

## BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL

### **King George Field**

The King George Playing Field is *out of bounds to all dogs* and new signs are being erected to make this clear to users. Some dog-owners are not only using the ground to exercise their pets but are allowing them to foul the area without clearing up afterwards. This practice is not acceptable on a sports ground and children's play area.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Specialist consultants have been appointed to assist with planning matters (including the Hill Farm site) and to look at various traffic and highways matters highlighted in the responses to last year's questionnaire.

### **Hill Farm Site**

New plans for the Hill Farm site include a village green/public open space. At its February meeting the Council was to discuss the possibility of taking over the maintenance of such a space for the benefit of the village.

### **Superfast Broadband**

The current timetable for the Essex County Council scheme indicates that Superfast Broadband will come to Boxted in April this year.

## LANGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

After a number of successful festive activities last term, Langham Primary School has returned to an exciting start, with a visit by The Flying Pizza Theatre Company, who staged "The Jungle Book" for all the pupils. Some children from Years 3 and 4 will take part in an athletics tournament, while Year 2 pupils will take part in a gymnastics competition. There will also be a five-a-side football tournament.

The School welcomes Mrs Arter as the new Class 1 teacher and Mrs Cameron, back from maternity leave to "job-share" with Mrs Neale in Class 2.

### **Affordable Housing Survey**

The Council thanks everyone who completed the Affordable Housing Survey. The results show a need for some affordable housing in the Village. However, with the new plan for Hill Site likely to include some affordable housing, the Council is investigating whether it could be ensured that such housing is reserved for use by people with a direct living, working or family connection with Boxted rather than simply becoming additional housing stock for the Borough Council. Reservation would also ensure that there would be no need to find another site in the village purely for affordable housing. But the matter is complicated.

### **Walnut Orchards**

The Council continues to pursue its claim with Essex County Council for a new footpath around the orchards but has been informed that there is a possibility that the site will be put up for sale. The Council was to consider the matter at its February meeting, particularly the possibility of raising funds to purchase the orchards for the benefit of the village.

## LANGHAM WI

At the February meeting members had an evening of fun and games organised by Alison Stacey—a mini Winter Olympics of marbles, quoits, scrabble and quizzes, the winners being awarded chocolate medals. The annual lunch had been much enjoyed, as had the visit to the Mercury Theatre to see the Colchester Operatic Society's production of "The Sound of Music". Members are looking forward to the Essex Annual Meeting at Southend and to the Spring Valley Group Meeting, to be hosted by Ardleigh WI.

### **BOXTED VILLAGE HALL QUIZ**

The annual Quiz Night was a huge success: with over a hundred people attending, it brought many people together and raised £350 for Village Hall funds. The Committee thanks those who helped with the organisation and the tidying-up afterwards. If another such event is to be held, the Committee will need more help than it had that evening in clearing away the 100 chairs and 25 tables.

### **BOXTED EVERGREEN CLUB**

The Evergreens heard a nostalgic talk by Douglas Carter in January about "Christmasses Past", which drew out many memories from members themselves. At the next meeting there was an entertaining quiz by Danny, at which Pam Neville won chocolates and a bottle of port. The February "Bring & Buy" sale realised £47 for Club funds.

On 6 March a Nurse Consultant, will speak about stroke awareness. Non-members are very welcome; a charge of £3 includes tea and biscuits.

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