

ST MARY & ST PETER
NEWSLETTER



December 2023



CHURCH SERVICES

3 rd December – First Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Peter's – All-age Worship

6.30pm at St Mary's – Holy Communion

9 th December – Saturday

3.00pm St Peter's Churchyard – Forest Church

10 th December – Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

17 th December – Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

3.00pm at St Peter's – Parish Carol Service

21 st December – Thursday

7.00pm Carol Singing at 'The Shepherd and Dog'

24 th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

4.00pm at St Mary's – Christingle

11.00pm at St Peter's – Midnight Mass

25 th December – Christmas Day

10.00am at St Mary's – Christmas Holy Communion

31 st December – First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am at St Mary's Church West Bergholt

United Holy Communion for the Six Parishes



7 th January – Celebration of the Epiphany

9.30am at St Peter's – All-age Worship

6.30pm at St Mary's – Holy Communion

13 th January – Saturday

3.00pm St Peter's Churchyard – Forest Church

14 th January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

21 st January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

28 th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

4 th February – Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am at St Peter's – All-age Worship

6.30pm at St Mary's – Holy Communion

To check for other services and any alterations email
Red Heather Wilcox - RevHWilcox@outlook.com
(lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com)

Deadline for submissions for the February edition: 15th January

Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

Welcome to the December Newsletter.

Merry Christmas to all our Readers!

The wheel of the year turns forever and again we approach the Midwinter with all that that portends in terms of long, dark nights, treacherous roads, chilly mornings and soggy gardens—enlivened of course by the forthcoming festivities with visits to friends and family, renewing old acquaintances, exchange of gifts, sharing of happy times in a warm environment, and perhaps a little excess of food and drink. Many of us have seen it all many times before, but it is nevertheless still a great comfort to have the Yuletide to look forward to.

The more observant among you will have spotted a few production errors in the last issue of the Newsletter. This was due to the perennial favourite 'Computer Problems' which prevented me from creating the necessary print file from the artwork. The stark choice was: 'publish what we have ,or wait till I work out how to fix it', so we went with the former. The computer is old, weary and creaky (just like me, in fact) and only does a small portion of what is asked of it (just like ... well, you can guess).

Steve Pollington,
Editor

Introducing the *Cabin* at the Shop



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Pull up a chair & enjoy a Costa drink & a delicious cake
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 **Boxted Wildlife** 
ACTIVITY DAYS, TALKS AND WALKS!

ALL ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY
NEW YEAR FLOWERING PLANT SURVEY
WITH DR. CHRIS GIBSON
MEET AT VILLAGE HALL
10AM - 12PM 

SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY
ACTIVITY DAY BOXTED VILLAGE HALL
10AM - 1PM  

A fun filled morning of activities

MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY
TALK: 30 YEARS OF CONSERVING
ESSEX WILDLIFE - DR. CHRIS GIBSON
BOXTED VILLAGE HALL
DOORS 7PM. START 7:30PM

MONDAY 4TH MARCH
TALK: OWLS & BIRDS OF PREY
STEPHANIE CALLISTER-JARROLD
BOXTED VILLAGE HALL
DOORS 7PM. START 7:30PM

THE BOXTED WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES PROJECT 2023-24 IS FUNDED BY
THE DEDHAM VALE AONB SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND



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Boxted Wildlife Group

The Boxted Wildlife Group held its third Family Activity Day on the 15th October at the Boxted village hall. The Group is delighted to have yet again received funding from the Dedham Vale AONB Sustainable Development Fund, which meant we could have another fun-packed (and free!) event for local residents. We had a variety of engaging activities from fat ball making, bug-hotel painting, greeting card designing and of course, the ever popular activities, willow weaving and owl pellet dissection! Plus many more. The Wildlife Group would like to thank the volunteers who helped make the activity day a success. It was fantastic to see so many faces, we were certainly kept busy from start to finish! We welcome you back for our next Family Activity Day on Sunday 14th January (10 am - 1 pm), again at the Boxted Village Hall, where we will have another host of interesting activities to take part in.

In addition to the activity days for children, we are also hosting a series of wildlife focussed talks for everyone, again free! The first was on Friday 10th November, where Dr Chris Gibson presented a fabulously

illustrated and fascinating whistle-stop guide to Essex trees, plants and grasses. Discussing along the way the history of the many habitats found in Essex, how they have been shaped by geology and natural history, how they have further been influenced by mankind and now how they are adapting and changing in response to climate and environmental changes. The next talk is on Monday 5th February entitled “30 years of conserving Essex wildlife”.

In Mid-November the group held a working party on the village green to prepare it for the winter and perform the first seasonal cut of the wildflower meadow areas. Over the winter and in early spring the group shall be planting additional hedging to replace areas of hedgerow that suffered in the heat of 2022, as well as planting a multitude of new bulbs in the designated bulb areas of the green and surrounding green spaces.

Village walks will continue throughout the winter, please see advertised dates. Sturdy walking shoes and suitable clothing are advised for the conditions.

THEY LIVED IN LANGHAM

An occasional series by the Langham Heritage Group

2. SIR ROBERT BALFOUR 1844 – 1929 Langham Hall, 1913 –1927

Robert Balfour was born at Pilmuir, Fife, into a farming family of some substance. Educated Madras School, St Andrews, at 18 he joined the Liverpool and London shipping company Balfour, Williamson & Co. In 1869 he was sent with Alexander Guthrie on a month-long journey by way of New York, the isthmus of Panama and the west coast of North America to San Francisco to found an associate business. Balfour, Guthrie & Company was immediately successful,



Balfour portrait by Sir Hubert von Herkomer (Bushey Museum)

Tablet at entrance to Balfour, Guthrie Park,
Brentwood CA, USA



expanding rapidly and diversifying from shipping to trading in coal, lumber, fertilisers and grain. The firm grew to become the world's largest dealer in grain and its success was influential in attracting large amounts of British and American capital to the United States' West Coast. A road in Brentwood, California, is named after Balfour and a local leisure park bears the firm's name.

After twenty-four years Balfour returned to Britain to become a director of Balfour, Williamson,

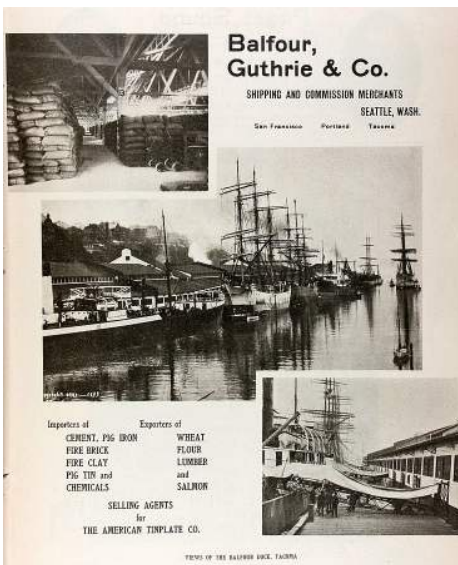


Langham Hall, 1919, photographed by Alexander Balfour (son)

first in Liverpool and then in London. Taking up politics in the Liberal interest, Balfour won the Partick (Glasgow) seat in the 1906 General Election, holding the seat until his retirement in 1922. He was created baronet in 1911, in recognition, perhaps, of his staunch

support for Herbert Asquith's Liberal government during the constitutional crisis of 1909-11 occasioned by the controversial Finance and Parliament Acts. In 1913 Balfour bought Broomhouse Farm and the principal part (426 acres) of the Langham Hall estate from the creditors of William Nocton and farmed the land until ill health forced him to retire and sell up in 1927.

A keen sporting man and dog-lover, Balfour welcomed the Essex & Suffolk to hunt the estate land and he was a renowned host to the Colchester Garrison Beagles. His benevolence encompassed the village, for he founded the Langham Nursing District Nurse (1) for Langham and nearby villages and was a regular and generous contributor to its funds. He was co-founder of the Langham Cricket Club, providing not only a



Balfour, Guthrie & Co. poster c. 1899

ground on the Hall's parkland but erecting a small pavilion and furnishing the gear for the club's first season 2 .

Balfour had married Josephine Maria née Beazley of Birkenhead in 1881, while still in San Francisco. They had three sons: the first, Robert, died in infancy and the second, Alexander, died in 1923. Their youngest son, Alan, was killed in action in January 1918, aged 24, while serving with the Royal Flying Corps, to which he had been attached from the Royal Artillery; he is buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, and his name is on the Langham War Memorial.



Balfour, drawing by J M Hamilton *

Balfour died at his Prince's Gate, Kensington, home two years after leaving Langham Hall. All three of his sons having predeceased him, the baronetcy was extinguished on his death.

1 Older people in Boxted and Langham will remember the long-serving pre-NHS District Nurse, Betty Lewis.

2 The cricket field was ploughed up early in WW2 and the pavilion was later burned down. Cricket at the Hall was not resumed after the war.

BALFOUR for PARTICK!
AND
PARTICK for BALFOUR!

PARTICK.	AGENTS.	COMMITTEE ROOMS.
1st and 4th Wards, ...	Mr. D. N. MacKay, ...	196 Dumbarton Road.
3rd and 4th Wards, ...	Mr. David Crawford, ...	183 Dumbarton Road.
5th and 6th Wards, ...	Mr. John MacKay, Jr., ...	197 Dumbarton Road.
Post-Office, ...	Mr. Alexander W. Waite, ...	107 St. James Street.
Hillhead, ...	Mr. Wm. Thompson, ...	233 Byres Road.
Maryhill East, ...	Mr. J. D. Struthers, ...	330 Garlands Street.
Maryhill East, ...	Mr. J. D. Struthers, ...	43 Queen Margaret Drive.
Maryhill West, ...	Mr. George B. Chalk, ...	181 Main Street, Maryhill.

Mr. BALFOUR will Address the Electors as follows:

November 28 Monday,	Hillhead Burgh Hall, ...	8 p.m.
" 28 Tuesday,	Possill U.F. Church Hall, ...	8 "
" 29 Tuesday,	Lambhill Mission Hall, ...	8 "
" 30 Wednesday,	Partick Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
December 1 Thursday,	Maryhill Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 2 Friday,	Whiteinch Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 3 Monday,	Kenmore U.F. Church Hall, Bishopbriggs, 7.45 "	
" 3 Monday,	Possill Established Church Hall, ...	8 "
" 4 Tuesday,	Hillhead Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 5 Tuesday,	Anniesland Parish Church Hall, ...	8 "
" 7 Wednesday,	Thorwood School, Partick, ...	8 "
" 7 Wednesday,	Woodend Reformatory, Jordanhill, ...	8 "
" 8 Thursday,	Maryhill Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 9 Friday,	Whiteinch Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 9 Friday,	Glasgow, St. Andrew's Halls, ...	7.30 "
" 10 Monday,	Partick Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 12 Monday,	Maryhill Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 12 Monday,	Hillhead Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 12 Monday,	Possill U.F. Church Hall, ...	8 "
" 12 Monday,	Whiteinch Burgh Hall, ...	8 "
" 13 Tuesday, ELECTION DAY.		

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1910 General Election poster *



District Nurse Lewis

Grateful acknowledgements to the note on Balfour by his great grand-daughter, Kate Ashbrook, in www.campaignerKate.wordpress.com/category/obituary/nontemere, from which the illustrations marked * are reproduced

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BOXTED EVERGREENS

Our Club meets in the village hall every four weeks from 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

Anyone wishing to come along would be given a warm welcome. Our members are always asked for their suggestions before our yearly entertainment programme is arranged, so we do try our best to cater for everyone.

If you would like more information about our club please call **Linda** on **01206 272710**.

SESAW NEWS

Brrrr! I don't like these cold, dark days and nor does Ollie (the Black) Cat. He sprawls across the desk, swipes Mum if she tries to access her paperwork then walks over the keyboard which spews blank pages out of the printer!

One of my other housemates, Buttons, is a Norfolk Terrier, a good solid no nonsense member of the family. She was the ideal companion for Mum at a Thanksgiving Service for animals to celebrate the love and care between pets and their owners. They received a warm welcome at St. Mary's in Stoke by Nayland and the collection raised over £235 for SESA.W.

It's been a difficult year for all animal charities with many people forced to



give up their pets due to health or financial problems. Other animals are brought in, having being abandoned at the side of the road and often in need of urgent veterinary attention. Like most rescue centres, SESA.W has been full to bursting and short of volunteers but we keep going, hoping the situation will ease up soon.

Now that winter has arrived, please check our website or Facebook pages before visiting us as our seasonal shutdown begins in December. Meanwhile, very best wishes for good health and happiness to all our friends and rehomed animals, from Ollie (the Black) Cat and me,

Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.!



Refurbishment of Boxted Community Hub

Boxted Parish Councillor Arabella Brentnall, who, with the parish council clerk, Karen Thompson, has worked tirelessly on this project arranged the official hub opening meeting recently and Arabella gave the following account of the history of the playing field, the clubs and the facilities:

"Boxted Cricket Club has been in existence since 1830, before even Queen Victoria acceded to the throne. Boxted Lodgers was founded in 1918, being named after Boxted Lodge just up the road, where it, and the Cricket Club, played their matches until 1938, when both clubs moved to the recently endowed King George Playing Fields .

Unfortunately, the following year World War Two broke out, and the playing fields were ploughed up to grow vegetables for the war effort.

In the 1970s, there was a wooden pavilion on this site, erected by the Cricket Club, and later extended by both it and the Football Club.

In those days, as recalls John Hamblion the current Vice-Chair of Boxted Cricket Club, there were just 2 dribbling showers and one old outside toilet consisting only of an open trench. The smell was

horrendous and it became a haven for spiders.

In 1995 the Playing Fields were enlarged, thanks to the efforts of the then owners of next door Perryman's, and this is the space you see before you today. The fields are owned by Boxted Parish Council and are now held in trust with Fields in Trust to protect them from ever being turned into something like a housing estate.

Colchester City Ladies Football Club, formerly known as Colchester Town Ladies FC, have made Boxted their home since 2008. In 2015 this building before us, the Boxted Community Hub and Sports Pavilion, was in such a dire state that it had to be closed down by Boxted Parish Council on Health and Safety grounds. There was a lot of press coverage on this subject at the time! The building was given an initial refurbishment, and re-opened later that year with facilities for both the clubs and for a community hub.

2017 saw the creation of the section 106 Agreement, resulting from the planned Hill Farm Housing Estate.

Very many thanks go to Councillor Nigel Chapman and the team at the then Colchester Borough Council for ensuring that this agreement was quite narrowly worded, specifically to ensure that the monies were spent on the " improvement

and enhancement of the King George Playing Fields with a specific need for improvement to the Sports and Social Club" and "management of the Playing Fields and Community Hub"



Thanks partly to a grant from Essex County Council, the building was re-roofed in 2018 and re-plastered in 2020. And a rather hazardous disabled ramp was installed. Also in 2020 the Boxted Parish Council section 106 Committee was formed, of which the author was appointed chairman. Serious discussions took place with all the Sports Clubs being represented on the Committee, and finally a plan took place.

The Football Foundation were first approached for a grant in May 2021. At this time it was their policy to spend 75% of funding on pitch improvement, sports facilities buildings being deemed much less important. However, they agreed to help us on this refurbishment project. Ingleton Wood were appointed in August 2021 by Boxted Parish Council as design and project managers, and the whole thing was progressing well.

And then Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Building prices went through the roof, and all original

estimates sky-rocketed. We had to ask the Football Foundation to give us more than the £60,000 we had originally asked for. Amazingly they agreed to up our grant to £98,000.

Nick Emery, our guest of honour, is largely responsible for getting us through the grant process, and we were finally awarded this grant in August 2022. After a sad period of mourning for Queen Elizabeth who died in September, building works started in earnest. A wonderful young local firm called Property 360 were appointed, and they did a super job, and the building was finally signed off in February 2023.

On Monday 23rd October we were all so happy to have this building officially opened by Nick Emery, Head of Development and Investment of the Essex County Football Association. He has been with this project for all of its 2/12 year life"

Langham Parish Council Report – Autumn 2023

Last month's Langham Fireworks Event looked to be touch-and-go at some points, with lots of wet and windy autumn weather in the run up, together with the cancellation of some other local events. In the end we did manage to proceed. More than 1400 people turned up and the vast majority seemed to enjoy themselves. Thankfully, only a handful of cars needed a helping push to get them moving from the muddy field afterwards. However, one of the event food trucks required rather more serious assistance in the form of a local tractor to help free it on the Monday morning following the event! A full set of "thank yous" will be published on the LPC website once the event accounts and fundraising profits have been finalised.

Late summer and autumn has seen the return of organised football to the Recreation Ground pitch, with two local adult teams and a youth team now holding regular matches there. Our investigations into the return of organised cricket may however have hit an insurmountable hurdle, following the results of a recent ball-striking survey, which has identified very onerous and expensive high safety fencing requirements. If this is confirmed, it will at least clarify the situation to allow for more detailed planning of the S106-funded Multi Use Games Area to commence.

Speaking of S106 funding, LPC is currently working hard to try to alleviate two major present causes of uncertainty. Both of these issues are adversely impacting our ability to ensure best and timely deployment of local developer funded contributions to help improve village facilities for all local residents.

Firstly, there is a lack of clarity and documentation around the process used by Colchester City Council to allocate and distribute this funding. We are currently engaged in a series of meetings with them, to explain our concerns and hopefully then improve the situation moving forwards.

Secondly, the timings of Local Plan approved housing developments appear increasingly uncertain. This is partly due to general economic conditions at the moment, but possibly also due to Anglian Water's recent admission of likely further investment delays to their upgrade of the Langham WRC to meet a revised environmental permit from the Environment Agency. We are currently in negotiations to try to schedule a new public meeting with both Anglian Water and Environment Agency representatives present, so that we can interrogate them jointly about this latest setback. Our MP Sir Bernard Jenkin is kindly assisting us with this and he wants to attend the meeting himself once again.

WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND.

I have just enjoyed a wonderful weeks break away with the family, including our 10 month old grandson, Elyan. Without giving too much away, and inadvertently advertising, our week was spent in Elveden Forest, in a place, I feel sure might be familiar to many people, ideally suite to family holidays.

Arriving on Friday night, it was clear that preparations were already afoot for getting the sight ready for Christmas. By Monday evening, the lights were switched on, and for the next 4 days, we found ourselves in a Winter wonderland, with enchanted forests, twinkling lights, Elves springing up all over the place and frequent light dustings of snow. Knowing that I had to come home and go straight into Remembrance Sunday services, I really wasn't feeling quite ready for all this festive fun. But it is hard to resist getting drawn in when you have a young child with you! Any references to Christmas were cleverly avoided, it was most definitely a 'Winter Wonderland', Father Christmas, was Santa, with any reference to Christmas removed, and amidst the sparkling lights, the snow machines and Elves, there was no room for even just one nativity scene, pointing people to the real reason for the season. And of course, wishing to be open to all, there are probably many reasons for this.



And yet as we stood and listened to Rudolph and his reindeer friends singing their 'Winter Wonderland' songs, amidst the 'Jingle Bells' and 'Chestnuts roasting on an open fire', they sang a wonderful rendition of 'Silent Night, Holy Night'.

Or again, having popped along to hear the choir singing on a Tuesday night, they couldn't seem to resist throwing in '*O little town of Bethlehem*' and encouraging everyone to sing along.

Christmas carols are so deeply woven into the fabric of the season, that its almost as if no-one noticed, that every so often, the whole story of Christmas was told, in the familiar, beautiful words of a carol.

I might sometimes want to rant at the desire of an increasingly secular world wanting to turn Christian festivals, into Wintervals. But still, we hear the voice of the angels sing, as the message of Christmas wafts through the air in the words of familiar carols. For those who have ears to hear, in the Carols and in the giving and receiving of gifts, we remember that at Christmas time we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the ultimate gift for everyone.

Happy Christmas and may God Bless you and your family

Heather

Boxted Parish Council Report – November 2023

The November meeting of the Parish Council concentrated on the budget as this has to be approved in January.

Councillors also, as they do every month, considered the various planning applications and decided where it was appropriate to comment.

The formal opening ceremony of our refurbished Hub facilities took place on 23rd of October with Nick Emery, Chair of Essex FA cutting the ribbon on the sports side facilities. Doug in Harpers Caffe put on a great spread. We had Colchester City and Essex County Councillors and officers as well as representatives of Colchester City Ladies Football, Boxted Lodgers and Boxted Cricket Club. Property360 who undertook the refurbishment and Ingleton Wood who acted as project consultants were all present. Arabella Brentnall spoke about the history of the facilities and summarised the refurbishment project. A good time was had by all those attending.

The small committee styled room is available for public hire when the clubs are not using it which is most daytimes. There is scope for it to be used as a remote office facility for anyone with poor Wi-Fi at home. With a kitchenette for teas and coffees; the café next door and free Wi-Fi – it's also a good meeting room seating about 10 people. It has lovely full-length windows looking on to the field and we hope it will be well utilised. If you are interested in hiring the space then

please get in touch with our clerk, Karen, via clerk@boxted-pc.gov.uk.

The council has to review and amend the current Boxted Neighbourhood Plan – this is a really important document as it forms part of the legal framework around what can and can't be built or developed in Boxted. We would like to involve residents and hear their views. If you want to be involved, then please email Karen on clerk@boxted-pc.gov.uk.

Have you heard of Ardleigh PACE or Manningtree PACE (Practical Actions for Climate and Emergency)- Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation -1204980 <https://www.pacemanningtree.org.uk/>? In both village organisations, groups of volunteers that are interested in pushing forward schemes to help residents take positive action, work together to facilitate and promote various projects. There is the Manningtree Community Energy Scheme which after a survey of roof top space recognised there is a high potential for solar photovoltaic panels (pv) and battery storage across Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford. Interested people are able to purchase solar panels and batteries outright (via a discounted supplier) or choose a funded option (panels installed at no

cost to homeowner and paid for on a 'pay as you save' basis). If no suitable roof space, the residents can buy energy from the community solar scheme (likely to be cheaper). If people already have panels but interested in taking part – they can put the surplus generated into the scheme or buy and add a smart battery. There is a minimum number of expressions of interest needed to make the scheme viable. The scheme is now extended to include Ardleigh. Residents have free surveys and quotes on expressing interest with no commitment on homeowner's part. Other projects include extending the Tendring Primary Recycle Scheme to include two drop off points in Ardleigh. This really adds to what can be recycled to include crisp packets, bread wrappers, tetra cartons, toothbrushes and bathroom toiletry plastics, coffee machine pods, spectacles, bottle tops, drink can pulls – some of which are passed on to fund-raising schemes; a tree planting scheme – free trees for households and also community places; Manningtree PACE also work to promote food growth via PACE allotments; Manningtree Earth Festival; they have a programme of outreach to engage with as many local residents as possible; River Stour water quality sampling in the River Stour – 9 trained personnel who report results to Environment Agency; Wild gardens of Lawford; Cargo bike - £1 an hr or £6 a day cargo bike hire (large carrying capacity

with trailer and carrying box attached) – 2 bikes available; Plastic free Mistley & Manningtree project – working with retailers, businesses and clubs to eliminate plastics; Street Keepers – local group weeding and cleaning the communal areas of streets. It is all very positive stuff and Boxted councillors would like to see if there is scope to organise along similar lines in Boxted. Again, if you are interested in knowing more, then email the clerk and we can kick off with a meeting in the Spring.

Sorry to finish on a negative note but we have suffered several days of anti-social behaviour on the field with significant rubbish strewn about and glass bottles smashed. A small army of early walkers have been great at clearing up and it is appreciated. If you know any of the perpetrators, could you let them know that the police will be calling in and they should stop creating such a dangerous mess.

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

Probus Club of Colchester — September Meeting



ur club met for its annual Presidents Lunch. This

year we went back to the Colne Valley Golf Club, where, after ordering drinks, Golf club staff offered a nice selection of canapes. This was followed by a superb lunch.

Afterwards a very interesting talk was delivered by David Prior from the **Sutton Hoo Ships Company**. He commenced with the background of the discovery and excavation just before the start of WW2. The site was covered over during the war and then later the site was excavated again to reveal an Anglo Saxon ship some 14 feet wide and 90 foot long.

A decision was made to construct a replica of the original ship. This commenced with visits to Denmark and Sweden, where replicas of Viking ships were being recreated.

For authenticity the UK team have had made copies of the original hand tools used at the time. The construction is being built from green oak and most of the oak trees were donated except for the one used for the keel. This had to be bought in and cut with modern machinery. The oak trees used in the construction are split using wedges, so



that the split along the length of the truck of the tree is following the natural grain.

A most interesting talk and those attending were advised that they could visit the building where the replica is being constructed and entry is without charge.

Our next meeting is at the Colchester Rugby clubs premises. Members meet up for coffee at 1000 for a 1030 start. The talk this time is titled The Jumbo Tower – Past, Present, and Future.

Probus Club of Colchester welcomes both Ladies and Gentlemen who have retired, semi-retired or are about to retire. If you would like to know more about our club then please contact Bob Juniper, Club Secretary on T: 07770 883671 or E: bojuniper2@gmail.com. Or Bob Cash the clubs publicity officer on T: 01206523422 or jr.cash@ntlworld.com



To all the residents of Langham and Boxted
Wishing you a

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND**

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

from Heather, the Ministry Team
and all the volunteers who help with the work of
St Peter's Church, Boxted and St Mary's Church, Langham.



Christmas Services and Events

Please do come along to any of the community events
and church services taking place in December
which are, as ever, open to every resident,
of any faith or none!

You will be most welcome.

3rd December at Boxted Village Hall:
Boxted Methodist Silver Band at 3pm
Christmas Tree Lighting 4pm

17th December at St Peter's Church, Boxted:
Community Carol Service at 3pm
with the Boxted Methodist Silver Band

21st December at The Shepherd and Dog, Langham:
Carol Singing at 7:30pm

Christmas Eve 24th December:
Christingle Service, 4pm at St Mary's Church, Langham
Midnight Mass, 11pm at St Peter's Church, Boxted

Christmas Day 25th at St Mary's Church, Langham:
Christmas Communion at 10.00am

The 11am -1:30pm Friday Shift at the Community Shop

Hello if you haven't already met me I am Rev Em the curate to Langham with Boxted. I live and farm in Mount Bures and to get to know the village came up with the idea to volunteer for a shift at the community shop. Blessed with the patience of Brian and Gill (they have put in for a transfer) I have sort of learnt the many manoeuvres on the till.

What a delight to be at the heart of this parish. So many amazing people walk through the door looking for anything from dragon fruit to an apple.

With society getting busier and everyone engaged in their own stories the shop is like a little oasis to visit, chat, ponder on things and grab a coffee. Your fabulous community shop is a gentle gem in today's very fast-moving, sometimes aggressive life.

I hope to continue to meet more of you in the coming weeks, and thank you for your patience when my fat thumb presses the wrong button again. God Bless!

Rev Em x

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.

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Wednesday...272755 or 272013

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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

LANGHAM LADIES

The speaker for the Langham Ladies meeting on Thursday November 9th. was Paula Short her talk being "Stars and the War" The stars who she spoke about were James Stuart, Marlena Dietrich and Clarke Gable. James Stuart's acting career was paused after he enlisted in the US Army Air Force during World War II deputy commanding the 2nd Bombardment Wing, the 703e Bombardment Squadron. He was a very brave fighter pilot taking an active role in the D Day Landings. He was sent overseas to fly B24Liberator bombers over Nazi occupied Europe. At that time the aircrews were expected to be killed after 8to 12 missions but James Stuart flew 20 missions. He entered the war as a Private but came out a Colonel in the Army Air Corps. He retired in 1968 and died 1997. Marlena Dietrich was among those who volunteered for USO tours in 1944-1945. She travelled to Algeria, France, Italy and Germany to visit the wounded soldiers and sing to the troops, often under difficult and dangerous conditions. After the war she went back to USA to become a Cabaret star. When she died her body was taken back to Berlin to be buried next to her Mother. Clarke Gable enlisted as a Private in the AAF in 1942 at Los Angeles as a rear gunner. He flew at least 5 missions as a Captain, filming 50,000ft of gunnery combat during 1943. He was promoted to

Colonel and presented with many medals. He was a Hero during the war and also a Hero on the screen. As you can see from the information above this talk was very interesting and showed how very brave some of the screen stars were during the war.

On Friday December 2nd many of the members will enjoy a lunch celebrating Christmas at The Court House in Great Bromley.

Our next Langham Ladies meeting takes place on Thursday December 14th in the Community Centre starting at 7.30pm. This will be a Christmas social evening with games, entertainment and plenty to eat and drink. Ladies don't forget your Secret Santa Gift for you to take part.

Gill, Tricia and Ginny wish all our Langham Ladies members a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.



HANGING ON TO HOPE!

At the beginning of November, I was privileged to meet with Shang (Peshang), an Iraqi Kurdish 29 year old man who has been through the most difficult, life threatening challenges we, as British citizens, can only imagine in nightmares.

I first met Shang at the BBQ at Langham Community Centre in July which was referred to in the September issue. Shang worked as a YouTube, social media influencer in Iraq before he was forced to leave his home, family and friends following a brutal attack by Government agents (PDK-PUK) in 2021 in his small rural home neighbourhood. He was no longer safe to stay there.

Listening to Shang's story, it became clear to me just how real all the awful experiences we read about and see in the news are. Innocent babies, children, men, women and the

elderly subjected to torture, human trafficking, isolation and starvation. It took Shang nearly a year to reach the UK from Iraq, facing all of the above and fearing death at every moment. Whilst listening to Shang's story it is clear he is a remarkable, passionate and dedicated individual, standing up against the corruption and brutal oppression of his home country. But there are deep wounds and what Shang experienced would do nothing short of leaving any human being with post traumatic stress and complex mental health problems.



Shang expressed his happiness when he arrived in the UK, visiting London and a taxi driver asking 'Where to luv?'. The warmth and friendliness in this question, immediately made Shang realise he no longer needed to fear for his life. Colchester has been Shang's home since September 2022, living in the Holiday Inn on Birchwood road

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with other asylum seekers. It's taken a while for Shang to trust in people but meeting Martin Green from Community 360 has helped rebuild his trust in others. Martin is the community driver for the asylum seekers and has been supporting Shang and many others to get on their feet and become independent. Shang has also kept as busy as he can (in his words to keep his mind off thinking about what happened to him). Volunteering in the Langham Village shop once a week as well as recording videos for Colchester City Council and filming clips for Table Tennis England.

Very sadly the Holiday Inn is no longer going to accommodate asylum seekers

after mid-December. This means all residents will be relocated. Some to the Bibby Stockholm Barge in Dorset. Again, setting fear for many as to where they will end up eventually and if they will be sent back home. Nothing is certain until they receive Refugee visa status.

At the end of meeting Shang, it was hard not to shed a tear. Sadness at what he has had to experience and for so many who have suffered or lost lives as a result of fleeing their country.

Claire Arculus

BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

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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.

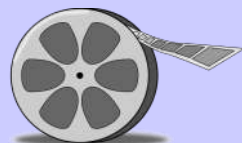
Contact Group Scout Leader, Denise Hobday 01206 230918.

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' is set against a light blue background. On the left, a cartoon waiter in a white shirt and red and green striped apron holds a tray with a tall glass of beer. In the center, a cartoon character with a yellow head and a white shirt holds a dark blue Bible. To the right, a white dog with a black face is looking up. A speech bubble next to the dog contains the text 'at the Shepherd & Dog Langham'. The main title 'Beer and the Bible' is written in a large, black, cursive font at the top. 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 Linda Sheil 01206 273324

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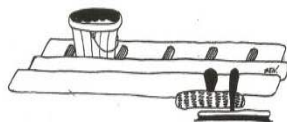
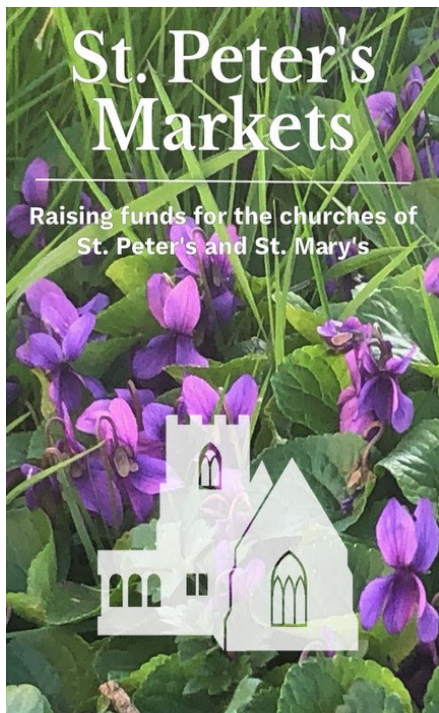
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If you have any new clubs or events planned in the future, please consider using the village hall as your venue.

Deadline for submissions for the February edition:

15th January

Contact the editor via email:

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