

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

SAXMUNDHAM NEWS



PART OF THE **TIDE COLLECTION**

ALDEBURGH TIMES WOODBRIDGE TALK SOUTHWOLD ORGAN SAXMUNDHAM NEWS LEISTON OBSERVER HALESWORTH HOOT

**RIVERVIEW
GARDENING**

Garden & Grounds Maintenance

Providing all aspects of garden and grounds maintenance to both domestic and commercial customers, Ride-on lawnmower available

Green waste removed

EXPERIENCED - QUALIFIED - INSURED

Call Oliver - 07779152936 - 01728561990

Email - riverviewgardening@gmail.com

Caring for you

High quality personal alarms, pendants and sensors monitored by our dedicated alarm response service in East Anglia

All-Digital Personal Alarms from: **£17.99 PER MONTH**

(That's only 59p per day)



Contact us: n-able@ncsgrp.co.uk
0300 3730199 • n-able.org.uk

n-able
Part of Home Group

**PEARCE & KEMP
LIMITED**

Tel: 01986 872130

enquiries@pearce-kemp.co.uk • www.pearce-kemp.co.uk

Unit 20, Halesworth Business Centre, Norwich Road, Halesworth IP19 8QJ

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • STREET LIGHTING

REWIRING • LIGHTING • EXTRA SOCKETS • SHOWERS

ECONOMY 7 HEATING • PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING

INSPECTING & TESTING • DATA CABLING • EMERGENCY LIGHTING

FIRE ALARM INSTALLATIONS • FREE ESTIMATES

PART P INSTALLERS



OVER 50 YEARS EXPERIENCE

**Jules Chair Repairs**

Cane, Rush & Seagrass



Mobile: 07581 007246

Email: juleschairrepairs@gmail.com

[@Jules-Chair-Repairs](https://www.facebook.com/Jules-Chair-Repairs)

PLAN PRINTING AT

LEISTON PRESS
PRINTING Signage PUBLISHING

LARGE FORMAT
SCANS & COPIES
FROM £2 PLUS VAT*

BLACK & COLOUR COPIES

SAME DAY SERVICE



T: 01728 833003

E: GLENN@LEISTONPRESS.COM

W: WWW.LEISTONPRESS.COM

*MINIMUM CHARGE £5 PLUS VAT

ALLVAC

SERVICE & REPAIR

KIRBY & DYSON SPECIALIST

HAVE YOUR VACUUM CLEANER
COLLECTED FULLY SERVICED AND
RETURNED AT YOUR CONVENIENCE FOR

£35

ALL MAKES AND MODELS

PAUL LAYTON

01379 871095 OR 07866 549642

**JOHN BRIDGES
GARDEN LANDSCAPER**

PATIOS | RAISED BEDS | FENCING
PERGOLAS | TURF LAYING

30 yrs experience

01728 832972 | 07787163249
bridgesjac@gmail.com

ALDE FENCING

*Agricultural, Domestic, Commercial,
Repairs & Gates*

For a free quotation please contact Adam on

01728 633144 | 07896 766719

adamblowers@btinternet.com

www.aldefencing.com

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



I'm sure we're all frustrated with the numerous traffic lights, delays and speed limits which have popped just about everywhere. Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith is equally frustrated and is questioning whether these are all really necessary, so it will be interesting to see what developments there will be. Richard will keep us posted through his monthly column I'm sure.

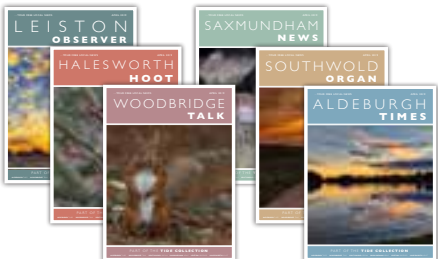
Please get in touch if you have anything to share with our readers or if you have an event coming up why not consider increasing your footfall by placing an advert in the Tide Collection?

I would love to hear from you, email me at: lou@tidecollection.com.

Quote of the Month

Gambling: The sure way of getting nothing for something.

Wilson Mizner



TIDE COLLECTION

A COLLECTION OF 6 FREE MAGAZINES

DISTRIBUTION OF 12000 DELIVERED
DOOR TO DOOR & TO MANY VARIED OUTLETS

CONTACT **LOUISE GISSING** FOR PRICES AND QUERIES

LOU@TIDECOLLECTION.COM
OR CALL **01728 833003**

INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

SAXMUNDHAM MUSEUM 4

*Designs needed for Museum
Christmas Card from under 16s*

SAXMUNDHAM TOWN COUNCIL 5

*Delivering improvements, working
on your priorities and more*

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR... 7

*Richard Smith challenges road
restrictions*

IP17GNS - WELCOMING AUTUMN 9

*Gannon Games, Men's Breakfast,
Social Supermarket and School
uniform exchange*

FINAL FLING

@ THE LONG SHOP MUSEUM

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 10AM - 4PM



NEW
DISPLAYS
FOR 2025

STEAM ENGINES, TRADE STALLS, REFRESHMENTS AND MORE!

Chicoutimi,
Thorpeness
Platinum Trusted
Service Award
2023

suffolk

hideaways

coastal and country holiday retreats

THINKING OF LETTING YOUR HOLIDAY HOME?

We know choosing an agency to let your property can be a big decision, let us make it easy for you.

A friendly and local team | Excellent occupancy levels
A Marketing or Managed service | Multi-channel marketing
Peace-of-mind damage cover | Professional photography
No restrictions on use of your property

To find out more please phone, visit our website
or pop into our office in **Aldeburgh** for a chat.

01728 666 300 | suffolkhideaways.co.uk | [f](#) [x](#) [@](#)

SAXMUNDHAM MUSEUM NEWS

After another highly successful season, Saxmundham Museum is now closed for the winter. There is much work to be done behind the scenes during the closed season but we will be open to celebrate the **Saxmundham Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December from 3pm – 7pm**, so why not pop into The Museum and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

Designs needed for Museum Christmas Card

Saxmundham Museum are already making preparations for Christmas! We would like to invite everyone under 16 years of age and resident in the Saxmundham area to design a Christmas card to go on sale this year.

We are looking for two winning designs that will go into limited production for Christmas 2025 to raise funds for the Museum.

The winners will receive a gift voucher, and highly commended designs will also get a certificate. Entries may be colour or black and white and should be submitted with the artist's name, age and address on the back. This will represent permission for The Museum to use the design with the artist being acknowledged on the card. Closing date for entries is Friday 24th October, which gives you three weeks to get busy.

Entries should be posted through the door of the Museum at 49 High Street, Saxmundham IP17 1AJ and will be judged by the committee whose decision is final. Anyone wanting their design returned after the competition should include a stamped addressed envelope.

Museum Film Evening

The next film evening, *'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?'* will take place on Thursday 30th October at 7pm.

Contact Sally on 07836 324692 or email sallygpearson@gmail.com to reserve your seat. Suggested donation £5.

Museum AGM

The Saxmundham Museum AGM will take place on Thursday 7th November at 7pm at The Museum, 49 High Street, Saxmundham IP17 1DQ.

Peter Minta



COMMON GROUND THEATRE COMPANY

COMMON GROUND THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENT THEIR AUTUMN & XMAS SHOWS, 2025-26
TOURING TO VENUES ACROSS SUFFOLK, ESSEX & NORFOLK

THE TALES OUR MOTHER TOLD!

A WAKE TURNS TO WARFARE
AS BROTHERS GET GRIMM
TOURING E ANGLIA
2ND OCT-2ND NOV

Followed by our traditional
Xmas spoof, 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 Sroughton 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.

SAXMUNDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Your monthly update - Delivering improvements and working on your priorities.

Town Council in Action - Current work in progress, driven by what matters to you.

Representing Residents on Overnight Freight Train Noise

Saxmundham Town Council is actively responding to residents' concerns about freight trains idling overnight at Saxmundham Station, causing significant noise. If unaddressed, this could continue throughout the twelve-year Sizewell C construction period. At the recent Southern Transport Forum, we highlighted that trains are being held at the station rather than in the countryside, as originally intended. The line is only available at night because passenger services take priority during the day. While Sizewell C called Saxmundham an "ideal location" due to its twin tracks, we made clear that this arrangement is unacceptable for residents.

Cllr Geraldine Barker, Energy Projects Lead, said: *"We will work constructively but firmly to protect our community. Residents should not have to endure twelve years of overnight disruption. We are advocating for trains to be held away from the station or for meaningful noise mitigation."*

A tripartite meeting with Network Rail and Sizewell C is scheduled for November 2025 to seek a practical solution, and the Council will continue to represent residents' interests at every opportunity.



Local Highlights - People and projects shaping Saxmundham.

Exciting news! Saxmundham Town Council has committed £60,000 to install new play equipment at Seaman Avenue Park. Extensive community input has shaped the design, which includes accessible and inclusive features so all children can enjoy the park. Saxmundham benefits from several play parks, managed by different bodies, which can sometimes be confusing for families when reporting repairs or sharing ideas for improvement.

The Town Council directly manages Seaman Avenue and Chantry Road, making these spaces a priority for improvements that benefit local families and children. This investment is part of the Council's Annual Delivery Plan (Priority 2.2 – Enhance Community Facilities) and is funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Council reserves. Contractors will soon begin surveying the site to plan installation.

Cllr John Findlay, Chair of Saxmundham Town Council, said: *"Prioritising this project shows that the Council is committed to improving our town's facilities. Thanks to resident feedback, the new play equipment will meet the needs of children for years to come."*



Community Calendar - Opportunities to join in.

- **Saturday 11th October, 9am - 3pm:** Saxmundham Saturday Market
- **Monday 13th October at 7pm:** Town Council Meeting
- **Saturday 8th November, 9am - 3pm:** Saxmundham Saturday Market
- **Monday 10th November at 7pm:** Town Council Meeting
- **Saturday 6th December, 3 - 7pm:** Saxmundham Christmas Fayre - Festive market, grotto, entertainment, late-night shopping – fun for all the family in the town centre.

Pinboard - Short updates and reminders.

The 2024 – 2025 Annual Report is now available. Pick up a copy at the Town House, Saxmundham library, Market Hall, or High Street businesses, or download it at www.saxmundham.org

Market Hall floor repairs are ongoing. We are keeping all booking holders updated.

The Town Council welcomes ideas, concerns, and suggestions from all residents. We are committed to an ongoing dialogue and value every voice in shaping Saxmundham's future. Contact details are on the Town Council website.

IS HOCKNEY ONE OF THE 'GREATS'?

David Hockney at 87 is a national treasure but can he be considered as part of the great British landscape tradition alongside Turner & Constable?

Hockney is a prolific portrait artist. Is he in the same street as Reynolds & Hogarth? I shall be exploring nearly 150 works by these artists and suggesting some thought provoking conclusions.

Bill Crow Art Talks

at the Old Generator Station, Aldeburgh, on 12, 19, 26 Nov, 3 Dec, 2025 at 2p.m.
£40 for the entire series, including refreshments.
wjcrow@aol.com or 07802 908479



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 40th ANNIVERSARY ^{PG}

Sun 9th Nov at 3.00pm. LIVE ON STAGE

AN AFTERNOON WITH JEFFREY HOLLAND

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



Ashleigh's Footcare
Mobile Foot Health Professional
Dip FHM MCFHP MAPFP

Fully qualified and registered Foot Health Care Practitioner providing a variety of footcare treatments and advice in the comfort of your own home. Covering Saxmundham, Woodbridge, Framlingham and surrounding areas.

Nail trimming
Corns
Ingrown nails
Callus
Thickened nails
Verrucas
Fungal nails
Diabetic Footcare

 **07405874562**  **Ashleigh's Footcare**

 **Ashleighsfootcare@outlook.com**

For more details and bookings please get in touch
Fully Insured and DBS accredited



FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR...

I am trying very hard to understand why we are suffering the extent of inconvenient road restrictions, almost all to do with the Sizewell C works, from the southern end of the Wickham Market by-pass almost to the A144 turn-off for Halesworth, over a length covering at least twelve miles. And, what's worse, I have been trying to get these answers since July from the Highways Authority, which is part of the County Council of which I am the Deputy Leader! It is really frustrating, not just for me but for many of my constituents who use the local parts of the A12. I have had loads of complaints, including from the Parish Councils I represent.

I think we all realise that, where active road works are taking place, worker safety has to be prioritised. Also there is a case for 'junction-protection' where HGVs and other traffic need access to and from site. Lower, often much lower, speed limits need to be applied at these sites and to some extent in the approach to these sites so that traffic moves past at the stipulated speed. That's fine and I can see the justification.

BUT... Why is such a long length of imposed speed restriction needed before the working site is reached? The most extreme example is on the north-bound Wickham Market by-pass. After the Woods Lane roundabout, which facilitates a right-turn to Melton and the Peninsula, single-lane traffic is already the norm. But as soon as the by-pass commences huge numbers of traffic cones restrict traffic to one lane, at a theoretic 50 mph, for four miles until the actual works are encountered at the very northern end of the by-pass. And here I stress the word 'theoretical' speed limit, because we all know that being an agricultural county there are plenty of tractors about. If you have to travel behind one of these, the imposed speed limit is much closer to 30mph, if you are lucky! And how are break-downs or accidents to be coped with under these conditions? This is the most crazy restriction of them all.

Now, let's continue north. At the end of the by-pass the road continues as one carriageway, with no opportunity to recover lost journey time. South of Stratford St. Andrew they are more speed restrictions - but no road works at all! After Farnham we have the work happening for the next eight or ten months at the Friday Street junction for Leiston and Aldeburgh. And these restrictions continue long past the works, ending about half-way along the dual carriageway leading to the Saxmundham by-pass. In the other direction, going south, the whole of the dual carriageway is coned-off into one lane, again long before the area being worked on is reached. Here the static speed camera has been removed as the imposed speed limit makes it completely redundant.

Further on, a short distance after the A12 turn-off to Kelsale, another long 30mph zone has been created, this time to protect the works at the Town Farm Lane entrance. Here works for both access to a new solar farm and the Sizewell C haul-road, needed to construct the relief road around Middleton Moor and Theberton, is happening. But why, when past the works, does the speed restriction continue all the way to Yoxford?

Finally, the works from before the turn-off to Darsham until nearly the left turn to Halesworth have been created to protect the work being done to construct a northern park-and-ride site extending northwards from adjacent to Darsham railway station.

I have asked many times for justifying reasons for the speed limits imposed, the extent of these limits before the works are reached and why they continue for so great a distance after the works have been passed. I have held meetings with the most senior officers at the County Council, and various reasons and assurances have been given to me, but there have been no noticeable changes at the time I write this column. So, my frustration is palpable and I feel that the views of so many people that I represent are being ignored as being worthless. I have also tackled a senior Sizewell C employee, admittedly without giving him any advance notice, and didn't get very far.

The Development Consent Order (DCO) under which the Sizewell C organisation is carrying out its work does give certain powers and permissions to them over speed limit impositions. But they tell me that on the A12 the County Council retains ultimate decision-making powers, albeit in consultation with Sizewell C. The County Council Highways officers don't seem to agree, so we have stalemate over the present impositions which, as works spread directly onto the A12 carriageway, notably at Yoxford and elsewhere, will only become even worse. At some stage, without visual justification of the restrictions, driver frustration will boil over.

Building a new, twin-reactor nuclear power station is likely to take up to twelve years and cost £40 billion. I'm not sure I believe that the project can be done in 12 years and, although not a betting man, I would lay odds against the project being built on budget - and it will be you and me as tax-payers who will have to pick up the extra cost.

The situation on local roads, not just the A12, will continue to get worse and we have probably three years of misery in front of us before the highways improvements are finished. What will happen when the A12 needs to be closed entirely for work? Where are the available local diversion routes? The truth is there are none, as our minor roads are not capable of taking diversionary traffic. So, any official diversion route is likely to be very lengthy and hugely inconvenient not just to us as local residents, but those heading both north and south to Lowestoft and Ipswich.

My fight and requests to understand the rationale behind present restrictions will continue, I assure you all.

As usual, 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

richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk 07545 423817

LEISTON PRESS

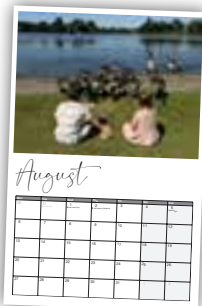
PRINTING | SIGNAGE | PUBLISHING

PERSONALISED WALL CALENDARS

4 x A4 Wall Calendars for only £50 plus VAT

What a great way to keep a smile on your loved ones faces all year round.

Send us 12 images, 1 for each month, and a special cover photo and we can create your very own personalised wall calendar.



Make it personal this Christmas

PERSONALISED CHRISTMAS CARDS

50 A6 Christmas Cards only £56 plus VAT!
100 A6 Christmas Cards only £60 plus VAT!

Share your Christmas message with personalised greeting cards. Email us your image and we will do the rest.



01728 833003 LEISTONPRESS.COM HELLO@LEISTONPRESS.COM

LEISTON PRESS

PRINTING Signage PUBLISHING

WWW.LEISTONPRESS.COM

✉ ANNIE@LEISTONPRESS.COM

📞 01728 833003

PERSONALISED CLOTHING AT LEISTON PRESS

Professional, promotional and completely personalised to your business and brand, wear your message loud and proud with printed clothing.

We can do one colour vinyl, full colour vinyl or embroidery. Supply your own clothing or ask us to get this for you, with our quick turnaround and great prices we can help!



DELIVERY TO ANYWHERE IN THE UK



QUICK RESPONSE QUOTES



Co-op Juniors Theatre Company presents

Magic of CHRISTMAS

A dazzling music and dance spectacular

Snape Maltings Concert Hall

Two shows daily – 5, 7, 12, 13 & 14 December 2025

Seats from £15

Book tickets: brittenpearsarts.org



IP17GNS WELCOMING AUTUMN

As we settle into autumn and familiar routines, IP17GNS welcomes the community into a season of connection, support, and friendship. Whether you're looking for a friendly space to socialise, help with life's essentials, or opportunities to get involved locally, there's something for everyone.

Reconnect at Our Regular Groups

Gannon Games: Wednesdays, 12:30 – 2:30pm at the Gannon Rooms. Join us for board games, puzzles, and a good natter over tea.

Men's Breakfast: First Sunday of the month, 9:30 – 11:00am at the Gannon Rooms. A hearty breakfast and even better conversation. Please pre-book by calling 07835064587.

Help for When You Need It

Our Social Supermarket is open every Tuesday from 9:30 – 11:00am at the Gannon Rooms, offering food and essentials at affordable prices. We also provide signposting and referrals for anyone facing financial challenges – so please reach out if you, or someone you know, could use a hand.

The **school uniform exchange** operates year-round and is open for all to participate in. Whether you want to save the planet or save some pennies, we collect donations of pre-loved school uniform and PE kits for families to help themselves to when needed.

To donate or collect school uniform, either visit the Gannon Rooms during our opening hours (see our website or Facebook page for details) or contact us (07835064587) to arrange a visit.

Get Involved: Everything we do is made possible by the kindness of volunteers and donors. Whether you can give an hour a month, a small regular donation, or simply help spread the word, you'll be making a real difference. If you'd like to support our work financially, you can find our PayPal link at www.ip17gns.com – even £2 a month helps us keep vital services running.

Market Hall Closure: Due to ongoing repairs following flood damage, Saxmundham Market Hall remains closed for now. We therefore made the difficult decision to postpone the return of Gather & Grow, our popular pre-school play group, until the hall reopens. It is not yet certain exactly when this will be – the Town Council are keeping us up to date with the repairs schedule and we look forward to welcoming everybody back to Gather & Grow as soon as possible. Please check our Facebook page for the latest updates. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

Let's make this autumn count: Together, we can make sure no one feels isolated or unsupported as the nights draw in and the temperature drops. Visit www.IP17GNS.com or follow us on Facebook to find out more, get involved, or access help.

Jess Palmer

MAGIC ON THE MENU & OKTOBERFEST!

The SMILE Cafe recently engaged Daniel, a professional magician, to entertain our SMILE Cafe customers. It proved very popular, with standing-room only.

Daniel not only put on a brilliant magic show but also moved among the tables displaying his marvellous close-up magic.

He was so popular that we're hoping he can join us for our free Christmas party, for all, in December - watch out for details later on our FB page.

Meanwhile, here is a date for your diary - Wednesday October 15th - when the SMILE Cafe will again suspend its usual food and drink menu in favour of the annual Oktoberfest celebration, with an all German menu! Further details will appear in our FB page in October.

Google 'SMILE Cafe Saxmundham' for more information on our weekly pop-up community cafe - which runs in the Fromus Centre. with its own free parking.

Don Tricker

Joint Manager, the SMILE Community Cafe



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

Transitions
Light Intelligent Lenses

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.

All transition lenses protect your eyes from UV rays and help filter blue-violet light. Available in a range of colours and mirror finishes.

VIP Client Voucher

£25 off

Transition Lenses

when purchased with a spectacle frame

Valid until 30th November 2025

Please ask in store for terms and conditions

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

The Marshall and Lilley Team



T 01728 833114

E marshall.lilley@btconnect.com

Marshall & Lilley
Opticians
LEISTON

ABOUT BENHALL PRESCHOOL

Benhall Preschool opened in 1981 and operates from an open plan modular building which was replaced in 2016 thanks to extensive fundraising by staff and committee. Benhall Preschool is a unique, creative, and inclusive preschool that prides itself on the way our vision to Inspire is fulfilled; inspiration is threaded through all aspects of our environment, creating something special for our children. Our setting is a place that makes you feel at home. Like at home, someone always holds your hand, wipes away your tears, or smiles and says well done.

We are proud of our inclusive environment within the local community, where all our children can flourish. Our incredible staff treat all our children as individuals. All of our team are qualified and understand the privilege it is to work with this age group as they begin their journey outside the family unit. Our skilful and enthusiastic team is committed to excellence. We try to equip our children with the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive skills they need to be happy. We encourage our children to be happy, creative, and independent. We believe curiosity and creativity are paramount for preparation for mainstream school, by supporting our children to become self-motivated, and engaged learners.

We are a charity organisation with a committee in place who follow our written Constitution, set up especially for CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisations). This committee can be made up of parents of children who attend preschool and parents of children who once did. Also, local residents and professionals within our community. The Committee holds meetings once a term to discuss the running of the setting including finance, resources and to plan for the future. Every parent is invited to join the meetings as it gives both parents and staff the opportunity to put forward any concerns or general ideas to improve Preschool outside of opening hours. A knowledgeable body of Trustees ensures the setting is the best it can be through challenge and support.

If you are a parent, grandparent or member of the local community that is concerned about how children are educated in your community and would like to become a Trustee, please contact the Chairman: rogerplant3@gmail.com. Or, if you are a parent/guardian and have a preschool child in need of a placement contact Benhall Preschool: <https://benhallpreschool.co.uk>

Being a charity run Preschool, we constantly have to raise money to improve and maintain our lovely building and resources. Funding is low and does not cover the costs of running such provisions. To do this, we fundraise in a number of ways, such as cake sales, Hamper raffles and sponsored events. Any ideas or contributions are always welcomed.

Please sign up to Easy fundraising. It is a quick and easy app upon which you can do online shopping. The more you spend the more that is raised for Preschool at no cost to you!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/benhallpreschool/?inlineregister=1>

Roger Plant



IN PLACE OF COAL!

The Saxmundham Welfare Charity dates back to original charities set up over 200 years ago for the supply of winter fuel and other relief to the needy of the Parish.

With the loss of the winter fuel payments to many we have resolved to go back to our roots of providing warmth in the winter and will again be purchasing electric powered 'Throws' which will be donated to those living in cold houses to keep warm and snug. These are remarkably low cost to run at typically less than 5p per hour. We will be able to take requests from October for those in need who could benefit.

Applications from other support bodies/charities are preferred and if you apply personally or on behalf of a relation, friend or neighbour please be aware that we may need to contact to ensure adequate need as supplies will be limited due to the resources available from our charity. The recipient will need to live in the Parish of Saxmundham.

For more information please contact either Lucille Batho, chair of the charity at 01728602132 or Rob Potter, secretary at 01728602177.



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, Pirnhow Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 2RU

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.

A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS WITH A WEALTH OF PRINTING KNOWLEDGE

Whether you're searching for printed stationery, shop signage, vehicle graphics or bespoke promotional materials we can help.

We are committed to offering great customer service. We'll work with you to produce products and promotional materials to suit your needs and budget.

Our team of printing and marketing experts can offer you and your business excellent value for money with our traditional print marketing services. Whether you're looking for next season's brochure prints, some new business card designs, or your new vehicles are in need of livery, speak to Leiston Press and start your journey today. Business in towns across Suffolk trust us with their print runs.



 NATIONWIDE DELIVERY

 FAST RESPONSIVE QUOTES

 PART OF A CARBON CAPTURE SCHEME

 SAME DAY TURNAROUND AVAILABLE

SKC CHURCH

A Benefice comprising of St John's Church, Saxmundham, St Mary & St Peter's Church, Kelsale & St Peter's Church, Carlton.

What comes to mind when I say autumn? I saw an advert the other day for a well-known coffee shop brand. Their autumn drinks range is everything 'pumpkin spiced.' In the advert there were golden leaves falling, orange hues and someone in a chunky knit cardigan. Their rival brand does everything maple flavoured at this time of year. These flavoured coffees are a staple seasonal item.

I think there is something wonderful about the changes that we see in autumn. There is a delight for the senses as leaves change colour and crunch under foot, the smells of wood fires linger on frosty mornings, and seasonally spiced foods and coffees are stacked on our shelves.

We own a dog (a labrador who doesn't know how to slow down) and I have really enjoyed observing the agricultural year on our walks. It has given me a new appreciation for the hard work farmers do in ploughing and tilling the soil, planting seeds, ensuring the crops are watered and cared for, then harvesting and starting the process again.

As seasons change it can be a time to reflect and be thankful for the gifts we have been given. Churches up and down the country will have harvest festivals where we give thanks to God for the farmers and workers involved in getting food from field to fork (we held our harvest services in September). I wonder what you are thankful for today?

Jesus used a lot of farming metaphors in his teaching. He talks about lost sheep that are searched for, seeds that grow in different types of soil, and a whole lot about vineyards. He referred to himself as the 'good shepherd' who lays down his life for the sheep. He used this language as it was relatable for his hearers. I believe what Jesus says is still relevant and true for today. As a church we explore what Jesus said and try and apply it to our lives today. If you have questions or want to know more, we would love to welcome you on a Sunday, or to our Alpha course. Our upcoming services are listed below. If you'd like to know more about Alpha please email alpha@skc. church

Sunday 5th October: 9:30am: informal service in St Johns, Saxmundham, and 11:00am Holy Communion in St Mary and St Peters, Kelsale.

Tuesday 7th October: 10:30am reflective Holy Communion in St Johns, Saxmundham.

Sunday 12th October: 9:30am informal service in St Mary and St Peters, Kelsale, and 11:00am Holy Communion in St Johns, Saxmundham.

Sunday 19th October: 9:30am informal service in St John's, Saxmundham, 11:00am Holy Communion in St Mary and St Peters, Kelsale.

Sunday 26th October: 9:30am informal service and 11:00am Holy Communion both in St John's, Saxmundham.

In addition to our regular upcoming services, we have a Light Party for school aged children on Friday 31st October, and our annual All Souls Service on Sunday 2nd November.

With love,

Dave Preece

Rector Saxmundham with Kelsale cum Carlton

For more information see www.skc.church

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.

To find out more about the history of Saxmundham Chapel, download a copy of the revised history booklet from our website: www.lsuc.co.uk and visit the LSUC @ Saxmundham Chapel page or pick up a printed copy from either LSUC Saxmundham Chapel or LSUC Leiston Church.

Stay in Suffolk



Visit our offices in Aldeburgh, Southwold, and Saxmundham | Open Mon - Sat

- Over 300 properties under management
- In-house laundry & cleaning services
- One low commission, no hidden fees
- Only 10% commission for the first 6 months*
- In house maintenance and compliance team
- 24/7 guest support, and more...

www.stayinsuffolk.com | 01728 885262 | 01502 819313 | office@stayinsuffolk.com

Sizewell Accommodation



Powered by Stay in Suffolk



Over 100 properties within 30 minutes of Sizewell

- Properties sleeping from 1 to 16 guests
- Short, medium, and long term stays
- Regular cleaning & laundry services available
- Dedicated booking manager for corporate stays

Find out more about listing with us at www.sizewellaccommodation.com

Booking & Listing Enquiries: 01728 733131 | info@sizewellaccommodation.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCT 5 & 19 Halesworth Harmony rehearsal. 10.30 - 12.30 at The Cut in Halesworth. Come along for a free taster session - no experience is necessary, everything is taught by ear, and you'll receive a warm welcome. For further details email: halesworth.harmony@gmail.com.

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. 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. 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 18 Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research Jumble Sale. 10am – 12 noon at Holton Village Hall. For more information tel. Dawn Davis: 01986 873640.

OCT 23 Saxmundham History Society meeting. 'The English Gypsy Caravan' by Dr Geoffrey Kay. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in the URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham. IP17 1BJ. Visitors £3. Membership from September 2025 to July 2026 is £18. Enquiries to Jenny 01728 604608

OCT 25 Wenhasston Produce and Craft Market. 10am to 12.30pm at Wenhasston village hall. Handmade cards, jewellery, homemade jams, cakes, honey, handbags, knitted items, the famous Dexter Beef, soaps, face serums, framed prints, and much more. Tea, Coffee and Homemade savouries and cakes. We are always looking for new stallholders to come and join us. For further details contact Carol at: caz-mike@outlook.com.

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). Any changes will be posted on our website: www.tco.org.uk

OCT 31 Everman Folk Club. Carolyn Robson & Moira Craig. Two of Britain's top folk artists, Carolyn & Moira are known for their imaginative harmonies. An evening of compelling lyrics, 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: everman@wheatstone.co.uk

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.

YOXFORD HISTORY GROUP presents

YOXFORD AT WORK

Saturday

11th October

11-4



Yoxford Village Hall



Tea and Cakes



Come and find out about our Tailors, Thatchers, Bakers, Dressmakers, Wheelwrights, Drapers, Harness makers, Clock & Watchmakers, Photographers, Farmers and lots more!!!!



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

shipatdunwich.co.uk



A1 Carpets ^{4U}

By Gary Burden

For the complete A1 Home Selection on Service

Carpets, Vinyl & Luxury Vinyl Tiles

Professional, reliable and competitive

Save ££££'s - We will beat any genuine retailer quote!

Tel: 01728 604396 Mob: 07419 375720

www.a1carpets4u.co.uk



EAST SUFFOLK
INTERIORS

Bathrooms • Kitchens • Supply & Installation

Every Step Covered, Every Detail Delivered.

Telephone: 07432510118

Email: EastSuffolkinteriors@gmail.com

Hello Saxmundham



We are your local community radio station, broadcasting online to bring you a varied mix of music programmes, stories and information about what's on in our area.

Have you discovered us yet?



Listen online at: www.abcradio.co.uk



via the app and on Alexa



TONY BROWN'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Est.1979

Proudly independent family run business

The Funeral Parlour, New Cut, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1EH

T:01728 603108

E: office@tonybrownfuneralservices.co.uk

www.tonybrownfuneralservices.co.uk



Owners of The Greenwood Burial Ground, Farnham



RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve

Wildlife - Shop - Café - Events - Family Activities



rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/minsmere



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
The power of good for Britain

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>

Contact us by emailing 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.

SUFFOLK COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE

Suffolk County Music Service is gearing up for an exciting new season of music-making and there's still time for young players across the county to get involved!

This season promises incredible opportunities for brass, percussion, string and woodwind players with our County Music Groups: Suffolk Youth Orchestra, Suffolk Youth Wind Band and Suffolk Young Strings.

Musicians involved enjoy regular rehearsals, an Easter residential course, and inspiring performance opportunities at prestigious venues such as The Apex in Bury St Edmunds and Snape Maltings Concert Hall. Past tours have included destinations like Spain and France with more adventures are on the horizon!

Still undecided?

Come along to our Come & Play Day on **Saturday 25 October** - the perfect chance to try out one of our ensembles in a fun and friendly setting before committing. Keep an eye on our website for full details. Apply now or find out more: www.suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/take-part. Join us for a season of inspiration, creativity and top-quality music-making along with life-long friendships and memories.



SAXMUNDHAM CRICKET CLUB

Just like that and another season bites the dust, 4 months, 18 games, 99 wickets and 2484 runs later and the final ball has been bowled again, 214 points and a 5th place finish represents another solid season. In so many ways it's been an extraordinary season with so many records broken and some re-broken and a season of some many firsts.

The club scored a record 321 away against Dedham with Gary setting a record high score of 145, only for it to be eclipsed by Tom Stanes a few weeks later with 148.

In the same match Ray scored his maiden century for Saxmundham and Ray and Gary set a record club partnership of 296. Firsts for the club include Sud, Jon, Suranga and Mark all taking their first wickets for the club along with Ray and Tom scoring their maiden centuries for the club. The top run scorer for the season was Gary with 575 and the top wicket taker was Roshan with 19 wickets, the Player of the Year is still to be decided. Trophies will be presented at our annual Christmas Awards dinner held at The Poachers Pocket.

Thanks go to all the people who have helped behind the scenes including our groundsman Lewis who produces great pitches and our wonderful tea ladies who produce the best cricket teas in the league.

Special thanks go to our sponsors The Poachers Pocket who continue to support us and provide a place to meet after games and for special occasions.

Gary Butler



The Mindful Life Group
The UK's only not-for-profit dedicated to older adult mental health

Free Mindfulness for Older Adults who Care Program

Next course starts: **Monday 6th October 2025**
Time: **11am-12pm**
Location: **Online via Zoom**

Why Do Carers Choose Us?

- ✓ Clinical Psychology-Led
- ✓ Registered Mindfulness Teachers
- ✓ Connect with other carers
- ✓ Tailored for over 65s

Evidence Based Benefits

- ✓ Improve sleep
- ✓ Ease stress
- ✓ Improve resilience
- ✓ Combat loneliness
- ✓ Improve memory/attention
- ✓ Alleviate low mood/anxiety
- ✓ Relieve chronic pain

What carers say about our program:

'I feel after I've done a practice, that I'm able to get on with the day, and I feel quite positive. Getting on with what needs to be done. And... there's a little bit of spark there again, you know, for enjoying life'

Spaces are limited
To apply visit
the-mindful-life.com



NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)






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 IP16 4HF
This will be an after school club running from 8pm 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 judecwgill@hotmail.co.uk



This project has been made possible by a grant from Disewell Community Fund, facilitated by Suffolk Community Foundation

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

Saxmundham News is your free local paper, 2000 copies are printed every month. We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets.

The next issue will be published on Monday 3rd November, deadline 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

Non
Electric

Boiler
Friendly

10 Year
Guarantee

*6 South Entrance
Saxmundham
IP17 1DQ*

Ipswich

Braintree

01728 633007

01473 713600

01376 334949

www.patmorewaterssofteners.co.uk



ISI

Hamilton Smith

ESTABLISHED | INDEPENDENT | EFFECTIVE

Call us for a free property valuation

Tel: 01728 833007

**Nathan Hunt
Tree Services** 

**Fully qualified and
insured arborist and
Professional Tree Inspector**

All aspects of tree work covered
Tree Surveys • Arboricultural Reports
Crown reductions • Land Clearance
Tree Planting • Stump Removal
Felling • Firewood

Call Nathan on
07900 734124
Nathan.khan15@gmail.com

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

25% off HOUSE BLINDS



Call 01953 544 041
norwichsunblinds

T&Cs apply, please visit: www.norwichsunblinds.co.uk

