

September 2026

Box River News

Boxford • Edwardstone • Groton • Little Waldingfield • Newton Green

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



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

- DINNER SERVED EVERYDAY 5PM-8PM -

- BAR MENU -

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

- PANINI MENU -

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

* GLUTEN FREE ALTERNATIVE

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

12TH SEPT **8-11**

Saturday

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Pre booking is advised
To place a order call
01787 704147
Served
Lunch 12-2:30pm
Evening 5-8pm

Rallying Round for Support

The inaugural Boxford Vintage & Classic Vehicle Rally has raised £5,000 for Suffolk Lowland Search & Rescue

More than 430 cars, tractors, motorcycles and commercial vehicles filled the site off Hadleigh Road across the weekend of 4th and 5th July, drawing more than a thousand visitors through the gate. Alongside them were trade stands, craft stalls, food vendors and family entertainment, and the whole weekend rested on volunteer labour rather than paid staff. Ticket sales, exhibitor entries and stallholder fees combined built the total.



The money has gone to Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue, better known across the county as *SULSAR*. For organiser James Harvey, the choice of charity was straightforward.

He has volunteered with *SULSAR* for eleven years and grew up around the rally scene, and the event was an attempt to bring the two halves of his life together. He was joined in running the weekend by Farley Boxall, who runs Breakout For Business in Sudbury. The donation will help fund a new control vehicle, the mobile hub from which searches are planned and coordinated.

SULSAR is one of the country's Lowland Rescue units, working alongside mountain and cave rescue teams, the RNLI and the coastguard. Its job is finding missing people: vulnerable adults, those living with dementia, children, anyone who has gone out and not come back. Suffolk Constabulary makes most of the callouts, though the fire service and neighbouring county teams also ring. The team is on call around the clock, with more than sixty members ready to turn out at any hour.

Searching in Suffolk is rarely a matter of walking a line across a field. *SULSAR* runs foot and dog teams, mountain bikes for covering ground quickly, a rigid inflatable boat and kayaks for water, and drones carrying thermal cameras that can see into places that



are difficult to reach on foot.

None of it is publicly funded. *SULSAR* is a registered charity and receives nothing from government or the emergency services, relying instead on donations, grants and sponsorship. Members are unpaid, claim no expenses and buy their own personal kit, which leaves fundraising to cover the vans, the radios and the specialist equipment.

All of which makes the donation from the Boxford Rally an outstanding achievement. Well done to all of the visitors, exhibitors, helpers and most of all, the organisers for helping to raise such a huge sum.

Here's looking forward to the 2027 rally!

Box River News

Trudi Wild
Editor

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www.boxrivernews.com



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This month's cover image

The cover shows a detail from artist Honor Surie's *Suffolk Study One*. The full painting will be on show as part of the *Captured Light* exhibition at Mill Tye Gallery, Great Cornard. The exhibition runs from 5th to 27th September 2026.



The copy deadline for the October issue is Tuesday 15th September at midday.

Groton Educational Foundation

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

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

Applications may also be made by organisations serving the area.

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

Details and application forms are available from Kate Wilson, clerk to the trustees, 1 Daisy Green Cottages, Groton CO10 5EN. kate.wilson100@hotmail.co.uk

01787 211658

Completed forms should be returned by 26th August

Registered Charity No. 1118325



The Boxford Bounty would like to congratulate the following winners of the June 2026 draw, drawn at the Boxford Community Council AGM, on Monday 13th July 2026:

May - June 2026		
1 st	£250	Mrs A Smith
2 nd	£125	Mr C Southgate
3 rd	£75	Mrs J O'Neill
4 th	£50	Mrs K Griggs

Mark Miller, Boxford Bounty
Boxford Community Council
Registered with Babergh District Council under Schedule 11 to the Gambling Act 2005. Registered Charity No 304862

Medical Practice Charitable Trust

Are you aware that the Hadleigh Health Centre has an association with a local charitable trust? This was established 30 years ago *'for the protection and preservation of health and the relief of sickness'*. Any patient or staff member of the medical practice can apply for consideration of a grant. The trust is not intended to supplant normal assistance available through the welfare system or council support, but to help with genuine needs that cannot be met by other, more appropriate means. Additionally, donations to the trust have been generously given and are most gratefully received. The Trustees take a reasonably broad interpretation of the purpose defined above. Applications should be made in writing to the Practice Manager at the address below. Please ensure the purpose of the grant is made clear, together with why it cannot be met by other means and the amount of money requested. The trust is presently adequately funded, and the Trustees are very sympathetic to genuine need. Whilst they must ensure funds are expended appropriately, they are also very keen to meet requests and so relieve medically related difficulties.

Hadleigh Boxford Medical Practice Charitable Trust
c/o Hadleigh Health Centre
Market Place
Hadleigh IP7 5DN

Editor for Suffolk Plant Heritage Journal Wanted

The Suffolk Group of Plant Heritage, famous for its plant fairs at Helmingham, is looking for a 'planty person' to edit its biannual journal. Help will be given and articles provided. If you are at all interested, please contact Maggie Thorpe, President, on 07547 508599 (Boxford) for more details. I would be happy to chat to you about the work we do to save plants from being lost in cultivation. Examples of previous journals can be found at: www.suffolkplantheritage.com/journal.

Maggie Thorpe



William Alston Charity Newton

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

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

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

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

Sue Presland
07881 383998
sue_presland@hotmail.com

Newton Green Trust

Diggers are set to roll again this autumn on the second phase of the pond restoration around the green. There are six more wildlife ponds to be cleared, then edged with beetle banks ready to receive much-needed rain. The same team as last year will be doing this work, so give them a wave and a smile if you see them at work. This project should benefit all the wildlife around our village once complete. As before, we are working with FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group), who have surveyed each of the sites with us. We are lucky to have this chance to help maintain the biodiversity around our village.

Citizens Advice

When a client first came to Citizens Advice, they felt trapped in a difficult situation and worried about the impact it was having on their family.

Over a number of months, they worked closely with an adviser to explore their options, build confidence and take practical steps towards a new chapter in their life. With support and encouragement, they were able to make important decisions about their future and move forward safely.

The client was also facing other challenges that were affecting their wellbeing and confidence. By talking things through with their adviser and accessing the right support, they gradually gained control of their situation and felt better able to deal with problems as they arose.

Reflecting on their journey, the client said:

"Without the support of Citizens Advice, I would not have been able to move on."

They later added:

"The help you provided made me more confident as to how to deal with the housing officers and to take control."

Stories like this show the difference that trusted advice can make. Sometimes the biggest impact is simply having someone who listens, understands and supports people to make changes they never thought possible.

We are only a phone call away: **01787 321400**.

Helen Arbon

Sudbury & South Suffolk Citizens Advice

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

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advice**

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Wednesday, August 26
Wednesday, September 9th
Wednesday, September 23rd

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Bookings open through Autumn & Winter 26/27 via our website!

Sourdough Pizzas & Boards & Bites Menu

Boards: Wed-Sat 12-8, Sun 12-4

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

Thursday Nights Pizza & a Pint for £15 (5-8pm)

Oktoberfest - Sept 24th - Oct 4th

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Food Trucks

Follow us on Facebook/Instagram for weekly updates!

Wagyu Burgers - Friday Nights

Papas Locas Poutine - Sat Sept 5th

Suffolk Spice Fusion - Sat Sept 12th

Savannah Smoke - Sat Sept 19th

Slingers Hot Dogs - Sat Sept 26th



@edwardstonewh www.edwardstonewhitehorse.co.uk



Edwardstone Parish Hall Building Contractor Required

A building and decorating contractor is sought to undertake external repair and redecoration works at Edwardstone Parish Hall.

A schedule of works is available by email from:

Mr D. Balcombe

davidbalcombe1@gmail.com

Quotations should be returned to the same email address no later than **11th September**.

For further information, please contact:

Daphne Clark

Chairman, Edwardstone Parish Hall

Phone: 01787 210698 / 07896 414587

daphne.clark@btopenworld.com

Edwardstone — Parish Council —

Your Parish Council is here to represent the whole community - we'd love to hear from you to help us make Edwardstone an even better place to live.



Our next
Parish Council meeting

**Monday 21st September
7.30pm**

Edwardstone Parish Hall

This is your opportunity to hear about what's happening in our village, share your views and help shape decisions that affect our community.

*All residents welcome -
we'd love to see you there!*



We need
your feedback!

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey by 20th September.

Your views help us understand the priorities for our village!



The Butcher's Wife

Skirting the issue

Last month we decorated one of the mini Leeders' bedrooms. It looks lovely and the Butcher said he would do the other bedroom next. When he says 'next', this could mean next week or next year. We have no way of knowing.

What this means is that the landing has become an extension of the Butcher's shed with a step ladder, leftover skirting board, a box of tools (screwdrivers, hammers, pliers, sandpaper), and a tub of random screws, nails and wall fixings. As well as this, we have an assortment of things the mini Leeder no longer wants (books, trophies, a mirror cabinet, a desk), all taking up space.

I'd like to say that the landing is the only place where the decorating chaos has erupted but sadly that's not the case. We have a new bedroom door (ready for bedroom number two) on display in the dining room along with another set of step ladders. And somewhere during all of this, the Butcher decided he also wanted to redecorate his office, so the new flooring for that is being 'stored' on the dining room table. I've added a couple of candles - it makes a lovely centrepiece.

I wouldn't mind the mess if I knew the decorating was imminent, but I feel I could be living this way for quite some time. You might think I'm being too hard on him but it took him over a year to attach the skirting boards to the living room wall after redecorating!

*"The ratio of
DIY clothes
to actual DIY
being done is not
proportionate"*

Before the decorating started, the Butcher spent a whole day 'tidying' his shed. He emptied everything out, played about with tools, found stuff he forgot he had and then put it all back in. It looked pretty much the same as before he 'tidied' it. The man is incapable of throwing anything away. I've mentioned before the stuff

he keeps just in case. More recent examples of this are the new windscreen wipers he bought for his car. He kept the old ones 'in case the new ones don't work'. He'll buy a new pair of jeans and then use the old ones as 'DIY clothes'. The ratio of DIY clothes to actual DIY being done is not proportionate. The best example is the new baking sheets he bought for the shop. Instead of ordering five new sheets, he ordered five boxes which each contained five sheets. Instead of sending them back, they are sitting on the table in a box 'just in case'. How am I supposed to live like this?!

As a sign of protest, I'm sharing a meat-free recipe this month. We don't tend to eat a lot of fish (I'm not a massive fan, especially if there are bones or, even worse, eyes!) but we love a bit of salmon, and this recipe is so quick and easy.



Summer Salmon

*I'm all for recipes that don't leave the kitchen looking like a building site.
This one's simple, delicious and on the table in no time.*

Ingredients

- 4 skinless salmon fillets
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp paprika
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp harissa paste
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 8oz cherry tomatoes
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp feta cheese
- 1 tbsp fresh dill, finely chopped

Method

1. Place a large baking tray in the oven and preheat to 200°C.
2. Pat the salmon dry and season all over with the cumin, paprika and half the salt. Rub one side of each fillet with the harissa paste.
3. In a bowl, mix the shallot, garlic, tomatoes and one tbsp of the olive oil, then season with the remaining salt.
4. Add the remaining two tbsp of olive oil to the hot baking tray and arrange the salmon harissa-side up. Scatter the tomato mixture around the fish.
5. Bake until the salmon flakes easily with a fork and the tomatoes are soft, usually 9-11 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle over the feta and dill.



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Reflections from the Ministry Team

A Season of New Beginnings

September often feels like a quiet turning of the page. Schools return, holidays end and familiar routines begin to reform after the looseness of summer. Even before the leaves change colour something in the air tells us we are entering a new season. For many this month feels more like a new year than January ever does - and perhaps that is no accident, for God is always inviting us to begin again, whatever our circumstances.

Across our villages children and young people are stepping into new classrooms, new subjects, new friendships and new challenges. Some are starting school for the very first time; others are moving up a year or heading off to college or university with suitcases, hopes and nerves in equal measure. We wish every one of them courage, joy and curiosity. Learning is not only for the young; it is part of Christian discipleship too. We never stop discovering what it means to follow Christ with heart, mind and strength. September is a wonderful time to explore prayer and begin again with God.

We are delighted that the Reverend Gill Morgan will be our next Rector of the Box River Benefice. We would like to thank everyone who was involved in the process, both before and during the two days of interviews, for all their hard work and support. Gill will be installed early next year, so there is still a little waiting to do. In the meantime we are thankful for all those who continue to keep our churches thriving and maintain our regular pattern of worship. In times of change it is often helpful to ask ourselves, "What has been working well?" and "What new things might it be good to try?" At the same time we can take reassurance from Paul's words to the Philippians: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God." As we look ahead we can do so with confidence, trusting in God's peace and guidance for the future.

This summer has been unusually dry. Gardens have wilted, fields have cracked and farmers have watched the skies with longing. The absence of rain has reminded us how dependent we are on creation's rhythms and how fragile those rhythms can be. Yet even in the dryness, there have been moments of beauty - warm evenings, village gatherings and the simple pleasure of seeing friends and neighbours outdoors. Now, as cooler mornings arrive and the first showers hopefully return we will be grateful for the soft rain that refreshes the land and restores colour to our countryside.

So, as we step into this new season with hope, we remember that change can be unsettling, but God's faithfulness does not shift with the calendar. As routines restart and the days slowly shorten we hold fast to the truth that God is present not only in special moments but in the ordinary ones too - washing dishes, going to work, caring for family and meeting neighbours. These small acts are where faith quietly grows. May this September bring new beginnings, renewed gratitude, and a deep sense of God's steady presence in all the days ahead.

*With love in Christ,
Your Ministry Team.*

September

Dates for your diary

Friday 4th, 10:30am

Coffee Morning, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Saturday 12th, All Day

Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride

Wednesday 16th, 10am

Coffee Morning, All Saints', Newton Green

Saturday 19th, 10am

Coffee Morning, St Mary's Boxford



ST MARY'S CHURCH BOXFORD HARVEST SUPPER

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF GOOD FOOD,
FRIENDSHIP AND AUTUMN CELEBRATION
(SUGGESTED DONATION IS £7.00, PAYABLE ON THE EVENING)

**FRIDAY, 16TH OCTOBER
7.00 PM**

PLEASE CONTACT THE BENEFICE OFFICE TO
RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY THURSDAY, 8TH OCTOBER

07719 790088

boxriverbenefice@gmail.com



Contact Information

Benefice Office (by appointment only):

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

07719 790088

email: boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

September skin-boost



We all love a bit of summer colour but, with Autumn on the way, now is a great time to give your skin a boost.

National Skincare Awareness Month is observed every September. And what better time of year for a refresh than right after this hot sticky summer?! If, like us, your skin has seen far too much sunshine these past weeks, medical microdermabrasion will be the perfect reset.

Medical Microdermabrasion is the ultimate treatment to improve the look and feel of your skin. A painless alternative to chemical peels, it has similarly impressive results.

Microdermabrasion intensively exfoliates, resurfaces and rehydrates the skin using a jet of crystals - stimulating blood flow; leaving you with brighter, tighter, younger-looking skin. **And this month, save £10 on a treatment.**

Microdermabrasion offer

Freshen up your face with our classic medical microdermabrasion.

*This month just £65 (usually £75)**

* Offer is valid once per person until 30/09/2026

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

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



Service Schedule for September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 6th September <i>Trinity 14</i>	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 9th September	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 13th September <i>Trinity 15</i>	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist with Choir	St Mary's, Boxford
	17:00	BCP Evensong	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 16th September	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 20th September <i>Trinity 16</i>	09:30	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist with Choir	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 23rd September	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 27th September <i>Trinity 17</i> <i>Harvest Festival</i>	11:00	Harvest Festival	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	Family Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 30th September	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information

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 September 2026

Friday 4th September at 10:30am

Coffee morning at St Lawrence's, Little Waldingfield

Wednesday 16th September at 10:00am

Coffee morning at All Saints', Newton

Saturday 19th September at 10:00am

Coffee morning at St Mary's, Boxford

Update from St Bartholomew's

We had a very pleasant, if rather hot, garden party at Brook House, Groton (by kind permission of Joanna & Piers Roberts). Thank you to all the helpers and everyone who ventured out on Sunday 9th. We raised an amazing total of £400 which will go towards the running of St Bartholomew's.

Rosie is organising St Bartholomew's Ride & Stride. She hopes to provide cover in the church on the day, when Suffolk churches across the county will be open to visitors. If you can spare an hour to sit and greet visitors, please give Rosie a ring on 01787 210977.

Another event for the diary is the Cheese & Wine Evening at Groton Village Hall on Saturday, 21st November.

By the time we go to print we hope Mary's House will have been sold. We wish the new owner many years of happiness at No. 5.

Harvest Festival Dates

Harvest is just around the corner, offering us a welcome opportunity to pause in gratitude for the gifts of the land and the many hands that bring food to our tables. Each parish will hold its own Harvest Festival service. In our rural communities harvest is more than a tradition - it reflects our deep connection to the land, the rhythm of the seasons and the blessings of shared life. We invite everyone to join us in thanksgiving, reflection and celebration.

The Benefice Harvest Festival services will be held on:

Sunday 27th September, 11am	All Saints', Newton
Sunday 4th October, 9:30am	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
Sunday 11th October, 9:30am	St Bartholomew's, Groton
Sunday 18th October, 9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
Sunday 18th October, 11am	St Mary's, Boxford

Save the Dates

As we look ahead we invite everyone to save the dates for the special events coming up across our benefice. Do keep an eye on the notices in the *Box River News*, as more dates will be added, and pop these dates in your diary. We look forward to seeing you.

Saturday 12th September	Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride
Saturday 10th October, 4pm	Piano Trio Concert (Boxford)
Friday 16th October, 7pm	Harvest Supper (Boxford)
Saturday 24th October, 3pm	Rock Concert in memory of Jane Godray (Dr Jane Hill)
Thursday 5th November & Friday 6th November	Edwardstone Christmas Fair
Saturday 21st Nov, 7:30pm	Groton Cheese & Wine Party
Saturday 5th Dec, 10am	Boxford Christmas Tree Festival

Boxford Church Fundraising Concert

Piano Trio Concert

Beethoven - 'Ghost' Trio
Mendelssohn - Piano Trio No. 2

Saturday October 10th 2026 4.00 pm

Alice Borrett - piano
Rhianwen Gold - violin
Ed Gold - cello



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

Rock Choir

Please join us for a concert in memory of
Jane Godray (Dr Jane Hill)



St Mary's Church, Boxford

24th October 2026

3-4pm

Tickets £10

From: Boxford Post Office, Marianne 07973 523211 & Jacqui 079002 827262, some tickets on door
includes tea, coffee and cake
all proceeds to The Brain Tumour Charity

THE FLEECE HOTEL

Charity Quiz

Wed 16th September 8pm
Wed 14th October 8pm
Wed 11th November 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

Boxford Study Centre Literature Group

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

Challenging God

Tutor: Mrs Alison Davidson

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

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

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

Newcomers to these classes are very welcome.

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

Quiz Night

Little Waldingfield Parish Room
 Saturday 26th September 2026
 7.30pm prompt start
 £12.50 per person, with two course hot meal
 (Please bring your own drinks)
 Max 4 persons per team
 (It may be possible to find partners for you)
 Raffle
 Bookings: Sue Bowen 07962 210359
 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com

HARVEST AND CRAFT FAIR

Little Cornard

All Saints Church
12th & 13th September 2026
11am ~ 4pm
 A charming and welcoming family-friendly village event

Refreshments
 Homemade Cakes
 BBQ & Licenced bar
 Heritage Exhibition

Games for all ages
 Stalls & Demonstrations
Craft Fair on Sunday
Free entry | Free parking
Evensong
 Sunday 13th September 4:30pm

All Saints Church, Kedington Hill, Little Cornard, CO10 0PE
www.littlecornardchurch.org.uk



BOXFORD
GARDENING SOCIETY

The Bury Botanic Gardens 1820 - 1861 and to the present day

Paul Marsh, Chairman Abbey Garden Friends



Tuesday 1st September 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall



Fleece Jazz at Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

Nicolas Meier World Group

Wednesday 9th September 2026 8pm - Tickets: £20



Drawing from a love of Turkish, Eastern & Middle Eastern music, Flamenco, Tango and more - all mixed with jazz - Meier's versatility and musical fluency extend far beyond these influences.

Nicolas Meier – Guitars
Alex Hutton – Piano
Richard Jones – Violin
Paul Michael – Bass
Demi Garcia Sabat – Percussion

Sarah Jane Morris: Sisterhood 2

Wednesday 23rd September 2026 8pm - Tickets: £25



"[music] full of hope and nourishment in the face of hard times" ★★★★★ *Record Collector*
"A highly enjoyable, original & entertaining set of songs... Highly recommended"
Jazz Journal

Sarah Jane Morris – Vocals
Tony Remy – Guitar
Marcus Bonfanti – Guitar
Henry Thomas – Bass

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

Ample parking; fully accessible. Directions: www.fleecejazz.org.uk

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

*Friends of Fleece Jazz discount

SPECIAL OFFER: A double room with breakfast and two tickets
from £149 (subject to availability) Phone: 01206 262836



People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Boxford Pavilion

Boxford Playing Fields, CO10 5PB



**Wednesday 9th September
7pm**

Admission is FREE but please book in
advance by scanning the QR code or visit
<https://tinyurl.com/boxford-briefing>

16

www.nebriefing.org

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 Sandringham Half Marathon
Sunday
27th September 2026

Our amazing Trustee, **Jeremy**, is taking on the Sandringham Half Marathon to raise money for The Befriending Scheme!

Every step helps us support more people in our community 

 Please support Jeremy and donate via his JustGiving page:
justgiving.com/page/jeremy-morgan-1
Thank you for your support!

 Together we can make a difference! 

 The Befriending Scheme creates meaningful connections and opportunities for vulnerable adults (16+) across Suffolk.

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CRAFT FAIR

Little Cornard
All Saints Church
13th September 2026
11am ~ 4pm

Jewellery / Ceramics / Crochet
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Refreshments
Homemade Cakes
BBQ & Licenced bar
Heritage Exhibition

Games for all ages
Stalls & Demonstrations

Free entry | Free parking
Evensong

Sunday 13th September 4:30pm
All Saints Church, Kedington Hill, Little Cornard,
CO10 1PE
www.littlecornardchurch.org.uk


BOXFORD SOCIETY
Autumn Meeting

Professor Mark Bailey
'Global Climate Change & the Evolution of the Suffolk Coast from 1200 to 1700'

Friday 9th October 2026 at 7:30pm
in Boxford Village Hall



Professor Mark Bailey, Professor of Late Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, will come and talk to us about *'Global Climate Change and the Evolution of the Suffolk Coast from 1200 to 1700'*, which will include new research on Minsmere, Sizewell and Easton Bavents.

Mark's talks are always well received and I am sure this will be a fascinating evening - do please join us.

All welcome
Free for Boxford Society Members, £5 for guests



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MILDEN
WED | 5:30 PM

EDWARDSTONE
WED | 7 PM

Contact Claire :
☎ 07772074750

CLASS



GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

SEPT
24



John Winthrop
Faith, Disillusionment and the
Journey to New England

Dr Vivienne Aldous

Lecturer in History at the University of Suffolk, since 2009. Phd on John Darby, 16thC Suffolk Map Maker.

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

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

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Join us in our **Farm Café** and indulge in a hot drink and a homemade cake, or a light lunch and cold beverage.

Explore all that our **Farm Shop** has to offer with our wide range of fresh produce, local goods and meat reared on our own farm in our **Farm Butchery**.



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A traditional menu of homemade meals catering for all, including vegan & gluten free. In addition to this we offer daily specials, sandwiches & lighter bites. Roast dinners on Sunday and our full menu.



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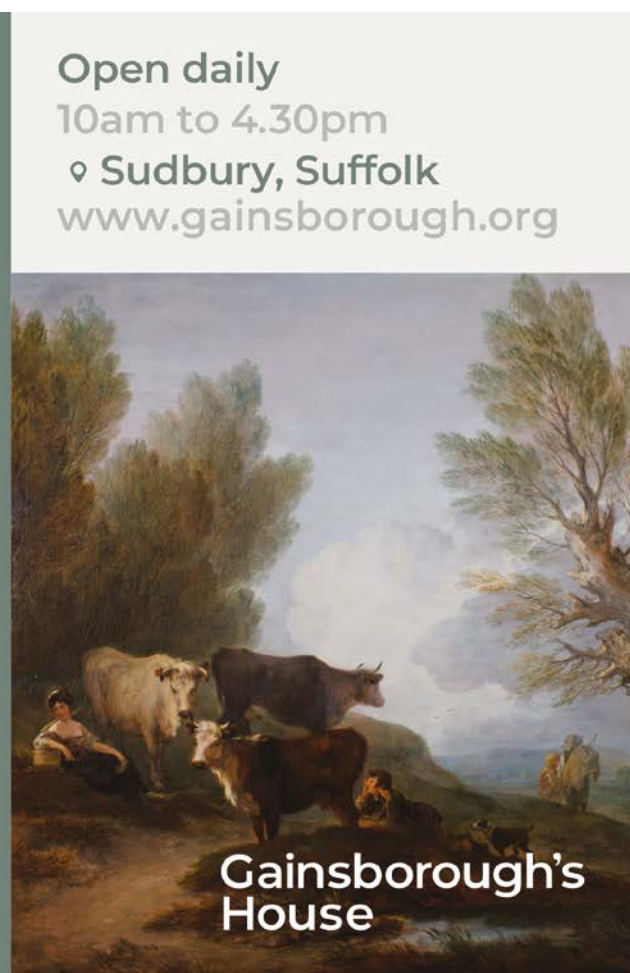
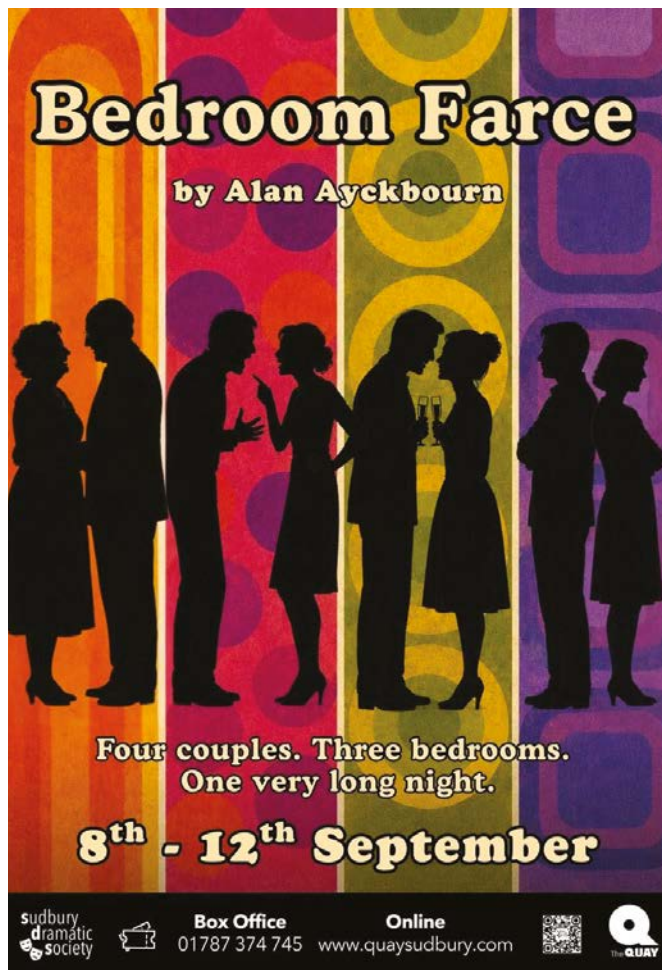
A well-kept garden where you can enjoy anything from our bar or kitchen, overlooking the pond and Newton Green Golf Course. It is ideal for those lazy days after walking the dog, sightseeing, or just because you fancy it.



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FOR DRINKS, LUNCH & DINNER

Good food, good company.
GREAT TIMES



Kersey Flower & Vegetable Show

Saturday 12th September at Kersey Village Hall 2:15pm to 5pm. Refreshments and tombola. Entrance: Adults £1

Polstead Films

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Friday 18th September, Doors open 7pm

Midwinter Break

Based on Bernard MacLaverty's novel.

"Polly Findlay's barnstorming drama is a triumph, swerving any sense of sentimentalism. Wonderfully acted by Lesley Manville and Ciaran Hinds."

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

The film starts at 7:30pm.



Polstead Gardening Club

Tuesday 29th September, 7:30pm – A talk about 'Garden Technology'. Ernest Doe will be coming to talk about the latest tools and technology that are now available to gardeners saving us all time and effort.

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

Edwardstone Art Group

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

Edwardstone Christmas Fair

5th & 6th November. Save the date!

Although it's hard to imagine right now, winter will arrive eventually and, with it, the welcome return of the Edwardstone Christmas Fair!

Once again, the beautiful St Mary the Virgin Church in Edwardstone will fling open its doors to welcome everyone for what promises to be another wonderful event.

With a great selection of local stalls offering everything from kitchenware and olive oil to home accessories and jewellery, it's the perfect opportunity to start your Christmas shopping, find unique gifts for family and friends or even treat yourself to a little festive indulgence.

In addition to our fantastic array of stalls there will be the ever-popular turkey raffle and the spectacular tombola to entertain you all too.

Entry is free, with wine and nibbles available on Thursday evening from 6pm to 9pm and tea, coffee and mince pies served on Friday morning from 9am to 1pm. It's a great excuse to catch up with friends, support local businesses and enjoy plenty of festive cheer!

We look forward to seeing everyone there - remember to follow us on Instagram @edwardstoneparishevents for updates and sneak peeks!

If you have any queries, please feel free to email Diana at dianahawke@btinternet.com.

Charity Fair & Fun Dog Show

Winston's Wheels Dog Charity is holding a Charity Fair and Fun Dog Show at Newton Village Hall and the field behind, on **Saturday 19th September** from 10am to 3pm.

There will be craft stalls, dog merchandise, a tombola, £1 grab-a-bags, toys, games, jigsaws, jewellery, bags, and much more. Refreshments will be available. Free entry and free parking.

Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pubs

Our next 'Pop-Up Pub' nights will be on **Friday 25th September** and **Friday 30th October**.

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

Boxford WI

Boxford WI are holding an open meeting on **Wednesday 2nd September 2pm - 4pm** in Boxford Village Hall

Entertainment by The Harbour Lights Trio
£5 for non WI members

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



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to
unpack
life's
big
questions

For anyone
who's

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Meeting every Monday
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Looking forward to seeing you there
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Mike & Josanne Stanhope

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**£112 PER PERSON
 DEPARTING: HADLEIGH & BOXFORD**

PRICE INCLUDES:
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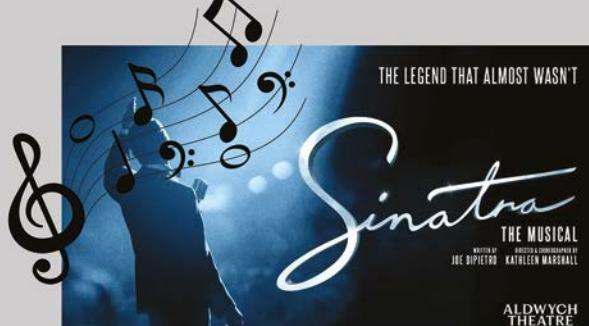
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THE LEGEND THAT ALMOST WASN'T

Sinatra THE MUSICAL
 WRITTEN BY JOE DIPIETRO
 DIRECTED BY KATHLEEN MARGRALL

ALDWYCH THEATRE

It is New Year's Eve, 1942, and a skinny 27 year old Italian-American singer is about to step onto the stage of New York City's Paramount Theatre and give a performance that will change music history. But as Frank Sinatra's voice captures a nation, his heart is torn between his wife, Nancy, and movie goddess, Ava Gardner. When scandal and a hostile press send his career into a tailspin, the young crooner fights back and stages the greatest comeback in show business history. Featuring over twenty classic hits, including 'That's Life', 'One For My Baby', 'The Best Is Yet To Come' and 'I've Got The World On A String', SINATRA THE MUSICAL is the most revealing portrait ever told about the legendary singer.

DATE: Tuesday 23 February 2027 (matinee show)
DEPARTS: Hadleigh & Boxford
PRICE: £98 per person (50% deposit in first instance)
INCLUDES: Return Coach, Ticket to Show - Seats in Dress Circle, Rows F, G & H

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HELLO LILLE

Lille is a vibrant, walkable northern French city with a distinct Flemish flavor, blending historic charm with modern flair near the Belgian border. It features the stunning 17th-century architecture of Vieux Lille, the Grand'Place, museums like the Palais des Beaux-Arts, and a lively cultural scene. It's great for shopping too, from designer to high street names plus a Westfield Centre.

Vieux Lille (Old Town): Cobble streets filled with cafes, bistros, wine bars and beer houses and our home for two nights staying at Hotel Maison Louise - a boutique 4 star establishment offering a stylish and intimate atmosphere.

£407 PER PERSON

Price Includes:

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- City tax

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Preparing Together

*What does climate change mean for villages like ours?
A free screening of the **People's Emergency Briefing** invites the
community to learn, reflect and discuss the challenges ahead*



The National Emergency Briefing Comes to Boxford.

"This is the coolest summer of the rest of your life."

That is one of the key messages from the *People's Emergency Briefing*, a powerful film featuring ten leading experts in climate science, nature, food security, health, economics, energy and national security.

On 27th November 2025, these experts presented a formal briefing to national decision-makers on the risks posed by climate change and nature loss, along with the opportunities to build a more resilient future. The briefings have since been brought together as the film *People's Emergency Briefing*, allowing communities across the UK to hear the evidence, insights and recommendations directly from the experts themselves.

Following the exceptionally hot summer that Suffolk has experienced this year, a community screening has been arranged at Boxford Community Pavilion on Wednesday 9th September.

Many residents will remember the summer of 1976 and comparisons have frequently been made with the summer we have just experienced.

However, the climate scientists involved in the briefing make the point that today's challenge is different.

We are no longer discussing a single unusually hot summer but a long-term trend towards a warmer climate. The Met Office projects hotter, drier summers, warmer, wetter winters and more extreme weather events in the decades ahead. Current UK guidance is to prepare for 2°C of warming whilst assessing risks associated with 4°C.

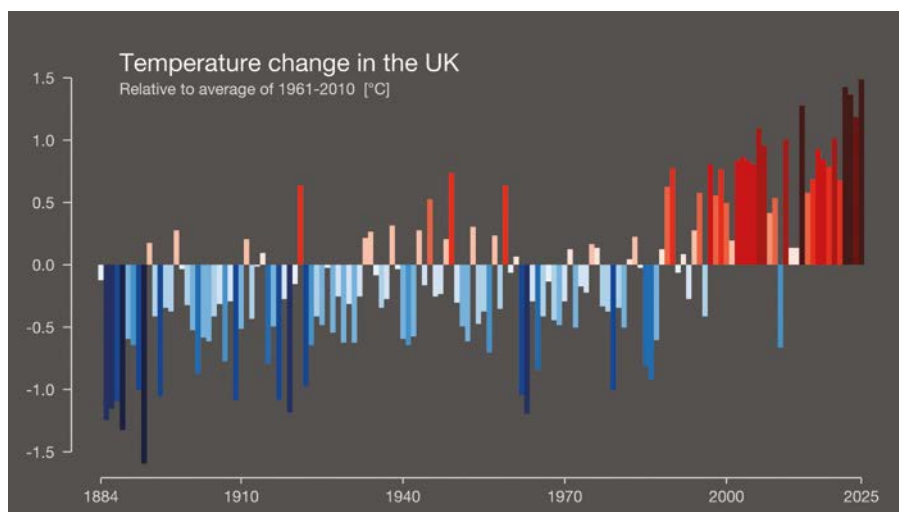
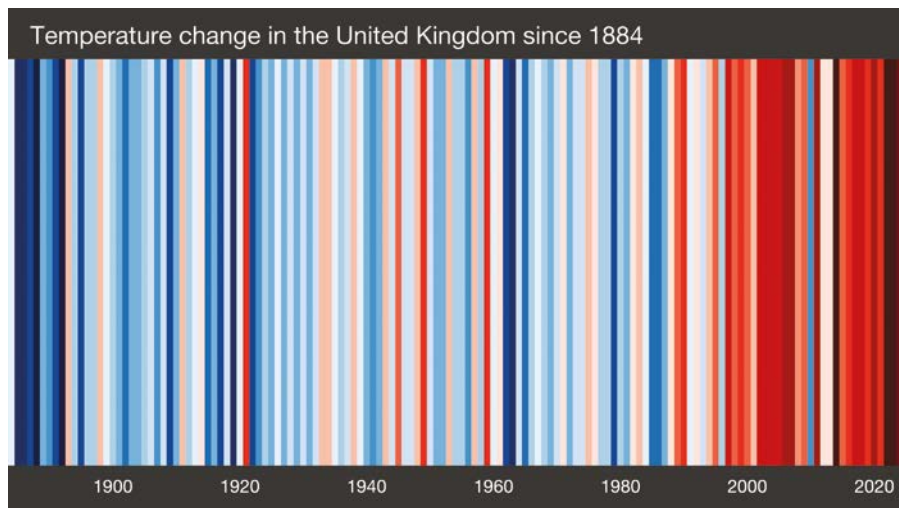
The Climate Stripes, shown opposite, were created by Professor Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading as a simple visual representation of changes in global temperature since the mid-19th century. Each stripe represents a single year, with cooler years shown in blue and warmer years shown in red. What makes the graphic so striking is the rapid transition from predominantly blue tones to deep reds in recent decades, clearly illustrating the warming trend observed across the globe.

Whilst the Earth's climate has always changed naturally, such changes have typically occurred over much longer timescales. The warming observed since the Industrial Revolution has occurred far more rapidly than would

typically be expected from natural climate variations and coincides with the large-scale burning of fossil fuels.

The University of Reading is internationally recognised for its climate research and is an excellent source of information for anyone wishing to understand the science behind climate change in greater depth. The Met Office is, of course, another excellent source of information.





Opposite page: Dry fields in the Boxford area after weeks of hot, dry weather. The prolonged dry conditions have transformed much of the local countryside this summer.

Left: The Climate Stripes show changes in UK average temperature since 1884. Each stripe represents one year, progressing from cooler years (blue) to warmer years (red).

Below Left: This chart shows how each year's average UK temperature compared with the long-term average. Blue bars represent cooler years, while red bars show warmer years, illustrating the clear warming trend over time.

Infographics: Professor Ed Hawkins (University of Reading).

not to create fear but understanding, and to encourage a constructive conversation about how we, as a community, can support one another and prepare for the changes already beginning to affect our corner of Suffolk.

The challenges ahead can sometimes feel overwhelming. However, meaningful change often begins with informed conversations within local communities, and Boxford is a village with a strong sense of community spirit. It is hoped that the evening will provide an opportunity to learn, reflect and discuss what resilience might look like for our community in the years ahead.

People's Emergency Briefing Screening
Wednesday 9th
September

Boxford Pavilion,
Boxford Playing
Fields CO10 5PB.



Suitable for ages 16+

Free admission but tickets must be pre-booked as numbers are limited.

For tickets or for more info, scan the QR code above or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/boxford-briefing>

Becky Baines

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GREEN
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Nurturing Sustainability.

Many of us have felt the effects of this summer in different ways. For some, it has been the challenge of keeping gardens alive through prolonged dry conditions, with gardening becoming more a matter of survival than enjoyment. For others, concerns have centred on wildfire risk, water resources, crop yields and the wider impact on our farming community. Some have faced the challenge of keeping people and animals cool at home and in the workplace, whilst many have simply felt less productive during prolonged periods of extreme heat.

As a predominantly rural area, our connection with the land, the weather and the natural environment is perhaps stronger than in many parts of the country. We also happen to live in the driest and sunniest region of the UK in an average year. Looking ahead, the Met Office projects that Suffolk is likely to experience hotter, drier summers alongside warmer, wetter winters and more intense rainfall events when rain does arrive. This means the challenge is not simply one of drought, but also an increased risk of flash flooding as prolonged dry spells are interrupted by intense local downpours.

One of the more surprising discussions within the film comes from Professor Tim Lenton, who explores climate tipping points, including the possibility of major disruptions to ocean circulation systems that help regulate Europe's climate. Whilst climate change is generally associated with warmer temperatures, some climate models suggest that significant changes to these systems could result in much colder winter conditions for parts of the UK, even within a warmer world overall. In some climate models, significant disruption to these ocean circulation systems could result in London experiencing temperatures as low as -20°C during extended winter periods, highlighting that climate change is about far more than simply hotter summers.

The People's Emergency Briefing is not intended to be a basic introduction to climate change, nor a debate about whether climate change is happening. Instead, it brings together expert voices to discuss what lies ahead, the risks facing communities across the UK and the practical actions that can help us adapt and build resilience.

Following the screening there will be an open discussion. The intention is



The Art of Place

*Gainsborough's House invites us to look again
at the landscape we call home.*

As summer begins to fade and the first signs of autumn appear, many of us find ourselves looking back over the months just passed. The pace shifts, routines return, and there is often a quiet urge to reflect on where we have spent our time and what has stayed with us.

For residents the exhibition programme at Gainsborough's House this year has offered more than a series of gallery visits. It has provided a space to reconnect with familiar landscapes, to see them through new eyes and to spend time reflecting on the places that shape everyday life here.

At the heart of the programme is the shared Suffolk landscape that inspired Thomas Gainsborough and John Constable, artists whose names are woven into the history of this area. Their paintings remind us that the fields, rivers and skies around us have long been observed with care

and attention. They were not painted as distant scenes but as lived places, walked, studied and returned to over time.

Seeing these works in Sudbury, so close to where many were first imagined, brings a particular resonance. It collapses the distance between past and present, reminding us that the landscape we move through today is part of a much longer story.

Alongside these historic works the inclusion of contemporary artists such as David Dawson and Kate Giles has extended that conversation into the present. Their paintings show that landscape remains a powerful source of reflection and enquiry, not something fixed in the past. Through close observation, repetition and time spent with place, their work echoes the same values of attentiveness and presence.

For many visitors the appeal of Gainsborough's House lies not only in what is displayed on the walls, but in how the experience feels. The galleries encourage lingering rather than rushing. The gardens offer moments of calm. The cafés provide a place





to sit, talk and pause. Together these elements create an environment that supports reflection and connection.

There are also quieter moments that stay with people: watching the town drift across the surface of the camera obscura; sitting in the garden as the seasons begin to change; returning more than once and noticing how different a visit feels in spring, summer or early autumn.

This sense of return is important. For local communities Gainsborough's House is not a one-time destination but a place that can be revisited and re-experienced. Each visit adds another layer shaped by mood, season and circumstance.

As the exhibitions draw towards their closing phase, there is an invitation here, not a rush, but a reminder. A reminder that meaningful experiences do not always require long journeys or special occasions. Sometimes they are found close to home, in places

that allow us to slow down, look again and feel part of something larger than ourselves.

“The landscape we move through today is part of a much longer story”

In a world that often feels fragmented and fast-moving, shared cultural spaces matter. They offer continuity, perspective and a chance to come together quietly, without expectation.

As autumn approaches this exhibition programme leaves behind more than

Opposite page, from top:

Gainsborough, Turner & Constable: Inventing Landscape exhibition at Gainsborough's House, featuring John Constable's The Leaping Horse

© Gainsborough's House

The Landscape Studio at Gainsborough's House. © Gainsborough's House

Left: *The Watering Place at Gainsborough's House.* © Gainsborough's House | Jackie Mellor

Below, from left: *Children sketch the Sudbury landscape using the camera obscura at Gainsborough's House.* © Gainsborough's House

David Dawson's The Studio (2025), displayed in the reconstructed Painting Room at Gainsborough's House. © Gainsborough's House

Portrait of the Artist with his Wife and Daughter, by Thomas Gainsborough, about 1748. © National Gallery, London

memories of individual artworks. It leaves a renewed appreciation for the landscape we live within, and for the value of taking time to engage with it thoughtfully.

For those who have visited already it offers a moment to reflect. For those who have yet to go it is a gentle encouragement to do so before the season closes and to experience for themselves why this exhibition has mattered to so many of us.

www.gainsborough.org



French's Care Haven

I am happy to let you know that we have finally secured our new land and are in the process of preparing to move, hopefully by the end of this month. We are under pressure and are going as fast as we can but as people generally know, nothing is ever straightforward in life.

At the time of writing the new home is not yet ready to accommodate our animals, as there is still a great deal of work to do to make it safe for them. Until then it is impossible to move. We are working as quickly as we can and giving it our all.

The move itself will be a major task and this is where we need help from the local community. If you have a trailer, van, truck or anything else that could help us transport our belongings, please give me a call. We need teamwork and help!

The new land is in Hadleigh, roughly ten to fifteen minutes down the road, and our regular volunteers from Boxford will be joining us on this new journey.

I also wanted to let everyone know that our website is currently down. Weebly, who hosted it, has been taken over by Square and, during the transfer, our website appears to have been lost. We have been trying for weeks to get it back, but it is impossible to speak to anyone and, if you do manage to reach someone on chat, they simply say, "We cannot find your details." As they are based in the USA, everything has become even more difficult. It looks as though all of our website pages have gone. It has been a nightmare, as we have lost everything, including our backup. Thankfully, we still have our Facebook page, but not our lovely website.

Another way you could help us is if you know a website designer who might be willing to assist, or if you have those skills yourself. If so, we would love to hear from you.

Our animals still need lots of daily love and care, so you are very welcome to come and give them some TLC alongside our regular volunteers, who do a wonderful job. They have all learnt to cope with my tendency towards being rather particular about cleanliness and making sure our animals receive the very best care every day!

If you have some spare time and would like to become part of our regular team please give me a call. Or if you would simply like to come and meet our animals and choose one

to sponsor we would be delighted to welcome you. Sponsoring one of our donkeys, ponies or horses makes a real difference so please get in touch if you would like to meet our beautiful rescues and choose one to support.

Your support would be very much appreciated.

Jann

07747 755 556

jann.turner@hotmail.co.uk

www.frenchscarehaven.org.uk

Madrigalia News

This summer has been a busy one for the choir. Since singing for a June wedding in Grundisburgh and giving a concert at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, we have performed at several more events.

A fundraising concert at Acton Church on 25th July, on a beautiful summer's evening, was warmly received and was the first time most of us had ever set foot in this lovely church. Typical of Suffolk churches, it has an interesting history and is set in the most beautiful rural location. Just two days later we entertained the Boxford Friendship Group, where we were given a very warm welcome and enjoyed refreshments and a chat afterwards. We very much enjoyed singing at both events.

A week later we sang at the Sudbury Arts Centre in the lovely St Peter's Church, where we have given summer lunchtime concerts many times. Entrance to the various summer lunchtime concerts is free, but audience members are encouraged to make a donation. It was good to see quite a few familiar faces - people who had been to some of our previous concerts and presumably thought it was worth 'risking' a repeat attendance to hear us sing! My thanks to concert organiser Roger Green, who, as ever, was so helpful.

We now have a bit of a break. Our next concert is on **Saturday 3rd October**, when we will once again be sharing a concert with our good friends *Melody of Harps*. We look forward to performing some new pieces. The concert starts at 7pm at The Hive in Sudbury (formerly the United Reformed Church).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jill Garrett, who accompanies us so proficiently on the piano for most of our events, as well as playing the harp and the recorder!

Sue Price

Boxford WI

Our August garden party, hosted by one of our committee members, was a delightful highlight

of the summer. Members enjoyed wandering through the beautiful garden before trying their hand at garden games, including Giant Jenga, which provided plenty of laughs. The afternoon finished with a delicious tea featuring strawberry gateau. A simple, sunny gathering - and a memorable one.



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

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

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

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



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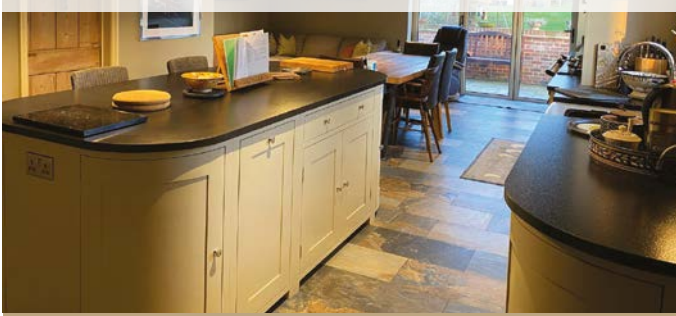
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Captured Light

Mill Tye Gallery will host **Captured Light** from **5th to 27th September**, bringing together the handcrafted chairs of Suffolk furniture maker Dan Hussey and the abstract landscape paintings of Honor Surie.



Inspired by the distinctive light and atmosphere of the Suffolk landscape, the exhibition explores how two artists, working in very different media, respond to a shared sense of place. Dan Hussey has been designing and making handcrafted chairs since 1993, using locally grown hardwoods to create sculptural pieces that combine beauty, comfort and craftsmanship. Honor Surie, whose background is in graphic design, creates acrylic paintings inspired by Suffolk's ever-changing light and tranquil landscapes.



The exhibition opens on Saturday 5th September, with the gallery open from 10:30am to 6pm. Visitors can meet both artists and enjoy complimentary drinks and nibbles throughout the day.

The exhibition continues until Sunday 27th September, with the gallery open Thursday to Sunday, 10:30am to 4pm.

Admission and parking are free. Please note that the exhibition is held in the upstairs gallery and is not wheelchair accessible.

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

Readers' Letters

Dear Editor

I would like to thank Boxford Parish Council for all the work they do in helping to improve village life for residents. It is not an easy task to undertake, but it is such a worthwhile cause. The councillors attend monthly meetings, with some having come straight from their daytime jobs, all offering their free time in a useful way. Throughout the year, each councillor has a designated role to undertake, and this also takes up their free time. How very lucky are we to live in a democratic country, to be able to speak freely without fear.

At the July parish council public meeting, a member of the public was well out of order, criticising the parish council in a very derogatory way by using inflammatory language, and I think an apology is due.

My advice to the protester is that childish name-calling gets you nowhere. Try showing some respect to the parish council and the parish clerk for their hard work and dedication in trying to improve the lives and amenities of the residents of Boxford, as previous parish councillors have done over the years. The parish clerk and councillors seek to maintain transparency and integrity in their work.

This is a meeting where people can air their concerns, make proposals to help improve the village, question the parish council on its decision-making and policies, ask for planning consent, or raise any other issues they would like discussed.

It is not a school playground. It is a serious meeting with worthwhile outcomes.

The parish councillors, who are all unpaid volunteers, work to support the numerous requests of residents to the best of their abilities.

Councillors come from all walks of life and bring with them unique skills and a wealth of experience from their working lives. They are also residents of Boxford, so they have only the interests of the village and its residents at heart.

Over many years Boxford has been served by excellent parish councils that have worked hard with other local organisations to improve the lives of its residents. This is something we should all be proud of and grateful for and it has enabled us to live in the lovely village it is today.

Parish councillors are unpaid public servants who take on the role willingly and do a good job of enhancing

village life and helping to promote improvements. Examples include community safety, monitoring speed controls, and working alongside other voluntary groups in the village on the formation of the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan. They also organise a local contractor to help keep the village tidy by cutting grass, including in the churchyard and cemetery, while trying to meet the wishes of villagers, some of whom prefer a neat, tidy environment and others who would rather see everything left uncut, with an agreeable compromise sought where possible. Community safety is an ongoing concern, for example the need for a new car park for the village to help relieve parking problems.

To my knowledge, these are just a few examples of the work undertaken by the councillors and the parish clerk. As in any job, you learn as you go along. Their workload calls for many skills. They cannot please everyone, and they work within the restrictions imposed by district and county councils, wading through never-ending official documents - ordinary people doing an extraordinary job.

Give them a break, please, and say thank you every now and then. You could also become a parish councillor!

Thank you for reading this letter from a concerned resident.

Name supplied and withheld on request

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A date for your diary! Join us on **Saturday 3rd October 2026** as we host our Festival of Food. This is a great day to sample our products and meet our friendly local suppliers and hear their stories.

We hope to see you there!

www.hollowtrees.co.uk



Life at the Shelley Centre

Corporate volunteers roll up their sleeves to support the centre

Volunteers are the lifeblood of The Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding. During term time, when the centre is open, each riding day has a team of helpers who get the horses and ponies ready for the sessions and support the riders. Their help is invaluable and the centre is always keen to hear from people who want to be involved in this way.

But helping with the riding and other equine-led therapy sessions is by no means the full picture. Our maintenance volunteers and those who come to help with specific jobs are just as valued and in this piece we shine the spotlight on corporate community volunteering - a great team-building exercise. If your business is looking for a similar

opportunity, please do get in touch.

Over the summer The Shelley Centre has been fortunate to welcome teams of insurance workers who have been able to volunteer with the charity for a day, with the blessing of their workplace. AXA Insurance in Ipswich runs a scheme called Hearts In Action and as part of this we were joined by seven members of staff from the Retail and Commercial Risk Teams.

The enthusiastic group soon became involved in a variety of tasks. These ranged from clearing tree debris from fields and preparing fencing to clearing weeds and planting numerous bulbs that will make up our memorial area on the banks around the riding arena. They also 'mucked in' with the mucking out and poo-picking in the paddocks.

Rachel Oldham was one of the AXA team and said: "It was a fantastic day. The team of volunteers at the centre were so lovely and so appreciative

of our support. It felt so good to be outside, and it was rewarding to give time to such a great local cause."

The Shelley Centre's Chair of Trustees, Debs Bennett, added: "We really enjoyed meeting everyone and are so grateful for all the work they did. Support from businesses in this way is incredibly valuable to us."

We are currently looking to add to our team of regular maintenance volunteers and, if you would like to put skills including gardening or DIY-related activities to use in a very rewarding way, then please do get in touch.

You can find out more about our work by visiting our new Facebook page - just search for RDA Shelley Centre, Suffolk.

www.shelleyrda.com
01473 824172

Pictured above: The AXA 'Hearts In Action' volunteers





The Peculiar Parish

***Boxford Society** explores the remarkable history of Hadleigh Hamlet and the ancient boundary that divided Boxford for nearly 900 years*

Did you know that part of Boxford was once in a parish called Hadleigh Hamlet? Until 1st April 1935, the north side of Ellis Street and the west side of Cox Hill were not in Boxford parish at all! This illogical situation dates from the early Middle Ages. Parishes generally have their origins in Saxon times, reflecting the pre-Conquest landholdings, but Hadleigh Hamlet has a unique and curious origin. It was formed from a rural area of land situated to the north-east of Boxford village, extending out to include the

small settlement of Wicker Street Green. It operated as an independent parish in Suffolk for centuries. It was in the ancient Cosford Hundred, whereas Boxford was in the Babergh Hundred, but it was nevertheless often seen by Boxford people as making up part of their wider lands. Rationalisation of boundaries began when civil parish councils were formally established by Parliament in 1894. On 1st April 1935, Hadleigh Hamlet was officially abolished and divided between Boxford, Kersey and Polstead.

defeated and died in battle. Byrhtnoth was buried in Ely Cathedral and, when his bones were examined in the 18th century, he was estimated to be 6ft 9inches tall. He would have been a massive figure riding through the woods of Suffolk and Essex. He bequeathed his large estate at Hadleigh to the Priory of Christ Church, Canterbury. This included the lands that would become Hadleigh Hamlet. The gift was to take effect after the death of his wife, Ælflæd. She inherited and owned Hadleigh Hamlet, along with many other tracts of land, until her death 11 years later in 1002. It then passed, by reason of her husband's will, to the monks of Canterbury, and



How did Hadleigh Hamlet come about?

Prior to 991 AD, Ealdorman Byrhtnoth was Lord of the Manor of Hadleigh, an Ealdorman of Essex and a soldier. In 991 the Vikings raided Ipswich and then Maldon in Essex. Earl Byrhtnoth led the English against the Viking invasion at Maldon, but was





they became the 'Lords of the Manor'. Because the hamlet was part of their property, it remained legally tied to Hadleigh for the next 900 years, even though it was geographically positioned inside the territory of other lords in Boxford, Kersey, Polstead and Groton. Because of Byrhtnoth's gift, the hamlet therefore became an 'archiepiscopal peculiar'.

After 1066 the Norman kings granted manors and lands to noble families. Existing established parishes were suitable territorial units that made the collection of taxes easier. Around here they were now also ecclesiastical units under the auspices of the Abbot of the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds. In 1180 he 'froze' their boundaries to make it simpler to collect church taxes. This firmly fixed a settled part of Boxford village into the separate parish of Hadleigh Hamlet for the next 755 years!

For centuries, the people living in those few farms and houses in the hamlet answered directly to the Archbishop of Canterbury, not to the

local Bishop of Norwich, as everyone else did. It also participated in the Deanery of Bocking's ecclesiastical court, which spanned parts of Suffolk and Essex. The hamlet was represented there by a 'questman' who made presentments on local matters, such as church attendance and moral conduct. The hamlet never had its own parish church simply because it was a dependent sub-settlement rather than an independent ecclesiastical parish. From the late 16th century, the hamlet's ecclesiastical affairs aligned more closely with the parish of Boxford for practical administration, while retaining manorial subordination to Hadleigh under Canterbury's authority.

"Because of Byrhtnoth's gift, the Hamlet became an 'archiepiscopal peculiar' for almost 900 years"

One of the Many Problems Caused by Hadleigh Hamlet's Unique Status

By the 16th century, the people of the hamlet looked more towards the parish of Boxford, using St Mary's Church, Boxford, for worship, marriages and funerals. The annual

boundary 'perambulation' inevitably led to arguments. Perambulation had long been a legal and social necessity for parishes. It was a walking survey of the parish boundaries to ensure no neighbouring landowner had encroached on the parish's land and to confirm who was responsible for local taxes and the relief of the poor. It took place during Rogationtide, around 40 days after Easter and just before Ascension Day. This ancient Christian custom involved asking for God's blessing on agriculture, the harvest and the local community. It was a vital communal occasion, cementing parish identity, cohesion and the territorial boundaries. The resulting manuscripts typically record the particular landmarks used to define the boundary, such as specific trees,

Opposite page, clockwise from top: Looking south from Cox Hill across what was once Hadleigh Hamlet towards Boxford village. Despite belonging to a separate parish for centuries, its people naturally looked towards Boxford for much of their daily life.

The statue of Ealdorman Byrhtnoth at Maldon, Essex. His gift of land to Christ Church, Canterbury, meant that Hadleigh Hamlet remained linked to Hadleigh for almost 900 years.

Ellis Street, Boxford. The houses on the right, as far as Howard's Garage, were part of Hadleigh Hamlet until 1935, while those on the left were in Boxford. The parish boundary ran down the middle of the street.

This page, top: Modern map of Wicker Street Green showing the locations of the five historic farms that formed the principal settlement of Hadleigh Hamlet. Farm workers' cottages would also have stood close to each farm.

Middle, from left: Redhouse Farm, Wicker Street Green, one of the five historic farms that formed the principal settlement of Hadleigh Hamlet.

Originally the farmhouse for Hollies Farm, one of the five historic farms that formed the principal settlement of Hadleigh Hamlet. Today it is known as Wicker Street House.

Left: Cox Farm, at the top of Cox Hill, was once part of Hadleigh Hamlet before becoming part of Boxford in 1935.



Gospel Oaks, stones, streams and gates. They often include the names of the 'substantial inhabitants' who walked the boundary and literally beat the identification points with sticks (the 'beating of the bounds').

A detailed report of the 1667 perambulation of Hadleigh and its hamlet is recorded by Hugh Pigot. The hamlet was again in dispute with Hadleigh over tithes and poor rates, so this perambulation was recorded in detail for future reference. There had been boundary brawls during previous years.

Once the Hadleigh group completed the town's boundaries, they moved on to the hamlet. Because of the special nature of Hadleigh Hamlet, the manuscript is particularly meticulous about the watercourses and ditches. The boundary was often a 'wet' one, following the small streams that fed larger rivers. Besides the Gospel Oak, several 'Maiden Oaks' and 'Bound-stones' (now largely lost or buried) were cited as specific turning points. The 'bumping of boys' occurred at significant points to help them remember the boundary for use by future generations and future perambulations. Young boys were manhandled and bounced against a marker tree or stone. In some parishes they were thrown into the

water at points where the boundary followed the middle of a stream. This supposedly made them 'feel and remember' where the hamlet boundary began. To stop them from crying and to leave them with a better memory, the Hadleigh record notes expenditure for cakes and ale, and small coins to be handed out to the boys immediately after the bumping.

To prevent future lawsuits, the record lists specific 'Hamlet Men' who walked

“Young boys were bounced against a marker tree or stone so they would remember the parish boundary”

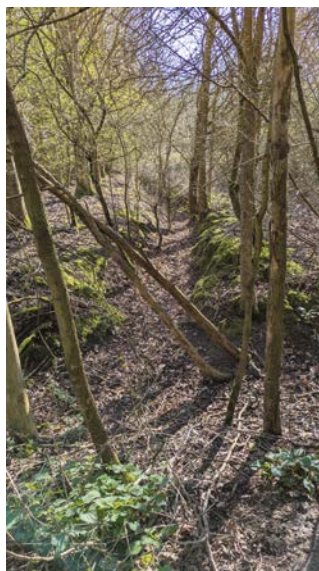
their portion of the bounds to ensure the town didn't claim too much, and the hamlet didn't lose its rights. These individuals were the local 'memory-keepers' for the outlying lands.

Hadleigh Hamlet had long been the parish for many wealthy men from the Boxford area. Robert Kerrington was a significant landowner in the hamlet, and William Lappage and John Brand represented local interests. Thomas Mickelfield is mentioned as an 'Ancient Inhabitant', and he pointed out where the old markers had been ploughed over by neighbouring farmers from Polstead, Kersey, Groton or Boxford.

A ditch is mentioned separating the hamlet from the lands of the Winthrop family of Groton. Boundary stones were marked with 'P' for parish or 'H' for hamlet. The walkers expected to stop at an alehouse as a perk. At least three such

establishments were recorded in Hadleigh Hamlet at this time.

After the gruelling walk around the hamlet and through the 'marshes' (e.g. what is now Fen Street), the record describes the return to the Hadleigh Guildhall, where the 'Town Book' was brought out and the participants' names were formally inscribed. The manuscript records a payment for a 'General Supper' for the walkers. The 'Chief Inhabitants' dined on meat and wine, while the 'common sort' and the



Above, from left: The ancient boundary ditch beside the track from Redhouse Farm to Bower House Tye, marking the boundary between Hadleigh Hamlet and Polstead.

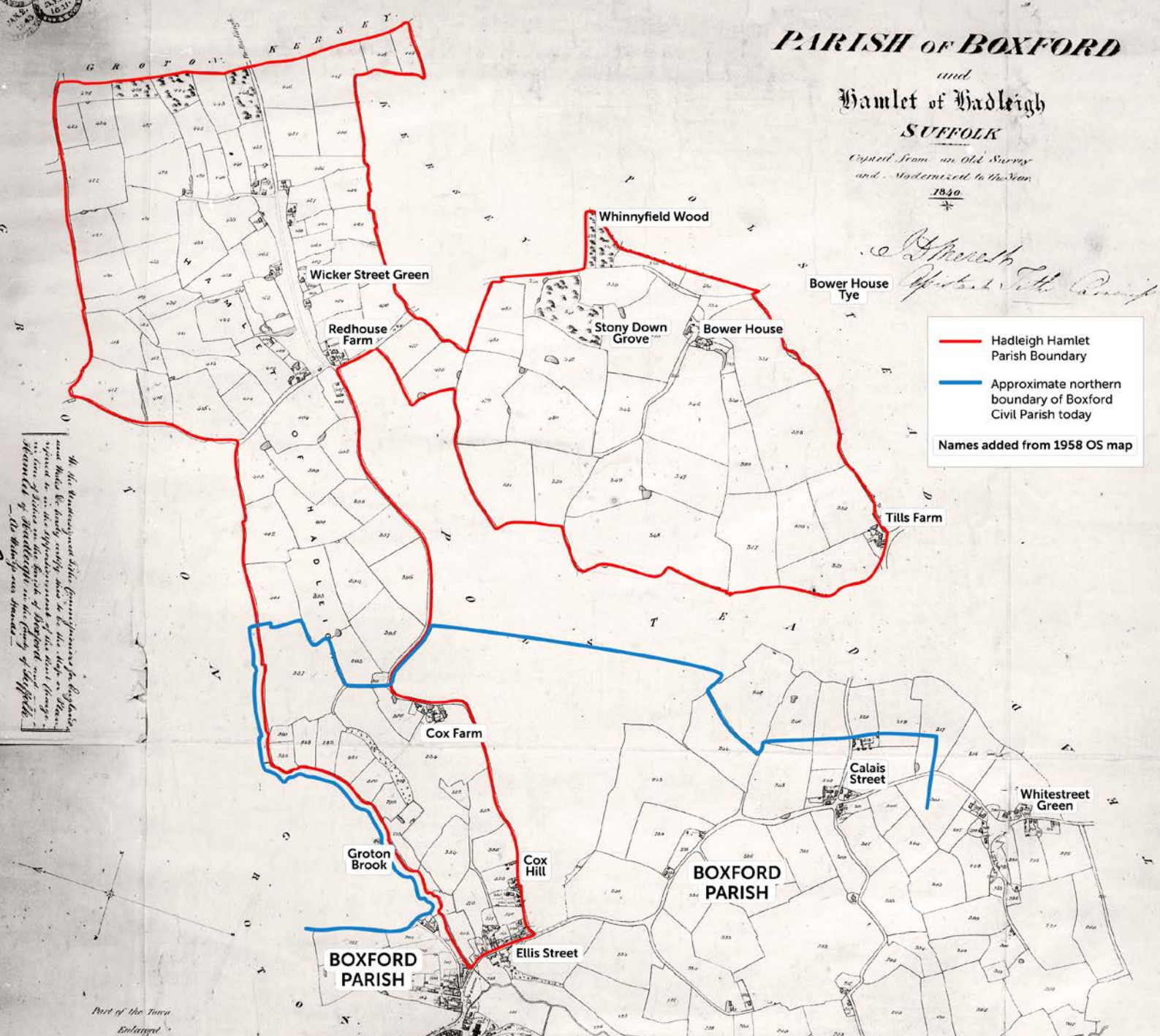
The ancient track from Redhouse Farm to Bower House Tye. The Hadleigh Hamlet boundary followed this route in several places. Tracks, streams and oak trees made ideal boundary markers because they remained largely unchanged over the centuries.

Left, from top: An old illustration of the 'beating of the bounds', showing landmarks being struck with sticks and the religious procession led by the parish priest carrying the cross.

An 1888 illustration of the 'beating of the bounds' at Bisley, Surrey, where the vicar was ceremonially bumped against the barn door.

Opposite page: Copy of the 1840 tithe commissioners' map of Hadleigh Hamlet, based on earlier local surveys, with modern place names and the present-day Boxford parish boundary added for clarity.





boys who had been 'bumped' received bread, cheese and a smaller portion of ale.

So ended a major religious and civic event for Hadleigh Hamlet and the mother town of Hadleigh. However, it did not bring peace to the hamlet, as its inhabitants appear to have been a litigious lot and regularly brought legal cases, such as perambulation trespass, against Hadleigh townsfolk. Bickering with Hadleigh and with Boxford went on for generations. Most of the bickering with Boxford related to taxes, particularly in relation to maintaining the roads! Sounds very familiar.

The Hadleigh Hamlet Tithe Map (pictured above)

We are fortunate to have a copy of the tithe map from 1840, which marks the boundary of the parish (highlighted in red) and the field boundaries. It links

to the tithe apportionment schedule, which provides a detailed numbered list of every parcel of land. It shows who owned the land, the tenant or occupier, and sometimes the field name, acreage, buildings and the state of cultivation are given, together with the rentcharge payable to the tithe owner.

We have added place names to the map from the 1958 Ordnance Survey map to make it easier to understand, especially since north is not at the top. The blue line has been added to indicate the northern boundary of Boxford parish today. When Hadleigh Hamlet was broken up in 1935, Boxford gained the south-west section, including Cox Farm, Cox Hill and Ellis Street; Polstead gained the lobe running south-east from near Redhouse Farm; and Kersey gained the rest, including Wicker Street

Green. Other rationalisations at the same date, and later between Groton, Edwardstone and Boxford, gave us the civil parish we know today, with Boxford village sitting at its heart.

Underneath the map title are the words: *Copied from an old survey and modernised in the year 1840*, indicating that the map was made using much earlier local records. The handwritten text on the left side of the map reads as follows: *We the undersigned Tythe Commissioners for England and Wales do hereby certify this to be the map or plan referred to in The Apportionment of the Rent Charge in lieu of Tythes in the Parish of Boxford and Hamlet of Hadleigh in the County of Suffolk as witness our hands.* The signatures are illegible.

Tithes, originally one-tenth of the produce of the land, were paid to the church and, after the Reformation,

to some lay tithe owners as well. These 'lay improPRIATORS' were often landowners who had historically gained the rights to the tithe payments through the redistribution of monastic lands in Henry VIII's reign. By the 19th century, it was common for part of the tithe payment to be made to the vicar and another part to a non-ecclesiastical landowner.

The Tithes Commutation Act of 1836 finally abolished the use of 'goods in kind' as payment and introduced a fixed annual monetary sum based on the value of the land. The government's aim was that, with inflation over time, this tithe payment would diminish to little more than a token amount. To achieve this, the government used the Tithe Commissioners to determine the value of landholdings across the country. This grand survey took 15 years to complete, and the result was the tithe apportionment record for each parish and its accompanying map.

Unfortunately, the tithes did not diminish to nothing as intended, and they led to the Suffolk 'Tithe Wars'. These were bitter rural protests during the economic depression of the 1930s, when local farmers refused to pay this archaic 10% tax on land output in order to support the Church of England. The inter-war agricultural depression made it nearly impossible for small landowners to turn a profit, let alone pay extra taxes. Farmers were legally required to pay the church tax even if they were non-Anglicans or non-believers. When farmers withheld payments, authorities and bailiffs seized livestock, furniture and crops worth far more than the actual debt. The protests featured farm sieges, barricades and even the involvement of Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts.

Notable flashpoints occurred in

villages such as Wortham in north Suffolk, and more locally at Elmsett. In 1934, farmer Charles Westren had £1,200 worth of dairy cows, crops and household goods confiscated over an unpaid £385 tithe. He later built a striking concrete memorial opposite St Peter's Church, Elmsett, to protest the injustice (see photo). These protests led to the Tithe Act of 1936. It abolished all tithes and replaced them with annual payments to the government for 60 years, due to end on 1st October 1996. However, the whole scheme, as laid down by the 1936 Act, was wound up prematurely under the Finance Act 1977.

Changes to the Status of Hadleigh Hamlet

By 1779, much of Cosford Hundred, excluding Hadleigh parish but including the hamlet, was grouped under a local act for unified poor law administration. This established a shared 'House of Industry' at Semer (see *BRN*, April 2025: *'The Poor and Workhouses in Boxford'*). In 1834, the Poor Law Amendment Act formalised the Cosford Poor Law Union, incorporating Hadleigh Hamlet and Boxford among its 28 parishes and placing them under a board of guardians, with the Semer workhouse serving as the central facility until its closure in 1923.

In 1866, the Poor Law Amendment Act redefined civil parishes according to the boundaries used for poor law



administration, formally establishing Hadleigh Hamlet as a distinct civil parish in Suffolk. This change confirmed its administrative separation from the broader Hadleigh manor and Boxford. It had previously functioned as a subdivision with its own overseers of the poor. Hadleigh Hamlet always mainly consisted of agricultural land, farms and scattered settlements, much of it focused around Wicker Street Green. In the 1870-72 *Imperial Gazetteer*, it was recorded as having a total property value of £901 and a population of 180 living in 46 houses, reflecting its modest rural character.

The 1931 census recorded its population at 153, the final such count before its abolition in 1935. Many of these people would have been living in Ellis Street and Cox Hill, with most of the rest at Wicker Street Green. The parish's independent status ended completely with its abolition following the West Suffolk Review Order 1934. This streamlined rural administration amid declining populations and redistributed its 427 acres: 65 acres to Boxford parish and 362 acres to Kersey and Polstead parishes. So ended the long and curious existence of the 'peculiar' of Hadleigh Hamlet.

Roger and Tina Loose



Above, from left: The stone monument directly opposite the gate of the Church of St Peter at Elmsett. It commemorates the injustice of the confiscation of £1,200 worth of dairy cows, crops, and household goods from Farmer Charles Westren over an unpaid £385 tithe.

The inscription on the Elmsett tithe protest memorial.

Left: Farmers protesting against tithe payments during the Tithe Wars of the mid-1930s.



Elaine Carpenter
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Two Years of The Hadleigh Vets

Looking back at our journey, team & community

It is hard to believe that this September marks a whole two years since we officially opened our doors at The Hadleigh Vets. Looking back on where it all began the journey from our very first day to where we stand now feels like a whirlwind of hard work, incredible patients, and immense gratitude.

Before our building became the bustling practice it is today, many of you will remember it as a local children's nursery. During the summer of 2024, the building was transformed. We traded playrooms for consultation rooms and state-of-the-art operating theatres, and office space for an advanced imaging suite and dedicated wards.

Today, our practice houses everything from routine minor procedure setups to advanced imaging and sophisticated surgical facilities capable of handling complex orthopaedic and soft-tissue operations. We like to think the building has maintained its energy - though now the high-pitched squeals belong to overly-excited spaniels, and the naps are taken by post-op patients in warm, padded kennels!

From the very beginning, our goal was to build a practice that truly felt different. We built our practice on the core values of providing continuous, compassionate care, transparent communication and maintaining a genuinely independent, local practice. We wanted to ensure that every owner





felt heard and every pet was treated with the same level of devotion, gentleness and individual care that we would give our own pets and family.

That vision started with a small, close-knit crew. On day one our entire team consisted of just vet Jo and me, alongside three dedicated veterinary nurses and two wonderful client care coordinators. We wore many hats in those early weeks, doing everything from consulting and surgery to answering phones, making tea, updating our website and troubleshooting new equipment, while ensuring every patient left with a wagging tail. Fast forward to today, and our practice family has grown significantly, standing proudly as a team of thirteen! Adding new vets, skilled nurses and friendly client care faces to our roster has allowed us to support even more local families while keeping our patient-first promise strong.

Along the way we have shared plenty of laughs and memorable moments with our patients and their owners. We have accompanied pets through every chapter of life, delivering litters of puppies, administering first kitten vaccines and guiding brave patients through life-saving surgery and even chemotherapy. Our CT scanner has certainly seen a variety of patients, imaging everything from a tiny 1.6kg rabbit to an 86kg gentle giant. Our surgical teams have tackled an incredible spectrum of cases, from routine neutering to delicate emergency abdominal repairs. As any spaniel owner will attest we have safely extracted grass seeds from perhaps every conceivable location on a Cocker Spaniel's body!

“The building used to be a childrens’ nursery... now the high-pitched squeals belong to overly-excited spaniels”

Beyond our clinical roles in the consult room and theatre, our team loves getting involved in the wider community. At the Hadleigh Show, our wonderful nurses turned into culinary

creators as they whipped up batches of homemade doggy ice cream, which met with enthusiastic (albeit messy!) approval from our canine visitors. Outside the practice we have enjoyed sharing our passion for animal care with everyone from eager local primary school pupils to fellow professionals at nationwide clinical congresses. We have also loved welcoming owners into our practice for evening educational sessions, hosting pet first aid workshops and senior pet lectures to support you in caring for your furry family members at home. Safe to say, fuelling all this activity requires serious hydration; our team has powered through so many cups of tea that we now have an automated ‘Subscribe & Save’ for mega-packs of 1,040 Yorkshire Tea bags!



Above all, as we reflect on these past two years, the overwhelming feeling across our entire team is gratitude. We are so incredibly lucky to be part of such a warm, supportive and welcoming community. Trusting us with the health and happiness of your beloved four-legged family members, whether for a routine vaccination, a complex procedure or a life-changing emergency, is a privilege we never take for granted.

Thank you for bringing your pets into our lives, for sharing your stories and for making our first two years so profoundly special. We cannot wait to see what the future holds and look forward to caring for Hadleigh’s pets for many more years to come!

*Dr. Jessica Hudson BVMedSci (Hons)
BVM BVS (Hons) BSAVA PGcertSAECC
MRCVS
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Sweet Success

A decade after its first hive, Number Eighteen Honey is celebrating another Great Taste success

At the end of July Number Eighteen Honey, run by Rich and Trudi Wild in Stone Street, Boxford, was awarded a two-star award at the 2026 Great Taste Awards. The award was for its Ginger, Turmeric & Black Pepper-infused Honey.

Often described as the 'Oscars of the food world', the Great Taste Awards are judged completely blind by panels of chefs, food writers, buyers and food producers. Products are judged purely on taste, with no branding or packaging visible. The judges on the honey panel were particularly impressed with this new creation from Number Eighteen and noted:

"The fresh, zingy and warming flavours of the ginger, turmeric and black pepper come together coherently and deliciously against the sweet background of the honey. This is incredibly moreish and the judges had to hold back from tasting the whole jar."

Creating the award-winning recipe took more than a year to develop. Rather than relying on dried spices,

fresh ginger and turmeric roots are carefully grated directly into the raw soft-set honey – a slower and more labour-intensive process that produces a fresher, brighter flavour. Black pepper is included not simply for warmth but because piperine, the natural compound that gives pepper its distinctive flavour, is known to increase the body's absorption of curcumin from turmeric.

"We wanted to create something that tasted wonderful but is also a health and wellness powerhouse," says Trudi. "The Great Taste Awards are all about flavour, so to have experienced judges delight in what we've created is incredibly rewarding."

Rich adds: *"Fresh local honey is an incredibly versatile ingredient, so it's a lot of fun being able to use it to create something new that people enjoy and look forward to using on a daily basis."*

This year Number Eighteen was the only honey producer in Suffolk to win a Great Taste award and it isn't the first time the business has received such recognition. In 2024, its Raw Suffolk

Wildflower Honey also received a two-star Great Taste Award whilst in 2025 the company was a finalist in the Suffolk Food Producer of the Year category of the Velvet Food and Drink Awards. It all adds up to a loud celebration of the quality of honey produced by bees foraging across Suffolk's hedgerows, meadows and farmland.

Looking back, it's remarkable to think that the whole journey began with a single beehive given as a gift. Ten years on, that first hive has grown into a thriving local business, national award recognition and a passion for bees and the local environment that continues to evolve with every season.

You can buy direct from www.numbereighteensuffolk.com or find the jars at Hollow Trees Farm Shop at Semer, Polstead Community Shop, Ferguson's Deli in Hadleigh, Willow Tree Farm at Glemsford, Eliza's Pantry and Blackwell & Co in Long Melford and Suffolk Food Hall.

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History on Our Doorstep

Groton History Society enjoys two historical days out

Day after day, week after week, and what seems like month after month, there has been no relief from the endless heat waves and drought. No rainfall to cool the brow or rekindle the desire to venture beyond a cool spot at home for a day out. Apathy and lethargy rule the absent waves. Until that is, up the flagpole goes the message, *"Visitors expect every host will do their duty... and take them out!"* Of course, the timing of a 'visit' never corresponds with that fleeting drop in temperature, down to the low 20s or 70s, in old money. These brief cooler days take me back to summers of old, where this level of warmth was deemed a jolly good summer! Enough of last month's article.

Where should you go on a warmer-than-warm day? To be honest, there is no easy answer if you're looking for cooler temperatures, unless air-conditioned shopping is your thing. The objective was to find some interesting days out that showed different aspects of Suffolk and East Anglia. For my part I also wanted to show off some interesting Suffolk history, being the history nerd you all know I am. I plumped for two different outings.

First up was a day trip to Cambridge.

Next was a road trip to Sutton Hoo and the Ramsholt Arms.

Putting to one side the retail and lunching opportunities in Cambridge, the best way to see 'history' in Cambridge is on a guided punt. This was something we had not done before, and it was a revelation to all. A 45-minute guided tour shows you parts of several of the most famous colleges that cannot be seen from the road.

Possibly the most famous college is King's College, founded in 1441 by King Henry VI. One could argue it was his greatest contribution before his defeat in the Wars of the Roses cut short his reign. A year before, in 1440, he founded Eton College. King's College was originally set up exclusively for Eton-educated students. It was not until 1865 that non-Eton-educated students were allowed to attend King's. In fact, it was only in 1851 that admission was based on successfully passing examinations. My kind of university, before 1851! What is striking about seeing King's College from a punt is the stonework, not only of the globally famous chapel, renowned for its Christmas carol service, but also of the original students' accommodation buildings. The design called for white

Magnesian limestone to be the stone of choice. Over 250 million years old (though they did not know that then - it was all about the look), it was quarried in Tadcaster, Yorkshire (known to me for John Smith's and Samuel Smith's breweries, when I were a lad). It was transported largely by water, down the Wharfe, through the Humber Estuary, into the Wash and finally up the Cam. This was a very, very expensive material to use. Sadly, in 1461 the supply chain stopped after Henry's defeat. Royal patronage and funding dried up. The unused stone blocks were left idle in the yard for nearly 400 years! In their place, cheaper and more locally sourced oolite and Northamptonshire sandstone were used to complete the build during the Tudor period. It looks stunning, though. No wonder King's College has counted among its alumni John Maynard Keynes, E. M. Forster, Virginia Woolf and Sir Keir Starmer!

Henry's wife and queen, Margaret of Anjou, possibly jealous of her husband, asked, *"My King, my husband, founder*

Above: King's College Chapel and the Gibbs Building.



of a wonder of the world, can you see a vision of a sister splendour, side by side? A queen's to your King's College?" A bit of licence here... "My Queen, my love, I see said vision. Forsooth, if the royal purse had not been so sorely emptied by said worldly wonder in my name, that you so

Above: Queens' College's famous Mathematical Bridge, spanning the River Cam.

Clare Bridge, the oldest surviving bridge in Cambridge, viewed from the River Cam.

The Bridge of Sighs at St John's College, inspired by Venice's famous Ponte dei Sospiri.

Opposite page: The excavation of the Great Ship Burial at Sutton Hoo, photographed in August 1939. The spectacular discovery transformed our understanding of Anglo-Saxon England.

admire..." There was very little money left! But a college his queen would get.

Queens' College was founded in 1448 by Margaret of Anjou as the Queen's College of St Margaret and St Bernard. The stone and brickwork are markedly different as you drift past. Elizabeth Woodville, wife and queen of Henry's conqueror, Edward IV, refounded and endowed the college in 1465, securing its future. What is most special, as you float down the Cam, is its famous bridge, the Mathematical Bridge. It was designed by William Etheridge in 1749, not by Isaac Newton, who had died 22 years earlier in 1727, as myth would have it. The illusion is that it is an arch made entirely of straight timbers, using a clever geometric arrangement of triangles - don't ask me to explain! Famous alumni include Desiderius Erasmus, Thomas Gray, Erasmus Darwin, Tim Berners-Lee, Rowan Atkinson and Stephen Fry.

Clare College, with its own bridge, famous as the oldest surviving bridge in Cambridge, dating from 1640, was founded by Elizabeth de Clare in 1338, heiress to the lordship of

Clare, a mere 13-mile stone's throw from Groton. Her grandfather was King Edward I. Her brother, Gilbert de Clare, 7th Earl of Hertford and 8th Earl of Gloucester, was killed at Bannockburn. A fascinating local family, perhaps for another time. From the punt, it's a beautiful college, with its bridge and gardens beside the Cam. It is the second-oldest college in Cambridge, second only to Peterhouse, founded 50 years earlier, though that is not seen from a punt! Lord Cornwallis, of Yorktown surrender fame, studied here, helping to bring about the end of the American War of Independence. Quiet about that bit at Clare, I imagine. Somewhat noisier about Siegfried Sassoon and Sir David Attenborough, possibly.

Turning the punt around, we headed for Trinity and St John's, the two largest colleges, with Trinity holding the 'wealthiest' gold medal, with an estimated endowment of £2.5 billion! Trinity was founded by Good King Henry VIII in 1546, after Catherine Parr is said to have persuaded him to found

the college rather than sell off the land. You can glimpse the magnificent library, designed by Christopher Wren in 1676 and completed in 1695. It houses extraordinary originals, from Newton's *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* to A. A. Milne's original handwritten drafts and manuscripts for *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*. Entry is free! Its famous alumni include King Charles III, Lord Byron and our very own John Winthrop.

In fact, John's father, Adam, would regularly travel from Groton to Trinity and St John's to audit the books. This may have helped with John's acceptance into Trinity. He only attended for a couple of years, leaving before sitting the examinations for a degree. This was quite common for aristocratic sons, helping them to build networks ahead of gaining formal qualifications. Indeed the development of his religious beliefs was clearly linked to influential Cambridge followers of Reformist Protestant/Puritan theology. We may hear more of this at the 24th September talk by Dr Vivienne Aldous.

Finally, the tour reveals St John's, possibly most famous for the Bridge of Sighs, built in 1831 and modelled on the *Ponte dei Sospiri* in Venice, which linked the Doge's Palace interrogation rooms and courts with the New Gaol across the canal. St John's is the second wealthiest and second largest college after Trinity. Founded in 1511 by Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII, it was built on the site of the old Hospital of St John the Evangelist. Architecturally, the front is magnificent, competing with King's. It does, though, show the effects of money running out, as the reverse side is clad in ivy to hide the ordinary bricks used to complete it. William Wordsworth and William Wilberforce studied at St John's, as did Douglas Adams, before he hitchhiked his way around the galaxy.

I can't recommend this guided punt tour highly enough. It's really fascinating and a great way to take a dip in history, not the Cam!

The next trip was originally focused on showing our visitors some Suffolk movie-linked locations. Sutton Hoo, with the film *The Dig*, was an obvious starting point. This was closely followed, a few miles down the road, by lunch at the Ramsholt Arms on the Deben Estuary, between Sutton Hoo and Bawdsey (another location with history we could, and perhaps should, have visited too). Sutton Hoo first. The day we visited, several re-enactment areas offered fascinating insights

into Saxon life. The main attractions, obviously, are the burial mounds, best viewed from the viewing tower, looking down on them. Many questions come to mind as you stand there. Why here? Why the east-west alignment? Why were the ship burial and its hoard not discovered decades or even centuries earlier? Dating from the early 7th century AD, the famous ship burial and hoard were not discovered until 1939, on the eve of war. Traditionally labelled the Dark Ages, the discoveries seem remarkably light, elegant and cultured. Initially thought to be Viking, they proved to be centuries earlier, midway between the Roman withdrawal and the Viking arrival. It is believed to be the burial site of the East Anglian king Rædwald, who died in 624 or 625 AD. It is the finest and richest find from this period in the UK and northern Europe. If you want to see a contemporary ship being built using traditional methods, visit the Sutton Hoo Ship's Company on the Woodbridge waterfront. It's fantastic.

So, why the Ramsholt Arms? Simply because of the wonderful scene in the film *Yesterday*, when the lead character, after his accident, sings *Yesterday* by the Beatles, only to discover that the Beatles never existed and his friends have never heard the song before. They are sitting at an outside table by the Deben water's edge at the Ramsholt Arms. That's the Suffolk movie link, but not the history one. When you sit there, with the Deben Estuary in front of you and sailing boats bobbing gently by, you can look to your left and just make out an outlet on the opposite side of the Deben. It's called the Fleet. Further along, towards Old Felixstowe, is another outlet, man-made in the 14th century, called King's Fleet. It is named after the royal shipbuilding that took place there. Some of King Edward III's fleet was built here before sailing



in 1340 to defeat the French fleet at Sluys (arguably our earliest great naval victory), and again in 1346 to support the invasion of France that led to one of our greatest land victories over the Vieil Ennemi at Crécy. With a glass of something cool in hand, sitting at the Ramsholt Arms and gazing eastwards across the Deben, you can almost imagine King Edward's ships assembling before sailing off on the tide to victoire. Look west towards Woodbridge and, perhaps, you can picture a Saxon ship on its final voyage. I learnt a huge amount of history from just a couple of days out, which stirred my imagination and curiosity. I missed out Framlingham, the launchpad for Mary Tudor's ride to London to claim the crown. Another time. There is a lot of history to be gleaned from a day out in Suffolk. As always, I welcome your thoughts, suggestions and interest...

Nigel Chapman
nigeljchap@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Groton History Society talks will take a break for the summer

John Winthrop: Faith, Disillusionment and the Journey to New England
 Thursday 24th September

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

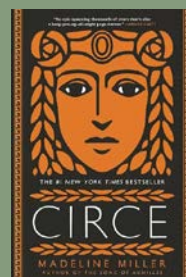
African American Voices in 19th-Century Suffolk and Britain
 Friday 23rd October

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

Recommended Reading, Listening & Viewing

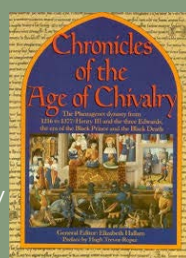
***Circe* by Madeline Miller.**

Woman, witch, myth, outcast, lover, destroyer, survivor... One for the Odyssey fan club.



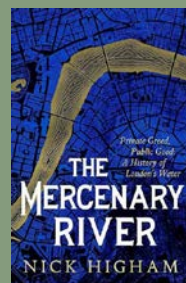
***Chronicles of the Age of Chivalry* by Elizabeth Hallam.**

Covers the important events in the reigns of Henry III to Edward III through contemporary historical chronicles. A pro-King bias may apply.



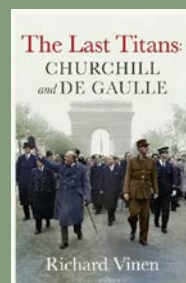
***Mercenary River: Private Greed, Public Good: A History of London's Water* by Nick Higham.**

How very topical and relevant!



***The Last Titans: Churchill and De Gaulle* by Richard Vinet.**

A brilliant insight into the two iconic civilian leaders.



***Elizabeth I v the Catholics from The Rest Is History* podcast duo.**

Boy, does this offer parallels with ideological and existential conflict today! Substitute theology for the divisions we see today, and the parallels are striking.



***The Dig*, starring Carey Mulligan and Ralph Fiennes.**

A must-watch following a visit to Sutton Hoo!





Cruising the Deben

Little Waldingfield History Society enjoyed a fascinating voyage through Suffolk's maritime and industrial past

In early June, 28 intrepid History Society explorers met at Waldringfield Boatyard to bravely travel down the river to Felixstowe Ferry and back again. Happily, and despite some rain as we boarded, which continued for a further 15-20 minutes, the sun did put its hat on and things improved considerably.



The purpose-built Jahan is a fine craft and everyone soon settled into their happy place as teas and coffees arrived and the magnificent views became

more visible beneath the brightening skies. In addition, our skipper was a good raconteur, with entertaining commentary on what was passing by on the shore and a sound knowledge of the history of the industries and boats which plied their trade on the estuary in earlier times.

The first surprise was mention of wartime Operation Quicksilver - the creation of a fictitious army, the First United States Army Group (FUSAG), stationed in the south-east under General George Patton. To strengthen the illusion of FUSAG preparing to embark, dummy landing craft

were made from scaffolding tube, wood, canvas and empty 40-gallon barrels. They were very convincing when viewed from a distance and from the air. They were assembled on riverbanks, including the Deben, and





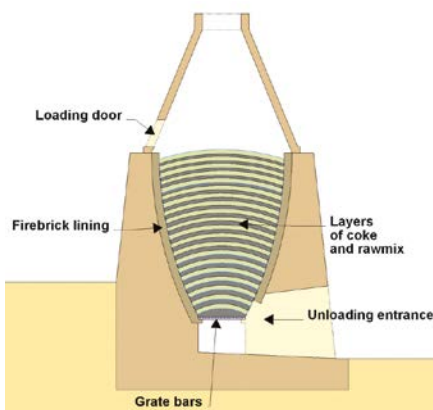
deployed in harbours and estuaries all around the south-east.

The second surprise was the existence of Mason's Portland Cement Works on the riverbank close to Waldringfield. The site was initially developed to make Roman cement, a quick-setting natural cement patented in the 18th century and produced in traditional egg-cup-shaped, or open, lime kilns. In addition to the open kilns, four 13-foot bottle kilns were added by 1870 and a further four 17-foot

kilns by 1880; a third block of four 11-foot kilns was added around 1898. The plant remained in this form, with a capacity of 200 tons per week, until closure, with all transportation in and out by barges on the river. The plant closed in December 1907 and the site was cleared in 1912. It is now occupied by housing, and the quay is a small marina.

In addition to pointing out wildlife, either on the river or its banks, sadly less than usual because of the weather,

“The tower appears elliptical because of its three buttresses – a most unusual feature on a round tower”



Opposite page, clockwise from top:

The Jahan at Waldringfield, ready to take Little Waldringfield History Society members on their memorable River Deben cruise.

Replica Second World War dummy landing craft, similar to those used during Operation Quicksilver to deceive German forces before D-Day.

Little Waldringfield History Society members enjoying their guided River Deben cruise as the weather gradually brightened.

This page, clockwise from top:

Mason's Cement Works at Waldringfield, with the distinctive bottle kilns that once dominated this stretch of the River Deben.

Ramsholt All Saints' Church, one of Suffolk's 37 round-tower churches, with its distinctive three buttresses.

A cutaway illustration showing the internal construction of a traditional bottle kiln used in cement production.

A preserved bottle kiln, similar to those that once formed part of Mason's Cement Works at Waldringfield.

the next interesting sight was Ramsholt All Saints' Church with its round tower, one of just 37 in Suffolk. The tower appears elliptical because of its three buttresses, which are most unusual on a round tower - presumably added because of problems during construction.

As we neared our turnaround point close to the mouth of the estuary, nine RAF houses came into view next





to Bawdsey Manor. They were built between 1937 and 1939 as married quarters for Air Ministry personnel and researchers working at the manor.

As our host told us, nine dwellings were ordered and nine were delivered, eight being semi-detached and the ninth built as just half of a semi-detached unit, thereby looking very odd. Following the closure of Bawdsey in 1991, they were sold off and are now privately owned.

On the way back samples of coprolite (fossilised dinosaur and animal dung and bone) were passed around the boat for inspection. Coprolite was extensively collected from the Deben Estuary in Victorian times as a rich source of calcium phosphate. When treated with sulphuric acid the nodules yielded 'superphosphate', which was processed into the world's first



artificial chemical manure to boost agricultural crops. Disconcertingly, the nodules really did look like poo, albeit with no smell!! Thousands of tons of coprolite were dug by hand from coastal parishes and crag pits near the Deben Estuary (Bawdsey, Boyton and Sutton), and the river provided a vital logistical link. Boatloads were shipped

to fertiliser works in Ipswich or down to London.

The flourishing coastal diggings provided immense local employment and revenue during the 1860s and 1870s, but the industry collapsed in the 1890s as deposits became exhausted and cheap, high-quality phosphate imports arrived from America and Africa.

As the weather continued to brighten on the return journey, the views became better and better and everyone was clearly having a wonderful time, making the LWHS trustees very happy.

Just after arrival and disembarkation at Waldringfield, the heavens opened. Happily, those going home were by then safely in their cars, whilst those such as myself who opted for lunch at The Maybush Inn were treated to a superb meal, with views that once again became brighter and better as the rain clouds moved away.

All in all it was a great experience which I heartily recommend to all readers. The trip was a great reminder that some of Suffolk's most fascinating history lies just beyond our own doorstep. From wartime deception and vanished industries to medieval churches, the River Deben provided plenty to talk about long after the boat had returned to Waldringfield.

Anyone with an interest in local history, heritage and good company is always welcome to come along to future LWHS meetings and events.

Andy Sheppard
www.littlewaldringfieldhistorysociety.wordpress.com

Top:

The nine RAF married quarters built beside Bawdsey Manor before the Second World War.

Above, left:

The unusual 'half-house', built as only one side of a planned semi-detached pair.

A sample of coprolite, once mined around the Deben Estuary to produce fertiliser.

Next Little Waldringfield History Society Talks:

The (un)Natural History of Rivers

Wednesday 16th September, 7:30pm

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



1960s Sudbury

Wednesday 21st October, 7:30pm

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





Avocet Swimming Club

Celebrating forty years of bringing people together through swimming, friendship & shared experiences

This year marks a remarkable milestone for Sudbury's Avocet Swimming and Social Club, which celebrates its 40th anniversary - a testament to the power of community, inclusion and the joy of swimming together.

Founded in September 1986 by dedicated volunteers and parents who recognised the value of social swimming for children and adults with disabilities, Avocet began life at Sudbury's open-air pool, and the response was immediate. What started as a simple idea quickly grew into a thriving weekly gathering, offering exercise, confidence and connection in equal measure.

When the Kingfisher Leisure Centre opened later that year, Avocet found its long-term home. Every Sunday since, the centre has welcomed the club for an hour of swimming, supported by managers and staff who understand the importance of accessible activity and the social benefits it brings.

Some of the original committee members - Steve, Alan and Liz - remain at the heart of Avocet today. Their dedication has helped shape a warm, supportive environment where members feel known, valued and understood. With around 60 members

currently attending, many have been part of the club for years, forming friendships that extend far beyond the pool.

Avocet's impact reaches beyond weekly swims. Members have taken part in swimming galas with great success, supported by the NASCH Foundation, which provides guidance and insurance for disability swimming groups. The club also nurtures its social side with summer BBQs, New Year meals, discos and regular meet-ups, strengthening the sense of belonging that defines Avocet.

We also like to support other charities in the local area. Every year members undertake a sponsored walk on Good Friday and this year the charity we chose to support was Sudbury Sporting Memories. We were delighted to present them with a fantastic donation of £1,080.

A New Wave of Support: Tesco Blue Token Scheme

As Avocet celebrates its 40th year the community has another reason to smile. From August 2026 until November 2026, the club will be supported by the Tesco Blue Token Scheme. This is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness and secure

additional funding to help the club continue its vital work.

If you shop at Tesco please consider supporting Avocet by placing your blue token in our box. Every token makes a difference and helps us continue providing a welcoming, friendly and supportive space for people with disabilities in Sudbury.

Looking Ahead

Avocet Swimming and Social Club remains a cherished part of the local community - respected, inclusive and full of heart. As the club looks forward to its 40th anniversary celebration this summer, it does so with pride in its past and excitement for the future.

Here's to forty years of friendship, fun and the joy of swimming together - and to many more to come.

We welcome children and adults of all ages, together with their parents or carers. So if you feel Avocet is something you or someone you know with a disability would benefit from, or if you would like to donate, please get in touch.

Call Steve Macey on 07737 603776 or email fristaidtrainers@ntlworld.com





Notes from a Beekeeper's Diary

*Tony Rand reflects on how nature finds a way,
even in the driest of summers*

Ten, twelve weeks without rain - it's hard to remember. The first heat spike was a novelty, the second a surprise, but days over 30 degrees are now an endurance test. In these temperatures queen bees stop laying and workers can become disorientated. As temperatures edge closer to 40 degrees, insects begin to die.

The summer has been long and relentless. Wheat harvesting was more or less complete by the end of July, weeks earlier than usual. Our Suffolk landscape settled into the familiar tones of high summer: swathes of stubble interspersed with the dark green of distant trees beneath a wide cerulean blue sky. The lime trees came gloriously into blossom after the heavy winter rains, but the flowers were quickly scorched and withered by the unbroken sunshine. The ground baked hard and the birds stopped singing.

The year did not start well for

honeybees. In spring, many new queens failed to mate properly because of the rain and wind. Some colonies stuttered and failed despite our best efforts to requeen them. Even so, the surviving colonies produced an above average supply of late spring honey, thanks perhaps to the early abundance of tree blossom, spring flowers and bramble.

Bees were not the only insects to find life difficult. Wasp numbers have been much lower than in previous years. That may be a blessing for us humans, but houseflies have been more of a nuisance.

Looking across the summer landscape now, it is hard to imagine how bees find any nectar or pollen at all, especially in such a drought. Suffolk honey is among the best in the country (perhaps the best!), but arable crops produce no nectar. The answer may lie in the network of drainage channels,

brooks and streams that meander through the countryside and drain into our river system - the Brett, the Stour and the Colne, not forgetting the Lark and the Linnet. These tiny waterways may gurgle and splash during the winter rains, but slow to a trickle in summer. At times they may be little more than a series of unconnected pools. Yet the riverbeds are still wet, and their banks and shallows remain a rich haven for plant life.

As these streams pass through populated areas, they are channelled into concrete culverts and waterways for our convenience. In the open countryside, willows and alders grow untended, and beneath their shade the banks retain moisture, supporting a rich variety of wild plants. Many of these produce nectar well into autumn, and their seeds are naturally dispersed downstream. It is these, I am sure, that are responsible for the

quality of our honey. Plants compete for the attention of pollinating insects. Pollinators are selective and are attracted by scent as much as by colour.

Knapweed, water mint, purple loosestrife and willowherb all grow in abundance along these watercourses. The occasional field of purple phacelia, traditionally grown as a soil improver, is a delight to honeybees. The foraging life of a worker bee lasts no more than two or three weeks, during which time she will harvest nectar from a limited variety of sources - and, by preference, only one at a time. Any given jar of honey is the product of many individual bees, blending the unique flavours and essences of a whole summer water meadow.



In June, July and August, the population of the colony reaches its peak at up to 60,000 adult bees, but the queen is now laying at around half the rate she did in late spring. Queens often take a brood break, when they lay no eggs at all. When egg production restarts, the workers that emerge will become winter bees, with an extra layer of fat to help carry them through the months ahead. By September, the drones will have outlived their usefulness. Any that remain will be rounded up by the workers and driven out of the nest to perish from hypothermia or starvation.

It's also time for beekeepers to reap the reward for the year's labours by extracting surplus honey from the hives. It is also time for an autumn varroa treatment, to boost winter stores with syrup and ensure the hives are secure against the rain and frosts to come. We cannot change the weather. At best, we beekeepers can do little more than ensure that our colonies are as well defended as possible against parasites, icy blasts and predators. The rest, like so much in the natural world, is out of our hands.

Tony Rand
07503 164 823

Hadleigh Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Vaccinations: Covid vaccinations will be given during surgery hours on Wednesdays in October 2026. Patients aged over 75 and those who are immunocompromised are eligible and will be contacted by the surgery.

Patients eligible for the shingles vaccination will be contacted by the surgery.

Patients aged over 75 who are eligible for the RSV vaccination should already have received a mobile phone call or, if they do not use a mobile phone, a letter.

New university students requiring the MenB vaccination should contact a pharmacy that offers the vaccine. Details can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/menb-vaccinations>

Patient Car Park: The spaces in the patient car park are only for patients with a medical appointment or collecting medicine from the pharmacy inside the practice. They should not be occupied for any other reason.

If you park in Toppesfield and have an appointment at the health centre, don't forget to enter your vehicle registration number into the machine in the waiting area to qualify for free parking. Failure to do so could incur a hefty fine.

Toppesfield Car Park: This car park has been partly resurfaced and now includes a pedestrian crossing in front of the practice's front door. There is also a marked pedestrian pathway leading to it.

Motorists, take note: it is now one-way in and one-way out. The entrance is on the far left and the exit is via the road in front of Mill Pharmacy. If you haven't visited the health centre for a while, look out for the changes.

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 email jen.eastwood8@gmail.com.

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

It will indicate whether you want to remain at home, be admitted to hospital or receive resuscitation.

Forms are available to everyone at the practice and can be completed with the help of a healthcare professional.

Further information is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/respect-patients>

Travel Vaccinations: If your holiday destination requires certain vaccinations, many of these are available at the practice up to six weeks before you travel. Visit www.hadleighhealth.co.uk/travel-information for more information.

If you are travelling in less than six weeks, please contact a local travel clinic for advice: www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/travel-vaccinations

Anima: The practice IT team is working tirelessly to make the system more user-friendly. As a result, you can now do much more than when it first came into use.

Explore the new features and save yourself making a telephone call. This will help keep the telephone lines free for patients who are unable to use this online service.

Anima Presentation: Two members of the health centre team and the chair of the PPG recently gave a short presentation about Anima and the ReSPECT Forms to the Black Cat Club. The visit was designed to help patients navigate the system and gain a better understanding of both.

If you belong to a group that you feel would benefit from this face-to-face presentation, please contact me, Jan Devey, using the details below.

IT Help: Communities Together offers helpful IT advice once a month in the upstairs room at Hadleigh Library.

The next session will take place on **Tuesday 1st September** from 10am to 12 noon. Booking is essential as places are limited. Contact Tracey on info@communitiestogether-ea.org or 01449 707031.

Don't Be Alone: If you would normally spend Sunday morning alone, why not join our friendly group of bunting makers on **Sunday 27th September** from 10am to 12 noon at the leisure centre?

You don't have to be an expert seamstress, as there is something for everyone to do. Would you like to know more? Contact me, Jan Devey.

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

Website: www.hadleighhealth.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HadleighHealthCentre

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

Health Centre: 01473 822 961



The Blooming Garden

Pellies on Parade

I am perhaps being over familiar by using the abbreviation for pelargoniums which is used by committed pelargonium fanciers. I like them but not to the point of obsession and maybe this is a bit like abbreviating someone's name or giving them a nickname when you are not a particular friend. But still I want to emphasise that whether you are chummy and call these beauties 'pellies', or more familiar and address them as pelargoniums, they are certainly not geraniums, as once was thought. They were once lumped together, I think we can blame Linnaeus for this, but botanically, they were distinguished from geraniums in the 1780s, so please keep up.

Shirley Hibberd, one of the most popular Victorian garden writers, gave a talk on pelargoniums and explained that geraniums are '*herbs of Europe*' and he said pelargoniums are '*miniature trees from Africa*'. Well,

calling them trees is stretching it a bit but they can get very leggy. There was a mania for red pelargoniums used as bedding plants in the mid-nineteenth



century. Indeed, Charles Dickens loved them so much that his garden at Gad's Hill Place in Kent was always ablaze with red in the summer and he always wore one as a buttonhole when he did his public readings. This craze was known as 'red fever'. *Pelargonium* 'Paul Crampel' is a zonal pelargonium with huge bright red flowers it took the world by storm when it was introduced in 1860. Nobody had ever seen such a vigorous, bushy pelargonium with such



huge, intensely scarlet flowers. It sold for a guinea each, which was a huge sum; about £110 in today's money. This pelargonium became a familiar sight as it was planted outside Buckingham Palace for many years.

I have lots of red pelargoniums in pots which I have accumulated over the years; most of them with long forgotten names. Nowadays, 'Paul Crampel' has perhaps been superseded by 'Moulin Rouge' which is even showier, but I like a bit of history with my plants so I do grow 'Paul Crampel'. The one in the picture is just a young plant from a cutting earlier this year but it will grow into a substantial plant.



Rosebud pelargoniums also create a bit of nostalgia, especially *Pelargonium* 'Apple Blossom Rosebud' which appeared in 1870 and was a favourite of Queen Victoria. The Rosebud pelargonium was not created by some sort of Frankenstein genetic manipulation, it appeared as a spontaneous mutation in 1850. As you can imagine it was popular for buttonholes with its tight heads of double flowers. I also have *Pelargonium* 'Scarlet Rambler' which is a rosebud pelargonium from 1870. Both these rosebuds grow to about 60 cm. 'Apple Blossom Rosebud' kept on growing and bloomed all winter in the conservatory as did 'Scarlet Rambler'. I don't know why it's called 'Rambler' because it is an upright one and doesn't ramble with me.

I love species pelargoniums with delicate flowers. The first one to be introduced to Europe in 1630 was a beauty called *Pelargonium* 'Triste'. This



has delicate, night-scented flowers and is a geophyte which means it has an underground tuberous storage root. My favourite species is the red-flowered 'Ardens' which is a pernicky thing which suffers from sudden death and is difficult to strike from cuttings because it is also a geophyte. It is a beauty though; to see it is to love it.



Pelargonium *sidoides* has delicate purple flowers but I grow it for the beautiful silvery foliage. I have another rather unusual pelargonium called *Pelargonium* *gibbosum* which has chartreuse-yellow flowers which are fragrant, especially in the evening. It has jointed stems with swollen nodes which give this plant the unfortunate name of Gouty Geranium. But as I said, it's not actually a geranium and neither does it have gout.

“Whether you call these beauties ‘pellies’ or pelargoniums, they are certainly not geraniums.”

And then we have pelargoniums with scented leaves which have relatively insignificant flowers but come in an astonishing variety of smells ranging from rose, apple, citrus, peppermint, ginger and many more, including Coca-Cola. They can be used in cooking or for pot-pourri. These were also beloved by Victorians and displayed where people could brush against them to release their scent.

One of my favourites is *Pelargonium* 'Attar of Roses' which has hairy leaves and smells of Turkish Delight. I also love 'Lady Plymouth' because the variegated leaves look good all year round and they have a lovely citrus smell.



It is difficult to know where to stop when talking about pellies. If you would like to try some interesting ones, Wootens of Wenhaston is a good place to start. They have the Plant Heritage National Collection and a mouth-watering selection.

Chloris

Opposite page, clockwise from top: *Pelargonium* 'Ardens' in the foreground, with *Pelargonium* 'Calliope' behind.

Pelargonium 'Paul Crampel', the famous Victorian scarlet variety that caused a sensation when it was introduced in the nineteenth century.

Spring Morning by James Tissot, showing the Victorian era when pelargoniums enjoyed enormous popularity.

This page, clockwise from top left: *Pelargonium* 'Apple Blossom Rosebud', a much-loved Victorian variety and a favourite of Queen Victoria.

Pelargonium *sidoides*, grown as much for its attractive silvery foliage as its delicate purple flowers.

Pelargonium 'Lady Plymouth', prized for its beautifully variegated foliage and refreshing citrus fragrance.

Pelargonium 'Scarlet Rambler', a rosebud pelargonium dating from around 1870.

Feedback From Robert Lindsay

Suffolk County Councillor for Cosford Division

Burnham, barbecues and buses

Is that it?
Is that the best Andy Burnham can do? As I write, the prime minister, jaws portentously clenched,

has just emerged from a meeting of the government's emergency COBRA committee. It was a meeting of the country's most powerful people and its finest brains - a meeting to see what action the government could take in the light of the exceptional climate change-driven heat and drought that has made a tinderbox of Eastern England.

As he stepped up to the cameras, a deeply worried nation, desperate for reassurance that firm action would be taken, held its breath.

"We have confirmed," said the prime minister, "that the framework restricting the sale of, er, disposable barbecues is being extended, and now I would ask all retailers, big and small, to adhere to that framework."

Our beloved Dunwich Heath, our family's favourite place in Suffolk, for centuries a land of gorse, heather, Dartford warblers, adders, sand martins and rare insects, lies blackened and empty, with a few twisted stumps left upright, like the Somme. Devastated by the county's worst wildfire in living memory.

Experts think it will take 25 years to recover. I will probably be dead by the time that happens, so I may never be able to see it again as it was, and as my family saw it over countless happy weekend outings.



But wildfires aren't the only problem that our overconsumption of fossil fuels is causing. In 2024 and 2025, Britain, and its cereal 'bread basket', East Anglia in particular, had abnormally low harvest yields, and farmers are telling us this year looks like being just as bad. Burnham's barbecue suggestion is pathetically inadequate.

At the time of writing, he has so far deliberately avoided mentioning climate change. This is so that he can also avoid talking about the need to stop drilling for new oil and gas, and the urgent need to phase out fossil fuel consumption.

Burnham is as compromised by businesses invested in fossil fuels as all our previous prime ministers in the past few decades.

If Burnham is too scared to confront it, it's down to us, ordinary people who are concerned, to acquaint ourselves with the huge risks facing our nation, and to learn about the best ways of tackling them.

I mentioned in my last piece the emergency public briefings that are being held by volunteers all over the country for local people to do just that. I'm pleased to say that one has now been organised by Boxford resident Becky Baines, a sustainability consultant.

It's on **Wednesday 9th September** at the Boxford Community Pavilion at 7pm. Those of us who are worried need to band together to get action.

Buses

One of the ways to cut fossil fuel consumption is to provide a bus service that is frequent and reliable enough to persuade people to leave their cars at home. Across London, and more recently, across Burnham's former home of Manchester, bus use has grown massively as the local authorities there have taken control of the buses from private companies, set cheaper fares, and are using profits from busy routes to subsidise routes in less populated areas. Public transport is now so good in London that people who live there rarely use their cars to get about.

People say this cannot happen in the countryside, but of course it can. In Switzerland, there isn't a village in the remotest rural canton that doesn't have a bus every hour, at a minimum, to take people to work or the shops. In fact, it is written into most cantons' laws that every settlement of over 100 residents should have at least an hourly bus service, seven days a week.

The same is true across rural parts of Austria, Germany and much of northern Europe. It is only really in

Britain that the powers that be, political parties and their wealthy backers, insist that buses can only exist if they make money and cannot possibly be a public service like schools, hospitals or defence.

However, the Labour government's policy on buses has been moving, slowly, in the right direction. Funding for the next three years has recently been made available to Suffolk and other transport authorities to invest in new bus routes and greater frequency of services. But planning for bus investment by the Suffolk Conservatives during their time in charge of the county has been next to non-existent.

To my mind, our transport authority, Suffolk County Council, should be declaring an ambition to connect every community with a regular commuter bus. Obviously, the money to provide that is not here now, but if the planning is done, potential routes are listed, costed and prioritised to achieve this goal, then we are more likely to win funding from government when it becomes available.

I recently decided to test Suffolk's new Reform administration on their willingness to plan for better buses here. I proposed a motion that the county set a goal of a minimum standard of bus services for communities. But Reform councillors were ordered by their leader, Michael Hadwen, to vote this motion down. The councillor who Hadwen delegated to speak against the motion got to her feet to tell me I was *"living in LaLa Land"*.

I firmly believe it is the Reform administration's duty, as the authority in charge of public transport, to plan now how bus investment should be channelled most effectively for Suffolk's citizens.

Why not aim high for a standard of bus service that would persuade people to leave their cars at home?

But Reform councillors, suddenly thrust into office and put in charge of a complicated array of public services with a shoestring budget, appear interested only in following Nigel Farage's orders for performative actions, such as cancelling the climate emergency and seeking judicial review of government decisions. Their response to public office is as inadequate as Burnham's disposable barbecues.

Robert Lindsay

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Feedback From Bryn Hurren

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

The weather here in Assington is at last beginning to cool as it is across all of the UK, and the promise of rain is eagerly awaited as I type this report. We are getting ready for our annual horticultural show, with entries down by 50% this year - a sign of things to come, I fear. Food production is becoming ever more difficult with the onset of more serious climate change issues and the dire lack of water over long periods, making it difficult to grow adequate supplies of food for our population and livestock.

As well as the lack of water we now have the burning effect of higher temperatures which scorch and slow-cook the plants as they stand, along with the roots below. Much of mainland Europe is also suffering similar or worse growing conditions so shortages and much higher prices will become the norm I fear. Communal growing in our own areas and allotments with running water should become the first thing considered with all new developments I think.

General development and housing targets are Babergh DC's major concern now with the current government's target of 775 permissions being granted each year proving hard to achieve, as we all thought it would be. It is hard to get that number of applications through the planning system and even harder to get them all built in a stagnating market. Maybe Andy Burnham's wish to build lots of affordable homes for young first-time buyers and older downsizers will become a reality during this parliament. The local authority can

do that and we could even call them council houses. Now that would be revolutionary wouldn't it, but where is the finance coming from? We just cannot take on any more debt and it would be so wrong to try. Maybe closer working and trading arrangements with the EU can bring us some hope of an upturn in our economic and general prosperity. Time to try I think. We have suffered from past self-inflicted mistakes enough I believe.

We seem to at last be getting to grips with the new national waste collection services I feel. Four months in, most of the teething and more serious problems are gradually being sorted and managed effectively. This is the first major change in refuse collection for over 20 years, so it will take time and much effort from staff, contractors and most importantly our customers and the public, who we are asking to be the most important cog in our communal wheel.

While sorting everything out and getting it in the correct bin can be an awful faff, it is important to get it right because contamination can render the whole bin worthless for recycling. There is a value in everything we recycle which makes a difference to the council tax we all pay, so we all have to work together to get it right. Hence the collection team are under instructions to flip the bin lids to make sure the contents are just what they should be.

Good contact with all my parish councils and their constituents is something I have always aimed for and it is now more important than ever before with everything moving at a faster pace through electronic communications. Most constituents still just stop me in the street and ask questions and give opinions during their normal day-to-day lives and I welcome that. Others choose a more

formal route of text, email or post to the office, which is now at Endeavour House in Ipswich, and this works just as well. With my parish councils it is through the clerk or the relevant councillors that messages reach me as regularly and promptly as possible and most of them achieve that successfully as well. For me to do my role efficiently I need others to do the same. Working together is the key to so much in local government. I hope this is noted and acted upon by all. August is normally a quiet month in local government but not so this year. I had to shelve my usual Cropredy Festival holiday but will try to get a few days off later in the year.

This weekend, and still ongoing, my village suffered a broadband outage which resulted in difficulties for those working from home and businesses in our village such as the Assington Barn being unable to operate their card payment machines. I do not want a cashless society and think that we all need to keep a little cash at hand to deal with emergencies like these. The banks desperately do want a cashless society so they can let machines run it rather than properly paid human employees, which is the very reason we should refuse one and keep on doing so.

Longing for a good season from the Boys in Blue under their new manager, we stand a better chance in the Premier League this time around I believe. Whether you like footie or not, it does help the local economy. C.O.Y.B.

If you need me in the coming month or at any time at all, just shout, flag me down safely, or just rugby tackle me in the street, gently please. Alternatively contact me on the details below.

Bryn
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Tel: 07771 508348

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GROTON

Summary of Council Meeting 8th July 2026

Present: Sarah McGrath, Nigel Chapman, Catherine Hearn, Adam Dixon-Smith, Richard Jones (clerk).

Guests: R Lindsay (Suffolk County Council), B Hurren (Babergh District Council)

Apologies for absence: P Roberts, R Cheeseman, C Britton. In the absence of P Roberts, S McGrath took the Chair.

Minutes of the Meeting of 13th May 2026: Agreed

Financial Matters: The statement of finances and orders for payment and the Q1 accounts were approved.

Groton People and Places Update:

As mentioned by Councillor Hurren, BDC had set aside funding for neighbourhood plans. It was agreed that the council would need to know the full cost of producing a plan and whether the available funding would cover this.

Village Hall Matters: C Hearn reported that the centenary celebrations went well with a large number of people in attendance. Unfortunately, a recent survey of the hall had shown that it was in need of full replacement. This would probably mean a temporary or removable structure being put in place or a new site found. It was agreed that a joint working party between the parish council and the village hall committee be formed to look at possible options with the parish council taking the lead as owners of the building. C Hearn and N Chapman agreed to be part of a working party/sub committee.

Winthrop Fleet 400th Anniversary

Event: N Chapman reported that an initial meeting had been held. C Britton was looking to find contacts in the USA and neighbouring parishes with family connections.

Next meeting: Wednesday 2nd September at 7pm

Full minutes can be found at:
<http://groton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/documents/>

Richard Jones

01473 828246
grotonclerk@yahoo.com

BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 28th July 2026

Public Participation- Views /

Questions from the Public: A resident wished to thank SCC for completing the fencing works between Fen Street and Cox Hill.

A report of continuous problems occurring through Church Street was received with an urge for Highways to complete the installation of yellow lines.

County Council Report: CCllr Lindsay sent a report to parish councillors prior to the meeting and updated the meeting on the following items:

20mph scheme; The public consultation is in process, it was reiterated that it was thought a decision on whether to instruct Highways was due during this meeting, but this was unable to occur due to needing more time to receive views from the public. It was commented that the problem may arise that the costing is too high, it was thought that it may be required to focus on changes to Stone Street only.

HGV signs Stone Street: attention had been drawn to CCllr Lindsay that the signs coming into Stone Street were in the wrong place and Highways have been asked to reposition. The cost will be between £2,294 and £3,165 but there is no funding available to complete the works. The PC can pay for the repositioning but CCllr Lindsay suggested making a decision on the 20mph scheme first. Comments were made by councillors that surely this is a health and safety issue that should be a Highways priority.

Mr West, the footpath warden for Boxford, reported to CCllr Lindsay that there have been communication issues regarding cutting of the footpaths and asked if SCC could be made aware.

The full report can be found on the BPC website.

District Council Report: DCllr Hurren sent a report to parish councillors prior to the meeting and reported on the items in the report. The full report can be found on the BPC website.

To agree actions following letter of complaint from WI:

This matter was brought forward in the meeting and discussed after item 6. The WI have made a complaint regarding the cutting of the grass at the top of School Hill, which is maintained by the WI

with a licence in place to cultivate the area. A meeting took place at the area in question to discuss the matter. Cllr Warren apologised to the WI for instructing the works to take place and an offer has been made to purchase specialist seeds and bulbs to replace the ones that have been destroyed. An offer has also been made to re-site the bench to a piece of land at the Croft, with the WI having full control over the piece of land. The members of the WI present at the meeting thanked the PC for the offers and will take to their next meeting to discuss with members. The members of the WI also made a comment on the conduct of a parish councillor during the meeting held at School Hill; it was requested that if the WI wished to make a formal complaint, it is put in writing and sent to the clerk to be dealt with appropriately.

To agree purchase of Defibrillator for the BT phone box on Stone Street: It has been established that the PC own the defibrillator at The Fleece. Checks will be made to establish whether this is suitable to be moved to the phone box outside of the White Hart pub. It has been requested that the PC purchase a defibrillator for the phone box on Stone Street, which has had the ownership transferred from BT to Community Heartbeat Trust. It was resolved to purchase a defibrillator.

Members' Reports: Cllr Parr confirmed that the diocese have rejected the proposal for the land behind the cemetery to be used as a car park.

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

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

Date of Next Meeting: 22nd September 2026 in the village hall, starting at 7pm.

Parish council 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

NEWTON

Summary of Council Meeting 12th August 2026

26/141 Public Participation

Mr Baldwin gave councillors a copy of his draft plans to develop land at Blacksmith Close. The chairman explained that the councillors would look at these ahead of the meeting on 2nd September 2026, where the item would be put on the agenda.

Cllr Parker raised the concerns of residents that rubble was still left on the verge of a property in Church Road for a considerable time. The councillors agreed that the clerk write to the occupant regarding his plans to remove the rubble, and to give eight weeks' notice that unless it is cleared, it will be reported to Suffolk Highways who the council believe to be the owner of the verge.

26/142 Emails circulated

Following a review of the emails circulated the councillors agreed that a meeting should be arranged in September with the allotment tenants.

26/143 Planning

The councillors reviewed planning application DC/26/02608 Land Rear Of Brook Farm, Sudbury Road - Erection of 1no. self build dwelling and associated outbuilding and unanimously resolved that they objected to the application as it did not comply with the Newton Neighbourhood Plan in several areas.

26/145 Walking Infrastructure Project

The councillors reviewed Suffolk Highways status report on the project. The clerk updated councillors that substitute land for the area of land being proposed for the footpath on the village green was being reviewed by Suffolk Legal and Newton Green Trust.

26/146 New Clerk Recruitment Pack

The councillors reviewed the draft recruitment pack prepared by the clerk, and agreed the schedule for the recruitment process which included the following key dates:

23/09/2026 Advertise vacancy
w/c 26/10/2026 Interviews

11/11/2026 Appointment of clerk
4/1/2027 New clerk commences work for NPC.

Full minutes can be found at:
www.newton-pc.gov.uk

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Parish Council Contacts

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Little Waldingfield PC

Councillor & Clerk: Mark Freeman

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



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Milden Cricket Club



Two narrow defeats and a comprehensive win to report this month, as we look forward to the final games of the 2026 cricket season.

Tense finish as Milden lose at home to Nowton by one wicket

A low-scoring match on 19 July saw Milden (111) lose to Nowton (114-9) by one wicket. Batting first after winning the toss, Milden started brightly, scoring at five runs an over until, with the score 32, Alex Lomax (14) was bowled by Peter Smith who, as runs dried up, followed this with three more wickets to reduce score to 61 for 4. David Willis (34) steadied the innings until falling lbw to a shooter on the unreliable pitch. Nathan Jelliman (29) added useful runs, including a six, but, with the score 107 for 7, he was run out by a direct throw after being called for a risky single. Only four more were added before, with the total on the dreaded 'Nelson', Richard Robinson was dismissed lbw (the third lbw of the innings) to leave Milden all out 111.



Jonny Arnold bowling against Nowton

The low total seemed insufficient to defend, despite two early wickets to the spinning duo of Willis and Robinson, especially after Nowton skipper and opener Pete Shepperson, dropped on the boundary when only nine—a drop that was to prove decisive—raced to 50 in 29 balls. However, in the next over he was bowled for 51 by Jonny Arnold (9.4-0-27-4) who, in an inspired spell, took four for 11 in seven overs to leave the visitors 93 for 7 and still needing 19 to win. In a tense six overs, two more wickets fell at 96 and (to a run out) at 108, before the last Nowton batter struck the winning boundary.

Milden fall short by 5 runs at Elmswell after 9th wicket stand of 97

An early finish was in prospect on 26 July when Elmswell, batting first after winning the toss, were 82 for 5 after just 12.2 overs. But Vinayak Awalekar after being dropped on the boundary when only one, then proceeded to batter the bowling for seven sixes in an innings of 61 in 61 balls before, at 182 in the 30th over, he was bowled by Joe Winter,



Joe Winter batting against Elmswell

Milden's most successful bowler with 4 for 63 from his 9 overs. The home side were then bowled out for 198 in 32.5 overs (Harry Green 3-44).

Replying, Milden reached 36 before losing two wickets, the runs scored mostly against Shorten as miserly Waseem conceded just three runs in an opening spell of seven overs at the other end. Three runs later, a triple-wicket maiden by veteran Martin Moss (10-3-40-4) saw Milden collapse to 39 for 5. At 70 for 8 in the 18th over, when Arnold joined Winter—then yet to score—an early finish still seemed likely, but a partnership of 97 in 16 overs took the score to 167 when, with five overs remaining, Arnold was caught for 41. Winter (49 not out) and Daniel Leeks (9 not out) added 26 more runs but at 193 fell just short to leave Elmswell winners by 5 runs.



Your cricket correspondent was on holiday in August (in Iceland, witnessing the total solar eclipse on the 12th: see photo), so unable to report on the matches against Brockley (at home on the 9th) and Elveden (away on the 16th). Thanks to the internet though, he can report that Milden completed the double over Brockley, winning the return match at home by 152 runs (Milden 207 all out; Brockley 55 all out).

September fixtures:

6th Sept	Hadleigh v Milden
13th Sept	Milden Village XI v Monks Eleigh (11 am start)

David Lamming

Boxford & District Bowls Club

It is a very busy time at the club, with lots of bowls competitions being played, as well as friendly and fun matches.

On Sunday 9th August, the club held its annual BBQ and it was a great day. Our members, both playing and social, took part in a series of fun bowling competitions. There was a 'darts' competition, where players bowled three bowls onto a dartboard, with the

winner scoring the most points - the bullseye being worth the maximum. There was also a 'bowling with your left hand' competition (or your right if you usually bowl left-handed!), which proved surprisingly tricky, with most bowls ending up nowhere near the jack.



Another challenge involved bowling three jacks (the little bowls) towards a bowl (the large bowl), which was harder than it sounded. The jacks are so light that they often went either too far or not far enough.

We also had a 'spider', where the jack (the little bowl) was placed in the middle of the green. Everyone stood around the edge of the green with just one bowl and, on the word "go", rolled it towards the jack. The nearest bowl was the winner. Of course, with bowls coming from every direction, they all collided and the jack was knocked around the green too. Everyone then rushed onto the green to see whose bowl had ended up closest.



The winner of each competition received a prize, so it was worth having a go, whether you were a bowler or not. A huge thank you to the social committee, who organised the day, and to everyone who helped make it such a success.

Following on from last month's newsletter, we must congratulate Roz Mortlock, who won two different competitions at the North Essex County Federation Bowls Finals Day - the Champion of Champions Ladies' Two-Bowl Singles and the Ladies' Secretaries Competition. She now goes on to compete in the National Finals in Skegness at the end of August. We wish her the very best of luck - and

skilful bowling, of course!

Our club's own internal competitions are also under way, so it is a busy time on the green. Finals Day takes place in September and, to everyone still competing, we wish you the very best of luck. Photos of the winners will appear in our next newsletter after Finals Day.

We have welcomed several new members to the club this season and would love to see more. If you would like to find out what bowls is all about and have a go yourself, come along on Saturday mornings between 10:00am and 11:30am. We would be delighted to introduce you to the world of bowls. It can simply be a fun, social activity or become more competitive if you wish - but you have to try it to find out whether it's for you!

Roz Mortlock

Newton Green Golf Club

Newton Green Golf Club marked another successful annual Junior Club Championship over the weekend of 1st-2nd August, as a strong field of talented young golfers took to the course in warm, dry conditions.

Scott Carr was crowned this year's Junior Club Champion after producing an excellent round of golf, finishing with a superb gross 70 to secure the championship trophy. His performance was a fantastic achievement and a well-deserved victory in a competitive field.



Scott Carr – Junior Champion

Newton Green Golf Club congratulates Scott on his brilliant achievement and thanks all the junior players who took part and helped make the competition such a success. The club looks forward to welcoming competitors back again next year.

Newton Green Golf Club

Scouting

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

Charities

Boxford & Groton United Charities	Sarah Egglestone 07494 853750
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Alison Barlow 07765 401 952 crossways.jemali@gmail.com
Edwardstone Charities	Nick Raymond 01787 210461 ncraymond@hotmail.co.uk
Groton Educational Foundation	Kate Wilson 01787 211658 kate.wilson100@hotmail.co.uk
Groton Winthrop Mulberry Trust	James Wills 01787 210484
Little Waldingfield Charities	Mary Thorogood 01787 247658 littlewaldingfieldcharities@gmail.com
Newton Green Trust	Philip Taylor 07775 777 598 philiptaylor433@gmail.com
William Alston Charity Newton	Sue Presland 07881 383 998 sue_presland@hotmail.com

Halls & Facilities to Hire

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Boxford Spinney	Mark Miller 01787 211596 www.boxfordspinney.co.uk mark.miller@talktalk.net
Boxford Village Hall	www.boxfordvillagehall.co.uk booking@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk
Brent Eleigh Village Hall	Karen Marshall 07946 209103 karenmarshall6@gmail.com
Edwardstone Parish Hall	Daphne Clark 01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Alison Barlow 07765 401 952 crossways.jemali@gmail.com
Groton Village Hall	Joanna Roberts 07845 940 008 jgant87618@aol.com
Lions Den Function Room The White Hart	01787 211764
Little Waldingfield Parish Room	Sue Bowen 01787 249473 sd.bowen@btopenworld.com
Little Waldingfield Pavilion	Jennie Jordan 07522 352 558 52Jennie1@gmail.com
Marquee Booking	BoxfordMarqueeBooking@gmail.com
Milden Pavilion	Justine 07745 170 348 info@mildenvillage.co.uk
Newton Village Hall	The Secretary 07955 199 000

Volunteers Make Our Villages Thrive

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

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

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

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

Additions or corrections

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

Clubs & Groups

Boxford Bellringers	Richard Gates 01787 210432
Boxford Bible Study Group	Peter & Margaret 01787 211077
Boxford Bike Club	Kevin Bridge 07876 798 617 www.boxfordbikeclub.co.uk
Boxford Bowls Club	Ian Clark 01787 211133
Boxford Carpet Bowls	David Warren 01787 211067
Boxford Drama Group	Janice Macmillan 07779 303 690 janice.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk
Boxford Friendship Group	Alison Warren 01787 211067
Boxford Gardens Open	Audrey Zuck 07852 102 455 audrey@a2zriskservices.com
Boxford Gardening Society	Elizabeth Wagener 01787 210223 elizabeth.wagener@btinternet.com
Boxford Karate Club	Steve Harris 07977 218 175 jkrusouthsuffolk@gmail.com www.jkr-uk.org.uk
Boxford Literary Group	David Jones 01787 211104 audav@hotmail.co.uk
Boxford Rovers Youth FC	Jason Long 07500 916941 longj68@gmail.com www.boxford-rovers-youth.com
Boxford Tennis Social	Sue Moore 07808 481 447
Boxford WI	Lyn Beer 07961 357 526
Falls Resilience Classes	Georgina 07547 927 238 georgina@takeactionlivelife.co.uk
Fleece Jazz	David Gasson 01787 210796
Groton History Society	Nigel Chapman nigeljchap@gmail.com
Highway 12 Western Dance	Chris 01787 371006
Little Waldingfield History Society	Diana Langford 01787 248298 dianalangford765@gmail.com
Little Waldingfield Over 60s & Friendship Club	Tricia Eddington 01787 247932
Local History Recorders	Edwardstone Daphne Clark 01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com Groton Joanna Roberts 01787 210619 jgant87618@aol.com
Madrigalia Choir	Sue Price 01787 210913
Milden Cricket Club	Richard Robinson 07807 229447 or David Lamming 07968 791 135
Milden Singers	Pearl 01449 741876
Natural Boxford	Louise Carpenter 01787 211862 louisecarpenter@proton.me

Clubs & Groups

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

Children Families & Learning

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

Community Groups

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

AUGUST 2026

28 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm
29 SAT	The Hay Wain Open-Air Play Hadleigh Old School IP7 5DL	6:30pm
29-30 SAT-MON	27th Annual Polstead Exhibition Martins Lane, Polstead CO6 5AG	10-5pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

1 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
2 WED	Boxford WI - Harbour Lights Trio Boxford Village Hall	2pm
6 SUN	Vintage Power Day Priory Farm, Little Waldingfield	From 9am
8 TUE	Fireside Club - AGM Cheese & Wine Newton Village Hall	2pm
8-12 TUE-SAT	Sudbury Dramatic Society Bedroom Farce The Quay Theatre, Sudbury	7:45pm
9 WED	People's Emergency Briefing Boxford Pavilion	7pm
12 SAT	SHCT Ride & Stride Suffolk	All day
12 SAT	Kersey Flower & Vegetable Show Kersey Village Hall	2:15-5pm
12-13 SAT-SUN	Harvest Fair & Craft Fair All Saints' Church, Little Cornard	11-4pm
16 WED	LWHS: The (un)Natural History of Rivers Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
16 WED	Charity Quiz Night The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
18 FRI	Macmillan Coffee Morning Polstead Village Hall	10-Noon
18 FRI	Polstead Films - Midwinter Break Polstead Village Hall	7pm
19 SAT	Closet Chaos Clothes Sale The Ansell Centre, Hadleigh IP7 5DL	10-2pm
19 SAT	Winston's Wheels Fair & Fun Dog Show Newton Village Hall	10-3pm
19 SAT	All Dolled Up Fashion Show United Reform Church, Hadleigh IP7 5DL	2pm - 3:30pm
22 TUE	Fireside Club - 'Who Am I?' Newton Village Hall	2pm
24 THU	GHS: John Winthrop Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
25 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

26 SAT	Quiz Night Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
28 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
29 TUE	Polstead Gardening Club- Earnest Doe Polstead Village Hall	7:30pm

OCTOBER 2026

6 TUE	Fireside Club - Sausage Rolls Newton Village Hall	2pm
6 TUE	Boxford Gardening Society Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
7 WED	Boxford WI - Speaker Russell Webb Boxford Village Hall	2pm
9 FRI	Boxford Society Autumn Meeting Boxford Village Hall	7:30pm
10 SAT	Piano Trio Concert St Mary's, Boxford	4pm
14 WED	Charity Quiz Night The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
17 SAT	The Phantom of Friar Street Hadleigh Old School IP7 5DL	5-8pm
20 TUE	Fireside Club - Hallowe'en Crafts Newton Village Hall	2pm
21 WED	1960s Sudbury Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
23 FRI	GHS: African American Voices Groton Village Hall	7:30pm



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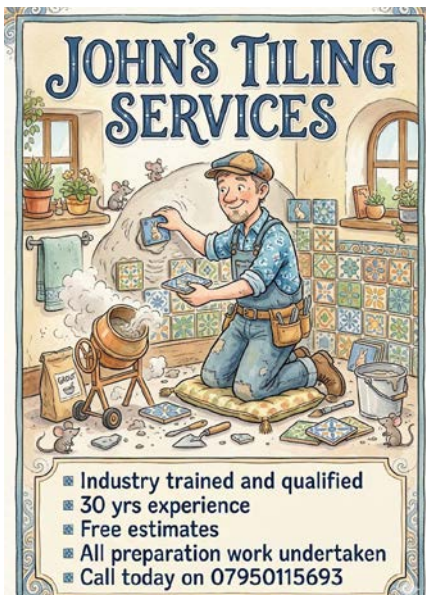
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