

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



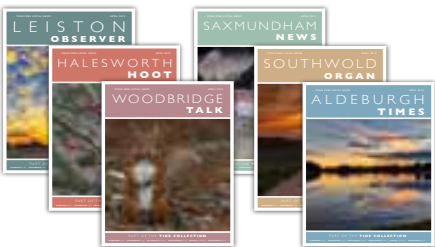
Woodbridge will kick off the festive season at the end of November with a Festival of Art and Music and the welcome return of Geno Washington, the founding father of Brit Soul Music. Geno has a connection with the town as he served at the US Air base in Woodbridge in the '60s and he has been invited to switch on the town lights alongside the Mayor and Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP. Lots of entertainment, street food and much more will follow so be sure to attend this lovely community event. Enjoy!

Please get in touch if you have anything to share with our readers or if you have a festive event coming up why not consider increasing your footfall by placing an advert in the Tide Collection? I would love to hear from you, email me at: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.

Abraham Lincoln



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Community Service Award for Woodbridge Salvation Army

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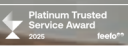


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NODA
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**19th - 30th
December 2025**

Friday 19th 7pm - Saturday 20th 2pm - Sunday 21st 2pm
Saturday 27th 2pm - Saturday 27th 7pm - Sunday 28th 2pm
Monday 29th 2pm - Tuesday 30th 2pm

Book tickets on-line
debenplayers.net
Box office Tel 0333 666 3366

WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

This month our focus is on the work of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee, chaired by Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Ellie Beck. Unlike our others, this Committee has voting members that are residents of Woodbridge with 6 Councillors and 6 public members. It is a model that works well.

There are two recent projects of note that have been widely supported by the Town. The first was the response to making Kingston Field more secure against vehicle access. Instead of opting for fencing, the Committee recommended planting a new hedge and some extra trees. The work was done with the support of Botanica in Campsea Ashe and the planting plan is beginning to take great shape. One challenge - we underestimated that at the height of summer it requires 40,000 litres of water a week. So, for next summer we've agreed to install a couple of solar pumps from the stream at the edge of Kingston Field which is fed by a spring in the Nottcutt's area, so the water levels remain constant.

The second project is the new boardwalk in Fen Meadow. We've received many positive comments as it keeps the path open over land that can become very boggy. Furthermore, the Committee has now adopted a set of actions that are aimed at developing the biodiversity of Fen Meadow which will enhance its "wilder" green space. To this end we've had the results of the latest town survey on the Fen Meadow playground, and your consensus is to develop the existing playground on the current site. So, we've listened to you - and we won't be moving it! Another area of focus is water. How do you retain water and tackle surface flooding in Woodbridge? A small factoid that we stumbled across during a flood risk meeting with Suffolk County Council and Anglia Water: the highest rainfall during storm Babet in October 2023 fell two metres to the north of the A12 near Woodbridge. Had it been this side of the A12, the story might have been very different. Other Suffolk towns and villages suffered considerable damage. The other risk is of course storm surges from the river. Your Town Council does not classify either of these risks as red risks, but they are certainly amber, and we do not have the budget to mitigate these risks. However, we are reviewing our emergency arrangements should the flood barrier fail at Whisstocks and examining ways of better capturing rainfall from the Council's properties - something we should all be thinking about.

The Committee is active in other areas and is driven by the belief that at a local level there are things we can do that can add up to something big in the fight to mitigate climate change - tree cover and increasing local production of food to name just two.

Councillor Nigel Phipps

Mayor of Woodbridge

Email: CouncillorPhipps@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk



WOODBIDGE BRANCH, THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It's coming up to that time of year so I would like to invite you all to attend our Remembrance. Why not come along and show your support? Dates above.

The local RBL Branch here in Woodbridge has spent time revisiting their methods of reaching out to the local Armed Forces Community especially veterans, their families and carers.

Do you/they need help?

Call the Helpline 08088028080, they are open 8am - 8pm. 7 days a week.

Or, if you need a chat with someone locally over a cuppa you can email: woodbridge.secretary@rbl.community or woodbridgebcc1@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal

The town's Poppy appeal is run and coordinated by Anne Stevens who is on the lookout for volunteer poppy appeal collectors, could you help?

If so, please contact Anne Stevenson Poppy Appeal Organiser at stevensonanne61@yahoo.com.



FRIDAY STREET FARM

FREE
EVENT

OUR ANNUAL

Food & Drink Event

RETURNS TO FRIDAY STREET

SAT 15TH NOVEMBER
10AM - 4PM



Welcoming a wide variety of our producers & suppliers
and giving you the opportunity to try before you buy!

The event is free to attend and the Farm Shop & Kitchen
restaurant will be open as usual on the day.

SHOP 8:30AM-5:30PM, KITCHEN 8:30AM-4PM
01728 602783 WWW.FRIDAYSTREETFARM.CO.UK

WOODBIDGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Woodbridge Festival of Art and Music and Woodbridge Town Council

Geno Washington, the founding father of Brit Soul Music, is returning to Woodbridge, the Suffolk Town he started his career in, to switch on the Town's Christmas lights during celebrations on **Thursday 27 November and Friday 28 November**. Geno will switch-on the town lights on Thursday, alongside the Mayor of Woodbridge and Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP.

Other events will include the annual lantern parade, led by illuminated stars and the East Angles Brass Band, Christmas carols, accordion chanson by Garance Louis (*Wonderful* - Cerys Mathews, BBC6Music), light and fire displays by Calvin Lok and Audio Visual sets by DJ Ben Osborne and VJ Girl In A T-Shirt.

There will be children's rides, Father Christmas on the Thoroughfare and Make and Do lantern workshops in the Shire Hall (4:30 - 5:30pm). Open air food markets will offer German Sausages, Pretzels, Burgers, Candy Floss, Doughnuts, Korean and Mexican street food, Reuben's, Pizza, horse box bars serving cocktails and Prosecco, Hopsters' craft beer and Mr Bee's real ale and mulled wine and cider stands.

Both nights will see events start from 4:30pm, with lights being switched on at 6pm and street food until 8pm. The lights will be switched on outside the Shire Hall on Thursday 27 November, after which the annual lantern parade will join events on the Thoroughfare. Geno Washington will perform live at Market Hill.

On Friday 28 November and there will be events from 4:30 pm, with the switch-on at 6pm and music, light and community art projections on the Tide Mill and stalls and open air street food in Whisstock's Place until 8pm - followed by an after party at Hopsters.

In the 1960s, legendary soul singer Geno Washington topped bills alongside Jimi Hendrix, Cream and Pink Floyd, scored chart topping LPs and was famously celebrated by Dexy's Midnight Runners in their 1980's hit 'Geno'.

Washington only started singing after he was posted to Suffolk as the PE instructor for the US Air Force base in Woodbridge. This summer he played his first gig back in Woodbridge since 1965, as part of Woodbridge Festival's well-received Super Fly project. After his show the festival organisers promised the crowd they wouldn't have to wait another 60 years to see him again. Now they've invited him and his band back for the town-wide Lights On celebrations.

The Lights On weekend is organised by Woodbridge Festival of Art and Music and Woodbridge Town Council to celebrate the lights put up by Choose Woodbridge on behalf of Woodbridge Town Council.



WOODBIDGE SHUFFLERS

Woodbridge shufflers at the Ipswich Half Marathon

19 Woodbridge Shufflers took part in the Ipswich Half Marathon in September with over 2,000 runners.

The annual race which starts and finishes at Portman Road, is a challenging 13.1 mile run including a very long stretch up Freston hill around the 10 mile mark.

Sofia Frost ran a Personal Best in 1 hour 37 minutes and credited Head Coach Dave Alley for her great time.

"Thank you for the fab training plan that got me my PB with a good margin and a smile on my face"

Woodbridge Shufflers Running club is not all about running half marathons. I

t offers social runs around Woodbridge and the local area for all ages and abilities on Tuesday evenings, Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

There are also junior sessions on Wednesdays, coaching sessions on Tuesdays and regular social events.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Penny Lancaster talks about her memoir 'Someone Like Me'

The Riverside, Woodbridge

Thursday 4th December @ 7.30pm

It looks like she's lived a charmed life - a loving upbringing, marrying a superstar rock singer, children, strong friendships, and lately a successful career in television but in her new book '*Someone Like Me*', Penny Lancaster reveals how she was bullied at school, struggled with her studies because of undiagnosed dyslexia and, as she made her way for herself as a model, experienced a harrowing sexual assault.

Determined, though, always to see the positive in life, Penny cultivated skills and talents to enable her to achieve and maintain her independence, training as a fitness instructor and then a photographer, and she's used her struggles to inform and help others.

What's more, since marrying and making a family with Sir Rod Stewart, Penny has embraced every opportunity offered to her.

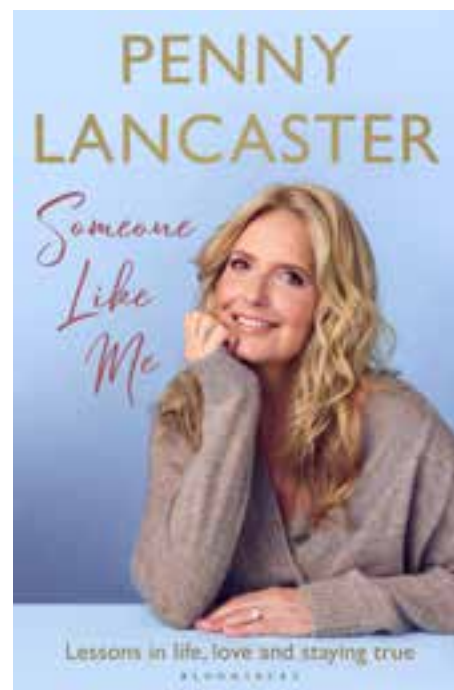
She's competed on, *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Celebrity MasterChef*, *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* and she is a guest panellist on *Loose Women*.

Using this profile she is a campaigner and ambassador for a multitude of charities, speaks widely and passionately about menopause issues and volunteers as a Special Constable with the City of London Police.

Penny is a warm, engaging and inspiring speaker and we're thrilled that she's joining us at The Riverside in Woodbridge for this special evening event.

She will be in conversation with Catherine Lerner and signing copies of her book. Tickets are £20 to include a signed copy of her book '*Someone Like Me*' (RRP £20).

One further ticket can be purchased for £12 (without the book). Please book at The Riverside in person, call 01394 382174 or through the website www.theriverside.co.uk.



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WOODBIDGE TIDE MILL RESTORATION

The Tide Mill restoration fundraiser launched in March this year has reached its target of £60,000!

Work has already started, with scaffolding up for safe access to the Grade 1 listed building. The distinctive shiplap exterior is being prepared before weatherproof paint is applied. The renovation is planned to take about 3 weeks during which time the Mill will be open 11am – 5pm daily. The Mill's riverside boardwalk will be closed but otherwise the Mill will remain fully open. The Woodbridge Tide Mill Trust Trustees, staff and volunteers would like to thank all the donors that made this possible. Announcing the tremendous achievement while 'topping off' the fundraising thermometer, Tide Mill Charitable Trust President, and instigator of the project, John Carrington said "It's so rewarding to the team to see this support for the Mill. Managing this historic local legacy takes a daily effort and periodic fundraising to keep it the **only working tide mill in the UK.**"

"It was heartwarming to see a wide range of donations from local donors including local family trusts, estates and businesses. The fundraiser was topped off by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Postcode Lottery. The Trustees are extremely grateful to all donors, regardless of amount, and will ensure that 100% of the donations are put to the Mill's restoration for the community."

The Tide Mill will close for the winter, except for pre-booked education and group bookings, on Monday 3 November.

Customary maintenance work will also take place until reopening in spring. This year however, unlike all previous years, the Mill will remain open to online visitors in two exciting new ways:

Bloomberg Connects: Our Suffolk Tide Mill is now one of 625 cultural partners in 27 countries for Bloomberg Connects' 3.9 million app users. See it here: <https://guides.bloombergconnects.org/en-US/guide/woodbridgeTideMill>

Online 3D tour: A grant from Suffolk County Council has enabled the Museum to develop an online 3D tour. This fantastic addition means that visitors can visit the Mill from anywhere in the world (with internet), at any time of the day or night. Try it here: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=cPxBiSQPFh7>



John Carrington,
Trustee & President.
Photo: Ian Jacob

THORPENESS
COUNTRY CLUB

Christmas Party Nights

Kicking your 2025 party season off in style!

Friday 5th December
Saturday 6th December
Friday 12th December
Saturday 13th December
Friday 19th December
Saturday 20th December

£55 per person

Includes a welcome drink on arrival, our two-course* celebration menu, a DJ playing well-loved songs from throughout the decades and a photobooth.

To book your party today, visit
www.thorpenesscountryclub.co.uk
or call 01728 452176.

The
CROWN
WOODBIDGE

Christmas wrapped up at The Crown!

Festive Menu

Indulge in festive favourites in the lead-up to Christmas! Whether it's a catch up with friends or a more laid-back work celebration, join us this festive season.

Two Courses for £20

Available daily 27th November until 23rd December during lunch and dinner service. Offer not available on party nights.

To book yours today, visit www.crownatwoodbridge.co.uk/christmas or pop in and chat with a member of our Folk!

PROJECT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2025

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

Sizewell C is now working in multiple areas across East Suffolk whilst we build infrastructure such as park and ride facilities and rail extensions to transport our workers and freight. We are very sorry for the impact this work is having on local journeys. Our teams are working hard to get the new infrastructure built as quickly and safely as possible but we acknowledge that some work, such as the major works to build a new road to by pass two villages on the A12, will take up to two years before it is finished.

As our work ramps up we have introduced a weekly summary of road diversions and closures that can be found on the **Sizewell C Works Tracker** - Track SZC Projects & Get Alerts for New Activities. The update will be added to the Sizewell C social media feeds, our SMS and email alerts.

The traffic lights on the A12 at Marlesford will be lifted and moved off the carriageway by the time of publication. We are reviewing the cones along the A12 and will reduce the number required as much as possible, the lay-by works are due to be completed in early December, however we are making good

progress and hope to complete the work earlier than projected. As we progress the roundabouts at Friday Street and Yoxford, careful traffic management will still be required.

We are working hard to reduce HGV and Sizewell C related traffic, we are reducing the number of office-based workers coming into Leiston as we relocate staff to the Orwell Logistics Park site where 300 desks are available. The office at Orwell will also become the default base for external meetings. We are also opening the Northern Park and Ride in phases with the first partial opening from early November, with a bus service running from the Park and Ride to site. Bus services are also now running from Saxmundham train station as we continue to promote the use of train and public transport.

As part of our commitment to bring 60 per cent of our materials by sea and rail, we are prioritising the construction of the new rail line that will take our materials to our temporary construction area, with the aim to have trains running in the first half of 2026. The works will involve building level crossings across Buckleswood Road and the B1122 (Abbey Road) in Leiston, we have built a temporary diversion road to ensure that traffic disruption is minimised.

FORUM SCHEDULE

Forum timings
2025 | 18:30 - 20:30
(Arrival from 18:00)
2026 | 18:00 - 20:00
(Arrival from 17:45)

Northern Transport Forum	Wednesday 5 November 2025	Darsham Village Hall
Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 3 December 2025	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre
Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 14 January 2026	Leiston Town Athletic Association
Community Forum	Thursday 19 March 2026	Woodbridge Rugby Club

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

VISIT THE WORKS TRACKER SITE



Sizewell C
The power of good for Britain

MARTLESHAM WILDS

The coastal path is open. Waders are returning. The autumnal leaves are out in glory, creating stunning views as you walk, it really is a delight to visit. Even an osprey has been visiting Martlesham Wilds to check out all the changes going on.

If you would like to find out more, please come along on Wednesday 12th November, 10am – 12noon to a volunteer led walk, which will talk you through where the new coast path runs - creating access to a totally new part of the reserve and see some of the new ponds and features that have been created. Book at: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events/2025-11-12-discover-changes-martlesham-wilds.

Alternatively, if you are keen to discover why we are so keen to create new habitats for our wading birds, why don't you join Volunteers for 'An introduction to Wading Birds at Martlesham Wilds' on Saturday 29 November, 11am - 1pm at Martlesham Wilds. Book at: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events/2025-11-29-introduction-wading-birds-martlesham-wilds

These events require no prior knowledge, you will enjoy a gentle stroll and some guidance and will be able to chat to us about what you can do to help wildlife every day at home. visit: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/martleshamwilds

Charlie Zakss

Engagement Officer
Suffolk Wildlife Trust




Aldeburgh Music Club presents
MESSIAH
By George Frideric Handel
Saturday 29 November 7pm
Snape Maltings Concert Hall

Aldeburgh Music Club Choir
Elenor Bowers-Jolley soprano
Diana Moore mezzo soprano
Jonathan Hanley tenor
Rob Gildon baritone
Suffolk Baroque Players
Tom Appleton conductor

Tickets: £35, £25, £20, £15 Under 18s half price
Book at www.brittenpearsarts.org




ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB presents HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Snape Maltings Concert Hall. Saturday 29th November 2025 at 7.00pm

Aldeburgh Music Club – founded by Benjamin Britten in 1952 - return to Britten's Snape Maltings Concert Hall on November 29th with one of the greatest choral works of all time – Handel's MESSIAH.

First performed in 1742, Messiah has since become one of the best loved of all choral works, especially in its retelling of the Christmas story, a perfect start to the festive season. Amongst the many famous choruses are 'For unto us a child is born, Glory to God', and of course the Hallelujah chorus, in which the audience traditionally stand and are invited to join in.

Aldeburgh Music Club Choir will be accompanied by the Suffolk Baroque Players, led by Kathryn Parry, and be joined by a brilliant quartet of locally-based professional soloists – Elenor Bowers-Jolley (soprano), Diana Moore (mezzo soprano), Jonathan Hanley (tenor) and Rob Gildon (baritone). The performance will be conducted by the Club's Director of Music, Tom Appleton.

The performance starts at 7.00pm, and tickets, priced at £35, £25, £20 and £15, are available from the Snape Maltings Box Office or online at www.brittenpearsarts.org. People under the age of 18 can get in at half price. For further information regarding the Club or this concert, please contact David Edwards dwe450@gmail.com



Fri 7th & Sat 8th Nov at 7.15pm
 Sun 9th Nov at 6.00pm
 Mon 10th, Tues 11th & Wed 12th Nov at 7.15pm
 Thurs 13th Nov at 3.00pm
 Sun 16th & Wed 19th Nov at 7.15pm

SPRINGSTEEN: DELIVER ME FROM NOWHERE 15

Thurs 13th Nov at 7.15pm
 Sun 16th Nov at 3.00pm

JOHN CLEESE PACKS IT IN 12A

Fri 14th Nov at 1.00pm
 Sat 15th Nov at 7.15pm
 Sun 16th Nov at 5.00pm
 Mon 17th & Tues 18th Nov at 7.15pm
 Wed 19th Nov at 3.00pm
 Thurs 20th Nov at 7.15pm

THE CHORAL 12A

Fri 21st Nov at 7.15pm
 Sat 22nd Nov at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
 Sun 23rd Nov at 3.00pm & 6.00pm
 Mon 25th - Thurs 27th Nov at 2.00pm & 7.15pm
 Fri 28th Nov at 7.15pm
 Sat 29th Nov at 12.00pm
 Sun 30th Nov at 3.00pm & 6.00pm
 Mon 31st Nov - Thurs 4th Dec at 2.00pm & 7.15pm

WICKED FOR GOOD PG

Sat 29th Nov at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

FOLK AT THE THEATRE MERRY HELL

Sun 7th Dec at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

WE THREE KINGS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL



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 Tel: 01728 830549, or visit:
www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk



Christmas at Snape Maltings

Highlights include

Thursday 20 November
Christmas Shopping Day

Friday 5 – Sunday 14 December
Co-op Juniors: Magic of Christmas

Saturday 6 December
Father Christmas sails into Snape Quay

Sunday 7 & Saturday 13 December
Breakfast with Father Christmas

Saturday 20 December
Christmas Farmers' Market

Saturday 20 December
Sing Christmas!

Sunday 21 December
The Snowman with Live Orchestra

brittenpearsarts.org

WOODBIDGE MUSEUM

The Museum continues to receive interesting donations that all add to our knowledge of the local area. We have recently been given a postcard album which was compiled by the late Frank & Christine Knights. In the album there is this photograph of the Zeppelin bomb damage to St John's Hill which members of the Collections Team haven't seen before.

At about 10.30pm on 12th August 1915, one of a group of Zeppelins passed over Woodbridge & Melton and this was met with rifle and machine gun fire from soldiers stationed in the town. The crew responded by dropping more than 20 explosive and incendiary bombs.

One of these fell on St John's Hill killing 6 local people. As you can see from the photograph the damage to the area was extensive. The museum holds many other contemporary photographs which all show the extent of the devastation.

Interestingly the article that Arthur Fairweather, the Editor of the Woodbridge Reporter, wrote was censored by the Press Bureau, presumably because it was thought it would be bad for morale for the loss of life to become more widely known. It was not until the 9th January 1919 that the paper was able to publish an account.

Woodbridge Museum has some of these events on display including the diary written by a young Ruby Hayward, the founder of the museum, detailing her experiences of that terrible night. Do come and have a look.

Winter opening hours 10.30am - 3.30pm. Saturday & Sunday. The next Friends of Woodbridge Museum talk is on 14th November 2.30pm at Woodbridge Community Hall.

This will be presented by Jane Bradburn entitled 'Capture and Escape in WW2' about the men of the 67th (Suffolk) Medium Regiment R.A. who were captured at Tobruk.



WOODBIDGE CRUISING CLUB



The autumn programme is now underway, with Thursday walks, Wednesday suppers and Sunday talks, which have a nautical theme. The first talk of the season is by Peter from the East Anglian Sailing Trust, with a personal view of Climate Change.

The first walk of the season was a gentle stroll around the undulating Suffolk countryside, led by William, with a welcome meal at the Framsdon Greyhound. Future walks are all led by club members, and end at dog friendly pubs for lunch. The onshore winter programme is fully underway, with the delicious Wednesday suppers always popular, these are a chance to meet fellow members in the riverside club house.

The laying up supper, under the expert galley team of Rosemary and Sally officially marks the end of the sailing season, and the homecooked puddings are always a highlight.

The club is an official Royal Yachting Association accredited training centre, and the RYA Day Skipper shore-based course, and VHF Radio course will be run at the club in 2026.

The later course is for the SRC certificate, and this is a legal requirement to operate a ship's radio. Full details are on the club website, and prices are very competitive. Other club events include the November AGM, under the auspicious of the Commodore John, when Officers will be elected, reports given and the opportunity for questions.

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



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 mornins are hooly dark now and I dunt know about you, but I hate gettin up on these dark days and hevin to put the lights on. Last year, I bort meself one of them led head torches - the one with an elastic strap round yer hed and if I hev to get up in the night for a wee, I use that instead of putting the lights on, as the lights are so bright, that wake me up and can't get back to sleep.

I got a new washin machine last month. It's a good quality one and me mate Ticket plumbed it in for me, as he used to be a plumber before he got the sack. Anyway, I call it the nagger, because when that finish spinnin, that start beepin and if you dunt get the washing owt straight away, that carry on naggin until you do!

The gal Rosemary next door ram as many clothes into hers as she can and I'm surprised that int brook yet. I always say that you should leave plenty of room for the washing powder to do its job and agravate the fibers. And where hev all my socks gorn? I know I put them in the machine together, but I now hev a stack of odd socks!

The gal Rosemary and me are gorn to see the Christmas show at Snape this year and I hope I'll come owt feeling

festive, because I got right cheesed off when I see all the Christmas bits and pieces owt in the shops in September! We know when Christmas is. It's the same day every year. They int moved it, so why do they need to start getting the kiddies excited so early? When I was a little ol boy, the Christmas adverts dint come on the telly until December.

I want to finish this month with a wud about letterboxes. Not the posh ones that go on the wall, but the ones that are part of the door. A month or so ago, I hed to put a new letterbox in my door and I hed a duddy job getting it in. When the Avon lady posted her book through the door, the flap was so sharp, she cut he fingers - not bad, but enough for her to cuss a few wuds. She knocked on the door and I giv her a couple of waterproof plasters and she say that mine int the only sharp one about, so if you live in Melton, can you kindly check your letterbox? Thank you.

Do you have a question for Brian, or do you have a dilemma you need some advice with? Email your question or problem to: lou@tidecollection.com




RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve
 Wildlife - Shop - Café - Events - Family Activities









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


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End of Season Sale

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and all types of garden machinery

Wild Bird Food also available

The Forge, Sibton IP17 2JH | Tel. 01728 660 349



Murder Mystery Supper

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

Tickets are available on our website.

Wednesday 26th November | 7pm

westletoncrown.co.uk



Festive Menu

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

Available from 24th November
until 23rd December

2 courses - £28 | 3 courses - £34

shipatdunwich.co.uk



INNER WHEEL CLUB OF WOODBRIDGE

Recently Hannah Walker, from the charity Brave Futures, spoke passionately to members about the incredibly valuable work this charity does to support children and young people in Suffolk and Norfolk who have experienced sexual abuse. As emotional as it was, it is so reassuring to know that there help and support available and we very quickly realised President Deirdre Griffin has chosen an incredibly deserving charity for this year.

Members were informed that a number of hats, made by members, had recently been delivered to Romania as well as to the seafarers and that blanket squares had also been collected to be used locally. The knitting needles will be busy at Notcutts at the knit and natter on 12th November at 2pm.

Keep your eyes peeled for some 'orange' walkers doing a short walk in Woodbridge which will precede nibbles and a natter at Notcutts on 2nd December for the United Nations, 'Orange the World' campaign.

Member, Deirdre Rothwell announced that her 24th Macmillan Coffee morning raised an amazing £1050 whilst June Kenyon reported that the cakes members had baked for the Memory café had been much appreciated.

Woodbridge IW members meet at Ufford Park Hotel at 6.30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Find out more at District 8 <https://innerwheel.co.uk> or email district8innerwheel@gmail.com for further information.

DEBEN ROTARY NEWS

Every year the Rotary Club of Woodbridge Deben presents a Community Service Award to a person or organisation who have made a significant contribution to the wellbeing of our community. This year, from a list of very deserving candidates, the award was made to the Woodbridge Salvation Army for their work with the Woodbridge Food Bank. The award was presented to Major Alan Hill at a Rotary meeting at Ufford Park on September 22nd and consists of an engraved shield and a cheque for £350 towards the running of the food bank.

The photo shows Major Hill receiving the award from the club Community Service chairman Deirdre Griffin.

We are now looking forward to the festive season, and Santa's sleigh will once again be taking to the streets. We will be in the Thoroughfare for the switching on of the Christmas lights on November 27th, and again on December 13th. We will also be doing four runs around Martlesham Heath between the 9th and 19th of December – more details to follow.

Our ever-popular Candlelight Carol Concert at Woodbridge School is scheduled for December 4th – once again, more details to follow.



WOODBIDGE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Some 3 years ago the Thurlow Nunn League changed the format of Reserve sides and incorporated the Under 23 Leagues to encourage younger players and give a pathway to play Senior football. WTFC has an Under 23 team which plays in the U23 North Division.

Together with the Under 18s the team is managed by Aren and Cauley Howell assisted by Josh Leech and Carl Parsley.

Aren encourages youngsters in the area to come and join Woodbridge as we are a progressive and ambitious club and several players have progressed through the youth teams and now play in the first team.

Off the pitch we have once again obtained the services of Stephen 'Foz' Foster to host a General Knowledge Quiz at the Club on **Friday 28th November**.

Doors and Bar open at 7pm and teams of 4,5 or 6 are welcome at a cost of £10 per person (inc. hot buffet) and the winning team will receive £100.

Please register your team on <http://shorturl.at/dBI2q>

Other events at the Club for November, which you are all most welcome are:

Saturday 1st @ 3pm: First Team v Cornard

Sunday 9th @ 2pm: Veterans v Bury Town

Saturday 15th at 3pm: First Team v Heacham

Sunday 16th @ 1.30pm: Ladies v Halesworth. CUP

Saturday 22nd @ 3pm: Under 23s v Needham Market

Sunday 23rd @ 2pm: Ladies v Kesgrave

Thursday 27th @ 7.45pm: Under 18s v Needham Market

Saturday 29th @ 3pm: First Team v Haverhill

If you or your organisation plans to hold a party, celebration, meeting or wake please contact Paul at VenueBookings@outlook.com and the Club is always looking for local support, sponsors and volunteers.

LEISURE FACILITIES – THE FUTURE

By Councillor Sarah Whitelock

Changes at Leisure Centres

You will be seeing some significant changes at your local leisure centre soon - Green led East Suffolk Council has ambitious plans to upgrade and decarbonise three of the district's leisure centres and has secured £4.8m to do the necessary work.

To help residents improve their health and to achieve our goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, we are adding £2m to a hard-won government grant of £2.8m for the necessary improvements.

Leisure centres are currently the single largest contributor to the Council's greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for around 42% of the total, so tackling emissions from the buildings is crucial to meeting overall carbon reduction targets. We also want to secure the financial future of leisure centres by reducing their running costs. Put simply, swimming pools are eye watering expensive to heat, so good insulation and reduced energy bills are needed to make them financially sustainable. At a time when leisure centres all over the country are being closed due to high maintenance and operating costs, this investment is essential for the planet and residents.

Everyone benefits from physical activity



Upgrades to Leiston, Waterlane in Lowestoft and Deben in Woodbridge will focus on replacing outdated gas boilers with cutting-edge air source heat pump systems for heating and CO2 heat pumps for hot water, significantly cutting energy use and emissions. The Council is also planning solar panel installations at all three sites to help offset increased electricity use from electric-only systems and is exploring a potential project for solar panel car ports at Leiston to further reduce energy bills.

Deben Leisure Centre will benefit from a new roof (the current roof was installed in the 1980s) and ageing equipment due for renewal will also be replaced across all sites.

Work is currently in the planning stage and will begin over the next two years. While there will be some inconvenience, the long-term benefits to the community are huge.

Encouraging Participation

Fewer than two-thirds of adults and less than half of children and young people meet the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines for physical activity (Sport England 2022). Tempting residents into leisure centres with modern facilities and very low cost, or free, opportunities, such as Feel Good Suffolk, The Big Sister Project and swimming lessons, are vital in encouraging the first positive steps towards investing in one's own health and wellbeing. It's not just about mental and physical health, it's also about community cohesion and personal development.

Meeting the Demand for new Leisure Options

The power of leisure activities is huge but planning proposals for new facilities can be contentious. For example, the previous Conservative administration promised a big increase in artificial grass surface ('3G') pitches which are popular with teams who can use them 24/7, but opposition to them can be significant.

If clubs follow planning legislation when applying, we are legally required to approve 3G pitches. However, if local clubs want to receive Council managed grants (mainly the Community Infrastructure Levy) they now have to meet stringent demands on business planning, projected use and capturing micro plastics.

Offering enthusiastic team members a local venue and preventing long and repeated car journeys has to come into the planning equation, as does the value of increasing opportunities for young people to play team sports.

Swimming lessons are vital for children



Access to the outdoors has become so restricted to young people that these new facilities are becoming vitally important in finding rewarding and healthy ways for them to spend their spare time.

A Personal Perspective

Soon after becoming a councillor for East Suffolk I attended a national course for newbies. On the first day the course facilitator (and a council leader) apologised for not being as cheerful as she should be. She fought back the tears as she explained that the previous evening her cabinet had reluctantly decided to close the only remaining public swimming pool in her borough. She described the anger and disappointment of residents because previous administrations had not invested sufficiently in leisure facilities. As a long-term advocate of regular activity to maintain physical and mental health, I vowed not to let that happen in East Suffolk. The plans we are making now will secure the future for our leisure centres for a decade.



Sarah Whitelock, Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism

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

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

WICKHAM MARKET CELEBRATES

Wickham Market celebrated the official launch of The George Community Pub in September. This 500-year-old Grade II listed building was saved from certain demolition after a devastating fire in 2013.

In the early 20th century, the village was served by seven pubs but by 1999, only The George remained at the heart of the village's conservation area.

The fire left The George badly damaged and three years later, the people of Wickham Market got together and began the long process of fundraising to restore the pub. Alongside The National Lottery Heritage funding of £1.8m and grants from other local and national organisations, 470 shareholders have contributed over £400,000 – a testament to the passionate support for the project in Wickham Market and beyond.

Rachel Macfarlane, Senior Engagement Manager at The National Lottery Heritage Fund said,

"It is a pleasure to see The George reopen, as we mark investing a total of £2bn of National Lottery and other funding in heritage projects across the midlands and east of England."

"Congratulations to The George team for all their hard work, supported with £1.8million thanks to National Lottery players. We're proud that this work has saved an historic building, transforming it into an inclusive community space that provides 12 new jobs in the village."

As well as reopening as a bar and restaurant, the building has been transformed into a centre for social, educational and cultural activities, with flexible community spaces on the first floor. A part-time Community Engagement Coordinator leads a programme of activities promoting wellbeing and combating loneliness.

The historic structure of the pub has been fully restored with the addition of a newly built extension. Improvements have been made to the building's accessibility and new research into the pub's long history will be proudly displayed throughout.

Committee member, George Hering, says *"It was all down to the support of our community and to a very strong, dedicated and hard-working team, that after 10 years of toil and trouble, and in the face of innumerable challenges with the odds stacked against us, we did it – we saved The George"*

George Hering



CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP OPENS

The traditional Charity Christmas Card Shop in Woodbridge opened in Gobbitts Yard, Thoroughfare, Woodbridge IP12 1DD, on Monday 20th October.

The shop is organised by Woodbridge 41Club, and proceeds are used to support local charities and other good causes. The 41 Club organiser, Roger Parker commented,

"Buying and sending Christmas cards is a great way to keep in touch with friends and family, whilst providing valuable support to some great charities. I am very grateful to all the volunteers and customers who support the shop."

The shop stocks the largest selection of Charity cards in Suffolk from over 20 different charities. This includes favourites such as RNLI, Marie Curie Cancer, Barnardos, Blue Cross and Amnesty.

Additional local charities include St. Elizabeth Hospice, East Anglian Children's Hospices, Somersham Ward, East Anglian Air Ambulance and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

The shop is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm and 9.30am to 5pm on Saturday. Please do visit – you won't find a better selection!

Roger Parker

MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Prancing reindeer, rocking Santas, a moving nativity scene, toe-tapping music and dynamic dancing are set to delight audiences at Snape Maltings Concert Hall from December 5th in a new show, Magic of Christmas. The award-winning Co-op Juniors Theatre Company returns to the world-famous venue with a brand new festive spectacular of music and dance for the whole family, with affordable prices and a discount for children. Directors Harriet and Ellena Bacon are taking the company of almost 100 performers and the audience on a magical musical journey.

"We're tapping into the spirit of Christmas," they said. "There are lots of surprises in store, many magical moments and stunning staging. We're so excited to share it with audiences, as we connect with families to celebrate Christmas with our young performers."

The huge stage set has animated projection and thousands of twinkling lights, together with hundreds of specially created costumes. As the largest youth musical theatre production in the UK, it's become a must-see for audiences across East Anglia, with seats from just £15.

Selecting the right mix of musical styles is a challenge for the creative team. Musical director Nicholas Sheehan works with composer and arranger Emily Bennett, five choreographers and artistic director Oliver Brett to bring together a breath-taking selection of musical delights.

Producing the hundreds of costumes needed for so many performers requires an experienced team, led by Jeannie Ingram and Cilla Tricker. They have costumed literally thousands of performers for Christmas and summer musical shows over more than two decades.

Says Jeannie Ingram, *"The look and feel of the costumes has to reflect the mood of the music and the choreography, so we start in September as soon as the cast begin rehearsals."*

Tickets for Magic of Christmas are £28, £21 & £15. Discounts for seniors, children under 16 and groups. Book 01728 687110 or online at brittenpearsarts.org. Select the What's On tab and search for Magic of Christmas.



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GIPPESWYK SINGERS

Gippeswyk Singers rehearse and perform at St Michael's Church, Martlesham Heath. We are a friendly chamber choir that enjoys singing in a variety of choral music genres under the direction of Janette Ruocco accompanied by Sabine Sutton. Our wide repertoire includes items from the standard classical canon, madrigals, carols, folksongs and spirituals.

Our next concert is on **Saturday 6th December** at 4pm at our regular concert venue, St. Michael's Church, Martlesham Heath. We will be singing two works by Vivaldi - his 'Gloria' and a short 'Credo' - accompanied by The Dargason Ensemble. Local soloists on this occasion will be Sara Viney, Michelle Hazell and Elizabeth Elliott.

Tickets, £15 on the door, or £12 in advance are available from: ticketsource.co.uk/gippeswyk-singers or by phoning 07510 612672.



WOODBIDGE RIVERSIDE TRUST

Autumn is a great time to visit The Longshed and indeed to enjoy all the attractions of the riverside here in Woodbridge.

Among our events, in September we were delighted by a talk given by Paul Hetherington, Leader of RSPB Woodbridge Local Group, who illustrated with pictures and sound the resident and migratory birds who make the River Deben and its environs their home for all or part of the year. Paul's knowledge and dedication shone through. He reminded us of the challenges that birds and other wildlife face daily, including pollution, disturbance and loss of habitat and how we – all of us – can help to protect our river and its wildlife with a little more thoughtfulness and care about everyday things such as how we dispose of litter and keeping our dogs under control.

In October, we had the welcome return of Suffolk Archives' popular 'Herring Girls' exhibition, which next year will be travelling to Scotland.

In a couple of weeks' time, on Saturday, 15th November, at 3pm, we will be welcoming Sarah Doig to the John Gibbins Gallery. Sarah will be speaking about '*The Real Basil Brown: From Rickinghall to Sutton Hoo and back*'.

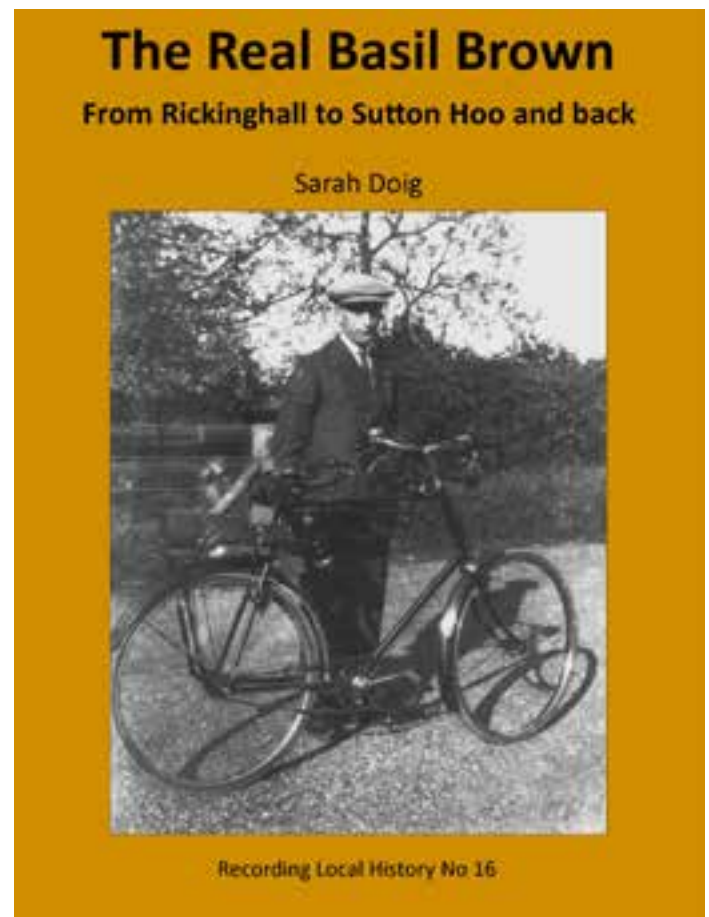
Many people will be familiar with the story of the discovery of the Anglo-Saxon Great Ship Burial at Sutton Hoo on the eve of the Second World War. However, the life and achievements of the extraordinary man behind one of the greatest archaeological finds of all time are less well known.

This talk shines a light on him! The photo shows him with his trusty bike – a very important part of his story.

Tickets cost £8 to include tea and cake and are available from Eventbrite (no booking fee) or The Longshed Gift Shop. They are selling fast!

Later in November, our 'Follow the Ship' education programme for Primary Schools will be in full swing. Over 1200 children have participated in this so far.

The Longshed is open most days of the year, but we will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Woodbridge Riverside Trust is a volunteer led organisation, and all our volunteers work hard, year round to make





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Common Ground Theatre Company present their annual dose of Xmas Bonkers-ness! This classic comedy mystery is peppered with Common Ground's trademark sparkling wit, ingenious staging and hilarious songs. Suitable for ages 8+. Holmes has booked Watson a two week stay at a health spa, high in the Sproughton Mountains, near Ipswich. But something is amiss at Queasy Pines Sanatorium. Having no contact with the outside world except phone, post, telegram and carrier pigeon, Watson must investigate the mysterious goings-on and the strange one-legged director, Professor Eintrouser. Touring East Anglia from 10th December '25 to 18th Jan '26 - Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge (12 - 13 Dec), Hadleigh Old School (15 - 17 Dec), John Peel Centre, Stowmarket (18 - 21 Dec), Laxfield Village Hall (23 Dec), St Marys Hall, Walton (27 - 29 Dec), Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall (1 - 3 Jan), Headgate Theatre, Colchester (5 - 7 Jan), Diss Corn Hall (8 Jan), Gallery Studio Theatre, Ipswich (9 - 17 Jan). To book, visit: www.commcommongroundstc.co.uk

OLD HALL CAFE & WALKS Christmas Makers Market



FREE ENTRY

**Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th November
10am - 3pm**

**OVER 55 STALLHOLDERS UNDER THE COVER OF
OUR BIG BARN!**

**Live music | Face painting | Street food |
Mulled wine | Kids corner**

OLD HALL CAFE & WALKS, HALESWORTH ROAD, REYDON, IP18 6SG

**Join us at Old Hall Southwold this November
and kickstart your festive season with a visit to our
fantastic two-day Christmas Makers Market
on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th November!**

With over 55 makers in attendance our **FREE TO ENTER** market is the perfect place to start (and finish!) your Christmas shopping.

You'll find an incredible selection of stalls under the cover of our Big Barn featuring designers and makers across a huge variety of mediums: jewellery, ceramics, homeware, textiles, woodwork, fine art, cakes, cosmetics, greetings cards, fashion, glassware, candles and so much more!

We've recruited some brilliant local musicians to help you bop whilst you shop, and weather permitting, we'll have a very special visit from the beautiful mini donks from the Miniature Donkeys for Wellbeing charity.

In Kids Corner we'll be offering festive facepainting, and Wendy the Elf will be helping the wee ones write and post their letters to the big man.

The team from Churros and Chorizo will be bringing along their street food trailer serving a delicious Spanish inspired menu of burgers and churros, and our lovely cafe will be open as usual serving breakfasts, lunches, and great coffee.

With oodles of free onsite parking, the best of our region's designers and makers in attendance, **AND** free entry, come and show your support for local, small businesses and make Old Hall your first stop for Christmas shopping this year!

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 mornins are hooly dark now and I dunt know abowt you, but I hate gettin up on these dark days and hevin to put the lights on. Last year, I bort meself one of them led head torches - the one with an elastic strap round yer hed and if I hev to get up in the night for a wee, I use that instead of putting the lights on, as the lights are so bright, that wake me up and can't get back to sleep.

I got a new washin machine last month. It's a good quality one and me mate Ticket plumbed it in for me, as he used to be a plumber before he got the sack. Anyway, I call it the nagger, because when that finish spinnin, that start beepin and if you dunt get the washing owt straight away, that carry on naggin until you do!

The gal Rosemary next door ram as many clothes into hers as she can and I'm surprised that int brook yet. I always say that you should leave plenty of room for the washing powder to do its job and agrivate the fibers. And where hev all my socks gorn? I know I put them in the machine together, but I now hev a stack of odd socks!

The gal Rosemary and me are gorn to see the Christmas show at Snape this year and I hope I'll come owt feeling

festive, because I got right cheesed off when I see all the Christmas bits and pieces owt in the shops in September! We know when Christmas is. It's the same day every year. They int moved it, so why do they need to start getting the kiddies excited so early? When I was a little ol boy, the Christmas adverts dint come on the telly until December.

I want to finish this month with a wud abowt letterboxes. Not the posh ones that go on the wall, but the ones that are part of the door. A month or so ago, I hed to put a new letterbox in my door and I hed a duddy job getting it in. When the Avon lady posted her book through the door, the flap was so sharp, she cut he fingers - not bad, but enough for her to cuss a few wuds. She knocked on the door and I giv her a couple of waterproof plasters and she say that mine int the only sharp one abowt, so if you live in Melton, can you kindly check your letterbox? Thank you.

Do you have a question for Brian, or do you have a dilemma you need some advice with? Email your question or problem to: lou@tidecollection.com



CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

Volunteer & Job opportunities with CAES

Are you a student wanting to build your CV? Or leaving college or uni' and looking for a job? If the answer is 'yes' we need you, and we think we have a lot to offer too.

One staff member, now 24, agrees: "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after uni'. I knew Citizens Advice was well respected, so I applied to train as a volunteer adviser. This was March 2023. My trainee cohort were friendly and welcoming. When we went to the office the advisers and supervisors were welcoming too - how they dealt with client issues was impressive. I also met several of the managers early on and I remember thinking how closely their values matched my own.

"Quite soon after qualifying as a volunteer adviser I was told of job opportunities. I applied and was successful. My first role involved working with the Probation Service providing support and guidance to vulnerable people on probation.

It taught me a lot about the justice system but also about the incredibly tough lives many people have and the range of issues they need help with. I also worked on a housing research project for CA's Research and Campaigns team. Again, I learned a lot about housing but also about how to run a campaign. Over the last two years I've had a chance to work on many other projects. I've also developed the skills to support and supervise volunteers.

"What can Citizens Advice offer people my age? Well, based on my experience, it gives you the skills needed for any public facing job. Teaching for example, or the health service, counselling, charity work, law, politics, journalism. Time spent as a volunteer adviser is therefore great for a CV.

"There are also opportunities for paid work in CA itself. You train as a volunteer, do some general advising and then, if you like the fast pace and want the challenge, you can apply for a paid job when opportunities arise. Some jobs allow you to specialise, others give you supervisory and management skills.

CA is a great organisation for giving young people responsibilities early on. "Does CA need more young people as volunteers and staff? Yes, I think it does, for several reasons. People in their late teens or twenties don't tend to come to CA for advice, not because they haven't got problems, just because they don't think it's for them. We need ways to reach that group. Having more young people as face-to-face advisers would show we're here for them.

"CA needs more young people for other things too. Take social media - we use it and understand it. And we're not fazed by rapid changes in technology or digital systems. We grew up with them. Teams work best when with a range of skills and perspectives - we have skills that weren't needed in the past but are now."

If you'd like to know more please get in touch using our website: www.caes.org.uk email-service or phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10 - 2 Mon-Fri) Our website www.caes.org.uk also gives details of our drop-in outreach sessions and how to make an appointment at one of our offices.

FOOTSTEPS WALKING WITH YOU

'Footsteps Walking with You' is based at Woodbridge Quay Church but covers the whole of Suffolk in providing professional counselling for 8 - 25 year olds, in a safe and confidential space, enabling them to feel validated and heard.

Since the Pandemic, 24% of young people say they have self-harmed, 17% of these say they did this with suicidal intent. One in five children in every classroom suffer mental health problems. These are shocking statistics.

Our service is as accessible as possible. We ensure money is never a barrier to children and young people receiving the help they need. Booking a session with a counsellor is easy, anyone can refer including the young people themselves.

Counselling Contact:

fb.me/footstepswalkingwithyou
info@footstepswwy.org.uk
07955898151
www.footstepswwy.org.uk
Appointments by arrangement

As part of our fundraising, we are hosting a Charity Concert on 22nd November at Woodbridge Town Football Club.

Live Music - Fun for all the family Woodbridge Town Football Club Saturday 22nd November 2025 from 7:00pm. Classic Rock, pop, blues and country spanning the decades. Tickets £10 each or £15 with basket supper Sausage, veggie sausage, scampi or chicken strips, all served with chips. Available from: 07955 898151 / info@footstepswwy.org.uk

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Inspiring Suffolk's next generation of musicians.

Music education does so much more than teach notes and rhythms – it builds confidence, creativity, teamwork, and supports children's wellbeing in powerful ways.

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Our flagship groups – the Suffolk Youth Orchestra, Suffolk Youth Wind Band, Suffolk Young Strings, and Suffolk Youth Jazz Programme – give talented young musicians the chance to rehearse, perform, and grow in inspiring settings, from local concert halls to international tours.

Alongside our regular Friday evening and Saturday morning ensembles, we also run a variety of workshops and events at our main base, Northgate Arts Centre in Ipswich.

With an exciting programme of performances and opportunities ahead, there's never been a better time to get involved. Come along, see us in action, and find out how your child can start their musical journey with us.

Discover more and find your nearest activity at www.suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/take-part and follow us on Social Media for regular updates!



Suffolk Youth Wind Band performing at our Gala Concert at Snape Maltings

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

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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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