



November 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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5:30pm to 8:30pm
(eat in or takeaway)

SATURDAY
9:30am to 2pm

SUNDAY
9:30am to 12pm
(bookings advised)



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HOLLOW TREES FARM

We Will Remember Them



On Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, people across our villages will gather to remember those who served and died in war. In Boxford, Groton, Little Waldingfield and Newton Green, communities will come together at their churches and war memorials, joining people across the country in observing the two-minute silence at 11am.



Remembrance Sunday at Newton Green in 2025

The names carved into our village memorials are a particularly poignant reminder that the losses of war were felt not only nationally, but in small communities such as ours. They commemorate people who lived and worked here, belonged to local families and once walked the same streets and lanes that we do today.

The tradition of remembrance began in the aftermath of the First World War. The armistice that ended the fighting on the Western Front came into effect at 11am on 11th November 1918 – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The first two-minute silence was observed a year later, and it remains at the heart of Remembrance today.

More than a century later, the simple act of standing together in silence still has a particular power. Across the country, large national ceremonies take place alongside

thousands of much smaller gatherings at village memorials like our own.

Remembrance also extends beyond those who died in the two world wars. We remember all those who have lost their lives in conflict, those who served and returned home, and the families and communities affected by war.

Remembrance Sunday – 8th November

Newton Green 10am

Remembrance Service at All Saints', leading to the War Memorial for 10:50am.

Boxford 10:50am

Remembrance Service beginning at the War Memorial and continuing in St Mary's

Groton 10:50am

Act of Remembrance at Groton War Memorial.

Little Waldingfield 10:55am

Remembrance Service beginning at the War Memorial and continuing in St Lawrence's.

Armistice Day – Wednesday 11th November

Edwardstone 10:45am

Act of Remembrance at Edwardstone War Memorial.

A Change for January

A little advance notice that there will be no separate January issue of the Box River News in 2027. Instead, our next issue will be a combined December/January issue, covering news, events and information for both months.

As an added bonus, it gives our regular contributors and wonderful team of volunteer distributors a well-earned break during the busy month of December.

The magazine will return as usual in February, so if you have an event taking place in December or January, please send us the details by Sunday 15th November for inclusion in the next issue.

Box River News

Trudi Wild
Editor

07919 910148

editor@boxrivernews.com

Twin View, 18 Stone Street, Boxford CO10 5NR



www.boxrivernews.com



www.facebook.com/BoxRiverNews



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This month's cover image

This month's cover image is from *Still Life III* by Halima Washington-Dixon, oil on cradled panel. Halima is a Los Angeles-born but Suffolk-based artist. This painting and others can be seen in Halima's exhibition: *A Flower's Tale* at Mill Tye Gallery from 7th November to 24th December. More information on page 24.



The copy deadline for the December/January issue is Sunday 15th November at midday.

Newton Fireside Club

Tuesday 22nd September saw members arriving with photos from the family vaults. We had a good laugh trying to identify everyone from photos of their much younger selves. With Alan being the only male at the meeting, he was easy to identify! Not so for everyone. We also learnt quite a lot about members as they reminisced about what was happening in the photos.



Our following meeting was the sausage roll-making competition. There were plenty of entries that were judged on taste and appearance by Ken and Mick. After much deliberation, first place was awarded to Teresa. Members then had their chance to sample the baking and went home nicely full and happy.

2026 AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Tue 3rd Nov	Music from Fiddler's Elbow, guitar & violin
Tue 17th Nov	Soup & cake lunch 12 for 12:30pm
Tue 1st Dec	Talk about Lawrence of Arabia, who lived locally
Tue 15th Dec	Christmas meal at NGGC 12 for 12:30pm

Future sessions include visiting Sudbury Escape Rooms, a talk from Perrywood about gardening in hot, dry conditions, Barbie Day and trips to Lavenham, a silk mill and Felixstowe.

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

Citizens Advice has Moved

Citizens Advice has a new address. We are now at 14 Cornard Rd, Sudbury CO10 2XA in the former Registry Office.

As before, we don't provide a drop-in service, but you can call us on **01787 321400**. Leave a voicemail with your name, number and the nature of your enquiry and we will get back to you within three working days.

We are only a phone call away!

Helen Arbon

Sudbury & South Suffolk Citizens Advice

www.sudburycab.org.uk / www.citizensadvice.org.uk



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Wednesday, November 11th

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Harvest Cider Festival - Oct 23rd - Nov 1st
Our annual celebration of the humble apple.
Cider, Perry, & more!

Box River Junction - Sunday, November 1st
Local popular Americana/Blues band!
5pm-7pm

Autumn Holiday
We will be closed for 1 week - Nov 25th - Dec 1st
Back for Festive Season on December 2nd from 12pm!

Food Trucks
Follow us on Facebook/Instagram for weekly updates!
Wagyu Burgers - Friday Nights
Papas Locas Poutine - Sat Oct 31st
Naama African Food - Sat Nov 14th
Pimp My Fish - Sat Nov 21st

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2027 BOXFORD CALENDAR

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BOXFORD MOMENTS TO ENJOY ALL YEAR LONG

The Butcher's Wife

A shelf-fulfilling prophecy

Stop the press, I have a retraction to make. I take back everything I said last month. The unit is finished. Yes, you read that right, the Butcher has started a DIY project and actually finished it. It takes up the whole back wall of the kitchen, has built-in shelves, built-in lights that work off a remote, built-in cupboards and a solid oak worktop. My plants are on their new shelf as I type this. It really is beautiful and he's done an amazing job. For the love of God, don't tell him I said that, it'll go straight to his head.

I think one of the things the Butcher enjoyed most about this project was all the tools and gadgets he 'needed' to do it. We now own half of B&Q and I think Amazon have hired a delivery driver just for us. But I'm pleased to announce that none of it is in my house. Not only has he finished the unit but he's also put all of the tools

and equipment away in the shed. I know, it's unbelievable!

“We now own half of B&Q and I think Amazon have hired a delivery driver just for us.”

Another thing that spurred him on was that he didn't want me to write another article about his half-finished DIY jobs. It's only taken five years' worth of articles for him to pay attention to them.

While he was busy with said unit, I was taking pictures of each of my

plants so my plant app could tell me which ones would be happier on the top shelf. I then organised them into their new homes and obviously I had to buy a couple more just for good measure. I have been told by members of my household that I have too many plants, but I don't think that's a thing, is it? Plants are to me what tools are to the Butcher, I suppose. We spent a whole weekend, him building the unit and me repotting and organising my plants, and we were both in our element. I realised how boring we had become. We used to be really fun, I promise!



Autumn Soups

If you don't have a youngest Mini Leeder in your house who eats absolutely everything in sight then soups are a fantastic way to use up leftover ingredients from other meals - leftover chicken from a Sunday roast makes a great filling chicken soup for during the week and rather than chuck all that carved Halloween pumpkin flesh in the compost, try this wonderfully warming pumpkin soup.

Chicken Soup

Ingredients

- 50g butter
- 2 onions, diced
- 2 celery sticks, finely chopped
- 2 carrots, finely chopped
- 25g plain flour
- 1.2 litres chicken stock
- 450g cooked chicken, shredded
- 1 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper

Method

1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onions, celery and carrots and gently fry until they start to soften.
2. Stir in the flour and cook for a couple of minutes. Add the chicken stock and bring to the boil, stirring continuously. Season with salt and pepper and simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Add the chicken and cook until heated through. Add the parsley and serve.

Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients

- 25g butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1kg pumpkin flesh, seeds removed
- 1 potato, peeled and diced
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 1 tsp cumin and a pinch of nutmeg
- 150ml double cream

Method

1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and gently fry until soft but not coloured.
2. Add the pumpkin, potato, cumin and nutmeg and stir for a couple of minutes. Pour in the stock, bring to the boil, then simmer for 20 to 25 minutes until the pumpkin and potato are tender.
3. Blend until smooth, stir in the cream and season with salt and pepper. Reheat gently without letting it boil and serve with crusty bread.




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Hadleigh Old School

Variety is the spice of life at Hadleigh Old School as we approach the festive season. A reminder to Box River News readers (see last month's issue) of our *Strong Colours Art Exhibition*, including pictures by leading East Anglian artists and a select range of hitherto unseen works by famed Benton Ender Joan 'Maudie' Warburton. The gallery is open 10am–4pm on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November, with free parking as ever next to the Iron Bridge, IP7 6BY.

Booking is now open for two Christmas events in December. *Father Brown and The Carnival of Fear* by Pat Whymark and Common Ground Theatre Company is our festive comedy caper: Please listen very carefully as I shall say this only once:

Please help us investigate a devious crime – a newly discovered collection of Roman gold and silver known as the Hiddenham Hoard is stolen while being transported to the British Museum. Maud Fiveways of the Hiddenham Archaeology Society turns to her old flame, Father Brown, because the local police have zero leads (could this really be Suffolk?). The arrival of Mozzarelli's Carnival on the common (Common Ground?) causes further disruption as we enter a carnival of fear including the Funhouse, Tunnel



of Terror and dangerous Shooting Gallery. Brown faces a motley crew of churls and showgirls led by Mozzarelli, the big cheese. We aren't sure what a churl is either. Confused? You will be. Entertained too. And quite possibly merry as Hadleigh Old School has a licensed bar when doors open an hour before each performance and during the interval.

Christmas Theatre Performances

Tuesday 8th December

7:30pm – World Premiere

Wednesday 9th December

4pm – Matinee | 7:30pm – Evening

Thursday 10th December

4pm – Matinee | 7:30pm – Evening

Box Office for all performances:

www.commongroundtc.co.uk



Two familiar faces also return to the venue this December: Helen & Charlotte. They have become known as *The Hadleigh sommeliers*. They invite you to *Uncork The Season* on **Friday 11th December** at Hadleigh Old School. Try six wines from 7pm–8:30pm at £25 per adult including nibbles. Tickets for *Uncork The Season* are available from Mung Bean in Maiden Way, Hadleigh.

Please be aware – as the photograph from the wine tasting held in the spring shows – that spaces are limited and the event sold out within a week of publication last time. If demand exceeds supply, please check in with your friends at Mung Bean health food shop as Helen & Charlotte may be persuaded to stage an extra December performance/aka wine tasting, as it is the season of goodwill. Cheers and Merry Christmas to Box River News readers. We appreciate your support for independent venues and retail.

www.hadleigholdschool.co.uk

STRONG COLOURS ART EXHIBITION

Including pictures by Hazel Bradshaw, Chris Bennett, David Leverett, Colin Moss, Roland Suddaby & Allan Walton



Saturday 7th November 10am to 4pm

Sunday 8th November 10am to 4pm

At 5 Bridge Street Hadleigh IP7 6BY

www.weloveconcerts.com
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Fri 11th December 7.30pm



The Guns N' Roses Experience

As close as it gets - NOBODY DOES IT BETTER
Sat 12th December 7.30pm



Christmas Drag Bingo Party

Fri 18th December 7.30pm



John Otway

Big Band Christmas Party

Sat 19th December 7.45pm



Landslide – The Fleetwood Mac Show

Fri 12th February 7.45pm

LET THERE B D/C

Sat 13th February 7.30pm

2027

The Motley Crew Sea Shantymen

Sat 13th February 1.45pm

Steemy Dan – The UK's Premier Steely Dan Show

Sun 14th February 2.00pm

The Carpenters Experience – Valentine's Day Special

Sun 14th February 7.30pm

Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this month's edition of Reflections from the Ministry Team, it's very sunny outside but there is a definite autumnal feel in the air. The darker nights are drawing in, and the 'C' word is being mentioned much more frequently than some of us would like.

If I had to pick a favourite Sunday celebration, it would have to be the last one of the church year, which is Christ the King. I love the whole pre-Advent season with the dramatic build-up from All Saints and All Souls to Christ the King at the end.

We begin with All Saints on the 1st of November. This is the day when we remember, not only those great biblical saints but also the ordinary people who did extraordinary things, especially those early saints who were willing to give their lives for Jesus and his message. Then All Souls on the 2nd of November when we remember all those who have died, especially praying for those people we knew and loved personally.

November is an important month for remembering in the life of our church. On Sunday 8th November at Boxford, Groton, Little Waldingfield and Newton we will remember those who lost their lives in two world wars and in conflicts since. It seems like a very poignant thing to do as we read of intense fighting in conflict zones in the Middle East and in Ukraine and Russia and other parts of our world. So many lives are being lost and often silence and reflection are the most appropriate responses and there is a strength to be gained from gathering together to remember.

For me the important thing is to go somewhere and stop for a few moments to reflect on all that is going on, all that people have done in the past to secure our freedom and to commit ourselves to doing all in our power to build a more peaceful future. It might be in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our neighbourhoods and churches.

Wherever we build connections and relationships, are we seeking to be peace builders and bring hope to a world that is in desperate need? These are important questions for all of us to reflect upon.

I know for some in our community this first winter will be hard being the first without someone dear to them. We will be having an All Souls Service on Sunday 1st of November at 11am at St Mary's Boxford. This will be an opportunity to pause and be in a safe space to express that deep sadness that inevitably we feel when someone is no longer physically present with us. We will also be reading out a list of names of those we love who have died. If you would like your loved one's name to be included, please let the Benefice Office know.

That's what this season of pre-Advent is, remembering the journey to Jesus' Kingdom where we will join him, the saints and those we love who have died. Jesus has given us the promise of his Kingdom that is to come.

Blessings to you all,
Maggie



November

Dates for your diary

Thursday 5th, 6pm - 9pm

Christmas Fair, St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone

Friday 6th, 9am - 1pm

Christmas Fair, St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone

Friday 6th, 10:30am

Coffee Morning, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Wednesday 18th, 10am

Coffee Morning, All Saints', Newton Green

Saturday 21st, 7:30pm

Pre-Christmas Cheese & Wine Party, Groton Village Hall

ALL SOULS' MEMORIAL SERVICE



Sunday, 1st November

11.00 am

at

St Mary's Church, Boxford



A quiet, reflective time to remember loved ones who have died. Grief touches each of us differently and we all carry our own memories, emotions and experiences of loss.

This service offers space to honour those we love and have lost, to sit with our feelings, to find comfort and hope as we continue our own journey.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A LOVED ONE'S NAME READ ALOUD DURING THE SERVICE
PLEASE CONTACT THE BENEFICE OFFICE
boxriverbenefice@gmail.com
07719 790088



A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

GOD OF MERCY AND PEACE, ON THIS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, WE REMEMBER BEFORE YOU THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS AND ALL WHO HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH WAR AND CONFLICT. WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE COURAGE, SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION OF THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY AND WE PRAY FOR ALL WHO CONTINUE TO BEAR THE SCARS OF BATTLE IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT. COMFORT THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES. BRING HEALING WHERE THERE IS PAIN, RECONCILIATION WHERE THERE IS DIVISION AND HOPE WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR. AS WE RECALL THE COST OF WAR, STRENGTHEN US TO BE PEACEMAKERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OUR WORLD. GIVE WISDOM TO THOSE WHO LEAD THE NATIONS, THAT JUSTICE AND PEACE MAY FLOURISH AMONG ALL PEOPLES. WE REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE, WE PRAY WITH HUMILITY AND WE LOOK WITH HOPE TO THE DAY WHEN NATIONS SHALL LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE. THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.



Heavenly Hydro

Silly-season is nearly upon us. Get your head in the game with our Hydro facial treatment, which delivers a radiant, natural glow AND a big dose of relaxation...

This month, with Christmas on the horizon, a fresh face and blissed-out body are the order of the day. Enter our client favourite: the **Skinbase Hydro facial treatment**.



SkinBase Hydro is a non-invasive treatment specifically designed to cleanse, exfoliate, purify, hydrate and revitalise the skin. Starting with a versatile and effective facial, tailored exactly to your skin's needs, and rounded-off with a heavenly neck and shoulder massage, it's ideal for anyone who wants a healthy, radiant glow and will leave you feeling blissed-out and ready to face the crazy weeks ahead.

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November Offer

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Service Schedule for November 2026

Sunday 1st November <i>All Saints' Day</i>	09:30	<i>All Saints' Eucharist</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>All Souls' Memorial Service</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 4th November	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 8th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	10:00	<i>Remembrance Service in Church and leading to the War Memorial for 10:50am</i>	All Saints', Newton Green
	10:50	<i>Remembrance Service starting at the War Memorial and leading into Church</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	10:50	<i>Act of Remembrance</i>	Groton War Memorial
	10:55	<i>Remembrance Service starting at the War Memorial and leading into Church</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
Wednesday 11th November <i>Remembrance Day</i>	10:45	<i>Act of Remembrance</i>	Edwardstone War Memorial
Sunday 15th November <i>2 before Advent</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist and Baptism</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 18th November	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 22nd November <i>Christ the King</i>	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	<i>Family Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 25th November	10:00	<i>Communion & Coffee</i>	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 29th November <i>Advent Sunday</i>	09:30	<i>Benefice Eucharist</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	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.



Box River Benefice
November Coffee Mornings

Friday, 6th November
10.30 am
Coffee morning
at
St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Wednesday, 18th November
10.00 am
Coffee morning
at
All Saints', Newton





Contact Information

Benefice Office (by appointment only):
c/o Town & Village Properties
2a Broad Street, Boxford, CO10 5DX

07719 790088

email: boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

Thank You from St Mary's, Boxford

A heartfelt thank you to...

Everyone across the benefice, including the pupils and parents at Boxford Primary School, who gave so generously to our Harvest Festival collections. Your kindness has stocked our food bank shelves with nourishing essentials and comforting treats, ready to support individuals and families facing hardship this autumn.

To the Girl Guides for giving their time and energy to help clean St Mary's Church. Your hard work, enthusiasm and care are greatly appreciated and have helped keep our beautiful church welcoming for everyone. We are very grateful for your support and community spirit.

To all the musicians for bringing such beautiful music to St Mary's, Boxford during the 2026 concert season and to everyone who attended our concerts. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2027.

Groton Harvest Festival

Thanks go to all who contributed to making this a celebration of harvest: Father James for his uplifting service, the wonderful and artistic flower arrangers plus all the gifts donated for the food bank at Boxford Church.

Cheese & Wine Party

We will be holding a Cheese & Wine Party on Saturday **21st November** at Groton Village Hall, starting at 7:30pm. There will be the usual delicious finger food, also an auction of unique Christmas gifts! You can get your tickets from any member of the PCC or ring Jayne 01787 211360. Offers of help would be much appreciated on that Saturday afternoon.

Wreath Workshop

Jayne Foster will be holding a Wreath Workshop at Groton Village Hall on **Saturday 28th November**, starting at 10am. She will supply moss, wreath base, wire, ribbons and some greenery. All you need to bring is yourselves and some greenery and decorations. Come and have a fun morning making a personal door decoration for the festive season. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided. Just give me a ring ASAP to book your place: Jayne on 01787 211360. Any monies raised will be split between Groton Church and the village hall.

St Mary's, Boxford Christmas Tree Festival – get involved

Our much-loved Christmas tree festival is fast approaching and we would love you to be involved. There are lots of ways to join in:

- Sponsor and decorate a Christmas tree – share your creativity, celebrate your group or business and help fill the church with festive colour and joy.
- Volunteer on the day – a friendly welcome, a helping hand, an hour of your time will make a huge difference.
- Have a stall – crafts, bakes, gifts or local produce... bring something special to our festive marketplace.
- Donate a raffle prize.

Every contribution helps make the festival sparkle. If you'd like to take part in any way, please contact Liz at the benefice office.

Coffee Mornings

Join us for our monthly coffee mornings at St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield (1st Friday of the month) and All Saints', Newton (3rd Wednesday of the month). Come along for a cheerful couple of hours, good company, friendly chat and truly delicious homemade cakes. Everyone is very welcome. (Please note: Boxford coffee morning is taking a short break and will return in 2027.)



Pictured: Little Waldingfield's coffee morning at St Lawrence's.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

ST MARY'S CHURCH BOXFORD

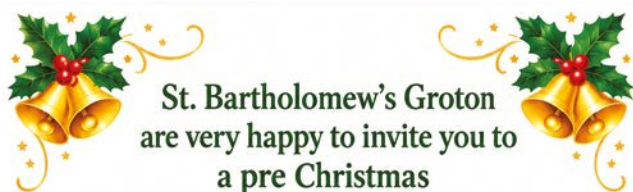
SATURDAY, 5TH DECEMBER

10.00 AM - 3.00 PM

FESTIVE BAKES & CAKES
TEA, COFFEE & HOT CHOCOLATE
RAFFLE
FESTIVE STALLS
FREE CHILDREN'S TRAIL
FREE CHILDREN'S FUN & GAMES

Entry £2.00 per adult, children free, admission includes a Programme & Voting Slip

A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY, CONNECTION & CHRISTMAS CHEER
RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT ST MARY'S CHURCH



St. Bartholomew's Groton
are very happy to invite you to
a pre Christmas

Cheese & Wine Party

on

Saturday, 21st November

2026 at Groton Village Hall

Starts at 7.30pm

Delicious Food & Drinks

Tickets £10.00

which includes a complimentary Glass of Wine/Beer

*Fun Auction with some unique
Christmas Gifts !*

Please ring
01787 211360 to book



Wreath Workshop

— AT —
GROTON VILLAGE HALL
(CO10 5EL)

Saturday, 28th November 2026

Starting at 10.00 am

Just bring yourselves, scissors,
greenery and any decorations.

£15.00 inc Refreshments

Ring to book - Jayne 01787 211360



Fireworks Lantern Making

Saturday 24th October
to Thursday 29th October
In The Spinney 10am - 4pm



PLEASE BOOK A SESSION - leave a message
Contact Mark Miller
01787 211596 / mark.miller@talktalk.net

BOXFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BOXFORD FIREWORKS

Sat 31st October

LANTERN PARADE

6.30 from the village

Fireworks 7.45 on
The Playing Fields

Tickets in advance

Adults £6.00

Children £4.00

Tickets on the gate

Adults £7.00

Children £5.00

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A TREAT ON US!

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OF SWEETS!**



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AND GROTON

Charity Number:304862

Dynamic
FIREWORKS

FRENCH'S CARE HAVEN PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

BRING YOUR OWN ALCOHOL

SOFT DRINKS TEA/COFFEE AVAILABLE

RAFFLE

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

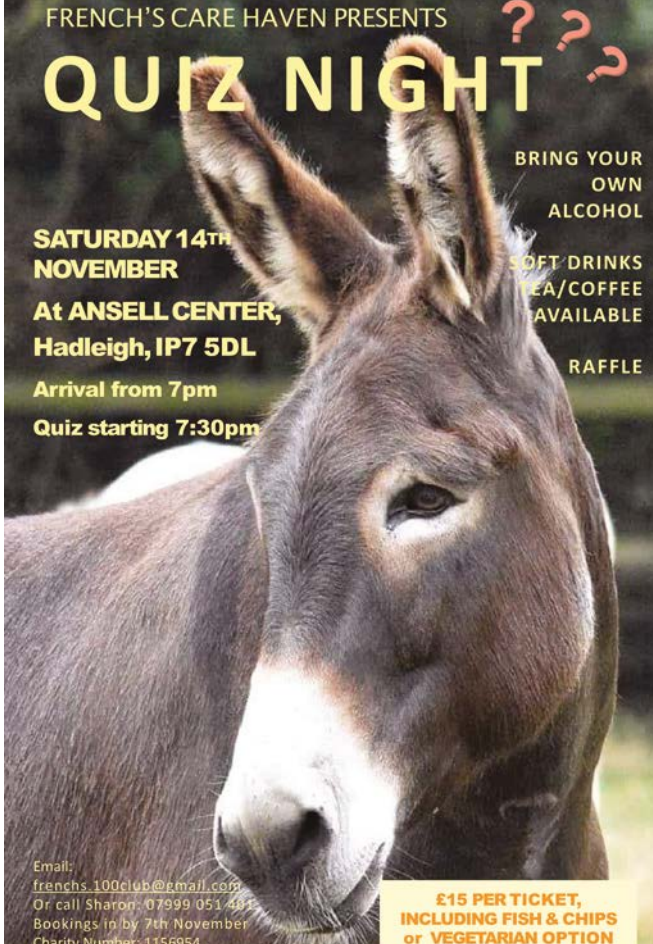
At ANSELL CENTER, Hadleigh, IP7 5DL

Arrival from 7pm

Quiz starting 7:30pm

Email: frenchs_100club@gmail.com
Or call Sharon: 01999 051 401
Bookings in by 7th November
Charity Number: 1156954

£15 PER TICKET, INCLUDING FISH & CHIPS or VEGETARIAN OPTION



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An Enchanting Evening of Classical Music with

ORLANDO JOPLING & ELEANOR CORR

IN CONCERT



WILD ARTS

ST PETER'S CHURCH, MILDEN IP7 7AG

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

CONCERT STARTS 6PM ENDS 8.45PM

TICKETS: ADULTS £20 CHILDREN (UNDER 18) £12

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES GLASS OF FIZZ (Or Soft Drink) ON ARRIVAL

To purchase tickets scan the QR Code or visit www.tickettailor.com/events/mildenpcc



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FREE PARKING IN THE PAVILION CAR PARK OPPOSITE

St Peter's Church, Church Road, Milden IP7 7AG



THE FLEECE HOTEL

Charity Quiz

Wed 11th November 8pm

Wed 9th December 8pm

2027 dates for your diary!

- Wed 13th January • Wed 10th February
- Wed 17th March • Wed 14th April
- Wed 12th May • Wed 9th June
- Wed 7th July • Wed 11th August
- Wed 8th September • Wed 13th October
- Wed 10th November • Wed 8th December

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

POLSTEAD CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Saturday 28th November 2026

11am to 3pm

Polstead Village Hall

Refreshments available.

Family Games

Christmas Stalls

Santa's Family Fun Trail

Christmas outfit is a MUST !!

Ho Ho Ho!

Polstead Village Hall - Registered Charity no 304933
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AND OUR
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5-6TH
NOVEMBER
FREE ENTRY

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starts here!

**Edwardstone
Christmas Fair 2026**

Thursday 5th November
Stalls / Wine & canapés
6pm-9pm

Friday 6th November
Stalls / Tea & coffee
9am-1pm

Edwardstone Church, CO10 5PH

GIFTS ★ HOMEWARES ★ CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
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PLUS: Win an Alan Leeder Christmas turkey!

FLEECE JAZZ 2022
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

The Dave Newton Quintet
Wednesday 11th November 2026 8pm - Tickets: £20

As good an example of straight-ahead, swinging mainstream jazz as you'll find with superior craftsmanship led by the 16-times winner of British Jazz Awards Best UK pianist.

Dave Newton – Piano
Gary Alesbrook – Trumpet/Flugelhorn
Matt Hopkins – Guitar
Henrik Jensen – Bass
Mark Whitlam – Drums

The Inscape Jazz Quartet
Wednesday 25th November 2026 8pm - Tickets: £20

Lyrical, thoughtful and poetic is the order of the day featuring well-loved standards lending familiar sounds to the listener.

Nathan Hayward – Piano
Nick Willsher – Sax
Marcus Penrose – Bass
Simon Whiting – Drums

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

SPECIAL OFFER: A double room with breakfast and two tickets from £139 (subject to availability) Phone: 01206 262836

Boxford Bowls Club

Snail Racing

Saturday 14 November, 7 pm

Boxford Village Hall
Doors open 6:30 pm
Racing at 7.00 pm
£5 entrance
Food for purchase
BVH bar
Tickets from:
Boxford Post Office
Race night at the door

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Motts Body Repairs
The Fleece Hotel
The Foxes Den
White Hart Inn



Festive Wine Tasting at Milden Pavilion

**Saturday 14th
November 2026**

**Bar Open 7pm
Tasting at 7.30pm**

Enjoy a selection of wines to complement the festive season. Our relaxed evening hosted by Charles from Nethergate Wines will include cheeseboards, pudding and a raffle.

Tickets are £20 in aid of Milden Pavilion via <https://mildenwine26.eventbrite.co.uk>

Milden Pavilion, Church Road, Milden, IP7 7AF
www.mildenpavilion.co.uk
 email: info@mildenpavilion.co.uk
 Charity No 304919



WINE TASTING

WITH **GEORGE UNWIN** OF **BAYTHORNE WINES**
7.30 PM SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2026
LITTLE WALDINGFIELD PARISH ROOM

Tickets £20.00 per person
 (includes all wine, cheese and nibbles)

An opportunity to try something different and order wine, delivered in time for your Christmas celebrations

George Unwin will provide expert advice to guide us through an evening tasting a range of interesting wines from around the world. George is an independent wine specialist with a wealth of knowledge and experience who is down to earth, friendly and helpful.



bookings by 17th Nov: Sue Bowen 07962 210359 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com



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22ND NOVEMBER

**THE WHITE HART INN
BOXFORD**

10AM - 2PM

£10 SMALL TABLE **£15** LARGE TABLE

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CHRISTMAS FAIR
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 DECEMBER
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 AND SO MUCH MORE!
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Christmas Fair
 on behalf of the
 Stand Up For Suffolk Fund
The Guildhall
 Hadleigh IP7 5DH
 19th- 20th November
 10am-8pm (19th)
 10am-6pm (20th)
 Stalls, Raffle & Festive Cheer
Admission £5

*free entry for under 16s

WHAT'S ON

November 2026 – April 2027

Glenn Brown:
 Anatomy of Trees

Georg Wilson: The Ancient
 Pulse of Germ and Birth

Monica Poole:
 Nature's Dark Beauty

📍 Sudbury, Suffolk
www.gainsborough.org

Gainsborough's
 House

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all night



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BITES



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THURSDAY | 31 | DECEMBER

7:30pm - 12:30am

Tickets: £10

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Available from Boxford Village Post Office
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Fish & Fizz Fridays ~ £20

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Christmas Parties ~ 3 courses £38

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MILL TYE
MILL TYE GALLERY
AND ARTS CENTRE

Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre
Halima Washington Dixon
A Flower's Tale
November/December 2026

In 'A Flower's Tale', Halima Washington Dixon turns her eye from the wide horizons of Suffolk to the intimate theatre of the still-life table. Exhibition Preview on Saturday 7th November from 10:30am to 6:00pm

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.



LAVENHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL

13 - 15 November 2026



Kate Mosse,
Janet Suzman
and many more
Day tickets available

lavenhamliteraryfestival.co.uk



#lavlitfest26

Polstead Films

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Friday 20th November, Doors open 7pm

& Sons

"This darkly comedic drama is one of the most powerful screenplays you will see this year."

"Powerhouse performances from Imelda Staunton and Bill Nighy."

"The film has a twist you'll never see coming."

Tickets are £5. Email: polsteadfilms@gmail.com to reserve or buy in Polstead Community Shop.

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



Polstead Gardening Club

Tuesday 17th November, 7:30pm – Come and join us for PGC's Gardeners' Question Time and Quiz

Polstead Gardening Club meeting in November is something slightly different. For the first half of the meeting, we have a panel of local 'buffs' who are available to answer your gardening questions. The second half of the meeting will be a fun gardening quiz about plants, gardening and topics we have covered in recent meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

All meetings start at 7:30pm and are held at Polstead Village Hall, The Green, Polstead (CO6 5AL). Free to members. Non-members £5 (cash or cheque please), including a drink and nibbles.

gardeningclubpolstead@yahoo.com

Classical Music at Milden

Milden PCC is proud to announce an enchanting evening of classical music in St Peter's Church, Milden featuring the internationally renowned talents of Orlando Jopling and Eleanor Corr.

Orlando Jopling was Associate Conductor of English National Ballet until 2020 and founded Wild Arts, of which he is Artistic Director, in 2021. He has worked with orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and English Chamber Orchestra and for more than 20 years has performed recitals in beautiful churches across the UK. www.orlandojopling.com

Joining him at Milden is British violinist Eleanor Corr, who was awarded Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2022. A soloist, chamber musician and orchestral performer, Eleanor has recently co-led the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. www.eleanorcorr.com

The concert takes place on **Sunday 1st November** at 6pm. Tickets are £20 for adults and £12 for under-18s and include a glass of fizz or soft drink on arrival. www.tickettailor.com/events/milden/pcc

All proceeds will go to the repair and maintenance of the church.

Winston's Wheels

Winston's Wheels dog charity will be fundraising at a Christmas fayre being held by The Bull Hotel, Long Melford, on **Saturday 28th November from 11am–3pm**.

They will be running their bumper Christmas-themed tombola and selling Christmas gift ideas and decorations.

Please come along and support this local charity.

Edwardstone Christmas Fair

Get into the Christmas spirit early this year at the Edwardstone Christmas Fair!

Get started on your Christmas shopping and indulge in some delicious food and drink at the Edwardstone Christmas Fair on **Thursday 5th November, 6–9pm** and **Friday 6th November, 9am–1pm**.

Join us at St Mary the Virgin Church, Edwardstone and enjoy stalls selling a range of unique gifts, homeware and Christmas ideas. It's a perfect opportunity to get ahead of the game and find presents for your loved ones (or yourself!). The assortment of culinary treats available will ensure you're well fed while you shop too.

There'll also be our fantastic tombola and a chance to win an Alan Leeder Christmas turkey.

Entrance to the fair is free and all proceeds will go to the church and a lovely local animal-focused charity, Our Special Friends.

The church is well set up to enable card payments but, as there will be collection buckets to boost our charity funds, please remember to bring cash too!

We look forward to seeing you there – remember to follow us on Instagram at [@edwardstoneparishevents](https://www.instagram.com/edwardstoneparishevents) for updates and tasters!

Nedging Christmas Fair

The Nedging Hall Barns Christmas Fair returns for its second year on **Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December, from 10am–4pm**.

Set in the grounds of Nedging Hall, the fair will bring together a handpicked selection of artisan crafts, seasonal treats and unique gifts, offering plenty of inspiration for Christmas shopping.

Visitors can wander through beautifully decorated stalls and enjoy the festive atmosphere around a crackling fire, while The Crown at Bildeston's pop-up café will be serving coffee, mulled wine and mince pies.

With two days of festive shopping, fine craftsmanship and community cheer, it promises to be a lovely start to the Christmas season. Entry is free.



Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pubs

Our next 'Pop-Up Pub' nights will be on **Friday 30th October** and **Friday 27th November**.

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).

GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

DEC
4



'A Sudbury Boy's War:
The dramatic story of Harold
Lock's experiences in WW2'

Nigel Chapman

This is the amazing and incredible WW2 story of
Harold Lock, from Sudbury, who joined the Royal
Navy in 1939, age 14.

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

£5 entry, includes Glass of Wine
(Students free)

Chelsworth

Christmas Fair

Saturday 5th Dec

All Saints Church

11am - 3.30pm

Adults £3 - Free parking

Children and Chelsworth residents free

Refreshments

Stalls selling gifts, crafts and foods

Tombola - Raffle

IP7 7HU - On B1115 near Bildeston

AT BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Boxford Drama Group presents

BOXFORDS OWN PANTO

December 2nd to 5th 2026



WEDNESDAY DEC 2ND 6.30 START (NO MEAL)
TICKETS £8.00

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7.30 START
2 COURSE CHRISTMAS MEAL.

ALL TICKETS £20.00

Bar and raffle every night

Tickets at BOXFORD POST OFFICE from 12th October
or our website: boxforddramagroup.com

Dietary requirements: bdg.catering@tolmedia.uk



NEWTON CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FAIR

AT

NEWTON VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY, 12TH DECEMBER

10 AM - 12 NOON

A friendly morning of stalls, homemade goodies and festive cheer





A Flowers Tale

Artist Halima Washington-Dixon celebrates flowers, colour & Suffolk skies in a new exhibition at Mill Tye Gallery

A new exhibition of vibrant still-life and landscape paintings opens at Mill Tye Gallery on **Saturday 7 November**.

Sudbury-based artist Halima Washington-Dixon will present *A Flower's Tale* until Christmas Eve, bringing together a new collection inspired by flowers, seasonal still life and the Suffolk landscape.

Known for her expressive, heavily worked surfaces, Washington-Dixon approaches her subjects with energy and spontaneity, transforming flowers and everyday objects into lively compositions full of movement and character.

"Flowers have always given me an opportunity to explore colour, movement and the physical qualities of paint," says Washington-Dixon. "I love the way an arrangement can develop its own personality and become something more than simply a collection of flowers."

The exhibition preview takes place on Saturday 7 November from 10:30am to 4pm, with drinks and nibbles available throughout the day. Halima will be there to meet visitors and talk about her work and inspiration.

Visitors can also try painting for themselves at two hands-on oil-painting workshops led by Halima. *A Flower's Tale: Painting Still Life in Oils*, on Thursday 12 November from 10am to 2pm, will explore still life inspired by the themes of the exhibition.

On Thursday 10 December from 10am to 2pm, *Under Suffolk Skies: Painting in Oils* will explore impasto painting and how layers of oil paint can create texture, movement and energy. Both workshops cost £48 per person.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Halima now lives and works in Sudbury. She studied Visual Arts and Art History at Occidental College in Los Angeles before completing an MFA in Fine Art at the Academy of Art University in

San Francisco. She has been painting professionally since 2006 and works primarily from her garden studio, occasionally painting en plein air in the surrounding countryside.

Working with both brush and palette knife, Halima creates richly textured surfaces and has become increasingly drawn to Suffolk's expansive countryside, skies and changing seasons. Her still-life paintings celebrate flowers and locally sourced and foraged botanicals.

A Flower's Tale runs at Mill Tye Gallery until Thursday 24 December. The gallery is open Thursday–Sunday, 10:30am–4pm, with daily opening from Thursday 17 December until Christmas Eve. Admission and parking are free.

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



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George Everett 1893–1984

*Boxford Society shares the story
of a Victorian childhood in Suffolk*

Many a Summer



Hardiman Scott

This account of George Everett's life is drawn from *Many a Summer*, written by his friend and neighbour Peter Hardiman Scott and published in 1991. George's own words appear in italics throughout this article.

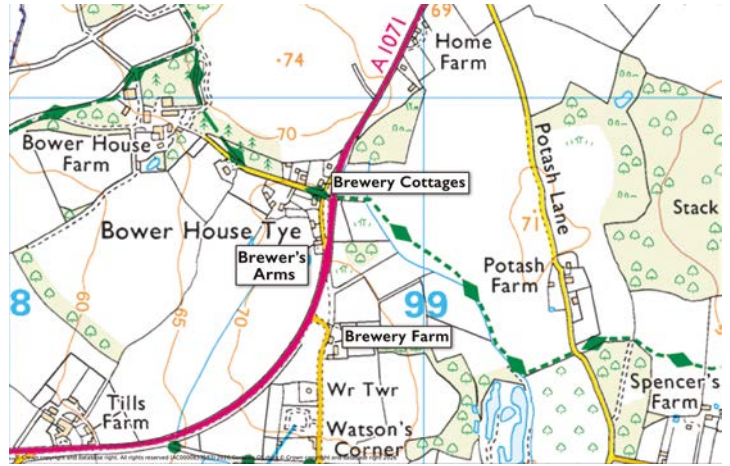
In 1892 Dick Everett lived with his wife Betsy Jane in Brewery Cottages, close by the Brewer's Arms at Bower House Tye, two miles east of Boxford. On New Year's Eve Dick was making his way back from Boxford in driving snow. It is likely that he had walked to Boxford in such weather to summon a doctor. So



thick was the snow on the ground that, as he strode through what he imagined to be a heap of it, he fell headlong over the resting body of a horse. (The horse survived!)

It was almost midnight when he got home. His wife, Betsy Jane, who was nearly thirty-five, was in labour with her fifth child. The doctor had already come up from Boxford by horse and sleigh (owning a sleigh shows how common snow was then). About five minutes into the new year of 1893, George Albert Everett was born. Not only Suffolk but most of Europe was covered with snow. Within two days the Thames was frozen over above the tideway.

It was a hard beginning to what was to become a hard but enjoyable life. The cottage where he was born already housed, in addition to his



parents, his eldest brother, William, who was nine-and-a-half; Jack, eight; Arthur, six; and Ruth, who was five years old. Three more, Morris, Mary and Charles, were to follow George. All ten lived in this brick cottage with two rooms up and two down. There was no bathroom, and the water supply came from a shared pump outside at the end of the house, fed by a spring. The children were washed in a large tin bath. Water was carried from the pump to the boiler (called a 'copper'), heated and then carried again to the bath. His mother also used the boiler for the weekly wash, which was done by hand with solid soap. In those days washing for a large family was a two-day job.

floor and was lit by oil (paraffin) lamps and warmed by a coal fire. Both oil and coal were obtained from a neighbour, Mrs Barnes.

George would help his mother about the house, but it was the paid jobs that were important as a way of supplementing the meagre financial resources of the household. On Saturday George had his own duties. Apart from the oil lamps, there were the family boots and the knives and forks to clean (scouring off the stains and rust), kindling to be chopped and his own socks to darn. Then the rest of the day was his own, and if he was not earning a coin or two on the farm, he still liked to get in the fields where

She dried it all outside on a twenty-yard-long line. After a big wash the boiler would be wiped out and cleaned, and would then be fit for the occasional wine and beer making. The cottage had a brick

the men were at work, especially if they were using horses. "I used to love to get among the horses." At Bower House Tye cottages George was the boy who was always ready to do odd jobs for a coin. He ran errands for

Opposite page, clockwise from top:

The Gleaners by Jean-François Millet, 1857. The Everett family gleaning in and around Boxford would have looked much like this in George's childhood.

George in his beloved garden in Butcher's Lane, around the time he was sharing his memories with his neighbour Peter Hardiman Scott.

The front cover of 'Many a Summer', *The Story of George 1893-1984*, published in 1991 and written by Peter Hardiman Scott, George's friend and neighbour.

This page, above, from left:

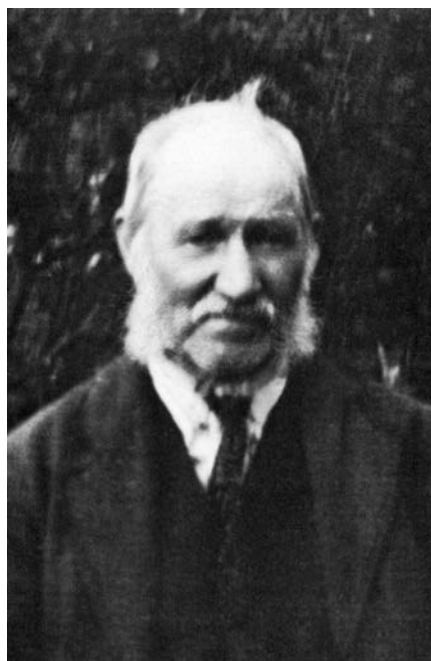
Brewery Cottages, Bower House Tye, where George was born. The Everett family lived in the middle cottage.

Brewery Cottages today. George's family lived in the middle cottage, behind the tree.

Map of Bower House Tye today, showing Brewery Cottages and Brewery Farm.

Left: George's mother, Betsy Jane Everett (née Woolard), came from Burstall. She was a small woman, quiet, kind-hearted and 'a bit on the religious side'.

George's father, David Henry Everett (known as Dick), came from Edwardstone. George remembered him saying, "You don't want to play about. You've had enough of that at school." George did not resent this and was happy to do odd jobs to earn money for his family.





him the art of gathering the corn into a sheaf. "That was really hard work. I mean your poor old arms would get scratched. The blood was always running down. It was the same cutting round the hedges. You'd sometimes get hold of a bramble or thistle. Well, some of the men, they'd cut the foot off an old stocking and put the leg part on their arms. But I don't know, I always fared to meddle with anything on my arms. That's why I rolled my sleeves up. Another thing there were a lot of weeds at that time of day. They didn't have the sprays they have today. Well, you'd get perhaps a lot of mayweed, and that'd get in a cut, and then you'd get a little bit of a fester. That was hard old work for a boy."

Really important to the household economy were the results of gleaning, that is, gathering the remnants of corn left in the field after harvest. This didn't produce money, but it did provide flour for making bread and barley for beer making. The school holidays coincided with harvesting, so children were always on hand for gleaning. George was usually accompanied by one of his brothers and his elder sister, Ruth (Mr Reg Tricker's mother). She made a practice of getting out as early in the morning as she could. She would take something to eat with her and would not return home until the evening.

"Well, three or four of us would go gleaning, and if father wanted the straw, we tie it in bunches. But if he didn't want the straw, we'd cut the heads off and put them in a bag. We got enough one year, once it was threshed and sent to the mill, for half a sack of flour. So I reckon gleaning was better than running and playing about."

Another activity essential to the hard-pressed economy of the farm worker's household was stone-picking (flints).

"When we came home from school we had to go stone picking, us children, and often mother too. We had to pick twenty-four bushels for half-a-crown (12½p). We'd have a cup of tea, and then we had to go into the field, and we'd be picking them up till you couldn't see any longer. We did that every year."

The monumental size of the task is better understood when we consider that a bushel holds up to 60 kilos of flints. Although flints were removed to improve the field, they were also used in road making and the upkeep of what would otherwise have been very muddy, rutted tracks. The flints were rolled out onto the cart-tracked surface and the road men had to break them down before a steamroller came to crush them further into the earth. It was stone-picking money, earned



the neighbours and, as there was no milk delivery, collected the milk from neighbouring farms.

"I was up soon after six in the mornings, and sometimes I've gone to Kersey Uplands, or Hadleigh Heath or Polstead Heath. I fetched the milk in a can. Perhaps I'd get it for two or three people at the same time. I'd get back about eight o'clock, have a piece of food, and then be off to school. There wasn't much to eat in those days. We was glad to get anything. We'd have a basin of hot-water soup we used to call it; bread soaked in hot water, and perhaps a piece of dripping put in just to make it a wee bit greasy. I've often had that to go to school on, after nearly two hours walking to get the milk. We hadn't got the money. Father got only ten bob a week. And if there was a wet day, then he lost a day's money. So it wasn't regular every week." (The family qualified for parish relief but it did not produce very

much.)

"That was the reason I'd go out to earn a shilling for me mother. Same as harvest time. I didn't play around same as the other children. I liked to get down on the farm to get a shilling or two."

During harvest farmers were especially glad of child labour. George was ten or eleven when he first lent a hand in the harvest field. Mr Fletcher at the Brewer's Arms had about thirteen acres of wheat and barley. All was mown with a scythe and had to be tied with straw by hand.

"Well, I'd go and make the bands for them, for them to tie up the corn. I would go along, you see, and pull out a few ears, tie them together, and put them down for the men, so they could bind up the sheaves. Well, I'd get about thre'pence. That seemed a lot to me. I'd take it home and give it to mother." (It would buy two pints of milk.)

It was here that Mr Fletcher taught



through the chimney by the oven door. The wood had to burn until only the ash was left and the bricks were glowing red hot. Meanwhile, Mrs Everett had placed the dough in a covered earthenware bowl near the oven, but not too near, because it should not be too warm for the dough to rise. After it had risen, it was kneaded again, put into baking tins and left to rise again before being placed in the oven. First, however, the ash had to be scraped out. Both this operation and placing the tins of dough inside had to be done very quickly so

There was one other little complaint that we got; that was called nettle rash." (Nettle rash is another name for hives or urticaria.) "When that happened, mother would go out and gather the white nettle. She'd boil that and make what they call nettle tea. You had a spoonful or two of that, and that do get rid of the old nettle rash."

When George was eleven or twelve, he went to do odd jobs for Mr Edward Lilley, who later became his regular employer. He was what in those days would have been called a big, fine man. He weighed fifteen or sixteen stone, worked hard and expected everyone to do the same. He farmed 39 acres and hired nearly a hundred more at Brewery Farm, close to George's home. He also brewed beer, and the spent barley grains were fed to the pigs. It was George's job to mix these in with their food. Sometimes there would be as many as a hundred pigs.

"They were black pigs, that was the Essex pig, I think. Then there were the Gloucester Spot, well, we used to call them plum puddings, brown and white they were."

In George's boyhood the farm was dependent upon the horse, not only for ploughing, drilling and reaping, but for carting and other jobs. There could have been little farming without horses,

in the evenings, that some years later paid for George's first suit.

"That was what was called a Norfolk suit. It was grey and had straps down the front and a belt round it. Oh they were good suits, with good big pockets. I was about fourteen, and I was proud of that suit. Oh, I was absolutely 'It' when I'd got that on. I think I wore it when I went to the children's anniversary at Polstead Heath Chapel. I don't know how much it cost, but it came out of the stone-picking money, I know that. That were a fine suit, and I think we looked better then than some teenagers do today. They look proper scruffy."

(George made this comment around 1980.)

Their cottage at the Tye had its own brick oven, the roof of which was an arch of laid bricks. Mrs Everett did her baking once a week. In George's childhood, bread was the most important ingredient in the family's diet. Meat, except for the occasional rabbit caught with the farmer's permission, was hard to come by, and there was no family pig-keeping. They couldn't afford it. But the flour was good, coarse, stone-ground wholewheat. Yeast was easily obtained and was also necessary for brewing beer. It was often kept over from the brewing to be used for bread-making. Provided it was stored somewhere cool, it would keep for several months.

"The oven was heated by wood faggots and any other wood father could get hold of and mother could handle, but not thorn or anything like that, though chance time they had a bit or two of thorn go in just to help."

The wood was thrown into the oven or pushed in with a fork on a long handle, set light to and the door slammed shut, the smoke escaping

that as little heat as possible escaped while the door was open.

"If you've got to do something, you might as well enjoy it."

"The bread would take about an hour to bake, and mother used to bake other things at the same time, like short cakes. The bread was lovely. That somehow tasted different from what it does today."

"When we did sometimes have terrible colds, mother would make a drink of home-made blackcurrant jam. That was like a syrup, and when you had that, that really did you good."



Opposite page, clockwise from top:

A mother washing clothes in a modest home, c.1920. The scene gives an idea of what life might have been like in the Everett family's cottage.

Baking Bread by Helen Allingham, c.1882. The scene illustrates the traditional bread-making methods George describes.

A 'copper' boiler in Jane Austen's house, similar to the one George describes being used to heat water for washing. His mother would clean it out afterwards so it could also be used for making wine and beer.

Above: *Boys binding sheaves of corn in Norfolk in the 1880s. George began similar harvest work at the age of ten or eleven, making straw bands and learning to gather the corn into sheaves. Photograph by Peter Henry Emerson. Image: Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.*

Left: *A boy modelling a Norfolk suit. George was very proud of his own Norfolk suit, paid for with money he earned stone-picking.*



and consequently great care was taken of them. From his schooldays George became familiar with horses and their management. The horse his father had tripped over on the night of George's birth brought him home from school on many occasions. It was a dark bay, a big animal, long in the body and inappropriately called 'Short'. George felt an early fondness and attraction to horses, which helped him to understand them and proved of value to him in France during the First World War (1914–18), the only time he ever left Suffolk.

"At the time I was going to school, Mr Daking had Polstead Ponds Farm and Bower House Farm, and at haymaking time they used to borrow that old horse and take him down to Polstead. He was such a quiet old feller.

Well, when they'd done with him in the afternoon, they'd put him on the road and say, 'You can go home,' and off he'd go home to Bower House Farm. I got to know that, because on haymaking days we'd go from the school down on to the park, and I'd think to myself, 'I can have a ride home tonight'. So I would cut across Sprott's Farm, up the path, and meet the old horse on his way home. I'd pull him alongside the bank, jump on his back, and then we'd be off home together. Oh yes, I remember that old horse well, quiet and gentle he was."

"But at all times of the year I liked to get on the farm and have a ride on the

horses. When the men were in the field a-ploughing, I'd be there, doing something or other. Then when they took off about three o'clock to go home, I'd have a ride on one of the horses. Then at harvest they would have a trace horse to help take the corn out of the field, and I would always ride that horse if I could."

(A trace horse was an additional horse used when extra pulling power was needed.)

"I remember one harvest especially. That would be a Monday morning, because on the

Saturday previous that happened to be a damp day and they couldn't do much harvesting, so they called it off that day. Well, there was a circus on at Hadleigh, and I'd never been to a circus. My father said, 'Come you along, and we'll go to the circus.' So we did. Well, they had some clowns that stood on the horses and rode round the ring. That looked easy enough to me, and I thought to myself, 'I'll have a go at that'.

"Well, on the Monday, that was a nice morning and they started harvesting again. Mr Daking came up from Polstead Ponds to Bower House, and he called me and said, 'Come on, we're

Left: Brewery Farm, where George went to work on his 14th birthday after leaving school, pictured much as he would have remembered it.

Brewery Farm at Bower House Tye today.

Below: Turning the plough, possibly at Coddendam Hall Farm. Horses like these would have been a familiar sight on Suffolk farms during George's childhood.

a-goin' to cart the wheat today.' So I went along with him and had a ride on the trace horse. When I got off the cart road and on to the fourteen-acre field to go across to where they were loading the wheat, I thought to myself, 'Well, I'm goin' to see if I can stand on this horse.' And I did. I stood up on that old horse - a strawberry. Mr Daking, he daren't speak until I got to the far end. Then he said, 'I think you've done very well, but I want you to sit on there. I don't want you to stand.'"

There were few activities on the farm with which George did not become familiar during his schooldays, and sometimes the need to earn those extra coins to help the family finances meant depriving himself of childhood pleasures. Not that this seemed to worry him. It was accepted as necessary without any sense of deprivation and even enjoyed. "If you've got to do something, you might as well enjoy it" was George's philosophy, even as a boy.

To be continued in the next issue: George's schooldays.

Tina and Roger Loose



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The Music of the Fair

*The story of a remarkable fairground organ
restored just down the road in Bures*

Visitors to Boxford's Vintage & Classic Vehicle Rally in July may remember Martin and Sandra Ivatt's magnificent Gavioli fairground organ. Its story stretches back to the noisy, colourful fairgrounds of Victorian Europe.

Purpose-built fairground organs began appearing during the 1870s. Early examples were operated by pinned barrels and fitted with brass trumpets designed to make themselves heard above the bustle of the fair. Brash, noisy and often out of tune, what they lacked in musical refinement they more than made up for in volume.

A major development came in 1892 when Anselme Gavioli, of the Parisian firm Gavioli & Cie, patented a system using perforated books of card to control the organ. The principle had already been used by Jacquard to

operate weaving looms and Gavioli adapted the technology to play music mechanically. Unlike the old pinned



barrels, which could hold only a limited number of tunes, the folded books could simply be changed. A single three-and-a-half-minute tune might require around 12 metres of punched cardboard.

Despite their elaborate appearance, the principle behind these enormous instruments is surprisingly simple. Bellows generate pressurised air, which is directed through the organ's pipes to produce the music. As the perforated card passes through the mechanism, the pattern of holes determines which notes are played. Each piece of music has to be specially arranged for the instrument before being transferred to card, and changing the music is simply a matter of fitting a different book.

From around 1890 to 1920, mechanical organs enjoyed a golden



age, with Parisian makers exporting instruments around the world. Gavioli's main English agent was organ builder Chiappa Ltd of Clerkenwell, London.

By the late 1930s, however, their heyday was drawing to a close. Record players offered showmen a much simpler way of providing up-to-date music for their rides.

Bringing a Gavioli back to life

In 1988, Martin Ivatt acquired the remains of a Gavioli organ and set about rebuilding it as closely as possible to an original factory-built instrument.

The finished machine is housed in a mahogany case containing a wind reservoir, valve chests and 240 wooden and brass pipes. It is still played using Gavioli's original perforated card-book system.

Three beautifully carved moving female figures were commissioned and carved at Chiappa Ltd – remarkably, the same company that once acted as Gavioli's English agent and which still supplies card music books today.

The organ's carved proscenium has another personal touch, with paintings depicting the Ivatt family's railway history.

Today, Martin and Sandra's Gavioli travels to events around the country and is also available to hire for events and filming.

For more information, contact Martin and Sandra at ivatt@tiscali.co.uk or 07703 905158.

Opposite page, from top: Martin and Sandra Ivatt's Gavioli at the Boxford Vintage & Classic Vehicle Rally in July.

An 1870 Gavioli with its distinctive brass trumpets, photographed in 1952.

Above: Perforated card music passing through an organ's 'book reader'.

Hadleigh Patient Participation Group (PPG)



After 24 years with the Practice, Dr Gillian Croot has retired. She will be greatly missed. We wish her a well-earned, long and happy retirement. Her replacement, Dr Penny Osborne, will start work on 18 November. In the meantime some of the GPs will increase their sessions.



Vaccinations

During the first vaccination session, 909 Covid-19 vaccinations were given, including to patients in the four care homes.

1,112 flu vaccinations have been given, including to patients in the care homes, plus nasal flu doses for 80 patients aged 2 to 3 years. Figures for the second vaccination clinic were not available when this column went to print.

Medication Reviews

Invites for medication reviews are sent out three times. If there is no response from the patient then medication is limited to two weeks' supply until the patient has a medication review. If you have been prevented from ordering you will need to request a review via Anima. Medication reviews are important to identify potential side effects and ensure medicines remain safe and appropriate for the individual. For example, some medications can affect kidney function if not monitored regularly.

ReSPECT Forms

If you are living with a life-limiting illness or have strong feelings about your future care, a ReSPECT (Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment) form can help ensure your wishes are understood and respected. The form records your preferences for emergency care and treatment, helping your family and healthcare professionals understand what matters most to you. It can include recommendations about whether you would prefer to remain at home or be admitted to hospital, as well



as decisions about cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), where appropriate. ReSPECT forms are available at the Practice and can be discussed and completed with support from a healthcare professional. For further information, please visit: www.resus.org.uk/respect/respect-patients-and-carers

Anima

The practice IT gurus are working tirelessly to make the programme more user-friendly, e.g. you no longer have to log in to use Anima. Check out all the new possibilities before 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 offer helpful IT advice in the upstairs room of Hadleigh Library. The next session will take place on Tuesday 3 November from 10am to 12 noon. Booking is essential as places are limited. Contact Tracey on info@communitiestogether-ea.org or 01449 707031.

Toppesfield Car Park

Patients are still paying to park here even though this is not necessary if you have an appointment at the practice or are collecting medicine from the practice pharmacy. You just need to enter your registration number in the machine in the waiting area to waive the parking fee. Failure to do so could incur a hefty fine.

Patient Car Park:

This is for patient use only. If you are not visiting the health centre for an appointment or medication from the practice pharmacy please leave these spaces for people who are.

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 jen.eastwood8@gmail.com

Art Matters

Our thanks to Andy de Friez for giving us the pleasure of his artwork in the waiting area these past two months. You will now be able to enjoy the work of artists Jan Corder and Carl Kirby.

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

Website: www.hadleighhealth.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HadleighHealthCentre

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

Health Centre: 01473 822 961



The (Un)natural History of Rivers

Darren Tansley takes Little Waldingfield History Society on a journey through the changing life of our rivers

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to open our new season of talks with Darren Tansley, Wilder Rivers & Protected Species Manager for Essex Wildlife Trust. We expected an interesting and thoughtful discussion of our local rivers. It was certainly that, but also so much more.

Changing Our Rivers

Rivers come in many forms, as Darren reminded us:

- high-energy upland rivers with meandering channels
- low-energy lowland rivers, typifying the gentle streams we all love so much
- winter river channels, when floodplains become flooded as part of their natural cycle

Over the years, we have repeatedly altered river courses to maximise farmland and, later, for industry, creating water stores and ponds for water wheels. Unfortunately, straightening rivers and installing weirs has been detrimental to ecology,

wildlife and flood management. This has become the new normal: if water can't spread naturally sideways, it will go up and over banks or barriers, often causing untold human misery in the process.

Rivers Under Threat

Rivers are the arteries of our ecosystems, supporting at least 3,000 species, of which 200 are rare, endangered or vulnerable. They also face severe challenges from plastic and

“Rivers are the arteries of our ecosystems.”

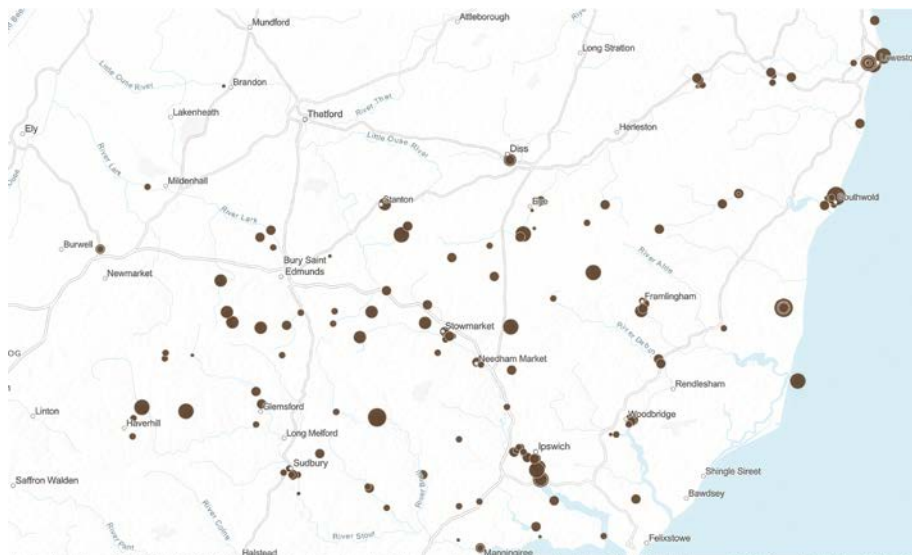
sewage pollution. Plastic causes many problems as animals inadvertently eat it, before it eventually ends up in the great dumping ground for human waste we call the sea.

Sewage is discharged into our rivers daily, affecting urban city centres and pristine chalk streams alike. The Rivers Trust Sewage Map (www.theriverstrust.org/sewage-map) records discharges from storm overflows, and Darren showed us its monitoring figures for 2024, which were frankly alarming.

Suffolk: Of 169 storm overflows, 167 were monitored, recording a total of 4,244 spills lasting 28,906 hours – equivalent to 1,204 days or 3.3 years!

Essex: Of 372 storm overflows, 368 were monitored, recording a total of 7,667 spills lasting 58,461 hours – equivalent to 2,436 days or 6.7 years!

With figures such as these, it's not surprising that water companies are way down on the list of our valued public enterprises. But pollution is far from the only threat facing our rivers. Non-native species are also a significant problem, with more than 2,700 in England, of which 66% are plants. Happily, most non-native species do not cause problems, with only a minority becoming invasive, but



Suffolk Sewage Discharges in 2024

167 / 169
storm overflows monitored

4,244
spills recorded

28,906
hours of sewage discharge

Source: The Rivers Trust Sewage Map

those that do can cause significant issues. Examples include:

Japanese knotweed

Its aggressive root system can damage hard infrastructure, foundations and drains.

Giant hogweed

These towering plants have toxic sap containing chemicals that react to UV light, causing severe and painful skin blisters and burns.

Himalayan balsam

This thrives along riverbanks, where it crowds out native species and leaves soil vulnerable to erosion when it dies back in winter.

Rhododendron

These form dense, towering thickets that block light and prevent native woodland plants and animals from surviving.

New Zealand pygmyweed

An aquatic plant that rapidly chokes ponds, lakes and slow-moving waterways, reducing oxygen levels and harming aquatic life.

Floating pennywort

A fast-growing invasive aquatic species that blankets water surfaces and disrupts drainage, angling and boating.

Invasive non-native species have caused half of all extinctions and are now considered even more damaging than pollution or climate change – a very sobering thought.

The problem is not confined to plants. White-clawed crayfish were declared

extinct in Essex in 2022, victims of American signal crayfish, which carry the deadly crayfish plague.

The burrows of the much larger American species also undermine riverbanks, while the crayfish prey on fish fry, further damaging our river ecosystems.

Artificial river barriers interrupt natural processes and habitats, preventing fish from swimming upstream. The loss of woody debris also has a significant impact on 147 species of invertebrates which require such material to survive. Woody debris provides places for fish to spawn and feed, as well as refuge from predators. As Darren put it, "fish live in trees!"

Working With Nature

The health of our rivers also depends on how we manage the land around them. Our approach to land drainage can almost seem designed to rid us of two of our most valuable resources: soil and water. The consequences include soil run-off, habitat destruction and increased flood risk. But there are nature-based solutions available to us.

River restoration projects can increase water capacity by re-meandering old river channels and

providing shelter belts on valley sides. These allow floodwater to drain into the soil rather than washing downstream, destroying aquatic habitats and carrying away valuable farmland topsoil.

Beavers are the ultimate wetland managers, as demonstrated by the Essex Beaver Project at Spains Hall Estate near Finchingfield.

In October 2001, the most severe flooding in recent memory caused significant damage in Finchingfield.

However, with only around 18 properties at risk, it wasn't possible for the authorities to fund traditional "hard" engineering defences. Flood risk money is limited and generally goes

Opposite page: *The River Stour at Foxearth, an example of a low-energy lowland river. Rivers naturally change considerably with the seasons, with their floodplains providing space for excess water during wetter periods.*

Centre, from left: *The invasive American signal crayfish is considerably larger than our native species. It carries the deadly crayfish plague, while its burrows can undermine riverbanks and it also preys on fish fry. Alongside it is the native white-clawed crayfish, which was declared extinct in Essex in 2022.*

Left: *Giant hogweed can grow several metres tall, dwarfing similar-looking native plants. Its toxic sap contains chemicals which react to sunlight and can cause severe and painful blistering and burns.*





Left, from top: A beaver dam at Spains Hall Estate in December 2019. By slowing the movement of water and allowing it to spread across the surrounding landscape, beaver engineering can help reduce the speed and severity of flooding downstream.

A Eurasian beaver at the estate, where beavers were first introduced in 2019 as part of a pioneering natural flood management project. Their dam-building and tree-felling naturally create and maintain wetland habitats, benefiting a wide range of other wildlife.



Reconnecting Our Rivers

Reconnecting our rivers is also vital. The Essex Fish Migration Roadmap project took three years and identified 400 barriers to fish migration on Essex rivers. There are many reasons to mitigate these barriers:

- allowing fish to recolonise after pollution incidents or storm-driven fish deaths
- increasing interactions between small populations of fish for greater breeding diversity
- reconnecting different habitats, such as brook lamprey spawning habitat at Mount Bures
- improving climate resilience by providing access to shade and deep water during high temperatures

Finally came 'the rise of the citizen scientist', with Volunteer River Champions being trained in eDNA sampling – a method of identifying

multiple species from a single water sample. The data can be used to produce species lists and maps, providing a rapid assessment of the species found across a landscape.

Our audience was genuinely spellbound throughout this superb talk and consequently had loads of questions, which Darren patiently answered. He seemed genuinely delighted by them, frequently commenting on what good questions they were and clearly pleased that his message of conservation and working with nature rather than against it was getting through.

All in all, it was a tour de force, with our audience leaving with a considerably better understanding of the ecology of rivers.

Andy Sheppard

www.littlewaldingfieldhistorysociety.wordpress.com

to schemes protecting hundreds of homes and thousands of people. The historic nature of the village, and the fact that many of the at-risk properties were in a conservation area, further restricted what could be done to reduce the risk of flooding to individual homes.

In 2018, a natural flood management scheme involving beavers began, testing and comparing beaver engineering with man-made natural flood management. In March 2019, a pair of Eurasian beavers were released into a woodland enclosure upstream of the village, followed in March 2023 by a further two pairs in two new, larger enclosures on the main Finchingfield Brook.

As the images, maps and data show (www.spainshallestate.co.uk/nfm_beavers), the beavers have made an incredible impact on their woodland, though it's not all about the beavers. Where timber leaky dams have been installed, the river valley has also been reconnected with its floodplain, allowing water during heavy rain to spread out and be stored across the fields as nature intended.

The project is ongoing and a final assessment has yet to be made, but there was sufficient confidence in the early findings to build larger enclosures where more beavers could create more wetland. Residents of Finchingfield also believe that flooding is now less severe.

Next Little Waldingfield History Society Talks:

Medieval Castles

Wednesday 18th November, 7:30pm, The Parish Room

Arthur Redmonds will explore medieval castles, and how they influenced those who experienced them within their localities and landscapes.



Shakespeare to the Quay

Wednesday 9th December, 7:30pm, The Parish Room

Sara Knight will present Shakespeare to the Quay, telling the story of live theatre in Sudbury.





Elaine Carpenter
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www.thehadleighvets.com



French's Care Haven

Our move has finally been completed and we are now back in Hadleigh. It has been extremely hard work for us and we still really need some helping hands on the new land. Most of all, some financial help is urgently needed, as the cost of setting up and making it safe, along with moving all our belongings and the animals, has been ridiculously expensive and has drained us.

Please help us if you can. We still want a good future caring for our animals and to continue working with all the local schools and colleges that come for work experience and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, plus the individual people who come to us for help with anxiety or loneliness.

We are looking for a business or someone to sponsor us and, in return, we will give regular advertising.

We also need someone strong to help put some posts in for us and help with our rubber matting. Please call me on the number below if you can help.

All of our animals have settled now. For the first week we had one who found the move stressful, but thank goodness he has now calmed down and is getting into his old routine again. It is a lot for the animals to up sticks and move and we have done everything possible to make the move as easy and stress-free as possible for them. They all mean the world to us – we call them our kids because they are like members of our family.



In the photo is a group who came one day to help us with various jobs. They were a great help and all said they had a lovely day with us. The group came from Willis Insurance in Ipswich. We welcome any local business that holds volunteer days for its staff. Along with a variety of jobs, they can also spend time with our horses and donkeys and give them some TLC and grooming.

Please look out for our Quiz Night poster. The time of year has come around for our super quiz night, which is very much enjoyed by everyone. As usual, it is being held in Hadleigh at the Ansell Centre on **Saturday 14th**

November. Arrive at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Tickets are £15, which includes fish and chips or a vegetarian option.

Please call Sharon to book or for more information on 07999 051401 or email Frenchs.100club@gmail.com.

If there are only one or two of you, that is not a problem. You can always join others on their table, as some will also be short of people.

If you would like to come and visit our rescue or sponsor a horse, pony or donkey, please call me.

Jann

07747 755 556

jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk

www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk

Half Marathon Raises £3,700

Babergh District Council Chair Lee Parker has raised more than £3,700 for Sudbury Defibrillators after completing his first organised running event, the Larking Gowen Ipswich Half Marathon on Sunday 27 September.



Lee chose Sudbury Defibrillators as his nominated charity for his year as Chair of Babergh District Council.

The local charity works to improve access to lifesaving defibrillators across Sudbury and the surrounding communities. It also provides free CPR and defibrillator training to local residents, community groups and businesses.

Under the leadership of Andy Read, himself a survivor of sudden cardiac arrest, the charity has helped install around 50 defibrillators across the Sudbury area in recent years.

Reflecting on his achievement, Lee said:

"Completing the half marathon was a huge personal achievement for me, particularly as it was the first organised running event I have ever entered. The fantastic support from spectators around the course and the perfect conditions made for an unforgettable day."

"Most importantly, thanks to the incredible generosity of family, friends and supporters, we raised £3,700 for Sudbury Defibrillators. I am genuinely humbled by the response and grateful to everyone who donated to such an important local cause."

"I would also like to thank Ned Cameron, a retired Parachute Regiment Physical Training Instructor, whose 13 weeks of coaching took me from the couch to completing 21 kilometres. I simply couldn't have done it without his guidance and encouragement."



The money raised will help Sudbury Defibrillators continue its work providing and maintaining public access defibrillators and delivering free CPR training throughout the local community.

Donations can still be made at <https://tinyurl.com/sudbury-defibs>

Christmas at Hollow Trees Farm

It's hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner! But there is no need to panic, Hollow Trees Farm is here to lend a helping hand this festive season.

From finding your perfect Christmas tree, wreath and foliage with our farm team to placing your Christmas order for a scrumptious festive feast, we have everything you need to make your celebrations extra special!

Bring your little ones along and spend a magical day getting into the Christmas spirit with Father Christmas on the Farm. Enjoy a festive tractor and trailer ride around the farm before meeting Santa and his elves in our enchanting Festive Village. Visit our website to book your Christmas experience today – booking is essential.

We can't wait for you to join us this Christmas and celebrate the magical season!

www.hollowtrees.co.uk





Life at the Shelley Centre

New faces & new arrivals

The start of the autumn term has seen a number of new arrivals at The Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding. First and foremost we have welcomed Olivia Alexander-Nixon to the team, taking on the role of Yard Manager.

A recruitment process took place over the summer months and the charity saw a number of extremely strong candidates apply for the post. Olivia – or Liv as she's more usually known – was appointed and took up the role in September, having also celebrated her wedding and been on honeymoon during the summer holidays.

Liv comes to Shelley from another large and well-known RDA centre – Barrow Farm near Chelmsford – where she had been Assistant Manager. As well as a high level of British Horse Society qualifications she also holds the Coach Certificate from RDA, which means she is able to coach at any RDA group. In addition, she recently gained her horsebox driving licence.

Before working in the RDA environment, Liv had worked at a large commercial riding school in London, teaching clients at all levels, and was an instructor in the Pony Club. She also finds time to compete in Riding Club competitions with her own horse Murphy.

Liv said: *"Throughout the years I have used working with horses and teaching riding to do lots of exciting things including working in the USA and Scotland. I am so excited to be taking over as manager at The Shelley Centre and really getting stuck in to the new challenges and adventures that await!"*

Our other new arrivals at The Shelley

Centre are all of the equine variety. Over the summer some of our horses or ponies who had been on loan went back to their owners. Our most recent arrivals are another large horse called Carly who has fitted straight into RDA work and is quickly becoming a favourite for a number of riders. The slightly smaller Diamond arrived soon after Carly and the two are already firm friends. Diamond will strengthen our team of coblets and is being introduced to RDA work.

Finally, this busy term also brings some fundraising news – our Christmas Bingo night is on 14 November at Whatfield Village Hall and we also have a charity calendar for sale featuring some of our equines and riders. To find out how to support us with either of these, please email fundraisingshelleyrda@gmail.com

www.shelleyrda.com
01473 824172



Pictured above clockwise from left: New Yard Manager Olivia Alexander-Nixon

Diamond being groomed

Carly becoming familiar with RDA props



Notes from a Beekeeper's Diary

Tony Rand looks back at how wartime rationing changed British beekeeping

Around about 85 years ago, housewives across the country were disappointed to find that honey had disappeared from grocery shelves. The reason was quite simple. When the Second World War started, sugar, like

most imported goods, fell under the strict rationing controls put in place to ensure that shortages were spread more or less evenly across the British people.

Beekeepers used sugar to feed their

bees over the winter months when their own stores had been harvested for human consumption. As sugar was no longer available, beekeepers were leaving honey on their hives to provide the food that their bees needed to get them through to the spring. So, no sugar, no honey in the shops.

Eventually one man decided that he could no longer tolerate the absence of honey to add to his morning

porridge. That man was Prime Minister Winston Churchill and he immediately instructed that a special sugar allowance be put in place for beekeepers – up to 20 pounds for each colony.

Not surprisingly, beekeeping boomed during the war years. An extra sugar ration of 100 pounds or more would be more than sufficient for a family's needs and the surplus could be profitably disposed of on the black market.

Before the outbreak of war beekeeping had been more or less an unregulated free-for-all. True, the British Beekeepers Association had been formed 60-odd years earlier, but it was essentially a club for enthusiasts, much as it still is today. Membership was voluntary and many beekeepers, who by their very nature do not take kindly to outside interference, simply





carried on beekeeping as their fathers had taught them.

For the first time the government was forced to intervene. If you wanted your extra ration, you had to sign up. The need was more than a simple matter of having something to put on the breakfast table. When the United States entered the war, beekeeping was designated a 'war essential' which could lead to draft deferment, extra fuel and access to scarce materials. Beeswax in particular was valued highly as a waterproofing and lubricating agent and a substitute for petrochemical alternatives.

Back in the UK, colony inspections by government representatives soon became a regular feature of beekeeping life. Beekeepers were forced to register their colonies and apiaries to qualify for the extra sugar ration. The government went one step further to eliminate potential fraud by dyeing bee-issued sugar green. Unfortunately, the bees metabolised the dye and produced bright green honey which was unusable. The government hurriedly ceased this practice.



(Brief diversion! In 2012, beekeepers in Alsace, France, were alarmed to discover that their bees were suddenly producing honey in bright shades of green and blue. The culprit was eventually found to be a biogas plant handling waste from a Mars factory manufacturing M&M's – similar to Smarties. The waste material was hurriedly sealed in airtight containers. End of diversion.)

Government involvement in beekeeping was extended by legislation in 1942 when a disease called foulbrood started to spread. Recognising that beekeeping

has national economic importance, the National Bee Unit with laboratory and inspection responsibilities was subsequently established.

Beekeepers are now encouraged to register their colonies with the NBU. The NBU fields teams of inspectors but with over 40,000 beekeepers in England and Wales alone and more than 200,000 colonies, they can hardly scratch the surface.

Their task is not to audit the

“And it all started because of Churchill's sweet tooth.”

competence of beekeepers but to check the spread of notifiable diseases. Different areas are recognised with greater or lesser degrees of risk. London is consistently on red alert because of the high density of hives and foraging limitations. Urban pollution is a serious challenge.

Ipswich is becoming a concern, so it is not surprising that a message arrived in my inbox that the seasonal bee inspector, himself a beekeeper with over 70 hives, wished to inspect my bees. I was politely informed that he had a statutory right to carry out his inspection in my presence or otherwise. A date was fixed. I chose to attend.

Over a two-hour period all my colonies were inspected frame by frame. Fascinating to watch. I was complimented on the peaceful nature of my bees. No disease was found. But the opportunity for a one-to-one talk-through of all my colonies was not to be missed. Beekeeping is mostly



a solitary pursuit and bad habits can creep in. Advice from a recognised expert is beyond price and not to be ignored.

Rationing of sugar continued after the end of hostilities and finally ceased in 1953. By then over 80,000 people were keeping bees in the UK alone. Over the following years numbers declined by almost a half. Beekeeping is still mainly the province of amateur enthusiasts but the National Bee Unit serves both as a watchdog and data gatherer. And it all started because of Churchill's sweet tooth.

Tony Rand
07503 164 823

Opposite, from top:

Beekeeping in Britain during the Second World War. Two beekeepers remove a frame of honeycomb from a hive. Ministry of Information Photo Division, © IWM TR 1989.

J. W. H. Crane of the Twickenham and Thames Beekeepers' Association inspects a jar of English honey using a Ministry of Food-approved grading glass, 6th May 1942.

This page, clockwise from top left: *Members of the beekeeping club at Baldock County Council School examine the hives they established at the school during the Second World War. © IWM.*

In 2012 beekeepers in Alsace, France discovered their bees were producing blue and green honey after foraging on sugary waste from a nearby biogas plant processing waste from a Mars confectionery factory. Photo: Vincent Kessler/Reuters.

Reginald Gamble's Bee-Keeping was first published for the Young Farmers' Club in 1939 with the message 'To save sugar, eat honey. To get honey cheaply, keep bees.'



Faithful or Traitor?

The Hadleigh Vets face the ultimate round table

With the autumn nights drawing in, I (like the rest of the UK) have been gripped by *The Celebrity Traitors*. Whilst musing in-between consultations, my mind drifted to a fascinating thought experiment: if we locked our team in a Scottish castle, who would I recruit as my Traitors and who would be the relentless Faithfuls?

Surely a veterinary practice is secretly the ultimate training ground for the game. Vets and nurses spend their entire lives delivering stealthy, covert operations. We are expert sleuths at reading subtle body language, gathering clues, and solving mysteries. We routinely administer medication hidden inside a tiny piece of chicken without a cat ever suspecting a thing. If that is not prime Traitor behaviour, I don't know what is! On the flip side, our acute attention to detail, clinical pattern recognition, and protective

instincts would make us formidable Faithfuls.

So, pulling on my metaphorical fringe and slipping into my best knitted turtleneck jumper, here is how I think The Hadleigh Vets would fare.

To survive the game, the Faithfuls need logic, resilience and serious team-player energy.

First up on my Faithful squad is Vet Jo, who is effectively the Hannah Fry of our practice. Armed with her analytical spreadsheets and relentless logic, Jo would not rely on 'gut feelings' – she would have built a complex statistical matrix by night two to calculate the mathematical probability of who murdered who. Joining her in the intellectual heavy-lifting is Vet George, our details-orientated token male. George's obsessive focus on clinical precision means no misplaced clue, slip of the tongue, or sudden change in

tone would escape his notice.

Then we have Vet Noor, whose pure kindness and cheerful chattiness would make her the warm heart of the castle. Noor would spend hours listening to everyone's anxieties without anyone suspecting her, though her trusting nature might leave her tragically murdered in the turret early on!

When it comes to the missions, Lead Nurse Leanne is an absolute non-negotiable for the Faithfuls. Her logistical genius and operational efficiency mean she would be the one keeping the entire team moving in the right direction.

Among the nursing team, Rebecca is the ultimate tactical Faithful. Her skills with organisation make her a master coordinator; she would be the one quietly orchestrating the voting tactics at the round table to ensure the team banished the right person. Laura, our

resident problem solver, would be methodically dismantling every Traitor theory with calm, practical logic, while Saskia's upbeat, relentless positivity would be the glue keeping morale high when the dramatic accusations start flying.

Over on the reception desk, our Client Care team would bring serious composure. Jessica is famously cool in any crisis; whether dealing with a chaotic multi-dog emergency landing in waiting room or a dramatic round table betrayal, she would not even blink. Lynda brings incredible resilience and an eagerness to adapt to whatever wild twist the game throws at her.

Now, if I were tapping shoulders, who would I choose to don the velvet cloaks?

My first choice for a Traitor would be our practice manager, Rosie. Rosie is the most obvious choice because she already has her fingers in every pie in the practice. She controls the schedules, knows everyone's secrets and manages the entire operation behind the scenes with a charming smile. She could banish half the team before breakfast and have us all thanking her for the smooth scheduling afterwards.

My second cloak would go to Nurse Jess. Anyone who possesses the terrifying world-class skill required to hide a tablet in plain sight for a suspicious cat without them ever noticing has mastered the art of high-stakes deception. She could slide a murder envelope under your door with the exact same sweet innocent smile she uses when handing a post-operative patient back to their owner.

Completing our treacherous trio would be Freddie from our client care team. Freddie routinely wears multiple hats as a client care coordinator, practice physiotherapist and resident tea-maker, making her an absolute chameleon. She would be throwing Faithfuls off the scent while throwing gold into the pot, playing the ultimate double agent!

Fortunately for Hadleigh's pets, we channel all of our teamwork, keen observation and covert medication-administering talents into keeping four-legged family members healthy and happy instead. But if you happen to see one of us wearing a long velvet cloak around Hadleigh this autumn, you might want to double-check your tea!

Dr. Jessica Hudson BVMedSci (Hons)
BVM BVS (Hons) BSAVA PG CertSAECC
MRCVS
www.thehadleighvets.com

Madrigalia News

On Saturday 3rd October Madrigalia was delighted to join with Melody of Harps for our second joint venture of the year, in a fundraising concert of 'beautiful music' for The Hive community hub in Sudbury, where we performed to a delightfully receptive audience.



We'd taken the opportunity to write some new arrangements to perform together, including a new folk song, *The Hour of the Blackbird*, and our first Taizé piece. Taizé is an attractive style of meditative music which gets its name from the area in France where it originated, when it was introduced by a monastic order for use in worship.

Our unusual collaboration of choir and celtic harps has resulted in the writing of a number of original songs and arrangements over the years, enabling us to offer a varied programme of music which has proved popular with audiences. Our concert at The Hive was no exception.

Our next performance is a Christmas concert at 7pm on **Saturday 19th December** at Groton Church.

Sue Price
www.madrigalia.uk

Boxford Gardening Society

On 6th October Simon White, formerly head expert at Peter Beales Roses in Attleborough for 40 years, begged us all to get rid of FEAR when pruning. He recommended using the three 'Ds' – dead, diseased and dying – and keeping a bowl-like shape to enable air to reach the middle of the plant.

He showed photographs of T-bud grafting in the industry, followed by the best method for propagating roses at home. Good soil preparation is essential and you should never plant a rose where one has been growing before. He ended with advice on the best feed and pest prevention.

enquiry.boxfordgardeningociety@outlook.com

Boxford WI

This October President Annie welcomed 17 members to our meeting. We were enthralled to hear how our speaker, Russell Webb from Essex, having started a career in the building industry, progressed to joining the London Fire Service in 1992 and served for 30 years.



His personal experiences were heart-warming and told with humour and sensitivity. He also shared his personal life, the most poignant being the loss of his second wife to breast cancer shortly after their marriage in 2018. He shared that, while trying to process and come to terms with this loss, he started writing. These notes became a book which was published in 2022 to some acclaim. *Love Beyond Love* has won praise for its sensitive dealing with loss and grief. Having retired from the Fire Service, he decided that he still had more to offer and retrained as a Community First Responder. He concluded that he has found happiness again with his new partner, also a CFR! A really excellent speaker and we wish him well.

If you are interested in joining the WI why not come along to the village hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm where you will receive a warm welcome.

Once you are a member you will be able to enjoy the following interest groups which we hold on a regular basis:

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

For more information, please contact our Secretary, Sally Noble, on 07887 845540 or email sallystonebay@btinternet.com



What if the Plot Succeeded?

Groton History Society reimagines the Gunpowder Plot – potentially history's greatest act of terrorism

This time last year I wrote about the real story and abject failure of the Gunpowder Plot. But let's imagine for a moment that it had succeeded.

It is 6th November 1605. England has awoken to the news that King James is dead. Not just the King - the entire governing elite and establishment of England has been obliterated. Thirty-six barrels of 16th-century gunpowder have exploded in the cellar of the House of Lords, underneath the State Opening of Parliament. It has not only destroyed bodies and buildings, the

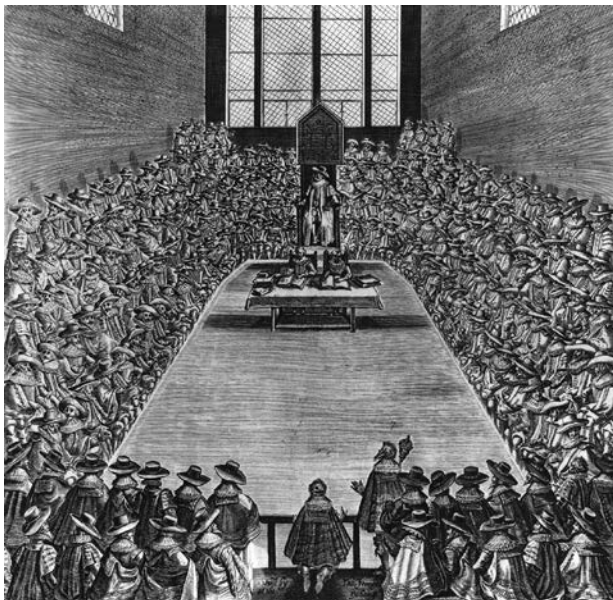
significant level of saltpetre in it has delivered lethal amounts of carbon monoxide into the air, expanding the range of its human carnage. The sheer scale is hard to compute today. The King, Queen and the heir to the throne, Prince Henry, are killed. The Privy Council (the Government), more than 90% of the bishops, and many peers and members of the Commons are killed. Attending clerks, staff, lawyers, military and visiting Scottish 'elite' are wiped out. The extended range of the carnage has sucked in merchants,

visitors, locals and many Lords Lieutenant or sheriffs from the counties, having come to see the spectacle of the Opening of Parliament by the King. We cannot compare this level of decapitation of government, religion and society, in one go, on one day, to anything in modern times. With one single 'blow', England has been brutally and completely decapitated.

"What would happen next? What was the big plan?" Before we try to answer these questions, we need to understand

the context within which this act of terrorism took place, for that is what it was. For 80 years, England and Europe had suffered religious schisms, heretical persecutions and wars of religion, which were increasingly viewed as politically propagandised 'acts of treason'. In England, 'heresy' was morphing into 'treason' against the religious winner at any given moment, whether under Edward VI, Mary I or Elizabeth I.

The long reign of Elizabeth (1558–1603) had enabled the Protestant 'winners' to establish their dominance over, and suppression of, the Catholic losers. The defeat of the Spanish Armada was seen as 'God protecting the Queen', in her joint roles as monarch and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Elizabeth I and her Protestant Church were increasingly viewed by the people as embodying 'stability', 'security' and 'the foundation of English life'. By 1605, the population of England was estimated to have been nearly four million, of whom there are thought to have been no more than 40,000 Catholics (around 1%), including about 8,500 known 'recusants', who refused to comply with the demands of Elizabeth's Religious Settlement – including compulsory attendance at Church of England services. For the vast majority of the much-reduced



number of Catholics, 1605 was a time of living a suppressed, quiet life, being seen as compliant and attending Protestant Anglican church whilst hiding their true faith away from prying, suspicious eyes.

However, since the Armada, suspicion of radical Catholics was ever present. Jesuits were feared most of all, seen as papal 'stormtroopers' by leading Protestants such as Robert Cecil, the King's 'right arm and head of security'. It was, by law, an act of treason for Catholic priests to enter the country. Around 250 Catholics were executed for 'treason' during Elizabeth's reign.

Persecution and a sense of grievance can fuel radicalisation and a desire for revenge. Step forward Robert Catesby and his 12 followers. Catesby wanted 'revenge', some wanted rid of the Scots and some wanted a return to Marian Catholic primacy, though none – not one – had a clear plan or experience of government or politics. Several, including Catesby and Fawkes, had military experience. Grievance, a willingness for violence and swashbuckle were not, though, going to be enough.

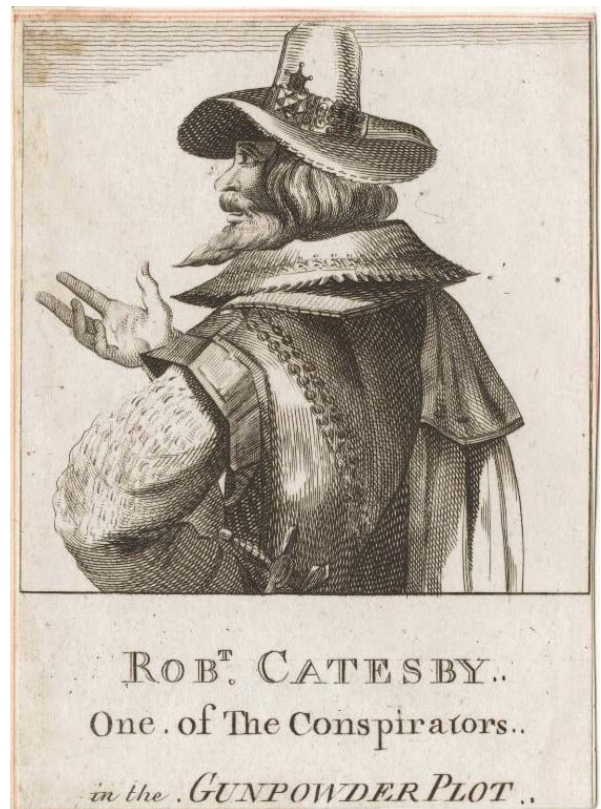
The initial plan was to capture Princess Elizabeth (aged nine) at Coombe Abbey in Warwickshire, setting her up as a puppet Queen Elizabeth II, converting her to the Catholic Church and establishing a new Catholic government, religious primacy and society. Prince Charles (aged four) was to be kidnapped, probably by Thomas Percy in London, after the explosion. It is not clear what the rest of the plan was for Charles. Logically, he would be a threat to the puppet regime and a probable focus for a counter-rebellion. History

suggests that, like earlier boy princes, he would have had to disappear in the Tower!

The plotters' expectation was of a broad Catholic uprising in the Midlands and Wales, where a significant number of their sympathisers originated. Then they would have cemented the new regime around a converted and 'Regent-led' Queen Elizabeth II. Sir Everard Digby was hosting a 'hunting party' for about 50 future key players near Coombe Abbey, waiting for the news to act! But it is not clear who the Regent would have been – maybe Northumberland or Montague – but neither were really commanding personalities. In fact, most of the notable Marian Catholic leaders had already died out naturally or via the axe, with the current sympathising Catholic-leaning 'elite' being killed in the explosion! Neither was there a military force armed and ready. Nor was there a '1381 Commoners' march on London, backpacks ready and makeshift weaponry to hand.

"How would the rest of England, Scotland, Ireland and the monarchies of Europe react?"

The local Catholic reaction would initially have been 'horror'. The 'godly' King, for that is how a king was seen, had been murdered by a small group



of radical Catholics! Regicide was deemed unthinkable at this time, though 44 years later that would be different. Their real 'fear' would be of Protestant revenge. The influential Jesuits had not been supportive of the conspiracy at all, taking their lead from Pope Paul V. In reality, after the plot had failed, Catesby falsely told Sir Everard Digby and his Warwickshire hunting party that the King was dead. Their reaction was one of shock, with several melting away. Killing a king is bad enough, but killing the whole of the ruling elite as well... unthinkable.



Opposite, from top: An AI-generated imagining of the Gunpowder Plot succeeding at the Palace of Westminster in 1605.

King James I in the Houses of Parliament, 1624.

Above: Robert Catesby, leader of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators. Engraving, 1794. Image: National Portrait Gallery, London.

Left: Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I and later Queen of Bohemia, c.1606. Robert Peake the Elder.

Prince Charles, the future Charles I, aged about five, c.1605. Robert Peake the Elder. Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery.



"What have you done?!" There was no established 'figurehead' to rally the feeble-hearted. Fear and horror would probably not have been assuaged in the ensuing chaos.

But how would the Protestant country react? Let's take this in three parts. Firstly, the 'heirs' of the murdered elite. They would feel the twin deep senses of anger and revenge. The quick-witted would see an opportunity to settle local disagreements by whatever means and/or seek to exploit the vacuum for personal elevation. Secondly, the City of London would seek to protect its burgeoning wealth and trade from the chaos, possibly hiring foreign mercenaries. The City of London was almost a self-contained sub-state. Thirdly, the ordinary commoner would feel the same horror and fear of the chaos, with their certainty and stability evaporated. They would likely get caught up in the bloodletting revenge.

In the aftermath, what about 'law and order'? Locally, it would be random, depending on whether the local sheriff, Lord of the Manor or Lord Lieutenant was still alive. Anarchy, chaos and uncertainty would be rife in the short term. Nationally, law and order would be absent too. Parliament would probably not be replaced any time soon and there would be a free-for-all. No single authority would exist. Chaos.

How would Scotland react? Its King, Queen, heir and some of its elite would

also have been killed. Deeply Calvinist, it would feel revengeful and fearful of a Catholic England and Ireland. It would also have a 'succession' crisis. It would form protective alliances with other Lutheran/Calvinist monarchs in Europe, whilst entrenching itself in Scottish isolation. They would support Charles, if he was alive and protected by a parallel Protestant faction. But not Elizabeth.

What about Catholic Ireland? The reaction could have been one of relief. No more English 'Plantation' colonisation in Ireland? No more Anglicisation. John Winthrop Snr would be kicked out of the Munster Plantation and back to Groton to resume his manorial position in place of his brother Adam, father of the better-known John Winthrop.

"So how would the European monarchies react?" The key Catholic monarchies of Spain, France and the Holy Roman Empire would be horrified. Regicide is a 'no-no'. Let

"With one single 'blow', England has been brutally and completely decapitated."

alone the murder of an entire ruling establishment. They would have had their own issues and conflicts to focus on. Island England, in chaos, would no longer be a threat to their trade or imperial ambitions. There had been no takers when foreign support was sought during the conspiracy. This was a major flaw in the plan. Pope Paul V was not interested either and was unlikely to have called for a Catholic force to secure a new Catholic England. No one wanted the precedent!

Then we have the Protestant monarchies and continental states. The key man is Christian IV of Denmark, Queen Anne's brother, uncle to Prince Henry and good friend of James VI. A staunch Lutheran. He would be fuming! Enough to send a fleet up the Thames, at the behest of the City? For sure, he did so in reality, even when the plot failed. He would have had

the motive and the means to react in support of the Protestant survivors. The Thirty Years' War might have started earlier?

The crux, though, is: could Queen Elizabeth II actually have securely ruled as a Catholic monarch? An autocratic absolute Regency would have tried to rule, with Parliament not recalled. The young Queen would have been married off if they could find the right Catholic prince on the continent. None, apparently, were immediately available! The odds are really bad. I just can't see this happening at all. They would not have been able to capture London. Without London you did not rule England. The vast majority of the country was 'Protestant'. The hatred of the 'heirs' alone would be so great that they, not the 'plotters', would have, in all probability, prevailed, albeit after a bloody and destructive 'civil war'.

Could the Protestants have circled around Prince Charles' banner if he was still alive? Would they have reached out to Christian IV of Denmark for his fleet to sail up the Thames to secure London and their trade? Yes. However, 'succession' would have been an issue if Prince Charles had been dead. In reality, Percy did not capture Charles. Any surviving Protestant elite would have sought out four-year-old Charles and elevated him as the rightful King. Charles ruling via Regency, in parallel to his hijacked sister Elizabeth, also ruling via Regency!? Another 'Anarchy' civil war? Think of the chaos after the French Revolution. This could have been chaos 'squared'!

"And could our history be different either way?"

An absolute Catholic monarchy, if it had survived the early threats, would probably have expired at some point



Above: Sir Everard Digby, one of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators. Portrait by Thomas Athow, 1830.

Right: Christian IV of Denmark (1577–1648), brother of Queen Anne and uncle of Prince Henry.

down the road with revolution, 'à la France' potentially. The minority rule would not have been able to dominate the vast majority. Given the ensuing chaos, the nascent English empire may have been much stalled. It would have been overtaken by France, Spain and especially the Netherlands, as England struggled with the distraction of anarchy and rebuilding. America could be speaking French!

A surviving autocratic Protestant Regency and monarchy, even with a new, weaker, compliant 'Parliament', would have suppressed 'Catholicism' further. The big Civil Wars of the 1640s would have been avoided. Could England have entered the continental Thirty Years' War in 1618, joining its Protestant allies, armed with their anti-Catholic anger? Pilgrims and Puritans might have flourished, although they would probably still have been seen as too 'radical'. We know what radicals can do if they do not get their way!

The temptation is to think that the Mayflower and Arbella would not have sailed in 1620 or 1630. That the Winthrops would have stayed in Groton. John Winthrop would ask himself, "*Should I stay or should I go?*" My view... the Pilgrims and John Winthrop would still have gone. The Pilgrims' separatist motivation would still have existed. Winthrop's emigration was fuelled by his financial and personal challenges as much as his 'City on a Hill' Puritan vision. Let's not forget that the Puritans wanted to escape any interfering governance from above them. Such interference would still have been an issue. John would still have gone to New England in 1630, or maybe earlier. America would still speak English today, almost, and the ensuing British Empire would still have happened, albeit with less certainty and security in the early days.

Not much would be different today, probably.

The reality is that Catesby's plot had neither sufficient real support nor any serious, detailed plan for 'what happens next'. It was doomed to failure. The gunpowder, stored underneath the House of Lords, was actually rotting and would not have generated anything more than a damp pffff! If the State Opening of Parliament had not been delayed, the gunpowder may just have exploded, maybe. Then, of course, the plot had already been rumbled. Catesby was being played by the paranoid and excellent spymaster-in-chief, Robert Cecil. Oh, and Princess Elizabeth had already been moved from her nearby residence due to a suspicious theft of good horses nearby! So no puppet Queen.

As with most 'What If?' questions in history, what actually happened was always likely to happen, not by luck but because the reverse odds were so weak and the alternative plan was so poor. Things happen for a good reason. Let's be clear though. If the Gunpowder Plot had blown up the King and the ruling elite, it would have been the greatest act of 'terrorism' ever in history, even if the plot failed to follow up!

As they might say in *The Godfather*, "*If you are going to take it to the mattresses, you had better have a real, 'full-fat' plan!*"

Thank you for reading this month's article and, as always, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Please feel free to email me with these and any recommendations for reading, listening and watching 'history'.

Nigel Chapman
nigeljchap@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Harold's War

Friday 4th December

The amazing story of a young man from Sudbury, Harold Locke, and his extraordinary experiences in WW2.

I have recently come into possession of Harold's autobiographical account of his war experiences and just wanted to share this extraordinary story with you all.

Victoria and Abdul with Shrabani Basu

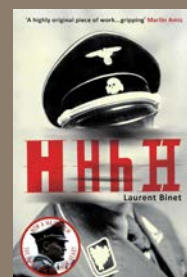
15th April 2027

This is rescheduled from June this year, which we had to cancel due to the extreme heatwave.

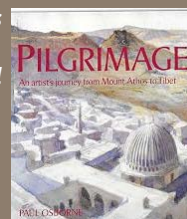
Recommended Reading, Listening & Viewing

HHhH by Laurent Binet, translated by Sam Taylor.

Prize-winning recounting of the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich. "He had to choose between war and dishonour, he chose dishonour."

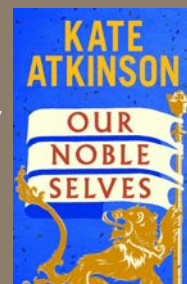


Pilgrimage: An Artist's Journey from Mount Athos to Tibet by Paul Osborne and Paul Hogarth.



Our Noble Selves by Kate Atkinson.

A satirisation of the 1951 Festival of Britain, with some legacy intrigue and spies included.



Nineteen Days in Autumn by Erin Goeres.

Great timing! "A quirky but good read" about the end of Anglo-Saxon England.



Germany: Memories of a Nation by Neil MacGregor.

A brilliant and original look at the history of Germany from the time of Rome to the present day.



The Hitler Diaries Scandal from The History Podcast on BBC Sounds.

My, oh my, how gullible are obsessive collectors and eager news outlets?! Great listen.





The Blooming Garden

Strange Encounters

Climate change has brought British gardeners face to face with some new and unusual creatures. In my garden in France, I often have come across some beautiful, some curious and some alarming wildlife but I never expected these unusual creatures to turn up in the UK. So far, the Tiger mosquito hasn't arrived on our shores but it is only a matter of time; this horror from South East Asia has spread throughout Europe. It bites during the day and is a vector for Dengue Fever, Chikungunya and Zika. I have certainly had a few bites from this little beast with the stripey legs. Asian hornets with the yellow legs have arrived in the UK. They are common in France; my neighbour found a nest in her garden last year and to my relief had it destroyed. I have been stung by an ordinary hornet and it packs a punch like a donkey so I wouldn't like to risk an Asian one.

Fortunately asp vipers would have

a job slithering through the Channel Tunnel. There are plenty of snakes in the Aveyron where I have my house and they love the walls in my garden which makes gardening a little nerve-racking. They are not all venomous and locals tell me that I needn't worry about the big ones, it is the little ones I need to watch out for. I run screaming into the house at the sight of any snake and I don't hang around to estimate the size. I haven't got a photo to show you. This summer a woman got bitten by a snake in the Pyrenees as she tried to take its photograph. I won't be trying that.

There is a large mammal that we haven't got in the UK so far and maybe it is good to be an island, because who wants to come across a mother wild boar protecting her young when out for a walk in the woods? They are a menace in gardens. Actually, even more dangerous than an over-protective wild boar is the French

hunter. There are several deaths each year with gung-ho hunters shooting anything that moves. Some people have even been shot in their own gardens.

One animal that is a constant source of delight in my French garden is the



red squirrel. How sad that in the UK, grey squirrels, which are rats with bushy tails, have taken over. Having been brought up on Beatrix Potter, it is an absolute delight to find Squirrel Nutkin peering inquisitively at me as I lie in my hammock.



The butterflies in South West France are abundant and gorgeous. Maybe with climate change the magnificent Swallowtail butterfly might find its way over the Channel. Or perhaps you might catch a sight of the Provençal Fritillary.

Hummingbird hawk-moths which are common in France have now become a common sight in the UK too this year. They are fascinating to watch hovering over flowers and feeding with a long proboscis.

So far the Great Peacock moth, *Saturnia pyri* hasn't appeared in The UK but watch this space. These moths only live for a week so I was lucky to find one in a neighbour's garden in the Aveyron. These beautiful moths have a wingspan of up to 20 cm across, so they are a memorable sight.



This year I came to an abrupt halt when I was pruning my lavender in France. I came across an absolutely enormous wasp spider, *Argiope bruennichi*. It was beautiful but I nearly had a much closer encounter with it than I was comfortable with. But it is harmless and disguised as a wasp to warn off predators. The one I found was a female. The male is a weedy fellow, less than half the size. When he has mated with her he blocks her up with the end of one of his pedipalps. That is the short arm near the head. In order to lock his lady into a chastity belt he has to sacrifice a bit of arm. But revenge is sweet; she usually eats him after mating. I was surprised to learn that we have this spider in the south of England and with climate change it is moving north.

"I run screaming into the house at the sight of any snake and I don't hang around to estimate the size."

Another strange encounter this summer was with a praying mantis who was sitting on my bed. I've seen them in the garden before but this encounter was unnerving, especially when it turned its head to glare at me with its huge eye. Last year, they were found in Cornwall for the first time, so they are probably heading your way.

In France there are about eleven species of frogs and several toads. I wish they could hop over to the UK as our two native frog species are in worrying decline. Toads too are getting scarce. You'd think edible frogs would be scarce as the French eat about



4,000 tons of frogs' legs yearly. But the commercial hunting of frogs is banned and they are either farmed or imported from China, Vietnam and Indonesia. I don't have a pond because of mosquitoes but a friend has a pond which is full of massive, marsh frogs in spring. They make a terrible racket.

Although I hate snakes, the wall lizards in my garden are adorable. Now and again when out walking, I have seen a Western Green Lizard which in spring has a bright blue head and throat. The weirdest creature I have seen though is the striped Fire Salamander. I haven't come across this in the garden, it lives in damp places in forests and I saw it in the gorge near us. It was a lucky sighting on a wet day; they usually come out at night. The wasp-like stripes are to warn predators that it is toxic. Legends have grown up about this strange dragon-like creature. It used to be thought that they could survive fire.

I have run out of space now so I can't discuss the many beautiful birds that live in France. Sharing our space with all these weird and wonderful creatures can be magical. As long as they don't bite or sting or eat our plants that is.

Chloris

Opposite page, from top:

Wasp spider – *Argiope bruennichi*

Red squirrel – *Sciurus vulgaris*

This page, clockwise from top:

Swallowtail butterfly – *Papilio machaon*

Praying mantis – *Mantis religiosa*

Fire salamander – *Salamandra atra*

Great Peacock moth – *Saturnia pyri*

Feedback From Robert Lindsay

Suffolk County Councillor for Cosford Division

Nodding Donkeys and Unintended Consequences

Parents in the Boxford area and across Suffolk are still feeling the repercussions of a

decision the Conservatives at Suffolk County Council made seven years ago.

Back in 2019, the Conservatives, who then had majority control of the county, decided to change their policy for funding school transport from funding a free bus to pupils' catchment schools to funding a bus to what they defined as 'nearest school'.

I was already a county councillor when the proposal was first floated and I well remember the outcry and anguish it caused amongst schools and parents' groups.

It was quite clear to me and my fellow Green, LibDem and independent group members, at the meeting we convened urgently to discuss it, that the policy was something we could not support. It would cause confusion and chaos for years to come and actually would not save any significant amount of money, which was the Conservatives' avowed reason for introducing it.

The way the Conservatives chose to measure 'nearest school' was not, as might logically be expected, the nearest school by bus journey, but the nearest school along walking routes. Their measure took into account public footpaths as well as roads. This applied not just for junior schools but for secondary schools, even though it was obvious that no pupils would be walking more than two or three miles to their secondary school.

Many schools faced losing dozens of pupils; parents would have the choice of either switching school or spending time and money on getting their child there themselves. Villages would be split with friends and neighbours having to go to different schools. And perhaps worst of all, the 'nearest' measurement was arrived at simply by looking every September at what paths the Ordnance Survey had lately decided to include in their online 'network' of footpaths.

The OS's network changes all the



time. So parents would never know until just before they had to apply which secondary school is in fact their 'nearest' according to the county council.

After much careful thought and research, our political group put together a list of objections to the way the decision was made in order to request a 'call-in' of the cabinet's decision, which to our delight was accepted. This meant the decision had to go before a scrutiny committee. Although this committee had an in-built Conservative majority, to our joy they seemed to accept our argument and told the cabinet to look at their decision again.

When the all-Conservative cabinet sat around the table to discuss it a second time, they nodded the same policy through with some small changes. As a sop, the policy would be phased in over seven years, which meant that if your child already had a free bus to their catchment school, they would continue to get it, even if it was not the 'nearest'.

They also recognised that some parents might have good reasons to stick to a particular school and so set up an appeals committee of elected councillors, not officers, so that families who had been refused a free bus would have some way of explaining why their case was exceptional.

Unfortunately, Boxford is halfway between Thomas Gainsborough School (TGS) in Cornard and Hadleigh High School. This summer two separate local mums made me aware that they had both brought appeals to the transport appeal committee. I attended both in order to help plead their case.

In the case of one parent, her elder child was already attending TGS because at the time the child began there, TGS was deemed the nearest school by the Ordnance Survey network map. But by the time her second child was 11 and ready to attend, the Ordnance Survey, for reasons best known to themselves, had updated their map to include an unofficial path in Boxford. That path had been there all the time, and to this day is not a public footpath. But its inclusion in the network made Hadleigh High School about 50 metres nearer than TGS.

I thought this was an open-and-shut case that deserved to be made an exception. But I was wrong. The committee stuck to the policy and both parents were refused a funded bus to TGS.

Now some parents over the past

seven years, faced with the option of paying for a bus or switching their child's choice of school, have decided to pay. In recent weeks, many of the bus companies have been taken over by a new company: Transport Made Simple. This company recently reviewed all its fares and doubled many of them, including the school time routes to TGS. There is now a campaign by parents to get the company to change its mind.

All this anguish and these problems were caused by a decision which the Conservatives thought would save them money back in 2019. It is impossible to calculate what, if any, savings have been realised. But I am convinced it will have made little difference. I remember arguing to the scrutiny committee at the time that the evidence for savings at Essex County Council, which had made a similar policy change some years earlier, was non-existent.

As a fairly new councillor then, I remember being struck by how impractical and ideological the Conservatives' 'winner takes all' way of running things was. They had 52 of the 75 council seats and hence, fair enough, they could elect the leader of the council. But the Conservative leader could then have chosen a cabinet which included some voices from other political parties and still retained control of the cabinet. Cabinet members not owing fealty to the Conservative leader would have been more likely to 'stress test' proposals, maybe even suggest improvements, before they were implemented.

But instead, we got a succession of what can only be described as 'nodding donkey' cabinets, where a group of nine or ten Conservatives nodded through every decision without any questions.

Conservatives nodded through every decision, without any questions.

Sadly, Reform, now with the majority, have repeated the nodding donkey pattern, with a cabinet of ten Reform councillors agreeing everything.

As long as this 'winner takes all' attitude, encouraged by Britain's first-past-the-post voting system, continues, we will, I fear, continue to get bad, short-termist policy in both local and national government. Bring on proportional voting.

Robert Lindsay

Robert.Lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 01449 741959 / 07738 264087

Feedback From Bryn Hurren

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

The biggest thing that all district councils are dealing with now across all of Suffolk, apart from lack of finance, is the postponement of the plan to have unitary councils across all of the county, in our case three. We are told that the shelving of the scheme is just a temporary move for one or two years but I am worried that it could be for longer and yet another attempt to reshape local democracy will end in failure.

This is probably the 5th attempt at uniting our two-tier system of local governance and to see it running into the buffers yet again is terribly disappointing. It could also be yet another financial blow we have to absorb when we are least equipped to do so.

This means that we will be back to district elections on the old four-year cycle, along with parish councils in the first week of May 2027. How things have changed during the past 28 years that I have been the elected councillor for what is now known as Box Vale. Whoever wins the right to serve my beloved constituents for the next one, two or four years will need terrific skills and expertise on the planning front, otherwise my villages will be overrun with unwanted development, which will be impossible to cope with. A truly unenviable task for a newcomer.

The tragic loss of little Noah Woods, who went missing from Brantham playground despite almost instant searches being set up and quickly developing into major ones following a public appeal, has set this councillor thinking about how this can be prevented in the future. But, as in this case, accidents are often a result of culminating situations coming together at the wrong time and that is just what accidents often are, which makes them so hard to avoid. We just have to be ever more careful and on our guard all the time. To this end Babergh staff who were very stressed by the events and the final result will be looking at anything and everything in our areas, whether we own them or not, to see that they are safe for public use. This applies to this councillor as well.

So nice to see some rainfall at last to get things green and growing again. This has come too late for many agricultural crops, such as cereals, beans and maize, but maybe in time to boost the sugar beet crop and its

sugar content and next year's wheat and barley crops that are being sown now. The agricultural industry is so important to this region and still a major employer of an ever more skilled workforce that it is now a concern to see how the industry can survive into a future with climate change becoming ever more extreme and prevalent. The way we live in our modern world with increasing temperatures and extremes of all weather patterns is not going to be easy. However, we were told about this but it seems the warning was not really heeded.

Another disappointment for the district is the unavoidable closure of the Sudbury Kingfisher swimming pool. It was hoped that we could keep it going for a few more years but upon inspection this was found to be too risky for public safety. It was built 38 years ago with a large financial grant from Swim England, a national charity set up by the government to provide swimming facilities to ensure that every large community, especially the younger generation, had facilities within each local area to learn and enjoy swimming. It was hoped that a new one could be provided on the back of new mayoral funds becoming available but that has rather been scuppered now. However, the Kingfisher Leisure Centre remains open with all its other facilities and will continue to do so.

So good to at last see some good conclusions from my efforts to see the access land at Primrose Wood handed over to the Woodland Trust for conservation and natural management with full access for residents and visitors alike. Hopefully the work on fences, gates and levelling out the lower path can all be carried out now, along with traditional management

and some minimal planting. Also, at a recent meeting the local manager promised to put a secure fence around the new soakaway pond. This will hopefully allay any fears of accidental drowning in this area and the whole site can become an even greater area for biodiversity and a home to many creatures, great and small, as well as those even smaller.

In a contrary development, the swathe of destruction caused by the march of the pylons across our precious countryside is now in full swing and is worse than even I feared. Also rather unnecessary as the sea route would not have caused such wanton felling of trees and such a scar across our landscape. Despite successive ministers saying that the technology did not exist to do this, I believe it did and once again we were conned. We already have telecommunications across the Atlantic and power crossing the Channel. I think that governments do not always listen and sometimes don't even try and the so-called consultation on this was a complete sham. Moan over, but with another line coming through from Norwich to Tilbury from the North Sea turbines, why not send it south with cables on the seabed to where it's needed? Is this really too difficult to achieve without blighting the Suffolk landscape for generations?

I've never done councillor surgeries for residents to contact or approach me but just grab me when you can, gently of course, and I will always do what I can to help.

Kindest wishes,
Bryn
bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk
Tel: 07771 508348



SMALL IDEAS

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SUBMIT YOUR IDEA

small-ideas.org
By 12th November 2026

BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 29th September 2026

These minutes have not been approved by the parish council.

Public Participation- Views / Questions from the Public

A resident asked for a rough idea of timescales for the Twenty's Plenty project to be started. Cllr Parr commented that it was thought it may be ready to start in the summer next year but the matter is with SCC Highways.

County Council Report

CCLlr Lindsay sent a report to parish councillors prior to the meeting and gave an update regarding the tree on Ash Street. Cllr Lindsay advised that he will check the remaining funds in his locality budget for a donation towards the Twenty's Plenty project.

The full report can be found on the BPC website.

District Council Report

DCLlr Hurren sent a report to parish councillors prior to the meeting and gave updates regarding the village sweep and the The Woodland Trust at Goodlands.

The full report can be found on the BPC website.

Clearance of weeds in the River Box

It was resolved to look into this further to establish the best course of action. Cllr Parr commented that he believed that the PC should initiate a Boxford Flood Risk Mitigation project to further protect the vulnerable areas of Boxford. This project would embrace the River Box itself and tributaries that feed into it from Groton, Edwardstone and Cox Hill/Bower House Tye areas.

Car Park Update

Councillor Parr reported on the Stone Street Road Village Car Park initiative. A further meeting with the owners of the Stone Street land has taken place and a process for taking the project forward has been agreed. Advice from the planning consultant is that the parish council and the trustee owners of the Stone Street land together seek a pre-planning application meeting with Babergh District Council – this will inform the exact requirements needed for the full planning application. The costs associated with preparations for the pre-planning application are approx. £9,600 exc. VAT to be shared between the parish council and the landowners. In addition, the costs

of a ground investigation survey of £2,850 for the car park area would be incurred by the Parish Council - this investigation is needed to help inform the nature of the construction of the car park and subsequent impact on costs. A motion was proposed that the parish council 1) confirms its support for the car park project and 2) confirms its support for going forward to a pre-application phase of the project with associated cost as outlined and also to initiate the ground investigation with the associated costs as outlined. The motion was supported by a majority vote.

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 (<http://boxford-pc.gov.uk>)

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 29th October 2026 in The Fleece, starting at 7.30pm.

Parish council meetings are usually held in the village hall starting at 7pm. All are welcome to come along and observe and there is a regular item to allow residents a short time to comment and raise items.

Zoe Rumsey

07304 361524

clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk

NEWTON

Summary of Council Meeting 14th October 2026

26/172 Emails circulated

Following a review of the emails circulated the councillors agreed to send the Quay Theatre the donation application form so they could outline their request for support.

26/173 Clerk's Report (Appendix A)

Following a review of the clerk's report the councillors agreed they meet at the allotments on Saturday 31st October 2026 at 10.30am to discuss the boundary with tenants. The clerk to invite the tenants to the meeting.

26/175 Recruitment of a new clerk

The councillors reviewed the 8 applicants who had put their names forward for the position of clerk & RFO.

They agreed to interview 4 applicants on Tuesday 27th October 2026 and one on the morning of Wednesday 4th November 2026. The HR committee and clerk will interview the applicants and Cllr Sherwood will undertake the meet and greet role.

26/177 Walking Infrastructure Project

The councillors reviewed the latest counsel advice that SCC Legal has obtained about the project. To date, the advice has been to deregulate the land to be used for the footpath as part of the village green, and to substitute it from land in the recreation ground. Whilst the advice comes with caveats, there has not been any showstoppers to date.

The next stage is for a review of the Newton Green Trust's (NGT) power to either: transfer land on the green and recreation ground to SCC Highways or to dedicate the land in the recreation ground as the substitute land as part of the deregulation process and then dedicate the land on the green as highway.

SCC Legal has not made any firm opinions on these points and has stated that NGT should obtain its own legal advice on the issues. The councillors agreed that the clerk issue the latest counsel advice received to the trustees and liaise with them regarding the two issues.

26/178 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Presland updated councillors that the working party had met this month to review the existing neighbourhood plan against the feedback from the survey and experiences of how the plan has worked since its adoption. There has also been a meeting with Chris Bowden, the planning consultant on the review, and it is hoped that Babergh will be able to provide an indication on when the site selection outcomes and growth numbers that Newton will be targeted to achieve, will be made available.

26/181 Questions to the Chair

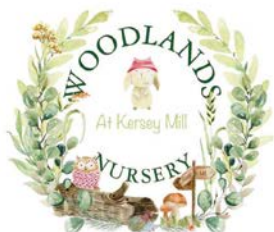
Cllr Schwenk informed councillors that security at the village hall was being reviewed. The PCC will be contacting the council regarding changes it would like to make to the Church Road sign on the verge of the A134, which is an NPC asset.

A full version of the minutes can be found at www.newton-pc.gov.uk

Dave Crimmin CILCA, PIALC, PSLCC

07550 030175

clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk



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Chris Wright

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Boxford Primary School

European Day of Languages

School value: Creativity

Pupils at Boxford Primary had a fantastic time celebrating European Day of Languages. The children came to school dressed in the colours of different country flags, creating a vibrant atmosphere as we celebrated languages and cultures from around the world. Year 5 enjoyed exploring Japan. They delved deeper into its rich history, culture and distinctive art styles. The children took inspiration from traditional Japanese artwork to create their own unique pieces. As a result, they were able to showcase their creativity and they developed their understanding of this fascinating country.

Harvest Festival

School value: Respect

We celebrated our Harvest Festival on Friday 9th October 2026 with a wonderful collection of readings, poems and performances prepared by the children. Each class contributed something special, including a French song that brought a lovely international element to the celebrations. Year 6 also delivered a Bible reading, helping us to reflect on the importance of gratitude, kindness and helping others.

Giving Back to Our Community

School value: Kindness

A huge thank you to all the families who generously donated food items to our local food bank. The children showed great enthusiasm and understanding of the importance of supporting those in need within our community. Their contributions will help make a real difference to local families; we are incredibly proud of the kindness and generosity shown by everyone.

Would you like a school tour?

If your child is looking to start school in September 2027, or move mid-year, 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

Boxford & District Bowls Club

Club Finals Day – Our Winners – 13th September 2026

We had a great Finals Day on 13th September and below are some of our winners (the others will be in the next newsletter!) being presented with their trophy by our chairman, Ian Clark. Congratulations to the winners and well done to all our runners-up. Our spectators were able to watch entertaining and exciting games throughout the day.

A huge thank you to Kevin Colling, who organised the club competitions throughout the summer and had the unenviable task of scheduling all the finals matches on the day. All went very smoothly – thank you. Thanks must also go to all our markers on the day, without whom we could not have played any singles matches, and to the social committee for providing refreshments – your cakes are always much appreciated and always delicious. Finally, thank you to our green maintenance team – the green played extremely well and your efforts in nurturing and tending it are much appreciated.

Roz Mortlock

Club Finals Day Winners



Mixed Pairs – Mike and Gill Billington



Ladies' 2-Bowl Singles – Roz Mortlock



Ladies' 4-Bowl Singles – Cynthia Hollingsworth



Men's 2-Bowl Singles – Steve Marszal



Men's 4-Bowl Singles – Lea Blackham



Club Singles – Andy Carr



Over-60s Singles – Graham Skillen

A New Season for Boxford Rovers

Boxford Rovers Youth Football Club is back in action for the 2026–27 season, with teams across the age groups once again representing the village.



Boxford Rovers Under 10 Blues
Sponsored by Hornets Tech.



Boxford Rovers Under 12 Blues
Coaches Luke Deacon and Dan Statham.
Sponsored by Whites Properties.



Boxford Rovers Under 18s
Sponsored by EA Men's Hair and Toucan BFP Wealth Management.



Good luck to all the Rovers teams for the season ahead.



sunflowers Childcare

**An independent setting
within Boxford Primary school**

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

Term time opening hours:
Monday – Thursday: 7.30am – 6.00pm
Friday: 7.30am – 5.00pm
Set Pre-school sessions from 9.00am – 3.30pm

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

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

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1st Boxford Explorer Scouts	Neil Barkham 07734 108257
1st Boxford Rainbows	Janice Keith 07779 303690
1st Boxford Brownies	Janice Keith 07779 303690 janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk
1st Boxford Guides	Bethany Ireland bethanyireland11@gmail.com

Charities

Boxford & Groton United Charities	Sarah Egglestone 07494 853750
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

Community Groups

3PR Boxford 1st Responders	Alistair Horne 07887 716453 alistair.horne@eastamb.nhs.uk
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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
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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

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Friends of Boxford School (FoBS)	talktofobs@gmail.com
Sunflowers Childcare	Maira Grant 01787 211363 www.sunflowers-childcare.co.uk info@sunflowers-childcare.co.uk
Boxford Baby & Toddler Group	facebook.com/Boxfordbabyandtoddlergroup

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
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Boxford Carpet Bowls	David Warren 01787 211067
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Keith 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	Jason Long 07500 916941 longj68@gmail.com www.boxford-rovers-youth.com
Boxford Tennis Social	Sue Moore 07808 481 447
Boxford WI	Sally Noble 07887 845540
Edwardstone Art Group	Pam Balls 01787 210 136 and Sue Beven 01787 210 021
Falls Resilience Classes	Georgina 07547 927 238 georgina@takeactionlivelife.co.uk
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

Clubs & Groups

Natural Boxford	Louise Carpenter 01787 211862 louise carpenter@proton.me
Newton Arts & Crafts Club	Carole Langley 01787 373548
Newton War Games Club	Brian Lawson 01787 312160
Newton Fireside Club	Maira Evans 01787 374652
Pilates (Edwardstone)	Claire 07772 074 750
Primrose Wood Volunteers	Evan Flockhart 07968 336 883 oblique woodland@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

Halls & Facilities to Hire

Boxford Pavilion	Natalie Woods 07772 916 135 nataliewoods25@gmail.com
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Lions Den Function Room The White Hart	01787 211764
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Little Waldingfield Pavilion	Jennie Jordan 07522 352 558 52Jennie1@gmail.com
Marquee Booking	BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com
Milden Pavilion	Justine 07745 170 348 info@mildenpavilion.co.uk
Newton Village Hall	The Secretary 07955 199 000

OCTOBER 2026

24-29	Lantern Making	10-4pm
SAT-THU	The Spinney, Boxford	
26	Boxford Friendship Group	2-4pm
MON	Boxford Village Hall	
30	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub	6:30pm
FRI	Little Waldingfield Pavilion	
31	Boxford Fireworks & Lantern Parade	6:30pm
SAT	Parade starts in the Village Centre	

NOVEMBER 2026

1	Box River Junction Blues Band	5-7pm
SUN	Edwardstone White Horse	
1	Classical Music Concert	6pm
SUN	St Peter's Church, Milden	
3	Fireside Club - Fidler's Elbow	2pm
TUE	Newton Village Hall	
4	Boxford WI - Craft Afternoon	2pm
WED	Boxford Village Hall	
5	Bonfire & Fireworks	6pm
THU	Nayland Village Hall	
5-6	Christmas Fair	See ad P17
THU-FRI	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone	
7	Lavenham Fireworks	5pm
SAT	Lavenham Playing Fields, CO10 9SH	
7	Fireworks Display	6pm
SAT	Lindsey Red Rose	
11	Acoustic Night	7pm
WED	Edwardstone White Horse	
11	Charity Quiz Night	8pm
WED	The Fleece, Boxford	
14	Shelley Charity Bingo Night	TBC
SAT	Whatfield Village Hall	
14	French's Quiz Night	7pm
SAT	Ansell Centre, Hadleigh, IP7 5DL	
14	Boxford Bowls Club Snail Racing	7pm
SAT	Boxford Village Hall	
14	Festive Wine Tasting	7pm
SAT	Milden Pavilion	
17	Fireside Club - Soup & Cake Lunch	Noon
TUE	Newton Village Hall	
17	PGC - Gardeners' Question Time	7.30pm
TUE	Polstead Village Hall	
18	LWHS - Medieval Castles	7:30pm
WED	Little Waldingfield Parish Room	
19-20	Stand up for Suffolk Christmas Fair	10-6pm
THU-FRI	Hadleigh Guildhall IP7 5DN	

NOVEMBER 2026

20	Polstead Films: & Sons	7pm
FRI	Polstead Village Hall	
21	Wine Tasting	7:30pm
SAT	Little Waldingfield Parish Hall	
21	Coffee Morning	10am
SAT	Newton Village Hall	
21	Cheese & Wine Party	7:30pm
SAT	Groton Village Hall	
22	Christmas Craft Fair	10-2pm
SUN	The White Hart, Boxford	
23	Boxford Friendship Group	2-4pm
MON	Boxford Village Hall	
27	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub	6:30pm
FRI	Little Waldingfield Pavilion	
28	Christmas Wreath Workshop	10am
SAT	Groton Village Hall	
28	Polstead Christmas Fair	11-3pm
SAT	Polstead Village Hall	

DECEMBER 2026

1	Fireside Club - Lawrence of Ariabia Talk	2pm
TUE	Newton Village Hall	
2-5	BDG Little Red Riding Hood	See ad P23
WED-SAT	Boxford Village Hall	
4	Groton History Society - Harold Lock	7:30pm
FRI	Groton Village Hall	
4-5	Nedging Hall Christmas Fair	10-4pm
FRI-SAT	Nedging Hall Barns, IP7 7HG	
5	Chelsworth Christmas Fair	11-3:30pm
SAT	All Saint's Church, Chelsworth	
5	Christmas Tree Festival	10-3pm
SAT	St Mary's Church, Boxford	
8-10	Father Brown & The Carnival of Fear	See P8
TUE-THU	Hadleigh Old School	
9	LWHS - Shakespeare to the Quay	7:30pm
WED	Little Waldingfield Parish Room	
9	Charity Quiz Night	8pm
WED	The Fleece, Boxford	
11	Uncork the Season Wine Tasting	7pm
FRI	Hadleigh Old School	
12	Christmas Fair	10-Noon
SAT	All Saints', Newton	
12	FoBs Santa Run	TBC
SAT	Boxford, Edwardstone & Groton	
15	Fireside Club - Xmas Meal @ NGGC	Noon
TUE	Newton Village Hall	

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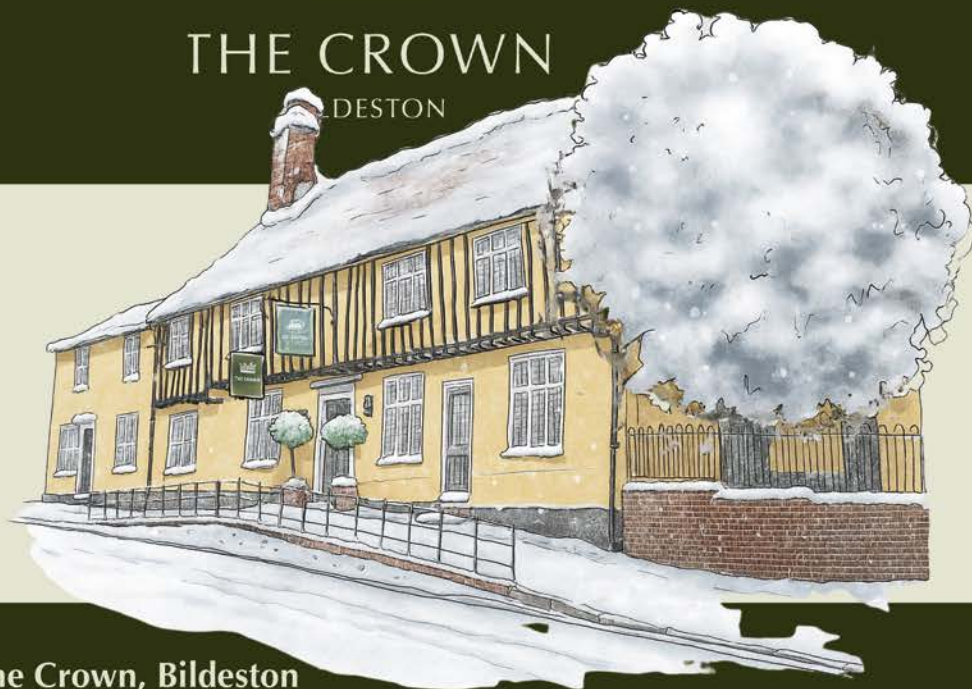
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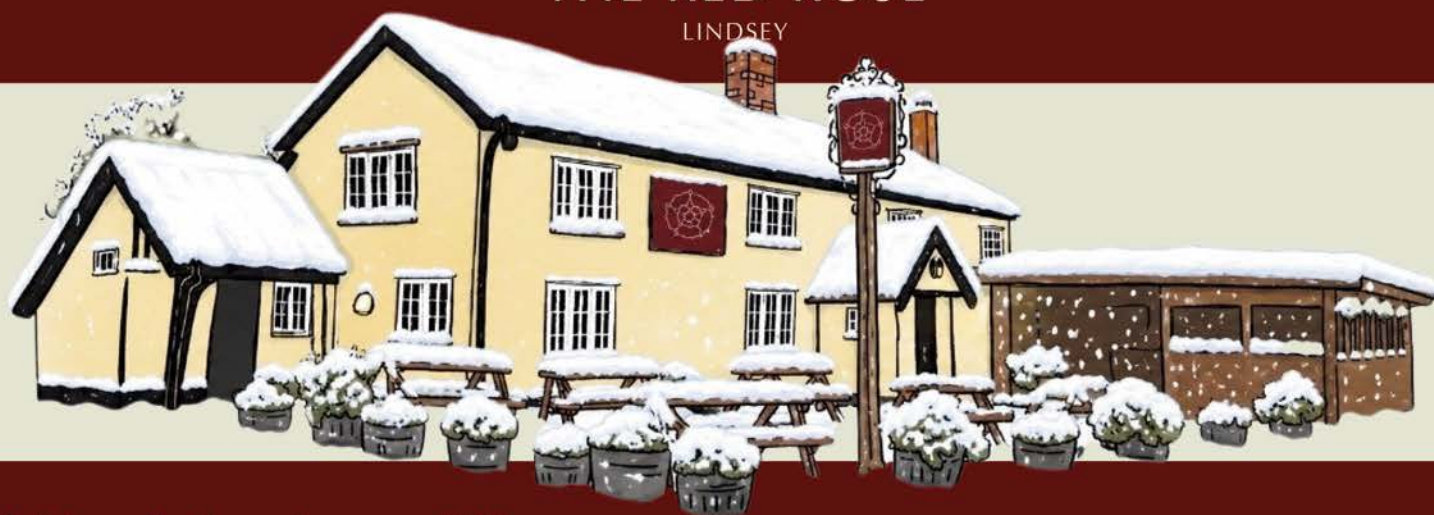
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