

A photograph of a large field of yellow daffodils in full bloom. The flowers are arranged in a long, winding row that recedes into the distance. The background features a wooden fence, bare trees, and a paved area under an overcast sky. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, capturing the early spring season.

ST MARY & ST PETER NEWSLETTER

March 2025

CoverPicture : *Untitled* Thanks to Andy Hardie

CHURCH SERVICES

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

9th March First Sunday in Lent

9.30am at St Peter's – Holy Communion

16th March Second Sunday in 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 March

3.00pm in St Peter's churchyard – Forest Church

23rd March Third Sunday in Lent

9.30am at St Mary's – Holy Communion

30th March Mothering Sunday

9.30am at St Mary's – All Age Holy Communion with Baptism

6th April Fifth Sunday in Lent

9.30am at St Peter's – Morning Worship

To check for other services and any alterations please email The Reverend Heather Wilcox –

RevHWilcox@outlook.com



Deadline for submissions for the April edition: 15th March

Contact the editor via email: lwbnewsletter@gmail.com

Welcome to the March Newsletter.

It cannot have escaped your notice that the government —via Colchester City council — has mandated the building of 900 additional houses in Langham, which has caused a great deal of anger and worry to residents— both long-term locals and more recent arrivals who have chosen this area for its rural beauty and quiet.

See the Langham Council report further in this issue. How will the additional supply of electricity and water be managed? What about increased pressure on our already congested roads and the effect on the village school? These questions and more need answers - and the villagers have made the strength of local feeling very evident.

Both Cllr Lewis Barber and Cllr Thomas Rowe demonstrated their support for the protest at a Local Planning Committee meeting. We await further developments.

The ‘NO!’ campaign has been dubbed “Langham900” although comically the infernal autocorrect function sometimes ‘corrects’ this to “Language 900” which dilutes the effect somewhat.

These plans have to be seen against the proposed building of a string of pylons through the area, which is a threat of a different kind, but no less detrimental to the quality of our lives. Oh, for the days when saving Boxted Bridge was the main campaigning issue!

Steve Pollington,
Editor



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Boxted W.I.

Boxted W.I. are enjoying the commencement of 2025 with more increase in membership and have set another varied programme for the forthcoming year.

The group are extremely proud of member **Geraldine Russell** who is now **Orienteering East Anglian Champ 2024** in her age category.

February met with a cup-cake bake-off challenge (or flour fest!) which was enjoyed by all. Congrats go to **Jan Wilson** for the best bake and to **Jacqs Surtees** for the best decoration. Thanks goes to **Penny** from **Pantry 61** who bravely tasted and kindly judged the bakes.

We've concluded her cake making skills truly surpass those of our members however we make no apology for the fun we had. Our next meeting will be a craft theme.

The members will be having their next morning coffee chat in the Hub (Harpers Caffe) on 21st March.



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.

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aldercarwood@gmail.com

Forest Church

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Activities, Singing and Worship.
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For More Information
Please Contact Dominic On
07748305727

Boxted Wildlife

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VILLAGE WALKS

MEET AT THE VILLAGE HALL
10:00 AM

SAT 15TH MARCH
SAT 19TH APRIL
SAT 17TH MAY
SAT 21ST JUNE
SAT 19TH JULY
SAT 16TH AUG

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Info@BoxtedWildlife.co.uk

Langham Community Centre's

100 Club Draw

January's winners were

1st 97 Rona Hammond

2nd 95 Gill Salt

3rd 67 Chris and Rob
Clark

4th 35 Sylvia Mays

New members welcome.

Contact

libbywinter18@gmail.com.

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Geraldine Russell

07840746953

 Boxted WI

Email Essex HQ @

admin@essexwi.org.uk

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BOXTED HISTORY GROUP

The word “*cockney*” first appeared in English in 1362 in the medieval poem *Piers Plowman*. It meant “small egg” and was used by country folk as a disparaging term for town dwellers. It applied to all town-dwellers but in time it referred solely to Londoners. It was recognised as a linguistic term in 1890.

So what did you have to be to be a cockney? First of all you had to be born within the sound of Bow bells. This covered a wider area than today when high-rise buildings and traffic noise mask the sound. In 1941 a German bomb destroyed the bells and they weren't restored until 1961 so technically for twenty years no cockneys were born. A second attribute was that you had to be working class and thirdly you needed to speak a dialect.

One of the key characteristics of the dialect that was spoken was rhyming slang, for example “apples and pears” meaning “stairs”, “Lady Godiva” meaning “a fiver”, “tea leaf” meaning “a thief” and “trouble and strife” meaning “wife”. Some of the words and phrases are easy to understand, while others are more obscure, For instance, “barnet” means “hair”. “Hair” rhymes with “fair” and is an allusion to a horse fair that used to be held in Barnet in London.

“Scarper” meaning “go” rhymes with “Scarpa Flow” in the Orkneys.

“Rabbit” is rhyming slang for “rabbit and pork” and means “talk”.

Rhyming slang is not much heard in central London today and many speakers of it have moved out of town, often to the east, modifying their language as they did so. The language they speak is often called “Estuary English”.

Cockneys worked at many trades but conspicuous among them were those who dressed as Pearly Kings and Queens. These were costermongers and they dressed in distinctive clothing that was decorated with pearly buttons. Some Cockneys became very famous, especially in sport, acting and the world of entertainment. In all, Cockneys have made a considerable contribution to our heritage.

Roy Treloar talked to the History Group about Cockneys and their rhyming slang. For information about future meetings phone 01206 272250.

Alan Ladbrooke

Spring is
nearly here



River Stour Trust

and members of the public will soon be out and about in the beautiful Stour valley and Constable country.

The River Stour Trust, run almost entirely by volunteers, came into being over forty years ago when the then Anglian Water Authority attempted to remove navigation rights.

The Trust works to keep the river open for all sorts of river craft, operates private charters, and runs short boat trips almost every day, weather permitting, which are thoroughly enjoyed by both the public and our own members.

We welcome new members, volunteers and potential skippers, both male and female - anyone with a love of the countryside and the great outdoors and who likes meeting new people.

Whilst useful, previous boating experience is not essential. A calm and confident manner and an outgoing personality are all that is needed.

If you like the idea of becoming a skipper, taking people out on trips or helping out in any way, then please get in touch. Our skipper training programme begins in the spring each year and on completion and assessment, you will be qualified as an Inland Waterways accredited skipper.

We would ensure you felt totally at ease before operating boats yourself. After training you are free to give as much or as little time as you would like.

To find out more about this volunteering opportunity, please ring the Trust's Training Manager, Kevin Taylor, on 01206 322122.

More information on the Trust can be viewed on www.riverstourtrust.org.

PROBUS CLUB OF COLCHESTER

Our last meeting on the 12th February was well attended with 20 members, including one new lady member and a guest.

The talk this week was delivered by Roger Smith a volunteer for a number of years for the **Essex and Herts, Air Ambulance**

The Air Ambulance service in the UK is supported and funded by public donations. Two Lotteries and Charity shops. The service covering Essex and Herts as 400 volunteers that help mainly with fund raising and they need to raise £12 million per year to pay for the maintenance and servicing of two helicopters and 4 motor vehicles. The service was formed in 1997, and in 1998 the first helicopter was purchased.

In addition each helicopter has a pilot and a co pilot, plus a Doctor and a paramedic. Although the Doctors are NHS personnel the air ambulance service has to meet the salary costs of the medical professionals when they are on duty. As far as is known only two donations have been given by Prime Ministers and that money did not come out of normal public funds, but money recovered from financial institutions.

The helicopters are stationed at Earls Colne airfield, a former WW2 facility used by the US Air Force. They operate

only in daylight between the hours of 0800 and 1800, but not at night. The area they cover apart from Essex and Herts extends to hospitals in Norwich, Cambridge, Southend and London. This is because the Doctors on board determine which hospital offers the most appropriate medical facilities to meet the needs of the injured patient. In the air the pilot is in charge but once on the ground the on board Doctor is then responsible.

Each helicopter is equipped with as much medical equipment as an A&E department. In January 2025 49 RTA's were attended, 95 medical emergencies, 42 Traumas. Also last year the service attended 93 stabbings.

This was a very interesting talk, detailed with technical information and was well received by those attending illustrated by the number of questions raised.

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

Time for a spring clean?

As the days are drawing out and there is a sense that spring in the air, it seems to awaken the need to do a bit of a spring clean, even in the Rectory.

Don't get me wrong, I am not particularly house-proud, and any cleaning would be a bonus most of the time, but in the spring, I seem to suddenly find myself wanting to organise even the most disorganised cupboards, and so, so far this year, I have finally sorted out a spice rack and now have my spices neatly arranged, and over the next few days, I will be getting myself the long promised bookshelf to organise my recipe books in the kitchen, and free up some space in the cupboard where they were shoved when we moved in just over three years ago. Who knows where this might lead, and how many other hidden spots in the house will succumb to a bit of a spring clean?

Meanwhile of course, the garden is also calling for attention, there is plenty of spring cleaning to be done outside, leaves to be cleared, paths to be jet washed, garden furniture to be spruced up all to be ready for the

warmer, sunnier days to come.

In the Christian calendar, we begin our Lenten spiritual spring clean this year on the 5 th March with our Ash Wednesday services. In this season which is traditionally underpinned by fasting, prayer and giving, we are given space to clean our souls, removing the clutter that sometimes creeps in and giving space for God, as we journey ever closer to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, before the joy of the resurrection, which this year we will celebrate on the 20 th April.

And so as we begin or continue our spring cleans this year, as we rake up the last of the mulching leaves, allowing light and life to come back into our gardens, as we reorder our cupboards and tidy up our shelves, may we also in this season of Lent, pay attention to our souls, and allow the light and life of Christ into our hearts and into our lives.

May God bless you,

Reverend Heather Wilcox

Boxted Evergreen Club

Unbelievably, when you read this it will already be March, fingers crossed spring will be on its way.

The Evergreens started the year off in **January** with a *Bring and Buy sale* and thanks to the generosity of our members we made a substantial figure for the club. In **February** we had an *Old Time Music Hall* themed afternoon, at the time of writing this hasn't actually taken place but hopefully it was a good afternoon with members wearing homemade hats. Back by popular demand in **March** *Fiddlers Elbow* will, once again, be entertaining us. **April** we have a lady booked to talk to us about various hat styles through the ages. Maybe a parade of hat wearing Evergreen ladies will be seen through the Village Hall windows. **May** and **June** will be a quiz afternoon and a committee member making a flower

arrangement for us.

The above entertainment completes the first six months of 2025 for our club. An update will follow in **June** for the second half of the year.

We have had new members join our club recently but our door is always open to anyone wishing to come and spend an afternoon with us and see if you would like to join our friendly club. The first afternoon is free, thereafter it's £5 per meeting which includes tea, coffee and cakes.

We meet once a month on the fourth Thursday of the month 2pm - 3.30pm. Our next meeting will be on the 27th March.

Should you require any further information please call Linda on 01206 272710 or Elaine on 01206 273183



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Boxted Methodist Silver Band

invite you to '*A Night At The Movies*', a family - friendly concert at Boxted Village Hall, Cage Lane CO4 5RE on Saturday 22nd March starting at 6pm.

Bring your own refreshments and enjoy a selection of music from film, stage and TV.

There will be a retiring collection and raffle.

Everybody welcome to join us.



Community Cafe Coffee Morning

Hosted by
The Langham Bridge Club
Friday 28th March 2025
at Langham Community Centre
10:30 - 12:00

All Welcome!

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.

New Members will always be made welcome also if you want to give it a try come as a guest £5 to see what we are about.

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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 Bingo

Boxted Village Hall
Every other Tuesday
3pm - 5pm
£8 per session
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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 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.

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:

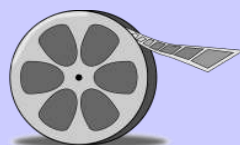
James Puxley 07935 909063

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/



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 & Dog Langham'. The text 'Beer and the Bible' is written in a large, stylized, black 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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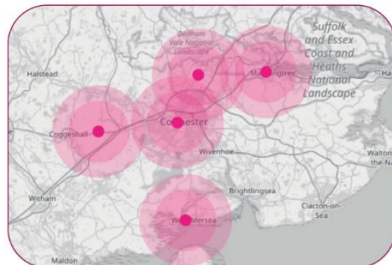
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CAR SHOW

LANGHAM
Recreation Ground
10AM to 4PM

BEER FESTIVAL & BAR
History Display
CRAFT STALLS
Live Music

FOOD STALLS
Hot & cold drinks

Thursday 8th
LANGHAM
Remembers

LANGHAM
Recreation Ground
7PM to 10PM

Boxed British Legion Bar
FISH & CHIPS
Music from Hygge Harmony
Community Choir

LIGHTING THE BEACON
AT 9.30 PM

Saturday 10th
MUSIC NIGHT

LANGHAM
Community Centre
7PM to 11PM

JAX & CO

Johnny Cash & Country

Bring your own drinks
HOT FOOD STALL

TICKETS £10

**** Full details on all the events & where to get your tickets coming soon ****

For further information EMAIL langhamVE80@gmail.com
LANGHAM Parish Council, Community Shop & Community Centre together!

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By now, most residents will be aware of Colchester City Council's aspiration to convert Langham from a semi-rural village into a small densely concentrated urban settlement by building 900 new homes in the prime agricultural farmland at the heart of the village.

LPC were first informed of these intentions just two days before the publication, on 6th February, of CCC's draft Local Plan proposals for the whole of the

Colchester area. *This came completely out of the blue with no prior consultation at all.*

More than 70 residents attended our Parish Council Meeting on 12th February, where it was agreed to set up a “**Langham900**” email campaign asking all residents to send in their reasoned objections to these proposals for Langham. By the 17th February, 300 emails had already been received by our Parish Clerk, and forwarded on to our Ward and Essex Councillors.





17th February was a key date, because CCC's Local Plan Committee met that evening to review and take a vote on whether to approve the draft Local Plan and thereby initiate a 6-week period of formal public consultation on it. After more than 4 hours of debate, the Committee voted 6-5 against approving the draft Local Plan. The six objectors wanted to see more evidence of credible and costed plans for the necessary

infrastructure upgrades to underpin the massive housing growth specified within the plan. (sewage, water, roads, schools and GP surgeries all loomed large in the debate leading up to the vote).

The result of this vote is to now introduce a substantial delay in the Local Plan adoption timetable: at least a few weeks, possibly a few months. This thankfully gives us more time to marshal our reasoned objections,

but be under no doubt that Langham remains under grave threat of being transformed beyond recognition.

LPC will lead the fight against these ill-conceived proposals to obliterate and overrun our village, but we will need the full support of villagers to do this. The 300 objection emails are a fantastic start, representing about a third of the village population, but we'd like to hear from the other 500+ residents too. Please visit LPC's website at

langhamparishcouncil.co.uk

to read about the Local Plan proposals in much more detail, and then send us your personal objection email using the instructions provided there.

We will be hosting a Drop-In Session at the Langham Community Centre on Saturday 8th March, 10am -2pm, to share more information and listen to residents' views and ideas about how best to fight these proposals. We hope to see lots of you there.



In the slightly longer term, we want to organise a full public meeting with the attendance of Colchester Planners. Date to be confirmed.

One final thought for now: Colchester City Council faces a huge challenge in meeting the Government's top-down instruction to build 11,000 additional homes between 2026 and 2041. If all Colchester's settlements were to share this load equally according to their current populations, Langham would need to accommodate 55 additional homes, not 900.

Boxted Parish Council Report – January and February 2025

A reminder that parish council meetings are open to the public. Please do come along and we have agenda time allocated at the beginning of each meeting for residents to raise issues.

The CCTV is working well. We have cameras covering the entrance and car parks as well as the field. We hope this acts as a deterrent against vandalism, anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping all of which can now be reported to the police with hard evidence.

We weren't successful getting a new committee to organise a **fete** in 2025, so we have postponed the idea of a village fete till 2026.

We have a small **fir tree** planted by the village hall. It is behind a metal fence for now as we would like it to take well in the ground. In two or three years we should be able to use this tree for the annual **Christmas Tree** lights.

After the resignation of the last **phone box library** volunteer, we have reviewed the use of the phone box library with a Facebook survey, and we had more support for an

information point. We have decided that with the nice dry and warm book exchanges in both the Village Hall and Harpers Caffe we would better utilise the phone box space as an **information kiosk**. We welcome ideas on the type of information that we could put on display – just email our clerk, Karen (address at the end of this piece).

Another lovely panto was performed by the **Boxted Drama group** raising funds for the village hall. With these donations we have been able to add stage lighting to our facilities.

We have an agreed **budget** for 2025/26 which sees a 2% increase in the parish amount part of your council tax bills. This budget still allows for some investment with additional play equipment and storage for equipment.

We have seen the proposed sites that will probably be taken forward into the revised **Colchester Local Plan**. The meeting for Colchester Council to decide all their sites is taking place on 17th Feb. The site in Botted identified for build is adjacent to the Hill Farm estate

along Straight Road and it is suggested that 150 dwellings could be built. The council will publish the information as we know it so, please keep an eye on the Boxted Parish Council Facebook page. You might have seen the social media talk about the 900 identified in Langham, which seems to pick up the bulk of the Colchester decision not to press forward with plans to develop 'The Wick'. 900 in Langham on top of the 30+ already in the pipeline would be a 4 fold increase from the 300 or so houses in Langham currently and will have implications for Boxted in terms of travel, open spaces and sewage capacity. These are all topics that we will engage with Colchester Council on.

A moan from the parish clerk at those individuals that choose to park

immediately next to no parking signage on the Recreation Ground instead of driving an additional 30 or 40 yards to park on the left side of the overflow parking drive. The signage is in place to protect the cricket outfield from damage. Please park your cars on the allocated parking to the left.

Our next council meeting is Wed 12th March at 730pm in the Village Hall.

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'.



***IMPORTANT NOTICE
REGARDING SESAW
ANIMALS***

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare is closed and in the process of winding down.

We no longer have any animals but need to trace anyone fostering a SESAW animal. If you are one of our Foster Carers and have not yet been contacted, please text or phone 07720 079370 as soon as possible and ideally, **by 31st March 2025.**

Please DO NOT surrender an animal to anyone purporting to represent SESAW. If in doubt, contact the above number immediately.

NOTICE TO ALL PET OWNERS

All cats and dogs must now be microchipped by law and their

details kept up to date. Other small animals may also be microchipped.

Please ask your vet to scan your pet and check the registered details are correct.

They will be able to tell you which database to contact or you can check here:

<https://www.check-a-chip.co.uk/>

If you have a SESAW pet you can email info@sesaw.co.uk with your details and the chip number and we can check for you until 31st March.

We thank all past and present friends and volunteers for their support and dedication to animal rescue over the years. They all contributed towards the Charity's reputation and success story. SESAW could not have existed without them.

The Trustees
February, 2025.

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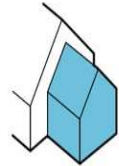
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www.2ndlanghamscouts.org



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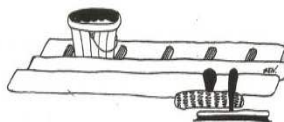
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The age of our members varies but the club would suit anyone over 60 so please come along and you would be given a warm welcome. Our members are always asked for their suggestions before our yearly entertainment programme is arranged and we do try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

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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:

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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

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Contact Details

Websites

Boxted – www.achurchnearlyou.com/church/6458

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Please contact the Rector with any enquiries

Church Office available by appointment Mon-
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07895 970834 revdannemason@gmail.com

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Email: 6parishescolchester@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's Langham

Stephen Garner 272599

Sgarner.22@btinternet.com

Denise Hobday 230918

hobdaylangham@hotmail.com

St Peter's Boxted

Jos Carter 272755

Zone Youth Group

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Contact

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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
April edition:
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**Contact the editor via email:
lwbnewsletter@gmail.com**

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