Suffolk has been at the forefront of following Government guidance and it is precisely that which has kept infection rates relevantly low for so long.

"Now is not the time to give up and deviate from our course. Now is precisely the time to keep following the rules and stop the spread of COVID-19, so that we can get back to the social freedoms we miss so very much." As From Wednesday 2 December 2020, people in Suffolk are able to:

- Meet a maximum of six people from other households outdoors.
- Go to pubs and bars operating as restaurants with people from your household or support bubble, consuming alcohol but only with a substantial meal,
- Go shopping but whilst wearing a mask in indoor public spaces and respecting social distancing rules.
- Attend schools, college or university.
- Make use of early years childcare.
- Go to the gym or leisure centre, while following their guidance.
- Get a haircut or personal care treatments, while following their guidance.
- Stay overnight with their household or support bubble.
- Attend a wedding, civil partnership or wake of up to 15 guests or funerals of up to 30 mourners.
- Attend entertainment and sporting events, while following their guidance and capacity limits.
- Visit places of worship, whilst following their guidance.
- Take part in exercise classes or organised adult sport outdoors.
- Visit a loved one in a care or nursing home, if allowed locally and while following their guidance.

Until the position changes, we will not be able to:

- Meet people from other households or support bubbles indoors.
- Visit pubs and bars not serving food.
- Stay overnight with people from another household or support bubble.
- Exercise indoors with people from another household or support bubble if there is any interaction between them.
- Everyone is encouraged to work from home and limit their journeys where possible.

More local up to date data and graphics can be found in the Suffolk Coronawatch website via the Suffolk data dashboard – see page 6 and zoom into Suffolk. - <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch>

> **Initial report published about Special Educational Needs Development (SEND) services during the COVID-19 pandemic following Ofsted and CQC visits to local authorities** On 23 November, an initial report was published by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on the support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suffolk was visited by Ofsted and the CQC in October, as one of eighteen local authorities taking part in the study. The purpose of the visits is for Ofsted and the CQC to gather evidence to inform future national improvements for children and young people with SEND across Education, Health and Care. This was not an inspection of Suffolk County Council (SCC) or Health Services.

The overall aim of these visits was to:

- Support the local area to understand the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with SEND and their families.
- Find out what has worked well for children and young people during this time, what the challenges have been, and what lessons have been learned.
- Work with the local area to identify opportunities for improvement that address the challenges faced by children and young people with SEND.
- Highlight best practice case studies and share insights nationally to promote whole system learning.

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

At this time of year I would like to wish that everybody has as good a Christmas as they can and if we do one thing it is that we should remember those that are alone over this festive period, also those who are short of the normal basic necessities of life like food, money, warm clothing and having a job to go to.

We should also look to and thank those in key roles and public services who have kept us all as safe as they can over this worrying period, if we have learnt one lesson it should be that it is these workers, often on quite low salaries, who are the real heroes of our society.

I would also like to pay tribute to all the members of my six Parish Councils who have continued to meet regularly throughout the Coronavirus outbreak and make decisions on behalf of all of us, keep the bills paid and see that parish matters run as well as they can for all of us. They have also well supported myself in my battles with bureaucracy and poor decision making further up the national government chain. Local Government has risen to the challenge of helping as many residents as it can during this year and has largely succeeded in giving grants to local businesses and bill breaks where applicable to make sure that not one single person is evicted and forced to live on the street. Also, that everyone has had a means of putting some food on the table, even if as in a few cases they have crept out in the darkness to take what they need, given what can be spared by others, from local foodbanks across the Babergh District.

While local democracy and governance has been a revelation, national government certainly has not. Never in my lifetime has so much time been lost in achieving so little by those who know so little and yet have taken so much.

This surely has not gone unnoticed by so many who now feel shocked, humiliated and embarrassed at what our so called leaders have done to this once great country which I fear will now have a long period in the world wilderness with little chance to sit at any world table.

As I have said before if you elect clowns to high office you will surely just get a circus.

This coming year will surely be an economic shocker with mass unemployment, the hemorrhaging of business from these shores, a decline in our agriculture and severe rises in prices for our food and basic necessities. We will locally have to dig very deep to maintain our local services, support our vulnerable residents and just get by until stability returns, which could take a very long time, maybe even a generation.

The cavalry coming over the horizon could be the new vaccines which will give us hope and keep us safe to tackle all the other problems coming up fast. I do feel that the increasing interest in politics and just getting involved by younger people will bode us well and bring us some environmental benefits and common sense, why destroy the planet that we call our home? Also, the common sense non-political stance taken by a young Marcus Rashford was a joy to see, not that he had much opposition to his cause as his opponent was as usual whacking the ball repeatedly into his own net.

The voices of children, young people and families were gathered through case studies and via a survey. Ofsted and the CQC also spoke to the education health and care professionals who work with young people with SEND.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about challenges for everyone, but for children and young people with SEND it has been a particularly difficult time. SCC's SEND team and colleagues from across the system, including Suffolk Parent Carer Network, have worked tirelessly to support families during this uncertain time and I would like to thank them for their hard work.

SCC were pleased to take part in the visit and share what we have learnt over this time. The findings of the report will help us to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people with SEND across the UK and identify opportunities for improvement over the next year.

A national report will be published in spring 2021, reporting the learning from visits across all eighteen areas.

formal care settings, to help them, their families and care providers stay in touch during the coronavirus pandemic.

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And Finally

*******Christmas Greetings*******

May I wish you all a very Happy Family Christmas and a Healthy & Peaceful New Year James Finch, County Councillor Stour Valley Division

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Emerging Policy Ideas

The Boxford Neighbourhood Plan when completed will belong to all those living within our parish boundary. Indeed, when the process is near its final stages, a referendum of the whole village will be held to seek endorsement of the plan. The steering group, Hugh Phillips and myself as co-chairmen, Roger Loose and Andrew Good and a professional consultant, Andrea Long, are determined that our work will be as transparent as possible. We seek the involvement of village residents throughout the process and hope to obtain your approval at key stages. Our enthusiasm and resolve will be strengthened if as many as possible think we are on the right lines; we will certainly shudder to a halt if we are not!

We have made considerable progress recently and have reached a key stage with the latest 'Emerging Policy Ideas' paper. We hope it is presented in a readable and illustrated way that allows you to see the approach to various subjects and the developing objectives. Boxford as we know it has its historical core, around which it developed, and a number of other distinctive housing communities, which taken together make it the cohesive and vibrant village that we know. Our aim is not to preserve it in a way that might herald a slow decline, but rather to nudge it forward so that it continues to be a place for people and families of all ages. Insofar as we can influence future planning, protection of Boxford's heritage must go hand in hand with helping younger, current, and future residents onto the housing ladder. The heartbeat of the village isn't its buildings but its people. We will always need to help those who aspire to stay in Boxford, become the parents of the future who will support our school, church, clubs, societies, and businesses and provide their lifeblood. Such an aim we feel might be best served by small developments providing a route into the housing market; perhaps a combination of rented, shared ownership and owner occupier.

An example might be useful. Station Fields, when first mooted, met the kind of opposition all largish developments attract in rural areas. Yet most might agree that it has become an agreeable and important part of the village, without at all despoiling the landscape as some feared. We would hope that a handful of small developments with a lesser number of houses, but sympathetically designed to fit the landscape and/or in available infill locations, could satisfy the future housing need. As you read through the boxes and objectives we hope you can see how this aspiration might be delivered over time and how we hope to keep centre stage in planners' mind the key factors of congestion, pedestrian access, parking, potential flooding, the importance of our landscape, its views in and out of the village and of course our existing buildings.

The plan itself cannot make any policy that is binding on local or national authorities. Our principal aim is to provide a coherent voice for Boxford's hopes and aspirations that planners and developers will seek to follow. When finished, it will be yours! Please read through and give us your feedback.

Please pass this on to anyone you think might miss it to help us prevent the planning process being lengthened by the necessary Covid 19 restraints on large gatherings. Hard copies will be available at the Post Office, the White Hart and the Box River Cafe. Contact the email address below if you want a separate digital or hard copy.

Do send in your comments and we will try to answer your questions, using professional consultants if need be. Please email us at boxfordnp@gmail.com.

The Pandemic was over the horizon when we set out on the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan project well over a year ago. In normal circumstances the process would already have included a public meeting or two, sharing emerging thoughts with all interested parties and residents in the



village hall. Of course this hasn't been possible and, as with so many activities, we need to use digital means of communication to reach as many as possible.

Can you suggest any features of Boxford that should be protected in the Plan, but which are not already "listed" nationally? The ancient and unusual Sarsen stone at the foot of the Croft is a good example in need of protection and perhaps the Village Sign on Broad Street. Can you think of any more? The Old Gaol is already "listed" and most trees in the parish are protected.

Roger Loose

To read the document in full and discover the policies we have in mind, please go to:

<https://www.boxfordsuffolk.com/boxford-neighbourhood-plan>



Our Emerging Policy Ideas

Housing Needs

Size? Type?
Good Eco
Design?

Sustainable homes

Ready for
climate change

Better access

Safety for cars,
pedestrians and
cyclists

Protect the historic centre

Retain community facilities

Green spaces

Protect scenic views

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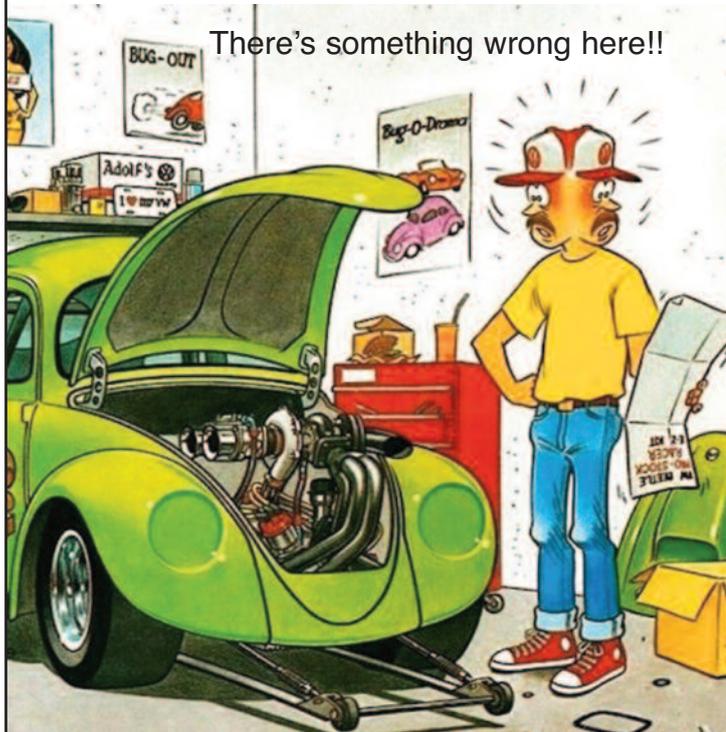
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