

The background of the newsletter cover is a photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of green grass with yellow wildflowers. A dense line of green trees and bushes runs across the middle ground. In the background, several high-voltage power line towers (pylons) are visible, with power lines stretching across the sky. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

# ST MARY & ST PETER NEWSLETTER

**February 2025**

## CHURCH SERVICES

### 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*

### 9th February Fourth Sunday before Lent

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

### 16th February Third Sunday before Lent

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 February

3.00pm in St Peter's churchyard – Forest Church

### 23rd February Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

### 2nd March Sunday next before Lent

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*

### 5th March Ash Wednesday

10.00am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

To check for other services and any alterations please email The Reverend Heather Wilcox – [RevHWilcox@outlook.com](mailto:RevHWilcox@outlook.com)



**Deadline for submissions for the March edition: 15th February**  
**Contact the editor via email: [lwbnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lwbnewsletter@gmail.com)**

## Welcome to the February Newsletter.

**Greetings to all our readers and welcome to 2025!**

Since the last time I wrote, a few ongoing issues have worked their way to the top of the Grievance List, not least of which is the Great Pylon Project which looks set to go ahead despite local opposition and government heel-dragging. A quick and cheap solution seems to have been found preferable to doing the job properly, and we all know that the cheap fix is seldom cheapest in the long run.

Elsewhere, current thinking is that work on repairs to Severalls Bridge may actually begin in the autumn as foreseen at present, but let's wait and see. The dangerous 'partly-open but not really' access certainly needs fixing before there is a major accident, made almost inevitable by the large pothole at the Colchester that has widened since it received the constant pummelling for which it was never designed.

But in happier news, it was great to learn that local man John Polley was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours list—surely a well-deserved acknowledgement for decades of service and participation in what is now the only remaining Methodist Silver Band in the country. Congratulations to John and to the Silver Band as a whole.

Finally, may I say what a pleasure it was to perform one of the readings at the Christmas Carol Concert and to meet some of you in person at last.

The concert was a wonderful evocation of the spirit of the season and I felt very honoured to be invited to take part.

*Steve Pollington,*  
Editor

## Boxted W.I.

**B**oxted W.I. have now commenced the 2025 programme with a New Year meal at the *Yew Tree* and look forward to another entertaining year including the forthcoming *February Bake Off* challenge. We are pleased to report that the members had an active couple of months to end 2024 and listed are some of the highlights:

\*We wore Orange to our coffee morning to raise awareness of gender based violence against women,

\*we listened to the delightful Nayland Choir with their lifting performance of Winter Songs,

\* some members ran in the Adnams Southwold 10k & some were spotted wild swimming at Frinton! 🏊

\*We enjoyed the live screening of the Royal Ballet's *The Nutcracker*,

\*we got creative with decoupage art at our November craft & drinks evening

\*we finished the year with a December casino themed games night with masks (congrats to the winner Carola Markham) copious amounts of nibbles and not forgetting the fizz! The games included a rather amusing 'human fruit machine' and the evening was complete with a collection of very generous donations of dental items for the food bank- in support of our 'Dental Health Matters' campaign.



## Aldercar Wood Heating Oil Buying Club

Boxted & Great Horkeley

*Aldercar Wood is a locally run club for any of us wanting to get a good deal for heating oil.*

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

[aldercarwood@gmail.com](mailto:aldercarwood@gmail.com)

## Forest Church

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For More Information  
Please Contact Dominic On  
07748305727

## Boxted Wildlife EVENING TALKS

TALKS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
ALL TALKS START AT 7:30 (DOORS OPEN FROM 7 PM) AND ARE HELD AT BOXTED VILLAGE HALL, CAGE LANE, CO4 5RE

**TUE 28TH JAN: JONATHAN HUNT**

**"ICE AGE BOXTED: A BRIEF NATURAL HISTORY**

**TUE 25TH FEB: SARAH MANNING**

**"INTRODUCTION TO FUNGI"**

**TUE 25TH MAR: LIZ HUXLEY**

**"ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE INTO YOUR GARDEN"**

**APRIL: DATE & TALK TBC**

THE BOXTED WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES PROJECT 2024-25 IS FUNDED BY THE DEDHAM VALE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND



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[info@boxtedwildlife.co.uk](mailto:info@boxtedwildlife.co.uk)



## Langham Community Centre's

### 100 Club Draw

#### November's winners were

- 1st 68 Alan Cadman  
2nd 29 Liz Winter  
3rd 21 Judith Allinson  
4th 60 Langham Ladies

#### December's winners were

- 1st 65 Karen Jones  
2nd 94 Darren Doyle  
3rd 74 Karen Jones  
4th 69 Jutta Brawn

New members welcome.

Contact [libbywinter18@gmail.com](mailto:libbywinter18@gmail.com).

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<https://colchesterhomecare.com>

## BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

December saw a change of the customary evening of history-based themed talks for the Group: *Silbury Hill* gave a concert of lively folk music, both original material and traditional-themed.

The absence of long-standing member Derek Kirby and his wife Diane was keenly felt by all—not for sinister reasons, but due to a house-move which was planned long ago and suddenly had to be completed

within a very short space of time. We all wish Derek and Diane well in their new lives in foreign parts (well, Suffolk actually) and hope that our paths may cross again soon.

The group continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 in the Village Hall in Cage Lane.

Steve Pollington

## BOXTED METHODIST SILVER BAND

The longest standing member of the band, John Polley, was awarded a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours.

John first played the cymbals with the band outside the village chapel over 80 years ago. His last concert, in the village hall last February, was shared by family and lifelong friends.



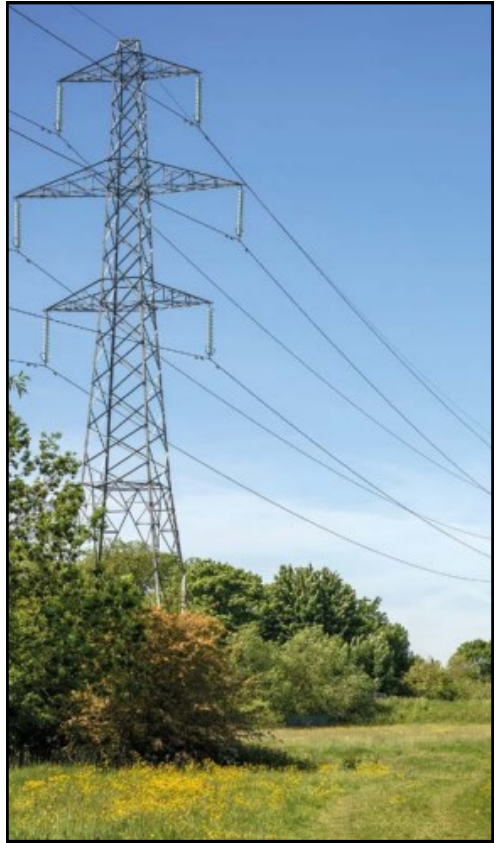
The band wish him and his wife Margaret many deserved congratulations and a happy and healthy New Year.

## Pylons update

Following the recent announcement that National Grid has 'carefully considered' feedback it received from the public, stakeholders and the findings of its ground investigations and environmental surveys in the area, it has decided to take forward an **overhead line** in the Waveney area.

The latest newsletter from National Grid sets out answers to some questions commonly raised during the consultation period.

Most interesting is the response to the suggestion that the line be carried under the sea: “Building an offshore grid – in any form – would be more expensive and would take longer than the proposed onshore route which includes overhead line. Pylons can carry more than 6 GW of power. Subsea cables can only carry up to 2 GW of power. To deliver the same capacity, we would need to build three offshore cables as well as significant onshore infrastructure



such as converter stations. The costs to build the offshore links are estimated at £4.1 billion, compared to around £1 billion for the onshore route.”

So there you have the answer — it comes down to the short-term, quick and cheap solution.



## *PROBUS CLUB OF COLCHESTER*

On Wednesday 27th November our club met at the club house of Colchester Rugby club. There were 19 members present including 7 ladies. Our invited speaker Samantha Rowland delivered a very interesting talk which was titled:

### **A Day at the Races (The Roman Circus)**

Samantha explained that she commenced being involved with the Colchester Archaeological Trust first as a volunteer but is now an employee. She stated that the Roman Circus (Circus means Circuit) is the only one in the UK so far identified. It is the most Northerly known chariot racing track in the Roman Empire. Colchester, known at the time as *Camulodunum*, was also the first Roman city and capital of Britain. Emperor Claudius also had built a temple which was sited just North of the current High Street and Hollytrees Museum.

In the year 2000 the army garrison moved to their current site. They vacated an earlier site which was originally the site of the medieval Benedictine Abbey of St John the Baptist. Therefore it was untouched by modern development. The site was subject to an archaeological survey. The actual area is close to what is now Butt Road. The archaeologists found the remains of a Roman wall with circular corners. This was odd because Roman buildings had square corners. It

was suggested it might be a Roman racetrack. So a number of excavations were dug and it unearthed the outline of a track. Every racetrack had a starting gate and so far along there were set turning posts. The chariots each pulled by four horses were driven anti clockwise around the track which was about 250 yards long. The starting gate were located in the garden of the former officers mess. The site was given Scheduled Ancient Monument status in 2007.

Samantha then mentioned the Colchester Roman visitor centre where visitors can have a guided tour and view Roman archaeological remains.

At the end there were a number of questions from those attending which was a strong indicator of the interest in the subject of the talk.

*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 jimduffy@aol.co.uk or telephone 07814 826367*

*Bob Cash*  
Publicity Officer

## February: A Month of Light, Love, and New Beginnings

As February unfolds, we find ourselves moving further into the promise of lighter days and the hope of new growth. Winter may still hold a chill in the air, but beneath the surface, life is stirring.

Snowdrops, crocuses, and daffodils are beginning to pierce through the earth, their delicate heads reaching for the sun. It's a reminder that even in the coldest of seasons, new life is emerging, and God's creative power is at work in the world around us.

In the Bible, we are reminded of God's light shining into the world, a light that dispels darkness and brings hope. The Gospel of John opens with the words:

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:5).

In these words, we are called to see the presence of Christ as a beacon of light in our lives, a light that shines even when circumstances feel cold or uncertain.

As we enter February, we can take joy in the increasing daylight. The days are growing longer, offering us more opportunities to step outside, breathe in the fresh air, and connect with the beauty of creation. Just as the bulbs emerge from the soil, our hearts too can begin to bloom with renewed hope and energy, ready to share love and kindness with others.

This is a month where we can embrace the power of community. As the days lighten, so too does our ability to reach out to one another in love. Let's take inspiration from the early spring flowers and cultivate kindness, warmth, and support in our relationships. Whether it's a simple word of encouragement, a heartfelt gesture, or an act of service, every small act of love reflects God's light in the world.

So, as we move through February, let's remember that the increasing light not only signals the change of seasons but also calls us to shine brighter in love, kindness, and community. In doing so, we reflect the very heart of God, whose light never fades.

God Bless

*Reverend Emma*

## Langham Community Centre – Volunteer Secretary

Langham Community Council is looking for a new Secretary with effect from May 2025, when I am stepping down from the position after nearly ten years.

I hope that someone younger and more IT-savvy will take on the role of supporting the Management team of Trustees.

It involves preparation of documents and minute-taking for Trustee and Finance meetings. You will join a team of Charity Trustees working to maintain and improve the Village Hall for the benefit of Langham and nearby residents.

If you would like to help your village by volunteering, I am happy to provide more details.

I found it a really good way of feeling useful, keeping abreast of village events and getting to know the lovely people of Langham.

I now live in Boxted, so please contact me initially via email: [libbywinter18@gmail.com](mailto:libbywinter18@gmail.com).

I will be happy to meet you.

Thank you very much.

Liz Winter.



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## Cllr Lewis Barber writes:

The **bus service** remains an area of concern for both villages, and I continue to raise these matters with the bus companies and Essex County Council. Unfortunately, it is too often that these are areas outside of local control. This is one example of why I am a strong supporter of local government reform. At the time of writing, there is an upcoming vote on submitting a proposal to government to implement their reforms locally. It is expected that the government will roll this out nationwide in the near future, with Essex intending to be one of the first tranches.

My view is that local government reform will give our local communities more say over matters such as bus services. I also believe that it will make local government less bureaucratic and inefficient, leading to better results for our communities on a variety of issues from public transport to the economy to housing and public health.

National Highways is waiting for the government to approve funding for **Severalls Lane Bridge**. However, we continue to maintain pressure for this being resolved. National Highways has reassured us that this is still intended to be completed in Autumn 2025. This is, of course, an unbelievably, and frustratingly, long time since the bridge was hit. Nevertheless, we hope the end is now near. We understand that funding is necessary as the costs have to be incurred before any attempted recovery from, for example, insurance companies.

You may recall from previous articles that I voted for additional money for the highway maintenance budget. This included a **priority budget**, which I have allocated funds for in Boxted and Langham

in the past. I welcome further submissions to [cldr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk) for consideration of both the general maintenance budget and my priority budget.

We also continue the campaign to improve road safety and traffic management in the villages. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for funding to be approved for the revisited plan for Dedham-Langham-Boxted so that a co-ordinated effort is made to address these challenges. We will keep lobbying for this.

I have also joined a multi-agency group to tackle **flooded issues**, as many of these require cross-agency input. I will keep raising those issues pertinent to Boxted and Langham to get them sorted. Please do get in touch with any important issues to you. This includes fundamental capacity issues in the area, which I am particularly concerned of with the government's new housing plans likely to put more pressure on such infrastructure.

Telephone: 07876237137 | Email:  
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## LANGHAM LADIES

The December meeting was much enjoyed by all the members who attended. We did a Christmas –themed word search and even went back to our childhood and played ‘pass the parcel’. Afterwards a buffet was enjoyed by everyone.

The January meeting was a very interesting talk by John Cameron who told us about the Medical Detector Dogs. Our Queen is patron to the Medical Detector Dogs charity and the work with the dogs is in collaboration with International Clinicians, Universities and the NHS Trust. It is usually spaniels and labradors that are used as they have special qualities. Some come from breeders and others are donated. It takes 18 months to 2 years to train a dog at a cost of approximately £29,000. These dogs can detect diseases that science cannot. They pick up smells

that are unique to Cancer, Parkinson’s , Covid and many other diseases. Detection of scents can be 10miles away. Each of their nostrils detect different smells. Their right side nostril detects smells that they recognise and their left nostril detects new smells. They are amazing dogs and have saved many peoples lives.

Our next meeting is on Thursday February 13th at Langham Community Centre starting at 7.30pm. The speaker is Roy Treloar his talk being, Old Stuff, Gadgets and What Do You Call Them. The subscription is now due £25 for a year of socialising, talks and having fun.

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## BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

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7.30 for 8pm.

Guests always welcome.



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Further info please contact:

Michael Hubbard 01206 271892

Sue Smith 07465443795

sueronben@gmail.com

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Langham Scout Group

Meetings are held each Wednesday evening at the Community Centre.

Squirrels 5:00 to 6:00

Beavers 4:45 to 6:00

Cubs 6:00 to 7:30

Scouts 7:30 to 9:00

Contact Group Scout Leader:

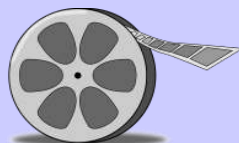
James Puxley 07935 909063

## 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/](http://www.langhamcommunitycentre.org.uk/next-cinema-screening/)



## Crafty Ladies

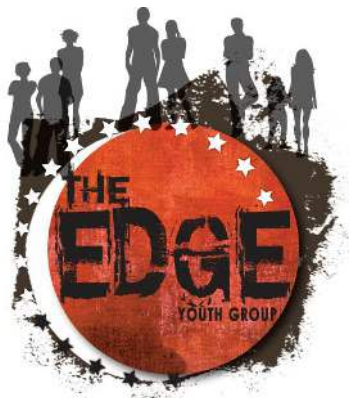
Meet on first Wednesday of each month throughout the year, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Community Centre. Subscription £26 due March and September. Contact Chrissy Todd tel. 07742 131454.

## 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. It features a cartoon waiter in a white shirt and green striped apron holding a tray with a glass of beer. Next to him is a black and white sheep. A speech bubble from the sheep says 'at the Shepherd &amp; Dog Langham'. The text 'Beer and the Bible' is written in a large, stylized font at the top. At the bottom, it says '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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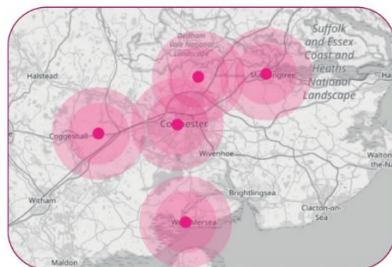
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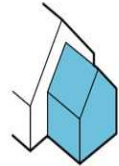
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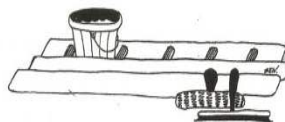
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## **BOXTED EVERGREENS**

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.*

# 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
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- or make a friendly visit just for a bit of company.

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**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.achurchnearlyou.com/church/6458](http://www.achurchnearlyou.com/church/6458)

Langham – [www.achurchnearlyou.com/church/6459](http://www.achurchnearlyou.com/church/6459)

**Rector Heather Wilcox**

01206 240906/07503151715

[RevHWilcox@outlook.com](mailto:RevHWilcox@outlook.com)

**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](mailto: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 (Mon -  
Wed) & Jo Russell (Thur- Fri)

Email: [6parishescolchester@gmail.com](mailto:6parishescolchester@gmail.com)

**Churchwardens**

**St Mary's Langham**

**Stephen Garner** 272599

[Sgarner.22@btinternet.com](mailto:Sgarner.22@btinternet.com)

**Denise Hobday** 230918

[hobdaylangham@hotmail.com](mailto:hobdaylangham@hotmail.com)

**St Peter's Boxted**

**Jos Carter** 272755

**Zone Youth Group**

**Dominic & Linda Shiel** 273324

**The Edge Youth Group**

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**BOXTED VILLAGE HALL**

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**Contact**

**Debbie Eley**

Telephone:- 01206 870266

Email:- [boxted@community-centre.org.uk](mailto: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  
March edition:**

**15th February**

**Contact the editor via email:**

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