

May 2026

# Box River News

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# County Council Elections

## *What's changing this May*

Suffolk County Council elections take place on **Thursday 7th May**, and for most villages in the Box River Benefice there is a significant change from previous elections.

Boxford, Groton, Edwardstone and Little Waldingfield have all been moved into the newly redrawn Cosford division, which covers a large area of north Babergh. Little Waldingfield was previously part of the Sudbury East & Waldingfield division, while Boxford, Groton and Edwardstone were in Stour Valley. All four will now vote together for the same county councillor for the first time. The 2026 election is the first to use these new divisions.

Newton is the exception and remains in the Stour Valley division, meaning residents there will be voting for a different set of candidates from their neighbours across the rest of the benefice.

It is worth knowing who you are voting for before you arrive at the polling station. Your polling card will confirm which division you are in, but if you are in any doubt you can check via Suffolk County Council's election information pages.

Because local government in Suffolk is being reorganised, the county councillor you elect this time is expected to serve a shorter term than

usual. Ministers have decided to move forward with the creation of three new unitary councils for Suffolk, subject to Parliamentary approval, with the changeover planned for 1st April 2028. Elections for the new shadow councils are expected in May 2027.

Whoever wins in Cosford and Stour Valley this May is therefore likely to serve for about two years before the present system comes to an end. That does not make your vote any less important. County councillors still have real influence over education, social care, waste and recycling, transport and other major local services. This is a good reason to look past the headline claims of an election leaflet and consider which candidate is most likely to turn up, understand local issues and represent the area seriously and consistently.

Don't forget that you'll need to bring photo ID to the polling station. Without it, you won't be able to cast your vote. Accepted forms include a passport, driving licence, Blue Badge and a range of other documents. For the full list visit <https://tinyurl.com/accepted-voter-IDs>.

Local democracy in Suffolk is going through its biggest structural change in decades. May's election is only the beginning of that transition.

## *Who is standing?*

### **Cosford Division**

David Trevor Butcher  
*Liberal Democrats*

Ellena Zoe Cook  
*Local Conservatives*

Robert James Lindsay  
*Green Party*

Rupert Perry  
*Labour Party*

Patrick Alexander Wegener  
*ReformUK*

### **Stour Valley Division**

Philip James Faircloth-Mutton  
*ReformUK*

Siobhan Patricia Harris  
*Green Party*

Bryn David Hurren  
*Liberal Democrats*

Chris Mills  
*Labour Party*

Isabelle Reece  
*Local Conservatives*

## Box River News

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### **This month's cover image**

The cover shows a detail from artist David Dawson's *Perfect Light*. The full painting is currently on show as part of his *Land, Sky, Light: New Landscapes* exhibition



at Gainsborough's House. The exhibition forms part of the Spring/Summer Season, celebrating the 250th anniversary of John Constable, and runs from 25th April to 11th October 2026.

**The copy deadline for the June issue is Friday 15th May at midday.**

# Help Shape the Future of Boxford Playing Fields

Plans are underway to redesign the play park at Boxford Playing Fields, and local residents are being invited to help shape what comes next.



The Playing Fields Management Committee is at an early stage in the process and is keen to gather views from across the community. Whether you have young children, grandchildren, or simply an interest in the village, your input will help build a clear picture of what a new and improved play area should offer.

A short online survey has been created to collect ideas, preferences and suggestions. It only takes a few minutes to complete and will play an important role in guiding the design.

You can take part by visiting:

<https://tinyurl.com/boxford-play-park> or scanning the QR code:

As well as gathering feedback, the committee is also looking for volunteers to help with the next stage of the project. This will involve visiting other local play parks to identify features and facilities that work well - and those that do not - to help inspire the design for Boxford.

If you would be interested in helping with this, or would like to be involved in any way, please get in touch.

This is a valuable opportunity to create a play space that reflects the needs and ideas of the whole community, so all contributions are very welcome.

*Natalie Woods*  
Boxford Playing Fields Management Committee

## Boxford Parish Council Update

Since the visit to the Stone Street hamlet by members of the Suffolk Highways department, the initial report and plan for positioning of the various speed limit signs has now been received. The parish council has approved the plan with one or two minor additions. These additions include the position of the new speed limit signs at the entrances to the village, improved signage at the entrance to Stone Street from the A1071, making it clear that there is a weight and width restriction and it is unsuitable for HGVs.

These signs will be positioned on the A1071 so these restrictions can be seen before vehicles commit to turning into the road. Also, the position of 20mph signage is to be positioned at the entrance to Stone Street from the A1071.

Again, could I ask that all users of Stone Street respect the residents who live in the hamlet and take into account the narrow road, the lack of footpaths and limited visibility, particularly in the centre of the hamlet. The speed of most vehicles that pass through the hamlet is far too fast, so please drive at a sensible and safe speed.

Repair to the permissive footpath that connects Ash Street and Cox Hill has been agreed by Suffolk County Council and is due to take place shortly.

They also acknowledge that they are responsible for the upkeep of the footpath, which should make it easier to get maintenance carried out in the future. The repairs should include replacing fencing where needed, stabilising the bank and resurfacing the path.

Revised plans for the layout of the proposed car park behind the village hall have been drawn up by a civil engineer and submitted to the Diocese for their consideration. Their response to our proposal has been favourable so far, so hopefully a decision will be made by them shortly.

The playing field car park is in urgent need of resurfacing, improved drainage and enlargement. This is in hand and hopefully an announcement on when work can start will be made shortly. Improving the drainage in the car park will also benefit the Croft, as it will direct the water run-off into the two ponds recently renovated instead of saturating the path which runs through the Croft.

The pothole situation does not seem to be improving, with only one or

two of those reported being repaired. Please keep reporting them on the Suffolk County Council website. Problems with street lights, footpaths and signage can also be reported using this tool on their website.

If you have ideas or suggestions on how our village can be improved, please pass them to our clerk.

As has been mentioned in previous editions of the Box River News, it is vital that the younger members of our village step up and help steer village policies and development in the direction that will suit future generations. Our village can only survive and improve if we all remember that it is not a case of what the parish council can do for you, but what you can do to help make Boxford a better place to work and live. Without your help, all of the things that make Boxford such a unique place to live will slowly die. If you can commit to a few hours a week and are prepared to ensure projects are driven forward to completion, then please contact our parish clerk, Ms Zoe Rumsey [clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk)

*David Warren*

*Chairman, Boxford Parish Council*

## Boxford Flood Risk Mitigation Working Group

As Boxford lies in a valley, it is inevitable that parts of the village will be at risk of flooding should we suffer a prolonged period of rain. Recent events during the winter have illustrated how close the village came to flooding. To help mitigate this risk, it is proposed to establish a working group, managed by the parish council, to look into all aspects of this problem, identify appropriate steps, and take action where necessary.

To this end, it will need to establish which statutory bodies have responsibility, along with local groups and landowners, to investigate likely causes, identify solutions and, where necessary, detail a plan of action and consider funding.

If you have experience in this field, or are willing to help and spend a few hours a week on this important project, please inform our parish clerk, Ms Zoe Rumsey, at [clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk).

*David Warren*

*Chairman, Boxford Parish Council*

# Boxford Primary School

It has been a very busy and productive term at school, with pupils making great progress across all areas of learning. We were delighted to welcome many parents and carers to our recent parents evening. It was a valuable opportunity for teachers to share updates on pupils' achievements, discuss their progress, and talk about the next steps in their learning. Thank you to everyone who attended, and for your continued support in helping our pupils succeed.

## Year 3 and 4 Dodgeball at Pot Kiln Primary School

(School value: Perseverance)

Year 3 and 4 pupils thoroughly enjoyed a recent visit to Pot Kiln Primary School for an inter-school dodgeball event. With great teamwork and determination, pupils demonstrated not only their growing athletic skills but also excellent sportsmanship.

Mr Griffith was delighted to see such enthusiasm and positive energy, with many pupils already looking forward to the next event. Activities like these continue to play an important role in fostering a strong sense of community and wellbeing within the school.

Laurie in yr 3 said, "I really enjoyed the dodgeball matches. It was great to play against other schools".

## National Sports Award

(School value: Perseverance)

Boxford Primary School was recently nominated for a very special sports award and members of staff attended the Education Business Awards in London, which recognise achievements in thousands of state and independent schools.

Each year, the awards recognise excellence in over 20 categories, including Outstanding Progress and Leadership, SEN Best Practice and Provision, School Sports, and more. This year, the awards were presented by Matthew Burton, star of C4's Educating Yorkshire and headteacher of Thornhill Primary Academy.

We were nominated because sport plays a central role in school life at Boxford, with a high-quality PE curriculum and an extensive extracurricular programme offering activities such as golf, lacrosse, handball and dodgeball. The school has achieved the School Games Gold Mark for 4 consecutive years, reflecting strong participation and provision. Inter-school fixtures and tournaments are inclusive of SEND and mixed teams, contributing to outstanding personal development. Partnerships with local clubs and national event celebrations further enrich opportunities. This broad and inclusive approach fosters a strong culture of physical activity, wellbeing and engagement across the school.

Boxford Primary was commended in the School Sports category. This outstanding achievement is a reflection of the hard work of all staff in school, and of Mr Griffith, who oversees all PE activities. Both pupils and staff should be proud of this achievement.

If your child is looking to start school in September 2026, or move mid-year, please contact Mrs Clarke in the office on 01787 210332 or email [office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk). We would be happy to arrange a school tour so that you can see our exciting curriculum.

Mr S. Reynolds  
Assistant Headteacher



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# The Butcher's Wife

*A place for everything - except in its place*

I've struggled for ideas about what to write this month, so I read a few of my previous articles to see if anything would spark some inspiration. Two years ago, I wrote about all the things the Butcher does that annoy me. I'm devastated to report that not one thing has changed. All the things I mentioned, he still does, and there are additions.

*“something he has kept for most of his adult life has finally come in useful”*

I had naively thought that mentioning to the world how untidy he is would make him reconsider leaving his belongings in random places around the house. Sadly, this was not the case.

There is currently one of his jumpers on the kitchen island, which he took off on Sunday - it's now Wednesday. There are two pairs of shoes in the living room, despite having two shoe racks and a whole cupboard by the front door dedicated to shoe storage. Two of his coats are hanging on the back of dining room chairs, the coat hooks by the front door are redundant, and the packaging from his latest online purchase is still on the floor by the living room door.

I think I've mentioned before the cupboard we have in our house that is full to the brim of old cables and chargers for devices we don't even own anymore. I've never been allowed to throw any of them away because "they might come in handy one day". It's been a real bugbear of mine.

Much to the Butcher's delight, he found a spare power cable for one of the shop scales in this cupboard. You know what this means, don't you? I'm never going to be able to clear this cupboard without him smugly

reminding me that something he has kept for most of his adult life has finally come in useful.

I read somewhere recently that there are two types of people in the world: those who wake up raring to go and those who need a couple of hours before socialising, and they end up marrying each other. That is definitely the case for us. The Butcher wakes up and is instantly wide awake and chatting away. I, on the other hand, need a solid two hours, two or three cups of tea, and a quiet room before I'm ready to talk to anyone. The last thing I want to do in the morning is have a conversation about what to have for tea or talk about the latest antics of a certain US President.



## Gluten-free Raspberry Cheesecake

We have had to change how and what we cook over the past couple of months, as one of the mini Leeders has a wheat intolerance. I am shocked at how much food contains wheat, and even more so at the cost of wheat-free food. It has taken some getting used to, and a bit of trial and error.

If anyone has any recommendations for a palatable gluten-free bread, please let me know.

One saving grace is that the Butcher has wheat- and gluten-free marinades, sauces and spice mixes, as well as gluten-free sausages and burgers, which are a firm favourite of the mini Leeder.

### Ingredients

- 250g gluten-free digestive biscuits
- 100g salted butter
- 1 vanilla pod
- 600g full-fat soft cream cheese
- 150g icing sugar
- 284ml double cream
- ½ lemon
- 100g fresh raspberries, plus an extra handful for decoration
- 25g dark chocolate

### Method

1. Grease and line a 23cm loose-bottomed tin with baking parchment.
2. Gently melt the butter in a small pan.
3. Put the digestives in a plastic food bag and crush them into crumbs using a rolling pin. Transfer to a bowl.
4. Pour the melted butter into the bowl and mix thoroughly with the biscuit crumbs. Pour into the lined tin and put in the fridge to chill.
5. Remove the seeds from the vanilla pod and place them in a large mixing bowl. Add the cream cheese and icing sugar and mix until smooth with an electric mixer.
6. Add the double cream and the juice of the lemon, and mix until combined and smooth.
7. Put the raspberries in a separate bowl and mash with a fork, then add to the cream cheese mixture and fold in.
8. Remove the prepared tin from the fridge and spoon the cream cheese mixture on top of the biscuit base. Smooth the top of the cheesecake with the back of a spoon or a spatula, then leave to set overnight in the fridge.
9. Decorate with the raspberries and grated chocolate.




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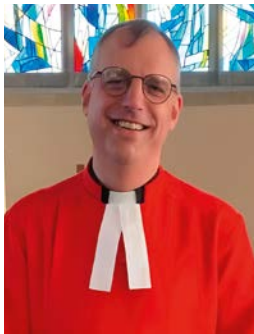


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## Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

What a truly wonderful Easter celebration we have shared across the Benefice this year. From the quiet, prayerful services of Palm Sunday and Holy



Week, through the deepening shadows of Good Friday, and into the radiant joy of Easter morning, we have travelled together once again through the heart of the Christian story.

Holy Week always feels like sacred ground, and it was particularly so this year. Our meditative services helped us to pause, to listen, and to enter more deeply into the poignant unfolding drama of Jesus' final days. As the darkness gathered and reached its peak on Good Friday, we were reminded of the costliness of love and the profound depth of Christ's sacrifice for us. Yet the story did not end there: Easter morning dawned with joy and hope and it was such a delight to gather in each of our wonderful five churches to proclaim once again that Christ is risen.

It was especially heartening to welcome so many visitors and infrequent attenders alongside our faithful regular congregations. Easter has a way of drawing people through our doors, and I want to say very clearly: however often you are able to attend church, you are always more than welcome. Every single person who comes, whether daily, weekly or once a year, is a valued part of our worshipping community.

One of the great joys of Holy Week was welcoming Boxford Primary School into church. It was a privilege to have the children with us, accompanied by their teachers and other staff, as well as parents, grandparents and friends. The children had clearly given careful thought to the message of Easter, and their contributions of poetry, singing and prayer were thoughtful, honest and moving. I know their work helped those of us who were present, myself included, to reflect afresh on the meaning of this season and to prepare our hearts for Easter Day.

None of what we celebrated over Easter would have been possible without the dedication and generosity of many people across the Benefice. I am deeply grateful to all those who gave their time, energy and skills so freely: those who sang and played the organ; those who arranged flowers; those who vacuumed, ironed, polished brass and silver; and those who prepared and photocopied orders of service. Much of this work happens quietly and behind the scenes, but it is no less an act of worship. Thank you for enabling us to celebrate the resurrection as fully and beautifully as we did.

Easter always feels like a new beginning. For the Church, it is a moment of renewal and rediscovery, and for us as individual Christians it is an invitation to new life in faith. The resurrection is not only about what happened to Jesus; it is about what can happen for us. Easter encourages us to step out in faith once again, to place our hope afresh in the God of resurrection, and to believe that light truly does overcome darkness.

During Lent we also marked another significant new beginning in the life of the Church as we welcomed our new Archbishop, the Most Reverend Dame Sarah Mullally. I was very privileged to be present at her installation service in Canterbury Cathedral and to share in the joy felt across the worldwide Anglican Communion. To celebrate not only a new Archbishop of Canterbury, but the first woman to hold that office, felt especially meaningful. In this Easter season, when we remember that it was women who first discovered the empty tomb and that Mary Magdalene was chosen to proclaim the resurrection, this moment feels particularly fitting. I, for one, am delighted.

Yet new beginnings are not limited to Easter Day or to momentous occasions in the life of the Church. Every morning is a new beginning: a gift from God, entrusted to us. Each day we are given choices — to act for good or for ill, to help others or to pass by their need, to draw closer to God or to drift further away. God's love meets us afresh each day, offering us grace, forgiveness and hope.

My prayer for each of you is that, as you make a new start this day and every day, you will know the deep and

abiding love of God — a love that cares for you more than you could possibly imagine, and that longs for you to draw closer, not only at Easter but throughout the whole year.

*With every blessing,  
Fr. James*

## May

### Dates for your diary

**Friday 1st 10:30am**

*Coffee Morning,  
St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield*

**Tuesday 5th 10am**

*Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*

**Monday 11th 10am**

*Newton APCM,  
All Saints', Newton*

**Tuesday 12th 10am**

*Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*

**Saturday 16th 10am**

*Coffee Morning,  
St Mary's, Boxford*

**Saturday 16th 4pm**

*Flute & Strings Concert,  
St Mary's, Boxford*

**Sunday 17th 11am**

*Edwardstone & Groton APCMs,  
St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone*

**Sunday 17th 12:30pm**

*Boxford APCM, St Mary's, Boxford*

**Monday 18th 7:30pm**

*Joint Benefice Council Meeting,  
Mary's House*

**Tuesday 19th 10am**

*Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*

**Tuesday 19th 2pm**

*Celebratory Afternoon Tea,  
Mary's House*

**Wednesday 20th 10am**

*Coffee Morning,  
All Saints', Newton Green*

**Tuesday 26th 10am**

*Drop in for Coffee, Mary's House*

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## Service Schedule for May 2026

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> <i>Easter 5</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10:00	<i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Easter 6</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist with Choir</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
	17:00	<i>BCP Evensong</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10:00	<i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Easter 7</i>	09:30	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist with Choir</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10:00	<i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Pentecost</i> <i>(Whit Sunday)</i>	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</i>	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	<i>Family Eucharist</i>	St Mary's, Boxford
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10:00	<i>Communion &amp; Coffee</i>	Mary's House, Boxford
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	09:30	<i>Benefice Eucharist</i>	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	<i>Sunday Eucharist</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**

**COFFEE MORNINGS**  
**IN**  
**MAY 2026**

DROP IN FOR COFFEE AT MARY'S HOUSE, SWAN STREET, BOXFORD  
BETWEEN 10.00 AND 12.00 PM  
EVERY TUESDAY

FRIDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY AT 10.30 AM  
COFFEE MORNING  
AT  
ST LAWRENCE'S, LT WALDINGFIELD

SATURDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT 10.00 AM  
COFFEE MORNING  
AT  
ST MARY'S, BOXFORD

WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT 10.00 AM  
COFFEE MORNING  
AT  
ALL SAINTS', NEWTON

JOIN US AS WE SHARE MEMORIES,  
STORIES AND MOMENTS

**Celebratory**  
**Afternoon Tea**  
**at**  
**Mary's House**

TUESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
2.00 PM - 4.00 PM

MARY'S HOUSE, 5 SWAN STREET,  
BOXFORD

A TIME TO CELEBRATE MARY'S HOUSE AND  
THE MANY LIVES IT HAS TOUCHED



## Easter in the Box River Benefice

This Easter our churches were filled with light, hope and the unmistakable warmth of a community gathered to celebrate the risen Christ. We want to offer our deepest thanks to everyone who came to worship with us. Your presence brought life to our churches and reminded us once again that Easter is not only a story of resurrection, but of renewed community and shared belonging.

A special word of gratitude must go to our ministry team, whose dedication and pastoral care carried us through this sacred season. Thanks also to our churchwardens, PCC members, organists, readers, intercessors, sidespeople, cleaners, flower arrangers, refreshment providers, and everyone who worked behind the scenes to make each service possible. Every act of service, large or small, helped weave together the rich tapestry of our Easter celebrations. As we move forward into the Easter season, may the hope we shared continue to shape our life together.

## David Ball

Many of you will know that David Ball has faithfully served the Box River Benefice for several years as a Licensed Lay Minister. We are deeply grateful for the dedication, wisdom, and pastoral care he has offered across our parishes. David's Lay Ministry licence has now expired, which means he is not currently able to serve in that capacity. We thank him wholeheartedly for all he has contributed to the life of our churches. His preaching, presence, and steady support have been a real blessing. Should David feel called to renew his licence in the future, we would gladly and warmly welcome him back into that ministry. In the meantime, please join us in giving thanks for all he has shared with us, and in praying for him as he continues to discern the next steps in his service to God and our community.

## Little Waldingfield Lent Lunch

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along, donated, or helped in any way. We are especially grateful to our volunteers who prepared and served the delicious homemade soups. Their hard work and cheerful service made the lunch both welcoming and memorable. It was a wonderful occasion, bringing together friends from across the Benefice. We are delighted to report that the event raised £350 for St Lawrence's church funds - a fantastic total.



## Electoral Roll

Each year, every parish in the Church of England carries out a revision of the Church Electoral Roll. This helps keep our records up to date and ensures that everyone who wishes to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) can do so. The electoral roll is the official list of lay members of the church. As part of the revision, we will update the roll by removing the names of those who have moved away or died, and adding the names of those who wish to join. If you are already on the roll, you do not need to reapply this

year. If you would like to join the roll, or if you are unsure whether you are already on it, please contact the benefice office in the first instance.

## Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Our churches will be holding their APCMs in May. They are an important moment in the life of the church, offering a chance to look back with gratitude, look forward with hope, and take care of the practical responsibilities that support our shared ministry. The meetings receive the annual reports on the parish's mission, worship, finances, and fabric; elects members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC); (and, this year, representatives to Sudbury Deanery Synod); and formally notes the number on the Church Electoral Roll. Anyone on the Church Electoral Roll is entitled to attend and vote at the APCM. Visitors are welcome to be present, though only those eligible may vote.

### APCM Dates are:

- All Saints', Newton – **Monday, 11th May at 10am**
- St Bartholomew's, Groton and St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone – **Sunday 17th May at 11am** at St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
- St Mary's, Boxford – **Sunday, 17th May at 12:30pm**
- St Lawrence's Church, Little Waldingfield – please contact the Benefice Office for further information

## Organ Recital at St Mary's

St Mary's Church, Boxford, is delighted to welcome Tom Cogan back for a summer evening organ recital on Saturday 27th June, 6-7pm. Admission is free, and everyone is warmly invited to enjoy an hour of varied music in St Mary's.

Tom promises a cornucopia of organic delights! We'll travel through a mixture of music from a range of composers. We start the programme with Widor's Toccata and end when the Penguins come out for Play Time!

After the recital, you are warmly invited to stay and enjoy a glass of wine, and there will be a retiring collection in aid of the St Mary's Church Organ Fund, supporting the ongoing care and future of our much-loved instrument. Do join us for what promises to be a memorable evening of music.

## Mary's House Celebration Tea

Please join us to celebrate Mary's House on Tues 19th May from 2 to 4:30pm. It has been such an asset to our villages, a place of welcome for so many over the last 24 years. It has hosted coffee mornings, WI, bridge, the British Legion, arts and crafts, fundraising, small meetings, counselling, council surgeries, the benefice office, Fairtrade, and so much more. Come and raise a glass or a cup, and celebrate all that Mary's has been, in gratitude to Mary Every and her vision and generosity. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Contact Information

### Benefice Office:

Mary's House, 5 Swan Street, Boxford, CO10 5NZ

**01787 828046**

email: [boxriverbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverbenefice@gmail.com)

Boxford Church Fundraising Concert

# Music for Flute and Strings

Mozart, Brevall, J C Bach, Crusell

Saturday May 16th 2026 4.00 pm



**Mary Blanchard - flute**  
**Rhianwen Gold - violin**  
**Geoff Irwin - viola**  
**Ed Gold - cello**

Adults £10 Under 18s FREE  
 Boxford Post Office or on the door  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/boxford-concerts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/boxford-concerts)  
**St Mary's Church, Boxford CO10 5DU**



## Little Waldingfield Pavilion AGM

**Tuesday 5th May, 7pm**

All welcome  
 The committee looks forward to seeing you

## Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pubs

Our next 'Pop-Up Pub' nights will be on **Friday 29th May** and **Friday 26th June**.  
 These relaxed and friendly events run from 6:30 - 10:30pm in the beautiful setting of the pavilion at the Little Waldingfield playing fields, and everyone is welcome to join us for an evening of great company and a range of reasonably-priced drinks (both alcoholic and non) watching the sun set over the countryside.

## Polstead Films

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL  
**Friday 15th May, Doors open 7pm**



### *Hamnet*

**"Paul Mescal and Jessie Buckley beguile and captivate in an audacious Shakespearean tragedy"**

Tickets £5. Email: [polsteadfilms@gmail.com](mailto:polsteadfilms@gmail.com) to reserve or buy in Polstead Community Shop.  
 The film starts at 7:30pm.


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


## GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

MAY

# 21

On 15 June 2022  
**WILLIAM BAMFORD**  
 A witness of Cambridge  
 and the history of the city of  
 Cambridge





## A History of Harwich

**Andy Schooler**  
 Chair of Harwich History Society  
 @ Groton Village Hall: 19:30 - 21:30  
 £5 entry, includes Glass of Wine  
 ( Students free )

## Model Railway Show

Lavenham Church's First Model Railway Show takes place on **Saturday 16th May 2026 10am - 4pm**.  
 For more information: [www.lavenham.church/mre](http://www.lavenham.church/mre)

## Quiz Night

Little Waldingfield Parish Room  
**Saturday 4th July 2026**  
 7.30pm prompt start

£12.50 per person, with two course hot meal  
 (Please bring your own drinks)

Max 4 persons per team  
 (it may be possible to find partners for you)

Raffle

Bookings: Sue Bowen 07962 210359  
[sd.bowen@btopenworld.com](mailto:sd.bowen@btopenworld.com)

BOXFORD  
GARDENING SOCIETY

## Andrew Mikolajski

### DO YOUR ROOTS NEED DOING?

Good root growth is essential for healthy and productive plants. How can you be sure your plants are performing well underground when you can't even see them?



**Tuesday 5th May 7.30pm**  
at Boxford Village Hall



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

### The Jo Harrop Quartet

Wednesday 13th May 2026 8pm - Tickets: £20



Effortlessly blurring the lines between jazz and blues; renowned for achingly beautiful music, so shot through with pathos and pain, it could melt the hardest of hearts.

Jo Harrop – Vocals  
Paul Edis – Piano  
Mirko Scarcia – Bass  
Darren Beckett – Drums

### Simon Spillett's Big Band present Dear Tubby H

Wednesday 27th May 2026 8pm - Tickets: £35



A line-up of seventeen A-list jazz musicians:

Simon Spillett as Musical Director/Sax  
★ Nathan Bray, Steve Fishwick, Mark Armstrong, Ryan Quigley trumpets ★  
Simon Allen, Alan Barnes, Alex Garnett,  
Pete Long, Tom Smith saxes / flute  
/clarinets ★ Ian Bateman, Matt Seddon,  
Pete North, Andy Flaxman trombones  
★ Rob Barron piano ★ Alec Dankworth  
bass ★ Peter Cater drums.

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath CO6 4PZ

Ample parking; fully accessible. Directions: [www.fleecejazz.org.uk](http://www.fleecejazz.org.uk)

Tickets: 01787 210796 or via [WeGotTickets](http://WeGotTickets) (booking fee applies);  
or on the door (cash or cheque only; sorry no debit/credit cards)

\*Friends of Fleece Jazz discount

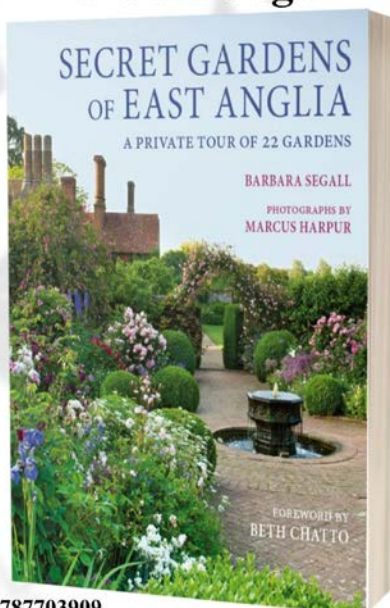
SPECIAL OFFER: A double room with breakfast and two tickets  
from £129 (subject to availability) Phone: 01206 262836

BYRON &  
THE BARD  
LAVENHAM

Lavenham Hidden Gardens

## Book Signing Event

Secret Gardens of East Anglia  
– a private tour  
**Barbara Segall**



**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
From 12pm

10 Lady Street  
Rear Garden

(or Gardenroom if wet  
- entrance via  
courtyard garden)

signed and dedicated  
books are available  
for pre-order from  
Byron and the Bard

72 Water Street, Lavenham

Contact us by phone on 01787703909  
or by email [orders@byronandthebard.com](mailto:orders@byronandthebard.com)

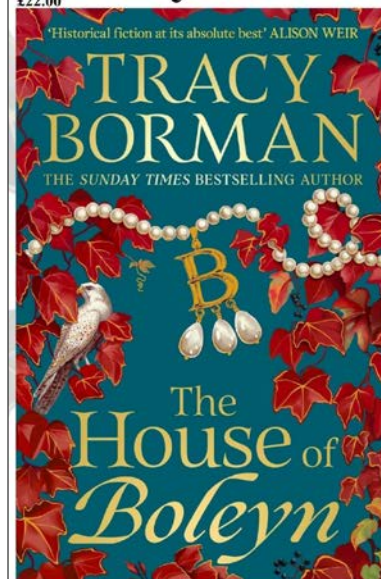
£18.99

BYRON &  
THE BARD  
LAVENHAM

## Book Talk

*The House Of Boleyn*  
**Tracy Borman**

£22.00



**Saturday 13th June**  
2.30pm - 4.30pm

Lavenham  
Library  
Church Street

Tickets available from  
Lavenham Library  
or online via  
Eventbrite

If you are unable to attend what is anticipated to be a sold out event,  
signed and dedicated books are available for  
pre-order from Byron and the Bard -  
72 Water Street, Lavenham  
Contact us by phone on 01787703909 or by email  
[orders@byronandthebard.com](mailto:orders@byronandthebard.com)

*An Evening of*  
**POPULAR TUNES**  
*with Musicology*

*Edwardstone Church Concert*  
**Saturday, 6th June 2026 | 7:00 PM**  
*featuring music from:*  
 The Beatles, The Carpenters, Flanders & Swann, Cole Porter

**Tickets: £10 – Includes a glass of wine & canapés**

☎ Marlene Clarke: 07884 312953  
 ☎ Ineke Morris: 07765 098864  
*All proceeds go to support Edwardstone Church*

**ST MARY'S CHURCH BOXFORD**  
**SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> June**  
**6pm – 7pm**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**TOM COGAN**  
**Organ**

Enjoy a glass of wine after the Recital.  
**RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF  
 ST MARY'S CHURCH, ORGAN FUND.**




*Madrigalia & A Melody of Harps*

*Present:*  
**A Lunchtime Recital**  
**Bury St Edmunds Cathedral**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1.10 p.m**  
**Free Entry**  
**Retiring Collection**

**BINGO NIGHT**

at the White Hart, Boxford  
**THURSDAY  
 21ST MAY**  
 Arrive at 7pm  
 Eyes down at 7:30pm  
 All book sales will go  
 towards cash prize's  
 £15 a book

Book to reserve a table  
 now on  
 01787 211764



**CALLING ALL MEN OVER 40!**

# PSA BLOOD TESTING EVENING

DETECTING THE EARLY SIGNS OF PROSTATE DISEASE

**THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2026**  
**4:30PM - 7:30PM | JUST £28.00PP**  
*PRE-BOOKING IS REQUIRED, NO DROP-INS ON THE DAY*

Stoke by Nayland Golf Club, Leavenheath, CO6 4PZ  
**REGISTER AND BOOK TODAY!**  
[snr.mypsatestests.org.uk](http://snr.mypsatestests.org.uk)

*In loving memory of the legendary Dick Chalmers*

The Prostate-Specific Antigen Test is a blood test which can detect the early signs of prostate cancer.




# Ladies

## GET INTO GOLF

### FREE TASTER LESSON

**WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE AT 1PM**  
**SATURDAY 20TH JUNE AT 11 AM**

ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED, NO DRESS CODE, JUST TRAINERS REQUIRED.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT NEWTON GREEN GOLF CLUB.

CALL ON (01787) 377217  
 TIM COOPER ON [tcoopergolf@aol.com](mailto:tcoopergolf@aol.com)




# BOXFORD BOWLS CLUB OPEN DAY

*Boxford BC invites you to come and have a go at Bowls!*

**Sunday 17th May 2026**  
**10am to 4pm • Free to attend**

Open to Adults and Children over 12 (accompanied by adult)  
 Light refreshments will be available  
 Wear flat shoes or trainers



For more information please contact [boxfordbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:boxfordbowlsclub@gmail.com) or 01787 211133

Boxford bowls club is located behind The Fleece Hotel, Boxford

# Stoke by Nayland Art Exhibition

St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**  
to  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

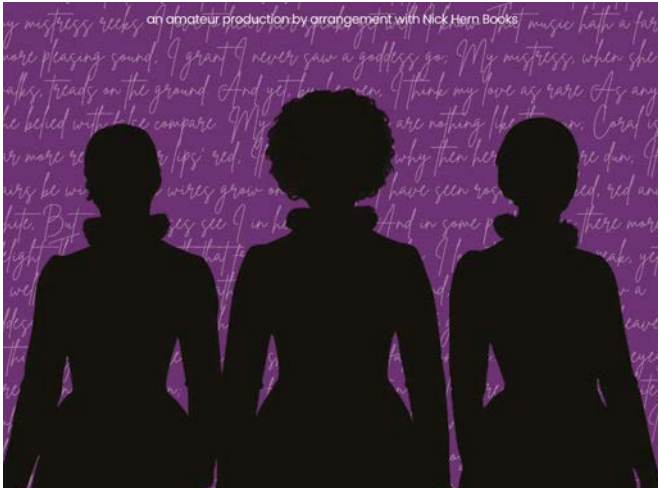
10am - 5pm Friday and Saturday  
11am - 4pm Sunday

**A Sale of Contemporary and Vintage  
Painting, Prints and Pottery  
By Local Artists**

**Tea, Coffee and Homemade Cakes**

**In aid of the Church Restoration**

an amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books








*History silenced her. She won't be quiet now.*

# EMILIA

by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

12<sup>th</sup> May – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026



 Box Office 01787 374 745
 
 Online [www.quaysudbury.com](http://www.quaysudbury.com)





**MILL TYE**  
GALLERY AND ARTS CENTRE

Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre

## Thirza Kotzen Landsongs (a dreaming)

May 2026/

Bringing together work created across Africa, Europe, the USA, the UK, as well as her own garden, this exhibition reflects the breadth of Thirzas journeys—geographical, emotional, internal and highly personal.

Exhibition runs until Bank Holiday Monday 25th May

To find out more and to register your interest go to:  
[www.milltyegallery.co.uk/exhibitions](http://www.milltyegallery.co.uk/exhibitions)

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.




Come and explore  
Gainsborough's world

Galleries  
Museum  
Garden  
Café

Open every day

◊ Sudbury, Suffolk  
[www.gainsborough.org](http://www.gainsborough.org)

Gainsborough's  
House

# LITTLE WALDINGFIELD OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 21st June 2026

11am to 4pm

Admission £6 per Adult

Includes programme with map from  
Parish Room, Church Road

Children under 16 Free

Refreshments

Plants and Produce

Parking on Playing Field

Proceeds go to our St. Lawrence Church



# Boxford Open Gardens 2026

### Opening Times

Sunday 7th June  
11am - 4pm

### More Information

Audrey Zuck  
audrey@  
a2zriskservices.com

### Tickets

£6 / free for under 16s  
Purchase at the main  
ticket stall at the  
Church, or at the first  
garden you visit.

### Things to Do

- Open gardens in Boxford and Edwardstone
- New gardens to see
- Children's Trail
- Teas, coffees, cakes

# LEO'S LIONS

IS BACK!

HILLSIDE  
DADS



FRIENDS  
& FAMILY

DATE: SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026

VENUE: AFC SUBBURY

To help fund crucial equipment  
needed at hillside to support  
our childrens needs



Family fun day

FREE to enter Food

**HUGE RAFFLE**  
**TOMBOLA**  
**CAKE STALL**  
**GAMES**



Licensed bar

Wheelchair accessible  
throughout

COME AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SPECIAL SCHOOL

# THE FLEECE HOTEL

# Charity Quiz

Wed 13th	May	8PM
Wed 17th	Jun	8PM
Wed 15th	Jul	8PM
Wed 12th	Aug	8PM
Wed 16th	Sep	8PM
Wed 14th	Oct	8PM
Wed 11th	Nov	8PM
Wed 9th	Dec	8PM

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

Up to 6 per team | 01787 211 818 to reserve a table



**THE CROWN**  
BILDESTON



**BREAKFAST AT THE CROWN**

Monday - Friday 7-10am  
Weekends 8 - 10am

**BEER GARDEN OPENING**

BBQ and Live Music  
*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 12 - 8pm*

**THURSDAY STEAK NIGHT**

8oz Steaks *from 6pm*

[www.thebildestoncrown.com](http://www.thebildestoncrown.com) | [01449 740510](tel:01449740510)



**THE LINDSEY ROSE**  
Est. 1478

**BURGER WEDNESDAY**

Burger & a selected drink for £18



**HAVE YOU BOOKED YET?**

[01449 741424](tel:01449741424) | [thelindseyrose.co.uk](http://thelindseyrose.co.uk)

The Tye, Lindsey, Ipswich IP7 6PP



**BRIGHTEN YOUR GARDEN &  
SOAK IN SPRING**

It's the perfect time to get outside into your garden and embrace the warmer months!

Head to our Plant Centre where you can find a great selection of plants to choose from, including a fantastic range of **Homegrown Perennials**

Receive a free bag of muck to mulch when purchasing one of our labelled trees - more details available in our Farm Shop.

**RECEIVE A BAG OF  
FREE MUCK!**



**HOLLOW  
TREES  
FARM  
PLANTS**

[01449 741 247](tel:01449741247)

[www.hollowtrees.co.uk](http://www.hollowtrees.co.uk)

[shop@hollowtrees.co.uk](mailto:shop@hollowtrees.co.uk)

Hollow Trees Farm, Semer, IP7 6HX



**1926**



**2026**

**GROTON VILLAGE HALL**

## **CENTENARY CELEBRATION**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
**3pm – 5pm**

To all Groton residents and friends:

**You are warmly invited to the village  
hall's 100<sup>th</sup> 'birthday' party!**

- ❖ Traditional high tea ❖
- ❖ Variety of hot and cold drinks ❖
- ❖ Children's activities ❖
- ❖ Special display of the hall's history ❖

*Please contact Joanna (07845 940008)  
or Jayne (01787 211360) if you plan to attend*



**WHITE HART INN**  
BROAD STREET, BOXFORD

**2 COURSES - MAIN MEAL & DESSERT £15**

- LUNCH SERVED EVERYDAY BETWEEN 12PM-2:30PM -

- DINNER SERVED EVERYDAY 5PM-8PM -

**- BAR MENU -**

<b>CHICKEN TENDERS</b>	£10
Crispy chicken tenders with Bbq sauce and chips.	
<b>SCAMPI</b>	£10
Deep fried scampi with tartare sauce and chips.	
<b>COD GOUJONS</b>	£10
Crispy cod goujons with tartare sauce and chips.	
<b>CHEESE BURGER *</b>	£10
Homemade beef cheese burger and chips.	
<b>CHICKEN BURGER</b>	£10
Crispy chicken burger and chips.	
<b>VEGGIE BURGER</b>	£10
Oriental spiced vegetable burger and chips.	
<b>CHILLI CON CARNE</b>	£10
Homemade chilli con carne with rice, sour cream and nachos.	

**- PANINI MENU -**

<b>HAM &amp; CHEESE*</b>	£10
Ham and cheese in a toasted panini served with salad and crisps.	
<b>CHEESE &amp; CHUTNEY *</b>	£10
Cheese and red onion chutney in a toasted panini served with salad and crisps.	
<b>TOMATO &amp; MOZZARELLA *</b>	£10
Sundried tomatoes, pesto and mozzarella in a toasted panini served with salad and crisps.	
<b>CHILDREN'S MEALS</b>	£7
Choose from any of the meals or panini's.	
<b>BACON ROLL *</b>	£6
Three rashers of bacon with a choice of ketchup or brown sauce.	
<b>BACON &amp; EGG ROLL*</b>	£6
Two rashers of bacon and an egg with a choice of ketchup or brown sauce.	
<b>CHIPS</b>	£4

\* GLUTEN FREE ALTERNATIVE

PLEASE INFORM A MEMBER OF STAFF IF YOU HAVE ANY FOOD ALLERGIES.

**Curry Night**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Bookings only**

CHOOSE FROM

**Beef madras**  
**Thai king prawn**  
**Chicken korma**  
**Sweet potato & chick pea**

FOLLOWED BY MANGO SORBET

**£20 PER PERSON**

**TO BOOK A TABLE**  
**CALL US ON 01787 211764**

**PIZZA NIGHT**

**EVERY THURSDAY**

AT THE WHITE HART INN, BOXFORD

**FRESH STONE BAKED**  
*and made fresh to order!*

**EAT IN OR TAKE AWAY**

**£12 EACH**

**CHOOSE FROM:**

- Lion's Meat Feast
- Chorizo & Hot Honey
- BBQ Chicken & Bacon
- Ham & Pineapple
- Sun-Dried Tomato & Mozzarella
- Mushroom, Pepper & Red Onion
- Garlic Cheese Bread

**DESSERT SPECIAL**

**Chocolate Hazelnut Pizza**  
WITH **TWO SCOOPS** OF VANILLA ICE CREAM

**JOIN US THIS THURSDAY!**

GREAT PIZZA • GREAT PUB • GREAT COMPANY



**FISH & CHIPS**  
**EVERY FRIDAY**

Battered Cod loin, Chips, Mushy Peas  
& Tartare Sauce  
**£13.50**



Eat in or Takeaway  
Pre booking is advised  
To place a order call  
01787 211764  
Served  
Lunch 12-2:30pm  
Evening 5-8pm



# *Creative Escapes Close to Home*

## *Gainsborough's House offers exhibitions, gardens & a flexible escape on your doorstep*

As the days grow longer and gardens begin to stir, many of us start looking for simple ways to enjoy time together without travelling far or planning too much in advance.

Gainsborough's House in Sudbury offers exactly that kind of easy, flexible day out, one that can be shaped to suit families, couples, friends, or anyone simply in need of a change of scene.

Set beside the River Stour, Gainsborough's House combines

historic buildings, light filled galleries, gardens and cafés, all within walking distance of Sudbury town centre. It is a place where you can dip in for an hour or spend a leisurely afternoon, depending on how the day unfolds.

This spring and summer, the gallery's exhibition programme provides plenty to explore. Alongside a major exhibition celebrating the shared Suffolk landscape that inspired Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable and

JMW Turner, visitors can also see contemporary work by artists responding to landscape today. These exhibitions sit comfortably alongside the permanent displays, offering something new to discover whether it is your first visit or a return one.

What makes the experience particularly welcoming is that there





or a visit to the market can all be folded into the day. For those who enjoy stretching their legs a little further, the surrounding countryside offers familiar footpaths and riverside routes that link town and landscape together.

For residents, this sense of accessibility matters. Gainsborough's House is not positioned as a special occasion destination, but as a place that can be

is no right way to visit. Some people come for the exhibitions and stay for coffee; others meet friends for lunch before wandering through the galleries. Families often enjoy combining time indoors and out, using the gardens as a place to pause and reset between looking.

For those visiting with children, the galleries are designed to feel calm and approachable rather than intimidating. There is room to ask questions, linger over favourite works, or move on if attention wanders. It is an environment that encourages curiosity rather than silence.

Tucked within the galleries is something rather special and quietly unexpected, a permanent camera obscura. Situated in the landscape studio, this centuries old viewing device offers a 360-degree view across Gainsborough's hometown of Sudbury and the surrounding landscape. A predecessor to modern photography, it allows visitors to see the town as light and movement, drifting gently across the viewing table. For many, it becomes a moment of pause, a reminder of how artists like Gainsborough once studied the world around them, and how simply slowing down can change the way we see familiar places. Visitors are even invited to have a go at operating it themselves.

Outside, the gardens offer a quieter counterpoint to the galleries. As spring turns into summer, they become a place to sit, talk, sketch or simply take in the surroundings. Many visitors use the gardens as a natural stopping point before heading into town.

From Gainsborough's House, Sudbury itself is easy to explore on foot. A walk along the river, a browse through independent shops,

returned to through the seasons. The changing exhibitions mean there is always something different to see, while the familiar setting offers reassurance and continuity.

In many ways, it reflects the rhythms of village life, moments of gathering, moments of quiet, and space to reconnect with each other and with the places we know well.

As spring gives way to early summer, a creative escape does not have to mean going far. Sometimes it is simply about rediscovering what is on our doorstep, a familiar landscape seen through new eyes, and a shared experience enjoyed close to home.

[www.gainsborough.org](http://www.gainsborough.org)

**Opposite page, clockwise from top:** *Gainsborough's House*  
© Gainsborough's House | Jackie Mellor

*June on Earth by David Dawson*

*The John Constable Room, Gainsborough's House*

**Above:** *Sketching views from the Camera Obscura*

© Gainsborough's House | Jackie Mellor

**Below:** *A peaceful retreat and place to relax* © Gainsborough's House | Jackie Mellor



## Discover Art by the River

Tucked quietly beside the River Stour, just beyond Sudbury's town centre, Mill Tye Gallery continues to grow as one of the area's most welcoming creative spaces. Set within a beautifully restored historic mill, the gallery offers a changing programme of contemporary exhibitions alongside workshops, community projects and a thoughtfully curated shop.



At its heart, Mill Tye is about access - creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with art. From artist-led classes and school partnerships to exhibitions showcasing both emerging and established makers, the gallery is committed to making creativity part of everyday life.

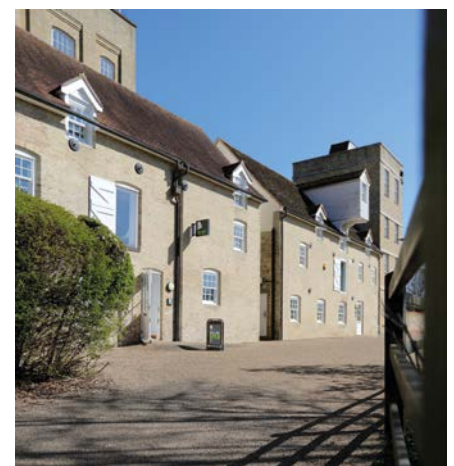
Visitors can expect an ever-evolving mix of work, from printmaking and textiles to painting and sculpture, all presented in a relaxed and scenic setting along the Gainsborough Trail. Whether you're dropping in for inspiration, taking part in a workshop, or simply enjoying a walk by the river, it's a place that invites you to slow down and look more closely.

The current exhibition, *Thirza Kotzen: LANDSONGS (a dreaming)*, continues until Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May.

Opening times: Thursday to Sunday 10:30am - 4pm

Mill Tye Gallery & Arts Centre  
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[www.milltyegallery.co.uk](http://www.milltyegallery.co.uk)



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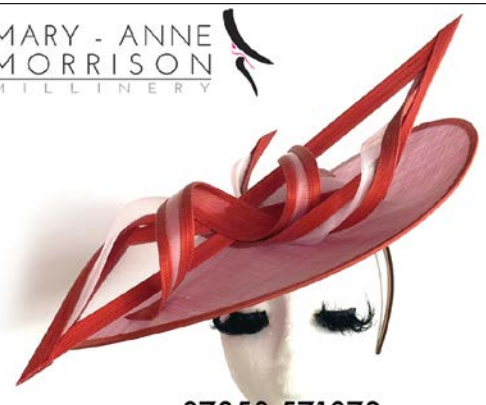
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# Hadleigh Patient Participation Group (PPG)

## Anima:

Did you know that Anima is now linked to the NHS app? You can log into the app and request an appointment with the surgery:



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

Concerned about folks without access to Anima? There is no need to be, as they can still call the practice. However, if you use Anima, you help reduce the number of phone calls each day and free up the lines for others.

**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 5th May from 10am to 12 noon. Booking is essential as places are limited. Contact Tracey on [info@communitiestogether-ea.org](mailto:info@communitiestogether-ea.org) or 01449 707031.

**RSV Jabs:** Respiratory Syncytial Virus is a common cause of coughs and colds. The RSV vaccine is available for all patients aged 80 and over. This is a one-off vaccine. Eligible



patients will be contacted in May. They will be invited to attend a weekly clinic every Wednesday morning until all appropriate patients have been called.

## Out of Hours Doctor:

Need a doctor when Hadleigh Health Centre is closed, including weekends? Call 111 for advice and details of your nearest 'out of hours' duty doctor, or visit [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk).



**Unwanted Medical Equipment:** Please be aware that unwanted medical equipment cannot be used by the practice or returned to the original suppliers. On several occasions, well-meaning patients have left items outside the front door of the health centre, leaving members of the practice to dispose of them.

## Pharmacy First:

The Pharmacy First scheme is an NHS initiative designed to offer professional healthcare advice and treatment for



seven common illnesses, e.g. shingles, sore throats, ear infections, impetigo, sinusitis, UTIs (under 65s only), and infected bites.

**The Patient Car Park:** You are kindly reminded that these spaces are for the convenience of patients with a medical appointment or who are collecting medicine from the pharmacy inside the practice. It should not be used for any other purpose.

**Toppesfield Car Park:** This is a metered public car park administered by Babergh Council. However, if you have a medical appointment or are collecting a prescription from the health centre, and you enter your car registration details in the machine inside the health centre, you do not need to pay. This is valid for two hours.

**Boxford Community Car Scheme:** This service is available for patients needing transport to hospital or health centre appointments. Contact Jen Eastwood on 01787 211853 or [jen.eastwood8@gmail.com](mailto:jen.eastwood8@gmail.com).

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/HadleighHealthCentre](http://www.facebook.com/HadleighHealthCentre)

**PPG Chair/ Art Work:** Jan Devey  
[deveys@btinternet.com](mailto:deveys@btinternet.com) 01473 827091 or 07881 798999

# Boxford Gardening Society

On the 7th April Brian Carline gave a fascinating and amusing talk on natural ways to deal with pests and diseases in our gardens without resorting to chemicals, particularly soap solution for aphids and his remedy for badgers causing havoc in the garden was to leave Talk Radio on all night which certainly deterred them from his own garden.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th May when Andrew Mikolajski will talk about what goes on underground - keeping plant roots healthy.

On 2nd June we are looking forward to a talk by internationally famous Alan Gray from East Ruston Old Vicarage. This will be a ticketed event £8 members and £12 guests available from our Secretary, Elizabeth Wagener. ([elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com))

We welcome new members and guests.  
[enquiry.boxfordgardeningssociety@outlook.com](mailto:enquiry.boxfordgardeningssociety@outlook.com)

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# *Cecil Hughes MBE 1926–2018*

*Boxfordian, builder, soldier & community champion.  
A life recorded in the **Boxford Society Archive**  
Part 3: Army service after VE Day & his return to Boxford*

In the third and final instalment of the life of Cecil Hughes MBE (see BRN March 26 and April 26 for parts 1 and 2) we rejoin Cecil as he celebrates his 19th birthday as a foot soldier in Wismar, Germany. Cecil



did not leave Wismar with the first group of soldiers in May, but later in June. In the meantime the Russian army and the British had a two-mile demarcation zone between them, but still fraternised. Trading occurred, with Cecil being offered a watch from dozens strapped up both arms of a Russian. Realising it was loot, Cecil decided he had no need of a watch! Whilst there he had to make a choice between retraining as a parachute or glider expert and chose the latter. Eventually he was on the way home for two weeks' embarkation leave and retraining at Bulford Camp on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire.

*"We drove back from Wismar, using an old German lorry. On the way back we got a puncture in a front wheel, so someone had a bright idea and split the tyre off the rear and put half back on the rear and put half onto the front wheel and we went on mile after mile until the tyre caught alight. It burned the whole lorry up. So we*

*marched on our way and got to a British Army camp. All they had to give us was a British Army Duck [an amphibious vehicle used to land troops on and off beaches]. So on we went to Brussels, enjoyed the Montgomery Club, then it was time to climb aboard a Halifax bomber off to Blighty [The Montgomery Club was a rest centre operated by the NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes) for British troops, located in the Palais d'Egmont and which provided refreshments, leisure activities, and accommodation*

**Above:** Cecil Hughes MBE, 50 years a parish councillor. Cecil sits on the wall of the house where he attended his first parish council meeting.

**Left:** Cecil was sad at losing his 9th Para red beret, but here he is stylishly wearing the beret of 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles.



*"We used a truck to go up the mountain to village dances and once it came off the road with one wheel hanging over the cliff. We got out and got it back on the road. We also took the trucks down to Italy for supplies, wine, grapes, oranges, etc. Austria had not got much then."*

*"After quite a long stay in Austria, we were posted to Trieste, where the Yugoslavs and Italians were fighting over who should own Trieste and its port on the Adriatic Sea. We were there to keep the peace and prevent looting. Me and my mate*

for soldiers). Then on to Salisbury Plain and Bulford Camp to train with gliders. But grim news! We were off to Singapore to fight the Japs. However, the Japanese surrendered in November 1945 and I did not have to go. The Division was then to be posted to Palestine, but I was posted away from the 6th Airborne and sent to Italy instead, as part of the London Irish Rifles. Not any gliders in use now - no red berets! I was just a rifleman of the 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles"

*"We travelled from the Hook of Holland across Europe. Not the usual route as it was so much damaged by the war. We travelled on MEDLOC trains, stopped for meals (at special camps) but slept six to a carriage at night, two on the seats, two on the floor and two on the luggage racks."*

MEDLOC (Mediterranean Lines of Communication) was a rail troop transport service used late in World War II and the immediate post-war period. Carriages were commandeered and track repaired and several routes were used from the Channel ports to Italy.

*"We passed through Switzerland and on to Milan, where we transferred to cattle trucks with straw on the floor for the journey to Southern Italy. It was not so well organised as the MEDLOC train had been. After four days we arrived at the Salerno camp, stayed*

*there for two weeks, then went by train to Obervellach, a mountain village in Austria."*

*"Halfway up the mountain the power failed and we came to a sudden halt. The cable car swayed back and forth..."*

*"We were to take our turn as guards in Vienna. Guard duty was difficult because we had to travel through the Russian Zone and they made sure of all the paperwork. Vienna was split into four different national zones: Soviet, American, British and French (plus an International Zone in the city centre). Some guys were sick with stomach infections in Vienna from drinking the water (Cecil warily declined it!). We spent six weeks there, staying safe when off duty in the British zone and using trams free of charge. We then went back to Obervellach. We had to do ski training. We put our skis on the rack under the cable car and off we went. Halfway up the mountain the power failed and we came to a sudden halt. The cable car swayed back and forth at first and some skis fell off down the mountain, which meant some soldiers did not get their training. Eventually it restarted. It was great to see the very young children on their skis. I reckon they were taught at the time they learned to walk."*

*Titheridge volunteered as stretcher bearers. After training we were made up to medical orderlies."*

Cecil enjoyed this job until a superior, who seemed to have been promoted well above his level of competence, relied on Cecil to tell him how to treat patients, as he did not know what to do.

*"After six months in Trieste we were posted to a big camp in Rimini, Italy, where there were 90,000 German prisoners of war."*

Modern records raise this number to 150,000 German Allied troops and 10,000 Ukrainians.

Cecil was now working in a little holiday town nearby called Riccione, with afternoon access to the beach, a comfortable hotel and shorter working hours in the makeshift medical centre. He enjoyed the cinema, theatre shows and the troop entertainer Ivy Benson with her all-female band! The medical orderlies were providing aid for the thousands of soldiers in the area. While working, they were very busy as there was so much illness. Venereal disease was a particular problem. Meanwhile prisoners were processed and put on trains to go home, but many had homes in the occupied Soviet Zone so did not want to go back. Every time a train slowed or stopped, many escaped and had to be rounded up again and reprocessed.

Cecil saw large numbers of walking displaced civilians too, and he remembers throwing cigars and cigarettes to them when his lorry passed them. At the time tobacco was more use than money to purchase food.

Although Cecil loved his medical job, his demob number 63 eventually came up in 1948, and he said goodbye to Italy. He went to the demob centre

**Above, from left:** Cecil is front passenger in Vienna, Austria, with the Royal Ulster Rifles. This looks like off-duty time!

Cecil, centre, and his friends with towels rolled up, just off for a swim in the Adriatic Sea at Trieste in 1946.

**Right:** Cecil, proud owner of his first car - a 1939 Morris 8 series.

**Below:** Cecil, happy to be home again, meeting up with his friends Gordon and Arthur Tricker. Their brother had died in the war against the Japanese.

**Below, right:** Cecil Hughes and Daphne Knock's wedding at Nedging, Suffolk in 1955.

in York, collected his demob suit and was placed on the Army reserve list for recall if needed.

#### Cecil's working life:

After the war Cecil worked for George Rose, builder, and Frank Self, wheelwright and builder in Swan Street until both firms became merged with W.B. Kingsbury & Sons. There he continued as a builder for a total of 30 years around Boxford. He was a general foreman for most of the time. When the building trade went into a slump, with many men being laid off, Cecil moved on to work for Sindalls of Cambridge on the Babergh District Council new offices in Hadleigh. After that he worked for Grimwood Builders of Sudbury, then Lucas CAV (Delphi Diesel Systems in Sudbury). He then tried his hand as a postman on a little motor bike, but when they would not give him a van, he resigned on safety grounds. He went back to building as a self-employed builder with friend George in the 1980s. They did well. In his spare time he built a bungalow called Driftway in 1964. Then, close



by in 1979, he built Kiln Place, where he lived until his death. The house was next to the site of what had been the Boxford brick and tile kiln. He was supported in his first project by his mother's sister, Aunt Elsie, who lived in the Edwardstone Almshouses in Swan Street. She gave him her savings, a substantial sum, as did his brother David.

A key theme throughout Cecil's notes is that of safety. He demonstrated that during the war and went on to challenge a lack of building regulations and road safety. He tells many stories of accidents and near misses relating to scaffolding and the lack of shoring up of trenches. He was delighted when helmets became a right.

*"I remember this happened on a few jobs as I tried to make it safe for us all. I remember some sub-contractors working with us who erected a small tower scaffold. George and I said 'That's not safe, rope it to the building'. They said it was OK, but later we heard a crash, the tower scaffold had crashed into the road and two men were holding onto the window on the roof. We had to get them down with a ladder."*

Cecil retired in 1998, aged 73, and after a heart bypass operation lived for many more years of pleasure and commitment.

#### Honours and Community Service

In March 1945, Cecil had briefly served in France near Amiens.

*"My first time abroad! I was posted to a reinforcement unit in Northern France. One day we went on a train almost to the west bank of the Rhine. We got off the train and marched a good many miles to our heavy artillery,*

*who were firing hundreds of shells into Germany. Dozens of Allied planes and gliders went overhead and, though we did not realise, it was the start of our Long March."*

The French Government awarded Cecil the Legion d'Honneur in November 2015 (the French Order of Merit for military and civil merits, which could be awarded to foreign nationals who had served France).

His war service was very important to him, and he was on the Airborne Forces Association Committee Suffolk Branch, a member of the Parachute Battalion Old Comrades Association and on the committee of the East Anglian Branch of the Parachute Regiment Association, as well as being a member of the British Legion from 1948.





In May 1952, aged 26, Cecil joined Boxford Parish Council. He was awarded the MBE when he completed 50 years' service in 2002 and, after 60 years' service, a certificate from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. These were great moments for Cecil. He continued as a parish councillor until his death in 2018. His community work was varied, serving on various committees including the village hall, playing field and pavilion, Church Building Trust, church bells refurbishment committee, Boxford Community Council and Boxford Society for nearly 50 years. He also

found time to be a blood donor for 36 years.

One of his biggest achievements was successfully campaigning with other villagers for a bypass for the village, which was finally built in 1975. He had battled for the bypass for over two decades.

He was invaluable in planning matters as he had a photographic memory of every development, ranging from any building to every drain in the village! He must have been invaluable to the parish council over the years. He certainly was to the Boxford Society.

#### Personal and social life

Cecil was married to Daphne Knock from Nedging in 1955. They were together for 49 years. Their daughter Gillian was born in 1958 and son Robert in 1967. They had six

grandchildren.

When he decided to build his own bungalow in 1964, his wife Daphne was sceptical and asked if he was going to build it with buttons. Not to be deterred, he bought the land from Maurice Whymark of Ancient House in Ellis Street with money given to him by his aunt and brother David. Within 12 months they moved into the new bungalow. He was grateful to his boss Walter Bloss Kingsbury, who had lent scaffolding, a digger and a lorry free of charge.

Cecil loved dancing and often talked about the dances during his army life



and particularly the very regular dances held in the village hall. A night after such a dance led to a brush with the police. He persuaded a young Land Army girl to share a ride home on his bike. The local policeman caught them and they were fined 10 shillings (purchasing power of £50 today) for riding two on a bike built for one.

After Daphne died in 2004 Cecil joined a widow and widowers club in Sudbury for socialising and dancing and was a regular attender at the Boxford Over 60s club and Boxford Society outings.

When he was about 68 in 1994, shortly after we arrived in Boxford, he knocked at the door and pressed us as to how important it was to belong to the Boxford Society (he was right, as there might not have been an archive of its present size and character had we not!). A few days later another retired Boxfordian, 'Von' Whymark, knocked on our door on behalf of the Community Council and their Boxford Bountly. We were soon drawn into this community by these two who loved their village. The archive was started from a base of Cecil and Von's photos and cuttings and interviews we conducted with other elderly parishioners.

*Tina and Roger Loose*



**Top left:** Cecil opening the new playground Saturday 9th May 2009.

**Above:** Cecil and wife Daphne relaxing in the garden.

**Left:** Cecil, centre, attended regular reunions of the 9th Para Battalion and was proud to wear his red beret again.

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# Natural Boxford

*A walk through our spring wildflowers*



1



3



4



5



7



8



9



10

1. Wood anemone
2. Greater stitchwort
3. Lesser celandine
4. Hybrid bluebell
5. Common dog-violet
6. White violet
7. Alexanders
8. Germander speedwell
9. Cow parsley
10. Garlic mustard
11. Red dead-nettle
12. White dead-nettle
13. Ivy-leaved toadflax
14. Cowslip
15. Yellow archangel
16. Ground ivy
17. Shepherd's purse
18. Primrose
19. Green alkanet
20. Common chickweed
21. Ivy-leaved speedwell
22. Dandelions and Daisies
23. Forget-me-not
24. Hedgerow cranesbill



15



16



17



20



2



6

I'm sure I am not the only one who loves the sweet, fragrant smell of spring that usually arises at the end of March/beginning of April. At this time of year a wealth of understated, though beautiful, wildflowers are starting to flower and contribute their aromas to the breeze. This month's focus is on just some of those wildflowers – all seen during a couple of short walks over Easter week in early April. By no means a comprehensive record, and many more will be present as the year progresses – the wild garlic is about to burst into flower as I write, and the bluebell woods are already ablaze.

So, I hope you enjoy these bright, dainty gems of our village. None of them is rare but all contribute to the rich tapestry of biodiversity and life: you can see that several have insect visitors – they provide welcome food before the horticulturally developed blooms flower in our gardens. The origins of all flowers are wild, of course. Many in our gardens come from all over the world and have been hybridised, crossed and bred to grow bigger and in many different colours – but somewhere their ancestors are hopefully still growing wild.



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



14



11



12



13

## Did you know?

*Six of these are edible.*

Alexander stalks can be candied, and all parts of the plant eaten (make sure you absolutely know what you are picking, as some hedgerow plants are definitely not safe to eat!). Chickweed, dandelion and garlic mustard are tasty additions to a salad. Primrose flowers can be used for decoration, made into a syrup or candied. Cowslip wine was once a traditional brew when they were far more abundant.



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# French's Care Haven

Lady is in our photo this month, enjoying the sunshine. She is a sweet little girl with lovely blonde locks that she is happy to have brushed when she is being groomed.



I had a nice chap, Colin, message me regarding needing help when we move - finally someone is offering to give us a hand. I need more people like Colin to come forward and offer their time.

We are hoping to move in May, if everything goes to plan with the solicitors. French's will be staying local and only a ten-minute drive from where we are now - woohoo, what a relief. As I say, fingers crossed we can get this over the line in May. I will put our new address on our website, Facebook and, of course, in this lovely magazine, which is always a pleasure to read each month. A big thank you to Trudi, who does a super job, and I am glad to see it going out into other villages and into Hadleigh.

As well as anyone who can help us move and set up at our new home, locals will be welcome to make an appointment with me to come and visit and see how our animals are adjusting to the move. I am sure they would love a groom and a cuddle if you are happy to give them some TLC.

I would also very much like to find someone to join, or possibly head, our fundraising team, looking at what different events we could hold and adding some new ideas.

I am still in need of a company that does groundwork. If you own, or know of, a different type of business that would sponsor or help with our set-up, that would be brilliant.

I will be going back on BBC Suffolk radio and in the *East Anglian Daily Times*, as well as updating our website and Facebook page when we have our land in place. I will be happy to promote your business in return for your help.

We have opened a GoFundMe page to try and raise some much-needed funds for the move, as it is going to be a huge financial challenge and we really need local support.

To find us, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/frenchs-relocation-fundraiser>, or go onto our website and click on the GoFundMe link, or go through our PayPal.

I am personally looking forward to the day when I do not have to constantly ask for help and donations. Honestly, if you were in my shoes trying to keep our wonderful charity going, you would be mentally and physically drained, as I am.

I pray for the time to come when someone gives our dear animals, and all the people we help - those with mental health problems and those elderly who have been lonely and lost purpose until they come to French's - some financial security, so that the charity can continue into the future. That way, I can relax and enjoy my time at the farm instead of constantly worrying.

Jann

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

# Signs of spring

There have been plenty of signs in recent weeks that spring is well on the way. Susan Keeble sent in this lovely photo of bluebells in the wood at Bower House Tye - always one of the highlights of the season, and all the better for that wonderful scent if you happen to be walking along the path at the right moment.



David Lamming's photos below show damson blossom in the hedge beside his garden boundary at Cox Hill, another reminder of how quickly hedgerows and gardens begin to change at this time of year.



Also pictured is the blackthorn that was in blossom in March along the footpath in Stone Street, a striking sight while it lasted and one that could be seen clearly from the road.

Taken together, the three photographs capture some of those brief seasonal moments that are easy to miss, but always a pleasure while they are here. The blossom also seems especially plentiful this year, adding an extra sense of cheer to the arrival of spring.





# Life at the Shelley Centre

## *Therapeutic pony sessions for non-riders*

RDA participants who visit The Shelley Centre mostly attend therapeutic riding sessions, whether that is on one of our RDA-assessed horses and ponies or on Ebony, the mechanical horse. But the therapy that contact with equines can provide goes much further than riding.

Now The Shelley Centre is launching two new activities that we hope will interest those unable to ride but who would still benefit from contact with horses and ponies.

Tea with a Pony is an opportunity for those living with long-term conditions such as dementia to come to the centre with their carer and interact with Chocolate, our Miniature Shetland pony. By meeting and bonding with Chocolate in a safe environment, the aim is to reconnect with happy memories. The sessions will take place on a Tuesday afternoon during term time and must be pre-booked. It is suitable for individuals or small groups and includes tea and cake with the pony at a distance, as well as time to stroke and meet Chocolate or one of the other ponies.

Another new activity at The Shelley

Centre is Quiet Corner. This is an enriching alternative for individual participants who prefer a gentler way to spend time with horses. It is a ground-based activity in a calm, low-pressure, supportive space. Participants can relax, build confidence and find comfort through touch, gentle movement and quiet time.

These sessions will be run by a qualified RDA Activity Leader at the centre. These are volunteers who have undertaken additional training in safeguarding, disability awareness and equine knowledge. They are then approved for the role by an RDA Coach and our Trustees. One of the recently qualified Activity Leaders is Corinne Bundy, who has been involved with The Shelley Centre for 33 years and has carried out many volunteer roles, including fundraising and caring for our horses, as well as being involved with riding sessions.

Corinne said: *'I'm looking forward to restarting the Tea with a Pony sessions with Cherry Crawford, who is another Activity Leader, and launching our Quiet Corner sessions for the first*

### **Above, from left:**

*Participant Katie with Corinne and Cloud at one of the sessions.*

*Cherry Crawford with Chocolate the Miniature Shetland (photo: John Boyle)*

*time. We are offering Quiet Corner as a series of sessions over half a term to allow people to build up confidence and familiarity with the ponies and to help overcome anxiety. The participant will guide the pace and the level of interaction according to their self-confidence and self-esteem."*

To find out more about how to book a place on one of these sessions, please contact the centre on the details below.

[www.shelleyrda.com](http://www.shelleyrda.com)  
01473 824172





# *They Fought in the Fields*

*Nicky Reynolds explores the history & experiences of the Women's Land Army in Suffolk*

Little Waldingfield History Society was delighted to welcome Nicky to the Parish Room to share her expert knowledge of the Women's Land Army. She co-established *Soil Sisters* with Vicky Abbott, a *Sharing Suffolk Stories* project for Suffolk's new archive centre on Ipswich Waterfront, making her the perfect person for the subject.

The forerunner of the Women's Land Army, the Women's Farm and Garden Union, had existed since 1899, with the aim of improving employment opportunities for women working on the land. In February 1916 they sent a deputation to meet Lord Selborne, and the Ministry of Agriculture agreed to fund a Women's National Land Service Corps (WNLSC) with a grant of £150 (around £11,500 today, so not much). Louisa Wilkins led the new organisation, focusing on recruiting women for emergency war work. New members would not become



agricultural workers but instead organise others to do this work.

By the end of 1916 the WNLSC had recruited 2,000 volunteers, though it was estimated that 40,000 were required. At their suggestion, a Land Army was to be formed. The WNLSC continued to deal with recruitment and assisted in its launch, and by April 1917 they had received over 500 replies, of which 88 joined the new Land Army as group leaders and supervisors.

Wilkins chaired the executive committee, with offices established in Upper Baker Street. The 9th Duke of Marlborough agreed to be president. In May 1916 a meeting was held at Chelsea Hospital to discuss women working on the land. Louisa Wilkins was quoted in *The Times* asking women if they were doing the right type of war work, or whether they were simply "putting sugar in the cups of tea for Tommies".



In time, the Women's Land Army (WLA) took on 23,000 workers, replacing around 100,000 men who had joined the forces - a significant contribution, although it is estimated that 300,000 women were working on the land during the First World War. The work was often exhausting, carried out in harsh weather, with challenging animals and sometimes unfavourable public opinion.

Lady Gertrude Denman became assistant director of the WLA during the First World War, along with a number of other appointments. She was no lady of leisure, but a determined and nonconforming woman who ignored societal expectations and worked hard to demonstrate what it meant to be a woman of action. Her work helped to increase food production and also contributed to growing political and social activism among women. By stepping into roles created by labour



shortages, women demonstrated their abilities and helped build momentum for wider female suffrage. In 1933 she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE).

With the advent of the Second World War, a Register for Employment Order was issued in England for women aged 18 to 45 to sign up for work. The WLA was called upon to help feed the nation, at a time when the country was importing 70% of its food. The hardworking women became affectionately known as the 'Land Girls'. Lady Denman was appointed director and established Balcombe Place, her own home, gifted by her father (and now a wedding venue), as its headquarters.

After joining the WLA, new recruits could be sent anywhere they were needed, which for many was a huge adjustment. Nicky recalled one former Land Girl describing how she felt on arriving at a WLA hostel in Lakenheath: "We'd never been in the country before, we'd never left home before... that first day I think we all cried. We kept saying, as the planes were going over, 'please take us home'."

Many women were living away from home for the first time, and for some



**Opposite from top:**  
Land Army girls harvesting sugar beet, 1942-43.

A 1917 recruitment poster for the Women's Land Army.

**Left:** A Land Girl operating a single-furrow plough during WWI.

**Below from left:**  
Portrait of Lady Gertrude Denman

Balcombe Place, the home of Lady Denman and headquarters of the Women's Land Army during WWII.

Cover of *The Land Girl* magazine, March 1942.

it was also their first experience of the countryside and of agricultural work. Those living in hostels had the additional challenge of adapting to communal living and a lack of privacy, as well as quickly adjusting to hard physical work.

One way to prevent Land Girls from feeling isolated was through the publication of a magazine called *The Land Girl*, first sold on 1st April 1940, at a cost of 4d (nearly £5 today). It began



as an unofficial Women's Land Army publication, but when the Ministry of Agriculture realised its popularity - selling around 21,000 copies a week - it funded its production. The magazine attempted to unite Land Girls throughout the country, though sadly not all received it.

East Suffolk opened its first hostel at Blomville Hall in Hacheston, near Woodbridge, on 26 January 1942, housing thirty girls, a warden and helpers. A shortage of agricultural workers meant that gangs of Land Girls were required in the county, and hostels became a necessity to accommodate them. Before this, Land Girls had been housed individually or in small numbers in billets, often in farm workers' homes or village cottages. Whether they were happy there often depended on the attitudes of those with whom they lived.

As Nicky recounted, there were numerous stories of cruelty, such as girls not being allowed to dry wet clothes in front of the fire before wearing them again the following day. Many had come from towns and cities, so being billeted in the countryside, often with no electricity or running water, came as a considerable shock.

With the arrival of hostels came a more structured, stable and sociable environment for the girls. Many of the hostels were existing buildings, such as halls or rectories (e.g. Oak Lawn in Hoxne and The Old Rectory in Campsea Ashe). These were requisitioned by the Ministry of Works and adapted and furnished to make them fit for purpose. However, not all hostels were so grand, as some were converted stable blocks.

Every army needs a uniform, and the WLA was no exception. Although it may now seem very formal and old-fashioned, the clothing issued was practical for the hard work required in all weathers. A new Land Girl could expect to be issued with:

- A badge
- 2 pairs of corduroy breeches
- 1 long-sleeved cotton poplin shirt
- 1 V-neck dark green pullover
- 1 brown felt hat
- 2 aertex short-sleeved shirts
- 2 pairs of dungarees
- 1 oilskin or rubberised cotton mackintosh (later in the war this was replaced with a Melton wool overcoat)
- 2 cotton drill overall coats
- 6 pairs of woollen socks (also called stockings)
- 1 pair of black leather ankle boots
- 1 pair of brown leather shoes
- 1 pair of rubber gumboots

Although the uniform was 'free', the girls had to give 36 of their own clothing coupons to receive it when



they joined, and thereafter 10 coupons per year. If available, WLA members could buy extra items such as the WLA tie, dark green windcheater or gloves. Second-hand uniform was sometimes for sale.

At the time, people were initially issued 66 coupons for a 12-month period, though this annual allowance was progressively reduced to 48 and then 24, requiring people to Make Do and Mend. Typically, a woman's dress cost 11 coupons, a man's suit jacket 13, and a pair of shoes between 5 and 7.

Land Girls came from many different backgrounds and areas

of the country, so the uniform acted as a leveller, helping them feel that they were all in it together. They were not supposed to add personal touches, such as colourful ribbons to their hats, although Nicky's research has found that many did. The sight of Women's Land Army members in uniform also helped to promote the organisation.

As the war went on, both clothing and materials became hard to come by, so The Land Girl magazine often printed tips on repairing uniform. Items could be replaced after a year (or six months for woollen stockings), but the wearer had to prove that clothing or footwear was worn out by sending it to the Uniform Department for inspection.





**Opposite from top:**

*Land Army girl operating a Caterpillar tractor during WWII, from The Land Girl magazine, May 1942*

*A Women's Land Army badge alongside examples of uniform, designed to be practical for outdoor work in all weathers.*

**Left:** *Land Girls training as Lumberjills at Culford, Suffolk, 1943, stacking pit props for use in coal mines while brushwood burns in the background.*

Gumboots were much needed for working long hours on wet land through the winter and were often in short supply. Leather boots or shoes could be waterproofed with a mixture of beeswax and oil. On joining the Land Army, recruits received a green armlet, on which they could sew a red half diamond for every six months of service. Different coloured armlets were then issued according to years of service:

- Two years - green armlet with red piping and two red diamonds
- Four years - red armlet with four green diamonds
- Six years - yellow armlet with six green diamonds
- Eight years - green and yellow armlet with a crown and red diamonds

A small number of women served for ten years, from 1939 until the WLA stopped recruiting in 1949, and were awarded a metal and enamel ten years' service badge.

Members of the WLA could also take proficiency tests in their work, such as horticulture or milking. Those who passed were awarded proficiency badges to wear on their uniform.

Land Girls took on work traditionally viewed as men's, much of it physically demanding. There were also many potential hazards. In some parts of the country, they even came under fire from enemy aircraft while working in the fields. Other hazards included:

- Tools and machinery, mostly unfamiliar to them
- Unpredictable livestock
- Chemical spills
- Sunburn or frostbite
- Rat and insect bites
- Heavy lifting and falls
- Blistered hands or feet
- Industrial diseases, such as dermatitis or tenosynovitis (a condition affecting tendons, causing swelling and pain)

By May 1942, West Suffolk housed as

many as 116 girls at a new purpose-built hostel in Lakenheath, run by the YWCA. It became the largest hostel in England, with two large dormitories and a third smaller one, each served by ablution facilities. Nicky described the dormitories as being divided into cubicles for four girls, each containing bunks, dressing tables and a small wardrobe. The girls had to get used to very little privacy, as there were no doors on the cubicles. Despite labelling their clothes, it was not uncommon for items to go missing, particularly after being washed in one of the sinks and left to air in the drying room.

*“Often billeted in the countryside with no electricity or running water, many Land Girls faced a considerable shock.”*

Their days were highly structured. They had to be up early each morning for breakfast before being collected, usually by lorry, and taken to whichever farm the gang was working on that day. They went wherever the War Agricultural Executive Committee decided they were needed, and if working away from their hostel, the cook would provide a packed lunch, often a sandwich or meat pie, fruit, and a Thermos flask containing a hot drink. For those without flasks who were working near a farmhouse, arrangements would be made for tea

to be supplied. After a day's work, the women were taken back to their hostel for an evening meal and recreation time. Wardens ensured they were in bed at an allotted time, with lights out, although at busy periods such as harvest they were required to work overtime.

Having been in limited supply during the early part of the war, hostels were seen as a privilege. *The Land Girl* magazine encouraged those living in them to “make their hostel a centre for all members of the Land Army in the area, and to remember that their particular privileges had duties attached”. The girls took this to heart and arranged entertainment for those billeted in the neighbourhood, including dances, whist drives and tea parties.

Many were young and, for some, it was their first time away from home. With the threat of invasion hanging over them, and after long days of hard work, many embraced the opportunity to enjoy themselves. There was also added excitement for those living close to airfields occupied by the RAF and the USAAF, as they were often invited to attend dances, with transport sometimes sent to collect them - it was said that without the Land Girls, half the men in Lakenheath would have been single.

A member of our audience who was a builder recalled removing material from a former hostel decades ago, and being shocked on discovering a large pile of used condoms hidden away, much to the merriment of both Nicky and our audience.

The amount of time off Land Girls received could vary a great deal. Those living in hostels usually worked half a day on Saturdays and had Sundays off, although women living on farms might only get one weekend off per month, as cows needed to be milked twice a day, every day of the year. At harvest time, Land Girls could expect to work



**Left:** Members of the Women's Land Army and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) dancing with men of the United States Eighth Army Air Force in Suffolk, 1943.

- Whist drives - card game competitions that people paid to enter
- Stage productions - Land Girls put on concerts and pantomimes
- Handicrafts and sales - knitted, sewn and other handmade items were sold, especially before Christmas when people were looking for gifts

At all these events, more money could be raised by selling refreshments and holding a raffle, with prizes very

all the hours of daylight.

It was not until 1943 that Land Girls had the legal right to one week's holiday per year with full pay, whereas women in the armed forces received four weeks' paid leave. There was also rivalry between Lumber Jills and Land Girls, with many feeling that the Lumber Jills were treated better.

One issue was wages. Once at their placements, Land Girls earned a minimum of 28 shillings per week, compared with 38 shillings for men. Lumber Jills were paid between 35 and 46 shillings per week, as their work was considered more dangerous, which was often a source of tension between the groups.

Sometimes Land Girls had opportunities to attend talks or classes on topics such as health and beauty, handicrafts and cookery. Readers of The Land Girl magazine might also get creative, doing drawings or writing poems and stories for publication.

Sports were popular too. Women based at Kirton formed a netball team, and a table tennis tournament took place in Bury St Edmunds. Quizzes with an agricultural theme were also organised between different Land Army hostels, such as Lady Briscoe's Cup in West Suffolk.

They were encouraged to do whatever they could for the war effort, so a great deal of time was spent on fundraising, often in enjoyable ways:

- Dances - men from local Air Force and army bases came along as dancing partners
- Tea parties - held indoors, or garden parties depending on the time of year

different from those offered today, e.g. 100 cigarettes or an orange. In the early years of the war, Land Army fundraising supported the Spitfire Fund, but after the WLA Benevolent Fund was established in 1942, this became the focus of the Land Girls' efforts.

Up to the end of the Second World War, over 200,000 women served in the WLA, and many formed lifelong friendships with one another. They supported each other during a period of uncertainty and upheaval, and many left urban homes to live in rural hostels or on the farms where they worked.

By the end of the war, British farms were producing 90% more wheat, 87% more potatoes and 45% more vegetables than at the start, a very considerable achievement that reflects the contribution of the Land Girls.

Once demobbed after the end of the war, Land Girls felt largely ignored. They received letters of thanks from Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, but no financial support in recognition of their service from the British Government. In gratitude for its members' tireless service, the WLA held a Christmas party at which Lady Denman received rapturous applause. She later resigned as director of the WLA in protest at the treatment of its members. Despite this, in 1951 she was made a Dame Grand Cross (GBE), reflecting her enormous contribution to the organisation and to her girls.

In 2008, the Women's Land Army and Lumber Jills were finally given official recognition by the Government for their service and contribution to the war effort, and were awarded a commemorative badge.

In 2014, a memorial statue to the Women's Timber Corps and both incarnations of the Women's Land Army was unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Nicky's talk held the audience spellbound. When it came to questions, there were many, along with a wide range of comments and observations from a full audience. It was a truly enjoyable evening.

*Andy Sheppard*  
[www.littlewaldingfieldhistorysociety.wordpress.com](http://www.littlewaldingfieldhistorysociety.wordpress.com)

## *Next Little Waldingfield History Society Talks:*

### **Two Short Talks with Anne Grimshaw**

*Wednesday 13th May, 7:30pm*

*Sudbury's Saddest Day*, when a US bomber crash-landed in October 1944; and *Making a Difference*, the connection between the Long Melford Heritage Institute and the Co-op.



### **The Military History of Orford Ness with Barry Searle**

*Wednesday 17th June, 7:30pm*

The Military History of Orford Ness, from the construction of an airfield in 1914 to the early development of radar, the development of bomb ballistics technology and the testing of first-generation nuclear weapons systems, through to its purchase by the National Trust in 1993.





# *Paws & Prepare*

## *Building the perfect pet first aid kit*

We live in a wonderful area for getting outdoors with our active explorers and companions. Bounding through fields and exploring the local hedgerows does come with its fair share of bumps, scrapes and sudden emergencies. Whether you are at home, out on a long hike, or on a family holiday, accidents can unfortunately happen. Being prepared in those first few crucial moments can make all the difference.

A well-stocked first aid kit is never a replacement for professional veterinary care, but it is a vital tool to keep your pet stable, comfortable and safe while you make your way to your veterinary practice.

When assembling your kit, the very first thing to consider is safety, which is why a well-fitting muzzle is arguably the most important item you can pack. This might seem surprising but, in an emergency, even the friendliest, most gentle pet can act unpredictably due to pain or fear. A muzzle ensures we keep caregivers safe and prevent any further injury to both humans and the animal. For cats, a thick towel can be used to wrap their whole body and legs securely and prevent scratches or bites.

Always pack a few pairs of disposable gloves. Wounds are often dirty, and the great outdoors is full of bacteria. Gloves act as a crucial barrier, preventing infection from passing from your hands to your pet's wound, and vice versa.

It is also wise to include a small, bright torch. Emergencies do not just happen in broad daylight, and a torch is invaluable for inspecting wounds, checking eyes and ears, or simply navigating back to the car safely in the dark.

For managing injuries, your kit should contain a solid foundation of wound care supplies. Pack a selection of non-adhesive dressings to apply directly over a bleeding wound, along with some cohesive bandage to hold everything securely in place. If your pet is bleeding, apply firm, even pressure to the injury. A pet-safe antiseptic spray or solution can help keep the area clean until you can get to your practice. Add a pair of blunt-ended scissors to your kit, as they are perfect for safely cutting away bandages or trimming hair around a sticky wound without risking an accidental puncture. Please remember never to attempt to apply a tourniquet at home, as this can severely restrict blood flow and cause irreversible damage to the limb.

Sterile saline pods are incredibly handy for flushing out irritants, grass seeds or harsh chemicals from your pet's eyes, mouth or delicate areas. Saline is gentle, sterile and much safer than using tap water on sensitive tissues.

A tube of glucose gel or a few sachets of honey is an absolute must-have if you have a diabetic pet, but it is equally vital for working breeds. Dogs like spaniels that undergo intense, sustained exercise can sometimes experience sudden drops in blood sugar. Rubbing a little honey or glucose gel directly onto their gums can provide a rapid, potentially life-saving energy boost before arriving at the vets.

If your pet has a pre-existing medical condition, ensure you carry a spare, in-date dose of their emergency medication. For instance, dogs with epilepsy may be prescribed specific emergency gels by their vet to help bring them safely out of a sudden seizure at

home or out on a walk.

Pets suffering from shock, trauma or sudden blood loss frequently get very cold very quickly. Having a thick blanket or a compact foil thermal blanket helps maintain their core body temperature while you safely transport them to us.

Other miscellaneous items would include a pair of good nail clippers and a tick removal tool, the latter being an essential addition for our local countryside, allowing you to safely twist away unwanted hitchhikers without leaving the head behind.

Arguably the most critical item to include in your kit takes up no space at all: our phone number. Write down your vet's contact details, including the out-of-hours emergency number, on a piece of card and keep it right at the top of your bag or box.

By assembling a dedicated first aid kit, complete with safety essentials and wound care supplies, we can easily bridge the gap between the moment of injury and professional veterinary care. Whether you are navigating the local trails or enjoying a quiet evening at home, having these tools at your fingertips allows you to protect your companion and prioritise their well-being. We are always here to support you in keeping your furry friends safe, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you need help tailoring a kit to your pet's specific needs.

*Dr. Jessica Hudson BVMedSci (Hons)  
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# Lavenham Airfield

## *A cactus & three oak trees*



If you had been an American officer serving with the US Army Air Forces' 487th Bomb Group at Lavenham Airfield during the Second World War, you would

no doubt have been familiar with the base's Officers' Club and its rather impressive bar.

Visible above the bar was the group's unofficial insignia, apparently painted on glass in colour, with the motto *'Strength and Precision'* beneath it.

Towards the end of operations in England, units of the US Eighth Air Force were invited to submit the design of any group insignia they had been using to headquarters. This was done on 9th March 1945 by the 487th's Adjutant, Major Leo Burbridge, and included an illustration of the

design alongside an explanation of its elements and colours.

While the exact origins of the design are unknown, all its elements carried meaning for personnel of the 487th and can be explained. It has three parts: the crest, the shield and the banner carrying the motto.

The crest carries a five-pointed star, the symbol of the US Army Air Forces, which appeared on its aircraft and uniform badges, while the stylised wings represent the group's operational flying status. Beneath these wings are outlines of the two principal aircraft flown by the group: initially the B-24 *Liberator* and later the B-17 *Flying Fortress*. These sit atop a twisted cord in the colours of the US Army Air Forces - ultramarine blue and golden orange.

The shield is dominated by the illustration of a bomb, the principal weapon of a bomb group. However, its companions - the cactus and the oak tree - require some explanation.

The cactus is a saguaro, which grows primarily in the south-west of the United States and represents New Mexico, where the 487th completed its training before deployment overseas. The oak, referred to in the submission as a 'Royal Oak', symbolises England, from where the group operated.

The motto reads: *'Strength & Precision'*, the latter justified by the fact that from September 1944 to February 1945 the 487th led the fourteen bomb groups of the USAAF Third Air Division, most of which were based in Suffolk, in bombing accuracy.



The 487th Bomb Group occupied Lavenham Airfield in the spring of 1944, and when the Friends of Lavenham Airfield (FOLA) sought to mark the 80th anniversary of the group's arrival, it seemed appropriate to plant an oak tree - not just any oak tree, but one grown from an acorn taken from a tree east of the airfield that would have witnessed the comings and goings of 487th aircraft during the war. Americans refer to such trees as 'witness trees'.

The site chosen for FOLA's commemorative oak was in the grounds of Alpheton village, beside what became the access road to the airfield when the A134 was rerouted to accommodate it, on land requisitioned by the Air Ministry from landowner David Alston. After the war, Mr Alston donated the land to the village for the construction of the hall, while his wife, Bathia Alston, became chair of the village hall committee, whose first task was to raise the necessary funds.

In 2024, this young oak, along with its plaque - featuring the 'P' in a square, the identification symbol displayed on 487th aircraft, framed in the shape of a B-24 tail fin - was dedicated in the presence of the sons of First Lieutenant Leo Wingate, who served at the airfield with the 487th Bomb Group.

So this small oak tree represents rather more than might be evident at first glance.

With grateful thanks to Stewart Evans, John Pawsey, Paul Webber and the 487th Bomb Group (H) Association.

If you wish to learn more about Lavenham Airfield and its American occupants during the Second World War, FOLA offers a series of guided 'Airfield Walks' over the summer. For more details and to book, please visit: <https://bit.ly/42q6BdJ>

John Cashmore.

**Opposite page, clockwise from top:**

*Officers at the bar of the base Officers' Club at Lavenham Airfield. (Courtesy of the 487th Bomb Group (H) Association)*

*Illustration of the 487th Bomb Group's unofficial Strength and Precision insignia. (Via Stewart Evans)*

*The commemorative oak and plaque at Alpheton, marking the 80th anniversary of the 487th Bomb Group's arrival at Lavenham Airfield. (Photo: FOLA)*

## Tornado Smith Ale Returns

The White Horse Pub in Edwardstone has teamed up with a Manchester-based brewery to recreate an award-winning ale in tribute to local hero Tornado Smith. George 'Tornado' Smith, who was born in nearby Boxford, popularised the Wall of Death carnival sideshow from the 1930s. He toured the country riding motorcycles on circular walls, often with his wife 'Marjorie Dare' and a lioness named Briton. The Wall of Death has often returned to the White Hart in Boxford, his former home and the burial site of Briton.

Between 2007 and the brewery's closure in 2015, local brewery Mill Green produced a Tornado Smith beer in his honour. The 'eccentric pale ale' was one of their most popular beers and won several awards from the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) and the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

Mill Green, which has now become Little Earth Project, a brewery focused on sour and barrel-aged beers, was led by brewer Tom Norton. Through Little Earth Project, Tom and his partner Dani met the team from Pomona Island at a beer festival and later produced a collaboration beer. A discussion arose regarding Pomona Island's joint owner Gareth, who has family links to Suffolk. It turned out that Gareth was distantly related to George 'Tornado' Smith, and it was decided that the old recipe should be resurrected in honour of this connection.



On 13th March, Dani and Tom travelled to Manchester to help produce the beer. The recipe was tweaked to be brewed on Pomona Island's larger kit, but it still resembles the original recipe last brewed over ten years ago. The beer has more Suffolk links than just the name. Floor-malted barley grown in Lavenham was used, and the base malt produced a rich but clean flavour. The malty sweetness is balanced by Nelson Sauvin hops that add a level of bitterness and a quite

unusual and fruity - some might say eccentric - finish.

The beer will be available at the White Horse in Edwardstone for the next month and in other local pubs, bars and bottle shops. In addition, the White Horse will be hosting a tap take-over of Pomona Island's beers this weekend (10th-12th April), with six beers available on tap.

[www.edwardstonewhitehorse.co.uk](http://www.edwardstonewhitehorse.co.uk)

## Citizens Advice



This recent case highlights the real difference Pension Credit can make.

The client had attended one of our presentations on the subject. She subsequently contacted us and at the same time apologised for doing so, not believing she had any entitlement to Pension Credit, but wanted to enquire as, in her words, "I was so taken by your presentation".

The client, a widow, duly attended a face-to-face session. Having been asked to bring details of her income and savings with her, the adviser quickly identified that she did indeed have an entitlement to it. The adviser assisted the client by making an online registration, not forgetting to have the Pension Credit backdated three months.

The adviser contacted the client six weeks later and was delighted to be told that credit of £63.40 a week had been awarded, with the payments indeed backdated three months. Also, the Pension Credit entitlement brought with it other enhancements which included full Council Tax support, Warm Homes Discount of £150 annually and a free TV licence.

All of which totalled nearly £6,000 annually.

Is there a purpose and a value for these presentations to the local community? Judge for yourselves.

Do you belong to a group or society which might benefit from a speaker from Citizens Advice?

If you are in the Babergh area, please get in touch.

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# Elaine Carpenter

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

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# *Turning a Blind Eye*

*Groton History Society explores the role of vision  
- and its loss - in history*

For this month's article I was originally planning on writing another 'History behind the News', this time focusing on Article 5 and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Given the current debate in Donald Trump's head about its value to him, I thought it would be interesting to look back at NATO - its inception, composition, purpose, and when it has been invoked to support its members, or not, in times of conflict since 1949. Is Trump struggling with a myopic or monocular vision of NATO and its relationship to the USA? This was a potential thread I was going to pull on.

Then, suddenly, I had my own very personal 'monocular' situation to deal with. Out of the blue - well, black actually - I noticed a very dark shadow in the left corner of my right eye's vision. It was a chance conversation with a wargaming buddy of mine - ironically, we were discussing the

Battle of Hastings - a couple of days later that made me contact Specsavers to arrange an urgent eye test. They told me to go to A&E, which I did the following morning, and I was diagnosed with a detached retina. This needed immediate surgery to prevent me losing the sight in my right eye. The next day, Sunday, I was in Norwich Eye Clinic having emergency eye surgery. It was quite an uncomfortable local anaesthetic experience, if I'm honest. The post-surgery recovery programme meant that I could not easily read or watch anything, severely affecting my ability to write the intended article. History podcasts were a saviour though! My wife, Alison, suggested that instead of fusty, dusty NATO, I look at examples of eyesight loss or impairment in history. It was a brilliant suggestion, and highly relevant, for me anyway. It also gave me the opportunity to share my recent

experience with you all and stress the need to get a diagnosis urgently if you, too, start to experience sudden vision impairment. It's not until you lose it, even if only temporarily, that the value of full vision is realised, physically, mentally, and psychologically.

Vision, whether physical or metaphorical, has long been a highly valued servant to humankind. Yet there are many examples in history of people who have achieved great things despite suffering impaired or lost physical vision. The value of sight was so cherished that, in the Middle

**Above:** Harold Godwinson falls at Hastings. The Bayeux Tapestry suggests death by arrow to the eye (left), by Norman blade (right), or both - a story shaped as much by symbolism as by fact.

Agnes, being deprived of it was seen by some as a worthy punishment for severe crimes. This brutal punishment for treason or betrayal was used by the Normans, for example, often as a merciful alternative to death. Inflicted via a red-hot iron, the effect was that the guilty person would forever be known as a traitor or 'betrayed' of the ruler, unworthy of looking upon the majesty they had betrayed. This brings us to King Harold, 1066, the Battle of Hastings, and the Norman PR machine that produced the Bayeux Tapestry.

Recently, historians have started to question seriously the traditional narrative of King Harold's death by arrow in the eye. An alternative narrative is that he died more conventionally on the battlefield, by lance or sword. The tapestry depicts such a death next to the poor chap who seems to have an arrow in his eye - potentially Harold himself. The supposition is that the 'arrow in the eye' was a later add-on, symbolising Harold's 'betrayal' of William when he took the throne, thereby breaking his alleged agreement with William, who was expecting to inherit it. The Norman PR machine pushed this narrative to justify William's seizure of the English throne. The arrow deprived Harold not only of his vision, as per their punishment for betrayal, but also removed him from contention. Two



birds with one arrow, so to speak.

Few figures exploited impaired eyesight and PR more effectively than Horatio Nelson. Our greatest ever admiral and tallest statue. His mythologised eye patch is synonymous with his greatness and his monocular focus on attacking the enemy directly. This legacy fuelled Royal Navy tradition and expectation through subsequent world wars to the present day. Nelson lost the sight in his right eye in 1794, at the siege of Calvi, Corsica. He was struck in the

eye by debris from a cannonball that hit nearby. The injury resulted in the effective permanent loss of vision. Although his eyeball had not been lost, he could distinguish only between darkness and light - I know the feeling! Most famously, he used his impairment at the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801 to explain why he had disobeyed Admiral Sir Hyde Parker's order to retreat. His disobedience resulted in one of his greatest victories. His excuse? He had placed his telescope to his blind eye and could not see the flagged order.

*They were not stopped by reduced sight, but driven instead by great vision."*

Ergo: 'turning a blind eye'.

Another 'great' of the battlefield also suffered from monocular vision. According to Polybius, Hannibal Barca, famed for his Alpine elephants and the destruction of Roman legions, suffered from an ophthalmic infection contracted whilst marching through swampy marshlands near the River Arno during the Second Punic War. This deprived him of all sight in his right eye. Whilst it was very painful and debilitating, it did not affect his ability to command his army at Cannae, his most famous victory.

Moving away from martial examples, the field of literature has many famous contributors whose physical vision was impaired, partially or entirely. Looking as far back as the eighth century BC, the great Homer produced



**Below:** *Study of the blind Homer, painted by Paul Buffet, late 19th century.*

*Hannibal Barca and his army, depicted in a wall painting at the Capitoline Museum, Rome.*

**Left:** *Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson (1758–1805). He lost the sight in his right eye in 1794 and his right arm in 1797, though he did not wear an eye patch.*

**Opposite page, from left:** *Claude Monet's Water Lilies, painted during a period of failing eyesight caused by cataracts.*

*A young Stevie Wonder with Ray Charles in Detroit, 1962. Both lost their sight in childhood yet became defining figures in modern music.*

his masterpieces, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, whilst he was believed, in the ancient bardic tradition, to have been totally blind. The blind bard character Demodocus in *The Odyssey* is generally thought to be a literary self-portrait. Of course, there is no real evidence to confirm the actual state of





his physical vision - only legend.

If paradise has to be seen, then John Milton comes to mind. Totally blinded in 1652, at the age of 43, probably by retinal detachment or glaucoma, he later went on to write his greatest hits, *Paradise Lost*, followed by *Paradise Regained*. He wrote about his blindness in Sonnet XIX, *On His Blindness*, often identified as *When I Consider How My Light is Spent*. His greatness came out of the darkness.

Not to be outshone, the art world produced Claude Monet, whose ailing eyesight resulted in some of his most famous later works. His vision began to deteriorate in 1908, and he was diagnosed in 1912 with cataracts. His sight became increasingly blurred, duller, and less able to distinguish colours clearly. His palette grew more muted and muddier, though he made greater use of warmer tones. His famous *Water Lilies* exemplifies this. He also tended to stay closer to home, focusing on his garden, which he knew well and could draw upon from memory. He underwent cataract surgery in 1923, which did not fully restore his sight. It did, however, lead to him perceiving deeper blue hues



towards the end of his life.

The music world has produced many musicians of great talent whose eyesight was severely impaired or absent. Ray Charles, with untreated glaucoma, lost his sight at the age of seven. Stevie Wonder lost his sight due to abnormal blood vessel growth in the retina caused by prematurity. Andrea Bocelli was born with congenital glaucoma, losing his sight completely at the age of twelve following a football injury. Bono, of U2 fame, wears specific glasses to help him manage glaucoma.

Whilst my recent experience was incredibly short-lived and very temporary - albeit not a good experience - there have been many great people who achieved great things across all disciplines whilst suffering impaired vision. They were not stopped by reduced sight, but driven instead by great vision. Whilst we have it, let's keep it. Don't wait - act immediately to get it tested and preserve it.

Nigel Chapman  
nigeljchap@gmail.com

## Upcoming Events

### A History Tour of Harwich

Friday 21st May

Presented by Andy Schooler, chair of Harwich Society. Harwich has a fascinating history. Andy is also keen to host a tour of historic Harwich later in the year.



### Victoria and Abdul

Thursday 25th June

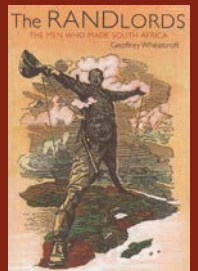
Hosted by Shrabani Basu, journalist and author of the book that was adapted to produce the 2017 feature film of the same name.



## Recommended Reading, Listening & Viewing

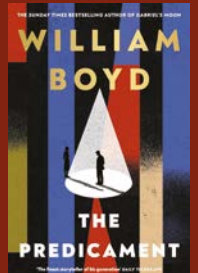
### 'The Landlords: The Men who made South Africa' by Geoffrey Wheatcroft

A study of land, power, and exploitation in South Africa's past.



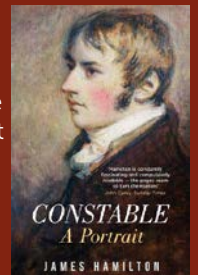
### 'The Predicament' by William Boyd

1963, US interference in foreign countries and JFK in Berlin!



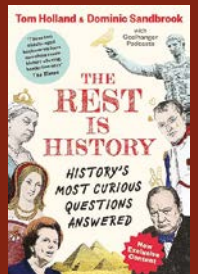
### 'Constable: A Portrait' by James Hamilton

Great insight as an accompaniment to the upcoming exhibition at Gainsborough House, Sudbury



### 'The Rest Is History' by Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook

A lively and accessible collection of historical stories from the popular podcast.

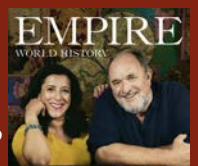


### 'Dawn of the Samurai' from The Rest is History Podcast team.

There is also the "Samurai" exhibition running at the British Museum until 4th May - worth a visit.



### 'Chairman Mao' podcast series from Empire Podcast team, joined by Rana Mitter, leading expert on Mao and China.



### 'The Rest is Classified' Podcast team, Gordon Carrera and David McCloskey.

Anything by them is fascinating!





# Notes from a Beekeeper's Diary

---

*Tony Rand reflects on blossom, swarming, and the resilience of honeybees in a changing world.*

It looks as though spring has finally sprung, despite all the gloomy weather forecasts. Even the experts can sometimes get it wrong - more often than not when it comes to our part of Suffolk. Across the orchards and hedgerows, the signs of spring are now unmistakable.

Local beekeepers can heave a sigh of relief that the long, wet winter months are over. The bees have been active on and off when the weather permits, but there is now a new determination in their foraging efforts as the first fruit trees have burst into full blossom. We are blessed with staggering displays of pear, wild cherry and plum, with apples not far behind, turning lanes, gardens and orchards into a rich source of early forage.

Beekeepers are used to losing up

to 30% of their colonies, on average, over the winter months, so my own bees have fared somewhat better than par. Reports from other parts of the country are less encouraging. In the South West, many beekeepers are reporting losses of between 80 and 90 per cent, and in some cases whole apiaries have been wiped out. The culprit - continuous and relentless rainfall.

Bees prefer to dilute honey from their food stores to make it easier to digest. Before storage, the bees reduce the water content of honey to below 20% to avoid the risk of fermentation or fungal contamination, but undiluted honey can cause dysentery. So, ironically, the endless rain has prevented the bees from collecting water from outside the hive. At the

same time, warmer temperatures have restricted the formation of condensation on the internal walls of the hive. Climate change is not favouring honeybees.

While our own government pursues a dogmatic pursuit of net zero, vested interests in the United States of America, the world's highest emitter of greenhouse gases, continue to frustrate efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Meanwhile, our own King, a long-term champion of environmental standards, is packing his bags for face time with the current incumbent of the White House, the ultimate climate change denier. Who would not want to be [sic] a fly on the wall to witness that conversation?

This, of course, is to participate in the celebration of the anniversary

of the American Declaration of Independence. It was not so much an American event as one more in the long series of English civil wars, although conducted in a different geographical location. The true American War of Independence took place some ninety years later, when the southern states unsuccessfully fought incorporation into the federation. In spite of the massive cost in human lives, the issues at stake were only partially resolved and remain so to this day. Far from being a charter for democracy, the Declaration of Independence was, in reality, the blueprint of a monarchy masquerading as a democracy, whereas we enjoy an admittedly imperfect democracy masquerading as a monarchy. So, back to climate change.

This year marks another anniversary. Forty years ago, on April 26th, 1986, reactor no. 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant caught fire as a result of the incompetence and disregard for safety standards of the Soviet nuclear authorities - in essence, the Russian military establishment. In the aftermath of the resultant meltdown of the atomic pile, effectively a civilian atom bomb, many thousands of

people suffered the effects of radiation poisoning. The site was effectively shut down and a no-go area of nearly 3,000 square kilometres declared, all at an estimated cost of £500 billion. More recently, the toll of radiation-induced deaths increased when Russian soldiers chose to dig trenches in the still highly contaminated soil, with inevitable consequences.

*“If you spot a cluster of swarmed bees, please contact a local beekeeper to collect and rehome them.”*

In spite of predictions to the contrary, the exclusion zone has surprisingly become a haven for wildlife, with self-sustaining populations of wolves, bears and even the European bison. Many species of birds have also been spotted, indicating a vigorous increase

in insect life, no doubt also including bees. It has been said that cockroaches will be the only remaining life form following a global thermonuclear conflict. I suspect that honeybees will be among the survivors - not implausible, given that they have already lived through the many mass extinctions over the past 120 million years that have effectively eliminated an estimated 99% of all species.

All of which of course brings us neatly back to beekeeping. Honeybee populations are maintained by the bees swarming - when a colony effectively splits, with the two halves continuing as independent entities. Habitat changes have reduced the survival rate of feral colonies to under 30%. So, if you spot a cluster of swarmed bees, please contact a local beekeeper to collect and rehome them. Swarms will often settle only briefly before moving on, so a quick response (usually aided by a quick photo from a smartphone) can make all the difference. My own contact details are at the end of this piece, but most local beekeepers in the area will be ready to launch a rescue mission.

*Tony Rand  
07503 164 823*



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# The Blooming Garden

## Choice May Flowers

"For May wol have no slogardie a-night. The season priketh every gentil herte and maketh him out of his sleep to stert". The Knight's Tale. Geoffrey Chaucer.

I think Chaucer had it right, there is certainly no 'slogardie' or slothfulness in my house in May because I can't bear to miss a single moment of this fabulous month; the crown of the whole year. The beauty 'priketh' my heart; every May I am astonished at how beautiful and green and flowery everything is. And how the colours seem extra sparkly and the birds sing louder and more joyfully than I remember. As Ellis Peters said; "Every spring is the only spring, a perpetual astonishment". Now is the time for walking in our beautiful Suffolk countryside as the meadows are full of gleaming buttercups and every



lane is frothing with clouds of cow parsley. But pretty as it is, it is a mistake to grow cow parsley in the garden as it is an absolute beast to get rid of.

There are umbellifers which are much easier to manage and just as pretty. Try *Orlaya grandiflora* or *Ammi majus* for gleaming white and very refined, cow parsley garden substitutes. Or for a gorgeous chartreuse umbellifer try *Smyrmyium perfoliatum*.

Red Campion is another flower which is lovely to see in the countryside but not a great idea for the garden as it seeds too enthusiastically. But its cousin, *Silene flos cuculi*, commonly known as Ragged Robin is always welcome in damp places. I think it looks good growing with the Sticky Catchfly, *Lychnis viscaria* 'Splendens'.

And of course nobody in their right mind would plant buttercups in the garden but the lovely yellow flowers of trollius give a buttercup impression. Like the Ragged Robin they like damp soil. I grow a beautiful pale one called 'Alabaster' which I got from Beth Chatto years ago. I think it is the aristocrat of trolliuses or should that be trolli?

Another plant that I learnt about from Beth Chatto is a beautiful and very elegant gladiolus which I used to keep in the greenhouse because it comes from South Africa and I thought it was borderline hardy but it seems to thrive in the garden. Forget Dame Edna



Everage and her monster spikes of gladdies, *Gladiolus tristis* is not gaudy at all, the funnel-shaped flowers are the palest creamy yellow and fragrant in the evening. It is a beautiful plant but it does need staking.

Forgetmenots make lovely pools of blue but they are such a nuisance when they go to seed and get everywhere. For much more refined sapphire, blue flowers in May you

### Clockwise from top left:

*Scilla peruviana*

*Trollius 'Alabaster'*

*Euphorbia mellifera*

*Smyrmyium perfoliatum*



can't beat *Scilla peruviana*. I love all the members of the scilla family but the most dazzling is this one with its astonishing cones of metallic blue flowers. It comes from the western Mediterranean area, not Peru and is sometimes known as the Portuguese Squill, but not by pedants like me. It likes a warm, sunny spot and mine is flourishing in the gravel garden. If it is happy it will increase. I don't know why I only have one clump of this beauty; I would like a river of it.

In winter, carpets of little *Corydalis solida* or the similar *C. Cava* seed around and are very welcome when there is not much else about. But now they have disappeared. But there is a May-flowering tall corydalis which is my absolute favourite. If you have ever tried the sky-blue *Corydalis flexuosa*, you have probably lost it as it doesn't hang about. If you want a blue Corydalis (and why wouldn't you?) try *Corydalis* 'Spinners'. It doesn't seed around but the clumps get bigger every year and the flowers are an electric blue. And they are scented too.

The biggest corydalis of all starts out in winter with beautiful bronze leaves. It is called *Corydalis temulifolia* 'Chocolate Stars'. The leaves turn green in summer and it looks good with its lilac flowers growing next to *Epimedium* 'Amber Queen'. I love all

epimediums but 'Amber Queen' is the biggest and the longest flowering that I grow and it makes more impact than some of the daintier epimediums with their delicate flowers. To complete the picture I grow it with *Euphorbia* 'Fireglow', which has lovely orange bracts. I love euphorbias and they are all looking good just now. I don't grow as many as I would like as I am a little afraid of them. The white latex-like sap is toxic and will burn the skin if it is exposed to the sun. The blisters last for ages. Also, if you touch them and rub your eye you are in real trouble even if you have washed your hands there will still be enough sticky sap on your fingers to cause trouble. Rinse your eyes with lots of water or in severe cases you will need to go to A&E. I never go near them with bare arms or without gloves. Having given this caveat I must admit that I do grow *Euphorbia mellifera* which forms a shrub which bears clusters of bronzy-orange flowers which smell deliciously of honey. This euphorbia is native to the Canary Islands and Madeira and should be grown in a sunny spot. It looks quite exotic.

And of course, in May we have early roses, irises, lupins, aquilegeas, thalictrums, alliums and so much more to enjoy. But today I have picked out just a few of my specials. I only wish there was room to mention so many more. I hope you are enjoying the bounty of your May gardens..

*Chloris*

Above, left to right:  
*Epimedium* 'Amber Queen'  
*Corydalis flexuosa* 'Spinners'

Left:  
*Gladiolus tristis*



## Milden Cricket Club

The 2026 cricket season has arrived at last! Wisden was published on 16 April, with two rounds of four-day matches in the county



championship already completed (it was the earliest ever start for the county championship, on 3rd April).

Milden start competitive cricket on 4th May (Bank Holiday Monday), with a friendly game at home against Superstars CC. Their 2026 'campaign' in Division 5 of the Hunts County Bats League begins the following weekend with a home match against Hadleigh Academy on Sunday 10th May, followed by an away fixture at Haverhill on 17th May before the next home game against Brettenham on 31st May.

On Sunday 24th May Milden will be hosting an all day six-a-side tournament, provisionally fixed to start at 9am. Hopefully, there will be reports of the first few matches, with photographs, in next month's BRN. Look out too, for weekly reports on Thursdays in the *Suffolk Free Press*.



*Photo: Milden CC's Alex Lomax scoring 118 runs against Long Melford back in July 2025.*

Milden is a friendly club, and supporters/spectators are always welcome at the attractive Milden Playingfield, Church Road, Milden: reputedly the highest cricket ground in Suffolk. League matches start at 1.30pm.

If you are interested in playing cricket for the club, or just want to know more, please contact club captain Alex Cunningham via e-mail at [info@mildencrcc.com](mailto:info@mildencrcc.com).

*David Lamming*  
 Club Media Officer

# Feedback From James Finch

## County Councillor for the Stour Valley

### **Government announces outcome of local government reorganisation in Suffolk**

The government has announced its decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Suffolk in 2028, opting for three unitary authorities, despite, in my view, clear evidence that this is not the best outcome for Suffolk.

This is a major milestone in the future of local government in the county and reshapes how councils are structured and how services are delivered across the county.

Each of the three new unitary councils will cover their own geographical area: West Suffolk, East Suffolk, and South Suffolk and Ipswich.

The creation of three unitary authorities for Suffolk will mean the abolition of all Suffolk's present councils:

- Suffolk County Council
- East Suffolk Council
- West Suffolk Council
- Babergh District Council
- Mid Suffolk Council
- Ipswich Borough Council

While detailed boundaries are still being finalised, the creation of three unitary councils, West Suffolk, East Suffolk, and South Suffolk and Ipswich, means that from May 2028 the new councils will replace the existing councils listed above.

Elections for the new shadow authorities will take place in May 2027, with the new councils formally taking over responsibilities from May 2028. This transition period will enable detailed work for reorganisation to take place, and services will be delivered as usual throughout the process.

Additionally, each new authority will be responsible for the delivery of the services previously undertaken by the county council in their specific area. The new councils will have responsibility for delivering services including waste collection, planning, adult social care, children's services, highways and more.

### **£3.9 million investment proposal to protect and enhance Public Rights of Way**

Suffolk County Council plans to invest nearly £4 million to improve and protect the public rights of way network. The network, which provides

more than 3,500 miles of off-road access for walking, cycling and horse riding, is supported by 3,770 structures including bridges, boardwalks, revetments and signposts.

A report considered by Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday 24th March said the £3.9 million investment will enable replacement or refurbishment of 735 priority structures, with a particular focus on bridges and boardwalks in central and coastal areas.

The report says that over the next five years, 1,800 structures will need to be replaced or undergo major refurbishment. Of these, 735 structures have been prioritised for 2026/27 and 2027/28 due to their known condition. The structures are spread across the county, with the largest impact in the central and coastal areas of Suffolk.

These are predominantly bridges, but there are also a number of boardwalks on key coastal and estuary routes. The cost of this two-year programme is £3.9 million in total – £2.05 million in 2026/27 and £1.85 million in 2027/28. The council's investment plan comes at a time of significantly increased public use of the network.

### **98% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred secondary schools on National Offer Day**

Suffolk County Council received 7,742 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2026.

Families who applied online can log in to the online service to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer unless they have indicated that they do not wish to. Letters have been sent to parents who made a paper application.

It is understood that not all families will have received a place at their preferred school. If a parent or carer's preference for a Suffolk school has been refused, their child's name will automatically be added to the waiting list for that school. Parents and carers will also be advised how to lodge an appeal should they wish to do so.

Published criteria were used to decide which children had priority for school places to ensure that the process was fair and clear.

Once school places have been confirmed, parents and carers need to consider how their child will get to and from school. If their child is eligible for Suffolk County Council-funded school travel, they will have received an email by Thursday 2nd April 2026 with details of how to opt in and when.

Further information on secondary school admissions can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

### **Suffolk parents urged to get children vaccinated amid national measles resurgence**

England has seen a return of measles outbreaks linked to falling vaccination uptake, and the UK recently lost its World Health Organization measles elimination status. Vaccination rates remain below the 95% coverage needed to prevent outbreaks, with almost one in five children starting primary school not fully protected against serious diseases. Measles is one of the most infectious diseases in the world and can lead to complications including pneumonia, meningitis and brain inflammation.

Health leaders are urging parents to get their children vaccinated in Suffolk to ensure the county maintains high levels of vaccination to protect local communities and prevent similar outbreaks.

Since 1st January 2026, the NHS has introduced the MMRV vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox. It replaces the previous MMR vaccine by adding protection against chickenpox and helps ensure children are protected before starting nursery or school. MMRV has been safely used in other countries for many years. Anyone eligible who has not yet received both doses of MMR or MMRV is encouraged to come forward to ensure they are fully protected.

For children born on or after 1st January 2025, MMRV is offered at 12 months (first dose) and at 18 months (second dose). Two doses provide strong protection and help safeguard vulnerable groups, including babies too young to be vaccinated and those with weakened immune systems. The NHS childhood immunisation programme prevents around 5,000 deaths every year in England. All childhood vaccinations are free on the NHS.

Parents and carers will usually be contacted by their GP practice when their child is due a routine vaccination. If your child has missed a vaccine and is over 18 months, they can be caught up at any time. If you believe your child is due or has missed a vaccine, contact your GP practice to book an appointment.

### **Suffolk road schemes included in Government's five-year investment plan**

Suffolk County Council has welcomed the government's announcement of its next five-year

Road Investment Strategy (RIS), which features four key projects in the county running from April 2026 to March 2031:

A12 improvements at Woodbridge – to upgrade the A12 between the Seven Hills junction with the A14 and the Woods Lane junction.

The A140 - A1120 Earl Stonham junction improvements – this has been classed as a scheme 'recommended to continue'.

A11 Fiveways junction near Mildenhall.

A12/A14 Copdock interchange.

### **Virtual fostering and adoption sessions for the Stour Valley**

If you want to find out more about what it is like to foster or adopt with us, please call a member of the team on 01473 264800.

#### **"Au Revoir"**

As I am not seeking re-election on 7th May, may I thank the editor, Trudi Wild, and all my readers for the interest and support they have given to me over the 17 years as your county councillor.

*James Finch*

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

Tel: 01206 262993

Mobile: 07545 423796

## **Feedback From Bryn Hurren**

### **Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward.**

Firstly, I feel that the greatest tribute should be given to one of, if not the greatest, people of our recent generations. I do not speak of politicians or world leaders as great in their time, as they have been very sparse recently. We have mainly been saddled with greed, cowardice, coercion and downright corruption from many modern world leaders.

My person of the last two centuries would be the now 100-year-old David Attenborough, who has almost single-handedly commented on and led the campaign to educate numerous generations on the value of nature, biodiversity and climate change, and how we can slow it down, if not stop it entirely. To me, it has always been plain common sense that if the temperature rose, ice would melt from the polar ice caps, sea and river levels would rise, and wildfires would break out.

Staggeringly, and almost worse, will be when all the ice becomes just water and levels rise by the predicted 1200 mm. The hallowed turf of Portman

Road will be frequently under water. That will surely affect people being born now.

Under David's guidance, we did seem to be doing quite well in the race against time to, if not head this off, slow it down long enough to give the human race a chance of decent survival for a much longer period of time into the future.

Sadly, due to the likes of non-believers and greedy wealth-grabbers, and those of influence such as Trump, Netanyahu, Putin and now Farage, and those they attract and harbour to do their collective bidding, they have surely wrecked any chance of this.

Thanks, Sir David, for trying hard for us. We should all salute you, a man ahead of his time.

As we are all aware, we now have customary county council elections back for one last time before unitary and devolved government is finally brought into place in May 2028.

Once again, I have placed my hat into the ballot box to try to win the division of Stour Valley for the increasingly forward-thinking and competent Liberal Democrat Party, which I have always supported for the past 50 years through good and even better times. Hopefully, we have now been forgiven for supporting the Tories in coalition to save the country from financial annihilation after the Blair-Brown years, which badly backfired on us and led, quite wrongly, to our own demise.

For me, I have always supported the people before the politics, and my political masters have always allowed me to do that, and long may that continue, whatever my future role.

I am totally devastated that the Boundary Commission has, for numerical reasons, placed my beloved district ward of Box Vale, which I have come to love so much, into an unfamiliar county division, but I do promise to work with whoever is elected for my final two years as the Babergh councillor for the area.

Great news for my area is that Monks Leigh Post Office will re-open in a couple of weeks after the appointment and training of a new postmistress to succeed Mandy Coll. We thought she was irreplaceable, but we have succeeded and are so pleased to do so.

With these outlets frequently being closed due to alleged underuse, it is great to succeed in such a good appointment, enabling this facility to co-exist alongside and inside the brilliant village community shop and to continue to serve local and passing customers.

Also, another piece of good news is

the government increase in funding for a new regular public transport bus service from Hadleigh through to Stowmarket. This will be for a trial period and is designed to enable local people, through a dial-a-ride feeder service, to get to a designated bus stop along the route to connect to Hadleigh or Stowmarket for services and travel further afield. In the case of Stowmarket, this means a train service on a major route to travel further afield to Norwich, into the Midlands, London and from there towards the rest of the world and beyond. Good luck with that!!

The annual occurrence that causes me most angst as a councillor is when the county council announces the lists of young scholars starting or changing schools for the first time and whether they get supported transport or not. Then my inbox gets full of desperate parents who were quite rightly expecting free transport to their high school from their primary feeder school, which is sometimes, by a short distance, not their nearest school, or to their primary school of choice, which for some reason is not quite their nearest school. This policy has become a nightmare to manage and deliver and should be changed immediately to allow sensible placement into the future.

While it is sensible not to fund transport for schools miles away, in some of these cases the school bus is already driving near, or even past, their doors, or even refusing to take siblings on board when the bus has empty seats.

If elected next month, on May 7th, I promise to work to change this with a more reasonable approach, taking families and sustainable travel into consideration.

It is best for everyone who is likely to be disenfranchised by this awful policy to ask candidates their view on it when they come knocking on their doors.

I will take my second annual day off on May 8th for the election count, but otherwise it is business as usual for Bryn.

I hope to see everyone, as usual, at your village APMs, and feel free to ask anything you think is applicable to yourself or your village. These annual parish meetings are not that formal, so do please come along and take part. You might make your own points and watch democracy at a local level at work.

*Keep well and take care,*

*Bryn*

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Tel: 01787 210854 / 07771 508348

## LITTLE WALDINGFIELD

### Summary of Council Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

#### Parish Council Update: What's Been Happening in Little Waldingfield

Little Waldingfield Parish Council (LWPC) met on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss a wide range of local issues, from footpaths and traffic speeds to litter picking and village finances. Councillors were joined by representatives from Suffolk County Council (SCC) and Babergh District Council (BDC), as well as members of the public, ensuring local voices were well represented.

#### Footpaths, hedges and road safety raised by residents

Residents highlighted concerns about a shortcut forming across private land near the open churchyard. Possible solutions were discussed and will be looked at, including re-planting gaps in the hedgerows. SCC Highways is to be approached to address the narrowing of the road into the village from the B1115 caused by slippage of the verges.

#### Local Government Reform (LGR) and planning matters

Local elections are now going ahead. There was discussion about Norfolk County Council's rejection of LGR and the current uncertainty regarding the LGR proposals.

On planning matters, councillors considered and approved an application relating to two diseased walnut trees at Malting Cottage.

#### Finances in good order

Receipts and payments for January and February, the January bank reconciliation, and the year-to-date budget position for February, were presented and agreed. Councillors also approved a proposal to open a savings account to increase the accrual of interest.

#### Traffic speeds continue to be monitored

Traffic and speeding remain a key concern in the village. Councillors reviewed data from the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), noting that traffic volumes remain steady overall but rise by around a third during the summer months. Of particular concern was the significant number of vehicles exceeding 35mph when leaving the village, with a recorded maximum speed of exceeding 50mph in the early morning. The data is to be shared

with SCC Highways and the police. Monitoring will continue, with a full 12 month overview planned.

#### Litter pick planned for Saturday 21 March

Little Waldingfield residents were encouraged to get involved in the parish litter pick, scheduled for Saturday 21 March, 10am-12 noon at the Parish Room, Church Road.

#### Grass cutting and village green spaces

Little Waldingfield residents living close to BDC-maintained grass areas will also be consulted on whether Babergh-managed grass areas should have a 'nomow' period to encourage biodiversity. Expect a letter soon.

#### Looking ahead

The next scheduled meeting will be on 5 May 2026. The date for the Annual Parish Meeting date will be confirmed soon.

For more updates and to get involved, visit the LWPC website:

<https://tinyurl.com/lwpc-council> or contact the parish clerk.

*Your village needs your voice!*

#### Mark Freeman

07554 592425

[clerk.littlewaldingfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk.littlewaldingfield@hotmail.co.uk)

## BOXFORD

### Summary of Council Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### Matters Arising:

Goodlands – Boxford Volunteer Group have continued to chase the issue with BDC.

Stone Street – The SCC Highways engineer attended as agreed, a plan has been received in draft, which will be responded to with amendments in the next few days.

School crossing assistant – This has been raised with the school, and they have agreed to look into this.

Licence Path, Cox Hill – SCC Highways have been out to site and have accepted the need for repair, works will be carried out.

Car Park – Boxford Volunteer Group are still in discussions with the diocese, updated plans are being put together by a structural engineer.

#### Public Forum

A resident wished to comment on the amount of litter being left on the A1071 & A134.

#### District Council Report

DCllr Hurren's full report can be found on the BPC website.

#### County Council Report

CCllr Finch's full report can be found on the BPC website.

#### Update on Strategic Planning

Cllr Parr updated on the response to BDC; a positive response has been received from John Ward of BDC, the matter is ongoing.

#### 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>)

#### Tree planting to rear of churchyard

It was resolved to go ahead with planting at the request of Natural Boxford, the clerk will forward the recommended trees to Cllr King. DCllr Hurren advised that he may be able to assist with funding.

#### Date of Next Meeting

28th April 2026 in the village hall. This meeting will be starting at the earlier time of 6.30pm with the Annual Parish Meeting. All residents are invited to attend to learn more about current and future village projects.

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

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

#### Zoe Rumsey

07304 361524

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

## NEWTON

### Summary of Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

#### 26/067 Councillor Vacancy

The councillors reviewed the application from Rebecca Major to be co-opted to NPC. The councillors unanimously resolved to co-opt

Rebecca, and she completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her seat as a member of the council.

## 26/068 Public Participation

As this would be James Finch's final council meeting before retiring from public service, the chairman thanked James for all his support over the past 17 years.

## 26/071 Planning

The councillors reviewed Planning Application DC/26/00898, Land Rear of Brook Farm, Sudbury Road - Change of use of land (part) and erection of 1 no. self-build dwelling and ancillary outbuilding, utilising existing (shared) access, and unanimously resolved that they objected to the application as it did not comply with the Newton Neighbourhood Plan.

## 26/072 Saracens Head

There has not been any further update on the sale of the Saracens Head.

## 26/073 Finance

The council approved the year-end accounts and accepted a clean internal audit report with no recommended actions.

Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025 / 2026 were approved and signed.

The period for public inspection of records will run from 3rd June to 14th July 2026.

## 26/074 Walking Infrastructure Project

The clerk updated councillors that the applications to the National Lottery, Sport England, and the local charity

were all unsuccessful. The following commitments have been confirmed:

SCC Transport has agreed to pay for the costs (£25,956) of relocating the bus stop and shelter on the Green. Babergh has confirmed that Suffolk Highways will be able to apply for up to £100,000 towards the cost of the new footpath and widening of the existing footpath.

Newton Green Trust has committed £80,000 towards the scheme. NPC has committed £20,000 towards the scheme.

Suffolk County Council has confirmed that they will provide the remaining funding from the Local Transport Grant.

Therefore, the £313,015 + VAT costs of the scheme are fully covered. The legal issues relating to the land for the new footpath and Suffolk Highways undertaking the project are now being discussed.

## 26/075 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Schwenk updated councillors on the meeting with residents at the council's coffee morning on Saturday 28th March 2026, where a presentation was given and feedback was gathered from over 40 residents. The NPWG now has 7 members, and they are working on a questionnaire for villagers to give their feedback on the existing NP policies.

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

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

## Parish Council Contact Details

### Boxford PC

Clerk: Zoe Rumsey  
**07304 361524**  
[clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk)  
<http://boxford-pc.gov.uk>

### Edwardstone PC

Clerk: Richard Jones  
**01473 828246**  
[edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com](mailto:edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com)  
<http://edwardstonepc.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/minutes>

### Groton PC

Clerk: Richard Jones  
**01473 828246**  
[grotonclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:grotonclerk@yahoo.com)  
<http://groton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/documents>

### Little Waldingfield PC

Councillor & Clerk: Mark Freeman  
**07554 592425**  
[clerk.littlewaldingfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk.littlewaldingfield@hotmail.co.uk)  
<https://bit.ly/LW-parish-minutes>

### Newton PC

Clerk: Dave Crimmin PSLCC  
**01787 375085**  
[clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.newton.onesuffolk.net](http://www.newton.onesuffolk.net)



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*Paper Hanger and Interior Decorator*  
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27 Friars Street Sudbury CO10 2AD  
T: 01787 880440 E: [solicitors@bwblegal.com](mailto:solicitors@bwblegal.com)

## Halls & Facilities to Hire

Boxford Pavilion	Natalie Woods <b>07772 916 135</b> <a href="mailto:nataliewoods25@gmail.com">nataliewoods25@gmail.com</a>
Boxford Spinney	Mark Miller <b>01787 211596</b> <a href="http://www.boxfordspinney.co.uk">www.boxfordspinney.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:mark.miller@talktalk.net">mark.miller@talktalk.net</a>
Boxford Village Hall	<a href="http://www.boxfordvillagehall.co.uk">www.boxfordvillagehall.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk">booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk</a>
Brent Eleigh Village Hall	Karen Marshall <b>07946 209103</b> <a href="mailto:karenmarshall6@gmail.com">karenmarshall6@gmail.com</a>
Edwardstone Parish Hall	Daphne Clark <b>01787 210698</b> <a href="mailto:daphne.clark@btopenworld.com">daphne.clark@btopenworld.com</a>
Edwardstone Millennium Green	Marijke Morris <b>07914 767 013</b> <a href="mailto:marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk">marijke_e@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Groton Village Hall	Joanna Roberts <b>07845 940 008</b> <a href="mailto:jgant87618@aol.com">jgant87618@aol.com</a>
Lions Den Function Room The White Hart	<b>01787 211764</b>
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	Sue Bowen <b>01787 249473</b> <a href="mailto:sd.bowen@btopenworld.com">sd.bowen@btopenworld.com</a>
Little Waldingfield Pavilion	Jennie Jordan <b>07522 352 558</b> <a href="mailto:52Jennie1@gmail.com">52Jennie1@gmail.com</a>
Marquee Booking	<a href="mailto:BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com">BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com</a>
Milden Pavilion	Pearl <b>01449 741 876</b> <a href="mailto:info@mildenspavilion.co.uk">info@mildenspavilion.co.uk</a>
Newton Village Hall	The Secretary <b>07955 199 000</b>

## Scouting

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

## Charities

Boxford & Groton United Charities	Guy Godfray <b>01787 211378</b>
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Alison Barlow <b>07765 401 952</b> <a href="mailto:crossways.jemali@gmail.com">crossways.jemali@gmail.com</a>
Edwardstone Charities	Nick Raymond <b>01787 210461</b> <a href="mailto:ncraymond@hotmail.co.uk">ncraymond@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Groton Educational Foundation	Kate Wilson <b>01787 211658</b> <a href="mailto:kate.wilson100@hotmail.co.uk">kate.wilson100@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust	James Wills <b>01787 210484</b>
Little Waldingfield Charities	Mary Thorogood <b>01787 247658</b> <a href="mailto:littlewalingfieldcharities@gmail.com">littlewalingfieldcharities@gmail.com</a>
Newton Green Trust	Philip Taylor <b>07775 777 598</b> <a href="mailto:philiptaylor433@gmail.com">philiptaylor433@gmail.com</a>

## 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](mailto:editor@boxrivernews.com).

## Clubs & Groups

Boxford Bellringers	Richard Gates <b>01787 210432</b>
Boxford Bible Study Group	Peter & Margaret <b>01787 211077</b>
Boxford Bike Club	Kevin Bridge <b>07876 798 617</b> <a href="http://www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk">www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk</a>
Boxford Bowls Club	Ian Clark <b>01787 211133</b>
Boxford Carpet Bowls	David Warren <b>01787 211067</b>
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Macmillan <b>07779 303 690</b> <a href="mailto:janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk">janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Boxford Friendship Group	Alison Warren <b>01787 211067</b> or Wendy Hills <b>01787 210342</b>
Boxford Gardens Open	Audrey Zuck <b>07852 102 455</b> <a href="mailto:audrey@a2zriskservices.com">audrey@a2zriskservices.com</a>
Boxford Gardening Society	Elizabeth Wagener <b>01787 210223</b> <a href="mailto:elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com">elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com</a>
Boxford Karate Club	Steve Harris <b>07977 218 175</b> <a href="mailto:jkrksouthsuffolk@gmail.com">jkrksouthsuffolk@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.jkr-uk.org.uk">www.jkr-uk.org.uk</a>
Boxford Literary Group	David Jones <b>01787 211104</b> <a href="mailto:audav@hotmail.co.uk">audav@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Boxford Rovers Youth FC	Melvyn Eke <b>07873 971 701</b> <a href="mailto:m.eke@btinternet.com">m.eke@btinternet.com</a> <a href="http://www.boxford-rovers-youth.com">www.boxford-rovers-youth.com</a>
Boxford Tennis Social	Sue Moore <b>07808 481 447</b>
Boxford WI	Lyn Beer <b>07961 357 526</b>
Fleece Jazz	David Gasson <b>01787 210796</b>
Groton History Society	Nigel Chapman <a href="mailto:nigeljchap@gmail.com">nigeljchap@gmail.com</a>
Highway 12 Western Dance	Chris <b>01787 371006</b>
Little Waldingfield History Society	Diana Langford <b>01787 248298</b> <a href="mailto:dianalangford765@gmail.com">dianalangford765@gmail.com</a>
Little Waldingfield Over 60s & Friendship Club	Tricia Eddington <b>01787 247932</b>
Local History Recorders	<b>Edwardstone</b> Daphne Clark <b>01787 210698</b> <a href="mailto:daphne.clark@btopenworld.com">daphne.clark@btopenworld.com</a>
	<b>Groton</b> Joanna Roberts <b>01787 210619</b> <a href="mailto:jgant87618@aol.com">jgant87618@aol.com</a>
Madrigalia Choir	Sue Price <b>01787 210913</b>
Milden Cricket Club	Richard Robinson <b>07807 229447</b> or David Lamming <b>07968 791 135</b>
Milden Singers	Pearl <b>01449 741876</b>
Natural Boxford	Louise Carpenter <b>01787 211862</b> <a href="mailto:louise Carpenter@proton.me">louise Carpenter@proton.me</a>

## Clubs & Groups

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

## Children Families & Learning

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

## Community Groups

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

# Events Calendar

## APRIL 2026

<b>27</b> MON	<b>Boxford Friendship Group</b> Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
<b>28</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Wine &amp; Cordial Tasting</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm
<b>28</b> TUE	<b>Boxford Community Meeting</b> Boxford Village Hall	6:30pm

## MAY 2026

<b>2</b> SAT	<b>Who Wants to be a Millionaire Quiz</b> Stratford St Mary Institution Hall	2:30pm
<b>5</b> TUE	<b>Little Waldingfield Pavilion AGM</b> Little Waldingfield Pavilion	7pm
<b>5</b> TUE	<b>Boxford Gardening Society</b> Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>6</b> WED	<b>Boxford WI - Annual Meeting</b> Boxford Village Hall	2pm
<b>7</b> THU	<b>Suffolk County Council Elections</b> Various polling stations	7am-10pm
<b>9-10</b> SAT-SUN	<b>Flower Festival Weekend</b> All Saints' Church, Lt Cornard CO10 0PE	11-4pm
<b>12</b> TUE	<b>Sudbury Guided Walk</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm
<b>12-16</b> TUE-SAT	<b>Sudbury Dramatic Society: Emilia</b> The Quay, Sudbury CO10 2AN	7:45pm
<b>13</b> WED	<b>Charity Quiz Night</b> The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
<b>15</b> FRI	<b>Polstead Films: Hamnet</b> Polstead Village Hall	7pm
<b>15</b> WED	<b>LWHS: Two Short Talks</b> Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
<b>16</b> SAT	<b>The Hadleigh Show</b> Holbecks Park, IP7 5PE	8:30-4:30pm
<b>16</b> SAT	<b>Fireside Club Coffee Morning</b> Newton Village Hall	10am
<b>16</b> SAT	<b>Model Railway Show</b> Lavenham Church	10-4pm
<b>16</b> SAT	<b>Music for Flute &amp; Strings</b> St Mary's Church, Boxford	4pm
<b>17</b> SUN	<b>Boxford Bowls Club Open Day</b> Boxford Bowls Club	10-4pm
<b>17</b> WED	<b>LWHS: Anne Grimshaw</b> Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
<b>18</b> MON	<b>Boxford Friendship Group</b> Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
<b>19</b> TUE	<b>Celebratory Afternoon Tea</b> Mary's House, Boxford	2pm

## MAY 2026

<b>21</b> THU	<b>PSA Blood Testing Event</b> Stoke by (Nayland Golf Club, CO6 4PZ)	4:30-7:30pm
<b>21</b> THU	<b>BINGO</b> The White Hart, Boxford	7pm
<b>21</b> THU	<b>GHS: A History of Harwich</b> Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>22-25</b> FRI-MON	<b>Stoke by Nayland Art Exhibition</b> Stoke by Nayland Church	10-5pm/ 11-4pm
<b>26</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Plant Growing Comp</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm
<b>29</b> FRI	<b>Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub</b> Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm

## JUNE 2026

<b>2</b> TUE	<b>Boxford Gardening Society</b> Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>6</b> SAT	<b>Musicology Concert</b> Edwardstone Church	7pm
<b>7</b> SUN	<b>Boxford Open Gardens</b> Boxford and Edwardstone	11-4pm
<b>7</b> SUN	<b>Book Signing with Barbara Segall</b> 10 Lady Street, Lavenham	from Noon
<b>9</b> TUE	<b>Fireside Club - Trip to Markshall</b> Newton Village Hall	2pm
<b>13</b> SAT	<b>Book Signing with Tracy Borman</b> Lavenham Library	2:30-4:30pm
<b>14</b> SUN	<b>Groton VH Centenary Celebration</b> Groton Village Hall	3-5pm
<b>17</b> WED	<b>LWHS: Military History of Orford Ness</b> Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
<b>17</b> WED	<b>Ladies Get Into Golf</b> Newton Green Golf Club	1pm
<b>17</b> WED	<b>Charity Quiz Night</b> The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
<b>20</b> SAT	<b>Newton Trust Coffee Morning</b> Newton Village Hall	10am
<b>20</b> SAT	<b>Ladies Get Into Golf</b> Newton Green Golf Club	11am
<b>21</b> SUN	<b>Little Waldingfield Open Gardens</b> Little Waldingfield	11-4pm
<b>22</b> MON	<b>Boxford Friendship Group</b> Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
<b>25</b> THU	<b>GHS: Victoria &amp; Abdul</b> Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
<b>26</b> FRI	<b>Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub</b> Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm

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HERITAGE  
HORTICULTURAL

For over a decade, Heritage Horticultural has been the trusted choice for discerning homeowners in the South-East of England.

## GARDEN MANAGEMENT

We specialise in garden management for prestigious properties in Essex and Suffolk, ensuring that your garden—whether sprawling lawns or intricate landscapes—receives the care and attention it deserves.

## TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS

Whether your garden needs regular maintenance or the support of a full-time gardener, we offer flexible arrangements starting from just one day per fortnight.

Our experienced horticulturists are trained to manage a variety of garden styles, from grand formal estates to naturalistic designs. Whether your grounds feature wide, open lawns or detailed, delicate beds, our team will nurture your garden to perfection.



## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

### Waste Management and Composting

While we can take away waste, we encourage composting as a sustainable solution for larger gardens.

### Bespoke Garden Design and Landscaping

In addition to our comprehensive garden maintenance services, we specialise in design and landscaping projects, including custom kitchen gardens, bespoke pergolas, and elegant Victorian greenhouses. Our tailored approach ensures every feature is crafted to enhance your outdoor space, blending functionality with timeless beauty.



## WHY CHOOSE US?

### Highly Experienced Gardeners

We match our gardeners to your garden's specific needs, ensuring you receive expert care.

### Comprehensive Service

Your gardener will arrive fully equipped, ready to carry out all necessary tasks throughout the day. Prefer we use your tools? No problem—our service is fully adaptable.

### Flexible Arrangements and Transparent Pricing

From one day per fortnight to full-time gardening, our adaptable services ensure your garden receives diligent, expert care throughout the year.

Rates start from £280 per day (inclusive of VAT), offering excellent value for the quality and expertise we deliver.

Contact us for a friendly, informal chat about your requirements.

01206 430 034 | [info@heritagehorticultural.co.uk](mailto:info@heritagehorticultural.co.uk) | [heritagehorticultural.co.uk](http://heritagehorticultural.co.uk)