

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

ALDEBURGH TIMES



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ALDEBURGH TIMES

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SAXMUNDHAM NEWS

LEISTON OBSERVER

HALESWORTH HOOT

Season's Greetings from **Leiston Film Theatre**

Fri 5th, Mon 8th & Tues 9th Dec at 7.15pm
Wed 10th Dec at 2.00pm
Thurs 11th Dec at 7.15pm
Fri 19th & Sat 20th Dec at 7.15pm
Sun 21st Dec at 6.00pm

WICKED FOR GOOD PG

Fri 5th Dec at 2.00pm
Sat 6th Dec at 7.30pm
Tues 9th Dec at 2.00pm
Wed 10th Dec at 7.15pm

NUREMBERG 15

Sun 7th Dec at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

WE THREE KINGS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

Fri 12th, Mon 15th, Tues 16th Dec at 7.15pm
Wed 17th Dec at 2.00pm
Thurs 18th Dec at 7.15pm

WAKE UP DEAD MAN A KNIVES OUT MYSTERY 12A

Sat 13th Dec at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

JIVE TALKIN' BEE GEES TRIBUTE

Sun 14th Dec at 3.00pm
Wed 17th Dec at 7.15pm

BLUE MOON 15

Sun 21st Dec at 3.00pm

THE CHORAL 12A

Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd & Wed 23rd Dec at 11.30am

THE MAGIC REINDEER SAVING SANTA'S SLEIGH U

Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd & Wed 23rd Dec at 2.00pm

A PAW PATROL CHRISTMAS U

Fri 26th, Sat 27th & Sun 28th Dec at 3.00pm

ZOOTROPOLIS 2 PG

Fri 9th - Sun 11th Jan. LIVE ON STAGE
FINAL FEW TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

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

Christmas with Aldeburgh Museum.

This year 2025, marks 80 years since the end of WW2. Earlier this year, Aldeburgh marked VE Day with vintage music, beacon lighting, church services and a parade by 1379 Squadron Air Training Corps.

As a final homage to this 80 year anniversary, Aldeburgh Museum's fifth 'People and Place' Christmas exhibition will be 'Aldeburgh at War' 1939-1945.

On display will be photographs and war time artefacts from the Museum's collection as well as some 'on loan'.

Held in the Aldeburgh Gallery in the High Street the exhibition is FREE and will run from Sunday 28th December until Thursday 2nd January. Please check our website and social media for opening times; www.aldeburghmuseum.org.uk

There will also be the opportunity to purchase an Exhibition book, available for sale both at the Exhibition and in the Museum, which gives a glimpse into the War years here and what happened to the town and some of its buildings.

Visit and discover what happened in/around Aldeburgh in WW2. The Museum is open weekends and selected days between Christmas and New Year between 1-4pm. See website for details.



ALDEBURGH JUBILEE HALL

Sunday 7th December, 3pm & 5pm

Jubilee Opera presents Hip Hip Horatio!

A playful, musical tribute to Nelson's naval heroics & legacy



Angela Barnes

Friday 12th December, 7.30pm

Aldeburgh Comedy Club presents Angela Barnes

The News Quiz regular and award-winning comedian brings her straight-talking stand up.



A Swinging Christmas

Saturday 13th December, 7.30pm

Jazz@Jubilee presents A Swinging Christmas!

Chris Ingham Quintet featuring Joanna Eden. Swing into Christmas with jazzy seasonal favourites from the movies.

Tuesday 16th December, 3pm

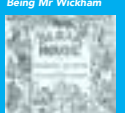
Being Mr Wickham

One-man show starring Adrian Lukis, celebrating the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth.

Being Mr Wickham

Wednesday 17th December, 6pm

Aldeburgh & District Local History Society & The Aldeburgh Society present The True Story of Jarndyce & Jarndyce



History Society Talk

Friday 19th December, 7.30pm

Ghost Stories for Christmas

Join Edwyrdian Tales for an evening of haunting ghost stories set during Christmastide.



Ghost Stories

Thursday 1st - Saturday 3rd January

Common Ground Theatre Company present Sherlock Holmes Smells Evil!

Watson's relaxing spa break derails with disappearances, pigeons, & one leg!



Common Ground

www.aldeburghjubileehall.co.uk Tel: 01728 454 022



AldeJubileeHall



aldeburghjubileehall_



AldeburghJubileeHall

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



The Chairman of Aldeburgh's Good Neighbour Scheme (AGNES), has been in touch so if you need assistance with services such as transport or shopping please see page 8. Volunteers will do their best to help and if they can't, will put you in touch with someone who can. A great free service which will not only assist you but connect you with a friendly face! Similarly, if you would like to be that friendly face and volunteer your services do get in touch.

As 2025 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors to the Aldeburgh Times and our loyal advertisers, without whom there would be no Tide Collection. Do

get in touch if you wish to advertise – the more adverts we get the more pages and content we can add!

Quote of the month

The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary - **Vince Lombardi**

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The Railway Inn

Recently purchased from Adnams- opened in April.

Traditional pub with a warm welcome!
Located at the top of the town as you come into Aldeburgh, just a 5 minute walk to the beach.



- Live music every weekend - check our FB and Instagram pages to see whats on this month
- Great choice of lagers, ales, spirits and cocktails
- Dogs welcome
- Disabled access + facilities
- Pool table, dart board, cards and games available!

Our opening times:

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

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(England & Wales)

ALDEBURGH STEPS INTO CHRISTMAS!

As December settles over Aldeburgh with its crisp sea air and twinkling lights, the town is once again gearing up for a magical festive season. This year brings together cherished traditions, vibrant community spirit, and a handful of new highlights set to make Christmas 2025 truly memorable.

The celebrations are already underway, with Aldeburgh's Christmas Lights now illuminating the High Street in a glow of colour, music and warmth. Visitors and residents alike can look forward to a lively programme of seasonal events throughout the month.

Local clubs and community groups have an especially busy December ahead, hosting everything from charity fundraisers to festive displays. The Eastern Counties Motor Club will add a touch of fun to the town as its Fancy Dress Treasure Hunt culminates outside the Moot Hall on 20th December - always a favourite spectacle for passers-by. For full event listings and updates, residents and visitors can visit the Aldeburgh Suffolk website: www.aldeburghsuffolk.com/whatson

Aldeburgh's creative and cultural scene continues to thrive, with local shops and artisans preparing special open days and late-night openings that showcase handcrafted gifts, festive treats and seasonal discounts - perfect for finding those last-minute stocking fillers.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the Town Council continues its work on strategic planning, property projects and local government reorganisation. But December provides a welcome moment to pause and appreciate the essence of Aldeburgh: its people, its partnerships, and the shared pride that makes the town such a unique place to live and visit.

Whether you're strolling along the beach with a hot chocolate, browsing independent shops, or joining the crowds for festive celebrations, Aldeburgh promises a December filled with warmth, wonder and community spirit.



RNLI ALDEBURGH 2025 ROUND UP



After 2024's intense training to transition successfully to the Atlantic 85 lifeboat, this year was a year of consolidation, bringing crew members up to the required seamanship standards for their roles on both our lifeboats - Ralph our Atlantic 85 and Susan Scott our D class.

To date our Atlantic 85 lifeboat, Ralph has launched 44 times on exercise and 10 times on Service Calls (shouts), assisted 12 people and saved one life. We have 16 Boat Crew for Ralph, four Helms, 10 crew trained to Tier 2 level and two trainees. This year, we lost two crew members - one who moved away and the other is on maternity leave. A new crew member has recently joined, and, at the time of writing, we are awaiting paperwork for two more crew to start their training.

Our D-class lifeboat, Susan Scott, has launched 19 times on exercise, three times on Service Calls and aided three people. For our inshore D-class lifeboat, Susan Scott, we have 11 Boat Crew - three helms, five qualified to Tier 2 level and three trainees.

We were tasked on one additional occasion, but the 'shout' was cancelled before launch. Our 'shouts' have been a mixture of motor and sailing vessels, swimmers, a kayak and a kite surfer.

We have 20 Shore Crew, six of who qualified this year. This includes six drivers for the Talus amphibious tractor, to launch and recover our Atlantic 85; and nine drivers of our smaller tracked Bobcat to launch and recover our D-class lifeboat, and regular grading of the beach.

Some of our tractor drivers also drive our L200 pickup to take Susan Scott to Aldeburgh Yacht Club where we launch and recover for exercises and service calls in the Rivers Alde and Ore. We have five Head Launchers, two of which qualified this year. We have seven Launch Authorities - one who has just qualified and is the first female LA at Aldeburgh. Many of our crew have more than one role, giving us more flexibility to meet our operational needs. We train at least once a week and the RNLI requirement is that lifeboats go afloat at least twice in a calendar month.

This year, our visits and water safety team have interacted with 4,000 people at events, youth groups, and lifeboat station tours. We are recruiting people across a range of roles, who ideally live and work locally, so please get in touch.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support and look forward to meeting you on the beach!

Jo Litt and Bryn Owen



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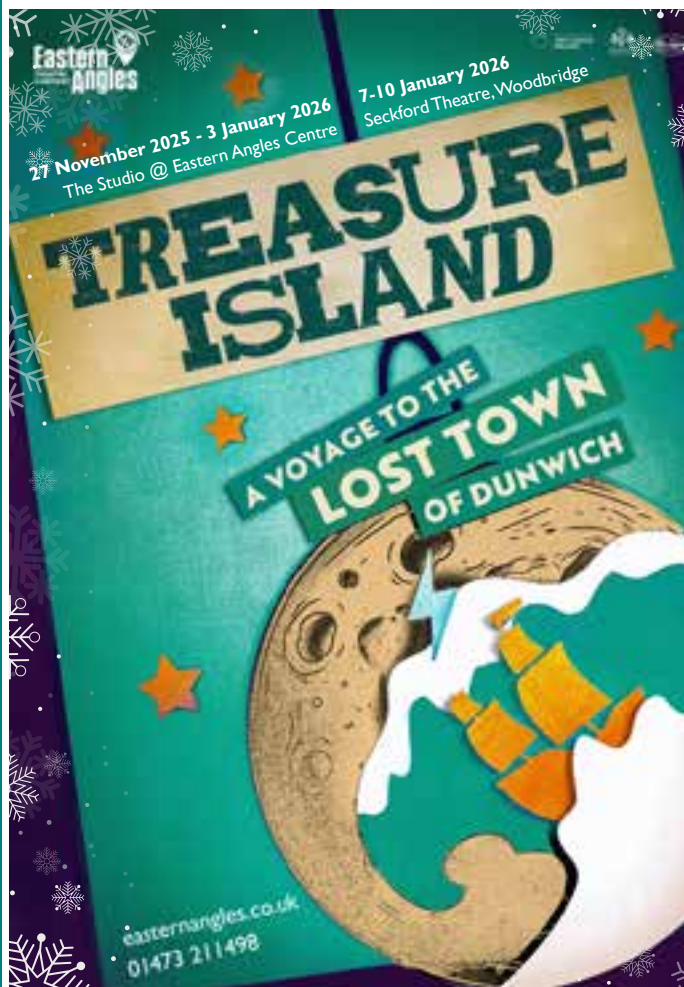


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Eastern Angles voyage to the lost town of Dunwich in their Christmas production of Treasure Island

Eastern Angles is inviting audiences on a festive journey to the lost town of Dunwich this Christmas as they present a bold new version of Robert Louis Stevenson's adventure story Treasure Island. Playing in Ipswich and Woodbridge, tickets are now on sale for this Suffolk take on a beloved classic.

Treasure Island's timeless tale of pirates, lost treasure maps, mutiny and heroism comes to Suffolk in this brand-new adaptation inspired by the lost town of Dunwich. Complete with all the trimmings of Eastern Angles Christmas Productions – innovative stage, storytelling, song, music, puppetry and a cast of fabulous actors – this coming-of-age story promises to captivate both adults and children alike.

The show will be directed by Kirsty Tallent, speaking about the production she said: "I couldn't be more excited to steer this ship – Treasure Island is one of my all-time favourites, and we're giving it the full Eastern Angles treatment! Think cannon battles, sea shanties and a whole lot of pirating, maybe a few noggins of rum! It's going to be a treasure chest of fun for the whole family."

Treasure Island is on at the Studio Theatre at the Eastern Angles Centre in Ipswich from 27th November 2025 - 3rd January 2026 and Seckford Theatre in Woodbridge 7th - 10th January 2026, with BSL interpreted performances at both venues. To book please visit: easternangles.co.uk or phone the Eastern Angles Box Office on 01473 211498

FROM ALDEBURGH CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Following another triumphant Carnival for so many to enjoy the people of Aldeburgh and surrounding towns and villages have given generously once again. The Aldeburgh Carnival committee recently met to allocate funds to very deserving charities and we are delighted to communicate our deserving causes.

We recently met at the gorgeous and historic Moot Hall to present the cheques to a representative from each charity. For this year in total, we have donated £10,000 to charities, as a result of the success of the 2025 carnival.

On behalf of our Carnival Director Sally Watts and her carnival committee our sincere thank you to all of the people who make our carnival such a wonderful success, there are too many to mention here, but we could not do what we do without this support.

Angela Weston

Selected Charities 2025 for Donations:

Aldeburgh Primary School
RNLI
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service
Aldeburgh United Charities
Alde & Blyth Community Radio
Coastal Accessible Transport
Aldeburgh & District Flower Club
Air Training Corps 1379 Squadron Leiston
Aldeburgh Parish Church
Aldeburgh Rugby Club
Eastern Community Assistance Team;
Aldeburgh Baptist Church
Aldeburgh Photography Group



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Have you discovered us yet?

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

ALDEBURGH GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME (AGNES)

AGNES was born fifteen years ago to provide short term help to the residents of Aldeburgh such as transport, shopping and household assistance with the purpose of encouraging self-help and friendship within the community enabling people to live independent lives in their own homes for as long as possible.

Anyone within the IP15 postal district can call us on our mobile phone which is manned by one of our Duty Coordinators 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. The Duty Coordinator will then look for one of our 60 volunteers to provide help to the caller.

If we are unable to help, we will endeavour to put the caller in touch with somebody or an organisation who can.

With the exception of transport, our services are for free as all involved with AGNES are volunteers.

If anyone reading this article is interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact us on the number below.

For anyone requiring our services please call: 0777 303 1064

Ian Henderson

Chairman of AGNES

ALDEBURGH GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Aldeburgh has a Good Neighbours Scheme
"AGNES"

Good Neighbours can help with transport, shopping, collecting prescriptions or just by providing advice

If you sometimes need a helping hand and are a resident of Aldeburgh

Ask a Good Neighbour by calling

0777-303-1064

Between 9.00am and 5.00pm weekdays

(All Good Neighbours are volunteers and have been DBS Checked)



**CELEBRATE WITH US THIS
New Year's Eve**

This year, we're doing things a little differently!
We have two celebrations:

Aussie Celebration
12 noon - 4pm
An Aussie-style afternoon with a BBQ menu, live DJ, magician and fireworks streamed from Australia, making it ideal for a family celebration!
Tickets £29 per adult and £10 per child (up to age 15)

Traditional UK Celebration
7pm - midnight
Join us for a glass of fizz and Gourmet Buffet evening celebration, complete with live DJ throughout the evening.
Tickets £49 per person.

Booking essential, visit www.crownatwobridges.co.uk/christmas or pop in and chat with a member of our Folk!



Christmas Party Nights

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

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

£55 per person

**CELEBRATE WITH US THIS
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Ticket includes a welcome glass of fizz, canapés, four-course dinner, live music, Champagne toast and fireworks display on the lawn at midnight.

£95 per person

To book your party or New Year's Eve today, visit www.thorpenesscountryclub.co.uk or call 01728 452176.

COMEDY WEEKEND SUCCESS

Jubilee Hall was bursting with laughter last weekend as the first-ever Aldeburgh Comedy Weekend brought together some of the UK's best-loved comedians for three days of fearlessly funny entertainment and satire on the Suffolk coast.

Across three packed days, audiences enjoyed a mix of headline acts, stage premieres and special moments that showcased the breadth of British comedy today. Highlights included razor-sharp impressions in an opening night from Rory Bremner with special guest host Helen Atkinson Wood; the stage premiere of 'A Short Gentleman', a witty one man show by long-time Aldeburgh resident and writer Jon Canter, starring Michael Fenton Stevens and a high-octane masterclass in improv from Showstopper! The Improvised Musical.

Another high point of the weekend was comedian Clive Anderson in conversation with Alison Steadman, honouring her lifetime of craft and generosity and culminating in the presentation of a 'Lunchtime Achievement Award for Services to Comedy' by legendary Blackadder and Spitting Image producer, John Lloyd.

Marking a triumphant new chapter in Jubilee Hall's programme of live arts, Emily Mummery, General Manager of Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall, said:

"We launched Aldeburgh Comedy Weekend with big ambitions, and the response exceeded every expectation. The energy in the Hall was electric from the first laugh to the last. I'm hugely grateful to our volunteers, partners and audiences who backed a new idea and helped us deliver a weekend that felt both world-class and wonderfully Aldeburgh."

Paul Scheslinger, Aldeburgh Comedy Weekend Producer, added:

"Jon and I thought there might be an appetite for comedy in Aldeburgh, but we couldn't have predicted quite how popular it would be. It's always an unknown launching something new but the response from performers and audiences alike has been amazing. We are very grateful to everyone who helped make it happen – performers, production team and of course audiences, and we very much hope this is the start of something special for future years."

Buoyed by sell out shows, glowing feedback and an audience still laughing, the only joke would be calling the Aldeburgh Comedy Weekend a one-off. Let's hope a 2026 sequel is soon confirmed in the town's cultural calendar.

Photos: Carl Humphrey, CWH Media



Clive Anderson (L) with Alison Steadman receiving her award from John Lloyd (R)



Showstopper! The Musical curtain call

JANE AUSTEN COMES TO ALDEBURGH!

Tuesday 16th December 2025 is the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Join the celebrations with a day of talks, readings and music at the Jubilee Hall, interspersed with film, art, poetry, hot chocolate, Bath buns and dogs in bonnets in locations around the town.

Did you know that Jane Austen had a literary crush on Aldeburgh poet, George Crabbe? Or that she wrote the songs of the day into a Songbook? And whatever happened to Mr. Wickham after he got married?

Programme of Events - 10.30am and 2pm. Free, open to all.

Jubilee Hall: 10.30: Doors open, Welcome, What's On; **10.45:** Kate Drayton: Jane Austen at the Seaside; **11.30:** Selected Readings from the novels arranged by David Quilter. Audience members are invited to join in; **12.45:** Dr. Nicholas Clark, Librarian at The Red House, on Benjamin Britten's preparatory work for an opera based on Mansfield Park; **1.30:** Will Fergusson - Songs from The Jane Austen Songbook; **2.30:** Doors open; **3.00:** Being Mr. Wickham (£20) written by and starring Adrian Lukis, the original Mr. Wickham from the 1995 BBC adaptation of Pride and Prejudice.

Book tickets at <https://aldeburghjubileehall.co.uk> or 01728 454 022; 4.00: 30-minute Q & A with Adrian Lukis included in the ticket price

Aldeburgh Gallery: 2 – 3: After Austen: Austen inspired poetry from local poets - free refreshments

Aldeburgh Beach Lookout: Regency inspired art by local artists and cartoonists

The Suffolk: 4.30: Regency tea (£10). Book at the-suffolk.co.uk or 07831 601 411

Aldeburgh Cinema: 7.30: Sense and Sensibility (1995) adapted by and starring Emma Thompson. Book at aldeburghcinema.co.uk or 01728 454884. There will be a charge for hot chocolate by Tosier.

For further details please contact: Bridget Overton: bridget.c.overton@btinternet.com or Kate Drayton: marshfieldkate@icloud.com or

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ALDEBURGH AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY (ADLHS)

Discover History, Mystery, and Local Stories at the ADLHS Lectures 2025/6!

Aldeburgh and District Local History Society (ADLHS) explores the local history of the area covered by Aldeburgh, Thorpeness, Leiston, Snape, Iken, and Sudbourne.

Join us for a fascinating series of evening lectures. Most talks take place at the Old Generator Station in Aldeburgh with a special ticketed event in December at the Jubilee Hall. Each month, expert speakers bring Suffolk's rich past to life.

In October Geoffrey Robinson explored *"Sudden Deaths in Suffolk 1800-1850,"* revealing the secrets of rural coroner's inquests and in November John Ogden told the dramatic story of *"Orford's Atlantic Wall Breakers"* and the local impact of WWII military testing.

Lectures to look forward to:

December 17th: James Thellusson presents "Dickens, Aldeburgh and the will that changed the world" - a tale of legal intrigue and family fortune. (Ticketed event at Jubilee Hall; advance purchase required.)

January 21st: Members Evening - enjoy short talks by society friends and members which will include Aldeburgh's MPs pre-1832 and Queen Mary's religious persecutions in the Town.

February 18th: Sally Sibley will talk about the latest discoveries from Sutton Hoo, following Time Team's recent excavations.

March 18th: Dr Tom Johnson will talk on "Households and Everyday Life in Fifteenth-Century Walberswick".

All lectures start at 6pm.

RACE NIGHT SUCCESS

The Trustees are delighted to announce the success of their first-ever Race Night fundraising evening, held to support Aldeburgh Primary School. The event brought together members of the local community for an evening of entertainment and generosity, all in aid of a wonderful local cause.

The evening was a packed-out success, filled with excitement, laughter, and community spirit. Guests enjoyed a delicious in-house supper prepared in the Old Generator Station in house kitchen, which always has a tasty menu available and a welcoming atmosphere. The action unfolded on the venue's big-screen TV, adding to the fun and energy of the races. The Trustees would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all of the sponsors and of course to the volunteers whose support and hard work made the event possible.

Teamwork was at its very best- from organising and setting up, to providing prizes and managing the evening's activities - all played a huge part in making the night such a triumph.



Carolyn Jones, Chair of Governors at Aldeburgh Primary School, said:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the evening - thank you to everyone involved. Aldeburgh Primary School was also pleased to announce to all present that, following its recent Ofsted inspection, the school is once again rated as a GOOD school."

Following the overwhelming success of this inaugural event, the Trustees are pleased to confirm that Race Night or similar will become a regular feature in their annual calendar of community events.

Each year, a different local charity will be chosen to benefit, ensuring that a range of local organisations continue to receive vital support for their inspiring work. If you would like to be a sponsor for our next event, please get in touch.

The Trustees extend their sincere gratitude to everyone who attended, donated, sponsored, and volunteered - together making this a truly memorable community evening.

The Trustees and Staff at the Old Generator Station.

LIBRARY NEWS

Christmas Cards are now on sale: A lovely selection of cards supporting Macmillan Cancer Support, British Heart Foundation, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and some mixed charity cards. Your purchase will support The Friends of Aldeburgh Library.

Sadly, **Barclays Bank** have decided to close this 'Barclays Local' on 10th December as they say that 76% of people who use this facility also bank with them by app, online or by phone. They say they are working with the local community to understand the impact of closing this service. Barclays invite you to contact them with any concerns. Tel: 03457 345345;

Email Terry Staff, Regional Director for east Anglia at terry.staff@barclays.com.

Aldeburgh Library Foundation: Do let us know which of your favourite courses or activities you want to continue and any new subjects you would like to explore next spring=g.

Christmas closures: 24th, 25th and 26th December and 4pm close on 31st December.

Sue Osben, Library Manager. Tel: 01728 587100

Local, family run business The KBB Centre on why we should SHOP LOCAL and SUPPORT INDEPENDENT.

The KBB Centre is a family run business based in Ipswich. Owned and managed by brothers Roger and Patrick Peck. They have a long standing history in Ipswich with their family having been in the kitchen and bathroom industry in Suffolk since the mid 70's.

In the early 1970's Roger and Patrick's late father, Alan Peck, started a home improvement business in Ipswich called Star Lines. It had a very catchy advertising jingle, with many locals singing 'Let's go down to Star Lines' to the tune of Mike Oldfield's 'In Dulce Jubilo'. People still remember it to this day. Star Lines was ahead of its time back then, being the first Kitchen and Bathroom showroom in Ipswich. Both Roger and Patrick worked at Star Lines during their youth, and although they went on to do other things in the industry throughout the years, they came back to their roots and established KBB in 2003 and over the last 20 years they have built up the business with hard work, long hours, determination and an eye for detail.

Carrying on their family tradition the brothers strive to encourage people to shop local and support their independent businesses. They say "The kitchen and bathroom industry has changed immensely since the Star Lines days. There is now so much competition from chain stores and online shopping. When you buy online or from a lot of large chains or faceless superstores, you're just a statistic; an order which has to be fulfilled and you will most likely be forgotten. When you buy from a small business, such as ourselves, your purchase – no matter how big or small – means a great deal. You will also receive a more personal, caring service and get more value for your money. We like to build a relationship with our customers and give advice and recommendations when needed. Large organisations with an abundance of customers often don't care about the customer, as long as a sale has been made and their statistics look good. However, we rely on word of mouth. We understand that we need to provide the best service possible in order to be recommended to others.



"We believe buying locally from local people is so important. Our service is from people who really care and have been in the local industry for many years. It makes a huge difference to where and how you shop. It's tough being a small business owner. We live and breathe for our business. It's a big jump from being an employee to an employer to try to make a better life for yourself and your family. We urge people to support their local independents. Small businesses do not have a huge marketing budget and every little bit of help counts from sharing social media posts, leaving positive reviews and recommending them to anyone you can. It all means a great deal to small business owners"



The KBB Centre

LARGE KITCHEN, BATHROOM & BEDROOM SHOWROOM

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With 2 floors and over 6000 square ft of kitchen, bathrooms and bedrooms on display The KBB Centre is one of the largest INDEPENDENT kitchen and bathroom showrooms in East Anglia. Owned and run by brothers Roger and Patrick Peck, with more than 60 years' experience in the industry, the brothers recognise that buying a new kitchen, bathroom or bedroom is a big investment and customer service is central to everything they do, with many customers staying loyal for years to come. They pride themselves on their long-standing history in the town, their extensive knowledge of the industry, their personal customer service and their belief that the best sort of advertising is recommendation.

A ONE STOP SHOP

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ALDEBURGH PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The next meeting of the Aldeburgh Photography Group will be held on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm in the Aldeburgh library.

This month Stuart Turner, president of APG, will speak about some of the great street photographers. He will explore the genre from the gritty black and white images of Don McCullin to the colours and vibrancy of Alex Webb, whilst not forgetting the pioneering images and approach of Henri Cartier-Bresson.



Don McCullin

In addition, another committee member, Alec Brown, will demonstrate the use of timelapse and hyperlapse in photographic practice. The first is when a number of still images are converted into a video and hyperlapse is where the camera seems to move through the scene.



Alex Webb

The evening will conclude with members showing their images inspired by a walk taken with professional photographer Lucy Kayne in Staverton Thicks and also from a talk given last month by professional photographer David Calvert.

We are a friendly group and keen to welcome everyone from beginners to experienced photographers, from users of iPhones to the latest DSLRs. We do not run competitions, which put too many amateur photographers off joining local photography groups. Instead, we aim to help each other learn and improve our work. If you want to know more, or if you want to check for up-to-date information on our meetings, please contact us through our website (www.aldeburghphotographygroup.org.uk).


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ALDEBURGH GARDENING CLUB

I have almost finished planting bulbs. I am a sucker for tulips of course but usually succumb to a few 'extras'. I have a packet of Dutch iris 'tigereye' to find a home for and can then start to think about planting broad beans.

I went to Ladybird and filled the car with pansies to top off the tulip pots and bought too many of those too but they have all found a home. I don't know if the scent of the pansies hides the scent of the tulip bulbs but I have never had any dug out from the pots. I do sometimes lose some from the ground but have suspicions that it is a vole doing that. I have never seen any evidence of bulb theft after a year in the ground and cannot think of any sensible reason for that other than my obsession with covering all bare soil with creeping plants.

I have one big terracotta pot that I always put small/short tulips in and cover with gravel rather than pansies. They are always red, because I love red tulips and that pot is very visible from the gate. Sometimes they are a species of tulip called *Tulipa linifolia* and sometimes I go all out with 'Scarlet Baby' which are amazingly bright and unreal looking and unlike most tulips the buds are already showing colour as they come out of the ground so they display for longer. I dig them out when I replant the pot in the autumn and drop any reasonable sized bulbs into the alpine bed. All tulips in my experience fail to flower as well the second year. When you dig them out of the pots you can see that the original bulbs have split into smaller ones and no amount of feeding/starving watering/drying seems to prevent this. Some will even disappear completely.

The big bulb producers grade bulbs by size and those that don't meet the size criterion are replanted and left to grow for another year. Agonizingly, they chop the heads off those that do flower so that all the energy from the leaves goes into building up the bulbs for the autumn harvest. The sight of all those tulip heads going into huge trucks presumably for composting or methane production is horrifying.

So, I replant and hope that eventually they will re-flower without any beheading. Unbelievably last year, in that warm sunny spring I had a really good display from various miniature varieties and species, each flowering in succession over several weeks. Yay! Theory matches practice for once.

Karen Mountford

Aldeburghgardeningclub.org.uk



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

Cor to heck - I dunt believe that Christmas is almost here agen - where hev the year gorn? It only seem five minutes since I put the tinsel back in the lorft.

When I wuz just a little ol boy, we hed to make do with a stocking filled with fruit and nuts and if I wuz lucky, I got a clockwork toy or a new hat, scarf and gloves that mother would hev knitted me. The hats never did fit propley and the scarf wuz too long, but they ment the world to me.

I expect we'll get lumbered with the same ol squit on the telly agen this year. Me and mother used to like to watch the The Two Ronnies and Morecambe and Wise and mother hed a sorft spot for Mike Yarwood. He always used to make her laugh with his impersonations.

I will be getting the tree out of the lorft on the fust of December like I always do. I hed that tree since Woolworths closed in Ipswich and that still stand straight, as long as

I put a bit of wood under one of the feet.

I still hev the same fairy too. Mother got that from one of her catalogs back in the day. That nearly fell in the open fire once when the dorg jogged the tree with it's tail. The fairy fell into the coal bucket and got dutty, so mother give it a good scrub in the sink and after that one of the eyes wuz wonky. If you give it a good shake, sometimes the eye go back to how it should be.

The only new thing I bort was a set of the led lights, cuz the old ones popped and I dint hev any spare bulbs. The new lights are hooly bright, but not as bright as the ones on the neighbours house. It light up like Blackpool alloomination, but the kiddies like to see them and to be fair, they are so bright, that save me hevvin to put my lights on in the living room.

I hope you all hev a nice Christmas and remember, it's not about what you get, but who you spend it with. The presents will break, but the memories will last forever.



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DECEMBER AT ALDEBURGH CINEMA

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026.

We've got a great line-up of movies coming up over the holiday season, all screened via our 4K projector...

On the evening of March 31, 1943, legendary lyricist Lorenz Hart confronts his shattered self-confidence in Sardi's bar as his former collaborator Richard Rodgers celebrates the opening night of his hit musical 'Oklahoma!'. Richard Linklater directs Ethan Hawke, Margaret Qualley, Bobby Cannavale and Andrew Scott in the much-anticipated **BLUE MOON**.

Five years in production, **EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: CARAVAGGIO** is the most extensive film ever made about one of the greatest artists of all time. Featuring masterpiece after masterpiece and with first-hand testimony from the artist himself, this beautiful new film reveals Caravaggio as never before.

In a sedate Massachusetts suburb circa 1970, unemployed family man and amateur art thief J.B. Mooney sets out on his first heist. With the museum cased and accomplices recruited, he has an airtight plan. Or so he thinks. Written and directed by Kelly Reichardt, **THE MASTERMIND** stars Josh O'Connor.

In the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, as the world grapples with the unveiled horrors of the Holocaust, **NUREMBERG** follows U.S. Army psychiatrist Lt. Col. Douglas Kelley (Rami Malek) as he is tasked with assessing the mental state of Hermann Göring (Russell Crowe).



Acclaimed Palestinian director Annemarie Jacir's most ambitious work to date, **PALESTINE 36** is a powerful exploration of the events leading up to the Arab Revolt of 1936.

Written by Alan Bennett, directed by Nicholas Hytner and starring Ralph Fiennes, **THE CHORAL** is set in 1916. As war rages on the Western Front, a Yorkshire community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

If you missed it before, grab your last chance to see the Crawleys bid a fond farewell in **DOWNTON ABBEY: THE GRAND FINALE**.

The opening night film at this year's **ALDEBURGH DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL**, tickets for **PRIME MINISTER** sold out in just four hours. The film reflects Jacinda Ardern's term as New Zealand Prime Minister with raw and disarming honesty.

Last year's global cinematic sensation reaches its epic, electrifying, emotional conclusion in **WICKED: FOR GOOD**, with superstars Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande returning to tell the untold story of the witches of Oz.

A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS

James Stewart's incomparable **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE** is a Christmas Eve staple here at Aldeburgh, and rightly so. This year, we've decided to expand it into a Jimmy Stewart triple by also screening the delightful **THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER** at 2.00pm on Sunday 21st, and the evergreen **HARVEY** at 2.00pm on Sunday 28th. Simply unmissable. Other classics lined up for the holidays include 1964 Catherine Deneuve musical **THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG** on Monday 22nd, plus the return of our Saturday Night Christmas Side (yes, it is a Christmas movie!) **DIE HARD** (date to be confirmed). Jack Lemmon and Shirley Maclaine set us up perfectly for the New Year with our traditional screening of **THE APARTMENT** on New Year's Eve.

Our December programme isn't finalized at the time of going to print, so please visit aldeburghcinema.co.uk for full details about what's on and when. There, you can also book tickets and easily sign up to our regular email newsletter. We're also on Twitter/X, Instagram and Facebook.

NT LIVE ENCORE: THE FIFTH STEP

Saturday 6th December at 3.00pm
Jack Lowden and Martin Freeman star in this critically acclaimed and subversively funny new play by David Ireland.

NT ENCORE: MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION

Saturday 13th December at 2.00pm
Imelda Staunton joins forces with her real-life daughter Bessie Carter in Bernard Shaw's incendiary moral classic.

THE ROYAL BALLET: THE NUTCRACKER

Wednesday 10th December at 7.15pm
Peter Wright's The Nutcracker has enchanted audiences since its 1984 premiere by the Company. Featuring Tchaikovsky's most familiar melodies and brought to life by Julia Trevelyan Oman's exquisite designs, The Nutcracker is a festive firecracker for all ages.

JANE AUSTEN DAY: SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm
We mark Jane Austen Day - the 250th anniversary of the celebrated writer's birth - with a screening of the 1995 **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**, starring Emma Thompson, Kate Winslet, Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman.



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CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

Beat the scammers and have a Happy Christmas!

Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat and so, too, are the scammers and fraudsters who prey on online shoppers. As a basic rule NEVER fall for an offer which is "too good to be true". If it is, it isn't! For example, a holiday that is much cheaper than you would expect. And use a credit card when shopping online, it gives added protection. If you are contacted unexpectedly, then be wary. It might be a scam. If you suspect you are not dealing with a real company, then check it out. Real companies will offer a postal address. Don't click any links – search for the company on another website and check the phone number. If you're about to spend a lot of money, it's best to use the Companies House website to be sure the company you're buying from is real and still trading. Always be suspicious if you are asked to transfer money quickly, such as being pressed to act now because the offer will only be open for a short time, or items are limited in number. Being asked to pay in an unusual way is another warning sign – for example by iTunes vouchers or through a money transfer service like MoneyGram, Western Union or with a crypto currency such as Bitcoin. If in any doubt, do not buy. If you are asked to give personal information such as passwords or PINs you should back away. Reputable companies and businesses do not ask for these.

And if you are called by someone suggesting you should apply for a grant or benefit, such as a Warm Home Discount or Winter Fuel Payment, hang up. These benefits are automatically credited to the accounts of those who qualify.

All too often people purchase something or sign up for something and almost immediately realise that they may well have fallen for a scam. Do not be embarrassed. Scamming is a modern crime and there is no shame in falling victim to it. But do take immediate action. If you have lost money, contact the police on 101 and contact your bank immediately. If for any reason you think your account may be vulnerable, contact your bank. If you fear your computer has been compromised change your passwords, contact your bank and update your anti-virus software. It is better to be safe than sorry. If you are contacted by the scammer ignore them, but keep a record of what has happened, Citizens Advice has online advice on how to stop nuisance calls and texts.

Citizens Advice offers advice and help in spotting and dealing with scams online, by phone, by email and at its offices and outreach sessions. Contact us for advice on this or any issue using our website: www.caes.org.uk/email-service or phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10 - 2 Mon-Fri).

BOOK REVIEW



'Flesh' by David Szalay - winner of the Booker Prize 2025.

The brevity and precision of narrative in Szalay's 'Flesh' makes this a deceptively easy book to read.

We follow the protagonist, Istvan, though his life, starting as a teenager in a poor housing estate in Hungary, on to his adult life in London where he rubs shoulders with and eventually integrates into the echelons of wealth and power and then full circle back again to Hungary as an older man. The subject matter is bleak.

Much is left unsaid throughout the novel – blank spaces of events and Istvan's reticence leaves us to draw our own conclusion.

Throughout we feel Istvan is always the 'outsider' – and at times seems to be an onlooker in his own life. The only tangible clues we are given as to how certain episodes have shaped Istvan, are his spontaneous violence – PTSD from his time in the war - something that we learn little of. And is rare but uncontrollable emotional outbursts. 'Flesh' is a strong read – constructed to encourage the reader to reach their own understanding.

Sarah Morland, Aldeburgh Book Shop



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PROJECT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2025

Thank you for your patience this year whilst we build Suffolk's new power station. We know our work is causing disruption at this stage of the project and we apologise for this whilst our teams work as swiftly as possible to build new roads and make improvements to Suffolk's rail line. We look forward to meeting with you next year to discuss our plans and invite you to attend our public forums, the next ones are listed below. You can also subscribe for updates of our works online too through the **Sizewell C Works Tracker**.

VISIT THE WORKS
TRACKER SITE



Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 14 January 2026	Leiston Town Athletic Association
Northern Transport Forum	Wednesday 4 February 2026	High Lodge Darsham
Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 4 March 2026	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre
Community Forum	Thursday 19 March 2026	Woodbridge Rugby Club
Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 15 April 2026	Leiston Town Athletic Association
Northern Transport Forum	Wednesday 6 May 2026	High Lodge Darsham
Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 3 June 2026	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre
Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 8 July 2026	Leiston Town Athletic Association
Northern Transport Forum	Wednesday 5 August 2026	High Lodge Darsham
Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 2 September 2026	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre
Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 7 October 2026	Leiston Town Athletic Association
Community Forum	Thursday 22 October 2026	Sizewell Visitors Centre
Northern Transport Forum	Wednesday 4 November 2026	High Lodge Darsham
Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 2 December 2026	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre



All forum timings: 18:00-20:00 (arrival from 17:45)
To find out more about our upcoming forums
visit sizewellc.com/community/forums

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80TH BIRTHDAY CLIMB FOR S.A.R.S

I celebrated my 80th birthday this year and when visiting friends in Dublin earlier this year, they suggested a challenge to mark my birthday - to climb Sugarloaf Mountain in County Wicklow - 1644 ft! The challenge was accepted and at the end of August, along with some of my friends, it was mission completed on a beautiful but very windy, day.

I thought it a good idea to try and raise some funds for a good cause at the same time and I chose the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and to my delight just over £3,000 was raised! Those who gave their name when sponsoring me have been thanked but there are some who donated via the JustGiving page who wished to remain anonymous. To them - and indeed to all who sponsored me - a sincere thank you for your generosity.

Christine Allaway



FROM CHILLY DIP TO SPROUTING SPRINT



If you're in or near Aldeburgh on Boxing Day or New Year's Eve why don't you embrace the chill and the thrill of the Aldeburgh Boxing Day charity swim, or Sprout Sprint and saunter into 2026 with our New Year's Eve 5k charity fun run?

Boxing day charity swim: Aldeburgh Boxing Day Charity Swim celebrates its thirty-seventh anniversary this year. The brave and the bold will once again gather on Aldeburgh beach to take a bracing dip in the North Sea to raise vital funds for charity. The event will take place at 11am on Friday 26 December on the beach opposite Aldeburgh Moot Hall. Originating in 1988 when local GP Dr. Kevork Hopayian organized the first swim to support the victims of the Armenian earthquake, the event has since become a cherished local tradition, raising thousands of pounds for good causes. This year's beneficiaries are two remarkable medical charities: East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH) and Médecins Sans Frontières. Swimmers are invited to embrace the chilly challenge, though they should only be in the water for a maximum of 60 seconds.

This is an event for confident swimmers with no pre-existing medical conditions that would make cold water swimming unsafe. Participants are asked to arrive at Moot Hall by 10:45 am for the 11:00 am start time. Online entry at EntryCentral is essential and can be completed via the official event page at <https://www.entrycentral.com/boxingdayswim>. A non-refundable £10 donation is required from each swimmer to cover essential costs such as insurance and medical support.

Following the invigorating dip, the nearby White Lion Hotel is generously offering a warm respite with hot chocolate and mince pies for all swimmers. Spectators are warmly welcomed and encouraged to cheer on the swimmers, adding to the day's fun and excitement. Collection buckets and SumUp card readers will be on the beach for cash or card donations, or contributions can be made online via the Aldeburgh Boxing Day Swim page on the JustGiving website. It's the perfect opportunity to either 'dip in or chip in' and support these worthy causes.

Sprout Sprint and Saunter 5k fun run:

The New Year's Eve Sprout Sprint and Saunter is a 5k off road charity fun run with optional fancy dress along the coastal path between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. The event, which warmly welcomes runners, joggers, walkers, and saunterers of all ages and abilities, will kick off at 10am on Wednesday 31st December (please arrive 20 minutes before), on the north side of Aldeburgh Moot Hall. Participants are urged to don their most creative costumes - think giant Brussels sprouts, sparkling superhero capes, or festive elves - to add a splash of colour and cheer to the Suffolk coastline.

"We wanted to create a fun, healthy and community-focused event for New Year's Eve that everyone can enjoy," said the event organiser Rob Mabey. "Whether you're aiming for a personal best or simply want to stroll and socialise in fancy dress, the Sprout Sprint and Saunter is the perfect way to wrap up the year while raising vital funds for Aldeburgh United Charities. Why vital? Because Aldeburgh United Charities is the only local charity focussed on the relief of poverty and funds collected will go towards the charity's mobile food pantry."

Online entry at EntryCentral is now open. There is a £10 entry fee. Join the community in this festive dash and saunter to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the new one with energy, laughter, and goodwill.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DEC 5 Christmas Coffee Morning.

Raffle and Tombola, also Christmas Cards and Gifts. Cakes and lots of tea, coffee and good company! Raising funds for St Margaret's Church, Leiston. 10am – 12noon at Leiston Community Centre (King Georges Avenue.)

DEC 6 Christmas Fayre.

Refreshments, Cakes, Gifts, Raffle and lots of stalls. 12noon to 3pm at the Dolphin Inn, Thorpeness. Free admission.

DEC 7 Made in Benhall.

Come along to Made in Benhall to meet a wide range of local artists, crafters and makers. A diverse range of high quality products on sale at very affordable prices. Entry is free. 10am – 2pm at Benhall Club.

DEC 13 Framlingham's Phoenix Singers. The programme includes

Mozart's beautiful mature works 'Ave Verum' and 'Vespers', Parry's well loved 'Blest Pair of Sirens' and Fletcher's joyous festive work 'Ring out Wild Bells', as well as carols for audience. 7pm at Framlingham College Chapel. For tickets and full details visit www.phoenixsingers.org.uk

DEC 14 The Goldcrest Ensemble.

An uplifting winter programme of music which includes Bach, Debussy and Fauré with Duke Dobing on flute, Raphael Hurwitz on viola, Miriam Keogh on harp and violinist Mike Dolan will start. 3pm. at Snape Church. IP171QW. Doors open 2.30. Entry by donation. Refreshments.



CHRISTMAS DATES AT THE CHURCHES OF THE ALDE SANDLINGS BENEFICE

ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH

Saturday 6 th December	4.00pm	Benefice Christingle Service
Saturday 13 th December	10.00am	Christmas Messy Church
Sunday 21 st December	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	10.00am	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day	11.00am	Christmas Holy Communion Service

ALDRINGHAM PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 30 th November	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service by Candlelight
Wednesday 10 th	6.00pm	Carols on the Green
Sunday 21 st December	11.00am	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Day	11.00am	Christmas Morning Family Service

FRISTON PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 14 th December	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Holy Communion Service

KNODISHALL PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 21 st December	3.00pm	Village Carol Service at Knodishall Village Hall
Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Day Service

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS
Please visit Alde Sandlings Website -
www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk for all other service times



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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.

PATMORE WATER SOFTENERS



The image shows a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black top and blue jeans, kneeling on a light-colored tiled floor. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. To her right, a white Patmore water softener is installed under a kitchen sink. The sink is stainless steel and has a black countertop. A bag of TwinTea Block Salt is on the floor next to the softener. The background is a light green wall.

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