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JULY 2025

SAXMUNDHAM **NEWS**



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2025**

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Southwold - 30th July to 9th August

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



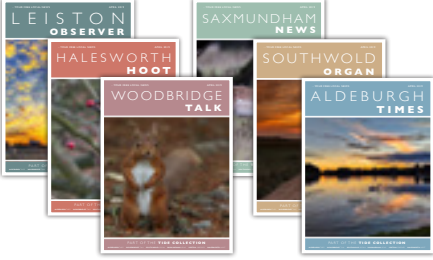
We are very pleased to welcome a new regular columnist this month – Brían from Melton has decided to honour us with his words of wisdom on life as he sees it. Enjoy this legend's 'Suffolk' take on the world on page 9!

Please get in touch if you have anything to share with our readers or if you have an event coming up why not consider increasing your footfall by placing an advert in the Tide Collection? We know from the feedback we receive that people really engage with our publications and seek them out. I would love to hear from you, email me at: lou@tidecollection.com

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.

Tom Bodett



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Welcome inside
WIGS & MORE

*Following on from the launch of my mobile wig business, **Wigs & More To Your Door**, back in May 2023, I am so excited to now officially open the doors to my new wig studio, situated in the IP12 area.*

The studio offers a comfortable and friendly home-from-home, which allows you the opportunity to explore a wide variety of wig options, where you'll be able to feel and try them on within a private and friendly space. This operates on an appointment-only basis so that the care and attention can be solely focused on you, the customer. I offer lots of advice and aftercare products that are available to you. You are encouraged to bring someone along with you so that you feel completely at ease and able to ask for that all-important second opinion from someone that knows you. Although there is a small charge for the appointment, this amount is deductible from a wig purchase but, as with all of my consultations, there is no pressure or obligation to buy.

In addition to offering an appointment within the new studio I am still happy to provide my personal home consultations which have always been at the core of my bespoke business. This extra option, however, now allows me to offer my caring and compassionate service to more people and to be able to reach out to those who live outside my usual area.

So if you, or anyone you know, could benefit from my personal and friendly service, please don't hesitate to get in touch and I look forward to hearing from you.

Allison





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SAXMUNDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Council Registers as an Interested Party to Sea Link
The registration window for the Sea Link project closed last month. Saxmundham Town Council registered as an Interested Party and submitted a Relevant Representation **strongly opposing** the proposed siting of the Sea Link converter station on the outskirts of the town.

The Relevant Representation also highlighted the Town Council's key concerns as follows:

- Proximity of the converter station to a rural market town.
- Detrimental visual and landscape impacts.
- Traffic disruption during construction.
- Noise and disturbance during construction and operation.
- Socio-economic and wellbeing impacts to residents.
- Reputational damage to the town.
- Biodiversity and environmental degradation.
- Cumulative impact of multiple projects.
- Insufficient mitigation and community benefits.

What Happens Next?

The Examining Authority will review all Relevant Representations submitted by Parish, Town, District and County Councils, local organisations, and members of the public. All Interested Parties will be invited to a preliminary meeting to look at how the examination will take place, what needs to be considered, and how this affects the examination timetable. The Examination will then formally begin.

The Examining Authority will intensely scrutinise the proposals, asking for written representations from National Grid and Interested Parties, and by holding public hearings. The Town Council will take part in all these steps.

When the Examination has concluded, the Planning Inspectorate will write a report on their findings, including a recommendation regarding whether or not to grant a Development Consent Order for the project. This report will be considered by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero who has the final say on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

Once a decision has been made, anybody can legally challenge the Secretary of State's decision. If a challenge is made, the High Court will decide if there are grounds for the decision to be judicially reviewed.

From the submission of a development consent application to the final decision by the Secretary of State, the entire process typically takes around 18 months. Based on current timelines, a decision on the Sea Link proposal can therefore be expected around September 2026.

The Town Council's Relevant Representation is available at www.saxmundham.org. Visit the website or follow us on social media for energy project updates.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (a community-led group supported by the Town Council) has been working on modifications to the existing Neighbourhood Plan.

These modifications extend the current policies to cover the proposed South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood. Importantly, if East Suffolk Council grants planning permission for the development site it has allocated, the modified Plan will help influence the design, infrastructure, and sustainability of the new neighbourhood.

It will also ensure that the town secures a greater share of Community Infrastructure Levy funding from developers. In addition, the modified Plan introduces measures to help mitigate the impact on Saxmundham in the unwelcome event that the Sea Link and Lion Link converter stations are approved.

The Town Council is conducting a community consultation on the modified Neighbourhood Plan until 15th August 2025. Share your views by visiting www.saxmundham.org/community-consultations. Copies of the modified Plan and consultation response forms are available at Saxmundham Library or at the Town House, opposite the train station.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will consider all written and online responses and make any necessary amendments to the modified Plan. It will then be submitted to the District Council to ensure it meets the legal requirements and will be published for further community consultation. An independent examination will follow.

Saxmundham Market at Sax Music Fest

For 2025, we've teamed up with the organisers of Saxmundham Community Music Festival (Sax Fest) to hold a special market alongside the event.

Set in Seaman Avenue play park – the access point to the festival in the Memorial Field – market stalls will greet the streams of people arriving and leaving the music festival, providing festival essentials, artisan goods and creative crafts. With space for up to 40 stalls, this special market will include something for everyone!

We are looking for stallholders for this event, especially those offering something unique or festival-friendly. There will also be lots of families in attendance so toys, games, treats and activities are especially welcome.

Pitches are 3x3m, charged at £15 each with concessions available for charitable or community organisations. Please note that the market will take place outside on grass and with no access to electricity. To register or to find out more, please contact bookings@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk

Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan: Tell us what you think

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SAXMUNDHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Get ready—Saxmundham Community Festival returns this summer and this year's lineup is packed with excitement! With ABBA Chique and UK Queen headlining on Friday and Saturday nights, plus local acts like Keeper of Calves, Reno and Rome, and Painting the Silence, there's no shortage of incredible music. Taking place on **Friday 8th and Saturday 9th August**, midday until 11pm both days, at the Memorial Field, IP171EA, SaxFest offers more than just live performances. Expect engaging workshops, family-friendly activities, fringe events, and community organisations.

Whether you're coming for the music, the atmosphere, or to connect with local groups, SaxFest continues to be a celebration of community spirit. Take a look at the full lineup on the website and get ready for a weekend of fun and music. <https://www.saxcommunityfest.co.uk>



SAXMUNDHAM MUSEUM

Is Saxmundham Museum's Cinema, the town's best kept secret ?



Did you know that Saxmundham Museum has its very own 15 seat cinema? Located towards the back of The Museum, it is the perfect place for a small private screening for family and friends. The cinema also contains some old film equipment and seating from when the town had its own cinema. The Saxmundham Picture House was located on the current site of the Tesco supermarket in Church Road. It was very popular in its day but sadly was forced to close in the early 1960s.

Saxmundham Museum currently run their own "film evenings" usually held on the last Thursday of the month. The summer programme includes "The Ladykillers" on Thursday 31st July - a 1955 British black comedy starring Alec Guinness, Peter Sellers and Jack Warner and "A Complete Unknown" on Thursday 28th August - a recent US production describing Bob Dylan's early days on arriving in New York, starring Timothy Chamalet, Edward Norton and Elle Fanning. Entry is free but we do ask for a donation of £5 per head that goes towards Museum running costs. You are welcome to bring along your own wine and nibbles to make it an even more special evening. Seats must be booked in advance as there is only limited seating but you can reserve your seat by emailing: peter_sommers@hotmail.com or by calling 01728 605788.

Hire The Cinema For Your Own Event

This unique and cosy 15 seat cinema is also available for hire at very reasonable rates. It's the ideal venue for you to share your own individual film evening with family and friends. For more details and availability, please email: peterminta123@gmail.com

Museum Welcomes Saxmundham Rainbows

Saxmundham Rainbows made their first visit to The Museum in June. The girls enjoyed a tour of The Museum and a brief talk from curator, Richard Crisp, before watching a short film on the history of Saxmundham. If you would like to arrange a visit for a group, club or society please email peterminta123@gmail.com Saxmundham Rainbows visit Saxmundham Museum



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IP17 GNS

Celebrating National Volunteering Week with IP17GNS:

National Volunteering Week runs annually during the first week in June. It is a time to recognise and celebrate the incredible impact that volunteers have across the UK and here in Saxmundham, it's no different. At IP17GNS. From running the Social Supermarket to getting on the floor to play at Gather & Grow, every hour generously given makes a huge difference in the lives of local people. Volunteering not only supports vital community services, it also brings personal benefits - from building confidence and skills, to making new friendships and feeling more connected. It's a powerful reminder that small acts of kindness can create real change. We made sure we showed our appreciation during National Volunteering Week with certificates and an extra big 'thank you' for every volunteer we could. THANK YOU, volunteers, for your help in supporting IP17GNS and the Saxmundham community. You are essential to our mission and we truly couldn't do it without you!

Would you like to know more about IP17GNS and how to become a volunteer? Contact volunteer@ip17gns.com

Friday Boogie is Back! We've just relaunched our favourite feelgood activity - Friday Boogie! An anything-goes music and movement group. Each week we meet in the Market Hall in Saxmundham for a boogie. Lead by the excellent Bev, move your body, dance, tap your toes or just enjoy the music! It's free and everyone is welcome - come along from 11:30am

Join Our Team as a Trustee at IP17GNS:

Are you passionate about supporting your local community? IP17GNS is looking for new trustees to help shape the future of our growing charity. We provide practical support, social connection, and essential services to people across the Saxmundham area and trustees play a vital role in making that possible. As a trustee, you'll help guide the strategic direction of the charity, ensure good governance, and support our dedicated staff and volunteers.

We meet regularly to discuss plans, make decisions, and ensure we're making the best use of our resources. Whether you have experience in finance, HR, fundraising, community work or simply a heart for helping others, we'd love to hear from you. You'll be part of a warm, values-led team making a real difference in people's lives. It's a rewarding way to give back, develop new skills, and contribute to something that truly matters. For more information or an informal chat, email tim@ip17gns.com



BRIAN from MELTON

Melton's famous resident, Brian, shares his stories, views and observations on everyday life with his very own column, exclusive to The Tide Collection magazines.

For me, July is a funny ol month. There's nothing I like more than sitting out in the garden enjoying the wonderful Suffolk sunshine with a bag of Frazzles and a bottle of Ghost Ship. Lovely.

I never have understood why so many folk want to head off on a holiday to foreign parts, when they spend most of the time moaning about how hot it is and fighting for a sunbed.

The gal Rosemary next door last year suggested that I could go away to Spain with her for my first ever jaunt abroad. I wasn't convinced that was a good idea, but she said it would do me good to get away, so I decided I'd give it a go and I have to say, that as the holiday got closer, I did get a bit excited.



First of all, we had to get through Stanstead Airport - a ruddy great greenhouse with people, bags, kids and planes everywhere. Checking my bag in was easy, as I wasn't taking a lot with me - just sun shorts and short sleeved shirts and a pair of rubber sandals that Mother had bought for me years ago. I never thought I'd wear them and nearly gave them to that lot who come round and take your old bits away. Good job I didn't.

I had a bit of trouble in security with that scanner thing. That kept beeping, so I had to take my belt off and then my trousers nearly fell down.

We then had to wait to get on the plane for ages,

so we had a drink while we were waiting and then had to get on the plane at this thing called a gate. Now why do they call it a gate, when it's a door? That doesn't make no sense to me.

That was my first time on a plane and the air hostess could tell I was nervous and even gave me a bag in case I was sick.

When it finally took off, it shot down the runway and as it went up I'm sure I could hear every nut and bolt straining to get in the air.

Once we were up above the clouds, the gal Rosemary had a glass of wine and I had one of them posh beers - it must be a posh beer, because that cost a ruddy fortune and I don't like it either. In fact, that went right through me, so I had to use the smallest loo I had ever seen and when I flushed it, I'd never seen anything like it - it was a good job I was standing up too, else that might have bin me lot!

I have to say that the holiday was right nice and I would probably go away again another time. But for me, there's no place like home, with my own bed and food I know and can eat and like I see, the blue Suffolk skies.

I just hope we have plenty of sunny days in July and August.

You can hear Brian from Melton chatting with Mark Murphy every Saturday morning on Suffolk Sound Radio and listen out for the new Brian from Melton podcast, coming soon to Alde and Blyth Community Radio (www.abcradio.co.uk).



Outdoor Theatre

The Pantaloons are bringing their signature blend of humour and energy to our pub gardens.

Hamlet at The Ship - Wednesday 13th August

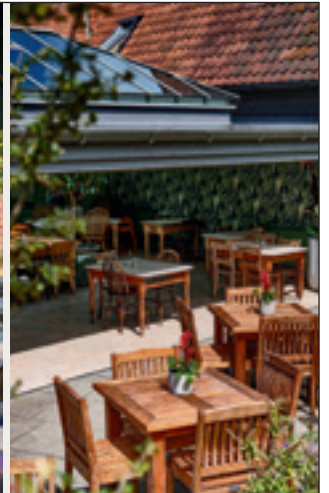
Hamlet at The Westleton Crown - Wednesday 10th September

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SAXMUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

This month we would like to tell you about all of the STEAM activities happening in our school. This stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths.

Starting with the Arts... We are very excited to tell you about a project that Hawthorn class has been working on all year. Our Year 5 pupils had the unusual and exceptional opportunity to work with The Long Shop Museum and members of the London Sinfonia to create, rehearse and perform original songs, ending in a live performance at Snape Maltings.

This experience has had a significant impact on the children, not least, increased self-esteem, teamwork and creativity. One of our pupils said they felt *"happy, excited and really proud"* not just of themselves, but of their classmates as well.

Working alongside professional musicians has given our pupils a rare, and inspiring, insight into the world of music-making at the highest level. Children will have developed not only their musical skills but also the confidence to perform in front of a large audience; a milestone achievement for children of this age. They also learnt a huge amount about our local heritage and industry. We would like to say a big thank you to the Leiston Long Shop Museum and Orchestras Live for selecting us for the project.

Pupils in year six have also been involved in a long-term project, but this one had a focus on science, technology and engineering.

For the most recent activity day, they used computers to programme a range of LED lights. This included getting them to work just like traffic lights. It's really exciting to be able to work with expert visitors on these days and it can really open the children's eyes to different possible careers.

Pupils in years three and four were visited by the Malin group, who specialise in marine engineering. The children learnt about what is needed for structural strength, design and balance within the industry.

Pupils tried to balance a 'barge' carefully in a tank of water.

They then used different sized weights to mimic a brand new ship on a barge in the ocean. It was a challenging activity, but with some logical thinking some of our pupils managed it!

The children also created towers using mini marshmallows and cocktail sticks, learning how to make a rigid structure that could withstand an earthquake.

It was a fantastic day and a lot was learnt about the world of engineering.



SAXMUNDHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday 22nd May we were delighted to welcome back our friend Jim Cecil to show us his old films of local interest. They were based in Blaxhall and were about writer George Ewart Evans.

George became very interested in recording the stories and lives of many Blaxhall residents. The films featured lovely scenes of farming with Suffolk Punch horses and included scenes featuring Roger Clarke, a farrier and farmer, famous for his work with the Suffolk Punch. Then we were tapping our feet to the many songs in the happy atmosphere of the famous Blaxhall Ship.

The stories and songs having been handed down through the generations.

George Ewart Evans was born in Wales in 1909 and became a schoolteacher. He was an author and folklorist, writing eleven books about farming in the 1940s to 1970s. One such book was *'Ask the fellow who cut the hay.'*

The Saxmundham History Society meet in the URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham. Our new programme begins on September 25th with Geoffrey Robinson's account of the Worlingworth Parish Fire Register.

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What's On at **Leiston** Film Theatre

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Mon 7th, Tues 8th & Thurs 10th July at 7.15pm
THE PHOENICIAN SCHEME 15

Fri 11th, Sat 12th, Mon 14th & Tues 15th July at 7.15pm
Wed 16th July at 3.00pm & 7.15pm
Thurs 17th July at 7.15pm

F1: THE MOVIE 12A

Sun 13th July at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

THE BOOTLEG SHADOWS

Fri 18th July at 7.15pm
Sat 19th July at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
Sun 20th July at 6.00pm
Mon 21st & Tues 22nd July at 7.15pm
Wed 23rd July at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
Thurs 24th July at 7.15pm

JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH 12A

Fri 25th July at 7.15pm
Sat 26th July at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
Sun 27th July at 6.00pm
Mon 28th & Tues 29th July at 7.15pm
Wed 30th July at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
Thurs 31st July at 7.15pm

SUPERMAN 12A

Mon 28th, Tues 29th & Thurs 31st July at 3.00pm

ELIO PG

Fri 15th Aug at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

COUNTERFEIT QUO

Sat 30th Aug at 7.00pm
Sun 31st Aug at 23rd May at 3.00pm

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FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR...



As we finally reach summer, albeit after an exceptionally pleasant spring, thoughts turn to holidays and a well-deserved break from work. I am having a few days touring the north-east of England by railway. I thought this appropriate as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first passenger railway between Stockton and Darlington in September this year, and life has not taken me to Stockton before!

The railway is important to Saxmundham. It arrived here in 1859 completing the missing link between Woodbridge and Halesworth, and in 1860 was supplemented by a branch line via Leiston to Aldeburgh.

Sadly that closed in 1966, as did a short freight-only branch to Snape Maltings. The East Suffolk Line was saved from closure after the Beeching cuts and became the target of severe cost-cutting measures, including reducing much of the track from double to single line. With all the benefits that hindsight bring that is now regarded as a serious mistake. Following investment after privatisation in 1997 much good work has been achieved.

We now have very comfortable, reliable, modern rolling stock, and recently the track infrastructure has been upgraded with continuous welded track, which improves the quality of the journey and is so much quieter. I commend Network Rail for the work they have done, and, indeed, continue to do on the old branch line towards Leiston, so that huge quantities of rail-borne freight can reach the Sizewell C construction site.

Last month I wrote about various aspects of Sizewell C, but now I feel I need to say that the rail upgrading has been done because of that development. It must be right to bring in as many materials as possible to Sizewell by rail rather than increasing still further the volume of heavy lorries on our local road network. The downside is that most of the rail freight movements have to be done in the middle of the night to avoid compromising the important (nearly) hourly passenger services between Ipswich and Lowestoft. But I write as a resident who lives close to the railway line, and the new track has cut the train noise by, and here I unscientifically guess, ninety per cent and the vibration effect has all but disappeared. Even so, as the trains now pass through in the early hours of the morning they still wake me up.

And, alas, their volume is going to increase as the construction work proceeds apace, up to five trains in each direction at their peak. Yes, at this time of the year I have windows open, which I will not have as the colder months approach, but we still suffer some inconveniences as well as many benefits from our railway...

One of the reasons Saxmundham has always been more important locally than its size might suggest, is because of the presence of the railway and the fact that we act as a geographic hub for our surrounding communities. This was even more so when the A12 (then part of the Trunk Road network) passed right through the centre of the town, as it did right up until 1988. Today in many ways we still continue to be that 'hub', but for different reasons.

The centre of geography of the town has markedly shifted in recent years. Probably for centuries it lay in the Market Place and High Street, but now it is that axis between our two supermarkets, who attract in food shoppers from a wide area. That is especially true of Waitrose, which undoubtedly has its own dedicated band of shoppers who like what it offers. That is fine because Tesco copes with those others who look for slightly lower prices – like myself! The important thing is that we do have the choice to make up our own minds where we shop.

Having been so positive about aspects of our town, I do have to express my concerns about the evident decline of the High Street. Recently it has attracted more beauty parlours and hairdressers, and H G Crisp, which used to underpin the retail offer in the area, is up for sale and both M R King's garage and The Store have recently closed down.

But at least we still have one bank left – and a post office too. I don't want this article to be remembered for me moaning as I remain positively hopeful about the town's future. The way to keep useful shops in the town is to use them. Enough said!

I have now lived in Saxmundham for over a third of a century. Yes, it has expanded and changed, but it is still a fine town in which to reside, with good services, and most things still can be found here. I am taking a risk in describing Saxmundham as an 'ordinary' town. That risk is because some may interpret that description as derogatory.

But in no way is it meant like that. We live close to Aldeburgh and Southwold, and neither of those places is 'ordinary'. We are, because people can more easily afford to live here in contrast to the very high property prices in those towns.

Our community is strong. People talk to one another, look out for one another and help one another. Thank goodness for that. I have always been happy to live here and, when my elected term of office comes to an end, I fully intend to continue living here in retirement, as Saxmundham is the right place for me – and I hope for you, too.

As ever, please feel free to contact me on any matter which is within the responsibilities of the County Council.

My contact details are below.

Richard Smith, County Councillor for Blything Division

richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk 07545 423817

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ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

'The Garrett Family' – Fraser Hale

In this talk Fraser Hale will be taking us on an illustrated stroll through the lives of the Garrett family, from their roots in Woodbridge, through the early years of growth in Leiston, and then along two diverging boughs; the later Leiston branch, who were manufacturers of agricultural machinery, steam engines and trolleybuses, and the stout and fruitful Aldeburgh branch, who played a significant role in the town's development and were prominent figures in various fields.

Fraser came to the heritage sector after a 35 year career in engineering. As well as his engineering qualifications, he holds a BA (Hons) in History and was the curator at Woodbridge Tide Mill for five years.

He then joined the Long Shop Museum in Leiston as Operations Manager in late 2020. He graduated to Museum Director in early 2023.

The talk takes place on Monday 21st July at 2.30pm, in person at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL (behind the library) and, for members only, on Zoom. The talk starts at 2.30pm. No need to book – just turn up — at £1 for members, £3 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits.

Good, free car-parking. Only members can take part in our meetings on Zoom, but it only costs £8 for a year's membership – see:

<https://avsfhg.org.uk/membership/> and Zooming is free.



Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

YOXFAYRE RETURNS

Yoxford's Oxfayre, which flourished from the 1980s to the early noughties is returning this summer with a new name, Yoxfayre.

Taking place on Saturday 5th July, the event incorporates the Yoxford Flower Festival at St Peter's Church, which is also the venue for an evening concert. Bringing the community spirit back to the village there will be plenty of things for everybody to enjoy throughout the day including a dog show, flower show, silent auction, music, games, cakes, barbecue, ice cream van and old fashioned fun and games such as splat-a-rat and the stocks in Mulberry Park, run by the youth club.

A variety of stalls will include bric-a-brac and vintage clothing, books and plants and produce as well as a tombola and raffle.

Over in St Peter's Church, the annual flower festival will have an abundance of displays, including one by the children of Yoxford and Peasenhall primary school.

Local professional musicians Alec Hone (organ) and Anna Noakes (flute) will be performing in the church throughout the day along with children from the school singing under the guidance of Yoxford resident, opera singer Katie Graham. A saxophone group will be performing in Mulberry Park.

No summer fair would be complete without tea and homemade cake, available in the church with a barbecue and Parravani ice cream van outside the village hall. Sing Out! Yoxford, a free concert by Yoxford's local community choir takes place in the church at 7.30pm.

"Oxfayre was a huge event in the eighties and nineties. It was such a fun day out and we all missed it, so it is thrilling to bring it back. Everyone in Yoxford is joining in and we look forward

to welcoming friends, family and visitors from across the county to join in the celebrations over Yoxford's big weekend." Lynn Walford.

A silent auction is already live, with a chance to win a signed 16cm high Yoxman bronze sculpture, kindly donated by the sculptor Laurence Edwards.

Bids now being taken and the closing time is 5pm on Saturday 5th July. Email: yoxfayre@gmail.com.

An added bonus to the day's events is the Yoxford History Group's exhibition, Creative Yoxford, in the village hall, featuring work from current artists and writers in the village such as Laurence Edwards and Nancy Main along with information of past creative endeavours and people. The flower show continues on Sunday 6th July and there's Yoxfayre Songs of Praise at 3pm. All are welcome.

Proceeds from Yoxfayre will be divided between St Peter's Church (for the organ restoration), Yoxford & Peasenhall Primary School (for play equipment) and the Townland Trust.

The organising committee is keen to hear from anyone who can offer help on the day and from anyone who can donate items for the stalls and raffle or grow some plants for the plant sale.

Visitors are advised to bring some cash with them

11am to 3.30pm – main event
7.30 pm – concert

Contact: yoxfayre@gmail.com

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A year in the life of a deacon

What a year it has been. I was ordained a deacon last year, and this has been followed by my ordination as a priest just a few weeks ago. As I move into this next stage of my ministry journey it feels like a good time to reflect on the past year as a deacon here at SKC church.

This year has included many highlights for me. My first baptism took place only a couple of weeks after ordination, and it was a wonderful experience. I was nervous beforehand, worrying that I might drop the baby, but in the end, all went well and it was a lovely occasion. I have been privileged to conduct other baptisms and it is always wonderful to celebrate bringing people, whether babies, children or adults, into the church family and Christian life.

Our regular service pattern has an informal service at 09:30 and a Holy Communion service at 11:00 each Sunday. There are other occasional events especially around Christmas and Easter, as well as other times throughout the year. For me, this year has been about learning what parish ministry is like, so I have tried to get involved in all the different services we have and it is great to experience a range of traditions within our benefice. I was also kindly invited to preach at a neighbouring church in Knodishall and at the Methodist church in Woodbridge, providing some great experience for me.

At Christmas time you may have come along to our short Christingle service during the town Christmas fair. If you remember we had to move activities inside due to the weather, so we held our service in the Fromus Centre. It was lovely to see lots of people there. We sang a couple of carols and Dave, our Rector, dressed up as a giant Christingle in an inflatable orange costume. This was used again at our Christingle service for Kelsale school where the pupils were able to explain what they had learned about what the Christingle represents.

The year has not just been about church services of course. I'm often at our church café 'At the Crossroads' or at our Community Fridge on a Friday morning you. Both of these places you can get a coffee and meet socially with others. If you see me around, please say hello. I'll be happy to have a chat.

As curate I am also part of our standing committee and church council, giving me an opportunity to get involved in the leadership of the church and providing an insight into the wider activities in the benefice. There is always loads to talk about and over the next couple of years we are planning some improvements to our churches, including the installation of a toilet and kitchenette in Kelsale church. Funding needs to be raised for such a large project and we would welcome ideas for fundraising events.

My first year in ordained ministry has been busy but very enjoyable, and I'm excited to see what comes next.

Revd Mandy Tucker

SAXMUNDHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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SATURDAY, JULY 19th

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Children under 16 years £14, under 8 free.

The performance starts at 6.30pm (doors open 6.00pm) and takes place outside so please bring chairs, rugs and a picnic. There will be a 20 minute interval. The show will go on unless the weather is very bad when it will be postponed to a future date (tickets non-refundable)



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Making Tax Digital: What the HMRC Letter Means for You

HMRC has started sending out its first wave of letters to individual taxpayers likely to be affected by the next phase of Making Tax Digital (MTD) for Income Tax Self-Assessment (ITSA).

Starting April 2026, MTD will become mandatory for self-employed individuals and landlords with income over £50,000 annually (income is defined as gross self-employment income plus gross rental income before expenses as shown on your tax return for the year ended 5 April 2025).

Those earning between £30,000 and £50,000 will be brought into the system from April 2027, and eventually, those earning over £20,000 will be included from April 2028. In short, MTD is coming for a lot of people.

Those affected by the rules will need to keep income and expense records digitally and use MTD-compatible software to submit quarterly updates to HMRC.

If you're already using accounting software and keeping your records neat and tidy, you're likely in a good position. But if your current bookkeeping involves a shoebox full of receipts and a once-a-year panic, it's time to think about going digital or hiring someone who can help.

Modern accounting software doesn't have to be intimidating. Many platforms are built specifically for non-accountants, featuring intuitive dashboards, mobile access, and helpful reminders to keep you on track. With regular use, you'll not only stay compliant but also gain a better handle on your business finances. Keeping on top of your numbers throughout the year can help you avoid those eye-watering surprise tax bills. Plus, it will give you a real-time view of how your business is performing so you can make informed decisions.

HMRC will continue to release more guidance in the lead-up to implementation. In the meantime, we'll be working closely with our clients to ensure they are ready and fully compliant. If you've received a letter and you're unsure what to do next, please don't ignore it – take a few steps now such as exploring accounting software or speaking to your advisor.

The introduction of Making Tax Digital represents a significant change from the traditional annual tax return but with the right tools and a bit of guidance, it could be less of a tax headache and more of a fresh start for your finances.

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Anderson on elizabeth.anderson@ensors.co.uk

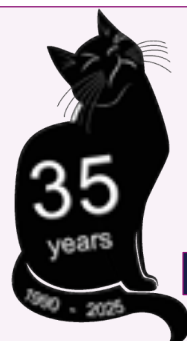
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PROJECT UPDATE

JULY 2025

Work across all Sizewell C sites continues to progress at pace.

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding funding of the Sizewell C. On Tuesday 10 June, the UK government gave the go-ahead for Sizewell C. This is the first British-owned nuclear power station to be announced in over three decades, with the government as a majority shareholder alongside EDF.

The Chancellor confirmed £14.2 billion of investment will be allocated to the project. It is the first nuclear power station in the UK to be funded through a Regulated Asset Base (RAB) model. Under the model, consumers are protected through independent regulation, strict cost controls, and transparent oversight – so families benefit from secure, low-carbon energy without the risk of cost overruns.

We are aware there are several key summer events coming up. We are in direct contact with Latitude and will work around their peak traffic times and remove our HGVs. For the Ed Sheeran concerts, we are working with Suffolk County Council to ensure disruption at Darsham Station does not affect travel. We will also not have any HGV movements during the Aldeburgh Carnival. The closure of Willow Marsh Lane will require cyclists on the Dunwich Dynamo to take the official diversion so we will actively communicate this on social media. GPS maps have been updated so riders can follow the designated route.

We have now installed average speed cameras along the B1122 and B1125 to further enhance road safety for the 30mph speed limit. We are also upgrading the temporary Sizewell C A-frame signs along the A14, A12 and local roads to permanent signs on posts. Further speed restrictions along the A12 are being implemented, including south of Yoxford, to ensure road safety as HGVs and construction vehicles manoeuvre on the sites. Further speed restrictions will be implemented in due course on the A12 at Darsham and the Friday Street turning.

Pre-construction works are progressing well and the roads, roundabouts and park rides will start construction this summer. The main site and temporary construction area are also preparing for construction, along with the temporary sea defence works along the beach.

Preparation for the Friday Street Roundabout is ongoing, with a works compound being established, and the vegetation and tree clearance along the A12 is almost complete. Site preparation along the two-village bypass route around Farnham and Stratford St Andrew is also ongoing, and Yoxford Roundabout is being prepared for construction.

There are now monthly email updates available on subscription, if you would like to subscribe, please create an account at szcworkstracker.co.uk/my-account

FORUM

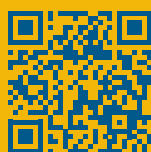
SCHEDULE

All forum timings
18:30 – 20:30
(Arrival from 18:00)

Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 2 July 2025	Leiston Town Athletic Association
Northern Transport Forum	Wednesday 6 August 2025	Darsham Village Hall
Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 3 September 2025	Stratford st Andrew Riverside centre

For more information and for all 2025 forum dates visit sizewellc.com/community/forums

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BENHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Squirrels have been busy this month! They've been working hard to write independent sentences about their favourite Minibeasts and exploring addition and subtraction up to 10 using manipulatives and number sentences. They also did a fantastic job welcoming new children during stay-and-play sessions, proudly showing them around the classroom and outdoor areas. Well done, Squirrels!

In science, Acorn children have been exploring what plants need to grow, conducting hands-on investigations to understand the essential elements for healthy plant development. Meanwhile, in art, creativity has been in full bloom as the children transformed ordinary sticks into imaginative stickmen using wool and their vivid imagination.



Oaks have really been enjoying science. We have been learning about electric circuits and have many budding electricians in our class. This week they made their own 'buzz circuit' and challenged each other to not to set off the buzzer. Meanwhile in history they were all surprised to learn how Elizabeth I threw people in prison for painting unflattering portraits. There wasn't the chance of a quick filter!

Woodlands pupils have shown a fantastic attitude to learning this term, especially in preparation for the upcoming SATs. Their focus and determination have been commendable.

In Guided Reading, we've been exploring Stanley Yelnats' journey in Holes, sparking thoughtful discussion and insight. Our STEM sessions have been full of creativity, as pupils built tetrahedrons and competed to design the strongest bridges and tallest towers. It's been great to see their teamwork and problem-solving shine!

Oaks had a fantastic time at CYM! Pupils jumped straight into the action with low ropes, archery, and laser tag, showing impressive teamwork and resilience throughout. The final day began bright and early, with pupils tackling a range of fun and challenging activities. Cabins were cleaned to a very high standard, followed by a delicious cooked breakfast to fuel the fun ahead.

Hilarious tyre races (with some questionable tactics from the CYM team!), more low ropes, and the ever-popular crop game kept everyone engaged and laughing. The trip ended on a high with a relaxed lunch and music of the pupils' choice - a perfect send-off to an unforgettable experience!



Over the past year, pupils in Woodlands have taken part in a rewarding collaboration with the Long Shop Museum and the City of London Sinfonia. As part of the project, they explored the history of the Long Shop and worked together to compose an original piece of music based on what they had learned. The project concluded with a performance at Snape Maltings, where pupils presented their composition alongside an eight-piece ensemble from the City of London Sinfonia.

It was a valuable opportunity to combine music, history, and collaboration.



Acorns had a fabulous day at Framlingham College, taking part in the exciting Tennis Carousel event. Pupils threw themselves into the activities with great enthusiasm, embracing the opportunity to learn new skills and enjoy some friendly competition. The day was filled with fun, teamwork, and plenty of laughter as they practised their tennis techniques and made new friends along the way. It was a wonderful experience that left everyone smiling and proud of their achievements.

What an amazing day it was for Woodlands as they took part in an action-packed STEM experience alongside Dennington Primary School! Learners explored the world of coding by programming Spheros to move in all directions, tackling a series of exciting and challenging tasks along the way. Their problem-solving skills were put to the test as they worked collaboratively to overcome each obstacle, showing focus and determination.

We are incredibly thankful to The Art Station for running such an amazing after-school art club this term. The sessions have been a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to explore their creativity.

They have been learning a range of exciting techniques and have already produced some truly impressive pieces of artwork.

Prospective parents are welcome to come for a visit. Paul Parslow-Williams or Daniel Millican are always keen to offer a personal tour of the school. Please call us to book an appointment on (01728) 602407.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUL 6 Alde Valley Ramblers. Bredfield, Hasketon, Boulge - 'The Fitzgerald Walk', 5.3 mile circular walk passing the site of Bredfield House where the poet Edward Fitzgerald was born and Boulge Church. Meet at Bredfield Village Hall at 10am. TM268531. For more details email: walks.aldevalleyramblers@gmail.com or visit our website.

JUL 9 'Folk in Ruins'. By kind permission of Nicholas Levett-Scrivener, £20 entry with music by Syzewell Gap, Silmor and Mary-Jane & Keith Tyrrell; Miraiker's World of Puppets - including Punch & Judy, interactive circus skills: face painting and more. Ollie's Bar and Cheryl's Suffolk Catering; guided tours of the Sibton Abbey Ruins. 2 – 6pm at the Sibton Abbey Ruins.

JUL 19 & 20 Saturday 19th and 20th July - 'Folk in Ruins' at Sibton Church. Folk history - an exhibition and records about some unexpectedly famous people, and those who made their home life and living in Sibton f There's opportunity to research into Sibton folk buried in the churchyard as well as information on those recorded with notable monuments in the church itself. Refreshments are available both days. 10.30am - 4pm. £5 entry.

JUL 20 Alde Valley Ramblers. Holton pits, Mells, Wenhaston, a 7.5 mile circular walk. Meet at Holton Pits, parking off Southwold Road B1123 HOLTON at 10am TM404772. For more details email: walks.aldevalleyramblers@gmail.com or visit our website.

JUL 23 – AUG 23 Theatre in the Forest at Sutton Hoo: Hamlet. Hamlet as you've never seen it before, with Red Rose Chain's imaginative take on Shakespeare's greatest play! Tuesdays – Saturdays at 7.30pm. Visit: www.redrosechain.com

JUL 26 & 27 Festival of Archaeology: Wargaming the Age of the Anglo-Saxons at Sutton Hoo. An exciting weekend of Anglo-Saxon era war games with miniature model soldiers. Paint your own miniature model Anglo-Saxon thegn to take home! table. All of the games will enable visitor participation. 10am – 4.30pm at National Trust Sutton Hoo, Tranmer House, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3DJ. Visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

SAXMUNDHAM SPORTS CRICKET CLUB

And just like that the English summer reverts to type, rain, sun and more rain. Do you need to wear a jumper or not, long sleeves or short? It's great to see England's white ball revival under Harry Brook and the demolition of the West Indians in both the One day and T20 formats.

The 3rd game of the season saw Saxmundham play their first home game, taking on West Bergholt III, restricting West Bergholt to 182 with some good bowling, Revanth taking 4wks and Gary taking 3 wks, unfortunately Saxmundham could only reply with 83 losing by 99 runs.

The British weather struck for game week 4 with the away game to Colchester Cavaliers being cancelled very early in the morning due to rain.

Game week 5 and it was back to Carlton Park where we welcomed Mistley. Batting first Saxmundham posted a competitive total of 226/8 with Revanth scoring his maiden half century for the club (75) and other notable scores for Ray(41), Gary(29), Niraj(230 and Rajiv(21).

Unfortunately, a strong Mistley team managed to knock off the runs in little more than 30 overs.

Game week 6 and the weather plays its part again, the short trip to Nacton with rain all around, a rain reduced game saw Saxmundham bat first and post a total of 172, Nick Sillet (43) and Ray (24) the main scorers. Nacton were never up with the run rate and finished on 109 with Avtar, Roshan, Gary and Richard sharing the wickets.

The club would like to thank The Poachers Pocket for once again being their main sponsor for the season.

Fixtures for July 2025

Sat 5th: Boxted II(h)

Sat 12th: Woodbridge II (a)

Sat 19th: Ipswich & ES II (h)

Sat 26th: Felixstowe & Cor III (h)

For more information please contact gary 07891691431 or Niraj 07960219653 or visit www.saxcricket.co.uk

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Reports, press releases; letters and other editorial contributions with news value are all welcome but are accepted on the understanding that there is no guarantee of inclusion and that they will be selected and edited at the editor's discretion.

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