



CHURCH SERVICES

1st December First Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion (said)

10.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship Refreshments are served at 10.15 between the services

8th December Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Peter's - Holy Communion

15th December Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion (said) 10.30am at St Mary's – Morning Worship Refreshments are served at 10.15 between the services

22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Mary's - Holy Communion

24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm at St Mary's – Christingle 11.00pm at St Mary's – Midnight Mass

25th December Christmas Day

10.00am at St Peter's - Christmas Holy Communion

28th December

3.00pm in St Peter's churchyard - Forest Church

29th December First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am at St Mary's – Six parishes United celebration of Holy Communion

5th January Celebration of the Epiphany

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion (said)

10.30am at St Peter's - Morning Worship

Refreshments are served at 10.15 between the services

5.00pm at St Peter's - Taize style service

12th January Baptism of Christ

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

19th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion (said)

10.30am at St Mary's – Morning Worship

Refreshments are served at 10.15 between the services

3.00 – 5.00pm at St Peter's – Messy church

26th January Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

3.00pm in St Peter's churchyard – Forest Church

2nd February Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion (said)

10.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship Refreshments are served at 10.15 between the services

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

Welcome to the December Newsletter.

irst of all, may we, the editorial team, wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The **Boxted panto** is a great success again (Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is!) which is due to your collective support for this seasonal treat. Scott Dolling contacted me to say "We have sold out nice and early again and that's with the extra date added and must be as a result of the newsletter". Great to hear that our community values his and his team's hard work and creativity.

When not working on the newsletter, I have a teaching post for Old English and I thought I'd share the form of words in my seasonal greetings to students:

GLÆD GEOL OND GESÆLIG NIW GEAR

that's 'Glad Yule' for 'Merry Christmas' and 'Blessed New Year'. The old word *gesælig* meaning 'blessed' survives as our word 'silly' which developed the senses 'prosperous' and then 'pious, innocent' then 'weak' and finally 'naïve'. Quite a demotion from 'blessed' to 'trivial', even over 700 years!

Not quite as ancient as the 11th century greeting I just mentioned is the subject of Ian Holland's article in these pages: the 130-year anniversary of the establishment of the present-day parish and the inaugural meeting of the Langham Parish Council in 1894. This is the first in an occasional series for which we are very grateful to Ian for sharing it with us.

nd Christmas is all about sharing so please keep warm, stay safe and have a wonderful time. We'll be back in February.

Steve Pollington, Editor



LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL IN YEARS PAST (1)

ecember 2024 marks
130 years since Rural
District and Parish
Councils were
established under the Local
Government Act 1894. In 2014
Andrew Stacey photographed the
minutes of the Langham Parish
Council's meetings deposited with
the Essex Record Office (Cat. D/
J573) and from time to time we shall
be reproducing selected passages
from them, with short
commentaries.

Parishes had previously been administered by the Overseers (collectors of the Poor Rate) and the Churchwardens (responsible for maintaining the church and churchyard and caring for parish property). These officials were appointed by the annual meeting of parishioners in the parish church, the 'Vestry'. The Vestry also nominated the Surveyor, who was employed by the Highways Board (after 1894, the Rural District Council) to look after roads and other infrastructure.

On the opposite page are the minutes of the very first Parish Meeting held under the 1894 Act. Held at the Board (now Primary) School on 4th December, it was attended by over 60 electors (property owners and occupants of dwelling houses) the meeting was called to elect seven parish councillors. It was opened by the Overseer, Joe Mallett, a shopkeeper and later postmaster at Blacksmith's Corner, and chaired by Rector Raffles.

The first meeting of the new council was eleven days later, also at the Board School. William Hart Borham, proprietor of Langham Watermill, was elected chairman and Thomas Blyth of Highfields (now Whalebone House), a farmer and prominent Baptist, the vice chairman. The Assistant Overseer, William Griffiths, was later appointed the first Clerk, his remuneration for the year to March 1896 being £3 (£495 at today's values).

Ian Hollands

a Parish Meeting was held in accordance with the Local Government act 1894 ac The Board Ichool, Langham on Tuesday Olec, 4 1804 at 7. p. m. for the Election of Parish Councillors. Mr Coe Mallett having taken the chair as Overseer, Rest J. J. Raffle was proposed and seconded as Chairman for the Evening, there being no opposition Mr. Mallett vacated the Chair and it was taken by the Rector who at once asked for nomination papers to be handed to Trim? Chirteen valia hominations were received and on a show of hands each received The following number of votes. 1. * Blyth Thomas 28 votes 2 * Back am Wor Hart 37 3. Byles John 33 4. Cason Edward 11 5.* Colasmith Henry 50 6. * Green George 61. 7. Tirby Thomas O. 27 8. * Mallett Jon 35 0 * Pollard Thomas 47 10. Southgate Charles 23 1. Taylor Cames 24 12* Welhams albert 51 13. Wright Samuel 18 -

No poll being demanded the Chairman acclared the seven marked with a star duly elected and the Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

W.T. moham chairman

The Perfect Gift

s I write this, it is the 11th
November, Remembrance Day.
Yesterday in our churches, we
remembered, lest we forget, the sacrifice
of so many that we might know peace and
freedom in our time. But as is always the
way, the world is pushing us on, and we
are being bombarded by Christmas adverts
on the television and through social
media. It seems hard to imagine that we
could ever forget that Christmas is
coming.

It is rightly an exciting time of the year, as Christmas draws ever closer, as more and more doors of the advent calendar get opened, as the advent candle burns lower and lower, that excitement mounts. If we have children, or grandchildren, nieces and nephews, old enough to be aware of what is happening, then the adverts will be doing their job, and the list of Christmas gifts they want will be growing by the minute.

Conversely, for those of us who are fortunate to already have everything we need, possibly even too much., then the question, "what do you want for Christmas?" gets ever harder to answer, or certainly does for me.

Not having that much time to watch television, I haven't yet caught many of the Christmas adverts yet, but I did catch sight of an advert for Sainsburys the other day, featuring Roald Dahls BFG (Big Friendly Giant) which spoke about how they are working with Comic Relief, to distribute over five million meals to families experiencing food poverty this Christmas. In our family we give alternative gifts, I have lost count of the number of goats, beehives, school bags and sewing machines I have 'nominally' been given over the years, but it is always makes me so grateful and happy to think of the people that will be receiving these gifts.

hristmas is of course the time when we remember the perfect gift, a gift for everyone who willingly receives it. Jesus, wrapped in swaddling bands and laid in a manger. Foretold in Isaiah in these words 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Or in the words of Simeon, as he held him in his arms at just 10 days old, 'he will be a light to lighten the gentiles.'

At Christmas we remember the greatest gift of all, Jesus, the light in the darkness, through whom, we can have the assurance of salvation and life everlasting. May you know the fullness of the gift he offers this Christmas time

May God bless you

Heather



LANGHAM LADIES

his month's Langham Ladies meeting on Thursday 14th November was so much fun.
Four members from Colchester
Sugarcraft Guild demonstrated to us how to make a Christmas Tree and a Choir Boy in sugar paste. All members present then showed their skills in making these themselves with the help of the demonstrators. We had lots of laughs and all went home with our efforts. Hopefully the members will show them off on their Christmas Cakes.

ext month's meeting
December 12th held in
Langham Community Centre
starting at 7.30pm is our Christmas Party

when we will have a buffet, games and a Secret Santa Gift when we leave.

Gill, Tricia and Ginny wish all our members and readers of the newsletter a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

The yearly subscriptions £25 is due in January and it would be lovely for New Members to join us in the New Year.

New members will always be welcome so come along and see what we get up to.



Langham Community Centre's 100 Club Draw

October's winners were

Liz Winter 98 ıst

Suzanne Dawson 2nd

Roxanne Lansbury 3rd 13

18 Denise Hobday 4th

New members welcome.

Contact libbywinteri8@gmail.com.





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BOXTEO HISTORY GROUP

n the 19th century the increasing professionalism of the

Royal Navy led to the establishment of a training centre at Shotley at which recruits could be inducted into navy life. Boys aged between 15 and 17 tears old were educated for future service at sea. Initially all training was on five boats, one of which was called HMS Ganges.

Accommodation and workshops moved ashore in 1905. The training centre remained in service until October 1978.

On arrival at Shotley boys were given a haircut before being allocated to

accommodation, which meant sleeping in one large room. There were no individual rooms. There was a strict regime: beds had to be made in a certain way and there were regular kit inspections. After two weeks everyone had to scale the heights of the tall mast There were no health and safety regulations and nobody wore a safety harness. It was dangerous but during its years of operations there was only one fatality.

Among the skills learned and practised were rope work and knot tying, while

there were workshops in signalling - morse code and

semaphore. Boys were also trained to fire guns such as those regularly found on warships. In addition they were give the opportunity to learn a trade such electronics and engineering. Besides these skills all trainees had to learn how to swim and had to jump off a plank into the water in a simulation of having to evacuate ship when at sea. There was a great emphasis on selfreliance.

In addition to training for life at sea there was also a great emphasis on ceremonials: marching

drills were practised and there was a church parade each Sunday, In short it was disciplined work but a fitting preparation for a life of service.

Colin Chapman spoke to the History Group about life at HMS Gangs. For information about future meetings phone 01206 272250.

Alan Ladbrooke



HMS Ganges mast in 2004

Boxted W.I. members and friends enjoyed a *decoupage* experience at their November craft meeting, whilst welcoming new members.

The activity enabled much social catch-up over a glass of wine and the usual refreshments whilst pondering over the National Federation's nominations for the 2025 annual resolution.

In support of the current "dental health matters', the members are focusing on dental supplies for their annual charity collection.

December brings the festive season; Tuesday 10th December the members are holding a masked party eve with a 'Casino' theme.

Aldercar Wood Heating Oil Buying Club

Boxted & Great Horkesley

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To sign up, please provide your name and email address to

aldercarwood@gmail.com



PROBUS CLUB OF COLCHESTER

ur club met on Wednesday 13th November at our usual venue: the modern club house of Colchester Rugby Club. Twenty guests attended, including seven lady members and three potential new members - two ladies and one gentleman. Those attending were hugely entertained by our guest speaker, Sir Bob Russell, who delivered a most interesting talk about his political life entitled "My 18 years as an MP".

His introduction included part of his career before entering politics. He worked in the media as an Editor or sub editor to local and national newspapers, plus a while as a publicity officer at Essex University.

He became a local councillor in Colchester for the Labour party and remained elected for 10 years, but left the Labour party and joined the Social Democratic party in 1979. He became mayor in 1986. In 1997 he was elected as an MP with 34% of the vote. He explained what the term COBRA meant as is often quoted in the media; it stands for "Cabinet Office Briefing Room A".

He mentioned the Elizabeth Medal. This medal is awarded to mothers or wives who had lost sons or husbands killed in military action. He took part in a parachute jump where a widow scattered her husbands ashes as she piggy-backed down on a parachute. This event remembered the eleven members of the 2nd Parachute Regiment who were killed in Afghanistan.

He spent 2 to 3 years on a Prisons sub committee and visited prisons in Sweden and Germany. He was involved in the introduction of a Safe Cell project in Remand centres and this greatly reduced suicides amongst remand prisoners.

Finally he mentioned the use of the internet and emails which greatly facilitated his work and correspondence between himself and his secretary.

There followed quite a few questions and also after the meeting finished he spent time talking to individual members.

Probus Club of Colchester is open to potential members, Ladies and Gentlemen. If you would like to know more about our club and are interested in joining us then please contact the clubs Hon Sec: Jim Duffy Email jimduffyc@aol.co.uk or telephone 07814 826367

Bob Cash
Publicity Officer

St Helena Hospice Christmas Tree-cycle returns in January 2025

he popular St Helena Hospice annual Christmas Tree-cycle is returning!

Save yourself the trip to the recycling centre and let St Helena

Hospice take care of the Christmas clean up for you.

If you live in postcode areas: CO1-CO9, and

CO11 to CO16, St Helena Hospice's team of volunteers can collect your real Christmas tree in return of a donation.

Your donation will help provide compassionate care and support to people in your community facing incurable illness and bereavement. You can feel good knowing you are not only reducing waste, but you're also helping ensure St Helena Hospice can be

there for the people you love, when they need it.

Collection is between Friday 10th and Monday 13th January 2025. Simply register before Sunday 5 th January at www.sthelena.org.uk/

treecycle25.

Would you like to volunteer? If you would like to help collect trees, or if you could supply

a van for the volunteers to use, please contact the fundraising team on

fundraising@sthelena.org.uk or call the fundraising office on 01206 931 468.

The Christmas Tree-cycle is kindly sponsored by Tree & Lawn Company and supported by Birch Airfield, Essex Reclamation, Love Essex, Colchester City Council, Essex County Council and Tendring District Council.

BOXTED METHODIST SILVER BAND

he Band has had a very busy few months finishing with a Remembrance Concert at St Botolph's church in Colchester with Lexden Choral Society and playing for the Remembrance service here at St Peter's church, but we now turn our thought towards Christmas and the carol playing season. We are taking part in the village Tree Lighting afternoon with communal carols and music at the village hall at 3 on December 1st and also playing at the carol service at St. Peter's on December 22nd.

Between those two dates we will be visiting some of the streets in Boxted playing carols for you to listen to or sing along to. We are supporting Emmaus Colchester this year as well as collecting for Band funds so please help us if you can. The following are the evenings we will be out – 13th December Mill Road and Windmill Close, 16th December Church Street, 20th December Hill Farm and Cage Lane, 23rd December The Cross (Dedham Road and Cooks Hill). We hope you will be able to join



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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.

1st December at Boxted Village Hall: Boxted Methodist Silver Band at 3pm Christmas Tree Lighting 4pm

19th December at The Shepherd and Dog, Langham: Carol Singing at 7:30pm

22nd December at St Peter's Church, Boxted: Community Carol Service at 3pm with the Boxted Methodist Silver Band

A collection will be taken in aid of Beacon House, a charity providing services to people who are homeless in Colchester.

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

Christmas Day 25th at St Peter's Church, Boxted: Christmas Communion at 10.00am

Langham Parish Council PRESENTS

Christmas Concert

AT THE LANGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER AT 5.00PM

Featuring aspiring young musicians who will play a program of live seasonal music. They will also accompany some Christmas Carol singing by members of the audience.

Complimentary mince pies, tea/coffee, soft drinks and mulled wine will be provided between 5.00 and 5.30pm prior to the commencement of the music and during the intermission.

Please come along and enjoy this family evening. We ask you register your interest in attending at:

www.langhamparishcouncil.co.uk/xmas-concert/ so that enough spaces can be provided.

Langham Parish Council

The Boxted Players present

WIZARD PF BOXTED

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Friday 13th December 7.30

& Saturday 14th December 4.00 and 7.30

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Adults £10 Children (under 16) £5

BOXTED ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS



Sunday 22nd Dec 1pm -9pm Mon 23rd Dec - CLOSED Christmas Eve 5pm -9pm Christmas Day- 12 - 4pm Thursday 26th Dec 4pm -10pm Friday 27th Dec 4:30pm- Midnight Saturday 28th Dec 4pm -11pm Sunday 29th Dec 3pm -9pm



31st Dec - New Year's Eve 6pm till Late - Music & buffet January 1st NYD - CLOSED

Monday 30th Dec -CLOSED

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BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

Meeting every third Wednesday of the month at Boxted Village Hall. 7.30 for 8pm.

Guests always welcome.



BOXTED CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Come and join us for a friendly, enjoyable afternoon playing bowls at Boxted Village Hall on Friday 2 - 4 pm, Sept to April

Further info please contact:

Michael Hubbard 01206 271892

Sue Smith 07465443795

sueronben@gmail.com

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

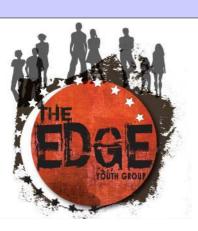
Meet on first Wednesday of each month throughout the year, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Community Centre. Subscription £26 due March and September. Contact Chrissy Todd tel. 07742 131454.

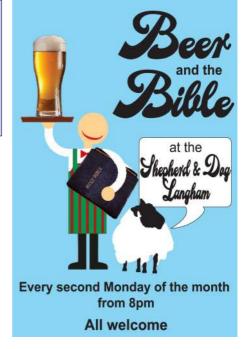
Carpet Bowls Club

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 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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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 enquiries@2ndlanghamscouts.org or contact us via our website.

www.2ndlanghamscouts.org





BOXTED RBL CLUB
OPENING HOURS



MONDAY......CLOSED

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

BOXTED RBL CLUB, STRAIGHT ROAD, CO4 5QN, 01206 272576,

BOXTED.LEGION@GMAIL.COM

WHEELCHAIR LOAN

The Short Term Wheelchair Loan Charity (Reg. No.112657, www.wheelchairbancharity.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

Please mention the Newsletter when replying to advertisements

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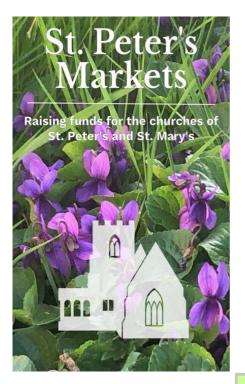
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At Langham Community Shop

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS for regular shifts, but also, just as importantly, we need stand ins to cover any holidays & gaps in the rota. You will never work alone & full training is given. Meet new people & learn lots of new skills, for just two & a half hours of your timel For further information & an informal chat Call our Volunteer CoOrdinator Cath Hine on 07825 952560

BOXTED EVERGREENS

Our Club meets in the village hall every fourth Thursday of the month from 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

The age of our members varies but the club would suit anyone over 60 so please come along and you would be given a warm welcome. Our members are always asked for their suggestions before our yearly entertainment programme is arranged and we do try our best to cater for everyone.

If you would like more information about our club please call Linda on 01206 272710 or Elaine on 01206 273183. If you would like more information about our club please call Linda on 01206 272710.



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 273324
Tuesday......07707 602702 or 273195
Wednesday....272755 or 272013
Thursday....... 07765 037892 or 323007
Friday........ 272773

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

THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED

Contact Details

Websites

Boxted – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458 Langham – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6459 *Rector* Heather Wilcox

> 01206 240906/07503151715 RevHWilcox@outlook.com

> > ----

273324

Please contact the Rector with any enquiries

Church Office available by appointment Mon-Fri: 10am - 12pm

Associate Priest Revd Anne Mason

07895 970834 revdannemason@gmail.com Curate Revd Emma Barr 07801659345

Lay Minister Denise Hobday 230918
Church Administrator (for the parishes of
Langham with Boxted, West Bergholt and
Great Horkesley Donna Luxton (MonWed) & Jo Rassell (Thur- Fri)

Email: 6parishescolchester@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's Langham

Stephen Garner	2/2599
Sgarner.22@btinternet.com	
Denise Hobday	230918
hobdaylangham@hotmail.com	
St Peter's Boxted	
Jos Carter	272755
Zone Youth Group	
Dominic & Linda Shiel	273324

St Mary & St Peter Newsletter

Editor Stephen Pollington 683670 Email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

Advertising Paul Armstrong 07766 747497

Email: boxlangads@gmail.com

The Edge Youth Group

Dominic & Linda Shiel

Distribution

Elaine Mott (Boxted) 273183 Linda Tralau (Boxted) 272710 Paul Armstrong (Langham) 616604

BOXTED VILLAGE HALL

Cage Lane, Boxted, CO45RE

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 February edition: 15th January Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

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34 Walsingham Rd, Colchester CO2 7BP

Open 10am to 8pm daily

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