

February 2025

# 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.



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# BOXFORD SURGERY PLANS

Back on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, towards the end of an emotionally charged meeting between representatives of the Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice (HBGP) and members of the local benefice, a group of residents offered to liaise with HBGP to ascertain if there was any possibility of a solution to the problems experienced in the Boxford surgery that would help avoid its closure.

On January 9<sup>th</sup> Colin Parr and David Burden from the working group delivered a counter-proposal to HBGP's closure application to the offices of the NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB), the organisation responsible for making the ultimate decision on whether to approve HBGP's Boxford closure application.

The counter-proposal is an extremely well-written and comprehensive document that seeks to approach the issue positively and constructively in order to highlight the fact that it is possible and without a doubt preferable to continue the Boxford surgery rather than close it.

HBGP's closure application rests on a number of key points such as security, cost, and provision which the Boxford counter-proposal tackles in turn to provide well-thought out mitigation and solutions for.

David Burden from the Boxford group responsible for the counter-proposal said to the BRN,

*"Our aim is to improve a highly valued community health asset. We are not thinking of closure and mitigation; rather an improved surgery making a long term contribution to the Practice. We were struck by the huge shock running through the local villages at the prospect of losing the surgery and determined to do something immediately after the public meeting at which strong views were expressed."*

The document provides a number of succinct conclusions:

1. The overriding wish of the community is to retain the Boxford surgery and to correct the lack of investment in the building in recent years.
2. The closure impact falls most on the vulnerable and disadvantaged.
3. Closure transfers a cost of anywhere between £70,000 and £100,000 per annum to the community and the public purse while removing a valuable service which currently causes an insignificant public deficit.
4. Closure will cause an increase in traffic, carbon footprint and journeys on a dangerous road (A1071).
5. Closure will likely cause an increase in use of ambulance and A&E services.
6. The Boxford surgery is working now; with investment and ingenuity it can be improved and enhanced to meet the future realistic aspirations for care in the community in Boxford and the surrounding area.
7. The closure of a surgery so highly valued by the community it serves is the antithesis of current Government policy of making the NHS more of a neighbourhood health service with more care available closer to people's homes.



*Colin Parr and David Burden from the Boxford working group deliver the counter-proposal to the ICB*

A copy of the full document is available to read in Boxford Post Office whilst a digital copy can be downloaded from the Boxford Suffolk website at: <https://bit.ly/boxford-surgery>

The final decision now rests with the ICB and will be made shortly, but huge thanks must go to the working group who have put in a lot of hard work developing positive and workable alternatives to what would be a grievous loss to the local infrastructure of the benefice.

## RECLAIM THE RAIN

Hello Boxford residents!

To kick off the New Year, we wanted to share with you our plans in and around Boxford for 2025 in our first article back!

This January we were delighted to attend Boxford CEVCP School's morning assembly to share Reclaim the Rain's SuDS in Schools work, as well as asking for the children's help in designing bespoke front covers for the already installed SuDS Pods at the school.

We continue to work in partnership with local landowners and J.S. Wright & Sons Cricket Bat Company and in January planted approximately 30 willow trees in Boxford's upper catchment. In good time these newly planted trees will support and enhance the range of other sustainable water management being delivered across Boxford's surface water catchment to reduce flood risk to the village. In this area preparation works are already underway to refurbish existing ponds and construct a network of leaky dams, supporting healthier aquatic habitats, providing water quality improvement, and effective sediment management.

Our collaboration with the Parochial Church Council and Our Rainwater continues and presently we are exploring options which provide an effective and proportionate water reuse scheme for Boxford St Mary's Church. We expect to receive the outputs from phase 1 imminently, which will inform our next steps with this project.

Over the next few months, we will continue our work with Boxford's Spinney committee to develop a viable proposal which we hope could offer flood risk benefit, as well as an environmental and social opportunities for the youth groups utilising this site.

Thank you for your continued support for Reclaim the Rain and helping us to bring these projects to life. If you haven't already seen it, in January a new edition of our Reclaim the Rain Newsletter went live! Head over to our website to read exciting updates across the Norfolk and Suffolk communities.

*Best Wishes,  
Ruby and Sian  
[www.reclaimtherain.org](http://www.reclaimtherain.org)*



## Box River News

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Deadline date for the March 2025 Issue is:

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

# SESAW'S MAGGIE JACKAMAN

Many will have no doubt heard about the sad death of Madeline 'Maggie' Jackaman, founder of SESAW (Suffolk and Essex Small Animal Welfare) at the age of 82. Her loss to the local area is keenly felt - for over 30 years Maggie dedicated her every waking moment to caring for sick, abandoned and mistreated animals, in many cases rehabilitating them and rehoming them with new families. Her founding of SESAW enabled many hundreds of animals to escape injury or mistreatment.



Her funeral at St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoke-by-Nayland, on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 was very well attended and the church was full - a testament to her popularity and to the community's depth of feeling towards her and the work she tirelessly undertook with her team of dedicated volunteers. One such volunteer at SESAW was Tanya Rivers from Groton, who said of Maggie:

*"Move over St Francis of Assisi, another saint has joined the building, St Maggie of Leavenheath! Maggie had the biggest heart in the smallest body and was loved by so many people. Her work ethic was second to none, dedicating over 32 years, 24 hours a day to find homes for animals of all shapes and sizes. She was truly one in a million and will be missed by all who knew her."*



Maggie moved to Colchester at a young age during WWII to stay with an aunt and soon developed a deep love for animals. She continued to live in Colchester as an adult throughout her career working for BT until she moved to a tiny cottage in Boxford with her husband Ron. Taking early retirement from BT they purchased the house and land in Leavenheath that eventually became SESAW up until the present day.

Originally taking in just domestic pets, SESAW soon started taking in all types of animals and before long became a centre for any and all animals needing sanctuary. Maggie's compassion and empathy were always evident in her day to day work and it was always the animals that were front and centre of her care and love. Her team of volunteers are quick to praise what was her tireless devotion to her patients' welfare.

SESAW regularly published a column in the Box River News detailing the centre's news, written alternately by centre mascots 'Kenny The Chihuahua' and 'Ollie The Black Cat'. Sadly, due to organisational issues, SESAW is being wound down (the final closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025). The remaining animals have been rehomed and remaining funds re-donated to other charities with like-minded causes, but she will always be remembered for the huge amount of joy and happiness brought to so many across the county and beyond as the result of the work she and Ron started.

She will be very much missed.

For any enquiries about emergency treatment or rescue of sick, injured or maltreated animals, please contact the following alternative organisations:

**The Blue Cross:** Bourne Hill, Wherstead, Ipswich, IP2 8NQ,  
[www.bluecross.org.uk/suffolk-rehoming-centre](http://www.bluecross.org.uk/suffolk-rehoming-centre)  
Contact: 0300 777 1843 / [suffolk@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:suffolk@bluecross.org.uk)

**Colchester Cats Rescue:** Bromley Rd, Colchester CO7 7SF  
[www.colchestercatsrescue.org.uk](http://www.colchestercatsrescue.org.uk)  
Contact: 01206 864284 / [mail@colchestercatsrescue.org.uk](mailto:mail@colchestercatsrescue.org.uk)

**Wildlives Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre East Anglia:**  
'Catkins' Frating Rd, Thorrington, Colchester CO7 8HT  
[www.wildlives.org.uk](http://www.wildlives.org.uk)  
Contact: 01206 251174 / email [info@wildlives.org.uk](mailto:info@wildlives.org.uk)  
Urgent calls only (between 9:30-4:30): 07802 767016

**The Dogs Trust:** Nevendon Rd, Wickford SS12 0FH  
[www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)  
Contact: 0303 003 0000 / [info@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@dogstrust.org.uk)

## NEWTON FIRESIDE CLUB

Happy New Year to you all and we look forward to another successful year.

So far, we have only met once, on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Members brought along their favourite games to play, accompanied by a glass of wine or something non-alcoholic. There was much chatter and laughter and, as always, some delicious cake. We were joined by two new ladies, who received a warm welcome and have signed up for fish and chips on 21<sup>st</sup> January.



On 4<sup>th</sup> February, we are going to be entertained with a talk about discovering your family history. I'm sure this will be very interesting and hopefully give us ideas on how to start our own ancestry search.

The next session is our gin tasting by English Spirit, based in Great Yeldham. They produce gin, vodka, rum and sambuca. They will also be bringing tasters of amazing vinegars and condiments and non-alcoholic shrubs, which are vinegar-based fruit syrups. Delicious. As well as cakes, we'll have a few nibbles to help the tasters down.

If you would like to join us for the tasting, we have a few spaces left. You will need to book in advance and tickets are £10 including samples, nibbles and the usual tea and cakes.

### AUTUMN 2024 PROGRAMME

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | A talk on discovering your family history |
| Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb | Gin Tasting by English Spirit, Yeldham    |
| Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar  | Pancake Day 12:30 for 1pm                 |
| Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar | A Make-up Demonstration by Emma Quinn     |
| Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr  | 'Fooling About'                           |
| Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr | Easter Crafts                             |

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*

# FUEL SUPPORT

Find out more about the support available in your area

## Help to heat your home:

**Prepayment meters** – if you are unable to top up your prepayment meter, Citizens Advice can offer you advice and may be able to refer you for charitable support. You can contact Sudbury & South Suffolk Citizens Advice on **01787 321 400** or visit [www.sudburycab.org.uk](http://www.sudburycab.org.uk).

## Local Welfare Assistance

**Scheme** – This hardship grant offers help towards the cost of essentials, including energy. Visit the Suffolk County Council website and search for 'Local Welfare Assistance' for more information and to apply.

**Surviving Winter** – if you are aged over 66 and not in receipt of Pension Credit you may be able to get extra help if you are struggling to heat your home. The scheme can help with fuel vouchers and support with alternative fuels like oil and LPG. To be eligible your income must be under £20,000 for a single person, or £24,000 for a couple. Contact Sudbury & South Suffolk Citizens Advice to apply.

**Emergency Heating** – if you're vulnerable, and your home currently has no heating, 'Warm Homes Healthy People' can provide free emergency heaters and help you find longer term support. Call 03456 037 686 or email [whhp@eastssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:whhp@eastssuffolk.gov.uk). Subject to availability, not generally available for tenants.

## Bringing down your bills:

**Warm Homes Healthy People Suffolk** – offer free efficiency assessments and advice to help you use less energy. If you are a private tenant or homeowner, they can also tell you if you are eligible for energy efficiency grants. For more information visit [www.warmhomessuffolk.org](http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org) or call 03456 037 686.

**National Energy Action** – runs a 'Warm & Safe Homes' helpline which advises on ways to reduce energy use and improve efficiency. It also offers support to switch suppliers and advice if you get behind on payments. Call 0800 304 7159 or visit [www.nea.org.uk](http://www.nea.org.uk).

**Suffolk Centres for Warmth** – offer local energy and financial inclusion advice to help people stay warm and healthy in their homes. You can find out more and invite them to your local groups and community events by visiting: [www.babergh.gov.uk/suffolk-centres-for-warmth](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/suffolk-centres-for-warmth)

## Help for off-gas homes:

**Oil loans** – Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union offer interest-free loans of £500 to help spread the upfront cost of oil and LPG. To become a member and apply visit [www.eslco.co.uk](http://www.eslco.co.uk) or call 03336 000690. Subject to a manual decision process, affordability and a credit check.

**Oil buying clubs** – Bulk buying reduces the cost of your heating oil. Find out if your community has an oil buying club by visiting [www.oil-club.co.uk](http://www.oil-club.co.uk), you can also check the Community Action Suffolk website for details of their scheme [www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk) or call 01603 881 888.

## Dealing with energy debt:

**Supplier grants** – many energy suppliers have grants to reduce or clear debt if you meet their criteria. Speak to your energy supplier to see what help you can get.

**Citizens Advice** – offers advice for energy, debt and more. They



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Wednesday, Jan 22nd, 2025  
Wednesday, Feb 26, 2025

**Acoustic Night - Every 2nd Wednesday of the month**  
Wednesday, Feb 12, 2025

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

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**Wagyu Burgers** - Friday, Jan 31st & Fridays in Feb  
**Taqueria La Gringa** - Friday, Jan 17th

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can support you to create a budget, negotiate with your supplier and boost your income.

**Benefit entitlement** – payments such as Warm Homes Discount, Cold Weather Payments, and Winter Fuel Payments can add up to hundreds of pounds to help you pay your energy bills – but you'll need to be claiming certain benefits to get them. Benefit checks can be done online at [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators), or by contacting your local Citizens Advice.

## More information

Visit [www.babergh.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities) for more resources to help you keep fuel and utility costs down.

If you would prefer to speak to someone, you can contact our Customer Services team on 0300 123 4 000, option 7 to discuss your situation and find local organisations available to support you.

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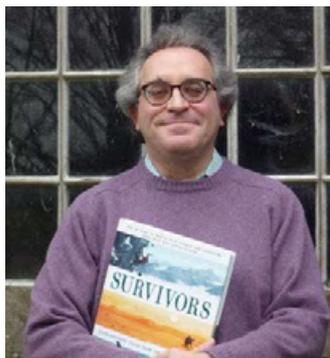
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# GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

## Upcoming Events:

Next up is our event for February, which should be a really interesting insight into the art of writing non-fiction history books!

**21<sup>st</sup> February** - *'An Evening with David Long'*. I am really delighted to have the chance to hear from David about his career and his passion for writing history non-fiction books for both adults and for children. David is an award winning author whose books have been translated into over 20 languages. He has also ghost written books for other authors. He writes the kind of books on subjects that he, himself, would want to read.



To learn more about the many books that David has written please visit his website [www.davidlong.info](http://www.davidlong.info).

I will be leading a talk at the end of March following on from Jenny's talk on Russia. Tentatively pencilled in for the 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> March it is entitled - *'What does History teach us about America today?'* I will confirm the date as soon as I can.

I will start the history of America in 1630, in our village, Groton, Suffolk, England, with an emigrant called Winthrop. He and other local fellows were indicative of thousands of emigrants, then and later, who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to chase an 'American' dream.

Is Trump v2 an isolated moment in history or has he always been coming? When was America 'Great'? What was 'Great'? Does history point the way ahead or at least explain the present?

I hope you agree that we have some great events to kick off the year ahead. Don't forget the events are £5 per head, which includes a glass of wine. This has been very popular!

## 80 Years ago with the 1<sup>st</sup> Suffolks:

It's all about getting ready for Germany! The first few days of February 1945 involved the familiar standard patrolling across the Maas river, towards the hamlets of Elsteren and Well. One



1st Dec 1944 - A 1st Suffolk patrol along the banks of the River Maas

patrol had to be skillfully extracted after losing a couple of officers. Lance Corporal Claude Conybeare was awarded the Military Medal for his leadership of the extraction, losing an eye in the operation. He later became Mayor of Folkestone.

On 6<sup>th</sup> February the battalion was relieved and transported back into Haacht, Belgium from Holland. The lucky ones were billeted with local families, sleeping in fresh beds. Others found shelter in the local sports hall. Rest, recuperation, resupply and routine maintenance was very welcome.

It was also clear that the next challenge for the 1<sup>st</sup> Suffolks was to be the invasion of Germany. Towns would now need to be cleared, with tough street fighting and even more vigorous defence, requiring daily practice and training. The Suffolks expected to be in the front line, as they had been since D-Day, a long 9 months ago. On 22 February the order came to move back into Holland. Before embussing into the waiting transports there was time for a parade to say 'thank you' to the local people. The three Dunkirk drummers led the way with the recovered drums!

Next stop, the front line in the Reichswald Forest and the first steps on German soil. The immediate objective was to sever the Udem-Weeze road. 'A' and 'B' companies led the way, to cut through a dense forest north of Weeze. Alcohol related codenames indicated brigade objectives. BRANDY, PORT, GIN and BEER were used to ensure success was intoxicating! This was part of a 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade operation. Success was achieved, without intoxication, but fortunately with only light casualties for the battalion!

## Other key February events in history:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2003: Space shuttle 'Columbia' broke apart in flight over Texas, killing all seven crew. This was the second space shuttle lost in flight. The first was 'Challenger' in January 1986.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1952: King George VI died. Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1587: Mary Queen of Scots was executed on Queen Elizabeth I's orders at Fotheringay Castle.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1725: Catherine I became Empress of Russia, following the death of her husband Peter the Great. She too would come to earn the 'The Great' title.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1990: Nelson Mandela, aged 71, was released from prison after serving 27 years of a life sentence. 4 years later he was elected president of South Africa.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 269: Saint Valentine of Rome was martyred. He is alleged to have 'cut hearts from parchment', to remind the Christian men he saved from conscription into the Roman army of their vows and God's love. Well, that is one story anyway.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1972: President Richard Nixon arrived in China for a historic meeting with Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai. Arguably his greatest achievement?
- 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 1815: Napoleon Bonaparte escaped exile from Elba. Thus started the infamous '100 Days' which resulted in his final defeat at Waterloo. His next exile would be final and fatal.

## Recommended Reading, Listening and Viewing:

- *'The Forbidden Garden of Leningrad'* by Simon Parkin. This is a story that has not been told before. Thoroughly recommended by a reader of these articles! I will be sure to follow up on this one. <https://amzn.to/3Cfasjh>
- *'At the Overseers' Door'* by Ray Whitehand. Again this is recommended by a reader. Groton Workhouse features in this story of Suffolk's Parish Workhouses. I have ordered this one! Ray has done talks on this subject across Suffolk. <https://amzn.to/4gXafAA>
- *'The Seventh Son'* by Sebastian Faulks. Whilst it is set a few years in the future it looks into the past and how DNA has evolved to provide insights on how regulations to limit climate change work in practice. This sounds fascinating. <https://amzn.to/40evSF6>
- "Watergate and Nixon" podcast series from The Rest is History. I said above that China may be his biggest achievement, Watergate certainly was up there with his worst!
- *'Reagan'* podcast series from The Rest is History team. Fascinating insight that challenges some myths we have of him, although he certainly was a classic 'All American' who followed the American Dream that anything is possible. A serious player whose legacy is felt today.
- *'The Zelensky Story'* on iPlayer. This is a 3-part documentary on the life and rise of Volodymyr Zelensky, from comedian to president. This is a story that if it wasn't true no one would believe it. This is highly recommended.



**What if?**

What if... the Spanish Armada had been victorious? Could Philip II have really been successful and invaded England? Actually with a couple of tweaks he most certainly could have been. It was believed that the Spanish would land in Essex, hopping over from Holland, with an army led by the Duke of Parma. The English had guessed Essex and had the main English forces there, which were relatively tiny compared to the Spanish. Parma chose Kent. The route from Kent to Westminster had been trodden 30 years previously by a Kentish Revolt led by Thomas Wyatt. They easily crossed the Thames at Kingston and hey presto are up to the walls of London with little bother. They failed because they did not have any guns to batter the walls. Parma on the other hand, had a siege train of 20 guns and planned to use the same route.

So could they have landed Parma's army in Kent? Well yes, if they had made some small changes to the initial plan and the weather had been different. On 19<sup>th</sup> July 1588, they could have attacked Plymouth Harbour, crippling the main English navy. Follow on to the Solent and a safe harbour could be established. Use the Galleases to set sail for Holland and collect Parma and his 28,000 strong army. They would have landed unopposed at sea or on land in Kent. Followed the well-trodden route to London, battered the walls and taken Westminster, the seat of English Government.

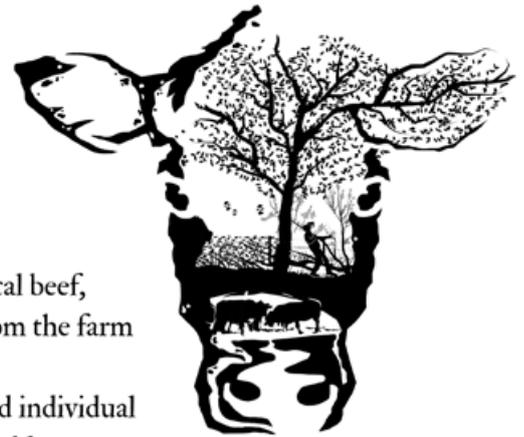
But what about Queen Elizabeth? Chances are she would probably have been assassinated as the Catholics' revolt, keeping Philip's hands clean. She could not be allowed to live and provide a focus of insurrection. Could Philip II have ruled England and a strong Catholic Hapsburg client have followed? Good news is that his son and heir Philip III and future heirs were to prove very weak (due to continual inbreeding, some say) and incapable of holding onto the Hapsburg dominions, let alone Spain. The Protestant aristocracy was strong and would probably succeed with continued revolt and drain Spanish resources to the point of reversal. But well maybe....

Anyhow, two things saved Elizabeth. Firstly the Spanish Armada made a mistake and was distracted by Drake and his weaker, smaller and faster frigates, neglecting Plymouth. Secondly the English Channel weather came to England's aid, delaying the Armada and forcing several ships to return to Spain. From there it only got worse! It could have been different in the short term, but not necessarily in the long term. Bonfire Night still happens!

Please email me with any recommendations and or requests for topics to be covered in this article going forward or in our events. VE Day will mean the 80 years ago with the 1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk's will need replacing, for example. I hope to see you all on 21<sup>st</sup> February for a glass of wine and 'An Evening with David Long'. I have started an email list that I will use to send out info. If you would like to be included please email me and I will add you to the distribution list.

*Nigel Chapman*  
*nigeljchap@gmail.com*

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## CITIZENS ADVICE

Black Friday, the festive season and Boxing Day sales can leave you entering the new year feeling financially a bit worse for wear... but it doesn't have to stay that way. Start the year fresh with our tips on how to be financially savvy.

**citizens  
advice**

### Assess your December spending

It's a good idea to look over what you spent in December. Review your bank and credit card statements to identify areas where you may have overspent. You could even categorise your expenses to understand your spending habits.

Make sure to prioritise essential payments like your rent or mortgage, utilities and groceries, and make at least minimum payments on any debts to avoid late fees. If you overspent over the festive period, create a plan to tackle this. If you're worried about debt, we can help.

### Budget and save

Next, track your January expenses. Make a note of all your outgoings for the month, and check your income covers this. This is where you can identify if you can cut unnecessary spending like dinners out or unplanned purchases. Try cooking at home and prepping your meals to save some money. You could also try automating your savings. Set up a direct debit to transfer a portion of your income to savings as soon as you're paid, or there are apps you can use to do this. Even a small amount can make a big difference!

### Set goals

New year, new me...? Start the year fresh by creating SMART goals. This makes your goals Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. It helps to break them into small steps. For example, one of your goals could be "Save £500 for a summer holiday by June by setting aside £100 monthly for 5 months."

### Avoid costly New Year fads

Skip the rush to join gyms or expensive diet plans in January. January promotions can pressure you to sign up impulsively. Instead, look for free or low-cost alternatives, like home workouts, outdoor activities, or community fitness classes, and only commit if you're sure it fits your lifestyle.

### Shop smart

Are there a few things in the shops you genuinely need? (No, not that new jumper that's identical to the one in your wardrobe!) Wait for discounts or promotions before buying them. Write a list, set a budget for each thing and avoid impulse buys — especially during sales.

If you're feeling stuck, always speak to your local Citizens Advice or call our Adviceline on **0800 144 8848** for personalised support.

For more information visit the Citizens Advice website at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or call Sudbury and South Suffolk Citizens Advice on **01787 321400** and leave a message and someone will call you back when available. We will attempt three times to call you back, so please expect a call from a withheld number. Alternatively, contact us via email at [advice@sudburycab.org.uk](mailto:advice@sudburycab.org.uk) or by using the contact facility on our website, [www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact](http://www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact)

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

## THE BUTCHER'S WIFE

When I first met the Butcher he played in a darts league for a local pub. He then joined another league and soon he was playing for three different pubs. I showed minimal interest but did go along to 'watch' him play. Really I was just there for a night in the pub and the sandwiches and chips they served at the end of the night. Nothing quite beats a cheese and onion sandwich with chips! Once the mini Leeders came along, nights at the pub became a distant memory and the Butcher stopped playing darts.



Fast forward to early January 2025. The Butcher is watching the World Darts Championship, in particular, the final match between 17-year-old Littler and some 'old' guy. The Butcher is in his element and starts reminiscing about his darts days. Apparently if he had carried on playing, he could have been a professional darts player and be worth millions.

I enjoyed watching the game and it was nice to see a young lad win but that's where it ended for me. The Butcher on the other hand got completely carried away and did a bit of online shopping. A few days later a dartboard arrived, along with three sets of new darts and a proper mat, which I've now learnt is called an *oche*. As much as I liked his enthusiasm, I was concerned about where he thought this dartboard was going to go. I needn't have worried, he had it all figured out. The mirror wall I have in the dining room, which has about 30 mirrors of different styles and shapes, could host this new monstrosity. Before I could say 'no way, Jose', five of my mirrors had been replaced with the dartboard and the dining room table had been moved over to make way for the oche. The best part is that now, a few weeks later, the wall beneath the dartboard is full of holes (admittedly these were mostly made by me!).

So watch this space, the Butcher's fledging darts career might take off or I'll end up with a load of broken mirrors to match my wall of holes!

I don't often bake - it's definitely not a strength of mine but I figure if the Butcher can become world darts champion, I can attempt some brownies!

---



## Goey Chocolate Brownies

### Ingredients

- 200g unsalted butter
- 200g dark chocolate chips
- 175g brown sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 75g plain flour
- 30g cocoa powder
- Pinch of salt

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C/350F
2. Line a 8" square tin with oil and baking paper
3. Put butter and chocolate chips in a bowl and microwave until melted, stirring every 30 seconds.
4. Add sugar and vanilla and mix. Then add eggs and mix until smooth and glossy.
5. Add flour, cocoa and salt and stir until smooth. Stir in chocolate chips and pour into the pan.
6. Bake for 22 minutes for really goey brownies, 26 minutes for fudgy brownies and 30 minutes for moist cake-like brownies.




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# RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends

February is a funny old month. Statistics suggest that for many of us, February is a month when we feel a little down in the dumps. Rates of depression are apparently higher and many of us just battle-on trying to get through another cold winter month. It is worth contemplating where that darkness comes from: the sun hasn't left us; it is just that we have momentarily moved away from it. In November our location on the Earth finally tilted away from the Sun to such a degree in its cycle that the days became significantly darker. During February, the darkness continues, but our position on the Earth begins moving back towards the light.



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

In the Church calendar, February begins with the feast of Candlemas, otherwise known as 'the Presentation of Christ in the Temple'.

At the Candlemas service, a representative sample of the candles we will use to give us light throughout the year will be blessed, reminding us that 'the light shines in the darkness'. The Gospel narrative set for Candlemas carries a significant theme of change. If Mary and Joseph were in any doubt about the kind of change that their new son might bring into their

lives, all uncertainty is banished when they take Jesus for purification at the Temple and the priest Simeon says; *"this child is destined for the rising and falling of many. And a sword will pierce your own soul too"*. Christ, the light of the world, the very essence of God, brings his light to the darkest places, but we should not expect the darkness to give up without a fight. Whether it is the dark places of the world or the dark places deep down within us, the penetrating light elicits resistance. Thus, it is easy to convince ourselves that the gloom may never leave us, that things will always be dark, despite evidence to the contrary.

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

Whether you feel that the glass is half-empty, or the glass is half-full, February is a month to prepare your body, mind and spirit for the changes and chances to come.

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

*Godspeed,*

*Fr Rob*

[boxriverrector@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverrector@gmail.com)

Tel: 01787 210434

## LENT LUNCH

AT  
THE PARISH ROOM  
LT WALDINGFIELD

WEDNESDAY, 12TH MARCH  
2025

12.00 PM - 2.00 PM

SUGGESTED DONATION £10.00  
RAISING FUNDS TOWARDS THE UPKEEP OF  
ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

THIS IS NOT A TICKETED EVENT, HOWEVER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR CATERING PURPOSES, IF YOU WOULD BE KIND ENOUGH TO REGISTER YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND WITH NANCY ROSER 01787 882897 OR EMAIL

nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk



**The Box River Benefice**

*Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
Little Waldingfield and Newton*

## ART & CRAFT

# EXHIBITION



24th & 25th May 2025

All Saints' Church, Newton Green

OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WISHES TO DISPLAY  
& SELL THEIR CREATIONS

CHILDREN'S SECTION

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXHIBIT AND FIND OUT MORE,  
PLEASE CONTACT MIRANDA DOYLE - 07726 315730

# Cool Cat

Take it easy this month, with our **NEW** deep-tissue massage...



***New! New! New! New! New! New! New! New! New! New!***

If the first few weeks of the year have left you feeling a little stressed or overwhelmed, our **NEW deep-tissue massage** could be just what you need.

Sure to hit the spot, this therapeutic treatment will tease out knots and areas of tension, rebalancing you: mind, body and soul.

**And this month, it's 20% off...**

## Launch Offer

**Deep-tissue back, neck and shoulder massage,**

**20% off \***

(reduced price - £40)

Call: 01787 211 000 to book

\* Offer valid once per person until 28/02/2025.

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

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



# SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2025



|  |       |                                    |                                 |
|--|-------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b><br><i>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i> | 09:30 | <i>Sunday Eucharist</i>            | St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield  |
|  | 11:00 | <i>Sunday Eucharist</i>            | St Mary's, Boxford              |
| <b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>   | 10:00 | <i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>      | Mary's House, Boxford           |
| <b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><i>4<sup>th</sup> Before Lent</i>               | 09:30 | <i>BCP Mattins</i>                 | St Bartholomew's, Groton        |
|  | 11:00 | <i>Sunday Eucharist with Choir</i> | St Mary's, Boxford              |
|  | 16:00 | <i>BCP Evensong</i>                | St Mary's, Boxford              |
| <b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>  | 10:00 | <i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>      | Mary's House, Boxford           |
| <b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b><br><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Before Lent</i>              | 09:30 | <i>Sunday Eucharist</i>            | St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone |
|  | 11:00 | <i>Sunday Eucharist with Choir</i> | St Mary's, Boxford              |
| <b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>  | 10:00 | <i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>      | Mary's House, Boxford           |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b><br><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Before Lent</i>              | 11:00 | <i>Sunday Eucharist</i>            | All Saints', Newton Green       |
|  | 11:00 | <i>Family Service</i>              | St Mary's, Boxford              |
| <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>  | 10:00 | <i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>      | St Mary's, Boxford              |

Morning Prayer - join Father Rob at St Mary's, Boxford or streamed live on Facebook at 8.00 am

- most Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mornings

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

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



**BOXRIVER BENEFICE**

## COFFEE MORNINGS

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

FRIDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY

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

SATURDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY

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

WEDNESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY

10.00 AM - COFFEE MORNING AT ALL SAINTS', NEWTON

EVERYONE WELCOME, COME ALONG FOR CUPPA AND A CHAT

**BRING AND SHARE**

# FOOD BANK

**St Mary's Church, Boxford  
(in the North Porch)**

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

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**Thank You**



# The Box River Benefice

Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
Little Waldingfield and Newton

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - FEBRUARY

- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> 10am** *Drop in for Coffee*, Mary's House, Boxford  
**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** *Coffee Morning*, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield  
**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> 10am** *Drop in for Coffee*, Mary's House, Boxford  
**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm** *Newton PCC*, The Rectory, Boxford  
**Thur 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm** *Lt Waldingfield PCC*, The Rectory, Boxford  
**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> 10am** *Coffee Morning*, St Mary's, Boxford  
**Tue 18<sup>th</sup> 10am** *Drop in for Coffee*, Mary's House, Boxford  
**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> 10am** *Coffee Morning*, All Saints', Newton  
**Tue 25<sup>th</sup> 10am** *Drop in for Coffee*, Mary's House, Boxford  
**Wed 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm** *Benefice Joint Council Meeting*, The Rectory, Boxford

## KEEPING UP TO DATE AND IN TOUCH WITH THE BOX RIVER BENEFICE

Did you know that there are several ways that you can keep up to date with everything that is happening at your local church? Follow us on Facebook, have a look on 'A Church Near You' website [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) or contact the benefice office to join our mailing lists. We will continue to keep you updated on all our events in 2025 in the Box River News and we look forward to welcoming you to the Box River Benefice.

## SESAW CLOSURE AND MEMORIAL SERVICE, ST MARY'S CHURCH, BOXFORD

A service of thanksgiving will be held at St Mary's Church, Boxford on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> January at 12:45pm. We invite you to attend if you have been touched by SESA, as we know so many of you have. Your pets and animals are welcome to come along. This service will be an opportunity for us to come together as a community and to reflect on all the incredible work SESA has done over the years.

## SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, CONFESSION AND PASTORAL VISITING

The benefice offers a rich ministry of spiritual guidance, confession and pastoral visiting. Our priests and ministers accompany people from all walks of life. If you would like spiritual guidance, confession, house blessing, pastoral visiting, home communion, hospital or prison visiting for yourself or someone you know, please do get in touch with Fr Rob or the benefice office.

## LIGHT UP - ST MARY'S, BOXFORD

On the 26<sup>th</sup> January, St Mary's Church was lit up in memory of Percy Rose, our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

If you would like further information about lighting up St Mary's Church in 'memory of a loved one or in celebration of an anniversary, birthday or special occasion', please contact the benefice office for further information.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL, BOXFORD

The annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's, Boxford was a resounding success, bringing joy and festive cheer to the community. The festival showcased beautifully decorated Christmas

trees, each one uniquely adorned by local groups, schools, and businesses. Visitors were treated to a visual feast as they strolled through the church, admiring the creativity and effort put into each tree. From traditional themes to modern interpretations, the festival had something for everyone. This year's favourite tree as voted for by attendees was the one decorated by Sunflower Nursery. Congratulations to all the children who worked hard to make all the decorations.



In addition to the stunning trees, the festival featured a variety of activities and a Christmas market added to the festive atmosphere. The festival is one of St Mary's main fundraising events, with proceeds going towards community projects and charitable causes. We are grateful to all the volunteers and participants who made this event possible.

## EDWARDSTONE CAROL SERVICE

Edwardstone Parochial Church Council would like to thank everyone who attend the carol service. The church was full to overflowing. Over £1,000 was collected during the service, so thank you to everyone who donated. The money raised will go towards the running and upkeep of St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone.

## ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION, ALL SAINTS', NEWTON

Calling all Artists and Craft Makers! Are you an artist or craft maker looking for an opportunity to showcase your talents and sell your creations? We invite you to participate in our upcoming exhibition on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May. Whether you specialise in painting, sculpture, pottery, textiles, or any other form of art or craft, we welcome all contributions. If you would like to exhibit and find out more about it, please contact Miranda Doyle – 07726 315730

## LENT LUNCH, LT WALDINGFIELD

St Lawrence's Church will be holding a Lent Lunch on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March in the Lt Waldingfield Parish Room, this is not a ticketed event but it would be helpful for catering purposes if you would be kind enough to register your intention to attend with Nancy Roser **01787 882897** or email [nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk)

Suggested donation £10.00 raising funds towards the upkeep of St Lawrence's Church, Lt Waldingfield.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Benefice Office

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

Fr Rob Parker-McGee SR

**01787 210434** email: [boxriverrector@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverrector@gmail.com)

The Trustees of  
Newton Village Hall  
**COFFEE MORNING**

on  
**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
10am to 11:30am  
Newton Village Hall

\*\*\*\*\*  
REFRESHMENTS  
CAKES  
PRIZES  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
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BOOKS  
RAFFLE  
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**All Welcome!!**

Donations of raffle prizes, cakes, books, produce, plants and bric-a-brac would be most welcome and can be brought on the day or delivered to any of the trustees.

**Trustees:**

Graham Ferguson, Fiona Garman, Joan Linney, Teresa Parry, Sue Presland, Rita Schwenk, Alan Vince, Janet Weavers.



**French's Care  
Haven**



**CURRY NIGHT**

**AT THE FLEECE HOTEL,  
BOXFORD, CO10 5DX**

**FRIDAY 28TH  
FEBRUARY 7PM**

**£16PP**



Raffle tickets will be available to purchase and there will be a pub bar available.

This includes meat curry and veggie curry and rice. Desserts are included in the price

To book a space please contact  
**Sharon**

Email - frenchs.100club@gmail.com  
Mobile - 07999051401

GROTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS



**QUIZ AND  
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At  
**Groton Village Hall**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 7:30 for 7:45 start  
£15.00 per head (entry plus choice of curry & dessert)

Teams of up to 6

B.Y.O. Bar

Raffle

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

**GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

FEBRUARY  
**21**



**An Evening with  
David Long**

**David Long**

Award winning Boxford Author of non fiction  
History books for Adults and Children

@ **Groton Village Hall: 19:30 - 21:30**

**£5 entry, includes Glass of Wine**

**BOXFORD  
GARDENING SOCIETY**

# Ruby Shepperson & Sian Watson RECLAIMING THE RAIN, BOXFORD

Find out what it's all about and celebrate  
our new Village Hall garden!



**Tuesday 4th February 7.30pm  
at Boxford Village Hall**



**Fleece Jazz** at  
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

**Chris Coull's Blue Note Quintet**  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 8pm - Tickets: £20



Celebrating the golden era of 1960s  
Modern Jazz from the Blue Note label,  
featuring music by John Coltrane, Freddie  
Hubbard, Art Blakey, Hank Mobley  
and Joe Henderson.

*Chris Coull* – Trumpet  
*Andy Panayi* – Sax  
*Terry Seabrook* – Piano  
*Dan Sheppard* – Bass  
*Peter Cater* – Drums

**Tristan Banks: View From Above**  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 8pm - Tickets: £20



Tristan Banks brings together his  
long-standing musical friends, including  
multi-sax virtuoso Paul Booth, to play his  
Brazilian influenced compositions.

*Tristan Banks* – Drums  
*Paul Booth* – Tenor sax  
*John Crawford* – Piano  
*Davide Mantovani* – Bass

**Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath CO6 4PZ**  
Ample parking; fully accessible. Directions: [www.fleecejazz.org.uk](http://www.fleecejazz.org.uk)  
Tickets: 01787 210796 or via **WeGotTickets** (booking fee applies);  
or on the door (cash or cheque only; sorry no debit/credit cards)  
**\*Friends of Fleece Jazz discount**

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

**THE FLEECE HOTEL**  
**Charity**

# QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 12th February 8pm  
Wednesday 12th March 8pm  
Wednesday 9th April 8pm  
Wednesday 14th May 8pm  
Wednesday 11th June 8pm

Free to enter, please donate on the night to the  
charity of the month!

Up to 6 people per team, call 01787 211 818 to  
reserve a table!



**ENJOY CULTURE,  
COFFEE & FRIENDS**

on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11am  
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or simply click the QR code which will take you direct to our  
website [www.TASstourvalley.org.uk](http://www.TASstourvalley.org.uk)

**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham**  
– the handsomest man in C17<sup>th</sup> England  
his patronage of the Arts

Favourite of King James I and Chief Minister to Charles I,  
this talk throws light on the life and possessions  
of a beautiful man who surrounded himself  
with beautiful things.



## Newton Open Gardens

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

We are looking for volunteers to open their gardens, help with refreshments, run plant and cake stalls at the village hall and to have an advertising board in their front garden.

We hope this will be the first such annual event to raise funds for the village hall, the church and the Fireside Club as well as being a fantastic community day for all.

Please put the date in your diary.  
Look out for more information,  
we will be putting a leaflet through your door soon!

For further details contact  
Sue or Paul Presland  
07881 383998



## Gardeners!

### Spring WILL come...

**Please open your garden  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

---

Boxford Open Gardens 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025  
Contact **Audrey Zuck**  
[audrey@a2zriskservices.com](mailto:audrey@a2zriskservices.com)  
or  
**07852 102 455**

## POLSTEAD FILMS

**SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE** 12A

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February, Doors open 7pm**

**POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL**

*Starring Cillian Murphy and Emily Watson*

*Small Things Like These*, a sensitive, beautifully shot and quietly moving adaptation of Claire Keegan's acclaimed novel about one man's stand against the evils of Ireland's infamous Magdalene laundries, the church's homes for unwed mothers.

Tickets are £5. Email: [polsteadfilms@gmail.com](mailto:polsteadfilms@gmail.com) to reserve or buy in Polstead Community Shop

The film starts at 7.30pm and will finish around 9.45pm  
*All proceeds in aid of Polstead Village Hall Charity No. 304933*



## COMING UP IN BRENT ELEIGH

### KAYAKING IN ANTARCTICA

Clare Symes is doing a talk on her latest trip. This time kayaking in Antarctica! Clare is just fearless! Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 4pm. Tickets £10 including tea/coffee and biscuits.

Please come along - it's sure to be fascinating!

### SPRING QUIZ

The next quiz will be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £12 per person, tables of 6-8 people. There will be the usual baked potatoes and chilli, with something for pudding too, served in the interval. There will be a donations bar, raffle and all the usual mixture of questions which means it is suitable for all abilities and ages. Please join in the fun. It's always such a great evening!

Reserve your seat or table by phoning 07946 209103 or emailing: [karenemarshall6@gmail.com](mailto:karenemarshall6@gmail.com).

## POLSTEAD GARDENING CLUB

Happy new year! Our Spring season of meetings is starting in February and we have some very interesting speakers lined up:

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm:** Snowdrops with Marc McHearne from Beth Chatto's Gardens

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm:** Growing from Seeds with Peter Miller from Kings Seeds, Kelvedon

We look forward to seeing you at the above events.

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

Membership subscriptions are due in February - single membership £20, joint membership £35.

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

## NOW AND THEN

**A comedy written in two parts by Elaine Horne.**

**Then:** Set in Bailey's Hotel, Bognor Regis, the year is 1910. The establishment is run by a very supercilious manager, Mr. Swinton, who is a bully and treats his female staff with disdain. There are comings and goings and shenanigans which all become clear in the end.

**Now:** We move forward one hundred years to the revamped hotel now run by Ms. Verity Greenway. Well, she tries to run it, but life has moved on meanwhile. The staff appear to run her. There are yet more comings and goings and shenanigans with hilarious consequences. Some things never change.

Do come and join us for a very entertaining evening in Boxford Village Hall and be prepared for a night of laughter.

We have a no-food option on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March when the tickets are only £8 each.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March are £16 each to include a two course meal. Amazing value!

Tickets go on sale on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February from the Post Office (see advert opposite).



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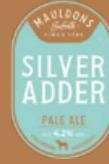
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10th - 15th February  
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**Session 1 Wednesday 26th March 2-3pm**

**Session 2 Saturday 29th March 10-11am**



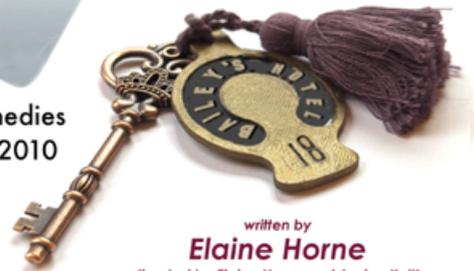
Boxford Drama Group  
*presents*



Now...

and

Then...



Two one-act comedies  
set in 1910 and 2010  
in Bailey's hotel

*A hilarious look at  
how values changed  
in 100 years!*

written by  
**Elaine Horne**  
directed by Elaine Horne and Janice Keith

27th to 29th March 2025 - 7:30pm at Boxford Village Hall

Thursday tickets £8 ★ Friday and Saturday tickets £16

No food on Thursday  
(shorter interval ~20 mins)

2-course meal served in the interval  
Please email any dietary requirements to  
[catering@boxfordshows.uk](mailto:catering@boxfordshows.uk)

★ Bar and raffle every night ★

Tickets available from 22nd February 2025 onwards  
at BOXFORD POST OFFICE and online at [boxfordshows.uk/tickets](http://boxfordshows.uk/tickets)

## READERS' LETTERS

*To whomever it may concern,*

I'm hoping some of you will remember Mavis and Robert Mares who lived for many years in Groton Place until they moved in 2007 to Sussex to be closer to their daughters. Sadly Robert died a few years later, but Mavis is still going strong. In fact, she will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March!

To mark the occasion I have a card which I shall send or take to her, but I thought it would be fun to get as many villagers as possible who remember her to sign it first. If you would like to sign it, please contact me via email and we can arrange it. I'm located in Groton Place.

Happy New Year to you all,

*Sarah Duverne*

[sarahduverne@gmail.com](mailto:sarahduverne@gmail.com)

*Dear Editor,*

I cannot let your "Big Thank You" to contributors, advertisers, readers, the printers and distributors in last month's Box River News (January 2025, page 3) pass without reciprocal huge thanks to you for all the hours, dedication and skill you contribute as Editor of our brilliant monthly benefice magazine. Eddie Kench, who lovingly edited and produced the BRN for 20 years from the first issue in August 2000 until his death in early 2021, richly deserved the tribute to him on the front page of the March 2021 edition, but in the four years since inheriting Eddie's mantle you have transformed the magazine, enhancing the layout and including colour in every issue while maintaining the important mix of reports and notices of local events, interesting articles, photographs, and comment pieces. So, thank you, and every good wish to you as start your 5<sup>th</sup> year as editor - hopefully (mea culpa) with fewer occasions when you have to chase for copy after a deadline!

*Yours sincerely,*

*David Lamming*

## BOXFORD WI UPDATE

Boxford WI started 2025 by inviting members to conjure up some Beetles! Many of these little critters looked more like aliens but we did produce some incredibly unskilled winners and even more skilled losers during our Beetle Drive at the January meeting! It brought laughter and a fun filled start to the New Year when we have much to look forward to. It was hard to close proceedings as all our members were very keen to sit and chat and just enjoy the delicious cakes and tea.

Next month we have local author Kate Baker coming to talk to us about her writing and new novel *Maid of Steel*.

If you would like to come and join us you would be made very welcome and yes there will be more cake! We have much to offer, friendship, fun and all our extra clubs. On offer are Book Club, Chatterbox (more tea, cake & a natter), Dining Divas (lunch club), Knit & Natter (crafting – even if you don't think you can craft, more tea, cake and of course more chatting!) and in the summer months Women who Wander (and usually end up with tea and cake somewhere). Visitor fee is £5pp.

So do come and visit us – our next meeting is Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 2-4pm, Village Hall, Boxford. Want to know more - please contact our Secretary, Lyn Beer on **07961 357 526** or email [lyn@the-brook.net](mailto:lyn@the-brook.net)

## FRENCH'S CARE HAVEN

Hello to our readers, I hope as always you have all been keeping well.

A date for your diary: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 7pm at The Fleece in Boxford for a curry night, £16pp veg and meat choice, desserts included. To book your table for a good night with tasty food, please contact Sharon at: [Frenchs.100club@gmail.com](mailto:Frenchs.100club@gmail.com) or call her on: 07999 051 401. If you are single that's fine you can join us on a table.

Pictured this month is George who is 14 years old and in Year 10 at Hadleigh High School, he has just finished his 10 weeks with us doing his Duke of Edinburgh awards. George helped with maintenance and general all-round jobs at the rescue. In the photo with George is Brian, who is 82 years old and a great help to us as a volunteer. Teens can do their



awards with us and choose to either help with maintenance and odd jobs or work with our rescued animals. So if you have a teenager in your family that would like to do their awards with us, let their high school know and then contact us.

Our Christmas raffle went well and we reached our target this year of tickets sold. We had some great prizes and would like to thank some of the companies who gave the prizes to us. They are: Stoke by Nayland Golf and Spa, Riverhill Spa, Perrywoods, Go Bananas, Jimmy's Farm, Adidas Noble tattoo, Elsinorevet physio and Old Joe's Adventure Golf.



In the other photo is Coco, our dear little boy who can be a cheeky monkey. Coco came to us in 2012 as a 3 year old who was no longer wanted by his owner and was going to be unnecessarily put to sleep. Reason being they said he had a heart murmur and could not be ridden so was of no use. I had his heart checked at our vets and they said there was not a problem. Coco has had 13 happy years with us and came to many events when we had a charity stand and at our care farm he was hacked out, which he enjoyed and also worked with vulnerable children and adults.

For all our readers - please consider making a personal donation to us if you can. Your help will keep us going in our time of financial struggle and would be very much appreciated by our team and of course our dear rescued animals. Also contact me if you would like any information about becoming part of our small team, caring for our lovely horses and donkeys, by either helping hands on with our animals or with our fundraising

French's is a charity on your doorstep, can you help, either with time, donations, or sponsorship. You are welcome to come along and meet our animals.

Call me for an appointment. Jann on: **07747 755 556** or email: [jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk)

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

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# NATURAL BOXFORD

## Whose footprints are these?



I'm happy to greet you this month with a little challenge! Just before Christmas, whilst water quality testing after the river had deposited a lovely layer of mud on the step where we access the river, one of our members spotted these beautiful footprints – see photo. We

eventually decided who they belonged to after some deliberation, research and measuring: what do you think? Answer next month!

### Tackling the Himalayan Balsam Threat

Since last year our river group has been mapping where this non-native invasive species is present in our area and is formulating a plan, in conjunction with the Essex and Suffolk Rivers' Trust, to address this threat to our local river system. It spreads very easily due to explosive seed dispersal and so needs to be cleared before reaching that stage. Himalayan Balsam was listed in 2010 under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 because of its detrimental effect on river habitat and biodiversity in and out of the water, as well as increased flood risk due to soil erosion from exposed banks in winter when the plant dies back.

Landowners/gardeners please note: it is an offence under section 14 of the act to plant it intentionally, or to allow its spread into wild areas. It can feel daunting to attempt to clear it yet we have a duty to do so. Natural Boxford can help!

The plan is to have volunteer working parties with appropriate equipment and risk assessment, operating in a co-ordinated way upstream to downstream over time so we have a real chance to clear our river system. If you have outcrops on your land and would like help clearing it please get in touch as soon as possible – our contact email is [louise carpenter@proton.me](mailto:louise carpenter@proton.me). It really does need to be a concerted effort – just one area not being addressed renders other efforts a waste of time. If we succeed we will not only protect river banks and reduce flood risk but help our native wildlife which is struggling. We genuinely invite landowners and anyone else who would like to help to join us in a couple of months to start getting out there before plants get too big – much easier to clear it when they are small!

Come and say hello, meet the Natural Boxford team, and learn more about our astronomical swift visitors. We have a talk by Simon Hooton of Suffolk bird group *Save our Swifts* – St Mary's Church, Boxford, **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March from 6pm**.

We are delighted to be welcoming Simon to come and talk about these amazing birds who have been gracing Boxford with their seasonal presence for centuries. In its lifetime a swift can fly over 2 million miles....yes! These amazing birds eat, sleep and mate on the wing and only land to lay eggs and nurture their young. They are now at risk because of loss of habitat with modern buildings and decreasing insect populations. Last year some Boxford villagers put up swift boxes to provide them with alternative nesting sites. Natural Boxford is also working on habitats to support insect populations to feed the swifts when they arrive.

Come and hear more about these incredible birds from an expert. Come early and enjoy refreshments and meet and chat with Natural Boxford members about what we are doing. The event is free, open from 6 with the talk starting at 7:30 for about an hour. We look forward to seeing you there.

The **Keep the Heat energy project** is well underway as I write with interesting results appearing for those receiving thermal imaging visits: you might have seen us out and about in the evening – the frosty weather has been perfect for showing heat loss. There will be a full report in next month's edition.

Have a think about those footprints – and we'd also love to hear about any sightings you are excited or curious about.

*Much love, Louise, on behalf of the Natural Boxford group.*

## HADLEIGH & BOXFORD PPG

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

### Anima Online Triage System:

In 2025 all GP practices nationally are contractually required to adopt digital consultations to improve patient access to services. On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 the Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice introduced Anima, a secure and easy to use online system to help patients get the care they need more quickly and conveniently.

### What is Anima?

Anima seamlessly and confidentially integrates with your medical record bringing improvements to how you request appointments and how our staff assess your condition.

Anima allows our team to continue to improve access times by helping us to direct you to the most appropriate care for your medical needs. This ensures we make use of our limited resources in the most safe and efficient way. All appointments will continue to be offered according to the clinical urgency and need. By this triage system, it means that patients will be managed more equitably and effectively, connecting our patients efficiently to the right person for the right service.

### How Does it Work?

Patients can register with Anima via the surgery website, by using your NHS app login details or create your own unique Anima username and password. Do not worry if you do not have access to a computer or the internet or you are unable to register yourself, if you telephone the surgery a care navigator will complete the form on your behalf.

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

[www.animahealth.com/patients](http://www.animahealth.com/patients)

### What is Changing?

All requests for an urgent on-the-day appointment, a routine GP appointment, home visit or a mediation review can be submitted online. Appointments for nurses and blood tests etc. can still be arranged over the telephone.

Although the practice appreciates change can feel unsettling, especially for those less familiar with technology, as more patients use Anima it will reduce demand on the phone lines, making contact easier for all. This is a massive undertaking and there may be some teething problems as the practice implements the changes. Please be patient during this time.

**Both Practices:** 01473 822 961

**NHS App:** [www.nhs.uk/nhs-app](http://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app)

**Chair:** Jan Devey 01473 827 091 or 07881 798999

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

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

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EST. 2024



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We are holding an Open Afternoon on Saturday 8th March 2-4pm to celebrate us being open for six months! Join us for tea and cake, meet our team and tour the practice.

To find out more and register, visit  
[www.thehadleighvets.com](http://www.thehadleighvets.com)

### BRUGES FESTIVE BREAK

26-28 NOVEMBER 2025

£395 per person

Price Includes:

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- Two nights Bed & Breakfast at 4 star Hotel Navarra
- City tax

Hotel Navarra is centrally located in the historical centre of Bruges. It has a health centre which includes a swimming pool, sauna and fitness room located in the hotel's medieval cellars. There is a cosy jazz bar 'The Duke' and a splendid continental buffet breakfast will be served both mornings.

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Email: [tracey@boxrivertravelboutique.co.uk](mailto:tracey@boxrivertravelboutique.co.uk)  
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## THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

A festive feast for all the senses!

Thursford Christmas Spectacular is an extravaganza of non-stop singing, dancing, music, humour and variety. It's a fast moving celebration of the festive season featuring an eclectic mix of both seasonal and year round favourites. With a cast of 130 this is the biggest Christmas show of its kind in Europe!

**Monday 8th December 2025**

**£107 per person**

**Departing from: Hadleigh & Boxford**

Price Includes:

- Return Coach Travel
- Two-Course Christmas Lunch at The Three Horseshoes, Briston
- Tickets to Matinee Show

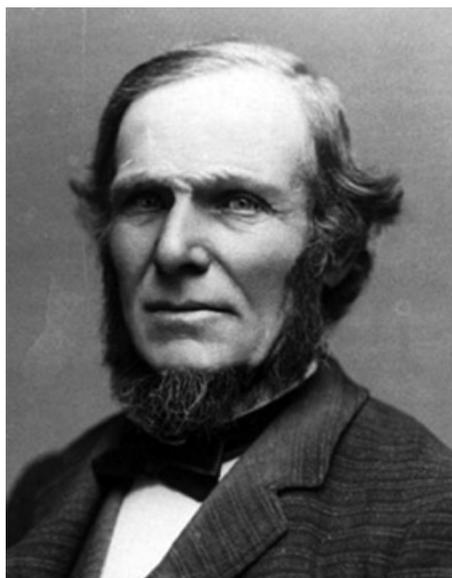
Email: [tracey@boxrivertravelboutique.co.uk](mailto:tracey@boxrivertravelboutique.co.uk)  
or call: **07747 608509** for tickets

# PHOTOS AND STORIES FROM BOXFORD SOCIETY VILLAGE ARCHIVE

## The Tragic Story of Boxford Mormons Crossing the American Plains

Few people know that two British converts to Mormonism organised a branch church in Stone Street, Boxford (now known as Old Chapel House), probably as early as 1842. This is surprising given that the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints was only founded in the USA in 1830. The first Boxford Elder was a Scot, Ebenezer Gillies and converts travelled many miles to Stone Street on foot from Ipswich and Colchester to worship. In 1852 the Mormon Church in the USA made polygamy official practice. This must have been something of a shock to the Boxford members, but it may explain the sudden growth in male converts! This new religion attracted a young Boxford couple and ended with their planned emigration to Salt Lake City, the Mormon centre in Utah founded in 1847.

Robert Chenery Dansie was born February 5, 1825 to James Dansie and Sarah Chenery in Boxford. Charlotte Rudland was born February 10, 1832 to William Rudland and Susan Foster, in nearby Newton. The houses they were born in still stand in their respective Suffolk villages. Robert and Charlotte joined the Boxford Mormon church shortly after their marriage at Newton on April 8, 1849. By the time of the 1851 census of religious worship, the Boxford meeting house could claim an attendance at three services of just over sixty people.



Robert Dansie, who buried his 32-year-wife, Charlotte, near Pacific Springs, Wyoming in 1862 with a blue-bead necklace at her throat.

Charlotte Rudland and Robert Dansie, once married, lived in Boxford, and Robert worked as a blacksmith. Robert described Charlotte to his grandchildren as a “beautiful wife,” small in stature with black hair and dark, flashing eyes. It is said that disapproval of their new religion by their families and friends prompted them to eventually move to Barking in Essex. However, her second child Alfred John, born in Barking, was staying with Robert’s parents at a Coddendam Hall estate cottage in the 1861 census suggesting they were still on good terms. A small group of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) was already meeting at Barking in Heath Street in 1851 and in North Street in 1854. Robert became a gardener and took care of the grounds and flower gardens of a wealthy landowner.

The couple sailed for America on May 14, 1862 with their five children aboard the square-rigged sailing ship *William Tapscott*, leaving behind in England the graves of two other children. The ship was chartered by the Mormon church to bring 850 English ‘saints’ to the United States. They arrived in New York on June 25 and docked the next day, arriving after 42 long days at sea, a voyage that harmed the health of many of the passengers. Forty three died during the voyage. Charlotte was expecting her 8<sup>th</sup> child and was badly affected by the sea journey. The Dansies then rode a steam train with some other converts from the ship to Florence, Nebraska, a gathering point near Omaha on the Missouri River, where Mormons gathered to kit themselves out for the trip to the



The sailing ship *William Tapscott* built in Maine to take English Mormons across the Atlantic to New York.

Salt Lake Valley. The Dansies were assigned to the company of Capt. Ansil P. Harmon, who led one of six companies of teams sent east from Utah that year (so-called ‘church trains’) to bring Mormon emigrants to the valley. The Harmon company consisted of 48 horse-drawn covered wagons and nearly 500 individuals. On August 2 they started across the plains on the long, 1,100 mile harrowing journey. William Priest, an emigrant, was also in this group and wrote up his story as a daily diary. It is interesting that lack of firewood, rattlesnakes, lack of water, fear of wolves and ‘Indians’ and children’s almost daily deaths are the key repeated problems.

Extract from diary of William Priest, “*A record of my life*”,

*September 21 1862, last Night some of the Teemsters refused to take up an old lady into their Wagons and left on the road 3 miles Back. A Woman [Charlotte Dansie] & baby [Joseph Dansie] died this morning. Onward through the South Pass, and Passed the Pacific Springs. The Springs form a small creek a long the side which we travel for some Distance until we cross it. Here we Stopped to burey the Dead. The camp Stopped to water the oxen. Where they was all buried. Here we had orders to fill up our Bottle with Water, as it would be a Dry Camping ground to night camp moved about 3pm. I was called to gard Behind the wagon. We came to camp at 9.30pm on Dry Sandy. Distance day 14 Miles [802 miles from start at Omaha]. Wood Plenty*

On the night of September 20/21, Charlotte Dansie had gone into premature labour with her 8<sup>th</sup> child. A son Joseph was born, but died soon after, as did Charlotte. Her grandchildren told the story they had often heard: “*Before grandmother died, she was in such pain that she told him she could stand her suffering no longer and asked him to pray to God that she might be released and return to her maker. Grandfather did pray and it was only a matter of minutes until both she and the baby died.*”

Robert placed a string of blue beads around Charlotte’s neck and, from the family belongings, tore the lid off a large trunk, its brass hinges stamped with images of the British lion, and placed it over Charlotte’s body in the grave. The baby was buried in the arms of its mother who lay beside the body of Caroline Myers. After the burial a large rock was placed over the grave. Charlotte left behind her husband Robert, 37, and 5 children, Robert 12, Alfred John 10, Charles Nephi 8, Sarah Ann Elizabeth 4 and William Heber 1 to continue the trek.

The president and chaplain of the company, John D. T. McAllister wrote:

*“At 7 ½ o’clock, a few of us went ahead to dig a grave for the body of Sister Charlotte Dansie, wife of Robert, age 32, who died this morning of a ‘Miscarriage’ and general debility. One mile brought us to the Summit or pass. Three more we made the Pacific Springs, one mile farther we crossed the Pacific Creek and dug the grave on the right of the road. While digging the grave, Captain Harmon rode up and informed us that Caroline Myers, aged 25 was dead. She died of Bilious fever just after the wagons left camp. We widened the grave for both bodies. We stopped there three hours then travelled 11 miles to Dry Sandy.”*

Little is known about Caroline Myers (or Meyers) except for the sad circumstances of her death. She seems to have been travelling alone with no other family members, and does not appear on the list of passengers from the William Tapscott. Caroline had probably been sick for several days, but on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> she began that day’s journey by walking ahead of her team. Diarist William Priest wrote:

*“When the wagons came, the teamster reported another death, a young woman belonging to Bro Jarmin’s tent. She started to walk a little from camp but had to sit down on the road. The teamster of the wagon she belonged to would not take her up. The captain had her put in another wagon. She had only been in a few minutes and she died. The camp stopped to water the oxen where they was all buried.”*

Death was not strange to them, though tragic for them all, as more than 32 had died before Charlotte, baby Joseph and Caroline. 35 deaths in 50 days.

The Harmon company arrived in Salt Lake on October 2. In December Robert married Jane Wilcox, who also had been a member of the company. They settled in Herriman, Utah, and had nine children together. In all, Robert and his two wives, Charlotte and Jane had 13 children who lived to have families of their own, from which the Dansie family has continued to multiply and prosper in Utah and Idaho.

Some of Robert’s children later tried to locate Charlotte’s grave, but without success. In 1939 some members of the next generation, armed with an earlier letter to the family from John D.T. McAllister (chaplain who buried Charlotte), made another attempt. When they reached Pacific Springs they found a man they described as a ‘Mexican sheep herder’ camped nearby. They asked him if he knew of any old graves in the area. He told them that some other sheep herders had dug into a grave he had noticed nearby, but when they found that three people were buried in the grave, two adults and a baby, it had been covered back up.



*The grave of Charlotte Dansie near Pacific Springs. Family members located the precise site in 1939. In 1958, the U.S. government donated an acre and a quarter of surrounding land to the family as a memorial site.*

After they questioned him further, it began to appear to the Dansies that the man himself had dug up the grave. Becoming frightened, they said, he admitted to it and produced a string of blue beads that he had found in the grave. The necklace was recognized as the one placed by Robert around Charlotte’s neck before her burial. The beads gave credence to Charlotte’s grandson’s account of the burial.



*Charlotte Dansie’s grave with Great Great Granddaughter Catherine Raye Murray Gentry looking on. Photo: Kurt Gentry*

There, they found copper rivets, brass hinges with the British lion and old pieces of leather scattered around the grave. Convinced they had found their grandmother’s grave, the second generation of Dansie descendants dedicated a marker on the site in October 1939.

One of Charlotte’s children, 81-year-old Sarah Ann (Charlotte’s oldest daughter who had been four years old when she stood over her mother’s grave), lived long enough to witness the event, attended by more than 80 of Charlotte’s relatives.

The tombstone on the road from Farson to Lander reads:

*“But should we die before our journey is through, all is well, all is well.”*

*In loving memory of Charlotte R., daughter of Wm. and Susan Rudland born in Suffolk England. Died in child birth with infant son Joseph at Pacific Springs Wyo. Sept. 21, 1862, while crossing the plains to Utah. In Ansel P Harmon Co. leaving husband and five children. Caroline Myers buried in the same grave. Died Sept. 21 1862 of Bilious fever age 25 years. Grave located July 3, 1939 by Joseph H. and Leroy Dansie. Erected in 1939.*



*The Wyoming Plains landscape and the old Mormon trail by the grave today.*

In 1958, President Eisenhower authorized the Secretary of the Interior to convey 1¼ acres of land to be used as a grave site memorial to Charlotte Dansie.

Readers may be interested to watch the new Netflix series, *American Primeval*, which is the gripping story, based on real events, of a Mormon wagon train travelling the same route just 5 years before the Dansies attempted it. Whilst gritty and brutal (so viewers of a sensitive nature may want to give it a miss), it does provide some (albeit sensationalised) background context to the conditions the migrants faced at that time. <https://bit.ly/american-primeval>

*Tina and Roger Loose*



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# BOXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The spring term is well underway – it’s been a cold one! Christmas definitely seems a distant memory and we are now looking ahead at the exciting events happening at Boxford.

## Trips in 2025 - School value: Creativity

At Boxford Primary we pride ourselves on offering a broad and balanced curriculum. To further enhance our educational offer in school we have a variety of exciting trips planned for the year ahead. Key Stage 2 will be heading to BT in March for a coding event, a trip to a London Hindu temple to support our learning in R.E. and Year 1 are off to Colchester Zoo. The annual theatre trip is always something children look forward to and this year we will be watching Starlight Express.

## FoBS – THANK YOU! School value: Kindness

A very big thank you to FoBS (Friends of Boxford School). The recent Christmas fayre and Santa Run raised over £2,000 for the school. We very much appreciate the time and effort put into these events. As a thank you, our Year 5 and 6 class will be hosting a brass performance with coffee and cake – it will be a little thank you for the extraordinary time and effort they put into hosting many events throughout the year.

## Reclaim the Rain School value: Responsibility

During this term, the school will have some significant work completed by Reclaim the Rain. This exciting project has been funded by Reclaim the Rain and also includes educational opportunities for the children. Work undertaken will include the creation of a sensory garden, raised beds, and various tree planting to combat flooding on the school site. SuDS pods have been installed around the playground.



These pods will capture roof runoff from downpipes, reducing flood risk to immediate hardstanding and playing areas. In addition to this the Reception area will have new planters and hedging.

## Would you like a school tour?

If your child is looking to start school in September 2025 or move mid-year, please contact Mrs Clarke in the office on **01787 210332** or email [office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk). We would be more than happy to arrange a school tour for you to see our exciting curriculum at Boxford Primary. We look forward to seeing you soon!

*Mr Scott Reynolds  
Assistant Headteacher*

# EBONY’S DIARY



Watching a Riding for the Disabled session you may think all the horse has to do is walk round quietly and that it isn’t too physically demanding for them. This is far from the reality! They have to be able to stand square and as still as a rock while up to four people stand around them to mount one of our physically disabled riders. The horse may have to cope with wheelchairs and crutches nearby and having two people walking alongside whilst in use. It may have to cope with sudden noises or unexpected movements and walk freely and balanced even if the rider on top is far from balanced. They also need to be calm to handle and get on with other horses in close proximity, as well as being happy to be alone. All this makes you realise that our RDA horses are very special.

Of course, we have to have a range of ponies and horses of different sizes to suit our child and adult riders. Many of the horses are not as young as they once were, having been with us for several years. For this reason they have regular visits from a specialist horse chiropractor and a massage therapist to keep them fit and comfortable. The farrier comes to visit all the ponies every six weeks and we have vets available at short notice if any of the horses show signs of being unwell.

Our youngest horse, Ghost, is undergoing training and an introduction into RDA work. Firstly he was lead out to get used to traffic and other sights; then ridden out with other ponies, then introduced to working in the arena with all the equipment we use for our session and finally ridden in a session by one of our calmer, more-able riders. He is doing very well and will gradually be used more as appropriate.



*Ghost in the centre getting used to being ridden with other ponies and coping with distractions like the dog*

All this costs money and if you would like to support us, our first fundraising event of the year is Cash Bingo on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 7 for 7:30pm at Hadleigh Football Club. £5 per ticket. Must be pre-booked by contacting [fundraisingshelleyrda@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisingshelleyrda@gmail.com).

[www.shelleyrda.com](http://www.shelleyrda.com)

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# SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION IN MEDIEVAL SUFFOLK

*A Talk to LWHS by Kate Jewell*

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Kate back again to the Parish Room to share with us her incredible knowledge of the late middle ages. I am also most grateful to her for the images she kindly let me use.

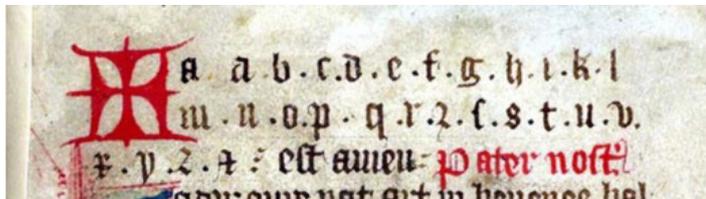
As we all expected, Kate told us that it was mostly boys who went into formal education, which was to a curriculum, but we also learned that some girls were educated at elementary school, particularly during the 100 years war (1337 to 1453). With many men away fighting the French, women were needed to run estates, which required many skills. The following is a list of medieval elementary schools in Suffolk:

- Beccles
- Bury St Edmunds
- Clare
- Covehithe
- Dunwich
- Ipswich
- Long Melford
- Mildenhall
- Stoke by Clare
- Stoke by Nayland
- Sudbury

Away from formal education most children were working in some fashion from the age of 4, so would receive some form of training to do whatever jobs they were assigned.

People of some wealth and/or a good income would send their sons away to boarding schools at considerable cost because everything needed would have to be paid for: clothes, books, writing materials, teacher costs etc.

Villeins (feudal tenants entirely subject to a Lord to whom dues were paid) required permission from the Lord to send their sons to school because this removed them from the medieval work force. Where permission was granted, which was by no means certain, it usually required payment to the Lord of perhaps a year's salary and sometimes came with conditions attached. For example, if training for the church, boys would have to come back to the estate and become the local priest.



Boys were taught the basics of reading via an alphabet, learning by rote through chanting their answers, usually in Latin though occasionally in English. Often the alphabets were put onto boards with a handle attached and in the C15<sup>th</sup> Robert Halcloth observed:

*“We were first taught with a book of large letters affixed to a piece of wood, and progressed afterwards to learning letters from a more advanced book.”*

Boys were expected to learn the alphabet, the three basic prayers and all things necessary for serving the priest at mass, collects, psalms, prayers for the dead and graces at meals. In English they also had to learn the articles of faith, the ten commandments, the seven deadly sins, and the seven sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Marriage, Holy Orders and

Anointing of the Sick.

Only a selection of boys would progress to grammar school, when writing was introduced, and the boys were required to speak in Latin all hours of the day in order to make them fluent. Grammar schools in Suffolk were at:

- Beccles
- Botesdale
- Bury St Edmunds
- Hadleigh
- Ipswich
- Stoke by Clare
- Sudbury

Pupils were typically trained to go into the priesthood, the law or to run estates, and all began with the same curriculum in schools of perhaps just one school room, called a *form*. These catered for ranges of up to five years age difference, with pupils beginning year one sitting on a simple bench at the front of the class, then moving back one bench each year thereafter.



*A University Lecture, Laurentius de Voltolina, 14<sup>th</sup> Century*

School hours were long, and the same in summer and winter, beginning typically at 6am through to 8am/9am when breakfast was taken. Work began again until lunch around noon, and thereafter until 6pm or so.

Numerous styles of writing were employed, depending on where a boy would be going. For government work secretary-hand would be employed which was a style of European handwriting developed in the early C16<sup>th</sup> that remained common up until the late C16<sup>th</sup> and C17<sup>th</sup> for writing English, German, Welsh and Gaelic.

Teachers came predominantly from the priesthood with rhetoric, argument and vulgaria studied, and antiphone employed, as below:

**Rhetoric:** The art of persuasion and one of the three ancient arts of discourse, along with grammar and logic/dialectic. As an academic discipline within the humanities, rhetoric aims to study the techniques that speakers or writers use to inform, persuade, and motivate their audiences

**Antiphone:** A psalm, anthem or verse sung responsively, OR a verse, usually from scripture, said or sung before and after a canticle, psalm, OR psalm verse as part of the liturgy.

**Vulgaria:** A Latin grammar textbook written by William Horman, an early Tudor period headmaster at Eton and Winchester College. It is a collection of English sentences followed by their Latin translations, covering subjects related to school, manners, upbringing, religion, natural history and many other subjects.



*Antiphoner; 15<sup>th</sup> Century, St Helen's Church, Ranworth, Norfolk*

Boys being boys desperate to escape the confines of the single room form, would come up with a plethora of lies and excuses, as documented by an Oxford schoolmaster in the early C16<sup>th</sup>:

*“As soon as I come into the scole, this fellow goith to make water and he goyth oute to the comyn drafte. Sometime after another askith licence that he may go drynke. Another callith upon me that he may have licence to go home. Thies and such other leys my scholars [use] for excuses... that they may be oute of the waye.”*

At the conclusion of Kate’s amazing talk, there were loads of questions, more than for any talk over our preceding 14 years, from the highly engaged audience keen to learn more. Kate was very happy to answer every question, and we all learnt a considerable amount more from her incredible depth of knowledge on this fascinating subject. All in all, a truly superb talk skilfully delivered by a master of her subject.

Our next talk is on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Martyn Taylor will give us an illustrated talk showing how Bury has physically changed over the last 100 years in his talk ‘Bury St Edmunds Through Time Revisited’.

We very much look forward to welcoming guests both old and new to the Parish Room, Little Waldingfield on these dates.

*Andy Sheppard*

## BRIAN TORA’S SOAP BOX

Forty years ago next July Elizabeth and I moved into our house in Little Waldingfield with two small boys. At the time we both worked in the City, so had to rise at a ridiculously early hour to drive to Colchester to be in our respective offices in time for the day’s business to begin. Fortunately, the nanny we had in London had agreed to move with us, but when she handed in her notice less than a year later, Elizabeth decided to give up her job and become a full-time housewife.

As well as looking after the boys, which included running them to and from school in Sudbury, her main tasks were helping to supervise the builders who were ripping our home apart in order to bring it up to date and keeping the three acre garden we had acquired under some sort of control. This was no easy task as it had operated as a smallholding until the early 1970s. With the death of the wife of the person from whom we purchased the house several years earlier, the land had been allowed to run wild.

But Elizabeth, as a keen and knowledgeable gardener, relished the task and spent the next few years creating a mini-parkland. The parties we held in our now attractive garden were the stuff of legends. Time moves on though and we now find that maintaining the three acres are too great a task for us to manage. And, of course, with the boys long since departing the nest, the house is really too big for us. So, we have taken the decision to leave our home for very nearly 40 years to move into Sudbury where our garden will be a mere courtyard and the number of rooms much fewer.

Of course, it will be sad to leave the village where we have lived for so long, even if such a move is inevitable. For more than half the time we have lived here I have served on the parish council and for the majority of that period was chairman. Back some 35 years ago I was part of a most vocal group that sought to keep the village pub going after Greene King closed it and applied to have it delicensed. We won and this is why in some measure I am so pleased the Swan is once again welcoming customers.

And leaving the village for Sudbury also involves moving away from the Box River benefice. This too is a wrench. I have been a sidesman in the past and a regular reader in St Lawrence’s for many years. Indeed, we were married in our parish church, with Elizabeth’s mother playing the organ and the Reverend Richard Titford officiating. I celebrated my 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays

here, but my 80<sup>th</sup> later this year will be held elsewhere, perhaps in Sudbury. More likely in Portugal.

My final retirement from my daily job took place only around 18 months ago. True, I had been winding down for several years, but the decision was taken because we knew we would have to move and, more important, I was becoming increasingly remote from the factors which were driving the investment industry in which I had worked for more than 60 years. I feel a further retirement coming on. After writing for the Box River News for more years than I can count, the time has come to step back.

It was the late Eddie Kench who first invited me to contribute. When, I cannot be certain, but probably in the late 1990s. Eddie was a newspaper man, having worked for the infamous Robert Maxwell. He had probably noticed that I had a weekly column in the East Anglian Daily Times and had previously written regularly for the Independent, as well as contributing to a number of other journals. He developed the BRN into the important community newsletter it has become. Dropping my articles from this august publication will be another sadness so far as I am concerned.

But, as with the investment business, I feel myself becoming more remote from daily life in the benefice. Not that I view this as *adeus*, as the Portuguese might say. This means farewell – or more precisely, ‘to God’. Instead, I prefer the French term - *au revoir* – which at least suggests that we might meet again. Doubtless there will be issues that seem appropriate to share with you from time to time. Anyway, I hope that you have enjoyed my contributions over the years and that our esteemed editor will allow me back in occasionally. The very best of luck to us all.

*Brian Tora*

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# PARKING TARIFFS IN BABERGH

Babergh District Council introduced new parking charges on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 that have removed the previous free parking tier across the district. New signs are in place in the car parks to ensure drivers are aware of the changes, which include a reduction to the current cost of all-day parking in Sudbury and Hadleigh, as follows:

|               | Short stay     | Long stay      |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Up to 1 hour  | £1.00          | Not applicable |
| Up to 2 hours | £1.50          | £1.00          |
| Up to 3 hours | £2.00          | £1.50          |
| Up to 4 hours | £2.50          | £2.00          |
| All day       | Not applicable | £2.50          |

Specific information for each individual car park is available from: [www.babergh.gov.uk/car-parks-and-parking](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/car-parks-and-parking)

Subsidising the current three-hour free parking cost the Council approximately £425K last year, and that was set to rise further. The Council faces significant budget pressures in the next financial year and over the medium term and can no longer afford the subsidy if it is to continue delivering other essential services to residents and communities.

## How will you discourage shoppers from choosing to shop in larger towns in the area, such as Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, or Colchester?

We are committed to keeping the cost of parking in our car parks lower than those charged in larger towns so that our towns and villages remain an attractive destination.

## What solutions are available to prevent motorists from using other free car parks instead of Council-owned car parks, such as health centres, businesses and Residents Only car parks?

Car park operators can choose to enlist the service of a private enforcement service. These private services will often provide a fee-free service, using parking ticket income to cover their costs.

## What will the Council do to stop motorists from parking on-street to avoid paying to use a car park?

We will work with Suffolk County Council to ensure that the on-street parking is relevant and appropriate for the needs of residents. We are committed to improving the facilities within our car parks to make them the preferred destination for motorists, by making them a safe, convenient, and pleasant place to park.

## Will the introduction of car park charges affect on-street enforcement?

Chargeable parking is easier to enforce than free parking. With competitive parking rates in operation, we will be able to encourage a greater frequency of Civil Enforcement Officer visits to our car parks. This increased officer presence makes our car parks a safer place to park with increased patrols and means that the surrounding streets will also be more regularly patrolled which is currently a common complaint.

## Will tourists be discouraged from visiting our town or village if they must pay for parking?

In general, tourists are fully prepared to pay to park when visiting an area of interest. We are committed to ensuring that the fees charged in our car parks are competitive and may still be below what tourists would normally expect to pay when visiting a place of interest.

## Will Blue Badge holders have to pay to park?

Blue Badge holders will continue to be entitled to park up to three hours for free.



## Are there any exceptions to paid-for parking?

Visitors to the Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury and Hadleigh Leisure Centre will be able to park free for 3-hours by registering their vehicle at reception.

Visitors to Lavenham Village Hall will be able to park free for 3-hours by registering their vehicle at reception.

Patients attending appointments at Hadleigh Health Centre and Lavenham Surgery will be able to park free for 2-hours by registering their vehicle at reception.

We are launching 'school run' permits in Hadleigh for parents and carers of primary school pupils to enable them to park for free at school registration times.

*Babergh District Council*

# CAROLS 'ROUND THE TREE

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December was a dry, yet chilly night, perfect for the annual tradition of Carols 'Round The Tree outside the White Hart in Boxford. Organised by Boxford Community Council, there was a great turnout of more than 80 festive carolers from around the benefice joining in to sing the cold away (perhaps slightly assisted by a warm mulled wine or two!).

*Thanks to David Lamming for the photos*



# FEEDBACK FROM JAMES FINCH

## County Councillor for the Stour Valley

### Suffolk County Council to consider Devolution and Council Reorganisation

Suffolk County Council held an extraordinary meeting of councillors, and a meeting of its Cabinet, to debate and decide on whether or not to put Suffolk forward for the government's new devolution and reorganisation programme. The government has required that formal notice be given if Suffolk wishes to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme by 10 January 2025. Therefore the meetings saw all 75 Councillors debate and vote on a proposal to recommend Suffolk is at the front of the queue. Following the Full Council meeting, the Cabinet made the final decision.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said: "The government has set out its devolution and reorganisation proposals and has asked that Suffolk County Council submit an expression of interest by 10 January if we wish to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme. As a result, we must hold these extraordinary meetings. On 9 January, all Suffolk County Councillors will be given an opportunity to have their say before a final decision is made by Cabinet.

"Changes of this scale create an opportunity to streamline local government, empower joined-up decision making, save taxpayers money and ensure councils are resistant to economic challenges.

"I welcome the positive engagement of Suffolk's district and borough councils. This is a significant decision and one that will not be taken lightly."

On 16 December, the Government published its much-anticipated English Devolution White Paper, outlining plans for broader and deeper devolution coupled with a programme of coordinated local government reorganisation.

Key to the proposals is a reorganisation of council structures, particularly in two-tier areas like Suffolk, with a shift away from district, borough and county councils towards unitary councils. The government argues that unitary councils can deliver better outcomes for residents and save money that can be reinvested in public services. For most areas, the government says that this means creating councils serving populations of 500,000 or more, with exceptions where they make practical sense.

Alongside reorganisation, the government is also proposing to create new Mayoral Authorities – with a single directly elected Mayor covering larger geographies (for example Norfolk and Suffolk) and with powers over strategic policy areas like transport infrastructure, health improvement and blue light services. At this stage, no decisions have been made about what will happen in Suffolk. Papers for the meetings can be viewed at <https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk>

[Editor's note: a decision was made on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan - SCC councillors voted in support of joining the fast-track devolution programme with 43 votes for and 15 against. If the government approves Suffolk's bid, this may mean May's elections are postponed to a later date - a decision is expected from the Government shortly after this issue goes to press.]

### Suffolk's rural communities hit by loss of £3 million in Government funding

£3 million of vital public funding - designed to support rural communities in Suffolk - will be cut by the government next year, it has been revealed.

The funding, known as the Rural Services Grant (RSG), was introduced in 2016/17 to support councils who serve rural communities and sparsely populated areas where it costs significant amounts of money to deliver public services. Suffolk County Council will, from April 2024, no longer receive the grant. The government announced last week that the funding will be redirected

elsewhere – adversely impacting rural areas like Suffolk.

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Skills, said:

"It is deeply disappointing that the government has once again made a decision that disproportionately harms rural areas. Delivering essential services, like bus services, social care and road maintenance, is inherently more expensive in county areas like Suffolk due to our sparse population. The decision to scrap this grant compounds the challenges we are facing already with the rising costs of services like adult and children's care and home-to-school transport. Yet the government continues to overlook these realities, prioritising urban areas instead.

"It is becoming clear that any additional funding promised to support local authorities is to be undermined by cuts and additional costs elsewhere. This is a troubling pattern where supposed solutions offer no real relief and councils are faced with great financial uncertainty.

"I am concerned that the government's response to rising local government costs is to shift the burden onto residents, forcing councils to impose steep Council Tax increases to balance the books. This approach is unsustainable and unfair to those in rural communities."

Nationally, the Rural Services Grant is worth £110 million a year to rural communities. Other counties, including Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire and Northumberland have also spoken out about the removal of the rural grant.

### Suffolk celebrates as local organisations are awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service

It has been announced that five voluntary organisations in Suffolk have been awarded the King's award for Voluntary Service. Created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and previously known as The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), the Award has been shining a light on the fantastic work of voluntary groups from all across the UK for many years.

Equivalent to an MBE, the Kings award for voluntary service (KAVS) is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.

The local organisations are:

- *Ipswich Outreach*: Supporting the homeless people of Ipswich to improve their health, wellbeing and life opportunities.
- *Let's Talk Reading*: Working to improve literacy of children and adults in Ipswich.
- *Still Good Food*: Rescuing surplus food, reducing waste and redistributing it to the needy.
- *Tattingstone Good Neighbour Scheme*: Providing vital support, promoting social interaction and community integration in Tattingstone.
- *The Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum*: Promoting a community legacy of health and wellbeing 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. If you want to find out more about what it's like to foster or adopt with us, please call a member of the team on 01473 264800

James Finch

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

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### My Priorities

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

## FEEDBACK FROM BRYN HURREN Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

Times change like the seasons as we travel through the passage of life, along with those we meet, communicate and converse with.

Such a person was Maggie Jackaman who, along with her husband Ron, lived in Boxford before moving up to Leavenheath to form a bigger version of what became known as the SESAW animal sanctuary. Along with probably well over 200 others I attended Stoke-by-Nayland church recently to pay tribute to her and her life's work to rescue, mend and re-home a variety of furry and feathered friends too numerous to mention.

A life well spent in the service of others without reward, bonuses or even basic wages.

I will so miss her sharp wit and words of wisdom as I left bags of woodchips and shavings for the animals and birds at the sanctuary gate. R.I.P.

On the political front, the district council is getting to grips with the demand to put in place unitary councils across Suffolk. A good and commendable idea but agreeing how to do it is not going to be easy. Size matters as always and big cumbersome conglomerates do not serve the people well, Suffolk would be best served by an Ipswich and East Suffolk council, serving Felixstowe and all in between up to Halesworth, then West Suffolk including Babergh, mid Suffolk and all up to Bury St Edmunds and beyond, with Waveney and south Norfolk including Yarmouth and some Broadland towns to the north

This will be short on the half million heads numbers required by the government but makes good economical and geographical sense, would be manageable and give some degree of personal service and contact to the electorate who we are elected to serve and represent.

While the national picture on growth is sluggish and taking time to recover from bad decisions and poor political leadership, the prospects in our area are a little better with signs of growth and expansion, mainly in the tourism and service industries. The expansions at Perrywoods Garden Centre and Nethergate Breweries are welcome news and will provide close to a hundred places of employment between them. Not much true manufacturing anymore, but a job is a job and these will bring in much needed income for those that are fortunate to take these placements. Other applications are in the pipeline as well so green shoots and beer it is.

A controversial recent event at Babergh is the implementation of parking charges across the board. While I can see the need to make the service at least break-even, I do feel that an hour should have been left free of charge and I think that we could have survived on that financially and retained the goodwill and economic stability of the high streets and centres of our market towns, along with the viability of the many small businesses that rely on customers just popping by and in for the services they provide. I can only hope that customers feel it is worth paying a quid to keep supporting these valuable shops and businesses. I certainly will.

In Babergh's defence, we have struggled for years to provide free parking on our land to help our town centres, we still could do so at a modest cost of around £150,000 but the £300,000 of business rates levied upon us by national government has now proved too much, even for Babergh. The car parks are not businesses and should not be classed as such, just another tax to squeeze even more out of local councils and the people and businesses they serve.

In my own ward of Box Vale, I am back in the swing of all my many duties it takes to represent my 3,500 constituents. It is quite a shock that I will probably be the last ever district councillor to represent this lovely area, but who knows? Maybe change brings

new challenges and I am not afraid of that. I have certainly enjoyed most of my nearly 26 years of public service and the fantastic support I have received from my electorate, especially at election times. I am thrilled that I take on a lead role at BaberghMidSuffolk and in the six villages that I serve.

Grab me if you need me and, as always, I will do my very best to help and assist you in any way I can. My knee replacement operation may be delayed due to the flu outbreak, so I'm still *Hopalong Bryn* for a little while longer.

*All best wishes,*

*Bryn xx*

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

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# PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

## BOXFORD

### Summary of Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Public Forum:** The matter of the fruit farm cages was raised in regards to what the PC intend to do as next steps. The meeting was updated that a group have privately funded legal advice and have taken first steps to judicial review. Cllr Wortley wished to inform the PC that she is personally involved in the matter. The councillors advised the meeting that the PC are not directly involved at present. A resident intended to ask CCllr Finch what his plans are as chairman of the National Landscape for Dedham Vale.

An update was given on the matter of the buses – there have been no decisions as of yet with regards to the bids. There has been additional funding agreed since the bid was submitted.

Closure of surgery update – a member of the public updated the PC on progress with the report being prepared. A meeting has been held with the chief executive of the Integrated Care Board and the deputy director, attended by James Cartlidge MP. The board meeting has been pushed back to February, which is a positive move.

**District Council Report:** DCllr Hurren has been given assurance that the pathway at Goodlands will be started this week and a stop notice will be put in place if this is not done. The enforcement officer will be attending on Friday; the Woodland Trust have been contacted to ensure the pathway goes in the correct place.

**Finance:** The finance report was accepted.

**Cemetery:** Compost bins are now in place.

**Public Realms:** Notice boards need some repair work / replacement. It is suggested that all noticeboards are fitted with a ‘one key fits all’ system.

**Members Reports:** Cllr Wortley discussed the works needed at The Croft.

**Planning:** The full planning details can be seen in the minutes on the parish council website (<http://boxford-pc.gov.uk>)

**Date of Next Meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the different time of 1pm

Parish Council (PC) Meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month except in August and December. They are held in the Village Hall usually starting at 7pm with a video link when requested. All are welcome to come along and observe and there is a regular item to allow residents a short time to comment and raise items.

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

**Zoe Rumsey**

01787 739317 / [clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk)

## GROTON

### Summary of Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Present:** Piers Roberts, Sarah McGrath, Nigel Chapman, R Cheeseman, A Dixon-Smith, Richard Jones (clerk) Guests: J Finch (Suffolk County Council) B Hurren (Babergh District Council)

**Apologies for absence:** C Hearn, M MacKay-Morris

**Minutes of the meeting of 6 November 2024:** Approved

**Groton Traffic Assessment:** Clerk to arrange meeting with Imogen Tink from BMSDC to explore funding options for reactive speed warning signs.

**Financial Matters:** The Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment were approved.

**7.2 Adequacy of the Budget 2024/25** – The budget was projected to be overspent by £190.00. This was mainly due to unanticipated increased costs for bin emptying levied by the district council.

**Precept for 2025/26** – It was agreed to set the precept at £5,295 with the estimated yearly cost of a band D property being £38.78.

**Budget 2025/26** – The budget for the coming year was agreed based on the precept of £5,295 which would allow for unexpected costs or increases in charges.

**Other Financial Matters** – The clerk presented a report from SALC regarding ‘home working’ allowances for which he currently receives £5.00 per month. It was agreed that he makes a formal request for an increase in this payment to the next meeting.

**Planning Matters:** DC/24/05552 Ramblers, Bulmer Lane. Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/20/03446 dated 30/09/2020 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of extensions and detached workshop outbuilding - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per revised plans and documents. – The Council had previously supported the original application and raised no objection to this variation.

DC/24/05296 Wood House, Round Maple. Householder Application - Erection of a first floor and single storey rear extension, front porch extension, All to provide re-configured/additional accommodation, re-roof and solar photovoltaic panels. The Council raised no objection to this application.

**Village Hall Matters:** The clerk confirmed that the village hall was not covered by the PC’s insurance policy and a valuation was required to get a quote to include it. In view of this it was agreed to pay the £140.00 requested by the village hall committee to help with the insurance for 2025 and to include the hall in the PC’s policy when it is renewed in October 2025. R Cheeseman reported that he had spoken to Caroline Last and she had no objection to the lease being extended to 15 years. It was agreed that the council would need this in writing before moving forward.

**Highway and Footpath Matters:** Concern was expressed over an increasing number of potholes. The areas identified were Frog Hall, Church Street and the junction of Daisy Green. Park Corner and Church Street.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7:00pm

Full minutes can be found at:

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

**Richard Jones**

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

## NEWTON GREEN

### Summary of Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**25/008 Finance:**

b. The councillors resolved to include FP2 in the 2025 footpath-cutting contract to David Gotts, adding £60 to the contracted cost.

c. The councillors reviewed the agreed Expenditure Budget of £31,181.85 and the NPC Reserves policy before resolving to set a precept of £26,479.94 for 2025 / 2026. This will mean that a band D household will pay an increase of £16.08 per annum.

**25/009 Pedestrian Crossing:** The clerk updated councillors that the SCC Highways engineer would produce a project plan for the February meeting. The clerk had raised the councillors’ concerns regarding not conducting surveys during school holiday periods, with the engineer.

**25/010 Parish Survey:** The councillors agreed to delay the parish survey until April, when it is hoped more information on the pedestrian crossing project will be available.

**25/014 Neighbourhood Plan:** The councillors reviewed Chris Bowden’s advice on when to start reviewing the neighbourhood plan. However, they asked the clerk to review the

recommendations with him once more is known about Babergh's plans to revise Part 1 of the Local Plan and the impact this will have on the plans for Part 2.

**25/016 Litter Pick:** The councillors agreed that the litter pick from the village hall should occur on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025, starting at 8:30am. The council will then hold its coffee morning at the hall from 10am.

**NPC is looking for an applicant to fill the councillor vacancy. If you would like more information on the role, please contact Dave Crimmin as below.**

Full minutes can be found at: [www.newton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.newton-pc.gov.uk)

**Dave Crimmin CiLCA, PIALC, PSLCC**  
01787 375085 / [clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk)

## LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

### Summary of Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Present:** Cllr Tim Sheppard (Chair), Cllr Matt Foster (Vice Chair), Cllr Robert Wheeler, Cllr Chris White (Acting Clerk). Attending: SCC Cllr Phillip Faircloth-Mutton, Marc Freeman (incoming Clerk), and 1 member of the Public

**Clerks Report:** Members reviewed the clerk's report and agreed the following actions:

- Babergh Trees & Wildflower Scheme:* To liaise with the Playing Field Committee in the procurement and planting of the trees, shrubs and community orchard on the borders of the playing field. As no update was available regarding the wildflower verges project, to defer the item to the next meeting.
- New bench installation in the cemetery:* Defer progress report to the next meeting as no update was available.
- Village Emergency Response Plan:* Mount a further recruitment drive for volunteers to fill the 3 remaining coordinator roles and establish a working plan.
- Listing of Brookwood Manor:* To contact The Royal Victorian Society for help and information on listing it and therefore giving it added protection.
- Hedge cutting, verge and pavement clearance opposite playing field entrance:* To seek local contractors to carry out the work and make payment from the maintenance budget.
- New councillor recruitment:* Further publicise the urgent need to fill the councillor vacancies and ensure the future of the parish council by email, social media, leaflets, and possibly public meetings.

**Planning Applications:** DC/25/00024: Replacement of a single skin oil tank with new Kingspan Eco-Safe 1800 litre bunded tank located within the curtilage of the listed building: The Old Vicarage, Haymarket, Little Waldingfield, CO10 0SY. Members resolved to approve the application.

**Approval of Annual Budget, Reserves & Precept:** Members approved the final budget figures for 2025/26. They are available for viewing on the council website.

#### Precept Request Form Signatures & Submission

The RFO confirmed the final Babergh DC tax base figures and that, without any increases to the parish element of council tax (as agreed at the previous meeting), the 2025/26 Precept would be £9,312. The precept demand form was signed by the Chair and RFO for submission to Babergh DC.

#### Governance:

a. *Appointment of new clerk & RFO:* The appointment of Mark Freeman as clerk and RFO to the council was confirmed by the Chair. Following a short handover period, he will take over full duties from the acting clerk.

b. *Council & Litter Pick Risk Assessments review:* Councillors

reviewed the Council General Risk Assessment and Litter Pick Risk Assessment and confirmed that no changes were required.

c. *Standing Orders & Financial Regulations, Annual Review & Approval:* The acting clerk confirmed to councillors that there had been no regulatory changes to standing orders or financial regulations since the last review. The next annual review was set for January 2026.

#### Highways & Footpaths:

a. *FPWG Report:* The Circular Walks leaflet has proved to be very popular, and further copies have been printed and placed in public areas.

b. *Litter Pick Date:* The date for the 2025 village litter pick was set for Saturday 22 March 2025 with volunteers gathering at the Parish Room at 10am.

The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday 6 March 2025 at 7:30pm.

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

Please note our new clerk's contact details which are also available on the website.

Name: **Mark Freeman.**

Email: [clerk.littlewaldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk.littlewaldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk);

mobile: 07554 592545.

## OTHER PARISH COUNCILS

#### Edwardstone PC

Clerk: Richard Jones - 01473 828246

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

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

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27 Friars Street Sudbury CO10 2AD  
T: 01787 880440 E: [solicitors@bwblegal.com](mailto:solicitors@bwblegal.com)

# THE GLOW PRO



## Skincare Goals for 2025

It's February already – how did that happen?! The New Year might feel like it's rushing by but there's still plenty of time to refocus on self-care and set the tone for a radiant year. Whether you're looking to enhance your beauty routine or dedicate more time to yourself, prioritising well-being is the ultimate mood booster!

That's why I've rounded up some tips & habits to help make 2025 your glow-up year:

## Feel Confident Without Concealer



Masking imperfections can be quick and easy (thank goodness), but wouldn't it be amazing to tackle the root cause of common skin issues? Happy skin allows your natural glow to shine through, and a bespoke routine doesn't have to be complicated. With a quick online quiz or a skin analysis with one of our friendly team, you can discover your unique skin type

and invest in products that actually work for you.

## Sun-Proof Your Skin All Year Round

Did you know it takes about 21 days to build a habit? So, why not make daily sun protection your skincare non-negotiable, starting from now? If there's one product you'll never regret using, it's a broad-spectrum SPF 30+. Even if you're a skincare minimalist, it's the most efficient way to keep your skin healthy without extra fuss. Your future self will thank you!



## Declutter and Refresh



Most of us are guilty of ignoring those unused products that never passed their trial run. Maybe it's a Christmas gift you forgot about or a perfume that didn't quite click. Either way, it's time to declutter!

Letting go of what's no longer serving you creates space, both physically and mentally, for an efficient beauty routine that you'll love and stick to.

## Embrace Eco-Friendly Habits

Small changes can make a big impact, and there's nothing more rewarding than knowing you're making a positive difference. Whether it's swapping to refillable products, recycling those empties, or using reusable cotton pads as opposed to disposable ones, these eco-friendly choices add up. Plus, it'll benefit both you and the planet!



## Hydrate From the Inside and Out

Between festive indulgence and the cold winter weather, our skin could definitely do with some TLC. You'll be amazed at how much of a difference a simple tweak, such as drinking more water, can make.

Remember, hydration begins from within, and the clear stuff (not gin, sorry!) is great for keeping your skin soft and supple.



## Always Remove Your Makeup



After a hectic day it can be tempting to hit the hay without removing your makeup. But believe me, sleeping in makeup isn't just a big no-no because of your pillowcases - it can clog pores, leading to blemishes and breakouts. Always allow your skin to 'breathe' at night by cleansing before bed.

At the clinic, we've got a range of gentle cleansers, from foams to gels to leave your skin feeling fresh and rejuvenated.

Have you made any resolutions for 2025? Let me know on: [office@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk](mailto:office@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk)

Helena x

[office@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk](mailto:office@suffolkmedicalclinic.co.uk)  
01787 211 000



# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

## CLUBS & GROUPS

|  |                             |   |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Boxford Bellringers                              | <i>Richard Gates</i>        | <b>01787 210432</b>   |
| Boxford Bible Study Group                        | <i>Peter &amp; Margaret</i> | <b>01787 211077</b>   |
| Boxford Bike Club                                | <i>Kevin Bridge</i>         | <b>07876 798617</b><br><a href="http://www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk">www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk</a>               |
| Boxford Bowls Club                               | <i>Lea Blackham</i>         | <b>01787 210313</b>   |
| Boxford Carpet Bowls                             | <i>David Warren</i>         | <b>01787 211067</b>   |
| Boxford Drama Group                              | <i>Janice Macmillan</i>     | <b>07779 303690</b><br><a href="mailto:janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk">janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk</a>         |
| Boxford Friendship Group                         | <i>Alison Warren</i>        | <b>01787 211067</b>   |
|  | <i>or Wendy Hills</i>       | <b>01787 210342</b>   |
| Boxford Gardens Open                             | <i>Audrey Zuck</i>          | <b>07852 102 455</b><br><a href="mailto:audrey@a2zriskservices.com">audrey@a2zriskservices.com</a>            |
| Boxford Gardening Society                        | <i>Elizabeth Wagener</i>    | <b>01787 210223</b><br><a href="mailto:elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com">elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com</a> |
| Boxford Literary Group                           | <i>David Jones</i>          | <b>01787 211104</b><br><a href="mailto:audav@hotmail.co.uk">audav@hotmail.co.uk</a>                           |
| Boxford Rovers Youth FC                          | <i>Melvyn Eke</i>           | <b>07873 971701</b><br><a href="mailto:m.eke@btinternet.com">m.eke@btinternet.com</a>                         |
| Boxford Tennis Social                            | <i>Sue Moore</i>            | <b>07808 481447</b>   |
| Boxford WI                                       | <i>Lyn Beer</i>             | <b>07961 357526</b>   |
| Fleece Jazz                                      | <i>David Gasson</i>         | <b>01787 210796</b>   |
| Highway 12 Western Partner Dance                 | <i>Chris</i>                | <b>01787 371006</b>   |
| Little Waldingfield History Society              | <i>Diana Langford</i>       | <b>01787 248298</b><br><a href="mailto:dianalangford765@gmail.com">dianalangford765@gmail.com</a>             |
| Little Waldingfield Over 60s and Friendship Club | <i>Tricia Eddington</i>     | <b>01787 247932</b>   |
| Local History Recorder Edwardstone               | <i>Daphne Clark</i>         | <b>01787 210698</b><br><a href="mailto:daphne.clark@btopenworld.com">daphne.clark@btopenworld.com</a>         |
| Local History Recorder Groton                    | <i>Joanna Roberts</i>       | <b>01787 210619</b><br><a href="mailto:jgant87618@aol.com">jgant87618@aol.com</a>                             |
| Madrigalia Choir                                 | <i>Sue Price</i>            | <b>01787 210913</b>   |
| Milden Cricket Club                              | <i>Andrew Simmons</i>       | <b>07951 055643</b>   |
| Milden Singers                                   | <i>Pearl</i>                | <b>01449 741876</b>   |
| Natural Boxford                                  | <i>Louise Carpenter</i>     | <b>01787 211862</b><br><a href="mailto:louisecarpenter@proton.me">louisecarpenter@proton.me</a>               |
| Newton Arts & Crafts Club                        | <i>Carole Langley</i>       | <b>01787 373548</b>   |
| Newton War Games Club                            | <i>Brian Lawson</i>         | <b>01787 312160</b>   |
| Newton Fireside Club                             | <i>Moira Evans</i>          | <b>01787 374652</b>   |
| Pilates (Edwardstone)                            | <i>Claire</i>               | <b>07772 074 750</b>  |
| Primrose Wood Volunteers                         | <i>Evan Flockhart</i>       | <b>07968 336883</b><br><a href="mailto:obliquewoodland@protonmail.com">obliquewoodland@protonmail.com</a>     |
| Swing jive & Lindy Hop Dance                     | <i>Sarah Boldock</i>        | <b>07956 614824</b>   |
| Yoga (Boxford)                                   | <i>Marianne Marshall</i>    | <b>01787 210323</b>   |
| Yoga Paper Kite (Newton)                         | <i>Sophie</i>               | <b>01787 313662</b>   |
| Yoga With Lindsey (Newton)                       | <i>Lindsey</i>              | <b>07971 800540</b>   |

## CHARITIES

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

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

|                               |                      |   |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 3PR Boxford 1st Responders    | <i>Rich Wild</i>     | <b>01787 210946</b><br><a href="mailto:office@boxfordresponders.com">office@boxfordresponders.com</a>   |
| Boxford Allotments            | <i>David Burden</i>  | <b>01787 211926</b><br><a href="mailto:d.burden379@btinternet.com">d.burden379@btinternet.com</a>   |
| Boxford Bounty                | <i>Mark Miller</i>   | <b>01787 211596</b>   |
| Boxford Community Car Scheme  | <i>Jen Eastwood</i>  | <b>01787 211853</b><br><a href="mailto:jen.eastwood8@gmail.com">jen.eastwood8@gmail.com</a>   |
| Boxford Community Council     | <i>Ward Baker</i>    | <b>07850 941 831</b><br><a href="mailto:boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com">boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com</a><br><a href="http://www.boxford.me.uk">www.boxford.me.uk</a>            |
| Boxford Playing Fields        | <i>Craig Needham</i> | <b>07970 733934</b><br><a href="mailto:craig.needham@me.com">craig.needham@me.com</a>   |
| Boxford Society               | <i>Jen Eastwood</i>  | <b>01787 211853</b><br><a href="mailto:jen.eastwood8@gmail.com">jen.eastwood8@gmail.com</a><br><a href="http://boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety">boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety</a> |
| Boxford Tennis Courts         | <i>Hugh Phillips</i> | <b>01787 211729</b>   |
| Lt Waldingfield Playing field | <i>Jennie Jordan</i> | <b>07522 352558</b><br><a href="mailto:52Jennie1@gmail.com">52Jennie1@gmail.com</a>   |

## SCOUTING

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

## CHILDREN FAMILIES & LEARNING

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

## HALLS & FACILITIES TO HIRE

|                                 |                       |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Boxford Pavilion                | <i>Natalie Woods</i>  | <b>07772 916135</b><br><a href="mailto:nataliewoods25@gmail.com">nataliewoods25@gmail.com</a>         |
| Boxford Spinney                 | <i>Mark Miller</i>    | <b>01787 211596</b><br><a href="mailto:mark.miller@talktalk.net">mark.miller@talktalk.net</a>         |
| Boxford Village Hall            |                       | <a href="mailto:booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk">booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk</a>                |
| Edwardstone Parish Hall         | <i>Daphne Clark</i>   | <b>01787 210698</b><br><a href="mailto:daphne.clark@btopenworld.com">daphne.clark@btopenworld.com</a> |
| Edwardstone Millennium Green    | <i>Marijke Morris</i> | <b>07914 767013</b><br><a href="mailto:marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk">marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk</a>               |
| Groton Village Hall             | <i>Joanna Roberts</i> | <b>07845 940008</b><br><a href="mailto:jgant87618@aol.com">jgant87618@aol.com</a>                     |
| Little Waldingfield Parish Room | <i>Sue Bowen</i>      | <b>01787 249473</b><br><a href="mailto:sd.bowen@btopenworld.com">sd.bowen@btopenworld.com</a>         |
| Little Waldingfield Pavilion    | <i>Jennie Jordan</i>  | <b>07522 352558</b><br><a href="mailto:52Jennie1@gmail.com">52Jennie1@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Marquee Booking                 |                       | <a href="mailto:BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com">BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com</a>                  |
| Milden Pavilion                 | <i>Pearl</i>          | <b>01449 741876</b><br><a href="mailto:info@mildenpavilion.co.uk">info@mildenpavilion.co.uk</a>       |
| Newton Village Hall             | <i>Alan Vince</i>     | <b>07955 199000</b>   |

# The Blooming Garden

## The Magic of Mimosa.

If like me, you love mimosa, then the place to be in February is the South of France, on the 130-kilometre Route du Mimosa which stretches from Bormes-les-Mimosas to Grasse.



The best part of this mimosa route is behind the little town of Mandelieu-la-Napoule where you can walk on one of the lovely footpaths in the Massif du Tanneron which has the biggest mimosa forest in Europe.



Massif du Tanneron

It is amazing to look at this vast forest and think that until the mid-nineteenth century mimosa was unknown here. It was introduced from its native Australia after Lord Brougham had led the way and made Cannes the new 'in' place for people with money to live. Opulent mansions were built and gardens were made using the newest plant introductions from Australia and other exotic places. Mimosa was so well suited to the climate and the soil in this part of France that it soon jumped over the garden wall and established itself with astonishing rapidity.

Ecologists today worry that the native flora on the Massif du Tanneron has been almost entirely taken over by the prolific mimosa. The local people have no such worries; they love it. There are now many 'mimosistes' who grow it in their nurseries. Perfumeries in Grasse use it for their scent. The little train station at Mandelieu-la-Napoule was for many years used to send mimosa to florists all round the country. Today, over 8 million mimosa bouquets are exported from France to countries round the world every year. Much of this comes from the Tanneron region.



*Acacia dealbata*



Mimosa Festival

By the early twentieth century mimosa had become an important part of the local economy. In February, 1929 disaster struck when temperatures of -9 degrees killed the harvest. It took two years for the trees to recover. To celebrate the new harvest, mimosa festivals started to be held every year in February. The annual celebrations go on for ten days starting with the election of la Reine du Mimosa. On the Sunday there is the great procession: *Le Grand Corso Fleuri*. Each year there is a different theme, this year it is '*Les Jeux Olympiques en Folie*'. When I went a few years ago the theme was '*Le Mimosa célèbre la Riviera*'. The grand parade consists of floral floats, oompah bands and all sorts of entertainers. It is all very jolly. Twelve tons of mimosa are used to decorate the floats and mimosa is thrown at the crowds. The parade ends with the battle of the mimosa and seems to be a free-for-all as the crowds strip the floats and go home laden with flowers.

There are over a thousand species of acacia and most of them are not hardy. *Acacia dealbata* which is the species found growing here in France is also celebrated in Japan as allegedly it was the first tree to blossom after the devastation of Hiroshima. Mimosa is easy from seed and great for a cool conservatory. It needs plenty of sun but it won't do well in a heated room, as I found to my cost when all the buds shrivelled and fell off when I brought my little tree inside one year. I grow *Acacia dealbata* in a pot in slightly acidic soil; I have seen it growing outside in the UK in very sheltered spots but I have never managed to keep it in the garden. It grows very quickly so I discard pot-grown ones when they get too big and start again. The only one that I have managed to keep going outside for a few years is *Acacia pravissima* which has unusual wedge-shaped leaves. It seems to be the hardiest mimosa. Its common name is Oven's Wattle, I can't think why. In fact the common name for the whole family is wattle which is an ugly name for a beautiful flower; it sounds more like an ugly appendage to the neck. The racemes of fluffy, golden balls bring sunshine to a winter's day but it is the fabulous scent which is its most magical attribute. Scents are so difficult to describe but this is a warm, powdery sort of honey scent with almond overtones. Walking through a forest of these trees is an unforgettable experience. Unfortunately, the flowers don't last long in a vase so having your own tree is the best way to enjoy them.

*Chloris*.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2025

|                  |  |           |
|------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>25</b><br>SAT | <b>Keep The Heat Drop In Session</b><br>Boxford Village Hall | 10-1pm    |
| <b>27</b><br>MON | <b>Boxford Friendship Group</b><br>Boxford Village Hall      | 2-4pm     |
| <b>31</b><br>FRI | <b>Pop-up Pub</b><br>Little Waldingfield Pavilion            | 6:30-11pm |

## FEBRUARY 2025

|                  |   |           |
|------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b><br>SAT  | <b>Shelley Centre Cash BINGO</b><br>Hadleigh Football Club                    | 7pm       |
| <b>4</b><br>TUE  | <b>Fireside Club - Discover Family History</b><br>Newton Village Hall         | 2pm       |
| <b>4</b><br>TUE  | <b>Boxford Gardening Society - Talk</b><br>Boxford Village Hall               | 7:30pm    |
| <b>5</b><br>WED  | <b>Boxford WI - Kate Baker, Suffolk Author</b><br>Boxford Village Hall        | 2pm       |
| <b>12</b><br>WED | <b>LWHS - Bury St Edmunds Through Time</b><br>Little Waldingfield Parish Room | 7:30pm    |
| <b>12</b><br>WED | <b>Charity Quiz Night</b><br>The Fleece, Boxford                              | 8pm       |
| <b>14</b><br>FRI | <b>Relaxation &amp; Sound - all welcome</b><br>Boxford Village Hall           | 6-7:30pm  |
| <b>18</b><br>TUE | <b>Fireside Club - Gin Tasting</b><br>Newton Village Hall                     | 2pm       |
| <b>21</b><br>FRI | <b>Polstead Films - 'Small Things Like These'</b><br>Polstead Village Hall    | 7pm       |
| <b>21</b><br>FRI | <b>Groton History Society - David Long</b><br>Groton Village Hall             | 7:30pm    |
| <b>22</b><br>SAT | <b>Village Hall Coffee Morning</b><br>Newton Village Hall                     | 10am      |
| <b>22</b><br>SAT | <b>Barn Dance</b><br>Boxford Village Hall                                     | 7:30pm    |
| <b>24</b><br>MON | <b>Boxford Friendship Group</b><br>Boxford Village Hall                       | 2-4pm     |
| <b>28</b><br>FRI | <b>Pop-up Pub</b><br>Little Waldingfield Pavilion                             | 6:30-11pm |
| <b>28</b><br>FRI | <b>French's Care Haven Curry Night</b><br>The Fleece, Boxford                 | 7pm       |

## MARCH 2025

|                  |  |         |
|------------------|--|---------|
| <b>4</b><br>TUE  | <b>Fireside Club - Pancake Day</b><br>Boxford Village Hall                 | 12:30pm |
| <b>4</b><br>TUE  | <b>Boxford Gardening Society - Talk</b><br>Boxford Village Hall            | 7:30pm  |
| <b>5</b><br>WED  | <b>Boxford WI - Line Dancing with Rosie</b><br>Boxford Village Hall        | 2pm     |
| <b>10</b><br>MON | <b>Natural Boxford Talk 'Save Our Swifts'</b><br>St Mary's Church, Boxford | 6pm     |
| <b>12</b><br>WED | <b>Charity Quiz Night</b><br>The Fleece, Boxford                           | 8pm     |
| <b>18</b><br>TUE | <b>Fireside Club - Make-up Demonstration</b><br>Newton Village Hall        | 2pm     |
| <b>19</b><br>WED | <b>LWHS - We'll Meet Again</b><br>Little Waldingfield Parish Room          | 7:30pm  |
| <b>24</b><br>MON | <b>Boxford Friendship Group</b><br>Boxford Village Hall                    | 2-4pm   |

|                         |   |           |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>26</b><br>WED        | <b>Ladies Get Into Golf</b><br>Newton Green Golf Club                         | 2-3pm     |
| <b>27-29</b><br>THU-SAT | <b>Boxford Drama Group - 'Now &amp; Then'</b><br>Boxford Village Hall         | 7:30pm    |
| <b>28</b><br>FRI        | <b>Pop-up Pub</b><br>Little Waldingfield Pavilion                             | 6:30-11pm |
| <b>29</b><br>SAT        | <b>Parish Council Coffee Morning &amp; Litter Pick</b><br>Newton Village Hall | 10am      |
| <b>29</b><br>SAT        | <b>Ladies Get Into Golf</b><br>Newton Green Golf Club                         | 10-11am   |

## APRIL 2025

|                  |   |        |
|------------------|---|--------|
| <b>1</b><br>TUE  | <b>Fireside Club - Fooling About</b><br>Boxford Village Hall        | 2pm    |
| <b>1</b><br>TUE  | <b>Boxford Gardening Society - Talk</b><br>Boxford Village Hall     | 7:30pm |
| <b>2</b><br>WED  | <b>Boxford WI - Benton End House</b><br>Boxford Village Hall        | 2pm    |
| <b>9</b><br>WED  | <b>Charity Quiz Night</b><br>The Fleece, Boxford                    | 8pm    |
| <b>11</b><br>FRI | <b>Quiz &amp; Curry Evening</b><br>Groton Village Hall              | 7:30pm |
| <b>19</b><br>WED | <b>LWHS - Castle on the Hill</b><br>Little Waldingfield Parish Room | 7:30pm |
| <b>28</b><br>MON | <b>Boxford Friendship Group</b><br>Boxford Village Hall             | 2-4pm  |



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# BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Lots of our players are bowling indoors at Sudbury to keep our 'eye' in for when we start outdoors in the spring. And many of our players are in competitions early in the new year – so good luck to those who are – I am sure we will have some winners from Boxford.

During the winter months, our social committee have been busy getting us together for some social events. In October, they organised a very successful Snail Race which took place in Boxford village hall. Here is a photo of the final race when you could 'buy' a snail and become the 'owner' for that race. It was all great fun and certainly brightened up a dark and dismal Saturday evening! Excellent food was on offer as well!



The social committee also arranged our Christmas meal at Assington Country Kitchen (The Barn), in December. This was well supported and the food was excellent. Such a shame to hear that The Barn is closing down in February.

Something to look forward to in February will be a wine tasting event – so more on this in the next newsletter.

A huge thank you to our members who are on the social committee. Your hard work throughout the year is much appreciated.

*Roz Mortlock*



champions), Nowton, Copdock & Old Ipswichians, Mildenhall, and Stowmarket, in Division 5. The season also stretches into late September, with the last match away at Hadleigh on the 21<sup>st</sup>. And, with the first home game not until 18 May, our faithful and dedicated 'groundhogs' have more time to prepare the square, so it must be hoped that we will not lose early season games to the weather as we did in 2024.

More (friendly) fixtures may be added, so watch this space and the website. Meanwhile, an important date this month is the club AGM, **Wednesday 26 February** at Martin Roffey's home, 2 Cherry Ground Cottages, Wash Lane, Boxford CO10 5JE, starting at 7:30pm. Please note, too, the 'Ground Day' on Sunday 6 April, starting at 11am, at the Milden Sports Field (opposite the church in Church Road), to prepare the ground for the season. Also to be added to the website shortly will be the dates of pre-season indoor nets, to be held, as last year, at the cricket lane at Sprott's Farm, Holt Road, Polstead CO6 5BT.

## 2025 Fixtures:

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 27 April  | Woolpit v MILDEN      |
| 11 May    | Elmswell v MILDEN     |
| 18 May    | MILDEN v Brockley     |
| 1 June    | Haverhill v MILDEN    |
| 15 June   | MILDEN v Elveden      |
| 22 June   | Worlington v MILDEN   |
| 29 June   | MILDEN v Long Melford |
| 13 July   | MILDEN v Hadleigh     |
| 20 July   | Long Melford v MILDEN |
| 27 July   | MILDEN v Woolpit      |
| 3 August  | MILDEN v Worlington   |
| 10 August | Elveden v MILDEN      |
| 31 August | MILDEN v Haverhill    |
| 7 Sept    | Brockley v MILDEN     |
| 14 Sept   | MILDEN v Elmswell     |
| 21 Sept   | Hadleigh v MILDEN     |

*David Lamming*

# MILDEN CRICKET CLUB 2025

As the days (or, to be accurate/pedantic, the daylight hours) are getting noticeably longer, and with the recent below-zero temperatures hopefully behind us, thoughts of cricketers are surely turning to the summer and the forthcoming cricket season. Milden's first league match, now fewer than a hundred days away, is an away fixture at Woolpit followed, two weeks' later by a trip to nearby Elmswell. The full fixture list, also on the club website: [www.mildencc.com](http://www.mildencc.com), is below.



There are five changes to the teams Milden will play this season, with Brockley, Haverhill, Elveden, Worlington and near-neighbours, Hadleigh, replacing Battisford (last season's division

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