

Box Parish Council – Report to Corsham Area Board 25th June 2024

Box Parish Council welcomes the Corsham Area Board to Box.

1. The threatened eviction by Green Square Accord of Rev. Clair Southgate from her home of 20 years has caused huge concern across the Parish.

Clair is a pivotal member of the community in Box.

She is:

- a Foundation Governor at Box School
- a Teaching Assistant in the school
- an Ordained Priest
- an Associate Minister in the Lidbrook Group of Churches

Clair is unable to drive due her medical condition.

Consequently, if she has to move from Box she would not be able to travel to fulfil the invaluable contributions she makes in all these roles listed above.

It would be devastating not just for Clair but for the whole community in Box.

The school would lose a hugely important member of staff.

The Church of England would lose the person who, although nominally one of a team, is in practice the person who holds together the village church.

A petition protesting the removal of Clair from her house attracted over 1000 signatures in less than 3 days.

The Parish Council appeals to the Area Board to assist in anyway possible to help with this situation.

The Parish Council also recognises that this predicament is not exclusive to Clair, and that many others are in a similar situation as GSA sells off properties, but fails to meet Social Housing demands in both quantity and quality of homes in this area.

2. This is the first year that Box joined up to be part of a national initiative, the **Great Big Green Week**.

We published leaflets detailing self-guided walks with suggestions on what species might be identified in differed habitats around the parish.

We had four very successful guided nature walks led by our Daniel Part our local independent arborist & Managing Director of Tree Parts UK Daniel and active member of the Wessex Ancient Tree Forum, Steering Group Committee, who has worked extensively around the Parish alongside the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and the Community Payback Team

We also had two immensely enjoyable visits to our cemetery from groups from the two primary schools in the parish linking in with the Great Big Green week, and our cemetery biodiversity plan.

We are also continuing with our **Carbon emissions data study** with our provider, Bloom esg.

Box has recently elected to become an ambassador for the **Great West Way** – the touring route between London and Bristol, to attract visitors and enhance our local economy.

We have set up a working group to liaise with the Great West Way team to put content and photos on the website and explore additional ways to promote our area.

Box is delighted to come 2nd in the Local North Wiltshire Round of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) **Best Kept Village Competition** 2024 and received an excellent report from the judges.