

August 2024

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green



Delivered free to every home in Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Little Waldingfield, Newton Green, Bower House Tye, Milden & White Street Green and available to residents in Acton, Assington, Brent Eleigh, Great Waldingfield, Hadleigh, Kersey, Lavenham, Leavenheath, Nayland, Polstead, Shelley, Semer, Stoke-by-Nayland, Sudbury and parents of children at Boxford School.





GROTON CROFT MIDSUMMER FAYRE

On Saturday 22nd June, local children and their families gathered for an afternoon of Midsummer festivities on beautiful Groton Croft. The celebrations opened with a spectacular Sunshine Parade, led by local musicians and a magnificent locally-made “Sun King”. Families gathered in golden costumes, made at workshops held in advance of the day - it was a sight to behold! Boxford Brownies delighted visitors with their Maypole dancing and the Green Dragon Morris ‘side’ put on a wonderful show and were inundated with people wanting to take part in their fantastic “have a go” sessions. Demand was so high that they promise to bring double the sticks next time!

Further jollities included myriad games (the giant sunshine slingshot proved very popular) and fantastic craft activities. Many beautiful flower crowns, clay creatures, leaf prints and cardboard creations were made. There were also lots of talented local makers and small businesses selling on the day, so there really was something for everyone to enjoy. The BBQ sizzled all afternoon and did a sterling job of keeping up with demand. The bar kept everyone well lubricated and the abundant cake tent and plentiful bric-a-brac table put a smile on everyone’s faces. Exuberant drum circles, several rounds of silly races, including wheelbarrow, sack and Mulberry and Spoon (a nod to Groton’s infamous ancient Mulberry tree) didn’t seem to tire attendees, who threw themselves into the tug-of-war finale with gusto. One lucky boy walked away with an impressive prize after out playing an arena full of adults at the “heads or tails” game - well done! A truly wonderful time was had by all.



The event was organised by Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust, who would like to extend sincere thanks to all those who came and to all the amazing and generous volunteers who worked together to make the Fayre a resounding success. It was a day of true community spirit and celebration, just as intended. The event would not have been possible without each and every one of them. Special mentions must go to Imogen Aldous for creative direction for the costume workshops and creation of the magnificent Sun King; Will Duke for his generous wine donation; Gareth & Sue Price for fantastic music; Janice Keith and the Boxford Brownies for resurrecting the Maypole dance; Dominic Kelsey for invaluable site planning; Antonio Farnese for his show-stopping cake; Jo Mathys and Heather Griffin for inspiring junk art; Simon Douglas for generous signage donation; Trevor Street for essential ground preparations; Charlie Partridge for bales and much practical support; Kate & Rob Beddis & Hector Bunting for set up/take down; Alistair Horne for magnificent ringmaster skills; Joe Allen for imagining and making the Fayre games, Bob Bowdidge for creating a glorious Maypole and thank you to Katie Partridge for the wonderful photos.

NEW BOXFORD BUS SERVICE

As many of you know our existing bus service provided by Beestons linking Sudbury and Hadleigh via Boxford had been under threat since Autumn of last year. Low numbers of travellers using the service resulted in the operation of this route not being viable for Beestons - a position which is understood from a business perspective. We are grateful for the support Beestons have given the village over past years.

Again, as a community we were able to persuade Suffolk County Council and Beestons to continue that service firstly to December last year, then to the end of March 2024 but then finally we had to accept that Beestons would be withdrawing the service as from July 20th this year.

Knowing that the service would eventually end, a small ‘Boxford Bus & Transport’ team was formed in the autumn of last year to seek to secure an ongoing bus service to serve Boxford, linking Hadleigh and Sudbury. The team comprised David Burden and Colin Parr - the team had the support of Boxford Parish Council, your district councillor and importantly your county councillor.

We are pleased to confirm that Boxford will continue to have a bus service as from 22nd July, the first working day following the cessation of service by Beestons. The new service will be provided by Chambers who are part of the Go Anglia Group - we are pleased that Chambers have agreed to come on board supported by funding from Suffolk County Council for the next 12 months.

By the time this short report is circulated, Chambers will have delivered a flyer to each and every household in our area informing of their services to be provided - there are some additional benefits for our community as a result of a change in bus company. The new Chambers Sudbury to Hadleigh timetable can be seen here: www.boxfordsuffolk.com/chambers.pdf

The service we have been able to negotiate for Boxford is not perfect - your team accepts that - but we have a service as opposed to no service which was the option facing us. The service put in place for the moment has been by Chambers utilising their currently available buses and drivers with due regard being given to their existing contracts. This has resulted in the most cost-effective operation for the present time.

It has also been agreed that Chambers and ourselves will be informed of numbers using the bus service each month - this will enable the service to be monitored and hopefully provide sound information for future development. We shall be striving to seek improvements in areas of timetabling, connectivity with other buses from Hadleigh and Sudbury and also with train times from Sudbury.

The positives going forward are that we do have a bus service, we will seek to improve it and we are at the negotiating table. Suffolk County Council, Chambers and ourselves have all agreed to consult with each other going forward.

Please feel free to contact us,

David Burden & Colin Parr

d.burden379@btinternet.com / colinparr@btinternet.com

Box River News

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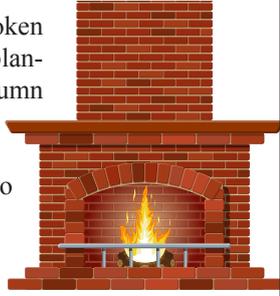
Deadline date for the September 2024 Issue is:

August 15th at midday

NEWTON FIRESIDE CLUB

As you are reading this, we will have broken up for the summer holiday. However, planning is already well underway for the autumn session and the dates are listed below. Hopefully, the weather will improve and there will be long days of sunshine to enjoy.

We did have one of the better days of the summer so far for our Suffolk Day cream tea. We had an excellent turnout as we were joined by the



Newton Art & Craft Club. We had many kind donations of scones and jam, the good china was dusted off, and we had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. A big thank you to everyone who donated food and to those who helped to set up and clear away.

On the 2nd July, we went to The Hare in Long Melford for our end of year lunch. 22 members and friends attended and all agreed that the food was excellent and a lively time was had by all.



Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.

AUTUMN 2024 PROGRAMME

- Tues 3rd Sept Club AGM and Cheese & Wine*
- Tues 17th Sept Brian Furlow Entertains with Music Hall Tunes
- Tues 1st Oct Bingo
- Tues 15th Oct Music of the 50s & 60s
- Tues 5th Nov Firework Celebrations
- Tues 19th Nov Beetle Drive
- Tues 3rd Dec Talk by Kirsten Marshall from GCB Chocolate Factory, Glemsford
- Tues 17th Dec Christmas Dinner

*Fees for the term will be collected at the AGM

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. Usually 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

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

The current Trustees are:

- Alan Vince** *Chair, Treasurer & Bookings*
- 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 four 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.

There will be two social events in the village hall over the next few months. This is an attempt to resurrect the many enjoyable evenings held in the hall in the past. We really hope we can rely on your support.

On the Saturday 14th September, we will be joined by Philip Lyons, who will entertain us with facts and songs on 'A Sailor's Life'. This will be followed by a light supper. The evening will start at 7pm and tickets are £10. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets are available from the village hall trustees.

On Saturday 19th October, Ged and Paul will be hosting another popular quiz. Tickets will be £12 and include a ploughman's supper. They will be on sale nearer the time, but please put the date in your diary.

The remainder of this year's coffee morning dates are:

- 28th September** *McMillan*
- 26th October** *Newton Charities*
- 16th November** *Village Hall*

All coffee mornings are from 10am until 11:30am. Donations for the cake/savoury stall, bric-a-brac, books or plants and raffle prizes are most welcome.

You will always receive a warm welcome and great refreshments.

GROTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Registered Charity No. 1118325

The trustees will meet on 5th September at Mary's House, Swan Street, Boxford to consider applications for grant aid for educational or training purposes from residents of Groton and those parts of Boxford included in the 'area of benefit', i.e. Homefield, the east side of Swan Street and pockets of land in Stone Street - those parts which were included in the Tithe Map of Groton 1881.

We hope that newcomers will be made aware of the charity by those who have themselves benefited from grants. There is no means testing.

Applications may also be made by organisations serving the area. Recent grants have included help towards the costs of university and courses in law and music, travel fares to a sixth-form college and specialist sports coaching.

Details and application forms are available from Stephen Watkins, Clerk to the Trustees, Whitewebbs, Daisy Green, Groton, CO10 5EN, tel 01787 210977, stephen_watkins49@yahoo.co.uk

Completed forms should be returned by 30th August.

RECLAIM THE RAIN

We're thrilled to share with you some photos of the monitoring devices we installed last month in Boxford.



These devices are now actively recording how the surface water catchment responds to rainfall events in real-time. This data collection will continue until the project's completion in 2027, providing a clear evidence base on the catchment before and after project delivery. We kindly ask for your continued help in respecting this equipment to ensure we can continue to record accurate data.



In other exciting news, we're pleased to announce upcoming work to Boxford village hall! This work includes the construction of a rain garden at the front of the building. The rain garden has been designed with the purpose of capturing and intercepting rainfall from the existing roof area and downpipes during storm events. The creation of this rain garden not only offers flood risk benefits to the immediate surrounding hardstanding, but also reduces pressure on the drainage network, and demonstrates the opportunity to reuse water on local infrastructure and community assets. The rain garden will be planted with flood and drought-resistant plants, adding aesthetic value to the area, and performing sustainable water management in Boxford.

We hope that this rain garden will provide an attractive and enjoyable space for all to share. This project is set to be delivered later this year, so if you see contractors at the village hall, know it's for this reason, and if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

Best wishes,
Ruby and Sian



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NATURAL BOXFORD

Wildlife on our doorstep at Bower House Farm

In late June a group from Natural Boxford spent a beautiful Saturday morning at Bower House Farm courtesy of Alan and Sue Keeble, the current custodians of this very special piece of prime Suffolk farmland. The farm is unusual in being an integral piece of land encompassing parts of Boxford, Kersey and Polstead parishes – 800 acres ring-fenced which means that a coherent farming practice can be implemented. Over the last 20 years the aim has been to farm in harmony with nature resulting in a Higher Level Stewardship agreement and being part of the Stour Valley Landscape Recovery scheme.



Alan took us through a network of wooded areas, green lanes and wildflower glades: there are around a million trees on the land including ancient bluebell woods. We had a talk from Zoe Goldsmith, an ecologist working in conjunction with Suffolk Wildlife, who has been studying the rare and protected hazel dormice who are maintaining a stable population in ancient woodlands on the farm over many years. She was there for a biannual check-up on the resident dormouse population. We viewed an empty nest box which Alan has enhanced by adding a waterproof slate roof and learnt that dormice nest twice a year: once in early summer higher up to rear their young, and then lower down, even amongst tree roots, to hibernate over winter.



Since the so-called 'green' revolution in the 1970s most farming has been petro-chemical based with intensive use of pesticides and fertilisers devastating wildlife populations. At Bower House Farm chemical use has been reduced as much as possible within this style of crop production and the buzz of insects and richness of birdsong is noticeable. Alan leaves four metre field margins, around forty miles in all, as well as sowing plots specifically to feed the birds with seed

rich species. There are four pairs of nesting barn owls and visiting flocks of lapwings, as well as yellowhammers and nightingales – rare these days. The farm is also starting to explore crop diversification which adds to biodiversity and overall health of the land. Did you know that organic quinoa, lentils and chickpeas are all being grown successfully in East Anglia? (Available for purchase via <https://hodmedods.co.uk>)

The farm has a small herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle in residence who were very contentedly munching on their rich pasture when we visited whilst naturally fertilising the land as they browsed!

There are five ponds and a lake on the farm, and many will be

familiar with the new cricket bat willow plantation on the south western corner of the farm. It is planned to enhance that already boggy area to a more managed wetland providing valuable and rare habitat as well as contributing to retaining water in the land. This is crucial for alleviating our current flood/drought cycles by flattening peak flows as rainwater rushes away causing flooding, and, preventing the land drying out during low rainfall periods.

We all found the visit inspiring. A big thank you to Alan and Sue for inviting us, and to Zoe for sharing her dormouse expertise.

East Anglia has many examples of farmers innovating and finding ways to maintain their livelihoods in challenging times for food producers, whilst implementing nature friendly methodology. Shimpling Park Farms are a regenerative collaboration, Wakelyns employs agroforestry, and there are many small farms pioneering organic, mixed and biodynamic food production and local supply chains. It feels a life-affirming direction for our food systems to be moving in amidst these times of environmental challenge.

Himalayan Balsam update: we have cleared some areas and are noticing a significant spread this year probably as a result of flooding. Efforts to clear continue as damage limitation is key. The Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust will have tackled the area south of the Wash by the time you read this. We are mapping where it is present and plan to start earlier next year! Look out for volunteer opportunities and please contact us if you have areas on your land you would like help clearing.

We have a visit from Suffolk Wildlife Trust's river expert soon – more to share next time. In the meantime The Big Butterfly Count is on from July 12th to August 4th so still time to get involved.

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org>

Wishing all an enjoyable summer,
Louise and the Natural Boxford group.

Boxford Calendar 2025!
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in next year's calendar
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By 15th September 2024

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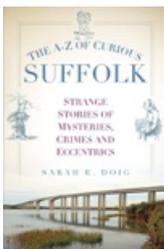
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GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

As I mentioned in last month's BRN, we have booked Sarah Doig to come and talk with us on 20th September, on the subject of 'The A-Z of Curious Suffolk: strange stories of mysteries, crimes and eccentrics'. As this is our very first event we are making it free of charge to attend. To attend please email me to book your seats for what should be a fascinating talk from Sarah. Additionally you can just turn up on the night. The event is open to anyone in the BRN community, so come along! The event will start at 7:30pm in Groton village hall. We will be providing some limited refreshments eg. a glass of wine, to help us celebrate our very first event.



80 Years ago in August 1944:

Paris is liberated intact, The Falaise Pocket effectively sees the end of the Battle for Normandy, slightly ahead of schedule, with a substantial part of the German forces either killed or captured. Much debate continues as to why and how it was not a complete destruction.

Continuing our journey with the 1st Battalion of the Suffolks, we see them engage in another major battle at the Tinchebray-Vire crossroads. They encountered a strong German defensive position with well-concealed machine guns and heavy mortars, sighted in to the approaches. Like Chateau de la Londe in July, they suffered very heavy casualties again here at Tinchebray, adding to the previous losses at Hillman, De la Londe and Sanneville. Just over two months since landing at Sword Beach, with almost continuous action in the front line, the 1st Suffolks had suffered almost 100% casualties (killed or wounded or missing in action). Interestingly Mortars accounted for the largest amount of Allied casualties across the many battlefields.

This casualty rate was a pattern all across the Allied front lines on the units who landed on 6th June! The Allied effort was only able to continue due to the ready stream of re-enforcements and supplies flooding off the beaches. Whilst the Allied forces were increasingly operating significantly under-strength units, the German forces were much, much worse. How did they not know it was all over?! Sadly Von Stauffenberg missed on 20th July resulting in Hitler and the surviving German Generals now digging in and defending every metre. The chance had gone.

Other key August events in History:

4th August 1693: Dom Pierre Perignon invented Champagne... lets raise a glass to him this month!

6th / 9th August 1945: The first and second atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war with Japan and kickstarting the MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction) deterrence doctrine with the Soviet Union that still holds today.

8th August 1963: The Great Train Robbery, robbers stole £2.6m from the Royal Mail (equivalent to about £60m in today's money)

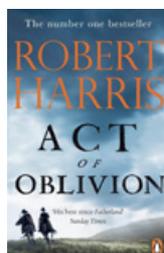
22nd August 1485: King Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, turning up centuries later in 2012 in a carpark in Leicester.

31st August 1900: The first sale of Coca Cola in Britain occurred. So, we top and tail August in history with fizz!

Recommended Reading, Listening and Viewing:

'Act of Oblivion' by Robert Harris. The story of the hunt for egicides in New England in 1660. A John Winthrop appears in the story! <https://amzn.to/3y19vJj>

'A Thousand Ships' by Natalie Haynes. The Trojan War seen through the eyes and destinies



of the leading women involved. Really fascinating alternative perspective into the Iliad and the Odyssey. <https://amzn.to/3zJp09i>

'White Heat: A History of Britain in the Swinging Sixties' by Dominic Sandbrooke. Some Harold Wilson lessons for Kier Starmer perhaps?! <https://amzn.to/4bPXpAC>

'Helen of Troy' podcast series from *The Rest is History* podcast channel with Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook. Was she for real?

'The American Revolution' podcast series from *Empire* podcast, with Anita Anand and William Dalrymple. Key to understanding USA today!

'A House through Time' on BBC iPlayer with David Olusoga. Wonderful insights into social history through the life of specific houses.

'Oppenheimer' The film by Christopher Nolan. Provides the backdrop and history behind the August 1945 bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As ever, we are very keen to hear from anyone who has stories or documentation of people and living in Groton through the ages. Please get in touch if you have anything that we could research and learn from.

I hope this monthly article reaches the parts of your history fascinations that other articles do not reach. And to that end let me pose a 'What if?' for you to ponder until next time. What if King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon had been blessed with a surviving son? What would be different today?

Don't forget, email me if you want to reserve your free seats for the 20th September Talk by Sarah Doig.

Nigel Chapman

nigeljchap@gmail.com

GROTON PEOPLE & PLACES PLAN

We attended the fabulous Midsummer Fayre on The Croft, to share the latest draft housing policies with the Groton community. I would like to thank the many people who came to talk to us and complete the draft policy questionnaire. We will be having another two sessions at Groton village hall on 3rd and 12th September from 7:30 - 9:30pm. Please come along and have your say on the draft housing policies for Groton.

I would like to make specific mention of the overwhelming success of the Midsummer Fayre on The Croft. I have had numerous people mention how much they really enjoyed the event despite the downpours and how great it was to see the community and families enjoying The Croft. Huge congratulations to the organisers and the Croft Trust, and along with many, many others, hoping this is the start of more events like this!

On a separate subject we have had the final speed survey results for the Swan Street stretch just below the Fox & Hounds pub. Whilst the other two results are within acceptable boundaries, this one not surprisingly confirms the danger posed here. Over 60% of car journeys are at speeds above 30mph, with 26% above 35mph! This latter statistic equates to an average of just under 300 car journeys a week in either direction.

Groton parish council reviewed these results at a recent council meeting and are investigating the options for any potential mitigating actions that could be taken. One option could be the utilisation of a Community Speed Watch Team.... Would you be interested in being part of this volunteer team? If so please contact me by email.

Nigel Chapman

nigeljchap@gmail.com



Elaine Carpenter

N.R.H.P., C.H.P., Dip Psychology

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THE BUTCHER'S WIFE

It's been an eventful few weeks in the Leeder house. The Butcher and I are now proud grandparents to our very first grandchild. We are completely over the moon with the tiniest Leeder and we are enjoying our new role as Granny and Grandad!



When I first held the mini Leeders after they were born, I was immediately in love with them. I knew them and the love I had for them was instantly unconditional. I knew that there was nothing they could ever do that would make me stop loving them and fighting for them. I wasn't sure I would feel the same with a grandchild, as he wasn't my baby. I needn't have worried. The first time I held him, I knew that if we were ever held at gunpoint, I would use the mini Leeders as a human shield to protect that baby. I love him MORE than my own children, which I never thought possible.

I found the whole thing rather emotional, much to the Butcher's amusement. The day of the tiny Leeder's arrival, we went to see them all in hospital. Afterwards the Butcher and I planned to stop off at a pub for dinner. When we left the hospital, I cried. I cried all the way to the pub and I ordered my crispy chicken burger through tears. The waitress looked concerned and I tried to explain they were happy tears. The Butcher interrupted me and told her we were on our first date and he didn't think it was going very well!

Hilariously, a few days later, when my emotions had calmed down and the mere mention of tiny Leeder didn't make me burst into tears, the Butcher was in his office doing paperwork. He had gone very quiet and I went to see what he was doing. I found him sitting at his desk looking at pictures of the tiniest Leeder, crying his eyes out!

It's incredible watching your own baby become a parent. It wasn't that long ago I was having to remind the mini Leeder to have a shower and now he is responsible for a whole other person. But man, what a great job they are both doing, we are bursting with pride!

On that note, I'm going to take a break next month. I will be enjoying the summer with my new grandbaby but don't worry, I'll be back in the October issue!



Triple Cheese & Onion Muffins

Ingredients (Makes 12)

- 150ml olive oil
- 1 bunch spring onions, diced
- 1 egg
- Small bunch of chives, chopped
- 284ml buttermilk, made up to 350ml with milk
- 25g parmesan, grated
- 500g self-raising flour
- 200g soft cheese, cut into 2cm cubes
- 1sp English mustard powder
- 140g mature cheddar, grated
- 1tsp salt

Method

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan and oil a 12 hole muffin tin.
2. Whisk the oil, egg and buttermilk.
3. In a separate bowl, mix the flour, salt and mustard powder, then stir in the cheddar, spring onions, chives and half the parmesan.
4. Use a large spoon to gently fold the wet ingredients into the dry, don't over mix, just lightly combine.
5. With the final few folds, mix in the soft cheese cubes.
6. Spoon the mixture into the muffin tin (they will be quite full) and scatter the remaining parmesan on top.
7. Bake for 25 minutes.

This recipe is from bbcgoodfood.com

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FROM THE BOX RIVER BENEFICE

I'm Maggie Cogan and am part of the Box River Benefice Ministry Team of which I am very proud. You're probably thinking, *who is this person?* Well, here is a potted history of my life. I was born in Beckenham and grew up with my parents and elder sister. I was a bit of a pickle at school but loved every moment of it. I even kept in contact with my headmistress visiting her in her home in Devon whenever I could. I was very lucky to win a scholarship to the Royal Ballet Upper School in London. Such an amazing time but very hard work. I married, and that ended my career. It wouldn't happen in today's world. I moved to Suffolk with my three daughters. I had my own ballet school in Bures which was great fun, and I made several career moves. From St Helena Hospice – to Social Services and, back to teaching after taking another degree. I was Head of RE at Holmwood House School until I decided that at last, I should answer God's call to train for Reader Ministry. As I had taught RE, the Bishop allowed me to complete the training in two years, not three, but without a break.

I always knew that God was calling me to a specific ministry, the ministry of bereavement and allowing me the privilege of walking with people at this time in their lives. When I talked to children about dying and what follows I always tried to associate it with the writing of a letter. When we are conceived it is the start of that letter. When born the letter is given a name, "Dear." That letter continues to be written throughout the life. It cannot be rewritten but mistakes can be rectified. Finally, that letter will end and the spirit of the person will be forever with our loving God. We are then left with the envelope, which we must love and cherish as well as the spirit. That envelope is the funeral which must be done with dignity and respect. It is at this time that families need the most love and support.

Christians believe that physical death opens the way to a new life in God's presence. We can have confidence in a bigger story because Jesus has gone through it before us.

John's vision in the book of Revelation points us towards God's new heaven and earth, where death and mourning, crying and pain will be no more. The confusion, sorrow and even anger which we feel in response to death will not be part of our new life in God's presence.

Amidst our grief our Christian faith gives us hope and assurance that this is not the end. Through Jesus, God promises us life beyond our earthly experience.

Most of us will have experienced the death of a loved one and experienced the pain of grief first-hand or in supporting others close to us. For a long time, our society has somehow conspired to silence talk about death or about dying; it has been a closed subject which many are frightened to broach but long to talk about.

Death is an unavoidable part of life. But our Christian faith is that this is not the end. There is life beyond our earthly experience. Throughout the Bible we are assured of this. In his encounter with Mary following the death of Lazarus, Jesus reassures her, *'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.'* And later, in John's account of the last supper, Jesus tells his disciples, *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?'* (John 14:1-7).

During November, the traditional month of Remembrance, the Box River Benefice holds a special Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for the loved ones who have died. The service allows those who mourn the opportunity to remember and give thanks for the lives of the family and friends they have lost, and to come together with others who are also experiencing the pain of grief. The service consists of hymns and readings and the names of loved ones. We, in the Box River Benefice are always here for you in times of grief and pain.

ST MARY'S – A CHURCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Boxford is a perfect English village, and as with any perfect village, an ancient church is usually at the centre. Boxford is no different and while our church is certainly impressive, we can probably all agree that for a modern user it offers few of the comforts that we would expect today. We'd love to hear your views at the Public Consultation Day: **3rd August 4-6pm.**



In order for St Mary's to best serve our community and be more financially sustainable, the Parochial Church Council is seeking to improve a number of the Church's facilities, while remaining sensitive to the historic building, its setting and its core function as a place of prayer and worship. St Mary's is for everyone although at present the basic facilities and lack of comfort mean that its use is very limited. If the Church is better equipped and more accessible, then it can be opened up to many more uses and become a genuine hub for a range of community activities.

The planned improvements include:

- Accessible step-free access;
- Toilet facilities;
- A kitchen;
- Improved heating, insulation and thermal efficiency;
- Flexible meeting and event space.

Following a tendering process, OWL Architects were appointed to work up potential options to address these aspirations, with the intention of gaining accurate estimated costs. This work is going to be significant, and fundraising is going to make up a large part of the costs, both from grant-giving trusts and from our local community.

A phased approach will be likely, as working on a Grade I listed building like St Mary's involves many stakeholders, of which the community of Boxford is one of the most important. These plans to improve the Church are to benefit all of our community, and a consultation day is scheduled at **St Mary's for 3rd August from 4-6pm**, when everyone is welcome to come and see what is planned, and to offer feedback. Please do come along – we'd love to hear your views.

Bates Wells & Braithwaite



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- Commercial property - Commercial German legal services
- Employment - Environmental Law -
- Estates, trusts and wills - Family and children
- Farming and rural business affairs
- Health and safety - Licensing - Litigation/mediation
- Residential property - Rural business affairs

Bates Wells & Braithwaite Solicitors

- 27 Friars Street Sudbury CO10 2AD
- T: 01787 880440 E: solicitors@bwblegal.com

Essential Eyes

Make the most of your eyes, with longer-looking lashes and a beautifully-shaped brow. They're the window to your soul, after all!

Achieve that professional, polished look this month with our shaping and tinting combo. Have your lashes tinted and your brows tinted and shaped for just £20 (usually £25) with our **Essential Eyes Package**. Your eyebrows will look neater and more defined and your lashes will look darker and longer, without the need for makeup - great for those no-mascara days or holidays!

And this month, for added WOW factor and 4-6 weeks of curled lashes, add a **lash lift** and get the whole package for £50 (a saving of £20).



Summer Lashes Special

Our Essential Eyes Package
(eyelash tint and eyebrow shape & tint) just £20
or include a lash lift and pay just £50*

Call: 01787 211 000 to book

* Offer valid once per person, until 31/08/2024. If new to tinting, you'll need a tint test at least 24 hours prior to treatment.

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

Tel: 01787 211 000 www.suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk





SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2024



Sunday 4th August <i>Trinity 10</i>	09:30	<i>Morning Praise</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>Morning Praise</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 7th August	10:00	<i>Morning Prayer & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 11th August <i>Trinity 11</i>	09:30	<i>Morning Praise</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	<i>Morning Praise</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	17:00	<i>BCP Evensong</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 14th August	10:00	<i>Morning Prayer & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 18th August <i>Trinity 12</i> <i>The Blessed Virgin Mary,</i> <i>(transferred from 15th May)</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 21st August	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
Sunday 25th August <i>Trinity 13</i>	08:00	<i>BCP Holy Communion</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	11:00	<i>Morning Praise</i>	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	<i>Family Service</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 28th August	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Mary's House, 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 the Benefice Office

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**HARVEST
CREAM TEA**

SUNDAY
6th OCTOBER 2024

AT
3.00 PM

**NEWTON GREEN
VILLAGE HALL**

TICKETS ONLY £10
TO BOOK YOUR TICKET
PLEASE CALL FIONA ON
01787 377630

THE HISTORY OF SPOKEN ENGLISH BY CHARLIE HAYLOCK



Friday, 13th September
Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30 pm

Edwardstone Village Hall

ADMISSION - £10.00 BAR & RAFFLE

Contact Ineke Morris for tickets: 01787 210761 or 07765 098864

Proceeds to go to our Church, St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone



The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - AUGUST

- Fri 2nd 10:30am** *Coffee Morning, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield*
Tues 6th 10am *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House, Boxford*
Tue 13th 10am *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House, Boxford*
Sat 17th 10am *Coffee Morning, St Mary's, Boxford*
Tue 20th 10am *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*
Mon 26th 11am *Suffolk Villages Festival - The World of Baroque Flute, St Mary's, Boxford*
Tue 27th 10am *Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*

LIFE EVENTS AT THE BOX RIVER BENEFICE

Our churches have been at the heart of their villages for over 1000 years. They continue to be here today for all the ups and downs of life and are with you for the entire journey.

Our churches and ministerial team offer Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Confession & Spiritual Counsel, House Blessings, Healing Ministry, End of Life Ministry and Funerals. Please contact the Benefice Office for further information or have a look at our website: - www.boxriverbenefice.com.

AN EVENING WITH CHARLIE HAYLOCK

Raising funds for St Mary the Virgin Church, Edwardstone

We are delighted to be welcoming Charlie to Edwardstone Village Hall on Friday, 13th September, doors open at 7 for 7:30pm, tickets are £10, available from Ineke on 01787 210761, we anticipate tickets will sell fast, so please reserve yours today!

Charlie will show us how the seeds of spoken English were first set, how each invading force affected the English language, how Shakespeare was really spoken, how the Italian Renaissance influenced our language and a whole lot more. Join us for a very informative and highly entertaining evening, including a dialect tour of the British Isles.

SUFFOLK VILLAGES FESTIVAL

Monday 26th August at 11am, Suffolk Villages Festival presents: **The World of the Baroque Flute**. Noemi Gyori Baroque *flute* & Paul Nicholson *harpsichord*

The Baroque flute came of age in the early eighteenth century as cultivated music lovers all over Europe took it up with enthusiasm, spurred on by the wonderful music composed for it by the leading composers of the time. This informal recital, introduced by the performers, features sonatas by: JJ Quantz (Frederick the Great's flute teacher) and CPE Bach (the king's harpsichordist), as well as JS Bach's Sonata in B minor with obbligato harpsichord, one of the greatest Baroque flute works. There will also be music from the court of Louis XIV at Versailles: by Jacques Hotteterre and harpsichord music by François Couperin. Noemi Gyori, a much sought-after international flautist with six solo albums to her credit, is now emerging as a leading exponent of the Baroque flute. Paul Nicholson gave up a flourishing career as a harpsichordist and organist (including several visits to SVF in its early years) to become a priest. We are pleased to welcome him back after his recent retirement from the church.

Tickets: £15 reserved, £12 unreserved (half-price to those under 30) available online: www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com or by phoning the box office: 01206 543417 or on the door (subject to availability)



BOXRIVER BENEFICE COFFEE MORNINGS

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

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

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

EVERYONE WELCOME
JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND A CHAT

ST. BART'S GROTON
PRESENTS

ABBA THEMED GARDEN PARTY

at
PRIMROSE COTTAGE
GROTON
on
SATURDAY
17TH AUGUST
3-5PM

Entrance £5 to include
Cream Scone & Tea

Raffle, Tombola, Stalls,
ABBA fancy dress
competition for children,
croquet/bowling for the pig

There will be a presentation
of dressage to Abba Music.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

An 8 week course on Monday afternoons 2.30-4:30pm
Meeting in Groton Village Hall, CO10 5EL
Starting on Monday October 14th 2024

Only Connect

Tutor Mr Steve Trerise

All the works read are social novels and one play.

They confront, with varying directness, the political and social changes of their times. Each writer confronts these changes with different degrees of tolerance and, or, acceptance.

October 14 th	The Old Wives' Tale	<i>Arnold Bennett 1908</i>
October 21 st	The Old Wives' Tale	<i>(Penguin edition)</i>
October 28 th	Reading Week	
November 4 th	Howard's End	<i>E. M. Forster 1910</i>
November 11 th	Howard's End	<i>(Penguin edition)</i>
November 18 th	Strife - a play	<i>John Galsworthy 1909</i> <i>(available Abe books)</i>
November 25 th	Reading Week	
December 2 nd	Coming Up for Air	<i>George Orwell 1939</i> <i>(Penguin edition)</i>
December 9 th	One Fine Day	<i>Mollie Panter-Downes 1947</i> <i>(Virago edition)</i>
December 16 th	Selected Poetry	<i>to be provided</i>

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

Newcomers to these classes are very welcome.

Further information from:
Mr David Jones 01787 211104.

THE GREAT SNAIL RACE



Tickets £4

**from Jill (07879 787594)
or Jane (07909 875892)**

**Bring your own food and drink
Tea, coffee and light snacks for sale**

**Raising funds towards a toilet and servery in St Matthew's Church
Organised by Friends of St Matthew's**



WHO ARE WE?

For the answer, simply click the QR code below which will take you direct to our website www.TASstourvalley.org.uk

On it you will find full details of the Arts Society, it's membership & the monthly illustrated talks plus other events which we offered during September to June.

Or you can contact: info@TASstourvalley.org.uk quoting **BRN**

WATCH THIS SPACE for the launch of our new autumn programme in SEPTEMBER with talks covering such subjects as Painting & Photography; The Golden Age of Spanish Painting, & The Royal History of the Royal School of Needlework



GREAT SNAIL RACE

Leavenheath Village Hall, Saturday 21 September 7pm.

The big wooden snails are back in training and excitement is rising! Tickets only £4. Bring your own food and drink as well as your family and friends for a great evening's entertainment. Tea, coffee and light snacks will be for sale.

Contact Jill 07879 787594 or Jane 07909 875892 for tickets or more information.

BIG DAY SMALL COUNTRY

A day of live British Americana & Soul

A charity event in an exclusive location set by the River Stour, Lower Street, Stratford St Mary

Featuring UK Americana Association Award Winners: Hannah White & Robbie Cavanagh.

Also: Mike Mayfield, Jax&Co (a tribute to Johnny Cash), The Podgy Lodgers, DJ Sasha Lawrence

Sunday 25th August, 1pm till midnight

Tickets £30 pp from
<https://bigdaysmallcountry.eventbrite.com>

Food, wine and Pimms Bar. Bring your own chairs and tables and you are welcome to bring your own food and drink.

All proceeds to the Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding



**BOXFORD
GARDENING SOCIETY**

Tim Wreghitt

Consultant Virologist at Addenbrooks

**A PATHOLOGIST AT CHELSEA -
ALLERGIES, INTOLERANCES AND POISONS**



**Tuesday 6th August 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall**



Fleece Jazz at
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

The Oddgeir Berg Trio

Wednesday 14th August 2024 8pm - Tickets: £20



Electro-acoustic jazz with one leg in melancholy, the other in ecstasy. Shares a clarity, intimacy and a hint of tonal melancholy with that other Scandinavian piano trio, EST.

Oddgeir Berg – Piano
Audun Ramo – Bass
Lars Berntsen – Drums

Tony Kofi and the Organisation

Wednesday 28th August 2024 8pm - Tickets: £20



With his full-toned fluency in the company of a rootsy organ trio, Tony Kofi returns to preach the blues. Balanced, fresh and from the heart.

Tony Kofi – Baritone Sax
Liam Dunachie – Hammond Organ
Simon Fernsby – Guitar
Peter Cater – Drums

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)

***Friends of Fleece Jazz discount**

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

Quiz Night

Little Waldingfield Parish Room

Saturday September 21st 2024

7.30pm prompt start

£12.50 per person, with two course meal

(Please bring your own drinks)

Max 4 persons per team

New quizmaster ◊ Raffle

Bookings: Sue Bowen 07962 210359

sd.bowen@btopenworld.com

A SAILOR'S LIFE

**SATURDAY 21ST
SEPTEMBER**

7.00 PM

AN EVENING OF SONGS AND
ENTERTAINMENT FROM PHILIP LYONS

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

LIGHT SUPPER INCLUDED

TICKETS: £10

AVAILABLE FROM VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

SUMMER CRAFT FAIR & BBQ

Winston's Wheels are once again fundraising at the Bull Hotel's Summer Craft Fair & BBQ in Long Melford on **Saturday 17th August from 11am til 3pm.**

We will be selling collectables plus running a super tombola with brilliant prizes. Please join us to support disabled dogs. Thank you!

COME AND SUPPORT OUR WARRIOR LEO

LEO'S LIONS

FREE ADMISSION

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024

HALSTEAD FOOTBALL CLUB



OUR FOOTBALL LOVING BOY LEO, HAS A RARE GENETIC MUTATION (KCNB1). HE IS 3 YEARS OLD AND HAS A LIFE LONG CONDITION THAT AFFECTS HIS MOBILITY, SPEECH & EPILEPSY. WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE AIM TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO HELP WITH EQUIPMENT, PHYSIO & OTHER THERAPIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KCNB1 PLEASE VISIT KCNB1.ORG

Scan to donate



GATES OPEN: 11AM
KICK OFF: 12PM

CAKE STALL

LICENSED BAR

RAFFLE PRIZES TO BE WON

LEO'S JOURNEY

We'd like you to meet our beautiful little son Leo, and tell you a bit about the challenges he's faced in his life journey so far.

Born via an emergency c-section at 36 weeks in Jan 2021, the first 3 months of Leo's life were spent in our Little Waldingfield lockdown bubble. As a baby we noticed he was sleeping a lot, he wasn't smiling, lifting his head or reaching out. We started to notice he would absently stare at nothing for prolonged periods but when we raised our concerns to professionals we were told not to worry. It was a pattern that re-occurred frustratingly over the next year, but at 16 months we managed to get a referral to see a paediatric consultant.

By this stage Leo was clearly delayed in his development and testing showed he had a KCNB1 gene mutation that explained his lethargy and lack of progress. He started to have seizures as well and again we struggled to get professionals to take it seriously.

Fast forward to 2.5 years old and we finally managed to arrange for a 4-day EEG testing service to confirm his condition. Everything meant that his development was still very delayed and he had issues with speech and mobility as well as sensory concerns. Now at 3.5 years old he is able to sit up, crawl and stand in his walker, making great progress. He is still very delayed and we are still navigating his epilepsy but Leo lights up every room and brings so much joy to people. He loves to say "Hello" - often bringing a smile to a complete stranger. He loves balls, balloons and bubbles, dancing to music and adores affection and cuddles.



Words cannot describe how we feel about Leo. He is our warrior and he brings so much joy to us despite his issues. He deserves so much more from his life than the hand he's been dealt so far. However, we need to continue to support his medical care and development, and the therapies are prohibitively expensive for us. We are organising a charity football match to try and raise some money to help pay for all his equipment and physio, and we would love as many people to attend as possible.

It will be held on Sunday 8th September at Halstead FC and will be free admission. A bar is available, cake stand and there will also be raffle prizes to be won!

Thank you for reading about Leo, we hope you will be able to support him as he tries to deal with his condition. We will continue to be his voice and celebrate every milestone no matter how small.

Hannah Taylor

HADLEIGH & BOXFORD PPG

Out of Hours Doctor: Need a doctor when the Health Centre is closed, including weekend? Call 111 for advice and details of your nearest 'out of hours' duty doctor.

Queries: If you just have a query and are not booking an appointment call after 10am and not at 8am when the line is at its busiest.

Non-Urgent Appointments: Avoid the early morning scramble by using Econsult. Available 24/7 and your requests will be dealt within 48 hours. This will also free up the line for more pressing appointment needs.

Website Improvements: Have you visited the updated 'new look' Practice website lately? You will be surprised how much useful information can be found there. If you have a long-standing aversion to IT why not overcome your misgivings and give it a try in the peaceful surroundings of Hadleigh Library. On the first Thursday of every month a representative from Babergh District Council is there to help people get online and develop their digital skills. Why wait? You are never too old to get to grips with an iPad, mobile or a computer. Next beginners' IT sessions 1st Aug ust and 5th Sept.

Repeat Prescriptions: At the practice dispensary please allow 3 working days for these to be processed. Pharmacies outside the practice have their own timetable. www.hadleighhealth.co.uk/repeat-prescriptions

Clinical Pharmacists: They are a new addition to the Healthcare Team. Qualified and designed to help GP's with the medication they prescribe and subsequent follow up with their patients.

Health & Wellbeing: 'Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'. This profound statement can be found in The World Health Organization's (WHO) constitution which was adopted in 1948. It is just as relevant today but do we take care of the non-health aspects of our wellbeing? Fortunately, there is a myriad of clubs, groups and societies in Boxford for all interests and age groups, to say nothing of one-off events most weekends. Whatever your age there is no need to feel isolated or lonely with so many welcoming groups on your doorstep. The Box River News gives you the low down on most of them. Why not bite the bullet and try something new? You will probably find a sociable diversion will also help your health issues.

Volunteer Drivers: Jen Eastwood coordinates a group of volunteer drivers who are willing to take patients, needing transport, to their doctor or hospital appointments. If you are a driver with a few hours to spare please contact Jen jen.eastwood8@gmail.com or 01787 211853 and support this invaluable service. Insurance issues are addressed when you sign up.

PPG: Chair Jan Devey 01473 827091 deveys@btinternet.com

Both Practices: 01473 822 961 (appt cancellations: option 4)

Website: www.hadleighhealth.co.uk

SUMMER ON THE FARM TRAIL

20TH JULY TO 3RD SEPTEMBER

Hollow Trees Farm,
Hadleigh Road, Semer
IP7 6HX

hollowtrees.co.uk shop@hollowtrees.co.uk 01449 741247

All the usual FARM TRAIL FUN including
animals to feed, swings, slides,
pedal tractors, sand pit & soft play

WITH SUMMER EXTRAS & SURPRISES TOO

BARREL TRAIN RIDES
CRESTA RUN SLEDGES
FOOTBALL GOLF
STRAW STACK FUN



Summer Entry

Online £8.50 / Walk In £9
2 years and under FREE

Open 7 days
10am to 5pm
Last entry at 3pm

MILL
TYE

MILL TYE GALLERY
AND ARTS CENTRE

06 26
july aug



Noel Myles

Down to Earth

A contemporary approach to depicting landscape.

The exhibition continues until Bank
Holiday Monday 26th August

Mill Tye Gallery

3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0GW

Opening Times

Thursday to Sunday and Bank Holidays
10:30am to 4pm.

For Exhibitions, Art Classes, Workshops
and more visit www.milltyegallery.co.uk

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MADRIGALIA & MELODY OF HARPS



LUNCHTIME CONCERT
SUDBURY ARTS CENTRE
(FORMERLY ST PETER'S)
THURSDAY
22ND AUGUST
12:30 – 1:15
FREE ADMISSION

LEAVENHEATH CINEMA

SAT 3RD AUGUST: WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY

Comedy Drama PG-13

Starring David Tennant, Rosamund Pike, Billy Connolly.

Running Time 1hr 35mins with 20mins interval

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER: ONE LIFE

Drama PG-12

Starring Anthony Hopkins & Helena Bonham Carter

Running Time 1hr 50mins with 20mins interval

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

Leavenheath Village Hall, CO6 4NS

Tickets bought at the door £4 per adult & £2.50 for under 12s

You can pay by cash or card on the door. Book your tickets online at www.leavenheathvillage.com or phone Marion on 01206 263301.

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)

KERSEY TABLE TENNIS CLUB

We are a small and friendly club and welcome players of all abilities. The purpose of the club is social and recreational. We do not play competitions.

We operate from Kersey village hall on Thursday evenings between 7:30pm and 9:00pm.

Our fees are: Adults £2.00 for one hour or £3.00 for the full session. Juniors (under 18) £2.00 irrespective of duration.

Our next season commences on 5th September 2024 and ends 26th June 2025

Contact Adrian Blyth **01473 827805** (amblyth1@gmail.com)

BUSINESS AWARDS WINNER!



Last week, The Bildeston Crown was recognised as the East Anglian Daily Times Sustainability and Environmental Business of the Year; an incredible achievement for a hospitality business and one that we shouldn't dismiss lightly.

Owned and managed by Nedging Hall Estate, The Bildeston Crown sits proudly on the high street. Nedging Hall Estate is a family-owned country estate in Suffolk, comprising of The Bildeston Crown, The Lindsey Rose, The Brewery Tap, Mauldons Brewery and Nedging Hall; an exclusive-use country house. The businesses work full circle and that's key to their sustainability efforts.

Estate to Plate

The garden team at Nedging Hall and the talented team of chefs at The Bildeston Crown work hand in hand to create an incredible dining experience focussed on seasonality. They want everyone to understand where their food comes from and are continually looking to expand the Nedging Hall Kitchen Garden.

Brewing ales from the family farm

From the barley in the fields to the beer in the pubs, Mauldons Brewery puts sustainability at the heart of what they do. The barley itself is grown on the family farm just a few miles away and the spent grains are then fed to Red Poll cattle, a Suffolk rare breed. It's a full circle, leaving the environment in a better state than they found it.

Savouring Suffolk

The countryside of Suffolk is something they feel incredibly proud of and want to look after for generations to come. They are on a mission to preserve British hospitality and pubs—an endeavour that gained significance as more than 383 pubs closed in 2023.

Charlie Buckle, Managing Director of Nedging Hall Estate, commented: *"This means so much to us as our Estate to Plate ethos is key. Our focus is to develop our green strategy to ensure we are sustainable and deliver high standards whilst working with the environment, and not taking from it. We understand the importance of our surroundings and the foundations it provides us.*

Sustainability and our environmental impact is at the forefront of the Nedging Hall Estate mindset. From the gardening team at Nedging Hall to our kitchen team at The Bildeston Crown, every individual's role is fundamental to achieving our vision. One of our favourite quotes, from Robert Swan OBE; 'The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.'"

Remember!

The Box River News can be seen in full colour each month by downloading from the website.

www.boxrivernews.com



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ASSINGTON VILLAGE 47TH HORTICULTURAL SHOW

2PM SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST
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Open classes for residents living
in a 15 mile radius of Assington

ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Assington Horticultural Show is one of the few village horticultural shows still running. It is very low key and not too competitive or serious but has maintained a good standard throughout its previous 46 years of existence. It also includes classes for hand crafts and a separate schedule for children.

As well as a village competition we have separate classes for anyone from the surrounding villages within a 15 mile radius of Assington. Exhibits should be in place by 10am on Sunday 18th August for judging to take place and the exhibits will all be on show from 2pm in the afternoon. Just call, text or email me for a show brochure (which details the judging classes available) and I will drop one in. Look forward to seeing the entries!

Bryn barnworkshopuk@gmail.com / 07771 508348

BOXFORD GARDENING SOCIETY JULY MEETING

On Tuesday 2nd July Fifty members enjoyed a fascinating talk by Marc McHearne about the life of Beth Chatto and the making of her five different gardens. Beth's husband sold land to the neighbouring farmer, removed the orchard and then built their house. The natural dip in the land became the water course followed by the planting of *metasequoia* (dawn redwood) and *taxodium* (swamp cypress) trees, the transformation of the car park into the dry garden, the patio garden in front of the house and finally the paths through the woodland area keeping that area for nature, foxes and badgers making it their home.

Marc showed us pictures of her first Chelsea exhibit in 1974 followed by years of gold medals making her famous for very unusual plants, all propagated in her nursery. Beth would trial a plant in several different areas of the garden before selecting its final place and subsequently putting it out for sale.

For details of all our talks, please visit www.boxfordgardeningociety.co.uk

SUFFOLK LIBRARIES READING QUEST



Suffolk Libraries Reading Quest has officially begun! This year's summer reading challenge launched on Saturday 13th July, encouraging young readers to dive into the world of books and adventures, with a host of engaging activities designed to spark their imaginations.

One such activity, hosted by the Friends of Hadleigh Library, offered children the opportunity to decorate biscuits inspired by their favourite book characters – a creative and delicious activity enjoyed by all.

Join us at Suffolk Libraries and be a part of this thrilling journey:

- Children can sign up for the Reading Quest and will be given a creative map highlighting Suffolk's local myths and legends.
- Children will be encouraged to take part in activities and experiences across the summer ranging from 'reading under the covers with a torch' to 'choosing a recipe book and making something together as a family'.
- Prizes will be awarded weekly at any library in Suffolk (including mobiles). Children can bring their maps back to share with staff and volunteers and talk about what they read, what activities they completed and how they spent time with their families.
- Children can read as many books as they like over the summer holidays. The activities and experiences are there to encourage families to get involved, for children to see the overall benefits of reading for pleasure and discovering new genres.

For more information: Hadleigh Library, 29 High Street, Hadleigh IP7 5AG. Phone: **01473 823778** or email: hadleigh.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

Suffolk Libraries HMRC charity number XT34476

A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to all those brave people who came to support Winston's Wheels Disabled Dog Charity on Saturday 15th June in Newton. The weather did not dampen our spirits and we had a brilliant day. You have helped Winston's Wheels to supply several dogs with wheels to keep them mobile and continue to enjoy their freedom.

Thank you all.

Celebrating Boxford Drama Groups 50th Anniversary A bit of FUN with Boxford Drama Group

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind closed doors at BDG? Well now is your chance to join me and a few of my fellow members on 15th September when we are having an open morning at Boxford Village Hall. You can come along and have some fun with us and indulge yourself with hot drinks and some very nice homemade cakes. So if you fancy getting on stage or just helping with all the work that goes on behind the scenes bringing our productions to life - please join as us we would love to meet you!

For more information, please call me Jeremy on 07802 194545 or Email jdm160358@gmail.com (I'm the one who works behind the bar and does the raffle)

BOXFORD VOLUNTEER PROJECT MANAGEMENT GROUP

Just to let the village know that there is now an informal group of us known as 'The Boxford Volunteer Project Management Group' which has come together to assist in the implementation where applicable of projects/tasks of benefit to the community of Boxford.

Projects/tasks could be self generated, albeit some may need the sanction of the parish council before action is taken or they may be projects/tasks undertaken at the request of the parish council. As projects arise the group will seek to expand the number of willing volunteers with particular interests and skills. We exist to work towards achieving improvements for the benefit of the village.

Current tasks being undertaken: the implementation of converting part of the old gaol into a 'History of Boxford' museum, clearing of Himalayan Balsam from the river bed in the centre of Boxford, painting of village waste bins etc, repair and painting of posts and railings adjacent to the old gaol (bus shelter), management of Sudbury Warden activities in the village, liaison with the Environment Agency re flood risk mitigation and River Box maintenance matters.

If you would be willing to become involved in 'whatever' then feel free to get in touch.

Kevin Couling

kevin.couling@gmail.com / 07831 663691

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

This month's update from the Parish Council looks at some of the more immediate issues which we are dealing with.

The Croft Project. Give us your ideas!

By the time that you read this we will have exchanged contracts for the purchase of The Croft in Boxford and will have taken responsibility for its maintenance, but the work really starts here. We need to define the scope of the project, define the work, gain parishioners' approval and cost what needs to be done before applying for grants to be able to get it done. So please let us have your ideas as to how we should improve The Croft by getting in touch either by talking to one of the parish councillors or, better, by emailing us at clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk. We have quite a few ideas ourselves but there's no monopoly on wisdom!

A Plea about Hedges near Footpaths

The wet and now warmer weather has enabled our gardens and hedges to grow well this summer but sadly all too well where the hedges border public pavements and footpaths. If you have a hedge which borders onto one of them could you please ensure that it is kept trimmed so that others are not obstructed when walking past. Thank you for your consideration.

Our Parish Clerk is to Retire

Our long serving parish clerk, Debbie Hattrell, is to retire at the end of August after nineteen years' service to the parish. We thank her for her service and wish her well in her retirement though she plans to continue for a while yet in her roles with both Nayland and Assington parishes. Our search for her successor is underway and we hope to be able to manage a brief handover period to ensure continuity but must wait to see if that proves possible.

New Councillors

We are a very active council with much to do both in the day to day management of our responsibilities on behalf of the parish but also in progressing the various projects which are underway. There is much to do and we are always looking for others to join

the team as a parish councillor. We all have our different reasons for what we do but if you have a mind to get involved to contribute what you can to the community of which we are all a part, then please do get in touch with one of us or with our parish clerk at clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk

Finally thank you once again for all of the support which you have given to our work. Together we can really make a difference.

Hugh Phillips

Chairman, Boxford Parish Council

FRIENDSHIP & SUMMER

In an effort to shake off the dullest and dampest May the Boxford Friendship Group chose 'Summer Bonnets and Hats' as a theme for their June gathering.

Well, someone up there must have been paying attention because there was not a cloud in the sky and temperatures were mid-twenties which meant that all windows and doors of the village hall were wide open.

The afternoon was further enhanced by the Madrigalia Singers and director Sue Price who showed their wonderful vocal abilities with a diverse programme.

Blue Moon was a familiar opener and *A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square* (arranged by Gareth Price), set proceedings off and had toes tapping.

Reaching back to the tradition of madrigals the choir then gave a rendition of Irish and English/American folk songs including the beautiful *Flying Free* delivered by the sopranos.

The programme included numbers by Enya, Hoagy Carmichael, Lennon and McCartney and finally Caro Emerald.

A wide variety with something for most musical tastes all made perfect by the accompaniment on piano and recorder of Jill Garrett.

Having been regally entertained tea, biscuits and ice creams rounded off what was a quintessential English afternoon.



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PHOTOS AND STORIES FROM BOXFORD SOCIETY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

Another Boxford family story, as told by Ben Rose.

During the past year a number of Boxford families have been mentioned briefly as part of another story. One such is the family of Ben Spencer Rose (born 9th February 1928), only son of Ben Henry Rose (born 18th December 1900) and Gertrude Leighton Rose née Crissall (born 10th June 1897).



Above: Gertrude Leighton Rose née Crissall, a Suffolk girl from Wenhaston, just before she married Ben Harry Rose in 1925. Left: Ben Harry Rose just before his marriage to Gertrude. They moved to Boxford Lane in November 1925.



Ben Snr. was born in St Osyth but lived all his married life in Boxford at 6 School Hill (also previously known as 3 Boxford Lane) where his son Ben Jnr. was born.

On leaving school Ben Snr. was an assistant golf professional at Clacton Golf Club, then a lorry driver working firstly for List of Debenham, then Child & Pallen of Ipswich and later Tom Skinner of Boxford. He drove for Eastern Counties buses after Tom Skinner sold out, and finally for Archie Rule until retirement.

Ben Jnr was a cousin of the Rose children in Stone Street (pictured in the June 2024 BRN) as their fathers were brothers. Ben grew up an only child and attended Boxford School from 4½. At the age of 11 he was awarded the Boxford Grammar School Scholarship and went to Sudbury Grammar School (SGS) in September 1939. Over the years various Boxford children gained a scholarship but not all families saw the need or felt they could afford to send their child to the grammar school. Ben appears to have flourished there and joined the SGS Cadet Corps. There he learned to send morse code and to use radio



Ben Rose Jnr. and Ben Rose Snr. while Home Guards.

sets. As a result at the outbreak of World War II he became part of Boxford Home Guard H.Q. section which used an upper room in the then unoccupied Hendrick House of the Miss Mann's in Swan Street. (The elderly Mann sisters could not manage refugees so Tom Skinner drove them to Wiltshire from which they never returned). The house was instead used by the Queen's Own Huzzars and the Home Guard H.Q. section.

Ben Snr. had a motor bike so he was the dispatch rider for the Home Guard H.Q. section. Bill Wylie, who lived at Airlee, School Hill, was the local commander. Sir Charles Rowley was in overall command, while young Ben and his friends took advantage of being Cadets.

"In the second year of the 6th form, three of us made use of our Cadet Corps membership and battledress and persuaded the Americans at Waldingfield that we were British Servicemen and to go on training flights followed by a meal in their mess."

When he left school Ben Jnr. attended the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea, where he obtained his teacher's certificate. Later Ipswich Education Authority sponsored him to attend Reading University and he then taught at St Margaret's School, Ipswich for a term in 1948 before doing military service for two years. Afterwards he returned to St Margaret's until 1962 when he was promoted to Head of Science at Copleston School, Ipswich



Above left: Ben Spencer Rose in pre-war uniform of Sudbury Grammar School Cadet Corps with Suffolk Regiment cap badge after becoming part of the Suffolk Cadet Corps, but before being issued with battledress and forage cap. Above right: Ben Spencer Rose in 1939 in his Sudbury Grammar School uniform five years before the 11+ was established to help determine which type of education was suitable for each child and to provide equal opportunity for all.





Ben Rose Jnr. outside the H.Q. Block of Royal Horse Guards in Wessendorf. He remembers keeping the chef of the officers' mess well supplied with rabbits, hares, carp and the occasional roe deer & wild pig caught locally. It is not clear if this was the result of skills learned at home or those of local Germans.

where he stayed until retirement.

Military Service at Wessendorf, Germany, called upon his education skills as he was responsible for implementing the Army Education Scheme, arranging various courses and in particular resettlement courses

for regular personnel being demobbed. While there he enjoyed himself and took the opportunity to travel in the British zone of Germany as well as the Netherlands and Belgium.

Ben, from Ipswich, had very fond memories of his Boxford days and came to one of our Jubilee History of Boxford Exhibitions where he gave me carefully prepared notes and pictures which made this article possible.

Tina Loose



Gertrude and Ben Rose celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in November 1975.

GO FOR GOLD WITH BOXFORD BROWNIES

My name is Tilly Hodge and I am a 1st Boxford Brownie. I have worked extremely hard over the past few months to get my Brownie Gold Award.

There are six different Brownie themes: *Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action* and *Skills for My Future*.

Within each theme you can choose one of three interest badges to do at home. I have had such fun gaining eight interest badges in my time as a Brownie! They cover a wide range of activities, things to learn or make.

As well as interest badges, we also do Skill Builder badges. These are usually done in Brownie time. There are two stages to the Skill Builder badges depending on the experience you gain. There are four Skill Builders in each theme.

Once you have an Interest Badge and a Skill Builder in a particular theme, you are on your way to gaining a Theme Award badge. The Brownie leaders count up how many hours you have participated in activities within the theme, to ensure you have enough to be awarded the Theme Badge.

Once you have two Theme Award badges you get your Brownie Bronze award, when you have four Theme Awards you get your Silver award and when you have all six, you are close to getting your Gold award.

To get my Brownie Gold Award I had to remake my promise and choose between organising a meeting activity or to create something that the Brownies could use for years to come so I made a table runner which I hope they will enjoy for many years. The



last stage was to explore the world of Guides and for this I looked at the Guide Badge Book and got really excited to see the six Themes continue into my Guide journey!

In between badge work at Brownies you get so many opportunities and events offered including: camping, grass sledging, may-pole dancing, going to the cinema, going to

Jimmy's Farm, lots of crafting and game playing. The Spinney has fantastic facilities.

Although I am sad at the thought of not going to Brownies anymore, I am super excited to start my Girl Guide journey!

Boxford Brownies run on Wednesdays and Guides on Mondays both 6-7:30pm at the Spinney. For more information about Brownies contact Janice Macmillan on 07779 303 690 or email janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk for the Girl Guides contact Bethany Ireland bethanyireland11@gmail.com.

Gary Jarvis
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 01787 211471 or 07733 325669
garydjarvis@gmail.com

RUNNING THE DISTANCE



Regular readers of the BRN may remember learning about my daughter Elizabeth Stewart's trials and tribulations as she progressed in her triathlete career [Ed: see Jan 2023 issue of the BRN online] This year the Europe Middle-Distance Triathlon Championships, were held in Coimbra, Portugal on 22nd June. It was part of a 10-day multi-sport festival showcasing virtually every combination of swim/bike/run possible

and it was the first time I would compete alongside Elizabeth internationally - a long-time dream of mine.

The weeks leading up to it were a bit fraught with other family members in hospital, so it was hard trying to keep on track with the training. I decided to recruit the services of a nutritionist. Elizabeth had used James from *Nutrition For Energy* before so I gave him the tough task to get me into shape within 4 weeks. I wanted to lose weight and have a fuelling plan for the race. Although I only lost a couple of pounds, I felt stronger and I could see improvements in my training sessions.

Having arrived in Coimbra 2 days before to acclimatise, we finally managed to get out and recce. The course looked interesting and varied without being too technical. Stories of illness by swimming in the river started up so I decided to give swim familiarisation a miss to give myself a fighting chance against being unable to compete.

Finally, it was race day. I needed to get through the 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike ride and 13 mile run. My target was 7.5 hours, the time it takes some pros to do double the distance! Pre-race nerves started to jangle when I discovered I had a flat tyre. Luckily, it wasn't a puncture and I found a bike mechanic who helped fix the valve in double-quick time. A quick dash to the starting line for the swim ensued and I was there just in time!

The river was murky, with very little current but a normal temperature. During training I had improved my swimming, but I was worried about my pace. However, my time was 53.21, slightly faster than my predicted 55 minutes.

The 4-lap bike course was flat-ish. The course utilised a closed dual carriageway which is always a treat to cycle on. However, I did feel a bit guilty for all the locals in the town sitting stuck in their cars. I saw evidence of a couple of crashes on my way round and although I had seen Elizabeth on the course, it was hard not to worry about who the injured person was and how they were. The bike element took 3:38:33, disappointingly slower than I wanted as I couldn't get 100% comfortable on my bike. At the end I could see most bikes had already finished, however I wasn't last. My run strategy was simply to run/walk (known as 'jeffing'). I had a target pace of 12 minutes per mile which translates to a time of approx 2.5 hours which would be faster than my time at the Ironman World Championship.

The route was varied and the views of the town were gorgeous. Whilst part of the run was through cooling forest, trails make for a slower run and by my final lap there were very few runners left. I was desperate not to be last, so I kept pushing. Finally, the finish line was in sight, with Andrew and Elizabeth patiently waiting for me. I crossed the line in a total of 7 hours, 20 minutes and 21 seconds, which meant I came fourth in my category and I wasn't last! The final person crossed the finish line over 2 hours later!

The evening was spent socialising and we attended the medal ceremony as Elizabeth had picked up a silver medal for a time of 5 hours, 35 minutes and 6 seconds. So proud of her! On reflection, I'm glad I participated but I'm not sure I want to do another. Never say never!

Deborah Stewart, Groton.

YOUNG FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR CELEBRATED AT AWARDS

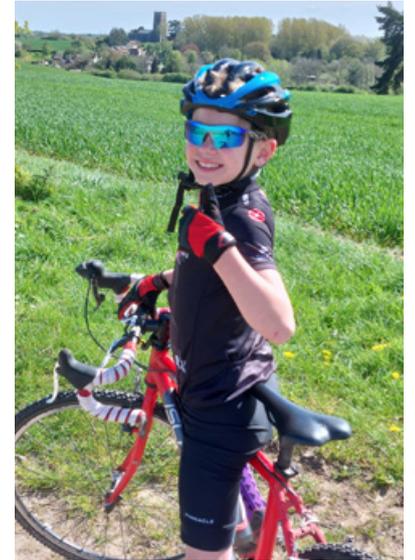
The achievements of a young fundraiser from Boxford, who supported East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) by taking on a personal cycling challenge, were recognised and celebrated at a recent awards ceremony.



Eight-year-old Denny Williams was jointly awarded the accolade of Young Fundraiser of the Year (alongside another young fundraiser from Norfolk) at the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (East) Awards, held online in June 2024.

Denny, who races with Hadleigh Cycling Club, raised over £1,000 in aid of EAAA to help save local lives by cycling over 200 miles and, in a happy coincidence, aligned with the local bike club at Boxford, who were also raising money in aid of EAAA.

"We planned to finish the 200-miles at the Boxford Tornado event in April 2024." Dad James says. *"I spoke to the Boxford Cycle Club, and they were really pleased to have us attend the race, despite Denny's age, and would help us out where they could."*



Despite just missing out on crossing the finish line due to the terrible weather on the day, Denny and James were comforted by the warm welcome they received from Boxford Bike Club, who also raised £3,000 in aid of EAAA as part of their Boxford Tornado event.

When Denny was announced as joint winner of the Young Fundraiser award, Denny's Mum, Laura, said she was "massively proud", especially as the fundraising idea for EAAA came from Denny himself, while Dad, James, said that Denny's cycling enthusiasm is gathering pace, and he has set his sights on competing in the Tour de France one day!

James adds: *"Denny is someone who likes to please other people. He is very coy about his achievements. We wish he would talk to his schoolteachers about the things he does a lot more because they would love to hear about his achievements. We are proud beyond words because he has done so much more than the average eight-year-old would even think of trying. He is so fit and has an inner determination to succeed even if you wouldn't notice from the outside. I am pretty sure that without him, I wouldn't have completed the 200 miles myself because his motivation is so much greater than mine. I hope his challenge will inspire others to push themselves harder and put their skills however small to good use, have fun and put some money back into the charities that everyday people rely on."*

Denny said he loves cycling every day and thought doing 200 miles was a good thing to do: *"I didn't think I would get an award for doing it."*

The Chartered Institute of Fundraising awards also recognised people and team in other categories, including Campaign/Event of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Corporate Partner and Team of the Year, during an uplifting evening.

It's wonderful to see community groups and the next generation care so deeply about their local area by supporting East Anglian Air Ambulance.

BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Boxford Bowls Club were honoured to be asked to host a match against the current Bowls England Suffolk President's Cup Team. We played the game this week (15th July) - Boxford players against the current President and other officials and players the President invited. We had an enjoyable evening playing bowls, finishing off with refreshments organised by our social committee. The rain held off until everyone left that evening. Thank you to everyone involved, whether you were playing, hosting or catering.

At the beginning of the evening, we were delighted that the President presented the Bowls England Certificate of Merit to Malcolm Grimwood. Malcolm was nominated for this most prestigious award last year, only the second player from Suffolk to receive this. The award is the equivalent to a Lifetime Achievement Award and recognises that Malcolm has made an outstanding contribution to bowls both at club and county level over many decades.



In last year's newsletter, we had recognised and celebrated Malcolm's retirement as Secretary and Competitions Secretary of Boxford Bowls Club after 35 years in the roles although he still continues as greenkeeper, which he has done for a similar period. He first joined the club in 1960 aged 14 and since then has won a number of county and national titles. Malcolm continues to be an active bowler for the club.

Many congratulations Malcolm, an award thoroughly deserved.

Our players have been very busy with different bowls matches and we are now getting into the final stages of many competitions. Congratulations to Gillian Barnes who is in the Finals of the Champion of Champions - North Essex County Bowls Federation competition, and to Lesley Cook, Roz Mortlock and Bernadine Dwyer who are also in the finals playing Ladies 3 Bowls Triples. We also have many players and teams in quarter and semi finals for other county matches, as well as starting to play club matches for our Finals Day early in September. Good Luck to everyone in your up and coming matches - more news in the next newsletter as to how everyone is getting on.

PROSPECTS OF PLAY

Some readers of the Box River News will be aware that cricket has not been played on Boxford playing fields this year. At the beginning of the season the Edwardstone and Boxford Cricket Club had to conclude that there were insufficient cricketers likely to be available for them to continue playing league cricket and that regrettably the club had no alternative but to effectively cease active participation. There has therefore been no match in 2024 on the cricket square, superbly prepared almost single-handedly by Ray Gibbons for many a long year.

A few of us felt that the cricket square was such an asset to the village that we needed to preserve it and retain the possibility of future cricket games at Homefield. The square has been the envy of other village venues and its careful roped-off appearance helps us all, whether exercising, jogging, dog walking or simply enjoying the fresh air, to be particularly respectful of that marvellous green space which is the Boxford Playing Fields, 100% owned on the Box River Villagers' behalf by the Community Council and managed by the Playing Fields Management Committee.

Colin Parr, Ward Baker and I have met with the remaining members of the cricket club committee and we are all resolved to preserve the square that so many local residents have played on over the years. We have met with Hadleigh and Sudbury cricket clubs, contacted representatives of Suffolk Cricket Club and both the Essex and Suffolk Grounds Associations and the Operations manager of Suffolk Cricket has visited Boxford to see the ground. Everyone agrees that the square must be retained and help is at hand to keep it maintained. There is a real possibility that other local teams will use it for practice and 2nd/3rd XI matches. The recently upgraded facilities in the pavilion allow full male and female participation; this is a rare facility.



But of course we need local support and encouragement for cricket to thrive in the future in Boxford and surrounding villages. We ourselves are past the age of donning whites but hope that many others would share the wish to preserve Ray's meticulous curation of the square by seeing cricketers of all ages might play; you might simply support the sentiment of maintaining the facility. Some might even be a cricket tragic like me for whom there is no picture to equal the sight of a well-prepared cricket table, no melody as sweet as the crack of a well-timed shot, no vision like a well-delivered ball or the joy on the face of a fielder taking a catch and nothing that can stir interest in quite the same way as the single word "PLAY". Many might agree that simply letting the asset of the Boxford cricket square waste away would be holding up the mirror to the lack of community commitment and join in spirit in preventing that.

Whatever your interest in the future of cricket in Boxford, please register it by dropping an email to one or all of the following: colinparr44@btinternet.com, d.burden379@btinternet.com, boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

David Burden

MILDEN CRICKET CLUB

Like watching paint dry...

...or so it seemed, watching while scoring the first half of Mildens' innings in their match against the current (and so far unbeaten) Hunts County Bats League Division 5 leaders, Battsford & District, on Sunday 14 July. Batting first on a green wicket after winning the toss, Mildens were just 7 for 1 after 10 overs and 28 for 3 at drinks after 20 overs. Eventually they reached 69 all out in 37 overs, Alex Lomax, who top-scored in the away game on 16 June, again top-scoring with 24 until controversially adjudged lbw. (Your correspondent, in only his second game this season, was bowled for one.) After tea, Battsford knocked off the 70 runs needed for victory without loss - the match (the start time for which had been brought forward to 12.00 noon) - ending in good time for those who wanted to watch a certain football final.

Other results:

23 June: Mildenhall 148 all out in 35 overs (Richard Robinson 5 for 13, including a hat-trick; David Willis 3 for 19); Mildens 54 all out in 26 overs (Willis 25 not out). Mildenhall won by 94 runs.

30 June: Stowmarket conceded to Mildens.

7 July: The match at Woolpit was abandoned without a ball being bowled: the persistent rain, which started as players arrived at the ground, eventually leading to this decision shortly before 3.00 pm.

August fixtures:

4 August: Mildens v Nowton (rearranged from 28 April)

11 August: Mildens v Stowmarket

18 August: Mildenhall v Mildens

David Lamming



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BRIAN TORA'S SOAP BOX

I'd rather not return to politics for the second month running, but we now have a new government and elections are proving a central theme around the world at present, so a brief trawl around how the electoral world is changing seems no more than appropriate.

Here in the UK, the peripheral parties did indeed upset the final result, but not as dramatically as I expected. The Conservatives lost the election, rather than the Labour party delivering a decisive win. That's not how it looks, given the size of the Labour majority in the House of Commons, but with just a third of the popular vote, it was far from being a ringing endorsement for Sir Kier Starmer. While the Greens and the pro-Palestinian candidates undoubtedly stole votes – and seats – from Labour, Reform and Tory voters staying at home caused the biggest damage to the Conservatives. Well, we are where we are. I can only hope that this moderate, centralish Socialist government now in power has the energy and foresight to turn the fortunes of this great country of ours around. Richard Fuller, Chairman of the Conservative party, emailed supporters after the election to say it was how the Party conducted itself that led to its defeat. Fair enough, but the Tories threw away a resurging economic backdrop that can only benefit the incoming administration. And anyone from overseas must be bewildered by the way in which our first-past-the-post system benefits some parties hugely, while denying others representation in line with their popularity. Still, if we adopted a form of proportional representation, we'd always have a coalition government, rather as they do on the continent.

Not that domestic elections are all we have to contend with. In France, the prospect of a right-wing government gaining power under Marie Le Pen was kicked into touch by the other parties ganging up to ensure that the non National Rally vote was not split. Not that I fully understand how the French electoral properly works, given that there were two votes held a fortnight apart. Discussions on how to form a coalition government are ongoing, but I confess I feel relieved that the National Rally party will not be in power.

The likely outcome of the presidential election to be held on the other side of the Atlantic is another matter altogether. The image of the Republican contender, Donald Trump, raising his fist and shouting "Fight", while blood poured from his mangled ear contrasts visibly with President Biden's poor showing in the televised debate and his unfortunate mistakes in naming people at the NATO summit. Many commentators have said that this assassination attempt has changed the nature of the contest. I fear it has, with Donald Trump looking ever more likely to prevail.

Should we be worried about this? Sadly, I believe we should. Mr Trump has expressed reservations about NATO in the past and has also stated that he could solve the Russian/Ukrainian conflict in a single day. This can only mean by persuading President Zelensky to accept the Russian territorial gains as lost to Ukraine – something that would be hard to swallow, but if backed up by America withdrawing military support if not agreed, could result in Putin achieving a win.

We must keep our fingers crossed and hope that whatever administration is in place in Washington does not become isolationist and continues to champion the free, democratic nations as they have done for decades. The world has indeed become a more unpredictable, less secure place than I have ever known. And climate change, along with plastic pollution, adds to the uncertainty as even our hitherto stable environment looks increasingly threatened.

But enough of doom and gloom. Summer, which has been slow to show its face, could be just around the corner. Sporting events abound and, even if we haven't pulled off any spectacular wins, there has been plenty to savour. Let's face it, the final result of the

Euros 2024 was a disappointment, but coming second – and arguably to the most impressive team in the contest – is nothing to be ashamed of. And while Wimbledon failed to deliver any high-profile successes, there were several lower down the ranks. Spain did pull off the double, humiliating Novak Djokovic in the process. And now we have the Olympics. Let's enjoy it all.

Brian Tora

FRENCH'S CARE HAVEN

Hello to our readers, I hope as always you have all been keeping well. Over the last month our fundraising events have not gone to plan: we had to cancel our speed dating night as yet again we had no men book in. It is crazy there are so many of you single guys out there who want a relationship, but you won't put yourselves out and do something social with the ladies. I am not giving up on the singles, we are looking to organise a music evening and will keep you posted.

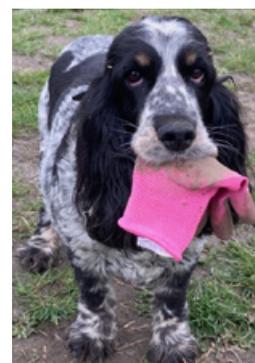
The weather for our open day BBQ was atrocious with the constant heavy rain and flooding on our farm, so we had to cancel that at the last minute. It is so hard for us when we depend on events to keep us going financially and as you readers may see we are always crying out for financial support for our rescued animals, as our outgoings run into thousands a month! If you can help us financially, then please let me know, you would be a shining star in our eyes.

On a positive side Pamela's 54 hole golf challenge went well, the donations raised were split between us at French's and Little Lifts - another charity. What a star Pamela is at 81 years old. Last year she did an 80 mile bike ride for us as well! She is an inspiration to the young and elder people out there.

Our 3 latest pony rescues have improved a lot since we rescued them, Rose, Sammy and Blondie have all gained weight and seem happy in their field with a shelter. We do still have to have a monthly visit from our vet to treat Rose, as she was not in a good way with all her open wounds and mite infestation that were eating away at her flesh. It is a long process with her, but her condition looks good now. She is so much more relaxed and we treat her wounds twice a day, seven days a week to keep on top of it, along with the help of our vet



Ben who comes to shave the hair off her legs each month. Rose is pictured. Lucy our therapy dog is also pictured, Lucy thinks she



is helping by taking a volunteers glove. Lucy works alongside the animals we rescue and people who come to us with anxiety, loneliness and depression. Lucy is a beautiful soul who loves everyone, animal or human.

If you would like any information about becoming part of our small team and helping care for our lovely horses and donkeys then please get in touch. Plus, all donations are welcome with open arms and much gratitude.

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

Website: www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk

WE FOUND LOVE AND AN EXQUISITE SET OF PORCELAIN FIGURINES ABOARD THE SS FARNDALE AVENUE



Once again The ladies of Boxford Drama Group triumphed by performing another hilarious play by *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild*. A play within a play, as it were - where if it could go wrong, it did.

Elaine Carpenter as Mrs Reece opened the show with an explanation of what was about to happen. After that it was in the lap of the gods.

This time they set sail across the Atlantic on a luxury ocean liner, The SS Farndale Avenue. I use the term 'luxury' loosely. The set came apart on more than one occasion, when over-zealous waving caused the rail to topple over almost into the 'sea'. Hannah Carpenter as Daisy the maid, insisted on appearing on the wrong side of the rail and when realising her mistake, 'swam' off.



These brave ladies took on several parts, some of them male, made more obvious by moustaches (not always remembered in the costume changes)



There was a love triangle with Alison Barlow as Constance Lombard, a very gorgeous and glamorous actress. Her two love interests were Beauregard St Clair played by Elaine Carpenter and Noel Nightingale played by Angela Tolputt. Both were trying to out-do the other one with gifts of porcelain and snide remarks.

Two random Scots 'people' appeared in tartan dressing gowns, Hannah Carpenter as Phil McCavity pushing Angela Tolputt as

Ben Doon, onstage in a wheelchair. They proceeded to complain in unintelligible Scottish accents. Then, finding her/himself abandoned (and in true 'Little Britain' style), Ben Doon stood up, folded the wheelchair and pushed it off.

Lenka Netopolikova played so many parts which involved the swapping of hats in quick succession - three men and two women - it took some



skill, but as the Captain, appeared to go down with the ship just in time for supper. Of course the ship was bound to sink.

This hapless bunch then found themselves on a desert island complete with plastic palm trees and a wealth of porcelain treasures. They were thankfully rescued and obviously lived to tell the tale.

The plot was complicated, the acting so bad it was superb and it was a laugh from start to finish. I have to give a special shout-out to Hannah Carpenter as Daisy the maid who was especially funny in that role.



Well done everyone involved, it was a brilliant night out complete with a two course supper supplied by Dawn Mace and her team.

Thanks must also go to all the unsung heroes who work so hard to put the show on. From lighting and sound, set painting and construction, costumes, stage management, prompt, front of house, bar staff and of course Richard Haining from the Post Office for selling our tickets.

Special praise also to Jane Lindekam for her expert directing. Thanks too to our loyal supporters who came to watch us.

All photos courtesy of Jeremy Morgan

CITIZENS ADVICE

I've got to move house and will be renting somewhere on my own for the first time. It's exciting but there's so much to think about and I'm worried things could go wrong. Do you have any tips or advice on what I should do when looking for a new home?

**citizens
advice**

Whether you're renting on your own or with other people, one of the first decisions to make is whether you want to rent directly from a landlord or through a letting agent.

Renting directly from a landlord might mean you have less to pay before moving in, fewer references and you might not need to do a credit check. Alternatively, renting through a letting agent means that if they manage the property, they'll liaise with the landlord about any repairs that need doing on your behalf. However, if a letting agent behaves badly and you believe they're at fault you can complain to their independent complaints body, known as 'redress scheme'.

There are lots of websites you can use to find somewhere to rent but if you can't look online, you could visit a local estate agent or ask friends and family to help you. When you're looking, remember, never pay any money before you've seen the property and if you can take someone with you when viewing properties.

Avoid renting directly from an existing tenant, this is called 'sub-letting' and the tenant might not have the landlord's permission to rent to you, which could cause problems down the line. If a tenant is showing you around the property on behalf of the landlord, they should give you the landlord's contact details.

To make sure the property you're going to rent is safe, affordable and meets your needs, ask the landlord or letting agent some key questions. For example, how much rent is and how it should be paid,

if the rent includes any bills, how long the tenancy is, if there's the opportunity to renew and if there's a break clause in case you need to end the tenancy early.

Check if you'll need to pay a holding deposit while the landlord carries out pre-tenancy checks, this can't be more than a week's rent and should be returned to you at the start of the tenancy. You should also ask your landlord or letting agent what documents you'll need to provide when you agree to rent the property including evidence of your Right to Rent.

Before you go ahead, ask how your tenancy deposit will be protected, if any furniture or appliances are included in the tenancy and, if relevant, whether you can have pets. You should also request any obvious problems with the property are fixed before you move in.

If a landlord refuses to rent to you because of who you are, this may be discrimination. For instance, because of your race, religion or sexual orientation. A 'no kids policy' or refusing to rent to you because you get benefits could also be discrimination. You only need to tell a landlord or letting agent you receive benefits if they ask. Some may then require a guarantor as security if you have no renting history, or if they feel you may have trouble paying rent. They can still refuse to rent to you if they think you won't be able to afford it. Remember, if you need any other pointers or advice on renting or you run into any problems, you can contact Citizens Advice for help.

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

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FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

County Councillor for the Stour Valley

Council's shock at £600m solar farm go-ahead in West Suffolk

Suffolk County Council has expressed its extreme disappointment that a huge solar farm has been approved in West Suffolk. The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband MP, has announced that approval had been granted for the Development Consent Order, as proposed by Sunnica Ltd. The project will see 2,792 acres of solar panels and battery storage, installed across parts of West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Cabinet Member for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, (NSIPS) said: "The approval of this solar farm is a massive blow to local communities, agriculture, nature and our landscape in the west of Suffolk. "I am frankly shocked that the poorest infrastructure application that I have ever dealt with, has now been approved - we highlighted numerous deficiencies in the submission.

The voices of thousands of local residents, businesses and organisations have not been listened to. This scheme will permanently and detrimentally impact the landscape of a vast part of West Suffolk and remove thousands of acres of land from food production.

Despite some improvements to the initial application, we felt that the proposals did not meet the standards we, and local communities, would expect from a project on this scale. Local residents will quite rightly be asking what it takes for a project to be refused, when the worst project we have dealt with gets consented in the face of so much opposition."

Suffolk County Council supports national aims to adapt to climate change and provide low carbon energy for the country, which often bring benefits to support the local economy. However it also has an ambition to protect and enhance Suffolk's communities and environment.

The council had many issues with the application, including:

- The geographic scale of the proposal which will permanently transform the landscape
- The impact on local communities of the 24 month construction period
- Sunnica's serious shortcomings in terms of both evidence and methodology
- Sunnica's presentation of proposal which made it, and impacts on local communities, unclear.
- Mitigation proposals did not appear to be tailored to the local context.

Hundreds of local businesses celebrated for taking climate action

Suffolk County Council's annual Carbon Charter event, hosted at the Coddensham Centre on 11 July 2024, honoured businesses from Suffolk and Norfolk for their achievements in environmental sustainability. More than 100 delegates from a range of local businesses shared their experiences of reducing their environmental impact, and heard from guest speakers from Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Volvo Trucks UK. The Carbon Charter was set up in 2010 by Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency. Since then, over 500 businesses have received Carbon Charter awards for taking climate action, by reducing their carbon emissions, supporting their local community and developing green spaces.

Earlier this year, the Carbon Charter itself was an award winner, receiving the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) award for Delivering Clean Growth in the UK – recognised for the effect the Charter is having on moving the economy towards a low carbon future, and praised for its very practical approach to helping businesses transition to net zero.

Residents advised - don't do business with cold callers

Suffolk Trading Standards is reminding people to stay alert to the risk of being ripped off by cold callers knocking on their doors. The warning comes after recent incidents of people approaching householders on the doorstep and touting for business. Suffolk Trading

Standards advises people to only use businesses registered with the Suffolk Trusted Trader scheme and should only use those businesses vetted by this scheme. Residents can also protect themselves and their neighbours by nominating their area to become a No Cold Calling Zone, of which there are now more than 200 across Suffolk.

Anyone wishing to nominate their road should go to the No Cold Calling page on the Suffolk County Council website <https://bit.ly/scc-no-cold-callers>. For more details about Suffolk Trusted Trader go to: <https://bit.ly/scc-trusted-traders>. Anyone contacted by traders on the doorstep should report them to Trading Standards via **0808 223 1133**.

In the last few weeks, Suffolk County Council Trading Standards had been made aware of a caller in Hadleigh: – A doorstep caller convinced the elderly individual to have foil insulation installed, despite the property being a new-build bungalow. £7,600 was paid. The client's son later learned of the installation and on investigating found only half the loft space had had the insulation added. He also found old insulation had not been removed and was in perfect condition.

Suffolk County Council Backs Youth Justice Plan with a focus on keeping families together

Suffolk County Council has backed the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 at a meeting of Full Council on 11th July. The plan has a focus on supporting young people into education, training and employment and reducing the numbers of young people offending, supporting the council's ambition to keep more families together and to keep Suffolk safe. Each year the Suffolk Youth Justice Management Board produces a Youth Justice Plan for Suffolk. The Board includes representatives from: Suffolk Constabulary; Suffolk Probation Service; NHS Suffolk and North-East Essex and NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Boards, and Suffolk County Council. The Youth Justice Service also consults with staff, children, and volunteers.

With the new plan, the partnership is aiming to support more children that the service works with into education, training, or employment. This year the service is running a pilot project with specialist staff to work with education providers and children to support them to remain at, or return to, school or college. The service also offers children short, accredited courses, which have been proven to have positive outcomes for young people and can encourage young people into further training.

Another key theme of this year's plan is to take a restorative approach to Youth Justice. This is when The Youth Justice service works with victims of youth crime to find out how they think the harm caused to them can best be put right. The service then supports the young person involved to understand how their own behaviours impact on others and to re-engage with their community and society by repairing harm and restoring relationships.

As well as helping to prevent re-offending we know this approach improves outcomes for victims. This year the service is aiming to deliver more restorative approaches including within families where relationships have been fractured by the child's contact with the youth system.

The plan also outlines how the service will be looking in detail into the reasons why some groups of children are more likely to enter into the youth justice system, to inform interventions which aim to reduce the number of young offenders in Suffolk..

Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley

Fostering is a flexible role with options for short term care from a weekend a month to longer term opportunities, all providing life-changing support for local children. Suffolk will continue with a foster carer recruitment event on the 1st Wednesday of every month, and an adoption event is on the 1st Thursday all 7pm in the home of the applicant. To book a place please email Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk.

James Finch

james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

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

FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

After the chaos and all the energy generated by the General Election across the UK, it has been good to get back to the basic task of being the district councillor for Box Vale and doing the best for my residents and indeed all those across the Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts.

The first task was to meet and show one of my locality officers some projects that need grant funding to bring them up to an acceptable standard and make them nicer places to visit, easier and cheaper to run and maintain.

Talks will now ensue to see what grants are available and how we can help my villages to achieve success in moving these projects forward to a successful conclusion.

Most of these facilities and organisations within the villages of Babergh Mid Suffolk are run by volunteers who give their time and skill for free to help and enable facilities to be built, enhanced and maintained for others into the future. We are so lucky to have such beneficiaries.

My second duty was to take part in the Young Persons Day at Endeavour House in Ipswich. This was held to show students how the councils work across the county and what we do to affect and help their lives and run services they will use and need as adults.

It seemed a record turnout with over 40 students attending the question time event at the end of the day. Questions ranged from concerns about the future of agriculture, green energy, housing and what the county and those that help run it will be like in 20 years time. At the end of an hour's questions and the best answers that we could give, the two sides applauded each other, and we broke up into an unofficial exchange of views.

We will try and build on this venture having sown some seeds to gain the views of the younger residents of our area but from this exercise I would say that the next generation are very well educated, switched on and capable of picking up the baton to take us forward. They just want and expect different things for their future and that is as it should be.

The biggest question for local government after the election result, is can it be funded properly by the new national government to redress the terrible shortfalls and lack of funding by the last one? We also need a long-term financial plan instead of no plan at all.

Just heaping more duties on to local councils and councillors without proper funding cannot go on indefinitely.

With so many national functions and institutions having been run down into a broken state by the previous government, the local councils should not be allowed to go the same way.

Hopefully the nation's taxes and public effort can now be used for the benefit of everybody and not just the privileged few to use as their own with bonuses, bungs, back-handers and the plundering of the peoples and nations shared assets. We will see. They have made a promising start and have a grace period to turn things around and should be given time and space to do so. I personally hope that the rural countryside and agriculture will be given the respect and care that it deserves and mainly remain under the plough and not the bulldozer. We can make our own contribution to the wealth, productivity and beauty of our nation, in our own way.

After a very short break to ensure that the district council gets back up and running after the election break and purdah, I will be attending the meetings at all my parish councils to hear their views about local matters and how we take them forward to the higher level and deliver the best services we possibly can within our very restrictive budget. It will take patience, understanding and hard work, so nobody should expect miracles; we will be doing our best, but the cavalry must come very soon with a comprehensive funding and financial plan.

As for myself I will try to have a few days off in August for the fantastic Cropredy Folk Festival, also we have Liverpool FC for

the start of our new premiership season to welcome to Portman Road, which will bring excitement to most in Suffolk. C.O.Y.B.! Also a huge re-alignment in UK politics with centrist political parties ousting the far right and the even further right wing political groups.

I think that for me the highlight of the election was to see the not-so honourable Liz Truss and Grease Mogg, along with their like, walking off the stage, having been soundly thrashed at the ballot box by their former electorate. A humiliating and fitting end for them.

If you want or need to chat about anything to do with local services or any issues you have, then please grab me when passing, my knee replacement has been put off until next February, so I am still easily catchable, gently please.

Bryn

bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk

Tel: **01787 210854** / Mobile: **07771 508348**

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

NEWTON GREEN

Summary of Council Meeting 12th June 2024

John Taylor, who served as a councillor and chairman of Newton Parish Council for over twenty years until May 2007, sadly passed away on 12th May 2024. His contributions to the community were commendable, and the councillors wished to express their condolences to the Taylor family.

24/098 Finance - b) The councillors reviewed the quotation received from Luxstone for the proposed repairs to the bottom of the war memorial. The clerk updated councillors that Babergh's heritage department had reviewed the proposed works and had confirmed that planning permission was not required. The councillors resolved that the works should proceed at a cost of £5,140 +VAT from the CIL Receipts budget and General Reserves. The councillors asked the clerk to write to the Newton Green Trust to see if they wished to contribute towards the war memorial repair costs.

c) The councillors reviewed the request from the Village Hall Management Committee for a donation towards the project to replace the village hall windows. The councillors agreed to defer the decision on the donation until the quotations for the works can be reviewed and further CIL Receipts are received by NPC in October 2024.

24/099 Newton Footpaths - The council has contacted one of the landowners about a proposed footpath extension to Assington, but he is not willing to consider the permissive footpath currently. He is not opposed to being contacted again in 12 months to see if his views have changed. He did suggest an alternative route, which the clerk will follow up on. Cllr Smith explained the maps that she had circulated on the history of footpaths in the village.

24/102 Play equipment, fitness equipment & MUGA - The councillors considered the issue of the condition of the tennis net on the MUGA. The need for it to be erected prior to and dismantled following a match has led to it being severely damaged in the 3 years since it was first used. This has been caused by it not being dismantled after a game and being put back in the cage or being assembled by people not familiar with the correct procedure or being abused by other non-tennis-playing users of the MUGA. The councillors are concerned that buying new posts and the net will lead to similar destruction of the facility over the next year. However, they agreed to give it one more try and resolved to purchase new posts and net from Premier Sports Surfaces at a cost of £385 +VAT from the CIL Receipts budget.

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

Dave Crimmin PSLCC

01787 375085 / clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk

NEWTON GREEN

Summary of Council Meeting 10th July 2024

24/113 Planning - b) The councillors reviewed Babergh Planning Area Manager Mark Russell's view that the allotments did not require a planning application for change of use as the land was previously used for agriculture.

24/114 Finance - c) The councillors reviewed the offer from Newton Green Trust to pay the costs of the War Memorial refurbishment. The councillors were very grateful for the donation of £6,190 and requested the clerk to write to the Trust to express the council's appreciation.

d) The councillors reviewed the Parochial Church Council's request for a donation towards a proposed art exhibition in 2025. They resolved to give the PCC a restricted donation of £200 towards the exhibition once NPC receives a copy of the invoice for the hire of the Nave from the Churches Conservation Trust.

e) The councillors reviewed the request from the Village Hall Management Committee for a donation towards the cost of the proposed operation of broadband in the village hall. The councillors resolved to donate £250 per year until March 2027, with the 2024 / 2025 donation being pro rata from the date it is installed.

24/117 Fireworks - Cllr Taylor will contact Lee Parker to see if a fireworks event can be organised this year.

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

Dave Crimmin PSLCC

01787 375085 / clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk

BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 18th June 2024

Meetings: Parish Council (PC) Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday each month except in August and December. They are held in the village hall starting at 7pm. All are welcome to come along and observe and there is a regular item to allow residents a short time to comment.

Public Forum: Residents from Stone Street attended to ask about progress towards a 20mph limit. They were concerned about safety particularly with the closure of the permissive path. In relation to the call for reduced speed in the village, all the evidence had been gathered and the outcome was awaited. Another point was raised about parking for bowls club meetings and matches. The Chair and district councillor Bryn Hurren agreed to follow this up.

Co-option and Sub Committees: We are delighted to report Cllr Vince Strafford has been co-opted to the PC. We still have councillor vacancies, so why not take the first step to see what is involved. Our meetings are held in public, so come along and observe or take the opportunity to telephone – our details are on our website. Our current tree warden is moving away, so Wal Wallace is to take over the role. The PC were grateful to Drake Davis for all his support to the Village in this role. Sub-committees:

Cemetery: Cllrs Phillips and Warren

Environmental & Ecology: Cllrs Munson and Wortley

Finance: Cllrs Phillips, Warren, and the RFO/Clerk.

Planning: Cllrs Phillips, and Wortley

Public Realms: Cllrs Warren, and Watts

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

On-going matters: The potential mud scraping/removal from Butchers Lane and Wash Lane was considered. This is the responsibility of County Highways and the PC will continue to press them to get it done. Cllr Watts also agreed to contact Boxford Fruit Farms regarding mud left by their tractors. Please report any pot-holes, drainage and other highways issues on the County Highways Reporting Tool: <https://bit.ly/scc-highways-report>

The Police are being urged to attend a PC Meeting to share details of their structure.

The Chair updated the meeting that the County Council (SCC) are considering options for the restoration of the Cox Hill to Fen Street footpath surface. There is an agreement between the landowner and the SCC in this respect.

The PC will consider reimbursing the cost of remedying the poor cutting at Ash Street/Fen Street and Gunary Close. This will be on the July Meeting Agenda for discussion.

The Chair will discuss terms of reference in relation to a Village Volunteer Group between meetings.

Parking issues in Brook Hall Road were reported as worsening, especially following wet weather (when the verge cannot be used) and on certain days with staff meetings at the care home. The care home is run by a private business and the most likely solution would be for them, with permission from SCC, to improve the surface of the verge for parking and construct a dropped kerb. Cllr Watts agreed to liaise and write to them with this suggestion between meetings

The Chair reported that the church clock has stopped. The PC maintains the clock as a public clock for the village. The Chair has arranged for a new contractor to attend. Our usual contractor has moved away.

The Old Gaol project is underway with the allocated funding.

The frustrations in relation to the village bus provision were outlined at the last PC Meeting and community volunteers are looking to go to press to put further pressure on SCC.

Finance: In addition to the usual business, the Internal Audit Report was discussed with all matters approved with some recommendations for the future. The Chair thanked the clerk/RFO for all her hard work in relation to the audit.

Cemetery & Churchyard: Cllr D Warren reported that there is concern about long-wet grass sticking to headstones after maintenance. In relation to the churchyard, advice is being followed from Suffolk Wildlife Trust to see what can be yielded from a different regime. Compost heaps are also being constructed.

Public Realms: Resident Kevin Couling has volunteered to continue to liaise with the community wardens and report via the sub-committee. The restored teak bench is to be positioned in the WI bed at the top of School Hill. It was agreed for the clerk to contact the DC to ask for a change to their junction grass cutting at the Homefield junction with Swan Street in view of visibility issues. It was reported that the newly planted flowers in the planters on the bridge are dying due to lack of water.

District Council Report: District Cllr B Hurren attended and confirmed the District Council (DC) are still restricting business due to the forthcoming elections. At the DC currently they are striving to improve their housing stock, making them more energy efficient. Some of their older houses may require retrofitting to bring them up to standard. He was disappointed with the state of some roads with potholes, especially at Hagmore Green. He has reported the latter to Assington PC. Cllr Hurren agreed to chase the issue with the bund below the oil tank by the sheltered housing in Ash Street, filling with water. The Chair was to provide details.

County Council Report: County Cllr J Finch sent his apologies and, no report had been received.

Planning: The full planning details can be seen in the minutes on the Parish Council website

Date of Next Meeting: 23rd July 2024. Our clerk is retiring after 19 years, and the PC will be employing a new clerk to potentially start from September.

Full minutes can be found at: <http://boxford-pc.gov.uk>

Debbie Hattrell

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

GROTON

Summary of Council Meeting 3rd July 2024

Present: Piers Roberts, Sarah McGrath, Nigel Chapman, Roland Cheeseman, Catherine Hearn, Adam Dixon-Smith, Richard Jones (Clerk) **Apologies for absence:** M MacKay-Morris

Financial Matters: The Statement of Finances & Orders for Payment and Q1 accounts were approved. The clerk reported that the PC had received an invoice from the district council for bin emptying, the cost of which was far in excess of previous years. He advised that he had queried this and was still awaiting a response.

Planning Matters: DC/24/02357 Spout Farm, Spout Lane Application for Listed Building Consent- Repair to south facing gable wall, the sole plate of which has rotted away causing cracks, holes and water ingress, remove cement render, insulate and replace with lime render and limewash finish to colour match - Supported

DC/24/02831 4 Groton Place, Groton Street. Householder Application - Part conversion of ground floor garage/store to additional ancillary accommodation as detailed in Design & Access Statement and supporting documentation – No objection.

DC/24/02832 4 Groton Place, Groton Street. Application for Listed Building Consent - Internal and external works to facilitate part conversion of ground floor garage/store to additional ancillary accommodation as detailed in Design & Access Statement and supporting documentation – No objection

Planning Procedure – It was agreed that the clerk would provide details of new applications as soon as possible after he received them and would ask the District Council for a time extension in cases where the cutoff date for comments was before the next scheduled parish council meeting. Should an extension not be possible the council would meet either in person or remotely to discuss.

Any Other (Urgent) Planning Matters – There was a discussion about the ‘Call for Sites’ process and whether it was possible to find out if Groton was being considered for development. The clerk to make enquiries and report back.

Groton People and Places Update: N Chapman reported that attendees at the recent Midsummer Fayre had been asked to complete a questionnaire based on questions agreed at the previous PC meeting and twenty questionnaires had been completed. The majority of responses were positive with only a few areas of concern, centered around conversions and mobility adaptations. The next step was to hold further information/consultation sessions in the village hall in August and September with the hope that the document could be finalised by the end of 2024.

Wildfires & Emergency Plan Update: The Chair reported that he had attended a formal training session and that everything now seemed to be fully set up.

Highway and Footpath Matters: *Footpath Leaflet* – Process now complete. Just waiting for the leaflet to be produced. *Footpath Cutting* – Next cut was due to take place on the coming weekend.

Groton Traffic Assessment Update – Data received from Swan St had indicated that speeding was taking place. A discussion took place about how to combat the problem as all solutions were expensive. It was agreed to look at the possibility of grant funding. N Chapman to contact the district council regarding the possibility of obtaining a CIL grant to fund a traffic calming project.

A Garland of Hamlets (Groton Through the Ages): C Hearn reported that the newly formed Groton Historical Society was hosting a talk from Sarah Doig, a local history researcher and author on 20 September. Four members of the group had each been tasked with researching a particular subject for the Garland of Hamlets project.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18th September at 7pm

Full minutes can be found at:

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

Richard Jones

01473 828246 / grotonclerk@yahoo.com

EDWARDSTONE

Summary of Council Meeting 15th July 2024

Present: M Gibson, T Wood, R Norman, R Jones (Clerk) Guests: J Finch (Suffolk County Council)

Apologies for Absence: D Williams, L Smyth, J Morgan. The Council thanked the former councillor and outgoing Chair, Phil Baker for his service and valuable contributions during his time in office.

Financial Matters: Statement of Finances & Orders for Payment and Q3 accounts were approved. *Internal Auditor* – The clerk to source a new auditor. *Clerk's Annual Increment* – Approved. *Future Use of CIL funding* – It was agreed to look at providing a WiFi connection to the parish hall. R Norman to provide M Gibson with details of who to contact at BDC. *Other Financial Matters* – The clerk reported that he had queried the invoice received from Babergh DC for litter/dog waste bin emptying as the cost had risen substantially this year. He had received a response from BDC which had only partially explained the reason for such an increase but ultimately the invoice would have to be paid and savings made elsewhere to balance the budget.

Planning Matters: DC/24/02908 Sherbourne House Farm, Sherbourne Street. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Formation, Alteration or Maintenance of Private Ways for Agricultural or Forestry use – No objection.

Other Planning Matters – The Chair had contacted the District Council following a planning non-compliance issue with a development in the village. The Council had agreed the planning conditions had not been adhered to and the property owner had agreed to make good the non-conformity.

Neighbourhood Plan Update: M Gibson reported that following the recent consultation period which ended on 14 June, the plan and comments were now being looked at by an independent examiner before the final stage and referendum.

Climate Change: *Wildfires and Community Emergency Plan* – T Wood agreed to take over as lead on this project. Everything was now in place and it was agreed to review the plan annually to ensure everything was kept up to date and complied with any new legislation or requirements. *Electric Vehicle Charging Points* – M Gibson had agreed to take over as lead and reported that things were progressing with just a slight change in the financial arrangements which would not adversely affect the Parish Council.

Highway & Footpath Matters: *Footpath Cutting* – Two cuts had taken place but the contractor had not been able to get his tractor across one of the previously repaired bridges despite being asked how wide he needed the crossing to be. R Norman had spoken to the contractor on site and he had completed the work using a strimmer. R Norman to arrange for bridge to be widened to provide full access. Insurance details now received from contractor and although he could not commit to a 3-year contract, kit was agreed to continue on a yearly basis. *Footpath Leaflet* – Just waiting for the completed leaflets to be produced. Edwardstone, Boxford and Groton PCs to receive 600 leaflets each.

Date of next meeting: Monday 16th September at 7.30pm

Full minutes can be found at:

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

Richard Jones

01473 828246 / edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com

OTHER PARISH COUNCILS

Little Waldingfield PC

Chris White Councillor & Clerk - 07541 133535

clerk.littlewaldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk

<https://bit.ly/LW-parish-minutes>

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Helena x

office@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk
01787 211 000

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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
	<i>or Wendy Hills</i>	01787 210342
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	<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
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
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>Carole Langley</i>	01787 373548
Newton War Games Club	<i>Brian Lawson</i>	01787 312160
Newton Fireside Club	<i>Moir 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 ncraymond@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 littlewaldingfieldcharities@gmail.com
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>	07850 941 831 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>Moir 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	<i>Mark Miller</i>	01787 211596 mark.miller@talktalk.net
Boxford Village Hall	<i>Jane Elliott</i>	07721 880521 booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk
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@mildenpavilion.co.uk
Newton Village Hall	<i>Alan Vince</i>	07955 199000

The Blooming Garden

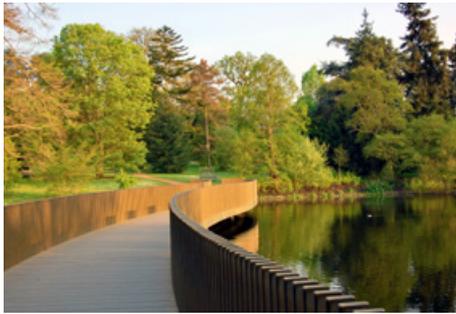
A rose by any other name...

Several years ago I fell in love with a beautiful big blowsy rose growing up the wall of a friend's Tudor house here in Suffolk and I was determined to seek it out. My friend told me that it was a David Austin rose called 'Mortimer Sackler', but I just couldn't find a



Rosa 'Mary Delany'

rose of this name. Apparently, it was launched at Chelsea Flower Show in 2002. The right to name the rose had been auctioned to raise funds for the National Trust. Theresa Sackler had won the auction and named this beautiful name after her husband Mortimer who was well known for his philanthropic works. The Sackler name was known throughout the art world as the family donated generously to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, the Louvre, and here in England, the Tate and the National Portrait Gallery and many other prestigious galleries. They also provided the funds for a beautiful bridge built over the lake at Kew in 2006 and known as the Sackler Crossing. I notice that it is now known as the Lake Crossing.



The Lake Crossing at Kew Royal Botanic Gardens

The Sackler room in the National Gallery which contains such iconic pictures as Turner's *The Fighting Temeraire* and Constable's *The Haywain* had the sign bearing the Sackler name removed in 2022. Westminster Abbey which has small stained windows bearing the Sackler name seems embarrassed by it and is at pains to make it clear that projects at Westminster Abbey are no longer supported by the Sacklers. All over the world charities are distancing themselves as the Sackler name has become anathema.

The Sackler family, both Mortimer and his American relatives, made a fortune from their pharmaceutical company, Purdu Pharma which produced a painkiller called OxyContin. This drug was much stronger than morphine and was responsible for an Opioid crisis which has killed and destroyed the lives of thousands and thousands of people in America. I understand that OxyContin was ruthlessly promoted as being non-addictive when it was known that this was not the case. And it is said that kickbacks were given to doctors who prescribed it. It is a sordid story and if you would like to understand it better then I recommend the book *'Empire of Pain'* by Patrick Radden Keefe which chronicles the cynical corruption and greed of this appalling saga. There is a dramatised miniseries available on BBC Iplayer called 'Dopesick' which I am told is a powerful re-enactment of the scandal.

However beautiful, I can't imagine many people would want to buy a rose with this name now. In 2022, you might think somewhat belatedly, as the scandal was revealed in 2019, David Austin renamed the rose 'Mary Delany'. This is a nice safe name as Mary Delany died in 1788. She was a remarkable lady and the story

of her life is fascinating. She was married off at 17, against her will, to a disgusting drunk 45 years her senior. He died when she was 23 but left his fortune to his niece. So her sacrifice was pointless. Mary was left with a small widow's stipend. She seemed to spend most of her life living in other people's homes. But she was not a figure of pity. She was an intellectual with a talent for art and music and mixed with the leading intellectuals of her day. She found happiness at last when she married an Irish cleric at the age of 43. But her life's work did not start until she was 72 and until her death she created 984 botanical masterpieces which are now in the British Museum. She said *'I have found a new way of imitating flowers'* and indeed she had. Her mixed media collages were innovative. She created mosaics using hundreds of pieces of cut up paper. If you are interested by Mary Delany, and her life story is fascinating, I suggest you look out for the book, *Mary Delany and her Flower Collages* by Ruth Hayden.

Rosa 'Mary Delany' is beautiful and serenely unconcerned by its changing names. Now I have tracked it down at last, I grow it up one of my rose arches. It is a very healthy climber up to about 12 feet and it is practically thornless. It produces sprays of gorgeous pale pink double flowers which open up to reveal golden stamens. It flowers over a long season and is a truly lovely rose. I'm sure Mary Delany would be delighted if she could see her namesake.



'Damask Rose by Mary Delany
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Rosa 'Mary Delany'

Chloris.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 2024

26 FRI	French's Rib & Wing Evening The Fleece, Boxford	7pm
27-28 SAT-SUN	'A Bit Of A Do' - Vintage Tractors & Stalls Pebmarsh Football Ground, CO9 2NG	7pm

AUGUST 2024

3 SAT	St Mary's Public Consultation Day St Mary's Church, Boxford	4-6pm
3 SAT	Leavenheath Cinema - 'What we did on our...' Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
6 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society - Talk Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
7 WED	Boxford WI - Outing To Suffolk Punch Trust Boxford	TBC
9 FRI	Relaxation & Sound - all welcome Boxford Village Hall	6-7:30pm
10 SAT	Quiz Night Polstead Village Hall	7pm
17 SAT	Summer Craft Fair & BBQ Bull Hotel, Long Melford	11-3pm
17 SAT	ABBA Themed Garden Party Primrose Cottage, Groton	3-5pm
18 SUN	Assington Horticultural Show Assington Village Hall	2pm
19 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
22 THU	Madrigalia & Melody of Harps Sudbury Arts Centre (formerly St Peter's)	12:30pm
24-26 SAT-MON	Polstead Exhibition - Artist & Makers Maria Martins Cottage, Polstead CO6 5AG	10am-5pm
25 SUN	Big Day Small Country - Charity Concert Stratford St Mary	1pm
26 MON	Suffolk Villages Festival - Baroque Flute St Mary's, Boxford	11am

SEPTEMBER 2024

3 TUE	Fireside Club - Club AGM and Cheese & Wine Newton Village Hall	2pm
3 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society - Talk Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
4 WED	Boxford WI - Talk 'Life in Secondary Schools' Boxford Village Hall	TBC
7 SAT	Boxford Market Boxford Village Hall	10-1pm
7 SAT	BINGO! Polstead Village Hall	6:30pm
7 SAT	Leavenheath Cinema - 'One Life' Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
8 SUN	Leo's Lions Charity Football Match Halstead Football Club	11am
13 FRI	Relaxation & Sound - all welcome Boxford Village Hall	6-7:30pm
13 FRI	History of Spoken English - Charlie Haylock Edwardstone Village Hall	7pm
15 SUN	Boxford Drama Group Open Morning Boxford Village Hall	TBC
17 TUE	Fireside Club - Music Hall Tunes Newton Village Hall	2pm
18 WED	LWHS - Kings, Queens, Bones & Bastards Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm

20 FRI	Groton History Society - Sarah Doig Talk Groton Village Hall	TBC
21 SAT	The Great Snail Race Leavenheath Village Hall	7pm
21 SAT	Quiz Night Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7pm
21 SAT	A Sailor's Life - Songs & Entertainment Newton Village Hall	7pm
23 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
28 SAT	Coffee Morning Newton Village Hall	10-11:30am

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NEO'S NEWS FROM SESAW

Ken and Ollie, the resident dog and cat representatives at SESAW, are both sun-bathing, leaving me to write this month's news. My name is Neo and like Ollie, I am a handsome black cat but there the similarity ends. While he struts around the garden enjoying his freedom, I watch enviously through a wire mesh window. There are other rescued cats plus dogs and rabbits, also waiting for that special person to take them home.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. We are safe and cared for by some lovely volun-



teers who give their time whatever the weather. Louisa, for instance, comes in every week with her cheery voice, warm smile and pink rubber gloves! She doesn't rest until our food pens are thoroughly cleaned, litter trays refilled, water and food bowls replenished – you could eat off the floor when she's finished! Then it's my turn for the brush!

I really look forward to being groomed and Louisa enjoys it too. She says, "I have only been volunteering at Sesaw for a few months and honestly, it is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. To go home, having made a difference by cleaning, feeding and a good degree of fussing, is priceless. Sesaw is an absolute lifeline for many animals so the more volunteers the merrier!"

Please call in one morning if you'd like to join Louisa. Hopefully someone will come for me soon but there are many other rescued animals needing care. You might even meet Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua or Ollie (the Black) Cat!

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare,
Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.
Tel: **01787 210888**
Web: www.sesaw.co.uk

EBONY'S DIARY

The summer term is now over, having finished with many of the riders undertaking our countryside challenge. We redesigned it this year to include going up and down banks and through trees. The aim of the challenge is to test the skills of the riders in guiding their pony through different obstacles, whether independently or whilst being lead. The week was filled with laughter and riders went home with rosettes, or even cups.



Pictured is one of the Wednesday morning riders, Ruby Blu, with April, receiving rosettes from the coaches for her efforts both in the countryside challenge and dressage. April is one of our longer-serving ponies, coming to the centre in 2015. She is a New Forest, bay mare, 13.1hh and now 18 years old. She's a great pony for the right rider, who needs to be calm and

responsive. She is easy to handle, great in traffic and just wants to please.

The centre held its AGM and social barbecue at the end of term, during which awards are given to long serving volunteers, some having done 30 years with the Centre! That included the outgoing Chairman, Jan Derbyshire who started as a volunteer with little knowledge of horses, progressed to become a coach and then took on the role of chairman for 17 years. She wouldn't have stayed that long had the Shelley Centre not been such a fantastic place both for its riders and volunteers. Perhaps this might persuade you to give it a try as a volunteer?

It's not too late to book tickets for our next fundraiser, the Family Music Day on 25th August in Stratford St Mary. Come and relax in the sun, eat, drink, dance and enjoy American country and soul music in a beautiful setting. Tickets available from <https://bigdaysmallcountry.eventbrite.com>

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