

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

JANUARY 2026

# SAXMUNDHAM NEWS



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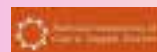
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## A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



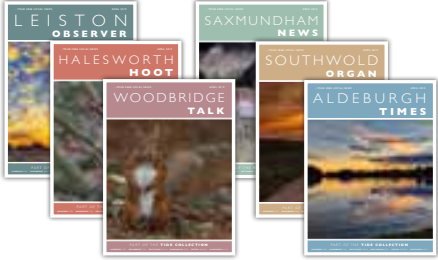
Saxmundham's Christmas Fayre was a huge success with many families joining the festive activities in the town centre. Well done to all the volunteers, performers, vendors and staff who made it such a lovely community event. Saxmundham Town Council is clearly doing a great job as they are finalists in the National Association of Local Councils' Star Council Awards for 2025-2026 in the Council of the Year category.

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

### Quote of the Month

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let every new year find you a better man.

**Benjamin Franklin**



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# SAXMUNDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## Delivering improvements and working on your priorities.

### National Grid update – LionLink consultation and Sea Link surveys

National Grid has confirmed that the LionLink statutory consultation will run from Tuesday 13 January to Tuesday 10 March 2026. Further information, including how members of the public can participate, is available on the LionLink website: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/lionlink/> As part of the consultation, public information exhibitions will be held locally. In Saxmundham, one will take place on Saturday 24 January 2026, 11am - 4pm at the Fromus Centre. These events will give residents the opportunity to view the latest proposals and share their views. Details of other events across the area can be found online.

National Grid has also advised that, from early 2026 and subject to approvals, additional ground investigation surveys linked to the Sea Link project will take place on the proposed converter station site south of the B1119. These permitted development surveys (including boreholes, trial pits and soil testing) are not construction works and will support the detailed design. No public rights of way will be closed or diverted. Further information will be published on National Grid's website.

### Local Highlights - People and projects shaping Saxmundham.

#### Saxmundham Christmas Fayre – a magical evening

This year's Christmas Fayre was a huge success, with the town centre coming alive with festive cheer and so many things to delight children and grown-ups alike.

Thanks to everyone who came along, and to our volunteers, performers, vendors and staff for making it so special - there was lovely feedback from all who joined in, and a couple of visitors even called it the "best one yet". If you took photos and are happy for us to use them in publicity, or if you have feedback and ideas for next year, please contact [community@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk)

### Short updates and reminders.

The Town Council is Proud to say we are finalists in the National Association of Local Councils' Star Council Awards for 2025-2026 in the Council of the Year category.

Saxmundham Town Council is looking for a new Councillor to help shape local projects and represent the community - if you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact [townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.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 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)  
[info@kbbestanglia.co.uk](mailto:info@kbbestanglia.co.uk)

## CONTACT US

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

# SAXMUNDHAM JUDO CLUB

Saxmundham Judo club have recently achieved another Captain's challenge this year to raise funds for Aldeburgh RNLI.

The club raised almost £3000 to assist funding a newly qualified young recruit with essential equipment and clothing. This we raised through bingo / quiz nights and some personal donations from club supporters for which we are eternally grateful.

On Wednesday 12th November, members of Aldeburgh RNLI visited us in the evening at our temporary home in Benhall social club to show and tell our young judo members what they have raised the funds for.

Thursday 13th November, Saxmundham Judo club were invited to Aldeburgh RNLI for a personal visit and to witness a launch. This was a fantastic couple of nights that demonstrated a community working together and understanding each others needs and roles, especially within the RNLI.

**Cheque presentation by Keith Cartwright-Jones to RNLI Aldeburgh Operations manager, Martin**



Keith Cartwright-Jones. 'Keef', club founder and current chairman stated that he is extremely proud of club achievements over the past few years, which is probably unparalleled and unique for a small local club based in Suffolk.

**Saxmundham Judo Club - watching Ralf being launched.**



## U3A EAST SUFFOLK

The New Year has arrived, but with the days short and weather often gloomy, keeping active can be a real boost!

U3a East Suffolk suggests a New Year tonic for older, retired or semi-retired folks. This active membership group offers the chance to broaden horizons, meet new people, have interesting conversations and challenge body and mind!

Members enjoy walks, quizzes, dining out, visiting gardens, discussing architecture, the arts or current affairs. Others focus on geology, photography, playing ukulele and speaking other European languages. There is also a varied programme of talks at venues in East Suffolk.

On **January 8th** at 10.30am, there's a talk about Horatio Nelson, High Steward of Ipswich, from maritime historian, Cathy Shelbourne, at the Salvation Army Hall in Felixstowe. On **February 5th** the speaker is Mike Kwasniak, theatre photographer for more than 40 years.

On the **19th January** at Woodbridge Football Club at 10.30am there's a light-hearted look at the life of Winston Churchill.

On the **8th January** at 2pm at Saxmundham's Fromus Centre, a talk about one woman's creative journey and on 12th February, one entitled 'Target Lowestoft 1942-5'.

Or visit Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre at 2pm on **26th January** to hear from Robert Nurden about his cowboy/hobo/pastor grandfather, Rev. Stanley P James.

New members are welcome, with the expectation that they will contribute to the success of the group. Membership is on an annual basis and gives members access to all the u3a's many activities at a very modest cost.

Full up to date information is available on the u3a website: [www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk).

For more information, please see the website or call the secretary on 0300 123 3913.



# 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.

## VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

Saxmundham Adventure Playground Committee were very pleased to receive the Sizewell Grant of just under £27,000. This has meant we have taken a huge step forward in making improvements to the playground. The fence surrounding the play area is to be completely renewed in February but before this happens we are in desperate need of VOLUNTEERS to clear all the growth, weeds, and brambles away from the existing fence.

Can you support us please? We have two separate days to achieve this; the first is Friday morning 9th January and the second is Saturday 17th January both from 9.30am. Please bring (if you can) a pair of secateurs and gloves, no need to be in touch, just come along on those mornings. Any questions please go to Saxmundham Sports Club website where the Adventure Playground has a section with an email address.

Saxmundham Christmas Fayre was a huge success for the playground. The Tombola and Craft Stall held in the High Street made a grand total of £640. Pam McIntyre, who tirelessly supports us selling her many hand crafted items, along with Kay Bott had a stall in Fishers shop. A huge thank you must go to all those who donated and bought items. We really appreciate your support.

**Adventure Playground Committee**

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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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# FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR...



Happy New Year, and I hope you manage to keep to at least some of your New Year resolutions!

I have spent most of the last month and will spend most of this month on finance matters at the County Council, as it is budget-setting time for the 2026-27 budget and the proposals of the Administration have to pass through the questioning of the County's Scrutiny Committee at a day-long meeting. Then, later in the month, it has to be approved by the County Council's Cabinet, before receiving a thorough examination and debate at a meeting of the County Council on 12 February. All these meetings are open to the public to attend and are also live-streamed so, if this process interests you, do come along to the County's HQ in Ipswich or watch on-line.

Financially, times are even more difficult than we have become accustomed to. Our relatively new Government promised to abolish austerity, but I said at the time, and I believe I have been proved correct, that austerity continues as ever, if not under that term then under some other. In 2026/27 the County Council will spend a net £840 million delivering services to you and Suffolk's other citizens. This huge sum has to be raised before it is allocated, and we rely for around 55% of our income from the Council Tax you pay. Another 25% comes from Government grants and the rest from a variety of sources, not least what we can raise from fees and charges, and from reimbursements towards the cost of social care, mostly from elderly people in care homes or who receive care at home. Social care is not a free service, unlike the National Health Service, and has to be paid for according to individual circumstances.

I do not deny £840 million is a very large sum of money. But, alas, it is not enough to deliver all our services in the way we would like. Reactive road repair and maintenance is now very considerably under-resourced, and what we do to keep our highways safe has to be prioritised over what we would like to do to routinely maintain our roads. Choices are difficult and restrained but are a fact of life as we have to remain within our budget, hence why the current process is so important.

There is some good news, which I'm glad to impart. Our performance with those younger people who are assessed as having Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and who then need a bespoke Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has improved dramatically during 2025 and our performance has moved into the upper-quartile nationally after a great deal of effort from our staff and the application of extra funding, as well as building up a Government-approved large overdraft.

These vulnerable young people deserve our help and special care. Their numbers have been growing steadily over the last decade, and notably since the end of the Covid crisis. Indeed, applications for an EHCP have risen by over 11% in the last year alone and while we are processing the necessary paperwork much more quickly, this has only been achieved by recruiting 94 extra staff members, and paying expensive fees for the necessary services of educational psychologists who, country-wide, seem as scarce as hen's teeth!

But I am glad that Suffolk is now among the fastest and most efficient Authorities in the country, which is good for these young people and their families too. But the financial expense does not end there. With ever-more children having the enforceable rights given by the awarding of an EHCP (which, incidentally, also has to be thoroughly reviewed each year) their expectations and entitlements rise, not just in the type of schooling they are entitled to, but also in expensive travel costs incurred in getting these pupils to and from the school in which they will flourish.

This is one reason why we have been looking forward with anticipation to the details of the Government's Fairer Funding Review, the details of which are not available as I write this column but will be known as you read my words. Suffolk is seriously underfunded in comparison with many other parts of the country, not least the inner London Boroughs and most of the north of England. We deserve a fairer, higher, settlement, but we are not confident that the Government will deliver that 'fairness' to us. But we will soon know...

Finally, from out-of-the-blue, came the complete surprise from the Government's decision to delay for two years an election for a Mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk. This was due to take place on May 7 but is now delayed until 2028. A great deal of work has been done over a short timescale, by not just Suffolk County Council but by Suffolk's District and Borough Councils alongside equal effort in Norfolk, to ensure a Mayor could assume his or her responsibilities and powers immediately after being elected. Even the appointment of an interim Chief Executive for the Mayoral County Combined Authority was well advanced, with interviews for that post taking place on the very day of the Government's announcement of delay. I try hard not to be party political in this column, but what a way to run a country!

Much is happening in the local government arena, and I will try to keep you informed through this column of progress, or the lack of it, over the next few months.

The important step of agreeing a budget for the next financial year underpins everything we do, and gives certainty for the immediate future, whatever that may bring...

As usual, please feel free to contact me on any matter which is within the responsibilities of the County Council.

My contact details are below.

**Richard Smith**

[richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk) 07545 423817

# 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



<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)



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# SAXMUNDHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

In November we welcomed Christopher Turland who gave us an extremely interesting and most informative talk about ROMAN SUFFOLK. After an earlier small invasion, the Romans invaded in AD 64, meeting with the Iceni and the Trinovantes. The Iceni tribe were Celts living in, now, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The Trinovantes were a Celtic tribe living in an area, now, Essex, Hertfordshire and Suffolk.

Ipswich was an important port. At that time the sea level would have been much higher, allowing the Roman ships to travel inland. Chris had maps to show where the Roman roads were placed, both in Ipswich and in the eastern area. Many artifacts have been found over time and ground penetrating radar has revealed the position of many Roman buildings and settlements.

Chris mentioned several Roman hoards which have been found and showed us some pictures of the beautifully decorated items, including chariot decorations, gold torques and various domestic items. A very local find was the "head" of Claudius which was found in the river at Rendham by a local boy. In Hoxne some beautifully ornate, gold pepper pots were found among many other artefacts, including gold and silver coins.

In Dalinghoo a hoard of late Iron age gold "staters" were found in a field.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 26th February when we have a visit from Christopher Pratt who will tell us about GHQ Auxiliary Units.

At our December meeting, Chairman Richard Crisp welcomed our speaker Andy Malcolm, representing The Fisherman's Mission, a national charity which supports fishermen and their families. Fishermen who go out to sea to catch the fish for our fish and chips and other dishes. Andy spoke about "the real cost" of our fish and chips. The Fisherman's Mission began 144 years ago. In October 1881 it was Black Friday in Eyemouth, when 189 fishermen died, swept away by a sudden violent storm, watched by their families and Ebenezer Mather, a Christian from the Thames Church Mission. Ebenezer set up the 'National Mission to the Deep Sea Fishermen', providing ministry and helping to improve fishermen's health and giving practical and emotional support.

The Mission provided a vessel, the Ensign, to help the fishermen, who stayed out at sea for months, in their open boats. By 1911 there were 6 vessels and 60 staff.

The vessels were cruising hospitals, a place of worship, a tobacco shop, a free library, a clothing store, hotel and recreation ground.

In the 1950s the last Mission ship was decommissioned and in 2006 the name of the charity was changed to 'The Fishermen's Mission'. The Mission now offers 24/7 care with mini Mission centres where fishermen can have showers, hot drinks, and laundry facilities and hostels at the docks, such as in Lowestoft. Today there are small offices - no boats but the staff go out to families and money is raised to help families and fishermen financially.

Andy told us the story of several examples of the Mission's work and he told us that it is thought that the first fish and chip shop began in London in the 1860s. Andy gave us these statistics: 382 million portions of fish and chips are served each year and there are chip shops all over the world. Every 60 days a fisherman dies, every 40 days a fishing boat is sunk and every 10 days fishing livelihoods are lost.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 26th February 2026, where we will hear about the GHQ Auxiliary.

**Jenny Mann**

## ARE YOU READY TO ROCK?

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)



# SKC CHURCH

**A Benefice comprising of St. John's Church, Saxmundham, St. Mary & St. Peter's Church, Kelsale @ St. Peter's Church, Carlton.**

Do you find January hard? You may be aware of 'Blue Monday,' the supposed most depressing day of the year (there is debate as to whether it is true or not, the idea was funded by a travel company after all...). Even if you don't buy into the idea of Blue Monday January can be hard on our mental health. In any given week 1 in 5 people report experiencing a common mental health problem like anxiety or depression (statistic from Mind). Things like food insecurity, struggling to pay bills, struggling to heat your home, and the general darkness can all compound and impact mental health further. Sometimes people expect that if you're a Christian everything is wonderful and cheery, however, as a Christian I am not immune to mental health issues either.

Whatever you believe there are things that we can all do to help our mental health (you can find helpful information at [www.healthysuffolk.org.uk](http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk))

Being physically active is one of the things that can help. In November I ran every other day to raise money for Movember and the increased exercise helped me.

You may not be able to run like I can but a walk around the block or a dance in the kitchen can boost our moods.

Talking and connecting with people also goes a long way to help our well-being. At all of our church services and activities we are always ready to listen and welcome you.

Another thing that helps me is knowing that God is with me and made me on purpose. In the Bible in Psalm 139 (a poem) it says things like:

*'Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me.'*

Later, it says *'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.'*

Sometimes we can feel alone, worthless, or unlovable. The good news that we believe in church is that we are not alone, we are priceless, and God loves us endlessly.

We would love to explore this further with you at any of our services or other activities.

You can find out more of what we do at [www.skchurch.org](http://www.skchurch.org)

With love,

**Dave Preece**

Rector Saxmundham with Kelsale cum Carlton

## Services in January

**Sunday 4th January: 9:30am** informal service in St Johns, Saxmundham, and **11:00am** Holy Communion in St Mary and St Peters, Kelsale.

**Tuesday 4th January: 10:30am** reflective Holy Communion in St Johns, Saxmundham.

**Sunday 11th January: 9:30am** informal service in St Mary and St Peters, Kelsale, and **11:00am** Holy Communion in St Johns, Saxmundham. 6pm Worship and Prayer Evening

**Sunday 18th January: 9:30am** informal service in St Johns, Saxmundham, **11:00am** Holy Communion in St Mary and St Peters, Kelsale.

**Sunday 25th January: 10:45am** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity United Service in Saxmundham URC. **4pm** Brick Church in St Johns, Saxmundham.

## 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).

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**





# 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.



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# SAXMUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Writing our entries for the Saxmundham News each month really makes us stop and reflect on just how busy we have been! As well as being busy in our lessons, we have managed to fit in some brilliant enrichment and community events.

It is the busiest time of year for our school choir! On Friday 21st November we went to Snape Maltings to perform at the 'Big Sing' alongside other schools from across Suffolk. The children worked incredibly hard to learn a wide variety of different songs - some of them incredibly challenging. They sang beautifully and were a real credit to the school. They also performed at the Saxmundham Christmas Fayre and helped to turn on the Christmas lights. It's always an honour to be asked to be a part of this event and the children, as always, made us very proud. We were very excited to be joined by Rudolph himself as we sang our final song! If you managed to get to the church for the annual Christmas tree festival, you may have spotted our musical themed tree!

Year five pupils were invited to attend 'Fa La La Fest' at The Barn, Pro Corda, Leiston. This event brought together year five pupils across the Leiston Education Partnership for an afternoon of festive music and celebration. They were treated to a live performance from a visiting ensemble of musicians from St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Our children sang their hearts out and it was a wonderful opportunity to see such a high quality musical performance. Four of our pupils also performed a beautiful reading of a Christmas poem.



Pupils in year three visited the Red House in Aldeburgh as part of their Stone Age project.



They learnt about the different periods in history, seeing just how long the Stone Age lasted for. They took part in a variety of activities including: examining Stone Age flint, creating sound effects for a story and we even got to see Stone Age musical instruments! As well as this, they were able to look around the home of famous composer, Benjamin Britten and were treated to a beautiful performance by local harpist, Zoe Anderton!



The cross-country finals were held this week and our pupils performed brilliantly!

We would like to congratulate our runners. Kade came first out of the year five boys, Millie came third for the year six girls, Ruby in year four came third and Henri, also in year four, came fourth. An incredible sporting achievement!



We are incredibly proud of our youngest pupils in the school for their amazing Christmas performances this month. Pupils in nursery and reception performed some magical Christmas songs and the KS1 classes performed, 'It's a Baby.' The audiences were blown away by all of the singing and dancing as well as the confidence and enthusiasm of our children.

Everyone at Saxmundham Primary School would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# 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 features a collage of images and text. At the top left, it says 'SEASON TWO 2026'. Below this, there are three main sections: 1. 'TOM ROBINSON 23 JAN' with a photo of him playing guitar. 2. 'ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW 5 FEB' with a photo of him playing guitar. 3. 'SOFT MACHINE 28 MAR' with a photo of the band. At the bottom left, there is a photo of 'SOLANA 7 MAR' with the text 'SOLANA 7 MAR' overlaid. The bottom right corner features the title 'THE CUT SESSIONS' in large blue letters, followed by 'CURATED GIGS | ORIGINAL ARTISTS' and the website 'WWW.THECUT.ORG.UK'. At the very bottom, it says 'The Cut Arts Centre, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8BY'.



# BENHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Squirrels have been busy little learners this month! They have been working hard in phonics, practising their sounds and blending skills and making fantastic progress in reading.

Acorns have been hard at work in English, learning how to write newspaper reports inspired by the story '*The Lonely Beast*', and in art they've been exploring different printing techniques using their hands, fruit and foam board. They've also been practising their Christmas nativity and getting ready for a fantastic performance.

In Oaks, we have been delving into our Antarctica topic in Geography, learning all about both physical and human features. This has linked to our English as we have been LOVING the book '*Shackleton's Journey*'. Each of the children have been assigned a member of the crew and have written a letter of application to Shackleton to be on board the expedition.

In English, Woodlands have been following Odysseus on his journey back to Ithaca. In Geography, they have been exploring migration, investigating the reasons why people move from one place to another.

Our school came together for a moving Remembrance Service to honour all who served and sacrificed. Pupils reflected with respect and gratitude, remembering their courage, their legacy and the importance of peace for future generations.

A fantastic performance from our KS2 tag rugby team earlier this month, securing an impressive 3rd place finish!

The pupils demonstrated great teamwork, agility, strategic passing and excellent sportsmanship throughout. Well done to all involved!

Our KS2 pupils shone brightly at the Big Sing event, performing with confidence, passion, and joy. They sang their hearts out and truly enjoyed every moment of this fantastic musical experience!

Pupils enjoyed a productive and inspiring afternoon with STEMPoint, learning about renewable energy and constructing their own model wind turbines. It was a fantastic opportunity for hands-on learning, creative problem-solving and future-focused thinking!

A massive well done to all our KS2 pupils who took part in the cross-country event! It was an incredible effort from everyone, demonstrating determination, stamina and great sporting spirit. A special congratulations to the two boys who achieved impressive second place finishes in their races!

Prospective parents are welcome to come for a visit. Paul Parslow-Williams or Daniel Millican are always keen to offer a personal tour of the school. Please call us to book an appointment on (01728) 602407.

## Daniel Millican



## 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 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 on the day 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), this special night brings together their talents, imagination and creativity from vastly different backgrounds. British folk at its heart with eddies of contemporary classical and splashes of early music - an exhilarating, enjoyable journey of exploration. 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](mailto:everyman@wheatstone.co.uk)

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## 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.

# 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 6.00p  
Sun 18th Jan at 2.00p

**AVATAR: FIRE AND A**

SCAN ME



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



# CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

**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.

**The Act also provides safeguards for landlords:**

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) Visit: [www.caes.org.uk/email-service](http://www.caes.org.uk/email-service) or phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10 - 2 Mon-Fri).

## Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Safety Advice



For the motorcyclists amongst us, we run our **FREE Biker Down** workshops covering what to do if you come across a motorcyclist who has been involved in a road traffic collision, casualty care and the science of being seen. 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**.



Did you know that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service offer **FREE Spark Education Sessions** to schools, home educated children and youth groups? We cover topics such as Fire, Road and Water Safety as well as Arson, Hoax Calls and Urban Exploring. To book, scan the QR code or

or contact us on **FireEducation@suffolk.gov.uk**.



### SPARK

SUFFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EDUCATION

# 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.

See our website: [www.cats.org.uk/framandsax](http://www.cats.org.uk/framandsax).  
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