

August 2026

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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Sarah Louise

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Little Waldingfield Open Gardens

The hot weather didn't deter our visitors on 21st June 2026 and it was a wonderful sight to see so many people walking around the village and enjoying our beautiful gardens. There was a lovely atmosphere throughout the village and it was a pleasure to see so many visitors taking the time to explore.

Thank you to all our gardeners who put in so much work in the lead-up to the day. It was certainly appreciated by everyone who came.

A big thank you also goes to the wonderful team in the Parish Room, who sold programmes, plants and produce and served much-needed refreshments, and to everyone who provided cakes and produce to sell.

At the end of the day, £1,334.80 had been raised for our church, so a big thank you to everyone who visited and made it all worthwhile.

Frances Gregor-Smith



Box River News

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The copy deadline for the September issue is Saturday 15th August at midday.

Newton Fireside Club

Unfortunately, I missed the last session of the term as I was on holiday. I understand that what started out as a routine game of bingo turned into a beach party. The hall was appropriately decked out with beach paraphernalia - knotted handkerchiefs were donned and trousers rolled up. As it was a scorching hot day the afternoon was helped along with plenty of Pimm's. Oh, and there was bingo. A big thank-you to Alan for being the caller again and to everybody for joining in.



We are still busy planning future events. If you have any skills or are an expert on a subject and would like to come and talk to us, please do get in touch.

Our autumn term programme is more or less sorted. I'll let you know of any changes next month.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Tue 8th Sept	AGM with cheese & wine and raffle
Tue 22nd Sept	"Who Am I?"
Tue 6th Oct	Sausage roll cooking competition
Tue 20th Oct	Hallowe'en crafts
Tue 3rd Nov	Music from Fiddler's Elbow
Tue 17th Nov	Soup & cake lunch
Tue 1st Dec	Talk - Lawrence of Arabia
Tue 15th Dec	Christmas meal

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. We now have a card reader, so payments can be made by card.

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

Pictured below was a rare opportunity to photograph almost all the members of the Fireside Club together, taken in the garden at Painters at the Angel in Sudbury after afternoon tea.

William Alston Charity Newton

The William Alston Charity is traditionally referred to as the Alston and Plampin charities. The charity was created in 1564 and has continued to offer support to villagers in need, those who are sick and the bereaved ever since.

The benefactors gave rentcharges over land so that the income could be used for the relief of poverty. The capital has been added to over the years to produce a small annual income.

Although there is probably little actual poverty in the village these days, the trustees have continued the tradition of making small cash gifts at Christmas to a few villagers. In addition, a contribution is made towards the Christmas parcel fund set up by the Parish Council and the Trust. Occasionally, we are able to offer help to villagers who have severe health or financial difficulties. Gifts of flowers or pot plants and cards are given to those who are sick or experiencing stressful circumstances. We know these gifts are much appreciated by the recipients, who take comfort in the knowledge that the village is there for them and thinking of them. If you are aware of anyone in such circumstances, please let one of the trustees know.

The current trustees are Liza Devlin, Janet Taylor and myself. Please contact me using the details below if you know of anyone who may benefit from the charity's support.

Sue Presland
07881 383998
sue_presland@hotmail.com

Boxford Village Hall Volunteer Treasurer Needed

Boxford Village Hall Committee is seeking a new Treasurer to join our friendly team and help manage the finances.

This is an important role supporting a much-valued village facility, and the committee would be pleased to hear from anyone who may be interested in finding out more.

If you are interested, please contact the chair, Nick Moore, at nick@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk.

Citizens Advice

Taking a long holiday abroad

There are many important dates within the Government's Social Security Act, and two of them are worth noting. They are:

15th May 2019 and 28th July 2016.

The first date marked the introduction of mixed-age couples. Mixed-age couples are defined as couples in which one person is of working age and the other is of state pension age.

The second date introduced a reduction in the time that could be spent outside the UK while retaining benefit entitlements, from 13 weeks to four weeks. It is also necessary to note that travel to Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man is still considered to be travel abroad for the purposes of many benefit regulations, even though these areas are within the UK.

Consider, for example, a mixed-age couple.

Paul, who is in receipt of a state pension, has also been claiming Pension Credit (PC) for himself and his partner, who is still under pension age, since 2018. They are also receiving Housing Benefit (HB). In October 2025, their son paid for them to visit him in Australia for a family reunion and holiday.

They were away for five weeks. The maximum period for which PC and HB can be paid during an absence from the UK is four weeks. As they were away for five weeks, their entitlement to both benefits ended. On their return, they could not requalify for either PC or HB until Paul's partner reached state pension age.

The financial loss of benefit entitlements can be very significant.

As with all guidance sought on benefit entitlements, why not contact Sudbury Citizens Advice? Our advice is free and confidential. Just call us on 01787 321400.

Helen Arbon

Sudbury & South Suffolk Citizens Advice

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

**citizens
advice**

Groton Educational Foundation

The trustees will meet on 3rd September at Groton Village Hall to consider applications for grant aid for educational or training purposes from residents of Groton and those parts of Boxford included in the 'area of benefit', i.e. Homefield, the east side of Swan Street and pockets of land in Stone Street south of the church - those parts which were included in the Tithe Map of Groton 1881.

We hope that newcomers will be made aware of this charity, particularly by those who have benefited from it. There is no means testing.

Applications may also be made by organisations serving the area.

Recent grants have included help towards the costs of university, specialist sports coaching, club membership and barbering equipment.

Details and application forms are available from Kate Wilson, Clerk to the Trustees, One Daisy Green Cottages, Groton CO10 5EN. kate.wilson100@hotmail.co.uk

01787 211658

Completed forms should be returned by 26th August
Registered Charity No. 1118325

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Taqueria La Gringa - Sat Aug 1st
Suffolk Spice Fusion - Sat Aug 8th & 29th
Tasty Turk - Sat Aug 15th
My Thai Chef - Sat, Aug 22nd
Savannah Smoke - Sun, Aug 23rd
Naama African Food - Sun, Aug 30th

 @edwardstonewh www.edwardstonewhitehorse.co.uk

Boxford Stores Set to Close

Boxford Stores is to close after ten years, with its final day of trading on **Saturday 15th August**. Owner Neil Cottrell explained that, while the decision had been far from easy, it was a personal rather than a business decision. With both of his children expecting babies of their own, he is looking forward to becoming a grandparent and spending more time with his growing family.

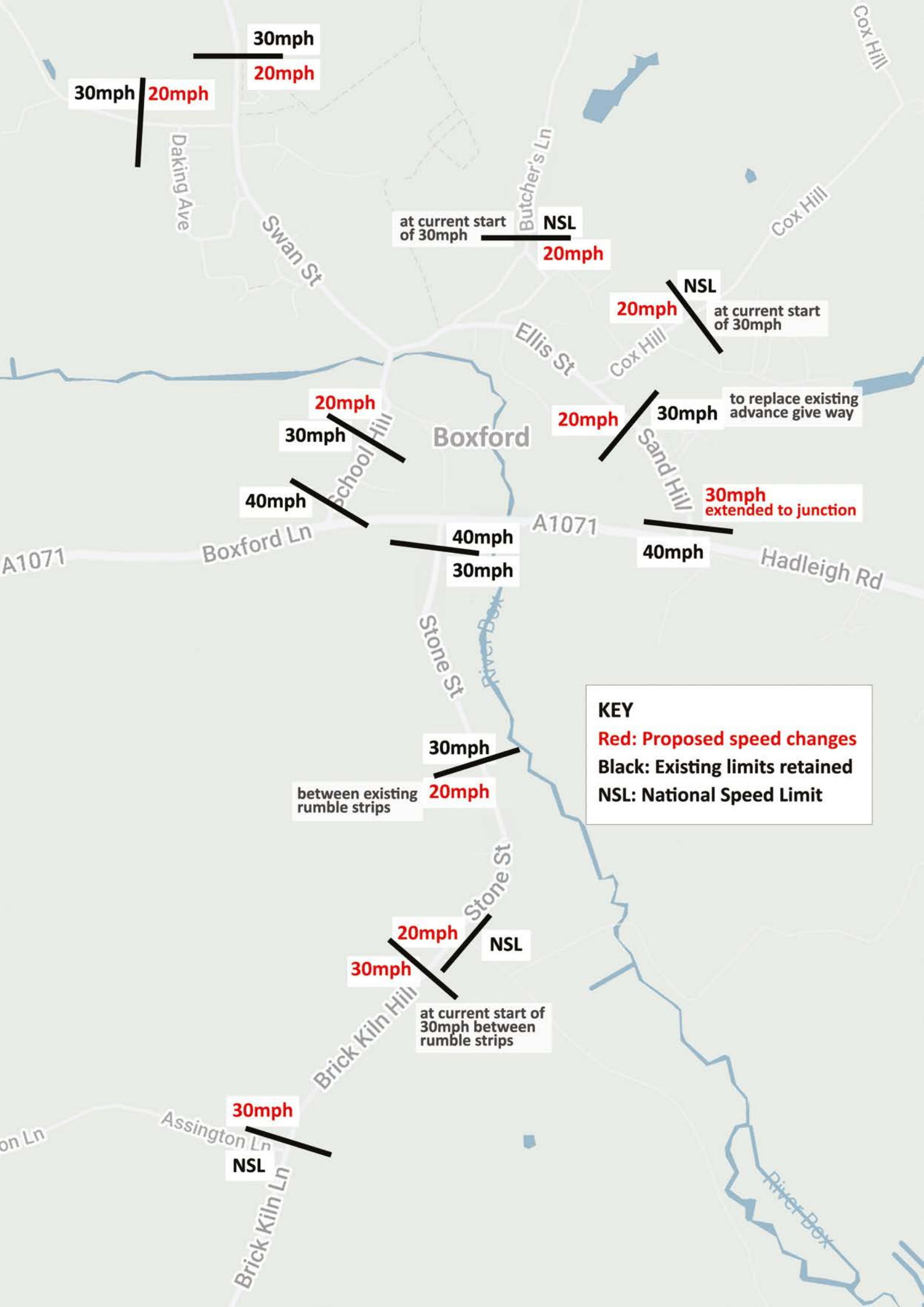
Neil thanked his customers for their loyalty, friendship and support over the past decade, saying that it had been a pleasure to serve the village and to be such an important part of the Boxford community.

Neil's daughter Sian, who works at the shop, also thanked customers for making her time at Boxford Stores so special. She said she would leave with many new friendships and happy memories, and spoke of how proud she was of her father for creating a shop that had become so cherished by the community.

The shop will continue to provide its usual services during its final weeks, with the family determined to finish their time in Boxford on a high.

There is currently no news on whether another shop will take over the premises from the building's owner, Lawrence Mott. However, the Post Office is a separate business and will continue to operate from the premises as normal under subpostmaster Richard Haining.

On behalf of the community the BRN would like to express its sincere thanks to the Cottrell family for their wonderful service to the local area over the past ten years and wish them all the very best for the future.





20's Plenty for Boxford?

Boxford Parish Council outlines plans for lower speed limits & asks villagers to share their views

Boxford Parish Council is asking residents whether they support proposals to introduce lower speed limits on nearly every road in the village.

Concerns have been raised for some time about vehicles travelling too quickly through Boxford. The village has several busy approaches, narrow pavements, limited parking and frequent interaction between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, particularly around the primary school, village hall and village centre.

Suffolk County Council Highways gave the scheme approval in principle in July 2024, and work has continued since then to establish its possible extent. Although some details are still to be resolved, the parish council now wishes to share the broad proposals with residents before deciding whether to proceed. The roads currently being considered are shown on the map to the left which is Highways' draft design. This should be considered a work in progress and is subject to changes.

The proposed scheme would introduce a 20mph limit across much of Boxford, including Ellis Street and Swan Street, together with School Hill from its junction with the A1071. At busy school times, congestion, parked vehicles and pedestrian movements

make School Hill a particular concern.

A lower limit is proposed for Sand Hill, including the blind junction with Cox Hill.

Stone Street is part of the consideration. The road is narrow and almost single-track in places, with no pavements or street lighting. It is regularly used by walkers and cyclists, as well as vehicles travelling between the A1071 and Colchester.

The recent withdrawal of the permissive path alongside Stone Street has made the situation considerably worse. Pedestrians have lost the safer route previously available to them and must now use the carriageway, despite the volume and speed of traffic. The closure has removed a valuable community route and increased the risks faced by those travelling along Stone Street.

The parish council believes that a 20mph limit should begin at the point where the A1071 turns into Stone Street, up to Brick Kiln Hill (this differs from Highways' design). The existing rumble strips may also need to be reviewed if they are not doing enough to reduce speeds.

The current estimated cost of the scheme is £30,500, covering detailed design, consultation and construction. Suffolk County Council does not

provide funding for schemes of this kind, so the parish council would need to raise the necessary money. County Councillor Robert Lindsay has said that, if the parish council can secure the bulk of the funding, he would be willing to contribute a proportion from his discretionary budget.

This survey is an early stage in the process. Should the parish council decide to proceed and the funding be secured, Suffolk Highways would prepare a detailed design. This would then be considered through informal consultation with the parish council, police and councillors, followed by a formal public consultation and final approval by Suffolk County Council.

The overriding aim is to improve safety while recognising that Boxford's roads must be shared by pedestrians, cyclists, cars, HGVs and agricultural vehicles.

The Parish Council would like to hear whether villagers support the principle of the scheme. Comments, whether supportive or otherwise, can be sent to the Parish Clerk, Zoe Rumsey, at clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk. Residents can also speak directly to parish councillors Colin Parr, Andy Troke or Howard Watts. Their contact details can be found on the Parish Council website at www.boxford-pc.gov.uk/councillors.

The Butcher's Wife

Bowled over by the heat

As I write this, England are gearing up for their semi-final match in the World Cup. I'm not normally a big football fan - thanks to the youngest mini Leeder, we are all about rugby - but I do like watching England play in the World Cup. Football really doesn't compare to a rugby match, in my opinion. Football players will fall to the ground after a gentle tap, while rugby players play on with a black eye, a split lip and someone else's blood on their shirt. There's really no comparison!

Another family 'sport' is the Butcher's flourishing bowls career. I tried playing bowls once. It wasn't as easy as it looks and I've realised there's only one thing more boring than playing bowls, and that's watching someone else play bowls. It doesn't have the same excitement levels for me as a rugby match. No one smashes into each other and there are no injuries. It's very disappointing. There is one silver lining, though: when the Butcher plays, I go along to 'watch', but really I'm sunbathing!

Now onto the subject of the

weather... you all know how much I love summer, but this last heatwave has nearly finished me off. I love hot weather when I'm at the beach. I do not love hot weather when I still have to go to work and go about my normal day.

"It's on a par with living in a very efficient fan oven."

We are not used to temperatures of 30 degrees plus in this country. We all insulate our houses to retain as much heat as physically possible - perfect in January, almost deadly in July. It's on a par with living in a very efficient fan oven. None of us have pools or air conditioning and, if we open the windows and doors to let some air in,

every fly in the land joins us as we melt on the couch. There was one day in particular when the temperature was 5,000 degrees - only a slight exaggeration - my eyeballs were like little balls of fire, I was melting and I was very grumpy. The Butcher came to my rescue and ordered ceiling fans for every room in our house. I wasn't holding out much hope, as I really had my sights set on air conditioning, but I was proven wrong. They are a game-changer and have made the heat in our house much more bearable. I now need to convince him that turning the whole back garden into a swimming pool is a good idea.

So, in summary, I don't mind football, I love rugby, bowls is a bit boring and I want to be at the beach! Have a great summer!



Chicken with Greek-Style Butter Beans & Tzatziki

*A lovely, easy summer meal that feels fresh but is still filling.
Don't forget the crusty bread - you'll want it to mop up every last bit.*

Ingredients

- 2 chicken legs
- 100g kale
- 1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra to drizzle
- 3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 200g cherry vine tomatoes
- 360g jar of butter beans
- 150ml dry white wine
- 170g tzatziki
- Crusty bread, to serve (optional)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6. Cook the chicken for about 45 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, tear the leaves from the kale stems. Cut the stems into 2 cm lengths, then roughly chop the leaves. Warm the oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Add the kale stems, garlic and cherry tomatoes and fry over a low heat for 3-5 minutes, until softened and fragrant.
3. Add the butter beans and their liquid, along with the wine. Bring to the boil, then bubble for 5 minutes to reduce the liquid. Add the kale leaves and cook for another 2-3 minutes, until just wilted. Stir through 1 tbsp of the cooking juices from the chicken and season.
4. Divide the beans between bowls, then top each with a chicken leg and a generous spoonful of tzatziki. Serve with the rest of the tzatziki on the side, plus crusty bread to mop up the juices.



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Reflections from the Ministry Team

August - school's out and the holidays are upon us!

I always associate August with sun, sea and sand - family holidays on English or Welsh beaches, swimming in the sea, building sandcastles. There are also memories of windbreaks, plastic macs and damp hours spent playing the slot machines in amusement arcades on the pier! Happy days!

I hope that most of you will manage to get away for a break this summer and enjoy some rest and recreation, but if you can't get away then I hope that you will be able to spend time enjoying the beauties of our lovely villages and relaxing at home with family and friends. August is a month for slowing down, sitting back and dreaming dreams. A time for letting our routines slip a little.

What are your dreams and hopes, I wonder? We all have our dreams whatever age we are and sometimes those dreams can inspire us to achieve things that at first sight seem beyond us. It's always good to have dreams and aspirations. Those are the things that stretch us and keep us moving forward. Sometimes of course our dreams come crashing down and we suffer disappointment, but if we can learn from our failures then we are more likely to succeed when we face our next challenge. We need to always be dreaming and hoping for a better future for ourselves and our world.

The Bible is full of dreamers and visionaries. People who looked to the future and saw God offering his people new life and hope if only they would trust in him. In the Book of Revelation at the end of the Bible, St John dreams of a new heaven and a new earth - a beautiful holy city where God lives with his people and where there is no more sadness or suffering. It's a wonderful vision of God's kingdom on earth - something that we pray for in church every week in the Lord's Prayer. *"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* God has promised in Jesus that his kingdom will come.

We pray and we hope and we dream - we dream of a world where justice, peace and tolerance prevail and hunger and poverty are no more. And while we wait, we are called to reflect the values of our dream in the places where we are now. We are called to care for our neighbour and to offer a helping hand to any who are struggling with life. How blessed we are in the Box River Benefice where so many people live out these values and give their time and energy to building community and caring networks in our villages. No wonder that it is such a lovely place to live!

Our churches continue to be open every day for worship and for private reflection. Do drop in and enjoy the peace and quiet of our beautiful buildings. I wish you all a happy August and may God bless all your hopes and dreams.

With love and prayers
Revd Diana



August

Dates for your diary

Friday 7th, 10:30am

Coffee Morning, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Sunday 9th, 2:30pm

Garden Party, Brook House, Groton, CO10 5EJ

Saturday 15th, 10am

Coffee Morning, St Mary's, Boxford

Wednesday 19th, 10am

Coffee Morning, All Saints', Newton Green
(location subject to change)

One Last Ride & Stride

On **Saturday 12th September**, Marianne and Richard Anthony will once again take part in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride.

Since moving to Newton in 2001, they have taken part every year. This year will be their twenty-fifth and final ride.

Over the years, their cycling and fundraising have helped support both Newton's village church and the wider work of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, which provides grants towards the repair and preservation of historic church buildings across the county.

They would be very grateful for any sponsorship, which will be divided equally between All Saints' Church, Newton, and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

To sponsor Marianne and Richard, please contact:

Marianne Anthony
marianne.anthony616@gmail.com
8 Links View, Newton

For more information on Ride & Stride 2026 and how you can take part, please see p24.

Contact Information

Benefice Office (by appointment only):

c/o Town & Village Properties
2a Broad Street, Boxford, CO10 5DX

07719 790088

email: boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

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



Service Schedule for August 2026

Sunday 2nd August <i>Trinity 9</i>	09:30	Morning Worship	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 5th August	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 9th August <i>Trinity 10</i>	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist with Choir	St Mary's, Boxford
	17:00	BCP Evensong	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 12th August	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 16th August <i>Trinity 11</i>	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist with Choir	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 19th August	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 23rd August <i>Trinity 12</i>	11:00	Sunday Eucharist	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	Family Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 26th August	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 30th August <i>Trinity 13</i>	11:00	Benefice Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford

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

If you need support, please contact the Benefice Office in the first instance, all enquiries will be treated in confidence and passed on to the appropriate person.

We are urgently looking for a VOLUNTARY TREASURER AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, NEWTON

Could you help support the life of our village church?

This voluntary role is an important part of our church's life, ensuring our finances are well kept, transparent and managed. You don't need to join our PCC or even live in Newton. The role includes: -

- Keeping clear and accurate online/computerised financial records
- Managing online payments
- Preparing simple reports for PCC meetings

What we're looking for: -

You don't need to be an accountant — just someone organised, trustworthy and comfortable with basic numbers. Training and a full handover will be provided, and the PCC will support you every step of the way.



**Please contact the Benefice Office for
further information**

New Rector Announcement

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Rt Revd Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell, is delighted to announce that the next Rector of the Box River Benefice will be the Reverend Gill Morgan. The appointment is subject to the completion of legal formalities and statutory safeguarding checks. When those matters have been completed, we will be able to announce the date of the Institution. Gill is presently Team Rector in the Benefice of North Hinckford, in Chelmsford Diocese.

The Bishop has asked us to pass on her thanks to the parish representatives, the patrons and all those involved in the process of Gill's appointment, and she assures you of her continued prayers. Please pray for Gill and for the people of the Box River Benefice.

The Box River Benefice will share further information about this exciting news in future editions of the *Box River News*. We very much look forward to welcoming Gill into our churches, villages and communities.

Edwardstone Musicology Concert

A wonderful evening of music, wine and community spirit.

Edwardstone Church was filled with music, laughter and conversation on Saturday 6th June as Musicology treated us to a fantastic evening of popular tunes.

The audience enjoyed a wonderful mix of songs, with favourites from the Beatles, the Carpenters and more. Charlie Haylock also entertained guests with some poems, bringing plenty of smiles and laughter and complementing the musical programme perfectly.

Delicious canapés and a glass of wine gave everyone the chance to relax, catch up with friends and enjoy a lovely evening together. The event raised more than £1,300 in much-needed funds for Edwardstone Church, and we are grateful to everyone who helped and supported it.



Mary's House Clearance Sale

Mary's House recently held a well-supported clearance sale, offering a wide range of household items, books and other treasures a new home. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who came along, the event raised £155 for Crisis, supporting its vital work with people experiencing homelessness. It was heartening to see neighbours browsing, chatting and rehoming well-loved items while contributing to such an important cause. Our sincere thanks go to all who attended, donated and helped to make the sale a success. Your support truly makes a difference and is deeply appreciated.

St. Bartholomew's Church Groton



Garden Party

Sunday 9th August 2026
2:30 until 4:30

at
Brook House
Groton CO10 5EJ (follow the signs)

Entrance £6.00 to include Cream Tea

Raffle, Stalls, Games with Prizes!

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BOX RIVER BENEFICE



FRIDAY, 7TH AUGUST AT 10.30 AM
COFFEE MORNING
AT
ST LAWRENCE'S, LT WALDINGFIELD

SATURDAY, 15TH AUGUST AT 10.00 AM
COFFEE MORNING
AT
ST MARY'S, BOXFORD

WEDNESDAY, 19TH AUGUST AT 10.00 AM
COFFEE MORNING
AT
ALL SAINTS', NEWTON



THE FLEECE HOTEL

Charity Quiz

Wed 12th Aug 8PM
 Wed 16th Sep 8PM
 Wed 14th Oct 8PM
 Wed 11th Nov 8PM
 Wed 9th Dec 8PM

Free to enter, please donate on the night to the charity of the month!
 Up to 6 per team | 01787 211 818 to reserve a table

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SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

12 NOON

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 POP CHORUS
 BEER TENT
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Refreshments including
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VEHICLES OF INTEREST

A GREAT DAY OUT for the whole family!

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Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pubs

Our next 'Pop-Up Pub' nights will be on **Friday 31st July** and **Friday 28th August**.

These relaxed and friendly events run from 6:30pm - 10:30pm in the beautiful setting of the pavilion at the Little Waldingfield playing field, and everyone is welcome to join us for an evening of great company and a range of reasonably-priced drinks (both alcoholic and non) watching the sun set over the countryside.

Edwardstone Art Group

New members are warmly invited to join this friendly group of local amateur artists, who meet on Wednesday mornings at Edwardstone Parish Hall to paint and chat. For further details, please ring Pam on 01787 210136 or Sue on 01787 210021.

Boxford WI

Boxford WI are holding an open meeting on **Wednesday 2nd September**

2pm - 4pm In Boxford Village Hall

Entertainment by The Harbour Lights Trio

£5 for non WI members

For more information please contact our Secretary, Lyn Beer on **07961 357526** or email lyn@the-brook.net.

theWI
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The 27th annual

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LOCAL ARTISTS AND MAKERS



Sat. 29th, Sun. 30th & Mon. 31st AUGUST
10am to 5pm £3 ENTRANCE FEE (under 12's free)

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DYLAN PYM STEAM BENT FURNITURE • BRIN EDWARDS PAINTINGS
ALEX WAYLETT TEXTILES • JILL HODGSON ART • ANNA BOON SCULPTURE
HEATHER SEARS BASKETRY • NOAH CARTER PAINTINGS • ZOE RUBENS VISUAL ART
DALE DEVEREUX-BARKER ART • DREW WHITEMORE DRILLWORKS
TOBIAS FORD METAL SCULPTURE • BELINDA KNAPP PAINTINGS
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PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES BEFORE PLANNING YOUR VISIT

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Red Rose August Beer Festival

The Red Rose at Lindsey relaunched a month ago and has enjoyed a busy few weeks. They have now announced their beer festival for 28th-30th August. The team promise over 25 delicious ales, a number of craft ciders and lagers, plus a new Pimm's and wine bar. Local bands will be playing live music throughout the weekend.

The Ultimate Beer Festival

Jackie Ha is the General Manager. He commented:

"The beauty of the pub is its situation in the stunning Suffolk countryside, with an incredible beer garden. This makes our beer festival one of the best."

Think locally crafted ales, craft ciders, a Pimm's bar and much more. In terms of our food offering, we have expanded it to include a Mac 'n' Cheese Bar, a barbecue and a hog roast, all run by the team at Nedging Hall Estate - The Crown and The Red Rose. There'll be a bouncy castle - and, obviously, we have acres of space to enjoy."

Nedging Hall Estate

The Red Rose is part of Nedging Hall Estate and is one of Suffolk's most charming country pubs, with over 500 years of history and heritage. The Crown and The Red Rose are jewels in Nedging Hall Estate's portfolio, and a stunning three-mile walk through the countryside connects them. Each with its own personality, the two pubs work together to bring the Estate's 'Estate to Plate' ethos to customers old and new.

Open Seven Days a Week

The Red Rose at Lindsey will be open seven days a week throughout August.



10% Off Drinks at The Crown

The Anglian Water roadworks in Bildeston started in July, and the pub is mindful that guests' journeys may be affected. There is always a route to The Crown, and there are several car parks in the village. For those travelling from Hadleigh, the current diversion means a five-minute walk through the beautiful village of Bildeston.

While the roadworks are taking place, The Crown is offering 10% off all drinks. It is not something the pub has done before, but the team wanted to acknowledge and

thank those who continue to support it.

Jackie Ha, General Manager, commented: *"It's the least we can do. We appreciate our locals and everyone who is popping in during this time. We know that the roadworks are necessary, but we also need everyone's support."*



The Hay Wain on Tour

Join us for open-air theatre in the walled garden at Hadleigh Old School. Inspired by Constable's *The Hay Wain*, the play imagines the stories of the people in the painting and explores what their lives may have been like. The cheeky image below, by artist Kushag Patel, should get you in the mood!



The Hay Wain plays on **Saturday 29th August 2026**. Gates open at 6:30pm for a 7:30pm performance in the garden. If it rains the performance will move indoors. Chairs will be provided, and there will be a bar service before the performance and during the interval.



Packing Shed Theatre Company's *The Hay Wain* is a highly acclaimed open-air play that turns the bucolic, 'chocolate-box' view of John Constable's iconic masterpiece on its head. The production shifts the focus to the real, gritty lives of the rural working class rather than presenting a romanticised landscape.

Directed by Neil Jones and written by Thomas R. Edwards, the play is essentially East Anglia's answer to *Les Misérables*, driven by a moving and passionate score. It explores themes of hardship, hope and resilience, giving a voice to the marginalised 'blobs in the background' of the 1821 painting.

Reviewers have praised the production for being powerful, relevant and emotionally gripping. It is now being restaged for this special tour marking 'Constable 250', the anniversary of the painter's birth.

Also as part of Constable 250, Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich is hosting an exhibition featuring the original painting this summer, should you wish to acquaint yourself with the work of art before seeing our play, which is set during the period in which it was created.

Tickets for *The Hay Wain* are available from www.castleparktheatre.co.uk. Select the listing for the Hadleigh Old School performance on **29th August 2026**, or scan the QR code.



Free car parking is available beside the Iron Bridge, next to the River Brett, IP7 6BY. When travelling from Boxford, the car park is on the left before you reach the High Street.



The Walled Garden, Hadleigh Old School

BOXFORD GARDENING SOCIETY

Summer flowering shrubs

Focusing on different hydrangea varieties

Alice Owen from Perrywoods



Tuesday 4th August 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall

FLEECE JAZZ 2022
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

Chris Ingham's Steely Jazz

Wednesday 12th August 2026 8pm - Tickets: £25



Re-examining the songs of Walter Becker and Donald Fagen, illuminating the singular melodies, rich harmonies and exploring the small group jazz possibilities of an incomparably opulent songbook.

Chris Ingham – Piano/ Guitar/ Vocals
Harry Greene – Tenor sax/ Guitar
Paul Higgs – Trumpet/ Piano/ Melodica
Geoff Gascoyne – Bass
George Double – Drums/ Vocals

The Jon Lloyd Quartet

Wednesday 26th August 2026 8pm - Tickets: £20



"Lloyd's tunes are steeped in the ECM aesthetic, and he and long-time collaborator John Law make it sound like the only music you ever want to hear."
JOHN TURNEY LONDON JAZZ NEWS

Jon Lloyd – Tenor and Soprano Sax
John Law – Piano
Nick Pini – Bass
Alex Goodyear – Drums

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


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Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

An 8 week course on Monday afternoons 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Meeting in Groton Village Hall, CO10 5EL
Starting on Monday 28th September 2026

Challenging God

Tutor: Mrs Alison Davidson

This Term we shall be studying authors who have written about Faith and Doubt in an Imperfect World.

Sept 28 th	The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus - Text B	Marlow c1592
Oct 5 th	Paradise Lost - Book One	John Milton 1667
Oct 12 th	Reading Week	
Oct 19 th	Songs of Innocence, Experience and The Book of Urizen	Blake 1794
Oct 26 th	Reading Week	
Nov 2 nd	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde 1890
Nov 9 th	In Memoriam 1	Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1850
Nov 16 th	In Memoriam 2	Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1850
Nov 23 rd	Oranges are Not The Only Fruit	Jeanette Winterson 1985

Course Fee: £80 for the complete course, payable on the first or second meeting.
£10 for each single class.

Newcomers to these classes are very welcome.

Please contact Mr David Jones for further information if you are interested in attending; Telephone 01787 211104.
Selected readings will be available at each session.

Quiz Night

Little Waldingfield Parish Room

Saturday 26th September 2026

7.30pm prompt start

£12.50 per person, with two course hot meal

(Please bring your own drinks)

Max 4 persons per team

(It may be possible to find partners for you)

Raffle

Bookings: Sue Bowen 07962 210359

sd.bowen@btopenworld.com

All Dolled Up!

Fashion Show

Saturday 19 September
URC Church Hadleigh
2PM - 3:30 PM



Tickets £10

Includes a complimentary drink and fashion quiz with a prize

Tickets available from
Avis Printers & The Hadleigh Thrift Shop
 on Hadleigh High Street

All ticket & pitch sales will go to **CANCER RESEARCH UK**

In the morning, next door in the Ansell Centre:
Closet Chaos
Vintage & High Street Clothes Sale
10am - 2pm Free entry

MILL TYE

MILL TYE GALLERY AND ARTS CENTRE

Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre

Summer Textile Festival
Helena Powell
Hand Woven Landscapes: From Mill to Loom

Discover contemporary textiles brought to life through live weaving, inspiring collaborations, guest artists and beautiful hand-crafted works celebrating creativity and heritage.

To find out more visit
www.milltyegallery.co.uk

Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre
 3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0GW
 Open: Thursday to Sunday 10:30am to 4pm. Free Admission.



It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

Place: **POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL - C06 5AL**

Date: **FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

Time: **10am - 12 noon**

Contact: **ANGELA MAY (07969 983554)**

Cakes and scones made by members of Polstead WI, with tea and coffee provided by the Rural Coffee Caravan. Raffle, tombola, great company.

A very warm welcome awaits you, so come along and raise funds for this amazing charity!

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Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC239907) and the Isle of Man (204). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC19933_InvoicePoster

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8th - 12th September

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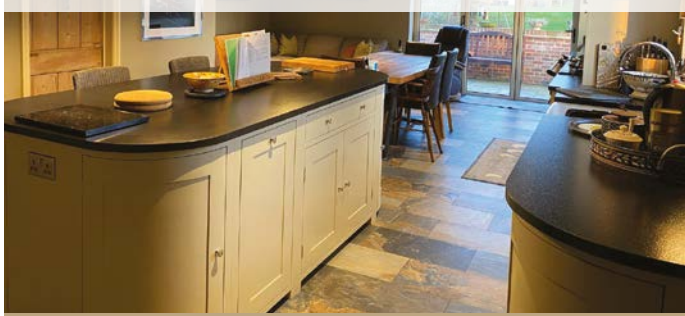
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Proud Sponsors of




Boxford Tea Dance

On 4th July, we were delighted to host a wonderful tea dance to celebrate the centenary of Boxford Village Hall.

A huge thank you to The Three Chordettes (www.thethreechordettes.co.uk) for putting on such a fantastic performance, and to Bex at The Fleece for providing a delicious afternoon tea, which was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.



The afternoon was filled with great conversation, amazing music and some pretty impressive dancing.

Several guests took to the floor, and many of us even had the chance to learn the Charleston!

It was a truly memorable afternoon, and the committee thoroughly enjoyed chatting with everyone who came along.

Thank you to all who joined us in celebrating this very special milestone and helping to make the event such a success.

Nick Moore
Village Hall Chair

Madrigalia News

The choir has had an exciting month.

On 27th June, we sang at a wedding in the beautiful Church of St Mary's, Grundisburgh, and just a few days later gave a lunchtime concert in Bury St Edmunds Cathedral with *Melody of Harps*, led by their director, Anne Chorley.



Performing in the cathedral was a wonderful experience, if a little nerve-racking, but we were well rehearsed. With our unusual pairing of choir and seven Celtic harps, we attracted a good audience who clearly enjoyed the concert and its unusual programme, featuring a variety of songs specially arranged for the groups by Gareth and Sue Price.

I'd like to thank the cathedral's Assistant Director of Music, Richard Cook, who gave us this opportunity and, along with his staff, was so supportive on the day.

Thanks also to Anne Chorley, who organised the music for and rehearsed the harpists and led them in the performance on the day; to Jill Garrett, harpist and our piano accompanist; and to all the wonderful performers who worked so hard to make it happen.

Sue Price

Hollow Trees

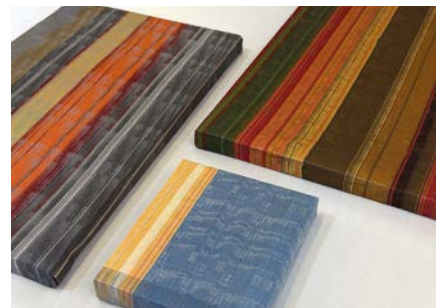
Enjoy the summer holidays at Hollow Trees Farm, with the Cresta Run Sledges, Barrel Train, Football Golf and plenty more. New for this summer is the Double Zip Line, located near The Wild Walk.

Available until Monday 31st August 2026.

www.hollowtrees.co.uk

Summer Textile Festival

Throughout August, Mill Tye Gallery celebrates contemporary textiles with its Summer Textile Festival, featuring *Hand Woven Landscapes: From Mill to Loom* by summer artist in residence Helena Powell.



Visitors can enjoy live weaving demonstrations using locally produced Sudbury silk, exclusive collaborative works with award-winning textile artist Amber Lily, and exhibitions by Dorothy Ronaldson and Ling Warlow. The festival also includes textile workshops, opportunities to try weaving and a programme celebrating Sudbury's rich silk-weaving heritage.

The gallery is open Thursday-Sunday, 10:30 am-4:00 pm, with free admission.

Where Sudbury's silk heritage meets contemporary textile art.



Interactive Loom Weekend

1st-2nd August 2026, 10:30am - 4pm

Visitors can try weaving for themselves under Helena's guidance while watching live silk-weaving demonstrations in the gallery.

Mill Tye Gallery & Arts Centre
3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard CO10 0GW
www.milltyegallery.co.uk

NEWSPAPER NOTICE OF APPLICATION (Notice to be published)

Application for GRANT of NEW Premises Licence

Name of Applicant: Kieran Leabon

Name of Premises: Bottled Bridge

Postal Address of Premises (or description of premises): 7 Blenheim Meadow, Nedging Tye, Ipswich IP7 7GA.

This application may be viewed at: www.babergh.gov.uk or for further information contact the Licensing Team on :0300 123 4000 Option 6.

Proposed licensable activities: Sale and Supply of Alcohol OFF the premises, 24 Hour Online Sales only to be facilitated between the hours of 09.00Hrs and 22:00hrs.

Date until which representations may be made to the Licensing Authority (28 days from day after application given to Authority):

Start Date: 23 July 2026

Closing Date: 19 August 2026

Representations must be made in writing to the attention of the Licensing Team, Babergh District Council (as the Licensing Authority), Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX or by e-mail to:

licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

Note: This must be published in a local newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the premises, on at least one occasion, not more than 10 working days starting on the day after you give the application to the Licensing Authority. It may be prudent to verify circulation prior to placing your advertisement.

Harry Strikes Gold!

This month, 14-year-old Harry Hodge from Polstead has achieved the highest award available in the scout section – the Chief Scout's Gold Award. It is a tremendous achievement and one that reflects years of commitment, perseverance and enthusiasm.



To earn the Gold Award, Scouts must complete a wide range of challenges that develop practical skills, teamwork, leadership, resilience and community spirit. Along the way, Harry has taken part in countless camps, hikes, adventurous activities, fundraising events and community projects such as planting bulbs in the verges in and around Boxford. Like so many young people in scouting, he has learned not only how to light a fire or pitch a tent, but also how to solve problems, support others, step outside his comfort zone and grow in confidence.

We are incredibly proud of everything he has achieved. His gold award represents years of hard work, dedication and memorable experiences, and it is something that will stay with him for life.

Sadly, this celebration comes at a bittersweet time. Unless new adult volunteers come forward, 1st Boxford Scouts will be closing from September. After many years of providing opportunities for local young people, the group is at risk of disappearing simply because there are not enough adults to help run it.

That would be a huge loss for our community.

Scouting offers children experiences they simply cannot get elsewhere. It teaches independence, resilience, kindness, teamwork and responsibility in a fun and supportive environment. Whether it's camping under the stars, learning first aid, taking on outdoor adventures or helping with local community projects, Scouts gives young people confidence and life skills that benefit them for years to come.

The good news is that saving the group doesn't require military experience, expert camping knowledge or endless hours of free time. Scout volunteers come from all walks of life. Training and support are provided, and roles can often be shared to fit around work and family commitments. Whether you can help lead activities, organise behind the scenes, assist occasionally or take on an administrative role, every contribution makes a real difference.

If you have ever thought about giving something back to your community, this is a wonderful opportunity. The impact you could have on local children is enormous. Without volunteers, future generations of young people in Boxford will miss out on the friendships, adventures and life-changing experiences that scouting provides.

Congratulations again to Harry on his fantastic Gold Scout Award. We hope his achievement serves not only as a celebration of one young person's success, but also as a reminder of just how valuable scouting is. With a little support from the community, we hope that 1st Boxford Scouts can continue helping local young people achieve their own adventures and successes for many years to come.

1st Boxford Scouts

Gary Jarvis

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A Rallying Success

Boxford's first Vintage & Classic Vehicle Rally brings the community together in support of SULSAR

On behalf of the Boxford Vintage & Classic Vehicle Rally, I would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who supported our inaugural event on 4th and 5th July 2026.

It was wonderful to see so many local residents, visitors, exhibitors, traders, sponsors and volunteers come together to make the weekend such a success. The support from the local community was overwhelming, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who played a part in making the rally possible.

A special thank you goes to our landowner, Luke Burdall-GoodChild, for generously allowing us to use his land and for his support of the event. We would also like to thank everyone who enjoyed our Saturday evening entertainment, with live music from local bands *Foogle*, *Jolly Polly* and *the Pirates*, and *Stiff in the Morning*, who created a fantastic atmosphere to round off the first day of the rally.

Our thanks also go to *Bewick's Bar*, *Showman's Choice Fish & Chips*, and all of our other food vendors for helping to keep everyone fed and refreshed throughout the weekend. A special mention must go to *Project 7*, whose volunteers kindly provided breakfasts and BBQ meals for our

event team throughout the weekend. As a local charity, *Project 7* also generously made a donation towards the rally this year, and we are extremely grateful for their support.

The rally is run entirely on a not-for-profit basis, with all proceeds supporting Suffolk Lowland Search & Rescue (SULSAR) after event costs have been met. We are currently finalising the accounts, and once all expenses have been paid, the total

amount raised for the charity will be announced in the coming weeks.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our incredible sponsors, whose support helped make this first event possible: Kersey Freight, Ernest Doe, PJH Property Maintenance, Breakout, H. Byham & Son Dairy, and G Leeks Skip Hire.

As we begin planning for next year's rally on **3rd and 4th July 2027**, we would love to hear from any local businesses interested in supporting the event through sponsorship or partnership. Every contribution, large or small, helps us create an even better event for the community while raising more money for a fantastic local charity.

Finally, thank you once again to our local residents for their patience and support, our sponsors, exhibitors, traders, volunteers, emergency services and everyone who attended. We hope the Boxford Vintage & Classic Vehicle Rally will become a well-supported annual event for our village and the surrounding community.

James Harvey

Organiser

Boxford Vintage & Classic Vehicle Rally

Photographs: Jess Photography





Ride & Stride 2026

Edwardstone hosts the Suffolk launch of this year's county-wide fundraiser for historic churches

St Mary the Virgin Church, Edwardstone, recently welcomed visitors for the official launch of the 2026 Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride and Pedal and Drive events.

The gathering brought together supporters, cyclists, walkers and representatives of the Trust to promote the annual fundraising day, which will take place this year on **Saturday 12th September**.

Among those attending the Edwardstone launch was Suffolk author and entertainer Charlie Haylock, who has a special connection with the village. Charlie was christened at St Mary the Virgin and lived in Edwardstone for the first five years of his life.

There was also an eye-catching selection of transport on display, including a penny-farthing bicycle and a 1934 Rolls-Royce, reflecting the many different ways in which people can now take part in the event.

Ride and Stride began in Suffolk in 1982 and has since grown into a major annual fundraiser for the county's historic churches. On the day, cyclists, walkers and runners are sponsored to visit participating churches, chapels and meeting houses between 9am and 5pm.

Participants can choose their own route and visit as many - or as few - places of worship as they wish. Some plan ambitious journeys covering a large number of churches, while others prefer a shorter and more leisurely

route through their local villages.

The event is not limited to cyclists and walkers. Horse-riders, disability scooter users and those taking part in the accompanying Pedal and Drive





event are also welcome. Vintage and classic cars will travel between churches, while riders can follow a steeple-to-steeple route on horseback.

More than 500 churches across Suffolk are expected to take part. Volunteers will be on hand at many of them to welcome visitors, sign participants' forms and, in some cases, offer refreshments.

Half of the sponsorship money raised by each participant goes to a church, chapel or meeting house of their choice. The other half goes to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, which awards grants towards urgent repairs and improvements to places of worship throughout the county.

These historic buildings are an important part of Suffolk's landscape and village life, but their upkeep can be extremely costly. Money raised through Ride and Stride helps congregations meet the expense of essential work, from repairing roofs and stonework to improving access and protecting buildings for future generations.

Ride and Stride is the trust's principal fundraising event. In 2025, participants across Suffolk raised an impressive £220,000.

A photography competition will also form part of this year's event, giving participants another reason to look closely at the churches, landscapes and unusual sights they encounter along the way.

Anyone wishing to take part can travel by bicycle, on foot, on horseback, by disability scooter or in a vintage or classic vehicle. Volunteers are also needed to welcome participants at churches during the day.

For further information, speak to someone at your local church or visit www.shct.org.uk.



Hadleigh Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Toppesfield Car Park Changes: This car park has been partly resurfaced and now includes a pedestrian crossing in front of the practice's front door. There is also a marked pedestrian pathway leading up to it. Motorists should take note that it is now one way in and one way out of this car park, not two. The entrance is on the far left, and the exit is the road in front of Mill Pharmacy. Unfortunately, some car drivers are still using the old route.



Patient Car Park - No Changes:

The spaces in the patient car park are only for patients with a medical appointment or collecting medicine from the pharmacy inside the practice. They should not be occupied for any other reason. If you park in Toppesfield and have an appointment in the health centre, don't forget to enter your car registration number into the machine in the waiting area to qualify for free parking. Failure to do so could incur a hefty fine.

Boxford Community Car Scheme: This service is available for patients needing transport to hospital or health centre appointments. Contact Jen Eastwood on 01787 211 853 or at jen.eastwood8@gmail.com.



Travel Vaccinations: If your holiday destination requires certain vaccinations, many of these are available at the practice up to six weeks before you travel. Visit www.hadleighhealth.co.uk/travel-information. If patients are travelling in less than six weeks, please contact a local travel clinic for help: www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/travel-vaccinations

ReSPECT Forms: If you are living with a life-threatening illness or you have strong feelings about your end-of-life care, this document will give your family and healthcare professionals a clear understanding of your wishes regarding your care and treatment

should you become ill. It will indicate whether you want to remain at home, be admitted to hospital or receive resuscitation. Forms are available to all at the practice and can be completed with help from a healthcare professional. For further information, visit www.resus.org.uk/respect/respect-patients-and-carers



NHS Patient Survey: Follow the link to read the latest patient feedback on local GP practices, including Hadleigh: <https://tinyurl.com/HadleighGPPresults>

Anima: If you have access to Anima, have you tried using it yet? It is more user-friendly, and you can do so much more than when it first introduced. Check out all the new possibilities and save making a telephone call. This will then leave the telephone lines free for patients unable to use this online service.

IT Help: Once a month, Communities Together offers helpful IT advice in the upstairs room at Hadleigh Library. The next session will take place on **Tuesday 4th August** from 10am to 12 noon. Booking is essential, as places are limited. Call Tracey on 01449 707031 or email info@communitiestogether-ea.org.



Art Exhibition: We have a new art display, kindly on loan from Sally Fox. Our thanks to Shani Burgess for allowing us to enjoy her lively pictures and for her contribution to the practice charity through her sales.

Out of Hours Doctor: Call 111 or visit www.111.nhs.uk

Website: www.hadleighhealth.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HadleighHealthCentre

PPG Chair/ Art Work: Jan Devey deveys@btinternet.com 01473 827091 or 07881 798999

Health Centre: 01473 822 961

French's Care Haven

In last month's news, I did not know whether we would have signed for the new land. Here I am again, writing for the August edition, and still waiting to find out what is happening. Stressed to the hilt is an understatement.



In our photo are dear little Coco and Ethel. Like all of us, the animals are also affected by this summer's heat, so I try to do as much as possible to help them. Our animals have 24-hour access to all their shelters, which have hay and water inside and provide a cool place for them to go, out of the sun.

With no grass at the moment because of the scorched ground, we make sure that, as always, they have ad-lib hay available, along with fly repellent. The horses also wear fly masks, although we have a couple, like Coco, who manage to get theirs off - naughty little boys that they are!

The flies gather all over them, especially around their eyes, which can lead to infections. Our horses' eyes are gently cleaned every day to help avoid any problems.

When I am driving around and see horses out in fields in temperatures of over 30 degrees, with no trees or shelter, standing with their heads down and nowhere to escape the sun, it really stresses me. I feel for them, so please take their needs into consideration during this heat, which looks likely to become the norm during our summer months.

When we finally find a new base for my charity, I will need plenty of willing hands and muscle to help us move. I will post any updates on French's Care Haven's Facebook page.

I also need your help to find someone, or a business, who would sponsor us in return for some good advertising. Please have a think, as you may know someone who could help.

We also need a fencing company, a groundwork company and someone who provides tree services to cut and mulch some bushes and broken trees in our laminitics' area.

If you would like to meet our animals and choose one to sponsor, it would be lovely for you and would also help the donkey, pony or horse you choose. Please contact me if you would like to come along and meet our beautiful rescues.

Apart from our usual lovely helpers, only one gentleman has offered to provide some hands-on help with the move. Sadly, we have had no other response to our plea for help over the past few months. Your support would be greatly appreciated, so please contact me if you are able to help.

Jann
07747 755 556
jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk
www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk

Boxford School

As another school year comes to a close, we would like to wish all of our Year 6 pupils every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage of their education. They have been wonderful members of our school community, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time with us. We hope they embrace the exciting opportunities ahead with confidence, curiosity and kindness. We look forward to hearing about their future successes.

Our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly, held in St Mary's Church, was a truly memorable occasion. Pupils shared reflections and special memories that celebrated their journey through primary school. The service was a wonderful opportunity for families, friends and the wider community to come together to recognise the pupils' achievements and to wish them well as they begin a new chapter.

A particular highlight of the assembly was the presentation of a new annual award, recognising outstanding achievement: Kent and Miller Cup. We would like to thank Mrs Kent and Mrs Miller for attending and presenting this award. This new award is in recognition of their 25 years of service with the school.

This year, Denny had the honour of becoming the first recipient of the cup, having been commended for his exceptional dedication, perseverance and positive contribution to school life. Congratulations to Denny on this

wonderful achievement—we hope this new award will continue to inspire future generations of pupils for many years to come.

Would you like a school tour?

Please contact Mrs Clarke in the office on 01787 210332 or email office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk. We would be more than happy to arrange a school tour for you to see our exciting curriculum.

Mr. S. Reynolds
Assistant Headteacher

Readers' Letters

Heather Hunter

As a family we would like to thank all of Mum's friends who attended her celebration of life on 6th July 2026.

We were particularly moved to see so many of her neighbours lined up to pay their respects when she left her home in Ash Street for the last time.

Thank you for the flowers, letters and cards we have received in memory of our Mum; these were much appreciated.

Mandy, Liz & Mel

Dear Editor

Two trucks, with their engines running, three other vehicles, one digger and eleven men in high-vis jackets were all in place for the National Grid power upgrade being carried out in the White Street Green area of Polstead. Two men sat on the edge of the trench being dug while one man operated the digger. The other eight men, scattered about, were all looking at the devices in their hands.

What kind of work ethic do we have in this country when large projects such as this are so overmanned? Is it because we are strangled by red tape - employment laws, bureaucracy, health and safety et al.? It permeates all aspects of our society, in both the public and private sectors - energy, water, telecommunications, housing and medical care. It is all overcooked and underdone, with seemingly no one out there monitoring the budget.

It is our money that is being spent and wasted, but who cares? Plenty more where that came from - just put up the taxes!

MC
White Street Green



Art & Craft in Polstead

The village's annual exhibition returns for its 27th year, bringing together established artists, new talent & live demonstrations

This August Bank Holiday weekend sees the return of the annual Polstead Exhibition, now in its 27th year. The well-established show attracts visitors from across East Anglia, offering an opportunity to discover the work of both established and up-and-coming artists and makers.

This year's exhibition will feature many exciting new exhibitors alongside talented regulars, including Tobias

Ford, who will demonstrate his forge work throughout the weekend; Dale Devereux-Barker, known for his vibrant lino and screen prints; and Jill Hodgson, who creates striking three-dimensional art.

The exhibition brings together a varied mix of work, including painting, sculpture, textiles, basketry, ceramics, jewellery, bespoke bird boxes, steam-bent furniture and Drew Whitmore's distinctive Drillworks. With such a wide range of styles and materials on display, there should be plenty to interest both regular visitors and those discovering the exhibition for the first time.

Several artists will give demonstrations during the weekend. Organiser Dylan Pym will demonstrate the art of steam bending on Saturday afternoon, with further demonstrations

in the late morning and early afternoon on Sunday and Monday.

The exhibition supports local artists while also providing a platform for new and emerging talent. Homemade cakes and light refreshments will be available, along with a small bar and picnic area.

The Polstead Exhibition takes place at Maria Martins Cottage, Martins Lane, Polstead, Suffolk, CO6 5AG, on Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August, from 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Entry is £3, with free admission for children under 12. The exhibition will be signposted in the Polstead area.

Visitors are invited to meet the artists and enjoy a celebration of local creativity over the Bank Holiday weekend.



A Farming Miscellany

*Boxford Society shares stories & images
from Boxford's agricultural past*



Although Boxford is usually noted for its golden years as a cloth-making town, farming was the main occupation here before, during and after that period. Boxford has often been described as a service and artisan village but it is surrounded by farmland and many of the population have been engaged in farming throughout its history. As late as 1911 the census shows that agricultural work was still the commonest employment.

Above: Evening light on wheat stubble, looking west from the footpath towards the top of Cox Hill. Suffolk has, in recent centuries, been the 'breadbasket' of England. Equally important has been the growing of barley to supply the ever-growing demand for beer. Boxford had 22 maltings in past centuries, the largest at the White Hart and another at the end of Butchers Lane.

Right: Harvest team with a horse-drawn binder at Salve Tree Farm in the early 1900s. The farmstead was located on the right-hand side of the old Hadleigh Road, on the Hadleigh side of Calais Street, just before it joins the modern A1071. It was marked on maps until 1939 but has since disappeared without trace.

Only after 1945 did the intense mechanisation of farming, the motor car, commuting and an influx of new residents change all that.

There is evidence here of small settlements in Late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon times. These would have grown crops and kept livestock. After 1100 settlement around Boxford would have increased but have been rather piecemeal, consisting of isolated farmsteads or small collections of houses forming hamlets near the parish boundary or around the edges of small 'greens'. The valley bottom was marshy but the valley sides were

ideal for pasturing animals.

The ecclesiastical parish boundary was 'frozen' in 1180 and farms were firmly demarcated by field boundaries, tracks and natural features such as streams, many of which exist today. Between 1200 and 1349 the manorial system, in which landholders provided land to tenants in exchange for their loyalty and service, and the Abbey still held Boxford in their grip, limiting its growth and prosperity. However, the population grew gradually and may have doubled between 1086 and 1348, when it peaked before the Black Death.

During this time, the familiar rolling



plateau farmland of today would have largely been laid out, with its field pattern of ancient, irregular enclosures, bounded by hedgerows and ditches, and a network of narrow, winding lanes and paths. This medieval landscape would be readily recognisable to the modern eye. The several small manors were owned by absentee landlords who had little interest in Boxford. This increased the freedom and independence of the inhabitants and tenant farmers to trade and farm as they wished. It enabled the small village of Boxford to flourish in the cloth trade in the 15th and 16th centuries and it drew entrepreneurial folk from elsewhere who recognised the opportunities.

Forget your school history here for South Suffolk and Boxford never used the 'open-field' or 'three-field system', which consisted of communally



organised individual peasant holdings of scattered strips in a few large fields belonging to the manor. Although used elsewhere in England, this system was inefficient and led to poor crop yields and low productivity. Under this system, everyone was forced to conform to village norms of cropping, harvesting and building and it involved wasting time travelling from one strip to another to work.

After 1349 most surviving Boxford people could not therefore be described as subsistence peasants, but rather as freemen or 'free tenants'



Above: Aerial photograph taken in 2018, looking north-west and showing modern Boxford surrounded almost entirely by arable fields.

Middle: Idealised haymaking scene, painted from Pitches Mount, Groton, in 1944 by Edward Barnes, who died in 1972. He lived in Church Street, Groton, and moved to Boxford in 1948.

Left: Threshing and straw-stack making, c. 1915, at Red House Farm in the historic Hadleigh Hamlet, then part of Boxford and now over the border in Kersey. Reuben Gunn and Golden Pattle are on the stack; Reg Fletcher is feeding the drum; Charles Alleston, the farmer, is taking corn from the drum; Betty Kemble is beside the greyhound; Edna Kemble is to the left; and Ruby Alleston is with her little sister Edna to the right. The Kembles were another farming family.



because they were not tied strongly to their landlord and any surplus they produced could be sold. They were rent-paying tenant farmers who owed little or no service to the lord. They had a good degree of security of land tenure and independence. They would have needed at least 10 to 15 acres to provide for their families and pay rent

and taxes. In good years, they could produce a surplus of barley or wheat for sale, so that they could buy goods they could not produce themselves. They had a strong incentive to farm well and produce as much as possible from their rented arable land, garden

and orchard.

They would have practised 'mixed farming'. The main crops would have been wheat, barley and a small amount of rye, grown for home use and for local cash sale and consumption when output permitted. Oats were grown for fodder, especially for horses. Beans and peas helped fix nitrogen in the soil and maintain its fertility. The amount of time land was rested under fallow varied, but there was usually some sort of crude crop rotation. Very little cropping would have been organised communally in Boxford, but the rights to graze the fallow and stubble would have been.

Some of the pasture would have been used for hay, essential for winter feed. Farm animals were much smaller, less healthy and less productive than those today, as selective breeding had not yet begun. The size of a full-grown bull was only slightly larger than that of a young animal today. Dairy cattle were most important at this time and would have been grazed on valley meadowland and roadside verges. Other livestock included sheep, pigs,

Above left: Ploughing heavy land, a highly skilled job, on a local farm, probably in the early 1900s. Possibly Coddenham Hall Farm.

Above right: Dorothy Rice, née King, and Olive Tarbut hoeing sugar beet. Many village women were engaged in farm work through the ages and were often able to undertake part-time piecework to supplement family incomes.

Middle: Derek 'Fon' Whymark with Barley, his dog, in March 1999. Fon and his wife, Eileen, lived at Hagmore Green, an important farming hamlet. He spent his whole life working on local farmland and was a great source of detailed information about the land he knew intimately. He was also a significant contributor to the Boxford Society Archive.

Right: Harvesting with an early combine at Coddenham Hall in the late 1940s. These new machines were soon supplanted by much larger and more powerful ones. Boxford was called Koddenham in the Little Domesday Book of 1086. At that time, this manor and the nearby hamlet of Hagmore Green were the most productive farming area. The original Coddenham Hall was replaced by a Victorian house with the typical surrounding belt of protective trees.





cows, goats and chickens. They made their own bread, butter, cheese and ale. In this period, oxen were being replaced by horses, which were usually jointly owned and formed more efficient communal plough teams.

With the decline of the cloth trade Boxford once again became dependent on farming and descended into poverty. Any remaining unenclosed land was enclosed and unemployment was rife. Conditions only began to improve slowly as the improvements in productivity brought by the Agricultural Revolution began to reach Boxford in the 18th century. The four-course rotation with no fallow was adopted, and access to markets was improving, particularly with the advent of the railways from the 1830s. However, rural poverty became more severe for the working man. The repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 only made matters worse, allowing the import

of grain. From 1875 this turned into a full-blown agricultural recession after a series of wet summers and improvements in shipping led to cheap grain and meat imports. Farmers were impoverished and many agricultural workers left Boxford in search of work in the factories of the North. Farms continued to struggle until the Second World War.

After 1945 mechanisation proceeded apace, and intensive arable farming emerged with the massive improvements in productivity we see today. By 2010 fewer than 20% of the number working the land in 1949 were still employed in farming. Fortunately new employment emerged in nearby towns and, with it, general prosperity. Since 2008 this has not continued and questions are being asked about the ecological impact and sustainability of current farming methods in rapidly changing market conditions and a

heating climate.

The photographs in the Boxford Society Archive help to show how closely the village's history has been shaped by the land around it. Although farming methods have changed dramatically, the fields, lanes, valleys and farmsteads still form much of the landscape familiar to us today.

Tina and Roger Loose

Above left: Suffolk Punch horses were used for heavy farm work from the birth of the first foal in 1768. Here they are being used for harrowing at Clarkes Farm, Scotland Street, in the 1970s. Gerry Hazell, who lived in Stone Street, was known for his work with horses and helped to keep their memory alive.

Above right: Parsonage Farm, Stone Street, was developed around the parsonage built for the Boxford rector before 1683. When, in 1827, the Revd Thomas Thurlow decided to build the fashionable rectory, now known as Boxford House, more in keeping with what he considered his status, the parsonage was taken down, leaving only the farm. The round dovecote would have been a status symbol and used for rearing doves as a source of food - particularly young doves, or squabs - feathers for mattresses and manure from their droppings..

Left: Harvesting at Horners Green, Groton. Bob Ferris and Bill Simpson are working with an Allis-Chalmers tractor.





Beat the Heat

Spotting the signs of heat stress in dogs & knowing what to do in an emergency

As I write this month's column from the practice office, we are currently in the middle of our third major heatwave of the summer, and the sweltering weather shows no signs of letting up just yet!

Living in the UK, our dogs and cats are well-adjusted to our notoriously mild, wet, and cooler climate for most of the year. Because their bodies are beautifully adapted to chilly morning walks and damp afternoons, they are not equipped for sudden, dramatic spikes in temperature. When a sudden heatwave strikes, their internal thermostat is caught off guard. This rapid transition leaves their natural cooling systems overwhelmed, and their bodies cannot compensate well. Unlike us, they cannot sweat through their skin to cool down; they rely almost entirely on panting and releasing heat through their paw pads.

With the hot weather set to continue, it is vital to know how to keep our pets safe, how to spot the early warning signs of heat stress, and what to do in an emergency.

Prevention is always the best medicine. During these hot spells, walk your dogs early in the morning or late in the evening when the air and the pavements have cooled down. Remember, if a pavement is too hot to hold the back of your hand against for five seconds, it is far too hot for dogs' paws!

At home, keep curtains closed, set up fans to keep the air moving, and ensure there is always a plentiful supply of fresh, cool water. Providing shaded retreat spots and pet-safe cooling mats for them to lie on can also work wonders. Encourage hydration with wet food or yoghurt based treats (even put them in the fridge before feeding

to cool more).

Cats rarely suffer from heat-related illness to the same degree as dogs, mostly because they are far too sensible to be excitedly bounding around! While a dog will happily chase a ball until they drop, cats are absolute experts at self-preservation. When the temperature rises, you will usually find them wisely seeking out the coolest tile in the house, stretching out in the shade, and limiting their movement to an absolute minimum. Dogs often lack this off-switch, meaning we have to be their sensible decision-makers for them!

Early heat stress in dogs presents as heavy panting, often with a wide flat tongue and upturned, smiling mouth corners. At this stage, dogs should be actively removed from warm or hot areas, offered small amounts of water to drink and then cooled down with

fans or a good breeze.

In severe heat, or with ineffective cooling methods, heat stress can become heatstroke. Dogs who are brachycephalic (shorter and broader faces, such as Pugs or Bulldogs) or have thick, heavy coats are more susceptible. They will drool heavily, experience severe tummy upsets, become confused and unsteady on their feet, and even collapse or suffer seizures. This is a critical emergency.

In this situation, 'WET, THEN VET.' Start pouring or hosing large volumes of cool water over them immediately, turn the car's air conditioning on maximum and call your vet straight away so they can prepare an emergency team for your arrival. Immediate active cooling is the single most important factor in saving a dog's life.

Contrary to traditional advice, do not place wet towels over a hot dog. It traps hot air against the dogs' body and prevents essential evaporation needed to help cool their core, and can even elevate their body temperature further!

Every year, unusual trending myths appear on social media regarding the treatment of heatstroke. Last year, I saw a widely shared post advocating

the use of lemon juice to clear thick saliva from a dog's mouth so they could cool down better. Please do not waste precious time searching the kitchen for a lemon. It does not work.

"Immediate active cooling is the single most important factor in saving a dog's life."

Another common online trend warns owners that giving ice to dogs is highly dangerous. To set the record straight: ice cubes are absolutely fine for healthy pets to lick and crunch, and they are a cooling distraction in hot weather. However, if a pet is actively suffering from heatstroke, they will be far too busy breathing heavily and struggling for air to want to eat or lick

ice cubes. Do not rely on ice to treat heatstroke; stick to pouring cool tap water over their body.

It is also worth noting that the extreme heat does not just cause heatstroke; it can also quietly worsen other health issues. For pets living with underlying comorbidities (such as heart disease, kidney issues, or arthritis), the heat puts additional strain on their bodies. Because they can become dehydrated much more rapidly in hot weather, even simple, usually self-limiting illnesses like a mild tummy upset can quickly escalate into something much more severe. If your pet has an existing health condition or develops a sudden bout of vomiting or diarrhoea during this heatwave, please do not wait for it to pass; contact your vet for advice straight away.

We hope you and your companions stay safe, shaded, and cool during this summer. As always, if you are ever worried about your pet's health or need advice, please call your dedicated veterinary team.

*Dr. Jessica Hudson BVMedSci (Hons)
BVM BVS (Hons) BSAVA PGcertSAECC
MRCVS
www.thehadleighvets.com*



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Natural Boxford

A wealth of wildflowers



1



3



4



5



7



8



9



10

1. Large bittercress
2. Bugle
3. Native bluebell
4. Scentless mayweed
5. Wood spurge
6. Yellow pimpernel
7. Wood avens, also known as herb Bennet
8. Wild radish
9. Red campion
10. Common fiddleneck
11. Oxeye daisy
12. Square-stalked St John's-wort
13. Common mallow
14. Wild foxglove
15. Ribwort plantain
16. Rosebay willowherb
17. Bird's-foot trefoil
18. Southern marsh-orchid
19. Herb-Robert
20. Marsh-marigold
21. Enchanter's-nightshade
22. Hedge woundwort



15



16



17



18



I was thrilled to hear that someone had taken our May BRN spring wildflower spread out with them on a walk as a reference guide - how wonderful. I have been out with my camera over the last few months, recording some more late spring and early summer wildflowers in and around Boxford. There are many more, including the beautiful purple loosestrife making an appearance on the river berms and banks in the centre of the village, and several more orchids.

Wildflowers are so important for butterflies, moths, beetles, bees, hoverflies and other insects as a source of nectar and pollen, as well as pheromones, which play a key role in the reproductive cycle of these vital pollinators. As with the Red Admirals and nettles mentioned last month, many insects have particular symbiotic relationships with specific plants on which they rely for their survival. Peach Blossom and Garden Tiger moths love brambles; the Spurge Hawk-moth loves spurge; Purple Toadflax supports the Toadflax Brocade and Toadflax Pug moths, and so it goes on. All these plants, often dismissed as 'weeds', play a vital part in the web of life.

I hope you enjoy spotting some wildflowers while you are out and about.

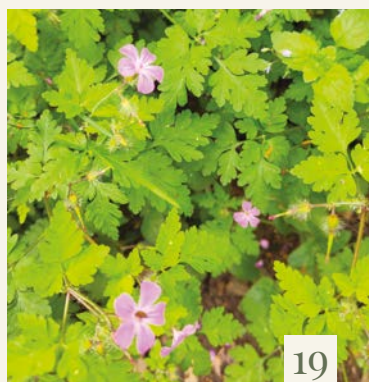


Much love,
Louise, on behalf of the Natural Boxford group.



Look a little closer...

Many wildflowers are small and easily overlooked, particularly when they are tucked among long grasses, hedgerows or roadside verges. Pause to notice the shape of their leaves, the structure of each flower and the insects moving between them. Even a familiar patch of ground can contain a surprising variety of plants, each playing its own part in the wider web of life.



More wildflowers and
fascinating facts overleaf...



Elaine Carpenter

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

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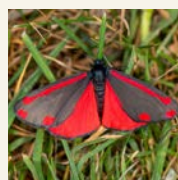
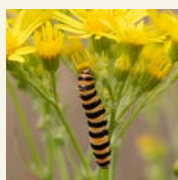
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Ragwort

This vibrant plant is a powerhouse of biodiversity. It does contain toxic compounds as a self-preservation strategy, deterring herbivores. Left to their own devices horses will not eat it: the problem comes when we humans allow it to dry and be cut with hay which is fed to animals who then can't tell it is there. There is no legal requirement to remove ragwort, just be careful if you are making hay.

During a study of the plant it was observed that 178 species of insect visited ragwort, including 47 types of bee and 35 types of hoverfly – 38 species of insect rely on the plant for survival, including the Cinnabar moth (pictured left), whose distinctive black and yellow stripey caterpillars you might have seen on Ragwort, which then turn into striking red and black moths.

- 23. Great burnet
- 24. White ramping-fumitory
- 25. Green figwort
- 26. Sainfoin
- 27. Common vetch
- 28. Pignut
- 29. Ragwort
- 30. Hemlock

Hemlock

This common native plant is fatally toxic to humans and dogs if ingested, it is not toxic to the touch unless you then lick your fingers.

It is a member of umbellifer family which are notoriously difficult to tell apart and best not experimented with in terms of consumption!

Hemlock, however is very easy to identify by the purplish blotches on its stem which you can see clearly in this photo. So, no need to worry about it, just don't eat it, or make pea shooters out of its stalks.



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The History Behind the News

Groton History Society look at heatwaves, political upheaval & the enduring myth of Narcissus

It Ain't Half Hot...

Deep into our third heatwave of the summer, what else could I reflect on but heatwaves? Long, hot summers of our youthful lives tend to be nostalgic, possibly overcooked, as we compare them with current stifling temperatures. Were they really that long or that hot? I will not dive into the science of changes in climatic experience, but rather take a look at two summers in years gone by to compare them with our current experiences.

Before we go there, let's look at the history of measuring temperature. Today, we have a plethora of devices that measure heat and cold. The ability to put a measurement on temperature is not a modern invention. Accuracy may be, though!

Prior to the 17th century, the measurement of temperature was

crude, dating back as far as the ancient Greek engineers. Real progress in developing thermoscopes came via the Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei in the

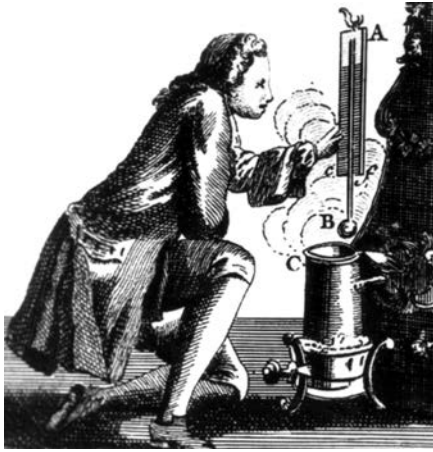


late 1590s and the Venetian Santorio Santorio in about 1612, who added the first calibrated numerical scale. The first 'liquid-in-glass' thermometer was invented by Ferdinand II de' Medici in 1654. The liquid was alcohol.

Sixty years later, in 1714, Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit created the first practical thermometer, using partially coloured mercury. His invention and temperature scale marked the first time that the measurement of temperature

Above: *Enjoying the hot weather at Blackpool on 26th June 1976.*
© Don McPhee/The Guardian

Left: *Galileo Galilei, holding a telescope, c.1640.* © National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, Caird Collection



could be reliable and of practical use. The freezing point of water was set at 32°F, with its boiling point at 212°F, 180 degrees apart. In 1742, Anders Celsius created a new scale of measurement, taking the freezing point of water as 0 degrees and its boiling point as 100 degrees. Both scales, one perhaps more logical than the other, continue to be used across the globe today. So here we are today, ever eager to focus on the numbers. Is it in the 90s or the 30s? It's 24 out there but feels like 18, or feels like 80?!

Now we have our scale sorted, what is a heatwave? According to the Met Office, it depends on where you live. What is common is that it is a continuous period of at least three days during which the maximum daily temperature meets or exceeds a predefined regional threshold. For East Anglia, this is 27°C. So far this year, we have had three such periods, in May, June and July! The key here is the three or more continuous days. Some years can hold the maximum temperature record, like 2022 at 40°C, but not have a heatwave. To find a comparable summer to the one we are currently experiencing, we have to go back 50 years to 1976. Many readers



may very well remember the summer of '76. I was 14 years old, overheating while playing cricket and wilting on Sports Day. Oh, and sunscreen was not standard issue then! What are your memories?

Officially, in June 1976, the UK experienced 15 consecutive days of temperatures exceeding 32°C, peaking at 35°C, including in Suffolk. This compares with a peak of 37°C this summer! Grass turned brown, then almost white, as the sun burned down. Crop harvesting was early, yields were low, but prices were high. Tales of frozen vegetable shortages in the shops were prevalent. Water rationing and communal standpipes occurred in some areas - just imagine that today. It was so bad that the Bury St Edmunds Rabbit Club Show was nearly cancelled because of the heat, dramatically reducing the number of entries! People were encouraged to save water, take a shower rather than a bath and put filled plastic bottles in the cistern. Competitions were run for the best water-saving ideas. The *East Anglian Daily Times* offered a £300 shower as its first prize! Suffolk County Council was laying sand on the roads as the tarmac melted. Fire engines waited as field fires multiplied.

A brief respite came on 20th July, when two inches of rain deluged Ipswich, causing flooding and absolute chaos. It was the heaviest 24-hour deluge since 1916. No sooner had it fallen than it stopped, and temperatures quickly became steamy again. It wasn't until the August Bank Holiday that the heat broke once more, reminding everyone that it always rains on August Bank Holiday - but not enough!



Left: Illustration of Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit, creator of the Fahrenheit temperature scale.

Below, from left: A family collects water from a street standpipe during the drought of 1976.

A satirical view of sweltering country life in *A Spanking Dog Day & Real Melter in the Country*, Caricature printed in 1825.

Opposite page, from left: The revolving door at No. 10 reflects Britain's rapid succession of recent prime ministers. © Ellie Foreman-Peck

The newly renovated Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool turned bright green with algae shortly after its \$14 million 'beautification'.

There have been heatwaves in the 50 years between, but '76 and '26 are the longest and most comparable. The earliest recorded heatwave in the United Kingdom was in '08. The heatwave of July 1808 was a disaster. The population was not used to extreme temperatures, which peaked on 'Hot Wednesday', 13th July, at an estimated 100°F (37.8°C), although the means of measurement were not very reliable then. There were many reports of farm workers collapsing and dying, with farm animals and wild birds suffering likewise because of the heat and humidity. Deliveries of butter melted before they could reach their destinations. Honey in beehives dripped out onto the ground. Let's not forget that lighter fabrics and clothing were not readily

available. Women's clothing continued to be thick, heavy and surely downright uncomfortable! Respite finally came at the end of July, with thunderstorms and torrential rain. We can but hope!

If you look at archival mentions of *weather in East Anglia*, the general commentary focuses on 'wet', not 'dry', and 'cold', not 'heat'. Tempests, flooding, snow and freezing conditions dominate. If you have time, Google *The Weather of East Anglia* by David Lindley, an article for the Foxearth and District Local History Society. This records local mentions of weather from the storm at Dunwich in 1088, through the great snows of April 1808 and

the temperature of 97°F at Hartest on 20th July 1808. Snow stopped county cricket at Colchester on 2nd June 1975! It's a fascinating read.



Yet another PM

Talking of a continuous climate, the political climate of late is set to produce our seventh Prime Minister in ten years. Possibly our eighth in 13 years by the time we get to 2029! Is this normal? Has this happened before?

Simply put, no, it's not normal looking backwards, but maybe, peeking forwards, who knows? Our seventh in ten years will be the 27th person to hold the office of Prime Minister since 1900. There were 20 people who held the office between 1900 and 2000. Another 20 men held the office between 1800 and 1900. Many, though, held the office multiple times. Our current 'experience in the job' average since 2016 is 20 months. For the previous two centuries, the 'experience in the job' average was 60 months. From what I can also ascertain, at no time did any change of Prime Minister precipitate an immediate general election. At this rate of public impatience and lack of 'experience in the job' among the occupants of No. 10, we will all get a chance to be PM!



Reflecting on a Reflecting Pool

Like many Brits, I like a bit of irony, especially historical irony. We can see it all around us at the moment, sadly. While going down a proverbial internet rabbit hole and following a thread, like Theseus, I happened upon mythological irony. It was the story of Narcissus in Greek mythology. It tells of extreme vanity, self-obsession, pride and cruelty towards those around him who were awed by his image. The prophecy stated that he would live a long life if he never saw his true self. Alas, upon seeing his own image one day in a clear reflecting pool, he fell in love with himself. He subsequently wasted away, never able to satisfy his unrequited love for himself.

Add in the story of Echo, losing her identity through her awe of and rejection by Narcissus, and we see some current situations. From the myth, we get the narcissus flower, its head drooping towards the water, and we get the narcissist, with echoists all around him, fiddling while he tampers with a reflecting pool!

As always, I welcome your thoughts, suggestions and interest....

Nigel Chapman
nigeljchap@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Groton History Society talks will take a break for the summer

John Winthrop: Faith, Disillusionment and the Journey to New England

Thursday 24th September

Dr Vivienne Aldous, Lecturer in History at the University of Suffolk, on our famous son John Winthrop and the disillusionment that led him to leave England for Massachusetts.

African American Voices in 19th-Century Suffolk and Britain

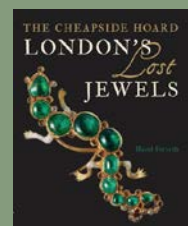
Friday 23rd October

Dr Hannah-Rose Murray, also a Lecturer in History at the University of Suffolk, explores 19th-century African American speeches in Suffolk and across Britain.

Recommended Reading, Listening & Viewing

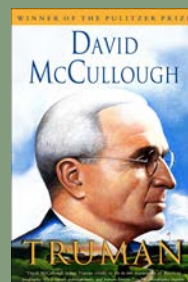
London's Lost Jewels by Hazel Forsyth

Who doesn't love the Cheapside Hoard? Comprehensive, lively and richly illustrated.



Truman by David McCullough

Brilliant extraordinary story of the man. It will surprise you!



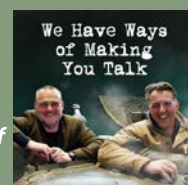
Operation Barbarossa: Countdown. Podcast series of four episodes, from the We Have Ways WW2 Podcast team of James Holland and Al Murray.

Some people never learn from a story! Beware the dangers of the Emperor's clothes.



Japan's Road to War. Podcast series of four episodes from the We Have Ways WW2 Podcast team of James Holland and Al Murray.

Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbour. Absolutely bonkers story of no one willing to say 'stop'. A not dissimilar story to Barbarossa above.



The Complete History of The Oddysey from The Rest is History team on YouTube and Podcast.

Great breakdown of the epic story from Homer, now a blockbuster film!





Secrets of Orford Ness

Barry Searle takes Little Waldingfield History Society through the remarkable military history of this remote Suffolk landscape

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Barry Searle to the Parish Room. Barry is a researcher for the International Research Group Orford Ness (IRGON) and has written articles for the group on the UK's first atomic weapon. He has extensive knowledge of Orford Ness, an internationally important coastal nature reserve with a fascinating 20th-century military history about which most of us knew little.

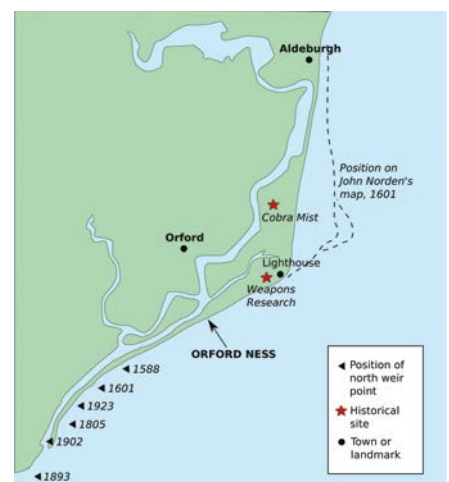
Orford Ness is Europe's largest vegetated shingle spit, approximately 10 miles long and one mile across at its widest point, covering a total area of approximately 2,230 acres. Of this, 40% (890 acres) is shingle, 25% (556 acres) comprises tidal rivers, mudflats, sandflats and lagoons, 18% (400 acres) is grassland and 15% (330 acres) is salt marsh. The spit is formed almost entirely of flint deposited by waves

through the process of longshore drift, the main influence being storm waves throwing shingle over the top of the beach crest, where it is protected from ordinary wave action. Over time, this process creates stable ridges of fine particles and swales of coarser shingle - low, trough-like depressions running parallel to the shoreline between raised ridges of smooth pebbles and gravel.

According to the National Trust, which now owns it, salt marsh built up behind the shingle spit during the medieval period and was later used for grazing. This was probably long before records began, but sometime during this period walls were built around the marshes to control, and eventually exclude, tidal river water. Henry II built the castle in Orford village in the 12th century. It originally had a curtain wall around the magnificent keep, but this has long since disappeared.

The size and shape of the spit have fluctuated over time, with estimated growth rates ranging from 70 yards per year between 1962 and 1967 to 200 yards per year between 1804 and 1812. Between 1812 and 1821, its total length fluctuated by 1.8 miles, so the true age of its formation is unknown. However, before about 1200, Orford is thought to have been a port facing the open sea.

From the 12th century



onwards, Orford was a bustling and wealthy port, focused on the wool trade, like the rest of Suffolk, and on fishing, particularly for herring and oysters. Orford Ness is an ever-growing shingle spit which, from around the 1530s, began to extend rapidly southwards, restricting the harbour entrance. Once it cut off direct access to the sea, the port died and the town's fortunes declined.

The lighthouse was attacked by French privateers in the 17th century, and a naval skirmish, the Battle of Orford Ness, took place during the wars with the Dutch. It formed part of the larger St James's Day Fight, also known as the Battle of North Foreland, fought on 25 and 26 July 1666. The Dutch lost 20 ships, while the English lost only one, the *Resolution*.

The many flat beaches and deep estuaries of Suffolk made it an ideal



invasion target, but the spit provided an effective defence. However, where it joins the mainland at Aldeburgh, there is a potential weak spot. The great Martello tower at Slaughden, where the spit just touches the mainland, is the largest and most northerly of the coastal towers built to defend against a possible Napoleonic invasion. It is quatrefoil in shape and was designed to accommodate four heavy guns. The building, now owned by the Landmark Trust, stands at the foot of the Orford Ness peninsula, between the River Alde and the sea. Nearly a million bricks were used in its construction.

In 1792, anticipating that the existing lighthouse would eventually be lost to the encroaching sea, the landowner, Lord Braybrooke, had a new 98ft 'high light' built in a different position on the Ness. In 1837, it was purchased by Trinity House, which manages lighthouses around the country. It was decommissioned on 27 June 2013, again because of coastal erosion. Work to dismantle the structure began in July 2020, and by mid-August it had been completely demolished.



A large part of Orford Ness was purchased by the War Department in 1913, with the whole site acquired soon afterwards. Canvas hangars were erected and, from 1913, it was used as a military test site, closely guarded to prevent public access. Ferries and landing craft were needed to transport staff to and from the Ness. Between 1913 and 1916, the southern half of King's Marsh was drained and levelled to form airfields on either side of the road, and the site was ready to receive its first aircraft in 1915. We were told that the military establishment developed aerial gunnery, parachutes and aircraft modifications which, when successful, were taken across to France to aid the war effort.

On 17 June 1917, Germany dispatched two Zeppelins on a raid over southern England. They were able to fly at altitudes of 13,000ft, well above the 8,000ft flight ceiling of English fighter aircraft. L42 crossed the Kent coast at Ramsgate and released

its bombs, but L48 encountered strong winds over the Orford Ness coast. Its compasses froze and it developed engine problems. It dropped a few bombs over Martlesham and Wickham Market, then drifted over Saxmundham and Leiston, where it was forced to descend to a height that brought it within range of Royal Flying Corps (RFC) fighters.

Completely crippled by gunfire, L48 endured a terrible seven-minute descent as it was engulfed in flames, finally crashing in a cornfield between Theberton and Eastbridge. Of the 18 crew members, there were just three survivors. The dead were initially laid to rest in the village churchyard before being moved to the German military cemetery in Staffordshire. The crash site became a local attraction, with an estimated 20,000 sightseers viewing the wreckage before it was cleared away.

Special explosive and incendiary .303-calibre rounds developed by Brock and Pomeroy were used by the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps to shoot down Zeppelin airships and observation balloons. The Pomeroy bullet was filled with nitroglycerine or a potassium chlorate-based explosive compound, designed to explode on encountering the minimal resistance of the airship's fabric skin and ignite hydrogen outside the gasbags. The Brock round was similar but used a slightly different chemical mixture to achieve combustion.

Because hydrogen requires oxygen to burn, simply puncturing a gasbag was sometimes not enough. Fighter pilots therefore loaded their Lewis machine guns with a mixture of Brock and Pomeroy explosive bullets and Buckingham incendiary bullets. The explosive rounds tore larger holes in the fabric, allowing the hydrogen to mix with atmospheric oxygen so that the incendiary bullets could set the airship ablaze.



Opposite page, clockwise from top:

Labs 4 and 5, known as the Pagodas. Built in the 1960s to conduct extreme environmental tests on the components of British nuclear bombs

A map showing Orford Ness and the movement of the spit over time.

Aerial view of Orford Ness.

This page, below from left:

The lighthouse shortly before demolition.

Canadian pilot Loudon Watkins, flying a B.E.12, makes the final attack on Zeppelin L48 shortly before it crashed near Theberton on 17th June 1917. Painting by Don Connolly.

Because of the high risk of premature detonation within the machine-gun barrels, such rounds were extremely dangerous for the gunner. They were fired almost exclusively from Lewis guns on home-defence aircraft and were initially banned from use on the Western Front in France.

In 2006, the world's first excavation of a Zeppelin crash site was undertaken by Channel 4's *Time Team* and documented as part of an aviation archaeology project. The dig unearthed remarkable twisted fragments of the aluminium framework, parts of the engines and personal artefacts.

After the Great War, the site was placed under a care and maintenance order until 1924, when it reopened as a satellite of the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment at nearby Martlesham. Top-secret experiments were conducted throughout both World Wars and later into the nuclear age. The talk then moved on to the many experiments

and developments in aircraft-related technology carried out at the Royal Aircraft Establishment on the Ness over more than 70 years. I have divided these into sections for clarity:

Navigation Aids

The enigmatic Black Beacon building was constructed in 1928 to house an experimental 'rotating loop' navigation beacon. The technology and experiments conducted there laid vital groundwork for the early Radio Direction Finding (RDF) systems developed by scientist Robert Watson-Watt, which ultimately evolved into radar. The Orford Ness equipment was probably an early homing beacon for aircraft that formed part of this work, acting as an early radio navigation aid to allow aircraft and ships to precisely calculate their position in bad weather or at night



In later years, the Black Beacon served as the technical headquarters and telemetry station for the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE), which was based there during the Cold War for weapons testing. Today, the bespoke Grade II-listed structure is one of the most recognisable landmarks on Orford Ness. It has been renovated by the National Trust and now houses an exhibition space offering panoramic views across the shingle spit.

Bomb Ballistics

The current Bomb Ballistics building was constructed in 1933 and equipped with high-speed cameras and recording equipment to track the flight of bombs. In later years, radio telemetry was also developed to transfer data from a falling bomb to the control room. This information was used to improve bomb aerodynamics and provide data for the production of bomb-aiming tables. The equipment was steadily improved over time, most notably from the 1950s onwards during the development of the atomic bomb.

According to IRGON, a 1957 document describes the various bombing ranges available to the British Armed Forces, with Orford Ness described as follows:

"Orfordness Range. Primarily a sea Danger Area situated off the Suffolk coast just south of Aldeburgh. Bombing is possible only on Clear Range Procedure, a surveillance radar is installed. Live bombing is prohibited. Limited recovery is possible when stores are dropped on the shore. Orfordness is the only range in the UK which is fully instrumented for ballistic measurements and there is a permanent AWRE telemetry installation. An adjacent area has been approved for low altitude flying and instrumentation for loft bombing trials is available."

Loft bombing is a tactical aviation technique in which an aircraft releases its bomb load while pulling sharply upwards into a steep climb. The aircraft's forward speed throws the bomb into a high, arcing ballistic trajectory, rather like an artillery shell.

A model of the ballistic range, together with a video, can be viewed on the IRGON website:

www.irgon.org/model-ballistic-range

"Top-secret experiments were conducted on Orford Ness across both World Wars and into the nuclear age."

Radio Direction Finding (RDF) - Radar

Perhaps the most significant experiments took place between 1935 and 1937. Robert Watson-Watt and his team arrived in May 1935 to create the 'Ionospheric Research Station' - a cover for the research and development of the air defence system that later became known as radar. By June, they were detecting aircraft at a distance of 16 miles, which was enough to persuade scientists and engineers to abandon work on competing sound-based detection systems. By the end of the year, the range had increased to 60 miles, and in December plans were made to establish five stations covering the approaches to London.

Bawdsey Manor, on the coast near Orford Ness, was selected as the main centre for radar research. Watson-

Watt and his team created devices using existing components. They did not spend additional time refining and improving them; as long as the prototype radars were workable, they were put into production. Full-scale tests of a fixed radio-tower radar system, designed to detect an incoming bomber and guide a fighter to intercept it, were a complete failure: the fighter saw the bomber only after it had passed its target. The problem was not the radar itself, but the slow flow of information from Observer Corps trackers to the fighters. A command-and-control air-defence reporting system was therefore established, with several layers of reporting feeding into a single large room where information was mapped. Observers watching the maps could then direct the fighters through direct communications.

By 1937, the first three stations were ready and the associated system was put to the test. The results were encouraging, and the government commissioned the construction of 17 additional stations, which subsequently became Chain Home (CH), the network of fixed radar towers along the east and south coasts of England. By the start of the war, 19 stations were ready for the Battle of Britain, and by its end more than 50 had been built. The Germans were aware of the construction of Chain Home but were unsure of its purpose. After testing their theories during a flight by Zeppelin LZ 130, they concluded, incorrectly, that the stations formed a new long-range naval communications system. Later in the war, when the threat of Luftwaffe bombing had diminished, the Chain Home system was used to detect V2 missile launches.

Lethality and Vulnerability Testing

Between 1938 and 1959, firing trials were conducted to determine the vulnerability of aircraft and their components to attack by various projectiles. Whole aircraft, or individual parts such as fuel tanks, oxygen tanks and running engines, were subjected to carefully controlled and recorded simulations of attack.

The Plate Store

Armour Plate Bombardment, 1940 - Testing the Effectiveness of Defensive Armour

The building originally stored heavy sheets of experimental steel armour plate and paper targets, and was also used to mount them for testing. Engineers later removed the building's end wall so that smooth-bore field guns and other heavy weapons could fire projectiles directly at the armour

plates inside. This simulated combat damage to aircraft components, fuel tanks and engines, allowing their effectiveness to be assessed.

Model Ballistics Range, 1946-1950s - Researching Projectile Aerodynamics

In 1946, the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) repurposed the building to research projectile aerodynamics. Scientists used automated 'spark photography' to capture the shape and shockwaves of fast-moving projectiles. A specialised 'stop-butt' structure was built inside to safely catch high-speed scale models fired along the length of the building.

Nuclear Radar Laboratory, 1959-1960s - Testing Theories for Over-the-Horizon Radar (OTHR)

The building was handed over to the AWRE for use as a technical laboratory, where early theories for over-the-horizon radar were tested. The system was designed to detect atmospheric disturbances caused by distant nuclear detonations.

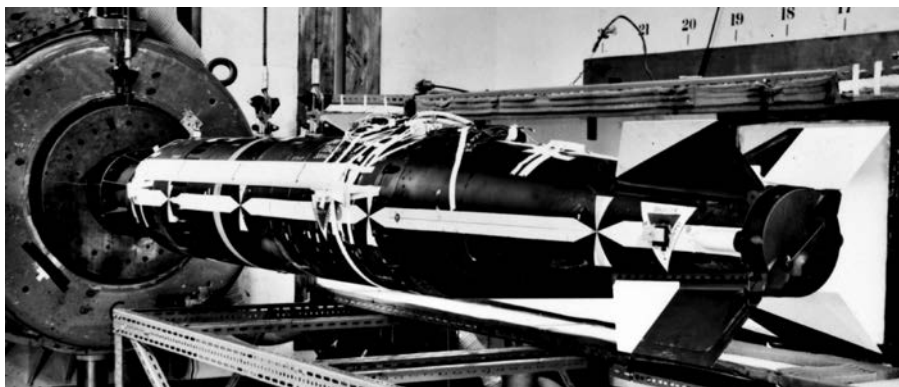
On 13th February 1960, the team succeeded in detecting the first, and possibly the second, of a series of four French atmospheric atomic bomb tests carried out at Reggane in French Algeria, more than 1,700 miles away.

Rocket Range

During the 1950s, King's Marsh was used as an experimental range for recording the flight paths of air-launched rockets. Fired from above the airfields, the rockets were recorded by a series of cameras triggered by infrared-sensitive cells as each rocket passed overhead.

Atomic Bomb Testing

Between 1953 and 1966, six large test laboratories and a bombing range were created, along with most of the



other buildings used to carry out environmental tests on atomic weapons. At its peak, the AWRE employed 300 people. The tests were designed to replicate the conditions a weapon might experience before detonation, including vibration, extremes of temperature, thermal stress, shocks and G-forces. Other tests covered electronics, telemetry, ballistics and delivery at both high and low altitudes. Laboratories 1, 2 and 3 were built in the 1950s and used to test the reliability and safety of weapons such as Blue Danube and Yellow Sun.

Blue Danube was the UK's first operational atomic weapon, entering service with the RAF in November 1953. Designed as a free-fall bomb, it served as the primary armament for the UK's strategic V-bomber fleet - the Valiant, Victor and Vulcan. The bomb was approximately 24ft long and 5ft in diameter, weighed around 10,000lb and contained an implosion-type plutonium device. Its explosive yield was equivalent to around 15 to 16 kilotons of TNT, making it comparable to the *Fat Man* bomb dropped on Nagasaki. About 20 were made before production ended in 1958, and the weapon remained in service until 1962.

Yellow Sun was the UK's first operational high-yield strategic nuclear weapon, although the name referred only to its outer casing. Designed to contain a variety of warheads, it was known as Green Grass in the Mk 1 version and Red Snow, a US-designed warhead, in the Mk 2. A distinctive feature of the casing was its completely flat nose, which provided two benefits: the additional drag allowed the bomb to fall a safe distance behind the bomber before detonation, while also avoiding the complex pattern of shock waves produced by a conventionally curved nose, which made altitude difficult to



measure barometrically.

The Mk 1 version, containing Green Grass, entered service in 1959 and replaced Blue Danube over the following year. The Mk 2 version, containing Red Snow, began to replace it in 1961. From 1966, Yellow Sun was itself replaced by the WE.177 bomb, which was based on another US design.

Lab 1, used for mechanical and vibration testing as well as drop tests, was built on a large concrete raft 2ft thick, supported by more than 100 piles extending 50ft into the ground. It had a lightweight roof designed to blow off in the event of an accident. A large pit replicated an aircraft weapons bay, while two vibrating machines built by Frazer Nash subjected the bomb to simulated flight conditions. The laboratory's climate controls allowed environmental trials lasting up to 28 days. Lab 2 was of similar construction and was used for trials involving a large centrifuge. Lab 3 was built with



Opposite page:

The Black Beacon building.

Left, from top:

Replica Blue Danube bomb at Gorse Heath Industrial Estate Thetford Heath.

Concrete Blue Danube Core for testing purposes

Above, from top:

WE177 on a vibration machine.

WE177 after impact test.



Above, from top:

Lab 1.

An aerial view of Lab 1, clearly showing the separation between the buildings.

a concrete barrel-vaulted roof and blast doors; its thermal chamber was used to subject weapons to extreme temperatures.

Labs 4 and 5, known as the Pagodas and pictured on page 42, were built in the 1960s to carry out extreme environmental testing on components of British nuclear weapons. This included combined vibration and temperature testing, shock waves, G-forces and extremes of temperature, to ensure the components could withstand service conditions. The laboratories were used in trials of WE.177 bombs, which were US-designed weapons with British casings. The Pagoda buildings were uniquely designed with gravel-filled walls to absorb and dissipate the force of any accidental explosion. Although fully fissile nuclear cores were never used, the high-explosive triggers needed to detonate atomic weapons were present and contained the equivalent of many tons of TNT.

The WE.177 was Britain's last free-fall nuclear weapon and was in use from 1966 to 1998. It was produced in three variants for different targets, with a wide range of selectable nuclear yields. Versions A and B were both high-yield 'strategic' weapons, while version C was a low-yield 'tactical' weapon.

Versions A and B entered service with the RAF in 1966, while version C was used by the Royal Navy as a 'depth bomb' from 1971. The weapon could be delivered by a wide variety

of aircraft, including Britain's V-bombers - the Valiant, Victor and Vulcan - tactical aircraft such as the Canberra and Buccaneer, and helicopters such as the Wessex and Lynx.

Further information about the IRGON Impact Facility and WE.177 impact testing can be found on the IRGON website: www.irgon.org/impact-facility

Lab 6 was used in the late 1960s for combined centrifuge and vibration testing of missile warheads, including those used in Polaris missiles.

Cobra Mist

In 1968, work began on the top-secret Anglo-American over-the-horizon backscatter radar project, codenamed

'Cobra Mist', the world's most powerful radar station. The project's main contractor was the Radio Corporation of America. Its missions included detecting and tracking aircraft, detecting missile and satellite launches, gathering intelligence and providing a research and development testbed. In early 1973, a joint US-UK decision was made to end operations at Orford Ness on economic grounds and for other unspecified reasons. Why it was closed remains one of the many mysteries surrounding Orford Ness.

RAF Bomb Disposal

From the 1970s, the Ness was home to RAF Explosive Ordnance Disposal, and large quantities of munitions were destroyed there. The last service personnel based on the site left in 1987, opening the way for vandals and the foolhardy curious. This explains the extent of the subsequent vandalism and the removal of almost anything left behind. The Ness remained officially closed to the public, although occasional trials of new equipment were conducted as required.

The National Trust Takes Ownership

In 1993, the Ministry of Defence sold Orford Ness to the National Trust. By then, the importance of the spit's landscape and the wildlife it supported was becoming apparent, particularly the internationally rare and extremely fragile coastal vegetated shingle, which is now carefully protected.

After a hugely informative and entertaining talk, Barry was thanked warmly in the usual manner.

Andy Sheppard

www.littlewaldingfieldhistorysociety.wordpress.com

Next Little Waldingfield History Society Talks:

The (un)Natural History of Rivers

Wednesday 16th September, 7:30pm

Darren Tansley is a Wilder Rivers & Protected Species Manager for Essex Wildlife Trust, so who better to tell us all about such an important part of our local Ecosystem.



1960s Sudbury

Wednesday 21st October, 7:30pm

Ashley Cooper our most well known and loved local historian will tell even long-time Sudburians things long forgotten and things they never knew from Sudbury in the 60's.





Life at the Shelley Centre

Celebrating riders, achievements & the end of term

The final weeks of the summer term at the Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding are the 'show' weeks. Almost all of the riders participate in one or both of two competitions - Countryside Challenge and dressage. We are indebted to Mary Thornley, who kindly gives her time to judge these classes. Mary is well known as a dressage judge and throughout the local equestrian world, having given a great deal of her time in recent years to the Pony Club.

Countryside Challenge is similar to the Handy Pony competitions that some riders will recognise from the Riding Club or Pony Club. In the Shelley Countryside Challenge, the arena is set up with a course of obstacles that simulate a trail ride. Riders may take part with their horse being led, with the support of side

walkers if required, or ride unled in the arena. The aim is to demonstrate balance, steering, accuracy, technical knowledge and safety.

The course includes elements such as opening and passing through a gate, posting a letter and crossing a 'bridge'. We are very fortunate at Shelley to be able to use the gate element to leave the arena briefly and ride through an area of trees, where the rider is also given marks for maintaining the correct position when riding uphill and downhill.

Although in recent years it has been difficult for the centre to take horses and riders to external events, some groups are able to take competitors all the way to the RDA Countryside Challenge National Championships.

Following the Countryside Challenge, we then have our Dressage Week. In fact, neither competition takes only a week, as the horses and ponies would get bored doing exactly the same thing during every session of the day and may start to anticipate the tests. This could give Friday's riders an unfair advantage if, by then, the horse has learned the test better than the rider or their helpers! This year, due to the hot weather, some of the dressage tests are still to be completed at the time of

writing.

Many of our riders take the competition weeks very seriously and, like some pictured here, wear formal showing attire to take part. There is a prize for turnout, but we do not insist that all riders 'dress up' for the event. If they choose to wear what they usually wear for their riding sessions, that is fine, as it is important for them all to feel comfortable. When the competition weeks have been completed, we award the prizes. There are also achievement awards for those riders who only ride Ebony, the mechanical horse.

At the end of June, we said farewell to our Yard Manager, Abi, who has decided to move on. Abi brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the centre and always made our horses' welfare her highest priority. She leaves with our thanks and will be missed by horses, riders and volunteers alike. We are currently in the process of recruiting her replacement and thank our volunteers who have stepped up to look after the yard in the interim.

www.shelleyrda.com
01473 824172



Above, from left:

Ruby-Blu and Cali who were placed second in the Countryside Challenge.

A rider in the dressage arena.

The Countryside Challenge includes riding through the trees – pictures taken by John Boyle.



The Blooming Garden

Summer's Last Stand

After weeks of heat and drought, this summer is a little frayed round the edges. A hosepipe ban means misery for gardeners desperate to keep the garden looking good. You can still use a watering can but this is back-breaking. The best thing to do is prioritise which plants won't survive without water, water in the evening after the sun has gone down and make sure the roots of your favourite plants are protected by a thick mulch. Lawns are looking awful but it doesn't matter, you can't kill grass. I have no lawn to worry about as I can't bear to waste any space where I can grow more plants.

There are plenty of daisy-type flowers about in August but today I am focusing on bold plants that make a bit of a show. In this drought, I am not interested in various shades of straw with a few dots of daisies. Hydrangeas do need water or they flop, (the clue is in the first part of the name,) so they are the first on the watering can list. It is hard to imagine that, according to Robin Lane Fox whose book, *Thoughtful Gardening*, I

have just been rereading, hydrangeas were unknown in this country until the late nineteenth century. Actually, as I wrote that I thought it doesn't sound right, so I looked it up. In fact, he is a century out; they arrived in the late eighteenth century. But I suppose Lane Fox did not have the benefit of AI when he wrote his book. Nowadays, we can all be an authority on anything. But hydrangeas are so ubiquitous that they seem as if they have always been part of the English garden. For a long time I disliked them as I associated them with seaside retirement bungalows where you often see great mounds of them in front gardens and they never seem able to decide which colour to be. But nowadays with so many gorgeous hybrids I love them and find my lack of space to grow lots of different ones frustrating. I have a beauty with dark leaves and beautifully shaped flowers that look as if they have been fashioned from origami. It is called *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Miss Saori'. It was

the winner of the RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year in 2014 and rightly so. The flowers stay pink whatever the soil. It came to me as a cutting from a friend who is no longer with us so it is quite special.

I also love the flowers of *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Ayesha' as they remind me of lilac blossom. Each flower head consists of small cup-shaped sepals. The colour of the flowers is a bit wishy-washy on my alkaline soil, so next year I will use some aluminium sulphate to make them blue.





I need fragrance in my August garden and for this I enjoy lilies. I particularly love the bold statement made by giant trumpet lilies. My favourite is the amazing 'Silk Road' as it has such flamboyant flowers. It is an *Orientalpet* lily which means it is a cross between Oriental and Trumpet lilies. It is a true giant and can grow up to 180cm tall. When I moved I couldn't find this lily listed anywhere until I found that it also goes under the name of 'Friso'. Another much-loved tall lily is 'African Queen' and this one is a gorgeous soft apricot. Of course lily beetle is a problem, particularly with early-flowering Martagon lilies but these giants don't seem to be quite so vulnerable. Maybe this is because I have spent all summer picking off the little red-coated devils and squashing them.

Every year there seems to be a new pest or plant pathogen and I am told that in the West Country, *Agapanthus* Gall Midge is a problem. Apparently,

this pest was unknown until 2016. Thank goodness, so far, we don't seem to have it here in Suffolk. I love *agapanthus* and when I had plenty of room I grew lots of them and I was sad to leave so many gorgeous home-grown ones behind when I moved. But it gave me the chance to buy some different ones. I have never grown *Agapanthus inapertus* before. I was never sure I liked the droopy, downward hanging flowers. But one I drooled over when I saw it growing in Adrian Bloom's garden in Bressingham, Norfolk is *Agapanthus inapertus* 'Summer Bluebells'. It is such a glorious shade of blue. The flowers look just like giant bluebells. I can't wait to have a nice big clump of this. Two other new ones last year are *Agapanthus* 'Royal Velvet' and 'Poppin' Purple' which are both a deep purple shade which is new to me. I have



plenty of *agapanthus* seedlings coming on from plants I left behind although I don't know where I will put them. They are so easy from seed and bloom in three years after sowing. I have never arranged the marriages of these plants, the bees do that, but their children are always beautiful.

Also needing plenty of water, dahlias are at their best now as long as you have managed to keep them moist and kept the slimy molluscs off them. I find that they don't get so much damage if I keep them in their pots until they are big enough to bloom. Obviously, young, new shoots are the tastiest. I love big, blowsy dahlias like 'Labyrinth' or 'Café au Lait' but I am also very fond of singles such as collarettes which have a single outer row of petals and a ruff of inner petals round a central disc. I also love the *Honka* series which are known as star or cartwheel dahlias. The great thing about single dahlias is that they produce lots of seed. If you sow these in early spring they make big plants that bloom the first season. As the bees have been busy they are all different and you never quite know what you will get but they are all lovely.

Chloris



Opposite page, from top:

Dahlias

Hydrangea macrophylla 'Miss Saori'

This page, left column, from top:

Hydrangea macrophylla 'Ayesha'

Lilium 'Silk Road'

Lilium 'African Queen'.

Centre column, from top:

Agapanthus 'Purple Velvet'

Agapanthus 'Summer Bluebells'

Above:

Dahlia 'Honka Fragile'

Feedback From Robert Lindsay

Suffolk County Councillor for Cosford Division

Just rejoice at that news!

It's OK, everyone, don't panic. The climate emergency is over in Suffolk. By the time you read these words, the Reform



UK party that runs the county council will have voted through its proposal to cancel the council's climate emergency declaration.

Michael Hadwen, their leader, says it is just a "common-sense" approach to undeclare the emergency.

I'm sure every one of us here in hosepipe-ban East Anglia is now breathing a sigh of relief. We don't need to worry about this summer being the latest in a succession of summers that were each the hottest on record. The 2,700 people in Britain estimated to have died prematurely in the May and June heatwaves were snowflakes who didn't have the common sense to realise that it was just summer.

All the roads that melted in Suffolk - more than 20 incidents in three days at the end of June - were clearly being over-emotional. Now that Cllr Hadwen has told them how to behave, I expect Highways can put its expensive gritting lorries - now filled with granite dust to try to fix the melted roads - back in their sheds and let the roads pull themselves together.

All those people who have bought ceiling fans or air conditioning are simply being deceived by the conspiracy of climate scientists who



have, obviously, got inside their homes and doctored all their thermometers.

I expect that, even now, the ice sheets in Greenland are freezing themselves up again and the greenhouse gases are turning away at Felixstowe docks, having got wind of the news that Cllr Hadwen has a common-sense strategy.

He told the press that the measure had come about because *"Suffolk has fantastic landscapes, strong farming roots and outstanding local food - that's our real environment, and I want to make sure we look after it properly and improve it where we can."*

I'm sure farmers will be delighted to hear this news. But it is a shame Cllr Hadwen didn't adopt his common-sense approach earlier, because most of them have already had to get the combines out for an early harvest because of the climate-change-induced heatwave. This is likely to hit yields. But thanks to Cllr Hadwen, they needn't have worried. Doh!

I'm sorry to harp on, but this wilful and performative blindness by Reform's Suffolk councillors to the world outside their doors is because they were elected with the help of a large share of the millions of pounds donated by billionaires heavily invested

in the fossil fuel industry. These billionaires are determined to stop any government action that would prevent them from profiting from their products.

I attended a screening of the *National Emergency Briefing* film last week. It was terrifying but, at the same time, uplifting because

the solutions are all readily available. The technology is here now to rapidly transition our economies away from fossil fuels to renewables, restore birdsong and green spaces, and end our dependence on oil. It is still, just about, not too late to correct this. But it needs political will. Something like 85% of the public want action on the climate emergency, but unfortunately 75% of our MPs underestimate how many people want action. Let's tell them.

Judicial Review

Meanwhile, Suffolk Reform clearly are not worried about the extra cost of fixing the melted roads because they have begun an expensive judicial review that is *"unlikely to cost more than £500,000"*.

This is an attempt to force the government to overturn its decision to create three unitary councils in the county. If Reform loses this case, they will have wasted the time they could have spent working with the district councils to ensure the three unitary councils operate effectively when they begin serving Suffolk residents in May 2028.

Boxford 20mph Scheme

Closer to home, Boxford Parish Council decided at its last meeting to survey the village residents on whether they wanted the 20mph scheme before deciding whether to go ahead with it. I have to correct my piece of last month, which said that the estimated costs were £20.6k. They were, in fact, £30.5k. But I still believe this is a reasonable price to pay for lower speed limits on nearly every road in the village. Even on Brick Kiln Hill, the speed limit is proposed to drop from 60mph to 30mph.

Robert Lindsay

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Pictured left: Melting road surfaces during hot weather. Suffolk Highways recorded more than 20 heat-related road incidents over three days at the end of June.

Above: Spread Sheeran, one of Suffolk Highways' fleet of 38 gritting lorries. During the June heatwave, gritters were used to spread granite dust on roads affected by melting surfaces.

Feedback From Bryn Hurren

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

Another scorching hot summer is upon us. It is becoming almost the norm, which is troubling and very scary, to say the least. At least the earlier rains got the crops chitted and growing along the way but rain is desperately needed now to save them and to produce a harvest for sale and for us to eat. It is all on a knife edge at this time. Maybe diversification into other crops will help but most things need water, even if they can survive the intense heat, and that includes us. With the hosepipe ban already in place, we can only hope that some adequate rainfall arrives very soon.

Leading on from that, I do sometimes have a peep at what is the latest flavour on Facebook. Amongst other things I came upon a post commenting on the climate change situation and claiming that it was nothing to worry about, that it would right itself and was all a load of scaremongering anyway. This is even more scary than the situation in which we find ourselves with time running out for comfortable survival on our precious planet and for reversing the ever-increasing heating of our world.

Didn't these people look at all the documentaries from Sir David Attenborough and many others that now form part of the school curriculum and the teaching of our next generation, who somehow have to take the baton and get us out of the hole that we've left them in? I did take a look at the comments and likes relating to the original misguided post and discovered that they were all exclusively from men over 40. Mmmm, what does that tell us? Maybe they were drunk in the pub? I know that, with big world events, we do get some disbelievers, such as Holocaust deniers and even folks who still believe the world is flat, but c'mon lads, take a bit more water with your drink in the future. That is not the way to go.

I am so pleased to see that some of the shareholders of our now privately owned water companies are having to use some of their bonuses and inflated financial returns to put right some of the decay in our water systems that they have themselves caused. Failure to do that should mean that the companies are taken back into public ownership, which is where they should have been all along. I am really not sure which is Thatcher's greatest

disaster: selling off our utilities to those who could afford to buy them, or selling off our council housing stock at huge discounts without replacing it with housing that lower-waged people could afford. This is now causing waves of homelessness.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but these two were quite easy to spot. When capitalists get hold of assets, they make more money by starving them of investment and, by doing that, make even more money for themselves. Nothing changes. Possibly the worst legacy from the Thatcher years is that she made it acceptable to become greedy and trample on those around us who are slightly less fortunate, capable or wealthy than those scrambling up the greasy pole themselves. Not a great achievement!

To get some rest from my long working weeks, I took a couple of days from the annual three that I now allow myself to go to the Strumpshaw annual tree fair, just outside Norwich and on the very edge of the Broads towards the Suffolk border.

It was a very good event but very warm, and I had to buy a wide-brimmed hat to replace the one that I had forgotten, having bought one for the same reason the year before, etc., etc.



Politically, folk and other singers are still angry about the issues from the Tory years and would have been even more so had the misplaced financial figures from the COVID Inquiry been known then. The amount is estimated at £12 billion but, once all the other bungs and misappropriated monies are known about, it will probably be at least three times that. How come these people are still free, and some have even formed another political party to ask us to vote for them yet again? Can we believe it? Maybe the Earth really is flat and we are all falling off the edge, although I never go far nowadays.

On council matters, the big thing at the moment is the new standard Better

Recycling initiative. Headline figures indicate that we are now picking up in excess of 150 tonnes of food waste per week across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. This is an outstanding achievement, and all the effort put in is worth it for that alone. Other collection figures will be brought out soon as the scheme settles in and is measured in other ways. What is important is that waste is turned into other usable commodities for the benefit of all. We have made some mistakes in implementing the new scheme, and these will be put right as soon as possible, hopefully before you read this article. If anyone in Box Vale has a strange bin, please leave it in sight and someone will pick it up as soon as possible. Sorry!

Planning also takes up a great deal of my time as your councillor. How things have changed during my 27 years as your representative at Babergh. The NPPF is changing all the time, with increased demands for new housing without much increase in infrastructure or available money to provide it. It is not a good position to be in and, although we are much more stable as a country now, we are certainly not where we need to be by a long way. A closer and more trusting relationship with Europe is certainly helping, especially after the self-inflicted Brexit years, but trust is so easily lost and very hard to regain. We have a way to go yet and will remain slightly in the wilderness for a while, I think. Maybe Andy Burnham will help with that; he certainly has more charisma than the last incumbent at Number 10.

Another big change is that, during the last two years, all councillors have been offered personal security training to keep ourselves safe from attack and death by those who wish to harm us. We have also been advised not to use our personal details in the public domain. I will continue to take the training but have expressed a wish to remain accessible to my super constituents at all times. It is so sad that it has come to this due to national events, but it works both ways: if members of the public all know who I am and what I do for them, then maybe they will come to my aid if they see me being attacked or in trouble.

So please continue to approach me when you see me around and let me know if I can assist you in any way, but maybe go easy on the rugby tackles for a while.

Lots of love and may all your gods be with you.

Bryn

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BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 23rd June 2026

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Works around the village that were allocated to the contractor were not quite finished at the time of the meeting. Cllr Warren has written to them to ask for the works to be completed.

A response was received from DCllr Hurren regarding the parking wardens, noticeboard and land at Goodlands, but it was felt that the issues were not resolved.

Public Participation- Views/Questions from the Public

It was reported that the land at the top of School Hill is overgrown. It was suggested that it is the responsibility of the WI to maintain this parcel of land.

A resident advised that there is a dead tree around Ash Street/Fen Street. It was commented that this is the responsibility of BDC.

Concerns were raised regarding the proposed car park behind the cemetery. The concerns were noted.

County Council Report

20mph scheme: the costs will be circa £30,000. A commitment is required from the PC before design works are started. Cllr Parr recommended putting out a consultation as soon as possible to gauge approval from residents, i.e. a leaflet drop, social media, etc.

Yellow lines: the matter of the new yellow lines for Church Street is going through the process. The clerk confirmed that a response has been sent to proceed with the legal process. Any other faded white lines must be reported using the Highways reporting tool.

Crossing over the A1071: SCC Highways is looking into funding, etc. It may be up to the PC to fund it. Cllr Troke commented that it is a safety issue, so surely it is the responsibility of Highways. CCllr Lindsay advised that there is no Highways budget for safety - this was questioned.

The full report can be found on the BPC website.

District Council Report

Parking enforcement: DCllr Hurren expects to receive a report each month confirming that parking wardens have patrolled the parish.

Goodlands: the question was asked whether the landowner had agreed

to transfer the land to the Woodland Trust. DCllr Hurren advised that the landowner had agreed and that the matter was with the solicitors and going through the process.

DCllr Hurren also commented on the new waste collection service. He reported that 116 tonnes of food waste had been collected in the first week.

DCllr Hurren advised that a locality budget of £1,000 was available for a suitable project within the parish.

DCllr Hurren responded regarding the action required for the crossing over the A1071, advising that there is a footpath under the A1071 which can be cleared and connected to a footpath into the village. Councillors will visit the site before the next meeting and report back on the feasibility of the project.

Members' Reports

Cllr Parr reported that the Community Planning Team was due to meet regarding the call for sites. The county council will be meeting with the local Boxford transport team regarding the bus services. A meeting is to be held with the owners of the land on Stone Street Road - the site under consideration as a village car park. The Playing Field Management Committee has identified repairs and maintenance works required on one of the buildings. It has been asked whether the PC would make a contribution from the Playing Fields grant. This was agreed in principle and would be discussed once the formal application was received.

Finance

The finance report was accepted and can be found in full on the BPC website.

Planning

The full planning details can be seen in the minutes on the BPC website.

Date of Next Meeting

28th July 2026 in the village hall, starting at 7pm.

Parish council meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except in August and December. They are held in the village hall, starting at 7pm. All are welcome to come along and observe, and there is a regular item allowing residents a short time to comment and raise items.

Full minutes and other documents mentioned above can be found at: <http://boxford-pc.gov.uk>

Zoe Rumsey

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NEWTON

Summary of Council Meeting 8th June 2026

26/125 Emails circulated

Following a review of the emails circulated, which included the resignation of the clerk, it was agreed to hold the August meeting to review the plans for the recruitment process to replace Dave Crimmin from the start of January 2027.

26/128 Saracens Head

With the moratorium period ending on 1st July 2026, the agent has confirmed that there is no further update on the sale of the Saracens Head.

26/131 Walking Infrastructure Project

The councillors reviewed the legal advice obtained from counsel on the processes required for the proposed works on the Green. With several issues to be considered, it was resolved to share the information on a confidential basis with the Newton Green Trust for its consideration and for the councillors to review at their next meeting.

26/132 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Evers updated councillors on the analysis of the results of the housing survey and on the plans to present these to the village on Saturday 25th July 2026, starting at 10 am in the village hall.

26/133 Parish Survey and PIIP

The councillors reviewed the analysis of responses received from the Parish Survey. They then resolved that the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP) should be adopted for 2026.

Full minutes can be found at:

www.newton-pc.gov.uk

Dave Crimmin CiLCA, PIALC, PSICC

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Edwardstone PC

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

Groton PC

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

Little Waldingfield PC

<https://littlwaldingfield.onesuffolk.net/lwpc/>

Boxford Rovers

Boxford Rovers Youth Football Club held its annual awards day at Boxford Playing Fields in late June, bringing players, families, coaches and managers together to celebrate a successful 2025/26 season in the Suffolk Youth League.



From top: Boxford Rovers Under-9s, Under-11s, Under-16s and Under-18s at the club's annual awards day.

All of the club's teams were well represented, with players receiving their individual trophies alongside awards for Players' Player of the Year, Manager's Player of the Year, Most Improved Player and leading goalscorer.

Parents and players also enjoyed a delicious barbecue, with meat supplied by Alan Leeder Butchers.

Among those recognised on the day was Under-11s player Freddie Jarvis, who was presented with a framed shirt signed by all of his teammates. Freddie has been selected and invited to attend academy programmes with Ipswich Town, Norwich City and Tottenham Hotspur, beginning in July.

Joining an academy means that Freddie will no longer be able to play for Boxford Rovers or his school team. Although the club is very sorry to lose him, everyone at Boxford Rovers is extremely proud of his achievements and wishes him every success for the future.



There was further excitement for the club when Boxford Rovers were invited to attend Ipswich Town's secret launch of its new kit for the 2026/27 season at Portman Road. The event also celebrated the club's support for 115 grassroots youth football teams across Suffolk.

Club chairman Melvyn Eke and Under-9s manager Dan Jarvis accompanied Freddie and Ronnie Jarvis, who wore their Boxford Rovers white shirts, sponsored by Hornet Tech. They joined young players from other Suffolk clubs on the Portman Road pitch and were photographed with members of Ipswich Town's first-team squad.

The occasion came as a complete surprise to the young players, as no details had been released in advance. Everyone attending was required to keep the event secret until the new kit was officially revealed 24 hours later.

Full story can be read here: <https://tinyurl.com/ITFC-kits-for-clubs>

Melvyn Eke
www.boxford-rovers-youth.com



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Milden Cricket Club



Career-best 7 for 45 for Robinson as Milden beat Woolpit by 10 wickets to end losing run

Three losses and a win to report this month: the win, at Woolpit by 10 wickets on 12th July, ending a run of four defeats beginning with the loss to Woolpit by 14 runs in the home fixture on 14th June.

On 21st June (Fathers' Day), father and son, James and Oscar Murray, opening the batting for Nowton after the hosts lost the toss, posted 150 before Oscar was bowled for 29. James eventually retired on 151, with Nowton ending on 252 for 2 from their 40 overs. By contrast, for Milden Fathers' Day meant reduced availability and the 10-men team were dismissed for 129 for the second week running, to lose by 123 runs (your correspondent, in his first and, so far only, innings this season, scored 9 in a partnership of 31 that at least secured two batting points for Milden).

Back at Milden on 28th June, visitors Elmswell posted 205 for 7, R King top-scoring with 95. Joe Winter (4 for 41) was Milden's most successful bowler. In reply, Milden could only muster 119 to lose by 86 runs. However, it was a memorable match for Milden debutant Henry Newman who, in addition to his one wicket, caught and bowled, also took three outfield catches.

Having beaten Brettenham Park at home on 31st May by 4 wickets, Milden lost the return fixture at Brettenham's attractive tree-lined ground on 5th July by 5 wickets. David Willis (49) top-scored for Milden in another low total of 128. Fast bowlers Jim Ferguson (2 for 14) and Harry Green—another debutant—(2 for 22) reduced the home side to 62 for 4, but J Swift (54 not out, including 11 fours and a six) then battered the slow bowling to take Brettenham (131 for 5) to their target in 27.1 overs.

The match at Woolpit on 12th July (Milden's second 10 wickets win this season, after defeating Brockley by this margin on 7th June) was memorable for Richard Robinson's career-best figures (10-2-45-7) in dismissing the home side (who won the toss) for 138. All ten wickets fell to the spinners, as David Willis returned 3 for 32 from his ten overs. Richard's figures are also the second-best recorded figures for the club since its re-formation in 2008, behind Barry Dakers' 7 for 15 against Acton in 2011. For Milden there were nine 'DNBs' as Alex Lomax (52 not out) and another debutant, Bailey Warren (68 not out, to add to two stumpings), raced to victory in 18.4 overs.



August fixtures:

2nd Aug	Milden v Suffolk Swingers (friendly)
9th Aug	Milden v Brockley
16th Aug	Elveden v Milden
23rd Aug	Milden v Haverhill
30th Aug	Milden v Elveden

Pictured, above: Bailey Warren, alongside Alex Lomax, raising his bat to acknowledge the applause on his reaching a half-century for Milden at Woolpit on 12th July.

David Lamming

Boxford & District Bowls Club

Summer is definitely here - and it has been so very hot recently. But this has not stopped the bowling - except on a couple of occasions when temperatures were well over 30 degrees in the afternoon.

Huge congratulations to Steve Marszal and Lea Blackham, who have won the Norfolk/Suffolk area final of the National Bowls England Over-60s Pairs competition, following victories against pairs from Norfolk, Borough of Eye, Ipswich and Beccles Town. Steve and Lea now progress to the next stage of this national competition - the All England Round of 32 (16 pairs) - where they will play a team from Peterborough. Winners from this round will go on to the national Finals at Leamington Spa in August.

Several of our players have reached quarter-final and semi-final stages of various competitions in the next few weeks. We wish them all the best of luck.



Finally, some of our ladies were invited to join the Sudbury ladies for a friendly match against the Suffolk County ladies. It was a lovely afternoon and the final score was very close - unfortunately, the Suffolk County ladies won!

Roz Mortlock

Newton Green Golf Club

Members came together for a fantastic few days of competition, camaraderie and club spirit at Captain's Day 2026, raising funds for Prostate Cancer UK.

The annual event, hosted by Men's Captain Ged Fisher, began with the Alternate Day on Thursday 9th July, when Barry Bridges took the honours with an excellent score of 40 points.

The main Captain's Day event on Sunday 12th July attracted almost 70 players, many of whom took to the course despite a late night cheering on England. Played in warm and windy conditions, the course provided a strong test for the field.



L-R: Harry Wordley (Men's Vice Captain), Matt Chambers, Ged Fisher (Men's Captain)

Matt Chambers emerged as the overall winner of the main event, recording an impressive 37 points to secure victory.

Additional competitions, including nearest the pin, the straightest drive and a putting competition, helped create a competitive and enjoyable atmosphere throughout the day.

The club congratulates Barry Bridges and Matt Chambers on their wins and thanks all the members who took part. Special thanks also go to Ged Fisher (Men's Captain), Harry Wordley (Men's Vice Captain), the volunteers and the staff whose work behind the scenes helped make the event such a well-run success.

Over the two days, a fantastic £1,130 was raised for Prostate Cancer UK.

Newton Green Golf Club looks forward to building on the success of this year's event and to another memorable Captain's Day in 2027.

Newton Green Golf Club

Edwardstone & Boxford Cricket Club

On 27th June, the revived local team played a friendly match against East Saxons. Edwardstone & Boxford was captained by Jack Clark, while East

Saxons was captained by Jegath Rakshagan Hari Haran.

Edwardstone & Boxford won the toss and elected to bat, posting 167 for nine from their allotted 30 overs. Their innings was built on steady contributions throughout the top and middle order, with partnerships proving crucial in maintaining momentum. Although East Saxons applied pressure in the latter stages and claimed regular wickets, the hosts reached a competitive total.

In response, East Saxons produced a determined chase, finishing on 164 for nine. The innings featured disciplined batting and several important partnerships that kept the side within reach of the target. Despite this resilience, the team ultimately fell just short, unable to score the runs required in the final overs.

The tense 30-over fixture went right down to the final moments. Both sides battled hard, with some excellent catches in the field and several wickets taken through fine bowling. The game remained in the balance until the last ball, when the local team secured victory by three runs.

The match proved a great success, with members of the public and team supporters attending to watch. It is hoped that a rematch can be arranged before the end of the cricket season, subject to suitable dates being available. Thanks go to the Playing Field Management Committee for making an additional date available for this enjoyable match.

Other Matches

On 4th July and 11th July, East Saxons played West Mersea. East Saxons won the first match, while West Mersea won the second, giving each team one victory.

A big thank you to all of the teams for playing great cricket.

Kevin D Couling



Scouting

1st Boxford Beaver Scouts	John 07966 690317 johnaves@hotmail.co.uk
1st Boxford Cub Scouts	Susie 07843 280396
1st Boxford Scouts	David Talbot-Clarke 07946 550519
1st Boxford Explorer Scouts	Neil Barkham 07734 108257
1st Boxford Rainbows	Janice Macmillan 07779 303690
1st Boxford Brownies	Janice Macmillan 07779 303690 janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk
1st Boxford Guides	Bethany Ireland bethanyireland11@gmail.com

Charities

Boxford & Groton United Charities	Guy Godfray 01787 211378
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Alison Barlow 07765 401 952 crossways.jemali@gmail.com
Edwardstone Charities	Nick Raymond 01787 210461 ncraymond@hotmail.co.uk
Groton Educational Foundation	Kate Wilson 01787 211658 kate.wilson100@hotmail.co.uk
Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust	James Wills 01787 210484
Little Waldingfield Charities	Mary Thorogood 01787 247658 littlewaldingfieldcharities@gmail.com
Newton Green Trust	Philip Taylor 07775 777 598 philiptaylor433@gmail.com
William Alston Charity Newton	Sue Presland 07881 383 998 sue_presland@hotmail.com

Halls & Facilities to Hire

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Boxford Village Hall	www.boxfordvillagehall.co.uk booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk
Brent Eleigh Village Hall	Karen Marshall 07946 209103 karenmarshall6@gmail.com
Edwardstone Parish Hall	Daphne Clark 01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Alison Barlow 07765 401 952 crossways.jemali@gmail.com
Groton Village Hall	Joanna Roberts 07845 940 008 jgant87618@aol.com
Lions Den Function Room The White Hart	01787 211764
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	Sue Bowen 01787 249473 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com
Little Waldingfield Pavilion	Jennie Jordan 07522 352 558 52Jennie1@gmail.com
Marquee Booking	BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com
Milden Pavilion	Justine 07745 170 348 info@mildenvillage.co.uk
Newton Village Hall	The Secretary 07955 199 000

Volunteers Make Our Villages Thrive

Our village halls, clubs, charities, and youth groups don't run themselves. Almost everything listed on these pages is organised by volunteers - neighbours giving a little time to keep things happening.

For anyone considering getting involved, help doesn't have to mean long-term or specialist commitment. Many groups need:

- occasional help at events
- someone to cover a role for a few months
- behind-the-scenes admin or publicity
- fresh faces with new ideas

Getting involved is one of the easiest ways to meet people and feel part of village life.

Additions or corrections

This guide aims to be as complete and accurate as possible. If a group is missing, details have changed, or you spot an error, please email editor@boxrivernews.com.

Clubs & Groups

Boxford Bellringers	Richard Gates 01787 210432
Boxford Bible Study Group	Peter & Margaret 01787 211077
Boxford Bike Club	Kevin Bridge 07876 798 617 www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk
Boxford Bowls Club	Ian Clark 01787 211133
Boxford Carpet Bowls	David Warren 01787 211067
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Macmillan 07779 303 690 janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk
Boxford Friendship Group	Alison Warren 01787 211067
Boxford Gardens Open	Audrey Zuck 07852 102 455 audrey@a2zriskservices.com
Boxford Gardening Society	Elizabeth Wagener 01787 210223 elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com
Boxford Karate Club	Steve Harris 07977 218 175 jkrusouthsuffolk@gmail.com www.jkr-uk.org.uk
Boxford Literary Group	David Jones 01787 211104 audav@hotmail.co.uk
Boxford Rovers Youth FC	Melvyn Eke 07873 971 701 m.eke@btinternet.com www.boxford-rovers-youth.com
Boxford Tennis Social	Sue Moore 07808 481 447
Boxford WI	Lyn Beer 07961 357 526
Fleece Jazz	David Gasson 01787 210796
Groton History Society	Nigel Chapman nigeljchap@gmail.com
Highway 12 Western Dance	Chris 01787 371006
Little Waldingfield History Society	Diana Langford 01787 248298 dianalangford765@gmail.com
Little Waldingfield Over 60s & Friendship Club	Tricia Eddington 01787 247932
Local History Recorders	Edwardstone Daphne Clark 01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com Groton Joanna Roberts 01787 210619 jgant87618@aol.com
Madrigalia Choir	Sue Price 01787 210913
Milden Cricket Club	Richard Robinson 07807 229447 or David Lamming 07968 791 135
Milden Singers	Pearl 01449 741876
Natural Boxford	Louise Carpenter 01787 211862 louisecarpenter@proton.me

Clubs & Groups

Newton Arts & Crafts Club	Carole Langley 01787 373548
Newton War Games Club	Brian Lawson 01787 312160
Newton Fireside Club	Moira Evans 01787 374652
Pilates (Edwardstone)	Claire 07772 074 750
Primrose Wood Volunteers	Evan Flockhart 07968 336 883 obliquewoodland@protonmail.com
Swing Jive & Lindy Hop Dance	Sarah Boldock 07956 614 824
Yoga (Boxford)	Marianne Marshall 01787 210323
Yoga Paper Kite (Newton)	Sophie 01787 313662
Yoga with Lindsey (Newton)	Lindsey 07971 800 540

Children Families & Learning

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

Community Groups

3PR Boxford 1st Responders	Alistair Horne 07887 716453 alistair.horne@eastamb.nhs.uk
Boxford Allotments	David Burden 01787 211926 d.burden379@btinternet.com
Boxford Bounty	Mark Miller 01787 211596
Boxford Community Car Scheme	Jen Eastwood 01787 211853 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com
Boxford Community Council	Ward Baker 07850 941 831 boxfordcommunitycouncil@gmail.com www.boxford.me.uk
Boxford Playing Fields	Craig Needham 07970 733 934 craig.needham@me.com
Boxford Society	Jen Eastwood 01787 211853 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com boxfordsuffolk.com/boxfordSociety
Boxford Tennis Courts	Nick Moore 07977 241229
Lt Waldingfield Playing Field	Jennie Jordan 07522 352 558 52Jennie1@gmail.com

JULY 2026

24 FRI	Boxford Drama Group Quiz Night Boxford Village Hall	7pm
25 SAT	Madrigalia All Saints' Church, Acton CO10 0BA	7pm
27 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
31 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm

AUGUST 2026

1 SAT	Burstall Show Burstall, IP8 3DR	12 noon
4 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
5 WED	Boxford WI - BINGO! Boxford Village Hall	2pm
7-16 FRI-SUN	Lavenham Music Festival www.weloveconcerts.com	various
9 SUN	Garden Party Brook House, Groton, CO10 5EJ	2:30pm - 4:30pm
12 WED	Charity Quiz Night The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
24 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
28 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm
29 SAT	The Hay Wain Open-Air Play Hadleigh Old School IP7 5DL	6:30pm
29-30 SAT-MON	27th Annual Polstead Exhibition Martins Lane, Polstead CO6 5AG	10-5pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

1 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
2 WED	Boxford WI - Harbour Lights Trio Boxford Village Hall	2pm
8 TUE	Fireside Club - AGM Cheese & Wine Newton Village Hall	2pm
8-12 TUE-SAT	Sudbury Dramatic Society Bedroom Farce The Quay Theatre, Sudbury	7:45pm
12 SAT	SHCT Ride & Stride Suffolk	All day
16 WED	LWHS: The (un)Natural History of Rivers Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

16 WED	Charity Quiz Night The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
18 FRI	Macmillan Coffee Morning Polstead Village Hall	10-Noon
19 SAT	Closet Chaos Clothes Sale The Ansell Centre, Hadleigh IP7 5DL	10-2pm
19 SAT	All Dolled Up Fashion Show United Reform Church, Hadleigh IP7 5DL	2pm - 3:30pm
22 TUE	Fireside Club - 'Who Am I?' Newton Village Hall	2pm
24 THU	GHS: John Winthrop Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
26 SAT	Macmillan - Coffee Morning Newton Village Hall	10am
26 SAT	Quiz Night Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
28 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm

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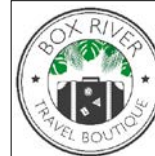
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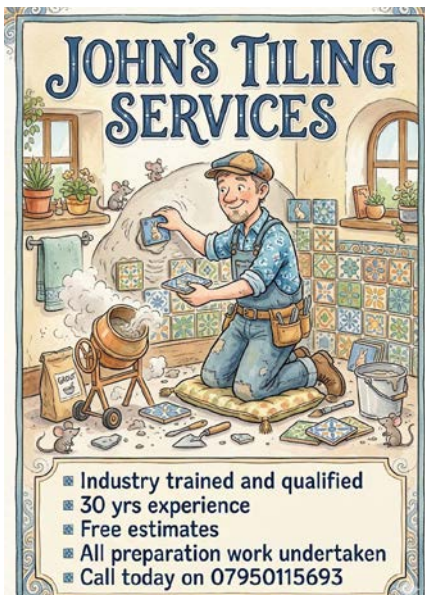
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