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SEPTEMBER 2025

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR




With Ukraine very much in the news presently a Southwold woman, Erika Clegg DL is walking 60 miles in three days to raise funds to send much needed lifesaving ambulances to Ukraine. Other women will join her walk throughout the three days to symbolise solidarity with the women of Ukraine. See page 9 for more details and if you wish to donate to this very worthy cause.

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

Last night I dreamt I ate a ten pound marshmallow. When I woke up the pillow was gone.

Tommy Cooper



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INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

- | | |
|--|----|
| THE SOUTHWOLD & REYDON SOCIETY | 5 |
| <i>- Protecting and championing all things Southwold & Reydon – why not become a member?</i> | |
| SOLE BAY MENS SHED | 5 |
| <i>- The newly formed Sole Bay Men's Shed is up and running!</i> | |
| HELP2UKRAINE | 9 |
| <i>- Southwold woman walking 60 miles to send lifesaving ambulances to Ukraine</i> | |
| NEWS FROM THE OLD HOSPITAL | 11 |
| <i>- Launch of a permanent exhibition of the history of this town asset</i> | |
| REYDON SHOW 2025 | 15 |
| <i>- Well attended with amazing entries</i> | |



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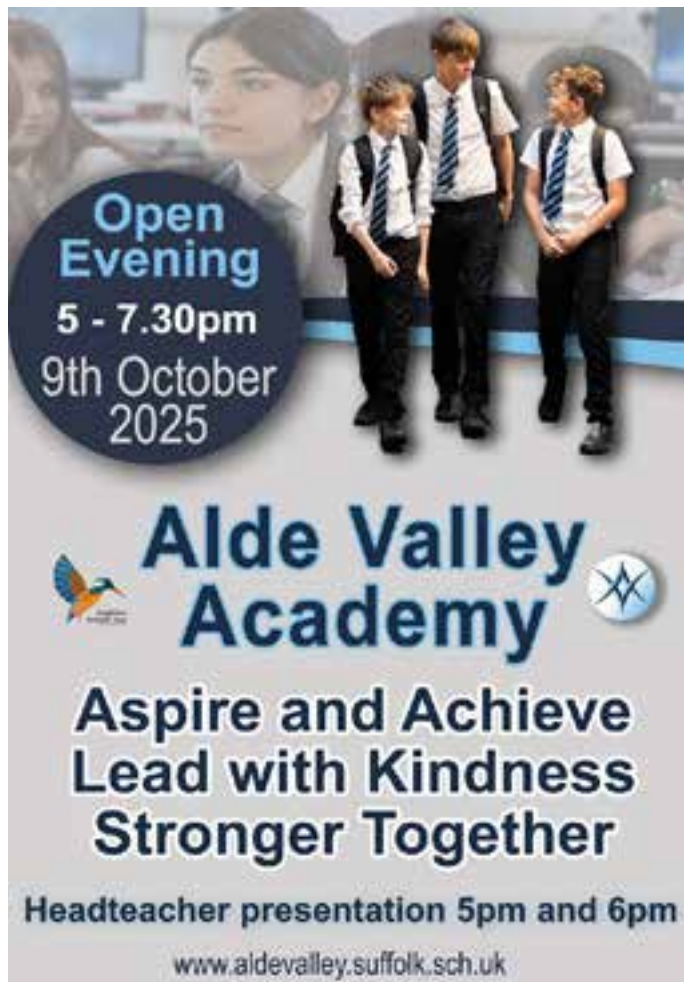
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Time to be beautiful

Welcome inside WIGS & MORE

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

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

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

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

Allison

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SOUTHWOLD AND REYDON SOCIETY

Traditionally in August we do not hold a Committee Meeting and there is no Newsletter. However, I thought I would use the opportunity to describe our commitments to Southwold and Reydon. We summarise our mission as follows:

To protect and enhance the character and amenities in our area: This forms the general discussions at our monthly meetings, where we **have been speaking for the community for over 50 years.**

We aim to protect all that makes Southwold and Reydon attractive for both residents and visitors: Both communities have a full-time population which is buoyed by second homeowners and holiday makers. It is essential that any development plans are sympathetic to these needs. We will be monitoring the effect of the forthcoming Devolution and its impact on the two councils.

We campaign to improve local amenities and services. We watch, carefully, all the facilities that our communities require, which include Health provision, Education and Transport links.

These essential services are of particular importance when considering the impact of planned housing developments.

We support independent shops, local jobs, affordable housing and a thriving Harbour. In this community local jobs are essential to a thriving local economy but with property prices so high, it is difficult for people working in the area to afford to buy or indeed rent. In any new development it is critical that affordable housing is taken into consideration.

This means that **we will oppose any inappropriate development. We are concerned about the decreasing footfall on the High Street. The future of the caravan park must be dealt with sympathetically.**

We campaign to protect the coast and surrounding countryside. The environment is very fragile and we are conscious of the impact of global warming and the effect this will have on the diverse wildlife that this area supports. We are particularly concerned about the environmental impact of The National Grid's local projects such as LionLink and SeaLink.

It is also essential that the Local Footpaths remain accessible and maintained.

Membership numbers are very important to us. The larger the membership we have, the better our lobbying power. Although our membership fees of £3 per annum are low, we do encourage all kinds of donations, which we use to boost our **donations to local activities and groups.**

Please encourage people to join the Society. There are details on our website: sandsoc.org.uk or email us: admin@sandsoc.org.uk

The QR code will take you to a membership form.



Jonathan Hadgraft (President)

SOLE BAY MENS SHED

The official opening of the newly formed SOLE BAY MENS SHED took place on Friday 11th July at 17:00. A Men's Shed in Southwold has been in the planning and building for the last 18 months. The idea came from Cllr Michael Ladd who called a meeting of interested parties at Southwold Millennium Hall. There were 9 founder members - Michael Ladd, Michael Wells, John Huggins, Chris Charman, Alastair Marshall, John Baker, Ron Rolph, Derek Richardson and Tony Seago, who together formed a committee. Mark Hemingway joined the committee when construction began.

About 45 people attended the opening event in the warm sunshine, where Deputy Mayor Paula Goldsmith declared the Shed open, by cutting the wire/ribbon with a large pair of bolt croppers, to the amusement of many. Light refreshments were on offer to the guests.

The committee would like to thank the Millennium Trust for making the land available, offering admin support and the electrical supply. The Cripps Trust, East Suffolk Community Partnership, Hopkins Trust, Reydon Trust and the Southwold Trust for the initial setting up funds. Our thanks also to Mumfords, Duncan & Son, Blyth Valley Rotary Club, Southwold Lions and the Adhams Charity Trust who have provided brand new tools and equipment.

Further thanks to the many individuals and organisations who have provided an array of used tools, furniture, equipment and their time which has brought the initial idea into reality.

Applications for membership can be sent to John at solebaymensshed@btinternet.com Membership is £20 per year.



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POP ON THE PROMS 2025

The Pop on the Proms 2025 event took place on at Southwold Putting and Café on the Green. It was a fundraising event for Brain Tumour Charity, Blyth Valley Rotary and SUDEP Action. While the weather forecast warned of rain and storms, we were pleasantly surprised as the evening unfolded into a wonderful celebration of both classical and popular music, thanks to the incredible Waveney Concert Band, led by the talented Musical Director, John Flack. This amateur adult band warmly welcomes musicians who share a passion for music. Jack Fisher was the incredible vocalist for the evening.

Building on the overwhelming success of last year's event, Poppi and Andi decided to bring it back for another night filled with joy, laughter, and song. We had lovely gazebos set up on the putting green, each accommodating up to 10 people, where friends gathered to enjoy specially prepared food hampers for £30 per person. To add to the festive spirit, we encouraged attendees to decorate their gazebos and dress up according to a theme. The best-dressed gazebo was recognised with a special prize. A heartfelt congratulations to Ann Frost, this year's Lucky Draw winner of £250! It was heartwarming to see everyone enjoying their time together - savouring delicious food and favourite drinks, all while nurturing a sense of community and togetherness.

As the night progressed, the atmosphere grew lively, with many guests joyfully dancing to Abba songs and "Sweet Caroline". The evening culminated in an uplifting rendition of "Land of Hope and Glory" and the 1812 Overture, beautifully accompanied by a dazzling fireworks display.

DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

The Southwold and District branch of the international Dickens Fellowship provides a forum for all who love the works of Charles Dickens.

Their new 2025/26 season starts on Tuesday, 23rd September at 2:00 pm (note the new time) in the Guide Centre, Cautley Road, Southwold, IP18 6DD. Meetings are held monthly, usually on the afternoons of the fourth Tuesday. The monthly programme consists of readings from the chosen novel and presentations by members as well as raffles and refreshments.

The first meeting will hear branch news and a report back from the recent international fellowship conference on the theme 'Dickens, Faith & Antiquity'. Later meetings will include readings from 'A Tale of Two Cities'; several short presentations by members on subjects of their choice; a comparison of the readership for Jane Austen and Charles Dickens; a Dickens birthday luncheon, plus Christmas and Spring buffets with seasonal drinks.

The annual subscription is just £10 (which includes free entry to the Charles Dickens museum in London). New members will be made very welcome – and visitors can try us out for free. Further information is gladly available from Bill Wallond (01502 722212 or email: wjwallond@hotmail.com).

We are truly grateful for the immense support shown towards our charities: the Brain Tumour Charity, Blyth Valley Rotary, SUDEP Action, which works tirelessly to address unexpected deaths from epilepsy.

Once again, Southwold Putting and Café on the Green saw a remarkable turnout, with over 150 attendees, including dedicated staff members who generously volunteered their time to support our charitable efforts.

Your support means the world to us, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! The event was yet another fantastic community fundraising event, and we look forward to 2026!

Andi Darnell and Poppi Smith



SOUTHWOLD MUSEUM

Come and see what others have enjoyed :

Brilliant, we have learnt so much and it was a lot of fun — L&D age 9

Fascinating!

Hard to imagine a better collection of Southwold's history.

Our favourite museum, so happy to be here again.

Free entry. Donations welcome.



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Fri 5th, Mon 8th & Tues 9th Sept at 7.15pm
Wed 10th Sept at 3.00pm
Thurs 11th Sept at 7.15pm

THE LIFE OF CHUCK ¹⁵

Sat 6th Sept at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

SONG SUNG BLUE NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE

Fri 12th & Sat 13th Sept at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
Sun 14th Sept at 3.00pm & 6.00pm
Mon 15th - Thurs 18th Sept at 3.00pm & 7.15pm
Fri 19th Sept at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
Sat 20th Sept at 7.15pm
Sun 21st Sept at 6.00pm
Mon 22nd Sept at 3.00pm & 7.15pm
Tues 23rd Sept at 3.00pm
Wed 24th & Thurs 25th Sept at 3.00pm & 7.15pm
Fri 26th Sept at 4.00pm
Sat 27th Sept at 7.15pm
Sun 28th Sept at 3.00pm
Mon 29th Sept at 7.15pm
Tues 30th Sept at 3.00pm
Wed 1st Oct at 3.00pm

DOWNTON ABBEY ^{PG} THE GRAND FINALE

Sun 21st Sept at 3.00pm
Tues 23rd Sept at 7.00pm

LOVE NEVER DIES THE MUSICAL ^{12A}

Fri 26th Sept at 7.15pm
Sat 27th Sept at 4.00pm
Mon 29th Sept at 3.00pm
Tues 30th Sept & Thurs 2nd Oct at 7.15pm

THE ROSES ¹⁵

Sun 28th Sept at 6.00pm

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1925) 100th ANNIVERSARY ^{12A}

Wed 1st Oct at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

RYAN GOODING THE MODERN MEDIUM

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Southwold and Reydon Gardening Group

Tuesday 30th September
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ADE SELLARS Celebrity Good Life Gardener 'MY GOOD LIFE JOURNEY'



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His talk will give a light-hearted tale of how he went from urban gardener to rural resident - how he built his veg garden, built a greener life, and several years on, is leading the good life all what it seems?

ALL WELCOME – MEMBERS FREE
GUESTS £7.00 ON THE DOOR (cash only)

Doors open at 18.45 Free Tea/coffee and biscuits available
Talk to start at 19.30

HELP2UKRAINE

This autumn Southwold's Erika Clegg DL is walking the 60-mile Sandlings Way over three days to raise £16,000 for Help2Ukraine - enough to send two fully equipped ambulances to the frontline. On day three Erika will be joined by other women to share a symbolic walk of solidarity with the women of Ukraine. The ambulances, which are sourced by Help2Ukraine through a trusted medical network, will be driven to the Ukraine border from which they are transferred in country to the front line, ready to deploy. They will each be stocked with around £250,000 of medical equipment and will begin saving lives immediately. Erika's walk takes place over three consecutive days, each one with a different theme and a different walking companion.

- **Day One: Peace (Friday 3rd October):** A solo walk with her dog, Biggles, from Ipswich to Rendlesham Forest. A quiet day of reflection.
- **Day Two: Hope (Saturday 4th October):** A full day with her son, Will, from Rendlesham to Sizewell.
- **Day Three: Solidarity (Sunday 5th October):** A 20-mile women's walk from Sizewell to Southwold, in step with the women of Ukraine, who are carrying the weight of war, family and survival.

"This is a promise to the women of Ukraine," says Erika. "We will not look away, and we will do what we can to help. They are doing impossibly tough jobs: running hospitals, farming land, protecting their families and rebuilding communities. This walk is for them."

If you'd like to support the campaign there are a few ways available:

- Donating to the campaign: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help2ukraine-suffolk-ambulances-for-ukraine>



Erika Clegg DL

- Sponsoring aspects of the walk
- Sharing the campaign with people you know

Erika adds: *"An ambulance costs £8,000 to buy and deploy. That small sum becomes £250,000 worth of medical aid. The impact is immediate and enormous. I hope that this walk can reach its target of £16,000 to cover the cost of two ambulances and take half a million pounds' worth of supplies to the people who need it most."*

Between 2024 and 2025 Help2Ukraine has raised in excess of £70,000 to date. They now seek to raise funds to take at least four more ambulances in 2026. Funds raised will be used to pay exclusively for ex-NHS ambulances, for their preparation for the journey to Ukraine, for their fitting out, MOTs, tools, insurance and breakdown insurance, and the cost of rooms, fuel and air tickets and for drivers' return. Sustenance, drink and other costs will be paid for personally by those involved so that the funds people so kindly give go entirely into the task of raising the funds and getting the ambulances and medical supplies to Ukraine.

When peace finally comes to Ukraine, the requirement for these vehicles and medical supplies will long remain to manage the wounded and crippled. The clear up and rebuilding operation will be years in the making. The wounded will long need extra transport and supplies.



OUR VILLAGE HALL IS 50 YEARS OLD ON THE 4TH OCTOBER

You are all invited to come along and enjoy the celebrations

There will be a Children's Treasure Hunt on Church Common at 1.00pm

Local artists will be displaying their artwork for sale

The Café will be open from 10.00am – 12.00pm serving the usual Homemade Cakes & Savouries and BBQ Bacon Baps will be available outside in the car park

Lickety Ice creams will be on sale in the car park in the morning and early afternoon

From 7.00pm – 10.30pm Wenhaston's finest musical groups will be entertaining us in the hall along with other entertainments

The bar will be open

There will be a celebration Birthday Cake

Please do come along and help us celebrate our lovely Village Hall on its 50th Birthday – Entry is free





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NEWS FROM THE OLD HOSPITAL

On Friday, 5 September, at 10 am, Suffolk Coastal MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter will be visiting the Old Hospital to launch the Old Hospital's permanent exhibition on the history of this historic building and the public spirited people from every walk of life who created and sustained it and served in it starting in the Victorian era through to present times.

1859 was the very beginning of the cottage hospital movement whereby communities throughout the United Kingdom banded together to bring good quality care to rural areas. The first was in Cranleigh, Surrey where a cottage was donated to a local doctor so he could open a 6 bedroom hospital. There were 450 in the country when Southwold, in 1897, at the instigation of the vicar of St Edmunds and with the support of Southwold Borough Corporation (the Town Council's predecessor) decided that it was high time for Southwold to join the movement. At this time, poverty and disease were rife in the town and child mortality rates staggering. Land was acquired just north of the churchyard on a site on Field Stile Road that had been part of the Borough's Town Farm. The hospital opened in 1903 and until its closure in 2015, was treasured by residents of Southwold and Reydon and surrounding communities.

The exhibition will feature historic photographs, objects, text explaining little known facts, and a plaque with the names of all of the staff who served in the hospital within living memory. The names were collected by a Southwold and Reydon resident, Tony Smith, after the hospital closed, and added to by Old Hospital staff with the help of former employees.

During Lock Down, many local residents of all ages quilted squares along the theme of 'A Brighter Future'. These are being put together and will eventually be displayed as part of the exhibition.

Jessica Jeans, who is Chair of SouthGen and spearheaded the campaign to create the Old Hospital Hub, explained, *"At best people retain memories for only three generations. Many people who now use the hub have no experience of the building as a thriving community hospital. We wanted to bring together in one place the inspirational story of the building, to serve as a reminder of what communities can do when they work together with faith and positivity. If people have lost faith in government, they should never lose faith in community power."*

The creation of the original hospital, the sustaining of it, and its acquisition and repurposing for new community uses was and continues to be a great civic effort, featuring the labours of our community's many unsung heroes. One of these was George Bumstead, a grocer and magistrate, who founded the League of Friends of Southwold Hospital, which raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to buy state of the art equipment for the hospital and enable it to expand its facilities to include specialist outpatient clinics and a 24 hour minor injuries clinic. George was also a keen supporter of the library. It had been housed in the Town Hall and when it needed a new home in the 1930s, George found room for it in an old Assembly Hall on North Green that he owned, which initially it shared with a family and 20 chickens!

Now the old Library building has been converted to charitable housing for elderly people.

For the Southwold Library to survive, it needs a subsidised rent. It also needs modern facilities that attract new members and offer a wider range of services. When SouthGen partnered with Hastoe Housing Association to buy and redevelop the Old Hospital after it was closed, preserving a library in the town for future generations was SouthGen's top priority. Today by benefiting from a purpose built space and a low rent, the library is thriving. It has more than doubled and tripled membership and activities, guaranteeing its future.

From the start and throughout its long history, the hospital building has been supported and has served all people, regardless of income or status. When it was being built and equipped, a poor fisherman named Harry Standard, who had caught a porpoise, raised 8 shillings towards the cost of the building, by exhibiting at his premises on Trinity Street a porpoise he had caught. The Old Hospital owes its existence today to the 477 people and organisations that bought community shares, which raised half a million pounds towards the £1.3 million pounds that it cost to develop the community hub and to all of the people from all walks of life, from local residents to visitors, who contribute to the hub by using its services and volunteering. It has also benefited hugely from generous donors and other funders including Cooperatives UK and the National Lottery, along with small local charities - the Southwold Trust, the Reydon Trust, Suffolk Community Foundation, grants from its District and Suffolk County Councillors, and most recently Southwold Town Council, which donated money to equip the Old Hospital's new holiday camp area.

The permanent exhibition was executed by Jessica Jeans, Sydney Barbrook, Exhibition Curator Jules Carpenter, Photographer Stephen Wolfenden and Southwold Museum Librarian Bob Jellicoe.

All members of the public are welcome to the opening event and thereafter. It will be available for viewing each week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10am – 3pm.

Sydney Barbrook

Community Business Manager

The Old Hospital Hub, Field Stile Road, Southwold IP18 6LD



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**WHAT'S ON AT THE SAIL LOFT?****Summer 2025:**

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Introducing our new **Diners Loyalty Card**. Simply collect 8 stamps for every 2 courses you enjoy with us & receive a free meal on your next visit (T&C's apply)

Steak Night*: Every Thursday evening. Pan seared minute steak, fries, dressed rocket with a brandy & peppercorn sauce £21.95 incl. house glass of wine or pint of lager

Food focus of the month: Come & join us each month where you'll find a different food focus as we go through each season

Annual Beer & Burger Festival

September 19th, 20th & 21st

The Sail Loft's very own **Annual Beer & Burger Festival**, Raising money for the RNLI with live bands, djs & a fantastic finale of young Elton.

Exciting speciality burger selection, cask ales and cider at £4.50/pint.

Wine Evening: Thursday 16th October
(Wine supplied by Jeroboam Wines)

2 for £15 Menu*: Starts November 3rd. Enjoy 2 courses from our pre-set menu for just £15, available Monday-Friday, between 12pm-3pm

Quiz & Curry Night: Starting November 6th. £15pp, includes prize for winners!

Lunch Club: Starting November 6th
A different themed 2-course lunch with coffee, talk from our Chef about the dishes served and a full recipe card.

*** NOT AVAILABLE DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

FOOD FOCUS OF THE MONTH
September: Mussels

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SUFFOLK SINGERS' SUMMER CONCERT

'Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside!'

That's what Suffolk Singers thought when they performed their summer concert in St Edmund's church in Southwold.

Under the watchful eye of Southwold Jack – a well-known 15thC clock and a symbol of the local Adnams Brewery – the choir performed an eclectic programme entitled 'Love Walked In'.

Music, ranging from Elizabethan part-songs and John Rutter's jazzy Birthday Madrigals to romantic and sentimental favourites including 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square' and Sting's 'Fields of Gold', delighted the audience in the stunning 15th C church in the centre of town.

As always, Claire Weston, former Principal Artist of English National Opera and now Head of Singing at Woodbridge School, directed the choir with expert precision and great feeling, resulting in a highly polished performance by the choir.

For part of the concert, Christine Wiffen expertly accompanied the choir on the piano and was joined for Rutter's Birthday Madrigals by Melanie Da Benga on the double bass.

In addition, Christine and Melanie treated everyone to several duets including 'The Elephant from The Carnival of the Animals' by Saint-Saëns.

During the afternoon, Suffolk Singers charmed the shoppers and holiday visitors in the town by singing a taster of some of the music that would be performed at the evening's concert, including a rousing rendition of 'Goodnight Sweetheart', a popular Doo-wop song from the 1950s. So although there was no brass band playing 'Tiddely-om-pom-pom!', the singers did enjoy a stroll along the prom and an ice cream or two before getting ready to give their best performance to residents and visitors alike in sunny Southwold... beside the sea!

If you are interested in singing with the choir, we meet on a Thursday evening during term time in Otley Village Hall. We are especially looking for additional singers for the tenor section of the choir.

Further information and contact details can be found on our website at www.suffolksingers.co.uk <<http://www.suffolksingers.co.uk>>

Our next concert will be at St Michael's Church, Framlingham on **Saturday 18th October** at 7.30pm. It's always a joy to sing in St Michael's, and we'd love to see you there too!

Fiona Megeary



REYDON SHOW 2025

The Reydon Show 2025 was brilliantly attended this year. Sadly, the weather seemed to have taken its toll on the some of the vegetable classes cut flowers. In fact, if you had entered any carrots, cauliflowers, marrows, cabbages, cucumbers, carnations, sweet peas, gladioli, asters, pot plant or pinks this year you would have been a shoo in for a prize – remember that for Reydon Show 2026! We did have some hilarious beans in the novelty vegetables though!

It was lovely to see all the baked goods, photography, and handicrafts but always happy to have more next year. Plus, for 2026 we need to rally Reydon's artists as we were strangely short on paintings - quality we had but love to see more quantity!

The kids' creativity was amazing, we would encourage even more children to enter the free kids' categories next year. They can enter any arts and craft

including 3D models and Lego, plus miniature gardens!

So please encourage your children or grandchildren to enter free next year – especially as we now have the Jack and Ann Robins Cup for most outstanding children's exhibit. The first Saturday in August will be the Reydon Show next year, so plan accordingly!

The trophy winners for 2025

Ernest Moyse Memorial Trophy – most outstanding exhibit in flower classes: **A Freeman**. Fitzgerald Cup – most points in flower section: **P Harrild** Copperwheat Trophy – best exhibit in pot plant classes: **P Harrild** Challenge Cup (Open) – most points in vegetable & fruit section: **P Dawson** Garden News Shield (Reydon residents only) - most points in vegetable & fruit section: **P Dawson**

Charlie Martin Cup - (Reydon residents only) – runner up in vegetable & fruit section: **C Wigg** Frances Moyse Memorial Trophy – most outstanding exhibit in vegetable classes: **C Wigg** Silver Plate – most points in cookery classes: **C Horton** Reydon Parish Council Shield (Reydon residents only) – best exhibit in cookery classes: **E Ruthen** Reg Belcher Trophy – most points in handicraft: **C Obern** Reydon Show Trophy – best exhibit in adult handicraft: **J Clarke** Dillon Gibbon Trophy – most points in photography classes: **P Harrild** Sam Adamson Cup – best exhibit in photography classes: **P Harrild** Jack and Ann Robins Cup – most outstanding children's exhibit: **L Fisher**

..'WHEN WILL THAT BE?..

"When will that be? Say the bells of Stepney" - a line from 'Oranges and Lemons', the playground and party game of London bells, known and loved by generations of children, its origins lost in obscurity.

The bells of Stepney still ring in the tower of St. Dunstan and All Saints, originally and for many years the parish church of the whole of Tower Hamlets in East London. It is the focus of an exhibition of new work by Jane Roberts and Derek Chambers in the Ballroom Gallery, Aldeburgh, from **September 18th to 23rd**, daily 10 to 5. Late Opening Friday and Saturday until 7pm. Like all our parish churches, St. Dunstan's is steeped in history. Dunstan was a learned and influential monk, who built the second church on the site in 952, dedicated to All Saints.



Stepney was a wealthy manor with fertile fields and orchards and close to the Norman stronghold of the White Tower.

A third church was built in the thirteenth century; the

nave, aisles and tower in the fifteenth century and it is that medieval gothic building which stands today, much altered, repaired and extended over the years. Stepney itself has changed and the bells now ring out over busy roads and housing estates.

It stood through the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Reformation, the English Civil War, the Industrial Revolution and two world wars. Some key figures in these political and social changes are represented in the detail of the furnishings and fabric of the building and in the headstones and crumbling tombs of the graveyard.

All the festivals and rituals of the Christian church are celebrated at St. Dunstan's; it hosts a food bank, regular Veterans' Association events, school visits and other social activities. For many years babies born at sea were registered here and visitors come from all over the world to look for traces of their ancestors in the old records and in the weathered gravestones. Close links with shipping and trade have earned it the title 'The Church of the High Seas'. The Red Ensign, flag of the Merchant Navy, flies from the flagpole.

Jane Roberts has been artist-in-residence at St. Dunstan's for two years. She appreciates the church as a building well-used and well-loved, which has been altered, patched and repaired over the centuries. Her work for this show reflects this long usage, focussing on the worn fabric of the building with drawings of the stonework and of the strange decorative figures, battered by wind and weather.

Suffolk artist Derek Chambers, familiar with the building from his working life in London, is taken by the way the church stands in an oasis of shade and shelter, surrounded by tall trees, as if on a village green.

His paintings and drawings for this show reflect his admiration for this peaceful setting.



**New work by Jane Roberts
& Derek Chambers**

**Open 10am - 5pm daily
at the Ballroom Gallery
Aldeburgh IP15 5QA**

'..When will that be?..'
18th - 23rd September 2025

**Late opening Friday & Saturday evening
5 - 7pm, drinks will be served, all welcome.**



SOLAR FARMS: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE DIVERSITY

As District Councillors, we are often involved in planning applications for solar farms in our communities. These can be controversial, and it is understandable when communities resist yet more energy development in our countryside.

The government plans to triple solar generation by 2030. Suffolk, as a largely flat agricultural county, can expect to see a good proportion of this generation. Large solar farms (over 50 MW) are decided by national government. Smaller applications go to the District Council for approval. These need to satisfy statutory consultees, and to meet planning 'tests' against national planning policy. There may be good reasons to refuse a mega-solar farm if it is placing an undue burden on a host community. The views of communities are always taken into account, but ultimately any application can only be refused on the recommendation of a statutory consultee, or failure of the planning tests. A particular preference of this Council is more small-scale Community Energy solar schemes which are planned and owned by the community, bringing electricity and any excess profits directly to residents in the host parish.



Ground-mounted solar panels on a farm in East Suffolk

Do solar farms threaten food security?

There are some misconceptions about solar farms, which are important to address, given the urgent need to decarbonise our energy system and play our part in the global battle against a warming planet. One persistent allegation against solar arrays on farmland is that they threaten food security. Yet recent reports by DEFRA present climate change, in the form of increasing extreme weather events, flooding and drought, as the greatest threat to food security. DEFRA also cites soil degradation as a result of intensive farming, biodiversity loss, water insecurity (a real issue here in Suffolk), and ecological breakdown, particularly the loss of insects. They do not cite solar farms as a threat. Solar farms are one of the cheapest and quickest renewable technologies to implement and so play an important part in the phase out of carbon emissions that lead to climate change. More than this, they present significant opportunity for nature recovery and improved soil health, as solar panels mounted on former intensively farmed land allow the soil to regenerate, free from pesticides, tilling and soil compaction. This enables a greater diversity of species to thrive and ultimately improves the land for food production at the end of the solar lease.

In some cases, food production can even continue. So, in fact, solar generation can support food security. With additional planting and management, which should always be prioritised in any solar scheme, it can also increase the abundance of insects and other plants and animals.



Rooftop solar panels on a farm building

Why don't we put all solar panels on brownfield sites and rooftops, instead of farmland?

In an ideal world, we would, but it's not so simple. Any solar farm is only viable once it has land rights and a connection to the electricity grid. However, following decades of inaction to prepare our national grid for the transition to renewable energy, there remains limited capacity for new connections, and developers are led by those sites which can absorb new generation. Solar developers are also in competition with housebuilders for brownfield sites, so that these become commercially unviable due to the limited lifespan of solar farms, against the costs of converting the sites. We should be placing more solar generation on rooftops, and recent government announcements on a Rooftop Revolution are welcome, as is the long overdue Future Homes Standard, putting solar panels on new homes by default. But rooftop solar can only be part of the equation. Solar farms are designed to produce high volumes of electricity that feed into the power grid to supply millions of people, to electrify our cars, heat our buildings and power industry. Rooftop solar panels are primarily intended for self-consumption in homes, businesses and community settings.

We are here to work with you.

As we work within a national planning system, communities may find it a challenge to stop a solar farm in their community. But your councillors will always support you to engage with developers, preferably before plans are submitted for approval. Together we can help shape solar projects to minimise impacts on the community, maximise the gain for nature, and get the most payback from community benefit schemes.



Councillor Katie Graham

Katie.Graham@eastssuffolk.gov.uk.

Promoted by Julian Cusack on behalf of the East Suffolk Green Party, both at Paget House, Back Road, Saxmundham, IP17 3NYP

PROJECT UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2025

You may have read, Sizewell C has announced the new shareholders of the project, with the government the largest shareholder, alongside EDF, Centrica, La Caisse and Amber Infrastructure. Further details on the final investment decision can be found on our website sizewellc.com.

We also announced the location and designs of the College on the Coast. This post-16 education facility will be located on the eastern edge of Leiston on King George’s Avenue, opposite the Sizewell C Ancillary Construction Area. The college will include an apprentice hub and have space for 150 students, 20 full-time staff and drop-in space for 50 apprentices.

We also launched the East Suffolk Trust (EaST), a new grant-giving charity, set up to enhance biodiversity and restore landscapes in east Suffolk and the wider county. This includes at least £78 million over the next 70 years, with the aim to make East Suffolk the most ecologically diverse and resilient area in England.

OUT ON THE ROADS

Everyone in the area will have noticed a significant uptick in road improvements along the A12. We know this disruption can be annoying, but the various speed limits have been introduced for the safety of workers and road users. We continue to review speed limits and will adjust if appropriate.

We have installed average speed cameras along the B1122 and B1125 to enhance road safety in the new 30mph speed limit. On the B1122 the average speed cameras are in operation between Yoxford and Leiston, and the B1125 speed cameras are between the B1122 junction and Westleton. The speed limits are now enforceable with legal penalties which are enforced by Suffolk Constabulary. To further enhance this, from 11 August, permanent 30mph signs along B1122 will begin to be installed.

A further 30mph speed limit has been implemented along the A12 for the duration of the works around the Friday Street site, Northern Park and Ride site (Darsham) and Yoxford. This is to ensure the safety of the public and our workforce during construction. Further traffic calming measures have also been installed including lane management cones and lining. As work progresses, further traffic management and some smaller road closures will be required, which we will publish once timelines are confirmed.

We will start the upgrade work to the layby on the northern carriageway of the A12 near to the B1078 in mid-August. This work will help us to manage our Abnormal Indivisible Loads which are escorted by the police. There will be a lane closure along the dual carriageway section of the A12 during this time.

FORUM SCHEDULE

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

Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 3 September 2025	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre
Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 8 October 2025	Leiston Town Athletic Association
Northern Transport Forum	Wednesday 5 November 2025	Darsham Village Hall

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

VISIT THE WORKS TRACKER SITE



GLIMPSES

In the July edition of the Southwold Organ we featured an article from the Access Community Trust which included a photo taken by Southwold photographer, Stephen Wolfenden.

Stephen says, "In 1979 I was asked by the Night Shelter Committee if I would take some photographs of the men and women who used the facility located behind St John's Church, near the bridge, in Lowestoft."

"All of the people gave their permission. I spent four days in and around the Night Shelter gathering material for an exhibition in the town library.

"It was to be manned by the Shelter users with the sole reason of introducing themselves to the townspeople, many of whom had erroneously accused the Shelter users of most of the petty crime in the town. It was hailed in the local press as a great success".

The full set appears Stephen's book 'Glimpses'.

www.stephenwolfendenphotography.com



THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY

The local monthly lottery for The Brain Tumour Charity took place on Sunday 3rd August with Fred & Kate Assmann being present to adjudicate. There were 247 entries, making a total prize fund of £123.50. 1st prize of £61.75 with ticket number 164 went to Adrian Worley; 2nd prize of £37.05 with ticket number 185 went to Dexter Kirk and 3rd prize of £24.70 with ticket number 103 went to Peter Jaques. Congratulations to each of them. If you would like a monthly flutter, whilst supporting The Brain Tumour Charity, please email John Huggins at thebtclottery@btinternet.com.

Alternatively call him on 07873 376168. The lottery is regulated and licensed by East Suffolk Council LOT02110. The next draw will take place on Monday 1st September 2025. Every penny raised goes to The Brain Tumour Charity and I'm pleased to say my family and friends have raised over £62,400 from our various events since losing our 8 year old family member Sophie. Our annual Cream Teas on Sunday 3rd August raised £886.55. Our next big fundraising event will be in the new year.

John Huggins



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEP 6 Pier 2 Pier Suffolk 2025. A 16-mile walk from Lowestoft to Southwold Pier in aid of East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH). The route begins along the scenic coastline before heading inland through fields and country lanes. Walking boots are a must and training is essential. Participants must be 16 or older on the event day. Those aged 16 or 17 must be accompanied by an adult also taking part. The goal is to complete the walk within 8 hours. 8am – 2pm at Claremont Pier, Claremont Rd, Lowestoft. NR33 0BS. Email: events@each.org.uk, phone: 01508 500895

SEP 13 Fressingfield Sounds – Autumn Concert Series 2025. Adrian Brendel (cello) and Tim Horton (piano): Bach, Beethoven, Shostakovich. 7.30pm at Chapel Hall Arts, Fressingfield, Suffolk. IP21 5QD. Tickets from £5 (for under-25s), standard £23 or £25. Season tickets and patron packages also available. For full details and bookings, visit: www.fressingfieldsounds.org.uk or call 07900 350117.

SEP 21 Halesworth Harmony rehearsal 10.30 - 12.30 at The Cut in Halesworth. Come along for a free taster session and you'll receive a warm welcome. For further details email: halesworth.harmony@gmail.com.

SEP 23 Southwold Dickens Fellowship first meeting of new season. 2pm in the Guide Centre. Bill Wallond. Tel: 01502 722212 or email: wjwallond@hotmail.com.

SEP 26 Reydon Village Hall Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund Quiz Night! £5 per person bring your own snacks. Teams of up to 6. Bring your own drink. Raffle. Soft drinks, sweets & crisps available to buy. All funds towards the RVH Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund to repair, renovate and refit the hall. Book your tickets with Charlotte at Southwold Library 07715388916 frogclock@hotmail.com

OCT 11 Optics 'Music for the Soul' at Sibton Church. Mowtown, Funk, Soul: with gospel-influenced vocals. Light show, Bar. Food by Cheryl's Suffolk Catering. Tickets: Cash only: Adults £15, U18s (must be accompanied by an adult) £5. Tickets on the door, from Weavers Tearoom Peasenhall, Peasenhall General Stores and Eventbrite. Free parking church car park at IP17 2LX. Organised by The Friends of St Peter's Sibton). Contact via Website: <https://www.sibtonstpeter.com>. 19.00 - 22.00 at Sibton Church (IP17 2NB).

OCT 25 Reydon Village Hall Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund Ceilidh! Once Bittern Ceilidh Band. £15 including bottomless soup, cheese and bread .BYO alcohol. Soft drinks & snacks available. 7 - 10pm @ Reydon Village Hall with the Once Bittern Ceilidh Band. Book your tickets in advance with Charlotte: Tel: 07715388916; Email: frogclock@hotmail.com or visit: www.ticketsource.co.uk/reydonvillagehall. All funds towards the RVH Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund to repair, renovate and refit the hall.

BRIAN FROM MELTON

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

The nights are pullin in now which mean the summer is coming to an end, but we hed sum luvly nights in the past few weeks int we? It will soon be time to get me autumn blankets out and put the summer duvey away.

I give the garden shed a coat of fresh stain, with a drop of that old one coat stuff, which needed three coats in the end as it wuz so watery. It was so running, I ended up with as much on me as the shed did.

I hed a nice time at the Aldeburgh Carnival, but blast that wuz busy and I got right fed up wiv people bumping into me cuz they were looking at their phones instead of watching where they were gorn. After waiting for nearly an hour for a tail of cod and chips and some scraps, I sat up on the beach ready to tuck in and along come a groot ol seagull who wanted my bit of fish. The ruddy thing got hold of my bread roll and I ended up sitting in the shelter and that seagull sat on the sea wall watching me the hole time.

They tell me there's a lot more warsp nests about this year. Me mate Ticket, he hed one in his old outhouse and only found owt wen he went in there to get his mower owt. He dint get stung but hed to get some bloke come out to get rid of it and he still int hed the bill.

I'm orf to Henham Steam Rally in September and I int bin there for a good few years. I like looking round all the old traction engines, horses and fairground organs. Like I say, I int bin there for years and the last time I went I took mother with me and all she did was moan about the smell of the smoke that was warftin our way.

I love the smell of steam and the sound the engines make. I've always wanted to hev a go on a proper steam train, so I might hev to do that one day.

Before I go, I just wanted to say that I'm gorn over to record a thing called a podcast soon, which you'll be able to hear on community radio or something or other.

I int got a clue what a podcast is, but thas something to do with the interweb and I'll let you know more when I know wen as gorn owt so you can hev a listen.

You can hear Brian from Melton chatting with Mark Murphy every Saturday morning at 9.20am on Alde and Blyth Community Radio and listen out for the new Brian from Melton podcast, also coming soon to: www.abcradio.co.uk.



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VIEW TO THE NORTH

In the past month we have had some super weather with a clear sky which enabled me to leave the Seestar S50 smart telescope out all night. It tracked the Dumbbell or Apple Core nebula, recording 10 second shots for 190 minutes. It then stacked those to give a much higher resolution final image. The nebula is about 1260 light years away and was first recorded by Charles Messier in 1764. The nebula is caused by an old star that has lost its outer layers in a glowing display.



Clear nights are not good for trapping moths. There have been some warm cloudy nights with little wind and I have caught a reasonable selection in the past month. When I identified this one, I was intrigued by its name '*Figure of Eighty*'. Looking carefully at the wing tip it is possible to see the '80'.

They breed from mid-July to September and the caterpillars feed at night. They overwinter as pupae in a cocoon between two leaves which fall to the ground in autumn.



There still seems to be a paucity of birds for me to photograph on my morning walks. There were numbers of swifts recorded on my bird song detector until July 28 when the numbers dropped to very few, some days there were none. The odd one is detected, presumably ones moving south from further north. The sand martins and swallows are still present, catching insects over Buss Creek and the boating lakes. Still no sign of a barn owl, although I think it has been calling during the night. I was treated to a display from two marsh harriers over the North Road fields. They were flying over the cattle which have been moved from one field to the next, the first move they have had this year. The kestrel has also been around and on a few occasions, I have seen a sparrowhawk fly past. The gulls have been particularly vociferous this year. They are very protective of their young and rather noisy when I have flown the drone in front of the house. They take no notice of it when it is taken up to 120m, the maximum height allowed by the CAA.

Over Easton Bavents it is possible to capture the pier, lighthouse and church in one shot. I am still very impressed by the clarity of the picture from a drone that weighs 249g and has a camera about the size of a matchbox.

Halcyon



SOUTHWOLD LIBRARY

**Monday, 8th September @ 11am:
Meet Local Crime Writer Peter Tyler.**

Peter embarked on a ten week online Creative Writers Course with Penguin Random House and started writing his first book in 2019 - finishing it in 2022 at the age of 71. '21:36' and 'RIP' are set in South East London and follow the Police investigations of murders and assaults amid a world of deceit and corruption. All proceeds from the books go to the charity supporting the Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre in Lowestoft. Free talk, no need to book.

**Sunday 14th September @ 3pm:
Afternoon Tea & Poetry with Blake**

Morrison: Part of Poetry in Aldeburgh Festival 2025. With funding from Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund. Among Blake Morrison's best-loved poems are those celebrating East Suffolk, with its big skies, reedbeds, and shingle beaches. For this event, in discussion with Tamar Yoseloff, he'll reflect on the importance of Suffolk in his work and why poetry remains his first love. He'll also read new poems, from a forthcoming collection, Blake will be signing copies of his books, supplied by Southwold Books. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance - available from the library or www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary

**Monday 15th September @ 10.30am:
Legal Matters Advice & Information:**

Nursing home fees: should I start saving now? Local Solicitor Stuart Johnson, fully accredited with Solicitors for the Elderly, will advise on how nursing home fees could affect you and what you need to be doing now. Free talk, no need to book.

Monday 13th October for 6 weeks, 4 to 6pm: Beginners Italian. £120 for 12-hour course. Book at the library 01502 442817 or www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary

**Thursday 16th October @ 6.30pm @
Southwold Arts Centre: Ann Cleeves.**

Ann Cleeves is the multi-million copy bestselling author behind TV series 'Shetland', 'Vera', and 'The Long Call'. Her first Shetland novel, 'Raven Black', won the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger for best crime novel, and Ann was awarded the CWA Diamond Dagger in 201 and the OBE in 2022 for services to reading and libraries. Ann will be talking about her writing including her new book 'The Killing Stones'. Tickets are £25 including a signed copy of her new novel. A £10 ticket talk only ticket can be bought with each £25 one) and are available from the library or www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary

Wednesdays: 10am - 12noon: Let us help you Get Connected. Need help with tech? A drop-in advice session Basic support with smartphones, tablets and computers and avoiding scams;

2.15 – 4pm: Crochet & Craft Club. A friendly group for all crafters. Hot drinks supplied. £2 each.

Sundays, 12.15 - 1pm: Lego Club. This summer we're building: Crazy Creatures. All donations of Lego welcome. Free event

Sundays & Tuesdays, 10.30 - 11.00am: Baby Bounce & Tot Rock. For babies & toddlers of all ages. Free event.

Friday 5th September, 2.15 - 3.30pm Blyth Poets 'The isle is full of voices' - A poetry group meeting. Free event, First Friday of every month.

Thursday 11th & 25th September @ 3.30pm: Kids, Come & Read to Ash the PAT Dog. The Read2Dogs scheme provided by PAT helps to improve literacy skills and wellbeing in young people

Thursday 11th September @ 2.15pm: Scrabble Club. All Equipment Supplied. Refreshment break. Free event. Second Thursday of every month.

Friday 12th & 26th September, 2.15 - 4.15pm: Mah-jong Group. £1 per person. Second and fourth Friday of the month

Thursday 25th September @ 6.30pm: Southwold Library Reading Group. This month we are reading: 'The Great Level' by S K Tillyard. Free event.

Friends of Southwold Library 100 Club: Turn your £1 in £25 and support your library? Southwold Library 100 Club will use money raised to support the facilities and services supplied by the library.

Southwold Library Jigsaw Swap Shop: Come and help yourself to a jigsaw completely free!

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

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