

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

WOODBIDGE **TALK**



PART OF THE **TIDE COLLECTION**

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Another award nomination for Farlingaye School who seem to excel in musical theatre. These productions must be a great opportunity for pupils showcase their talents, be it at front of stage or behind the scenes and with this performance they tackled some difficult themes. Well done to all involved!

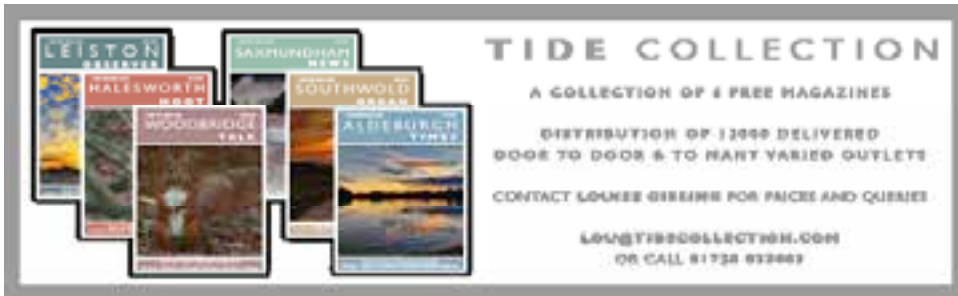
As 2025 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors to the Woodbridge Talk and our loyal advertisers, without whom there would be no Tide Collection. I love putting our six titles together – do get in touch if you wish to advertise – the more adverts we get the more pages and content we can add!

Email: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.

Rosa Parks



INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

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- Brave the cold for 60 seconds and take the plunge for St. Elizabeth Hospice

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 at War
1939-1945

Heath House, Thorpe Ness

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Photography has become something more than the act of taking a simple image for Chris Madden and Janice Unitt. Meeting around 5 years ago at their local camera club and unbeknown to them at the time, they were both using photography as a means of healing. Chris's focus was very much on landscape whether locally or further afield, visiting Canada, Iceland, France and Italy to name just a few destinations. Janice's focus was on wildlife and as an ex-florist would often be found lying in the wet grass or mud photographing flowers and foliage and on occasions being approached gingerly by complete strangers wanting to know if she was ok or needed help to get up. Chris now says that his style has changed under Janice's influence and he looks at things more closely and in detail. The smaller rather than the larger picture. Janice has also had a shift in her work and now strives to portray how a scene makes her feel, working in a more abstract rather than truly representational way and is enjoying how her images are evolving.

This exhibition is an invitation to pause, look closer and see the world anew and reconsider your relationship with the natural world. Visitors will move from representational works that celebrate the grandeur of nature to abstractions where reality melts away.

Even In The Quietest Moments runs from Wednesday 10th to Tuesday 16th December 2025 from 9.00am to 5.00pm at The Craft House, 1b Thoroughfare, Woodbridge, IP12 1AA.

We hope you can join us and look forward to welcoming you.

Even in the Quietest Moments

Photography Exhibition

At The Craft House Woodbridge

1b Thoroughfare IP12 1AA

Wednesday 10th to Tuesday the 16th December
2025

Presented by

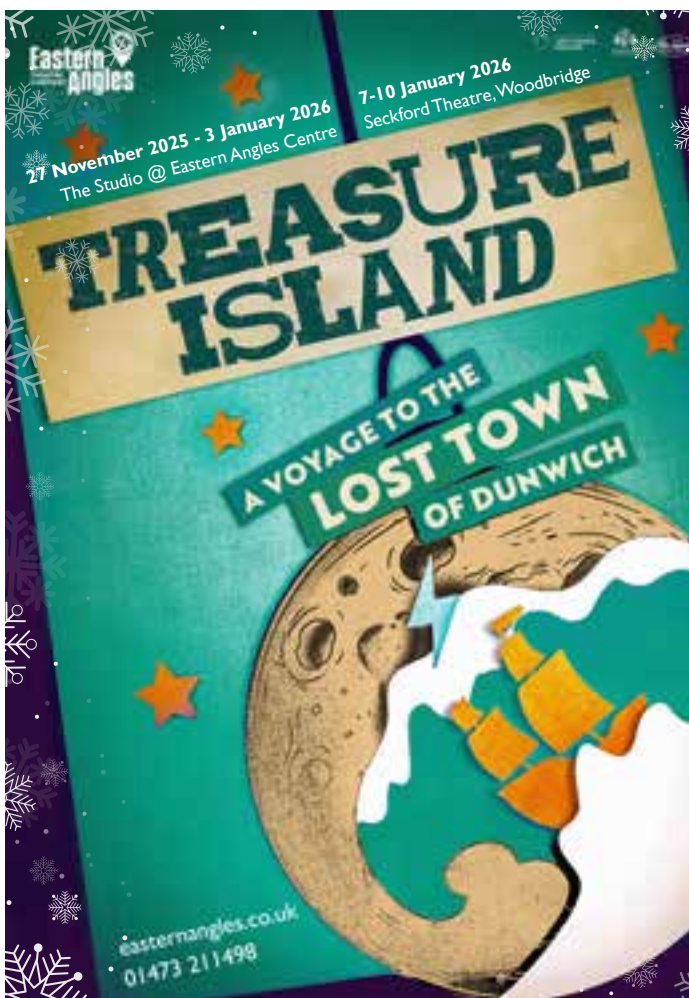
Chris Madden and Janice Unitt



For further details please contact Chris or Janice.

Janice Unitt
janiceunitt24@outlook.com
07776 208164

Chris Madden
c.m@cam.co.uk
07854 724988



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

WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL



November update



Our Twinning weekend (25/26 October) was a great success. The Maire, Claude Maquet and his delegation from Doullens in Picardie, France, paid a return visit to Woodbridge to cement the friendship agreement we signed in Doullens in June.

There were many highlights including the launch of the Poppy Day Appeal with the French flag and national anthem in the Thoroughfare and a reception for over hundred people at the Shire Hall. This reception brought together our sporting, cultural and charitable associations. Some good contacts have been made and firm foundations have been laid for the launch of a full twinning agreement by the end of 2026.

Our Twinning Committee is responsible for the efforts to renew our international connections. In time, it is hoped that cultural, educational and sporting exchanges can be followed by a re-connection of our local produce markets with continental Europe.

As **Christmas** nears, the shops in Woodbridge are dressing their windows and putting up Christmas lights.

By the time this goes to print Woodbridge Town Council and Woodbridge Festival of Art and Music will have celebrated Choose Woodbridge's hard work making the town sparkle with not one but two Lights On events – 27 and 28 November.



There will be a street fair run by Choose Woodbridge on Sunday 7 December and, on Wednesday 17 December, there will be the Annual Open-Air Carol Concert with Woodbridge Rotary and a visit from Father Christmas. See our website for more details.

We send our best wishes to all residents and visitors over this Christmas season. And we hope that those needing support during this time, will find it within our community.

Woodbridge Town Council has taken the decision to bring our **gardening staff** back in-house by April 2026.



The contracted out, largely minimum wage model, that has been operated since 2012, has not provided the level of grounds maintenance in Woodbridge that is desired by your Council and by the many residents who have made clear their unhappiness with the state of things. We are currently advertising for two gardeners and at the time of writing we have received over eighty requests for application packs. This is a significant project for your Town Council and we will work assiduously to make a success of it. Once selected, our gardeners will become familiar faces around Woodbridge, so please support them and even help them in areas of the town that are particularly valued by you. And talking of green spaces in Woodbridge, you might have heard of **Local Government Reform**. Suffolk County and East Suffolk Councils will be replaced by one new Council. Between them, currently, they own over twenty green and built spaces in Woodbridge. We've been looking at each of these spaces and we've been asked to consider whether they should be transferred to Woodbridge Town Council. We will shortly be consulting you to see if you want to give us a mandate to do the necessary work before any decisions are made. Your engagement will lead to better outcomes. A third consultation on Active Travel Woodbridge is being held by Suffolk County Council with the support of Woodbridge Town Council (find it at this link **Active Travel Woodbridge** – the Thoroughfare and Cumberland Street - Suffolk County Council).

The proposals are designed to protect the historic town centre by reducing traffic flow from the Thoroughfare and Cumberland Street after Quay Street is made one-way. Your views are being sought with a closing date of 12 December.

Nigel Phipps
CouncillorPhipps@
woodbridge-suffolk.gov.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.





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.crownatwoodbridge.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.

FARLINGAYE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Farlingaye High School, in Woodbridge, with their production 'Big Fish' earlier this year, has been shortlisted for The MTI Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre, along with such notable organisations as Disney Theatrical Productions, Buxton Opera House and British Youth Music Theatre.

'Big Fish' is the musical adaptation of the book by Daniel Wallace. It touches on themes of family, reconciliation and bereavement, through fantastical story telling. The school used the performances as an opportunity to invite cancer charities to visit and talk to audience members during the interval and to raise money for them.

As with all of Farlingaye's productions, not only were the students the actors, singers and dancers, they were also the backstage and technical crew and they provided the live music for each show. The school productions are inclusive and a wonderful opportunity for those involved to develop practical skills and grow in confidence.

Head of Drama, Pippa Parks, said, "After quite a few years of directing shows that centred on fairy tales, we wanted to really challenge and push ourselves, and our students, to tackle some more mature and complex themes and stories. 'Big Fish' did just that and encouraged our students to step out of their comfort zones and tackle a nonlinear storyline that deals with very adult emotions, while still having fun and entertaining an audience.

Our students rose to this challenge and the level of professionalism, dedication and talent from these young people was outstanding. It also shows the volume of talent and appreciation of the Arts we have here at Farlingaye. Not many schools can boast of having almost 100 students involved in their cast, band and crew, as well as giving as many students as possible the opportunity to shine no matter their circumstances.

"But what really set this show apart from our previous shows was the way we tackled the adult and emotional themes. Cancer is a huge part of this play and, sadly, is a huge part of a lot of our staff, students and communities' lives. We didn't want to shy away from this theme and instead decided to turn this into an educational, positive and supportive opportunity.



Not only did we donate all of our programme and refreshment sales to various cancer charities (over £800!), we also invited various cancer organizations to attend every show to support audience, cast and staff with the storyline. We also directly worked with Daniel Wallace, the author, with a live Q&A from New York to give our students even more understanding of the story and characters and the importance that theatre can have to tell such an important story to our community."

Pete Smith, Headteacher, added, "We're incredibly proud of this nomination, which reflects the commitment, creativity and passion of our amazing Creative Arts team. Their work in music and drama continues to inspire our students, giving them extraordinary opportunities to express themselves and achieve at the very highest level"

Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from the West End and beyond. They hold annual awards for the best productions. The Awards ceremony will be in London in February.



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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DEBEN SPEAKERS

Many of you understand how important being able to speak in public is to promoting your organisation or business effectively. Personally, I've spoken about our Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Action Plan to many town and parish councils as well as previously chairing our own Parish Council over a period of 10 years. My public speaking experience has been extremely useful to these activities and to putting the messages across effectively.

Over the past 20 years, I've set up Speakers Clubs in Felixstowe and Colchester and have just done the same in Wickham Market. My wife Eileen and I are major shareholders in the restoration of The George, which was the last pub left in Wickham Market but burnt down in 2012. With help from the Heritage Lottery Fund The George has been restored and recently reopened to the public (see www.thegeorgecommunitypub.co.uk/), We've been given a room upstairs at The George Community Pub to run a new public speaking club which we've named 'Deben Speakers'. This will become a member of the non-profit Association of Speakers Club (www.asc.org) which exists to promote public speaking in all its forms.


If you're interested in joining us please contact me on 07971 940518 or keithkelsalepc@gmail.com or just come along to The George Community Pub, 95 High Street, Wickham Market at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of any month.


Keith Dickerson

JOIN US!

Become a better speaker, better presenter, better leader!

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Speak for Yourself

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- Deliver a touching eulogy

Speak for your Career

- Give a business presentation to remember
- Impress your boss with snappy reporting
- Chair effective meetings





Grow in Confidence

- Develop Confidence personally & professionally
- Receive continual supportive Feedback

WHEN: 7-9pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month
WHERE: The George Community Pub, 95 High Street, Wickham Market, IP13 0RA

www.easc-speakers.co.uk/deben

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'THE WIZARD'S ASSISTANT'

Woodbridge-born author launches magical debut picture book: *The Wizard's Assistant*

Woodbridge-born author-illustrator Mel Scott-Avis is celebrating the release of her first children's picture book, *'The Wizard's Assistant'* - a rhyming tale about honesty, kindness, and the magical chaos of working for a rather greedy wizard.

Having grown up in Woodbridge and graduating with a Fine Art degree from University Campus Suffolk in Ipswich, Mel was inspired by bedtime stories with her own children to create *'Mummy's Fables'* - a collection of original rhyming picture books that put a modern twist on classic fables.

Like Julia Donaldson's much-loved stories, Mel's books feature engaging characters that entertain while gently helping children explore emotions and behaviours such as patience, friendship, and understanding consequences.

"I wanted to write stories that were both fun to read aloud and that gently help parents and caregivers teach useful things to children," says Mel. *"Kids love magic and mischief - and The Wizard's Assistant has plenty of both."*

The book is available now via Amazon and will soon be available through bookshops and libraries nationwide.





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Presents....

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WOODBIDGE

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By Samantha Harvey

 BSL signed performances
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For every stage

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

OPERA FOR WOODBRIDGE

Opera for Woodbridge entertained a completely full Community Hall with a performance of the charming fairy tale opera Hansel and Gretel, complete with fairies, trees and forest birds, a giant spider, a gingerbread house, a huge oven and of course a scary witch, who delights in cooking and eating children, but ends up being cooked herself!

This is the sixth year in a row that we have presented an opera free to our audience, thanks to generous support from private individuals, Town, District and County Councils, and the Suffolk Charity Foundation, plus the generous assistance and support of the Woodbridge Rotary Club.

As in previous years, we engaged professional soloists from all over the country, including two Suffolk residents, with an orchestra of local professional and semi-professional players led by well-known local conductor and pianist Andrew Leach, working with two local young soloists, and a chorus of local performers, both children and adults.

We performed the opera in an English translation and adapted it to our needs, including inserting some text from Shakespeare's Macbeth for the young performers to recite. Our aim is to make opera available and entertaining to all performers and audience, whatever age or background, whether first timers or seasoned opera goers.

Woodbridge are very fortunate to have this annual event, and a vote of thanks

on behalf of the Town Council was given to Nick Fowler by Councillor Robin Saunders.

The retiring collection raised £1,747, which, as in previous years will be split 50/50 with the Rotary – half going towards our funds for next year's opera, half going towards the charity the Rotary currently support: the 'Toy Box Appeal', for children in a refuge as a result of domestic violence - the current estimate is that there are 15,000 children in this predicament.

This is such a worthy cause and deserves supporting. You can still donate via Bacs to Woodbridge Rotary Club sort code 04-14-50 account 50484849 Reference Toy Box Appeal. Photos of the final rehearsal, (right) taken by Simon Shaw.



WOODBIDGE SHUFFLERS

In October, a group of around 24 Woodbridge Shufflers (including some family members) travelled over to Amsterdam by plane, train and boat for the running festival.

The group took part in the local Park run, the half and full marathons and enjoyed the sights of Amsterdam. Helen Forrest one of the group said *"What a weekend! I can honestly say I haven't laughed as much in ages! It was completely exhausting, but also so much fun."*



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

AN INDEPENDENT, FAMILY RUN BUSINESS.

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

The KBB Centre can do as much, or as little, of your installation as you require. From 'Supply only' to complete project management. Having in house installers, electricians, plasterers, painters and plumbers, we can take the hassle out of your home projects. Let us do the work for you.



Kitchens



Bathrooms



Bedrooms



Office

SHOP LOCAL

Support your local independent businesses – they work a whole lot harder than the big chains to serve you and they do it with love and pride in the service they provide.



85 Dales Road
Ipswich
IP1 4JR



01473 742200



info@kbbeastanglia.co.uk



kbbeastanglia.com

WOODBRIDGE CRUISING CLUB

If you have ever walked past the wonderful club house on the river Deben and wondered what it is like, the club is open to non-members on Sunday 18th January. Do come to visit, meet our friendly club members and enjoy a very reasonably priced drink.

As the festive season approaches Woodbridge Cruising Club's members are enjoying onshore activities at the club house ideally situated overlooking the River Deben. There is a thriving winter programme. The sociable Wednesday suppers are a chance to relish delicious food and a drink. In December members are looking forward to the Commodore's Christmas Party, Boxing Day mince pies and mulled wine and the New Year Day's walk.

Members and their dogs are appreciating the Thursday walks through the Suffolk countryside, ending with a meal at a local hostelry. The most recent walks were around Orford led by Neil, and although this coincided with Storm Benjamin, members are a hardy bunch and still enjoyed the walk, ending back at the King's Head for lunch. The walk around Bromswell led by Bram, ended appropriately at HMS Vale on the Deben.

The nautically themed Sunday monthly talks included a lecture by Suffolk's last traditional flour Maltster, Ivor. The December talk is on 100 years of the Shipping Forecast by Andy, and will reveal its humble origins, the sea areas and their histories, and fascinating facts such as it featured in the opening ceremony of the London Olympics. Talks are only open to members and this is an excellent reason to join the club.

The November AGM, hosted by Commodore John was a chance to recap over the past year, vote in new committee members, and hear plans for the future of this thriving club.

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.

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

New members are always welcome!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DEC 11 Little Hoo-ligans Parent and Toddler Group at Sutton Hoo. Outdoor toddler group. Enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including trails, crafts, games and songs at this monthly group for 2 to 4-year-olds and their parents/guardians. 10.30am – 12noon at National Trust Sutton Hoo, Tranmer House, Woodbridge. IP12 3DJ. Email: suttonhoo@nationaltrust.org.uk, phone: 01394389700. Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

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. The evening's music is sure to get you into the Christmas spirit. 7pm at Framlingham College Chapel. For tickets and full details visit www.phoenixsingers.org.uk

WOODBIDGE MUSEUM

As we are now in the festive season, I thought you might like to see this photograph of St Audry's Hospital Staff Fancy Dress Party held in December 1910. As you can see there are many elaborate costumes and no doubt the staff had great fun making them. I doubt there were fancy dress hire shops in those days and certainly no online shopping so making costumes was probably the only option.

Friends of Woodbridge Museum talks continue at the Community Centre at 2.30pm

5th December: The Trinity House (Lighthouse Story) by Capt. Karl Lumber. 500 years of maritime history from Henry VIII to the present day, including the UK's first lighthouse at Lowestoft.

9th January: A unique insight into the world of drug trafficking, money laundering and border crime by Jim Jarvie.

As always visitors are most welcome.

During the Winter Season the museum will normally only open at weekends from 10.30am - 3.30pm. However, the museum will be open every day from 27th December until 4th January so if you are looking for a place to visit after Christmas do come and have a look. Admission is free although we welcome donations.




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REPORT FROM THE CEEC

(Climate & Ecological Emergency Committee)

The last report I wrote was for July and this one is for December. In that report, I spoke about the Council's biodiversity plans and the measures we are taking to ensure that the trees planted last winter survive the summer. I predicted heatwaves. Three heatwaves later - another climate record broken for the UK - I'm happy to report that the vast majority of the trees survived. It is doubtful that they would have done so without human assistance. The team involved in the watering has also done some invaluable research into automated watering possibilities for Kingston Field and hence for other areas in the Council estate as we move forward into our very uncertain future. Strangely, near certainty, is that our climate will become more and more unusual. Weather events associated with the consequences of ongoing global warming will become harder and harder to predict. I am writing in the early part of November at the time of the annual COP gathering. COP30 will likely again be a demonstration of the lack of collective will to make and keep to effective commitments towards ameliorating our accelerating global demise. Events like this, hosted and steered by the fossil fuel industries, are unlikely to support anything that takes us too far away from the business-as-usual model. Locally, however, we can take heart - as we have been doing by creating and sustaining measures to improve the living environment for we humans and our other-than-human cousins who share this delightful place we call home.

At our last meeting, the Committee approved funding for the Estates Officer and other colleagues who have been working alongside him. A budget was agreed for him and the team to continue their research and development into capturing water from the Kingston stream via a solar pump to ensure we can keep our beautiful organic carbon capture devices functioning well into the future, whilst providing shade and habitat for our cousins.

Over on Broomheath, funding has been agreed to continue a systematic fencing off of certain areas to protect them from the over-enthusiastic efforts of the huge rabbit warren whose overconsumption is mirroring, on a much smaller scale, the plight of we human beings, rendering Broomheath unliveable for many other possible plant and animal species.

With careful human management and steerage in this way, we can systematically bring life and soil structure back to this beautiful, but somewhat stark, denatured area of the council estate.

Funding has also been approved for further tree-planting in Elmhurst Park, and more funding for the Bee Cafe project, itself now transformed into a community interest company.

Anticipating projects for the future, we spoke yet again of our intentions: to install solar panels on all council-owned buildings and of rainwater capture / harvesting systems.

We also considered the single vacancy we have on the committee for another civilian member. Our Committee is distinct in that when it was set up, its membership included six civilian non-councillors with the intention of townsfolk bringing their own individual knowledge and expertise to contribute to our work. So yes, there is a vacancy. If you or anyone you know might like to take up this valuable opportunity to contribute to our mission, please let us know. There has been another vacancy open for quite some time, that of the Woodbridge Tree Warden. This is a delightful role, independent from the Town Council, but an opportunity to work in close collaboration, particularly with our committee, and on behalf and supported by the Suffolk Tree Warden Network. This is a role I vacated two or three years ago, and I would be happy to mentor anyone who chooses to take on the role, and to reassure them that in their efforts to improve tree cover for Woodbridge, they would be pushing against a wide open door when it came to bringing projects to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee.

So, to conclude, the way forward here in Woodbridge is local, not global. By the time you read this, I expect you would have already forgotten, if you had indeed heard, any significant outcomes from COP30. And I would be delighted if I was wrong. So, we are probably best taking our futures into our own hands as best we can, leaving the global tragedy to play out and become better prepared, locally, to manage our own resources.

Councillor Martin Wilks, CEEC

councillorwilks@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk



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INNER WHEEL CLUB OF WOODBRIDGE

After a fair old wind and some torrential downpours, the intrepid Sunday cyclists who ventured out for the Bike Active event were rewarded with almost perfect conditions for their energetic efforts through the depths of the Suffolk countryside. Whilst the Rotary club of Woodbridge organised and marshalled this very popular event, the ladies of Inner Wheel delighted in providing liquid and culinary refreshments for these noble riders who presented themselves with big smiles of eager anticipation before the event and exhilaration and satisfaction at the end, ready for a hot sausage roll and piece of something chocolatey.

At the November meeting, members were intrigued to learn a brief history of the Citizen's Advice Bureau which started by opening the first 200 bureaux in 1939, just 4 days after war was declared which was invaluable in advising families about everything from how to trace missing servicemen to how to manage financially. 1974 saw the first office open in Tower Street where it remains to this day. Nicky Willshire, the current CEO for Ipswich Citizens Advice, informed members of how diverse the service is, giving free, impartial, confidential and trustworthy advice on any issue.

There is a staggeringly huge demand for this help and advice and Nicky is striving to link more services together and forge new partnerships with relevant bodies to ensure that this invaluable service will continue to meet the ever-increasing needs.

Members are looking forward to the 'Orange the World' campaign walk from the Longshed to Notcutts (for refreshments and fun), wearing as much orange possible! Orange the world is a global initiative aiming to raise awareness and take action against

violence towards women and girls.



CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

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.

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, 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.

Contact us if you have any concerns, by phone, email or at our offices and outreach sessions or use our website: www.caes.org.uk/email-service. Tel: 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10 - 2 Mon-Fri).

TAKE THE PLUNGE IN HOSPICE'S CHRISTMAS DAY DIP!

Tickets are now available for brave 'dippers' wanting to take the plunge this Christmas, as St Elizabeth Hospice's Christmas Day Dip returns for the 21st year. The independent Suffolk charity is once again asking the local community to show its love for its local hospice by completing a fundraising dip in the North Sea, on Christmas Day, with tickets now available to purchase for £16 until 23rd December – while on the day registration also available.

The much-loved event will see hundreds of 'dippers' don festive outfits before plunging into the icy cold North Sea at Felixstowe to raise vital funds, through sponsorship, for St Elizabeth Hospice which every year delivers free care to on average over 4,000 patients and their families throughout East & Mid Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney. James Fox-Golding, Events and Challenges Manager at the hospice, said: "Christmas Day Dip is back once again!

"All are welcome to join us for our Christmas Day Dip 2025, which has become a much-loved festive tradition for so many in the local community over the years. It's a wonderful way for everyone to come together and show their love for their local hospice."

"Every penny raised will make a difference to our staff, as they care for patients and their families throughout East & Mid Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney during very difficult times in their lives over the festive season."

The St Elizabeth Hospice Christmas Day Dip 2025 will take place on Christmas Day at 10am, opposite Mannings Amusement on Felixstowe seafront, with on the day registration open from 8.30am. Tickets include a medal. To register visit <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/ChristmasDayDip2025> Funds raised through the Christmas Day Dip will go towards the hospice's Christmas fundraising campaign, Be a Star, which helps the hospice support hundreds of patients and their families over the Christmas period.

More information can be found by visiting www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/get-involved/events/all-events-challenges/christmas-day-dip-2025/



TRANSITION WOODBRIDGE



Christmas is coming and so is the Woodbridge Christmas Fair on Sunday December 7th. The Thoroughfare will be filled with stalls from various local businesses and groups selling an array of fascinating items.

In Quay Street, Transition Woodbridge will present the Local Food Quarter for the fourth year and this will be the biggest and best yet!

A celebration of high quality and delicious food and drink from small local producers working within just a few miles of Woodbridge.

So be sure to come along to Quay Street to take this opportunity to stock up with something special for your Christmas meals and parties or a tasty treat to give as a special gift – or even a treat for yourself.

WOODBIDGE ROTARY NEWS

7th Ruff Stuff Cycle Event 26th October 2025

Hot on the heels of Opera for Woodbridge, came the Annual Ruff Stuff cycle ride organised once again by Woodbridge Rotary Club.

With permission of the Forestry Commission over 160 cyclists took to the roads of Suffolk starting and concluding at Butley Village Hall on Sunday 26 October, a leisurely ride for some and a little more energetic for others, along the highways and byways through the local forests and heaths. This event raises funds for the Air Ambulance, Bike Active and other charities supported by Rotary - over £1,900 was raised (gross) so a handsome sum to be donated as soon as expenses have been paid.

The youngest rider was 7 years old accompanied by his father, along the 10 mile route; those who took the 25 or 30 mile route were of all age groups but we have no intention of further mention of their ages! On the participants return, they all enjoyed cake and rolls, as well as hot and cold drinks supplied by the ladies of Woodbridge Inner Wheel, who were also pleased with the results of their labours.

Moving on now, our next event will be the 76th Annual Open Air Carol Service, to be held on Wednesday 17th December on Market Hill. A free event to attend, although there will be a voluntary collection, once again supporting charities, normally the headline charity is one which supports children in their hour of need, so please come with what you can afford to donate.

The service commences at 6.30pm but from about 6pm you will be entertained by a member of 'Midnight Road' a local band so do come early to give your support and get ready for the festive season. As usual, after the service we will have a special guest arrive, all the way from Lapland, giving sweets out to all the children, yes you guessed correctly, Father Christmas will be making an early visit to Woodbridge.

After a short break our next event will be our very first Pop Quiz at Woodbridge Town Football Club on Friday 20th March. Quizmaster will be Lee Thompson - the man who sets the questions for 'Ten To The Top' with Vernon Kaye on BBC Radio 2. This event will be held in support of The Teenage Cancer Trust. A Quiz not to be missed!

For details of all our events, opportunities to donate and details of how you can join or help, please visit our website at www.woodbridgerotary.com and the QR code below is another avenue through which donations can be channelled.



CHRISTMAS COMETH

Folks, living in Woodbridge this Christmas, 2025 might like to know what Christmas 1944 was like during the last war.

We lived in Castle Street, a two up two down mid terrace with a toilet bucket in the small back yard - emptied during the dark hours by what were then called 'The night soil Men'.

The house had no central heating, just a scarce bucket of coal, thrown on the grate, like Mr Scrooge. A young Cockerel was kept penned up during the summer to become our fattened yard chicken for Christmas dinner. We all missed his morning crows, two days before Christmas.

We made our own-coloured paper chains, stuck together with flour and water; along with a tad of fear, for invasion was still a possibility.

Grown ups buried their troubled waters huddled together in the many town pubs – The Kings Head, The Cross to mention just a couple.

The American air crews, so, so far from home sort of kept the town smiling with their Glen Miller music and gum chum, along with their brave, hopeful outlook. "Put those Lights Out!!" shouted street wardens, as folks drew their blackout curtains, on a world at war.

My sister married a member of one of the America air crews from Debach airfield. She gave birth to her baby whilst living in Castle Street Woodbridge. On the photo she is holdin my mother and baby Billy.

Years later baby Billy became the Senator of Oklahoma.

Terry Basson



WOODBRIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

Woodbridge Under 18s play in the Central Division of the Thurlow Nunn Youth League. They come under the same management as the Under 23s thus enabling a smooth transition as youth players develop and improve. Aren and Cauley Howell take on this responsibility and to prove that it works the First Team currently includes four players who are under 18, all of which are contributing to the current success in the Premier League. Aren says that this is proof that the system works and encourages any young players in the area to come and join Woodbridge Town.

A mention here must be made of WTFC First Team who have turned around their fortunes in recent weeks with five successive league victories in the Premier League and it might have been a record breaking six had the floodlights not malfunctioned when we were leading 1-0 against Heacham. Congratulations go to Chris, Liam and the team for this achievement.

Christmas is nearly upon us, a very busy period off the field as we prepare for fund raising events and celebrations.

Sunday 7th December: Woodbridge Christmas Street Fair, in our new gazebo (pictured here) kindly sponsored by The Wise Smart Group. Free offers available and see our Woodpecker' mascot.



Sunday 21st December @ 2pm: Christmas Draw. Hampers, Smart TV, Bicycle, Wines and Spirits, Gift Vouchers and many more prizes. The Club and the bar will be open from 12. All welcome.

31st December @ 7.30pm: New Year's Eve Disco. Tickets £10 each. Tel: 01394 385308 (you don't have to be a Member).

Fixtures for December:

Saturday 6th: Under 23s v Long Melford @ 3pm CUP; **Sunday 7th:** Veterans v Waveney @ 2pm CUP; **Thursday 11th:** Under 18's v Hadleigh @ 7.45pm; **Saturday 13th:** First Team v Fakenham @ 3pm; **Sunday 14th:** Ladies v Kesgrave @ 2pm; **Thursday 18th:** Under 18s v Walsham Le Willows @ 7.45pm; **Saturday 27th:** First Team v Ipswich Wanderers @ 3pm

To book the club for an event email Paul: Wtfc-VenueBookings@outlook.com

Finally on a very sad note we recently lost another friend and legend in Greg Warden. A loss to WTFC and also to the town of Woodbridge. Greg and his family have been involved in the Club for many, many years and our thoughts go out to Greg's family.

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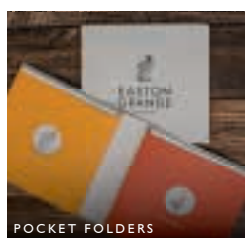
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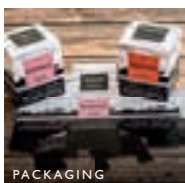
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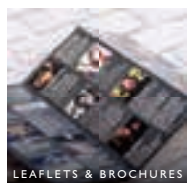
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ORFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

It's been a busy month here at Orford Primary. We had our non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need and last week we welcomed Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, our local MP, who came along for a tour of our fantastic school and to discuss SEND across Suffolk.

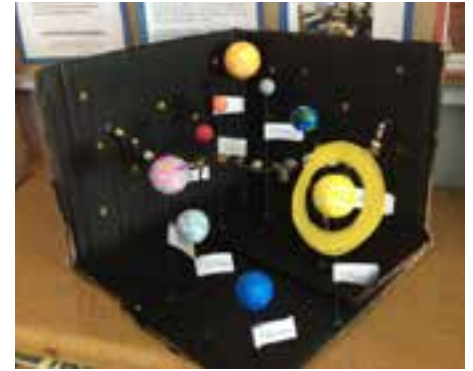
In Class 1, the children have begun practising their Nativity performance and they are really excited to welcome parents, carers and family members to our performance on the 12th of December.

Class 2 have been writing setting descriptions on Antarctica and have now begun writing biographies on the famous English explorers Sir Francis Drake and Ernest Shackleton. We even made our own sextant navigation devices to help us explore like Shackleton.

Finally in Class 3, the children have been learning all about space and have been fortunate to have several talks from local Astronomer David Gwynn. They created some incredible space displays and even created their own star nebulas in a jar!

Coming up soon we have our Christmas Dinner and jumper day on the 17th and our Christmas Service at St Bartholomew's on the 19th.

Orford CoE Primary School



WOODBIDGE LIBRARY

From Friday 5th and throughout December: Christmas Craft Fair. Call in and grab yourself a handmade Christmas bargain! All proceeds will go to The Friends of Woodbridge Library (FOWL).

Saturday 6th December @ 2.30pm: Children's Christmas Event. The Deben Players will be performing some scenes and songs from their pantomime Thumbelina and includes audience participation!

Saturday 13th December @ 2.30pm: Children's Author Event with Harriet Howe. Join local children's author Harriet Howe for story time, a treasure hunt and crafts. This is a free event however booking your child's place is required. Please see library staff or call us.

Kate Fawcus

Library & Information Advisor, Woodbridge Library
Tel: 01394 330855

Opening Hours: Mon: 10am - 5pm; Tue: 9am - 6:30pm; Wed & Thur: 9am - 5:30pm; Fri: 9am - 7pm; Sat: 9am - 5pm; Sun: 10am - 4pm. Closed: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day



Octave Vocal Ensemble

A Concert of Christmas Songs
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Free Admission

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Donations (cash or cheque **only** please) are encouraged in aid of the Church's New Front Doors

WOODBRIDGE RIVERSIDE TRUST

Season's Greetings from All at Woodbridge Riverside Trust!

As we approach the end of 2025, and look forward to 2026, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us this year by visiting the John Gibbins Gallery in The Longshed to see the wonderful 'The King's River' tapestry, supporting The Longshed's Gift Shop, participating in events, and showing support and appreciation for our work.

At the end of October, and as our part of a weekend of activities arranged by Woodbridge Town Council, we were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Doullen and their party together with their host, the Mayor of Woodbridge, to The Longshed to view 'The King's River' Tapestry – and try on some replica Anglo-Saxon helmets!

Earlier in October, Paul Hetherington, Leader of RSPB Woodbridge Local Group gave an informative and beautifully illustrated talk which celebrated the birdlife that can be seen on or near the River Deben. Many thanks to Paul and to all who supported this event.

Our final Talk this year is at **3pm on Saturday, 6th December** when Dr Emma Tetlow will be speaking about '**Construction Integrated Archaeology**'.

Most media attention concerning archaeology centres on 'research' projects. Emma's work is rather different. Come along and find out about the 'commercial' archaeology that is such an important part of major construction projects and the like. Tickets are £8 and available from Eventbrite (no booking fee) and The Longshed Gift Shop. Tea and cake are included in the ticket price.

On 13th and 14th December, 11am - 4pm each day, Woodbridge Historic Riverside Group presents '**Whisstock's Yuletide Celebration!**' Stalls! Activities! Music! Family fun!

Christmas & New Year opening times

Christmas Eve: 11am - 2pm.
Christmas Day and Boxing Day closed
December 27th - 31st: 11am - 3pm daily.
New Year's Day closed.
January 2nd - 4th: 11am - 3pm daily.

The Gallery and Shop will be closed from 5th - 10th January for annual maintenance, refurbishment etc. Woodbridge Riverside Trust is a volunteer-led and run charity. Please follow us on Facebook and on our website: woodbridgeriversidetrust.org

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF INSECTS

Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Woodbridge Wildlife Group invite you to share the wonder of insects when Dr Ross Piper presents a talk on them at Woodbridge Community Hall, Station Road, IP12 4AU on **Thursday 18 December** starting at 7.30 pm.

Phil Smith, Chair of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Woodbridge Wildlife Group said

"Dr Ross Piper is an entomologist, zoologist, author and presenter with a great knowledge and enthusiasm for insects.

"In this talk, we'll learn about the extraordinary diversity of insects, what makes them so important, why they're under threat and what we can do to help them.

It promises to be a very entertaining and informative evening."

Admission to the talk is £4 for adults with under 25s free. Light refreshments will be served, there will be a raffle and last opportunity to buy Suffolk Wildlife Trust Christmas Cards and calendars.

Doors open at 7pm and there is no need to book for this talk – pay on entry with cash or card.

For further information please email swtwoodbridge@outlook.com or telephone 01473 625630.

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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

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