



October 2026

Box River News

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A New Chapter for Boxford Toddlers

A much-loved village group that has welcomed generations of local children and their families is beginning a new chapter, as Shani and Lee Dunnett take over the running of Boxford Toddlers.

The baby and toddler group has been part of village life for more than 50 years, welcoming generations of local families. Shani has her own long-standing connection to the group, having attended as a preschool child when she remembers it being held in the old wooden hut by the football pitch. Years later, she returned with her own children.

For the past 13 years, the group has been run by Lisa Wright, for many of those years alongside her late mother, Joan Blowers. Together they welcomed and supported countless local families, providing a place for parents and carers to meet while their little ones played and made friends.

Following Joan's death, Lisa continued to run the group with help from Bronwen Cottrell, Mark Wright and Joe Barrett. After 13 years of giving her time to the group, Lisa recently made the difficult decision to step down.

Shani is particularly keen to recognise just how much Lisa and Joan have meant to local families over the years.

"I don't think I'm alone when I say how grateful I am that this service was here when my own children were small. Both Lisa and Joan made a positive impact on mine and my children's lives. I know they touched many lives and will be sorely missed."

Rather than see such a long-standing village group come to an end, Shani and her husband Lee volunteered to take it on, with support from Sunflowers Childcare.

"We are very excited to give back to the community and to keep our village playgroup going. We look forward to helping make memories for young families and offering a place for our community to grow together."

Boxford Toddlers Stay & Play started again on Wednesday 23rd September at Boxford Village Hall and will run every Wednesday during term time from 9am to 11am. Open to children from newborn to four years, sessions will include toys, crafts, sensory play, singing and refreshments.

A Blooming Lovely Welcome

The flowers on the bridge have been particularly stunning this summer, providing a colourful welcome to everyone who lives in or visits our wonderful village.

We are very grateful to the sponsors of the village flowers - Suffolk Medical & Beauty Clinic, The Fleece Hotel, The White Hart and Box River Travel - whose support makes the displays possible.



A huge thank you must also go to Kevin Couling, who tirelessly takes it upon himself to keep the flowers watered. Additional volunteers are now coming forward to help with the watering in future, which is very much appreciated.

Boxford Parish Council

Box River News

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www.boxrivernews.com



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This month's cover image

The cover shows The Pumpkin Patch by local artist Caroline Stannard. Inspired by family visits to Spooky Pumpkins at Siam Hall, the artwork captures the warmth and nostalgia of autumn and the excitement of choosing pumpkins ready for Halloween. You can see more of Caroline's work on Instagram @carolinestannardart.



The copy deadline for the November issue is Thursday 15th October at midday.

Barry Sheffield

25th June 1941 – 24th August 2026

It is with great sadness that the family of Barry Sheffield announce his passing on 24th August 2026, aged 85. Barry died peacefully at his home in Swan Street, Boxford, surrounded by his family.



In 1968, Barry established Trident Studios in Soho with his brother. He was closely involved in building, co-owning and managing the studio, and also worked as a recording engineer on selected projects, including the Beatles' *Hey Jude*. Trident became renowned for recordings by artists including the Beatles, Elton John, David Bowie, James Taylor and Eric Clapton, and the brothers also managed Queen during the band's early years.

Barry later moved into television through Trilion Video, which grew into a major force in independent television, expanding significantly when Trilion plc acquired Limehouse Studios in London's Docklands in 1986. Trilion provided much of Channel 4's sports coverage, while Limehouse was associated with some of the era's most innovative programmes, including *Treasure Hunt*, *Network 7* and *Spitting Image*. Together, the businesses played a significant role in a notably inventive period in British television during the 1980s.

In the late 1980s, Barry went on to co-found Charter Broadcast, where he was part shareholder and chairman. Charter became one of the world's leading providers of de-rig broadcast facilities for major sporting events, including the Olympics and Wimbledon, and also supported coverage of the handover of Hong Kong.

In later life, Barry enjoyed travelling the world with his beloved wife, Anna, and spending time with his three daughters, Johanna, Victoria and Katherine, and his grandchildren. His creativity and pioneering spirit leave a lasting legacy across music, television and broadcasting, while his family and friends will remember his warmth, humour and devotion to those he

loved. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Barry's funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, Boxford, on **Tuesday 29th September at 2pm.**

Ola Howard

1928 – 2026

It is with great sadness that the family of Ola Howard announce her passing on 14th September 2026, aged 98. She passed away peacefully with her family by her side.



Having lived in the village for over 55 years, Ola was a familiar and much-loved figure within the community. Many residents will remember her involvement in village life through her work at the pre-school, lace-making, the art club where she was heavily involved, her delivery of village newsletters, her support of the church, and her visits to Mary's House in the village.

Ola's kindness, creativity and community spirit enriched the lives of many people over the years. She leaves behind cherished memories and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Ola's funeral will take place at Seven Hills Crematorium, Ipswich, on **Monday 12th October at 11am.**

For further information, please contact the family on 01787 313662.

Unfortunately, the William Alston Charity coffee morning due to take place at Newton Village Hall on Saturday 24th October has been cancelled.



Newton Open Gardens 2027

Sunday 23rd May 11am to 5pm

Planning for next year's open gardens will commence in the new year. We have gone for a slightly earlier date in anticipation of another hot spring and summer.

Once again, we would like to appeal for volunteers to:

- open their gardens on the day
- help with organising and setting up
- help on the day
- have an advertising board in their garden

Everyone who opened their gardens said they had a really lovely day and all the hard work had been worth it!

If you feel able to help, please contact Sue on 07881 383998 or at sue_presland@hotmail.com.



Boxford Fireworks & Lantern Parade

One of Boxford's loveliest traditions returns this October as local children create the wonderful lanterns that will lead the village's annual lantern parade on Fireworks Night.

Lantern-making takes place at The Spinney throughout half-term, from **Saturday 24th to Thursday 29th October, 10am-4pm**. The finished creations will then take to the streets on **Saturday 31st October**, with the Lantern Parade leaving the village at 6:30pm before the fireworks begin at 7:45pm on the playing fields.

Lantern-making sessions should be booked with Mark Miller on 01787 211596 or mark.miller@talktalk.net. A few extra volunteers would also be very welcome during the week.

See the back page for full details of Boxford Fireworks Night.



We started our autumn programme with our annual AGM on 8th September. Members are bribed with cheese and wine, so attendance was good! Everybody agreed that we had had a thoroughly good time last year and the programme for this year is going to be very interesting and varied.



Tue 6th Oct	Sausage roll cooking competition
Tue 20th Oct	Hallowe'en crafts
Tue 3rd Nov	Music from Fiddler's Elbow, guitar & violin
Tue 17th Nov	Soup & cake lunch 12 for 12:30pm
Tue 1st Dec	Talk - Lawrence of Arabia, who lived locally
Tue 15th Dec	Christmas meal at NGGC 12 for 12:30pm

All meetings are held in the village hall and start at 2pm unless otherwise stated, and anyone is welcome. Subs for members are £25 this term and must be paid in advance. This includes refreshments, activities and subsidised events.

Non-members are welcome to come along to any session. The fee will be between £5 and £10 depending on the activity. We now have a card reader, so payments can be made by card.

Please contact Moira on **01787 374652** or Sue on **07881 383 998** if you would like more details.

Sue Presland

The trustees take everybody's health and safety very seriously, so Moira has undertaken a thorough risk assessment for the village hall. Some items will be dealt with in due course; however, some policies and procedures will be amended straight away.

The number for bookings is **07955 199 000**. Please visit www.yourhall.co.uk/hall/newton-green where you will find a detailed description of the hall, along a diary of bookings.

For public events and clubs, there is also a description and contact details. We are sure that this will be a very useful website.

Sat 24th Oct	Newton Charities - unfortunately, this has had to be cancelled
Sat 21st Nov	Village Hall

All coffee mornings are in the village hall and start at 10am. Donations for raffles, cake stalls and good-quality bric-a-brac would be much appreciated. Raffles are usually called at about 11.15am. Please do come and support these charities and village organisations.

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Harvest Cider Festival - Oct 23rd - Nov 1st
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Savannah Smoke - Sat Oct 17th
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Papas Locas Poutine - Sat Oct 31st

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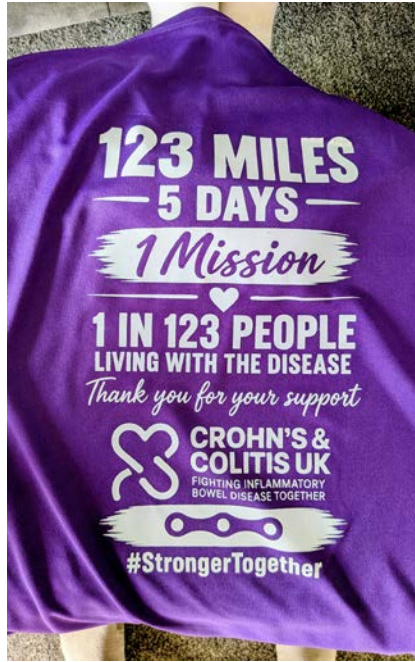
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Denny's 123 Mile Challenge

Boxford 11-year-old more than doubles his fundraising target for Addenbrookes

Boxford boy Denny Williams has completed a tremendous charity cycle ride to raise money for the IBD team at Addenbrookes Hospital.

Denny, aged 11, was diagnosed with Crohn's disease (a form of inflammatory bowel disease) in February and has since been receiving treatment and support from the IBD team at Addenbrookes to get him fit for school and his budding cycling career.

When asked by the IBD team if he could help with a fundraising challenge, Denny jumped at the opportunity.

With help from his mum, dad, and Sarah and Rebecca at The Fleece, Denny set himself the challenge of cycling 123 miles in five days, with the aim of raising £1,230. The significance

of the number 123 becomes clear when you learn that one in 123 people in the UK are living with IBD.

Armed with his racing bike, Dad James in tow carrying the drinks and sweets, and with the aid of some of his cycling friends, Denny pedalled off determined to succeed and help others along the way.

For five days during the last week of August, Denny cycled 25 miles a day - and yes, it rained on the Saturday! - looping through Groton and back to the centre of the village.

Denny and the entourage looped the village a full 32 times during the week and created quite an atmosphere, with lots of villagers cheering him on and generously donating to the tub manned by his mum Laura and the team at The Fleece.

The 123 miles took a little over nine hours in total and culminated in a final lap to much village cheer on Bank Holiday Sunday and a well-earned Coca-Cola.

After counting up the extremely heavy bucket and the generous donations online, Denny had amassed an overwhelming £2,600 which will fund educational



journals given to children and their families when they are diagnosed with IBD. He and his family are delighted that each of the 500 journals they were able to purchase will feature an avatar of him in his cycling kit, along with a little story about him. The journals will help families in the future just as they helped Denny when he was diagnosed.

Denny would like to thank everyone who donated to his cause and all the riders who spun some laps with him. Big thanks must also go to Boxford Bike Club, Colchester Rovers CC, Giant Bicycles, Sarah Hoadley and Denny's mum and dad.

Thank you all!

Denny, brother Dexter, James & Laura Williams



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The Butcher's Wife

Cooking up a storm

When I was younger, we lived on an air force base in Oklahoma. It became quite common to have tornado warnings, and we would often hear the tornado siren. We used to have tornado drills at school (in the same way we have a fire drill) and we would have to line up in the corridor and sit cross-legged facing the wall with our heads in our laps (quite easy to do as a small child, less so as a middle-aged woman). The teachers put dummies up and down the corridor with fake blood on them. I think they were trying to make it feel like a real emergency situation, but what it ended up doing was traumatising a bunch of primary school kids! During a tornado they tell you to go into a windowless room, so whenever there was a tornado warning, me, my brother and step-siblings would bundle into my mum's en-suite bathroom with our pillows and blankets. This room was tiny, and because I was the smallest out of the four children, I often ended up in the corner with the toilet. So not only was I scared for my life, I had to sleep behind a toilet!

After that, we moved to California and the tornado drills were replaced with earthquake drills. We had to sit under

our desks for the drills and, luckily, they weren't as dramatic as the tornado drills. I remember us having these drills about once a month. One night, I was woken up by my bed shaking ever so slightly. I also had a hanging plant in my bedroom which was swaying. After all the drills at school, you would think that my first thought would be 'earthquake', right? Wrong. My first thought was that there was a ghost in my bedroom moving my bed. I was obviously more tired than scared because I just went back to sleep, and when I woke up for school a few hours later, the hanging plant was still ever so slightly swaying. There had been quite a big earthquake in Los Angeles which we (about 100 miles away) had felt.

My Grandma, who lived in England, used to visit us once a year and I remember a conversation with her about earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes (we had learnt a lot about these at school too). I asked her what they had in England. She told me England had gales. I didn't understand and she said it's when the wind is strong. She explained that it was like a tornado but without the spiral. Now, my child brain pictured a sideways tornado, blowing houses over and

throwing cars in the air. Can you imagine my surprise when I moved here and found out that my Grandma compared a windy day to a tornado?!

Not weather-related, but an update on the DIY situation. It seems bedroom and office redecoration has been put on hold and the next idea is a built-in sideboard in the kitchen. The Butcher has spent hours on ChatGPT researching measurements and supplies needed, and I came home on Monday to a quarter of the cupboard built. There were tools and pieces of wood all over the kitchen. It's always rewarding when you get all the housework done on a Sunday and it gets covered in wood dust the next day. I'm looking forward to the new sideboard. It will be a great place for my plants to live, but I'm not getting too excited just yet. With the Butcher's track record, it could be months or even years before the rest of the unit is built. Watch this space!



Chicken Fajita Risotto

Sounds weird but it tastes delicious!

Ingredients

- 3 chicken breasts, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 red pepper, diced
- ½ tbsp chilli powder
- ½ tbsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- ½ tsp paprika
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper
- 200g risotto rice
- 2 pints chicken stock
- Cheddar cheese, measure with your heart

Method

1. Fry the onion in a little oil until soft. Add the chicken and red pepper and fry for 2-3 minutes.
2. Add all the spices and mix well.
3. Add the risotto rice and cook for 1-2 minutes.
4. Add the chicken stock and bring to the boil.
5. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Once the rice is cooked and has absorbed the stock, add the cheese and mix well.




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Reflections from the Ministry Team

October brings autumnal days and, in church, a flurry of harvest festivals. "We plough the fields and scatter" will be sung enthusiastically in our churches as we enjoy our annual blessing of harvest nostalgia once again.

And yet we know that in many ways the traditional picture of harvest does not fit the reality any more.

Our farmers harvested their arable crops weeks ago in the midst of fierce heat and drought and we are told that yields from the corn this year will be down because of the weather. Farmers have struggled to feed livestock as grass has died in the intense heat. In our gardens and allotments we have had difficulty keeping vegetables and flowers watered and alive, and with a hosepipe ban in place our lawns are looking parched and brown. The natural world has had a hard summer and we pray that the autumn rains will be sufficient to top up our hard-pressed water resources.

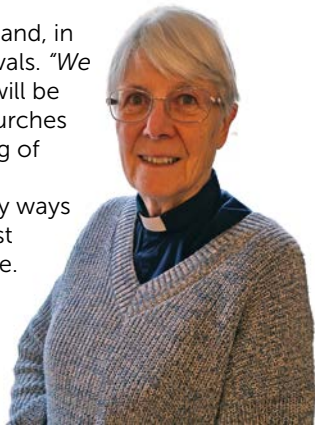
We find ourselves unsettled and anxious about the effects of climate change that seem to be coming on us so quickly at the moment. Our normal patterns of weather seem disrupted and we wonder what the future will bring. Could our food supply chains be threatened in this changing world? All the security of harvest seems shaken.

At such a time it is surely more important than ever to give thanks for what we do have and to appreciate the richness of our resources in this country. We perhaps need to value more deeply the role of our farmers and the importance of all those who work to safeguard the beauty and fertility of our natural world. Compared with so many places around the world, we are blessed with food on the shelves in our shops and clean water in our taps every day. We should not take such things for granted.

More than this, we must use this harvest thanksgiving time to remember those around the world who do not have enough to eat and who are constantly in fear of losing their land and livelihoods through violence or drought. Climate change is affecting all of our lives, but those who are suffering most from it are the poorest people in Africa and Asia, those who have contributed least to the excess CO₂ warming our planet. This injustice should really make us stop in our tracks and do all we can to alleviate their suffering. As we give thanks to God for all the good things that we have here in the UK, let us open our hearts and give all we can financially to serve our brothers and sisters in need.

Each of us has a responsibility to work to reduce our carbon footprint and do what we can to be faithful stewards of this fragile world that we live in. Our children and grandchildren deserve to inherit a world as beautiful and fruitful as the one that we inherited.

*With love in Christ,
Revd Diana*



October

Dates for your diary

Friday 2nd, 10:30am

Coffee Morning, St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Saturday 10th, 4pm

Piano Trio Concert, St Mary's, Boxford

Friday 16th, 7pm

Harvest Supper, St Mary's, Boxford

Wednesday 21st, 10am

Coffee Morning, All Saints', Newton

Saturday 24th, 3pm

Rock Concert in memory of Jane Godfray
St Mary's, Boxford



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Contact Information

Benefice Office (by appointment only):

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07719 790088

email: boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

Take a breath...



For most of us, life is non-stop. When did you last get some proper 'me' time?

If you're feeling the need to put the brakes on this month, whether you want to be pampered or pummelled, the Beauty team at Suffolk Medical Clinic have a massage that will soon get you feeling like your old self.

Swedish massage uses long flowing strokes to reach deep layers of muscles and connective tissue, easing away knots and tension; rebalancing your mind, body and soul. And this month, you get all that feelgood for just £35.

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Service Schedule for October 2026

Sunday 4th October <i>Trinity 18</i>	09:30	Harvest Festival	St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 7th October	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 11th October <i>Trinity 19</i> <i>Prison Week</i>	09:30	Harvest Festival	St Bartholomew's, Groton
	11:00	Sunday Eucharist with Choir	St Mary's, Boxford
	17:00	BCP Evensong with Choir	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 14th October	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 18th October <i>Trinity 20</i> <i>Luke</i>	09:30	Harvest Festival	St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone
	11:00	Harvest Festival	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 21st October	10:00	Communion & Coffee	Please contact the Benefice Office for further information
Sunday 25th October <i>Last Sunday after Trinity</i>	11:00	Sunday Eucharist	All Saints', Newton Green
	11:00	Family Eucharist	St Mary's, Boxford
Wednesday 28th October <i>Simon & Jude</i>	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
OCTOBER 2026
COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday, 2nd October at 10:30am
Coffee morning at
St Lawrence's, Lt Waldingfield

Wednesday, 21st October at 10:00am
Coffee morning at
All Saints', Newton



2027
BOXFORD
CALENDAR

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Invitation to join Father James Ridge on Prison Sunday

We warmly invite you to join us this **Prison Sunday, 11th October**, at St Mary's, Boxford, at 11am, as we welcome our very own Father James, Chaplain General of HMPPS. His ministry within the prison service brings wisdom, compassion and a deep commitment to supporting those living and working in challenging circumstances. Prison Sunday is a moment for our church community to hold prisoners, families, chaplains and staff in prayer, recognising the dignity of every person and the hope of restoration. Father James will guide us as we reflect, pray and stand alongside all who seek new beginnings. We would be delighted to have you with us as we share in this meaningful act of worship.



Harvest in the Benefice

Harvest in our rural parishes is a cherished time, woven with tradition, gratitude and a deep appreciation for the land that sustains us. As the season approaches, we warmly invite you to join us at our churches and harvest events across the Benefice.



St Mary's Church, Boxford, will once again be receiving offerings of thanksgiving for the food bank. If you would like to contribute, the following items would be especially welcome: tins of tuna, sardines, ham, stews, fruit and vegetables; packets of long-life or tinned desserts and cakes, and long-life festive treats for Christmas.

Charity Quiz at The Fleece

Thank you for a wonderful September Quiz at The Fleece. A huge thank you to everyone at The Fleece and behind the scenes, and to everyone who took part. It was a lively, good-humoured evening filled with teamwork, laughter and the usual impressively competitive spirit. We are deeply grateful for the generosity shown by all who came along. Together, you helped raise valuable funds for the organ at St Mary's, Boxford, contributing to the care of an instrument that has accompanied worship and community life for generations. Thank you for supporting our village church so wholeheartedly.

All Souls' Memorial Service

Join us at St Mary's Church, Boxford, on Sunday, 1st November as we hold our annual All Souls' Memorial Service, a quiet, reflective time to remember loved ones who have died. Grief touches each of us differently and we all carry our own memories, emotions and experiences of loss. This service offers space to honour those we love and have lost, to sit with our feelings and to find comfort and hope as we continue our own journey.

You are warmly invited to come along. Please contact Liz at the Benefice Office if you would like the name/s of your loved ones read out during this service.

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

WHAT'S ON IN THE BOX RIVER BENEFICE THIS CHRISTMAS

Thursday 5th (pm) & Friday 6th (am) November
Christmas Fair at St Mary the Virgin,
Edwardstone

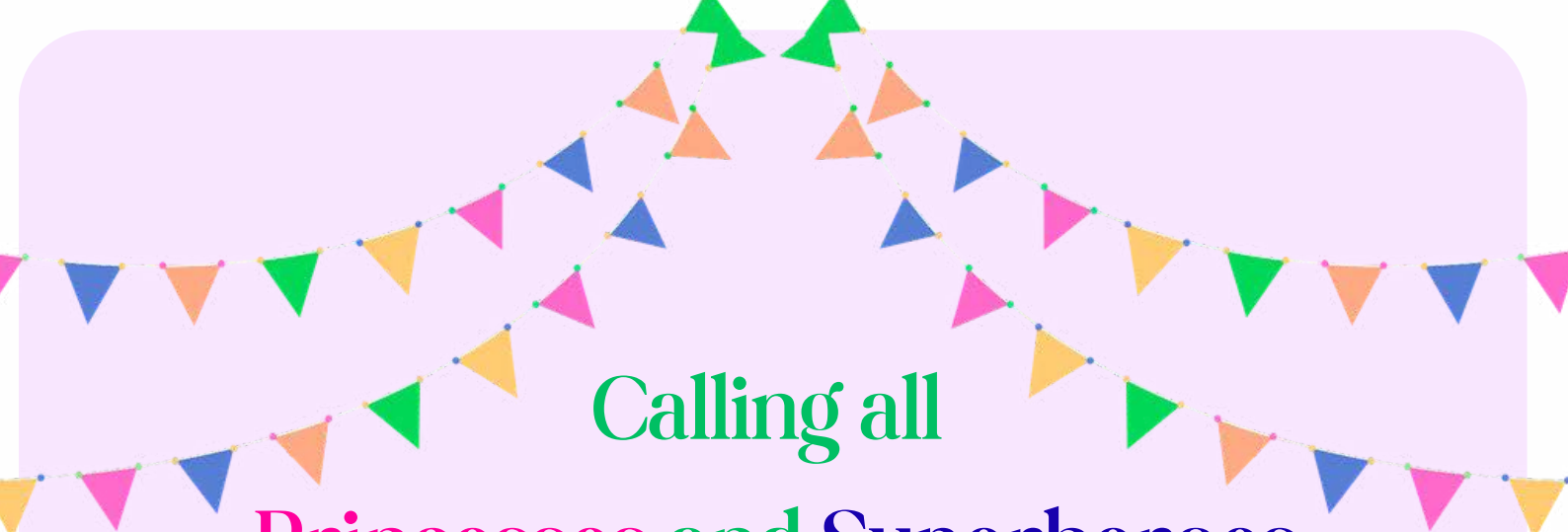
Saturday 21st November, 7.30 pm
Cheese & Wine Party at Groton Village Hall

Saturday, 5th December, 10 am - 3 pm
Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's, Boxford

Saturday, 12th December, 10 am - 12 noon
Newton Church Christmas Fair at
Newton Village Hall



THE GIFT OF
CHRISTMAS



Calling all Princesses and Superheroes



Boxford Village Hall
invites you to celebrate our
100th birthday

Friday
23rd October
4pm - 6pm
Boxford Village Hall

Come dressed as your
favourite Princess or
Superhero

Songs, games,
party food and a
VIP meet and greet
with your favourite
characters

Free event: advance booking required

Places are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis
Please email info@boxfordvillagehall.co.uk to secure your place

Suitable for children of all ages. Party food will be provided for children.
Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available to purchase for accompanying adults.
Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian throughout the event.

**BOXFORD
GARDENING SOCIETY**

**Rose growing made easy
From planting and feeding to pruning
and getting the best of them.**

Simon White, ex Peter Beales,
RHS Long Service Award to Horticulture.



Tuesday 6th October 7.30pm
at Boxford Village Hall



Fleece Jazz at
Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel presents

Martin Speake: Charlie Parker & More

Wednesday 14th October 2026 8pm - Tickets: £20



"One of the most original and interesting contemporary jazz saxophonists on the British scene. Speake has an offbeat strong melodic sense and a fine gentle tone." *TIME OUT*

Martin Speake – Alto sax
Alyson Cawley – Tenor sax
Mike Outram – Guitar
Matt Ridley – Bass
Matt Fishwick – Drums

Just East of Jazz

Wednesday 28th October 2026 8pm - Tickets: £20



Just East of Jazz have arrived at an extraordinary synthesis of sound, colour, light and imagery.

Jeremy Shoham – Sax
Phil Scragg – Bass
Nick Gilmore – Keys
Rick Finlay – Drums

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

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

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

***Friends of Fleece Jazz discount**

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

Rock Choir

Please join us for a concert in memory of
Jane Godfray (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



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

GROTON HISTORY SOCIETY

OCT
23



**19th Century African American speeches
in Suffolk and across Britain**

Dr Hannah-Rose Murray

Inter discipline researcher at the
University of Suffolk, researching the Black
Freedom struggle in US and UK

@ Groton Village Hall: 19:30 - 21:30
£5 entry, includes Glass of Wine
(Students free)

MILDEN PAVILION FUN QUIZ NIGHT!



HOSTED BY QUIZMASTERS

ANDREA & LAURE

FRIDAY 9TH

OCTOBER 2026

6PM LICENSED BAR OPENS

6.30PM FISH AND CHIPS

7.30PM QUIZ

**ENJOY A SUPPER OF EITHER
FISH & CHIPS / CHICKEN & CHIPS / VEGAN FISH & CHIPS
BEFORE THE QUIZ AND GAMES BEGIN.
RAFFLE TO SUPPORT OUR NEW VILLAGE PLAY EQUIPMENT**

£20 PER PERSON AND TEAMS OF UP TO 8.

FUNDRAISING IN AID OF MILDEN PAVILION.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND ORDER FOOD PLEASE VISIT

<https://mildenquiz26.eventbrite.co.uk>

MILDEN PAVILION, CHURCH ROAD, MILDEN, IP7 1AF
WWW.MILDENPAVILION.CO.UK EMAIL: INFO@MILDENPAVILION.CO.UK
CHARITY NO 304999



THE FLEECE HOTEL

**Charity
Quiz**

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH KERSEY

MISTY TALES AND MYTHS

TOLD BY CB JACKSON

WITH SEA SHANTIES PERFORMED BY THE SHE FARERS

Friday 30th October at 7.30pm

£12 with refreshments from 7pm & interval

**Jackson returns with stories that weave a tale
through the Suffolk mists: wild creatures,
wild sea scapes and a story of unearthly visitors**

**The She-Farers perform local shanties and lead us
as we sing the ancient tunes that kept sailors going
in the storms of the southern seas**

Tickets Linda: 07905731431 or QR:





THE CROWN
BILDESTON

*Whilst the roadworks take place,
we're giving 10% off all drinks*

TO SHARE 'SPECIAL' 45pp
Sourdough baguette & nibbles
*Chateaubriand, onion rings,
rosti chips, peppercorn sauce,
red wine jus, mixed greens*
Tiramisu

OCTOBER 'SET LUNCH'
Monday - Friday 12 - 2.30pm
3 courses £25

www.thebildestoncrown.com/



THE RED ROSE
LINDSEY

Family & dog friendly Suffolk country pub



Wednesday ~ Burger & Fries £12

Annual Fireworks, 7th November '26

Christmas Parties ~ 3 courses £38

Call us on 01449 741424 to book

01449 741424 The Tye, Lindsey, IP7 6PP
www.thelindseyrose.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Lantern-Making Week

Every year, local children create the wonderful lanterns for Boxford's Fireworks Night - and we need a few extra pairs of hands to help.

Half-term week
Saturday 24th - Thursday 29th October
10am - 4pm at The Spinney

No special skills needed -
even a few hours would be a huge help.

To volunteer,
contact Mark Miller
01787 211596
mark.miller@talktalk.net

Nayland with Wissington Community Council's

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

NOVEMBER 5TH

NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL

Limited parking in village - Please walk/share if you can
ONLY pre-booked blue badge parking at the Village Hall CO6 4JH

TICKETS IN ADVANCE via www.naylandfireworks.co.uk

★ Adults £8 - Children £3 - Family £18 ★

Tickets on gate (strictly subject to availability): Adults £12 - Children £6

This is a CASH FREE event - all payments on the night by card

★ HOT DOGS ★ SOFT DRINKS ★ MULLED WINE ★
BEER ★ FISH & CHIPS ★ ICE CREAM ★ CHILDREN'S TREATS

New Feature: KID'S RIDES
available from 6pm
Display starts at 7pm

GUY & BONFIRE after Fireworks

www.naylandcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Festive Wine Tasting at Milden Pavilion

Saturday 14th November 2026

Bar Open 7pm
Tasting at 7.30pm

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

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

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



POLSTEAD CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Saturday 28th November 2026
11am to 3pm

Polstead Village Hall

Family Games
Christmas Stalls
Santa's Family Fun Trail

Refreshments available.

Christmas outfit is a MUST !!

Ho Ho Ho!

Polstead Village Hall - Registered Charity no 304933
Created by josjamesphotos.co.uk

Christmas Fair

on behalf of the
Stand Up For Suffolk Fund

The Guildhall

Hadleigh IP7 5DH

19th- 20th November

10am-8pm (19th)
10am-6pm (20th)

Stalls, Raffle & Festive Cheer

Admission £5

*free entry for under 16s

Milden PCC and Wild Arts Present
An Enchanting Evening of Classical Music with

ORLANDO JOPLING & ELEANOR CORR

IN CONCERT



ST PETER'S CHURCH, MILDEN IP7 7AG
SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

CONCERT STARTS 6PM ENDS 8.45PM

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

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

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



LICENSED BAR

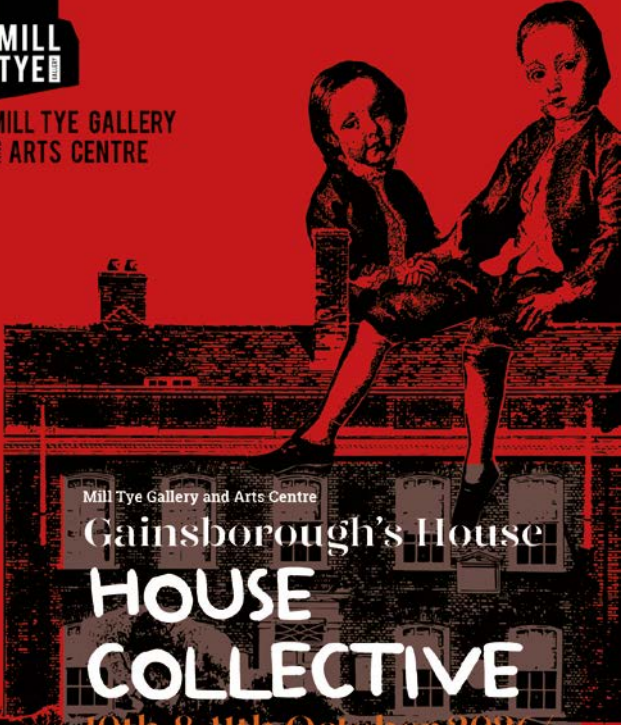
FUNDRAISING EVENT TO HELP REPAIR AND MAINTAIN MILDEN'S 12TH CENTURY CHURCH. Reg'd. Charity No. XNS6419

FREE PARKING IN THE PAVILION CAR PARK OPPOSITE

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




MILL TYE GALLERY
AND ARTS CENTRE



Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre
Gainsborough's House
HOUSE
COLLECTIVE
10th & 11th October 2026

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

Mill Tye Gallery and Arts Centre
3 Cornard Mills, Mill Tye, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0GW
Open on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October 10:30am to 4pm

Fireworks Lantern Making

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



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

LAVENHAM PRESCHOOL & LAVENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRESENTS

LAVENHAM FIREWORKS

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2026

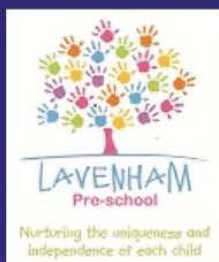
GATES OPEN 5.00PM – FIREWORKS 6.30PM

★ Hot food stalls ★ Bar ★ Face painting ★
★ Live music ★ and more... ★

PLAYING FIELDS, BRIDGE STREET ROAD,
LAVENHAM, CO10 9SH

Save with advance tickets: Adults £5, Children £4 (3-16 years).
On-the gate: Adult £7, Child £6, children aged 2 and under free.

Advance tickets available online via the QR code below
or from Heeks, Lavenham Primary School or Lavenham Preschool



All funds raised go directly to support
Lavenham Community Primary School
and Lavenham Preschool.

AT BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Boxford Drama Group presents

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

BOXFORDS OWN PANTO
December 2nd to 5th 2026



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

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7.30 START
2 COURSE CHRISTMAS MEAL.
ALL TICKETS £20.00

Bar and raffle every night

Tickets at BOXFORD POST OFFICE from 12th October
or our website: boxforddramagroup.com
Dietary requirements: bdg.catering@tolmedia.uk



9am - 11am
EVERY WEDNESDAY
(Term Time Only)

NEWBORN - 4 YEARS

CASH ONLY

£3.50 (1 Adult & 3 Children)
£1.00 per additional attendee

In collaboration with:


Boxford Bowls Club



Snail Racing



Saturday 14 November, 7 pm

Boxford Village Hall Doors open 6:30 pm Racing at 7.00 pm £5 entrance Food for purchase BVH bar Tickets from: Boxford Post Office Race night at the door	OUR SPONSORS	A Leeder Butchers Box River Travel Boutique Boxford Store and Deli GJ Watts & Son Langden Games Motts Body Repairs The Fleece Hotel The Foxes Den White Hart Inn
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Polstead Films

POLSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Friday 23rd October, Doors open 7pm

The Devil Wears Prada 2

"Meryl Streep is sublime in a strong sequel"

"Funny, stylish, occasionally sobering, and unexpectedly thoughtful"

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



Polstead Gardening Club

Tuesday 20th October, 7:30pm – A talk about 'Asters & Michaelmas Daisies'. Mark Mason has 30 years experience in horticulture and is the Chief Plantsman for Sudbury in Bloom. He will be talking to us about Asters & Michaelmas Daisies and usually brings plants to sell when giving a talk.

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

Great Acton Book Sale

Saturday 24th October, 10am-2pm

All Saints Church, Acton, near Sudbury CO10 0BA

Thousands of books at bargain prices including popular fiction, classics, non-fiction, history, biography, gardening, hobbies, children's books, collectibles & retro.

Free entry. Cash, card & contactless payments accepted.
All profits to the church.

Afternoon tea and glass of fizz
with vintage swing / jazz harmony trio

'The Three Chordettes'

Sunday 11th October - St Mary's, Kersey



2.30pm: doors open
3.00pm: performance starts

Tickets: £25.00 or £20.00 for Friends of St Mary's members

For more information and to book your tickets (advance purchase only) please email fosmkersey@gmail.com or call 07721 625932



All proceeds go towards the restoration, protection and development of St Mary's Church building, Kersey



Whatfield Craft Fair

The ever popular Whatfield Craft Fair returns in October, offering a wide range of hand crafted goods, delicious homemade food and refreshments and a bumper raffle.

This year the event is being held in memory of Mary Squirrell who sadly passed away in March, aged 89. Mary and her family have run the fair for many years and raised over £10,000 for Success After Stroke. The charity supports those who have suffered a life changing crisis, including Mary some years ago.

The craft fair will be held 10-4pm on **Sunday 11th October** at Whatfield Village Hall, Rectory Road, IP7 6QU, all proceeds will go to the SAS.



Upbeat Heart Support

Every Tuesday, 9am-11:30am

Long Melford Old School Community Centre, CO10 9DX

Rehabilitation exercise classes for people with heart problems and related illnesses. £5 per session. Pop in and see us or contact secretary@upbeatheartsupport.org.uk.
www.upbeatheartsupport.org.uk

Kersey Autumn Supper

Kersey Village Hall. **Saturday 17th October 2026 - 7pm to 9:30pm.**

Come along and enjoy delicious, plentiful homemade food and liquid refreshment at our annual fundraising event. Wine, beer and soft drinks, tasty salads, salmon, cold meats, homemade quiche, homemade desserts etc. will be served for your enjoyment, with a fun quiz and raffle. Tickets £15.00 per person. Please contact Natalie Blyth for further information and ticket sales - nablyth1@gmail.com, or 07487 816966. Look forward to seeing you there.

Edwardstone Christmas Fair

5th & 6th November Edwardstone Christmas Fair returns to St Mary the Virgin Church with a great selection of local stalls, plus the popular turkey raffle and tombola.

Entry is free, with wine and nibbles on Thursday from 6-9pm and tea, coffee and mince pies on Friday from 9am-1pm.

For updates follow @edwardstoneparishevents on Instagram. If you have any queries, please feel free to email Diana at dianahawke@btinternet.com.

Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pubs

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

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

Young Voices, Shared Landscapes

Young people, creativity and the Suffolk landscape come together this October as HOUSE COLLECTIVE presents Young Voices, *Shared Landscapes*, a special weekend of exhibition, food, conversation and making at Mill Tye Gallery & Arts Centre.



Developed by Gainsborough's House in partnership this year with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Mill Tye Gallery, HOUSE COLLECTIVE is a creative programme for young people aged 16–25. Over the past year, participants have worked with artists, makers, craftspeople and environmental practitioners, exploring how heritage, nature and creativity can help us understand and care for the places we live.

The weekend offers an opportunity to discover the work created through the programme, including photography, watercolours, ceramics and creative documentation, while meeting members of the collective and hearing about the ideas and experiences behind the project.



On **Saturday 10th October, 4–6pm**, HOUSE COLLECTIVE members Flo, Paulina and Mae will host a Community Supper Club, called *Field & Table*, inspired by foraging, seasonal food and the relationship between what we eat

and the landscapes around us. Guests will receive a specially created recipe zine to take home. Places are limited and booking is required.

On **Sunday 11th October, 10:30am–4pm**, visitors can take part in a free drop-in screen-printing workshop, led by Rowan. Using traditional screen-printing techniques, participants can create their own copy of the HOUSE COLLECTIVE Manifesto to take home. No previous experience is needed and all materials are provided.

Exhibition: Throughout the weekend

Supper Club: Saturday 10th October, 4–6pm - booking required via: www.gainsborough.org/get-involved/house-collective

Screen-printing: Sunday 11th October, 10:30am–4pm. Admission free, everyone welcome

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

Halloween at Hollow Trees Farm

Halloween will soon be taking over Hollow Trees Farm!

The spookiest time of the year is approaching as noble knights and mischievous jesters take over Hollow Trees Farm and claim it as their very own medieval kingdom!

Join us for a week packed with Halloween surprises. Enjoy a ride on the bustling Barrel Train, brave the crazy Cresta Run Sledges, discover spooky scenes on the farm and much more... Don't forget to stop by our friendly farmyard animals!

Mark the dates in your diary - **Friday 23rd October to Sunday 1st November 2026** - and get ready for a half term filled with haunting fun for the whole family.

Pre-book your tickets online today and get ready to explore everything Hollow Trees has to offer as Halloween takes over the farm.



**HOLLOW
TREES
FARM**

Boxford WI

This September the members of Boxford WI welcomed ladies from neighbouring WIs to an Open Meeting in the Village Hall. The entertainment was provided by the Harbour Lights Trio, who sang and played many traditional songs from Suffolk and Norfolk, using several different squeeze boxes and a selection of stringed instruments. Refreshments were enjoyed by all and it was good to meet up after our summer break.



We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our meetings, which take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the village hall.

The charity quiz held at the Fleece Hotel each month, raised over £400 in August, and this time Boxford WI were the lucky recipients. The money raised is going to be split between a donation to help fund the defibrillator in Stone Street and a donation to the First Responders in the village, linking these worthy causes to one of the WI campaigns, Bystanders can be Lifesavers. I would like to thank all those who attended the quiz in August for their generous donations. It is greatly appreciated.



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

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

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

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

Christmas at The Bildeston Crown

Christmas is set to arrive in style at The Crown as the much-loved country pub with rooms unveils its plans for the festive season, including, for the first time, overnight stays over Christmas itself, alongside festive party menus, private dining rooms and New Year packages.

With its roaring fires, characterful interiors and 'estate-to-plate' menus, The Crown offers a relaxed setting for festive gatherings.

From 1st–23rd December, excluding Sundays, guests can enjoy The Crown's Christmas Party menus alongside the à la carte offering. The Classic menu is £42 for two courses or £49 for three, with dishes including crisp fried ham hock, slow-cooked beef cheek suet pudding and apple and quince crumble.

For those looking for something a little more special, the £75 per person menu includes treacle-cured salmon, followed by turkey Wellington with all the trimmings, and chocolate mousse with spiced clementines and marmalade ice cream.

The Crown is also offering a three-night stay and dine package from Christmas Eve to 27th December, with prices starting from £1,499 per room.

Pub of the Year

We're absolutely thrilled to be named Pub/Bar of the Year at the Norfolk & Suffolk Magazine Food & Drink Awards. This award is a real reflection of our brilliant team and all the hard work they put in every day, as well as the wonderful guests and loyal locals who continue to support us throughout the year.



We're pleased that The Crown's estate-to-plate offering has been recognised through this award and has highlighted us as one of the best places to dine in the area.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of The Crown's journey. We'll certainly be raising a glass to celebrate.

www.thebildestoncrown.com

Church Cycle Ride

A very big thank you to everyone who sponsored us on our 25th and final cycle ride on 12th September to raise money for All Saints Church Newton and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.



We decided to stay local this year and from here made our way to Sudbury via the two churches in Cornard. After following the old railway line we rode through the villages of Long Melford, Acton, Waldingfield, Milden, Monks Eleigh, Chelsworth, Lindsey and Kersey. We finished off by visiting the six churches in Hadleigh.

We really enjoyed the day and everyone in the various churches was so friendly and welcoming.

We managed to visit 30 churches cycling over 30 miles. We have raised £400. Thank you once again for your support!

Marianne, Richard & Laura

Priory Fest

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the residents of Little Waldingfield for their understanding, patience and support during our Vintage Power Day.



We would also like to thank everyone who came along to support the event. It was wonderful to see so many visitors enjoying the day and helping us raise money for Cancer Research UK.

We're delighted to say that, as it

stands today, we have raised an amazing £8,300 this year.

This would not have been possible without the generosity and support of the local community, our visitors, volunteers and everyone who helped make the day such a success.

Thank you all once again for your kindness, understanding and fantastic support.

The Priory Fest team

October in Lavenham

There is plenty to look forward to this October, as We Love Concerts brings a month of live entertainment to Lavenham Village Hall.

The month gets underway with Ultimate ELO, celebrating the music of Electric Light Orchestra and its much-loved hits.

Things then take a spooky turn with Ms Amber Guity's Halloween Drag Bingo Party, bringing an evening of bingo, comedy, music and outrageous entertainment.

For theatre fans, *The Rocky Horror Show* promises a night of cult classics, outrageous characters and audience participation.

Rounding off the month are The Rollin' Stoned, paying tribute to the music of The Rolling Stones with classic Stones favourites and a high-energy performance.



"There's something for everyone – whether you love classic rock, theatre, Halloween fun or simply enjoy a great night out with friends. We're pleased to bring live entertainment right to the heart of the village," said a spokesperson for We Love Concerts.

Following the success of the Historic Lavenham August Theatre's 2026 season, We Love Concerts is continuing to bring live entertainment to Lavenham throughout the year.

www.weloveconcerts.com



Strong Colours

*Fine art, folk music & new works by
Joan 'Maudie' Warburton at Hadleigh Old School*

Hadleigh Old School welcomes you to a weekend of fine art and folk music at its Bridge Street venue from **6th to 8th November 2026**.

Strong Colours is the name of a pop-up weekend exhibition. Preview 7pm Friday 6th November, then 10am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

Ian Grutchfield, the venue director, explains: "In 2021 we restarted art shows at 5 Bridge Street and showcased the work of Cris Coe alongside old school days memorabilia. More recently I attended the opening of a show curated by Hadleigh's Hazel Bradshaw and Cris remarked that my taste is for strong colours. Yes, it is. Hence this new showcase of bold pictures - Modern British Art from colourists such as Colin Moss, Roland Suddaby and David Leverett. Subject matter includes landscapes, nudes, exotic dancers and abstraction, in a variety of media from oil to watercolour and pastel."

We will also present a dozen works

by Joan 'Maudie' Warburton - the leading Benton End and London artist for whom the gallery staged a retrospective earlier in the year. Since Maudie's last show, her work has entered historic collections such as the Colchester Art Society at The Minories, and has caused a stir at London auctioneer Bonhams. We offer several works hitherto unseen, presented on behalf of the artist's estate, such as a surrealist image of a lyrebird and a pairing of pheasants in the Stour Valley. Boldly coloured works include still lifes of lemons and quince and a series of studies in orange.

We open on Friday night with music by Hazel Bradshaw. The last time she struck up a chord was on Storm Babet's 'Flood Friday' in 2023. Her performance was abandoned when

another artist came in with trousers wet to the knees. "If you are in Bridge Street Car Park next to the river, then your car is about to be in the river." As flash flooding ensued, we rushed to knock on neighbours' doors, including that of a Porsche owner. Thankfully, the floodwaters never reached our Victorian hammerbeam venue, but the preview night of art and music was halted. Every cloud, or indeed rain cloud, has a silver lining: Babergh District Council abandoned its plans to build executive housing on the floodplain and free car parking remains to this day. Hazel is an English singer-songwriter who performs folk and acoustic music, as well as a leading contemporary visual artist who teaches groups and creates award-winning mixed-media pieces.

Please join us for an informal evening of art, music and friendship from 7pm onwards on Friday 6th November.

The art show is also open to the public on Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th November, 10am - 4pm, with free car parking adjacent to the Iron Bridge, IP7 6BY.

www.hadleigholdschool.co.uk



Clockwise, from top left:

Colin Moss, 'Small Nude'

Joan 'Maudie' Warburton, 'Lyrebird'

David Leverett, 'Summer Rush'





Life at the Shelley Centre

Summer activities bring families & ponies together

This summer the national Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA UK), which is the lead organisation that The Shelley Centre is affiliated to, ran a campaign called 'Summer of Inclusion'. The core message of the campaign was to highlight barriers that disabled individuals and their families face in finding accessible summer activities.

Although not directly related to this campaign, The Shelley Centre was able to offer some additional activities during the summer holidays as a one-off, generally for families who are caring for a relative with additional needs. These were so successful that it's something the centre may look to build on during future school holidays.

One of the organisations we teamed up with to offer a holiday activity was Suffolk Family Carers. This charity has been operating for more than 35 years to ensure that unpaid family carers of all ages in the county are visible, valued, supported and connected. As well as practical support, the charity is able to source therapeutic activities for some of the young carers it works with.

We were only too happy to help out on a handful of days to offer an extension of one of our popular non-riding activities known as Quiet Corner, which can also be booked during term time. The Quiet Corner activity is usually a chance to spend time with one of our horses or ponies, bonding and connecting with them, which can be particularly helpful for stress and anxiety. On the special Suffolk Family Carers activities we welcomed one family at a time and as well as meeting some of the horses and ponies, they

were able to learn a little about horse care and enjoy activities such as grooming.

One family who visited towards the end of the holidays were able to meet Rosie – a new equine arrival at the centre who is settling in well and has already become best friends with another of the larger horses, Sausage. We hope to bring news of more new arrivals next month.

Meanwhile, if you want to help put the fun into fundraising, do join us for a charity bingo night at Whatfield Village Hall on **14th November**. The £5 entry includes the first game free and refreshments. Find out more by emailing fundraisingshelleyrda@gmail.com or find us online.

www.shelleyrda.com
01473 824172

Pictured above: Meeting the ponies and grooming them was a therapeutic activity offered in the summer holidays.





Elaine Carpenter

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

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Ponds for wildlife

Restoring Newton Green's ponds to protect habitats & encourage biodiversity

During the hot summer of 2025, it became very apparent that the wildlife in our village was struggling. Early in the morning you could observe foxes, muntjac, weasels and even polecats looking for water. The more visible



ponds around the village were choked and overgrown. A key part of the Newton Neighbourhood Plan stated a desire to maintain our green spaces and encourage biodiversity. These circumstances triggered the question to Newton Green Trust: "Shouldn't we do something about this?"

I agreed to manage the project. The first job was to identify how many ponds of varying sizes could be restored. Next was to find a contractor who could do a good job, with a real understanding and love of nature. It took many phone calls, emails and walk-round interviews to eliminate several! Then Charlie Smith was mentioned. His experience, knowledge and passion for the work were evident during our first walk-round. Securing grants to help fund the work was another aspect of the project. After a few dead ends, Suffolk FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) proved amazingly helpful. More walk-rounds, emails and many photos later, grants were secured.

Work began in late October 2025 and was phased to ensure wildlife could shift to safe spaces nearby whilst silt removal took place. Some tree work was needed and planned accordingly. The Potash pond and Head pond (beside Saracen's) had wildlife return quickly and they held up well during this year's drought.

Phase two began on 1st September 2026 and the order of work was carefully planned. Charlie Smith and Rick Faulkner returned and the large digger arrived early in the morning





with Richard Brooks. Having a local team of efficient individuals meant that work proceeded at speed, with great consideration shown to villagers and golfers.

Newton now has a chain of ponds cleared and ready to receive much-needed rain. Some wildlife returned almost as the diggers backed out. Amazingly, despite the drought, five ponds retained some water.

We hope in the future that our wildlife will thrive and that villagers will enjoy and appreciate what we have. It is surprising what you can see when you stand quietly, watch and listen. How lucky are we to have this on our doorsteps?

FWAG will monitor the ponds over the next few years, as will Newton Green Trustees. Now we wait and watch while nature takes her course.

Huge thanks to Charlie, Rick and Richard for their cheery hard work and skill.

Louise Evers on behalf of Newton Green Trust.



Someone in their Corner

We need to help children in the care system and those leaving care.

Gemma Anyon entered the care system when she was just 10 years old. After leaving care and entering 'independent living' at 16, she struggled with her mental health for many years because she never received the support she needed to process the trauma she had experienced.

She is now campaigning for every child in care and every care leaver to have access to a trained mentor – someone they can trust, who believes in them and can provide consistent support as they move into adulthood.



The Problem

Children in care often enter the system already traumatised for many reasons, including abuse, neglect or bereavement. In many cases, they then go on to suffer placement instability and sibling separation. This can leave them extremely vulnerable, with no clear support system to help them see a positive and safe way forward in life.

Sadly, intervention from social workers only happens when a placement breaks down, when a young person's mental health has deteriorated, when they become homeless or when exploitation has already occurred.

The Statistics

One in three young care leavers are homeless within two years.

Children in care are three times more likely to go on to have no job or be in education.

Nearly half of children in care meet the criteria for a mental health disorder, and care leavers are at a much higher risk of self-harm and suicide than their peers.

The Solution

This petition calls on the government to implement early intervention and fund and embed mandatory, independent trauma-informed mentoring programmes for every child in care and every care leaver moving into independent living.

This petition moves the legal standard from reactive care – treating a crisis – to proactive care, preventing a crisis.

The Mission

To improve youth mental health and provide care-experienced children and young people with trusted networks to navigate adult life.

These children need someone in their corner who believes in them and doesn't disappear because they've moved placement, changed local authority or reached a particular birthday.

Our Progress:

So far we have just over 8,900 signatures and need 10,000 for the government to respond to the petition. We only have until **1st October**.

Please take a look and consider signing. Please ask family and friends too.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/762405>

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1. **SCAN THE QR CODE** WITH YOUR PHONE and tap on [petition.parliament.uk](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/762405)
2. **SIGN**
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4. **VERIFY THE EMAIL** - your signature will only count if it is verified.



Thank you for supporting children in care and care leavers



From Concern to Community Action

*Boxford's screening of the **National Emergency Briefing** sparks discussion, ideas and calls for another showing*

On Wednesday 9th September, 35 people gathered at Boxford Village Hall to watch the *People's Emergency Briefing*, a film based on the National Emergency Briefing, presented by leading experts on climate change, nature loss, health, food security, national security and the economy. The screening was followed by a lively community discussion which many attendees felt was as valuable as the film itself.

The conversation ranged from the challenges of retrofitting listed and heritage properties to the opportunities for flood mitigation and

the complexities of local and national planning policy. We also explored practical opportunities to make homes cheaper to heat, improve community resilience and support nature recovery locally.

What struck me most was the momentum in the room. There was a genuine willingness to share ideas, learn from one another and work together on practical solutions. We were fortunate to be joined by a fantastic mix of local residents, councillors and specialists, including Robert Lindsay, Green County Councillor for Suffolk, Laura Smith,

Green District Councillor, Sarah Williams, who sits on Boxford Parish Council, members of Natural Boxford and a domestic energy specialist who made the journey from Ipswich to support the discussion.

The feedback received since the event has been both thoughtful and encouraging. I asked everyone to email me their thoughts afterwards so I could reflect their views, rather than my own, back to you all.

"I came away with a more precious view of what we all currently have and are at risk of losing."

"Listening to the speakers in the film,

I thought these intelligent intellectual individuals should not only be speaking from their rostrums but would be best placed on the front bench of our government."

"Our response to the crisis has to encompass a reappraisal of the way we live so we only exploit what the planet is capable of supporting, instead of the 1.7 times rate we currently impose globally."

Perhaps the most common theme was a sense of urgency.

"We individually, as communities and central government need to rapidly catch up learning from countries that are far ahead of us in their forward planning."

Yet alongside that urgency was a strong sense of hope.

That hope is important. While the challenges outlined in the film are significant, the discussion afterwards focused less on despair and more on action. Natural Boxford shared, amongst other things, its work using thermal imaging cameras to help residents understand where heat is being lost from their homes. We also discussed how the Hadleigh Environmental Action Team has successfully moved from concern to practical community action and how approaches such as Climate Cafés could help create an ongoing space for discussion, support and collaboration locally.

The overwhelming message at the end of the evening was clear: people want another screening. Many attendees said they were already telling friends, family and colleagues about the film and wanted the opportunity to bring others along. The day after I first watched the film, I wrote to the headteacher of my son's school and urged him to show it to all staff as I felt schools must be preparing the next generation with the skills they will need in a more erratic and brutal climate.

Just that one email, I hope, planted another seed.

"I thought I was quite well informed on environmental issues, but I learned a great deal. I was encouraged that the film ended with a strong message of hope."

If you have not yet seen the film, I would strongly encourage you to attend a screening. We will be arranging at least one more in Boxford so watch this space. Heating Bildeston are also hosting a screening in October and I have heard of several more potential screenings. The NEB website has an interactive map. Better still, consider hosting one yourself within

"I learned a great deal. I was encouraged that the film ended with a strong message of hope."

your workplace or in a neighbouring community. Having now hosted one, I can honestly say that organising a screening is far easier than you might think. For me, the biggest challenge was the technology. The support from the National Emergency Briefing team was excellent and the process itself was straightforward.

The National Emergency Briefing campaign is calling for a UK-wide televised climate and nature briefing, similar in reach to the public briefings delivered during the COVID pandemic. An Early Day Motion supporting a televised briefing has currently been

signed by 104 MPs, while the campaign reports growing support from MPs, peers and members of the devolved legislatures for a Government-led briefing delivered by independent experts. You can add your voice by asking your MP to support the campaign through the National Emergency Briefing

website www.nebriefing.org.

Every community group, parish council, business, school and organisation can help start these conversations. Whatever your views on climate and nature, the film provides a thought-provoking basis for discussion about the future we want to create and the practical steps we can take together.

I shall leave you with one final thought that came through loud and clear in the film: we already have the solutions for a cleaner, cheaper and fairer future.

Becky Baines

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What is the People's Emergency Briefing?

The People's Emergency Briefing is a film based on the National Emergency Briefing held at Central Hall Westminster in November 2025. Presented by Chris Packham, it brings together ten independent experts who explain the evidence around climate change and nature loss and their implications for health, food security, national security and the economy.

The film was created to bring the information from the original briefing to a wider audience and is being shown at community and workplace screenings across the UK.

Another Boxford screening

Following the response to the first event, Becky Baines is exploring plans for another Boxford screening, giving people the opportunity to bring friends, family and neighbours along. She would also welcome support from anyone interested in helping to make it happen.





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Boxford's Wings for Victory

Boxford Society looks back at how the village rallied to raise funds for the RAF in 1943

Wings for Victory weeks were part of a special government campaign during World War II to raise money to help the Royal Air Force RAF buy aircraft. The public were encouraged to purchase war savings bonds to finance the building of new aircraft, especially Spitfires and Lancaster bombers. It was a way for British people to directly support the war effort financially and also a morale booster. Similar campaigns in other war years helped other parts of the military. These included 'Salute the Soldier Week' for the British Army and 'Warship Week' for the Royal Navy. On 16th March 1943 there were questions in Parliament challenging the Chancellor of the Exchequer about the efficacy of these schemes. It all sounds very familiar, parliamentary opposition for opposition's sake. The scheme went ahead regardless.

The Wings for Victory campaign was launched nationally in London with a major rally in Trafalgar Square on

13th March, drawing crowds of up to 100,000 people. The event featured military parades, the Salvation Army, military bands and on-site sales of war savings certificates alongside a display of RAF aircraft including an Avro Lancaster bomber.

Posters and radio broadcasts, produced in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, reinforced the theme of "more savings, more wings" and linked civilian contributions to iconic aircraft like the Spitfire. The primary objective was to raise at least £500 million nationally through the sale of war savings certificates and bonds, equivalent to sponsoring the production of around 10,000 aircraft for the RAF. National Savings certificates were tax-free investments typically purchased for 15 shillings and 6 pence each, maturing to £1 after five years and providing an effective yield of approximately 5% compounded annually. Defence Bonds had been launched in 1939 as part of the 'Lend

to Defend' campaign. These offered a 3% interest rate and were available in denominations starting from £5. Smaller amounts could be collected through savings stamps sold at post offices and banks for as little as 6d (equivalent in purchasing power to about £1.40 today). These savings also gave tax benefits.

Above: Spitfires were very popular after their success in the Battle of Britain in 1940 and their image contributed greatly to the fundraising effort. A Spitfire cost more than £5,000 to build and a community raising that sum could have a plane named by them. As they were fighter craft they were lost daily and sadly, often with their pilot, so replacements needed to be found quickly. About 12,000 were lost in World War II, though not all in the air.



As well as individuals purchasing war bonds, communities organised parades, fetes, exhibitions of military aircraft in public squares, musical performances, dances and open-

Above, from left: A Ministry of Information poster featuring the artwork of the period. It was used widely and made sure everyone knew how important their savings were to the war effort.

An Avro Lancaster bomber of No. 207 Squadron, Royal Air Force, attracts the attention of crowds while on display in Trafalgar Square during the national launch of the Wings for Victory campaign in March 1943.

Right: A Boxford shop advertising the programme, with perhaps two siblings and a friend. The child in the middle is dressed up for the fancy dress event.

Opposite page, clockwise from top: Boxford's programme for Wings for Victory Week, 22nd-29th May 1943, complete with handwritten notes from the Grimwood family.

Sir William Brunyate KCMG, JP, of The Old Grammar School House on School Hill 'kicks off' the Saturday football match. (He may also have been mocking the 'goose-stepping' Nazis!) He was chairman of the Cosford Rural District Savings Committee and his job was to oversee the raising of funds and selling of bonds.

The target was placed in the centre of the village so all could see the progress being made.



air services to boost enthusiasm and donations. There was friendly competition to see who could collect the most. Counties, towns and villages were each given a target amount of money to raise. Events across the country were spaced out to maintain public engagement and maximise media exposure without overwhelming resources. This staggered approach involved over 1,300 communities across Britain.

The Wings for Victory weeks were very successful. People across Britain raised an amazing amount of money. In total, they collected £615,946,000, equivalent to about £36.5 billion in today's money. This was a huge sum of money, showing how much people wanted to help the RAF get the planes they needed to win the war. This worked out at roughly £12 per head from each person taking part. It had high youth involvement, with about 30% of funds coming

from school-based efforts. Wings for Victory served to foster national unity and optimism amid hardship. Targets were assigned by the National Savings Committee based on local population sizes, economic factors and previous performance in savings drives, ensuring equitable contributions. Community engagement was achieved through door-to-door collections and street collections by volunteers. Patriotic appeals highlighted post-war repayment guarantees to encourage broad involvement from small savers. The initiative bolstered production at key manufacturing facilities, including the Supermarine Aviation Works in Southampton, where the increased funding helped accelerate Spitfire assembly lines critical to RAF fighter strength.

Local civic leaders were presented with plaques as a reward for their fundraising efforts. These plaques were a way to thank them for their hard

work and for helping their communities reach their goals. Does anyone know where Boxford's plaque is today?

The sponsored aircraft played key roles in major Allied operations, including providing air cover during the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6th June 1944. The RAF squadrons involved were equipped with campaign-funded





This is programme No. 589, bought by the Grimwood family for 3d, £1.77 at today's values. It provided details for the week and information about the three Air Force Command sections and the aeroplanes that served them. Coastal Command, Fighter Command and Bomber Command roles are described to help community understanding and engagement with the front line.

The Boxford programme for the first day, Saturday 22nd, gets off to a good start with a football match at Rectory Park, arranged by the local Home Guard platoon.

There was a treasure hunt for the children and two competitions for adults, both won by the Grimwoods. Children's sports

took place in the early evening and all this was free, which meant the whole community could be involved, rich and poor alike. The first paying event was the Popular Dance. Servicemen paid a

planes which helped secure aerial superiority over the invasion beaches. Some communities sponsored a specific Spitfire fighter (for around £5,000). These were deployed in combat roles supporting the Normandy campaign, underscoring the direct link between civilian fundraising and frontline success.

Boxford's own Wings for Victory Week

The national scheme was very well organised with our local representatives being briefed in Bury St Edmunds, the then administrative capital of West Suffolk (which included Boxford). Our team was required to give very regular feedback on plans and progress in fundraising, planning and execution.

Of course, Boxford played its part with a full programme of events between 22nd and 29th May. We exceeded our target of £3,500.

The programme of events for the Boxford week is pictured above. It highlights Boxford's target of £3,500. This is a considerable sum as its purchasing power today would be over £207,000. Some larger communities were actually able to raise sufficient funds above their target to purchase an entire aeroplane.





reduced entrance fee to the dance and no doubt some Americans based nearby attended as well. It was probably a lot of fun for the Land Army Girls, as long as Miss Whipp (yes!), their overseer, let them out!

On Sunday 23rd there was a parade of the local Home Guard, National Fire Service and Civil Defence Services. This programme probably belonged to Evie



Grimwood as she has written "Red Cross including Elsie and I" as well as commenting on her Uncle Tom and Dad winning the Sunday competitions. An open-air service with the military attending was held at Rectory Park.

The Whist Drive would have been popular then and on Tuesday 25th there was a Grand Concert with local talent, Land Army Girls and the USAF all playing their part. Mr Fred Wheeler masterminded the event. On Wednesday 26th there were evening events of bowls, an exhibition of Home Guard weapons and yet another Popular Dance, all of which brought more money into the fund.

On Thursday 27th a Ministry of Information film was shown to ensure communities were well aware of the war's progress. There was a second Whist Drive and on Saturday 29th a full afternoon provided something for

everyone: another football match, children's fancy dress, a cycle parade (no doubt the penny-farthings came out) and children bowling for rabbits. Winning rabbits would have been a welcome addition to the severe food rationing and an important part of the wartime diet in the countryside. The week concluded with another Celebration Dance. Three in a week must have lifted the spirits of war-weary Boxford.

Some of Boxford's advertising literature for their Wings for Victory Week gives us a good picture of who was actively involved in helping Boxford exceed their target. Mr Fred Wheeler, the Organising Secretary, was a very active fundraiser but was just one of many. We can be proud of the important contribution our predecessors made in defeating fascism.

Tina and Roger Loose



Above left, from top: *The Home Guard led the fancy-dressed children through Broad Street towards the school.*

The fancy dress was judged at the school.

The winners of the fancy dress step forward, and what convincing winners they were!

Gillian Harris and an older friend came out to celebrate in Broad Street in style.

Above: *The plaque awarded to civic leaders for organising and leading community Wings for Victory events. Did Sir William Brunyate and Mr Fred Wheeler receive one in recognition of their work on behalf of the village and, if so, where is it?*



Autumn Hazards

Keeping our furry friends safe as the seasons change

October is a lovely time of year in Suffolk. The crisper air sets in, the leaves turn golden, and summer heatwaves give way to woodland walks and cosy evenings indoors. But as the landscape changes, so do the hidden risks for our curious pets. Autumn introduces a few hazards that every dog or cat owner should keep an eye out for.

This time of year is peak mushroom season. Damp soil and rotting leaves mean wild fungi pop up along footpaths, in fields and in our gardens. While many wild mushrooms are harmless, others are toxic to dogs and cats. Even experts can struggle to tell safe and dangerous species apart, and dogs' palates are famously unrefined when it comes to free woodland snacks! Eating toxic fungi can cause severe vomiting, diarrhoea, weakness, kidney and liver damage, as well as heart or neurological changes. It is safest to remove mushrooms growing in your garden and keep a close eye on dogs who view the local woods as a self-service buffet.

Conkers and acorns are common sights on autumn walks, and plenty of dogs view them as free, naturally occurring tennis balls. Unfortunately, if swallowed whole, they can cause a gut blockage requiring emergency surgery. They also contain toxins called aesculin

and tannins which, if chewed and swallowed, can cause nasty tummy upsets, excessive drooling, lethargy and abdominal pain. Keep a close eye on your dog around horse chestnut trees and stick to playing fetch with more traditional pet-safe toys.

Back in the garden, autumn clear-ups often involve turning over compost heaps or raking up damp leaves. Decaying garden waste, mouldy food scraps and grass clippings can breed harmful mycotoxins. If a dog eats mouldy food or compost (because dog logic knows that the smellier it is, the more delicious it must be), these toxins can cause neurological problems, including muscle tremors, unsteadiness, vomiting and seizures. Make sure compost bins have secure lids and keep pets away from fermenting leaf piles.

As temperatures start to drop, many of us will be topping up screen wash or changing the antifreeze in our cars. Antifreeze often contains ethylene glycol, which is toxic to dogs and cats and has a sweet taste that pets (especially cats) find surprisingly tempting. Even a tiny amount, such as a cat licking a spill off the driveway or grooming it off their paws, can cause sudden and fatal kidney failure. Store antifreeze securely out of reach, clean up spills immediately and

consider safer propylene glycol-based alternatives.

Finally, October means Halloween and plenty of sweet treats around the house. While chocolate and raisins are well-known hazards, artificial sweeteners like xylitol (often listed as birch sugar or E967) are just as dangerous. Xylitol is found in sugar-free sweets, chewing gum, peanut butter and some baked goods. In dogs, it triggers a rapid drop in blood sugar, leading to weakness, staggering, collapse and severe liver damage. Keep trick-or-treat bags, sweet bowls and sugar-free goodies safely tucked away from dogs who treat doorbells as a signal that free treats have arrived.

Despite our best efforts, accidents still happen. If you suspect your pet has eaten a wild mushroom, licked a toxic substance or ingested an autumn hazard, please get in touch with your vet straight away. If you can, take a photo or bring a sample of what they ate and let us know roughly when it happened, as this helps us act quickly and give them the care they need.

We wish you and your four-legged companions a lovely autumn!

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



The Uprising of 1381

Groton History Society explores the revolt that shook medieval England – and its surprising links to Suffolk

*"When Adam delved and Eve span,
who was then the gentleman?"*
John Ball, 1381

With the new film *The Uprising*, based on the events of 1381, due in cinemas this October, I thought I would take a deep dive into the Peasants' Revolt to see what it was all about and what really happened.

I knew Kent was involved, but I was not aware that Essex and Suffolk were equally significant. Were local 'Box River' villages affected? They certainly were. Men from Boxford, Edwardstone, Kersey, Lindsey and Polstead would become caught up in the uprising, while a Kersey tax commissioner would eventually join the rebels himself. But what happened, what did the 'rebels' hope to achieve and what legacy did the revolt leave behind?

To find answers it is necessary to look at the turbulent times leading up to 1381. The 14th century had it all: great success and apocalyptic catastrophe. In 1346, Edward III won

the great victory over the French at Crécy, followed ten years later by arguably even greater gains at Poitiers by the Black Prince, Edward's heir. A great future English warrior king, to keep the English yoke on the royal French necks? New wealth flowed into the English coffers. And yet, at the same time, the apocalypse struck and changed everything.

The Black Death of 1348/49, followed by another outbreak in 1361/62, wiped out 30-50% of the population in England and Europe. Locally, we can get a sense of what this meant by looking at the population of Groton over this period. In the 1327 Lay Subsidy Roll (a tax assessment and return), Groton recorded 28 heads of household 'eligible' to pay the tax, based on an assessment of the value of moveable goods, eg livestock.

This can be extrapolated to suggest that the overall population of Groton would have been about 200 people. Fast forward to the 1377 Poll Tax,

which taxed every layperson over the age of 14, and the returns recorded only 65 taxpayers. If you extend this to include children under 14 years old, the estimated total population would be about 90-110. The dramatic 50% reduction over 50 years was not simply due to people moving away. The Black Death was undoubtedly a major factor.

Every village in the Box River area would have been affected in a similar way. It took approximately another 150 years for local populations to recover to the 1327 levels. This had massive social and economic consequences that were to fuel the future fires.

In 1376, England went into shock when the Black Prince, national hero and future warrior king, died. A year later, in 1377, the ageing Edward III was dead too. Left sitting on the throne was a 10-year-old boy, Richard II. Three powerful uncles stood beside him. Never a good position for a boy king!

The war with France had not been going well, resulting in the loss of



many English possessions. No sooner had Edward III died than France abandoned the peace and attacked the south coast of England. Unsuccessful counter-offensives and huge investment in a new fleet added further strain to the defence budget. England was very much on the back foot! The common people can take a lot when the country is winning, but when it is losing, it's a very different matter.

National taxation to fund 'national security and war' required the agreement of the common people, via their representatives in the House of Commons. This became a negotiation. The king needs money; the Commons tell him what they want in exchange.

The lay tax burden had been borne by the wealthier tiers of society, graded by wealth and status. But in 1377 the Commons agreed to a poll tax, applying evenly to every layperson over the age of 14, irrespective of wealth, excluding beggars. The tax was 4d (four pence = one groat) and appears to have been widely accepted.

Groton accounted for 65 people at 21s 8d, Edwardstone 66 people at 22s, Boxford 118 people at 39s 4d, Kersey 194 people at 64s 8d, Little Waldingfield 74 people at 24s 8d and Assington 116 people at 38s 8d. Even for the poorest in society, 4d was bearable - maybe the price of 12 eggs. It was deemed a great success by the government.

The money failed to counter the French threat. Only two years later, another poll tax was agreed by the Commons. This time they returned to a graded tariff, starting at 4d and rising significantly according to status.

An artisan or shopkeeper had to pay up to 2s, merchants up to 3s 4d and lesser landowners up to 6s 8d - and so it went steeper and steeper. This generated public anger. The hope had been that the wealthier in the local

hierarchies would help out those less able to pay. It didn't happen, and the returns were low.

Again, this latest war chest delivered abject failure, as the fleet it funded and Woodstock's campaign fared disastrously. Accusations of government incompetence and elite corruption circulated across the land, focusing on the governing establishment, including the Church. Public anger was growing.

In 1380, a third poll tax in three years was reluctantly agreed by the Commons. This time they returned to an even payment, irrespective of wealth and status. But it was set at 12d for every layperson over 16 years old! This caused outrage and widespread tax avoidance. The returns were far lower than needed.

In January 1381, the Royal Council, acting on behalf of the 14-year-old king, decided to investigate widespread tax evasion and apparent population decline. Commissioners were sent into the counties and villages to aggressively recover the arrears. Thomas Sampson of Kersey was a tax commissioner in 1379 and 1381.

They could have taken a step back, but instead they chose to double down, adding the final straw to an already heavy burden. Thomas included!

To understand why the commoners then rebelled, we need to look at the impact of the Black Death. The devastation of the working population created opportunities for the survivors. The supply of skill and brawn was insufficient to meet the demands of rich landlords, both secular and Church.

Wages increased as scarce labour sought better rewards. Vacant tenancies and land were absorbed by ambitious, entrepreneurial survivors. Thomas Sampson of Kersey was



a good example, becoming quite a wealthy yeoman through the acquisition of land and livestock.

But the established hierarchy was horrified as their profits and wealth declined. The response, in 1351, was the Statute of Labourers, which imposed a maximum wage set at pre-Black Death levels. Non-compliance was punishable by fines, though these were inconsistently imposed.

The use of fines increased in the 1370s as tax demands grew. The whole village of Lakenheath, Suffolk, was fined for non-compliance. This fuelled rising unrest.

The 14th century saw a significant shift in commoner aspiration and ambition. The explosion in the wool trade with Flanders created huge opportunities, with East Anglia at the forefront. Serfdom still severely restricted the freedom of many rural workers, but a groundswell of unrest was building among aspirants, yeoman farmers and artisans.

The 1377 poll tax returns in Suffolk and Essex showed that a majority of laypeople had escaped serfdom and were positioned to move upwards. The Statute of Labourers sought to rein them back in and maintain their place at the bottom. Don't get above your station, so to speak. It would not take much to trigger a reaction.

The 1380 poll tax itself was not the trigger. It was the aggressive pursuit of



Opposite: John Ball, on horseback, and Wat Tyler, left, meet outside London during the Peasants' Revolt. From Jean Froissart's *Chronicles*, c.1460-1480.

Above, from left: Richard II, who was just 10 years old when he became king in 1377.

Agricultural workers harvesting wheat in early 14th-century England. From the *Queen Mary Psalter*, c.1310.

Left: A medieval tax collector handling coins, depicted in a Nuremberg manuscript of 1426.

arrears by commissioners sent into the shires and villages, often ignoring pleas that the tax had already been paid.

The earliest incident of a reaction was in Bicester, Oxfordshire, when a commissioner called William 'Bill' Payable rode into the village. I kid you not, that was his name! He was duly kicked out and his horse abused. Fobbing, near Brentwood, is widely associated with the spark that lit the tinderbox.

Along with the leaders of 15 other villages, Thomas Baker stood up and said, "No more payment, we've already paid," to the commissioners, who were driven off. The Rubicon had been crossed, so, 'in for a penny, in for a pound', they rode around the area gathering support.

If they went home, the government would return and deliver retribution. That seemed certain. But if they stayed the course, gathered support and marched on London to reason with the king, perhaps there was another way. Similar uprisings spread across Essex, Suffolk and Kent.

Wat Tyler came out of obscurity and appeared to lead the Kentish uprising. Originally from Colchester, he could have been familiar with the spiritual and intellectual leader of the anti-establishment movement, John Ball. Ball was a theological originalist, if you will, who sought a total transformation of the social and political order.

Freedom from serfdom and the removal of secular and spiritual hierarchy - egalitarianism and liberty were his vision. He was an itinerant cleric, going from village to village and market to market, preaching these ideas. Simon Sudbury, Bishop of London and later Archbishop of Canterbury, excommunicated Ball twice as a consequence. It was personal between them. Sudbury was



hated across Essex, and this would lead to his demise.

To cut a long story short, London was invaded from Kent via Blackheath and London Bridge, and from Essex and Suffolk via Mile End and Aldgate. John Ball is traditionally said to have made his famous speech at Blackheath, although some historians dispute whether he could have reached it in time following his release from prison the previous day.

"It took eight blows to sever Simon's head."

At Mile End, King Richard met the rebels, with London ablaze and John of Gaunt's opulent Savoy Palace destroyed. Londoners joined in with their own grievances, especially against John of Gaunt and the elites.

Much to the delight and surprise of the rebels, Richard agreed to the 'end of serfdom', 'a free market for all', 'lower land rents' and a 'free pardon for all involved'. These concessions were written down in charters, and some rebels departed for home satisfied.

Others believed that Richard had also agreed to have his 'traitorous government officials' executed. This was disputed, but drove a crowd to force their way into the Tower of London, drag out Simon Sudbury and other declared traitors and behead them. It took eight blows to sever Simon's head, which now rests in St Gregory's Church, Sudbury.

One of the rebels' main actions, both in the shires and London, was burning documentation used to enforce contracts and regulations that suppressed the aspirants. Leading



figures in government were targeted and either killed or had their property destroyed. It was not originally about robbery and redistribution. But the masses had been whipped up, and local grievances were inevitably settled with violence and theft.

In Suffolk, some people in the Box River area took to robbery and destruction, inspired by John Wrawe of Sudbury, a chaplain and leader of the Suffolk uprising influenced by John Ball. Robert Noke of Boxford, John Freeman, Thomas Munchesy and Thomas Debdale of Edwardstone, John Le Taverner of Kersey, William Wrawe of Lindsey and Robert Loyle of Polstead were all accused of such crimes but were subsequently included in the Great Pardon of November 1381.

Thomas Sampson of Kersey, having had enough as a tax commissioner when confronted by local anger, and perhaps seeing an opportunity for further advancement, became a co-leader of the attack on Ipswich. He was later convicted and sentenced to death by beheading. At the last minute, he was surprisingly pardoned by Joan of Kent, mother of King Richard. She owned the Manor of Kersey through her Kent titles. He was a very lucky man!

Back in London, chaos ruled the streets. Flemish merchants and other foreigners were massacred. The rebels wanted more. Richard agreed to



Clockwise, from top left: *The murder of Simon Sudbury, Archbishop of Canterbury, during the uprising in 1381. From Jean Froissart's Chronicles, c.1475.*

The skull of Simon Sudbury, preserved at St Gregory's Church, Sudbury.

The death of Wat Tyler at Smithfield during his meeting with Richard II in June 1381. From Jean Froissart's Chronicles, c.1475.

Opposite: Henry IV, formerly Henry Bolingbroke. As a 14-year-old boy, he was caught up in the uprising and escaped from the Tower of London.

meet them again at Smithfield, where Wat Tyler requested further radical concessions, including the 'abolition of the senior clergy' and the 'abolition of the aristocracy', except for the king, to whom they still professed loyalty.

Wat Tyler and the Mayor of London, William Walworth, apparently got into a scuffle. No one really knows what happened, but Tyler was left bleeding and fell from his horse. He was taken to a nearby hospital. Richard then calmed the rebels who, believing he had conceded to their demands, followed his request to go to Clerkenwell.

There, an unexpected encirclement by a waiting force of loyal soldiers brought the revolt to an end. The rebels drifted home. Wat Tyler was subsequently killed. Leaders across London and the counties were rounded up, tried and generally beheaded or subjected to a traitor's death.

This was not simply a Peasants' Revolt. It was an uprising, an insurrection and, yes, maybe a revolution of the common people, seeking radical change to the social and political order of England.

The intellectual thrust came from the teachings of John Ball, with his 'Adam, Eve and gentleman' speeches. He was later captured and executed. The middle and upper working classes provided the momentum to burn legal evidence of the status quo and target the elites and their property.

The document burning was extensive, resulting in a paucity of written records from before 1381. Prior to the uprising, most revolts were elite-driven, eg barons at war with kings.

Threads can be traced centuries later through the aspirations of the Protestant Reformation, East Anglian Puritan migration to America and the American and French Revolutions. Often categorised as an early example of far-left-wing thought, it could also be argued that this was an early appearance of 'Essex Man' - that later symbol of free-market, nationalistic, anti-foreigner, monarchist and 'own



your own home' aspirations.

Thatcher's Community Charge was dubbed a 'poll tax', drawing a deliberate comparison with the events of 1381. There is so much more to this uprising of the common people, centred in the relatively affluent counties around London and East Anglia. Their demands were extraordinary. The boy king's acceptance of them, fuelled by a new self-importance in the face of the 'love from his people', would shape the rest of his reign.

An interesting irony to finish with. In the Tower of London, sheltering from the rebels, was another young boy, Henry Bolingbroke, cousin of Richard II and son of the hated John of Gaunt, who was away dealing with the Scots. He was found by a rebel and helped to escape, though no one knows how or why.

If he had been found by the wrong rebel, he might well have been executed. The history of the Crown and England could have been very different. He would later depose Richard and be crowned Henry IV.

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

Nigel Chapman
nigeljchap@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

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.

Rescheduled Event: 15th April 2027: 'Victoria and Abdul' with Shrabani Bassu! We are delighted to announce that Shrabani will now be with us next April. Put it in your diaries.

Recommended Reading, Listening & Viewing

1873: The First Great Depression and the Making of the Modern World by Liaquat Ahamed

This is a terrific read!



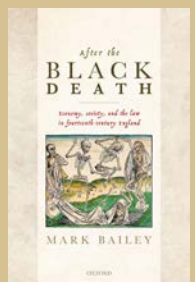
The Story of the Jewish People: Letters to Auntie Fori by Sir Martin Gilbert

This is a history of Judaism, written in letters by the historian Martin Gilbert to his acquaintance in India, who wants to learn more about her ancestry. Excellent.



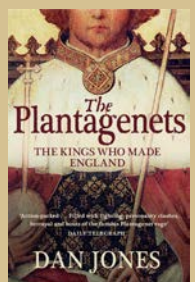
After the Black Death: Economy, Society, and the Law in 14th Century England by Professor Mark Bailey.

A fascinating look at how English society changed after the Black Death, by UEA Professor of Later Medieval History and Suffolk specialist Mark Bailey.



The Plantagenets: The Kings Who Made England by Dan Jones

A lively and very readable history of the Plantagenet dynasty, from Henry II to Richard II.



The Troubles podcast series from The Rest is History team.

This is brilliant, especially if you lived through the impact of the Northern Ireland Troubles.



The Uprising

Paul Greengrass's new film about the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, starring Andrew Garfield, Jamie Bell and Cosmo Jarvis. In UK cinemas from 9th October.



A Return to Primrose Wood

At 93, Vic Rice returns to the woodland he helped create nearly three decades ago



Vic Rice, known locally as 'The Man Who Planted Trees', was instrumental in purchasing, creating, planting and maintaining Primrose Wood as part of the Woodland Trust's Woodland 2000 'Woods on Your Doorstep' scheme. Back in 1998, Vic served on the committee that was formed to source

a suitable site for Boxford's Millennium Wood. Vic suggested the 22-acre site, negotiated the purchase and helped with organising the fundraising to buy the land. He collected and planted acorns and seedlings and raised saplings, helped by his wife Betty. He also got the local children at Boxford Primary School involved with the tree planting so that they could watch it grow during their lifetimes and know they had a part in creating this special place.

The wood was named in memory of the previous landowner Fred Leeder's late wife, Primrose. Its creation was very much a village effort. More than 200 people attended public meetings to discuss plans for the Millennium Wood and when the site became available the community raised more than £28,500 from over 245 individuals and families in just five weeks. The land itself was already special to generations of Boxford residents, who remembered playing there as children. While the higher ground was planted with trees, the flower-rich wet meadow running down towards the River Box was preserved, creating the mix of woodland, meadow and riverside habitat that we enjoy today.

The huge task of maintaining Primrose Wood was undertaken by Vic and a team of other volunteers, including Roger and Tina Loose, Ian and Jenny Lindsley and David Gasson. They did all the backbreaking work of cutting the paths and hedges, keeping the weeds down and managing



the area. Vic and Betty also planted primroses, snowdrops and wild bluebells amongst the trees, which are gradually naturalising in the woods..

Later, Vic created a tribute to the American airmen who had been based in this area during World War II. Martin Wood had brought eight acorns back from the garden of the White House and grew them into saplings, one of which Vic planted in Primrose Wood in honour of all the American servicemen who had given their lives in the war. Another special tree that Vic planted was a cutting from the very rare female black poplar at the Spinney.

It had been a long-held dream of Vic's to return to the woodland he helped to create and walk amongst the trees. Now 93 and with mobility issues, his family despaired of ever being able to make his dream a reality. However, on Sunday 6th September, he was given a wonderful gift by his good friend Charlie Smith, who managed to get him back to the wood he had done so much to make a reality. Charlie (and his truck) came to the rescue when the Woodland Trust granted special permission for vehicular access. He drove Vic and Betty down through the woods and allowed them to see how it had grown and matured.

Vic said, "I spent so many happy hours down here working in this wood and I never imagined I would ever get to see it again!" Twenty-eight years later, he and Betty were able to enjoy being there together, see how it had matured, soak up the peace and quiet and see how the wood has developed into a marvellous habitat for wildlife and people.



We are so grateful to Charlie and to Daniel at the Woodland Trust for making this possible for us all.

Elaine & Linda, Vic and Betty's daughters

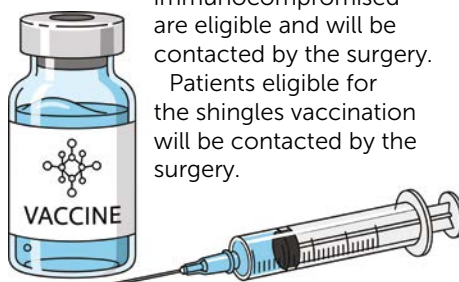
Hadleigh Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Vaccinations

Covid vaccinations will now be given outside surgery hours on Saturday 3rd and 17th October. Patients will be offered an appointment time via text, or by phone if they don't have a mobile.

Over-75s 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.



Repeat prescriptions

If your medication review is out of date, you will not be able to order your medication. If you have been prevented from ordering, you will need to request a review via Anima.

Vandalism

Sadly, the wall near the health centre was kicked down during a recent spate of vandalism. Using CCTV footage, the police are investigating the incident.

CQC assessment:

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has been checking practices which have previously been rated 'Good' to see if the rating has been maintained. Hadleigh has recently been scrutinised and we are delighted to say that Hadleigh Health Centre has retained its 'Good' rating. Congratulations to all involved, including some random patient support in the waiting area. If you wish to know more, visit <https://tinyurl.com/cqc-return>.



Patient car park

Please desist from using the patient car park if you are not visiting the health centre for an appointment or collecting medication from the practice pharmacy. The spaces should not be occupied for any other reason. If you park in Toppesfield Car Park and have an appointment at the health centre, don't forget to enter your car registration number in the machine in the waiting area to qualify for free parking. Failure to do so could incur a hefty fine.

Boxford Community Car Scheme

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

Anima

The practice IT gurus



are working tirelessly to make the programme more user-friendly. For example, you no longer have to log on to use Anima. Check out all the new possibilities before making a telephone call. This will then leave the telephone lines free for patients unable to use this online service.

Anima presentation

Two members of the health centre team and the Chair of the PPG recently gave a mini presentation about Anima to the Black Cat Club. The visit was designed to help patients navigate the system and gain a better understanding of it. If you have a group that you feel would benefit from this face-to-face approach, please contact me, Jan Devey. My details are 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 6th October** from 10am to 12 noon. Booking is essential as places are limited. Contact Tracey on info@communitiestogether-ea.org or 01449 707031.

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



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

Natural Boxford

The abundant life of the River Box

How fortunate we are to have the beautiful River Box flowing through the centre of the village. It rises a few miles away in Little Waldingfield and flows through Primrose Wood into the village, where it is joined on the corner of the Causeway by Groton Brook. The brook has itself been joined by the stream flowing down from Bower House Tye at the entrance to the Spinney. The Box then flows out of the village along the edge of the Stone Street Road central meadow wildlife haven, under the bypass and behind Stone Street to the Wash, before continuing through Polstead and Stoke-by-Nayland to Thorington Street, shortly after which it joins the Stour. The river is 14.5 miles long and receives water from a catchment area of roughly 6,614 hectares (about 66 km²).

Rivers are highly valuable wildlife corridors as well as being crucial habitat and an important source of water and food for many species. With such a gift right on our doorstep, it is unsurprising that much of our Natural

Boxford activity has the river as its focus. Here is a taste of our activity and learning this year.

Water Vole Survey

Between April and June we took part in the National Water Vole Survey. Water voles ('Ratty' from The Wind in the Willows – but most definitely not a rat!) are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are a priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. They are listed as endangered on both the Great Britain and England Red Lists for mammals.

Once common, they have been decimated by the presence of released or escaped American mink in our countryside – these are now being monitored and controlled by the Wildlife Trusts. We knew that water voles had been present in the Box over the years and set out to determine if they were still here.

We walked the river and marked out 500 metres in 100-metre sections, which would be our survey areas, and

learnt about the signs to look out for: vegetation nibbled at 45°, tennis ball-sized burrows at water level and on the bank top, and distinctive latrines.

We are thrilled to report that there are definitely water voles present in the Box, including around the Mill Pond area, right in the middle of the village just beyond the White Hart garden, where we discovered a large 'pantry'. They have also been seen regularly along the back of the Causeway and further down in the



water meadows leading to the Wash.

It is important that river banks are left as natural as possible for at least 3 metres, ideally 5 metres, on either side of the river to allow water voles to flourish undisturbed.

Riverfly surveying

We continue to carry out monthly Riverfly surveys under the auspices of the Environment Agency's Riverfly Trust, monitoring numbers of riverflies including mayflies, olives, caddis and Gammarus (freshwater shrimp).



This page, clockwise from top:

The River Box, viewed from the bridge at the Wash.

The water vole pantry

A water vole

Opposite page, from top:

Purple loosestrife

Emperor dragonfly



This involves collecting samples from the river bed and then poring over them with magnifying glasses to identify and count the eight species we are looking for. These are particularly pollution-sensitive and so serve to indicate the health of the river.

So far we have not fallen below our established trigger level, which would indicate a pollution event – long may that last. In the course of each survey we also come across other species such as diving beetles, backswimmers, water boatmen, sticklebacks, and dragonfly and demoiselle larvae and nymphs.

It might look as though not a lot is living in the river, but it is actually teeming with miniature life. During our most recent survey we were transfixed by tiny cased caddis beginning to make protective coats for themselves from gravel, sand and leaves. Many were only a couple of millimetres long – what looked like a layer of gravel in the bottom of our sample tray came alive with movement when viewed through the magnifying glass.

Himalayan Balsam

A dedicated team have continued to clear this invasive and environmentally detrimental plant from the River Box. Last year we cleared through Primrose Wood to halfway along the back of the Causeway and through the Spinney. This year we have checked over that area and extended the clearing all the way to the Wash.

The total number of plants picked this year is over 68,000, with only 6,552 of those appearing in last year's areas, which is encouraging. The Himalayan balsam team have put in an impressive 199 hours so far this year. Those found in previously cleared areas are likely to have germinated from seed stored in the ground rather than from last year's plants – although maybe there was the odd one we missed!

We will be doing a final sweep in October to catch late flowers and prevent whole new patches sprouting next year. It is hard work but also good fun, and gives us a chance to get to know the river and its life. A great effort, team!

Water Quality Testing

We continue to carry out monthly water quality testing at five sites along the Box, reporting to the Essex and Suffolk Rivers' Trust. We test for ammonia, phosphate and nitrate, the presence of particulate matter, water temperature and turbidity (clarity), whilst also recording wildlife sightings,



evidence of pollution, the flow, depth and width of the river, and vegetation present which helps to stabilise the banks.

There has been a wonderful display of biodiverse bankside vegetation this year in the absence of the Himalayan balsam, with hemp agrimony, purple loosestrife, cardamine, mallows, marsh marigold, figwort and rosebay willowherb bringing splashes of colour and providing food and cover for insects. How thrilling to spot dragonflies flying around our village! We were even treated to a kingfisher flyby during one testing session.

All of this points to the relative health of our River Box. Its official status is 'moderate' – largely due to seasonal agricultural chemical run-off and occasional sewage pollution, both of which are widespread national issues. Many of our local farmers are making great efforts to be more wildlife and ecologically friendly under considerable financial constraints at a very challenging time for smaller-scale farming. Hopefully there will be more support for our food growers to work in increasingly nature-friendly ways.

We are always coming across evidence of past village life in the river – broken pottery, glass, and oyster and mussel shells still emerging from the river bed from when they would have been cheap food served at the White Hart in the early 1800s!

We hope this inspires you to look at the river with fresh eyes. Do get in touch if you would like to join us.

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



River dependent moths

One of the Natural Boxford team is an expert on moths and this year has verified the presence of moths that rely on slow-flowing water such as the River Box for their reproductive cycle. There are no other British species that do this.

Beautiful china-mark

The larvae are aquatic. They feed on the pith inside a stem, eg bur-reed, and may later construct a case to feed outside the stem.



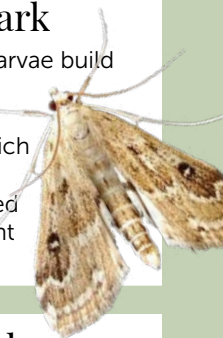
Brown china-mark

The larvae feed on water plants. They initially mine a leaf, then construct a case from leaf fragments and feed from it either on the surface or underwater. Pupation occurs in a cocoon just below the water surface.



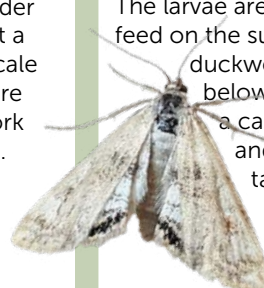
Ringed china-mark

The completely aquatic larvae build protective web 'tents' among water plants and wriggle to pass oxygen-rich water over their bodies. They pupate in submerged cocoons attached to plant stems.



Small china-mark

The larvae are semi-aquatic. They feed on the surface of floating duckweed, but when feeding below water they construct a case from leaf fragments and feed from it. Pupation takes place in a dense white cocoon affixed just below the water surface.



Water veneer

The larvae are entirely aquatic. There are two forms of female – one wingless, which lives underwater, and one winged. The wingless females stay underwater, mate and lay eggs on submerged pondweeds. The winged females fly away to spread the species and maintain genetic diversity.





The Blooming Garden

Crazy about Colchicums

I was going to call this article 'Naked Ladies' but then decided that it would attract the wrong sort of reader. But this is, in fact, the common name for these beauties because the flowers appear without any foliage. Colchicums are commonly mistaken for autumn crocuses. But there is a difference if you look at the flowers closely. Crocuses have three stamens and colchicums have six. Some people prefer crocuses because they are more delicate, but I love colchicums, they give the garden a much needed blast of colour in early autumn.

The first one to flower always gives me a shock by appearing in August. It is *Colchicum autumnale* which seems rather a misnomer as by the time that autumn arrives it has been and gone. The white form, *Colchicum autumnale* 'Album', blooms a bit later in my garden and seems to last a bit longer. *Colchicum autumnale* is the only

colchicum which is native to the UK and used to flourish in the West Country, but I believe it is rare now. Gerard said that it was a good remedy for gout. He also said that it came from the Island of Colchis. What was known as the ancient city of Colchis is in the Black Sea area of Georgia. If you remember your Greek mythology, you will recall that Colchis was the destination of Jason and the Argonauts in the quest for the Golden Fleece. Colchicums were said to have sprung up from the drops of the poisonous potion brewed up by Medea, the daughter of the king of Colchis. She intended it as a love potion but colchicums are very poisonous. It would seem that Gerard's gout remedy is pretty deadly. There have been several recorded

deaths from colchicum poisoning. Apparently, people have mistaken it for wild garlic. Incredibly stupid people they must have been too. In the nineteenth century, a nurse called Catherine Wilson used colchicum to





They look fabulous but the cost of doing this would be prohibitive for most of us. At East Ruston Vicarage a few years ago, I saw them displayed in their own special bed. Not many of us have a large area that can be dedicated just to colchicums.

The trouble with colchicums is the fact that in the spring they produce the most enormous leaves which can be a nuisance and

murder her patients after persuading them to leave her money. Perhaps she was an inspiration for Harold Shipman. She poisoned her husband too. She was hanged in 1862. So don't snack on colchicums.

Much bigger and showier are the lovely *Colchicum speciosum* hybrids. The most coveted one, *Colchicum speciosum* 'Album', was bred in the nineteenth century by Backhouse of York. The famous gardener and garden writer, E.A. Bowles said that when he first saw it, there were only three bulbs in existence and even years later they changed hands "at a price suitable only for millionaires." It is indeed a gorgeous bulb with huge goblets of glistening white.

Another of the Backhouse hybrids is a favourite of mine. It is *Colchicum speciosum* 'Atrorubens'. I love the way that it is purple all the way down the stem.

I have clumps of colchicums scattered all round the garden and I have decided that unless you can afford hundreds of bulbs this is not a great way to display them. Beth Chatto threaded them throughout the garden, particularly in the woodland garden.

they don't die back prettily. This means that the best way to display them is through a carpet of companion plants. For this, you can borrow ideas from

"I just don't think bare soil is a good background for these magnificent naked ladies."

Beth Chatto, although I won't be borrowing her idea of growing them through invasive periwinkle, or even worse with variegated ground elder, *Aegopodium podagraria*. The very idea gives me the horrors. But *Colchicum*



'Water Lily' does need something to support her heads as she tends to flop.

I love colchicums growing with ferns such as the apple green *Polypodium cambricum* 'Richard Kayse', this is an idea I stole from the great bulb man, Rod Leeds. The white spotted leaves of *Lamium maculatum* 'White Nancy' or spotty pulmonarias look wonderful with the gorgeous flowers of *Colchicum speciosum* 'Album'. *Alchemilla mollis* would look good with colchicums or virtually any evergreen foliage. I just don't think bare soil is a good background for these magnificent naked ladies.

Chloris



Opposite page, clockwise from top:

Colchicum speciosum 'Atrorubens'.

Colchicum autumnale

This page, clockwise from top left:

Colchicum speciosum 'Album'

Colchicum 'Water Lily' with *Aegopodium podagraria*

Colchicum 'Lilac Wonder'

Colchicums at East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden

Feedback From Robert Lindsay

Suffolk County Councillor for Cosford Division

Hurdle jumped for 20mph Boxford

Let's start with the good news first. Boxford Parish Council have agreed at their last meeting in



August to fund the long-proposed 20mph scheme for the village.

It is still not quite a done deal because Suffolk County Council have to design the scheme and consult on it and then get approval from the county councillor in charge of highways and a senior officer.

But Parish Council approval was a key hurdle and I'm convinced, if it does go ahead, slower speeds will mean a safer, quieter, more pleasant village for all its residents. Even those who live on one of the few roads not changed to 20mph will benefit from being able to walk or wheel more safely in their own village.

What now for local government?

The current Labour government, faced with the looming threat of a judicial review by Reform-led administrations in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, has blinked first.

Having all the way along briefed local authorities that its plans to abolish district and county councils and create giant 'unitary' councils were 'robust' to legal challenge, the government now admits - at the last possible moment - that they are not.

It has put its plans to create three unitary authorities in Suffolk in 2028 on hold while it works out how to get them past the legal challenge. This

means that unitary elections, which the government had previously told us were happening next May 2027, are now cancelled and Babergh District Council elections are now on again at that time.

Such is the lack of planning and forethought from this Labour government, one could even say blind panic, that anyone standing for election this May does not, at this stage know how long their term of office will be. Nor do current county councillors like yours truly know how much longer their terms will be. Nor do council employees know how long they have jobs for.

We also do not know if unitary authorities will still go ahead at all, nor in what form, nor when. The whole thing smacks of an utter disregard, if not downright contempt, that ministers and their civil servants in remote Westminster seem to have for local, democratically elected councils that they expect to deliver services for them on a shoestring budget.

County council profit warning

Suffolk County Council, in mid-September, issued what was in effect a profit warning. It is predicting a £7.8 million shortfall for the full year to come. On a total budget of about £850m this possibly might not sound a lot but, as Mr Micawber said to David Copperfield: *"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen and six, result happiness."*

Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

The shortfall will have to be met from reserves and that means that the reserves are forecast to fall below the 5% of total budget regarded as financially safe. Directors will be expected to work with cabinet members at all departments to take 'necessary measures' to cut expenditure wherever possible. The result? Misery.

Will Andy Burnham clamp down on mega donors?

You may have heard about the £72 million donation to Reform from two offshore crypto-billionaires, who have apparently recently (and conveniently) 'moved' back to the UK to satisfy donation regulations. Even before that news broke, Reform had received more

donations recently than any of the other parties. But the latest gift stands out. Reform received more in just one day than all the British political parties put together received in the course of a whole year.

So, with local council elections coming up next May, will Reform's head office be spending any of it on that? There is a tight cap on spending for local elections during the election period, but it only applies to the individual candidate's campaign for each ward.

There is absolutely nothing to stop a political party putting out as many leaflets as it can afford during the local election period - every day, in every ward if it wants - so long as they don't mention the local candidate and only talk about national issues.

Usually political parties do not have the money to do that in local elections. Reform now does. Even last April, its head office, sloshing with cash, funded a mini snowstorm of leaflets in the run-up to the county council election in Suffolk. That's what helped it win enough councillors to take control of the county council. So prepare for a veritable blizzard of glossy Reform propaganda in the weeks before next May's election.

The two billionaire Reform donors are heavily invested in cryptocurrency, which can be used for money laundering, and up until recently lived in Hong Kong and Thailand, presumably for tax purposes. They are buying not only influence on Reform policies but also the outcome of what are supposed to be democratic British elections.

Both men's eagerness to inject their money into British politics has been known for some time, yet Andy Burnham's government - desperate to protect its own nice little earner from unions - has been dithering about how hard and fast to crack down on political donations.

The proper answer is not a cap on donations but a ban on them, with political party funding being provided by the state, as in Germany. But that isn't on offer. I hope Burnham can find the courage to impose an immediate, very low cap on all donations, preferably backdated.

Robert Lindsay

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Tel: 01449 741959 / 07947 127693



Feedback From Bryn Hurren

Babergh District Councillor for Box Vale Ward

Firstly, the news that nobody expected and most did not want to hear, that is that after months of planning for big changes in local government to a unitary format, our national government has pulled the plug and postponed reforms for up to two years. What now, who knows?

We, like other councils across the county of Suffolk, have spent hundreds of hours debating, consulting and working hard to make this new scheme work, all for it to be shelved for, as yet, an indefinite time.

So hard for us to get our heads around this shock and backward step, but this councillor has plenty of other local challenges to work on for the six villages that I serve. I am sure that we will be visiting this subject again, as we have been doing for the past 40 years, and watching how the remaining councils fare under the new system.

Keeping the theme of new initiatives going forward, we are now nearly four months into our better recycling waste collection. It has mainly been a good success, with an increased pick-up rate of most things for recycling and an astounding amount of food waste being collected, constantly exceeding 100 tons per week. This is quite astounding to me, as I did not realise that so much food and associated oddments were being thrown away amongst the black bin rubbish.

We are processing most through an aerobic digester and some into compost for resale through a local distributor. We are constantly looking for improvements and new markets to bring some much-needed financial incentive into what we do. Where there is muck there is money – I hope that is still true.

To make that work, the most important component is the householders who fill the bins, whatever colour they are, and make sure the correct things are in them. Keep it up, please.

One of the most rewarding things that has happened during my long service as a local councillor has been the realisation of the part that nature and the environment play in our lives and the way we live. Planning policy has changed considerably to accept things like more hedges and trees being planted across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, to give corridors and connectivity to our furry and feathered

friends to also exist, prosper and indeed thrive in our modern built-up world. The introduction of legislation to install bat and swift boxes, along with hedgehog highways, has also helped nature to survive in a modern environment.

We must do more, as with climate change our lives will get even more challenging.

While our responsible councillors try to do whatever they can, the national government must give more power to local planners to enact the changes we need. Solar panels on all industrial buildings and new houses should be compulsory now. Why has this legislation not been brought forward for local councils to promote and insist upon?

It is now 15 years since yours truly and another councillor promoted the idea of putting solar panels on around 3,000 of our council house roofs, which provide free electricity for tenants and an income for us to run the council and keep council tax down. It seems that nothing has come from those on high to keep that ball rolling, and it just must. Complacency is not an option here – there is just too much at stake.

A worrying sign of the times is that my council has insisted on all elected councillors receiving safeguarding training. This is mainly so that we can spot people at risk in the communities that we serve, but also so that we are safe ourselves.

Having served for eight years on the Domestic Violence Forum across Babergh, I thought that I was well genned up on legislation to protect people, but things have moved on and it seems that nasty people have found even more ways to inflict pain and suffering on those around them. Modern slavery, deprivation of many kinds and cuckooing, to name but three, are all truly shocking.

I personally have never felt threatened and continue to allow all my personal details to be in the public domain, but I am very much in the minority now. I have had a couple of really bad incidents at one of my parish councils, but these were both down to a lack of experience, respect, training and common sense from the councillor concerned.

I would always rise above this petty posturing and continue to represent my electorate fully and without fear or favour into our future, whatever that might be.

Starting from 28th September and continuing until mid-November, we are going to be subjected to huge, wide, slow loads of cable drums

travelling along the A1071 from Felixstowe Docks up to Assington Newtown between approximately 9:30am and 11:00am. This will include the Boxford bypass towards the end of that time, so maybe just look out and try to avoid that excitement.

So good to see my footie team seeming to do a bit better in the Premier League this time around. My view on the Premier League is that it is high on gamesmanship and low on sportsmanship, and it is not a good advert for sport at all, but my boyhood team are in it and I will enjoy watching them and cheer them on to do well. C.O.Y.B.

So very busy with local matters at this moment, but catch me where you can and I will always do my best to help.

Enjoy our autumn, cooler now and losing light but we are well off really.

Love and Peace to all,

Bryn

bryn.hurren@babergh.gov.uk

Tel: 07771 508348

Brook Hall Road Sign Reinstated

Cllr Bryn Hurren has reinstated the Brook Hall Road street sign after the original wooden posts rotted away.

Although there is another sign on the opposite side of the road, Bryn pointed out that it is not easily visible to motorists approaching down Cox Hill from the Kersey direction.

Bryn offered to provide new posts and put the sign back in place, with Babergh District Council supplying a new metal name plate. The newly restored sign was put back in place by Bryn in September.



Photos: David Lamming

BOXFORD

Summary of Council Meeting 25th August 2026

These minutes have not been approved by the parish council.

Public Participation - Views / Questions from the public

A resident wished to thank whoever had pruned the trees in Fen Street.

It was commented that the centre of the village needed sweeping as it was looking a mess. Cllr Warren suggested that the PC contractor could have a tidy up around the village centre.

It was raised that the minutes of meetings should include details of comments raised by members of the public.

A resident referred to an anonymous letter in the BRN that responded to comments made at a previous PC meeting, the resident wished to know if the letter was written by a member of the PC.

A resident raised concern that there continued to be a lack of transparency regarding the car park. Cllr Parr commented that there was no information to report as yet but that it was hoped this would be an agenda item at the September meeting.

A resident commented on the planning application, specifically the proposed parking at The Fleece, and urged the PC not to object to the application. It was responded that the parish council were not objecting to the application and were working with the planning department at BDC on the matter.

County Council Report

CCLlr Lindsay sent a report to parish councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr MacMillan wished to offer thanks to CCLlr Lindsay for his response in clearing footpaths and filling potholes.

Councillors commented that the decision from Highways regarding the dead tree was not deemed acceptable. It was thought that CCLlr Lindsay should write to residents to inform them.

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.

Cllr MacMillan asked Bryn to look into whether BDC were able to collect sharps bins, as it was becoming increasingly difficult to dispose of the waste.

The full report can be found on the BPC website.

To resolve the 20mph speed limit proposal for progression

It was resolved to accept the quote of £30,000 and to progress the proposal to the next stage for all areas.

Cllr MacMillan requested that Calais Street be included in the scheme. It was commented that it was not possible to be included in this scheme but could be looked into in the future.

To resolve the purchase & installation of signage along A1071/ Stone Street

It was resolved to accept the quote of up to £3,165 from SCC to go ahead with the proposal to correct and relocate the signage along Stone Street and the A1071.

To resolve the purchase & installation of safety railings for pedestrian crossing on A1071

It was resolved to go ahead with making an application to Highways to progress the project at the approximate cost of £5,000.

To resolve the purchase of spring bulbs

It was resolved to purchase bulbs with a limit of £500.

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

29th September 2026 in the village hall, starting at 7:30pm.

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

Zoe Rumsey

07304 361524

clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk

NEWTON

Summary of Council Meeting 1st September 2026

26/154 Clerk's Report

Following a review of the clerk's report the councillors agreed that Cllrs Taylor and Bower remove the cage in the MUGA and get it recycled and Cllr Presland co-ordinates a meeting with allotment tenants and councillors in October.

26/155 Development Proposal

Mr Baldwin outlined his proposal for the land behind Blacksmith Close. The chairman thanked Mr Baldwin for giving the councillors the opportunity to view the application prior to submission to the LPA. If the application is received from the LPA, the councillors will review the application with the policies of the Newton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

26/156 Planning

The councillors reviewed further information submitted for 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 the previously submitted objections to the application still stood.

26/159 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Presland updated councillors that the working party was meeting this month to review the existing neighbourhood plan against the feedback from the survey and experiences of how the plan has worked since its adoption. Following a meeting with Chris Bowden, the planning consultant on the review, climate resilience and biodiversity will be looked at for inclusion in the document. A letter to the village, updating residents on progress, is planned for October.

26/163 Byelaws Process

The councillors reviewed the byelaws enforcement process for cars parking on the green and cars for sale being parked on the green, layby or Saracens Head car park by the pond, and resolved their re-adoption.

26/164 Contract of Employment and Recruitment Pack

The councillors reviewed the draft Contract of Employment and the modified recruitment pack and agreed their adoption. The clerk was asked to

book the village hall for interviews on the 27th and 28th October 2026.

26/165 Walk of the Parish

The councillors raised a loose dog bin in Links View, the lack of work on a number of the allotments, the removal of a tree by the tree warden in Green Lane and the merits and otherwise of CCTV in the village.

26/166 Questions to the Chair

Cllr Taylor gave the trust report which covered the near completion of the pond maintenance programme following all the hard work by Louise Evers, the plan for maintenance to the wildflower area in the playing field, and the ongoing discussion with the golf club on the re-alignment of the first hole.

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

Dave Crimmin CILCA, PIALC, PSICC
07550 030175
clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy: Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Hours: 12 hours per week

Salary Range: In accordance with LC2 SCP 24 – 28 (£18.96 to £20.96 per hour).

Pension: Local Government Pension Scheme

Application closing date: 14th October 2026

Interview: Week Commencing 26th October 2026

Post available from 4th January 2027

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons who already hold the Certificate of Local Council Administration (CILCA) or who are willing to undertake this qualification, supported by the parish council.

For further information, including a council profile, job description and person specification or to apply with a CV and a covering letter (up to 1,000 words) outlining your suitability for the position, please phone or email the clerk, Dave Crimmin, on 07550 030175 or clerk@newton-pc.gov.uk



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Milden Cricket Club

A mid-table finish to the season for Milden after two late wins

With eight wins (one thanks to a concession by Elveden) and eight losses, Milden finished the 2026 season in, appropriately, 5th position out of the nine teams in Division Five of the Hunts County Bats Suffolk Cricket League. It might have been 4th, dependent on the result of the Nowton v Elveden fixture on 13th September, but that match was cancelled following heavy overnight rain (the only game in the division to be lost to the weather in this remarkably sunny and hot summer), so based on their superior points average (12.87 compared with Milden's 12.50), Elveden retained their 4th spot.

After a disappointing run of four defeats earlier in the season and a loss at Elveden on 16th August, Milden finished strongly with a home win against Haverhill (then the division leaders) on 23rd August, followed by an away win at Hadleigh on 6th September to 'bookend' the season, having beaten their near neighbours at home by 174 runs in the opening fixture on 10th May. In between these two games, Milden were 'gifted' 20 points, winning the match on 30th August by concession when would-be visitors Elveden were unable to raise a side.

In a low-scoring (and mostly slow-scoring) match on 23rd August, Milden (110 for 8) beat Haverhill (109 all out) by two wickets. Pullen (27) and Gair (20), the only two Haverhill batters to score 20, put on 44 together after two early strikes by Jim Ferguson (2-27), while Harry Green, conceding just seven runs from six overs was miserly at the other end. Pullen's wicket, at 79, began a succession of wickets to the slow bowling of Richard Robinson (3-29), David Willis (2-13), and a cameo 2-7 by Nathan Williamson in 2.1 overs to end the innings. With six catches taken, and a direct throw by captain Alex Cunningham to run out his opposite number, Dave Hammond, this was a good all-round fielding performance by Milden. Replying, Milden were in some trouble at 26 for 3, but wicketkeeper and No. 3 Matt Barberini, batting for 79 minutes, anchored the innings until he was bowled by Gair for 28 (the top score in the match) at 82-6. Two more wickets fell at 87 before Joe Winter (10 not out) and Green (9 not out) secured Milden's 6th win of the season in just four more overs.



Milden's David Willis, bowled for 7 with the scores level against Hadleigh on 6th September.

In Milden's final match, on 6th September at Friars Road, the home side won the toss and elected to bat first. After losing four early wickets to the bowling of Jonny Arnold (4 for 40), Hadleigh's mostly young team recovered to post a total of 175, thanks mainly to Alex Curtis (63) and Craig Warner (26). Captain Alex Cunningham (54) led Milden's reply as they reached their target of 176 for the loss of six wickets in 28.1 overs. There were also useful contributions by Bruce Whitehead (18), Will Ward (19) Joe Nevitt (29 not out) and extras (38).



In the loss at Elveden on 16th August, the scores were: Milden 159 for 7; Elveden 163 for 2. Elveden (only ten players) won by 7 wickets.

The make-up of Division 5 for the 2027 season will not be known until after the league AGM in October (date yet to be announced) but, if there is no variation to the 'two up / two down' basis of promotion and relegation, the two teams to be promoted to Division 4 are Brettenham Park CC (as Division 5 winners) and Haverhill CC, and the two teams relegated from Division 4 to Division 5 will be Stowmarket CC and Copdock & Ipswichian CC.

David Lamming

Bates Wells & Braithwaite



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Cricket in Boxford

It has been an odd season, with several matches at the beginning of the season rained out. However, the weather improved and several matches were held by Sudbury 3rd XI and the East Saxons, who hosted a number of friendly games. The highlight for me was the exciting friendly between Edwardstone and Boxford CC and the East Saxons, which Edwardstone and Boxford narrowly won. Thank you Jack, for organising that splendid and spirited match. We have also seen under-15s and under-13s matches played, which has been encouraging.

None of these matches could be held without the work and support of many people behind the scenes. Grateful thanks to the chairman and committee members of the Playing Field Management Committee, who allow the ground to be used and accommodate the required match dates. Special thanks to David Burden, Colin Parr, Kevin Couling and Colin Bullock for the many hours spent preparing the ground – without you four, there would be no cricket. Thanks also to Chris and the other local people who regularly support the matches, and to the players and supporters who come along and help the ground crew clear up afterwards. The cricket square will undergo its annual renovation soon, ready for next year's season, which we look forward to.

Kevin D Couling

Boxford Cricket 12th September 2026

On their return to Boxford's Playing Field on Saturday 12 September, Sudbury's 3rd XI gained the narrowest of wins over Abberton's visiting third team in Division Eight A of the Two Counties League.

The game was the final Saturday league fixture of the season for both clubs, with Abberton requiring a win to gain promotion and Sudbury in the unusual position of entering the game with both promotion and relegation at least possible.

Invited to bat first on a damp wicket, Abberton made impressive progress with an opening stand of 42, in which Southernwood – opting for a positive approach – did the bulk of the scoring with a number of impressively struck boundaries, especially over extra cover. When the openers were removed by Sudbury's opening attack, Southernwood for 42, the momentum of the innings began to ebb.

With the wicket proving a difficult one on which to play fluently, Sudbury's change bowlers were hard to get away. Committed batting from Abberton's middle order was undone by the regular fall of wickets and then by a collapse from the tail, so that Abberton were bowled out for 112 in the 39th over. Sudbury's experienced seam bowlers Halliday and Lockwood finished with figures of 4-12 and 2-10 respectively.

Abberton's dismissal meant that Sudbury had enough points to avoid



relegation, but promotion was still a distant possibility. That possibility was extinguished quickly as wickets fell at the top of the Sudbury order. Abberton's youthful Seb Macdonald, in particular, bowled impressively. Sudbury's equally young Batch steadied the ship, but they still found themselves 4 down for 44, with Abberton's spin bowlers making the total seem as challenging as had seemed likely.

A stand of 44 between Lockwood and Thorogood brought the total much closer, with the range of Lockwood's shots allowing him to get some measure of the conditions. His dismissal for 44, trapped in front by Abberton captain Allflatt, precipitated a collapse that mirrored the Abberton innings, so that six runs were still required with the last Sudbury batter at the crease and Abberton's promotion to be determined.

Amid a flurry of ducks, Sudbury's Rose was advancing towards an invaluable double-figure score. A push through the off side from Sudbury's captain, Thomas, brought the scores level, before a top edge from an expansive drive from Rose sent the ball high over



Edwardstone Cricket Club - Over-35s v Under-35s, 24th July 1988. Back row, from left: Dave Baker, Roger Duncombe, Trevor Crook, John Simpson, Les Clarke, Brian Cresswell, Les Norman, Dave Barham, Bill Horne, John Campbell, Keith Baldock and Mick Hollingworth. Front row, from left: Simon Burlton, Doug Willey, Charlie Smith, Kevin Mills, Steve Hoggarth, Gerald Benton, Ray Gibbons, Dave Pooley, Rob Woolston, Charlie Partridge and Lynn Pooley.

the head of backward point, in close to prevent a winning single. The fielder attempted to make the ground but was unable to take the catch behind him and over his shoulder that would have tied the game.

Sudbury's win saw them finish fourth, three points behind Abberton, while promotion went to IPSCOL's second team, comfortable winners of the division, and to Halstead's 3rd XI, just eight points ahead of Abberton in the final standings.

Match report by Charles Thomas, Captain of Sudbury 3rd XI

Looking Ahead to 2027

Boxford cricket has finished for 2026. After refurbishment of the playing square on Saturday 3rd October (not affecting the junior football), the square will remain roped off until 2027. Next year's plan is to encourage a handful of friendly (non-league) matches, played by a Boxford team under the banner of Edwardstone and Boxford CC - a team that historically flourished in Boxford after migrating from Edwardstone, its original home, in the late 1970s. Opposite is a picture of an over-35s versus under-35s match in 1988. Some readers will recognise old and young faces!

There is a number of young and old today who would like to play cricket under the old team banner but without the rigour and frequency of league cricket (successfully played not far away by Milden CC). If we can deliver this aspiration, the future might lead to more regular cricket at Homefield, but that is not for next season, which will contain only weekend matches from late May to the end of August, allowing unfettered access for football outside this period.

A meeting of all interested parties is planned in the back room of the White Hart on **Monday 12th October at 7pm**. If you are interested in playing, encouraging junior boys and girls to enjoy summer cricket, helping with pitch preparation (even an hour or two a week would be very helpful), or maybe just watching, helping with the scoreboard or simple but important things such as drinks for the teams, please come along.

2026, with the help of Sudbury CC and East Saxons CC, has proved that all the very good work put into the cricket square over the years, mainly by Ray Gibbons, can still be put to enjoyable use and a village asset retained for the future. Come along to the meeting, participate or just listen, and help to nurture local village cricket.

David Burden

Boxford & District Bowls Club

Boxford Blues win the STL Millennium Cup 2026

We have two teams in the Sudbury Triples League (STL) - our Green Team and our Blue Team. And this year our Boxford Blues have done us proud. After winning several knock-out matches in the Millennium Cup, they played the final on 12th September and were triumphant winners. They defeated Arclight Bowls Club 48 points to 42 in a nail-biting game on Arclight's home ground in Colchester. The Blues were down at the halfway stage but fought hard and ended up winning by six shots. This is the Blues' second Millennium Cup win in three seasons and the fourth success overall for Boxford, with the Greens having also won the Cup.



Top: Barry Richell, Gillian Barnes, Graham Skillen, Steve Marszal, Cynthia Hollingsworth. Bottom: Gill Billington, Peter Norris (Captain), Mike Billington, Kevin Colling.

Congratulations to the Blue Team who played on the day, but also to the other members of the team who had played in the knock-out matches throughout the season. They were Bernadine Dwyer, Debbie Miller, Mary Dallas and Jerry Zoers.

Club Triples League winners

Our Club Triples League winners this year are the Red Team. The club has eight teams and every Monday we compete against each other for this prestigious trophy. Congratulations to Sue Warren, Pauline Mackness, Bernadine Dwyer, Andy Carr and George Bolton (Captain). Ian Clark, our Chairman, presented the trophy to them.



We are nearing the end of the outdoor season and our Club Finals Day took place on Sunday 13th September. I will be putting photos of the winners of all our competitions in the next couple of editions of the *Box River News*.

And finally, congratulations to a team of Boxford bowlers who were invited to Braintree Bowling Club to play in a charity match for the annual Timber Trades Benevolent Society. They had an excellent overall win against eight different teams, two of which were also from Boxford. Well done to Graham Skillen, Pauline Mackness, Andy Ritchie and Steve Marszal.

Roz Mortlock

Newton Green Golf Club

The Captain's Charity and Guest Day, held on 28th August, raised more than £5,000 for Prostate Cancer UK, with further donations still coming in.

The annual event brought together members and guests for an 18-hole team competition, making the most of the fine weather and excellent course conditions. The day combined friendly competition with generous support for an important national charity.



Winning team: Keith Cameron, Karen Downer, Pat Walsh & John Mills, with Men's Captain Ged Fisher (second from right).

The club paid tribute to Men's Captain Ged Fisher for his outstanding dedication and commitment throughout the year in support of Prostate Cancer UK. Through charity events, auctions and continued fundraising, more than £6,000 has been donated to date, reflecting both Ged's leadership and the generosity of the club community. A special thank you was extended to the catering team, who provided a much-enjoyed lunch for members and guests.

Newton Green Golf Club said the success of the day reflected the club's strong community spirit and long-standing golfing tradition.

www.newtongreengolfclub.co.uk

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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

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

Children Families & Learning

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

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
Edwardstone Art Group	Pam Balls 01787 210 136 and Sue Beven 01787 210 021
Falls Resilience Classes	Georgina 07547 927 238 georgina@takeactionlivelife.co.uk
Fleece Jazz	David Gasson 01787 210796
Groton History Society	Nigel Chapman nigeljchap@gmail.com
Highway 12 Western Dance	Chris 01787 371006
Little Waldingfield History Society	Diana Langford 01787 248298 dianalangford765@gmail.com
Little Waldingfield Over 60s & Friendship Club	Tricia Eddington 01787 247932
Local History Recorders	Edwardstone Daphne Clark 01787 210698 daphne.clark@btopenworld.com Groton Joanna Roberts 01787 210619 jgant87618@aol.com
Madrigalia Choir	Sue Price 01787 210913
Milden Cricket Club	Richard Robinson 07807 229447 or David Lamming 07968 791 135
Milden Singers	Pearl 01449 741876

Clubs & Groups

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

Halls & Facilities to Hire

Boxford Pavilion	Natalie Woods 07772 916 135 nataliewoods25@gmail.com
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@mildenvpavilion.co.uk
Newton Village Hall	The Secretary 07955 199 000

OCTOBER 2026

6 TUE	Fireside Club -Sausage Roll Comp 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
9 FRI	Fun Quiz Night Milden Pavilion	6pm
10 SAT	Piano Trio Concert St Mary's, Boxford	4pm
11 SUN	Craft Fair Whatfield Village Hall	10-4pm
11 SUN	The Three Chordettes St Mary's, Kersey	2:30pm
12 MON	Cricket Meeting The White Hart, Boxford	7pm
14 WED	Charity Quiz Night The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
17 SAT	The Phantom of Friar Street Hadleigh Old School IP7 5DL	5-8pm
17 SAT	Kersey Autumn Supper Kersey Village Hall	7pm
20 TUE	Fireside Club - Hallowe'en Crafts Newton Village Hall	2pm
20 TUE	Polstead Gardening Club - Asters Polstead Village Hall	7:30pm
21 WED	LWHS - 1960s Sudbury Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
23 FRI	Princess & Superhero Party Boxford Village Hall	4-6pm
23 FRI	Polstead Films: The Devil Wears Prada 2 Polstead Village Hall	7pm
23 FRI	GHS: African American Voices Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
24 SAT	Great Acton Book Sale All Saints Church, Acton	10-2pm
24-29 SAT-THU	Lantern Making The Spinney, Boxford	10-4pm
24 SAT	Rock Choir in memory of Dr Jane Hill St Mary's, Boxford	3-4pm
26 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
30 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm

OCTOBER 2026

30 FRI	Misty Tales & Myths Kersey Village Hall	7:30pm
31 SAT	Boxford Fireworks & Lantern Parade Parade starts in the Village Centre	6:30pm

NOVEMBER 2026

1 SUN	Classical Music Concert St Peter's Church, Milden	6pm
3 TUE	Fireside Club - Fidler's Elbow Newton Village Hall	2pm
5 THU	Bonfire & Fireworks Nayland Village Hall	6pm
5 THU	Christmas Fair St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone	6-9pm
6 FRI	Christmas Fair St Mary the Virgin, Edwardstone	9-1pm
7 SAT	Lavenham Fireworks Lavenham Playing Fields, CO10 9SH	from 5pm
11 WED	Charity Quiz Night The Fleece, Boxford	8pm
14 SAT	Shelley Charity Bingo Night Whatfield Village Hall	TBC
14 SAT	Boxford Bowls Club Snail Racing Boxford Village Hall	7pm
14 SAT	Festive Wine Tasting Milden Pavilion	7pm
17 TUE	Fireside Club - Soup & Cake Lunch Newton Village Hall	Noon
18 WED	LWHS - Medieval Castles Little Waldingfield Parish Room	7:30pm
19-20 THU-FRI	Stand up for Suffolk Christmas Fair Hadleigh Guildhall IP7 5DN	10-6pm
21 SAT	Coffee Morning Newton Village Hall	10am
21 SAT	Cheese & Wine Evening Groton Village Hall	7:30pm
23 MON	Boxford Friendship Group Boxford Village Hall	2-4pm
27 FRI	Little Waldingfield Pop-Up Pub Little Waldingfield Pavilion	6:30pm
28 SAT	Polstead Christmas Fair Polstead Village Hall	11-3pm

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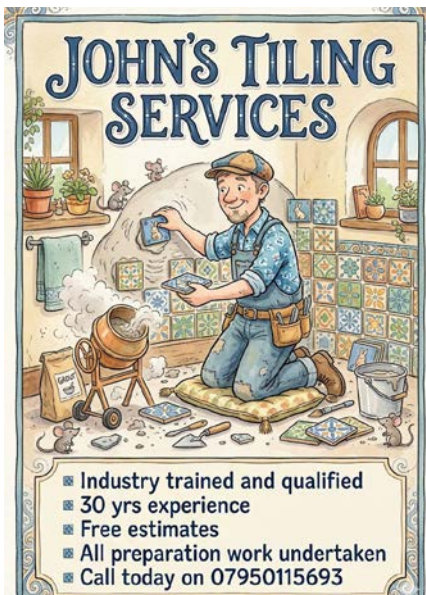
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