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JANUARY 2026

ALDEBURGH TIMES



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ALDEBURGH TIMES

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



2026 marks 200 years of Aldeburgh RNLI. What a wonderful job the volunteers do, both on and offshore, ably supported by high tech equipment, safety wear and modern communication. Seeing the old photos on page 5 brought home to me how even more treacherous it must have been in days gone by when they headed out, probably with no training other than experience of the sea, in horrendous weather, in a timber vessel, without adequate buoyancy aids, radios etc. Brave individuals indeed...

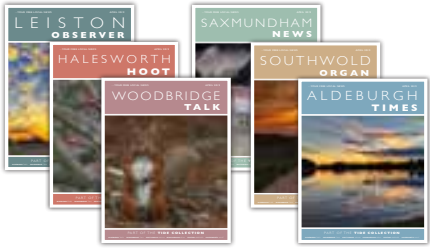
Drop me a line if you wish to boost your business in the new year, by advertising in the Aldeburgh Times or any of our other five titles

Please email: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.

Rainer Maria Rilke



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**THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF ALDEBURGH
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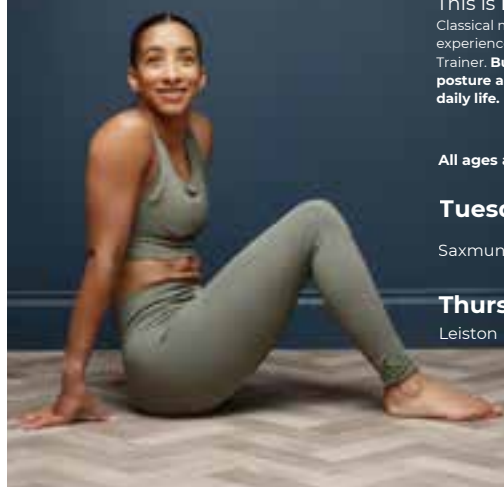
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200 YEARS OF RNLI ALDEBURGH

In 1826, the Suffolk Association for Saving Lives of Shipwreck Seamen was formed, and a lifeboat was sent to Sizewell Gap, where it served until 1852. The station moved to Aldeburgh in 1851 and was taken over by the RNLI in 1852. Over the past 200 years, RNLI Aldeburgh have saved 694 lives and aided hundreds of people.

Aldeburgh lifeboat was the first to be launched in World War II and both lifeboats were taken to Dunkirk, under Naval command, to aid the evacuation of 338,000 Allied soldiers. Nine silver medals have been awarded to the Aldeburgh crew, with an additional three bronze medals. These medals award *"humane and intrepid exertions in saving life from shipwrecks on our coasts, deemed sufficiently conspicuous to merit honourable distinction"*.

Over 20 lifeboats have served at Aldeburgh. Follow the station social media channels to discover the historic rescues and the future training plans.

Celebrate 200 years of your local lifeboat station

Aldeburgh Lifeboat station is open every Saturday from 10.30am to 4pm. Pop in and meet Ralph, the Atlantic 85 lifeboat and read the station history in boards around the boat hall.

Brew with the Crew – on the last Saturday of every month you can chat with volunteer crew members over a cuppa. Come along and ask your questions, sign up to join or share your link to the lifeboat family. Check social media for timings.

Please be aware that all training exercises, station drop in and Brew with the Crew are subject to operational requirements. Follow RNLI Aldeburgh on social media for dates and time of Brew with the Crew, planned training exercises and to learn more about their history.

Facebook @RNLIAldeburghLifeboat
Instagram @rnlialdeburgh

George Hounsfield



Lucy Lavers



Through a series of quiz nights, bingo, sponsored walks and personal donations, Saxmundham Judo Club have raised £2,850 for lifesaving activities at Aldeburgh Lifeboat Station. Volunteer Lifeboat Operations Manager, Martin Quinn, visited the Judo Club to thank them for their generous donation, and members of the Judo Club toured the Lifeboat station and watched a launch of the Atlantic 85 lifeboat, Ralph.

The Aldeburgh & District RNLI Guild wishes to thank all those who contributed most generously to the RNLI street collection on Saturday 22nd November 2025. The total amount raised was £121.87. The organisers would also like to thank all who helped and worked so hard to achieve this result.



Photo: Susie Potter

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW TREASURER?

Aldeburgh Museum Charitable Trust is seeking a Treasurer. Located in Aldeburgh's Grade 1 listed Moot Hall, the museum has been much updated due to a successful Heritage Lottery grant.

Main functions include:

- Setting Budgets at the beginning of the year
- Financial reporting to Trustees at meetings six times year
- Overseeing day to day expenditure
- Maintaining Payroll records for all pay matters including HMRC and NEST Workplace Pension
- Point of Contact (POC) for Banking
- Expense repayments to Trustees

This voluntary role would suit someone with a finance/bookkeeping background, although this is not necessary. It can be done remotely and training will be given.

For further information, please contact us on enquiries@aldeburghmuseum.org.uk or 01728 567767.

**RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve**

Wildlife - Shop - Café - Events - Family Activities



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

**ALDEBURGH JUBILEE HALL**

Saturday 24th January, 5.30pm
Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh with *The Suffolk*

Saturday 31st January, 11am
Talk: The History of Dunwich Heath

Saturday 14th February, 11am
Talk: From Dead Salmon to Downpipe – How a Freelance Writer Turned to Fiction

Tuesday 17th February, 10am – 12pm
Wooden Roots Drumming Workshop

Thursday 19th February, 10am – 4pm
Brickologists: A LEGO Fun Day

Friday 20th February, 7.30pm
Jubilee Goes Global presents: Buena Vista Social Club Night with the Edgar Macias Quintet

Sunday 22nd February, 10am – 3pm
Antiques & Vintage Fair

Friday 27th February, 7.30pm
Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening



The Suffolk



Dunwich Heath



Lego Fun Day



Edgar Macias Quintet



Antiques & Vintage Fair



Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening

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7.30PM – QUIZ**

JANUARY

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Thank you for all your support.

Date for your diary.

Next Sunday Roast Lunch - Sunday 18th January
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Saturday 12-7pm
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BRITTEN PEARS ARTS – JANUARY

Fridays from 9th January: Mini Music Makers at the Red

House: A session of fun music and play activities for 0-5 year-olds. The 90 minute sessions are led by The Red House's Community and Collections Curator Joe Carr and include singing and creative play to encourage social skills, turn-taking, sharing and having fun.

Britten Pears Young Artist Programme

Friday Lunchtime Concerts: January to April: Every Friday from mid-January to early April, Britten Pears Arts presents twelve Friday Lunchtime Concerts at 12noon. The majority take place in the historic Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall, with one taking place at Snape Maltings' Britten Studio and the finale on Good Friday in Orford Church.

The series features performances by young ensembles on the 2025 - 26 Britten Pears Young Artist Programme as part of their residencies in Snape and Aldeburgh.

Participants include **Ensemble Jackalope - 16th & 23rd January; Extended Music Collective – 30th January & 6th February.** Tickets £15 each or only £12 each when you buy for 3 or more concerts.

24th January: Snape Sessions: Zakia: BBC Radio 6 Music Presenter, Zakia, joins for an evening of rich sounds and captivating grooves in the Britten Studio. From London's vibrant club scene to BBC Radio, Zakia has built a reputation for eclectic, immersive DJ sets. Her mixes blend jazz, folk, dub, ambient, and global sounds into an unforgettable night of rhythm and texture. **7pm @ Britten Studio, Snape Maltings.**

Art Exhibition

Les Bicknell: POWER | Britten Pears Arts: POWER is an exhibition of work by Les Bicknell, artist in residence at Sizewell C. In his role as observer, and witness, he is creating testimony to what he has seen. This is the first exhibition of this new work. **31 January – 15 March, Snape Maltings Galleries.**

ALDEBURGH PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The next meeting of the Aldeburgh Photography Group will be held on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Aldeburgh Library.

This month we will begin with an AGM after which we will be very pleased to welcome Catherine Orr. Catherine studied photography at the Polytechnic of Central London when the photographic world was analogue. Those hours watching images emerge in darkroom trays remained a fond memory, so when Catherine found herself disillusioned with the slick digital image she went back to the roots of photography and began exploring the cyanotype process.

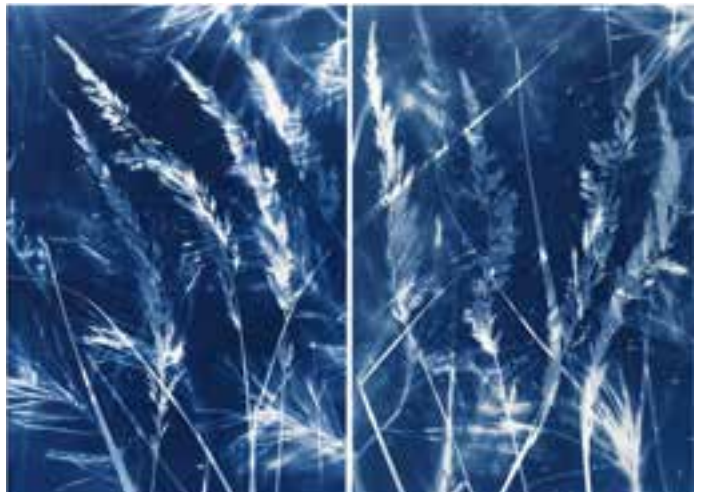
Years after exposing her first cyanotype photogram, Catherine is still exploring, often with photograms, sometimes with digital negatives. Many of her prints are toned using botanicals such as tea, rosemary and fenugreek.

The cyanotype is the oldest photographic printing process. A combination of iron salts are used to coat watercolour paper. The coated paper is exposed to sunlight, rinsed in tap water and magically the image appears. It's non-toxic, environmentally friendly and no darkroom is needed. The process can be simple, or you can dig deeper into image calibration and chemistry to complicate - or enhance. Catherine's work celebrates wild and wonderful plants, landscapes and animals, usually from her adopted county of Suffolk. She's also drawn to more mundane objects, currently completing a year-long project producing a cyanotype for each day of 2025 using single-use plastics.

The evening will conclude with members showing their images inspired by the talks given last month.

We are a friendly group and keen to welcome everyone from beginners to experienced photographers from users of iPhones to the latest DSLRs.

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 (aldeburghphotographygroup.org.uk).



THE KBB CENTRE – BIG OPEN DAY! BACK AGAIN FOR 2026! SAT 7TH FEBRUARY 9AM – 3PM

The KBB Centre in Ipswich is a local, independent, family run business offering a one-stop shop for all your kitchen, bathroom and bedroom projects. Join us on Saturday 7th February for our **BIG OPEN DAY** and let us help you make your home something to shout about in 2026! Come and meet the team and explore our large showroom whilst enjoying a day of food and drink and bargains galore!

Our good friends from Gen X Radio will be joining us again and there will be goodies from our neighbours Hungry Tums Catering for you to sample. Combat2Coffee will be in attendance providing a selection of hot drinks or alternatively, if you're not driving, you can sample a glass of ice cold bubbly served from our Kaelo wine cooler!

At midday we have a home economist who will be cooking up a storm with a **LIVE COOKING DEMONSTRATION** for you to enjoy, showcasing some of our Neff appliances. You can also buy tickets for our **CHARITY RAFFLE** in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice, with some great prizes to be won.

We will be offering huge discounts on a selection of ex-display and surplus stock items for both kitchens and bathrooms. From ovens and taps to shower trays and tiles. There will be special offers from our suppliers and a chance to see our new kitchen display featuring the unique space saving pocket door system.

We look forward to seeing you!



WHAT'S ON

- Neff cooking demo
- Drinks & Nibbles
- Ex-display sale
- Stock clearance
- Special offers
- Combat2Coffee
- Charity raffle
- Gen X Radio

www.thekbbanglia.co.uk
info@kbbeastanglia.co.uk

CONTACT US

01473 742200
The KBB Centre, 85 Dales
Road, Ipswich, IP1 4JR

THE 25TH ALDEBURGH LITERARY FESTIVAL

The 25th Aldeburgh Literary Festival will take place from **Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th March 2026**.

Little did we think we when we started the Festival all those years ago that it would still be going strong a quarter of a century later. When we arrived in Aldeburgh in 2000 there was already the Aldeburgh Music Festival and well-established Documentary and Poetry Festivals.

Why not therefore start a Festival of Literature, we thought? So, we set about inviting our favourite authors, now adding up to nearly 350 writers and speakers. And what an amazing list: two Nobel Prize winners, three former Chancellors of the Exchequer, the Astronomer Royal, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, three Generals (including a Chief of the General Staff), two former Home Secretaries, an ex-Head of MI6, numerous literary, historical and biography prize winners - and Alan Bennett.

This year's programme with the booking form will be published by email and put up on The Aldeburgh Bookshop website at 10 am on **Saturday 10th January 2026**. We hope that it will provide as strong and interesting a programme as in previous years with the usual mix of history, biography, art history and science.

Mary James
The Aldeburgh Book Shop

KNODISHALL CANCER RESEARCH UK SUPPORT GROUP

Congratulations to all the stall holders, members of the public who came and supported the Christmas Fayre held on the 29th November in Knodishall Village Hall and to all the family and friends who helped in any way to make this day such a great success.

This was our 30th annual Christmas Fayre and it raised an amazing amount of £5,802.00 for Cancer Research UK, which is wonderful and will help the amazing work that Cancer Research UK does to find treatments and drugs to combat this disease which affects so many people.

Well done to you all, we could not do this without your continued support.

Also, a date for your diary - our Christmas Fayre in 2026 will be on Saturday 28th November in Knodishall Village Hall.

With very best wishes for the New Year.

Jo Mayhew
Organiser for Knodishall Cancer Research UK Support Group.

DIARY DATES

JAN 7, 14, 21 & 28 Heritage Coast Bridge Club. New members welcome to our small friendly club in Leiston. We meet every Wednesday in the Community Centre, King George's Ave (next to the fire station), refreshments available. Information on our website or please call 07444824778.

JAN 18 & 25 Halesworth Harmony rehearsal at The Cut. Come along for a free taster session - no experience is necessary, everything is taught by ear, and you'll receive a warm welcome. 10.30am - 12.30pm. For further details, email: halesworth.harmony@gmail.com.

JAN 24 Save the Children Aldeburgh Branch Grand Jumble Sale. Clothing, shoes, toys, books, bric-a-brac, tombola, teas coffee and cakes! No dogs please (except assistance dogs). Please bring cash! Donations welcome before 11am. From 2pm at Aldeburgh church hall.

JAN 30 Everyman Folk Club. 'Pagoda Project'. Paul Hutchinson (accordion) and Karen Wimhurst (clarinets) are celebrating more than 20-years of musical collaboration. Joined by Hannah Cumming (voice, fiddle). British folk at its heart with eddies of contemporary classical and splashes of early music. Tickets £10 in advance or £12 on the door. 7.30pm at The Riverside Centre, Gt Glemham Road, Stratford St Andrew. IP17 1LL. Email: everyman@wheatstone.co.uk



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What's On at Leiston Film Theatre

Mon 12th - Thurs 15th Jan at 7.15pm

ANACONDA 12A

Fri 16th Jan at 7.00pm
Sat 17th Jan at 6.00pm
Sun 18th Jan at 2.00pm

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH 12A

Sun 18th Jan at 6.00pm
Sun 25th Jan at 3.00pm

BECOMING VICTORIA WOOD 15

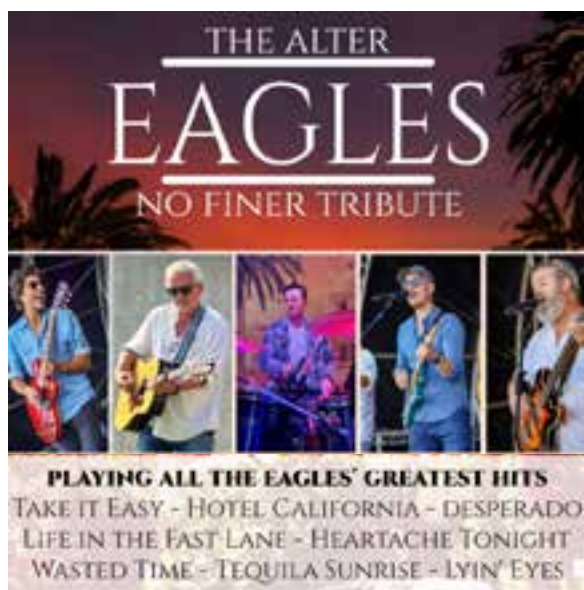
Mon 19th & Tues 20th Jan at 7.15pm
Wed 21st Jan at 2.00pm & 7.15pm
Thurs 22nd Jan at 7.15pm
Sun 25th Jan at 3.00pm
Wed 28th Jan at 7.15pm

SONG SUNG BLUE 12A

Fri 23rd & Sat 24th Jan at 7.15pm
Mon 26th Jan at 1.00pm
Tues 27th Jan at 7.15pm
Wed 28th Jan at 2.00pm
Thurs 29th Jan at 7.15pm

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ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Hollond family of Great Ashfield House

October's Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group Talk at the Fromus Centre in Saxmundham was the story of Suffolk's lost palace, Great Ashfield House and the eccentric Hollond family.

Guest speaker Dave Steward provided a packed room on 20th October with an informative history of both house and its inhabitants due to his exclusive access to photographs, scrapbooks, letters and household items which had been left behind by the family. The Hollond family are well-known in the Saxmundham area, they owned Benhall Lodge Estate from 1810, and it is still owned by Hollond descendants today. The Rev. Edmund Hollond's third son Arthur Edward Hollond (1857-1928) married Beatrice Mary Hoare (1866-1959), a minor, in London in December 1883. She was the daughter of Henry Hoare, the Hoare family being owners of the UK's oldest privately-owned bank.

Arthur Hollond bought Ashfield House, situated just a couple of miles from Badwell Ash, in 1881 and for 108 years it belonged to the same family. Dave Steward carefully took us through the history of the house from 1755, and the changes and renovations over the years. He also added a personal touch, his own family's special connection to Ashfield House, that his grandfather was head gardener and his grandmother, the cook!

Dave included a detailed background of both Arthur Hollond and his wife Beatrice before introducing us to their children, sons Henry & Victor, and five daughters Gladys, Phyllis (known as Pansy), Muriel, Ivy (known as Iseult) and Elspeth. In the attached image they are shown in the garden with their governess.

He mentioned that animals always featured in the children's lives, in their letters and they were often seen in photographs with cats, chickens, pigs, goats and a donkey called Opal. Pansy also had a buzzard called Willie. They could speak many languages and the girls were gifted artists, they were 'The Cubs' and they called their father 'The Big Brown Bear'. He was often the study for their art.

The girls never married and as each of them passed away only Iseult remained at the house, confining herself to the kitchen with her 25 cats! She moved to Ivy Cottage when she became infirm and died in 1999 aged 101 years. A very interesting talk, well-illustrated with Hollond family images and their paintings which ended with Dave's own ancestral ties to the family.

AVSFHG's Membership Secretary Pat Carter mentioned at the Talk that there were references to a Francis Egbert Hollond in Leiston church – any relation? Subsequent research has found that Francis Egbert Hollond (1860-1953) was the younger brother of Arthur Edward Hollond of Ashfield House. The brothers were the youngest sons of the Rev. Edmund Hollond (1801-1884) of Benhall. Both Arthur and Francis' children died without any surviving issue. If anyone has any information, images etc about Francis Egbert Hollond who bought Leiston Old Abbey in 1909, or the Hollond family, then please could they get in touch with Jane Evans email: benhallsternfieldhistory@gmail.com

Jane Evans



Great Ashfield House



Arthur Hollond and Beatrice Hoare
The Hollond children (the 'Cubs')
with their governess



Arthur Hollond and Beatrice Hoare

Further Programme

Monday 19th January: 'Where there's a Will' – Ian Waller

Family historians are often reluctant to look for a will as they think their ancestors simply did not leave one. This talk looks at the wealth of information they contain, how to find them and what other records support them from those associated with disputes, taxes and personal belongings. No one should rule out the existence of a will and searching for one should be automatic. Ian Waller is a retired professional genealogist with considerable experience in English research. He currently serves as the vice chairman and education officer of the Family History Federation, is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and has authored several books in the Society's "My Ancestor" series. The talk takes place at 2.30pm, in person at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL and, for members only, on Zoom. The speaker will be talking to us on Zoom. No need to book - just turn up - free for members, £5 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits. Free parking. Only members can take part in our meetings on Zoom, but it only costs £10 for a year's membership – see <https://avsfhg.org.uk/membership/> (website under construction) and Zooming is free.

Monday 16th February: 'Army Records' – Graham Bandy

Mon 16th March: Members' Brick Walls

PHOENIX SINGERS

Experience Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius' at Snape Maltings!

This term Framlingham Phoenix Singers and Beccles Choral Society join forces to prepare for a joint concert at Snape Maltings presenting Elgar's spiritual epic, 'The Dream of Gerontius'.

The two choirs will be joined by The Lambeth Orchestra and acclaimed soloists. The date for your diary is Saturday 16th May, at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale now.

Experienced choral singers are welcome to join the choir for the term to perform this great choral work. Our first rehearsal of the term is Wednesday 7th January 2026. Rehearsals are held at Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School in Framlingham, from 7.30 to 9.30pm. For more details visit www.phoenixsingers.org.uk

Esther Mower

On behalf of Phoenix Singers



Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Safety Advice

If you have an open fire, don't forget to get your Chimney swept!

Home Fire Safety Visits

Did you know that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service offer **FREE Home Fire Safety Visits**? These visits are designed to help you identify potential risks in your own home, tailored to you and your own individual circumstances. If eligible, we can also provide and fit smoke alarms (including alarms for people with hearing impairments), as well as carbon monoxide alarms. To book, scan the QR Code, visit <https://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/> or contact our Business Support Team on **01473 260588**.



We are pleased to announce the launch of our **FREE Older Driver Workshops**, where our experts will share valuable information about how your risk on the road changes as you age, tips on staying safe on the road, other options apart from driving, and more. There are workshops available around the county. To sign up for one of these free workshops, please either visit EventBrite and search for **Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service Road Safety** or call our Business Support on **01473 260588**.

Older Drivers Workshops

Hello Aldeburgh





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 via the app and on Alexa
 

ARE YOU READY TO ROCK AT LEISTON FILM THEATRE?

Rock fans are in for a treat in March, when the awesome 'Stadium Rock Experience' heads to Leiston Film Theatre.

The aim of this fabulous live show is to bring a stadium rock experience to smaller venues, delivering the excitement and spectacle associated with arena rock, with the highest standard of musicianship and the most popular hit songs from the biggest mainstream rock acts.

The show features the music of Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, Queen, Status Quo, Elton John, Guns N Roses, Whitesnake, AC/DC, Tina Turner, Aerosmith, Kiss, Journey and Van Halen, in a fast-paced show, that will keep everyone rocking, from the very first song, right through to the finale.

The show is presented by the 'Trigger Rock Band', a six-piece band of rock musicians whose energetic performances use staging, visuals, effects and lighting, to create an exciting audio and visual sensation.

Early booking is definitely advised for this unmissable show.

The Stadium Rock Experience appears LIVE at Leiston Film Theatre on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced at £19.50 for adults, £19.00 for concessions and are now available from the Leiston Film Theatre box office on 01728 830549 and via the venue website at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk



CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Good news for private tenants

The proposed changes to private tenancies that we wrote about last year have now become law. On 1st May 2026 most of the new rules about tenancies will come into force.

The Renters' Rights Act 2025

We know from our clients that whilst most landlords provide a good service, the private rented sector can be the most expensive, poorest quality and most insecure type of housing. The aim of the new Act is to give tenants more security and enable them to challenge bad practice without fear of eviction. Benefits for landlords include more straightforward regulation and clearer and expanded grounds for possession.

We list here some of the main changes. On 1st May the Act will immediately:

End all section 21 'no fault' evictions. Landlords will have to prove that the tenancy agreement has been broken or that they need the property for themselves to live in or to sell.

Limit rent in advance when you start a tenancy to one month's rent. At present there is no limit to rent in advance.

Give tenants two months' notice of a rent increase and only allow one rent increase in any year. The new rent is only allowed to rise to the market rate for the area.

Give tenants the right to appeal against excessive rent increases.

Strengthen tenants' rights to keep a pet in their property.

Abolish fixed-term assured tenancies and replace them with tenancies that can be ended at any time after notice has been served by the landlord or tenant.

Enable tenants to move out after giving two months' notice. They will not have to wait until the end of a fixed term.

There are also safeguards for landlords.

The Act:

Gives landlords robust grounds for possession where the tenant is at fault (e.g. has significant arrears, damages the property).

Landlords can give notice using the relevant grounds at any point in the tenancy.

Allows landlords to take a property back if they want to move into it themselves or sell it. But they must give tenants four months' notice to move out, and they cannot re-let it for 12 months.

There are some other changes in the Act that will be introduced by the government at a later date.

For more information, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-the-renters-rights-act/guide-to-the-renters-rights-act>

Or, from the housing charity, Shelter: https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/private_renting/renters_rights_act_changes_for_private_renters
If you have any questions about how provisions of the Act will affect you, or you need information or advice on any other issue, please contact us using our website: www.caes.org.uk/email-service or phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10 - 2 Mon-Fri). Our website www.caes.org.uk also gives details of our drop-in outreach sessions and how to make an appointment at one of our offices.

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ALDEBURGH GARDENING CLUB

I am writing this in mid-December and my early snowdrop is flowering happily up in the wood. The sun is out and is slanting across the hedge to catch the top of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Yakushima Dwarf' in a golden glow which stands out delightfully against the dark Irish yew behind it.

I have two *Miscanthus*, this one, which is not very dwarf by my standards being about 3.5 ft tall and a variegated one by the gate. They come from South East Asia and are reputed to dislike a dry soil but these two have managed to establish regardless. I'd say the variegated one struggles in long dry spells and only manages about 2 ft tall and some years doesn't flower, but it has still managed in 20 years to produce a clump big enough to need parts removed.

It is possible to shove a sharp spade through the mat of roots but it is hard work and the small pieces need a bit of cossetting for a couple of years if they are to survive. They appear in gardening programmes fairly regularly, mainly the very tall types, 8ft or more, so maybe mine is more dwarf than I give it credit for. There are some of these tall ones in the garden at the Red House and they are pretty impressive.

Really you can't always trust the gardening books, sometimes it is worth just giving something a go.

Another example being the *Erythronium* 'Pagoda', which is a lovely yellow flowered woodlander with exotic looking recurved petals and odd shaped corms usually described as 'dog's tooth' which they are, but from a very big dog. I planted these expecting them to die but they have multiplied quite happily under the trees. One year the leaves came up as usual but we then had a long very dry spell and they died back without producing any flowers and then came up and flowered as normal the following year.

I recently read an article saying that 'Cammassia' too are quite happy in places that suffer summer dryness and in fact in their wild North American habitat the summer is usually very dry. I must try some.

On the other hand 'Iris uliginosa', sometimes known as Moroccan iris which flowers in the winter from a nest of rather tatty leaves, is reputed to be happiest in full sun under a south facing wall. I have that exact spot next to my garage. I had to try three times before I got one to go!

I have a shameful admission to make. I have succumbed to watching Facebook reels which are completely addictive short films on practically anything it seems. Lots of AI of dogs and cats, quick recipes, crafts recycling anything and everything, painting.... you name it. So, I watched one that made a Christmas wreath using a large potato in a fashion a bit like oasis for flower arranging. So here is my attempt, a bit lopsided and obviously late. Enjoy.



I hope you had a lovely Christmas yourselves and Happy New Year.

Karen Mountford
aldeburghgardeningclub.org.uk

BOOK REVIEW

***The Ferryman and His Wife* by Frode Grytten**

Translated from the Norwegian by Alison McCullough

Paperback, £12.99

Nils Vik wakes up one morning and sets off in his ferry across the fjord as he has done since the age of fifteen. But this trip is different: he knows it is the last day of his life. As he heads out to the open sea he is joined by his lifetime of passengers from beyond the grave.

All people he has helped over the years, his beloved dog Luna, a troubled teenager, unrequited lovers, lonely farmers, the local priest and even, once the Prime Minister.

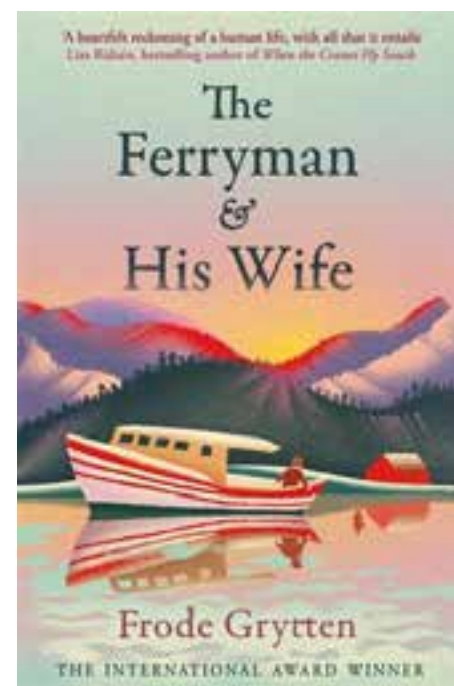
But he is waiting for one last passenger, his beloved wife Marta.

A heartfelt, fable-like novella, it is ultimately uplifting about the good that one person in a quiet life can do. "People along the fjord have always viewed kindness as a form of weakness, but [Nils] showed that kindness is the opposite of weakness."

Beautifully written and set against the magnificent backdrop of the Norwegian fjords – for fans of Clare Keegan or Elizabeth Strout.

Mary James

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JANUARY AT ALDEBURGH CINEMA

We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2026.

We've got a great line-up of movies coming up this year, all screened via our 4K projector...

We kick off the New Year with **SONG SUNG BLUE**. Based on a true story, this uplifting tale follows two down-on-their-luck musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) who form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams.

From Academy Award winning writer/director Chloé Zhao, **HAMNET** tells the powerful story of love and loss that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet. Winner of the 2025 TIFF People's Choice Award and based on the novel by Maggie O'Farrell, **HAMNET** stars Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal.



Victoria Wood remains one of Britain's most cherished entertainers – a northern comic genius whose work reshaped the landscape of British humour. But behind the joyous persona – the singer, the satirist, the sharp-witted writer – lay a young woman navigating insecurity, anger, and self-doubt. Told in her own words and through the voices of those who knew her best, **BECOMING VICTORIA WOOD** uncovers the formative experiences and personal battles that powered Victoria's unmatched ability to make the nation laugh.

Our January programme isn't finalized at the time of going to print, but we also hope to screen:



SENTIMENTAL VALUE - After the acclaimed *The Worst Person in the World* (Academy Award nominee for Best Screenplay and Best International Feature), Joachim Trier reunites with Cannes-winning actress Renate Reinsve as well as Stellan Skarsgård and Elle Fanning for this intimate and moving exploration of family, memories, and the reconciliatory power of art.

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT - Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, master filmmaker Jafar Panahi creates a deeply felt moral thriller, where high-stakes tension combines with unexpected flurries of humour and thoughtful - sometimes devastating - questions regarding persecution and revenge.



MARTY SUPREME - Marty Mauser, a young man with a dream no one respects, goes to hell and back in pursuit of greatness. Directed by Josh Safdie and starring Timothée Chalamet, Gwyneth Paltrow and Abel Ferrara.

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.

ROH LA TRAVIATA – Wednesday 14th January at 6.45pm

The Royal Opera's *LA TRAVIATA* is as intimate as it is sumptuous. The work features some of opera's most famous melodies and is a star vehicle for its leading soprano role sung by Ermonela Jaho. In director Richard Eyre's world of seductive grandeur, the tender and devastating beauty at the centre of Verdi's opera shines bright.



NT LIVE: HAMLET – Thursday 22nd January at 7pm

Olivier Award-winner Hiran Abeysekera (*Life of Pi*) is Hamlet in this fearless, contemporary take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy.

Trapped between duty and doubt, surrounded by power and privilege, young Prince Hamlet dares to ask the ultimate question – you know the one. National Theatre Deputy Artistic Director, Robert Hastie (*Standing at the Sky's Edge*, *Operation Mincemeat*) directs this sharp, stylish and darkly funny reimaging.

SUFFOLK COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE

Hare-raising news from Suffolk County Music Service!

As Suffolk County Music Service raised £1004 for their part in the 'Hop to it!' campaign, we had a Thank You visit from their Mascot 'Woolly' and their Community Fundraiser, Chloe Lock at Northgate Arts Centre, Ipswich on Saturday 29 November – well-timed in between the Young Voices Choir ending and Ipswich County Music School starting, so lots of children were able to meet him!



Ipswich County Music School and Young Voices Choir members meet Woolly and Chloe! © Suffolk County Music Service

County Music Groups News

Do you know a young musician who would like to join a European tour in summer 2026, with a top-class county youth orchestra or wind band? The opportunity is here! Places are currently available in Suffolk Youth Orchestra (SYO), the premier county music group in Suffolk; who will tour to stunning Sweden, and also Suffolk Youth Wind Band (SYWB), who are off to Palencia in sunny Spain!

With a high level, bespoke programme, SYO & SYWB membership offers rehearsals and exciting performance opportunities throughout the year, performing at prestigious venues including in Europe and coaching by SCMS's professional team of tutors.

If you'd like to be a part of this exciting musical adventure and join SYO or SYWB, you can sign up on our website: <https://suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/take-part/county-music-groups/>

Follow us on our Social media pages for more hare-y updates and find out how you can join in!

The Suffolk County Music Service Team

Visit our website www.suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk, where you can learn more about the wide range of activities we offer your children and young people at different locations across the county.

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Just Engaged?

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Credit: Images by Anna

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BAWDSEY HAVEN YACHT CLUB

Massive erosion of shingle is endangering public footpath access to Bawdsey beach.

If you are a beach user at Bawdsey you will have noticed that the beach has rapidly been getting narrower for the last few months and there has been very fast and massive shingle loss. In the summer over 500 people access the beach in any one day, while locals including dog walkers and sea anglers use the beach year round.

Bawdsey Haven Yacht Club (BHYC) had to act quickly to maintain access to its boat park which at the same time protects the public footpath. If the public footpath becomes unusable, the only access to Bawdsey beach by the public will be via the riverbed which will be dangerous on a rising tide. The authorities would have to close the beach completely because of public safety issues.

Volunteers from BHYC have put up some temporary wooden structures and made urgent repairs to one groyne to try and slow down the erosion. In mid-November the club will totally renovate one of the main groynes next to the boat yard entrance. To ensure a life of over 50 years the club obtained green oak from A. C. Timber Solutions. This sustainable certified wood was sourced from their French supplier at short notice. The renovation means replacing 10 groyne posts and subsequently bolting on 240 square feet of 75 mm thick planks. It also means moving over 4 tons of wood by hand!

BHYC volunteers have already done a lot, but much more needs to be done. The Council and Environment Agency have been contacted for assistance and funding but, as yet, no definite help has been forthcoming. The club has already spent £5,500 on this work but the total cost could eventually be as high as 35K. BHYC has therefore started a fundraising drive (see <https://gofund.me/8c35bdbd1> or scan the QR code).



Please help them to protect the path, they want to rebuild more of the old groynes which previously protected this section and ideally get a permanent barrier built by the path using metal piles or hard wood.



PROJECT UPDATE

JANUARY 2026

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

Sizewell C has reached key milestones as we work to improve the local road infrastructure and build our park and rides in 2025.

In 2026, we will continue to work at pace to deliver the improvements. Unfortunately, this will lead to disruption, specifically during the first quarter of 2026 with several weekend closures along the A12, B1122 and B1125 as we aim to get works achieved ahead of the busy summer period for visitors to the county.

This year, we look forward to the Friday Street and Yoxford roundabouts being connected to the A12 and opened to traffic. During the first quarter of 2026 there will be weekend road closures as we construct and connect the new roundabouts to the A12 and neighbouring roads. We will advertise the closures and diversions well in advance.

We issue weekly traffic management and short time road closures every Friday for the week ahead, and we add this to our social media channels. The Sizewell C Works Tracker and One Network Causeway one.network are guides to works in the area, and the new subscription service through our Works Tracker will also help with transport plans around the county.

FORUM SCHEDULE

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

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

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



THE CUT SESSIONS

Curated Gigs – Original Artists

Season 2: Tom Robinson; Andy Fairweather Low; Solana; Soft Machine

The Cut, Halesworth's arts centre, today announced Season 2 of The Cut Sessions, the new music series of curated gigs by original artists, for winter/spring 2026. After the sellout success of the first season last year, which featured Eddi Reader, Dr Feelgood and Claire Martin, The Cut is presenting four great concerts in January to March 2026.

Season 2 opens with **TOM ROBINSON** with **Adam Philips** on Friday 23 January. Music legend and BBC Radio 6 DJ, Tom Robinson presents 'Then & Now: 50 Years of Adventures in the Music Industry' including classic hits 'War Baby', 'Up Against The Wall', '2-4-6-8 Motorway' and 'Glad to be Gay'.



The season continues with **ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW** and the **Low Riders** on Thursday 5 February.

Lead singer in the 60s band Amen Corner, the invisible bluesman has worked with Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Elton John, Van Morrison and Kate Bush.



His only gig in East Anglia this year - a rare chance not to be missed.

The season continues with **SOLANA** on Saturday 7 March. Bristol's finest, the brilliant five-piece band led by local favourite Tamsin Elliot, encompasses folk, jazz and experimental grooves. Their rich and inventive sonic tapestry is anchored by a deep respect for European world-music traditions.

The final gig of Season 2 is **SOFT MACHINE** on Saturday 28 March. One of the greatest UK avant/jazz-rock bands of all time, now led by John Etheridge. From their earliest psychedelic performances sharing stages with, Syd Barrett's Pink Floyd and the Jimi Hendrix Experience, they became Europe's leading jazz-fusion band.



Aafke Groenewald, Manager of The Cut said:

"We are so excited to be presenting these four world-class gigs here at The Cut, complimenting the rest of our eclectic programme. Get your tickets early!"

Nick Dodds, programmer of the Cut Sessions said:

"I am so pleased by the support for our new music seasons, with sell-out audiences coming from far and wide to see original artists in the intimate setting of The Cut.

"It confirms our belief that there is demand for great music in this part of Suffolk and the more support we get the more artists want to play here."

A promotional poster for 'THE CUT SESSIONS' Season 2 2026. The poster is divided into four sections, each featuring a different artist. The top left section features Tom Robinson with the text 'SEASON TWO 2026' and 'TOM ROBINSON 23 JAN'. The top right section features Andy Fairweather Low with the text 'THE CUT' and 'ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW 5 FEB'. The bottom left section features Solana with the text 'SOLANA 7 MAR'. The bottom right section features Soft Machine with the text 'SOFT MACHINE 28 MAR'. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'THE CUT SESSIONS' is written in large blue letters, followed by 'CURATED GIGS | ORIGINAL ARTISTS' and the website 'WWW.THECUT.ORG.UK'. Below the website, it says 'The Cut Arts Centre, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8BY'.

FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

As we look forward to the New Year it looks as though we can expect another hectic start, as we are still taking in unwanted and abandoned cats and litters of kittens. Our volunteers across the branch will be gearing up to help in any way we can. The team will continue: answering the phones, emails and messages from the general public; giving cats and kittens a safe haven to prepare them for adoption; giving help and advice on cat behaviour and welfare; trapping, neutering and returning (TNR) feral cats; publicising what we do and fundraising to raise money so that we can continue this vital work. We hope that we can recruit more volunteers this year. Please let us know if you can help.

Once again, we thank everyone who continues to support us in so many ways: from attending events, donating cat food, money, gifts, knitted goods, volunteering and of course grateful thanks go to those who adopt, and give loving homes to, cats and kittens. From everyone in the branch, we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Cats Looking for a Home: These bonded friends are, Hazel (tabby) who is about 9 months and Ivy (black) who is about 7 months old. They've grown up together, have a close bond and need to be homed together. They love a fuss and a few treats.



They are still quite shy, but we are sure that once they settle into their own home, they will gradually gain more confidence and make very affectionate companions. We think they will be happy as the only cats. We do not know how they would be with dogs. We're looking for a home away from busy roads, with access to a garden for these lovely young girls. If you could offer them the home they need, in which they can continue to build their confidence, please contact us.

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QUICK RESPONSE QUOTES

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

Aldeburgh Times is your free local paper, 2000 copies are printed every month. We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets. The next issue will be published Monday 2nd February, copy deadline is 14th January - but the earlier the better to ensure inclusion.

Contacts/Advertisers/Editorial:

Louise Gissing at Leiston Press, Unit 1b Masterlord Industrial Estate, Station Road, Leiston, IP16 4JD
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Reports, press releases; letters and other editorial contributions with news value are all welcome but are accepted on the understanding that there is no guarantee of inclusion and that they will be selected and edited at the editor's discretion.

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