

Community reports to the Annual Parish meeting of Boxted

Held on 14/5/2008 at the Village Hall

1 Art & Craft

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to attend the annual meeting of the Clubs etc. on the 14th May. Please convey my apologies to the Chairman and all the members of the Parish Council.

Regarding our Club, we have 23 members who have an array of arts and crafts, painting, beading, quilting, card making, embroidering, hat making, toy making, knitting (our oldest member 95 years knits and paints beautifully). We had a Christmas Workshop by one of our members and went to the Half Butt for our New Year Dinner. We had Simon Gellup from Langham to talk to us on Constable Country and Jenny Lankester demonstration on pictures with fabric which was wonderful. We also went to the Mercury to see South Pacific by the Colchester Operatic Society, and we are hoping to go to Snape for our outing this year.

All our members praise our Hall and would like to thank the people concerned.

Doreen Jackson.

2 Bowls Club

The club has once again remained in the first division of the North East Essex Carpet Bowls league. Finishing fifth out of the 16 Teams playing. We consider this a good position.

We are a friendly lot always on the lookout for new members, even more so for Friday evenings. The first three attendances are free. So would any Boxted residents who might like to join, please ring me on 01206 272 513.

Dave B (Club Secretary)

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3 Evergreens

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2008 by Boxted Evergreen.

Boxted Evergreen Club is a local club for people aged 55yrs upwards.

We have 40 members and a very friendly and lively atmosphere, with a variety of speakers and entertainment.

We have four outings per year, going to London, Lowestoft etc. Last year we raised £120 for Essex Air Ambulance, as well as other charities. We meet once per fortnight.

Our Grand Bazaar is on June 28th this year and is our only fund raiser from the public. All other money to run the club comes from the members themselves. We hope to continue in this way, with support.

V R Sycamore

4 Football

Review of 2007/08 Season.

The club were reasonably satisfied with the final placing for this season, which began with an event to celebrate a genuine Boxted Legend, Gerald "Nipper" Scott. The family of Nipper were joined by representatives of the Border league and enjoyed a special legends match involving over 30 players who have worn the Boxted Football Jersey spanning the last 40 years.

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The Boxted Management team of Carl Thompson & Scott Fowler began the season full of enthusiasm following a good pre-season. Carl & Scott assembled what appeared to be a very strong squad and results before Christmas saw the team in third place and were in the hunt for promotion. The continuity after Christmas was to "Stutter" with a combination of injuries and player unavailability caused a slide down the league. No promotion this time but a creditable sixth place finish and the reputation of "one of the leagues better teams" intact.

The reserves side managed by Nick Ellen and James Mckentney started their season brightly with a notable scalp of new boys and hot favourites White Notley on the very first game of the season. This form was to continue with fourth place being secured at Christmas time. As the first team began to struggle, so did the reserves and results and luck were to go against them and a finishing place in the bottom half of the table were to be scant consolation for all their efforts.

Several of the playing staff comes from the village including Kieran Francis, Ivan Stanmore, Paul Dowde, Charlie Osborne and Bradley Noble.

As the old season closes, preparations for the new season are already underway. The Committee of the Football Club are well ahead of planning the logistics for the coming season. The club would like to thank the main Sponsors Anglia Skip Hire, D R Rouse Builders and SE Painting for their support. The Football Club would also like to thank the support of the Boxted Sport & Social Committee and also the Boxted Parish Council which has been continuous throughout the year.

The Football Club are determined to return to the top flight of Border League football and will be making every effort for the forthcoming season. Details of pre-season are soon to be confirmed and this year we will be holding open trials for anybody in Boxted and the surrounding area who would like to be

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considered as a player for the team. The trials will be held on Wednesday 16th July on the KGV playing Field from 1900 onwards.

Mark Healy
Boxted Lodgers FC
Chairman

5 History

The Boxted History Group has had a full programme of meetings over the last year covering a wide range of topics. The majority of these have been related to local history (such as the discovery of the Roman circus in Colchester) while others have had a wider focus. In addition to talks, the group visited the Harwich redoubt and enjoyed a social evening in the village hall during the summer. There are currently 65 members and attendance at meetings has usually been in the region of 50. The current programme, giving topics for the present year, can be found on the Boxted website.

6 Pram and Chat

Pram and Chat continues to flourish with numbers increasing recently due to the closure of the Hollies Nursery. A welcome addition to our group is a monthly visit from Health Visitor Nicky who is available to weigh children and answer any questions.

The weekly craft activity is very popular. The recent teddy bear's picnic was enjoyed by all and the children have planted sunflower seeds and are having a fruit tasting week soon.

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Activities during the year include a cake bake and raffle in aid of Children in Need raising over £75. Christmas was celebrated with a children's party with a special appearance from Father Christmas and the Mums got together for an evening meal.

Sally Cowley

7 Pre-School

Report for Boxted Parish Council : Annual Meeting 14 May 2008

Boxted Pre-school has had a busy and eventful twelve months, with a number of staff changes, alongside a prolonged absence of our Pre Manager due to family circumstances. Nevertheless, the Pre-school has continued to provide a stimulating and caring environment, where the children are encouraged to learn through play.

There has been a high number of children on the register throughout the year, and the children have covered a wide variety of topics, enjoying activities planned to ensure that each child has the opportunity to develop in all areas of learning. Themes we have covered this year include seasons, healthy eating, shapes, Spain, and where we live, to name but a few. We continue to offer distinct, more structured afternoon sessions for our older children led by qualified teachers.

During the year, the Pre-school Committee has organised several fundraising events, including a sponsored event for the children, the annual summer picnic, a car boot sale and raffles, and the monies raised exceeded all expectations. The proceeds of the fundraising (in line with our constitution) have been used to replace old equipment and to supplement our resources for the benefit of the children.

Our staff continue to attend regular training to further enhance their knowledge and understanding of the role of Early Years education, and some senior members of staff are studying for higher level qualifications All staff are engaged in debate and discussion as to

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how the Pre-school implements the new Early Years Foundation Stage, which comes into force in September of this year.

After many years of use, the Pre-school building is nearing the end of its life, and staff and committee have been involved in discussions with the Parish Council, Primary School and other interested parties to consider the best way forward. Plans to try and relocate the Pre school into the grounds of Boxted St Peter's have had to be abandoned due to the high number of children on the school roll, and the limited outside space available to them. The Pre school is currently considering the options now available, and investigating the opportunities for accessing funding for a new building.

The Pre-school staff and Committee look forward to another successful and challenging year, as they implement the new requirements for pre education and childcare, and as they strive to secure the best possible future for the Pre-school.

8 Reading Group

Boxted Reading Group have enjoyed another 12 months of good company and reading with a wide variety of subjects and authors.

Our discussions which develop from our reviews of the book of the month are always inciteful and frequently lead to a broader consideration of life, the universe and pretty much everything.

Over the last year we encountered something of a "male/female" divide over John Updike and his "Rabbit" books - this is a rare occurrence! Two books stood out from the list, receiving glowing reviews from all members - firstly, Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie about a young girl's life in Nigeria in the 1970s and secondly, The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, a remarkable novel about an Afghani boy.

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This year we have mixed classic writing with contemporary - we all felt that "The Tenant of Wildfell Hall" by Anne Bronte was something of a long winded rant against men; "Our Man in Havana" by Graham Greene was surprisingly humorous and most recently, we have read two novels about the siege of Leningrad; both of these painting vivid pictures of the horrendous day to day battle for survival.

We hosted a post-Christmas party for our sister reading group in Langham during January and we maintain strong links with this group.

Our reading list for the summer will provide us all with plenty of material for debate and we're looking forward to being able to sit outside and enjoy the warm evenings when we meet!

Anyone wishing to find out more about the Boxted Reading Group can call Gillian Walker on 272261.

Sports & Social Club

Boxted Sports & Social Parish AGM May 14

This year Elaine our treasurer has worked extremely hard with the co operation of all club members to keep the cost of heating and over expenditure on the bar down. As a result of this the club house has come in on target this year with a small marginal profit to be carried forward to next years costing. She will also be introducing new targets going forward for each group. The cricket club now have there coaching in place and have advertised for a junior cricket team and are approaching all local schools, Boxted included. This is great achievement on there and the Clubs behalf and was target aimed at in 2007; it would be really good to see the cricket Green being used by young players and the Social club being used to support this. The football Club are also aiming high for next season and are looking to improve the changing areas so that there club can move forward. They have a proactive chairperson who has approached the Parish with a long term plan for improvements to the Club with the support of the Cricket Club.

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They have also managed to sort out the floodlighting problems and paid for lights that can be moved from the Social end to the village hall end allowing the grass to rest for cricket season. The scuba divers have held several quiz nights this year and allowed the proceeds of this to go to supporting the club so we thank them for there efforts. Last year we were involved with the Village Fate and this was good opportunity for the sports clubs and scuba divers included to meet and introduce themselves to local people. The fate was a success by everyone who attended and was a real team effort from all the clubs. We applied for funding to have some repairs work carried out on the club house this year but sadly after two years and being put through to the second stage we were turned down by Awards for All. I hope the club will carry on the efforts this year. This is my last year with the Sports & Social due to changes in my circumstances I will be standing down at our AGM on May 28 and this is when I would like to appeal to all here, if you have time to become involve in the club please attend our AGM on May 28th it is a good cause and a club that is trying very hard to become involved in our Community and as an added bonus you will never have a dull moment.