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OCTOBER 2025

LEISTON OBSERVER



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Huge congratulations to Cllr Lesley Hill who has won 'Suffolk Community Award Councillor of the Year' for outstanding service to the community. Lesley will go on to represent Leiston-cum-Sizewell at the National Awards. I'm sure we all wish her well.

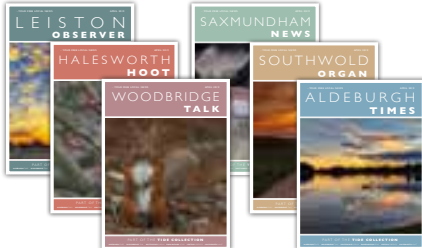
Please get in touch if you have anything to share with our readers or if you have an event coming up why not consider increasing your footfall by placing an advert in the Tide Collection?

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

Where there is no struggle, there is no strength.

Oprah Winfrey



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FINAL FLING

@ THE LONG SHOP MUSEUM

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 10AM - 4PM





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Murder Mystery Supper

The Pantaloons return this winter with a brand-new Murder Mystery experience! Settle in for a three-course supper as you immerse yourself in A Game of Murder - a Cluedo-style whodunit.

Tickets are available on our website.

Wednesday 26th November | 7pm

westletoncrown.co.uk



THE SHIP



THE WESTLETON CROWN

Festive Menu

Alongside our seasonal main menu, we will also be offering a three-course festive set menu, perfect for family get-togethers, catch-ups with friends, or the big work Christmas party.

Available from 24th November until 23rd December

2 courses - £28 | 3 courses - £34

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Co-op Juniors Theatre Company presents

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A dazzling music and dance spectacular

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Seats from £15

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Have you discovered us yet?

Listen online at: www.abcradio.co.uk  via the app and on Alexa 



LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL

Councillor of the Year Award

We are delighted to announce that Cllr Hill has won the Suffolk Community Award Councillor of the Year. This prestigious recognition celebrates outstanding service to the community. Cllr Hill will now go on to represent Leiston-cum-Sizewell at the National Awards. You can read the official press release on the Council's website.



Cllr Lesley Hill

Council Staff Update

We are pleased to welcome Bryony Peall, who was appointed as Live Well Hub Leiston Manager on 15th September. This post is supported by the Sizewell C Community Fund and will focus on enhancing and expanding the services currently offered at the Hub. Once Bryony has established her work programme, the Council will share further updates with residents.

Responding to Sizewell C Enquiries

The Council recognises that the Sizewell C (SZC) project is of significant interest to our community. While the Council remains neutral on the overall development, we are committed to working constructively with SZC to help ensure that any construction impacts on Leiston-cum-Sizewell are mitigated as much as possible.

How we respond to enquiries:

SZC Office: For detailed or technical questions, residents will be directed to the dedicated SZC office, which has the expertise and resources to provide accurate information.

Full Council Meetings: Residents are welcome to attend Full Council meetings when SZC representatives are present and may put questions directly to them. Please check the Council website for agendas, as representatives do not attend every meeting.

Forums: The Main Development Site Forum, Community Forum, and Northern Transport Forum are public meetings. Residents may attend but cannot participate directly. However, they may request that their question is raised by their Council representative.

Council Role: The Council does not have specialist expertise or resources to answer complex technical questions about SZC. Our role is to represent residents' concerns and ensure they are properly raised with the relevant bodies.

Our commitment:

The Council will continue to:

Work with SZC to lessen the impact of construction on Leiston and its residents.

Ensure local voices are heard in discussions with SZC.

Provide clear routes for residents to get answers to their questions.

Your first port of call for enquiries should always be the SZC Information Office in Leiston: Address: 48-50 High Street, Leiston, IP16 4EW. Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:30am – 5pm (closed 12:30 – 1:30pm). No appointment needed.

Freephone: 0800 197 6102

Email: info@sizewellc.com

Freepost: FREEPOST SZC (no stamp required)

Website: www.sizewellc.com/contact-us

Diary Dates

A reminder that Full Council meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the Community Centre from 6.45pm. Agendas are posted on the noticeboard outside the Council Offices and published online at:

www.leistontowncouncil.gov.uk

For further information, please contact the Council Offices:

Tel: 01728 830388

Email: office@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk

LEISTON BANKING HUB

Cash and banking services in the heart of your community.

A new shared banking hub, set up by Cash Access UK, is now open at its temporary home at Quakers Meeting House Waterloo Avenue Leiston IP16 4HE

Opening hours: 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday

The hub has a counter service operated by the Post Office, run by Shaun and his team who also run the Woodbridge Banking Hub and the Saxmundham Post Office. They are passionate about making cash and banking facilities available for the community. Customers of 27 major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions, whenever the hub is open.

Transactions available at the counter:

Cash withdrawals and deposits; Cheque deposits; Payment of utility bills; Account balances; Acquiring change (registered business customers). There is also a private space where you can speak to a community banker from your own bank about more complicated banking issues on the day your bank is at the hub.

Community banker availability: Monday: Lloyds; Tuesday: HSBC; Wednesday: Natwest; Thursday & Friday: Barclays

The banking hub will offer you quick and convenient access to cash and face-to-face banking services. Visit us today, or visit our website to find out more.



If you've been meaning to get around to updating your glasses or sunglasses this is the perfect time to add a new style to your collection and save £25 on transition lenses.

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PANTO FUN AT LEISTON FILM THEATRE

Get a waddle on and join the panto fun at Leiston Film Theatre this January.

Team B Productions invites you to their egg-citing family Pantomime, *Mother Goose*, appearing live at the splendid Leiston Film Theatre between the **9th and 11th January 2026**.

With one less performance this year, tickets are already in big demand, with seats for some performances already limited.

Mother Goose's heart may be full, but her purse certainly isn't - she's behind with the rent and in danger of losing her farm. Thankfully, there's a twist of fate, when a magical goose that lays golden eggs arrives, turning their family fortunes upside down. But when the devious Demon Dark-Heart arrives, will Mother Goose be tempted to give up her wealth - and her gorgeous goose, in return for youth and beauty?

The Pantomime has been written by Wayne Burns and is being brought to the stage under his 'Team B Productions' title - a group of experienced am-dram performers, whose previous sell-out successes have included shows at Leiston Film Theatre and at the Spa Pavilion Theatre in Felixstowe.

Mother Goose promises another traditional family pantomime, packed to the panto brim with toe tapping tunes and crackling jokes, that'll have you honking with laughter, with more audience participation than you can shake a feather at!

Work is also underway on a brand-new comedy-drama, to be staged at Leiston Film Theatre in September 2026. Inspired by the iconic sit-com, *Hi-de-Hi* and set in a Suffolk holiday camp in the 1980s, *'Mourning Campers'* follows the drama on stage and behind the scenes at Archer's Holiday Camp. Tickets are scheduled to be available from Monday 12th January 2026.

Film Theatre manager and Pantomime director, Wayne Burns, is looking forward to bringing *Mother Goose* to the stage. *"I think this is one of the most fun packed, novel and possibly barmy Pantomimes we've ever staged! It's got bucket loads of silliness and jokes - and not forgetting a ten-foot goose! The entire cast and crew work as a team and everyone cannot wait to bring our brilliant script to life on stage and perform for such appreciative crowds"* he said.

The Pantomime sees renowned Suffolk musician Tom Horton returning as the Musical Director and the energetic students from the Chloe Kinrade School of Dance will be making a welcome return to the stage, as part of the Pantomime extravaganza.

Mother Goose will be appearing live at the Leiston Film Theatre on Friday 9th (7.30pm), Saturday 10th (3.00pm and 7.30pm) and Sunday 11th (3.00pm) January 2026. Limited tickets are now available, priced £18.95, £18.50 and £16.95.

Book your seats today on 01728 830549 or online at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk.

You can also find Team B Productions on Facebook, for their very latest production news and a peak behind the scenes.



EYES DOWN FOR BIG PRIZE BINGO!



Final preparations are under way for an evening of Prize Bingo at the Sizewell Sports and Social Club on Friday 7th November.

The popular fund-raising evening, in aid of Alde and Blyth Community Radio, has some terrific prizes up for grabs.

In recent years, prizes have included pamper hampers, shopping vouchers, spa days, restaurant vouchers, golfing days, champagne hampers, electrical goods, theatre tickets and many more great prizes.

The Prize Bingo event will be held at Sizewell Social on Friday 7th November, with doors open at 7.00pm and eyes down at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced £4.00 (cash only) and are now available from the Sizewell Social and also from Leiston Film Theatre. Bingo game sheets will be available on the evening and are subject to an additional charge. Early booking is advised, as seats are limited.

LEISTON & SAXMUNDHAM UNITED CHURCH

Celebrating 175 Years of Saxmundham Chapel

The weekend of the 6th, 7th & 8th September saw folk from Leiston & Saxmundham United Church (Methodist / URC), churches across the URC pastorate and other friends from the surrounding area gather to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the opening of Saxmundham Chapel. There was a celebration tea, exhibition and self-guided tour on the 6th and 7th and a Service of Thanksgiving was held on the 8th, in addition to 'Start the Week with a Cuppa' - a time for chat and refreshments normally held on the fourth Monday of each month.

The opening services for Saxmundham chapel took place on Wednesday 22nd May 1850 with a morning service at 11am and an evening service at 6pm. The first Sunday services took place on 26th May. The journey, which ultimately led to the establishment of the Saxmundham Chapel and congregation started long before - in 1650 at Sweffling Chapel. That place of worship was replaced with the opening of Rendham Chapel in 1750. The mission and worship in Rendham thrived, making it necessary to enlarge the building, with work completed in 1834.

Of course, for those folk who lived in Saxmundham, this meant a three mile walk each way, to attend worship in the only local non-conformist church and with two services on a Sunday they clocked up quite a few miles on foot. The decision to build a separate building for worship in Saxmundham took place in 1849. The church became a distinctive congregation with its own membership record in June 1850 – sharing a minister with Rendham. Saxmundham Chapel was originally the home of Saxmundham Congregational Church. In 1972, with the establishment of the United Reformed Church, it became Saxmundham URC. In January this year (2025) Saxmundham URC joined with Leiston United Church to form Leiston and Saxmundham United Church – a partnership between the Methodist and United Reformed Churches. We are one church with two locations and our worship alternates, each Sunday, between the two sites.

If you would like to find out more about the history of Saxmundham Chapel, you can download a copy of the revised history booklet from the church website www.lsuc.co.uk and visit the LSUC @ Saxmundham Chapel page. Alternatively, you can pick up a printed copy from either LSUC Saxmundham Chapel or LSUC Leiston Church.

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AS BROTHERS GET GRIMM
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2ND OCT-2ND NOV

Followed by our traditional
Xmaspoof, which this year is...

SHERLOCK HOLMES SMELLS EVIL!

DARK DEEDS AT THE
QUEASY PINES SANI-
TORIUM. HOLMES &
WATSON RISK MORE
THAN THEIR HEALTH
TO INVESTIGATE!

DEC 10 TO JAN 18



Common Ground have been delighting East Anglian audiences for many years now with their mix of classic stories and hilarious, surreal comedies, described by Libby Purves as "One of the best things on the road in East Anglia right now...A proper treat."

This autumn, they're on the road again, with **THE TALES OUR MOTHER TOLD!** Two brothers try to untangle truth from fiction in the twisted tales from their childhood.

Exploring the nature of myth and memory, it'll feature Ipswich-based actor Julian Harries, known to East Anglian audiences from appearances at the New Wolsey, Mercury Colchester, Eastern Angles & Southwold/Aldeburgh summer theatre, and to wider audiences from his TV appearances in EastEnders, Detectorists, Father Brown & Mary & George.

Then for Xmas/New Year, after the huge success of last year's Father Brown & The Curse of The Xmas Fairy, they return in full bonkers mode with their traditional festive comedy caper, which this year will be **SHERLOCK HOLMES SMELLS EVIL!**

Holmes & Watson investigate a number of mysterious disappearances at the Queasy Pines Sanatorium, high in the Sproughton Mountains, near Ipswich. Suspicion falls on its strange one legged superintendent, Professor Eintrouser.

Featuring live original songs and a liberal helping of one-liners, puns and sight-gags, it's the perfect panto alternative. Touring to Woodbridge, Hadleigh, Stowmarket, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Colchester, Diss, Ipswich & more. December 10th to January 18th. Visit www.commongroundtc.co.uk for full details and booking.

LEISTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Fishers Gin link up with the Blues

Leiston Football Club are thrilled to announce the continued sponsorship of Fishers Gin on the back of the Blues' first-team shirts. Based in Aldeburgh, Fishers Gin are situated next to the shingle beach on Crag Path where tours of the distillery regularly take place.

"We are thrilled to have Fishers Gin continue their wonderful sponsorship with us" Andy Crisp, chairman of Leiston FC, said. *"It's our honour to have such an attractive and successful business adorn our shirts and I want to thank Andrew Heald and all at Fishers Gin for their support."*

Meanwhile, distillery manager, Naomi Hodges said: *"We're delighted to have renewed our sponsorship of Leiston FC for the 2025/26 season."*

"It is a privilege to work so closely with our local football team and of course to see our brand on the back of the team's shirts too."

"On behalf of Andrew and the whole Fishers team, we wish the boys all the best for a fantastic season."



Fishers Link: Fishers Gin have extended their sponsorship with Leiston FC. Pictured with the branding on the new Leiston shirts are Andy Crisp, right, and Ben Bewley-Pope, distiller at Fishers Gin.

Ryan is loving life at Leiston

From the Premier League to non-league, the buzz Ryan Jarvis says he has always enjoyed - and still enjoys - from football, has not wavered.

The Blues midfielder netted one of the two goals that beat Redditch in the last Blues home clash and, although he may not appear on the scoresheet that often, he's clocking up the appearances for Leiston now, as he reaches his century for the club - his experience and presence on and off the pitch immense. Then again, Ryan Jarvis is a player who has played at some of the highest levels in the game.

Representing England youth from under-16s to under-19s, playing in two European Youth Championships, reaching the final against France at under-19s, Jarvis, now 39, made his Championship debut for Norwich City away at Walsall as a 16-year-old.

Two years later he made his Premier League debut for the Canaries and, in January 2005, netted in a 1 - 2 defeat to Liverpool at Carrow Road. You can check out the YouTube clip! For Ryan, there have been many highlights, but he continues to look for more.



Ryan Jarvis: Loving life at Leiston and still setting goals. Photo: Ben Cunningham

"Yes, I have great footballing memories over the last 20 years or so," he said.

"Aside from obviously making my England youth appearances and debuts in the Championship and Premier League, one of my biggest highlights was winning back-to-back promotions with King's Lynn, from Step 3 Southern Central Premier to the National League."

"It's something I'd love to replicate at Leiston. I'm absolutely loving football at Leiston. As much as I enjoy supporting the younger players in the group, I still have the desire and buzz to play whenever called upon."

Always welcome to join the Blues

Founded in 1880 Leiston Football Club is one of the oldest and most established non-league clubs in the UK. If you would like to be involved at Leiston Football Club, from becoming a match day volunteer through to bespoke sponsorship packages for the 25/26 season, that include Matchday, ball and individual player sponsorship, contact Andy Crisp on 07769 904555 or e-mail acrisp5@aol.com and see how you as an individual or your business can enjoy being part of the Leiston FC experience. For information on the club, news and teams, head over to www.leistonfc.co.uk or follow Leiston on X, Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram @leistonfc

The Railway Inn

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Traditional pub with a warm welcome!
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- Disabled access + facilities
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Our opening times:

Mon - Thurs 12-11 | Fri + Sat 12-12
 Sun 12-10:30

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The Engineers Arms
 Leiston 01728 635883



October Events

**Sunday 12th
 Ace Karaoke**

**Saturday 25th
 Ace Karaoke**



Find us on Facebook

What's On at
Leiston Film Theatre

Fri 3rd & Sat 4th Oct at 7.15pm
 Sun 5th Oct at 6.00pm
 Mon 6th & Tues 7th Oct at 7.15pm
 Wed 8th Oct at 3.00pm
 Thurs 9th Oct at 7.15pm

A BIG BOLD BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY 15

Fri 10th Oct at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

**THE JERSEY BEATS
 OH, WHAT A NITE!**

Sat 11th Oct at 2.30pm & 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

AKENFIELD

Sun 12th Oct at 6.00pm

**STRANGE JOURNEY
 THE STORY OF ROCKY HORROR** 15

Mon 13th - Thurs 16th Oct at 7.15pm

DEAD OF WINTER 15

Fri 17th & Sat 18th Oct at 7.15pm
 Sun 19th Oct at 6.00pm
 Mon 20th & Tues 21st Oct at 7.15pm
 Wed 22nd Oct at 3.00pm & 7.15pm
 Thurs 23rd Oct at 7.15pm

I SWEAR 15

Fri 24th & Sat 25th Oct at 7.15pm
 Sun 26th Oct at 6.00pm

THE LOST BUS 15

Mon 27th - Wed 29th Oct at 7.00pm

ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER 15

Thurs 30th Oct at 7.00pm
 Sun 2nd Nov at 3.00pm

BAT OUT OF HELL - THE MUSICAL 12A

Fri 31st Oct at 7.15pm
 Sun 2nd Nov at 6.00pm

**BACK TO THE FUTURE
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Sun 9th Nov at 3.00pm. LIVE ON STAGE

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High Street, Leiston, Suffolk. IP16 4BZ
 Tel: 01728 830549, or visit:
www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Hollond Family of Great Ashfield House, Suffolk – a Talk by Dave Steward – Monday 20th October 2.30pm in Saxmundham.

Great Ashfield House, built in 1755, had a history of extensions and renovations. It is described as a 'lost palace' in some accounts and is Grade II listed.

The Hollond Family were known to have moved in cultured circles, with Stanley Spencer visiting and painting there in the 1920s.

After Arthur Hollond's death, the family's connection to the outside world diminished.

The daughters' unconventional lifestyle, including sleeping outdoors in various weather conditions, led to them being viewed with suspicion by some villagers.

The house fell into disrepair and the family lived in relative isolation, with the daughters adopting a unique, nature-focused lifestyle.

Dave Steward is a local historian well known for researching family trees as well as giving talks on local history subjects in the East Anglian region.

The talk takes place on Monday 20th October at 2.30pm, in person at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL (behind the library). The talk starts at 2.30pm. No need to book, just turn up. £1 for members, £3 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits. Good, free car-parking. The speaker will be present in person, and the talk will NOT be on Zoom.



Great Ashfield House

FOOD BANK

Leiston Food Bank has been operating for many years as a local and independently run project; not part of any organisation such as the Trussell Trust.

It hasn't received donations via supermarket drop off schemes but has relied entirely on donations of produce and finance from local supporters. The food bank is run by volunteers, led by members of the Leiston United church and our friends.

Marion and David Sillett have been running the Foodbank throughout the time it has operated and given considerable time and energy to maintaining this important local project, supporting many folk along the way.

They are now stepping down from the role, especially as the demands of the shopping and collection of food has become increasingly demanding.

We would love the project to continue as the need remains but without new volunteers to run and support the food bank we will, reluctantly, have to close. If you would be willing and able to pick up the reins or offer support on a regular basis we'd love to hear from you.

Please make contact via email revaje@outlook.com or telephone (01473 411316).



The Mindful Life Group
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GAMING FESTIVAL

This October, Lowestoft's East Point Pavilion and The Battery will transform into a hub of gaming culture as Game Lowestoft comes to town. This FREE ENTRY, 2-day event will showcase the very best of digital and tabletop gaming while celebrating the region's growing place in the UK's gaming and creative economy. The weekend will include digital gaming, tournaments, talks, role-playing adventures, and free play zones. Presented by First Light Festival CIC and funded through the Lowestoft Community Partnership and East Suffolk Council Enabling Communities Fund, the event will be delivered in collaboration with The Fort, Skyward Fire Games and Game Anglia. Whether you're a seasoned player, a casual gamer, or simply curious about the culture, Game Lowestoft promises a welcoming and action-packed line-up:

Saturday 11 October, The Battery, 119 London Road North, Lowestoft, 12noon – 8pm

Tournaments, Talks & Free Play

- Test your skills in FIFA face-offs, Mario Kart showdowns, Smash Bros, Street Fighter and more.
- Play the hottest new releases alongside retro classics, bringing together generations of gamers.
- Gain insight from live talks with industry experts offering a rare chance to learn from professionals working in the gaming sector.

Sunday 12 October, East Point Pavilion, Royal Plain, Lowestoft, 10am – 4pm

Step into a World of Adventure – in partnership with Skyward Fire Games

- Take part in immersive Dungeons & Dragons sessions and Pokémon Tournaments guided by expert game masters.
- Explore the art of storytelling, world-building, and character design through interactive workshops.
- Experience live demonstrations from role-playing creators and discover how gaming fuels imagination and collaboration.
- Enjoy classic board games and try new games and designs.

The event creates a space where people of all ages can come together, share their passion, and discover new ways to play. Families are encouraged to join in, with activities designed for every age group, from children picking up a controller for the first time to long-time players reliving the classics.

The event has been made possible with the support of the Lowestoft Community Partnership, East Suffolk Council Enabling Communities Fund, and Lowestoft gaming partners The Fort and Skyward Fire.

For more information visit www.gamelowestoft.com or email info@firstlightlowestoft.com.

Exciting news for young people
Free classes!
LEARN STOP FRAME ANIMATION
VIDEO EDITING AND MORE

The I Made This charity run free classes for young people who are on the autistic spectrum or who have other SEN. You can learn how to make stop frame animation films, add music and sound fx and learn video editing.

Everyone gets their own Apple computer to use and you don't need any previous experience. We also give you a USB stick to take your work home on. It's fun and free!

WE WILL BE STARTING THIS PROJECT ON WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER AT THE LIVE WELL HUB IN LEISTON. 1P16-4HP
 This will be an after school club running from 5pm until 7pm every term time Wednesday for the whole of 2025 and 2026.

Places are limited so please apply as soon as possible please contact us by email to judeowgli@hotmail.co.uk

This project has been made possible by a grant from Biswell-C Community fund, facilitated by Suffolk Community Foundation

Are you a professional that struggles to talk Mental Health/Domestic Abuse with your clients?

You're Not Alone – But It's Time to Change That
 Talking about mental health or domestic abuse can feel awkward, uncertain, or even risky. But in today's world, it's more important than ever to support your customers with empathy, understanding, and confidence.

We Can Help You:

- Break the stigma in your interactions
- Train your team in safe, respectful mental health/domestic abuse conversations
- Build trust and loyalty with your clients
- Know what to say — and when to listen
- You don't need to be a therapist. Just a human who cares

Start creating a safer, more supportive space for everyone you work with

Sign up for our bespoke training
 On Monday, 20th October 2025 from 8 am – 11 am
 Venue - Riduna Park, Melton, Woodbridge (Map of venue will be sent on sign-up)
 by emailing sarah.lawrance@nhs.net
 You can't make this date? No problem we have others just get in contact with us

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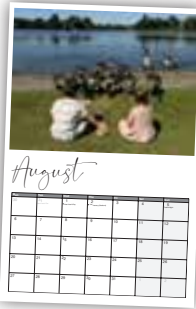
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HI-DE-HI STAR COMING TO LEISTON FILM THEATRE

In tandem with the recent publication of his memoirs, sitcom legend, Jeffrey Holland, best-loved as holiday camp comic Spike Dixon in Hi-de-Hi, will be in conversation with Britain's Comedy Historian Robert Ross at a special one-day event at Leiston Film Theatre on Sunday 9th November.

Jeffrey Holland is well known for roles in television sitcoms, playing rising comic Spike at Maplin's Holiday Camp, as well as radio comedy, including 'Week Ending'. He also played leading roles in the sitcoms 'You Rang, M'Lord?' and 'Oh, Doctor Beeching!', making him a major part of the David Croft repertoire.

Jeffrey's first stage appearance was at the Alexandra Theatre in 1967 and his first speaking role came in an episode of Dixon of Dock Green in 1974. He then went on to work with Jimmy Perry and David Croft for the first time when he took over the role of Private Walker in the Dad's Army Stage Show.

Throughout the 1970s, Jeffrey made one-off guest appearances in television shows such as 'Are You Being Served', 'Dad's Army' and 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum'. He also appeared in several episodes of Crossroads, but it was in 1980 that he broke through to fame in Hi-de-Hi. Later that year, more TV fame followed on Russ Abbot's Madhouse.

Alongside Britain's Comedy Historian Robert Ross, Jeffrey will be sharing memories of working on these classic shows, as well as reflecting on his comedy influences and favourites, including Arthur Askey, Peter Sellers, and the bowler-hatted genius who inspired his celebrated, sell-out solo show entitled, 'And This is My Friend Mr. Laurel'.

Film Theatre Manager, Wayne Burns, is especially excited about this event. "I have just finished reading Jeff's book and it was wonderful to read so many wonderful stories and personal memories. Jeff first visited the Film Theatre in 2016, and I cannot wait to welcome him back" he said.

It's sure to be an afternoon of laughter and the performance will be followed by a signing of Jeffrey's book entitled 'The First Rule of Comedy!' Robert Ross will also be signing a collection of his books.

'An afternoon with Jeffrey Holland' appears at the Leiston Film Theatre on Sunday 9th November at 3pm. Tickets are priced at only £10 and are now available from the Film Theatre box office on 01728 830549 and via the venue's website at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk



LEISTON BOWLS CLUB

Leiston Town Bowls club followed up last season's win in the Saxmundham league with a succession of trophies in 2025.

We came third in Saxmundham League 1, runners up in the Woodbridge League, (just 1.5 behind the leaders), fourth in the Fynn league, we were consistent in the Bob Wright, won the Jubilee Shield, were runners up in the Percy Dunnett and were semi-finalists in the Sun Bowl.

Club members successes: Grennie Wright became 4 wood singles Champion in the Woodbridge League, In the Saxmundham League Craig Alexander and Gren Wright won the Pairs, Brian Short came runner up in the 4 wood singles and runners up in the Presidents cup were Ron Baldry and Les Bishop.

In Suffolk County Neill Cole & Trevor Pearce were semi-finalists in the Pairs and Richard Battle won the Jubilee Shield and became Suffolk County Secretary Champion, going on to the national quarter finals.

New members continue to join as the club looks ahead to 2026 and beyond. Thanks to our own tournaments and playing host to Suffolk County games, our finances have benefited greatly. Huge thanks to our ladies for the service of refreshments and drinks. Roll on 2026!

Ditcher

Right: Richard Battle accepting the Jubilee Shield from Simon Smith, Woodbridge League President.



PROTECTING OUR LIBRARIES



By Marianne Fellowes

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." – Joseph Addison.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know." – Dr. Seuss

LIBRARIES ARE NOT JUST COLLECTIONS OF BOOKS...

Many of us no longer rely on the printed word for information or knowledge, but libraries provide so much more. They are a vital community service that needs to be protected, especially in rural areas like East Suffolk.

The history of libraries dates back to ancient civilizations; the Romans first gave access to 'citizens', not just to scholars.

Modern public libraries emerged in revolutionary France with the nationalisation of noble libraries and national libraries were established in the 19th and 20th centuries. In recent years digital technology has transformed libraries once again.

Libraries continue to evolve, while maintaining their core mission of preserving knowledge and supporting education. They provide access to information and technology, and enrich society, supporting social well-being and mental health. They support young people, helping them to acquire key skills and have also become 'warm hubs' offering refreshments and a safe place to spend time for free.

With the demise of most of our Tourist Information Centres, libraries now offer a range of leaflets including bus times, information about what's on and services for residents and visitors.

As we lose pubs, banks and village shops, libraries have taken on even more roles. East Suffolk Council holds weekly drop-ins and Police Safer Neighbourhood teams visit.

Sadly, as of December, Barclays Bank will cease their satellite services in several local libraries, despite them being well attended!



Halesworth Community Library

Once you join your local library, you can access several online services for free: you can download e-books and read most national newspapers, borrow audio and large print books, access the County reference library and use the computers/Wifi. Printing, photocopying, scanning and laminating are available for a small charge.

Volunteers provide a 'Books at Home' service for those unable to visit. Libraries host the Reading Challenge during school holidays, provide term-time access for schools, after school Code Clubs, and even visits by 'reading' dogs. Every library is unique. Some have meeting rooms for hire. Period products and other health-care items may be available. There are lots of weekly activities from Music/ Stay & Play for under 5s, to groups for those with Dementia and their Carers, language classes, and a wide range of talks and workshops. Libraries are truly an asset in our communities as diverse as you could imagine, yet familiar and welcoming for all.

ARE OUR LIBRARIES AT RISK?

Today there are 45 libraries across Suffolk and three mobile Libraries which visit villages in between.

Earlier this year the library service in Suffolk reverted to being run in-house by Suffolk County Council (SCC). Prior to this they were managed by an independent charity, 'Suffolk Libraries', which was set up when SCC threatened to close our libraries some ten years ago.

There was widespread outcry then and now, strong evidence of how passionately the public feels about keeping its libraries open to the same extent as currently, or even to increase this.

SCC promised that library users would not notice any change to hours or services until a full review in 2026, but in the meantime, items of planned works and key decisions have been paused.

Great uncertainty remains, for the amazing staff, dedicated volunteers and the services that many residents have come to rely upon.

One worrying change is that the former SCC Portfolio Holder for Libraries has banned story-telling activities by a Pantomime Dame who has done this for 7 years across our area. This seems to go against principles of free speech and welcoming diversity, not to mention theatre tradition since Shakespearean times!

Libraries have clearly played a significant role throughout human history and still do today. It is vital that our communities have free access to information, a 'place' for all, without perceived or actual barriers, and where young people can continue their relationship with reading. Your library is there for YOU, will you be there for your library? To enrol for free, just pop along, or look at the library website for opening hours, information about services and activities. www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk



Marianne Fellowes attending a Council meeting to advocate for the continuation of library services.

Marianne is a library user, and volunteer Trustee with Aldeburgh Library Foundation.

If you have any questions or comments on this article, please contact Marianne via info@eastsuffolk.greenparty.org.uk

Promoted by East Suffolk Green Party, Unit 1, The Silo, Pirnhov Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 2RU

SUFFOLK GIFT FAIR RETURNS

On 13th and 14th October, the much-loved Suffolk Gift Fair returns, this year hosted in the Hangar at Milsoms, Kesgrave Hall, a beautiful venue conveniently located near both Ipswich and Woodbridge.

This year's fair supports a special milestone: 25 years of the East Anglian Air Ambulance. In that time, this incredible service has treated thousands of people, helping an average of six patients every single day. Many of us have known, met, or heard about someone who has been helped by the highly skilled doctors and paramedics onboard. They not only save lives daily but carry sophisticated medical equipment that allows them to perform life-saving surgery at the roadside for the most critical patients.

The fair is organised by six dedicated female volunteers, all passionate about supporting this vital work. Over 30 stallholders from across the country will be offering a wide variety of unique products, many not available on the high street and at prices to suit every budget. Visitors can expect everything from delicious food and wine to beautiful clothing, jewellery, stationery, and stylish home and garden accessories. It's the perfect place to pick up early Christmas gifts, stocking fillers, or something special for yourself.

There's also a raffle with spectacular prizes donated by local retailers and restaurants. Bring your friends and enjoy a day of retail therapy in a stunning setting, with refreshments available throughout.

All proceeds go directly to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, which relies entirely on donations to keep its life-saving service airborne.

Event details:

Monday 13th October: 4pm – 9pm

Tuesday 14th October: 9am – 3pm

Tickets: Available on the door for a £5 donation. For updates, follow The Suffolk Gift Fair on Facebook and Instagram: @thesuffolkgiftfair.

We'd love to see you there - your support makes all the difference!



PROJECT UPDATE

OCTOBER 2025

Welcome to the latest round up of construction activity at Sizewell C.

We are pleased to announce our SMS alert service is now live, the community can now sign up to receive works tracker updates via SMS as well as email. Subscribe to the Sizewell C Works Tracker at szcworkstracker.co.uk. Track Sizewell C Projects and get alerts for new activities via the login button.

Firstly, thank you for your patience as we work hard to get new infrastructure in place, such as park and ride facilities to bus our workers into site and improvements such as the A12 two village bypass and Sizewell Link Road. We are sorry for the inconvenience this is causing and will work to complete these essential projects as quickly as possible whilst providing updates to communities so you can plan your journeys. With this in mind, the Sizewell C works tracker and One Network Causeway **one.network** are guides to works in the area and the new subscription service through our works tracker will also help with transport plans around the county.

We are working across the county and wider East Anglian region to improve Sizewell C related road signs, which includes removing temporary signs and replacing with permanent road signs.

This will ensure contract drivers are taking the correct routes. Closer to site, we are also replacing temporary road signs along the B1122 with permanent speed reduction and camera signs.

As part of our accommodation strategy, we announced at the last Northern Transport Forum that we have acquired part of the Darsham High Lodge site which will provide accommodation for our workforce. High Lodge benefits from being closely located to the Darsham Railway Station and the Northern Park and Ride site. A bus service will be available for workers to transport from High Lodge to site, keeping cars off the road.

We have started to build a widened and improved layby on the A12 to assist police escorting our wide load HGVs. Working closely with Suffolk County Council, we have closed one of the lanes of the dual carriageway. This is to ensure traffic flow and not create a bottleneck along the dual carriageway by ensuring a consistent one lane traffic flow from Woodbridge. This also ensures road safety for road users and workers, and Suffolk County Council will also be undertaking maintenance work during this time. The traffic management will be in place until December.

FORUM

SCHEDULE

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

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Main Development Site Forum | Wednesday 8 October 2025 | Leiston Town Athletic Association |
| Community Forum | Thursday 23 October 2025 | Sizewell Sports and Social Club |
| Northern Transport Forum | Wednesday 5 November 2025 | Darsham Village Hall |
| Southern Transport Forum | Wednesday 3 December 2025 | Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre |

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

VISIT THE WORKS TRACKER SITE



Sizewell C
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ALDEBURGH PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The next meeting of the Aldeburgh Photography Group will be held on 15 October at 7.30pm in the Aldeburgh Library.

We are delighted to be joined by Daniel Ruffles, an award-winning landscape photographer based in Aldeburgh. Daniel specialises in landscape and seascape photography, and he strives to capture the ethereal beauty of the Suffolk Coast, from its vast, wide-open skies to the tranquility of its sea.

He describes his photography as a visual love letter to Suffolk. Daniel's success has also been acknowledged further afield with the following awards:

Winner 'Coastal View' 2023 Landscape Photographer of the Year

Shortlisted 2020 Landscape Photographer of the Year

The evening will conclude with members showing their images inspired by the talk on photojournalism last month.

We are a friendly group and keen to welcome everyone from beginners to experienced photographers, from users of iPhones to the latest DSLRs.

We do not run competitions which put too many amateur photographers off joining local photography groups.

Instead, we aim to help each other learn and improve our work.

If you want to know more, or if you want to check for up-to-date information on our meetings, please contact us through our website (aldeburghphotographygroup.org.uk).



Daniel Ruffles

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

Paying Income Tax on your State Pension

It is not always appreciated that the state pension is subject to Income Tax. This is because HMRC do not deduct tax before paying the state pension. If you are receiving the basic state pension of £230.25 per week this is not an issue as the annual amount received of £11,973 is below the tax-free allowance of £12,570.

However, if you receive more than the basic state pension you should check if this exceeds the annual tax-free allowance. If it does, there is a tax liability on the excess. If you do not have private pension income as well, HMRC will issue you with a Simple Assessment calculating the tax due and asking for payment by 31 January 2026.

If you do have private pension income, HMRC will collect the tax on the state pension via PAYE from your private pension provider. Effectively you will be paying more tax on your private pension to compensate for the tax you should be paying on your state pension.

We take a number of calls from people who cannot understand why the tax being deducted from their private pension goes up each year. The simple reason is that the triple lock means that the state pension must increase each year. However, the tax-free allowance of £12,570 has not increased since 5 April 2021 and will not increase until 5 April 2028 at the earliest. This means that the tax on the increase in the state pension is being deducted from your private pension income.

In net of tax terms, you are overall better off, but it is confusing when the tax paid on your private pension increases even though the gross amount remains the same.

With the tax-free allowance frozen at £12,570 it is likely that from 5 April 2027 even the basic state pension will exceed this resulting in a tax liability for the majority of pensioners.

For married couples, where one of the spouses does not use their tax-free allowance (possibly due to restricted pension entitlement), it is possible to have up to £1,260 of their unused allowance transferred to their spouse, saving up to £252 pa. in tax. A Marriage Allowance claim must be submitted to HMRC by the lower income spouse - this can be backdated to 6 April 2021. This could result in a refund of tax of up to £1,008. We recommend you take advice before you make any submission to ensure that this decision benefits you.

For details about how tax is paid on the state pension see <https://www.gov.uk/tax-on-pension/how-your-tax-is-paid>.

For details about how the marriage allowance works see <https://www.gov.uk/marriage-allowance>

You can contact us for advice on this and any other issue by emailing Citizens Advice East Suffolk from our website: www.caes.org.uk/email-service or phoning us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10 – 2, Mon - Fri). Our website www.caes.org.uk also gives details of our drop-in outreach sessions and how to make an appointment at one of our offices.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCT 9 Peter Gutteridge presents Horatio Nelson – From Disaster at Tenerife to Triumph at the Nile. The story of how Nelson recovered from the disaster of being seriously wounded at Tenerife to becoming the hero of the Battle of the Nile when he annihilated Napoleon's Fleet at the Bay of Aboukir. Peter is a retired senior partner of a large law practice and has Masters' Degrees in Maritime History from Greenwich University and History from Cambridge University. His interest in Nelson was originally fostered by his grandfather, Professor H.C. Gutteridge who was a distinguished academic and author of 'Nelson and the Neapolitan Jacobins'. 6 – 7pm at Butley Priory, Butley. IP12 3NR. Visit: orfordmuseum.org.uk

OCT 9 Little Hoo-ligans Parent and Toddler Group at Sutton Hoo. Outdoor toddler group. Enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including trails, crafts, games and songs at this monthly group for 2 to 4-year-olds and their parents/guardians. 10.30am – 12noon at National Trust Sutton Hoo, Tranmer House, Woodbridge. IP12 3DJ. Email: suttonhoo@nationaltrust.org.uk, phone: 01394389700. Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

OCT 11 The Friends of St. Andrew's Church Coffee Morning. Stalls will include Books, Cakes, Bric a Brac, Jewellery, Tombola, Pat's Hats, a New and Nearly New Rail plus Refreshments. Cash only. 10am to 12noon in the church, Church Lane, Aldringham, IP16 4QT

OCT 11 Fressingfield Sounds – Autumn Concert Series 2025. Heath String Quartet: Schumann, Larcher, Beethoven. 7.30pm at Chapel Hall Arts, Fressingfield. IP21 5QD. Tickets from £5 (for under-25s), standard £23 or £25. Season tickets and patron packages also available. Visit: www.fressingfieldsounds.org.uk or call 07900 350117.

OCT 11 & 25 Family Crafts at RSPB Minsmere. Head to the Discovery Centre where there will be a range of seasonal nature themed crafts. Please note you may have to wait at busy times. The craft activities are free but normal entrance fees apply to the rest of the reserve. RSPB Minsmere, Sheepwash Lane, IP17 3BY. Visit: rspb.org.uk

OCT 12 Fleamarket at Westleton village hall. 10am – 3pm. 50p admission (under 16s free). Light refreshments available. Enquiries: 01728 648353

OCT 14 SWT Alde Valley Wildlife Group Talk - 'Amphibians' by John Baker. 7.30pm in the United Reform Church, Leiston. £4 entry (cash, please) includes light refreshments and raffle ticket.

NOV 14 Woodbridge Museum Talk: 'Capture & Escape in WW2' by Jane Bradburn. In the summer of 1941 local men who had joined the 67th (Suffolk) Medium Regiment R.A.T.A. left England. The entire regiment was captured at Tobruk and Jane's talk provides a picture of how these local men survived their experiences of war. 2.30pm at Woodbridge Museum. All welcome.

OCT 18 Kinda Forest Family Saturdays. Explore the forest with guided nature walks, games, challenge your skills with a scavenger hunt, or try your hand at nature crafts! We can't wait to welcome people of all ages. Kaliwoods, Holton, Halesworth, IP19 8NQ. For more information visit: www.kindaforestschoo.com or email: info@kindaeducation.org.

OCT 23 Little Strollers Walking Group at Sutton Hoo. Take your little ones for a gentle stroll around the landscape at Sutton Hoo, along the pram and pushchair friendly pathways. Get some fresh air and meet others. The walk is aimed at new parents and guardians of children under the age of one. All walks will be suitable for prams/strollers, but please note that the footpaths can still be rough under foot. 10.30am – 12noon at National Trust Sutton Hoo, Tranmer House, Woodbridge. IP12 3DJ. Email: suttonhoo@nationaltrust.org.uk, phone: 01394 389700

OCT 26 Tallis Chamber Orchestra Concert. Conductor: Michael Coleby | Soloist: George Strivens (Horn). Overture, Don Giovanni, K. 527 – W. A. Mozart; Horn Concerto No. 2 in E flat major – R. Strauss; Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 11 – F. Mendelssohn. 3pm at St Peter's Church, Westleton. Admission by programme, £15 at the door (cards accepted). Visit: www.tco.org.uk for any changes.

OCT 26 The Breakfast Club with live jazz. Start your Sunday morning with the soulful tunes of Snape Maltings' resident jazz band. Savour a laid-back ambiance while indulging in our new Breakfast Club Menu, complemented by a delightful selection of cocktails and mocktails. 9am – 12noon at Snape Maltings. IP17 1SP. Email: info@snapemaltings.co.uk, phone: 01728 688303

OCT 31 Everman Folk Club. Carolyn Robson & Moira Craig. Two of Britain's top folk artists, with roots in Northumberland and Scotland, their peerless vocal togetherness and unrivalled expertise leads to entrancing interpretations of English, Scottish, and Irish songs and ballads. An evening of close harmonies, good humour, and contemporary flair. Tickets £10 in advance or £12 on the door. 7.30pm at The Riverside Centre, Gt Glemham Road, Stratford St Andrew. IP17 1LL. Email: everyman@wheatstone.co.uk

NOV 1 Snape Maltings Farmers' Market. Held the first Saturday of each month in the beautiful setting of Snape Maltings. An array of fresh local fare including cheese, chocolates, gin, juices, fruit and delicious artisan bakes. Enjoy a walk in the stunning nature and take a moment to relax at MALT or River View Café & Bar with coffee and cake. Shops open from 10am, with delicious produce in the Food Hall and Earsham St. Deli. Free Entry.

NOV 1 Craft and Charities Fair. The church will be filled with stalls selling a wide variety of hand-made goods and unique gifts. There will also be a raffle for church funds and delicious home-made refreshments sold throughout the event. Admission is free and there's plenty of parking. 10am – 2pm at St. Margaret's Church, Leiston. We look forward to seeing you!

YOUR PETS IN AUTUMN

Autumn is a beautiful time of the year but with the autumn months there are things to consider with your pets. The colder weather can affect your pet's joints especially with the older pet. They may become sluggish and stiff. Do not ignore these signs as there might be an underlying cause such as arthritis, which can be very painful, or even other hormone/metabolic issues.

With the autumn leaves falling there are poisons to think about, such as conkers, acorns and rotting fruits which can cause upset tummies. Conkers and acorns are toxic and can cause intestinal blockages. Mushrooms are also toxic and depending on the mushroom type the toxicity level can vary. Also, many plant bulbs are toxic to your pet.

When you walk your pet keep an eye on what your pet is picking up. It is also the time of year when anti-freeze is started to be used more. Anti-freeze is highly toxic and, because they like the taste, is a particular problem in cats. Be careful to keep anti-freeze away from your pets.

Seasonal Canine Illness is a rare but serious condition and is commonly diagnosed between August and November. The cause is unknown but symptoms are sickness and diarrhoea, soon after walking in woodland. If your dog shows symptoms then urgent veterinary treatment is required.

Parasites are also an issue at this time of year, with ticks and harvest mites both enjoying the colder, moist conditions of autumn. Harvest mites can be very prevalent and can make your pets extremely itchy. Harvest mites commonly congregate between toes and in the ears and can be seen as tiny, bright orange dots. Fleas are also still around, so keep your regular protection up.

We at Leiston Vets are happy to help manage your pet's health issues. Please feel free to contact us on 01728 833566 for any advice.



Leiston Veterinary Clinic

Marina Goodchild BVSc MRCVS

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LEISTON ALLOTMENT HOLDERS & GARDENERS ASSOCIATION - OCTOBER

Allow for the loss of light hours when planning work on the garden. Clean up all fallen leaves, protect delicate plants from frost, and clean out water butts ready for any fresh rainwater.

Vegetables: If not done already, harvest main crop potatoes which should be 'lifted' by the end of this month. Harvest the last of peas and beans. Sow lettuces for growing under cloches. Manure or compost any spare areas or plots. Order seeds for next year.

Check 'sow by' date to avoid any failures.

Fruit: Prune fruit canes, continue harvesting of apples and pears. Prune your apple trees once all the leaves have dropped, not forgetting all dead, diseased branches. Fit grease bands or barrier glue round your apple trees to catch any winter moths. **Flowers:** Prune climbing roses. As soon as the first frost has blackened dahlia stems or foliage, cut down to about 6" above the soil.

Bulbs: Lift your gladioli corms and dry off, then store in trays or boxes.

October is the best time for planting your flower bulbs such as tulips and daffodils. **Greenhouse:** Remove tomato leaves to expose unripe fruit, and water all crops when required. Bring plants into greenhouse, reduce watering and control any slugs with slug pellets. Line your greenhouse with bubble wrap or fleece using special clips. **Lawns:** Aerate and scarify before treating with an autumn fertilizer.

Roderick Linsell

This issue was designed, printed & published by Leiston Press.

Leiston Observer is your free local paper, 2000 copies are printed every month.

We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets.

Monday 3rd November, copy deadline is 14th October - but the earlier the better to ensure inclusion.

Contacts/advertisers/Editorial:

Louise Gissing at Leiston Press, Unit 1b Masterlord Industrial Estate, Station Road, Leiston, IP16 4JD

lou@tidecollection.com Tel 01728 833003

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.

PATMORE WATER SOFTENERS



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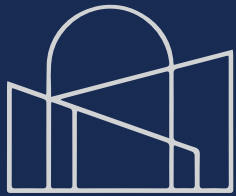
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