

February 2024

# Box River News

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# BOXFORD BOUNTY 2024

The Boxford Bounty is pleased to announce that increased ticket sales mean the prizes have gone up for 2024. With the first draw taking place in February, there are going to be 6 draws, each with massive prizes:

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	£250
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	£125
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	£75
4 <sup>th</sup> prize	£50



You still have time to buy your ticket for the year by scanning the QR code or emailing your details to: [boxfordbounty@gmail.com](mailto:boxfordbounty@gmail.com) or ring **01787 211596** and leave a message and we will call you back.

Tickets cost £20 each and must be purchased and verified before the first draw takes place so you must act now if you don't want to miss out. As well as giving yourself the chance of winning some big money prizes you will be helping the local community.

Through the Community Council, the Bounty provides financial support for many local groups and interests. The following groups have benefited from direct grants in the past few years: *1<sup>st</sup> Boxford Brownies, Boxford Guides, Boxford Fireworks, Carpet Bowls Club, Boxford Village Hall, Breast Cancer Care, Boxford Bowls Club, Boxford Cycle Club, Boxford Spinney, Sunflowers Nursery, Edwardstone Mill Green Trust, Friends of Boxford School, Boxford Playing Fields, Box River Club, Boxford Bridge Club, Boxford Scouts, Boxford Rovers, Boxford United Charities.*

If you run a local group and would like to make a grant application, please email [boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com) for an application form and details of how to apply.

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# BOXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We seem to be racing through 2024! The mild days we have experienced over Christmas have turned much colder. However, this still doesn't deter children from wearing shorts. I am always amazed how children don't feel the cold!

## Forest Schools at Boxford Primary

Even though the days have become colder it does not stop us from regularly using our bespoke Forest School area. Sheena Shieldbug, our Forest School Leader, works with all classes across the academic year. Sessions always begin around the camp fire and are then led by the children's interests: climbing, den building and exploring nature, to name but a few activities. Forest school names are alliterative and made using a child's name followed by a creature or something natural. What would yours be?



Reception children enjoying the winter sunshine

Our Reception class are some of the children using the Forest School area this term and they have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions. Isla, a Reception pupil, said, "I love Forest Schools. My favourite part is laying in the hammock." Albie reflected, "I like climbing up. I have tried to do some good balancing today."

## Festival of Music – March 2024

Year 5 and 6 pupils at Boxford Primary are teaming up with Kersey Primary to host a festival of music. The event will take place at St. Mary's Church, Boxford on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10am.

Mrs Blyth from Suffolk County Music Service, will be working with children to practice ensemble pieces and some children will also be given the opportunity to perform solo pieces too

**This event is OPEN to all members of the local community.** Tickets can be purchased from our school office from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Tickets will be a recommended donation of £3 per adult (children free). Refreshments will be available and all proceeds will be given back to the local churches of Boxford and Kersey. We appreciate Father Rob hosting this event and we can't wait to see members of the local community attending too.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Boxford and Groton United Charities for their kind donation of £500 towards the brass provision. This will help ensure that children in Year 5 and 6 can continue learning to play a brass instrument this academic year.

## Would you like a school tour?

We'd be delighted to share the amazing learning happening in our school – it would be a chance to see our excellent outside learning spaces too. If you would like your child to join our school, please contact Mrs Clarke in the office on **01787 210332** or email [office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk) to book a school tour. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Mr Scott Reynolds  
Assistant Headteacher

# Box River News

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Deadline date for the March 2024 Issue is:

**February 15<sup>th</sup> at midday**

# NEWTON FIRESIDE CLUB

A Happy New Year to you all.

Christmas seems a distant memory, so now it's time to look forward to spring.



Our Christmas meal at the Saracens Head was a huge success. 28 members indulged in a festive meal with much laughter and a bevvie or two.

Unfortunately, Laura from Jules Flowers in Assington was unable to join us, but we were thrilled to see Jules instead. As usual it was quite a chaotic afternoon, but everyone had a great time and went home with a fabulous table decoration and a prize from the raffle.

Now, on to next term.

## Spring 2024 Programme of Events:

- Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Jan Alan's Pies Lunch - 12:30 start
- Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Jan Speaker - 'It Shouldn't Happen to a Vicar'
- Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Feb Pancakes
- Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb Trip to Norwich (more details to follow)
- Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Mar Bring & Share Lunch - 12:30 Start - Venue TBC
- Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Mar Talk by Hannah from Perrywood Garden Centre

All meetings are held in the village hall and start at 2pm unless otherwise stated. Anyone is welcome. Subs for members are £25 this term and must be paid in advance. This includes refreshments, activities and subsidised events. Non-members are welcome to come along to any session. The fee will be between £5 and £10 depending on the activity. New members are always welcome, the first session is free.

Please contact Moira on **01787 374652** or Sue on **07881 383 998** if you would like more details.

*Sue Presland*

# BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

All working sub-committees are continuing to move forward on certain projects. We are finding more and more that all of us as a parish are having to take responsibility for maintaining and improving our immediate environs - this approach takes both a considerable amount of councillor's time to initiate and plan, together with ensuring that finance is available to ensure that Boxford remains the village that we so love and wish to protect.

## Current Key Projects:

**Bus Service:** We continue to fight for the retention of our bus service. Along with our county councillor we have met with senior people at Endeavour House, worked alongside our current bus service provider and some new initiatives have been put on the table. We are entering a critical phase of discussions - rest assured Boxford Parish Council is fighting our corner!

**Traffic and Speed Surveys:** We are awaiting to meet with the county highways safety team to discuss options for improving safety for all in Boxford.

**Village Hall:** Continuing to work alongside the Village Hall

Committee to support them in their future endeavours to upgrade this valuable asset.

**Churchyard & Cemetery:** Over the next two months further remedial works will be undertaken in the churchyard and cemetery to improve the area and its safety. The sub-committee are working hand in hand with the environment & ecology sub-committee in this area. We shall be attempting to deal with the puddling that occurs as you enter the bottom gate to the churchyard - not pleasant when you have to wade through it.

**Public Realm:** Along with the Sudbury wardens, we continue to tidy up some aspects of the village - you may have noticed that the bridge railings have been cleaned in readiness for spring. We have more areas in the village to enhance. We have conducted our street light survey with the valuable assistance of the county council street light team and are in the process of preparing a plan for the maintenance and improvement of our existing facilities together with possibly some additionally identified lighting.

**Drains and Gully Cleaning:** I am pleased to be able to inform you that all the drains and gullies down School Hill, around Stone Street Road and Church Street have now been cleared and jetted. This should ensure that in future most water runs where it should rather than cause flooding in those areas. Whilst this process was being undertaken some further work to drains has been identified. This work will need to be done to avoid more serious problems in the future. A point mentioned by the contractors was that it is imperative that the road edges are swept on a regular basis, particularly in the areas where we have trees overhanging. Whilst the contractors were with us we were able to have the blocked drain at the bottom of the Croft (where it adjoins the main road) cleared. This should ensure that we do not have the puddling here which causes a problem for pedestrians. We are most grateful for the support given to us by the contractors working on behalf of the county council. We are also grateful for the support from our local county councillor in helping to make this work happen, but we do have much more to do in other parts of the village.

**Road Maintenance:** Still much work to do here in conjunction with SCC Highways to reach a plan which works for Boxford.

**Road Sweeping:** We continue to work with our district councillor to help us move to a road sweeping schedule which is appropriate for Boxford. The two sweeps per annum is not sufficient. I would like to think we are close to being able to say that we will have an improved agreement with Babergh District Council.

**Flood Risk Mitigation:** I am hoping that by the time this edition of the BRN is published the parish council will have agreed to the setting up of this group. This project will bring together statutory bodies, councils, landowners and local experts.

**The Financial Scenario:** Over the past few months Boxford Parish Council has been assessing what budgets are needed to support Boxford in order for it to remain a vibrant and desirable place to live. Some services going forward will have to be funded more from the local community rather than expect others to 'do the job' - there is also an element of works to be undertaken that reflect an element of 'catch up'. We are being clear and realistic in terms of what needs doing, who is going to do it and how it is to be sustainably funded for the future.

As always, thank you to all our parishioners for the support you give to your parish council team who are 'working for you'.

We do have two vacancies on the council - anyone interested please make themselves known. It would be good to have some representations from the Daking Avenue and Ash Street / Fen Street areas.

*Colin Parr*  
Chair - Boxford Parish Council

# GROTON NEWS

## People and Places Plan

We have received the final report from the Babergh planning project team that provides the findings and comments received from the recent Groton Housing Needs Assessment survey. We had 33 households complete the assessment and have some valuable input on the future needs for housing in Groton. The final report is being reviewed by the Groton People & Places steering group. This input will be very valuable in developing the housing module draft policies over the next few months. The report and comments can be accessed on the project website [www.grotonnp.onesuffolk.net](http://www.grotonnp.onesuffolk.net).

## New Groton History Society

A small group of Groton residents are looking into the possibility of establishing a Groton history society/club. We are starting to look at our options as to how this might develop and would be delighted if anyone else would be interested in joining us. If you have a passion for or just simply enjoy history, whether local, regional, national or global history, whether social, political, economic or military history, whether you just want to have a discussion group or want to listen to guest speakers or both... please get in touch, as we would like to know who is keen to join us.

## Groton Garland of Hamlets 'Follow On' project

As mentioned previously in the BRN the initial project team have started to look into options for a 'follow on' publication to the successful *Garland of Hamlets*, published in 2000. Collectively we think that we have a possible theme that we are exploring further and will share this with the community once we have more details, possibly in April. We are very keen to hear from more people in Groton. We would like to discuss with anyone who has interesting family history from relatives, recent and ancestral, or has a story to share of life in Groton through time. This may be a wartime story, a famous inhabitant of Groton, an interesting insight into working in Groton years ago or interesting insight into your house's history. If you have a story we would like to chat with you. Additionally, if you would like to join us in developing our theme and possible storyboard, then please contact us.

Nigel Chapman [nigeljchap@gmail.com](mailto:nigeljchap@gmail.com)

# SAND HILL PLANNING APPEAL

Readers will recall that in view of the very recent adoption of the Babergh-Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (only three weeks before the Hearing on 12 December), the planning inspector, Mr Jeremy Sargent, who will decide Catesby's appeal, gave directions at the Hearing for the parties and members of the public to make comments in writing on matters raised by Policy SP03 relating to the location of new housing development in the Babergh district. The timetable for such further submissions (which covered a number of other issues, including revised proposed conditions, were the inspector to allow the appeal) was set out in an e-mail dated 14 December 2023, which has been posted on the Babergh website: <https://bit.ly/babergh-sand-hill>

As at the date of writing (16 January), Babergh has complied with the directions but, so far, there is nothing from Catesby. In the submission for Babergh (also on the website) Steven Stroud (Strategic & Professional Lead – Development Management & Heritage) argues strongly that Catesby's proposal is at odds with Policy SP03 "a policy of general restraint that deliberately and expressly defines where sustainable development should and should not take place, so needs are met, and the countryside protected" and that "the conflict identified is a matter of great weight, recognising the agreed importance of planning decisions being genuinely plan-led." Catesby's proposal also conflicts with the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan.

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One other item of interest: Among the proposed conditions was one (condition 24) requiring that Bridleway BR10 should be "widened to 3 metres with bound surface suitable for use by pedestrians and cyclists." Following his site view the Inspector "noted that the existing bridleway as it runs past the site is narrow and sits between an embankment on one side and the back fences of neighbouring houses [the gardens of the houses on the south side of Brook Hall Road] on the other" and that "he therefore anticipates that widening it to 3m would involve appreciable engineering works" In response, the proposed condition has been revised to require only "surfacing improvements to BR10 both to the eastern edge of the site and westwards towards Cox Hill", the upgrade "to be carried out prior to first occupation of the 30<sup>th</sup> dwelling." Given the quagmire state of the bridleway following recent rainfall, this should, perhaps, be a requirement before the occupation of any dwelling.

David Lamming

# RECLAIM THE RAIN

Reclaim the Rain is launching a project newsletter! This will provide more detailed updates for each of our six communities, specifically covering any progress as we enter the detailed design and delivery stages of the project.

If you wish to receive the first-ever copy and future editions, please check out our website where it will be published or contact us to express your interest in being added to our growing mailing list.

Get in touch with your Suffolk team, Ruby and Sian, via the Reclaim the Rain website ([reclaimtherain.org](http://reclaimtherain.org)) or using our email: [reclaimtherain@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:reclaimtherain@suffolk.gov.uk).

# MADRIGALIA NEWS

Last year was a busy one with some memorable firsts, namely our first concert at Long Melford Church when we joined with our friends *Melody of Harps* to take part in the lunchtime concert series, our first concert at Groton Church when we provided entertainment for the Winthrops on their visit from the USA and our first concert with a string quartet.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, the *Boxford String Quartet* and Madrigalia joined forces in a Christmas Concert of festive music in aid of St Mary's Church. There were renditions of traditional carols as well as wonderful arrangements of popular Christmas classics resulting in an evening of fun and joyous music made all the more festive with a good helping of mulled wine and Christmas fare.



We'd like to thank those who joined us to sing carols in Brook Hall Road and at the Fish 'n' Chip van in Swan Street. Special thanks must go to the ladies who on a busy night serving fish and chips plied our carollers with mulled wine and kindly made a very generous donation to our chosen charity '*Crisis at Christmas*'.

Madrigalia was on the road again for our final event of the year - the Borley Illuminations and Carol Concert. Anyone approaching Borley on 21<sup>st</sup> December will have had a double-take at the church building; the roof, tower and walls had been lit-up with a colourfully changing projection. Coming closer, the churchyard was bathed in star-lit creations - stars fully 6 feet tall, fixed to each yew tree (the twelve disciples) creating a star-trail from the gate to the porch, where a massive lit star had been fixed above the doorway.

The inside of the porch was an evergreen grotto of more lights and as one stepped into the church it was awash with colourful lights, decorated trees, hanging candles and a warm welcoming atmosphere.



Madrigalia dressed in Dickensian attire reflecting the theme of the evening concert. Frock coats, hats, cravats, scarves and canes produced an atmospheric glow all of itself.

The programme was built around a condensed version of '*A Christmas Carol*' by Charles Dickens. On this occasion the part of Dickens was taken by Kelvin Hasting and the audience hung on every word as the story unfolded and joined in with gusto at the traditional favourite Christmas carols. The evening was rounded off with a wonderful selection of homemade Christmas fare and mulled cider provided and served by the team of Borley volunteers. A wonderfully evocative and festive night.

Sue Price (photos David Lamming)

# CITIZENS ADVICE



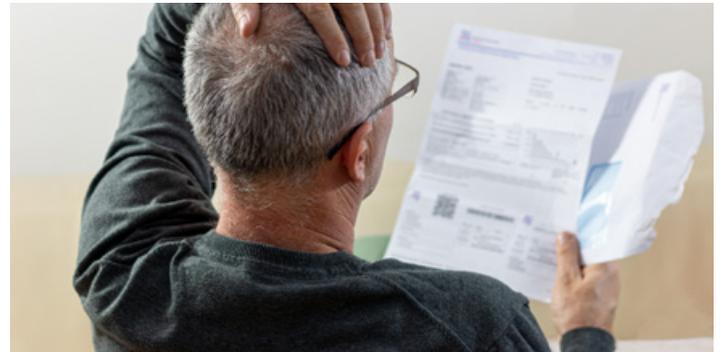
*I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my rent has gone up and my paycheque just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. I'm doing everything I can but it's not enough - what can I do?*

First of all, it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there's support available.

You say you've built up a bit of debt. The first step is to collect all the information you have about your debts, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, make a list of your debts and write down the details of each. This could include whom you owe the money to (this person/company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, e.g. sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you're sorting them out.



If you're behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

While you're looking at the money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you're eligible for, including support with your energy costs and living costs. There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income, on the Citizens Advice website, [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

There's also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers.

You could also contact your local council to see if they can offer support. We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone, do contact Citizens Advice to help you find a way forward.

For more information visit the Citizens Advice website at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or call Sudbury and South Suffolk Citizens Advice on 01787 321400 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. Alternatively, contact us via email at [advice@sudburycab.org.uk](mailto:advice@sudburycab.org.uk) or by using the contact facility on our website, [www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact](http://www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact)

We are providing advice by telephone and email Monday - Thursday, 10am - 3pm.

# LIEUTENANT COLONEL MALCOLM GILHAM (1934-2023)

Colonel Malcolm “Cool Cat” Gilham sadly passed away in October 2023. A well-known figure locally in the benefice, he had lived in Assington for many years with his wife Julia and spent his last years in Newton Green.



Born in 1934 in Hayes, West London he was one of four children brought up solely by his mother Wynne after his father didn't return from fighting in WWII (it was assumed he was killed in action but Gilham later discovered his father had in fact absconded and lived the rest of his life in the Middle East).

Despite a shaky early academic start Gilham managed to attend Sandhurst military academy and passed out in the top third of his cohort. He married his fiancée Julia in 1958 and their marriage lasted for more than 50 years during which time they had 4 children together: Clive, Angus, Caroline and Louise.

After seeing action during the Suez Crisis in Jordan he was promoted to Major and posted to Northern Ireland shortly ahead of the 'Troubles'. Always dedicated to the welfare of the soldiers under his command, Gilham quickly saw that the short shields they were issued with poorly defended his men against the various thrown missiles such as darts and bricks. To combat this Gilham devised a new riot shield design that was almost as tall as a man and made of see-through toughened perspex. This new design for the riot shields is still employed in riot situations to this day.

Gilham was eventually promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and posted to Germany after his tour in Northern Ireland ended, but not before his leadership skills and unflappable qualities had earned him

the nickname 'Major Cool Cat' by his battalion.

Retiring from the army at the age of 42 Malcolm was determined not to stand still. He became a sports officer in Brighton (helping Olympic athlete Steve Ovett train) and then leisure services director for Chelmsford Borough Council where he started the V Festival in 1996.

Gilham had always been a sporty man, captaining the tennis and football teams at Sandhurst and playing tennis for the army. However, it wasn't until after his army retirement that he became hooked on squash after playing (and definitively losing) his first game against a women's world champion. When Malcolm reached the age of 75 he became the world over-75's squash champion, a feat he repeated when he reached the age of 82! *"I looked at the game schedule and did a double take,"* he said, *"five matches in seven days and me in my eighties!"*



Malcolm regularly represented England in international matches and would spend hours watching opponents and turning their weaknesses to his advantage on the court.

His wife Julia sadly died in 2015 leaving Malcolm on his own in the house in Assington. After three years he moved to Newton Green with his friend Sheila. A member of the Newton Green Golf Club, he had regular weekly golf lessons up until just a few months before his death after a short illness on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. He was cared for by Sheila, the staff of the Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice and St. Elizabeth's Hospice.

With his mantra of "You can always improve" he was an inspiration and friend to many people and will be very much missed.



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## THE BUTCHER'S WIFE

Normally if I help at the shop I'm restricted to washing-up duties but the week before Christmas I was given special privileges. I was allowed to help get customer orders ready and more excitingly, I was promoted to the front of the shop! The Butcher and his Number One had lots of meat to prep for orders so the Saturday Boy (who actually works on other days of the week too) and I were on serving duties. Once I got to grips with the till and the Butcher gave me a conversion sheet for lbs to kg, I was good to go!



It was really good fun, partly because it's not my normal, everyday job so it was a novelty but also because it was like playing shops when I was a kid. My friend and I had a very advantaged game of 'estate agents' when we were younger. I used to draw pictures and floorplans of house and make up brochures for each house. My friend would pretend to be a customer and come into the 'office' (aka my bedroom) to look at houses I had for sale. Working in the Butchers was on a par with that except this time I got to use a real till! My favourite part was using the card machine and handing out receipts!

Now my stint as shop assistant didn't go without the odd glitch. One morning after making us all a coffee, I headed to the front of the shop and noticed some of the bacon needed topping up. While I had my head in the fridge, I heard a loud crash followed by the Butcher's Number One saying a few choice words. When I looked up, what I thought was water was all over the counter, the floor and his arm. I thought to myself 'oh dear, he's spilt something...'. Turns out, it was all my fault. Whenever you make a transaction on the scales, it pops open the till drawer on the counter. Now I knew this but I didn't think about it when I put my freshly made cup of coffee on the side...right in front of the till drawer. So the Butcher's Number One finishes serving his customer and hits the total button and BAM!, till drawer opens and flings my coffee all over the place. Luckily, and I have no idea how, the coffee cup didn't break but there was coffee EVERYWHERE. Back to washing up duties for me!!

**Bates Wells & Braithwaite**

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**Bates Wells & Braithwaite Solicitors**  
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## Sticky Chinese Pork

Ingredients (Serves 6)

- 1kg rindless pork belly slices, chopped in half
  - 1 litre chicken stock
  - 1 tbsp ginger puree
  - 3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
  - 1 tbsp rice wine
  - 1 tbsp caster sugar
- For the glaze:**
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
  - 1 tbsp ginger puree
  - 1 red chilli, finely chopped
  - 2 tbsp honey
  - 2 tbsp brown sugar
  - 3 tbsp dark soy sauce
  - 1 tsp lemon grass paste

### Method

1. Add pork belly, stock, ginger, garlic, rice wine and caster sugar to a heavy-based pan. Bring to the boil, cover and then turn the heat down and simmer for 2 hours.
2. Turn the heat off, remove pork from the pan, pat it dry with kitchen towel and chop into bite sized chunks.
3. In a small bowl, mix together 1tbsp of the oil and the remaining glaze ingredients.
4. Add the remaining 1 tbsp of oil to a frying pan and heat over a medium-high heat. Add in the pork, along with a pinch of salt and pepper and fry, turning regularly until the pork starts to turn golden.
5. Pour the glaze over the pork and cook for a further few minutes, turning often until the pork looks sticky and dark.
6. Serve with sticky rice and enjoy!

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**07974 375254**

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



## BLETCHLEY PARK DAY TRIP

Once the top-secret home of World War Two code breakers, over the past 25 years Bletchley Park has become an internationally renowned heritage attraction.

Step back in time to experience the stories of the extraordinary men and women who worked here. Immersive films, interactive displays, exhibitions set within beautifully restored historic buildings and faithfully recreated WW2 rooms will guide you through on a journey to discover the past!

Date: **20<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Price: **£65.00** per person

Pick up: 8am (outside The White Hart, Boxford)

Deposit: £20 (Non-Refundable)

### What's Included:

Return Coach Travel

Sausage or Bacon Bap to take on the coach

Tea and Coffee on arrival at Bletchley Park

Entrance Ticket

If you would like to join me on this amazing day out, please get in touch

email [tracey@boxrivertravelboutique.co.uk](mailto:tracey@boxrivertravelboutique.co.uk)

or call 07747 608509

# A. LEEDER

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- Condiments, flour, oils and much more!

\*within 7 mile radius of Boxford on orders over £25  
£3 delivery charge for orders under £25 or over 7 miles

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# RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTORY

February is a funny old month. Statistics suggest that for many of us, February is a month when we feel a little down in the dumps. Money is scarce after Christmas, the mornings, evenings and sometimes entire days are still dark, frosts seem that little bit harsher and many of us just battle-on trying to get through yet another challenging cold winter month.



It is worth us contemplating where that darkness comes from; the sun hasn't stopped shining, it is just that we are momentarily turned away from it. In November our geographical location finally tilted away from the Sun and caused the days to become darker. We have journeyed deeper into winter ever since. During February the darkness continues, but although we may now be becoming weary of the winter, be heartened, because we have already begun tilting back towards the light.



So thinking more positively, February is actually the month when things begin to change for the better - the days begin to lengthen, mornings and evenings are a little lighter than they were and the bulbs begin sending up shoots to break through the soil. If we are lucky, we might even get to see a bud or two.

In the Church calendar, February begins with the feast of Candlemas, otherwise known as 'the Presentation of Christ in the Temple'. At the Candlemas service, a representative sample of the candles we will use to give us light throughout the year will be blessed, reminding us that 'the light shines in the darkness'. The Gospel narrative set for Candlemas carries a significant theme of change too. If Mary and Joseph were in any doubt about the kind of change that their new son might bring into their lives, all uncertainty is banished when they take Jesus for purification at the Temple and the priest Simeon says; 'this child is destined for the rising and falling of many. And a sword will pierce your own soul too'. Christ, the light of the world, the very essence of God, brings his light to the darkest places; dark places within us and within our world, but we should not expect the darkness to give up without a fight.

Our geo-political landscape has felt rather dark for a while. There is so much to concern us both within our own country and across the world. There is a lot that does not feel right or fair, and many suffer as a result and we do not know how long this will continue. How long it will take before events begin tilting back towards the light? But remember, it is always darkest just before the dawn.

February is a month to prepare for the changes to come. Changes born with the coming of the light. Changes that might just bring us into a new way of looking at ourselves and the world.

There are no certainties in life, except the sureness of God. Whilst the world changes and moves around us, God, like the sun, is always stable and unchanging. If we can put our trust in Him, then all the changes of the world will not touch us, because we will be rooted in an eternal stability that is only found in Him.

See you in church.

And may you be blessed with the surety and strength of Mary, Joseph, the Holy Family, the Apostles and all the Saints in glory, Godspeed,

Fr Rob

[boxriverrector@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverrector@gmail.com) / Tel: 01787 210434

OUR BEAUTIFUL PARISH CHURCH STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED, LOVED AND MADE BOXFORD THEIR HOME THROUGHOUT THE AGES AND AT NIGHT THE TOWER SHEDS LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS

## "LIGHT UP" St Mary's Church Boxford In Memory of a Loved One or In Celebration of an Anniversary, Birthday, or Special Occasion

FOR A SUGGESTED DONATION OF £15.00, THE CHURCH WILL BE LIT UP IN REMEMBRANCE OR CELEBRATION AND A COMMEMORATIVE POSTER WILL BE PUT UP IN THE CHURCH TO MARK THE OCCASION

CONTACT [BOXRIVERBENEFICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BOXRIVERBENEFICE@GMAIL.COM) OR 01787 828046 FOR MORE INFORMATION



## "SOUP & PUD" AT MARY'S HOUSE 5 SWAN STREET, BOXFORD

FRIDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY 2024  
12.00 - 2.00 PM

Donations towards the upkeep of Mary's House welcome



## BOX RIVER BENEFICE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

EVERYONE WELCOME



PLEASE CONTACT THE BENEFICE OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION



# Minor Surgery

Do you have a skin blemish that is bothering you?

Have you been told there is nothing your doctor can do?

With the removal of minor skin blemishes no longer available on the NHS, people are turning to private practices like ours for treatment.

Minor lumps and bumps like **cysts, warts, some moles and skin tags** are usually harmless but can be irritating and unattractive. If you have a skin lesion that is bothering you, removal is usually quick and simple.



## *Minor Surgery Clinic*

*Mole checks and minor surgery  
for unwanted skin lesions with  
FREE Dermalux light therapy\**

*Call 01787 211 000 for more information.*

\* Free Dermalux treatment until 29/02/24 with any minor surgery for skin lesions.

Due to their potential link with skin cancer, it's really important that you have any mole that is worrying you examined. Don't wait - let us take a look. We can reassure you if a mole is healthy and advise / refer you if not.

If you have a blemish that is bothering you, please give us a call and arrange to see one of our medically trained staff. **And this month, receive a free Dermalux light therapy treatment to aid healing (worth £40).**

*"I went to **Suffolk Medical Clinic** as I had a mole very close to my eye. It was hard to trust someone to do this procedure but finally I found a clinic I trusted and they took care of it. I've never been happier." Zoe, Dec 2019.*

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

*Tel: 01787 211 000 [www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk](http://www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk)*





# SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2024



<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>Morning Praise</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	16:00	<i>Compline Night Prayer</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10:00	<i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
	18:00	<i>Holy Half Hour Meditation</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Sunday before Lent</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist with Choir</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	16:00	<i>BCP Evensong</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	10:00	<i>Communion with Ashing</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
	18:00	<i>Holy Half Hour Meditation</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	19:00	<i>Ash Wednesday Service with Ashing</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Lent 1</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist with Choir</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	16:00	<i>Compline</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	10:00	<i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
	18:00	<i>Holy Half Hour Meditation</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Lent 2</i>	08:00	<i>BCP Holy Communion</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	All Saints', Newton
	11:00	<i>Pilgrim Family Service</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10:00	<i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
	18:00	<i>Holy Half Hour Meditation</i>	St Mary's, Boxford

(Morning Prayer online every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning from 8.30am)

All our churches across the Benefice are OPEN EVERY DAY for Private Prayer.

If you need support, please contact Fr Rob or the Benefice Office



**BOXRIVER BENEFICE**

## COFFEE MORNINGS

DROP IN FOR COFFEE EVERY TUESDAY BETWEEN 10AM TO 12PM AT MARY'S HOUSE, SWAN STREET, BOXFORD

FRIDAY, 2ND FEB, 10.30 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ST LAWRENCE'S, LT WALDINGFIELD

SATURDAY, 17TH FEB, 10.00 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ST MARY'S, BOXFORD

WEDNESDAY, 21ST FEB, 10.00 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ALL SAINTS', NEWTON GREEN

**CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

## FOOD BANK

### ST MARY'S CHURCH, BOXFORD (NORTH PORCH)

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN NEED,  
PLEASE VISIT OUR FOOD BANKS OR CONTACT FATHER ROB  
OR THE BENEFICE OFFICE IF YOU NEED A FOOD PARCEL

ALL DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE GOODS ARE  
GRATEFULLY RECEIVED



**BRING & SHARE**



# The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
Little Waldingfield and Newton

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 10:30am** - *Coffee Morning*, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am** - *Drop in for Coffee*, Mary's House

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30pm** - *Benefice Joint Vision Mtg*, Mary's House

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am** - *Coffee Morning*, St Mary's, Boxford

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am** - *Drop in for Coffee*, Mary's House

**Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am** - *Drop in for Coffee*, Mary's House

**Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.30pm** - *Newton PCC*

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 10am** - *Coffee Morning*, All Saints', Newton

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 7:30pm** - *Lt Waldingfield PCC*

**Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am** - *Drop in for Coffee*, Mary's House

**Tues, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30pm** - *Edwardstone PCC*

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30pm** - *Boxford PCC*

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who attended one of our Christmas services, once again there was a significant increase in attendance, which was heartwarming to see. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who make everything possible, we couldn't do what we do without you. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported their local church, we hope that this will act as a springboard and encourage more people to attend our services regularly throughout the year. Services are held throughout the Benefice each month and you will be warmly welcomed. If going to Church is new to you the Pilgrim Eucharist at St Mary's Boxford is designed to be more engaging and informative to younger demographics and newcomers, why not give it a try?

Other than our monthly update in the Box River News, there are several ways you can keep up to date with everything that is happening at your local church, follow us on Facebook, have a look on 'A Church Near You' website or contact the Benefice Office to join our mailing lists.

We will continue to keep you updated of all our events in 2024 and we look forward to welcoming you to The Box River Benefice.

## LT WALDINGFIELD FESTIVE DRINKS & NIBBLES

The final total for the evening was £706 raised for St Lawrence's Church, not £450 as printed in the Jan edition, thank you to everyone who made this event such a great success.

## PILGRIM EUCHARIST AT ST MARY'S NEW TIME

New for 2024, the Pilgrim Eucharist has moved to 11am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, this means that there is an 11am service at St Mary's on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

## ST LAWRENCE'S LENT LUNCH

Join us on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 12 – 2pm at The Parish Room, Lt Waldingfield. Suggested donation is £5 - £10, raising funds towards the upkeep of St Lawrence's Church. This is not a ticketed event, however it would be helpful for catering purposes, if you would be kind enough to register your intention to attend with Nancy Roser – 01787 882897 or email [nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk)

## GUIDES TO SUFFOLK CHURCHES ONLINE

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) have assembled all Suffolk church guidebooks online. Suffolk, with Norfolk, has the greatest concentration of medieval churches in Europe - indeed the world - and over the years vicars, scholars and enthusiasts have documented the individual stories of these churches. Now, for the first time those histories have been painstakingly collected, scanned and uploaded as a new "Guides to Suffolk Churches Online", hosted by the Trust. If you would like this link, please contact the Benefice Office by email and we will be able to forward it to you.

## GIVING

Whether or not you attend church regularly, it is likely that you benefit in some way from a Church being in our villages. The church helps build community, provides a reassuring presence marking the seasons of the year and during challenging times in our lives. We live in a world where local community is threatened, public service undervalued and individuals all too often get lost in the system. It is no surprise that isolation, loneliness, depression and poor spiritual and mental health are at frightening levels in our society. The Church provides a counter to this at a local level. In many villages up and down the country, once the pub has closed, the Church remains the only remnant of community spirit and focus. We need to secure such assets if we do not wish for them to disappear from our national life. But a church is more than just a building. Are you able to contribute the cost of a coffee or newspaper each week, to help our churches survive and thrive?

Please do get in contact the Benefice Office if you would like to talk to find out more about giving.

## SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, CONFESSION AND PASTORAL VISITING

The Benefice offers a rich ministry of Spiritual Guidance, Confession and Pastoral Visiting. Our Priests and Ministers accompany people from all walks of life. If you would like Spiritual Guidance, Confession, House Blessing, Pastoral Visiting, Home Communion, Hospital or Prison Visiting for yourself or someone you know, please do get in touch with Fr Rob or the Benefice Office.



# LENT LUNCH

AT

## THE PARISH ROOM LT WALDINGFIELD

### WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH 2024

### 12 - 2 PM

**SUGGESTED DONATION £5 - £10  
RAISING FUNDS TOWARDS THE UPKEEP OF  
ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH**

THIS IS NOT A TICKETED EVENT, HOWEVER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR CATERING PURPOSES, IF YOU WOULD BE KIND ENOUGH TO REGISTER YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND WITH NANCY ROSER 01787 882897 OR [nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Benefice Office**  
Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford CO10 5NZ  
**01787 828046** email: [boxriverbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverbenefice@gmail.com)

Fr Rob Parker-McGee SR  
**01787 210434** email: [boxriverrector@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverrector@gmail.com)



## Quiz Night

Little Waldingfield Parish Room  
 Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2024  
 7.30pm prompt start  
 £12 per person, with two course meal  
 (Please bring your own drinks)  
 Max 4 persons per team  
 New quizmaster ◊ Raffle

Bookings: Sue Bowen 07962 210359  
 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com

## LEAVENHEATH CINEMA

### SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY: THE GREAT ESCAPER

Comedy Drama PG-12A  
 Starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson  
 Based on a true story! 1hr 36mins with 20mins interval

### SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH: A HAUNTING IN VENICE

Crime Drama PG-13  
 Starring Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot!  
 1hr 35mins with 20mins interval

Both films: arrive 7pm for 7:30pm start.

Leavenheath Village Hall, CO6 4NS  
 Please book early to avoid being disappointed. Tickets £4.00 per adult and £2.50 for under-12s

You can pay by cash or card on the door.  
 Reserve your seat online at [www.leavenheath.org.uk](http://www.leavenheath.org.uk) or phone Marion on 01206 263301 to book your tickets.

Refreshments, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee, tea will be available before the film and also available during the interval along with ice creams.

Proceeds towards LVH Capital Project Fund (Charity no 262816)

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Through the Eyes of the Child

A study of selected fiction narrated in the voice of the child

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>David Copperfield</b> (Ch. 1 to 14)	<i>Dickens</i>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	<b>Great Expectations</b> (Ch 1 to 19)	<i>Dickens</i>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Week	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Huckleberry Finn</b>	<i>Mark Twain</i>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Huckleberry Finn</b>	<i>Mark Twain</i>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Reading Week	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>To Kill a Mockingbird</b>	<i>Harper Lee</i>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>A High Wind in Jamaica</b>	<i>Richard Hughes</i>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Reading Week	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Atonement</b>	<i>Ian McEwan</i>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Never Let Me Go</b>	<i>Kazuo Ishiguro</i>

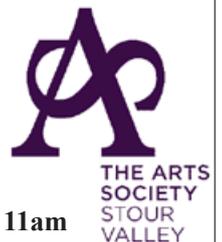
Course Fee: £75 for the complete course,  
 payable on the first or second meeting.  
 £10 for each single class.

**Newcomers to these classes are very welcome.**

Further information from:  
 Mr David Jones, The North Wing, Groton Street, Sudbury CO10 5EE.  
 Telephone: 01787 211104

Please contact Mr Jones if you are interested in attending.

## ENJOY CULTURE, COFFEE & FRIENDS



**On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11am  
 at the Village Hall, Long Melford  
 (opp The Bull Hotel)**

Contact: [info@TASstourvalley.org.uk](mailto:info@TASstourvalley.org.uk) quoting **BRN** or simply click the QR code below which will take you direct to our website [www.TASstourvalley.org.uk](http://www.TASstourvalley.org.uk)

## WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY

### MAD MEN AND ARTISTS the exploitation of art in advertising

Fine art has provided advertisers with a great deal of material to use in their creative campaigns.  
 Discover examples of original works, the creative process and the advertisements that are the end result.



BOXFORD  
GARDENING SOCIETY

JOHN ASHTON

## Dating for Gardeners

Where did our plants and trees come from?



### How and when?

Tuesday 6th February 7.30pm  
at Boxford Village Hall



Fleece Jazz at  
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

### John Etheridge's Blue Spirits

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 8pm - Tickets: £18



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

Some Kinda Wonderful: Noel McCalla & The Derek Nash Band  
present **The Music of Stevie Wonder**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 8pm - Tickets: £25



Noel McCalla's long association with the brilliant Morrissey Mullen band earned him acclaim as one of the UK's best soul singers.

Noel McCalla – Vocals  
Derek Nash – Saxophones  
Neil Angilly – Keyboards  
Tim Cansfield – Guitar  
Jonathan Noyce – Bass  
Nic France – Drums

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

Ample parking; fully accessible. Directions: [www.fleecejazz.org.uk](http://www.fleecejazz.org.uk)

Tickets: 01787 210796 or via **WeGotTickets** (booking fee applies); or on the door (cash or cheque only; sorry no debit/credit cards)

\*Friends of Fleece Jazz discount

SPECIAL OFFER: A double room with breakfast and two tickets from £119 (subject to availability) Phone: 01206 262836

## LOOKING FOR YOUR VALENTINE 2024?

Frenchs Care Haven Animal Rescue  
are holding a

### Speed Dating Evening

£10  
p.p

40s to  
late 60s



Stoke By  
Nayland  
Resort

1st Feb  
7 - 10 pm

Bookings close on the 30/01  
Contact Sharon 07999051401  
or [frenchs.100club@gmail.com](mailto:frenchs.100club@gmail.com)  
Registered Charity

# QUIZ NIGHT

Our First Quiz Night of 2024  
Returns to Newton Village Hall on  
**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
7:30pm start

TEAMS OF 6 // £12 PER PERSON  
ploughman's supper include, please bring your own tittle

Pre booking is essential as this event always sells out very quickly

**CONTACT PAUL PRESLAND 07484 669 605  
TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE**

All proceeds go to the village hall and All Saints' Church

## TORNADO RETURNS!

Boxford Bike Club is a community cycle club based in the picturesque Suffolk village of Boxford. Founded in 2012, and with a membership of around 80, we take pride in being an open, friendly and inclusive group catering for riders of all ages and abilities.



Following the success of the 2023 event, we are pleased to announce that we will once again be hosting our annual cycle sportive event, **The Boxford Tornado**, on **28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**. Since our inaugural event, we have made donations to local charities and good causes totalling in excess of £20,000 and will again be supporting the East Anglian Air Ambulance in 2024.

The event offers 32 or 65 mile fully signed routes and is supported by a mobile mechanic and first aid and recovery service. Also included are free event photos and a post ride BBQ on Boxford playing fields.

For more information or to book, please visit [www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk/boxfordtornado](http://www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk/boxfordtornado).

If you would like more information on membership or to join us on a ride as a guest, please check our website [www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk](http://www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk) or contact Kevin at [kevbike@btopenworld.com](mailto:kevbike@btopenworld.com).



## BOXFORD WI UPDATE

We held a very competitive beetle drive at our first meeting of 2024. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

In February we will be having a guest speaker from the Men's Shed and in March



our guest speaker is from the Nayland Handbells Group.

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in finding out what the WI are up to in 2024 come along to the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm where you will receive a warm welcome.

Once you are a member you will be able to enjoy the follow-

ing interest groups which we hold on a regular basis:

- Dining Divas (lunch group)
- Chatterbox (afternoon with tea and cake)
- Knit and Natter
- Book club
- Women who wander (walking group)

For more information please contact our Secretary, Lyn Beer on **07961 357 526** or email [lyn@the-brook.net](mailto:lyn@the-brook.net)



## THERE'S A MURDER MYSTERY TO SOLVE IN LINDSEY!

The little village of Lindsey plays host to its very first murder mystery on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Lindsey would be the last place a murder would be expected, it's more used to festivals with beer on tap and five-a-side football games!

Known for its expansive beer garden, The Lindsey Rose is a traditional country pub. In fact, it's one of the oldest pubs in the country at over 500 years old. Based in at the village of Lindsey in the heart of Suffolk, Lindsey is a small village with a population of just over 100 people.

Old and slightly quirky, the pub is the perfect fit for a crime scene and murder mystery party. Investigators (that's you) are invited to come and enjoy a three-course supper whilst using your detective skills to work out who the murderer is. It promises to be a fun evening with plenty of laughs along the way.

Guests will be informed of what happened at the crime scene and then several rounds will take place with clues as you go. You'll be able to interrogate the suspects, some of which many locals will know. George Bonwick, the pub's previous General Manager and Charlie Buckle, owner of the pub, are among them. You'll then have the chance to investigate the crime scene.

It's safe to say it will be an evening of thrills, suspense and intrigue. You become the detective and solve the crime. Who amongst your friends will be the first to guess who did it?

The Lindsey Rose's New Year Sale has also just landed! There's nowhere better to enjoy a wholesome, hearty meal (perhaps in front of the fire!). Dine with them in January and February (lunches or early suppers, 5.30pm – 6.30pm) and enjoy any of their mains and a drink for £15.

To find out more information head to [thelindseyrose.co.uk](http://thelindseyrose.co.uk) and book a table by calling **01449 741424**.

## POLSTEAD GARDENING CLUB

Happy New Year. We are looking forward to our 2024 season of meetings and we have some very interesting speakers lined up:



**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm:** The Secret Life of Plants with Jim Paine, formally of Walnut Tree Garden Nursery

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm:** My Family and Other Irises with Lucy Skellorn

We look forward to seeing you at the above events.

All meetings will be at Polstead Village Hall on The Green in Polstead (CO6 5AL). Free to members. (Membership Fees due in February). Non-members are welcome at £5. Entrance includes a drink and nibbles.

Queries to [gardeningclubpolstead@yahoo.com](mailto:gardeningclubpolstead@yahoo.com)

## POLSTEAD FILMS

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 7 for 7:30pm**  
**POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL**

### The Miracle Club

*Starring Maggie, Smith, Kathy Bates, Laura Linney, and Stephen Rea*

*A group of women from a Dublin suburb enter a talent contest in 1967. The prize is a trip to Lourdes - each prays for a miracle. A beautifully acted film about faith and the ties that bind despite the secrets and the lies.*

Tickets £4.50

Email: [polsteadfilms@gmail.com](mailto:polsteadfilms@gmail.com) to reserve or buy at Polstead Community Shop.

*All proceeds in aid of Polstead Village Hall Charity No. 304933*





THE LINDSEY ROSE

## NEW YEAR SALE

*Lunches and early suppers, 5.30 - 6.30pm  
Thursday - Saturday  
Any main meal and a drink\*, £15*

## VALENTINES DAY

*Dine our Valentines Set Menu  
or our Burger Night menu*

## MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

*February 24th 2024  
An evening of entertainment, including a three-course  
supper. Fancy dress 1940's is a must!*  
£50 *\*Selected drinks*

[www.thelindseyrose.co.uk](http://www.thelindseyrose.co.uk) | 01449 741424



THE BILDESTON CROWN

## FEBRUARY DINING

*Monday - Friday  
Early suppers (6.30 - 7pm)  
2 courses £25, 3 courses £32*

## PANCAKE DAY *with a difference*

Tuesday 13th February - Serving pancakes all day

## LIGHTER LUNCH MENU

*Pop in for a lovely lunch*

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01449 740510 | [www.thebildestoncrown.com](http://www.thebildestoncrown.com)

Tickets  
**£10**



## ShantyFolk

Rousing Shanties & Songs of the Seas

Audience participation encouraged, fun guaranteed!

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL  
**23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2024**

7:30pm (doors open from 7pm)

Interval refreshments available  
Licensed Bar (alcohol not purchased on the premises, will not be permitted)

Tickets available from Polstead Community Shop  
or contact Jeff **07470 635600**  
[polsteadvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:polsteadvillagehall@outlook.com)

Proceeds to be shared with the RNLI  
Polstead Village Hall is a registered charity No.304933



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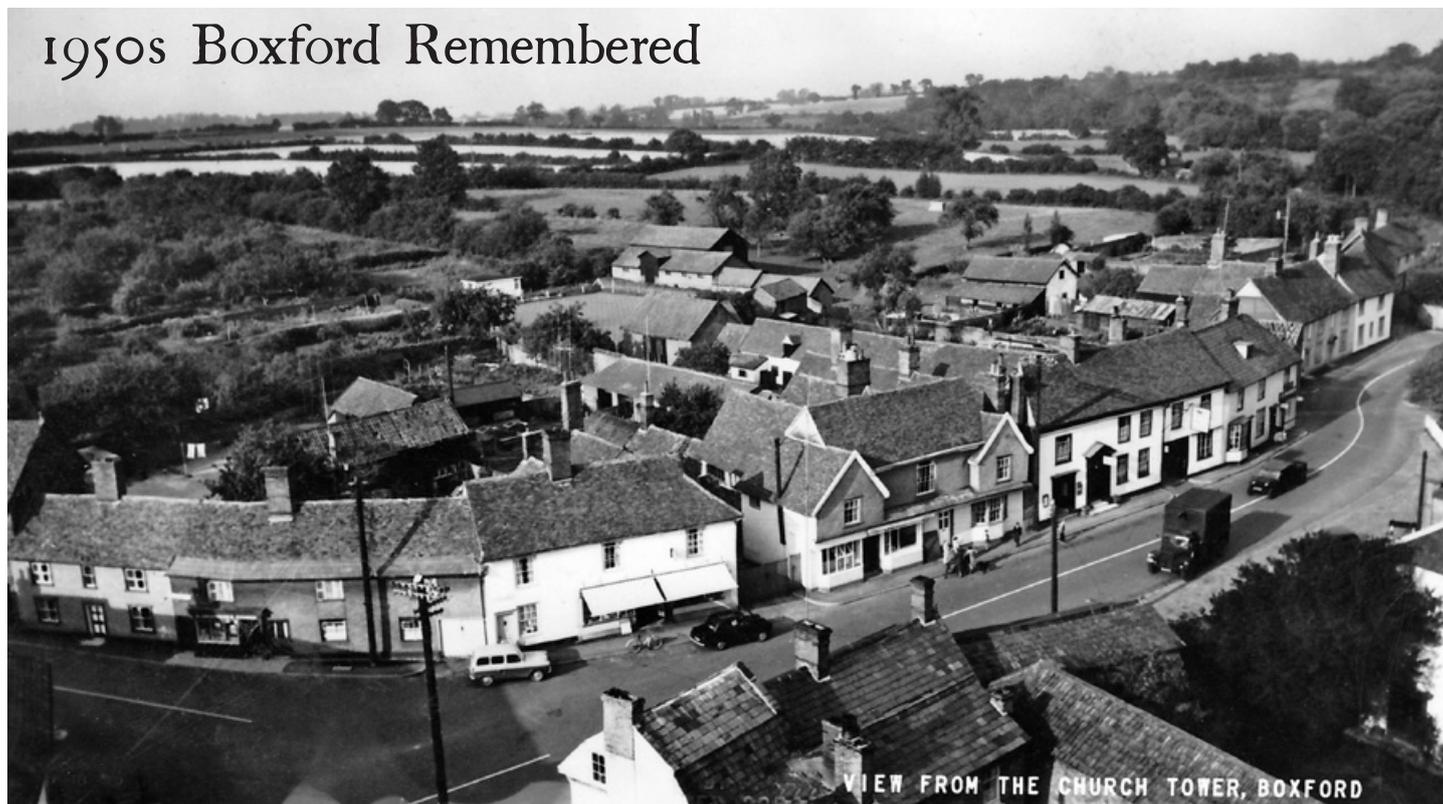
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# PHOTOS FROM BOXFORD SOCIETY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

## 1950s Boxford Remembered



*Aerial view from the Church Tower at a time when the main route from Hadleigh to Sudbury still ran through the heart of the village. How quiet it is! You can see the ancient outhouse buildings on the tenements running back from houses set on the street. These directly abut open fields behind. Many have today been demolished, but some still in existence today can be seen behind The Fleece running back to the bowling green. Beyond the Croft lane are remains of the many maltings that once existed but have now gone. Part of The Old Bakery is roofless and may be the start of its removal.*

People living in Britain in 1950 had seen many changes in their lives after the Second World War. There were major differences in living conditions, work, transport, entertainment and music as the 50s progressed. However, to begin with life was still difficult for many at the start of the decade. People were still exhausted and recovering from the war. Rationing worsened, shortages continued and people still queued for food. The country was threadbare and badly run down and there was a severe shortage of housing.

The general mood may have still been 'stiff and grey', but the pace and importance of change in the 1950s is illustrated by these events:

- 1951** The Festival of Britain was intended as a 'tonic for the nation', a spectacular cultural event to raise the spirits of a country still in the grasp of austerity.
- 1952** King George VI Dies, Queen Elizabeth II's Reign Begins.
- 1953** Discovery of DNA Structure, a major scientific breakthrough.
- 1955** First Commercial Television Broadcast from ITV.
- 1955** Winston Churchill resigns aged 81.
- 1956** The Suez Crisis, confirming Britain's decline as a global power.
- 1958** The first motorway opens in Britain, the M6 Preston Bypass.
- 1959** The first Mini from the British Motor Corporation hits the streets.

The Beatles and Cliff Richard's Summer Holiday were still just around the corner, but Lonnie Donegan, the 'King of Skiffle' had already "left his chewing gum on the bedpost overnight" in 1959.

In 1950 Boxford was still much the same medieval shape, layout and size as it had been for more than 500 years. It was limited to the same spider of four roads leading to the bridge. There had been some cottages built along Cox Hill and Stone Street Road in the previous 100 years and the council houses on Boxford Lane, but otherwise little new development had taken place in the medieval village. In 1950 the population of the village was only half the size it is today and very few families owned a car. By the late 1950s most of the village had main drainage, mains water and electricity, but the new housing estates were all to come later.

*Tina and Roger Loose*



*Broad Street has changed little though the Old Gaol still had beautiful wooden doors and the White Hart still had railings and offered teas. Their ancient Box Tree was no longer subject to the beautiful topiary of former years but the three old Lime trees happily still survived, and were still pollarded and cared for. A woman chats and minds a group of children outside the bakery with little worry about standing the child in a simple pushchair and herself and baby in the road. The car is a Standard Vanguard of the 1950's.*



*Swan Street around 1950. Only a few parked cars compared with today and no moving traffic. The ladies are wearing fashionable 'fit and flare' coats of the period. The shop on the right is Hallam's draper shop - later to become Admyra, the hairdressing salon featured in last month's magazine. The lorry may belong to Kingsbury's the builders as it is parked outside Commerce House, one of their main offices and buildings.*



*Boxford Red Cross nurses in 1952. We have been able to name about half of these including all of the front row except the person second from the right, and would like help in naming the rest. The women of Boxford had a strong Red Cross organisation during World War II and the tradition continued well into the 1950s. They met regularly at the Rectory for training in care and first aid and took exams, the more senior nurses doing duty at events. The original Red Cross was set up nationally as a relief society in 1859. It was made up of volunteers, trained in peacetime to provide neutral and impartial help to relieve suffering in times of war. Today the 3PR First Responders volunteers provide immediate medical support here in Boxford, and The International Red Cross currently works tirelessly worldwide in places of war and conflict.*



*Boxford lower juniors' class in the 1950s. The class teacher is Mr Poole, a war veteran, who became a teacher when demobbed after WWII. We have all but three of the children's names.*



*The large Homefield beside Swan Street was the first to be built on after the War. Homes were desperately needed and for speed and cheapness some pre-fabs were first erected. These were followed by rows of houses completed in 1953 as part of the national drive to build more and better family homes. Reg Tricker is seen in the photo and he and his family moved into one of the completed houses.*



*Dance at Boxford Village Hall 1952. A great turn out for such events with no mobile phones as distractions, influencers or selfies! However, the many cigarettes held discretely are a sign of the times.*

**T. SKINNER, Carrier, BOXFORD**

*I wish to inform you that after May 31st 1955, I am ceasing to operate my carriers business between Sudbury, Boxford Hadleigh and Ipswich.*

*I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your past custom.*

*H. M. Skinner.*

*The end of an era. Skinnners had long been a major Boxford carrier along with several other family haulage businesses in the village. Skinnners began with a horse and wagon and moved into motor transport by the 1920s. By 1955 it was hard to compete with the large modern regional trucking businesses that were growing up. The last to close was Rules bus garage in 2000.*



Whitestreet Green 1958. (Until 1974 Whitestreet Green was part of Boxford - it is now part of Polstead). It was with great sadness the community saw the closure of the Bakers Arms which stood on the green. So furious were the regulars that they set up their own drinking station in a shed on the central grass triangle. It survived for a while. Do any readers recognise the people in the photo?



The Compasses in Stone Street was still a flourishing pub and a centre of activity for the community in 1950. There are no TV aerials and telephone wires dominate the street. There are no road markings or protection for the houses from the then minimal traffic through the hamlet.

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1 Donald Mackintosh Way, Scrivener Drive, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3SU

## RECYCLING PRINTER INK

A huge thank you to all the wonderful parishioners of the Box River Benefice who managed to drop off over 110 used and empty ink cartridges at the recycling boxes in Boxford Stores.

These cartridges have not only been spared from filling up landfill but have also raised an additional **£33.81** for Boxford



Community Council which will go back to the community.

Please don't throw your used printer cartridges in the bin - simply drop them off at Boxford Stores to raise money for your community and help save the planet at the same time!



## MILDEN SINGERS

The Milden Singers provided an entertaining evening with songs, sketches and poems to a full house at Milden Pavilion in November. This concert raised £560 for Milden Pavilion Fund and £201 for Bildeston Food Bank.

Since their first concert over 10 years ago, Pearl and the Milden Singers have raised over £20,000 for Milden Pavilion! In addition they have also raised thousands of pounds for other charities from the proceeds of their raffles. Milden Pavilion Committee wish to share their thanks and appreciation to Pearl and the Milden Singers for all their hard work and commitment. We look forward to their next concert on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

If you would like to join this fun singing group, please get in touch with Pearl Tel: **07884 167 906** or email [info@mildenpavilion.co.uk](mailto:info@mildenpavilion.co.uk)



## READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I was completely surprised and elated by SESAW's unexpected New Year's message that they had received a magnificent donation of £1,000 from a couple in Kent after having purchased a copy of my new book "It All Kicks Off On Sunday". What an absolutely amazing act of kindness. It also transpires purely by coincidence that the donor, George, and his wife live in Longfield, Kent where my wife and I also had a home in 1958!

Whilst such generous donations are entirely optional, I'd just like to reiterate that all proceeds from my books will be donated to SESAW. If anyone would like to order, please call me on **01206 263006** or email: [cahors@live.co.uk](mailto:cahors@live.co.uk).

Thank you!  
Frank Payne

# BRIAN TORA'S SOAP BOX

When I was expressing doubt over whether anyone actually read my meanderings in this journal, I remarked on how, if I had been mounting my soap box in the usual way, figuratively speaking, I might have taken the authorities in Sudbury to task over renaming St Peters as the Sudbury Arts Centre. How timely would that have been! Reading the local press, it seems that most people who are prepared to go on record over the change of name are as bewildered as I am over the need to drop St Peters from the name of this important venue in the very middle of our market town.

Amongst those expressing concern over the name change has been the Mayor of Sudbury, Jan Osborne. This made me wonder who was actually responsible for this decision. The website lists a number of organisations involved in establishing this resource, including the Bridge Project, and no doubt there will be a dedicated group of workers keen to ensure this valuable asset is used to its maximum advantage. Still, I do have some concern over omitting the very name that this venue has been known for more years than I have been around.

Of course, name makeovers are all too common in the corporate world. Sometimes it is because circumstances have demanded a new approach to how they should be viewed in the wider world. But it could be for less obvious reasons, like a new chief executive seeking to put his own stamp on the organisation he now runs. The takeover of a well-known brand can also precipitate a different approach to how marketing should be conducted. But sometimes the new name is simply inexplicable.

In 1997, the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan Hotels resulted in a new name being created for the combined business – Diageo. The name was the brain child of the brand consultancy, Wolf Olins, and is derived from combining the Latin word for day – dies – with Greek for earth – geo. This was meant to signify the company's new slogan – Celebrating Life, Every Day, Everywhere. Quite. And I'll bet that the consultancy's fees were not small and the cost of introducing the change significant too.

On the other hand, a new name was clearly needed. It happened that I was in a BBC studio when the announcement was made. It has stuck in my memory as the press release took up many sheets of paper (they were faxed in those days to machines that had a particular type of paper that was loaded into the fax machine in rolls), so the broadcast to which I was contributing was unable to access the faxes it needed because of the sheer volume of information being released from the newly named Diageo.

More recently, a name change from a company with which I have had a strong association has also caused my eyebrows to elevate. Standard Life Aberdeen was formed in 2017 by the merger of the insurance giant, Standard Life, with Aberdeen Asset Management. Both companies were based in Scotland and their headquarters are now in Edinburgh. By a quirk of fate, it happened I knew the chief executives of both. They had succeeded in running the business together in harmony, but both subsequently retired.

While Standard Life Aberdeen is something of a mouthful, it does at least pay homage to the origins of these great businesses. Shortening the name clearly became a priority for the new management. What did they come up with? Abrdn. Well, it's certainly short, but I can't help but wonder what the cost per letter of removing 15 characters from the company's original title might have been.

In my corporate life I have been subject to name changes, too. They have been tended to be a consequence of a takeover or a merger of businesses. Some have been quite short-lived. In the end, the senior partner of a takeover has tended to impose its will over what the ongoing business is called. I have worked for two major banks as a result of the firm I was working for being acquired. Unsurprisingly, the name of the company which employed me was dropped in favour of the bank's name in both cases, despite one having a pedigree going back nearly three centuries. Still, let's return to our little local piece of re-branding.

Personally, I consider it to have been a mistake to remove St Peters from the title of this all-important venue. The local community has always known it as St Peters. It is, after all, a church that no longer plays a part in the religious life of Sudbury. I understand the desire to make clear to those who may not be familiar with its history that it now serves a far wider purpose. Will it attract more use now that it is known simply as an Arts Centre? I doubt it. Bring back St Peters into its title, I say! Do you agree? I'd love to know.

Brian Tora

# OLLIE'S NEWS FROM SESAW



What will that Chihuahua say next? Kenneth believes he and all the contributors to this excellent magazine are time travellers because their articles are read by you in the future. His beguiling manner actually threw me for a moment until I snapped out of it! He's obviously been watching too much television. Mind you, visitors have compared us to Dr. Who's Tardis, surprised by the size of SESAW. There are many animals awaiting rehoming including a five month old black and white cat named Paddington.

We believe she was callously thrown over a garden wall and left to die when seriously ill with flu. Fortunately she was made of sterner stuff than expected. The householder found her and brought her to SESAW where she spent two weeks beside a radiator, being nursed, medicated and fed (my) best food. I didn't really mind sharing my rations and glad to see her now fit and ready for a new, loving home.



Please come and meet Paddington if you are the human she needs, or you are looking for a pet to share your life. There are also dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs at SESAW which is open to visitors again, 10am to 1pm Thursday to Sunday. It may not be bigger on the inside but whether you are a sci-fi fan or not, there is plenty to read on our bookcase at the gate, from Mary Shelley to Mary Berry! You may even pick up something interesting from our bric-a-brac table or be greeted by one of the resident animals. Yes, that's me, *Ollie (the Black) Cat*.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare,  
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Tel: 01787 210888 Web: [www.sesaw.co.uk](http://www.sesaw.co.uk)

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# JACK'S HOME TRUTHS

## The most hated profession?

Estate agents are frequently named in top 10 most disliked professions, previously surveyed by Ipsos MORI and Co-op within the list of the seven most distrusted professions in the UK, in close company of politicians, journalists and car salesmen/women. At this point I can imagine many of you wondering, is it really only as low as seventh on the list?

There are many factors for this unenviable public perception including a perceived lack of morals, expensive fees, unreliability and dishonesty. I am sure that many of you that have dealt with estate agents through your lives have a horror story or two and whilst none of us are immune from mistakes, estate agents do seem to have maintained a reputation that has defaulted to the lowest common denominator. The lack of regulation within our profession does not aid our cause. Whilst we take great pride at David Burr in our Investors in People status, ongoing training and accreditation by the National Association of Estate Agents, none of these are mandatory for anyone wanting to set up an estate agency within the UK. In the US agents require a realtors license to practice, this is unfortunately not the case here.

A lack of morals and dishonesty are certainly a long way down the list of traits that any of us would be looking for when entrusting the sale of what is most likely to be our most expensive asset to a company or individual. Once again, I'm sure many of you can point to experiences that support this point. Over the course of the 13 years that I have been practicing estate agency the changes that have been made in terms of information that we are mandated to provide to purchasers has certainly been for the best. Estate agents are now required to ask sellers whether they have knowledge of a range of matters impacting a property from the existence of Japanese knotweed to the presence of asbestos and any history of structural defects or subsidence. Whilst we have always been of the view that the more transparent we can make the entire process for both purchasers and sellers alike from the earliest stage possible is for the better, the more onus there is on all estate agents to fully disclose anything that may impact the sale of a property is preferable for all parties. Nobody benefits from expenditure into a process that is likely to fail once information that could have been made transparent from the outset is revealed all too late in the day. This causes significant distress to both purchaser, seller and potentially a negative feeling/allocation of blame towards an estate agent. One of the more positive elements of the internet age is the ability for consumers to view reviews of a company from online testimonials that have been provided by both purchasers and sellers. Across the David Burr group we have achieved a 4.8 rating (out of a possible 5.0 maximum) average from 474 google reviews. This is a testament to the standards that we insist on throughout our company and a benchmark that we are pleased to invite potential clients to consider when they are selecting who may be best suited to sell their property.

Expensive fees are another long standing gripe with estate agents. How much can it really cost to take a few pictures, put a listing up on Rightmove and wait for the phone to ring? Whilst the booming covid market would have given this impression for some, the return to a more normal market has provided a fresh set of challenges. Our role encompasses being a marketer, negotiator, motivator, councillor, conveyancer, maintenance contact, relationship guidance, conveyancer, PR expert and much more. We have recently completed a



transaction for one of our more determined clients who despite four abortive sales over the course of 18 months (during which we feel like we have scaled Mount Everest and clawed our way back from insurmountable obstacles on multiple occasions) stuck with it until the end. I can honestly say that the day that we completed the sale was one of the most momentous occasions. These are the times that remind us that the bad days are always worth it for the satisfaction that the good ones provide. Our fees were absorbed within managing the process multiple times over but the important thing is to stick with it, focus on the reasons and motivation that a move was desired in the first instance and work together to the best of our ability to do the most professional job we can whatever the circumstances.

Hopefully this month's article goes some way to dispelling some of the more popular criticisms levelled at estate agents although like so many things in life, the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

If any readers would like me to address any queries or questions relating to property over the course of this year's columns then please do contact me on 01206 263007 or via e-mail [jack@davidburr.co.uk](mailto:jack@davidburr.co.uk)

*Jack Thornley*

*Director, David Burr Estate Agents* <https://davidburr.co.uk>  
[jack@davidburr.co.uk](mailto:jack@davidburr.co.uk) | 01206 263007

## EBONY'S DIARY

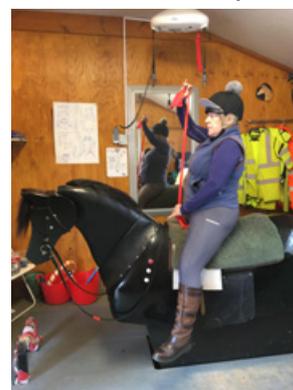
The winter months bring unpredictable weather which makes caring for our ponies challenging. It also means we can't always use them for our Riding for the Disabled (RDA) sessions. Rarely are sessions cancelled – because I'm here to be used. I'm Ebony, the mechanical horse, situated in a warm room out of the weather. The physical therapy I give is as good as being on one of my real-life friends, and I can provide a variety of paces – walk, trot and canter. But RDA is much more than exercising the body. Our attitude is to get our clients to access and enjoy riding and engaging with the horses to the maximum of their ability.

The photo shows Lesley, who uses me to help her recover from a dreadful fall off her own horse.

Across the UK over 25,000 people of all ages and abilities ride or carriage drive with one of the 500 RDA groups. And did you know, there are similar groups right across world? At every group, our coaches are trained and qualified to deliver the best possible experience, based on our clients' needs, ambition or therapeutic goals. Our clients include children and adults with physical and learning disabilities and autism. The difference that riding and being with the horses makes is amazing and often life-changing.

As well as our amazing riders, coaches and stable manager, the Shelley Centre is blessed with many dedicated and hard-working volunteers. They help with the RDA sessions; look after and exercise the ponies during the holidays and weekends; undertake general admin and maintenance tasks around the yard and raise funds to keep the centre going. If you'd like to join this fantastic and friendly team, why not give the centre a call and come up and meet us and see how you can help. And of course, you can always help by supporting our fund raising activities or giving us a donation. Please see our website for details.

The Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding, Shelley, IP7 5QY  
Reg. Charity No. 1113636  
[www.shelleyrda.com](http://www.shelleyrda.com) / 01473 824172



# FRENCH'S CARE HAVEN

Hello to our readers. I hope as always you have all been keeping well. At the farm we will be happy to see the back of all the flooding and heavy clay mud we have to work in, but not looking forward to the flies all over the animals in the summer either, so we can't win and just have to get on with it and do the best we can for our lovely animals, with whatever we get thrown at us weather-wise.

You should be reading this just before our singles night on 1<sup>st</sup> February. We have booked the Stoke by Nayland Resort, with the age group being 40s to late 60s, as we know there are a lot of single ladies and gentlemen out there that are looking for someone to spend some time with, as it can be a lonely time on your own. It starts at 7pm - To book in with us for a nice evening out meeting new people, contact Sharon on: 07999 051 401 or email: [frenchs.100club@gmail.com](mailto:frenchs.100club@gmail.com)

Thank you to everyone who entered our Christmas raffle and thank you to the people and businesses who gave us such good prizes. Two of our prizes were for a spa day and a golf day from SbN resort.

I have to say this winter so far has been extremely hard for us with the weather damaging and destroying our feed, belongings and the huge vet bills from keeping the oldies we have happy, healthy and well, which is always my priority, but it all comes at a financial cost! Finding donators is also hard, but I have to keep everything crossed and pray for some generosity to come our way. If you are reading this Cherry, thank you, you have been a silent blessing. All donations are welcome with open arms and much gratitude. We are planning to have another curry night and dog walk soon, as well as other events through the year, so keep an eye out in the village shops or on our website/facebook page for our posters as well as in our monthly write up that this good village magazine puts in for us each month.

The photos for February are of our sweet donkeys having their breakfast and Lucy our therapy dog making one of our rescued young cats Milo feel relaxed and loved. Lucy is so good with all animals, from the horses to rescued or injured birds, chickens, rabbits, kittens, you name it - she will give her support to them, whether it is an animal



or person in need, she goes to their side and offers her love.

I am still looking for a part time person who can work with us 3 mornings a week, one being a Tuesday. I need someone who is reliable and can be flexible to cover odd mornings when needed and someone who is physically capable - believe me, your fitness and strength will improve, ask any of our helpers. One of our ladies has lost two stone and says she hasn't looked that fit in years, so there are positives.

Contact me, Jann if you would like any more information about becoming part of our small team and helping care for our lovely horses and donkeys.

French's is a charity on your doorstep, can you help, either with time, donations, or sponsorship? You are welcome to come along and meet our animals. Call me for an appointment. Jann on: **07747 755 556** or email: [jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk)

Website: [www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk](http://www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk)

# HADLEIGH & BOXFORD PPG

Notes from the Patient Participation Group for Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice.

**Keep or Cancel.** If you have to cancel an appointment, help the practice and reduce your own stress level by using option 5. There is no need to listen to all the other options. Once you are connected press 5. Hopefully, this will reduce the high number of 'no shows' and callers' frustration.

**Queries:** If you have a query and do not need to book an appointment please call after 10am.

**Non-Urgent Appointments:** No need to sit in the telephone queue if your appointment is not urgent. Use Econsult which is available 24/7. Requests will be dealt with promptly. This will also free up the line for more pressing appointment needs.

**Out of Hours Doctor:** If you need a doctor when the health centre is closed, including weekends, call 111 for advice and details of your nearest 'out of hours' duty doctor.

**Repeat Prescriptions:** Please allow 3 working days for these to be processed.

**Marathon Team:** In addition to their busy work schedule Dr Croot, Dr Dickenson, Kate Brett and Laura Pearson are training in readiness for their participation in the 2024 London Marathon. In order to be one of the thousands of runners they not only have to raise their fitness level but they also have to raise a considerable amount of money for their 2 chosen charities: Hospice UK and Crohn's and Colitis UK. If you wish to support their noble efforts visit: [www.justgiving.com/team/teamhadleigh](http://www.justgiving.com/team/teamhadleigh) or scan the QR code.



**Practice Car Park:** space is limited and should only be used by patients visiting the practice for medical reasons. The Babergh car park is available for all other business e.g. collecting medicine or visiting the town.

**Valentine's Day:** If you're planning to indulge your loved one with chocolates choose the darkest version. Extensive lab testing has shown some health benefits if small amounts of the chocolate with a higher percentage cocoa are consumed. As always everything in moderation. There was no test needed for the comfort and pleasure element of indulging. *Happy Valentine's Day.*

**PPG:** Chair Jan Devey 01473 827091

**PPG Email:** [deveys@btinternet.com](mailto:deveys@btinternet.com)

**Both Practices:** 01473 822 961

**Out of Hours:** 111

**Cancel Appointment:** 01473 822 961 option 5

**Website:** [www.hadleighhealth.co.uk](http://www.hadleighhealth.co.uk)

**Facebook:** <http://bit.ly/Hadleigh-Group-Facebook>

**IT Help for beginners:** <https://bit.ly/babergh-digital-skills>

**Marathon Donation:** [www.justgiving.com/team/teamhadleigh](http://www.justgiving.com/team/teamhadleigh)

## Remember!

The Box River News can be seen in full colour each month by downloading from the website.  
[www.boxrivernews.com](http://www.boxrivernews.com)

# THE GLOW PRO

## Nailing Your Winter Manicure



If you enjoy keeping your manicures seasonally on trend, then you're in the right place.

And no, I'm not referring solely to conventional winter colours such as blacks and burgundies...

I'm going to be delving into rich, glossy finishes, understated chromes, and nude shades with a hint of sparkle – just to mention a few!

### Soft Blue

Embracing icy manicures not only looks cool (pun intended), but this trend effortlessly complements the frosty season.

Whether you opt for a French manicure with a powder blue tip or a serene block colour, soft blues are synonymous with winter.

Instagram Picture Reference:  
@Giangnail.ie



### Metallic Silver



Though the traditional sparkle season might be over, silver nails make a statement whilst matching virtually any outfit!

With numerous variations available, you have the flexibility to go as bold or as minimal as you like.

Plus, this colour pops beautifully when paired with silver jewellery.

### Winter Plum



A rich plum shade is a staple choice, as it has a combination of a cool and warm tone.

Chic and sophisticated, this shade has the lusciousness of berries, as well as depth, making it an excellent choice for any occasion.

It's a yes from me!

Instagram Picture Reference:  
@dndgel.europe

### Hot Chocolate

This deep and creamy chocolate brown almost looks tasty enough to eat.

I love that it has a neutral quality, as it means you can opt for a shade that suits your skin tone and personal preferences. Plus, you can make your manicure extra glossy by adding a shiny top coat.

Instagram Reference: @byevebets



### Grey Blue

This misty colour reminds me of thick, cosy jumpers. With its smoky undertone, it's perfect for channelling your winter wardrobe.

If you're looking for a timeless, versatile colour that looks classic and yet expensive, this might be for you.

Instagram Reference:  
@vino\_and\_varnish



### Deep Green

Green might not be the first colour that pops to mind, but it can make a stunning choice for harmonising with the season. Picture an emerald green or a dark bottle green, which is a unique alternative to the traditional black trend. It's a great choice for bringing a touch of elegance and vibrancy to your nails.

Instagram Reference: @gelsbyfliss



### Chrome



A chrome overlay can elevate any manicure. There's something so alluring about this mirror-like trend, and when paired with a wintery colour such as a wine red or a dark navy blue, your nails will be sure to turn heads (in a good way, of course!).

Instagram Reference: @tenanails

### Glitter Ombré

If you love the idea of a glittery manicure but prefer a minimalist style, choosing a subtle shimmer ombré is an alternative option.

Starting with a neutral or peachy base, this effect gives the impression that your nails have been gently dipped into a gradient of fairy dust.

Trust me, they look as pretty as they sound!



At Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, we have a range of gel and OPI colours to choose from, so you can be sure you'll find your perfect match!

Prices start from £17 for an OPI manicure and £28 for a gel manicure.

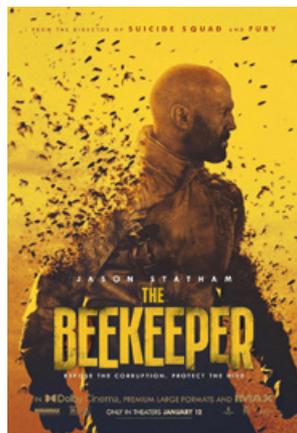
Helena x

office@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk  
01787 211 000



# NOTES FROM A BEEKEEPER'S DIARY

According to press releases appearing regularly on social media a new film (movie/motion picture or whatever) has just been released to the cinema-going public billed as “a story about a beekeeper and his daily struggles”. Titled “*The Beekeeper*” it seemed at first sight that beekeeping had finally reached the well-deserved attention of Hollywood producers and the film would show in glorious panoramic technicolour the daily travails of beekeepers and their fight against climate change, honeybee diseases, insecticides and other biocides and the often unfathomable peculiarities of the bees themselves.



Imagine then my disappointment to discover that far from a gentle saunter through some of the more remote corners of the beekeeping world this film is really about a one-man team of destruction setting out to incinerate, demolish and otherwise extinguish a criminal organisation hell bent on extracting hard earned cash from innocent victims of their nefarious internet scams.

This is not beekeeping as I know it, and I am sure I can say the same about most of my peers.

Beekeepers are far too busy learning the skills of a jack of all trades to become assassins or guns for hire. Most beekeepers buy hives and frames as flat-pack pre-formed kits. However, assembly is not straight forward, and a moment's inattention can have catastrophic consequences, especially when time is short. This is most likely to be the case in six to eight weeks' time when the bees will become active and colonies expanding rapidly. So a basic knowledge of carpentry is essential as well as a roofer's square to make sure all joints are at right angles.

Added to that the practicalities of nurturing the bees themselves. There is a huge catalogue of how-to books about beekeeping, from *Beekeeping for Dummies* up to learned scientific treatises on the most arcane aspects of beekeeping practice. They were written (or borrow from other works that were written in former times) when the year was divided into distinct seasons - each one following the other at a regular cadence, give or take a fortnight or two, from one year to the next.

Unfortunately most of these are now hopelessly out of date. February can bring snow or warm sunshine, Spring can be a short week squeezed between late winter storms and early Summer showers, and Autumn, as last year, hardly had a look in. Much of the honeybee life cycle and the beekeeper's corresponding schedule of tasks is determined by the weather, and when one season merges unpredictably into the next it's easy to be caught out.

We sit on the boundaries of two distinct weather systems. On the one hand we are downwind of the last gasp of storms and gales from the west. By the time they reach Suffolk most of the rain they carry has been deposited on higher ground, and their epicentre is drifting off to the north. On the other hand we are exposed to polar winds from the north and Scandinavia. The combination can be blue skies and light breezes. Or alternatively, when the two systems decide to fight it out for dominance, driving snow and blizzards such as we experienced a few years ago.

So pity the poor Suffolk beekeeper who has to be his own meteorological expert. We are promised icy temperatures and freezing

winds from the north and east but the same was true of today, when Honey (the dog) and I enjoyed clear blue skies and only a light breeze to remind us it was still only mid-January as we strolled gently towards the Fox and Hounds. So any short term forecast is as accurate or not as anyone's guess.

For the most part people are kindly disposed towards honeybees and their keepers. Just occasionally however they (people) can become a touch fractious, especially if they have just been stung (are you sure it was a honey bee – looks like a wasp sting to me!). And there is no doubt we would be in deep trouble if there were no more bees to pollinate our food crops. But attitudes do vary, even among environmentalists who you would think would have a common cause. Essex Wild Life Trust for example are immensely supportive of the beekeeping fraternity and even host an apiary on one of their educational sites. On the other hand their Suffolk counterparts refused point blank to allow any beekeeping activities on their property. This on the grounds that honeybees deprive other pollinating insects from their fair share of foraging possibilities.

Which takes us back to the Hollywood movie – but then negotiation and compromise are probably a better solution in real life than gun-smoke and high explosive..

*Tony Rand*

## MILDEN CRICKET CLUB

Details of pre-season indoor nets will be posted shortly on the club website: [www.mildence.com](http://www.mildence.com). They will be held this year at the Polstead Cricket Lane, Spratts Farm, Holt Road, Polstead, CO6 5BT. A newsletter will also be sent to club members when the nets dates have been confirmed.

**Elaine Carpenter**  
N.R.H.P., C.H.P., Dip Psychology

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# FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

## County Councillor for the Stour Valley

### Suffolk County Council response to local government finance settlement on 18<sup>th</sup> December

The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has announced its funding package to support councils in England to deliver frontline services. Responding to this, Suffolk County Council has said:

*“This council funding announcement presents more challenges than we, and many other County Councils, expected. It means next year we will have no choice but to consider changes to some of the services we provide. The Government is facing considerable financial pressures and requests for funds from all corners of society, not least from councils across the country. We have consistently lobbied for more funding in Suffolk.*

*“We fully understand this position as we too have increasing demands on our services and rising costs to provide them – but the money we receive is not keeping pace with this need. Despite being a financially well-run council, we have significantly less funding than we need – especially in services like Special Educational Needs Development (SEND), home-to-school transport and children in care which are all statutory responsibilities. To prioritise these areas, we will have to make difficult decisions about the services we deliver, how we deliver them and our council tax.”*

### SCC Trading Standards advise beware of five shopping scams

While shoppers look to snap up a bargain, Suffolk Trading Standards is urging them to take a few simple steps to avoid being ripped off. Fake websites, scam texts and bogus competitions are just some of the tactics fraudsters use. Graham Crisp, Head of Suffolk Trading Standards, said: *“Be wary of offers that look too good to be true and try to stick with reputable websites that you recognise and trust” or “Be suspicious of requests to make a bank transfer and ensure you research any individual or businesses requesting financial or personal details.”*

The five scams to look out for:

- 1. Scam delivery texts and emails** – You may get an email or text message saying your package has been delayed and it asks you to click on a link to track its status. This link could lead you to a phishing site that steals your personal information. Malicious texts are where someone clicks on a link and provides information, they may then get a phone call from someone claiming to be from their bank who offers to help safeguard funds by trying to convince someone to transfer money into a bogus ‘safe account’. Forward suspicious text messages to **7726** and send scam emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)
- 2. Fake and copy-cat websites** - The post-holiday season brings endless emails offering deals, sales, and bargains. Some lead to look-alike websites that trick people into downloading malware, making non-existent purchases, and sharing private information. Authenticate a website by checking the address is spelt correctly. Ideally, type it in rather than clicking on a link, or go to [getsafeonline.org/checkawebsite](https://getsafeonline.org/checkawebsite)
- 3. Bogus charities** - Only donate to trusted, well-known charities. Before giving, check the charity’s name and registration number. You can verify this at the Charity Commission’s website at [charitycommission.gov.uk](https://charitycommission.gov.uk)
- 4. Gift Card scams** - Fraudsters impersonate one of your email contacts to ask you to buy a gift card for them as a favour. They will typically say they need help buying it as a present as they are too ill, too busy or have an issue with their payment card. The scammer then asks you to share the serial numbers of gift cards to steal the value purchased. If you receive an email asking for personal information or any form of financial help, call that friend or family member on a trusted number and let them know their account may have been hacked

- 5. Fake social media contests, giveaways, and bogus sellers** - Social media platforms are full of bargains but are also where scammers lie in wait with too-good-to-be-true offers. Fraudsters set up fake pages with offers to catch your eye and encourage you to share. These are designed to ‘farm’ any personal information that you have publicly available on your profile. Search for the official page to see if an offer or giveaway is legitimate.

Anyone losing money to fraud should contact their bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud on **0300 123 20 40** or at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

Suffolk Trading Standards can be contacted via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 1133**. For weekly email from Suffolk Trading Standards go to [www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight).

### Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley

A Foster Carer Recruitment Event is held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, and an Adoption Event is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday all 7:00pm in your home. To book a place please email [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk).

James Finch

[james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)

Tel: **01206 263649**

Mobile: **07545 423796**

# FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

## Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

Firstly the annual debate on our budget setting for 24/25. With a predicted deficit of £1.4m, this has become controversial again because along with everything else, we have to review the level of cost and income from running our car parking service, which is at the moment subsidized by the council tax payers to an amount that is not entirely clear, until councillors have all the facts before them.

We are told that the cost to Babergh DC, to run, police and repair all our car parks is just short of £480,000 but we are not quite sure of the income we get through long-term parking charges and fines etc. My group at full council has asked for more details to enable us to make a balanced decision on behalf of our residents and council taxpayers.

There is no such thing as free parking, it is either funded by the users or the rate payer as a whole, some of whom may not be a user or even have a car at all. Is that justified?

The main share of our costs to run the car parks is the government levied Business rates which currently stand at just short of £300,000. While I personally support free car parking for the user for 90 minutes to help churn and trade in the market towns, this is becoming ever harder to balance without the DC having the finances to facilitate it and keeping other services and general benefits, such as sport and leisure provision, grants and subsidies as well.

More controversial nationally is the great Post Office scandal. I am sure that now the truth is coming out will be sorted out quite quickly after over 20 odd years of hurt for the innocent subpostmasters and mistresses. We can but hope that the chain of brilliant branches in our villages, town and cities will survive the Fujitsu/government incompetence and cover-up.

Please everyone go into your local Post Office and see how much the foot soldiers can offer and do for you.

Following on from the sewage scandal along with horrendous revelations of lack of acceptable standards amongst politicians and members of our police and fire service, the general public have a right to ask questions of those who have been elected and paid to serve us, it seems that when national figures in government set such a bad example, others in the national chain follow suit and standards fail and fall, into a rush to just grab for oneself. Really horrible to see.

It is always said that a fish goes bad and rots from the head down to the rest of its entrails and body down to its tail. Never a truer word was spoken.

Good news across BMS is that we have managed to build 128 new affordable homes in 2023. This is as a result of exception sites put forward by communities, windfall sites from private developments and new homes we have built on our own council-owned land.

One piece of bad news is that we have had to sell 9 as a result of the dreadful, still in place, right to buy legislation from a long bygone era. Still, a really good effort with a net gain of 119 homes.

As part of our extending the future housing needs requirements well into the future of our long term Joint Local Plan, BMS has invited landowners/developers to submit land that might be suitable for housing development, to approach the council and engage with us to fulfil our housing needs into the future. This process is called, "A Call For Sites" and will run until the end of spring 2024. It is hoped that this process will guarantee us housing land into the future.

It is very important that with our JLP stage 1 in place, that we decide our own future development and not let it be decided by government inspectors at appeal.

The village of Boxford recently held its own planning appeal regarding the application for 64 houses at the top of Sand Hill running up to the A1071 bypass. This event was held in our own Spinney by kind permission of the Scouts/Guides management group. I attended for the whole day and along with other villagers spoke my very best in support of the vast majority view that this application should be refused on many grounds including vehicle capacity and highway safety throughout the village. My view remains that we need local needs houses that are affordable to villagers and local people, not another carbuncle of unaffordable houses for speculative sale on the open market and general need.

This brought back to me many years of attendance at this venue, when my own two daughters attended these groups. It is a great venue and those that run it for the benefit of local children should be applauded for keeping these premises in good order for yet another generation.

So sorry that I was unable to write my column for January issue last month, with huge council commitments and a full order book with my furniture making/carpentry business, time just got the better of me and the sand ran through too quickly.

A huge thank you to those that work so hard on this brilliant magazine, to see that it is edited, printed, distributed and delivered to residents. We are so lucky to have you. What a fine example to those miscreants that I named earlier.

If you need help in the coming months, just call, email or rugby tackle me in the street. With my gammy knee, still awaiting surgery, that is not hard to do at the moment.

Bryn

[bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk)

Tel: 01787 210854 / Mobile: 07771 508348

# PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

## BOXFORD

### Summary of Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Co-option of New Member** - We are pleased to report Kevin Couling has joined the parish council. He has been working in the sidelines for sometime now and members were delighted to invite him to be co-opted.

**Public Forum** - The resident who attended, raised the issue again of parking problems in and around Brook Hall Road. A car parked on Cox Hill is causing problems for people turning into and out of Brook Hall Road. Up to 7 cars are sometimes parked outside the care home on the corner obstructing the road. Cllr Munson reported that she has spoken to the manager of the care home about this issue. The ownership of the grass verge is still unclear and is being investigated. A solution is being sought and it is expected that the parking situation will improve over time.

**District Council Report:** District Cllr Bryn Hurren attended and reported that: a sign has been put up outside the intended new Goodlands development, indicating that the Woodland Trust will be given the land. However, it is unlikely that the public will be allowed to walk to Primrose Wood via the intended footpath until after building works have been completed. The Chair raised a question about whether the land transfer will be dependent on a buyer being found for the development site. It appears that this is the case, but it is expected that the site will sell quickly.

The Goodlands playground: Some grass cutting has been done, but the area still looks a little sparse. Cllr Hurren will find out who is on the management committee, so that the environment and ecology subcommittee can liaise with them.

The Trees for Newborns scheme is still on offer for babies born in 2023.

Parking in Babergh is back for discussion. Cllr Hurren is against parking charges in the market towns, as is the parish council, but it is becoming more difficult to oppose it, given the position regarding business rates (which are charged to Babergh on car parks).

The Sand Hill appeal hearing went much as expected. However, Cllr Hurren objected to any suggestion that the Station Field drainage system is defective and opposes any proposal to dig the attenuation tanks up and replace them with a reservoir on the development site.

The number of people in need of affordable housing in the Boxford area has increased.

The Jubilee bench repairs have been completed. A privately owned bench in the cemetery needs attention and this will be researched

Following the report, the Chair raised a question about road sweeping in Boxford. This needs to be done at least 4 times a year. If a proper schedule is provided, the parish council will try to ensure that people know where not to park, so that the road sweepers can do their job.

**County Council Report:** County Cllr J Finch had sent his apologies and his report issued in advance was as reported on Page 28 of the January 2024 issue of the BRN.

**Cemetery** - The large leaning sycamore in the cemetery had been felled and leaves have also been cleared. Cllr Warren reported that the ongoing work in the churchyard cannot proceed until the ground dries. He will chase the traffic management company regarding the application to County Highways, needed to allow work to proceed on the churchyard wall. A number of trees in the churchyard are growing through graves and need to be felled/managed. Cllr Munson noted that any felled trees should be replaced with suitable specimens somewhere in the village.

**Finance** - In addition to the usual business, the full council finance brainstorm meeting was arranged for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January. The quote for cutting the hedge at the Cemetery/Churchyard was approved

cont...



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Church Road, Little Waldingfield, Sudbury, Suffolk

and was to be carried out between Christmas and the new year. Cllr Warren was to obtain a quote for repair of the fence and gate in Stone Street Road. The Environment & Ecology Sub-Committee were authorised to spend up to £100 on seeding the high verges at the top of Swan St and other similar projects.

**Environmental and Ecology** - Cllr Carpenter reported on the following: The meeting with Cllr Phillips to look at the playing field with a view to implementing the suggestions made by Cathy Smith from Suffolk Wildlife Trust. A presentation will be made to the playing fields committee in the new year.

Cllr Carpenter attended the HEAT AGM (Hadleigh Environmental Action Team) and the River Group meeting, which yielded useful information and contacts. She is in touch with HEAT, who are about to start a monitoring project of the River Box. The subcommittee were to join in with this, starting in the new year.

Cllr Carpenter is putting together an initial meeting of the community group in January.

Proposal for a small scale project to explore increasing biodiversity on the steep verges in Swan Street (see finance item). The suggestion is to cut, make some 50-70% bare patches and re-seed with yellow rattle and other suitable wildflower seeds. The subcommittee will investigate the SCC Community Self-Management scheme for verges.

One of the church wardens, who is a member of the community group is offering support for any environmental projects in the churchyard, eg swift boxes and bat boxes. She will liaise with the church, possibly through the 'Ecochurch' initiative.

Goodlands play area (see District Councillor's report) – Richard Parmee at SCC may be able to supply plants and seeds.

Woodland Trust is looking for landowners and farmers who have space for tree planting.

**On-going matters** - Cllr Munson reported on Reclaim the Rain projects. The lake at the back of Brook Hall Rd to be planted with willows to reduce water and silt run-off. There is another potential site for willows upstream from Groton. The lake at the Spinney cannot be enlarged as the landowner will not permit this. Rainwater will be collected in the cemetery via a water-butt on the village hall.

The Chair reported on a number of matters, as follows: The Saturday bus service is set to continue for the first quarter of 2024. Beeston's has bid for a subsidy for the Saturday and non-school day service. Chair to meet with Simon Barnett of SCC in early January and will continue to pressure SCC regarding the £1.8m which the government has provided to improve rural transport.

A condition survey of the street lighting will be carried out on 9<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr Couling to attend.

The 20mph project is moving forward and building greater support. On-site meeting with Highways planned for new year. Also looking at parking restrictions at the pinch-point in Church Street, but noted the need to retain as much parking as possible. A full inspection of all roads in the village will be carried out and all necessary repairs (carriageway, drains, gullies) will be noted on a map. Meeting to be held in January with residents of Stone Street to discuss the traffic problems.

SCC currently cleans the drains and gullies once a year. This is insufficient. A machine was cleaning in School Hill recently. Cllr Couling to check both sides of the road were cleared.

Project planned to look at flood risk mitigation for Boxford, linking with Reclaim the Rain and the Environment Agency. Cllr Munson offered to liaise with Reclaim the Rain. Cllr Watts to head up the project.

#### **Sub Committee's as follows:**

*Environmental & Ecology:* Cllrs Munson & Wortley

*Public Realms:* Cllrs Parr (PC Chair), Warren & Watts

*Planning:* Cllrs Phillips, Watts & Wortley

*Cemetery:* Cllrs Warren & Phillips

*Finance:* Cllrs Parr, Phillips, Warren & the Responsible Finance Officer (Clerk)

All decisions continue to be made by full Council at Parish Council Meetings held in public.

**Planning** - A number of planning applications were discussed, details on which can be found on the parish council website.

**Date of next meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Full minutes can be found at: <http://boxford.suffolk.cloud>

**Debbie Hattrell**

01376 425744 / [pc@boxford.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@boxford.suffolk.gov.uk)

## **LITTLE WALDINGFIELD**

### **Summary of Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Report by District Councillor Paul Clover:** Cllr Clover's report can be read in Annex A to the 9 January 2024 draft minutes on the council's website under *Meetings Agendas & Minutes*. A discussion followed on Babergh & Mid Suffolk DC's proposal to impose parking charges in Sudbury, Hadleigh and Lavenham without consulting surrounding parishes. It was resolved to send a letter to BMSDC raising strong objections to the proposals and to raise awareness of the petition on Babergh's website which closes on 31 January.

**Public Forum:** An issue was raised regarding a collapsed wall by the garages in Croft Lea which are owned by Babergh DC. It was agreed that the clerk would raise the issue with BDC.

**Recent Correspondence:** On the matter of the ANPR cameras at last coming to the village in the spring, a councillor observed that the police mobile camera van was frequently in Gt Waldingfield and queried how it might be requested to come to the village. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the clerk at Gt Waldingfield for information.

**Clerks Report:** Councillors reviewed the clerk's report (Annex B to the minutes) and noted the following:

- Speed Indicator Devices – awaiting delivery and they will be installed on the Street as soon as they arrive.
- Dog Bin – the new dog bin had been delivered and will be installed adjacent to Archers Farm. It was agreed to purchase a supply of dog waste bags to be placed in the phone box.
- Defibrillator – the bid to the Government's Community Defibrillator Fund for a second defibrillator was successful and it has been delivered. It will shortly be installed on the Playing Field pavilion.

**Finances:** The relevant financial information was reviewed, and councillors unanimously agreed not to increase the Precept for 2024/25. The final budget figures for 2024/25 were agreed and are shown in Annex D to the minutes.

**Surrounding Parishes Community Emergency Planning Meeting report:** The report was circulated to councillors for consideration; the requirements and contents of a local plan will be discussed at the next PC meeting together with contributions to the next CEP meeting.

**Highways & Footpaths:** The Footpaths Group has put together a second report on the findings of the survey, this time focusing on the aspiration to connect Footpaths 2 and 4. This will be shared at the next parish council meeting. An updated leaflet on 'Circular walks around the Waldingfields', has been produced, the original of which was developed by Leslie Hammond around twenty years ago. A copy is on the village website and further copies will be placed in the phone box, the church and other appropriate places. Signs have been placed on footpaths advising they are for walkers only following reports that in places they have, on occasion, been used by cyclists and users of motorised bikes. Signs have also been erected about dog fouling, following further complaints.

**Improvements to 753 Bus Service:** Members were informed of a Lavenham PC proposal that Suffolk County Council apply to the

Government's £3.6 million Rural Bus Service Improvement Plan for funds to improve the 753 bus service. It was agreed to liaise with the District and County Councillors at the next meeting in ways to support the Lavenham proposal and suggest further improvements in favour of Little Waldingfield. These included options for a bus stop close to the junction of the B1071 and B1115, and a small reroute of some services into the village.

**Village annual litter pick:** The date for this year's litter pick was set for Saturday 23 March with volunteers gathering in the Parish Room at 10 am. Refreshments will be served afterwards..

**Date of next Meeting:** Due to the number of outstanding items it was decided to hold an extra meeting on 30 January 2024 at 7:30pm in addition to the next scheduled meeting on 05 March 2024.

Full minutes can be found at <https://bit.ly/lw-parish-council>

**Chris White**

07541 133535 / [clerk.littlewalingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk.littlewalingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk)

## GROTON

### Summary of Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Present:** S McGrath (Chair), N Chapman, C Hearn, M Mackay-Morris, A Dixon-Smith, R Jones (Clerk) **Guests:** J Finch (Suffolk CC) B Hurren (Babergh DC)

**Apologies for Absence:** P Roberts, R Cheeseman

**Minutes of the Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023:** Approved. It was pointed out that Councillor Hearn's suggested amendment to the minutes had not been made.

**Groton Traffic Assessment:** It was agreed with Councillor Finch to book a date and venue to meet with a representative of SCC Highways to progress this item.

**Financial Matters:** Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment and Q3 accounts were approved. The adequacy of the Budget for 2023/24 was agreed. The Precept for 2024/25 was agreed and set at £5,005.00. The Budget for 2024/25 was considered and approved. Other Financial Matters – the clerk had identified a Lenovo laptop with a discounted cost of £279.99. It was agreed that the clerk purchase this item.

**Neighbourhood Plan Update:** Councillor Chapman reported that the Housing Needs Assessment had been completed and from 33 responses received there was a clear demographic in terms of age. Two-thirds of properties in the parish had four or more bedrooms and of these, 50% housed two occupants or less. The next step was to arrange a meeting to assess the information and to draft policies. It was agreed that in future this item be referred to as '*Groton People and Places Plan*'.

**Planning Matters:** Planning Applications - DC/23/05866 Land and Agricultural Building, Parliament Heath, Groton, CO10 5EP - Planning Application. Demolition of existing modern barn and erection of 1 no single storey dwelling (Class Q fall back DC/22/05279) – After discussion it was agreed that the council oppose this application for the following reasons: the council opposed the original application on the basis that the present building did not lend itself to conversion to a dwelling and concerns over the effect any building work would have on local wildlife, particularly protected species. The council felt that environmental reports submitted in connection with this application were vague and unable to demonstrate that the habitat of protected species would remain unhindered. In addition to reiterating its previous reasons for opposing the application, the council agreed that the building of a completely new home on agricultural land outside of the settlement boundary would be of no benefit to the Groton community and would not be in line with Babergh DC's Planning Policy.

**A Garland of Hamlets:** Two further meetings held which were attended by six 'very enthusiastic' people with lots of good ideas discussed. Notes of the meetings to be collated with the next meeting provisionally scheduled for March. Possible working title '*Groton Through the Ages*'.

**Highway and Footpath Matters:** A discussion took place about the amount of recent flooding in the parish. It was agreed to include flooding as an agenda item for future meetings and to look into inviting Ruby Shepperton from SCC's '*Reclaim the Rain*' project to attend a future meeting.

**Date of next meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Full minutes can be found at:  
<http://groton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/documents/>

**Richard Jones**

01473 828246 / [grotonclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:grotonclerk@yahoo.com)

## NEWTON GREEN

### Summary of Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**24/004 Public Participation** - The councillors reviewed James Finch's previously submitted report and his update on the 'quarry' in Valley Road and the review of options for crossing the A134. The councillors were happy to proceed along the lines of the proposed process for the crossing review.

**24/008 Finance** - The councillors reviewed the agreed expenditure budget and NPC reserves policy before resolving to set a precept of £21,451.10 for 2024 / 2025. This will mean that a council tax band D household will pay an increase of £11.96 per annum.

**24/009 Newton Footpaths** - There was no further update on the creation of any new footpaths. SCC Right of Ways does not currently pay a contractor to cut footpath 2 twice a year. The clerk will liaise with NPC's contractor to review the logistics and cost of including the footpath in the NPC cutting schedule for 2024.

**24/010 Allotments** - The councillors reviewed the correspondence from BWB and await the revised legal papers for signature by Cllrs Everett and Schwenk. With the list of existing allotment tenants also being provided by Michael Oliver, the clerk will now make initial contact with the group on behalf of NPC.

**24/011 Parish Survey** - The councillors reviewed the draft survey to be given to all Newton households and agreed on its content. The councillors will deliver the surveys to each household with the consultation running from the 20<sup>th</sup> January to the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**24/014 Walk of the Parish** - Cllr Evers suggested that the bunting around the play equipment be removed and the councillors resolved that this be done immediately. The clerk was asked to update Cllr Finch on the flooding issue near the A1071 / A134 junction. The refilling of the dog poo bags was raised.

**24/015 Spring Litter Pick** - The councillors agreed to hold the spring litter pick (starting at 8:30am) and the NPC coffee morning (starting at 10am) on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Full minutes can be found at: [www.newton.onesuffolk.net](http://www.newton.onesuffolk.net)

**Dave Crimmin PSLCC**

01787 375085 / [clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk)

## OTHER PARISH COUNCILS

**Edwardstone PC**

Clerk: Richard Jones - 01473 828246

[edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com](mailto:edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com)

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

# The Blooming Garden

## Witch Hazels.

The spidery flowers of witch hazels bring a bit of magic to the winter garden. The name is misleading as they are not actually hazels and witches have nothing to do with them. The word 'witch' is most probably derived from the old English 'wiche' which means pliable. I prefer to think of them producing witchy spells as their enchantingly raggedy flowers toss their spicy scent round the winter garden. Bendy is a bit too prosaic a way to describe these exotic beauties. The flowers look as if ribbons have been shredded and then scrunched up.

The first witch hazels to be introduced to the UK came from America in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The variety *Hamamelis virginiana* produces autumnal flowers whilst there are still yellow leaves on the plant so they are not showy. Nowadays this variety is used as a root-stock as most modern cultivars are grafted, that is why they are so expensive. The more interesting witch hazels are the two Oriental species. *Hamamelis japonica* came from Japan in 1862. The spidery yellow flowers are lightly scented. The real excitement came from the Chinese variety, *Hamamelis mollis* as it is far more fragrant than its Japanese cousin. The popular variety *Hamamelis mollis* 'Pallida' is known for its delicious scent and sulphur-yellow spidery flowers and it is still a classic.

But nowadays we have the best of both worlds as Japanese and Chinese varieties have been hybridised to give us a range of fragrant witch hazels in delicious shades of yellow, orange, rust and red. The great thing about *Hamamelis x intermedia* is that we have a shrub with beautiful fragrant flowers that is more robust and not quite as fussy as its parents.



*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena'



Many of the desirable new hybrids were bred by Robert de Belder in his famous arboretum at Kalmouth in Belgium. The most popular orange one, 'Jelena' was introduced in 1954, named after his wife. I grow this with a backing of *Cornus* 'Anny's Winter Orange' next to the cinnamon coloured bark of *Acer griseum*. I think 'Harry' was named after one of their friends; it is another lovely orange one. Trying to recommend witch hazels is tricky as there are so many wonderful ones available.



*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Orange Peel'

But other lovely orange ones are 'Gingerbread' which has pretty twisty tufts of flowers and my favourite, 'Orange Peel' which looks and smells just like orange peel. A lovely red one 'Diana' was named after Robert de Belder's daughter. I have found this to be a reliable one, although it sometimes holds on to its dead leaves which makes it unsightly. My favourite red is 'Livia', named after their granddaughter, which has wine red flowers. I might be tempted to add the lovely red 'Ruby Glow' or the dark red 'Rubin' too, if I had the space!



Yellow hybrids include *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Barmstedt Gold' which has rich deep golden-yellow flowers. You can see a lovely specimen of this in the Anglesey Abbey winter garden. If you have several witch hazels you will find that some of them start blooming earlier than others so this might be a deciding factor when choosing. I find the last in bloom is often the wonderfully floriferous *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnold's Promise'.



*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Livia'



*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnold's Promise'

Two unusual ones are 'Strawberries and Cream' which has flowers which are pinky-red at the base with yellow tips; a wonderful sight when mature. A friend of mine grows a new hybrid *Hamamelis vernalis* 'Amethyst' which has reddish purple flowers which are quite striking. They are not quite amethyst but near enough. My favourite is *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Vesna' named after the Russian goddess of spring. It has very fragrant deep golden-orange flowers and are longer and thinner than many others. In autumn it has scarlet and orange leaves. This is a good point as witch hazels are rather boring in summer but many of them produce brilliant autumn colour and it is worth seeking out varieties that perform well in autumn as well as winter.



*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Vesna'

Witch hazels need that famous horticultural oxymoron 'moist but well-drained soil'. They don't like to sit with their feet in water but on the other hand if they are dry in summer they won't flower and may well die. I have never worked out how to achieve moist but well-drained soil. But these beautiful shrubs are worth persevering with because what else can provide such pleasure in the depth of winter? I have broken my 'kill it three times and give up' rule many times to try to keep these beauties going. The first hurdle is if you buy a beautiful young shrub in flower in winter and plant it, sometimes, when the lovely flowers finish so does the shrub. It just sits there and refuses to break into leaf. I don't know if this was because the soil was too cold but it has happened occasionally. The next tricky thing is to keep the plant moist in the increasingly hot dry summers. *Hamamelis* prefers an acid soil but it will cope with any soil as long as it is given plenty of organic matter and moisture and a sunny or partially sunny position. If it fails to bloom it is likely that you have kept it too dry. So with these caveats I do urge you to bring a little magic to your winter garden with a witch hazel. When it is mature you can bring a few sprigs into the house and enjoy the fabulous spicy scent which sometimes gets carried away on the breeze outside.

*Chloris.*

# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

## CLUBS & GROUPS

Boxford Bellringers	<i>Richard Gates</i>	<b>01787 210432</b>
Boxford Bible Study Group	<i>Peter &amp; Margaret</i>	<b>01787 211077</b>
Boxford Bike Club	<i>Kevin Bridge</i>	<b>07876 798617</b> <a href="http://www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk">www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk</a>
Boxford Bowls Club	<i>Lea Blackham</i>	<b>01787 210313</b>
Boxford Carpet Bowls	<i>Brian Porter</i>	<b>01473 824283</b>
Boxford Drama Group	<i>Janice Macmillan</i>	<b>07779 303690</b> <a href="mailto:janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk">janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Boxford Friendship Group	<i>Alison Warren</i>	<b>01787 211067</b>
	<i>or Wendy Hills</i>	<b>01787 210342</b>
Boxford Gardens Open	<i>Audrey Zuck</i>	<b>07852 102 455</b> <a href="mailto:audrey@a2zriskservices.com">audrey@a2zriskservices.com</a>
Boxford Gardening Society	<i>Elizabeth Wagener</i>	<b>01787 210223</b> <a href="mailto:elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com">elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com</a>
Boxford Literary Group	<i>David Jones</i>	<b>01787 211104</b> <a href="mailto:audav@hotmail.co.uk">audav@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Boxford Rovers Youth FC	<i>Melvyn Eke</i>	<b>07873 971701</b> <a href="mailto:m.eke@btinternet.com">m.eke@btinternet.com</a>
<a href="http://www.boxfordrovers.co.uk">www.boxfordrovers.co.uk</a>		
Boxford Tennis Social	<i>Sue Moore</i>	<b>07808 481447</b>
Boxford WI	<i>Lyn Beer</i>	<b>07961 357526</b>
Edwardstone Cricket Club	<i>Tom Whymark</i>	<b>01787 211375</b>
Fleece Jazz	<i>David Gasson</i>	<b>01787 210796</b>
Highway 12 Western Partner Dance	<i>Chris</i>	<b>01787 371006</b>
Little Waldingfield History Society	<i>Diana Langford</i>	<b>01787 248298</b> <a href="mailto:dianalangford765@gmail.com">dianalangford765@gmail.com</a>
Little Waldingfield Over 60s and Friendship Club	<i>Tricia Eddington</i>	<b>01787 247932</b>
Local History Recorder Edwardstone	<i>Daphne Clark</i>	<b>01787 210698</b> <a href="mailto:daphne.clark@btopenworld.com">daphne.clark@btopenworld.com</a>
Local History Recorder Groton	<i>Joanna Roberts</i>	<b>01787 210619</b> <a href="mailto:jgant87618@aol.com">jgant87618@aol.com</a>
Madrigalia Choir	<i>Sue Price</i>	<b>01787 210913</b>
Miss Lesley School of Performing Arts (MLSPA)	<i>Miss Lesley</i>	<b>07957 351941</b> <a href="mailto:lesley.mlspa@gmail.com">lesley.mlspa@gmail.com</a>
Milden Cricket Club	<i>Andrew Simmons</i>	<b>07951 055643</b>
Milden Singers	<i>Pearl</i>	<b>01449 741876</b>
Newton Arts & Crafts Club	<i>Carol Langley</i>	<b>01787 373548</b>
Newton War Games Club	<i>Brian Lawson</i>	<b>01787 312160</b>
Newton Fireside Club	<i>Moira Evans</i>	<b>01787 374652</b>
Primrose Wood Volunteers	<i>Evan Flockhart</i>	<b>07968 336883</b> <a href="mailto:obliquewoodland@protonmail.com">obliquewoodland@protonmail.com</a>
Swing jive & Lindy Hop Dance	<i>Sarah Boldock</i>	<b>07956 614824</b>
Yoga (Boxford)	<i>Marianne Marshall</i>	<b>01787 210323</b>
Yoga Paper Kite (Newton)	<i>Sophie</i>	<b>01787 313662</b>
Yoga With Lindsey (Newton)	<i>Lindsey</i>	<b>07971 800540</b>

## CHARITIES

Boxford & Groton United Charities	<i>Guy Godfrey</i>	<b>01787 211378</b>
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	<i>Marijke Morris</i>	<b>07914 767013</b> <a href="mailto:marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk">marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Edwardstone United Charities	<i>Nick Raymond</i>	<b>01787 210461</b> <a href="mailto:nrcraymond@hotmail.co.uk">nrcraymond@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Groton Educational Foundation	<i>Stephen Watkins</i>	<b>01787 210977</b> <a href="mailto:stephen_watkins49@yahoo.co.uk">stephen_watkins49@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust	<i>James Wills</i>	<b>01787 210484</b>
Little Waldingfield Charities	<i>Mary Thorogood</i>	<b>01787 247658</b>
Newton Green Trust	<i>Philip Taylor</i>	<b>01787 211265</b> <a href="mailto:philiptaylor433@gmail.com">philiptaylor433@gmail.com</a>

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

3PR Boxford 1st Responders	<i>Rich Wild</i>	<b>01787 210946</b> <a href="mailto:office@boxfordresponders.com">office@boxfordresponders.com</a>
Boxford Allotments	<i>David Burden</i>	<b>01787 211926</b> <a href="mailto:d.burden379@btinternet.com">d.burden379@btinternet.com</a>
Boxford Bounty	<i>Mark Miller</i>	<b>01787 211596</b>
Boxford Community Car Scheme	<i>Jen Eastwood</i>	<b>01787 211853</b> <a href="mailto:jen.eastwood8@gmail.com">jen.eastwood8@gmail.com</a>
Boxford Community Council	<i>Ward Baker</i>	<b>01787 210129</b> <a href="mailto:boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com">boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.boxford.me.uk">www.boxford.me.uk</a>
Boxford Playing Fields	<i>Hugh Phillips</i>	<b>01787 211729</b> <a href="mailto:hughvcphillips@hotmail.com">hughvcphillips@hotmail.com</a>
Boxford Society	<i>Jen Eastwood</i>	<b>01787 211853</b> <a href="mailto:jen.eastwood8@gmail.com">jen.eastwood8@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety">boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety</a>
Boxford Tennis Courts	<i>Hugh Phillips</i>	<b>01787 211729</b>
Lt Waldingfield Playing field	<i>Jennie Jordan</i>	<b>07522 352558</b> <a href="mailto:52Jennie1@gmail.com">52Jennie1@gmail.com</a>

## SCOUTING

1st Boxford Beaver Scouts	<i>Not currently active</i>	
1st Boxford Cub Scouts	<i>Susie</i>	<b>07843 280396</b>
1st Boxford Scouts	<i>David Talbot-Clarke</i>	<b>07946 550519</b>
1st Boxford Explorer Scouts	<i>Neil Barkham</i>	<b>07734 108257</b>
1st Boxford Rainbows	<i>Janice Macmillan</i>	<b>07779 303690</b>
1st Boxford Brownies	<i>Janice Macmillan</i>	<b>07779 303690</b> <a href="mailto:janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk">janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk</a>
1st Boxford Guides	<i>Bethany Ireland</i>	<a href="mailto:bethanyireland11@gmail.com">bethanyireland11@gmail.com</a>

## CHILDREN FAMILIES & LEARNING

Boxford Primary School	<b>01787 210332</b> <a href="mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk">office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk</a> <a href="http://www.boxford-suffolk.secure-dbprimary.com">www.boxford-suffolk.secure-dbprimary.com</a>
Friends of Boxford School (FoBS)	<a href="mailto:talktofobs@gmail.com">talktofobs@gmail.com</a>
Sunflowers Childcare	<i>Moira Grant</i> <b>01787 211363</b> <a href="mailto:info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk">info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk">www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk</a>
Boxford Baby & Toddler Group	<a href="https://facebook.com/Boxfordbabyandtoddlergroup">facebook.com/Boxfordbabyandtoddlergroup</a>

## HALLS & FACILITIES TO HIRE

Boxford Pavilion	<i>Hugh Phillips</i>	<b>01787 211729</b> <a href="mailto:hughvcphillips@hotmail.com">hughvcphillips@hotmail.com</a>
Boxford Spinney	<i>Mark Miller</i>	<b>01787 211596</b> <a href="mailto:mark.miller@talktalk.net">mark.miller@talktalk.net</a> <a href="http://www.boxfordspinney.co.uk">www.boxfordspinney.co.uk</a>
Boxford Village Hall	<i>Jane Elliott</i>	<b>07721 880521</b> <a href="mailto:BvHbookhall@gmail.com">BvHbookhall@gmail.com</a>
Edwardstone Parish Hall	<i>Daphne Clark</i>	<b>01787 210698</b> <a href="mailto:daphne.clark@btopenworld.com">daphne.clark@btopenworld.com</a>
Edwardstone Millennium Green	<i>Marijke Morris</i>	<b>07914 767013</b> <a href="mailto:marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk">marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Groton Village Hall	<i>Joanna Roberts</i>	<b>01787 210619</b>
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	<i>Sue Bowen</i>	<b>01787 249473</b> <a href="mailto:sd.bowen@btopenworld.com">sd.bowen@btopenworld.com</a>
Little Waldingfield Pavilion	<i>Jennie Jordan</i>	<b>07522 352558</b> <a href="mailto:52Jennie1@gmail.com">52Jennie1@gmail.com</a>
Marquee Booking	<a href="mailto:BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com">BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com</a>	
Milden Pavilion	<i>Pearl</i>	<b>01449 741876</b> <a href="mailto:info@mildenpavilion.co.uk">info@mildenpavilion.co.uk</a>
Newton Village Hall	<i>Alan Vince</i>	<b>07955 199000</b>

# MICROPLANT

08703 210256 / 07850 210256

E-mail: [charles@microplant.net](mailto:charles@microplant.net)

Website: [www.microplant.net](http://www.microplant.net)

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Harrows  
Mowers  
Associated equipment



## sunflowers Childcare

An independent setting  
within Boxford Primary school

We offer term wrap-around care and  
Early Education for children aged  
**20 months -12 years of age**

**Term time opening hours:**  
Monday - Thursday: 7.30am - 6.00pm  
Friday: 7.30am - 5.00pm

Set Pre-school sessions from 9.00am - 3.30pm

For school aged children, we deliver to Boxford school from  
Breakfast club and collect directly from the school.

**School Holiday clubs for children 20m - 12 years:**  
(pre-school children need to be in attendance at Sunflowers)  
Monday - Thursday: 8.30am - 3.30pm

**15 and 30 hours Early years  
government entitlement sessions available**

The Cabin, Stonestreet Road, Boxford, Suffolk. CO10 5NP

CALL US: **01787 211363**  
Email: [info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk](mailto:info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk)  
Web: [www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk](http://www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk)



SN Stoke by Nayland  
RESORT

## Spoil Mum This Mother's Day

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH

Celebrate Mother's Day with a delicious three-course carvery in our Lakes Restaurant,  
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- perfect for the whole family to enjoy!



For more information and to book, please scan the QR code or call 01206 262836



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2024

<b>22</b> MON	<b>Boxford Friendship Group</b> Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
<b>26</b> FRI	<b>Pop-up Pub</b> Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30-10:30pm
<b>30</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club 'It Shouldn't Happen to a Vicar'</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm

## FEBRUARY 2024

<b>1</b> THUR	<b>French's Speed Dating Evening</b> Stoke-by-Nayland Resort	7-10pm
<b>3</b> SAT	<b>Leavenheath Cinema - 'The Great Escaper'</b> Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
<b>6</b> TUE	<b>Boxford Gardening Society - Talk</b> Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>7</b> WED	<b>Boxford WI - Speaker : The Men's Shed</b> Boxford Village Hall	2pm
<b>9</b> FRI	<b>Relaxation &amp; Sound - all welcome</b> Boxford Village Hall	6-7:15pm
<b>9</b> FRI	<b>Polstead Films- 'The Miracle Club'</b> Polstead Village Hall	7pm
<b>13</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Pancakes</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm
<b>14</b> SAT	<b>LWHS - Setting Tongues Wagging</b> Parish Room, Little Waldingfield	7:30pm
<b>17</b> SAT	<b>Newton Quiz Night</b> Newton Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>23</b> FRI	<b>Pop up pub</b> Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30-10:30pm
<b>24</b> SAT	<b>Murder Mystery Night</b> Lindsey Rose	TBC
<b>26</b> MON	<b>Boxford Friendship Group</b> Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
<b>27</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Trip to Norwich</b> More details to follow	TBC

## MARCH 2024

<b>2</b> SAT	<b>Leavenheath Cinema - 'A Haunting in Venice'</b> Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
<b>5</b> TUE	<b>Boxford Gardening Society - Talk</b> Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>6</b> WED	<b>Boxford WI - Speaker : Nayland Handbells</b> Boxford Village Hall	2pm
<b>8</b> FRI	<b>Relaxation &amp; Sound - all welcome</b> Boxford Village Hall	6-7:15pm
<b>9</b> SAT	<b>Quiz Night</b> Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7pm
<b>12</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Bring &amp; Share Lunch</b> Venue TBC	12:30pm
<b>13</b> WED	<b>LWHS - An Extraordinary Man</b> Parish Room, Little Waldingfield	7:30pm
<b>22</b> FRI	<b>Pop-up Pub</b> Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30-10:30pm
<b>23</b> SAT	<b>Shanty Folk</b> Polstead Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>25</b> MON	<b>Boxford School Festival of Music</b> St Mary's, Boxford	10am
<b>25</b> MON	<b>Boxford Friendship Group</b> Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
<b>26</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Perrywood Talk by Hannah</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm

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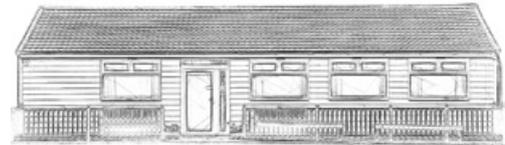
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