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JANUARY 2026

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



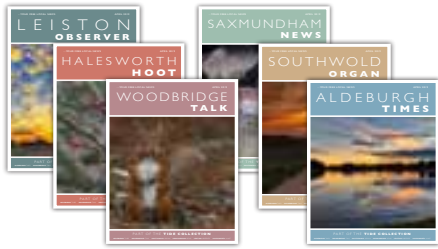
What a support the Old Hospital Hub is proving to be to the local community. From the pay-it-forward scheme, Family Tea Club (which includes trips out for children) to the new plans for the allotment and Community Fitness Centre. Well done to all the volunteers and supporters of this great community asset.

Drop me a line if you would like to boost your business in the new year by advertising in the Southwold Organ or any of our other five titles. My email is: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

No one's ever achieved financial fitness with a January resolution that's abandoned by February.

Suze Orman



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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.



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SOUTHWOLD & REYDON SOCIETY

The Society held its annual lunch last month, which was well attended with approximately 66 people coming together in what is the Society's 60th Year to enjoy a convivial occasion and to hear our excellent guest speaker Marc Vlessing. Marc spoke about the adverse impacts on our community and environment which flow from the multiple and uncoordinated energy schemes along our part of the Suffolk coast.

In what could have been a very dry session on a nevertheless extremely important topic he kept us fully engaged throughout, taking us all through some very complicated and highly nuanced technical and societal themes with passion and from an extremely well-informed perspective. Indeed, no one could have been left without a much better understanding of what is really going on with all these schemes. Nor just how vital it was to have had a successful campaign to stop the Lionlink proposal in Southwold, in which the Society is pleased to have played a part and that the threat of other schemes along our part of the Suffolk coast continues unabated and none of us can afford to be complacent about this.

This month has also been quite a busy month for the Committee. Thanks to committee member Michael Samuels and Chris Dixon of Reydon Parish Council we are now joining the Footpaths Group and will start to attend their meetings in January. It would be good if Southwold Town Council were able to be a part of this, especially with the Charles III way opening and everything to work for, promoting footpaths for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

Also this month we had a meeting with Geoff and Virginia Berridge of the Southwold Beach Hut Association to discuss a number of matters where both our organisations could share information and co-operate. We have a lot in common and have so far identified joining forces to tackle East Suffolk Council on the state of the cliffs behind the beach huts, promoting coastal footpaths, the plans for the Pier and also revisiting the proposals for a Beach Committee as areas of mutual interest where we could work together for the benefit of our local environment.



TALK TO YOUR TOWN COUNCILLOR

11:00am - midday
Thursday 8th January 2026
 &
Thursday 12th February 2026

*at the Tourist Information Office/
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THE KBB CENTRE – BIG OPEN DAY! BACK AGAIN FOR 2026! SAT 7TH FEBRUARY 9AM – 3PM

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

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you!



WHAT'S ON

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

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NEWS FROM THE OLD HOSPITAL HUB

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas spent with friends and family, and we wish you all a very happy New Year! As we reflect on the past three years at The Old Hospital Hub, we want to thank everyone who has supported us along the way. We are grateful for your feedback and good will, which helps us to continually adapt our projects to meet the community's needs.

Back in January 2023, we started our monthly Community Lunches - welcoming meals for locals and visitors alike, run on a pay-what-you-can-afford basis. With an initial £1,000 raised through donations and grant funding, alongside continued support from the community, we served more than 1,000 affordable (and delicious!) meals. It has been wonderful to see friendships blossom over time and to work alongside such generous, community-spirited volunteers.

When funding for the Community Lunches was coming to an end, we decided to create a more sustainable way for people to access food support whenever The Canteen is open. This led to the creation of our Pay-It-Forward scheme, where our customers make donations that are converted into vouchers that can be redeemed for free meals and drinks. Last year alone, this customer supported scheme provided over 200 meals to people in food need, who not only enjoyed a hot meal in a cafe that they otherwise would not have been able to afford but also the welcoming warmth of The Canteen.

Our Family Tea Club provides free evening teas every Wednesday at 3:30pm during term time for families with children attending Southwold and Reydon primary schools. We began this successful project with a grant from the Suffolk Community Foundation and have been able to extend it through the generosity of the Reydon Trust. One of the features of the Family Tea Club is outings to places where children have never been. Fruit picking, for example, at Hillfield Farm and animal petting at Pathways Care Farm. Last summer, we piloted our first holiday club, with free places for children on pupil premium, funded by a central government grant and a generous top up donation to extend the number of places from our East District Councillor.

Southwold Town Council donated money to help convert the former nursery space into an outdoor eating area for children, complete with fire pit. We are looking forward to initiating the latter with a hot dog and marshmallow roast as the afternoon light begins to expand in January.

Last but not least, our allotment is shaping up with help from young people at St Felix school. A grant from East Suffolk Council has provided much needed tools and materials. Starting this January, we will be expanding volunteering and learning opportunities at the allotment to Duke of Edinburgh scheme students at local high schools. If you know of a student interested in doing this, or anyone keen to enjoy the outdoors helping with the allotment, or you are interested in joining the Family Tea Club, contact info@oldhospitalcanteen.co.uk.

We're also excited to share details of our upcoming Open Art Exhibition, running from 13th January to 1st March 2026. We invited emerging artists from Suffolk and Norfolk to submit work and were delighted by the fantastic response. Nine pieces have been selected for the exhibition, showcasing a wide range of styles and mediums inspired by our local landscapes. The exhibition can be seen during The Canteen's opening hours (8:30am - 3pm, Tuesday-Sunday), and we hope you'll stop by to enjoy the creativity and talent our region has to offer.

Steady progress continues on our plans for a new Community Fitness Centre at The Old Hospital Hub. We have finalised our planning. Feedback from our recent survey and the many emails following it have been invaluable in shaping the offer. We're excited about what's ahead and look forward to sharing more updates in the coming months. To stay informed as the project develops, we encourage you to visit our website (www.oldhospitalhub.co.uk) and sign up for our newsletter!

Sydney Barbrook

Community Business Manager

The Old Hospital Hub, 4 The Old Hospital, Field Stile Road, Southwold, Suffolk, IP18 6LD

NEWS FROM SOUTHWOLD ARTS CENTRE

Our long-serving Hall Manager, Dawn Woodard, has decided to take early retirement. *"I want to spend more time in my garden, and enjoying the walks from my house"*, she told me. Dawn took over the post in 2019, having worked at the hall for several years before that, and played a major role in the recovery from COVID and subsequent rebuilding of the Arts Centre programme. In collaboration with trustees and volunteers, she has been a huge part of making the Arts Centre the success it is today.

Popular with both audiences and performing groups, she has been a welcoming presence at the hall and will be a hard act to follow. We wish her well in her retirement. Trustees have started the process of recruiting a new hall manager.

For details visit: <https://southwoldartscentre.co.uk>. It's under 'Jobs'.

Michael Rowan-Robinson

(Chair of Trustees, Southwold Arts Centre)



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WHAT'S ON AT THE SAIL LOFT? Winter 2026:

Welcome to The Sail Loft, here you will find all the exciting things that we have going on over the next few months.

Introducing our new **Diners Loyalty Card**. Simply collect 8 stamps for every 2 courses you enjoy with us & receive a free meal on your next visit (T&C's apply)

Steak Night*: Every Friday evening, starting 5th September – Pan seared minute steak, fries, dressed rocket salad & a brandy & peppercorn sauce for £21.95 inc glass of house wine or pint of draught

Fortune Thursdays*: Feeling lucky? Roll the dice, land a six & your food bill is on us!

2 for £15 Menu*: Starts November 3rd. Enjoy 2 courses from our pre-set menu for just £15, available Monday-Friday, between 12pm-3pm

Food focus of the month: Come & join us each month where you'll find a different food focus as we go through each season

*** NOT AVAILABLE DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

FOOD FOCUS OF THE MONTH

January
 "Veganuary" (Vegan focus)

February
 "Rooting for you"
 (Focusing on Root veg)

March
 Wild Garlic

April
 Spring Lamb

May
 Asparagus



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VIEW TO THE NORTH

What a month for weather. There has been horizontal rain (in one day over an inch and a half), frosty clear nights and mist patches. In the high winds the waves have been pounding the promenade making it impossible to walk along it without having a very cold drenching shower. Fortunately, on some clear days, when the rain and wind have abated, I have been able to fly my drone. One sunset flying over Buss Creek, I captured this view of Southwold. If you get a magnifying glass, you can even see the pilot.



Another interesting view towards Easton Bavents, this time using a handheld camera rather than the drone, shows the sunrise reflected off the windows onto a low-lying mist. It gives the impression of a lake between Southwold and the Bavents. The tops of the reeds take on a golden colour. The cattle were taken off the fields at the end of November. Initially it is strange to see them gone but the gulls seem to like their absence.



Barnacle geese have been grazing the grass on the fields. There have also been mallard, wigeon, and teal. Black tailed godwits were also feasting on the meadows pushing their long beaks into the now soft grass. Above I have also seen marsh harriers and kestrels but still no sign of the barn owl.

When there have been cloud free skies over night, I have been able to image several deep sky objects. One of these is the Silver Slither Galaxy (a real tongue twister). It is an edge-on galaxy about 30 million light-years away: discovered by William Herschel in 1784.



When the photos began their journey to my telescope In the Oligocene epoch, there were primitive three-toed horses, camels, and carnivores such as dogs, bears, and weasels.



Dramatic images can often be seen when storm clouds have the sun on them.

I walk down to the front most mornings and see the pier in all sorts of weather. In this shot, I liked the way in which the sun caught the very dark clouds and was also reflected off the sea.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and healthy New Year.

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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:

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REYDON VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Free Community Coffee Morning & Lunch

Friday 9th January & 6th February 9am - 12.30pm

Tea/Coffee and Toast (Pastries when available) 9 - 11am

Soup & Bread 11am - 12.30pm (Plus takeaway soup – bring your own container)

Reydon Village Hall Management Committee in conjunction with Reydon & Southwold Community Fridge & Pantry

The Optics: Funk, Soul and Motown Saturday 7th February @ 7pm

The Optics are a local high-energy funk, soul and Motown covers band, bringing timeless classics to life. From dance-floor classics to powerhouse vocals and irresistible grooves, if you love a live band come and see one of the best.

Check them out at: www.theopticsuffolk.com.

Tickets are £12 per person and there will be a bar.

Tickets will be available to from Charlotte 07715388916 frogclock@hotmail.com or online www.ticketsource.co.uk/reydonvillagehall

SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY



Our steam loco, Blyth, has passed its tests. We have some more work to do on it before we can run it on a public open day, watch this space. With Blyth running we are going to need a passenger carriage. We have found a company who will make us a shortened version of the type that plied up and down from Halesworth to

Southwold. This will meet all the current safety and accessibility regulations, cost £87k. We are very grateful to the Southwold Trust for their grant but we are still several thousand short of the target.

If you would like to be one of the first people to ride on the Southwold Railway since 1929 then go to our website (southwoldrailway.co.uk) and donate.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 24th January 2026** at 2.30pm in the Electric Picture Palace, Blackmill Road, Southwold IP18 6AN. If you are a member, or would like to join, please come along.

Please check our website for the 2026 open days.

Bob Mole

BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY LOTTERY

The local monthly lottery for The Brain Tumour Charity took place on Monday 1st December, with Fred & Kate Assmann being present to adjudicate. There were 217 entries, making a total prize fund of £108.50. 1st prize of £54.25 with ticket number 110 went to Jacqui Garratt. 2nd prize of £32.55 with ticket number 32 went to Michelle Marwood and 3rd prize of £21.70 with ticket number 94 went to the Gray family. Congratulations to each of them.

If you would like a monthly flutter, whilst supporting The Brain Tumour Charity, please contact John Huggins:

Email: thebtclottery@btinternet.com;

Tel: 07873 376168

The lottery is regulated and licensed by East Suffolk Council LOT02110. The next draw will take place on Thursday 1st January 2026. Every penny raised goes to The Brain Tumour Charity. My family and friends have raised over £67,500 from our various events since losing our 8 year old family member, Sophie. Our next fundraising event will be in the new year.

John Huggins

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PROJECT UPDATE

JANUARY 2026

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

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

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

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

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

FORUM SCHEDULE

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

VISIT THE WORKS TRACKER SITE



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

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



THE CUT SESSIONS

Curated Gigs – Original Artists

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



Aafke Groenewald, Manager of The Cut said:

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

Nick Dodds, programmer of the Cut Sessions said:

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

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

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

SOUTHWOLD LIBRARY

Southwold Community Cinema

Downton Abbey the Grand Finale (2025) 15 Drama
Wednesday, 25th February @ 3pm. In the summer of 1930, the Crawleys grapple with the threat of social disgrace when Mary finds herself at the centre of a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble.

The Life of Chuck (2024) 15 Drama / Fantasy Wednesday
25th March @ 3pm.
From childhood to adulthood, Charles "Chuck" Krantz experiences the wonder of love, heartbreak of loss.

The Choral (2025) 15 Drama Wednesday, 29th April @ 3pm.
A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr Guthrie to recruit teenagers and experience the joy of singing.

Tickets - £5 including refreshments. Book at:
southwoldartscentre.co.uk or visit the box office tel : 01502 722572 Southwold Arts Centre, Cumberland Road, IP18 6JP

Tuesdays: Card Games; **Wednesdays:** Crochet & Craft;
Thursday 29th January & 5th February: Rummikub (usually first Thursday); **Second Thursday:** Scrabble; **Third & fourth Thursday:** Board Games; **First Friday:** Poetry; **Second & fourth Friday:** Mah-Jong; Ongoing jigsaw all other afternoons. Free Hot Drinks, Soup & Fruit All Day. For details of the many other regular activities at the library contact details below.

Charlotte Clark
Executive Library Manager
Tel: 01502 442817 Email: southwold.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk



Tuesday Jan 13th at 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre



OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES Gillian Hovell

This talk is in itself a celebration of how the Ancient Greeks and Romans created our love of wine including how wine's popularity spread, how wine production has and has not changed and what wine connoisseurs 2,000 years ago thought made a wine great!

Gillian Hovell is a specialist in the ancient world and archaeology. Known professionally as 'The Muddy Archaeologist', she has excavated at internationally important sites from the Neolithic through to Roman times including a Roman wine-producing warehouse. This talk should refresh your palette.

Guests are welcome at all our events. £10 entrance charge.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JAN 8 Blyth Valley & Southwold Wildlife Group: The Fascination of Fungi Illustrated talk by Tony Brown.
7.30pm at Southwold Arts Centre, IP18 6JP. Admission £5 inc. refreshments. Under 25s free. Raffle . Everyone welcome.

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.

Tickets £10 in advance or £12 on the door. 7.30pm at The Riverside Centre, Gt Glemham Road, Stratford St Andrew. IP17 1LL.
Email: everyman@wheatstone.co.uk

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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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