

BOXTED

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Come and hear the amazing true story of Terry Mc-Fadden who was a mercenary in Africa and is now a clergyman in Colchester at the Men's Breakfast at Boxted Village Hall on Saturday November 14. 8.45 am to eat at 9 am – finishing by 10.30 am. £5 cost payable on the day, to include a full English breakfast. If you would like to come contact Tim Bull. 230666 or RevDrTim@googlemail.com

ATTIC ART BARGAINS

500 items, mostly framed. Something to suit every taste. On Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November. 10 am until 5 pm in Fillpot's Nursery Café Boxted Straight Road. In aid of the St Peter's Community Access Appeal. For more information contact Stephen Whybrow 272773.

BINGO NIGHT

Saturday November 14 is bingo night at the Boxted British Legion, Cash prizes with all profits going to the Poppy fund. Everybody welcome even non members.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday November 15 : 10am Eucharist Service at St Mary's, Langham,
10.30 am service at the Methodist Church and 6pm Evensong at St Peter's, Boxted.

MOBILE LIBRARY

This will be at the playing field car park on Tuesday Nov 17 from 11.05 – 11.30 am.

BOXTED AIRFIELD HISTORICAL GROUP

A talk by Tony Golds about his new book RAF Tanker Navigator, written jointly with BAHG

friend Peter Bodle. Tuesday November 17 in the village hHall from 7.15 pm. Bring and buy stall, raffle and refreshments during the break.

BOXTED ART AND CRAFT CLUB

At the next meeting on Wednesday November 18 in the village hall two members will be holding a workshop demonstrating paper folding known as 'Iris Folding'. New members or visitors welcomed. There is one more meeting this year on December 2. Contact Doreen Jackson on 272744 for details regarding membership or just a one off trial meeting.

HISTORY GROUP

Adrian Walters will be giving a talk on 'History and Conservation of Sudbury Commonlands' on Wednesday November 18 at the village hall. 7.30 for 8 pm.

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CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday November 28 from 2.30 pm in the village hall. Items for the stalls, bottles for the celebrated Bottle Bola, prizes for the Grand Draw etc will be gladly welcomed by Penny Carmichael (272218)

60's NIGHT

On Saturday December 5 at Langham Community Centre. Live music with the popular function band Façade with Rick of 'Rick and Us'. Tickets £8. 60s dress optional. In aid of St Peter's Community Access Appeal. Tickets available from Jos Renouf 272755 or Linda Trelau 272531

Further correspondence

Dear David,

I have been sent a copy of your recent email on this subject. My name is Jeremy Carter and I was born in Hill House just down the road from The Cross In the 30s. My father (Denis Carter) was the fruit farmer who owned and farmed the orchards you referred to. I am in my 80th year (Dob 1930) and we would have met as my mother frequently sent me on errands to the back door of The Cross to buy "10 Players"!

I have spoken with Douglas Carter -no relation- who remembers you from schooldays at the school up by the church. We all remember Alice Went who handed over the bus business to her son 'Dod' when she retired. Gerry went down in the Hood and his name is on the roll of honour in the church.

My father learned his fruit farming in BC and Washington which he put into practice when he bought Hill Farm in 1924. We had to sell up in 1973 when the UK entered the EEC and the government increased the minimum agricultural wage leaving the Brit horticultural industry in tatters.

I was a soldier for 32 years and spent a very happy 2 years in Quebec 1969/71. The trout fishing was terrific and the "Van Doos" very hospitable.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Carter.

Dear Jeremy.

Thank you for yours, this is getting more interesting by the day!!

When we visited Boxted back when the Cross Inn was still a pub I was disappointed to see all those orchards gone, when we walked to school we used the footpath through to cut off the long walk by the road. I probably owe your family a few shillings for the apples we sneaked!! It is funny how little things come back into your mind, I remember Miss Rider the school principle who lived in the house across from the pub, we would be walking down towards the school when she would come by on her bicycle, she would ring and we would have to stand there and remove our caps as she went by!! Somewhat different to today. 10 Players, I haven't hear that for many years.

So I was wrong about Gerry going down in a submarine, so it was the Hood. I guess we were no longer living in Boxted by then and the news must have been distorted someway. He was a few years older than me and went into the navy much earlier, I didn't go in until later in the war, in fact it was almost over and I wound up in the Royal Marines. I was born in 1926.

It is interesting that your father learned about fruit farming in BC and Washington and wound up in Boxted. Sounds like a case of reverse migration. I used to love the English Cox's Orange Pippin, for me the best eating apple but we can't get them here unfortunately, I guess the climate isn't good for them at least in Ontario which is a pretty severe climate. With the EEC, did they just cut all the apple trees down? That sounds awful. They were such beautiful orchards.

Also the 30 acres or so across the road from the back of the pub was becoming a council estate I believe, when we lived there my father let a farmer use it for his cows, the farmer's name was Jack but I cant remember his last name.

When you were stationed in Quebec were you at Val Cartier? The Van Doos have a great reputation over here, but some of the stories of their exploits in the war were a bit blood curdling if they were true.

We lived in Quebec at the time you were there but we were in the Montreal area until we retired in 1985 when we moved up to Ontario.. We now live in the country on a 170 acre property which is inhabited mostly with wild life and a huge beaver pond which they created by damming up a stream. For the most part it is bush and rocks, useless for anything, but having the wild life nearby is nice especially at night when the coyotes and wolves are howling.

When I came upon the item on Boxted I didn't imagine that that chance discovery would turn out to be so interesting

Dear David,

Many thanks for your last which I have printed and given to your contemporary and school mate Douglas Carter. His address is 4 Acres, Straight Road, Boxted. Colchester. Essex and doesn't have a computer. We have produced a very splendid book about Boxted called "Boxted, Portrait of an English Village". It is in hard back and copiously illustrated with excellent photographs mostly of the old days which you will remember. I'm afraid its a bit pricey but a copy can be yours for £25 + £13 p&p. A wonderful Christmas present to yourself!

Having got the sales pitch off my chest and reverting to your message: In the autumn of 1972, 29,000 coxes were pulled out with the aid of a 100% government grant and burnt in situ. As one wag said "the biggest bonfire since the Armada sailed up the Channel". Fortunately, my father had died the year before and didn't witness the wanton destruction of his life's work. The farmer's name who grazed cattle on Cross Field behind the pub was Jack Whiten who did a morning milk round in the village like Hannah Whitnell who sold veggies door to door from her donkey cart.

Yes, indeed I was at the Canadian Defence Research Establishment in base Valcartier. The FLQ were throwing their weight around at the time and kidnapped the Brit Trade Commissioner and murdered Pierre Laporte, one of the PQ ministers.

We loved the wild countryside and its wild beasts; The moose, black bears, beavers, squirrels and chipmunks and all the rest of the Walt Disney 'Bambi' cast.

Nice to hear from you again. Do contact Douglas (by snail mail of course). He would love to hear from you.

Regards, Jeremy

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