

April 2024

Box River News

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SAND HILL HOUSING: APPEAL DISMISSED!

Five years of uncertainty as to whether Boxford was to have a major new housing estate on 14 acres of agricultural land to the east of Sand Hill - outside the existing village settlement boundary - came to an end (hopefully) on 6 March 2024 with the decision of a planning inspector to dismiss the appeal by Catesby Development Land Ltd against the decision of Babergh District Council on 27 July 2022 refusing outline permission for a proposed development of up to 64 dwellings together with the provision of land for a community building. The appeal decision followed an all-day hearing by the inspector, Mr Jeremy Sargent BA (Hons), MA, MRTPI, in the Boxford Spinney scout hut on 12 December 2023 (see BRN January 2024, page 5).



To remind readers, Catesby's first application, submitted in April 2019, was for 80 houses on a site they dubbed 'Weaver's Green'. This followed consultation by the company and a public exhibition held in Boxford Village Hall on 22 January 2019. That application was refused by Babergh in September 2019 and, rather than appeal, Catesby submitted a revised scheme in January 2020 with a new layout and a reduced number of houses. In the following four years this application was the subject of several ups and downs, culminating in Mr Sargent's decision last month.

Initially, Babergh's planning committee resolved in June 2020 (by a 7-3 majority) to grant permission, subject to a 'section 106 agreement', inter alia to secure certain collateral benefits. The formal written permission was issued six months later on 11 December 2020. After taking legal advice, Boxford Parish Council applied to the High Court for judicial review to quash the permission. On 26 March 2021 a consent order was approved by Mrs Justice Lang quashing the permission on legal grounds, and the parish council was awarded £13,000 costs against Babergh. The application then returned to Babergh's planning committee for redetermination and this time, after deferring a decision pending an independent highways impact assessment, the committee resolved (by a 10-1 majority) to refuse permission.

Babergh's refusal was founded on the highway/traffic objections to the proposal, especially the 'unacceptable impact' on Swan Street but, as I noted in January, the inspector would not be constrained by that reason in deciding the appeal: rather he had to decide the appeal on the basis of all material considerations as at the date of his decision, including, in particular, the new strategic policies in both the Babergh-Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP - only adopted on 26 November 2023) and the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan. So it proved, with Mr Sargent dismissing the appeal on these three main grounds:

- The proposed development is outside the Boxford settlement boundary and therefore contrary to the spatial strategy in JLP Policy SP03 and Neighbourhood Plan Policy BOX1. [paras 5-8]
- By extending the built-up area of Boxford onto a field that currently makes a positive contribution to the rural nature of the

surroundings, the development failed to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, contrary to JLP Policy SP03 and the National Planning Policy Framework. [paras 9-12 and 20]

- The unacceptable effect on highway safety in Ellis Street by reason of its proposed narrowing in order to create a pedestrian footway, in conflict with JLP Policy LP29, Neighbourhood Policy BOX4 and the NPPF. [paras 42-50 and 58]

The inspector was not persuaded that the traffic impact on Swan Street would be unacceptable, thus differing from both the Planning Committee's reason for refusal and the view of the inspector who determined the 'Goodlands 2' appeal in 2018 [see paras 23-41]. In conclusion, he did not find the various claimed benefits of the scheme, taken together, were sufficient to justify a decision otherwise than in accordance with the development plan policies [para 70].

I said at the beginning of this report that 'hopefully' Mr Sargent's decision has brought five years of uncertainty to an end. Catesby have the right to apply to the High Court for permission to challenge the inspector's decision under section 288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. They must make any such application within six weeks - i.e. by 17 April 2024. If they do apply, permission will only be granted if a judge is satisfied that there is an arguable case that the inspector erred in law. A submission that the inspector got the planning balance wrong, e.g. by giving insufficient weight to the claimed benefits of the scheme, will cut no ice, since planning judgments are matters for the inspector, not the court. On reading the full decision, I detect no arguable grounds for challenge.



Assuming no section 288 application, it now remains to be seen how soon the site of the proposed housing, owned by R C Partridge & Co Ltd, which has lain fallow for four years, is returned to beneficial agricultural use.

In conclusion, the village must surely record its thanks to all those who have given significant time to resisting the application over the last five years: in particular, Boxford Parish Council, the Boxford Society, and Hugh Phillips and David Burden for seeing through the preparation and adoption of the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan, as well as the many individuals who made submissions to Babergh or the Planning Inspectorate over the past five years and/or who attended the hearing.

David Lamming

Box River News

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Deadline date for the May 2024 Issue is:

April 15th at midday

NEWTON FIRESIDE CLUB

A lot has happened since our last update, so here goes!

Our first session of the new year was our winter lunch. Once again, Alan Vince was kind enough to make pies for 32 members and these were accompanied by mash, carrots, peas and gravy. Delicious. This was followed by fresh fruit salad and cream. Of course, the meal wouldn't have been complete without some bubbles. Everybody agreed it was a splendid lunch.

Unfortunately, I got the topic of our talk on 30th January slightly wrong. We were actually treated to a really interesting talk by Peter Heskith telling us all about how he circumnavigated the world on container ships. The title of the talk may not grab you, but it was absolutely fascinating and we learnt so much.



have used their coach for our trips before, but we still learnt more about what else they are able to offer.

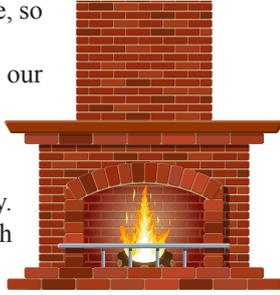
On the 26th of February, some of us had the privilege of attending the funeral of one of our friends, Joyce West. She was a much loved member of the Fireside club, who had enjoyed attending our sessions and going on trips with us for many years. We will really miss her sunny smile and positivity.

As the village hall was closed for essential repairs, a small group of 5 joined a Felix Coaches trip to Norwich. Unfortunately, traffic was really bad on the A14 so it took over 3 hours to get there. None the less, we all had a good day.



one of the organisers of the Fireside Club for many years and continues to offer her support in many ways. The hall was decorated with banners and bunting and everyone contributed to the food table. Hopefully, Wendy had a lovely surprise and everyone agreed it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

We are already looking at ideas for our 2024-2025 programme. Any suggestions would be most welcome. Remember, you don't have to be a member to join any of our sessions that are of interest to



you. You will always get a warm welcome and tasty refreshments.

Our first session after Easter is on Tuesday 23rd April and this really is a talk entitled 'It shouldn't happen to a vicar'. Details of the sessions for the rest of the summer will be published in next month's edition.

All meetings are held in the Village Hall and start at 2pm unless otherwise stated and 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

VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

Newton Village Hall was built in 1935 as a school, financed by public subscription, on land 'borrowed' from the village green. In 1938 the village school closed and the building became used as the village hall. In 1943 trustees were appointed to manage the hall. The current Trustees are:

Alan Vince - Chair and Treasurer
Janet Weavers - Secretary
Fiona Garman - PCC Rep
Rita Schwenk - NPC Rep
Sue Presland - Newton Charities
Teresa Parry - Fireside Club
Graham Ferguson - Elected
Joan Linney - Elected

We are currently looking for new trustees to help us to manage our beautiful village hall. We hold 4 meetings each year with the April meeting also being the AGM.

Trustees are responsible for the maintenance of the hall and the administration of its finances.

Recent maintenance has included partial rebuilding of the new extension and major damp proofing and roof repairs have just been completed.

Over the next few years, projects will, hopefully, include improvement of the car park, for which a grant is being sought, refurbishment of the toilets, redecoration of the hall, refurbishment of the kitchen, the windows and the exterior of the hall.

The hall is used by various groups from within the village and further afield. It is also a very popular venue for parties due to its size, amenities and charm!

Village organisations hold annual coffee mornings in the hall. These are an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends, new and old, to find out what is happening in the village and to raise fund for the organisations and for charity. There are refreshments at every coffee morning, along with a raffle, the sale of cakes and savouries, bric-a-brac, books and sometimes plants.

You will always find a warm welcome and, in the colder months, a warm fire.

This year's coffee morning dates:

6th April Parish Council (Also village litter pick at 8:30am)
20th April St Nicholas Hospice
4th May Village Hall
25th May Fireside Club
28th Sept Macmillan
26th Oct Newton Charities

All coffee mornings are from 10am until 11:30am
Tel: 01787 373963 / 07955 199 000

GROTON NEWS

People and Places Plan

The steering group are hoping to share the housing module 'Draft Policies' with the Groton community in the summer. There will be a session in the village hall and we are planning on having a stall at the Croft Midsummer Fayre as well. We will also be seeking parish council input at the next parish council meeting in May.

Additionally, in conjunction with the parish council we have agreed three speed survey points in Groton with Suffolk Highways. We are awaiting a date from them. The points are: bottom of Groton Street just up from the Fox & Hounds, bottom of Church Street just past the churchyard gate and finally mid-way up the road from Boxford just down from the Fox & Hounds. Furthermore we are working with the parish council to survey the most impacting road flooding spots within the parish, with a view to building a plan to address the issues causing the frequent flooding. This will be an agenda item at the next parish council meeting.

The Housing Needs Assessment report and comments can be accessed on the project website 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, whether social, political, economic or military, whether you just want to have a discussion/reading 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. Contact Nigel Chapman (nigeljchap@gmail.com)

Groton Garland of Hamlets 'follow on' project: A History of Groton through the Ages, focusing on the stories of people who lived here

As mentioned previously in the BRN, as well as in the Groton PC minutes, 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. 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, it may be a famous inhabitant of Groton, an interesting insight into working in Groton years ago or facts about your house's history. If you have a story we would really love 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

FRENCH'S CARE HAVEN

Local horse and donkey rescue charity in Castlings Heath are looking for a part time worker 4-5 mornings a week.

Experience with horses preferred but not essential as training will be given. Must be reliable and flexible for odd stand in shifts if needed.

We have lovely animals and nice people on our small team, if you feel you would like to be part of our charity please call: 07747 755 556

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Pizzas: Sit in/Takeaway Thurs 5-8pm, Fri & Sat 12-8, Sun 12-4

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My Thai Chef - Sun March 31st | 2-8pm
Suffolk Spice Fusion - Sat April 6th | 4:30-8pm
Mac St Kitchen - Sat 13th April | Time TBC
Wok & Roll - Sat 20th April | 4:30-8pm

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NEWTON VILLAGE QUIZ

Saturday 17th February saw the village hall packed with quizzers ready for the long awaited return of the Fisher/Presland quiz.

Eleven teams donned their thinking caps, switched off their mobile phones and prepared to do battle. The quiz was, as always, fiercely contested - not surprising as there is a village quiz trophy at stake!! Rounds included literacy & numeracy, dragons, a Bond-themed music quiz and table rounds.

The ploughman's supper went down well, as did the cookies that followed. All in all, it was an excellent evening, with ticket sales and a raffle raising over £700 shared between the village hall and All Saints Church.

A big thank you to everyone who took part and donated raffle prizes.

Hopefully, we'll see you at the Saracens Pub Quiz on Friday 5th April. Contact Bev at the pub for further details.



BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Your parish council continues to make progress to deliver on certain projects. I make no apologies for having to repeat what I said last month - as a parish we are having to take greater responsibility for maintaining and improving the village environment. In order to achieve that objective we have had to realistically assess the future funding needed - yes our precept has had to increase as per the guidelines that were given last month in my report in the BRN. This council is confident that residents will feel that they will be getting 'good value for money' as we go forward.

We have the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the village hall on the 23rd May - I would strongly ask that you make time to come and to listen to the projects and programmes that your council is working on - all undertaken with the objective of making Boxford the place we want it to be: a place that we enjoy and where the community pulls together for the benefit of all. There has been a lot of catching up to do - but progress is being made. Please make the time to come on the 23rd and to hear of the exciting plans ahead - it is also an opportunity for you to make your constructive comments on matters that are important to you.

As always an update on some key projects - our work in progress:

Bus services

Your council is now at the table with Suffolk County Council discussing the options to ensure that Boxford retains a bus service suitable for our future needs. All I can say at this time is that we shall be fighting our corner at whatever level it takes to ensure that the village retains and improves, if we can, the connectivity Boxford needs for the future at affordable prices.

Traffic, speed and safety

We have moved on to the next stage in this project in that the necessary highway engineer's report has been commissioned to assess the data previously gathered - this report will consider our aspirations for speed reductions and parking restrictions to enable traffic to flow in a safer way. All areas of the built-up area of Boxford including the hamlet of Stone Street are included in this stage of the process.

Churchyard, cemetery and public realm

With the fantastic support of the Sudbury warden team and our selected contractors together with volunteers progress continues to be made in tidying up these areas. We are grateful for the special 'deep clean' activity provided by Babergh District Council recently - we shall attempt to maintain that level of cleanliness going forward. We continue to work on simple measures to improve the effectiveness of our street lighting as mentioned last month.

Road maintenance, drains and gullies

We still have the battles with the county council to adopt a different approach to these issues - we shall be relentless in our attempts to change the modus operandi and effectiveness of the organisations responsible for this work - what we are experiencing at the moment is not acceptable going forward.

Planning

The appeal re: the Sand Hill development (64 houses) has been dismissed by the inspector and we have now entered a period of six weeks - the judicial review period. The applicant has this period of time to consider whether or not to challenge the inspector's decision. We have to be patient to allow the passing of that time.

Flood risk mitigation

We are still very keen to set up a special sub-group to take this project forward - at present we do not have that resource to do this and I appeal again for someone in the community to consider joining the parish council and to spearhead this piece of work.

Finally, as always, I thank all of my colleagues on the council for their support and enthusiasm in tackling the tasks before us and for

the support of our clerk, district and county councillors and also for the volunteers who help us in our working groups. We have a 'can do' approach in our council - I know this may prove a little stressful at times but this approach is getting things done.

We have two vacancies on the parish council - it would be great to be able to welcome some new blood on the team.

We also thank all of you, our parishioners for the support you give us - I sincerely hope that continues as we continue to work in your best interests.

Please do try to come to the Annual Parish Meeting in May when you will hear of the major projects that your team is working on and the progress being made. It is also an opportunity for you to ask questions and offer constructive suggestions.

Colin Parr

Chairman, Boxford Parish Council

BOXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Arts and Culture (Year 2)

Supporting their work in Science and English, Year 2 designed and built habitat dioramas with their parents for homework. Dioramas are three dimensional models which can be full size or miniature. Thankfully, Year 2 decided to build miniatures! I'm

sure you will agree, the outcomes seen in the photos illustrate the time and effort applied by children.

Charity Walk

During March, planning was underway for our charity walk. Mr Griffith, P.E lead, is keen to improve the facilities on the playground and provide further opportunities for inter-school competitions. At the time of writing this article, we only have two weeks until our charity walk; children are looking forward to all the activities which have been planned, particularly the sponsored dance and cake sale which will be occurring. Money raised from the walk will go towards improving the current playground and the painted courts. We will also be installing basketball and netball stands. An update of this will be provided in the May edition with pictures too!

Help!

We'd love to improve the track around our field - it currently needs a little TLC. At the moment, it is adequate, but a revamp would be brilliant. We would like to renew the bark chippings and improve the edging. If you are aware of anyone who works for a large corporation with a community division, who provides volunteers to local projects, or someone who works within landscaping, then we'd love to hear from you! Please contact our office on office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk.

Would you like a school tour?

Do you have a child who is looking to start school or move mid-year? We'd be delighted to share the amazing learning happening in our school. 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 to book a school tour.

Mr Scott Reynolds

Assistant Headteacher



NATURAL BOXFORD

Spring is.....proving puddly!

A big thank you to all who have been in touch since we introduced ourselves last month.

As I write in mid-March it seems hard to believe East Anglia is known as the driest part of the country – maybe spring will be rather more in the air as you read this. The early bulbs have had a short season with the cold and wet, the ground is sodden and many are itching to start getting seeds in the ground. The Blackthorn has given us an abundant show of blossom promising a good crop of sloes for the autumn, and it feels like the native birds are biding their time before bursting forth fully into their usual springtime exuberance.

It will soon be time for our swifts to arrive. They visit us for just four months from May to August during which time they mate and raise two to three chicks each year. With a wingspan of 42cm but weighing no more than a Cadbury's Crème Egg, a newly-fledged swift departs for the forests of the Congo in central Africa (around 3500 miles away!), shuttling over and back to the UK for two to three years, before finally landing to breed. They feed, sleep and even mate on the wing, mate for life and can live to almost 20 years.

Breeding adults return faithfully to their nest sites and juveniles follow the adult birds back to where they fledged, identifying their own site prior to nesting: our swifts' ancestors are likely to have been coming here for hundreds of years. Historically, swifts



photo thanks to Suffolk Bird Group

nested in crevices in cliffs and trees, but since Roman times they have also found nest sites under the eaves and tiles of houses and church towers often nesting communally in towns and villages. Sadly, modern building techniques reduce swifts' nesting opportunities and the renovation and conversion of older buildings results in loss of existing nest sites. Due to loss of nesting sites swifts now have 'endangered' status as a British breeding bird: swifts need our help!

Swift project update: we have seven houses plus the church tower as potential sites for swift boxes – this is a wonderful response. We are checking each location is appropriate and will then be installing sets of swift boxes and calling systems in time for the birds appearance in early May. If anyone has long ladders and good skills with using them and would like to help out please get in touch! We hope to restore the declining swift community in Boxford by establishing new colonies – as they 'scream' in tight flocks at low level, recorded calls in the nest boxes help attract their curiosity. We'll keep you posted – for more information on swifts, contact the Save our Swifts group, who are supporting our efforts: www.suffolkbirdgroup.org/sos-swifts

Other progress: As we move into spring you might notice that some of our verges start to look more verdant than usual. Babergh District Council are trialing a meadow cutting scheme as part of their biodiversity plan, allowing longer between cuts so grass can grow and wildflowers can flower. This is crucial for wildlife recovery providing food for the insects that provide food for the birds, including the swifts, and ensure our food crops get pollinated. Longer grass also helps the soil retain more moisture contributing to flood reduction, and lower temperatures, and provides habitat for many small creatures that form a vital part of the food chain:

this all contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem of which we are a part. In nature everything works together for the good of all in the general direction of life. Babergh will be installing signs with QR codes to access further information.

Other news: we have focus groups concentrating on Energy use (powering up and down), and on the River Box (water quality, biodiversity, flood risk mitigation), as well as a project to build some stag beetle pyramids on the Primrose Wood boundary in collaboration with the Woodland Trust. Get in touch if you would like to join us and help out; we also welcome your ideas for nature enhancing projects in and around the village.

Much love

Louise

louisecarpenter@proton.me 01787211862

READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editor,

We recently had the misfortune to find two beehives kept on our land, knocked off their stands and tipped onto their sides.

Coincidentally, some youths, who were kicking their ball and damaging the open barn at the top of Upper Hall Field, known locally as Fox Field, were asked politely to be respectful of the local farmer's property, by the beekeeper who was unfortunately wearing his suit at the time.

Whilst we are sympathetic to plight of the local youth and the lack of local facilities for them, we cannot tolerate outright vandalism and are saddened by the disregard for the welfare of the bees. Whoever kicked them over were very lucky that they or any passers-by were not stung. It could have been a lot worse and despite their ordeal, after displaying their discontent, the bees settled down and luckily there was very little damage.

If there are any further instances of vandalism we will be forced to step up security measures at the barn.

Alternatively, we are open to suggestions on how we might be able to assist with the youth in local community to come together and create a space built by the youth for the youth to hang out and socialise.

Best Regards,

Charles and Katie Partridge

Dear Editor,

On the 6th of March, between 10am and 12pm we had a small package stolen from our front door step in Boxford. Unfortunately, this contained many of my older sister's birthday presents, and left her with only 1 or 2 presents on her birthday. Even though this is a very sad situation, there is barely anything we can do now but let other citizens of Boxford know, so it doesn't happen to you! Make sure to stay safe when it comes to parcel theft, and if you know anything about this situation, please let us know!

Stay safe, and have a great day!

Jessica Burden!

Remember!

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THE BUTCHER'S WIFE

Believe it or not, I still have baby teeth. I never had adult teeth underneath them to push them out and somehow I've managed to keep them in my head for the last 40 odd years. Every time I go to a new dentist they get really excited about it and tell me what great condition they are in...until recently. One of them was really painful and was a bit wobbly. It became my new habit, wobbling my tooth like a 6 year old. Eventually the dentist recommended removing it. Now it's a back molar so wouldn't mess up the beauty of my smile (!) so I was up for it coming out. I've previously had two wisdom teeth out so figured a tiny baby tooth wouldn't cause too much fuss.



The dentist started by injecting my gum with anaesthetic – side note, why does no one tell you how horrendously painful that is?! She then said she needed to inject in between my teeth which actually resulted in all of the numbing liquid going down my throat. My throat became completely numb and I started panicking that I wasn't going to be able to breathe (internally panicking I might add, I wouldn't like to make a fuss). So she's chatting away about holidays in Estonia while I'm sitting in the chair fighting for my life.

This tooth was tiny and was basically just resting on my gums at this point, so I naively thought she would just pop it out with the dentist's equivalent of a pair of pliers. Wrong. She used an instrument that looked a bit like a spoon and basically jammed it down to get underneath the tooth. Because most of the anaesthetic was working its way down my oesophagus, I could still feel her rooting around. Now at this point I realised I probably should have told her about my history of fainting around the mention of blood because for about 7 minutes all she talked about was how much it would bleed, how to stop it bleeding, how I should let the blood clot, how I shouldn't remove the blood clot with my tongue (gross), what to do if I couldn't stop the bleeding etc (even just typing this is making me feel dizzy). When I sat up with a mouthful of blood, I knew I was going to faint. She took one look at me and then made me lay back down with my feet in the air. It wasn't my finest moment.

On a positive note, I still have one baby tooth left. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the oldest person with a baby tooth was 87 years old so I've got a few more years before international fame is mine...

Creamy Chicken

Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 2 chicken breasts cut in half lengthways
- 1tbsp of olive oil
- 1tbsp of butter
- 270ml double cream
- 1tsp mixed herbs
- ½ tsp chilli flakes
- ½ tsp salt
- 1tsp tomato puree
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 garlic cloves, diced
- Sundried tomatoes, chopped
- fresh parsley, chopped
- Parmesan cheese, grated

Method

1. Season the chicken with salt and pepper and coat in flour.
2. In a frying pan, add the oil and the butter and fry the chicken for 3 minutes each side. Once done, remove from the pan.
3. Fry the onion and garlic until golden brown and then add the mixed herbs, chilli flakes, salt and tomato puree and keep stirring.
4. Add cream, ½ cup of water and the tomatoes. Cook for 2-3 mins.
5. Put the chicken back in the pan, cover with the sauce and cook for another 2-3 minutes or until the cream has thickened.
6. Serve topped with the parsley and parmesan cheese.

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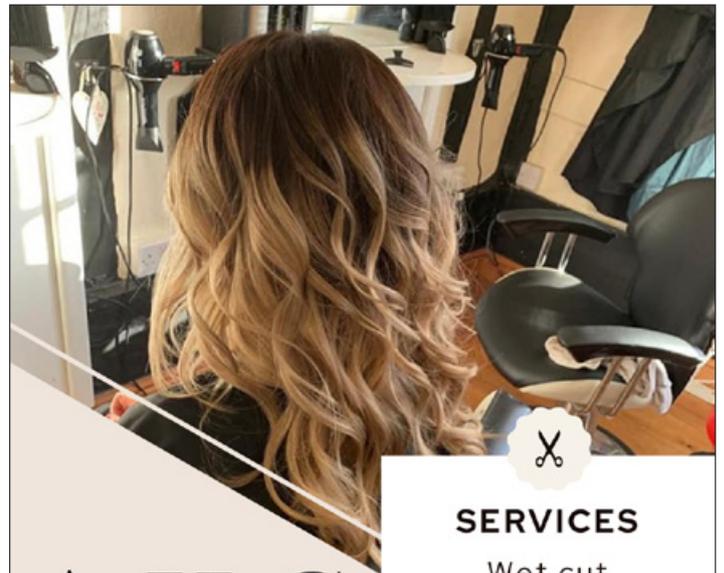
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RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends,

With Easter, the day of resurrection, having fallen on the last day of March this year, April could be said to represent the month of new life – the month when we live fully in the light of resurrection's promise. I wonder what you consider resurrected life to be? The resurrection of Jesus changes many things. It gives us the assurance of heaven and that we will be united with our loved ones after death. It is a reassurance that all is not lost, that there is a purpose to life and a hope for a better future. It also gives us the permission to take a step back from the frenzy of capitalism and material gain once in a while so that we can better contemplate eternity and recharge our spiritual core. I am very much of the opinion that we not only have the promise of resurrection after bodily death, but we also experience mini-resurrections in everyday life, where old things have to die and new things spring up.

Many of you may be aware that in June I will be taking a sabbatical study leave away from parish ministry for three months. In this diocese, it is recommended that a clergy person takes a sabbatical after 10 years ministry. I have now been in ministry for 14 years! This sustained period away from normal duties promotes professional development and personal enrichment. It will allow me the space to re-engage with God and focus on my spiritual health and wellbeing. A sabbatical is an expression of Sabbath. It is an extended period which is neither work nor holiday but an opportunity to live life differently; to study and explore; to look again at ministry, work and lifestyle; to let God speak afresh – normally so difficult to discern with the clamour of busyness.

A sabbatical should include items for retreat and renewal, rest and recreation, and ministerial resourcing or study. This is especially important in a role like that of a vicar, which requires the incumbent to work excessive and anti-social hours most weeks, getting only one day's rest a week and where even when not officially at work, rest taken in the local community can invite engagements and enquiries that overlap and cause the boundaries of work-life and private-life to become blurred. I don't want to give the impression that I don't enjoy my job – it is the most wonderful privilege to serve you all, and you are all so fabulous! It is just occasionally one does need time to recharge.

I was due to take a sabbatical around the time I took up post in this Benefice in 2019, so it had to be postponed. I then had to postpone it again due to trying to guide the benefice back to full health following Covid. Last year we had new ministers join our Ministry Team who needed nurturing in, so I postponed it again. I am finally going to complete it this summer and I am now in much need for that space and time to gain a wider perspective, attend to some study and focus a little more intently upon God through prayer. A large chunk of my sabbatical will be walking the Camino on pilgrimage in the hope that it will afford me space and time to do just that.

But this time also presents an opportunity for the benefice. Our Churches will not only be nurtured by our splendid Ministry Team: Fr James, Maggie and David, they will also receive the ministry of visiting priests who will provide a richness of diversity in theology and style. I only wish I could be around to enjoy it all with you.

I also know that our wonderful PCCs will pull together to ensure the hard work of the last few years is not undone, that these parishes can continue moving forward together in unity, and provide



a rich spiritual diet to our communities where individuals and groups may feel welcomed, encounter something of the love of God and find ways to deepen their life with him.

Please do support our parishes during this period. Come along and offer to help where you can. I am sure you will find it an enriching time, and be assured I will be holding each and everyone of you in my prayers.

With every blessing,

Fr Rob

boxriverrector@gmail.com / Tel: 01787 210434



BOXRIVER BENEFICE

COFFEE MORNINGS

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

FRIDAY, 5TH APRIL

10.30 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ST LAWRENCE'S, LT WALDINGFIELD

WEDNESDAY, 17TH APRIL

10.00 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ALL SAINTS', NEWTON GREEN

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL

10.00 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ST MARY'S, BOXFORD

CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS

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 OR 01787 828046 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2024



Wednesday 3rd April	10:00	<i>Morning Prayer & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 7th April <i>Easter 2</i>	09:30	<i>Morning Praise</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 10th April	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 14th April <i>Easter 3</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	17:00	<i>BCP Evensong</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 17th April	10:00	<i>Morning Prayer & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 21st April <i>Easter 4</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 24th April	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
	18:00	<i>Holy Half Hour Meditation</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Sunday 28th April <i>Easter 5</i>	08:00	<i>BCP Holy Communion</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	<i>Family Service</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



"SOUP & PUD"
AT
MARY'S HOUSE
"WARM HUB"
5 SWAN STREET
BOXFORD
FRIDAY, 19TH APRIL
12.00 - 2.00 PM

The meal is free but donations towards the upkeep of Mary's House welcome



HAPPY HOUR CONCERT ORGAN RECITAL WITH TOM COGAN



ST MARY'S CHURCH
BOXFORD
SATURDAY, 4TH MAY
6.00 - 7.00 PM

FREE ADMISSION, NO NEED TO BOOK, JUST COME ALONG

RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

ENJOY A GLASS OF WINE AFTER THE CONCERT



The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY- APRIL

- Tue 2nd 10am** *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*
- Fri 5th 10:30am** *Coffee Morning, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield*
- Tue 9th 10am** *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*
- Sat 13th 10am** *Church & Churchyard Spring Clean, All Saints', Newton Green*
- Tue 16th 10am** *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*
- Wed 17th 10am** *Coffee Morning, All Saints', Newton*
- Fri 19th 12noon** *Soup & Pud, Mary's House*
- Sat 20th 10am** *Coffee Morning, St Mary's, Boxford*
- Sun 21st 11am** *APCM Edwardstone & Groton, St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone*
- Tue 23rd 10am** *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*
- Sun 28th 12:15pm** *APCM Lt Waldingfield & Newton, All Saints' Church, Newton Green*
- Tue 30th 10am** *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*

EDWARDSTONE PRESENTATION TO SESAW

Following the very successful return of the Edwardstone Christmas Fayre, Edwardstone Parochial Church Council were delighted to present SESAW with £500 for their incredible work with animals. Thank you to everyone who came along to the Fayre and raise funds for SESAW and St Mary the Virgin Church, Edwardstone. We will look forward to seeing you this year!



LIGHT UP ST MARY'S, BOXFORD

On the 19th March, St Mary's Church was lit up in memory of Michael Tissier. So loving, so loved, hugely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

If you would like further information about Lighting Up St Mary's Church in "Memory of a Loved one or In Celebration of an Anniversary, Birthday or Special Occasion", please contact the Benefice Office for further information.

FAMILY SERVICE: FOR ALL STAGES OF THE JOURNEY AND ALL AGES OF LIFE

Join us on Sunday 28th April at 11am for our Family Service at St Mary's, Boxford. Free children's activities, everyone is welcome!

BRING AND SHARE FOODBANK

Over the next few weeks, we are looking to rebrand and update the foodbank, we will be asking for residents' feedback and your thoughts, please keep an eye out on social media, in St Mary's Church and village businesses for a short questionnaire that we would really appreciate it if you could complete it and pop it through the letterbox at Mary's House.

SAVE THE DATE – BOXFORD OPEN GARDENS INCLUDING EDWARDSTONE

Sunday 2nd June, 11am – 4pm. Plant stalls, cake stalls, cream teas, artist studios, children's trail. All funds support St Mary's Church.

We are always on the lookout for additional gardens to "show off", if you would like to be involved, please contact Audrey Zuck – audrey@a2zriskservices.com

SAVE THE DATE – LITTLE WALDINGFIELD'S OPEN GARDENS

We will be opening our lovely gardens on Sunday 9th June. For a small village we have some surprising gardens! There will also be refreshments and plant stalls, if you would like to open your garden, raise funds for the church and have a very enjoyable day, please contact Fran Gregor-Smith on **07890 834069** or frances_g_s@yahoo.co.uk

MARY'S HOUSE

Are you looking for a space to hold a meeting, consultation, tea party or just somewhere quiet to do some study? Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford is a church owned space offered for community use.

It was purchased by St Bartholomew's, Groton out of a generous legacy left by Mary Every, whom it is named after.

It has 2 reception rooms, a well-fitted kitchen and a small reading room upstairs. It is available to hire and is suitable for reading and study space, consultation room with waiting area, groups, clubs, meetings and for small social events. The suggested donation for hiring this space is £10 per hour. If you would like to find out more or arrange to have a look at our facilities, please contact the Benefice Office, see contact information.



BIG CHURCH CLEAN



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
NEWTON GREEN

CHURCH & GRAVEYARD
SPRING CLEAN

SATURDAY, 13TH APRIL 2024
10.00 AM – 12.00 PM



YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED,
PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN OUR
VOLUNTEERS, EVERYONE WELCOME

CONTACT INFORMATION

Benefice Office

Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford CO10 5NZ
01787 828046 email: boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

Fr Rob Parker-McGee SR

01787 210434 email: boxriverrector@gmail.com

Appeal to Gardeners!
 Show off your hard work
 Share ideas with garden lovers
 Support your community

Please open your garden
Boxford Open Gardens 2nd June 2024
 Contact Audrey Zuck
audrey@a2zrisksservices.com
 or
07852 102 455

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD OPEN GARDENS

We will be opening our lovely gardens on **Sunday 9th June**.
 For a small village we have some surprising gardens! There will also be refreshments and plant stalls.
 If you would like to open your garden, raise funds for the church, and have a very enjoyable day, please contact me, Fran Gregor-Smith on **07890 834 069** or Frances_g_s@yahoo.co.uk

Save the Date
BOXFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
 on
Thursday 23rd May 2024
 in **Boxford Village Hall starting at 7:45pm**

SPIRIT LEVEL

Having been refused entry to heaven it seems as if famous crime writer Jack Cameron and his wife Susie will be spending eternity in their old country cottage. Then along come Felicity and Simon, a young couple still trying to make their mark on the world and looking for a place to live. With little money and no prospects, according to Marcia - Simon's harridan of a mother-in-law, their tenancy may be short-lived. Mark, the estate agent, is trying to let a property he believes may be haunted and agrees to a one-year rental. Felicity ('Flic') is pregnant, which endears her to Susie, but Jack is not so keen when he discovers that Simon is an aspiring author with little talent. Enter Susie's no-nonsense guardian angel who produces a solution. But will it work and even if it does, how do Jack and Susie get out of purgatory and into heaven?

Come and join **Boxford Drama Group** as they negotiate this hilarious cross-talking comedy. Performances on **Thurs Apr 11th, 7pm** (tickets £14 inc ploughmans) and **Fri 12th/Sat 13th Apr, 7:30pm** (tickets £18 inc 2-course meal interval).
<https://www.boxforddramagroup.com>

French's Care Haven
 **Dog Walk !**

Come and join Lucy, our therapy dog for a walk to the farm

SUNDAY, 28th APRIL
Departure at 1:30pm
From The Fleece, Boxford

Price include Tea and Cake at The Fleece

Free parking

2 - 2.5 miles



£8 per adults

All profits will go to the care of our animals

Open to all
No need to have a dog to come along with us

Please contact us to book it in advance:
frenchs.100club@gmail.com or Emilie: 07538925678

 **Boxford Drama Group presents**

Tickets available 1st March from **Boxford Post Office** or boxfordshows.uk/tickets
 Dietary requirements: cateringboxfordshows.uk

A very ghostly comedy!

SPIRIT LEVEL

By Pam Valentine

Thurs April 11th @ 7pm
 Tickets £14 (Ploughmans in the interval)
Fri 12th & Sat April 13th @ 7.30pm
 Tickets £18 (2 course meal in the interval)

Bar & Raffle every night

BOXFORD
GARDENING SOCIETY

Simon and Jay McWilliams
WOODLAND PERENNIALS
Hedgehog Plants and Gardens



Tuesday 2nd April 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall



Fleece Jazz at
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

Jazz Africa: The Origins from Roots to Now
Wednesday 10th April 2023 8pm - Tickets: £18



Telling the story of the origins of jazz, from its roots in Africa to right now, with tunes from Abdullah Ibrahim and afrobeat vibes from Manu Dibango and Fela Kuti.

Basil Hodge – Piano
Tony Kofi – Saxes
Stuart Fiddler – Guitar
Jihad Darwish – Bass
Winston Clifford – Drums

The Music of Dudley Moore
Wednesday 24th April 2024 8pm - Tickets: £18



"Unfailingly tuneful and spiced with gentle harmonic guile . . . Dudley would have been delighted."
The Observer

Chris Ingham – Piano
Simon Thorpe – Bass
George Double – Drums
Paul Higgs – Trumpet

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath CO6 4PZ
Ample parking; fully accessible. Directions: 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)
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GROTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PRESENTS



**QUIZ AND
CURRY
EVENING**

At
Groton Village Hall

On Friday 12th April 2024 7:30 for 7:45 start
£15.00 per head (entry plus choice of curry & dessert)

Teams of up to 6

B.Y.O. Bar

Raffle

Phone Joanna: 210619 or Jayne: 211360 to book your place

BOXFORD SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH 2024
AT 7:30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Charlie Haylock and the 'Suffolkation'
of Ralph Fiennes for the film *The Dig*



Come and join us for a fascinating and entertaining evening with Suffolk author and dialect expert Charlie Haylock. Charlie will take us behind the scenes of the Netflix hit film *The Dig* which tells the story of Basil Brown, the self-taught archaeologist and modest man, who discovered the Sutton Hoo Anglo-Saxon royal burial site.

Free entrance for members. Visitors welcome at just £2 each.



*Madrigalia
&
A Melody of
Harps*

Present

A Spring Concert

Groton Church

*SUNDAY
April 28th*

3pm

*Welcoming glass of
Pimm's*

Refreshments

Retiring collection

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 20 April
10.00 -12.00

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

In aid of St Nicholas Hospice
Raffle, Bric-a-Brac, Water or Wine and other Stalls

EVERYONE WELCOME!

GREAT ACTON BOOK SALE

Saturday 27th April in All Saints Church, Acton, near Sudbury.
CO10 0BA 10am - 2pm. Free Entry.

1000s of books at bargain prices. Popular Fiction, Classics, Non-fiction, War, History, Biography, Hobbies, Children's, Collectibles, and Retro. Contactless, card payments and cash accepted. All profits to the church.

POLSTEAD GARDENING CLUB

Hopefully most of the rain is behind us now and with summer beckoning, here is the information on our next meeting:



Tuesday 16th April at 7:30pm: Illustrating the Rare Orchids of Holy Island with Reinhild Raistrick. You might also be interested in this www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/orchids-lindisfarne

We then take our summer break but return on the 17th September for our next meeting with more information to follow.

We look forward to seeing you at the above event.

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

Queries to gardenclubpolstead@yahoo.com



SATURDAY 6TH APRIL

7pm (Eyes down at 7:30pm)

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

£6.00 per book of (6) games
Cash Only

Light refreshments will be available to purchase,
and the bar will be open.
(alcohol not purchased on the premises will not be permitted)



Polstead Village Hall is a registered charity No.304933

POLSTEAD FILMS

ONE LIFE

Certificate 12

Starring Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham Carter, and Johnny Flynn

Anthony Hopkins stars as Nicholas Winton, a London stockbroker, who rescued 669 Jewish children from the Nazis in the months leading up to World War II. "You'd need a heart of stone not to be touched by this extraordinary true story, and by the simplicity and heartfelt directness with which it's told."

Friday 19th April, Doors open 7pm

The film starts at 7:30pm and will finish at around 10pm

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £5

Email: polsteadfilms@gmail.com to reserve or buy at Polstead Community Shop.

Bar serving wine, beer, soft drinks. Tea, coffee & biscuits and ice cream are available during the 20 minute interval

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



Learn how to harvest herbs and make them into natural herbal products & remedies at our fun workshops at Pippettes Farm, Boxford, Suffolk.

Pippettes FARM™
Herbalist Workshops

Workshop Dates for 2024:

- Thursday 2nd May
- Thursday 16th May
- Thursday 13th June
- Thursday 27th June

Workshops are priced at £60 per person
Bring friends for a fun morning with herbal tea or coffee breaks, walks, talks and a delicious lunch!

For more information and bookings go to our website:
www.pippettes.co.uk or call Elaine: 07587 743 850

GROTON WINTHROP MULBERRY TRUST PRESENTS

MIDSUMMER FAYRE

GROTON CROFT
SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 12-4PM

- CRAFT ACTIVITIES
- TUG O' WAR
- RACES
- FUNFAIR GAMES
- BOOKS & BRICABRAC
- BBQ & BAR
- MUSIC & DANCING
- MORRIS DANCERS
- CAKES, COFFEE, TEA
- LOCAL MAKERS
- TORNADO ICES

MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

FREE ENTRY CO10 5HD SCAN FOR DIRECTIONS



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Stoke by Nayland RESORT

JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS SUNDAY CARVERY

2 Courses - £28.95 • 3 Courses - £34.95

Join us every Sunday from 12:30pm to 3:00pm for a scrumptious two or three-course carvery lunch, and let us handle the cooking while you sit back and relax.



View our menu and book your table online, or call our Reservations team on 01206 262836

STRENGTH AND BALANCE CLASS BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 11 AM (Term time only) £6 PAYG

Strength and balance (OTAGO) classes consists of mainly chair based exercises.

They are designed to stabilise the body and prevent falls by strengthening muscles and improving balance for older adults.



Booking Essential ; Contact Georgina 07547927238
email: georgina.burr@moveitorloseit.co.uk

THE ARTIST WHO COULDN'T GET ARRESTED

A talk by Kim Smith, a Dedham Vale Tour Guide on John Constable 'the artist who couldn't get arrested'. An insight into the life of John Constable and his surprising link to a modern celebrity.

Saturday 6th April, Brent Eleigh Village Hall. 6:30pm for 7pm start.

Tickets £10, including a glass of wine, on the door or reserved from Karen 07946 209 103.

WHIST DRIVE

Wednesday April 17th 7pm in Monks Eleigh Village Hall Meeting Room. Entrance £3.

We play 18 hands of progressive whist and refreshments are served. We enjoy a social evening of cards and everyone is welcome, even if they have never played before. We hold a bring a prize, win a prize raffle.

For information contact Angela on 01449 740 414.

LEAVENHEATH CINEMA

SATURDAY 6th APRIL: WONKA

Comedy, Family

Starring Olivia Coleman, Matt Lucas, Hugh Grant

Running Time 1hr 55mins with 20mins interval

SATURDAY 4th MAY: JOYRIDE

A coming of age drama PG-13

Starring Olivia Coleman, Charlie Reid & Lochlann O'Mearain

Running Time 1hr 34mins with 20mins interval

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

Leavenheath Village Hall, CO6 4NS

Babergh District Council have given the Village Hall Cinema Committee a Community grant. This has enabled us to discount the ticket price for PRE-BOOKED TICKETS ONLY

Pre Booked Tickets £2

Tickets bought at the door £4 per Adult & £2.50 for Under 12s

You can pay by cash or card on the door.

Reserve your seat online at www.leavenheath.org.uk or phone John on 01206 617090 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)

TRADE BREWERY TOURS AT MAULDONS

Mauldons have begun a new offering to their trade businesses. They are offering trade customers, both existing and prospective, complimentary brewery tours.

This will enable buyers to understand the whole brewing process at Mauldons, on the Chilton Industrial estate, in Sudbury. You'll then have the chance to sample their five core ales and any seasonal ales.

If you become a supplier, you are the first to stock their popular seasonal ales too.

REFRESHING THE ROOMS AT THE BILDESTON CROWN

The rooms, situated above their 3 AA restaurant, have enjoyed a refresh in time for Spring.

The Bildeston Crown, with its history and heritage in the local area, invites you to stay in their characterful rooms. Oozing Suffolk country charm with each bedroom uniquely decorated, you're welcomed with open fires, extensive menus and a bar stocked with local Mauldons ales and fine wines.

THIRZA KOTZEN 'SKYHIGH'... AND THE SPACE BETWEEN

We are excited to present London based artist Thirza Kotzen at the Mill Tye Gallery.

Nature inspires feelings of mysticism and awe in Thirza Kotzen. Her incredible collagraphs and paintings are inspired by the minutiae and enormity of nature. Colour and light feature strongly in her intricately worked pieces of tree canopies. She sees the loveliness in the detail, in 'the space between' and explores tensions between contradictory elements in her work, the light and the



Thirza Kotzen



Skyhigh-V by Thirza Kotzen

dark, the off-key and the harmony. These components are often produced intuitively with unconscious impulses guiding her hand.

Thirza continues to make work that expands one's experience of the minutiae of nature as well as its enormity. It is exquisitely detailed. Her work embraces a world that shimmers with poetry, colour, light and dimension.

The exhibition previews on Saturday 6th April 2024 from 10:30 to 6pm. Join us for drinks and nibbles. Please RSVP to register your interest. The exhibition continues until Sunday 12th May.

Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre

3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard, Sudbury CO10 0GW
Tel. **01787 376 796**

Open: Thursday to Sunday: 10:30am to 4pm.

For Exhibitions, Art Classes, Workshops and more, visit www.milltyegallery.co.uk or follow Mill Tye Gallery on Facebook or Instagram.



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Thirza Kotzen

Skyhigh

... and the space between

Join us for the preview day on Saturday 6th April from 10:30 to 6pm
Exhibition continues until Sunday 12th May 2024.

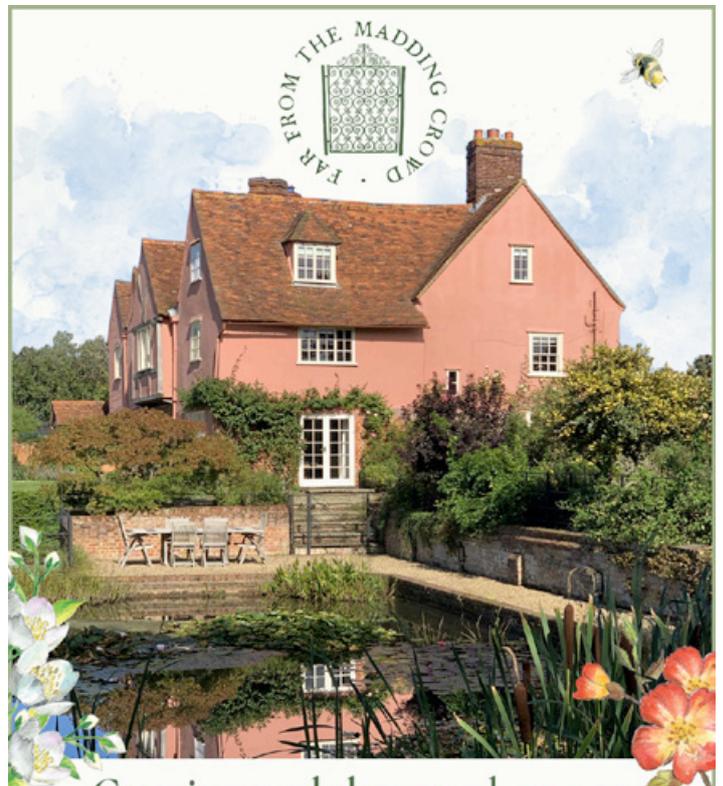
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CITIZENS ADVICE

My council tax bill is coming out in March, and I am dreading opening it as it always goes up. My income has stayed the same but everything else seems more expensive and I have hardly anything left over - how will I cope if my payments for this year go up?

**citizens
advice**

Many of us are feeling overwhelmed as we see our basic bills and essential costs go up. You're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there's support available.

First off, there are discounts available to some people depending on their circumstances. You can check your bill or contact your council to find out if you might be eligible for an automatic reduction to your council tax.

If you're not getting a discount, you might still be entitled to one. It depends on who lives in the property. So, if you're the only adult in your home, you'll get a 25% discount on your council tax bill.

When working out how many people live in a property, some people aren't counted - they're called 'disregarded people' and include under 18s, a student nurse or someone on an apprenticeship scheme and many more. Checking the government website at www.gov.uk/council-tax for more details. If everyone who lives in the property is disregarded, you will still receive a council tax bill, but it will have a 50% discount. However, if everyone in your home is a student or severely mentally impaired, you won't pay any council tax.

Additionally, if someone has moved out, tell the council as this might change your eligibility. If you are entitled to a discount as a result, it will be valid from the date when the person moved out, even if you told the council after the event, and the reduction may be backdated.

If you think you might be eligible you should apply to your local council for a discount as soon as possible. You can find your council's contact details on GOV.UK.

You mention that your income hasn't increased. If you are on a low income, you might be able to get your council tax reduced. If you get benefits or have other people living with you, this might affect how much your council tax is reduced by.

Your local council will ask you details about your income and your circumstances, so they can work out if you're entitled to a council tax reduction. They will then calculate your new bill and tell you how much council tax you need to pay.

If you have other people living with you who are aged 18 or over, you might all be responsible for paying council tax. Only one of you needs to apply for a council tax reduction. The council will decide and reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay accordingly.

You may also be eligible for additional support if you've reached State Pension age which you can check on the government website can GOV.UK If you're under State Pension age, the 'working age rules' apply and if you've reached State Pension age, it depends if you or your partner get certain benefits.

The working age rules still apply if you've reached State Pension age and you or your partner get:

- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support

If you've reached State Pension age and don't get any of these benefits, the 'pension age rules' apply.

Even if none of the reduction criteria applies to you, your local council can still reduce your council tax bill or cancel it altogether, this is called 'discretionary reduction'. They'll normally only do

this if you can show that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay council tax.

If you're in this situation you should ask your local council for help. You'll need to show them evidence of your circumstances. If your immigration status doesn't let you claim public funds, you can still apply for a discretionary reduction. A discretionary reduction doesn't count as public funds.

We know that times are incredibly tough and council tax is a priority bill so it's important to keep in contact with your council if you can't keep up payments. Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward, without judgement, working with you side by side.

For more information visit the Citizens Advice website at 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 or by using the contact facility on our website, www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact

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

BOXFORD WI UPDATE

At our March meeting we met the Nayland Handbell Ringers who entertained us with a delightful programme of music. Some tunes were familiar to us, others a joyful reminder of songs forgotten. This 10-strong group of ladies rehearse once a week in Nayland to enable them to perform so well. Their leader Margaret explained some of the techniques used to provide the required sound and how delicate the bells are. We were all surprised to learn that the bells have to be sent away to the only remaining bell foundry in England if they need re-tuning. The group also involved members playing instruments they provided – not everyone was on cue!! Members certainly felt uplifted after being surrounded by such a lovely sound, Thank you to NHR for sharing your expertise.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



In April we will hold our Open Meeting when we look forward to a talk from the Hilly Ridge Alpacas and be meeting & greeting alpacas from the farm. Guests are welcome to join us at £5pp from 2pm on 3rd April.

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 very warm welcome.

Once you are a member you will be able to enjoy the following 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 starting again in May and visiting Hadleigh, East Bergholt and Bury St Edmunds.

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

EBONY'S DIARY

Keeping the ponies at Shelley fit and healthy is a hard job in winter. They dislike the cold wet weather and need extra food and hay to keep them going. It means that any rides out of the yard are confined to the roads as the bridledways are too wet and muddy. Rain also results in our therapeutic riding sessions being cancelled or confined to using Ebony, our mechanical horse. Hopefully, spring is now on the way and everyone will be feeling better.

If you have a loved one living with dementia and with a love of animals, why not bring them to the centre on Wednesday afternoons for 'Tea with a Pony' so that our team of trained and sympathetic volunteers can introduce them to a pony. They will be able to stroke or groom one of our very special animals and each session is followed by tea and cake. Visits cost £10 a time. Book via the website or call Cherry on **07960 912056**.

To illustrate how we assist our riders, this is Ally's story: Ally has been coming to the centre for 24 years since the age of six and loves the ponies and his riding. Sadly, last year he had a massive seizure and stroke that left him without the use of his left arm and leg and wheelchair bound. The Shelley staff and volunteers, with the help of Carol the physio, ensured he could continue to ride, using a hoist to get him onto Ebony and undertake exercises to strengthen his core muscles and improve movement. This has been key part of his recovery. Ally was so happy to be back at Shelley and looks forward to his Wednesday afternoon sessions.



To help fund our amazing work at Shelley we are undertaking a number of events this year, starting on Sunday 5th May with a walk through the stunning countryside around the centre, finishing up with tea, coffee and homemade cakes. The walk starts at 10am, covers about 6 miles and will cost you £5 (children free). Just turn up – no need to book. And of course, we will be at the Hadleigh Show on 18th May, selling plants and delicious home-make cakes. Hope to see you there!

If you aren't able to get involved directly in our fund raising events we are always very grateful for donations to support our work. Please visit the website for more information.

The Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding, Shelley, IP7 5QY
Reg. Charity No. 1113636
www.shelleyrda.com / **01473 824172**

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WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL

HOGARTH AT THE HUSTINGS: the Election series & the birth of Political Satire.

Hogarth's ruthless exposure of electoral corruption & hypocrisy sets the stage for later satirists like Private Eye & digital artist, Cold War Steve. Highlighted are surprisingly topical themes such as voter identification and immigration.

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STORIES FROM BOXFORD SOCIETY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

This is part two of the three-part serialisation of long-time Boxford resident Reg Tricker's memories of life growing up in the area. His story was transcribed by local historian Roger Loose with the help of Reg's daughter Pauline Taylor after a series of interviews he had with Reg. Part one can be found in the March 2024 issue of the BRN.

Reg Tricker, A Boxford boyhood - Part Two

In 1937 everything was all changing for the better for our family. Lol was 14 years old. He left school in the March and worked at Faulkner's Nursery along the Hadleigh Road, so there were now 5 brothers at work. Gordy was 11 years old and I was 8 years old. We moved to number 6 Bonsey Terrace (in Swan Street) a lovely four bedroomed house with a very large garden. It was like a dream come true. My Dad had worked on building these six new houses for Kingsbury's. Downstairs was a nice entrance hall, front room, large living room with a Suffolk range with an oven. There was a large walk-in larder in the corner and a scullery kitchen with a brick-built copper. The Belfast sink had a cold water tap and a draining board, and lots of shelving. There was a bathroom off the scullery with just a huge roll top bath in the middle with a cold supply for the bath and the copper. The flush toilet was just off the back entrance porch. The only hot water you had was if you lit a fire under the copper and bailed it out by bucket. Or in tin kettles that you then heated on an oil stove, or maybe the hotplate on the coal-fired range in the living room.

We also had electricity, but not a lot: three lights and one 5 amp socket. There was a light in the front room, which we didn't use very much. It was only for high days and holidays. One light in the living room and one on the landing. There was no two way switch for the stairs. You went upstairs in the dark, then put the light on and went in your bedroom. When you came downstairs again you put the light off and you had to come downstairs in the dark. There were no lights anywhere else; we still had to use candles or oil lamps.

It was absolute luxury though compared to what we had before, because the house in School Hill didn't have any running water. We had to get it from a well. There was no electricity, everything was oil lamps or candles and no bathroom of course, only a bucket closet outside. So yes, it was a vast improvement when we moved into 6 Bonsey Terrace.

Of course we had to do a lot of work to get established again in our new home, building a shed for all the bikes and tools. Mum's huge mangle/wringer was also kept in there. Chicken huts and runs needed building, pigsties, new long garden paths had to be constructed and of course the huge garden had to be dug over for the first time. It wasn't long before we got established. Dad and my brothers set gooseberry, blackcurrant, raspberry, loganberry bushes and a couple of apple trees and it wasn't too long before we started getting things from the garden.

We hadn't been up at Bonsey Terrace long when we celebrated the Coronation of George VI. I remember Lol decorating all the front of



Villagers in fancy dress for the Coronation of George VI May 1937

the house up with flags, bunting etc. as most of the houses and shops did in the village. Lol won a prize for his efforts. He was about 14 years old at the time.

There were lots of shops, farms and businesses in and around Boxford. As an example, just around Ellis Street alone there was Sid Raynham's poultry farm up Cox Hill and Mr Hughes had one behind the Police Station. On Ellis Street itself was Charlie Humphrey who sold sweets, cigarettes, tobacco and traded in poultry. Opposite there was Dr Truman's surgery at Greenbank and a little further down was Johnny Whymark's garage and cycle shop. He sold all sorts; everything you needed for motorbikes, bicycles, oil, petrol, paraffin, carbide for the gas lamps which you needed for your bike. Next door Johnny's brother Mauri sold fruit and vegetables which he grew in his small field. He also delivered coal around the village in his little old three wheeler truck. Opposite a little further down was Charlie Raynham who had Brick House Farm and Dairy. He had a large herd of cows and of course he delivered milk in and around Boxford in his pony and trap that carried the large milk churns. It was then carried to the doors in a smaller churn. He had pint and a quart ladles on the side. Everybody in those days had to put their milk jugs out on the doorsteps with a note saying how much milk they wanted and he'd take it from the churns using the measures into the jugs. Further down still was Riddelsdells Garage.

I suppose there were about 50 shops and businesses around Boxford in 1938. Even Stone Street had a shop. Beyond the Compasses public house and almost at the far end of the hamlet was Dan Grimwood, Grocer and General Merchant. This was the smallest of shops, but it had the most custom in Boxford as



Harry Grimwood, son of Daniel on his rounds

he delivered his goods and paraffin far and wide around the area. He had a largish van which was driven by Reg Gunn. There were also thatchers in the village, at least four. A wooden hurdle maker was also a thatcher and made and sold pegs for thatching. The wooden hurdles that he made were used to pen the sheep and of course there were plenty of sheep about here in those days.

Everything seemed to me as a child just idyllic and wonderful, having just moved into a brand new house and having made new friends with our neighbours. Next door at number 5 were Frank and Ivy Claydon with their three daughters, Vera, Viv and Vida. Frank was a bus driver for Rule's. Number 4 was Charlie and Lil Humphrey who had large family; five daughters and one son Arthur. Doddy we called him. Next door was Chris Smith; he was a bachelor and thatcher. He was also a hurdle maker. He lived in the bottom half of the house and the Humphreys lived on the top floor. Number 2 was Leo and Daisy Gant. They also had a large family of boys and girls. Dennis (Brushy), John who was my age, Geoff and Mark. At Number 1 were Sid and Rose Munson who also had a large family. Of course we all made friends and played together a lot. We used to cut bits out of the hedge and make a wooden top. We would go down to Mr Coe the cobbler who would knock a hobnail into the end, otherwise it wouldn't spin. We would make a little whip so that once you got it spinning you kept hitting it with the whip and it could spin for hours. We had hoops which were mainly old bicycle wheels, which we got from the pit at the top of Cox Hill and we would spin them along the road for miles.

Then of course there was the conker season. We would get these big conkers from the horse chestnut tree, put a hole in and bake them

in the oven. Some used to pickle them in vinegar. We would go fishing down the river. We mainly went down to what is known today as Primrose Wood. The river there was quite deep and wide on those days - a lot different to what it is today and we would mainly catch trout. In the wintertime we would make sledges and then go to the Cox Hill pit and get bits of iron from an old bedstead to put as runners for the sledges to make it go smoother and faster. It was our favourite hill to sledge down. Of course there was hardly any traffic from Kersey, or anywhere come to that. We used to start up near the Water Tower at the top on the sharp bend. One boy would be guiding it on the front with a few boys on the back and there would be one or two pushing. We'd get up speed and jump on to go down the hill and push and with a bit of luck and help we could end up right by the White Hart public house - quite a long way. Then of course you had to trudge all the way back up again to do it all again. But of course in those days we had lots of snowfall and Boxford would be cut off for days. It didn't matter to us because we had everything we needed right where we were, no need to go anywhere else. I can't ever remember the school closing because of the snow because the teachers lived in and around the village. Mr Sore the Headmaster lived with his family right in the centre of the village. The older boys used to make these huge slides in the school playground and when we came out at playtime, we'd all be sliding and having snowball fights. It was all good fun. I did not feel I learned much at school. The older children went to Hadleigh for woodwork and metalwork lessons during the 1930s, but not during the War, when I might have benefited. In the summertime we made trolleys from old pram wheels or whatever we could get hold of. It was all good harmless fun.

As well as all the shops we had in Boxford, we also had trades people come in from places like Hadleigh, Sudbury, and Ipswich. Some had small vans, some still had pony and traps, and of course trade bikes with big baskets on the front. It was all continuous comings and goings. As you see most things were delivered to your door in those days. For example, Mr Joseph Watson came from Dogs Head Street in Ipswich once a week, where he had clothes shop and gentleman's outfitters. He would measure you up for a suit or whatever you wanted and he would deliver the goods the next week. He was a very nice man. You then paid weekly for the goods because no-one had the money to buy things outright in those days. Boxford was such a busy, vibrant village with almost everyone working locally. For example, Kingsbury's the builders at one time employed over 200 men, so you can imagine what it was like in Swan Street at 7:30am in the morning 6 days a week. The men were either on bikes or a few had motorbikes, but many walked to work. It was nothing to have to cycle 6 to 10 miles to work with all your tools in your bag across the handlebars or tied to your crossbar. You only got a lift in the back of a lorry if you were working any distance away, like Bury St Edmunds. In the wintertime, which I can tell you was hard, you froze to death by the time you got to work. Then you had to do it all again at the end of the day.

The last years of the 1930s were very worrying for everyone with the threat of war looming. They were very dark days. It was Christmas 1938 that Mum and Dad gave a huge Christmas party for all of us. Dad had a pig killed for Christmas and of course we always had geese and cockerels, so plenty of food. Along with all my brothers and Harry's wife, Ivy, and little Marion, aunts, uncles and cousins, we had a wonderful party. There was always so much food that Mum would have prepared, and lots of home made wine of course. Mum and Dad must have realised it could be the last Christmas that we would all spend together for some time with most of my brothers and cousins of military age. For some it was never the same again.

In April 1939 members of the Suffolk Regiment came around trying to recruit those of military age to join the Territorial Army. So on the 9th April 1939, two of my brothers, Bob and Vernon joined the 5th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment along with 13 other local lads, my friend Kenny King being one of them. He was underage actually. He was only 17 years old, and of course you had to be 18 years old, but he got in anyway. I remember my Dad not being very happy when



Reg's brother Maurice (Bob) Tricker

my brothers told him they had signed up, as he, along with a lot of his brothers and my Mum's brothers had been in the First World War, and they didn't have any good experiences I can tell you. In fact my Mum's brother, Maurice Everitt died of his war wounds and he is buried at Etaples Cemetery in France. A few months after they joined up, a lot of the boys went to camp for four weeks to a place called Falmer, between Lewes and Brighton. It was a short time after they came home from the camp that the Territorial boys were called up for regular service. On the 28th August word came through to Boxford that all the boys had to report to Sudbury immediately and leave their jobs and whatever they were doing. My brother Bob was cutting a field of corn with a pair of horses and a binder on the field on the right towards Stone Street. Kenny King told me he was the one who quickly ran to Mr Raynham's at Brick House Farm where my brother Bob worked to get someone to replace Bob. It was Teddy Bowers that took them in the bus 'Forget Me Not' to Sudbury Drill Hall in Gainsborough Street. From there they were all taken by Eastern Counties buses to Stowmarket where they had to go around the town to get them all billeted in people's homes. My brother Bob and Kenny King were billeted with a lady called Mrs Birch, but looking back it is unbelievable as to how ill-prepared the country was for war. It was five days after the boys went that Neville Chamberlin declared war on Germany.

It was a Sunday morning and as usual we went to Church in the choir and, at 12 o'clock when we came out, old Arthur Baker told us "boys we're at war!" I was 10 years old. Old Arthur, he was the postman with one arm who walked delivering the mail around Assington. I remember running home with some of my mates to tell our parents what we had been told, but of course they already knew as they had the radio. They were all upset and quiet. I remember my Mum crying, thinking about my two brothers who had just been called up the previous Thursday. Little did I know the effect war would have on my family for the next 6 years, because I was too young and innocent to know what war meant.



Arthur Baker local postman 1930s & 40s

Everything was very tense and we worried that we were about to be invaded by the Germans because everyone knew what a force they were and had all these weapons and men. Over the following months, restrictions came in such as the blackout, with everybody making shutters for the windows to make sure that at night no light could be seen from the air. If there was, there would be a bang on your door and "put that light out!".

Air raid shelters were being dug. I remember us all digging one at the top of the garden and putting corrugated iron over the top and

covering it over with soil. Gas masks were issued and precautions taken like sticking paper on all your windows to prevent the glass blowing in case of bombing. Most things were rationed of course, so that everybody had their fair share of what there was to have, although in Boxford of course, everyone had large vegetable gardens, some also keeping pigs and chickens and so on. So in that respect we were more fortunate than those living in the towns and cities.



Reg in a new suit out to work at 14 in 1943

I had left school in 1943 as I was 14 and started work for Mrs Peachey in the April, full time for 15 shillings (75p) a week. I had previously worked for them as delivery boy and cleaner after school and on Saturdays for 10 shillings (50p) a week.

By 1944 there were just three of us left at home: Mum, Lol and myself. Five of my brothers were away in the Army. Bob and Vernon were taken prisoners of war at Singapore on the 15th January 1942. Harry was on active service in Burma and Frank

and Gordy were on active service in Europe. So as you can imagine life for everyone had taken its toll. Boxford changed from a relatively quiet village with a handful of cars along with the horses and carts on their daily delivery rounds, to one full of army personnel and evacuees from Bethnal Green in the East End of London.

The first to come to Boxford were the Royal Army Service Corps and they were stationed in Ashley House which they requisitioned and the Fleece yard and the park at The Old Rectory (now Boxford House). They would do their drill parades in Broad Street, as did the Home Guard. There were also convoys of trucks, lorries, tanks, Bren gun carriers, and motorcycles rumbling through the village (there was no by-pass in those days) almost every day. I don't know how the little old bridge over the River Box managed to hold up to it all, but it did. Of course as the years went by, and young men reached the age of 18, they were called up to serve in the Armed Forces. From the age of 16 everyone had to join an organisation of some sort such as First Aid, Home Guard, Fire Watch, Air Raid Warden, Special Constable, Cadet Forces, etc.

After the Service Corps left the village, the London Scottish Regiment came next, which was much more exciting. It was the first time I had seen men in kilts. The massed bands of pipes and drums would play and march up and down Broad Street, but of course there was so little traffic in those days it was not a problem. By this time the number of evacuees had swollen Boxford to the point that we could only attend school part-time some days. Lessons were also taken in the village hall and I remember one room at The Old Chequers (opposite the church). Some of us local boys had to work in the potato fields on some part days and all the spare ground around the school was dug and planted with vegetables, as was the ground outside the village hall. I was in charge of a plot and I remember my Dad coming down to show the evacuee boys how to dig properly. I didn't need any teaching because I already knew; it was part of my way of life from a very young age. The lads from London didn't help us much as they didn't really know anything about gardening. Many evacuees didn't take to country life and it took some of them a very long time to settle down. In time we all became good friends. I remember that some of their mums and dads would come down from London on a weekend. On a Sunday afternoon they would be waiting in the centre of the village for the Corona coach to take them back home and there would be a lot of tears shed I can tell you.

At our Christmas parties the evacuees were far better than us village children at acting and singing. They really got one up on us when it came to entertainment! I remember during the early part of the war, when I was at still at school, the annual Sunday School treat would be a picnic in Belle Vue Park in Sudbury or a visit to Hadleigh or Sudbury to see a Laurel and Hardy film. Bus loads of us children, including the evacuees, went to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in colour and we were amazed by it all. Obviously there were no seaside trips during the war as all the beaches were fenced off with barbed wire and many were mined. Even before the war we only went to the seaside once or twice a year, and then only if you belonged to the Sunday School or the church choir. Many of us did both. There were outings to Clacton in two Rules buses led by Reverend Rice and his then housekeeper Miss Walker, initially companion to his wife and later he married her. They hired a beach hut for us.



Ruth Tricker and Polly King with Vernon Tricker at Clacton

There was a prisoner of war camp built half way up Cox Hill which housed Italian prisoners of war. They were guarded by soldiers too old for active service. I can remember as a 14 year old boy when I first started for Mrs Peachey the local baker, having to push my trade bike laden with bread past the camp with all the POW's standing around and it was quite a relief when I got by them. The prisoners mainly worked on farms and also the sugar beet factory in Ipswich. Some of them were very talented making cigarette cases and lighters from old pieces of metal. They also made wicker baskets from the willow. The village dump of course was next to the POW Camp, so they would rummage through to get the bits and pieces they needed. After Italy surrendered, the prisoners were allowed out of the camp and into the village and they were not any trouble at all.

Roger Loose

The third part of Reg's Tricker's account of growing up in Boxford post 1940 will be published in the May issue of the BRN.



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BRIAN TORA'S SOAP BOX

Have you ever been the victim or perpetrator of an April Fool? I can't recall that I have ever been either, but then these days there's an awful lot that I cannot recall. Aside from the fact that this edition of the Box River News is due out just when April Fool jokes are likely to be gathering a head of steam, I was prompted to look at this most peculiar custom by an email that arrived in my inbox in early March.

Regular readers of this column will be aware that I have contributed to an English language community magazine published in Lagos in the western Algarve for some years – though not recently, sadly, as the death of our much-loved Jack Russell terrier, Boris, removed one of the reasons for writing. The editor of Tomorrow Magazine, a near neighbour, regularly emails contributors to instil in them a sense of urgency in determining what to write and to deliver copy in a timely fashion.

For the April edition, she commenced her exhortations with the news that the magazine had been acquired by the Murdoch media empire and that all the staff and writers were looking forward to the uplift in salaries that would surely result. Very funny, I thought, but remarkably some of those recipients of this email actually believe that this was indeed taking place. Well, they said they did, anyway, so perhaps they were simply trying to reward the editor with confirmation that her inventiveness was first class.

Of course, this particular hoax was somewhat early for the real April Fool's Day, but it did set me thinking about how this tendency to play a prank on others at this time of year came into being. The origins are far from clear, but evidence of japes being played at around this time can be found as far back as the Middle Ages. And it is truly international, with many countries having similar traditions.

In France and other French speaking countries, it is known as "*poisson d'avril*", or April's fish, and there is a mention of this as long ago as the beginning of the 16th century. Evidence of this April Foolery comes somewhat later in England, though arguably Chaucer had averred to this practice in *The Canterbury Tales*. However, by the end of the 17th century it is clear that pranks were being played on unsuspecting people by those with inventive minds as spring began to blossom.

Nowadays some of these hoaxes are quite elaborate, with media and large corporations sometimes getting involved. The first one I can truly remember was Richard Dimbleby's television programme, which claimed to be filming the spaghetti harvest in Italy. Apparently, it convinced a great many that spaghetti really did grow on trees, not that pasta was as common then as now. This was broadcast back in 1957 and can still be found on YouTube. It is worth a look, believe me.



Locally, I recall the Free Press running an article claiming that football team AFC Sudbury was to be sponsored by Kentucky Fried Chicken and would be changing its name to KFC Sudbury. This must have been quite a few years ago and today we can reasonably expect April Fool jokes in a wide range of media. And you can even ask the internet to provide you with ideas for April Fool japes and also relevant jokes.

Let me finish with some garnered from a brief foray into the world wide web. How do pirates celebrate April Fools' Day? They walk the prank. Why shouldn't you tell jokes to ducks on April Fools Day? They'll just quack up. Why do omelettes love April Fools? They enjoy practical yolks. On second thoughts, I think that's quite enough from the archives. If you must, please go and develop your own April Fool jokes.

Brian Tora

WIN THE K&S CUP!

Nominations are open for this year's winner of The K&S Cup - an award that celebrates Boxford's brilliant youth population. The K&S Cup is given annually to a young person in the village who has made a positive difference to the Boxford community over the last 12 months. The winner receives £50 in cash and gets awarded the cup with their name engraved on it.

The K&S Cup was created in 1977, after the tragic loss of two of the community's teenagers in 1971, as a way for Boxford to show how young people are valued as the future of our amazing community and just how important and integral they are to it.

If you know of a young person aged 19 or under who has helped make Boxford a better place then please get in touch to let us know all about them.

www.boxfordsuffolk.com/KandSCup



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THE 487TH BOMB GROUP & D-DAY

As the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings on June 6th, 1944 approach we take a look at the Lavenham-based USAAF's 487th Bomb Group and their B-24 heavy bombers involvement in that momentous day....



For the personnel of Army Air Force Station 137, D-Day began in the late evening of Monday, June 5th when the teleprinters in the Operations block clattered into life alerting the Lavenham base of a mission the following day. Rumours had been circulating that a 'big one' was coming up, whilst the appearance over the airfield of flights of fighters sporting newly applied black and white stripes on wings and fuselage confirmed that something a little out of the ordinary was afoot. The confirmation of a 'mission alert' set in motion a series of events across the base ranging from warning the cooks to fuelling up the aircraft. South of the field in the scattered groups of Nissen huts the 25 selected crews were being woken – and it was still before midnight. Officers were gently roused with 'Sir, you're flying today' whilst the enlisted men had a more brusque awakening. Quickly dressing and shaving (stubble and an oxygen mask being an uncomfortable combo) the flyers hurried to breakfast and then to the mission briefing at 01:00. There they learned that the invasion of France was imminent and their role was to support the landings in the the beaches code named 'Gold', 'Juno' and 'Sword' between Ouistreham and Arromanches. The task was to bomb a crossroads close to Caen to hinder any German reinforcements. Outside, ground crews ran up engines and tested systems whilst specialists checked radios, oxygen systems, loaded bombs and added cameras to selected aircraft to record the bombing accuracy. Soon the trucks carrying the combat crews started to arrive having picked up a range of items including parachutes, oxygen masks and life-preservers from the personal equipment store on the way. With take-off set for 02:25 there followed an anxious wait in the dark and chill which was filled by each crew member checking and rechecking every aspect of their individual responsibilities. Navigators had to be especially attentive because of the huge numbers of allied aircraft all heading in the same direction down specific air corridors and with exacting timing there was no room for error (it was subsequently estimated that at least 11,000 aircraft were in the air over southern England that morning). With total radio silence in place the signal to 'start engines' at 0205 was given with a coloured flare fired from the control tower. Take off at 0225 was signalled by the flash of an Aldis lamp from the Flying Control caravan beside the runway and the first heavily laden B-24s thundered down the runway and lifted into the still dark sky to begin the spiralling ascent to 'Assembly'. This process, especially in the dark, was fraught with the risk of collision and achieving a formation took overly long, whilst two aircraft encountered problems and returned to the airfield. Eventually they approached the Channel in poor formation. 20-year old Lt. Norman Gross was piloting the 838th Squadron's B-24 (aka "Sweatin' It Out") on his eighth mission. He was unable to find the 487th amongst the numerous aircraft and joined the Sudbury-based 486th formation. The French coast was

covered by cloud, and the target, a little way inland, could not be identified and there was a reluctance to bomb blind for fear of hitting French civilians, though only meagre flak and no enemy fighters were encountered. The 22 bombers, still bomb-laden, now flew west to avoid overflying the invasion fleet and mindful to give the occupied and heavily defended Channel Islands a wide berth, before turning north for home. To an unsuccessful mission was now added an extra hazard as fuel gauges were now worryingly low. Had the difficult assembly in the dark used more fuel than intended or had the mission planners miscalculated the requirement? Whatever, it became increasingly clear to the flyers that it was going to be a close thing so over the Channel bombs were jettisoned and items thrown from the aircraft to lighten them. Some crews steeled themselves for putting down in the sea (the poor ditching capabilities of the B-24 were well-known) whilst others prepared to bail out and hope that Air Sea Rescue would pick them up. At 08:42 Lt. Gross sent an SOS as his engines stopped and he put the aircraft down in the sea somewhere northwest of Alderney. For those crews still airborne the English coast couldn't come into sight soon enough and with spluttering engines many of the remaining aircraft landed at the first airfield they could find – for them D-Day was over.

The 487th flew two more missions on June 6th. The second no more successful than the first, whilst the third was plagued with problems caused by the weather and equipment malfunctions although 8 aircraft managed to bomb the target with good results.

And of Lt Gross and his crew? They are still officially 'MIA' out there somewhere in the Channel.

The crew of B-24H 42-52629 'Sweatin' It Out':

- 1st Lt. Norman Gross. Pilot.
- 2nd Lt. Willard Haskell. Co-pilot.
- 2nd Lt. Francis Moke. Navigator.
- F/O Milton Levine. Bombardier.
- Sgt. Charles McWilliams. Engineer.
- S/Sgt. Benjamin Huebel. Radio Operator.
- Sgt. Harold Allensworth. Gunner.
- Sgt. Stanley Benson. Gunner.
- S/Sgt. Henry Westhoff. Gunner.
- S/Sgt. Max Markowitz. Gunner.



Lt. Norman Gross

The names of the 4 officers are recorded on The Wall of the Missing at Cambridge Military Cemetery. Those of the six enlisted men on the Wall of the Missing at Normandy Military Cemetery.

On July 3rd, 1944 the body of an American airman was recovered from the Channel by the crew of RAF High Speed Launch 192. The remains were identified as Milton Levine and buried at sea. No other members of the Gross crew were found.

Footnote: The expression 'Sweatin' It Out' refers to the anxious wait for the bombers return experienced by those not flying that particular mission. This might be fellow aircrews with friends aloft, ground crews wondering if 'their' aircraft would return, the ambulance and 'crash' crews waiting beside the runway and senior officers pacing the floor of the control tower – in fact just about everyone on base.

With grateful thanks to Ivo de Jong, Lee Hauenstein and Paul Webber of the 487th Bomb Group Association for their assistance.

Want to learn more about Lavenham airfield and the 487th Bomb Group? The 'Friends of Lavenham Airfield' (FOLA) offer a guided airfield walk on the 2nd Sunday of June, July, August and September. Cost is £10 for adults and £5 for under 16s, limited places so booking essential. Book in person or by phone at the Lavenham HUB, 2 Lady Street. Tel: 01787-249939. Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10:30am-2:30pm. Sat 11:00am-2:00pm.

All proceeds go towards the USAAF 487th Bomb Group Memorial Fund

Photos courtesy of 487th Bomb Group Association.

THE GLOW PRO



Red Flags to Consider When Choosing an Aesthetic Practitioner

Choosing the right practitioner can feel challenging when it comes to cosmetic aesthetic treatments.

Whilst many people rely solely on social media, the abundance of filtered images isn't always reflective of reality.

In this article I'll identify some key red flags to watch out for during your search..

🚩 Lack of Medical Credentials

In the UK, anyone can perform cosmetic treatments, even if they've attended just a 1-day course! A lack of credentials should be a big no-no.

🟢 Medically trained professionals, such as doctors and nurses, have invested years in their training, have a deep understanding of human anatomy, and adhere to a strict code of conduct. They are regulated by professional bodies (GMC and NMC), have continuing professional development training (CPD), and are required to hold malpractice insurance. So, you can be sure you're in safe hands!



🚩 'Botox' Parties



Did you know, it's illegal to advertise Botox or any other prescription-only medicine? Be wary if you encounter such promotions, particularly "Botox parties". These 'parties' can lead to distractions and limited or no consultation time, resulting in rushed decisions.

🟢 Focus on professionalism by choosing a medical practitioner who complies with safety protocols and is held accountable by their professional bodies.

🚩 Lack of Transparency

If a practitioner is unable to provide a thorough consultation, you will lack the information needed to make an informed choice.

🟢 Open and honest communication ensures you fully understand the pros/cons of treatments, alternatives, aftercare, and the costs. With any treatment, make sure you sign a consent form, have before/after photographs, and a review.



🚩 Unsuitable Premises

Just as you wouldn't visit someone's home for a dental appointment, the same standards should apply to all aesthetic treatments. Steer clear of those who perform treatments in kitchens, living rooms, garden sheds, etc. These places lack the necessary cleanliness and could raise the risk of infection.



🟢 Check out a clinic's reviews and ensure the environment is professional, hygienic, and equipped to provide safe treatments. Even better, choose somewhere that's registered by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), as their accreditation ensures high standards of care.

🚩 Unlicensed Products

Before proceeding with any treatment, it's essential to enquire about the products being used.

Have they been extensively researched and tested? What is their longevity, and who are the manufacturers? Are you able to see the box?



🟢 A reliable practitioner should discuss their product choice and be able to provide manufacturer brochures.

For use in the UK, products must be CE-marked and preferably FDA-approved for greater reassurance.



🚩 Pushy Sales Tactics

Be cautious of those who promote unrealistic goals, such as 'Kylie Jenner' packages or 'snatched' faces. These can be used to push unsuitable treatments, leading to undesirable results. If it looks too cheap or too good to be true, it probably is - buy cheap, buy twice!

🟢 Ensure the treatment plan is tailored to your individual needs. Remember, we are all unique and your well-being should be the priority.

Helena x

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BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Many of our Boxford players bowl indoors throughout the winter at Sudbury Bowls Club, in leagues, competitions and friendly/social games. In March, the North Essex County Bowls Federation County Indoor Finals took place at Sudbury and we must congratulate our Boxford and Sudbury bowlers who won their matches and will now compete in the national finals in April. They are:

Ladies Triples	Gillian Barnes (Boxford), Roz Mortlock (Boxford) & Eileen Parker (Sudbury)
Ladies Pairs	Gillian Barnes & Eileen Parker
Ladies Snr Singles	Gillian Barnes
Men's Pairs	Malcolm Grimwood (Boxford) & Mark Wickenden (Sudbury)

Good luck to you all!

In March, our social committee organised a very successful social evening - not only was it a chance to catch-up with everyone but it was also an opportunity to try out carpet bowls. It was a fun evening and our thanks go to the committee for this event and providing everyone with a tasty supper. I hear the chilli was especially good!

As the evenings start to draw out, it will not now be long until the start of the outdoor season. It has been a busy time over the last few months for some of our club members who have volunteered to help with preparing the club and the green. General maintenance has been and is being carried out (a new shed base for a new shed, moving a water tank, amongst other things), the garden has been tidied up and new plants put in, and very importantly, the new green is being tended to get it ready for our opening day at the end of April. A huge thank you to everyone who has been helping

make the club ready for the opening of the season in April.

And lastly, overdue congratulations to 3 of our bowlers who achieved a "Hot Shot" last year. Moira Carr, Margaret Blakebrough and Steve Marszal bowled an end when all 9 of their bowls (a triples game so 3 bowls each player) were closest to the jack. Hot Shots are pretty unusual - so well done. Let's hope for another one this coming season!



MILDEN CRICKET CLUB

Weather permitting—and the rain will have to stop first!—Milden starts its 2024 campaign in Division 5 of the Hunts County Bats Suffolk League with a home match against Nowton on Sunday 28 April (1pm start).

We are a friendly club and spectators are always welcome. For those who've not been before, Milden boasts an attractive ground (said to be the highest cricket ground in Suffolk) in Church Lane, Milden IP7 7AF (opposite Milden Church.)

If you are interested in playing (all ages and abilities welcome), please contact club captain Alex Cunningham on **07919 174868** (e-mail: alexcunningham1@live.com) or secretary Andrew Simmons: **07951 055643** (e-mail apsimmons93@gmail.com), or come to one of the sessions of pre-season indoor nets: Wednesday evenings 20 March, 27 March, 3 April and 10 April from 8pm to 9pm at Sprott's Farm, Holt Road, Polstead CO6 5BT.



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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

County Councillor for the Stour Valley

£4.4 million to be spent on additional staff to strengthen SEND reform

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has confirmed that 60 new members of staff will be recruited to drive forward important reform to the way special educational needs and disability (SEND) services are delivered in Suffolk. This includes an increase in permanent SEND staff of nearly 15%. These new posts will support the improvement of the quality and timeliness of assessments, plans, reviews, and communications with families.

In order to support this improvement programme, an additional £4.4million was signed off during the budget discussions at Full Council on February 15. Of this, £3.4million will provide 46 new full-time posts – a increase of 14.76% in current staffing levels. An additional £1million will be spent in 2024/25 to fund 14 temporary posts.

Public consultation on Suffolk County Council's proposed devolution deal starts on 18th March 2024

A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government will start on 18th March and run through until 26th May. The consultation will be in two main parts – an open survey, hosted by Suffolk County Council, that any residents can complete and a sample survey of 1000 Suffolk residents conducted independently by Ipsos Mori. The consultation will be available through our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution and social media. There will also be media coverage highlighting the consultation.

Dragon Patcher lands in Suffolk to bolster response to rural potholes

Suffolk Highways has welcomed the new pothole-repairing machine to help fix the growing number of potholes experienced nationally during the winter season, with a trial set to initially target defects in rural Suffolk.

The Dragon Patcher is a machine that releases compressed air which cleans the surface of the road, before heating the surface to a temperature that enables repair material to bond effectively with the road surface, allowing the pothole to be repaired with an aggregate and hot bitumen material. Compared with the traditional approach of repairing potholes, the Dragon Patcher can work five times faster.

This trial is in addition to the potholes being repaired around the clock as part of our routine repair programme, during the past two months Suffolk Highways has repaired 2,851 potholes across Suffolk.

Fuelled by the biodiesel, HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil), the patcher reduces raw material use and creates zero waste and has shown to provide significant carbon savings when compared to traditional patching techniques.

Once the trial ends in Suffolk, a decision will be taken on whether to roll out the technology across the county.

Have your say on Suffolk's local transport plan

Residents are invited to share their views on how they travel to help inform Suffolk's Local Transport Plan. The plan sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk and covers key themes such as decarbonisation of transport, strengthening the local economy, promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion, and creating better-connected places that encourage a range of transport choices.

Suffolk County Council is asking for feedback on the key themes proposed for the fourth version of the plan, which will cover the period until 2040 and respond to long-term transport opportunities and challenges facing Suffolk and the UK as a whole. A link to the

survey can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/ltp4. The consultation will run for eight weeks until 8 April 2024.

Feedback from the consultation will be collated and inform the production of the draft local transport plan. The full draft document will then be subject to further consultation later in the year.

Suffolk County Council to review weed control for roads and pavements

In February 2022, the council agreed to stop using glyphosate in its routine weed treatment programmes, to find more natural alternatives to help protect the local environment. However, the alternative products proved unable to meet requirements, which was further exacerbated by exceptional growing conditions.

Multiple applications were sometimes needed which could introduce other negative environmental impacts.

Teams will continue to monitor and research the different approaches being used to remove weeds on our roads and pavements. *However where needed, glyphosate would be used responsibly as it is one of the most cost-effective and long-lasting solutions.*

Final Position Statement - Bramford to Twinstead (EN020002) - Deadline 9

Notwithstanding that Suffolk County Council (SCC) has always accepted the principle of the project, and has been able to support important aspects of it, including undergrounding in the Stour Valley and the removal of redundant 132kV transmission lines.

SCC is so concerned about the shortcomings in the Applicant's proposals for the implementation and control of the construction of the project, that it must advise the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State that it formally OBJECTS to the making of a Development Consent Order (DCO) in the terms put forward by the Applicant in the draft DCO and supported by the current suite of control documents.

The Council considers that the management plans require substantial revision, due to insufficient detail, these issues are exacerbated by the lack of a commitment to a two-stage, (outline and final) process, in accordance with the comments submitted to the examination

For more information: <https://bit.ly/bmsdc-deadline-8>

98% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred Secondary Schools on National Offer Day

This year parents and carers of 98% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred schools and 93% were offered a place at their first preference school. Suffolk County Council received 7,867 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2024.

Families who applied online could log in to the online service from 1 March to see the school their child has been offered. They will also have received an email to confirm this offer, unless they have indicated that they do not wish to.

Letters were sent to parents who made a paper application by second class post on 1 March 2024.

Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley

A Foster Carer Recruitment Event is held the 1st Wednesday of every month, and an Adoption Event is on the 1st Thursday all 7pm in your home. To book a place email: Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk.

James Finch

james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

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

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

As hoped and predicted, the result of the appeal by Catesby Homes against the refusal by Babergh District Council to grant permission for them to build 64 new homes on good farmland on the edge of Boxford has been published. The government inspector's findings were that planning permission should be refused on multiple grounds, including that it was against the village's own neighbourhood plan and Babergh's joint local plan, also that the proposed walkway down Ellis St to allow traffic and pedestrians to 'safely' share the narrow space was unworkable and not 'safe' at all.

For me as a district councillor there were many other detrimental reasons for refusal, including the huge danger of building 64 houses at the top of Sand Hill without a secure drainage system to pump all the run-off water straight down to the river avoiding the village of Boxford along the way. Additionally there is also the fact that this development did not secure any affordable housing for the lower-waged and new young families looking to rent or buy for the first time in their home or surrounding villages. However I am pleased with the verdict and hope that the village can now move on to plan and build smaller projects to house the next generation as we have always done. It is no coincidence that during the past 25 years that I have been a councillor for this area that over 50 affordable and social houses have been built in Boxford and Groton and many more in other parts of the Box Vale Ward.

I would like to place on record, my thanks to all parish councillors, past and present, along with constituents who have stood with me in opposition to this development that would solely have brought gain to a greedy developer eager to sell on to another developer, once permission had been gained and a chancy landowner who sadly, probably just saw an opportunity to make money.

Our much debated Babergh budget has now been set for the coming 24/25 years work and provision of services throughout our district. It shows the smallest increase we could manage to enable us to still provide good services and we needed to plunder £1m from our reserves to even achieve that. For clarity, although Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are tasked with collecting the local taxes, we only take a little under 9% of your money to run everything that we do, the other 91% is shared between SCC (78%), police and crime commissioner (12%), with parish and borough precepts at around 2%. We are really at a crossroads now. In years gone by we were financed and trusted by national government to do all the local stuff and given the finance to do so. However, under the present regime we are expected to finance ourselves by raising the local council tax yet more with and a mixture of extra charges and new-homes bonus from more extensive house building. My response to that is, if only our present national governing regime worked as hard and were as frugal, caring and careful with their finances as we have to be with ours, we would not be in such a dire financial situation as we are nationally.

Maybe the latest £10m bung donated to the Conservative junta, along with all the others, should be spread across the whole nation at the lowest tiers of government, to promote growth in businesses, infrastructure and facilities from the bottom up. We would help spread the ill-gotten wealth and not waste a single penny.

Although I am not a great fan of awards and gongs, it is with some pride that I can announce that Babergh and Mid Suffolk were last week announced as the UK's Best Council of the Year at the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards in London on Wednesday, 6 March! This is a prestigious award and was given for the way the two sovereign councils work together with a joint workforce, creating vibrant communities, developing a green and low carbon strategy with our incentives in providing finance and electricity from solar panels installed on our council house roofs,

and on our leisure centres. We were the first rural councils in the UK to start the switch from diesel to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) to fuel our fleet of bin lorries. We have led on most of these initiatives and were the first district council in the UK to successfully implement most of them. If only our national government could be even one quarter as good at serving our electorate and giving such good value for your taxpayer's money.

What is the answer? Maybe devolution to regional parliaments whose elected representatives would serve their regions and constituents and not just themselves.

Maybe you should all tell me what you think, I am easy to catch now while limping through our villages or having a quiet pint in one of our brilliant public houses. Please do let me know what you think.

Also our local businesses need support, we have brilliant Post offices, Butchers, Garages, Village Shops and all the one man/woman self-employed run enterprises which serve us amazingly.

If you need your local District Councillor, call 01787 210854. Mob 07771 508348. Email bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk or just holler across the road.

All Best Wishes,

Bryn

bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk

Tel: 01787 210854 / Mobile: 07771 508348

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

EDWARDSTONE

Summary of Council Meeting 15th January 2024

Present: P Baker, M Gibson, T Wood, D Williams, L Smyth, J Morgan, R Norman, R Jones (Clerk) **Guests:** B Hurren (Babergh DC)

Financial Matters: Stmt of Finances & Orders for Payment and Q3 accounts were approved. **Adequacy of Budget for 2023/24:** Agreed. It was acknowledged that there had been certain unforeseen 'one-off' expenses such as a new laptop and noticeboard. **Precept for 2024/25:** Following discussion about our upcoming budgetary needs, the precept for 2024/25 is set at £6,677, an annual increase for a Band D property of £1.85.

Neighbourhood Plan Update: M Gibson reported that the formal consultation had closed and with 14 fully supportive public responses received along with responses from SCC, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Fire and Rescue and Babergh DC was in the process of updating its regulations, but this should not delay the process. A comment had been received about the proposed settlement boundary which was different to the one previously published by BDC. As the BDC Joint Local Plan was currently 'on hold', it was agreed to move forward with the proposed settlement boundaries at Mill Green and Sherbourne St. Consultant was in the process of updating the plan. Next steering group meeting on 19 Feb with the next draft to be presented to the PC on 18 March.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Report: The report had been previously circulated to Cllrs and published on the PC website. It was noted that as a result of legislation now being implemented, developers whose activities resulted in biodiversity loss would be obligated not just to reinstate the loss but add 10% net gain. In circumstances where the net gain could not be added at the site of the development, the council would be able to require the developer to add 10% elsewhere in the parish. The SWT report identified two areas currently in need of improvement: Messine Wood and the woodland to the north of Temple Bar.

Climate Change: Wildfires & Community Emergency Plan: P Baker presented a draft emergency plan produced in consultation

with Groton, Boxford, Little Waldingfield and Great Waldingfield Parish Councils. The plan would serve as a guide and as an initial plan of action in case of local emergency. Next step would be to recruit volunteers for specified roles. The next joint meeting was on 6 Feb and the proposed plan would be brought back to the next PC meeting. It was noted that the role of Gritting Co-ordinator would not be required.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points: P Baker had spoken to John Naughton from The White Horse and had been given approval to proceed. He would now go back to SCC to move the process forward.

Defibrillator Update: J Morgan reported that he had purchased the signs which would be placed at strategic points. A further sign to be placed at the telephone box so that it would be clear that a defibrillator was stationed there.

Highway & Footpath Matters: Footpath Cutting: David Gotts (Garden Arbs) was now operating as a sole trader. He was happy to continue cutting the footpaths providing a couple of sleeper bridges were 'made safe'. As the sleepers were not SCC responsibility, it was agreed that R Norman would co-ordinate the re-laying of them. **Footpath Leaflet:** T Wood had provided cllrs with a draft of the Edwardstone section of the walk and reported that no response received from SCC regarding reducing the leaflet from 3 to 2 walks. It was agreed that J Morgan would contact SCC to chase. L Smyth agreed to test walk and provide comments. **Other Highway and Footpath Matters:** The Clerk to write to J Finch to enquire about the progress of previously reported pothole repairs.

Date of next meeting: Monday 18th March 2024 at 7pm

Full minutes can be found at:

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

Richard Jones

01473 828246 / edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com

BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 27th February 2024

Public Forum: A resident thanked the PC for work in the graveyard and cemetery and reported that the footpath from Fen Street to Cox Hill is washing away. Cigarette butts were still being left outside The Fleece. If the memorial bench by the flats could be re-positioned to the Playing Fields? Concern about poor cutting of the hedge by Highways along the A1071. Trees in the stream in Ash Street (outside 23-25) had exposed roots. Concerns about potential Suffolk Devolution. Another resident expected the outcome of the Sand Hill Appeal would be known soon [*it has since been confirmed the Appeal was dismissed!*]. Also: lack of pothole repair by Highways and suggested lobbying MP. It was asked if there was progress regarding a car park. Fading yellow lines making parking enforcement difficult. Resident would be opposed to removal of walnut tree for a new streetlight near Brook Hall Rd. Flooding on Cox Hill which was reported on the highways reporting tool. Also mentioned leaf-fall makes the footpath from Fen St to Cox Hill slippery.

On-going matters: A new streetlight is being considered for Ash Street/Butchers Lane. Investigations are being made for a potential cycle rack for the village centre. A positive meeting in relation to Stone St with around 25 residents was held and many ideas generated. The main issue is traffic as the hamlet was not designed for volume and speed. The project for the proposed 20mph limit will include Stone St. A quote is being sought to cut the hedge and verge at Stone St - this would usually be the responsibility of Highways. The Chair met the managers of the foster home who are making an application to improve off-road parking. Cllr Watts had reported to The Fleece concern re cigarette butts left outside the

pub. Cllr Munson reported on the Suffolk Devolution and urged other cllrs to seek information. Volunteers or a contractor's quote to restore the grass verge at Ash Street/Fen Street will be considered at a future meeting. Cllr Couling is arranging to paint the bins with dark green paint.

Finance: In addition to usual business, the annual grant of £2,500 was agreed to the village hall. The PC pledged financial support of £2,000 to the playing field floodlight and aerial runway projects. A charity donation of £100 was agreed to Community Action Suffolk. Some clearance work on Sand Hill and School Hill and trimming branches around streetlights on School Hill agreed. Flower boxes approved. An old redundant lantern on School Hill was to be replaced. Finally, more detailed income & expenditure end of year accounting was agreed

Cemetery: Minor work at the cemetery agreed to reinstate the hedge and a new tap for the churchyard. The drains were cleared between meetings. It was agreed to consider further additional fencing near the dustbins and the churchyard tarmacking in the next financial year.

Environmental and Ecology: Cllr Munson reported on the bed at the entrance to The Causeway/opposite the garage including relevant history. She confirmed it will be colourful, however, not too regimented. Bulbs are already coming up which were stifled by the lack of previous clearance. The grass will be cut regularly, however, the regime will allow a better balance for insects etc. *Natural Boxford* have applied for a licence from the SCC to maintain the area. Cllr Munson handed out draft emergency response plan for Boxford and asked members to read it and give her feedback.

District Council Report: District Cllr Hurren attended and reported on hedge trimming at Sherbourne St. He also played an active role, supported by residents, in making the most of the mechanical village sweeping. He was organising the village litter pick on 23rd/24th March. The District Council's part of the precept is going up by 2.99%. Cllr Hurren explained BDC is trying to find new ways of raising funds: increasing council tax on empty homes; taking a harder look at car parking issues. They are successfully defending planning appeals, however new developments do bring new homes bonuses. Some cycle route signs need repair. Chevrons have been knocked over on the sharp bends on A1071 near the Kersey turning, this was being reported urgently.

SCC Report: County Cllr J Finch attended and gave his report as printed in last month's issue of the BRN. Local issues: Investigation into bus provision is ongoing involving our PC Chair and our County Cllr. The scraping of Wash Lane and Butchers Lane is being chased. Our PC Chair raised the idea of the PC instructing the work ourselves. The first section of Butchers Lane from Ellis Street to the Fen Street junction has been put forward for resurfacing in the 2024/25 year. County Cllr Finch has agreed to fund the engineers survey for the potential 20mph limit.

Sub Committees as follows:

Environmental & Ecology: Cllrs Munson & Wortley

Public Realms: Cllrs Couling, Warren, & Watts

Planning: Cllrs Phillips & Wortley

Cemetery: Cllrs Phillips & Warren

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

All decisions continue to be made by full council at PC meetings held in public.

Planning - Planning details can be seen in the full minutes on the parish council website

Date of next meeting: 26th March 2024

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

Debbie Hattrell

01376 425744 / clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk

GROTON

Summary of Council Meeting 6th March 2024

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

Apologies for Absence: M MacKay-Morris

Charitable Donations 2023/24: The following charitable donations were approved: Groton Village Hall £250, Groton PCC £400, Boxford Playing Fields £300.

Use of Community Infrastructure Levy and Locality Budget: It was agreed to source a projector and screen for the Village Hall with a view to making the hall more appealing to potential hirers.

Boxstore Payment Request: The Council had received several backdated invoices from Boxstore, Sudbury for storage of archive Council documents from 2016 – present. The Chair had visited the storage site and confirmed that there were 8 boxes of documents dating back to the 1960s. In view of this, it was agreed that a payment of £295.68 would be made to cover the period in question. It was also agreed that Councillors would meet at a time and date to be arranged to look through the documents to see if there was anything that could be helpful for the Groton Through the Ages project.

Groton Traffic Assessment: Councillor Chapman had met with Councillor Finch and Michelle from Suffolk CC and agreed the following ‘hotspots’ to be monitored: Fox & Hounds pub towards Boxford, Groton Street beyond the affordable housing, Church Street past Groton Hall.

Groton People and Places Plan Update: Cllr Chapman reported that the steering group had met to discuss the data from the Housing Needs Assessment and the next step was to produce a draft policy to be shared with the PC at the next meeting. An exhibition in the hall and a stall at the Midsummer Fayre were being considered as ideas for further public consultation.

Wildfires And Emergency Support Plan: Cllr Cheeseman reported that progress had been slow and a final plan had yet to be agreed.

A Garland of Hamlets (Groton Through the Ages) Update: Cllr Hearn reported that members of the working group had met with Little Waldingfield representatives and had viewed the book they had produced with the aid of a £9,500 Heritage Lottery Grant. The article in the Box River News had not produced any response from Parishioners. The Chair reported that he had seen the Kersey books and had been ‘very impressed’.

Chairman’s and Clerk’s Reports and Correspondence: Several other local Parish Councils were looking into the possibility of organizing a local ‘Digibus’ for local people to arrange transport via an App from villages currently without any public transport. Councillors felt that not only would many of the people most in need of transport be unlikely to use online services such as Apps but there was already a similar service in place (Go Start).

Highway and Footpath Matters: Flooding: The general consensus was that there was insufficient pipework and workers to cope with the recent levels of rainfall but the sensible approach would be for the PC to map out the worst affected areas before making a request for assistance from Suffolk CC.

Village Hall Lease ‘Sign Off’: The final version of the lease was signed by the chair and vice-chair and witnessed by B Hurren.

Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting and AGM Wednesday 8th May at 7pm

Full minutes can be found at:

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

Richard Jones

01473 828246 / grotonclerk@yahoo.com

LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

Summary of Council Meeting 14th March 2024

Planning: Application for Agricultural Determination DC/24/00545 – Haymarket Farm. Formal planning approval was not required as the application accorded with agricultural permitted development. The development had to be carried out strictly in accordance with the details submitted.

Governance:

a) Dates and draft agendas for 2024/25: dates for the next 3 meetings were agreed: Weds 8 May (AGM); Weds 5 Jun (Audit and financial matters only); Weds 10 July. Further meeting dates for 2024/25 will be set at the May meeting.

a) Internal Auditors 2023/24 F/Y: The acting clerk confirmed that SALC had been appointed as internal auditors and the 2023/24 audit will be carried out in the week 13 – 17 May 2024.

c) Recruitment of new councillors and clerk/RFO: Members discussed the urgent need to recruit additional councillors to ensure the viability and continuance of the parish council in its ability to carry on working on behalf of the villagers in making decisions in their best interest. If parish council forced to dissolve, then all decision making would be made by the district council. It was agreed to mount an intensive recruitment drive following the May AGM.

Highways & Footpaths: alternate locations for SID devices: The acting clerk informed members that currently there were only 2 locations for the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), and under current regulations SIDs should move location every month.

Additional potential locations that conform to siting regulations had been identified in the region of the telephone box, close to the junction with Grove Avenue and the approach to the bends at Haymarket. It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler, seconded by Cllr Impett that, initially, the locations at Grove Avenue and Haymarket should be considered, agreed unanimously. The acting clerk informed members that prior approval of residents in the vicinity of the sites required and a consultation letter would be sent out.

Rural Bus Service improvements: A report was presented on the Monks Eleigh PC-led proposal for an on-demand small bus to link the villages in the Brett Valley with the regular scheduled buses in Hadleigh and Lavenham from where passengers can connect to services to Ipswich, Colchester, Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds. A steering committee of representatives from several parishes had been formed to agree the process going forward. Members agreed in principle with the scheme with the proviso that existing services would not be adversely affected. Cllr Wheeler to represent LWPC on the steering committee.

Community Emergency Plan update and meeting report: The acting clerk presented a report on the latest Surrounding Parishes Community Emergency Planning Meeting. The LW draft emergency plan had been amended on advice received from the SCC emergency planning officer. Members reviewed the revised plan and agreed the next steps were to seek volunteers to act as coordinators and points of contact in the event of an emergency arising in the village which required residents being evacuated from their homes to a place of safety.

Date of next Meeting: The date of the next meeting set for Tues 8 May at 7:30pm. Full draft minutes and annexes can be found at: <https://bit.ly/lw-parish-council>

Chris White, Acting Clerk

07541 133535 / clerk.littlewaldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk

OTHER PARISH COUNCILS

Newton Green PC

Dave Crimmin PSLCC - 01787 375085

clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk / www.newton.onesuffolk.net

The Blooming Garden

True Blue.

True blue flowers are rare; in fact only 10% of the world's flowers are blue. Flowers listed by nurserymen as blue are often shades of purple or mauve. In fact, I am told, there is actually no blue pigment in the natural plant world and colours that appear blue to us are actually permutations of violet and purple. To make flowers appear blue, plants carry out some sort of biochemical magic using red pigments called anthocyanins. I have read the science but I can't get my head round it. It's just as likely to me that tiny blue fairies wave their little blue wands in front of our eyes to make flowers appear blue. Blue has always been prized as a regal or even sacred colour and costly lapis lazuli was used in Renaissance paintings for holy subjects. Blue flowers are universally appealing as long as they are naturally blue and not the hideous dyed carnations and even orchids sometimes seen in supermarkets. The perpetrators of this crime against plants need locking up.

The blue flowers of spring are especially magical. Years ago I confused the names of the most gorgeous early spring blue



names, especially when they refer to navels. This plant does well in dappled shade. It is a bit like an upmarket forget-me-not.

Muscari or grape hyacinths spread around too and they can become a nuisance. But there are some refined ones which stay in clumps. *Muscari* 'Mountain Lady' is a smart new variety with bicour flowers. And then there is the lovely powder blue one found by Jenny Robinson in Cyprus. It is called *Muscari latifolium* 'Jenny Robinson', but to confuse matters it is sometimes called 'Baby's Breath'. To confuse matters even more there is a very similar one called *Muscari* 'Valerie Finnis'.

Other lovely blue April flowers include the forget-me-not blue *Brunnera macrophylla*, sky-blue hepaticas, *Ipheion uniflorum* 'Wisley Blue' or 'Jessie', *Anemone blanda* and *Pulmonaria* 'Blue Ensign'.



Above: *Pulmonaria* 'Blue Ensign'
Left: *Anemone blanda*



Above: *Scilla siberica*
Left: *Chionodoxa luciliae*

flowers; the little blue stars of *Scilla siberica* from the woodlands

of south west Russia and the Caucasus and the starry flowers of *Chionodoxa forbesii*. But I sorted out the confusion by reminding myself that chionodoxas don't hang their heads but put their chins up. I know it's not chin but if you slur 'chion' a bit it sounds like it. But chionodoxas, which are sometimes pessimistically called 'Glory of the Snow', are now called scillas as well. Trying to keep up with plant names is like trying to play Whack-a-Mole. Anyway both these beauties spread into glorious blue carpets. Whichever way their

chins point, their anthers and filaments are quite different. The pretty starry flowers of the Turkish squill, *Scilla bithyana* are produced in pyramidal racemes of sky-blue flowers. They don't seem to spread so readily though.



But the most exquisite member of the squill tribe is *Scilla peruviana* with its clusters of metallic, gentian-blue starry flowers. Despite its name this plant comes from the western Mediterranean rather than Peru and it likes a sheltered sunny spot.

Still on the subject of starry blue flowers, *Omphalodes cappadocica* 'Cherry Ingham' is another gem. If this name is a bit of a mouthful for you, its common name is 'navelwort'. But I have no truck with common flower



Omphalodes cappadocica 'Cherry Ingham'

Bluebells, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, are an indicator of ancient woodlands. Here in the UK, we are justly proud of our fabulous bluebell woods; we have 50% of the world's bluebells and a walk through a bluebell wood in April is an unforgettable sensory experience; the whole woodland floor is shimmering misty blue and the delicate fragrance fills the air. It is not surprising that bluebell woods were once considered the domain of fairies. We are particularly lucky in our area to have the beautiful Dollops Wood in Polstead to enjoy.



Bluebells at Dollops Wood, Polstead

Unfortunately our bluebell woods are under threat from the invasive Spanish bluebells, *Hyacinthoides hispanica* that were introduced into our gardens by Victorian gardeners. Not only are they incredibly invasive and impossible to eradicate, but they cross breed with our native bluebells and produce fertile hybrids. These are a threat to our natives as they are far more vigorous. It has been found that one in six of our broad-leaved woodlands contain hybrids.



Scilla hispanica

The flowers of our native bluebells are delicate and a deeper blue with curved back tips on just one side of the stalk. They smell sweet and have cream pollen. Spanish bluebells have broader leaves and chunkier flowers, they are not fragrant and they have blue pollen. They are pretty and long lasting in a vase but best kept away from anywhere near old woods.

Chloris.

DIRECTORY OF CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

CLUBS & GROUPS

Boxford Bellringers	<i>Richard Gates</i>	01787 210432
Boxford Bible Study Group	<i>Peter & Margaret</i>	01787 211077
Boxford Bike Club	<i>Kevin Bridge</i>	07876 798617 www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk
Boxford Bowls Club	<i>Lea Blackham</i>	01787 210313
Boxford Carpet Bowls	<i>Brian Porter</i>	01473 824283
Boxford Drama Group	<i>Janice Macmillan</i>	07779 303690 janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk
Boxford Friendship Group	<i>Alison Warren</i>	01787 211067
Boxford Gardens Open	<i>Audrey Zuck</i>	07852 102 455 audrey@a2zriskservices.com
Boxford Gardening Society	<i>Elizabeth Wagener</i>	01787 210223 elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com
Boxford Literary Group	<i>David Jones</i>	01787 211104 audav@hotmail.co.uk
Boxford Rovers Youth FC www.boxfordrovers.co.uk	<i>Melvyn Eke</i>	07873 971701 m.eke@btinternet.com
Boxford Tennis Social	<i>Sue Moore</i>	07808 481447
Boxford WI	<i>Lyn Beer</i>	07961 357526
Edwardstone Cricket Club	<i>Tom Whymark</i>	01787 211375
Fleece Jazz	<i>David Gasson</i>	01787 210796
Highway 12 Western Partner Dance	<i>Chris</i>	01787 371006
Little Waldingfield History Society	<i>Diana Langford</i>	01787 248298 dianalangford765@gmail.com
Little Waldingfield Over 60s and Friendship Club	<i>Tricia Eddington</i>	01787 247932
Local History Recorder Edwardstone	<i>Daphne Clark</i>	01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
Local History Recorder Groton	<i>Joanna Roberts</i>	01787 210619 jgant87618@aol.com
Madrigalia Choir	<i>Sue Price</i>	01787 210913
Miss Lesley School of Performing Arts (MLSPA)	<i>Miss Lesley</i>	07957 351941 lesley.mlspa@gmail.com
Milden Cricket Club	<i>Andrew Simmons</i>	07951 055643
Milden Singers	<i>Pearl</i>	01449 741876
Natural Boxford	<i>Louise Carpenter</i>	01787 211862 louisecarpenter@proton.me
Newton Arts & Crafts Club	<i>Carol Langley</i>	01787 373548
Newton War Games Club	<i>Brian Lawson</i>	01787 312160
Newton Fireside Club	<i>Moira Evans</i>	01787 374652
Primrose Wood Volunteers	<i>Evan Flockhart</i>	07968 336883 obliquewoodland@protonmail.com
Swing jive & Lindy Hop Dance	<i>Sarah Boldock</i>	07956 614824
Yoga (Boxford)	<i>Marianne Marshall</i>	01787 210323
Yoga Paper Kite (Newton)	<i>Sophie</i>	01787 313662
Yoga With Lindsey (Newton)	<i>Lindsey</i>	07971 800540

CHARITIES

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

SCOUTING

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

CHILDREN FAMILIES & LEARNING

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

HALLS & FACILITIES TO HIRE

Boxford Pavilion	<i>Hugh Philips</i>	01787 211729 hughvcphillips@hotmail.com
Boxford Spinney www.boxfordspinney.co.uk	<i>Mark Miller</i>	01787 211596 mark.miller@talktalk.net
Boxford Village Hall	<i>Jane Elliott</i>	07721 880521 BVHbookhall@gmail.com
Edwardstone Parish Hall	<i>Daphne Clark</i>	01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
Edwardstone Millennium Green	<i>Marijke Morris</i>	07914 767013 marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk
Groton Village Hall	<i>Joanna Roberts</i>	07845 940008 jgant87618@aol.com
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	<i>Sue Bowen</i>	01787 249473 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com
Little Waldingfield Pavilion	<i>Jennie Jordan</i>	07522 352558 52Jennie1@gmail.com
Marquee Booking	BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com	
Milden Pavilion	<i>Pearl</i>	01449 741876 info@mildenvillage.co.uk
Newton Village Hall	<i>Alan Vince</i>	07955 199000

NOTES FROM A BEEKEEPER'S DIARY

It's been a worrying time for beekeepers and no less challenging for the bees what with the stop-go end of winter. Occasional warm days have tempted the bees to become more active, using up their food stores, while cold winds and heavy rain have put a stop to any serious attempts to get out and forage for scant nectar. We've had some colony losses over the winter, but happily a lot fewer than last year, and with more settled weather the bees have become more active, bringing pollen back to the hive from early spring flowers.

Pollen-gathering is a sure sign that bee queens are starting to lay eggs in empty cells in the wax comb as the larvae feed on the proteins found in pollen. They will grow into the next generation of worker bees, replacing the bees which kept the queen safe, warm and fed over the winter months. Initially they will all be female worker bees because there is no need yet for male drones. After 3 days the eggs will hatch into tiny larvae which are fed with the protein-rich bee milk from the glands in the head of the adult workers. For 6 days the larvae eat their fill and grow over 1500 times their original size before the cell is sealed for the next stage of the bees' development. Over the following 12 days the larvae will metamorphose from a helpless larva before emerging as a fully grown adult bee.

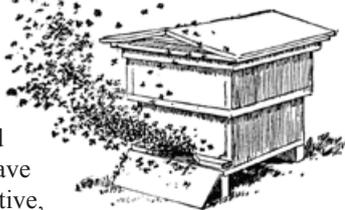
The surviving colonies are a reward for the beekeepers' work and care over the winter months, but the bees still need to be protected from other threats. Many of these are the result of human activity. The varroa mite is now endemic in Great Britain, having arrived in the early 1990s originally from the Far East. The mites feed on the body fluids of the larvae. Infected bees are smaller and weaker so are more susceptible to disease and viruses. Without treatment an infested colony will eventually collapse, so beekeepers have to be alert to any signs of Varroosis (the resulting disease that will eventually kill the entire bee colony) and take swift action as soon as possible. In the UK it is now assumed that all colonies have a varroa population, but over-use of the same remedy can risk building up a tolerance in the mites themselves, so beekeepers have to take steps to rotate types of treatments.

Bees are susceptible to over twenty other parasites, viruses and other pathogens. Most of these can be tolerated by the bees without causing any serious effects. Others are sufficiently serious to warrant notification to the National Bee Unit at DEFRA, and can lead to the destruction of the colony and incineration of the hive itself.

The Asian hornet was spotted for the first time in the UK in 2016. Smaller and darker than the European hornets we're used to here, the Asian hornet is a very serious predator, snatching bees (and all other insects!) out of the air and feeding on their dismembered body parts. A hornet occupies a position above a beehive as its hunting territory. It flies within an area of about half a square metre, scanning the direction from which foraging honeybees return to the hive. Each hornet vigorously defends its hunting territory, chasing off any rivals. However, as soon as it catches a bee, it flies off and another hornet replaces it, usually within a few seconds.

Asian Hornets can devastate all insect populations in areas in which they take hold. In France and Spain Asian hornets have decimated commercial apiaries because they were not recognised as a serious threat until too late. Beekeepers in the Channel Islands were more vigilant, but even so have struggled to keep them under control.

British beekeepers became aware of the danger only recently, when a queen was traced back to an imported consignment of cauliflowers,



and a campaign of awareness was initiated to identify and destroy their nests. There were 19 confirmed sightings in England between 2016 and 2020, including 10 nests, all of which were destroyed. Last year alone 72 nests were found and eliminated, but only time will tell whether our efforts will be successful.

In Asia the bees developed their own behavioural defences against the hornet. They avoid lingering in the danger area in front of the hive entrance. The bees also learned how to attack the hornets by forming a collective ball around the hornet and suffocating it. In Thailand beekeepers have noticed that honeybees smear animal faeces over the front of hives, possibly to confuse or deter hornets. In time our own bees may develop similar defensive strategies.

Closer to home our own bees have been under threat from human activity. As reported on page 7 of this issue of the BRN, hives in a local apiary were recently found upended with frames and bees scattered on the ground. It is difficult to comprehend why anyone would even think of carrying out such a wantonly stupid act of childish vandalism. One can only hope that those responsible hung around long enough admiring their handywork for the bees to inflict their own unique form of retribution.

Tony Rand



KENNY'S NEWS FROM SESAW



I almost missed the BRN deadline after reading about those scary Asian Hornets which are a huge threat to our native honey bees. Apparently people can use an 'app' on their mobile phones to report any sightings. I'm going to tell all our volunteers to watch out for them and download the app from the gov. uk website: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/identify-report-asian-hornet>

The birdsong, flowering bulbs and lighter evenings herald the arrival of spring but we have young animals from last summer awaiting homes. Kittens that were born after their abandoned pregnant mums were brought to us are growing up fast.

Our bonded pair of Saluki dogs are still waiting for a loving home with a comfy sofa to share together. Having seen their five puppies off, six year old Lily and three year old Grey think it's now time for them. If you, or someone you know, could be that special person to give them the home they deserve, please call or email.

Several new volunteers have joined us recently, following our appeals for help. Like most charities, we've struggled to get back to pre-Covid levels but we are gradually getting there.

Warmest wishes for a blessed Easter and don't forget to keep any chocolate eggs away from animals, particularly dogs like me, *Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua*.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 2024

25 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
26 TUE	Fireside Club - Perrywood Talk by Hannah Newton Village Hall	2pm
29 FRI	Pop-up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30-10:30pm

APRIL 2024

2 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society - Talk Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
3 WED	Boxford WI - Speaker : Hilly Ridge Alpacas Boxford Village Hall	2pm
6 SAT	Newton Village Litter Pick Newton Village Hall	8:30am
6 SAT	Newton PC Coffee Morning Newton Village Hall	10-11:30am
6 SAT	Talk - 'The Artist Who Couldn't Get Arrested' Brent Eleigh Village Hall	6:30pm
6 SAT	Leavenheath Cinema - 'Wonka' Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
6 SAT	BINGO! Polstead Village Hall	7pm
11-13 THU-SAT	Boxford Drama Group - 'Spirit Level' Boxford Village Hall	7pm
12 FRI	Quiz & Curry Evening Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
16 TUE	Polstead Gardening Club Polstead Village Hall	7:30pm
17 WED	Whist Drive Monks Eleigh Village Hall	7pm
17 WED	LWHS - 'Dissent, Riot and Rebellion' Parish Room, Little Waldingfield	7:30pm
19 FRI	Relaxation & Sound - all welcome Boxford Village Hall	6-7:30pm
19 FRI	Polstead Films- 'One Life' Polstead Village Hall	7pm
20 SAT	Coffee Morning in aid of St Nicholas Hospice Newton Village Hall	10am-12
20 SAT	Boxford Society - Charlie Haylock Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
22 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
23 TUE	Fireside Club 'It Shouldn't Happen to a Vicar' Newton Village Hall	2pm
26 FRI	Pop-up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30-10:30pm
27 SAT	Great Acton Book Sale All Saints' Church, Acton CO10 OBA	10-2pm
28 SUN	French's Care Haven Dog Walk The Fleece, Boxford	1:30pm
28 SUN	Madrigalia & A Melody of Harps Groton Church	3pm

MAY 2024

1 WED	Boxford WI - AGM Boxford Village Hall	2pm
4 SAT	Newton Village Hall Coffee Morning Newton Village Hall	10-11:30am
4 SAT	Happy Hour Concert - Organ Recital St Mary's, Boxford	6-7pm

4 SAT	Leavenheath Cinema - 'Joyride' Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
5 SUN	Shelley Charity Walk Shelley Centre, IP7 5QY	10am
7 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society - Talk Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
10 FRI	Relaxation & Sound - all welcome Boxford Village Hall	6-7:30pm
15 WED	LWHS - 'A Voyage through Rural Suffolk' Parish Room, Little Waldingfield	7:30pm
18 SAT	185th Hadleigh Show Holbecks Park, Hadleigh IP7 5PE	8:30am
20 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
23 THU	Boxford Parish Council APM Boxford Village Hall	7:45pm
25 SAT	Newton Fireside Club Coffee Morning Newton Village Hall	10-11:30am

JUNE 2024

2 SUN	Boxford Open Gardens Boxford & Edwardstone	11-4pm
4 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society - Talk Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
9 SUN	Little Waldingfield Open Gardens Little Waldingfield	TBC
14 FRI	Relaxation & Sound - all welcome Boxford Village Hall	6-7:30pm
22 SAT	Groton Midsummer Fayre Groton Croft	12-4pm
24 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm



HADLEIGH & BOXFORD PPG

Marathon Team: On 21st of this month, Dr Croot, Dr Dickinson, Kate Brett and Laura Pearson will be slogging out the miles, along with thousands of others, at the London Marathon. They are putting themselves through this challenging experience to raise money for two worthy causes: *Hospice UK* and *Crohn's and Colitis UK*. Your support would be very much appreciated and make all their weeks of preparation worthwhile.



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.

Keep or Cancel: If you wish to cancel an appointment there is no need to wait in the early morning telephone queue or even listen to all the options. As soon as you are connected press 5, give the requested information and your appointment will automatically be cancelled. This will enable someone else to take your place and save your precious time too.

Queries: If you just have a query and not booking an appointment call after 10am.

Non-Urgent Appointments: Avoid the early morning scramble by using Econsult. Available 24/7 and your requests will be dealt with promptly. This will also free up the line for more pressing appointment needs.

Blood Test Advice: Please drink lots of water before you come. Even our state-of-the-art vein finder can't detect veins in very dehydrated patients

Gareth Meredith Memorial Walk: This special day, last July, in memory of the late Gareth Meredith is still raising money for equipment in the Practice. Parents, Beryl and Alan Meredith, wish to make the walk an annual event as it was much enjoyed by all participants. See next month's magazine for details of donation and the next memorial walk.

Pharmacy First: Trained pharmacists at the town's pharmacies can now give advice on some common conditions without the need for a GP's appointment. It is hoped this will free up GP appointments for more serious health issues.

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

Measles Vaccination: As measles is on the increase parents are urged to have their children vaccinated. The MMR vaccine can protect youngsters from this unpleasant disease and mumps and rubella too. Fortunately, it is not age related so if you are an adult and have not been vaccinated it's not too late. Make an appointment asap.

Scones-R-Us: Do you bake delicious mouthwatering scones? Why not try your luck in our competition to find the best scone maker in town? Sweet or savoury: men, women and children all are welcome to enter. This is just a small part of a fun afternoon on Saturday 13th April from 2pm to 4pm in St Mary's to raise money for the London Marathon Team. Afternoon teas and some optional light-hearted challenges to win prizes.

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Marathon Donation: www.justgiving.com/team/teamhadleigh

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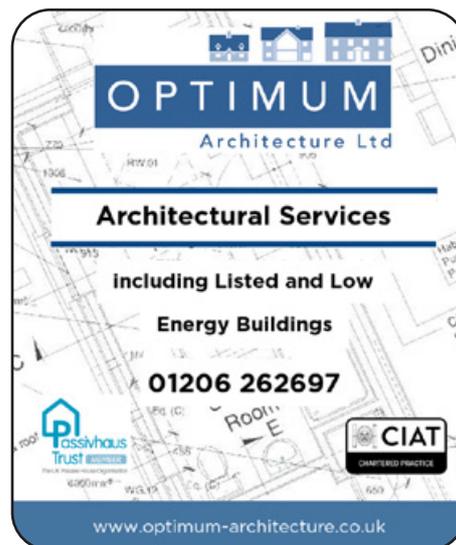
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