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#### A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



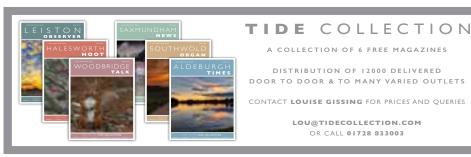
Summer is drawing to a close but there are still events to enjoy in Woodbridge and the surrounding area. A free Food Festival takes place on 20th September at the Community Hall and Bentwaters Cold War Museum are holding another, ever-popular, 'Special Ops Day' – a step back in time to the Cold War! Also, as part of Heritage Open Days (HODS) there will be a Riverside Walk – this year's theme is 'Architecture'. Details of more events within these pages, something for everyone I'm sure. Our cover photo, of a meadow brown butterfly was taken in Wheatacre, Norfolk by the very talented Caroline Tillett.

Please get in touch if you have anything to share with our readers 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

Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes.

#### Oscar Wilde



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### BENTWATERS COLD WAR MUSEUM

- Special Ops day – 21st Septembe

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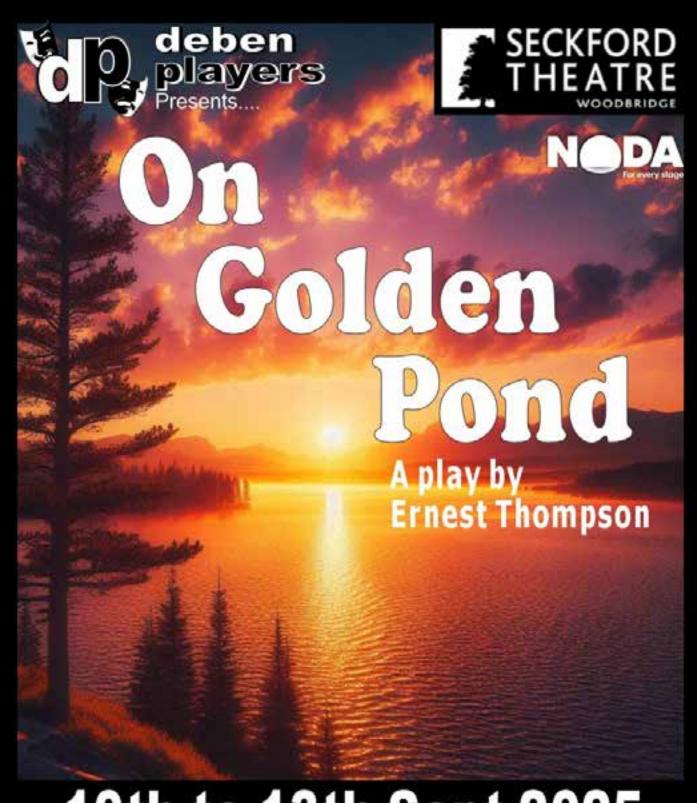


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# WOODBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

#### July - A month in pictures

On Friday 25 July, 23 Para Engineers held their regimental Freedom Parade through the town centre. This Parade recognizes the close bond between the civilians of Woodbridge and the army. The regiment was granted the Freedom of Woodbridge in 2009 on their return from Afghanistan.

At the medals ceremony in the Shire Hall before the Parade, you could not help but be struck by the valour being recognised as well as the range of opportunities the army can provide. In a short speech the Mayor, on behalf of the Town, expressed gratitude for how much the regiment, the soldiers and their families are doing to keep us safe in an increasingly insecure world.



On Tuesday 23 July, something very different, a cohort of year six pupils from Woodbridge Primary School and their families took over the Shire Hall for their Leaving Assembly. It was a wonderful event and a lovely way to see the Shire Hall being used by young residents as well as adults. The Hall does, of course, belong to all of us who live in Woodbridge. Best wishes go to the pupils as they head towards High School and another big step in their young lives.

On Sunday 21 July a wonderful community project was completed on Kingston Field. The Town's Youth Council, in conjunction with Councillor Sutton, worked with the Sea Scouts and the Air Cadets over two weekends in July to rebuild the sandpit in the playground. In Councillor Walsh's words, the result is "absolutely stupendous". Hopefully we will have cause to celebrate more successful community projects over time. They have such a positive impact on our community.



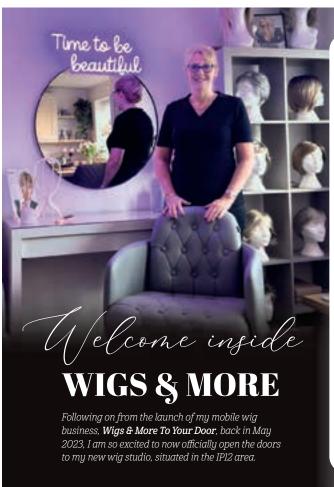
On Sunday 13 July, the 2nd International Picnic hosted by the Woodbridge Twinning Committee was held on Kingston Field. This year was an opportunity to celebrate a first new step with the signing of the Friendship agreement with Doullens in Picardie, France. Finally, we hope to see you on Market Hill on Saturday 13 September from noon to celebrate 450 years of the Shire Hall. There will be plenty of fun and entertainment as well as a subsidised traditional hog roast and pie and mash. And of course, if you can get your hands on an Elizabethan (that is Elizabeth 1) costume, that will add to the atmosphere. There will be a few Elizabethans wandering about!

### **Nigel Phipps**Mayor of Woodbridge









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



### FARLINGAYE TEACHER SCOOPS AWARD

Dr Harrison, of the Science Faculty at Farlingaye High School in Woodbridge, has been selected as the winner of the 'Subject Star' award - part of the University of Cambridge Inspiring Educator Awards 2025. The award recognises the input of teachers and educators who have helped support current Cambridge students from UK state schools. Dr Harrison was nominated by former student Barney Steventon-Barnes, who is now studying Medicine at Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge.

Barney said: "Dr Harrison has a true enthusiasm for both the beauty of biology and the power of teaching. His lessons are meticulously planned and full of a variety of activities and teaching styles to make biology exciting and accessible to students of all abilities. During the first lockdown, Dr Harrison would pre-record full hour video lessons, with enthusiasm and practical demonstrations. He also runs the school's Endeavour programme - exciting super-curricular activities."

He added: "Dr Harrison always has faith in students' abilities. He encouraged and supported me to pursue my goals and dreams and always made me feel like I should be able to dream bigger. He was a true subject star for me - getting me so excited about biology and its wonders that I wanted to study the field so deeply in higher education that only somewhere like Cambridge would truly enable me to do."

Dr Harrison commented: "It's humbling to have been nominated for this award by a former student. My aim each day is to give my students a good experience. This centres on making them feel welcome, valued, and giving them the opportunity to succeed. Ultimately, however, teaching is a collaborative profession, and countless teachers at Farlingaye could have been nominated for such an award.

"I am blessed to be working with such great colleagues in an adventurous and outward-looking school."

He concluded: "Teaching Barney was straightforward! He was so capable and keen to learn that he just needed pointing in the right direction. I am thrilled that he now has the chance to spread his wings at Cambridge. I am sure that he will go on to great things and will do so with good humour and humanity."

As part of the award, Farlingaye has received £300 in prize money from the University of Cambridge, for which we are very grateful. The money is being used to support the school's environmental work via Farlingaye's Green Council.

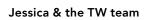


# TRANSITION WOODBRIDGE

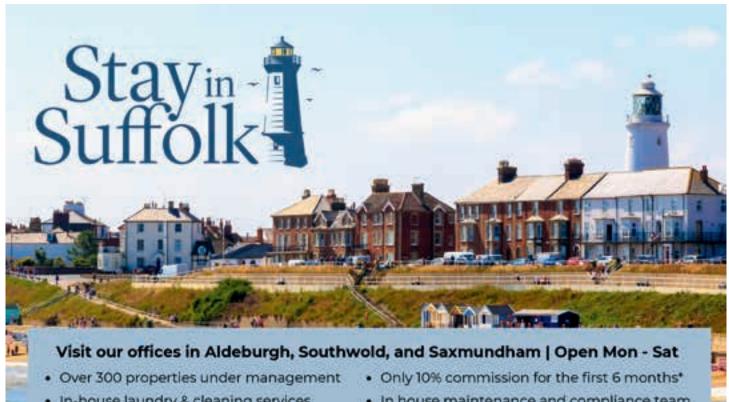
#### Hey, you local foodies! Free Food Festival time!

Saturday 20th September sees Transition Woodbridge host several local food and drink producers and retailers at Woodbridge Community Hall from 10am - 3pm. Tickets via: Eventbrite Woodbridge Local Food & Drink Festival Tickets, Sat 20 Sep 2025 at 10:00 | Eventbrite or on the door. These businesses are listed in our Local Food Project Leaflet: Local Food & Drink Project – Transition Woodbridge. Walk in, chat and explore their products in a relaxed food atmosphere. You'll be supporting the local food economy as well as local food resilience. Chill out with our refreshments and activities for children.

Also, a reminder that the next Repair Cafés are 10am – 12noon on 1st September and 6th October at St John's Church Woodbridge. Hope to see you there!

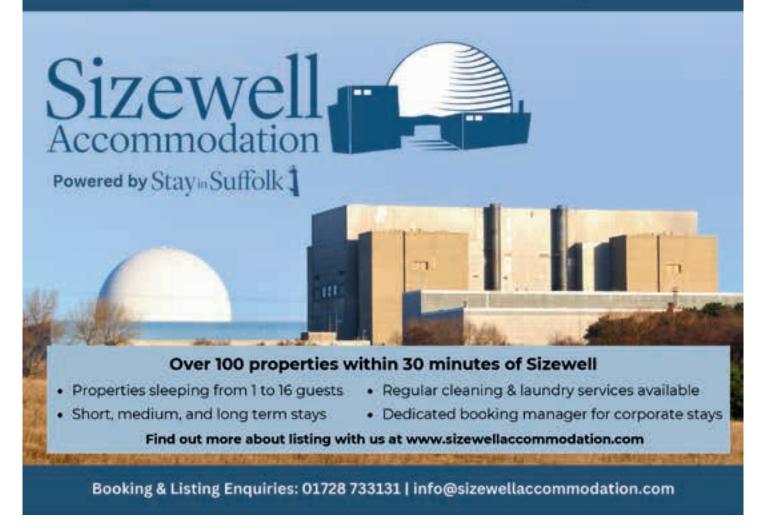






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#### WOODBRIDGE CRUISING CLUB

The summer cruising season is drawing to a close and members are looking forward to the penultimate cruise - the very sociable Walton Pond cruise led by Mark and Clare; the final Three Rivers cruise led by Graham and the annual cruise dinner held at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club, marking the official finale of the cruising calendar. For all yacht and motorboat owners cruising in company is one of the best reasons to join the club.

Sailors enjoyed the Lowestoft and Southwold cruise – despite some stormy sailing conditions. The Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club always make members welcome. Bram and Penny organised this cruise with a host of onshore activities. The Walton Backwaters cruise led by Peter was a more peaceful affair, with nights in Titchmarsh Marina, a cruise dinner and a walk to the WW11 gun emplacement and the Crouch cruise led by John ventured further afield to Burnham, Fambridge and Brightlingsea.

The club held its first ever summer walk, organised by William, John, Liz and Rosemary. This was a delightful hour's stroll around Ramsholt concluding in supper at the Arms. 28 walkers and seven dogs made this a very enjoyable and successful walk.

The August Bank Holiday barbecue in the pleasant garden of the riverside club house, was a highlight with the delicious puddings the icing on the cake for many. Members are looking forward to future events including the more formal laying up supper; a lovely occasion to meet with other club members and enjoy a delicious three course meal.

The autumn programme will be starting soon with Thursday walks, Wednesday suppers and Sunday talks, which have a nautical theme.

The club bar is open summer and winter at weekends, with some of the best river views.

If you have a genuine interest in sailing and the sea, have a look at our programme of maritime related events on our website at www.woodbridgecruisingclub.org. New members are always welcome.









# 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	Wednesday	Stratford St Andrew
Transport Forum	3 September 2025	Riverside Centre
Main Development	Wednesday	Leiston Town
Site Forum	8 October 2025	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



# WOODBRIDGE RIVERSIDE TRUST AT THE LONGSHED

Memories of Summer! There was much fun and laughter in July at the 'Sail and Save – Recyclable Regatta' on Woodbridge's Model Boat Pond when Year 6 pupils for Woodbridge Primary School tested the amazing craft they had made! The children had helped us to pilot a programme to build model boats from recyclable materials. The challenge was to build them so well that they could carry a small bag of Tide Mill flour (supplied by the Tide Mill Museum) across the pond without getting it wet. The success rate was high!

The pilot took place over a seven-week period. It began with a briefing by Jason Alexander (Vintage Litter Museum) on which materials are truly recyclable, continued with weekly 'handson' practical tutorials which took place in The Longshed's Gallery and which were devised and delivered by Moray McPhail (retired naval architect) and Matt Lis (Woodbridge Boatyard) with input from Caroline Moore (WRT's Education officer) and terrific support from Geoff Lambert and John Rowles (Woodbridge Model Boat Club), Belinda Joslin (Women in Boat Building) and volunteers Nancy Clay (who as our Education Director commissioned and managed the project), Pat Clark, Brian East, John Foster, Graham Hill, Anne Richardson and Kay Yuill. All gave their time generously.

But the stars of the show were the children themselves who committed their energies and enthusiasm from the 'get go'! Many thanks to all of them and to their teachers Emma and Caroline. (Photos courtesy of Caroline Moore, Mike Whitby and Simon Ballard, published with parental permission through the school). More details on our website's 'Events' page: woodbridgeriversidetrust.org

The River Deben Tapestry project is progressing well. Clare Lightfoot brought the tapestry to The Longshed recently to give an update on the project and demonstrate some of the techniques being used to create this stunning work of textile art.



Over 50 people are now involved, and if you would like to know more or get involved, please contact Clare via: rivertapestry@gmail.com

#### Dates for your Dairy

Saturday 13th, 10.30am – 4pm: The 'European Association of Ships in Bottles' present an exhibition of this traditional maritime artform. Free admission.

Saturday 27th, 3 pm: Paul Heatherington, leader of RSPB Woodbridge Local Group, will be speaking about 'Why the Deben is Special for Birds'. Paul will be talking about the variety of habitats which make the Deben attractive to birds, what birds are likely to be seen (and heard) and where you can go to see them for yourself. A must! Tickets are £8 to include tea and cake, and available from Eventbrite or The Longshed Gift Shop. Early booking advisable.

October 3rd- 13th: The return visit of the popular 'Herring Girls' Exhibition – Free entry.





Justin Fuller

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# BENTWATERS COLD WAR MUSEUM SPECIAL OP'S DAY

A day out at an American air base at the Bentwaters Cold War Museum Special Ops Day - 21st September 2025

When Bentwaters and Woodbridge air bases were alive with the sight and sound of combat jets and the skies of Suffolk buzzing with all sorts of aircraft it was exciting times.

The local towns and villages were full of American accents and cars and local communities mixed with our friends from the USA.

If you remember those days, then come to the Special Ops Open Day at Bentwaters Cold War Museum for our annual special Open Day.

There will be extra exhibits and displays to enjoy that capture the atmosphere of the base Open Days that were held when the Americans were here between 1951 and 1993. The theme of the open day is very much Cold War and includes the Special Operations Squadron that operated from Woodbridge from 1970 to 1992 with Jolly Green Giant helicopters and Hercules refuelling aircraft.

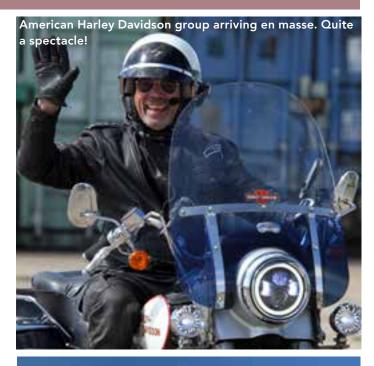
The museum will be open as usual with burger vans, re-enactors, British Army display, local cadet units, GenX radio, American classic cars and military vehicles; and of course, the United States Air Force representatives attending from Mildenhall, who currently serve in the 67th Special Operations Squadron who fly the C-130 Hercules that once served at Woodbridge until 1992.

It's a great day out for all ages with kids free and our normal admission price of £7.50 for adults and concessions £6.00.

There's free parking and the gates open at 10.00.

Go to https://bcwm.org.uk/ for details of directions and event facilities.

Simon Gladas





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#### **WOODBRIDGE ROTARY NEWS**

Although small in number, Woodbridge Rotary Club manages to 'punch above its weight'. Having said that we are fortunate to have a few heavyweights in our club! We work as a team to make a difference both in our local community and globally, giving support to numerous charities.

#### Forthcoming events

17th September: Heritage Open Days (HODS): Riverside Walk led by Simon Holloway of Woodbridge Rotary in conjunction with Woodbridge Riverside Trust, Woodbridge Museum, Tide Mill Museum and The Sutton Hoo Ships Company. This festival is the largest historical and cultural festival in the country and this year's theme is Architecture. The 3km guided walk and talk will be along the riverbank and will run twice on September 17th. For further details go to Tales of The Riverbank - but no Ratty or Moley!

**18th October: Opera for Woodbridge.** Community Hall, Woodbridge.

**26th October: Ruff Stuff:** An off road cycle event in Rendlesham Forest. Ever popular and enjoyed by off road cyclists of all ages - a date for your diary perhaps?

Recent events for us in the local community were Woodbridge Regatta, VE Day celebrations and Grundisburgh Village Show, providing a wine bottle Tombola stall at each event. In addition, we had a collection at the VE Day celebrations, courtesy of the Mayor, who nominated Rotary International as the charity he wanted to support, as previously reported. From those three events, we raised over £1,340 net which provides the funds to continue to support charities in the local community and internationally.



At Woodbridge Golf Club's annual Captain's Charity Day in early July, we provided raffle prizes, and manned the oncourse refreshment huts. A Shelter Box presentation was set up by the first tee, giving a firsthand view of this charity.

The £2,138 we have been given for our participation is to be split between Shelter Box and the other charities we support. Shelter Box began in 2000 as a Cornish Rotary Club's Millennium project.

It quickly grew to become an internationally recognised and independent disaster relief organisation which has gone from strength to strength. Shelter Box works to relieve homelessness caused by both disaster and conflict. As the name suggests it provides emergency shelter and tools for families robbed of their homes by disaster and helps to transform despair into hope. Woodbridge Rotary Club have provided good support to this charity over many years. Read more at: shelterbox.org.

On 25th July we were pleased to receive two special guests - Peter Baker and Susan Seabon who have run 'Friends of the Banyan Tree' since its inception in 2000. The 'Friends' organisation was started to raise funds for 'The Banyan Tree Charitable Society' a social work trust registered with the Kerala State in South India, formed by Tom Sutherland in 2000. Tom's Christian faith had led him to go to work with Mother Theresa in 1975.



From left to right Ian Reed WRC President & John Treadway with Peter Baker & Susan Seabon of The Banyan Tree.

He went to Kerala at her direction and using his considerable artistic ability, he helped extremely poor, disadvantaged women develop craft skills. Many of those he was helping were oppressed and outcastes, illiterate with little or no access to government services as they had no rights. Here again the website will give you a comprehensive explanation of the work carried out under Tom's guidance: thebanyantree.org.uk. Peter and Susan told us that £400,000 has been raised since 2000 and we were able to present a cheque for £500 for the Banyan Tree project.

We have had a long association with Shelter Box and the Banyan Tree. Both fall under the classification of our International Committee, headed for many years by Rotarian John Pearson, a dedicated supporter of both projects, who has recently handed the chair over to fellow Rotarian John Treadway.

Woodbridge Rotary Club is a mixed group. We meet socially most Fridays at The Bull Inn, Market Hill around 12:30, followed by lunch and a speaker. If you would like to make a difference by giving something back to society or do so already and can see where we might help you, please join us one Friday to find out more. Our contact and other details can be found at: woodbridgerotary.com.

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## WOODBRIDGE MUSEUM

The photograph is of a Supermarine Walrus, an amphibian aircraft flown by the late Noel Langdon when he was stationed with 278 RAF Squadron at Martlesham Heath during World War Two. Noel was a very modest man and never considered what he did during his war service as anything exceptional.

The Walrus was considered obsolete at the beginning of the war but became invaluable as a sea rescue aircraft enabling the pilots to reach men who had ditched into the sea. On a fateful January night in 1944, Noel was sent out in his tiny plane to try and find any survivors of a Canadian Air Force Halifax bomber which had run out of fuel having been damaged in a raid over Kiel in Germany. The eight crew had managed to get into a small dinghy and when Noel found them were hauled on board his plane, but it was too heavy to take off, so it taxied through rough seas. A naval rescue launch later arrived and took everyone on board towing the Walrus. As darkness fell, a German E-boat was spotted and Noel remembered seeing star shells in the sky, so the men knew the enemy planes were looking for them.

The Walrus was cut adrift, and the rescue boat rushed towards Great Yarmouth finally arriving at 2am on 17th September. The Royal Navy sent out a search vessel, found the Walrus still bobbing on the waves and a few days later Noel flew the plane back to Martlesham Heath. Noel was awarded the Air Force Cross in King George VI Birthday Honours for his part in more than 60 rescues.

The next Friends of Woodbridge Museum talk is at 2.30pm on 12th September at Woodbridge Community Hall and will be given by Gary Egerton, a retired Special Branch officer, about his time looking after VIPs. On 3rd October Cherry Mullins will give a talk about Versailles. Guests are very welcome.

Woodbridge Museum is now open every day from 10.30am to 4.30pm. It's free although we welcome donations. Do come and visit the museum and see our exhibits and well stocked gift shop.

#### Lyndsay Duckworth



BRIAN (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 nowe 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.

# ..'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.

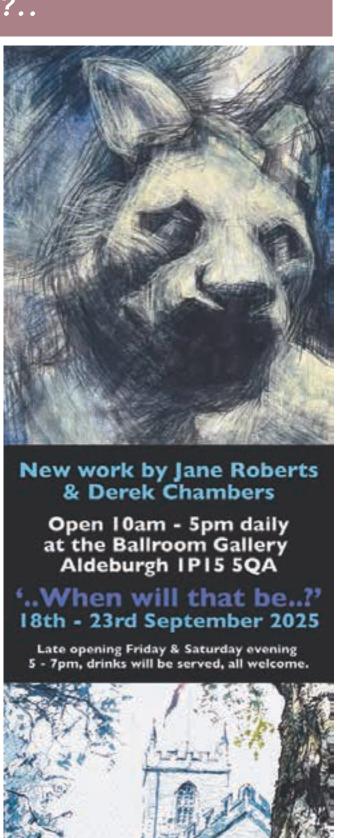
It stood through the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Reformation, the English Civil War, the Industrial Revolution and two world wars. Some key figures in these political and social changes are represented in the detail of the furnishings and fabric of the building and in the headstones and crumbling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



# 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@eastsuffolk.govuk.

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



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

Fri 10th Oct at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

# THE JERSEY BEATS OH, WHAT A NITE!

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

### WOODBRIDGE SHUFFLERS

#### Ekiden - A great team race for Woodbridge Shufflers

In July, a group of Woodbridge Shufflers spent the day running a Marathon in a team event called the Ekiden, competing with running clubs from across the region.

Taking part at Ipswich High School, Woolverstone, there were some very strong performances across seasoned runners and a few newbies, making up four teams of six people with each team completing 26.2 miles broken down through 10k, 5k and 7.2k legs.

Particular note to Ross McGill who competed his 5k in 17 minutes, 4th best 5k of the day.

Our winning team came 33rd overall (out of 205) with a time of 2hr 58 minutes.

The team and supporters braved the four seasons in one day weather with the Gazebo just about surviving the strong winds.





# FLIPSIDE FESTIVAL

FlipSide Festival 2025 Explores 'Un/Making the World' Through Art, Story and Imagination

27th September, 10am - 6pm aat Framlingham Old Theatre

This autumn, FlipSide Festival returns to Framlingham with a bold and timely theme: Un/Making the World – Art, Life and Meaning.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly complex and uncertain world, the festival asks how art and imagination help us make sense of change and how they might offer not just reflection, but transformation.

In a day packed with readings, talks and conversation, leading writers and thinkers come together to explore how story, image, politics and memory shape the world we live in - and the one we hope to build.

#### Festival highlights include:

Costa Book Award-winning novelist **Ali Smith and filmmaker Sarah Wood** in conversation about the intersection of words, images, justice, and belonging.

**Geoff Dyer** examining memory and identity in post war England, weaving landscape and self into a powerful cultural reflection.

Suffolk's day-long festival of literature and ideas

UNIMAKING

THE WORLD

Art, Life & Meaning

with

ALI SMITH & SARAH WOOD

GEOFF DYER

LAURA CUMMING

MELISSA BENN

PHILIP HOARE

TONY PEAKE

Saturday 27 September 2025, 10am-6pm

The Old Theatre, 10 Church Street, Framlingham, IP13 9BH

Tickets and further information from

WWW.flipsideuk.org

**Philip Hoare** delivering a striking, contemporary reading of 'William Blake', revealing the enduring urgency of his poetry and art.

**Tony Peake** discussing his definitive biography of filmmaker and activist Derek Jarman, a visionary voice for queer and countercultural creativity.

**Laura Cumming**, acclaimed art critic (The Observer) and author, exploring the emotional and cultural role of art within families and personal histories.

**Melissa Benn** offering a deeply personal perspective on political legacy and generational activism through the life of her father, Tony Benn.

"Art doesn't just reflect the world - it helps us rethink it," says Chris Maloney, FlipSide Festival Chair. "This year's programme is an invitation to explore how creativity can illuminate, question, and ultimately reshape the world around us."

Join us for a day of inspiring conversation, reflection and discovery. For full programme details and ticket bookings, visit: www.flipsideuk.org. Follow us on social media: https://www.facebook.com/FlipsideFestivalUK, https://www.instagram.com/flipsideinsta/

#### **DEBEN ROTARY**

For over 20 years the Rotary Club of Woodbridge Deben has supported the 'Dictionaries for Life' (D4L'S) scheme. D4L's are intended to assist literacy for pupils at key stage 2 and to date around twelve local schools have benefitted from them. This year it was decided that the club would also donate 48 of the D4L's to Suffolk Refugee Support to assist Ukrainian and other refugees to improve their English skills. the D4L's were presented to Suffolk Refugee Support Manager, Rebecca Crerar. The photo shows our D4L organiser, Monty Guest, President Ian Baker and Community Service Chairman, Deirdre Griffin with Rebecca Crerar. If any local school feels they could benefit from a donation of dictionaries please contact rotarian Monty Guest at rmguest74@gmail.com.



#### WOODBRIDGE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Woodbridge Town Football Club was founded in 1885 and this year we are celebrating our 140 year anniversary. The First Team currently play in the Thurlow Nunn Eastern Counties Premier Division.

The Club, known as 'The Woodpeckers' have been based at Notcutts Park, Fynn Road, Woodbridge, IP12 4LS since 1990. The Club run a First Team, Under 23s and 18s, Ladies and Veterans sides, together with up to 30 Boys and Girls Junior sides.

The management of the Club have recently negotiated a new 25 year lease on the ground and this will enable improvements to be carried out for the benefit of players, spectators and club users. The Club House is used on a regular basis by the u3A, Slimming World, Warm Space and the Dementia Café together with numerous private parties, dances, wakes and club events. If you or your organisation is interested in using this facility, with a licensed bar, for up to 150 guests please contact venuebookings@outlook.com for the attention of Paul. In recent years the Club has had its ups and downs including promotion, relegation and successful runs in both the FA Cup and the FA Vase competitions. Today the Club is on a stable footing with the help and support from our sponsors including Chapel Properties, Brafe Engineering, Homestyle Windows UK, TMP Carpentry and Denbury Homes plus many more. First Team home fixtures for September (subject to Cup

September 6th: v Walsham Le Willows Kick Off 3.00pm September 9th: v Stowmarket Town Kick Off 7.45pm September 27th: v Dereham Town Kick Off 3.00pm

Forthcoming events in the Club House (open to all) for September

September 6th: Race Night 7.00pm September 7th: Bingo 7.00pm September 21st: Bingo 7.00pm



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEP 4 Martlesham Wilds Evening Bat Walk. Discover which bats call Martlesham Wilds their home on this gentle dusk walk using bat detectors and find out how we can all help bats in our own gardens and spaces. Booking is essential and is on the website: www. suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events. More discovery walks on 13th October & 10th November.

results)

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#### SEP 6 Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Woodbridge Wildlife Group - Moths.

Join a local expert to identify moths trapped overnight. 8am at Fen Meadow. No booking required. Free event but donations to Suffolk Wildlife Trust welcomed. Park in Portland Crescent, IP12 4TP, and walk along cemetery fence to the Fen Meadow gate. contact the Woodbridge **Group on 01473** 625630 or email: swtwoodbridge@outlook.com

SEP 12 SWT's Woodbridge Wildlife Group Evening Bat Walk. Coppiced and re-planted hedges provide the perfect habitat for a variety of species. Bat detectors will help participants to see and learn more. 6.30pm at the Trust's Foxburrow Nature Reserve, Saddlemakers Lane, Melton, IP12 1NA. Must pre-book. £5 per person, under 25s free: www. suffolkwildlifetrust.org (events section) or tel: 01473 890089; Tel: 01394 389700

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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 ditor's discretion.

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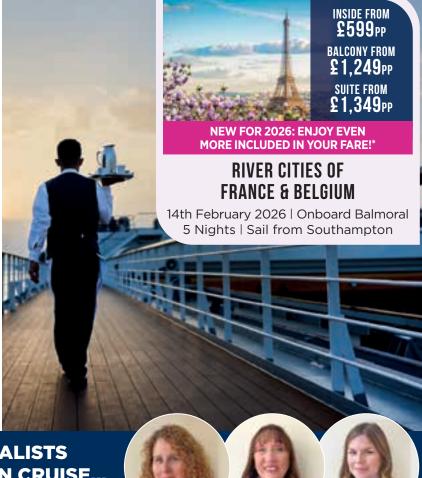




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