

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

JANUARY 2026

# LEISTON OBSERVER



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## January Events

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**Sunday 18th  
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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

**HAMNET** 12A

Sat 28th Feb at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE



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Tel: 01728 830549, or visit:

[www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk](http://www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk)

## A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



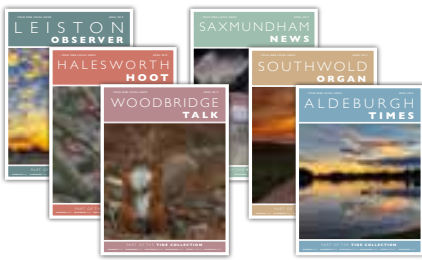
If you have had enough of your four walls why not wrap up warm and go along to Victory Road to watch your home town team play football? There are no less than four home league games this month and Leiston play at a very high level for a small town. There are various ways to get involved with the club, as an individual or business and they have a very loyal band of supporters. See page 9 for more information. I wish them great success in 2026.

Drop me a line if you would like to boost your business in the new year by advertising in the Leiston Observer or any of our other five titles. My email is: [lou@tidecollection.com](mailto:lou@tidecollection.com)

### Quote of the month

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.

Melody Beattie



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## INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL 5

- An update from your local council

LEISTON FOOTBALL CLUB 9  
- Leiston skipper, Seb Dunbar, made his 450th appearance

ARE YOU READY TO ROCK 11  
- The awesome 'Stadium Rock Experience' heads to Leiston Film Theatre.

ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP 13  
- The Hollond family of Great Ashfield House

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST 15  
- Good news for private tenants

**THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF ALDEBURGH  
AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**  
(Charity Number 247890)

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# LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL

**Civic Matters:** We are delighted to share that the Mayor, Cllr Lesley Hill, has been named a finalist in the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Star Council Awards 2025/26. Being shortlisted is a fantastic achievement and reflects her dedication and hard work behind the scenes. Winners will be announced on 24 February at the House of Lords.

**The Role of Mayor:** A Town Council must elect a Chair of the Council. In 2024, the Council adopted the title of Mayor for this role for the first time, to strengthen the civic presence and leadership of the Council. As local organisations begin planning their events and celebrations for 2026, we warmly welcome invitations for events the Mayor may attend.

**Christmas in Leiston:** Yes - we are mentioning Christmas in January! We would like to extend our thanks to SZC and the TCi GB Group for their generous assistance with putting up and taking down the Christmas lights, and to the Long Shop Museum for organising the Christmas event. This year proved more challenging than usual due to road closures caused by a gas leak in the Old Post Office Square. We were particularly grateful to Cadent who escalated clearing up as much as they could to enable the event to go ahead. Looking ahead, the Council is seeking funding for a new lighting display in 2026 and welcomes public feedback. What would you like to see in the town? Please visit our website to complete a short questionnaire - and be ambitious!

**Looking Forward to Spring:** Through the East Suffolk Blooms scheme, East Suffolk Council were delighted to receive 500 bulbs, which have now been planted along the entrance from the Jubilee Gates into Victory Road Recreation Ground. We look forward to the cheerful splash of colour they will bring.

**Live Well Hub – For When Life Gets Complicated:** January can often feel like a long month. If you need support, please contact the Live Well Hub Leiston at the Waterloo Centre. The Hub can provide help with health and wellbeing, financial advice, or simply offer a friendly space to have a cuppa and talk. You can contact the Hub on 01728 808388 or email [livewellmanager@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:livewellmanager@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk).

**Council Meetings:** A reminder that Full Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Leiston Community Centre from 6.45pm. Agendas are posted on the noticeboard outside the Council Offices and published online at: [www.leistontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.leistontowncouncil.gov.uk)

For further information on any of the above, please contact the Town Council Offices on 01728 830388 or email [office@leiston-towncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@leiston-towncouncil.gov.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you.

## 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](http://www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk)





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# TWO NAMES FOR LEISTON WAR MEMORIAL

The names of two men missing from the Leiston War Memorial were recently added by Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council. We are keen to trace the family of one of them, Richard Elmy Manning. He was a Royal Naval Reservist in World War I and served on a minesweeper. In 1917 he was severely wounded in one eye in an explosion and subsequently granted a disability pension but died in 1928. He was awarded three medals, including the French Croix de Guerre for acts of heroism.

The other, Alfred Robert Berry of the 4th Suffolks died on the Burma/Thai Railway, and his family live in Leiston. His name had been omitted due to confusion as his older brother, with the same name, was already on the memorial having died in WWI.

Both men will now be permanently honoured. Please contact me or Linda Hawes if you can help us get in touch with Richard Manning's descendants: a\_skelcher@hotmail.com

It was great to meet everyone who came to the Wartime Memories display on November 29th. If you would still like to contribute, you can do so until the end of February. More information is available at Leiston Library.



**Wartime Memories display  
- a suitcase for an evacuee  
(Maggie Strutt)**



**Leiston War Memorial with the names.  
Photo: A Skelcher**

## LEISTON DETACHMENT ACF

So Leiston Detachment ACF has had a busy couple of months, with Annual Camp this year at Otterburn, Northumberland where Cadets were involved in Field raft, Shooting, Navigation and a cultural visit.

We had Cadets away in October on Adventurous Training in Snowdonia, where they conducted Caving, Climbing, bouldering and mountain walking.

November was very busy with Cadets involved in Poppy selling at the Co-op and then the Festival of Remembrance and Remembrance Sunday, before we had our Christmas Camp at the end of November where they had Archery, Shooting, Command Task and visits by outside groups such as the Police, before having a formal sit-down meal and a Disco.

We are back at the beginning of January on a Tuesday night from 1900 at the Cadet Centre on Victory Rd.

If you are between 12 and 18 and are interested, come and see what we do.

Also, this is only possible with adult volunteers so again come down and see what we do.



You can also visit ACF.com to register interest.



# 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.thekbbanglia.co.uk)  
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# LEISTON FOOTBALL CLUB

## Leiston Skipper makes landmark appearance.

Leiston skipper, Seb Dunbar, made his 450th appearance for the Victory Road club at Spalding last month. Dunbar, 33, made his debut for Leiston in the summer of 2012. Spread over three spells at the Blues, he heads towards his appearance milestone proud of what he has achieved so far and looking ahead to more.

*"I must admit I'm very proud to have made so many appearances so far," the former Ipswich Town academy player said.*

*"To be that consistent, play that many games each season for as long as I have. I know when I've eventually finished in the game, I will look back at the number of games played and feel proud.*

*"Not that I'm thinking of stopping yet, fingers crossed there are many more appearances to come."*

Dunbar has spent most of his playing career at left-back and is considered by many in the non-league scene as one of the best defenders in the business. He joined Leiston from then Conference North, Bishop's Stortford in 2012.

*"I could never have imagined playing 450 games for one club when I made my debut for Leiston back then," he said.* And Dunbar admits as well as the way Leiston is run off the pitch, it has also been the football on the pitch that has seen him return to Victory Road on two occasions after heading firstly to Bury Town in 2013 for three years, and then Stowmarket, in 2019, during the covid-hit seasons.

*"The Club is so well run, so much credit goes to the guys behind the scenes," he said.*

*"On the pitch the philosophy and the way Leiston want to play football has rarely changed in my spells here, even with different managers. And it's a great family club. I've been lucky to play under some very good managers, very good teams and it's always been a Club you want to be a part of.*

*"You get a lot of teams at our level (Step 3) want to play direct; it's not me, it's not Leiston, they have invariably always wanted to play it on the floor. I can play direct of course, but it's not my preference. That's been a big reason to want to stay here."*

Club captain now, Dunbar says Leiston have improved him as a footballer, admits he is still learning as a player, and is proud to be captain. So, what next? 500?

*"500 appearances. Who knows?" he said.*

*"I can't see too much changing personally, but things can change in people's lives. Right now, though, I'm very happy with the way things are."*



**Captain Seb Dunbar, 450 appearances for Leiston coming up.**  
**Photo: Ben Cunningham**

## Busy month ahead at Victory Road

If you haven't watched Leiston play recently, then January is the time to catch a home fixture.

There are no less than FOUR home league games at the Flannery Stadium this month, starting on the 10th with Kettering Town visiting Leiston.

There are three other fixtures as well, see below. We look forward to seeing you. Come and try the Leiston experience.

## FIRST TEAM HOME FIXTURES IN JANUARY

**Saturday, 10th Kettering Town (Southern League) 3pm**

**Saturday, 17th Stourbridge (Southern League) 3pm**

**Tuesday, 20th Alvechurch (Southern League) 7.45pm**

**Saturday, 31st Royston Town (Southern League) 3pm**

## The Leiston Experience - how to get involved

At the Flannery Stadium, there are always opportunities to volunteer and get involved at Leiston Football Club.

Step 3 is just three Steps below the actual Football League 2, and the professional game. That's the standard of football at the Club.

It's a high level of non-league football, some of the best in the country. Visitors to Leiston include the likes of Worcester City, Harborough Town, Kettering Town, Stamford, Stourbridge and local derbies against AFC Sudbury, Bury Town and Needham Market.

Founded in 1880 Leiston Football Club is one of the oldest and most established non-league clubs in the UK.

If you would like to be involved at Leiston Football Club, from becoming a match day volunteer through to bespoke sponsorship packages for the 25/26 season, that include Matchday, ball and individual player sponsorship, contact Andy Crisp on 07769 904555 or email [acrisp5@aol.com](mailto:acrisp5@aol.com) and see how you as an individual or your business can enjoy being part of the Leiston FC experience.

More companies and individuals are getting on board, and we are truly grateful for their support and sponsorship.

For information on the club, news and teams, head over to [www.leistonfc.co.uk](http://www.leistonfc.co.uk) Or follow Leiston on X, Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok and Instagram.



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# 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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Email: [enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk).

# 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.

# PHOENIX SINGERS

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](http://www.phoenixsingers.org.uk)

**Esther Mower**

On behalf of Phoenix Singers





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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](mailto: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



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# 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](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/](http://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](http://www.caes.org.uk) also gives details of our drop-in outreach sessions and how to make an appointment at one of our offices.

## GIRLGUIDING LEISTON

### Looking for a New Year's resolution you'll be able to keep? Why not try volunteering with your local Girlguiding unit?

We are looking for local volunteers to help run our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units in Leiston. Whether you can commit to an evening a week to help us give young girls a fun way to socialise outside of school, or if you'd rather stay behind the scenes helping our logistics or maintenance needs, we need you!

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, shake up your weekly routine and become part of the community, while helping girls of all ages in Suffolk to make friends, develop life skills and have fun!

There's no better way to release your inner child, whilst also helping to shape the lives of local children.

Anyone is welcome to volunteer with Girlguiding, no matter your background or time commitments.

It's great if you've been part of Guiding before, but it's not a requirement!

For more details, to register your interest or just have a chat.

Email: [leistongirlguides@gmail.com](mailto:leistongirlguides@gmail.com) or search 'volunteer for girlguiding' for more information.

**Eleanor**

# Hello Leiston



We are your local community radio station, broadcasting online to bring you a varied mix of music programmes, stories and information about what's on in our area.

## Have you discovered us yet?



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via the app and on Alexa



### 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](mailto:enquiries@aldeburghmuseum.org.uk) or 01728 567767.



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# LIVE WELL HUB LEISTON



magnificent Christmas tree.



At the Live Well Hub we extend our thanks to Red House Barn for donating this

Also huge thanks to all those who attended our 'Carols and Cuppa' event and to everyone who donated food to support our Christmas Appeal.

Christmas and the following long, cold and dark days of January can prove a difficult time for many. At the 'Live Well Hub Leiston' support is on offer if you find this period difficult and you don't have to live in Leiston to use the Live Well Hub.

As well as our current services, including seated exercise and yoga classes, Social Prescribing for any problem non-medical including debt management, social isolation, disabilities and more. Veterans Coffee mornings are popular with the Armed Forces Community providing a chance for a cuppa, chat and connection as well as support, especially for veterans.

Headway have Day Hubs every Monday and Tuesday for anyone with a neurological condition.

We can also help you find other services and do referrals.

Unfortunately, Christmas and the New Year is a time when there is an increase in domestic abuse. Becky, from Anglia Care Trust, is trained to help people who experience domestic abuse whether it is physical, emotional, financial – whatever form it takes.

Have you spotted the racks of bikes around the town? In the new year 'The Way To Go' will be offering guided cycle rides and walks, aimed at getting people out in the fresh air, making new friends and connections, blowing the cobwebs away and improving general health and wellbeing. 'The Bike Doctor' will repair your bike and show you how to do basic maintenance.

Amongst other things the Job Centre and Realise Futures will be running an ESOL course, helping people with spoken English for those in our community for whom it is not their first language.

The Live Well Hub is located in the Waterloo Centre, off Waterloo Avenue. Tell: 01728 808 388 or 07955 437 070; Email: [livewell@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:livewell@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk) or [livewellmanager@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:livewellmanager@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**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](mailto: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), Hannah Cumming (voice, fiddle). Tickets £10 or £12 on the door. 7.30pm at The Riverside Centre, Gt Glemham Road, Stratford St Andrew. IP17 1LL. Email: [everyman@wheatstone.co.uk](mailto:everyman@wheatstone.co.uk)

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# 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 Morison 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 Two 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'.



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## Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Safety Advice



### 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**.



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

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**

# 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)

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<b>Main Development Site Forum</b>	Wednesday 14 January 2026	Leiston Town Athletic Association
<b>Northern Transport Forum</b>	Wednesday 4 February 2026	High Lodge Darsham
<b>Southern Transport Forum</b>	Wednesday 4 March 2026	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre
<b>Community Forum</b>	Thursday 19 March 2026	Woodbridge Rugby Club

For more information and for more forum dates visit [sizewellc.com/community/forums](https://sizewellc.com/community/forums)





# SAXMUNDHAM CRICKET CLUB

## End of season celebrations

With the 2025 domestic season long over and England doing their best to lose the Ashes series to Australia it might seem there is little to celebrate but this is the season for awards, presentations and celebrations.

Our annual awards were held recently at The Poachers Pocket, an evening which is always well attended, full of fun, conversation, fund raising and best of all great food.

The main awards went to Gary Butler for most runs scored (571), Roshan Amaratunge for most wickets taken (19) and Gary Butler was voted 'Players' Player of the Year'.

Other presentations were given to our wonderful tea ladies, Lewis Skilton, our spritely groundsman and Neil our no.1 supporter and keeper of the scoreboard.

Let's hope by the time you read this England have got back into the Ashes series.

Before we know it the 2026 season will be here so if you would like to join this wonderful club then please visit [www.saxcricket.co.uk](http://www.saxcricket.co.uk) for details.

## Gary Butler



## FROM LEISTON VETS

### Arthritis

In healthy joints the ends of the bones are covered by smooth articular cartilage. There is also synovial fluid, which lubricates the joint to facilitate pain free movement. However, in arthritic joints the protective cartilage is damaged and worn away, which results in the underlying bone being exposed causing pain and inflammation. These changes are commonly associated with old age but can also be secondary to joint trauma or conformational joint issues such as hip dysplasia.

Arthritis affects 80% of older dogs and cats. The symptoms of arthritis include difficulty getting up, sleeping more, slowing down on walks, reluctance to jump and toileting issues such as incontinence or missing the litter tray. The colder winter months may also worsen any symptoms.

If your pet is diagnosed with arthritis, there are a wide range of treatments which your pet may benefit from, which include painkillers and anti-inflammation medication, dietary supplements such as glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate and a change in diet that may help.

Weight loss can also help if your pet is carrying excess weight, as this will affect the joints.

Another thing to consider is taking shorter walks more often, as many arthritic pets struggle with long walks.

If you are concerned about your pet, we at Leiston Veterinary Clinic are happy to help and you can call us on 01728 833566 for an appointment.

All of us at Leiston Veterinary Clinic wish you a Happy New Year



### Leiston Veterinary Clinic

**Marina Goodchild BVSc MRCVS**

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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.



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

Leiston Observer is your free local paper, 2000 copies are printed every month.

We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets.

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  
lou@tidecollection.com Tel 01728 833003

Reports, press releases; letters and other editorial contributions with news value are all welcome but are accepted on the understanding that there is no guarantee of inclusion and that they will be selected and edited at the editor's discretion.



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