

## **Report from the Boxford Society 2023/24**

Since the last Annual meeting of the Parish Council the Boxford Society has arranged a Summer Outing in August 2023 when Jane Gosling, who had been our speaker at the Spring Meeting, took us on a guided tour of the Guildhall in Lavenham and a walk around the village. Jane used to be the Manager of the Guildhall and therefore a mine of information about Lavenham in general which was fascinating. We also had a rather good lunch at The Angel! At the Autumn Meeting in October 2023 Trevor Barnes, who lives in Groton, told us all about the Portland Spy Ring, on which he is a published author and expert, and the several links he has found in Suffolk. At our Spring Meeting in April 2024 our speaker was Charlie Haylock, the dialect expert, who was born in Edwardstone and spent a lot of time in Boxford in his youth, who told us all about coaching Ralph Fiennes and the rest of the cast of the film The Dig about the finding of the Anglo Saxon burial ground at Sutton Hoo.

We are following this up with a visit to The Longshed in Woodbridge where they are building a replica of the King's Ship at Sutton Hoo and will be launching it on to the Deben in due course.

The Society has continued to monitor all Planning Applications but, apart from the Catesby appeal, there have been no other major applications. As everyone knows now, the Hearing into Catesby's appeal was held in December and the Inspector found in Boxford's favour and Catesby are not taking the application further - at least not for the time being.

## **Report from the Boxford and Hadleigh Community Car Scheme**

The Car Scheme with its 14 volunteer drivers continues to provide lifts for anyone registered with the Boxford and Hadleigh Health Centre to medical appointments. We carried out 185 trips in 2023 and have already provided 133 lifts this year, which indicates that there is a growing need for this service. New recruits are always welcome - please contact Jen Eastwood on 01787 211853 or email [jen.eastwood8@gmail.com](mailto:jen.eastwood8@gmail.com) for more information if you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver.