

ST MARY & ST PETER
NEWSLETTER

March 2023



CHURCH SERVICES

5th March - *Second Sunday in Lent*

9.30am at St Peter's - All-age worship

6.30pm at St Mary's - Holy Communion

12th March - *Third Sunday in Lent*

9.30am at St Peter's - Holy Communion

19th March - *Fourth Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday*

9.30am at St Mary's

All-age service of Holy Communion

26th March - *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

9.30am at St Mary's - Holy Communion

2nd April *Palm Sunday*

9.30am at St Peter's - All-age worship

6.30pm at St Mary's - Holy Communion

(service details subject to amendment)



Email Donna Luxton, Church Administrator, to check for other services and any alterations.

(lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com)

NOTE: services will no longer be zoomed from West Bergholt, only gathered.

For All Advertising Queries, contact

Paul Armstrong

boxlangads@gmail.com



Deadline for submissions for the April edition: 15th March

Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

Welcome to the March Newsletter.

As the old German proverb has it “A fresh start is half the battle”, which seems to be borne out by the dramatic improvement in the weather of late. Daffodils and crocuses are already in evidence, and it’s still mid-February at the time of writing. It fills me with hope and confidence—a subject on which Revd. Heather has something to say within these pages.

Another ‘fresh start’ will be the coronation of King Charles III in May which will be marked in the villages with some formal celebrations (see Dominic Sheil’s ad in the middle of the magazine) and no doubt some informal ones too. I have already seen coins issued with Charles’s profile portrait (inset) and expect to see it on stamps and banknotes soon (if I ever find a bank or post office that is still trading).



Some of our ‘vintage’ readers may recall that coronation mugs were a common commemorative item when his mum got the top job last time, so be prepared for those too—alongside the customary medallions, tea-towels, biscuit-tins and the like. Ephemera of

this kind have a habit of ending up in the back of cupboards, tucked away for safe-keeping and never really used for the intended purpose.

They are very much tied to the event, so have a very short ‘shelf-life’ as collectibles until the big day has almost passed from memory and most of them have been lost or broken.

The trick with these things is to keep them in good condition so that generations yet unborn can trade them for bitcoin credits.

Steve Pollington,
Editor

Boxted Parish Council Report – February 2023

Our February meeting, we were a bit thin on the ground in terms of councillors and members of the public.

The council looked at the 6 planning applications and decided to comment where appropriate.

All **Boxted councillor positions** are up for election for a 4-year term with elections taking place with other local elections on the 4th of May.

Colchester City Council organise the elections and have a dedicated website page <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/elections/>.

Voting rules have changed and voting in person will now require people to show Id. Details are on the Colchester website, but Id can be passport, driving licence (including provisional license), blue badge, certain concessionary travel cards, identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme), biometric immigration document, Defence identity card, certain national identity cards. You can also apply for a Voter Id card so don't be caught out and make sure you have the right identify information with you.

The final refurbishment tasks are

being completed and the sports side of the **Community Hub** will re-open to our sports clubs before this article is printed.

On the sports side of the building we now have a small committee styled room which will be available for public hire when the clubs are not using it. It has lovely full length windows looking on to the field and we hope will be well utilised. If you are interested in hiring the space then please get in touch with our clerk, Karen, via boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com.

We hope to have an opening ceremony of our new facilities which will be attended by the **Football Foundation** as they contributed nearly £100,000 to the project.

Colchester Borough Council are running pop up sessions in the Community Hub Café on 28th February and the 14th and 28th March where advice will be available on helping with the **cost-of-living pressures**.

We also have *Coffee with Cops* in March and April in the Community Hub Café on the 2nd Thursday in the month – please go and say hi to them and I'm sure they can give good advice about minimising risk in and around your home.

We are still waiting to hear when Essex will be considering the Highways

application to replace the lovely **historic bridge over the River Stour** in the Dedham Vale AONB. The parish council fully supports the Save Our Bridge campaign which is trying hard to persuade Essex Highways to restore the bridge rather than replace it with a structure that is big enough to cope with 40 tonne traffic. The campaign group have raised funds to pay for planning specialists to make

the arguments in planning-speak, to stand the best chance possible of saving the bridge.

The 5-a-side goals for the recreation ground should be in place before April.

Please get in touch with the Council by dropping an email to boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com, look at www.boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk and follow the Facebook page 'Boxted Parish Council'.

Langham Parish Council Report – February 2023

Langham Play Area Expansion & Upgrade

By the time this newsletter arrives with you, contractors will have started work on the Recreation Ground Play Area expansion and upgrade, in the week commencing 20th February. We are delighted that we are able to do this in what is the 50th anniversary year of the original opening of the Langham Recreation Ground in 1973.

It is anticipated that the work should be completed by about mid-March, although there will of course be some weather dependency to this date. We look forward to re-opening the Play Area as soon as the exciting upgrade work is completed.

During the course of the works, we would please request that access to the double gates near the Play Area is kept clear to allow works traffic access. Deliveries and working schedules will be kept to sensible hours to mitigate disruption to nearby residents.

Vistry Homes S106 Contributions

Following first occupancy of homes on the new housing development in December 2022, Vistry Homes have now paid their full contractual S106 contributions to Colchester City Council (CCC) in February 2023. These comprise substantial contributions towards 'Community Facilities' and 'Parks & Recreation'. Langham Parish Council will now work closely with CCC to draw down those funds against designated

improvement projects within the village. The first drawdown will be towards the Play Area expansion project (which is being funded through a combination of External Grant, S106 funds and Parish Council Reserves).

East Anglia “Green” Pylons Project

During the last few weeks, Councillors have attended two Pylon information meetings: one in Stratford St Mary and one in Little Horkesley. These were well attended and very well organised by the Pylons East Anglia lobbying group. The Stratford St Mary Meeting was attended by local MP James Cartledge. The situation is evolving rapidly, and the recent deferral of the Statutory Consultation from 2023 to 2024 may

potentially represent a small victory in opening up a more genuinely open consultation about the various onshore and offshore options for upgrading the UK’s power distribution network to meet rapidly growing future needs.

It has become clear, however, that there will need to be significant ramping up and broadening of the campaign if the Government is to be persuaded to take a more strategic and more offshore-centric approach. We are keen to offer our support and help to spread this message to Langham residents. As such we are actively exploring the possibility of hosting a Pylon information meeting in the Langham Community Centre in the Spring, and we hope to announce more details soon.



Daffodils and Hope



As March beckons, spring bursts onto the scene. The words of William Wordsworth might come to mind as we see the daffodils emerging from beneath the ground:

*I wander'd lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils,
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

From: *I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud*, by William Wordsworth

With St. David's day on March the first, and the Marie Curie Spring Daffodil appeal, we really will be surrounded by daffodils in March. They are a symbol of hope, as the winter months go into retreat, new life blossoms all around us, these bright yellow flowers bring joy and hope and often become the perfect gift for mums on Mothering Sunday, given away in little posies in churches up and down the country.

When we turn on the news and see the devastating aftermath of a massive earthquake in Turkey and Syria, or see the marking of the first anniversary of the Russian invasion in Ukraine, with no end to the hostilities in sight, we can often feel as if all is hopeless. Yet, even in these most horrifying situations, hope can still be seen in the response of the rescuers on the ground, in the international community sending aid and much needed resources, praying, and rejoicing in every person found alive. In the offer of a home and place of sanctuary for a refugee fleeing war hope is found.

So where do you see hope today? Perhaps it is in all the signs of new life, as spring bursts into new life, or in the kindness of a stranger. The psalmist writes 'Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – the Lord, who remains faithful for ever.' Our hope is in the Lord, he is faithful to ever. May we trust in him, and always hold fast to hope.

May God bless you

Heather



ARDLEIGH SURGERY DOCTORS

Appointments

Since our last contribution to the parish magazine, we have had the holidays and the Strep A epidemic as well as the usual winter cold and vomiting viruses. These, along with the cost-of-living crisis has led to an increase in the prevalence of ill health (both mental and physical) amongst our patients and staff.

We have severe pressures on an already strained appointment system. We still offer both telephone and face to face appointments every day with our clinicians. To book please call the surgery from 0800hrs. The same day appointments are usually all booked by 0900hrs. Routine appointments can be booked up to 4 weeks in advance and lastly emergency appointments can be booked with a GP after suitable triage by the duty doctor.

There are extended access appointments every Saturday from 0900hrs to 1700hrs. These can be telephone or face to face. These appointments are not held at Ardleigh Surgery. We also provide telephone only appointments from 1830hrs to 2000hrs every day. All extended access appointments are pre-bookable, up to 4 weeks in advance for both GPs and Nurses.

The *Daily Mail* has recently launched an app to show how your local GP surgery is performing using NHS digital data collected in November 2022. If you type, "How bad is my GP" into Google you should be able to access this national database. In November 2022 87% of our patients rated us as good, we offered 4592 appointments, 73% were face to face, 33% same day and 43% with a GP.

Surgery news

Dr Gladwin will be off for the next 3 months at least. Sister Harrison has retired, and we are in the process of recruiting a new advance nurse practitioner. We have a new staff member, Sam Taylor, she is a GP assistant. We have two new receptionists who replaced seasoned staff who left.

Compulsory Surgery Training Days:

The next compulsory Northeast Essex Surgery training afternoon will be on the 29th of March 2023. The surgery will be closed from 1230hrs and the dispensary from 1200hrs. Other dates are

26th April 2023

18th May 2023

Flu vaccinations are still available at the surgery for those over 50 years of age until the end of March 2023.

From The Partners:

We know that it is difficult to access GP services, we are also NHS patients and have the same challenges. We ask you kindly to be polite and civil to our receptionists, dispensers, and staff in general. They are doing an extremely difficult job and are trying their best in these challenging times. If you do have a poor experience please email the surgery with the scenario, the date, and the person you spoke to, and we will do our best to resolve the situation.

Did you know that

Appointments cannot be booked by email or by messages sent via the medication request app on your NHS app. You can book appointments by telephone or at the reception desk.

09/02/2023

Dr Cole and partners.



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SAT 18TH FEBRUARY
SAT 18TH MARCH
SAT 22ND APRIL
SAT 20TH MAY
SAT 17TH JUNE

 www.facebook.com/BoxtedWildlife  BoxtedWildlife@gmail.com

BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

At the first meeting of the New Year, the Group welcomed back local historian Pip Wright who recalled in the first person the “colourful” life of George Edward (Joe) Whistlecraft. He was born and lived most of his life in Suffolk, and was the second of several children. His father was registered as a farm-worker but appeared to gain most of his income and food from poaching, and when Joe was only six years old was arrested and sentenced to one month’s hard labour. As father aged, Joe and his elder brother took on the job of poaching for the family but with the start of WWI his brothers were enlisted leaving Joe, who failed the medical to carry on the “family business” alone. He was arrested numerous times for being ‘drunk and disorderly’ but his first major crime was trying to burn down a neighbour’s house following a

dispute. He was arrested and tried on two occasions for committing a serious crime: firstly, for accidentally (?) shooting his father and secondly for shooting dead a gamekeeper. On both counts the cases were dismissed on the grounds of ‘conflicting evidence’. During WWII he became an honest man at last as the poacher became a gamekeeper. He died at the age of 80 during which time he was arrested over a hundred times and served more than twenty years in jail.

Next Meeting

The Group’s next meeting in the Boxted Village Hall (satnav CO4 5RE) will be on Wednesday 15th March 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Janette Robinson will give a talk entitled “*Voices from the Workhouse*” followed by the usual refreshments.

Keith Middleton
Chairman

Boxted WI

2nd Tuesday of each month

7.30 - 9.30 Botted Village Hall

The Botted W.I. ladies are looking forward to a talk from John Rix on the farming life at **Rix farms** for their 14 March meeting from 7.30 at the village hall. As many of you will know they are based at Lodge Farm and tend fields in the village. The club welcomes anyone who would like to join in, even if just for an evening such as this with a small charge on the door.



If any lady would like to get to know your fellow village ladies a little bit more or even just to join in the fun or enjoy some company you know where we are, just come along! We urge you to give us a try, we have a varied programme of activities throughout the year and guarantee plenty of laughs.

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Save Boxted Bridge

The crowdfunder has received a big boost with generous support from the **Dedham Vale Society** and has raised 81% of the target, now nearing the final figure to raise to commission a Highways Planning specialist report challenging Highways' proposal to demolish and replace Boxted bridge.



BOXTED VILLAGE CORONATION EVENT

SUNDAY 7TH MAY

BOXTED VILLAGE HALL

AND KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS

1.00PM TO LATE

Save this date to enjoy Dog Shows, Live Music, Activities by local Sports Clubs and Societies, Children's Games, Classic Cars, Food Stalls, Licensed Bar, Art and Craft Exhibition and more.

We are looking for local artists, photographers and crafts people to exhibit in the village hall also volunteers to help with the running of the day. If you are interested in exhibiting or volunteering please contact Dominic or Linda on the following email:- dominic@poplarg.co.uk.

LANGHAM LADIES

Langham Ladies February meeting was of much interest to the members and guests. Members were asked to bring memorabilia to the meeting as Lewis Rabett an auctioneer from Reeman Dansie was the speaker. Lewis told us how he had become interested in antiques. He had seen many of his relations' antiques and memorabilia and his interest grew so he eventually started collecting his own items. He then took a further step and became an auctioneer at Reeman and Dansie a job that he loves.

Lewis brought with him some very interesting items that he had collected and passed them round for the members to see. One was a trade token, with Colchester Castle on one side, these were used by traders when there was a shortage of coins. Another

interesting item was a matchbox cover which had been made from the last Zeppelin that was shot down in the war. These covers were made to raise money for charities. Lewis finished the evening by looking and speaking about the items that the members had brought in.

March meeting will be held March 9th in Langham Community Centre starting at 7.30pm. The speaker is Liz Huxley the talk called '*Spring has Sprung*'. This talk will be as suggested by the title about all things to do with nature that are happening in the Spring. Animals, butterflies, plants and much more. Guests will be welcome in the hope that they enjoy the evening and come and join Langham Ladies. The guest fee is £5 including homemade cakes tea and coffee.

For more information about Langham Ladies Club phone. 01206 27328

Boxted Wildlife Group – Help 4 Hogs

Following on from the success of our Boxted Birds, Bees & Bugs campaign during 2022, we are now planning on focussing our efforts (and those of Boxted residents and businesses) on improving the plight of hedgehogs.

Hedgehogs have declined by 30% – 75% in varying parts of the UK and could be extinct in 15 years, and because of this the Boxted Wildlife Volunteer group are planning a campaign during 2023 to raise awareness of the issue and promote action - making Boxted a Hedgehog Friendly Village.

Over the coming months we will be publishing useful information, organising an expert talk and running a few family events on how to help our hedgehogs thrive and survive, as well as how you can get involved in making Boxted more hedgehog friendly. And the good news is that none of it will be difficult! Check out this newsletter each month and our Facebook page - [facebook.com/BoxtedWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/BoxtedWildlife) to find out more.



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For more information

BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

Meeting every third Wednesday of the month at Boxted Village Hall.

7.30 for 8pm.

Guests always welcome.



Boxted Bingo!

Boxted Village Hall
Every other Tuesday
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£8 per session
(Includes 4 games of bingo)

For more information
Call Dot on 01206 272676

BOXTED CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Come and join us for a friendly, enjoyable afternoon playing bowls at **Boxted Village Hall** **Fridays 2pm - 4pm**
Any information contact Chris Lawrence 01206 272654.

chris-lawrence@hotmail.co.uk

2nd Langham Scout Group

Meetings are held each Wednesday evening at the Community Centre.

Beavers: 5.00 to 6.15 pm. **Cubs:** 6.15 to 7.30 pm. **Scouts:** 7.30 to 9.00 pm.

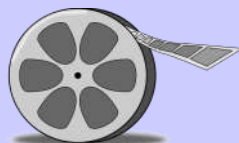
Contact Group Scout Leader, Denise Hobday 01206 230918.

LANGHAM LADIES

Any ladies wishing to join the group or to come along as a guest, please telephone Gill Brown on 01206 273286.

LANGHAM FILM NIGHTS

For details of films and screening times and to book tickets, go to www.langhamcommunitycentre.org.uk/next-cinema-screening/



Crafty Ladies

Meet on first Wednesday of each month throughout the year, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Community Centre. Subscription £26 due March and September. Contact Chrissy Todd tel. 07742 131454.

Carpet Bowls Club

Meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at the Community Centre.

Contact Cliff Jones on 07922 156545 or Mervyn Bushe on 01206 230209.

The Art and Craft Club meet on the **third Wednesday** of each month, 2-4pm at **Boxted Village Hall**. All welcome - *come and join in!*



The advertisement for 'Beer and the Bible' has a light blue background. On the left, a cartoon waiter in a white shirt and green striped apron holds a tray with a tall glass of beer. Next to him is a black and white dog. A speech bubble from the dog contains the text 'at the Shepherd & Dog Langham'. To the right, the words 'Beer and the Bible' are written in a large, elegant, black script font. At the bottom, the text reads 'Every second Monday of the month from 8pm All welcome'.

The Zone for 6-11 year olds 5.30pm-7pm and the **Edge** for 12-18 year olds 7.30pm-9.00pm. Fortnightly during term time. Contact Dominic Sheil 01206 273324



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100 Club Draw

The **January** winners are:

1. Ann Cairns (13)
2. Dave Gill (17)
3. Langham Tennis Club (53)
4. Langham Ladies (60)

Sue Armstrong
Commercial and Marketing Manager
Langham Community Centre
School Road, Langham
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Rebecca Sheil
PHOTOGRAPHY



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The best thing you'll do this week (and that's a promise.)

Tired of dull weekdays? Want to try something new, learn new skills and meet a whole new group of friends?

2nd Langham Scouts have been providing Scouting in the local area on a Wednesday evening for over 60 years and we have recently restarted our meetings face-to-face.

We currently have space in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and would also welcome any adults who would love to get involved!

For more information, or to book a space, please either email enquires@2ndlanghamscouts.org or contact us via our website.

www.2ndlanghamscouts.org

Scouts
2nd Langham

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TUESDAY.....CLOSED

WEDNESDAY.... 16:30-00:00

THURSDAY..... 16:30-21:30

FRIDAY..... 16:30-00:00

SATURDAY..... 15:00-00:00

SUNDAY..... 13:00-21:00

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WEDNESDAYS

8th February & 8th March 2023

10.30am to 2pm, Langham Community Centre

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Representatives will be joining us to talk to you & offer

Cost of Living Support

PTO

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*For ALL Advertising
Queries, contact*

Paul Armstrong

boxlangads@gmail.com

Tel: 01206 616604

WHEELCHAIR LOAN

The Short Term Wheelchair Loan Charity (Reg. No. 112657, www.wheelchairloancharity.com), based at Clacton Hospital, helps people needing the short-term use of a wheelchair. The chairs are for all ages and reasons. The service is a perfect interim solution if you require a wheelchair for an occasion such as a holiday, a wedding or to help accommodate a visiting relative. The service is funded by donations and is free to users, although a deposit of £40 from borrowers is asked for.

Enquiries may be phoned to 01255 201763 or emailed to wheelchairloan@gmail.com

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GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Are you elderly, vulnerable or otherwise in need of help, and live in the Parish of Langham with Boxted? We are a group of local Volunteers who can assist:

- with transport to an important appointment, including Hospital, Dentist or Flu/Covid Booster
- with collection of items such as prescriptions
- or make a friendly visit just for a bit of company.

Call so that we can help you, Monday to Friday, 8am to 7pm

Monday.....230525 or 272773

Tuesday.....271813 or 273195

Wednesday....272755 or 272013

**Thursday.....07842 034489 or
323007 or 07765 037892**

Friday..... 07510 504026

Please telephone either number shown for the **DAY ON WHICH YOU MAKE YOUR CALL** (not the day of your appointment). If there is no reply, please do not leave a message but **RING ANY OTHER NUMBER**.

This scheme is associated with the Churches of ST Mary's Langham and St Peter's Boxted

Any queries, ring the Organiser Arabella Brentnall, 01206 272013

**THE PARISH OF LANGHAM
WITH BOXTED**

Contact Details

Website www.lb-churches.co.uk

Rector Heather Wilcox

Please contact the Church Office with any enquiries

Church Office available by appointment
Mon: 9am - 12pm; Tue - Fri: 9am-1pm

Associate Priest Revd Anne Mason

07895 970834

revdannemason@gmail.com

Lay Minister Denise Hobday 230918

Church Administrator (for the parishes of
Langham with Boxted, West Bergholt and Great
Horkesley) Jo Russell 243683

Email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's Langham

Stephen Garner 272599

Sgarner.22@btinternet.com

Denise Hobday 230918

hobdaylangham@hotmail.com

St Peter's Boxted

Dominic Shiel 273324

Zone Youth Group

Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324

The Edge Youth Group

Dominic & Linda Shiel 273324

oOo

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BOXTED VILLAGE HALL

Cage Lane, Boxted, CO4 5RE

Contact

Debbie Eley

Telephone:- 01206 870266

Email:- boxted@community-centre.org.uk

Home to a number of local clubs and regular activities, it is also available for hire for parties and functions, with a capacity of 120 seated in rows or 100 seated at tables.

If you have any new clubs or events planned in the future, please consider using the village hall as your venue.

**Deadline for submissions for the April edition:
15th February**
**Contact the editor via email:
lwbnewsletter@gmail.com**

NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

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WE ARE BACK FOR 2023

HARPERS CAFFE @ BOXTED COMMUNITY HUB

Hi everyone!

We re-opened on January 17th after our extensive refurbishment along with the sporting facility next door at King George V playing field, Boxted, CO4 5RE. We have our menu and opening times on our Facebook page *harperscaffè* in the photos section, or you can call for details 01206 272129.

Our weekend closing times vary when there are sporting events happening, best to call for times if you are coming down at the weekend. We are closed on Mondays but are open from 8.30am all other days, perfect for school drop-off coffee.

On February 14th and 28th and corresponding dates in March we have Colchester Borough Council on site giving 'cost of living support' and information from 9am – 12.30.

On Tuesday 8th March, 4th April and 9th May we have *coffee with a cop* morning 10 – 12, so pop along with any concerns or just to have a chat.

We are dog-friendly, have disabled access and toilet facilities, high chairs and baby changing, book exchange, friendly staff and a warm environment.

We have Bingo every other Tuesday afternoons 2 – 4 from 7th February.