

January 2022

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CAROLS 'ROUND THE TREE...

On Monday 6th December around 40 gallant villagers braved the winter weather and gathered around the tree outside the White Hart to sing carols and Christmas songs. Although cold and a little wet, it was a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed a community get-together and sing-a-long to get into the festive mood. Our huge thanks must go to Julie, Bex and the team at the White Hart for providing mulled wine and mince pies and making us all so welcome with a warm and friendly pub to defrost in afterwards!

Ward Baker
Chairman Boxford Community Council
boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com



...AND 'ROUND THE HOUSES!

On Tuesday 15th December the lovely Madrigalia choir and friends delighted Boxford with a wonderfully festive surprise of a carol-singing crawl around Boxford. Starting at Gunnary Close where they treated the customers in the queue for the fish & chip van to a bonus concert (*"I saw three chips come sailing in..."*, anyone?), the Madrigalia choir then proceeded to Brook Hall Road and The Causeway where residents there were happy to come out and support them. In all, the beautiful voices of the choir raised a brilliant £145 for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal from the very generous Boxford audience. Well done all!



2021 K&S CUP WINNER

The 2021 Winner of the K&S Cup is **Bethany Ireland**. The K&S Cup is awarded annually by Boxford Community Council (BCC) to a young person in Boxford who has made a positive contribution to their community. The trophy was presented to Bethany by BCC Chairman Ward Baker during the "Carols 'round the tree" event at the White Hart on 6th December 2021.

Bethany is a true inspiration to her peers and the rest of the community. During work hours she is a practicing Qualified Lifeguard and Level 1 Swimschool Coach at Kingfisher Pool as well as studying for a degree in Early Childhood Studies at the University of Suffolk. In her own time she is a 1st Boxford Guides Leader and volunteers also for Boxford Rainbows and Brownies, helping younger girls to experience and learn new skills. You'd think that with all that Bethany wouldn't have any time left in the day, but she also works part-time at a local care home, helping people with dementia.

On behalf of the Boxford Community and indeed beyond, we thank Bethany whole-heartedly for the care and attention she has shown us all. She is a remarkable person that deserves our admiration and praise and we are hugely lucky that she is part of our amazing village. Thank you Bethany, and we hope you enjoy the prize!

Do you know of an inspirational young person?

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

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

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

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Box River News

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email: editor@boxrivernews.com

Deadline date for the February 2022 Issue is:

January 15th at midday



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EDWARDSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

For the attention of all Edwardstone residents

Edwardstone Parish Council has agreed to support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Once adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan is designed to form part of the Local Planning framework against which Babergh District Council's planning decisions will be made for Edwardstone. Preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan therefore provides us all, as residents, with the opportunity to help guide future planning decisions and developments within our Parish.

A Steering Group has been formed and that Group is now seeking your help in identifying the things that you like, and those that perhaps you aren't so keen on, in the Parish.

We'd like to hear your thoughts in particular on matters such as the environment, transport, housing, community facilities and any other factors which you feel are relevant to the future of Edwardstone.

We have developed a quick questionnaire that we will be distributing to all households over the coming weeks. We hope that you will be able to spare a few minutes to share your opinions with one of the Steering Group when they deliver the questionnaire, and that you are able to find the time to fill this in. This will help the Steering Group to start collating representative views from the Parish as a whole.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any member of Steering Group in person or by email to: edwardstoneplan@gmail.com

The members of the Steering Group are: Phil Baker, Tom Bird, Mike Gibson, Matthew Glason, Erica McDonald & Nick Raymond.



THEMES FROM THE MOVIES AT ST. MARY'S

St Mary's Church in Boxford played host to local musicians the **Elite String Quartet** on the 26th November for an informal concert of film and show music. The audience who braved the cold weather were rewarded with an hour of music from favourites such as Les Miserables, Oliver and themes from Star Wars and James Bond. The quartet found the acoustic of the wonderful mediaeval church at the heart of our village very generous, and loved playing in such a beautiful venue.

A great time was had by all, and money was raised for the Boxford Church Building Trust.

The Boxford Church Building Trust are planning further concerts in 2022 – watch this space for news of those nearer the time!



NEWTON FIRESIDE CLUB

The final Fireside Club of the year was held on Tuesday 7th December. We used it as an opportunity to make festive table decorations whilst partaking of a festive glass of bubbles. I think everyone was very pleased with their creations especially as it was the first attempt at flower arranging for some. Those of us who were a bit speedier made an extra arrangement which was then sold at the church coffee morning.



Dates for the new year are:

- Tuesday 18th January BINGO!
- Tuesday 1st February A Talk on Russia by Jenny Anthill
- Tuesday 15th February Room 101
- Tuesday 15th February Pancakes!
- Tuesday 15th March A Games Afternoon
- Tuesday 29th March A Talk on Watery Places in Suffolk by Pip Wright
- Tuesday 12th April Easter Crafts

All meetings are held in the Village Hall and start at 2pm. New members are always welcome. Please contact Moira on 01787 374652 or Sue on 07881 383 998 if you would like more details.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy festive season!!!
Sue Presland

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Sunday, Dec 26th (Boxing Day) - 12-6pm
Monday, Dec 27th - 12-8pm
Tuesday, Dec 28th - 12-8pm
Wednesday, Dec 29th - 12-10pm
Thursday, Dec 30th - 12-10pm
Friday, Dec 31st (NYE) - 12-Late
Saturday, Jan 1st - 12-6pm
Sunday, Jan 2nd - 12-8pm
Monday Jan 3rd - 12-6pm

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FOOTPATH RE-OPENS

As a result of a series of misunderstandings, a section of ancient footpath running from Priory Green towards Little Waldingfield had been closed off for some time, where it passed through land adjacent to Priory Farm. Originally gated by the previous owner to safeguard deer he was keeping in the field the path ran through, it had been briefly re-opened in 2019 following representations by the Parish Council, only to be closed again after the property changed hands and became part of the Getty estate. As a result, locals and ramblers had beaten an unofficial footpath on the wrong side of the fence - clearly not a long-term solution.

The footpath is shown clearly on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map of the village, and given that Priory Farm had been owned by the Kingsbury family for most of the twentieth century, would have been used unchanged for over a hundred years, and probably for much longer.

Now, following constructive discussions between Edwardstone Parish Council, the County Council's Rights of Way Team, Lady Getty's estate representative, and the owners of the adjacent Priory Cottage, we are pleased to report that the Priory Farm section of the path is once more open for walkers. The County Council will be installing new waymarkers and improving the sleeper bridge at the Priory Green end of the path. The Getty estate has already fitted new chicken wire mesh to the sleeper bridge at the other end, to avoid the risk of walkers slipping on it in wet weather.

Edwardstone Parish Council would like to express its appreciation to the Getty estate and to the Rights of Way Team for ensuring that the ancient path follows the correct route once again.

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CHASE AWAY THE CHILBLAINS

It's that chilly time of year again and Jack Frost is nipping at our fingers and toes!

Low temperatures, chilly floors and icy ground can make our extremities feel cold, frozen and even numb. At these times, all we want to do is find warmth in a piping hot shower, hot tap, electric blanket, hot water bottle or heater.

However, we're doing ourselves more harm than good. It's this cooling, followed by rapid heating that can cause chilblains.

As a teenager I had terrible chilblains from standing on concrete floors in thin plimsoles. The suggested remedy was 'Old School'. I was presented with a bowl, told to wee in it and then dip my toes in... I was 15 at the time and horrified by the idea. Especially as the bowl was presented to me by my 'mature' manageress, whilst at work on a Saturday morning in my local bakery shop... how times have changed!!



What are chilblains

Chilblains (also called erythema pernio) are small itchy, red (and sometimes blue to purple) swellings on the skin, which can be very painful. They are the result of two actions. Firstly, a response to severe cold when capillaries in our toes, fingers, nose and ears constrict to keep the warm blood away from the skin, where heat is quickly lost. If we then warm up the cold regions too quickly – like putting our feet in hot water or on a piping hot radiator, it can lead to leakage of fluid and blood into the peripheral tissue, leading to chilblains. The congestion of fluid and blood in the tissue can cause redness, irritation, heat (inflammation) and itching. In extreme cases, the area can break down into small ulcers and infections.

Who is more likely to get chilblains?

- People who smoke
- People with connective tissue disorders (for example Lupus)
- People who suffer from Raynauds Syndrome
- People with a family history of chilblains
- People with poor circulation such as those are living with Diabetes
- People on vasoconstrictive medications or certain antidepressants
- Those who enjoy the outdoors, but neglect to keep their hands and feet warm and dry
- Women and children are generally more affected



How to avoid chilblains

These are the steps you can take to try and prevent chilblains happening to you:

- Keep feet and hands warm at all times. Wear gloves, hat, thermals, wool or cotton socks and waterproof footwear. Use slippers indoors.
- If your hands and feet are cold, it is important to warm them up slowly.
- Dryness triggers chilblains. Moisturise vulnerable areas regularly using a warming balm to stimulate peripheral circulation.
- Consider adding warming foods to your diet such as chilli, garlic and ginger and take natural remedies to help maintain a healthy peripheral circulation – such as fish oils, vitamins, ginkgo, bilberry and hawthorn.
- Heat packs onto the kidney region and around the ankles or in the shoes can be very helpful, as can wool insoles.
- Bedsocks and a warming foot balm are a must to ward off the chilblain season!
- Stop smoking and reduce alcohol intake.

You have chilblains already?

- Gently warm the area affected and keep it at a comfortable room temperature
- Massage gently with a mild warming balm if skin isn't broken (Try our Pippettes Farm Spice Balm)
- If itching and very red; try Calamine lotion or Witch Hazel water.
- If the skin is broken, use Calendula oil or our 24 Seven balm to soothe and heal.
- To prevent infection and reduce itching and stinging, try using Aloe vera gel, ideally in a blend with tea tree essential oil e.g. our Antiseptic Healing Gel

Once you have had chilblains, they are more likely to reoccur. To keep them at bay it's best to be prepared early.

Remedy suggestions from my clinic & made at Pippettes Farm:

Spice Balm - a blend of Hypericum, Calensdula, Peppermint, Oregano, Thyme, Ginger, Black Pepper and Cajeput will help to keep the circulation flowing and form a protective barrier

24Seven Balm or our **infused organic Calendula Oil** to soothe inflamed and cracked skin

Antiseptic Healing Gel - A soothing and cleansing mix of Aloe Vera, Seaweed extract, Calendula and Myrrh to soothe the itch and reduce redness

Remedies on your doorstep

Nature provides us with the herbs to heal at the time we need them. Currently, in December, we still have Calendula, Sage and Rosemary growing healthily in our smallholding and their presence is the seasonal clue to their healing qualities.

Calendula flowers: These have a potent healing, moisturizing and anti-inflammatory action. They are gentle enough to use directly on cracked, broken skin in a balm, oil or infused water soak.

Rosemary: Taking rosemary in cooking, as a tea, tincture or topically in an ointment can help improve your peripheral circulation. Whilst Ginkgo Biloba is an excellent alternative, I recommend you use the native herb on your doorstep.

Sage: The strong antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory qualities can cleanse, soothe and assist recovery. Try picking some fresh leaves and make an infusion (tea). Once cooled to warm, soak inflamed area or add to a foot bath with some Epsom salts.

This article is for educational purposes only and not to be used for diagnosis or treatment. Always consult your health practitioner.

Elaine Everitt,
BSc(Hons) DO LicAc MBMAS GOsC MCPP MNIMH
Osteopath . Acupuncturist . Medical Herbalist
Pippettes Farm, Stone Street, Boxford. 07587 743 850

SUFFOLK MEDICAL & BEAUTY CLINIC

For those of you who haven't met us yet, Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, tucked away behind Broad Street, is run by husband and wife team Dr. Anthony and Jenny O'Neill.



Both Anthony and Jenny have medical backgrounds – Anthony as a GP and Jenny as a Nurse, with a specialism in Dermatology. The clinic offers both Medical Aesthetics – facial fillers, anti-wrinkle injections, lasers etc - and a wide range of Beauty Therapy services.

Look out for our latest Beauty Therapy brochure in this issue of Box River News!

The brochure details all our Beauty therapy services, from those you'd expect (nails, massage, waxing etc) to more bespoke treatments, like our tailored facials. These treatments include optional extras such as skin-needling and Dermalux LED phototherapy, to really pack a punch!

If you would like to know more about any of our treatments, please get in touch **01787 211 000**.

*Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, 6 Broad Street, Boxford.
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Remember!

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HADLEIGH BOXFORD GROUP PRACTICE YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 has certainly been another challenging year for all of us at Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice. The whole team have pulled together in these difficult times, and we have been so well supported by the community and our PPG.



Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice

You will all be aware of the Covid clinics that have been the stand-out achievement and a massive 24,000 Covid vaccines have been delivered in the surgery, and more recently St Mary's Church. In addition to this are the hundreds of vaccines delivered by our team of mobile jabbers to the residence and staff at the four care homes we look after and the numerous house-bound patients too. Many of those delivering the vaccines are our retired nurses and doctors, and we are indebted to them for their incredible support.

None of the vaccination clinics would have been the huge success they were without the army of PPG volunteers that have been out in force come rain, gales and even snow! They have worked so hard to support us and the community and we are extremely grateful to every single volunteer.

It has been a herculean effort from everyone at the surgery that, despite all the Covid disruption, the Covid vaccinations, the isolations, and lockdowns we have also delivered nearly 5,000 flu vaccines and remained open seeing patients throughout the pandemic.

We are all aware that the demand on GP surgeries in England has steadily climbed over these last 12 months and we have felt it here too. We have worked tirelessly to do our best to meet this demand including adapting our working pattern, incorporating more technology to support us in delivering care and recruited 12 new people to our team. Although we have sadly had to say goodbye to some staff that have left, we have grown in numbers at the surgery. We are proud to have 3 more receptionists, extra secretarial and data team personnel, as well as an additional doctor and nurse.

Our hope for 2022 is to continue to provide high quality care, while being responsive to the shifting landscape of the NHS. We will remain approachable and accessible to all our patients, and above all, our hope is to have Covid gone!

We wish you all a very happy and healthy 2022.



 Hadleigh and Boxford Patient Participation Group (PPG)
www.hadleighhealth.co.uk
 Supporting Hadleigh and Boxford Health Centre
 Volunteering at Covid Clinics
 Conducting Patient Surveys
 Mounting Art Exhibitions
 Attending Hadleigh Youth Council and Community Forum
Wishing you a happy, healthy 2022.

COME RING WITH US

The Boxford Church bell ringers are hoping to ring on the day of the Queen's jubilee, in celebration of her seventy years, but to do this we do need some more ringers.

Richard Gates would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to ring a bell to see if they might become a ringer.

He can be contacted on 01787 210432.



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3PR ANNUAL AWARDS

In December 2021 the three parishes of Edwardstone, Groton and Boxford on behalf of the community awarded certificates to responders that had been on-call for emergencies for a total of 500 hours or more throughout the year. Trudi Wild provided 550 hours and Alistair Horne was on-call for an amazing 750+ hours. That they managed to do this whilst balancing full-time jobs and families is no mean feat.



Al Horne being presented with his certificate by 3PR founder & president Vic Rice

As a group we're very proud of Alistair's progress in becoming an experienced and able emergency responder. He has shown total dedication and has dramatically improved his knowledge and skills since joining. He has helped so many of our neighbours in their time of need and undoubtedly saved lives. His father Bill Horne was a founder responder for 3PR almost 20 years ago in 2002 and we know that Bill would have been incredibly proud of Alistair following in his footsteps. Huge congratulations Al!

3PR (Three Parishes Response) officially covers residents of Edwardstone, Groton and Boxford parishes with a volunteer First Responder service. We organise for volunteers to be trained with emergency medical skills and provide them with all the equipment they need to quickly attend emergencies, often well in advance of the professional paramedics being able to arrive.

We are an entirely public-donation-funded organisation, receiving no official financial support. Thank you to everyone who has so very kindly donated money to us in 2021 to help keep us running - we simply couldn't do it without your help!

3PR is currently running at an historically low number of responders. We have 2 new potential responders currently in the application process, but we still urgently need new volunteers who can give just a few hours each week to help maintain cover and assist local residents when medical emergencies occur. We fund all required training and equipment and organise ongoing training from Eeast each month. In the New Year, please consider donating just a small portion of your time back to your community and learning these fantastic skills that really do save lives. There is total flexibility in how much time you choose to offer and when you do so, so it can fit in nicely alongside the rest of your everyday life.

If you'd like a chat to find out more about becoming a responder or what it is that we do, you can contact me on **01787 210 946** or email office@boxfordresponders.com.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that 2022 is kind to us all!

Rich Wild, Group Coordinator, 3PR

THE JANUARY LETTER FROM FATHER ROB

Dear Friends,

So, the Journey Continues

If Advent was about journeying towards the stable of our souls, then Christmas was about meeting Christ in the manager of our hearts. Thus, we recognised him in the expectant and generous faces of others at Christmas. But once Christmas passes, where do we go from there?

After all the expectation of early December and excitement of Christmas, it is no wonder that January and February are notoriously months when many people struggle – the long dark days, with their cold and damp weather when the new life of Easter and Spring seems so far off. But there is a more productive way of engaging with this period. Maybe, rather than wishing it away, and becoming ever more down-hearted in the process, it instead offers us opportunity to slow down and allow ourselves to be nourished from the heart.

Over the Christmas period, we have been given endless opportunities to deepen our lives. This action of deepening is sometimes referred to devotion. We celebrated the birth of Jesus together in our church services and by sharing with our family and friends. We spent a few weeks being properly connected to the heart, which when we stop and listen constantly calls us home to where we find true contentment. The busyness of daily life so often does not afford us the time, but for a brief couple of weeks, Christmas has done exactly that. Perhaps January can do something of the same?

I would like us to think a little about what we mean by the word devotion. We all have to live a life that is somehow connected to the heart. If we do not, we become obsessed with the ideology of the head (and we over think things). This is the space that we too often turn to when parts of or lives are broken. We try to deflect our own and others' attention away from what we know to be wrong, or we try and think our way out of it; constantly manipulating, twisting and turning, all the time exacerbating and complicating the very issues we are trying to run away from. We see the effects of this everywhere in the world around us. It is exactly this kind of response that so often leads individuals, institutions and churches down some very dark paths. When we become obsessed with head-ideology, we fall into the error of self-righteousness, opinionatedness, litigiousness, legalism, blame; always insisting upon the right or wrong words; looking for a way to cover over our own insecurities by deflection and manipulation: turning the attention (and our own pain) onto the other. I don't have to tell you how damaging this can be.

Our churches have come a long way in recent years. Many of our church communities are very different places to what they once were. People comment on how they are places of broad welcome where people of all descriptions may find a home. But that is only valuable for as long as it remains true. The second litigiousness, opinionatedness, legalism creeps back in, then decline will surely follow. We cannot become complacent, as churches or individuals, because we must remain vigilant against returning to the kind of head-ideology outlined above. If our churches' messages are not heartfelt and creating people of the heart, then I predict it will not last. Above all, people need to feel safe to rest in who they are, and there is nowhere where people should feel safer than church.

Sometimes, if we could just stop and let our hearts lead us, then our return to devotion would provide all the answers we need. This is exactly what the psalmist is encouraging when he says, 'be still and know that I am God'.



So, be still and know. Be still. Just be...

I have learned this kind of devotion from devout Catholics and healthy Evangelicals. Heart based people who look out at reality with soft and compassionate eyes. We see it in their calm face and generous smile, even before they have uttered a word.

Maybe this is what Jesus was referring to when he taught 'Blessed are the pure in heart' (Matthew 5:8). The pure in heart, people of the heart, show a purity of intention, desire and motivation that isn't all about 'me' – how 'I' look, whether 'I' am in control, whether people are going to like 'me', listen to 'me', affirm 'me'. When these things dominate our intentions, then the real authentic, loving and kind 'me' cannot break through. Essentially, becoming people of the heart starts with loving ourselves and valuing ourselves for who we are, and then valuing others the same.

We are all attracted to those kinds of people who are loving, concerned with others more than themselves and specifically concerned about us. I can think of many holy people who fit this bill: Desmond Tutu, Rowan Williams, Pope Francis, Mother Teresa, Francis of Assisi, Jesus Christ. It is really the most beautiful thing. In their midst we feel softened, held, and more tender.

We cannot fake the kind of devotion that nurtures us into people of the heart, but sometimes we do need to 'fake it until we make it'. It doesn't happen overnight, it takes time, perseverance and commitment. We have to dedicate ourselves to wanting to become heartfelt people. Without nurturing the heart, then all our efforts to live as people concerned for others fall short in the end.

Ultimately, it is the work of peace and grace working within us. It is what we find in the heart of God that creates the conditions that allow it to happen, but we have to want it and create the conditions that can allow it to happen. Anything that helps us be less wilful, less pushy, less judgemental, less legalistic towards ourselves is a good place to start, because the face we turn towards ourselves is the face we turn towards the world.

Wishing you every blessing for 2022,

Fr Rob

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Tel: 01787 210434

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SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2022



Sunday 2nd January Christmas 2	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 5th January	10:00	<i>Simple Eucharist</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 9th January Epiphany	9:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	16:00	<i>BCP Evensong</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 12th January	10:00	<i>Simple Eucharist</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 16th January Epiphany 2	09:30	<i>Morning Prayer/Praise</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	16:00	<i>Evening Prayer with Meditation</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
Wednesday 19th January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	10:00	<i>Simple Eucharist</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 23rd January Epiphany 3 & Plough Sunday	9:30	<i>Intergenerational Family Service</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist (& Blessing the Plough)</i>	All Saints', Newton
Wednesday 26th January	10:00	<i>Simple Eucharist</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 30th January Candlemas	11:00	<i>Simple Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	16:00	<i>Benefice Evensong</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton

Please be aware that these services may be subject to change at short notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can also follow our regular live streamed services and obtain service material from the following links:

www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice

www.boxriverbenefice.com/resources-to-use-at-home

St Mary's Church Community Christmas Day Lunch

Boxford Village Hall

1pm to 3pm

on Saturday 25th December

Are you or your family going to be on your own this Christmas Day?

Why not join us for Christmas lunch

.... Because no one has to be alone at Christmas



This is a free event, and you would be most welcome.

To book your place please email boxriverbenefice@gmail.com or call 01787 828046

Happy New Year!



You are invited to
"DROP IN FOR COFFEE"
(AND CAKES!)

in the Church, Little Waldingfield
FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 2022
10.30 – 12.00

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

A voluntary donation to church funds would be welcomed



The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton

EARLY DECEMBER ROUND-UP

Early December saw the social events coming thick and fast in the Benefice. First there was the Thank You Event at St Mary's Boxford which saw some 40 volunteers and supporters in attendance and gave St Mary's the chance to thank some of those who support the church so generously. The wine and food were delicious and the company and atmosphere was light-hearted and fun. It proved to be a lovely evening welcoming people from all over the village.

Hot on its tails came the Thank You Event at St Mary the Virgin Edwardstone for volunteers and donors. It too saw some 40 people in attendance. There was a lovely amount of frivolity and enjoyment as the wine and food flowed freely. A lovely way to pass an evening amongst lovely people.

The very next day came the cheese and wine evening at Groton Village Hall for St Bartholomew's Church. Fun and laughter echoed around the hall. It even saw the Rector dressed up as Mrs Claus and the Chair of the Parish Council's



Jayne Foster bracing herself at the Groton Cheese & Wine Evening



Mr & Mrs Claus

Partner Fr Christmas respectively, whilst our District Councillor struck a very hard bargain as auctioneer. Great fun was had late into the evening. Less than a week later and St Lawrence's Little Waldingfield had 65 people attending their Cheese and Wine Evening. As always the company was splendid, the food and wine overflowed and the building reverberated with a gentle sense of holy community. The very next morning, All Saints' Newton held their Christmas Coffee Morning together with Christmas stalls. It was so lovely to see so many local folks nip in for a cuppa and cake, and to browse the stalls and have a natter. Quite possibly the best hot chocolate in Babergh and such a lovely community atmosphere.

Meanwhile, in Boxford the Christmas Tree Festival had opened and was joined on Sunday for the Christmas Fayre. Both the Village Hall and Church became bustling places of community festive cheer. It was a wonderful testimony to collegiality in the village that the Friends of Boxford School, the Farmer's Market and the Church were able to team up to bring all three events into one. Even after the school became out of bounds for social events due to the increase in risk concerning COVID, the stalls that were due to be held there were quickly and without fuss relocated into the Church, and what a



Newton's Christmas Coffee Morning

success that proved to be! Santa's Grotto in the base of the tower, Christmas stalls overflowing both buildings, beautiful Christmas trees to view and judge, refreshments, food and children's activities; all concluding with a beautiful Advent Carol Service at which the School Choir sang and brought heaven that one step closer to earth.

At the time of writing, we are yet to hold our Christmas Services, but if any of this is anything to go by, we can expect rich and wonderful community events as we remember the reason for the season!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th January 10am Little Waldingfield - Coffee Morning

11th January 2pm - Benefice Standing Committees

12th January 2pm - Benefice Treasurers' Meeting

15th January 10am Boxford - Coffee Morning

18th January 6pm - Edwardstone PCC

25th January 7pm - Boxford PCC

29th January 3pm Edwardstone - Wedding

Bring and Share Foodbank

'Take what you need, leave what you can'

As we are now entering a time of year where money can be tight, the pressure of Christmas is building up, and if you're alone or a family needing a little bit of help, the Food Bank in the North porch of St Mary's Boxford is still offering non-perishable items for those in need. Please only take what you need and if possible, leave what you can. Tinned meat, vegetables and puddings are especially welcome, Thank you.



We are still here for you and doing all we can to provide spiritual nurture and support. We will continue to hold live worship and this will be live-streamed over our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice

If you need support, please call Fr. Rob on 01787 210434 or email rparkermcgee@gmail.com

We look forward to you joining us in our devotions.

CHURCH SURVEY

Your views are important to us. Please take a couple of minutes to complete our survey so that we can plan for an exciting future together. Thank you.

You can find the link here: <https://bit.ly/brb-church-survey>

If you or someone you know requires a paper copy, please do get in touch at boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

All our churches across the Benefice are now **OPEN EVERYDAY** for Private Prayer.

If you need support please call Fr. Rob on 01787 210434 or email rparkermcgee@gmail.com

THE ARTS SOCIETY SOUTH SUFFOLK

A NEW YEAR!
NEW RESOLUTIONS!!
NEW INTERESTS in a NEW VENUE
2pm on 3rd TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
(barring July/August/ December)



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SO THEY DO COOK AFTER ALL! RAVILIOUS, BAWDEN & THE GREAT BARDFIELD ARTISTS

In 1932 a fascinating artistic community was started in Great Bardfield, Essex by Edward and Charlotte Bawden, Eric Ravilious & Tirzah Garwood. Other artists joined them, with their work capturing the soon to change world of rural England. In 1954 they started the popular Open Studios Movement which persuaded people that artists were quite normal!

This talk will take place on TUESDAY 18 JANUARY

Newton Green



Saturday 19 February 2022

7.30pm start

Newton Green Village Hall

£10.00 per head

Teams of six

Food included

Bring your own tippie

To book a team please contact Paul Presland on
p.presland@btinternet.com or 01787 379204

Book early to avoid disappointment

All proceeds to All Saints' Church

Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

An 8 week course on Monday afternoons 2.30 - 4.30pm
Meeting in Groton Village Hall, CO10 5EL
Starting on Monday 17th January 2022

The Root of All Evil Tutor: Hugh Black-Hawkins

The course will explore the effect of money on human behaviour. The texts will include novels, plays and poems by writers from the 13th to the 21st century.

Monday 17 th Jan	Golden Hill	Francis Spufford
Monday 24 th Jan	Timon of Athens	William Shakespeare
Monday 31 st Jan	Timon of Athens	William Shakespeare
Monday 7 th Feb	Reading Week	
Monday 14 th Feb	Emma	Jane Austen
Monday 21 st Feb	Emma	Jane Austen
Monday 28 th Feb	The Merchant's Prologue and Tale	Chaucer
Monday 7 th Mar	Reading Week	
Monday 14 th Mar	Moral Essays III. Of the Use of Riches	Pope
Monday 21 st Mar	The Girls of Slender Means	Muriel Spark
Monday 28 th Mar	Serious Money	Caryl Churchill

Course Fee: £75 for the complete course,
payable on the first or second meeting.
£10 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.



Fleece Jazz at
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

Sara Dowling: Jazz of Judy Garland
Wednesday 12th January 2022 8pm - Tickets: £20/£16*



"Her voice has all the qualities that you find in the great singers." Guy Barker
Travel back to the Golden Age of Hollywood with songs from the musicals.

Sara Dowling – Vocals
Chris Ingham – Piano
Dario De Lecce – Bass
George Double – Drums

John Etheridge's "Blue Spirits" Trio
Wednesday 26th January 2022 8pm - Tickets: £18/£14*



A trio that connects with the bluesy, intense side of John's playing. Typical swing elements, soulful ballads, fiery funk outings, all presented with warm humour by John.

John Etheridge – Guitar
Pete Whittaker – Organ
George Double – Drums

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath CO6 4PZ

Ample parking; fully accessible.
Go to www.fleecejazz.org.uk for directions.

Tickets via Box Office: 01787 211865 or
via WeGotTickets (booking fee applies);
on the door (cash or cheque only; sorry no debit/credit cards)
*Friends of Fleece Jazz discount

SAVE THE DATE!

Newton Green Fireside Club
is pleased to announce the return
of a much loved village event

**THE
MIDSUMMER MUNCH**

SUNDAY 12 JUNE 2022 FROM NOON

THE JUBILEE GARDENS/VILLAGE HALL
MUSIC & FOOD
BRING YOUR OWN DRINK

Watch out for more details in the New Year!

WEA Adult Learning Within Reach

SPRING SERIES OF 6 AFTERNOON LECTURES

Stoke by Nayland Village Hall
Thursday 20th January 2022
2.30-4.30 pm

FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO MODERN ITALY
With Denise Bianchini

This course is aimed at people with an interest in 'Everything Italian'
Italy has a complicated and fascinating past
The course will take us from the Middle Ages, through the Renaissance, Unification and Post-unification, Mussolini and the Fascist era to modern times, including geography, culture and quizzes.

Fee for the term: £47.40

Enrolment for the course should be done with the WEA either online at www.wea.org.uk or by phone 0300 303 3464 using Course Reference C2228379

Fee payment can be made with a debit/credit card
Advance booking is recommended but enrolment can be done following the first, free 'taster' session on 20th January if preferred.

For further information, contact Sue Whitley 01782 498976
Email: Stoke-by-Nayland.Branch@wea.ac.uk

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

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ALL GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO BAKE

SATURDAY 08TH JANUARY 2022

Arrive 7.00pm Film starts 7.30pm 2020 (12A) Comedy/Drama/Romance
1hr 37 mins with 20 mins interval
Please book early to avoid being disappointed
Tickets £3.50 per Adult and £2.00 per young person
You can now book online at www.leavenheath.org.uk
Telephone: Marion (01206 263301) for tickets

Refreshments (wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee, tea will be available before the film starts and ice creams during the interval.)
Proceeds towards LVH Capital Project Fund (Charity No 262816)

Boxford BIKE CLUB

Quiz Night

In support of **EDEN-ROSE COPPICE**

Saturday 26 February 2022

Boxford Village Hall

Bar, Hog Roast & Vegetarian Option

Limited Places
Teams of up to 6 people

To book, ring Ian on 07866 015953 Price £12.50 Per person

Quiz Starts @ 8pm

? ?

MONKS ELEIGH WHIST DRIVE

Wednesday January 26th Whist Drive (Progressive) 7.30 at Monks Eleigh Village Hall (Meeting Room)

Do you enjoy cards? If so why not come and play a game of Whist? We play 18 hands with a break for refreshments, £3 to play and we have a friendly bring a prize, win a prize raffle.

Contact Angela on 01449 740414 for more details.

BOXFORD FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We are hoping to start a Friendship Group meeting monthly on a Monday in the Pavilion, Boxford Playing Fields hopefully commencing early spring 2022.

If you would be interested in joining us to enjoy some companionship and friendship for a couple of hours over a cuppa & cake we would love to hear from you!

Please phone Wendy Hills 01787 210342 or Alison Warren 01787 211067

KENNY'S NEWS FROM SESAW



Christmas may be over but here's a true story, worthy of the Panto season.

Once upon a time, two little dogs named Gypsy and Sam arrived at SESAW. Years passed, Gypsy became arthritic and the volunteers despaired of them ever being rehomed because the duo disliked all other dogs.

Fortunately, the reprobates won the heart of one lady who succumbed to their dubious charms. The two little girls did go for the ball when Rachel took them

home to play with her dogs including one that was equally reactive to other mutts. She also gave Gypsy a new lease of life with a set of Winston's Wheels which enabled her to walk, run and frolic with the pack. (There are photos and videos of them on our website and Facebook pages.)



Winston's Wheels is a registered charity and Rachel's canine wheelchairs enhance the lives of hundreds of other dogs. Email rachelcansell@icloud.com for more information.

Rachel will join us at our Easter Fair in Long Melford on Sunday 3rd April, Covid restrictions permitting. Unwanted Christmas presents gladly received, to sell or use as Raffle prizes. Please leave donations at SESAW, clearly marked "For Easter Fair" or phone to arrange collection.



We welcome enquires from anyone looking for a new four legged friend. If you can bring some magic into a difficult dog's life, please leave a phone message or email. Meanwhile it's dinner time - Oh yes it is! I'm off to the kitchen to see what Mum is cooking for all the residents 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

MR. PAGE SAYS GOODBYE

Ian Page has been the interim headteacher of Boxford Primary School since September. In the short time he has been there he has very much endeared himself to parents and pupils alike. He stands down at the end of term and new permanent headteacher Mrs. Lea starts in the New Year. The BRN would like to thank Ian on behalf of parents of the school for his professionalism and capability alike and looks forward to welcoming Mrs. Lea to the school next term.

Mr. Page sent the BRN this letter thanking all at the school:

Dear All,

I just want to share my appreciation and gratitude for all your support and kindness this term. It has again been a particularly challenging time for all schools, their staff, children and families; and Boxford has not been immune to these pressures. What I have learned, however, is that the spirit within our community, its resilience and capacity for kindness knows no bounds. Thank you all for keeping us going. It has been a privilege to be a part of such a special place for the last few months and I know that you will warmly welcome Mrs Lea, and support her equally as well, as our new permanent Headteacher in January. My thoughts and best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Ian Page

Associate Headteacher, Suffolk County Council

BOXFORD WI UPDATE

Boxford WI held their Christmas lunch at the White Hart on Wednesday 1st December. The ladies enjoyed a wonderful meal, a festive quiz and raffle. A huge thank you to all the staff at the White Hart for making the afternoon such a success, the food and service was first class.



Boxford WI enjoyed taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fayre. Their tree was decorated with green and red hearts, inspired by their 'Show the Love' Campaign in February. They also ran a Jam Jar Tombola Stall at the Fayre on the Sunday which proved to be a popular attraction for both young and old. They would like to thank you so much for your support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in joining please contact our secretary.

Annie Phillips.

Secretary, Boxford WI

01787 211729 annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk

FOBS FESTIVE FAYRE

This year Friends of Boxford School (FoBS) teamed up with St Mary's Church and the Boxford Craft and Farmers Market for a Festive Extravaganza!

FoBS transformed an area underneath the church bell tower into a Father Christmas Grotto and children were enchanted with Father Christmas and his story 'Little Robin Red Vest'. You could hear a pin drop as the children sat and listened to this lovely little tale of sharing and kindness at Christmas.



In the Lady Chapel FoBS set up fun family stalls such as Guess the name of the Penguin, Find Santa on the Treasure map, Face Painting, Tombola, crafting Christmas decorations and Pin the Nose on Rudolph!

St Mary's church looked very festive with the Tree Festival trees and dotted amongst them were Farmers Market stalls. The church was a hive of activity all day which culminated in the Advent Carols at the end of the afternoon with children from Boxford School singing.

It was a fabulous day for everyone involved!





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STORIES FROM BOXFORD SOCIETY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

Boxford's Pubs - Part 2

Last month we looked at what we know about five Boxford Public Houses. This month we look at a further six.

The Fleece, Broad Street



The Fleece with Marshall Brown, the landlord and carrier, in his pony and trap about 1913. Bill Griggs is in front of the horse. Mr Bridgeman of Hollies Farm is beside the window. The sign says it is a Posting and Commercial Inn.

Some pubs associated themselves with the area's predominant trade as a way of gathering custom, such as The Fleece (for the local cloth trade). They were meeting places for local tradesmen and often acted as unofficial employment exchanges. A craftsman moving to the area would seek out a pub where the landlord could introduce him to employers or extend credit until he established himself.

The Fleece appears to be an old coaching inn with extensive grounds and buildings at the rear. These extended into the bowling green area in former days. Recently a well appeared in the middle of the green indicating an earlier function. There are coaching timetables from London Docks to The Fleece from long before railways took over. It is said that in the 1700s, one of the church bells was placed in the yard before it was installed and filled with ale for all. Twentieth century events here included the visiting funfair of Bugg and Crighton and summer dances to raise funds for church restoration, a never ending task.

Until quite recently The Fleece hosted folk music and for many years the upstairs room was used for the nationally acclaimed Jazz Club. It was highly successful in drawing famous international jazz artists to Boxford. This upper room could have been one of the gathering places for the Boxford Guilds of the 15th/16th Century or maybe it was the room referred to as the Assembly Room in the Winthrop Diaries. Another room has beautiful oak panelling from the old box pews that once stood in St Mary's Church.

In 1826 The Fleece was in the news for a fire caused by the maid's candle lighting the bed and consuming it all. It seems she and the building were lucky to survive through the timely arrival of the fire engine, and the alerted residents who saved the pub and presumably her. The fire engine and gaol house was not yet built so presumably the fire engine was housed elsewhere. The next year was the trial for the murder of Maria Martin but as we now know William Corder was not tried at this pub though he passed through Boxford as he went to Bury for trial.

The oddest of all stories is the one by Rev. Shaw Andrew in his History of Boxford. A "gypsy rascal" was tried as a witch (exceptionally rare for a man; almost all such accused were women, so doubt creeps in) and he was held at The Fleece. A pyre was built in the stable yard for his burning the following day, but he miraculously escaped and disappeared into the night. Witches were never burnt in England, as witchcraft was felony and witches were hanged instead

(adding more doubt about the story). Men and women in particular could be burned for other crimes. So this story from the 1600s cannot be true in the form reported. If there really was a convicted criminal, perhaps someone took pity on him and let him escape.

The Queen's Head, School Hill

This original tudor house, stood between Knollgate and the Grammar School, and was believed by Mrs Thompson of Knollgate (1932) to have been an old Posting station between Ipswich and Sudbury. It was said that Dickens may have stopped there while the mail was delivered on his way to Sudbury in 1832. Rev. Shaw Andrew of Boxford, recorded this in 1932 and used research by eminent historians of the period to support it. The young, radical, 20 year old Charles Dickens referred to Sudbury as 'Eatanswill', adapted from 'eat-and-swill'. Clearly as a parliamentary newspaper reporter, he did not have a very high opinion of the upper echelons and grasping politicians of Sudbury society at the time. (Dickens used this particularly corrupt local election in Sudbury as the basis for the famous Eatanswill election depicted in the Pickwick Papers). He did travel from Ipswich so will have surely passed through Boxford.

Violet Tebboth who lived with her grandparents, Walter and Elizabeth Joslyn, until 1911 at the Old Tudor House (previously the Queens Head) (see BRN July 2021 of this series) reported that Queen Elizabeth stayed in the old part of the house on one of her royal journeys through Suffolk. However, the truth is that the nearest Queen Elizabeth came to Boxford was Shelley Hall and Smallbridge Hall near Woringford in 1561 and Long Melford in 1578. Boxford was not on her well-documented route and we can be sure she did not stop here with her entourage of 600 horses and luggage for a drink of wine or a bed! Because of her several "tours" lots of villages in England have a pub with a similar but completely untrue yarn. She generally stayed at wealthy manorial halls of course.

The Chequers, Church Street



The Chequers in the late 1800s when it was much smaller & before amalgamation of three houses.

There are several possible origins of the Chequers name. The Romans brought the name and the chequered sign here to signify an inn providing banking services. Another possible derivation is the Service tree which develops a chequered bark and is known as the Chequers tree, the fruit of which was used to flavour beer before the introduction of hops. The tree is found in this part of Suffolk so it may be linked to the pub.

In 1803, the Bury Post, knowing cute animals always catch the public eye, reported: "A singular circumstance lately occurred at the Chequers Inn Boxford. A boy brought in a nest of young rats, one of which he threw down to the cat, who had kittens. The cat, instead of destroying it, as was expected, carried it to her kittens, and has suckled it with them for three weeks, and whenever it strays out of her nest, she brings it back again."

The Chequers has magnificent gardens sweeping round the back of the Mill Surgery and along the river. This is where boating took

place in Victorian and Edwardian times along with ice skating in the winter. The pub sadly closed by the 1930s. When a recent owner, Jenny Robinson, started to reclaim the gardens after her arrival in 1958, her workmen found large Sarsen Stones. She, having no purpose for them, had them reburied in and close to the river. Jenny started to research the history of Boxford and The Boxford Society Archives owe much to her extensive research and endless but difficult to read scribbles. These are from a time when research always meant going to the County Records Office in Bury and pouring over documents for hours. She published 'Boxford A Miscellany' in 1998 which was updated in 2012 by The Boxford Society. Jenny left her files and papers, as promised, for me to unravel.

When the present owners were renovating The Chequers, large numbers of oyster shells were found in the garden. Oysters used to be food for the poor over the ages, particularly in pubs. No doubt they were brought by horse and cart from Colchester and the River Colne, famous for its oysters since Roman times. In Victorian times Dickens bought three oysters and a portion and bread and butter for a farthing in London. Something of a contrast to the cost of oysters today.

The Chequers room above the coach entrance was a very early reading room for men, when being well-informed and having a bit more education became desirable. It was felt to be a distraction from beer for the working man. During World War II it was used as an extension to the village school when a substantial number of children were evacuated from London to Boxford.

The Chequers has some of the few examples of pargeting left in the village with an interesting design over the front door. While being renovated recently a small mouse was inserted - or could it be a rat echoing the story told above? Pargeting is the traditional surface modelling in lime plaster most commonly found in East Anglia, though this one is not an early example

The Saracen's Head

This is recorded as being in Swan Street. There are no other records and we do not know where it was. Religious houses during the time of Richard the Lionheart (1157-1199) ran the earliest inns catering for pilgrims and knights on their way to the Crusades in the Holy Land. Numerous stopover inns for the Crusaders were named the Saracen's Head or similar and there is one nearby at Newton. Boxford had links with the Knights Templar through Turks Hall at Hagmore Green.

The Falcon, Swan Street

The Falcon is an heraldic device used by Edward III (1312-1377) and Queen Elizabeth I, as well as representing the sport of falconry. Little is known about this house in Swan Street when it was a pub, but the building is another medieval house which was decorated internally by an itinerant medieval painter in a black and white design. A small sample remains and is protected by the present owners. There was a Boxford family called "Facon" (old spelling of falcon) in 1447 and there may be a link. At around the same time a villager writes a will where he leaves a house next to the Falcon for his fiance of Assington, describing it as on the right after leaving the Bridge for Groton.

Just like Susanna King at The Swan, the Falcon publican, Mathew Teper, created his own brass farthings in 1664. These almost certainly became common currency throughout the village.

Percy Fletcher, a long-standing villager, spoke of the house as he knew it in his childhood. He said there was evidence of raised areas for racking the barrels in those days.



Mathew Teper of The Falcon produced this farthing in 1664.

The Halfway House

This pub was reported in Ralph Tugman's notes of 1972 as having been on the Polstead parish boundary. Could this have been a much earlier name for what is now the Brewer's Arms, Polstead, on the A1071 and not a Boxford pub at all? A Victorian and early 20th century brewery was located close to today's Brewers Arms, perhaps providing it with a new name, assuming it is the right pub.

The King's Head, Broad Street

Both King's and Queen's Head names came into use in the reign of Henry VIII at the time Henry moved against the Catholic Church and established the Church of England. The Royal 'heads' replaced more religious names for pubs as landlords wisely played safe by adopting loyal names.

The King's Head was on Broad Street, so will probably have been situated between The Fleece and Fen Street, or the bridge and The White Hart. It is only mentioned in connection with the Camping Football match of 1750 when it was suggested as a place to eat and where the prizes were to be awarded. (See BRN October 2021 Sport)

The Baker's Arms



The Bakers Arms in the early 1900s. The Baker family probably lived next door but were not the publicans at this time.

This pub was situated on Whitestreet Green which used to be in the parish of Boxford. Some suggest that Baker was from the family name and not linked with a nearby bakery. Certainly the Baker family ran it sometime after 1921, after George Smith, father of Tornado Smith moved to the White Hart. In the BRN August 2021 article about the Pattle family, the Baker's Arms was described as a boisterous pub. On the Boxford Village Website a newspaper report of an unusually violent incident is recorded, including a false accusation (*Boxford Public House Melee*): [bitly link](#)



The Baker children, who are in various pictures of the pub in its later years. This is c1928 after scouting was introduced in the village. Can anyone name them?

An amusing event occurred in 1910 after the then publican died. The regulars staged a drama of many dirty empty glasses put out before opening time, drunken noise and actions including grinding wood in a corn seed dressing machine. All this was intended to put off the potential landlord who had come to look the place over. He was so shocked he fled saying, "It's too rough for me". They got their landlord of choice, George, from the local community.

Tina Loose

CITIZENS ADVICE

citizens
advice

I'm a bit anxious about going out into shops at the moment so I want to do more shopping online, but there's been things in the news about delivery problems. I'm worried about not receiving things on time or packages being lost. What should I do if my parcel goes missing?

When you're online shopping, it's not always clear whom to contact if things go wrong.

As a customer, your contract is with the seller that you bought the item from. It's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. They should chase the courier to find out what happened to your order if there's a problem.

If your parcel hasn't arrived:

- Check the delivery address you gave the seller, to make sure it's correct.
- Then contact the seller and ask where your order is.
- If the seller claims they've delivered it or doesn't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances where the delivery time was essential, and you let the seller know ahead of time.

Under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, you can ask the seller to deliver the item to you again if the item wasn't delivered either by an agreed date, or within a reasonable time - usually within 30 days.

If the new delivery fails to come within a reasonable time, you can ask the seller for a refund.

If your parcel was left somewhere:

Another problem people face is when parcels get left in different places, for example outside or with a neighbour.

If your item was delivered by Royal Mail:

If Royal Mail left your package with a neighbour or in a certain place because you told them to, it's not the seller or Royal Mail's responsibility if it gets lost.

If they leave it somewhere you hadn't instructed, it's the seller's responsibility if it gets lost. You should contact the seller to ask for a redelivery or a refund.

If the item was delivered by a courier:

Check your terms and conditions or account details - they might include other places for delivery, like your porch or a neighbour's house. If you agreed to them, it's not the seller's or courier's responsibility if your order has gone missing. However, if you did not agree to this, then it's the seller's responsibility if your order goes missing.

If you ordered something from a private seller or you're still having trouble after trying the tips above, you can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133** for help.

If you need advice or information, contact Sudbury & District Citizens Advice. We are providing advice by telephone and email, Monday - Thursday, 10am - 1pm. Please phone **01787 321 400** 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 telephone our advice line on Freephone **0808 278 7868** or **0800 144 88 48**.

Alternatively, contact us by email at advice@sudburycab.org.uk or by using the contact facility on our website www.sudburycab.org.uk



COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES

The coronavirus (COVID-19) booster vaccine programme is continuing to be rolled-out across the country. A booster dose helps improve the protection following the first two doses of the vaccine and gives people longer-term protection against getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

In response to the Prime Minister's statement on Sunday 12 December, the NHS across Suffolk and North East Essex has established thousands of additional appointments for eligible people to receive their vaccination.

BOOSTER VACCINATIONS

Anyone over 18 who has had a second dose of a vaccine at least 3 months ago can receive a COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Appointments can be booked online at www.sneevaccine.org.uk. If people would prefer to attend a walk-in clinic, there are details of clinics available across Suffolk and North East Essex on the site.

The page is updated at regular intervals each day.

Eligibility

- people aged 18 and over
- people who live and work in care homes
- frontline health and social care workers
- people aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts them at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19
- people aged 16 and over who are a main carer for someone at high risk from COVID-19
- people aged 16 and over who live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
- people who are pregnant and in one of the eligible groups can also get a booster dose.

When can I book my COVID-19 booster vaccine?

Anyone aged 18 years or over can now pre-book their booster dose if it has been 2 months since their 2nd dose. They will be offered appointments from 3 months after the date of their 2nd dose.

Which vaccine will I be offered?

Most people will be offered a booster dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or Moderna vaccine. This means their booster dose may be different from the vaccines they had for their 1st and 2nd doses. Some people may be offered a booster dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine if they cannot have the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

Transportation

In Suffolk arrangements are being finalised to offer free bus and taxi services for those needing transport to a vaccination clinic. The offer is open to anyone in the county who needs help getting to their appointment or a drop-in clinic for a first, second, third or booster vaccination. This will be in place until December 29th. Details are available at <http://bit.ly/vaccine-transport>

EVERGREEN OFFER (1st - 3rd dose & booster)

As the national vaccination programme moves through the different priority groups, people who might have been hesitant to be vaccinated initially would be approached again and invited to take up the offer of vaccination. Our system and the national programme will keep the offer of vaccination evergreen which means there is a 1st, 2nd, 3rd dose (for individuals who are immunosuppressed and household contacts) and booster vaccine for everyone, when they are ready to receive it.



BRIAN TORA'S SOAP BOX

Here we are at the beginning of another year. I can't help wondering what 2022 might have in store for us. Let's face it, 2020 and 2021 were not great shakes when it comes assessing how the year might have been for any of us. Like so many people we know, we've lost friends and relatives to Covid, had our travel and holiday plans disrupted by the pandemic and been forced into learning how best to get on with our nearest and dearest while suffering from restrictions on where we can go and what we can do.

But we've survived. Or at least, most of us have, albeit with a few new scars acquired on the way - mainly mental. Can we look forward to a more relaxed, more normal year to come? Regrettably, I feel this is unlikely to be the case. This is not meant to be a negative comment. Rather, I am taking a realistic view that the world has changed for all time - not just as a consequence of coronavirus either. So, we will probably need to get used to a different way of operating in a society that does not feel quite the same as in the past as we move further into this decade.

Why do I think this way? Well, let's start with the pandemic itself. To combat the spread of the virus, shops and hospitality venues have erected screens around those employees that engage with the public, have installed sanitising equipment and, in the case of pubs and restaurants, have spaced out tables more. GP surgeries and hospital outpatients' departments have employed remote consultation techniques, using telephones and video links - which, let's face it, are now far more common for many of us - to lessen the need for face-to-face meetings and provide a more time efficient means of delivering care.

These changes are unlikely to be fully reversed, if at all. If there

is one positive outcome to take away from the past two years, it must be that the incidence of colds and flu has dropped dramatically, presumably because of the measures introduced to combat the pandemic. I usually suffer at least one severe cold each year but have now been cold-free since 2019. And, while the incidence of proper meetings with our doctors will increase, some services will remain remote. Before coronavirus hit, telephone and video consultations were virtually unheard of. Expect them to be a more regular part of the service in the future.

Then there are the so-called knock-on effects of the pandemic. Our National Health Service has had to undergo a radical rethink in terms of how it might fulfil our needs in the future. The migration of retailing from high street stores to on-line has accelerated mightily. And the jobs we do and where we do them has also changed most significantly. Working from home is likely to remain as an option for many, even if coronavirus is consigned to history. Some industries, like hospitality and transport, are suffering labour shortages which are likely to be addressed by increasing pay. No wonder inflation is taking off.

This coming year may well be one of transition, though the extent to which this will happen must depend on how the pandemic pans out. It is not fanciful to consider that coronavirus may be with us for some considerable time. But then flu is an ever-present threat and no doubt our health professionals have learned lessons from the pandemic that will govern how they handle future crises of this nature. However things develop, I hope all our readers have a happy and peaceful New Year and one that is an improvement on our recent experiences.

Brian Tora

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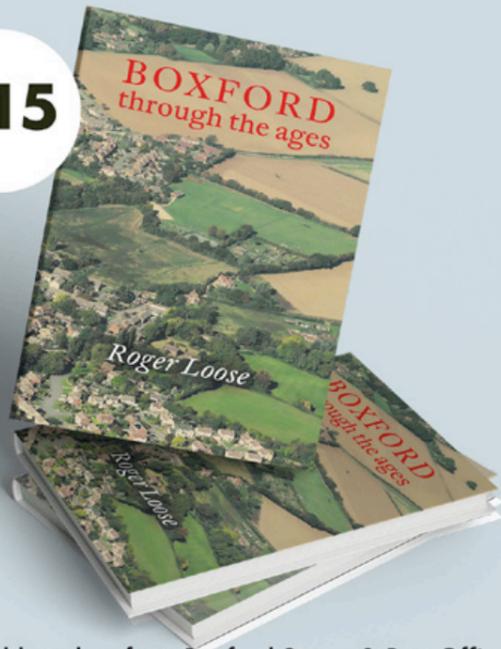
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FEED OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

Winter is a tough time for our native species of birds. Food is extremely scarce and short daylight hours mean less time in which the birds are able to forage. Add to that the cold temperatures mean they expend more energy than usual just to keep warm and it all adds up to a real trial just to survive for a huge number of birds.

Fortunately we can offer help in some very easy ways and in doing so bring a bit of wildlife back to our gardens to cheer us up - a true win-win situation for everyone.



First off, a quick check of things you definitely should **NOT** feed the wild birds:

Salted foods - foods like peanuts meant for human consumption, or leftover chips often contain salt as an additive. Salt can be lethal to birds as their livers can't process it and it often leads to renal failure.

Chocolate - chocolate is as toxic for birds as it is for dogs - keep it for yourself!

Turkey fat - whilst fat is great for birds (see below), leftover turkey fat from the roasting tin is not! It contains cooking juices that quickly develop salmonella and other bacteria and because it stays soft it gets in birds feathers reducing their ability to fly and keep warm.

Milk and bread - whilst blue tits may like the cream from the top of bottles of milk, milk itself is bad for birds and they can't digest it. Scattering breadcrumbs always seems like a good idea, but bread is incredibly low in nutritional value for birds and will quickly fill their stomachs meaning they're not ingesting enough calories. Avoid both.

Old birdseed - it seems natural to head straight to the back of the shed to find the bag of seed that you fed the birds with last year, but bacteria that have thrived in the seed all year will cause serious health problems for birds already low in energy to fight off infections. Anything uneaten over the winter period should be thrown away at the end of the season.

So what should we be feeding our birds?

Fat - birds need fuel over winter and lots of it! The huge calorific value of fat might seem like a bad idea for humans (and it generally is!) but for birds it can be a real lifeline. Whilst the turkey fat is right out, cuts of fat taken from roast beef or lamb are ideal and small birds will benefit from nipping small morsels off. Uncooked suet and lard are also helpful for mixing with berries and mealworms to make cakes. Mild and non-blue cheese such as cheddar is popular with wrens and dunnocks when scattered under bushes.

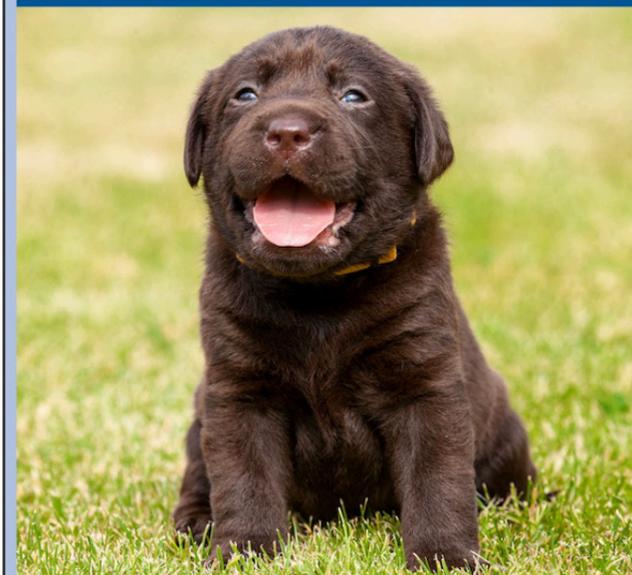
Peanuts - unsalted peanuts meant for birds are high in fat and calories and so are great fuel.

Pastry and biscuits - any offcuts of pastry are great for birds in winter, especially if made with traditional fats. Uneaten mince pies and fruit cake are great. Biscuits are high in energy, but again, avoid chocolate ones.

Roast potatoes and leftover vegetables - as long as not mixed with turkey fat from the tin, these are ideal for birds.

Experiment with different foods to see which types of birds prefer which - you'll find different species have very particular tastes!
Happy Festive Twitching!

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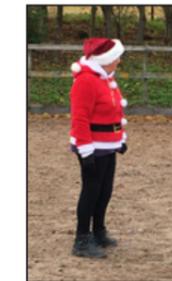
EBONY'S DIARY



The fundraising committee has pulled off another brilliant result: the Christmas Raffle consisted of a whopping big hamper so full of goodies that the lid can't shut (see the photo) and eleven runner-up prizes, raising over £1,000 for the Centre. Behind this effort is one of our coaches, Jan McKillop. Not only is she a coach, but chairman of Fundraising. Adapting to changing times because of the pandemic, the committee has continued to raise money to keep us lucky horses going. Thank you to the committee and to all the punters who bought the tickets. Here is a lovely photo of Jan teaching



on the last Friday before Christmas.



Despite all the Friday helpers and riders watching the draw take place on 26th November, the hamper was won by a Wednesday volunteer from Bildeston. Congratulations, Amanda!

The stable block is to be reroofed in the holidays. After 32 years the time has come to cure the leaks and remove the incumbents who have taken up residence above us. It will be an interesting operation for me to watch from my room. I bet the live horses and ponies will be

astonished! The firm Chisnell's is doing the work so we shall be in safe hands, they know us!

We are about to have a new webpage. Andrew Gourlay has kindly operated it for us over 20 years of pro bono work for which we are extremely grateful. Just as he began to want to retire, another wonderful person, Jennifer Price, offered to build us a new page that is compatible with phones, and has a great new look. It will be live before the new year. Have a look and see what's looking good on there.



The yard was well decorated for Christmas. Our carol service in the stable yard was wonderful and Father Jo from Hadleigh blessed all the live ponies. Babs and I didn't feel left out since we could watch everything that happened, and our room was used as 'Wardrobe' for the participants in the crib scene. We had lots of visitors.

Well, we pick up the gossip that a new form of Covid is on the march. We just want to say to all our humans attached to Shelley, be careful, look out for each other and keep smiling! We all want to see you back up here from 17th January. Mat you all have a very happy New Year.

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BURGHERS OF BOXFORD

"I really have no idea what happens in the panto," writes the author of Boxford Drama Groups 2021 Pantomime, Gareth Price. "I wrote it 18 months ago and have drunk a lot of wine since then. I'm looking forward to seeing what it's all about."

Gareth Price really needn't have worried. The Burghers of Boxford was an absolute blast! For those who care about such inconsequential things as plot you should know that the basic premise was indeed *highly* plausible: Betty Muffin, Boxford superstar spinster baker long ago found a baby boy and brought him up as her own son. Meanwhile, local entitled baddie Lord John Naughty has hamstrung the local population through lack of access to planning and building and seeks to blackmail Ms Muffin to reveal the secret ingredient of her fabulous home-baked bloomers by framing her adopted son for a heinous crime he didn't commit (tripping Lord Naughty up and breaking his fingernail). The son and secret heir



"I like my women how I like my tea: strong, and with a Penguin."



The dastardly deed: a broken fingernail.

to the throne of England, Matt Muffin, meanwhile escapes into Primrose Wood and attempts to hide from both Lord Naughty and the flatulent ghost of the wood, George Windy Smith (Tornado would be proud). Lord Naughty captures Matt and bribes the local Burghers of Boxford (the village elders) to arrange a rigged trial to ensure that Matt is hanged by a deranged bearded Scottish High-Court Judge, Willy Hangu.

The price of the rigged trial? Allowing the good Burghers to build as many huge housing estates as they like at the edge of the village. Are you still with me? No? Good, because the story was really a thinly-veiled excuse for an absolute smorgasbord of hilariously-terrible jokes, catchy songs and riotous innuendo by a rampant cast of fine thespians that obviously had as much fun playing (with) their parts as the audience did watching them. There were treats in store for everyone in Price's play, equally as funny for children as it was for the adults in the audience, although often for very different



Cardiac arrests Lord Naughty's enemies

reasons! Stand-out performances from Mike Keith as evil baddie Lord John Naughty, Alison Barlow as Matt Muffin and an absolutely amazing turn as panto dame Betty Muffin by David Philips are joined by Nick Elliot as Judge Willy Hangu purely for the infectious amount of delight he was having in playing the role and having all the best theme tunes.



"I am the Judge!"



The wise Burghers of Boxford in session

A special mention must also go to the Burghers of Boxford: Vic Rice, Tony Murphy and Pete Korabik who all put on an incredibly convincing performance as 3 confused old men. Pete Korabik (who was standing in for Derek Butler after Derek somehow merged panto with real life and managed to break his neck putting on a sock) remarkably invoking the sadly absent Mr Butler so it felt like he was there on stage.

The drama group went to town on the set design and costumes, making you feel as if *you really were sat in Boxford*. Director Janice Keith was able to wring every last bit of panto-farce out of her cast. Gareth and Sue Price clearly had fun with the music and songs in the play, backed up with some very fine singing from all involved. The ticket price was worth the yodelling performance from Mike Keith alone! This was one panto that you didn't want to miss, and you'll struggle to forget! The BRN is very much looking forward to next year's!

www.boxforddramagroup.com



The Dowager Lady Groton gives her verdict on the impending marriage

SbN SENIORS SECTION

Some 52 players took part in the annual Yuletide Scramble today, on a Gainsborough course which had some incredibly wet fairways, but surprisingly played really well – especially the greens, which are as good as anyone can remember in December.

Once again the event was also a fund raiser for the Sudbury Storehouse Foodbank, with all donations being co-ordinated by Roger Davies.

Entry fees for today's event all went towards the foodbank, as well as other donations made separately by players who did not take part. In total, **£1,120** was raised.

Fittingly perhaps, since Roger was the fund raising co-ordinator, he was also a member of the winning team. With a fantastic net score of 55, Roger, Phil Hickley, Allen Brown and Paul Gregan took the honours. Second was the team of Reg Reid, Barry Hitchcock, John Russell and Gordon Bryan with 57. And third, on countback, was Ian McKay, Martin Brown, Alan Line and Ian Berry with 59.



Three members of the winning team alongside this year's seniors captain.

Secondly, our outgoing Captain, Terry Mitchell, made a presentation to the British Heart Foundation of **£5,765**. This sum represented the money raised during his year of captaincy and was a tremendous achievement.



FERRIERS BARN TROPHY

On Saturday 4th December Richard Allen, previous Men's Captain of Stoke by Nayland Golf Club, presented Nikki Goodman from Ferriers Barn Day Centre with a cheque for **£310.06** from money raised in the Ferriers Barn Trophy held in May each year. This year's trophy was won by the pairing of Matt King and Greg Smith. Ferriers Barn is located just outside Bures and provides a Day Centre for adults with disabilities. The money raised will be invaluable to the centre in providing the service that it provides.



THRILLS, SPILLS & SPLASHES!

Happy new year. We hope you all had a wonderful festive time with your loved ones.

As we start 2022 how about putting a challenge in your diary and fundraising for your local NHS charity. Whether it's a good drive to get yourself fit, tick something off your bucket list or just to have a laugh with your mates, we've got the event for you.

Swimarathon - Sunday 13th March 2022

The Rotary Club of Bury St Edmunds are once again hosting their Swimarathon at the Abbeycroft Leisure Centre. Teams will try and swim as many lengths in 40 minutes as they can with certificates and medals for all. Teams of four are invited to take part with all abilities being welcome.

Haven't got three keen swimming mates but want to take part? My WiSH Charity has a team and if you'd like to join us do give us a call.

My WiSH Charity Skydive - Saturday 4th June 2022

Join us as we head to Beccles to take on the experience of a lifetime. This tandem skydive will see you fall at 120mph, descending 5,000 feet in just 40 seconds and enjoying an adrenaline rush like never before.

Training is given before and the expert team will guide you all the way. It's one of the most thrilling things you'll ever do so don't miss this opportunity to take to the skies.

My WiSH Charity Soapbox Challenge - Sat 4th September 2022

Soapbox is back and we need you to help us entertain the crowds. Building a soapbox is such a great teambuilding exercise as well as a great chance to promote your club or business. As well as racing your soapbox down Mount Road in Bury St Edmunds, you'll be able to have a stand in our Soapbox City and you'll be in with a chance to win of our five coveted trophies, including overall champion. Check out our website to see a video from our last Soapbox, it was an amazing day. While we hope there aren't any spills, our course offers a slalom and a jump so only time will tell. Are you brave enough to take on the challenge?

For more information about each of these events or to sign up please go to our events page at www.mywishcharity.co.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

GROTON

Summary of Council Meeting 3rd November 2021

Planning Matters

Several individual planning applications were discussed. Details of these can be found in the full minutes available online at:

<http://groton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/documents/>

Local Housing update - All four homes now allocated and occupied. Three to families from Groton and one from Boxford.

Neighbourhood Plan - In view of the interest shown by some parishioners, it was agreed to invite a representative from BDC to attend the next meeting to speak about how a Neighbourhood Plan would benefit Groton.

Recruitment of New Councillors

Under the terms of the 1972 Local Government Act, Councillor Crane was no longer a member of the Council, having failed to attend a Council meeting within the past six months without giving apologies or reason for absence. This left two Councillor positions vacant. Interest had been shown by two Parishioners, one of whom was in attendance and the other who would be contacted by the Chairman

Highway & Footpath Matters

Footpath Cutting - Invoice from A Adams still not received. Footpath Leaflet - No further progress had been made.

Village Hall Lease - Chairman advised that he was dealing with this matter.

Groton Recorder - J Roberts had now taken on this role.

Financial Matters

Boxford School Library Funding Request - Sally Lewis from Boxford School reported that the required funding had been received from various means and the work carried out, however, the library stock of books needed replenishing. It was agreed that, as the Council had not contributed to the original funding, it would make a donation to help buy new books. After discussion, it was agreed that a donation of £500 would be made in this respect.

Bank Account - The Clerk reported that he had been added to the list of signatories for the Nat West account in order to make the transfer of payments to the new account easier.

Next meeting –Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.00pm

Full minutes can be found at

<http://groton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/documents/>

Richard Jones

grotonclerk@yahoo.com

EDWARDSTONE

Summary of Council Meeting 22nd November 2021

Planning Matters

Several individual planning applications were discussed. Details of these can be found in the full minutes available online at:

<http://edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/minutes/>

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Two new members had joined the Steering group which had met twice recently (once with the consultant Andrea Long) and were looking at the first stage of the process which would include a consultation with parishioners. Looking at the most effective way to conduct the consultation. Possibility of using the Box River News and including an insert for Edwardstone only.

Next meeting 1st Dec to finalise consultation and questionnaire.

Highway & Footpath Matters

Footpath Cutting - Garden Arbs had submitted an invoice for four cuts which was one more than they were contracted for. It was agreed that the Council should have been consulted before a fourth cut was carried out and therefore, payment would only be made for the agreed three cuts with a 50% payment made for the fourth cut as

a gesture of goodwill. The Clerk to write to Garden Arbs outlining this decision.

Footpath Leaflet - Councillor Wood had sent a draft proposal to Nick Bristow but had not heard back. Councillor Wood to provide some information for the Council's website in lieu of the finished leaflet.

Footpath 16 - Now opened through Priory Farm but unofficial path not blocked off and still being used. Chairman to meet with Claire Dickson from SCC, the owner of Priory Cottage and Charles Loyd of Strutt and Parker, who is managing the Priory Farm estate to resolve this issue. Footpath 3 - Chicken wire now replaced following an accident involving a member of the public.

Chairman's & Clerk's reports and correspondence

Letters received from Sudbury CAB and Headway Suffolk asking for financial donations. It was agreed that they did not meet the Council's new criteria for donations because neither had demonstrated sufficient benefit to the Parish.

Financial Matters

Statement of Finances & Orders for Payment were approved.

Budget 2021/22 - The adequacy of the Budget was approved. Clerk to write to S Britcher to thank him for his continued maintenance of the War Memorial.

Donations and s137 payments were agreed.

Banking Arrangements - Application made to Unity Trust for new Current Account with a few forms left to be signed. Clerk looking into different options for deposit/savings account.

Next Meeting Monday 17th January 2022 7.30pm

Full minutes can be found at

<http://edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/minutes/>

Richard Jones

edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com

BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 23rd November 2021

Vacancies

Please note we have 3 Councillor Vacancies on the Parish Council Applications are welcomed.

Meetings

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday each month except in August and December. Meetings are in the Village Hall with limited numbers to minimise Covid risks. Others can join via a Zoom link. The next meeting is Tuesday 25th January at 7:30pm.

Public Forum

The meeting was reminded of items raised at previous meetings including marking the Jubilee, maintenance of the Bus Shelter and Telephone kiosk and the standard of street cleaning in the Village. The Clerk explained about discussions with our Community Wardens about priorities and that Cllr Munson met the Wardens in the Village to follow up. The Chairman agreed to follow up with the Community Council regarding the Jubilee. The street sweeping by Babergh Council is under new management and the Community Wardens are liaising with the new operative to give due priority to Boxford. Another resident shared his plans to build an ECO house for a family member. The application was due for comment from the Parish Council later in the meeting. The resident was questioned about the flood risk.

County Council Report

County Cllr J Finch had circulated his report ahead of the meeting. On local matters: -

1. The poor repair to the Anglian water mains leakage in Ellis Street reported by a resident is now repaired.
2. The blocked Gullies in School Hill and Sand Hill
3. The footpath between Cox Hill and Ash Street.
4. Potential flooding in the region of Ash Street.
5. Resident's letter concerning large HGV in Ellis Street.

(Items 2 - 5 are all being followed up by Cllr Finch)

Following his report J Finch was challenged as to why Highways officers assessing planning applications will not meet with the Parish, but do engage with developers. J Finch confirmed he is escalating the request from the Parish Council.

District Council Report

District Cllr B Hurren reported on the pandemic effects at District level including workforce absences. The tree for life scheme continues for newborns. The implementation of the reduction in free parking is being delayed to enable further debate. He continues to investigate the footpath from Cox Hill and is looking to liaise with the landowner. It was reported that tree roots have become exposed due to the erosion of the path surface. The County Council Right of Way have advised on the correct surfacing material for the path concerned. He confirmed that the Public Realm function has been brought in-house and he is hoping something will be resolved by the District and County Councils working together in relation to the state of Wash Lane. He urged everyone to be prepared as the application on Sand Hill for 64 homes will come before Committee shortly. He has a Locality budget to allocate next year and he is hoping to give Boxford a pro-rata share.

On-going items

It was agreed to investigate with BT what can be done to maintain the telephone kiosk. In relation to the Bus Shelter, we're pleased to report that a volunteer has offered to paint it again. Members agreed for the street lighting to be re-programmed on the same basis as the County Council lights over the festive period to stay on all night for both Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. It was noted the Christmas Tree was already up in the Churchyard as ordered by the Parish Council through the Community Wardens.

Finance

The quotation for new posts and to re-hang Churchyard gate was duly approved. The quotations to maintain the Churchyard wall are to be put on the Agenda when all quotations have been received. However, existing quotes will be considered for budgeting purposes between meetings. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Edwards for all her work locating and meeting suitable contractors.

Planning

Several individual planning applications were discussed. Details of these can be found in the full minutes available online at:

<https://boxfordsuffolk.com/BoxfordParishCouncil/minutes>

Debbie Hattrell

d.hattrellhattrell@btinternet.com

NEWTON GREEN

Summary of Council Meeting 8th December 2021

21/207 Councillor Vacancy

The councillors reviewed the application from Shona Shipp to be considered for the vacancy caused by Sue Vince's resignation. The councillors resolved unanimously that she be co-opted as an NPC councillor and she took her seat as a member.

21/210 Clerk's Report

Following a review of the Clerk's report Cllr Everett updated councillors that the owner of Rotten Row Barn had been in touch with Cllr Presland to inform him that he had spoken to the businesses operating within in order to minimise the impact that vehicles using Rotten Row and Joes Road had upon local residents.

21/213 Recreation Ground

Cllr Everett updated councillors on the snagging meeting held with Wicksteed. All issues raised by NPC were accepted as requiring remedy and Wicksteed confirmed that the issues in the Installation Report requiring the manufacturer's confirmation were in accordance with their specifications. Wicksteed will be writing to confirm the outcome and once received and accepted by the Clerk, payment will be made. The Community Wardens will commence the

fortnightly check of the MUGA and play equipment in the week commencing 13th December 2021.

21/216 SID Speed Data

Cllr Everett provided a report on the SID data from Sept to end Nov 2021. The report highlighted 8 occurrences of vehicles travelling over 100mph through the 30mph zone. The councillors asked the Clerk to write to the Police Crime Commissioner to highlight the excessive speeds through the village and to ask what action he proposes to rectify the situation.

Full minutes can be found at www.newton.onesuffolk.net

Dave Crimmin

newtonpc2@gmail.com

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Summary of Council Meeting 9th December 2021

Future of The Swan Pub

There was a discussion regarding residents' concerns at the lack of progress in restoring the village pub which has now been closed for 4 years. It was acknowledged that the owner has experienced Heritage Planning problems in progressing his schedule of improvements to the building which has a "Grade II Listed" status.

Members of the village were concerned regarding progress and considered forming a working group to explore ways in which progress might be advanced. Any further discussion would take place outside of the Parish Council meeting.

Village Maintenance Schedule

The Chair presented a draft annual maintenance schedule regarding village assets and general maintenance around the village.

Budgeting for the costs of any maintenance work was discussed and members agreed to initially seek voluntary help from villagers.

Use of social media to communicate with the public

Currently only the village website and more recently the Box River News are used to relay Parish Council news. Possible additional means of communication were considered.

SCC Lorry Route Map Review

The Clerk informed members that neighbouring Parishes had been contacted regarding a coordinated response.

It was agreed to submit three responses relating to excessive HGV traffic through the village.

Two responses to cite that the road width and bends at either end of the village make the B1115 unsuitable for HGV traffic and a general coordinated comment that the current favoured routes through Lavenham, Great Waldingfield and Monks Eleigh towards Needham Market and Stowmarket are unsuitable for modern large HGV's and should therefore have a weight limit imposed.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

It was resolved that there should be a village event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in collaboration with other village organisations. A commemorative gift for all children in the village was discussed along with other possible commemorative features for the village.

2022/2023 Budget Proposals

The latest Tax Base figures from Babergh DC shows a 5.9% increase due to new house building. It was resolved to accept this increase and not raise the Precept providing that it did not raise Council Tax bills for the village. The draft budget for 2022/23 was agreed on that basis.

Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors were informed that the Neighbourhood Plan has been approved and will go to villagers for referendum in February 2022. Full details of the Plan would be posted on the village website.

Chris White

Acting Clerk
clerk.littlewaldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk

FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

Your County Councillor for the Stour Valley

Extra COVID-19 support heading to Suffolk with arrival of Omicron Variant

Public health managers in Suffolk have welcomed the Government's commitment to provide extra resources to help fight COVID-19 in the county. It comes as pressure on the county's hospitals is reaching critical levels due to more people needing treatment - and some of the highest rates of infection in the country.

The additional support will include:

- Support for the vaccination efforts by extending opening hours and
- creating pop up vaccination clinic within our communities
- Help to coordinate on the ground door knocking campaigns
- Help to reduce transmission in schools with increased testing and additional temporary powers.

The Director of Public Health has confirmed there are cases of OMICRON in Suffolk and contact tracing is under way. This is a summary of the further precautions concerning the Omicron variant given by the prime Minister on 29th November and 12th December at the time of going to print:

- *All international arrivals to take a Day 2 PCR test & self-isolate until they receive a negative test*
- *Face coverings to be made compulsory in shops and public transport and strongly advised in Secondary schools.*
- *The new rules also apply to staff and customers in: Hairdressers, tattoo studios and nail bars, Post offices and banks, Estate agents, Vet surgeries, Takeaways, Pharmacies, Auction houses, Taxis, Driving lessons and tests -*
- *Measures are precautionary and will be reviewed "in three weeks".*
- *COVID Booster is now being offered with the aim of getting everyone over 30 years old boosted by the end of the December. Appointments will be issued by GP or ring 119 for an appointment in a Pharmacy, library or other regional centre.*

NB - to get your invite by text, make sure that the mobile number with your GP is up to date.

Locally In the 7 days up to **13th December there were 3735 new cases of COVID-19 in the whole of Suffolk.** Locally in the area of my division, there were 34 cases up to the seven day period ending **8th December** in our MSOA area of 18 villages. **BUT** in the Sudbury and Gt Cornard, Hadleigh and East Bergholt areas which surround the Stour Valley division, **their cases in the last 7 days are up to the 70s** and incidences are being recorded in the younger age groups. **HOWEVER fatalities in Hospitals and Care Homes in the county are still very low - 7 day average < 2** in the county. **However** I continue to urge all those of you who are travelling locally and mixing with more people for work and / or pleasure **to take a Rapid Flow Test twice per week** so that you can take precautions if you are infected unknowingly and that we can keep the good record we have locally.



Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement – The Statutory Consultation

This statutory consultation will run for six weeks. It is expected to take place between **25th January 2022 and 7th March 2022.** All responses to the consultation must be received before

23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted up to five working days after this date. National Grid will be consulting on and seek views and feedback on the following elements of the project including the:

- proposed route of the new 400kV electricity line
- extent of undergrounding and overgrounding of the new 400kV electricity line
- location and form of cable sealing end compounds
- removal of the existing 132kV overhead electricity line
- location and form of a new Grid Supply Point Substation at Butlers Wood
- construction methodology
- likely environmental effects arising from the project
- potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant effects
- preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains.

I am planning a public meeting in mid February (*date to be confirmed*) to enable all residents to hear about the Latest proposals and have the opportunity to answer questions.

Members of the local community are also able to submit feedback by speaking with members of the National Grid Team via a number of channels, including a freephone information line (**0808 196 1515**), consultation email address contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com via the consultation website www.nationalgrid.com/Bramford-twinstead or via the postage paid address B T REINFORCEMENT.

More details on this consultation can be found here: <https://bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com>

Government funding boost for Suffolk community schemes

On November 5th, two Suffolk schemes received Government funding totalling more than £940,000. Enabling Self-Employment in Suffolk and the Suffolk Road to Net Zero business support programme are among 477 schemes across the country to receive backing from the Community Renewal Fund. This is a £200 million pot set up by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities aimed at boosting skills training for the unemployed and investing in businesses developing low-carbon technology.

The two Suffolk schemes, which are both being led by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) and which were put forward by Suffolk County Council, receive a total of £945,974.

Enabling Self-Employment, which receives £412,208, delivers self-employment support across Suffolk, particularly amongst disadvantaged communities in East Suffolk. Building on the established programme of Business Start-Up support in Norfolk and Suffolk, it works with employed and unemployed people – including those who were on furlough or who are under-employed and economically vulnerable – from deprived groups and communities.

Suffolk Road to Net Zero receives £533,766. This is a scheme offering grants to support businesses in developing low-carbon projects and which contribute to the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan's key theme of reducing industrial and commercial emissions, informs a model for place-based Net Zero strategies, and generates benefits for nature-based solutions. More details to follow.

Suffolk County Council investing £12.8m to decarbonise its buildings

It was announced on November 9th that properties, including fire stations and libraries, will receive investment as the council continues to drive its ambition to be Net Zero by 2030.

Suffolk County Council will be committing £12.8m towards reducing the carbon produced by buildings in its corporate estate. Cabinet members approved a report to commit to this investment, as well as implementing the SCC Energy Management Strategy.

This latest investment will also work towards reducing energy

consumption across the council's buildings to mitigate the effects of increasing energy prices and associated costs.

Through the Energy Management Strategy, the council will target how it can be 'smarter' with its buildings by reducing electricity consumption, reviewing the heating and cooling of its buildings, continuing its LED lighting rollout, replacing older fossil fuel boilers and generating its own energy.

Suffolk's Greenest County Awards Winners Announced

On November 12th, Suffolk celebrated the people and organisations making the biggest environmental difference in the county. Amongst the winners were An innovative food recycling company, a nature reserve and **the county's Tree Warden Network** who collected awards at The Hold in Ipswich. Full details here: <https://bit.ly/suffolk-green-awards>.

I am delighted to report that all the villages in my Stour Valley Division have their own tree wardens. The Suffolk Tree Warden Network is composed of volunteer Tree Champions who work with local councils and other community groups to plant, promote and care for trees across the county. As well as planting and protecting trees, they empower others to do the same, and act as a point of focus. Each planting season, in partnership with Suffolk County Council (SCC) and The Woodland Trust (WT), they distribute trees and hedge plants, get them safely in the ground and ensure they are looked after in the future.

Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley

The Foster Carer recruitment Event is held the **1st Wednesday of every month, and the Adoption Event is the 1st Thursday all 7:00pm in your home.**

To book a place please email Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk.

My Priorities

Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax.

james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

Tel: **01206 263649** Mobile: **07545 423796**

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Your Babergh District Councillor

Firstly, massive thanks to all who have worked so hard during this past year to keep us safe in so many ways. This applies particularly to GPs and local surgeries, along with the whole of our wonderful NHS, possibly the best example ever for devotion to duty and dedication to service without the pay and rewards they deserve. Also, to those who have volunteered themselves to help with the mass vaccination of almost our entire population, a huge task carried out with humour and friendly banter mixed with a stoic dedication. Every soul helping with this task deserves our thanks and gratitude.

Regarding the year ahead I am truly fearful of what levels our government will sink to next. I do not really think partying in groups and seemingly to be laughing and sniggering at the rest of us who try to obey the rules to protect ourselves and loved ones is the main issue here.

What is so frightening is the lurch to extreme right-wing politics and the total disregard for all that is democratic, right and fair is truly frightening. The awarding of huge contracts to friends and allies along with the deceit and mistruths to justify shocking decisions has brought our once great country down to a level never seen before in my lifetime. Both home and abroad,

Governments should lead by good example for the whole nation to proudly follow, especially the next generation of entrepreneurs, teachers, musicians and all of us ordinary folk.

While comedians and cartoonists are having a free script written for them by the shambolic behaviour of those who have somehow been elected to top jobs and those that spinelessly vote to keep them there, our place on the world stage has sunk to ridicule and disbelief.

There are many good people across the political spectrum and if our top layer of professional career politicians can be removed, along with the right wing press that promote them and keep them there, for their own financial advantage and gain, the vacuum created would allow genuine people to come through the ranks, as recent by-elections have shown.

My words at the close of last year in this column, predicting that if you elect a clown, we will end up with a circus has very regrettably become a horrible reality and very true.

Back to local issues, many of the BRN readers will know that the battle lines are finally drawn for one of the biggest decisions that the fantastic village and villagers of Boxford have ever been involved in. I refer of course to whether the 64 houses proposed by a private developer, encouraged by the government Build, Build, Build policy will go ahead at last, without any designated local housing or any meaningful infrastructure to help our medieval highways or village school, or whether the parish council and the vast majority of the villagers' views will prevail and we will as we have always done during my 22 yrs as your Babergh Councillor be allowed to build a mix of houses to fill a genuine local need and some basic infrastructure to help our deficient highway structure and local school facilities, namely a much needed car park.

We have had the latest site meeting and for the first time I felt that the assembled councillors actually took notice of the points raised by myself and the PC representative.

The full planning meeting to decide the very future of our village is likely to take place in January or very early February. As always, I will be doing my very best to represent the sensible way forward.

As always I would encourage everyone throughout the six villages that I represent to try to shop locally first, it is really surprising what little businesses have popped up during the last couple of years, everything from homemade cakes to clothes and so much more besides in our villages and two local market towns, as well as many pubs and restaurants providing fine food and dining opportunities, and "oh yes it is" the lovely Quay Theatre in Sudbury presenting puss in Boots as their Panto this year. Also, our local Post Offices in Boxford, Polstead, Stoke by Nayland and Monks Eleigh providing around 90% of the services that banks, when we had such things, used to. If we do our best to support local services, they will be there still when we need them most.

Was not really in the mood for Christmas this year, but will go to a couple of the local church services with Mrs. Bryn to remind ourselves what the celebration is really all about, will let some of my remaining hair down for the new year, which I hope will bring a realization that it is down to us at the coal face to get the revolution underway and change things from the bottom to the very top. Would be interested to meet like-minded people and first-time voters to discuss views and a way to change the balance of power at local level. Get in touch with me.

Please have a good year during 2022, although we are faced with horrible challenges, many of which are of our own making, I do feel there is light at the end of a dark tunnel and big changes are on the horizon, don't be afraid to get involved, especially if you are young and care about our country and world.

All Very Best Wishes.

Bryn

bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk

Tel: **01787 210854** Mobile: **07771 508348** Text preferred.

The Blooming Garden



Chic Sheds

Fans of Gardener's World go weak at the knees at the sight of Monty Don in his corduroys striding purposefully down the path with his wheelbarrow, pausing to throw a ball for the dogs, then stopping to speak winsomely to the camera. Well, I go weak at the knees at the sight of his tool shed. I love all his tools, and he has so many gleaming tools, each one hanging in its own special place. The potting area is beautifully organised with lovely compost and clean pots.

I have a very old, dilapidated shed which is a total embarrassment. This shed is entirely filled with plant pots; a great towering monument to my extravagance. It's not just my extravagance though. People bring me their unwanted pots too. My shed became the depot for unwanted pots for everyone who knows me. Presumably word got round and people thought that I have a thing about pots. I started off washing them and arranging them neatly, all graded in size, but it got totally out of hand. My bamboo canes were in the far corner of this shed and in order to get at them I needed a hard hat and protective clothing in order to scale the plant pot mountain.



Escaped Shed Beastie

I think there must be some unsavoury sort of plastic sex going on in the darkness of this shed because even when nobody has brought any pots for a while the heap just carries on growing. They are reproducing. As for what is happening in the slimy, murky underworld of the floor under all this, I dread to think. Probably new life forms are developing to join ancient microbes and Hieronymus Bosch-type Shed Beasties.

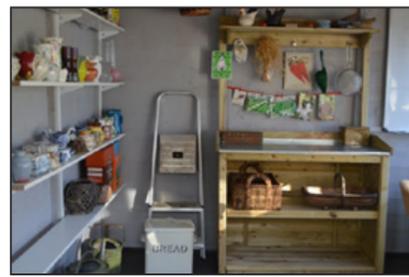
You can see why I yearned for a chic shed. And I'm not the only one; sheds have become trendy. You find beautiful ones all over Pinterest. I'm not sure why men like them, maybe so that they have somewhere to play with their tools. And I don't suppose men spend hours scrolling through Pinterest. I think women never grow out of their love of playing in Wendy houses. Or maybe in all of us the love of a cave of our own is an atavistic thing.

I remember my father's potting shed which smelt of mouse droppings, cigar smoke and no doubt, carcinogenic chemicals. It was home to spiders, mildewed garments, dead butterflies and all my father's complicated garden paraphernalia. My father had never heard of shed chic and he would have snorted in derision at the idea. But this is what I yearned for and spent hours planning.

When I eventually got my shed five years ago, I bought a table and chair, and an unimaginable luxury; a potting station. I bought zinc dustbins for compost, and I

have plenty of space to hang tools. It is wonderful to have all my tools organized and to hand. I have drawers to keep things in and four long shelves for vases. I love using old things, so I use my father's old school tuck box for pots and my grandmother's old

gas mask tin for seeds. My mother's tapestry basket holds gardening gloves and an old tin bread bin contains vermiculite. A Chinese pottery umbrella stand contains bamboo canes. I even have an old rug in here and pictures. I bought a wicker chair on eBay. I suppose my She Shed is a Wendy House as well as a tool shed but it is my retreat and I love it. I no longer envy Monty Don, even though he has far more tools than me and they are all nice and polished.



I painted the outside of the shed in stripes, so that it looks like a beach hut. I even have a buxom bathing beauty on the door. When I created this, I had just visited Derek Jarman's iconic garden on Dungeness beach in Kent. I was inspired by this so I surrounded the shed with a little beach with pebbles, shells and a few fossils. I grow plants here which you see on the sea shore like *Armeria maritima*, (thrift), *Silene maritima*, (sea campion), *Glaucium flavum*, (horned poppy) and forms of *Eryngium bourgatii*, (Mediterranean sea holly). I also grow huge agapanthus

because I remember seeing them growing in the dunes on Tresco. My ever-growing collection of succulents is displayed outside the shed. This also reminds me of the fabulous gardens on Tresco. When you are creating something like this you can let your inspiration soar. And what better way to spend the darkest days of winter?

(N.B. Many thanks to my talented daughter-in-law, Nicky Wilding, for the picture of the Shed Beastie.)

Chloris.

For more from Chloris follow: www.bloominggarden.wordpress.com



DIRECTORY OF CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

CLUBS & GROUPS

Boxford Bellringers	Richard Gates	01787 210432
Boxford Bible Study Group	Peter & Margaret	01787 211077
Boxford Bike Club	Matthew Shinn	01787 211296 www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk
Boxford Bowls Club	Lea Blackham	01787 210313
Boxford Carpet Bowls	Brian Porter	01473 824283
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Macmillan	07779 303690 janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk
Boxford Gardens Open	Sarah Williams	07879 997640 Sarah.williams@rmcurtis.co.uk
Boxford Gardening Society	Elizabeth Wagener	01787 210223 elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com
Boxford Literary Group	David Jones	01787 211104 audav@hotmail.co.uk
Boxford Rovers FC	Melvyn Eke	07873 971701 m.eke@btinternet.com www.boxfordrovers.co.uk
Boxford Tennis Social	Sue Moore	07808 481447
Boxford WI	Annie Philips	01787 211729
Edwardstone Cricket Club	Tom Whymark	01787 211375
Fleece Jazz	David Gasson	01787 211865
Madrigalia Choir	Sue Price	01787 210913
Miss Lesley School of Performing Arts (MLSPA)	Miss Lesley	07957 351941 lesley.mlspa@gmail.com
Milden Cricket Club	Andrew Simmons	07951 055643
Newton Art Club	Carol Langley	01787 373548
Newton Line Dancing	Jean Tomkins	01787 377343 JT.Steppers@talktalk.net
Newton War Games Club	Brian Lawson	01787 312160
Newton Fireside Club	Moira Evans	01787 374652
Swing jive & Lindy Hop Dance	Sarah Boldock	07956 614824
Yoga	Marianne Marshall	01787 210323

SCOUTING

1st Boxford Beaver Scouts	Greg Roberts	07578 825971 beaversboxford@gmail.com
1st Boxford Cub Scouts	Liv Hoy	07801 548854 livkarine@hotmail.com
1st Boxford Scouts	Neil Barkham	01787 211916
1st Boxford Rainbows	Janice Macmillan	07779 303690
1st Boxford Brownies	Janice Macmillan	07779 303690 janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk
1st Boxford Guides	Deborah Tullett	debtullett@hotmail.com

CHARITIES

Boxford & Groton United Charities	Guy Godfrey	01787 211378
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Claire Mortimer	01787 210051
Groton Educational Foundation	Stephen Watkins	01787 210977 stephen_watkins49@yahoo.co.uk
Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust	Robert Bowbridge	01787 211553
Little Waldingfield Charities	Mary Thorogood	01787 247658
Newton Green Trust	Philip Taylor	01787 211265 philiptaylor433@gmail.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS

3PR Boxford 1st Responders	Rich Wild	01787 210946 office@boxfordresponders.com
Boxford Allotments	Karen Coleman	07970 945646
Boxford Bounty	Mark Miller	01787 211596
Boxford Community Car Scheme	Jen Eastwood	01787 211853 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com
Boxford Community Council	Ward Baker	01787 210129 BoxfordCommunityCouncil@gmail.com www.boxford.me.uk
Boxford Playing Fields	David Burden	01787 211926 d.burden379@btinternet.com
Boxford Society	Jen Eastwood	01787 211853 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com www.boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety
Boxford Tennis Courts	Yvonne Woodfield	01787 210151
Ltl Waldingfield Playingfield	Charles Miller	01787 249111

CHILDREN FAMILIES & LEARNING

Boxford Primary School		01787 210332 office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk www.boxford-suffolk.secure-dbprimary.com
Friends of Boxford School (FoBS)		talktofobs@gmail.com
Sunflowers Childcare	Moira Grant	01787 211363 info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk
Boxford Baby & Toddler Group		facebook.com/Boxfordbabyandtoddlergroup

HALLS & FACILITIES TO HIRE

Boxford Pavilion	Hugh Philips	01787 211729 hughvcphillips@hotmail.com
Boxford Spinney	Mark Miller	01787 211596 mark.miller@talktalk.net www.boxfordspinney.co.uk
Boxford Village Hall	Jane Elliott	07721 880521 BVHbookhall@gmail.com
Edwardstone Parish Hall	Daphne Clark	01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
Edwardstone Millennium Green	Gordon	01787 211605
Groton Village Hall	Joanna Roberts	01787 210619
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	Sue Bowen	01787 249473 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com
Marquee Booking		BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com
Milden Pavilion	Pearl	01449 741876
Newton Village Hall	Alan Vince	01787 373963

PARISH COUNCIL CLERKS

Boxford Parish Council	Debbie Hattrell	01787 210943 d.hattrellhattrell@btinternet.com
Edwardstone Parish Council	Richard Jones	01473 828246 edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com
Groton Parish Council	Richard Jones	01473 828246 grotonclerk@yahoo.com
Ltl Waldingfield Parish Council	Christine Hargan	01449 674727 clerk.littlewaldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk
Newton Parish Council	Dave Crimmin	01787 375085 newtonpc2@gmail.com



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EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 2022

- 5** WED **Boxford WI - Guest Speaker** 2:00pm
Boxford Village Hall
- 7** FRI **Drop in for Coffee & Cakes** 10:30 - 12:00
St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield
- 8** SAT **Leavenheath Cinema "Love Sarah"** 7:00pm
Leavenheath Village Hall

FEBRUARY 2022

- 2** WED **Boxford WI - Guest Speaker** 2:00pm
Boxford Village Hall
- 4** FRI **Drop in for Coffee & Cakes** 10:30 - 12:00
St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield
- 19** SAT **Quiz** 7:30pm
Newton Green Village Hall
- 26** SAT **Boxford Bike Club Quiz Night** 8:00pm
Boxford Village Hall
- 27** SUN **Boxford Farmers, Art & Craft Market** 10:00-1:00
Boxford Village Hall

MARCH 2022

- 2** WED **Boxford WI - Guest Speaker** 2:00pm
Boxford Village Hall
- 7** FRI **Drop in for Coffee & Cakes** 10:30 - 12:00
St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield
- 27** SUN **Boxford Farmers, Art & Craft Market** 10:00-1:00
Boxford Village Hall

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 2022

- 2** THU **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** TBC
Beacon Lighting, White Hart Car Park
- 3** FRI **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** TBC
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