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MARCH 2026

ALDEBURGH TIMES



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



It seems a long way off but planning for Aldeburgh Carnival is already well underway. The wild west will hit the town with a 'Country and Eastern Aldeburgh Ho Down' theme! So why not don your cowboy boots (very on trend) and your Stetson and join the fun – maybe even have a go at line-dancing! Aldeburgh's biggest event wouldn't go ahead without the dedicated committee and volunteers so if you feel you could help out over the weekend do get in touch, you would be made very welcome, (See page 7).

Please drop me a line to boost your business by advertising with us, in any or all of our six titles, or if you have any news or events you would like to share with our readers. Email: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming.

Pablo Neruda

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- A talk by Simon Fremont, Regional Organiser of The Royal Photographic Society, East Anglia.

Aldeburgh Museum
MOOT HALL
REGISTERED CHARITY 1166357

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are in need of volunteers to help with our small heritage museum. We don't just need help with 'front of house' but behind the scenes also. It really doesn't matter how much time you can spare or what you can offer; we'd still love to hear from you. We are a friendly team of all ages and abilities and can't wait for you to join us.

To keep the museum open and flourishing we need help with:

- Front of House
- Assisting with our activity programme

The museum will open daily 1-4pm from 30th March until 31st October. There will be activities for children during the Easter School Holidays – please check our website for information.

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Aldeburgh Music Club presents
AN EVENING WITH MOZART

Snape Maltings Concert Hall
Saturday 28 March 2026 at 7.30pm



Solemn Vespers K339
Exsultate, jubilate K165
Requiem in D minor K626
The New Novello Choral Edition

Aldeburgh Music Club Choir

Laura Morgan *soprano*
Katherine Nicholson *contralto*
Richard Edgar-Wilson *tenor*
Matthew Crowe *bass*

Prometheus Orchestra

Tom Appleton conductor



Tickets: £35, £25, £20, £15
Under 18s half price
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Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Saturday 28 March at 7.30pm

Aldeburgh Music Club will be returning to Snape Maltings Concert Hall for their Spring concert on **Saturday 28th March**. Following their sell-out performance of Messiah last November, the choir are returning with an all-Mozart programme, to celebrate the composer's 270th birthday.

The concert includes three of Mozart's major works, completed at three key stages in his short life. Accompanied by the **PROMETHEUS ORCHESTRA** the choir will perform the Solemn Vespers, K339, that Mozart wrote in 1780 at the age of 24. This will be followed by one of the composer's most popular works, written when he was just 17, Exsultate, jubilate, K165, well known to many for having been sung by Kiri te Kanawa at the wedding of the then Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. The concert ends with the Requiem in D minor, K626, which Mozart was working on when he died at the early age of 35. The version sung at this concert will be the completion by Duncan Druce.

Aldeburgh Music Club Choir will be joined by soloists Laura Morgan (soprano), Katherine Nicholson (contralto), Richard Edgar-Wilson (tenor) and Matthew Crowe (bass). The performance will be conducted by the choir's Music Director, Tom Appleton.

The performance is being dedicated to the memory of the late Sir Humphrey Burton CBE, the Club's President Emeritus.



ALDEBURGH JUBILEE HALL

Sat 14th March, 11am

Talk: A Love Letter to East Suffolk
by Richard Allenby-Pratt



A Love Letter to East Suffolk

Sat 14th March, 7.30pm

This Flight Tonight - The Songs
of Joni Mitchell



The Flight Tonight

Fri 20th March, 7.30pm

Saucy by the Sea with Wayne Burns



Saucy by the Sea

Sat 21st March, 3pm

Ipswich School Concert



Ipswich School Concert

Sat 28th March, 10am

Clarke & Simpson
Antiques Valuation Day

Sat 28th March, 7.30pm

Jazz @ Jubilee presents
Danny Ilett & the Swinging Blues



Danny Ilett

Tues 31st March, 2pm

The Highland Joker present
The Bubble Show 2

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RNLI ALDEBURGH - 1931 - 1959

Aldeburgh's lifeboats guard a dangerous and exposed stretch of coast, where wind and tide can change the seashore overnight. The shingle beach is constantly shifting through the force of the sea.

In 1826, the 'Suffolk Association for Saving Lives of Shipwreck Seamen' was formed, and a lifeboat was sent to Sizewell Gap, where it served until 1852. The station moved to Aldeburgh in 1851 and was taken over by the RNLI in 1852.

The station's first motor lifeboat, the 41ft Beach type Abdy Beauclerk, arrived in December 1931, and served the station for almost 28 years, saving 141 lives. Built by J S White at Cowes, she was funded from the legacy of Mrs J E King, and was named on 27 May 1932 by HRH Prince George, who came to the town specially for the occasion.



Abdy Beauclerk

One of the most notable rescues in which she was involved took place on 23 November 1938, when fierce storms struck the British Isles, resulting in no fewer than 27 lifeboats being called out. Abdy Beauclerk was one of them, putting out within nine minutes of the call to assist two Rochester barges, Grecian and Astrid, which were in difficulty in the south-easterly gale and very heavy seas.

To save the two crew from Astrid, Coxswain George Chatten had to make five attempts to get the lifeboat alongside. Rescuing the two crew from the other barge was also extremely difficult, but once this had been accomplished the lifeboat made for Lowestoft, as beaching at Aldeburgh in the appalling conditions was impossible. For the skilful rescue of the four men, Coxswain Chatten was awarded the Bronze Medal by the RNLI.

On 10 September 1939, one week after the declaration of World War II, Abdy Beauclerk was launched and rescued 74 of the 80 crew members of the steamer SS Magdapur, who struck an electronic mine and began to sink off the coast at Aldeburgh. This was the first RNLI service of the war, and was featured on BBC's Saving Lives at Sea and can be viewed at bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001x949

In May 1940 a second lifeboat, a new motorboat was supplied: the 35ft 6in Liverpool type boat, funded from the legacy of Mr A H Lavers and the estate of Mr E Williams, was named Lucy Lavers.

Built by Groves & Guttridge at Cowes, she was one of very few lifeboats to take up duties during the Second World War.

The first services in which she was involved took her to France to help with the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk in June 1940. Abdy Beauclerk also went, and the two Aldeburgh lifeboats were among the 19 which took part in the evacuation. Abdy Beauclerk, crewed by three men, transported hundreds of troops from the beaches out to the waiting ships anchored offshore. Abdy Beauclerk was taken to Ramsgate on 5 June 1940, and from there returned to Aldeburgh.

Apart from the work they did at Dunkirk, the two Aldeburgh lifeboats launched 58 times on service during the war and saved 107 lives. They assisted many war casualties, including standing by the London steamship Oil Trader on 11 August 1940, which was on fire; helping a German aircraft on 17 December 1942; and saving the pilot of an Army glider on 18 September 1944.

Celebrate 200 years of your local lifeboat station

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

Brew with the Crew

On the last Saturday of every month you can chat with volunteer crew members over a cuppa. Come along and ask your questions, sign up to join or share your link to the lifeboat family. Check social media for timings. Please be aware that all training exercises, station drop in and Brew with the Crew are subject to operational requirements.

Follow RNLI Aldeburgh on social media for dates and time of Brew with the Crew, planned training exercises and to learn more about their history.

Facebook @RNLIAldeburghLifeboat
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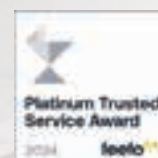
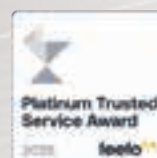
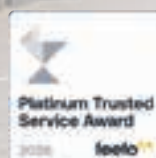
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THE ALDEBURGH 82ND CARNIVAL (AUGUST 15-18TH)

Preparation is already in full swing following the 2026 kick off meeting held in February and attended by the Carnival committee with both existing and new committee team members. The committee is ably led by our Carnival Director Sally Watts.

This will be Sally's second year leading the Carnival committee and she knows very well the importance of the Carnival for people in Aldeburgh and further afield. Sally has been Carnival Queen herself and was overjoyed to witness her own daughter being crowned at the 81st Aldeburgh Carnival last year.

Carnival Theme this year

Our theme will be '*Country and Eastern Aldeburgh Ho Down*' which clearly has country and western connotations. We will be actively encouraging the Carnival floats to be country themed and for the thousands of people who attend we would also encourage you to join in the theme and don your Stetsons and cowboy and cowgirl boots!

We will have many of the events that we have had in prior years which always receive huge praise and entertain all ages across the four days, more about these events as we secure bookings.

On Carnival Monday we plan to have some country music and hopefully some line dancing to continue our '*Country & Eastern*' theme into the evening.

Come & Join Our Carnival Committee

There is soooooo much to do to put on a Carnival that attract tens of thousands of people each year and without a dedicated committee team and volunteers we cannot run a successful carnival. Come and join our committee and help shape how the Carnival evolves under the leadership of our Carnival Director Sally Watts.

We have Carnival committee vacancies as follows and would love to hear from you via Carnival website:

- Traffic Management deputy
- Deputy Steward
- Car Park co-ordinator
- Collection co-ordinator

Volunteers 2026 – We need you!

Volunteers are SUPER important in order to have a safe and successful Carnival, so we want to thank our 2025 volunteers and encourage them to remain as volunteers for 2026 and in addition actively encourage new volunteers!

Let me be crystal clear - without the generous support of hundreds of volunteers we simply could not hold the Carnival.

How To Volunteer

Email: volunteer@aldeburghcarnival.com or go to Aldeburgh Carnival website – go to About tab and scroll down to the red volunteer box – this takes you to a choice of roles and ways to volunteer over the weekend.

Stalls

Having a variety of stalls over the four day carnival weekend is hugely important for you, the public to enjoy great food, great entertainment and a little retail therapy, so if you are a stall holder and would like to make an application to put up a stall, please go to the Aldeburgh Carnival website and follow the guidance.

Once again, we are super excited to plan another successful Carnival, which cannot be done without volunteers, sponsors, public services and the attendance of people from far and wide, which ensures we raise much needed funds for our local charities.

More Carnival updates to come as we move through 2026

ALDE VALLEY RAMBLERS

Alde Valley Ramblers is a very friendly and sociable group, part of the Ramblers Association whose mission is to open the way for everyone to enjoy the simple pleasures of walking and who will step up to protect the places we all love to wander.

Our group is based in the part of East Suffolk lying between the Rivers Blyth and Deben but we do occasionally walk in areas further afield.

Our membership stands at about 120 which makes us rather small as Ramblers groups go but we are edged between the larger groups of Ipswich and Waveney.

There are usually on average about 15 to 20 walkers, led by a member who will have recced the walk beforehand and noted any possible problems or hazards.

We provide regular guided walks in the beautiful Suffolk Coastal area and these take place on a Sunday every two weeks starting at 10am. Examples of recent walks are from Orford (6.2 miles) and Rendlesham Forest (5.7 miles).

There are a few mid-week walks in the summer with a possible picnic and a Christmas lunch, which was held last year at The Lighthouse restaurant in Aldeburgh.

There is an annual membership fee to join the Ramblers Association and have access to walks around the country (£45 p.a single or ££61 p.a. joint). Non-members are very welcome to come on a few of our walks and there is no fee to pay for joining a walk on a trial basis.

Well behaved dogs are welcome unless specifically stated in the walk details (found on our website: www.aldevalleyramblers.org.uk).

So, if you would like to join us on one of our walks, please visit our website where you will find details of the walk including the name and contact details of the walk leader who will answer any questions you may have.

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NEW DISPLAYS FOR 2026

REED IT &....

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28 years ago, I moved from Cornwall to Aldeburgh and completely fell in love with this beautiful seaside town. Its changing skies, fresh sea air and quiet charm inspired me to finally follow my dream and create Reed it &...

Two places feel like home to me – the rugged coastline and beauty of Cornwall and the timeless, peaceful shores of Suffolk. Both have influenced the fragrance of my candles and diffusers, each designed to capture a moment - salty sea air; coastal walks; warm sand – and the calm that only the sea can bring.

I use plant-based ingredients, carefully chosen for their quality and sustainability, for all my candles and diffusers. Every product is created with care, in small batches to fill your home with gentle long-lasting fragrance.

Whether you too are drawn to the Suffolk coast or you have your own personal favourite beach, why not bring some coastal calm to your home? Locally, my products can be found at Friday Street Farm Shop, Market Place Artisan Store, Halesworth, House of Beauty in Framlingham and Belle Ame in Aldeburgh.

You can also take advantage of a 15% discount (see right) by placing an order via my website – you won't be disappointed!

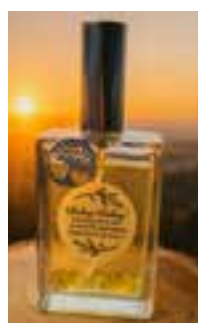
Jenny Browning

Editor's note: Jenny has several other products such as body mist, pillow mist, bath salts etc.



I particularly like the 'sprinkles' which are very versatile and freshen up all sorts around your home, great for carpets!

I also love these decorative shells, (left) – which adorn my dressing table and come in various designs – so pretty!



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ALDEBURGH PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The next meeting of the Aldeburgh Photography Group will be held on **Wednesday 20 March** at 7.30pm in the Aldeburgh Library.

This month we are very pleased to welcome Simon Fremont, Regional Organiser of The Royal Photographic Society, East Anglia Team. Simon will be covering its history and purpose, as well as the benefits of membership including mentoring, events, exhibitions, networking, and internationally recognised qualifications known as Distinctions. He will outline the Distinction journey that begins with Licentiate (LRPS), demonstrating technical competence and visual control and Associate (ARPS) that recognises a cohesive body of work with clear intent and strong visual awareness.

Finally, he will discuss becoming a Fellow (FRPS) which is the highest distinction, awarded for a sustained, distinctive, and accomplished body of work that reflects professional-level practice.

The presentation will include examples of successful panels at each of the three stages of the Distinctions journey.

A reminder that we are a friendly group and we are keen to welcome everyone from beginners to experienced photographers, from users of iPhones to the latest DSLRs.

We don't run competitions which put too many amateur photographers off joining local photography groups. Instead, we aim to help each other learn and improve our work. If you want to know more, or if you want to check for up-to-date information on our meetings, please contact us through our website (www.aldeburghphotographygroup.org.uk).



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BRITTEN PEARS ARTS - MARCH

Easter: 2 April

Maudy Thursday: Tenebrae and Britten Sinfonia: A powerful and reflective programme for Passiontide pairing Renaissance masterpieces by Allegri (Miserere) and Victoria (Tenebrae Responseries) with more contemporary works by Edmund Finnis (Hymn – After Byrd), Barber (Adagio for Strings) and James MacMillan (Seven Last Words from the Cross). Nigel Short conducts Britten Sinfonia and Tenebrae: **7.30pm, Snape Maltings Concert Hall.**

Britten Pears Young Artist Programme

Friday Lunchtime Concerts: January to April

Britten Pears Arts presents twelve Friday Lunchtime Concerts at 12noon. The majority take place in the historic Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall, with one taking place at Snape Maltings' Britten Studio and the finale on Good Friday in Orford Church. The series features performances by young ensembles on the 2025-26 Britten Pears Young Artist Programme as part of their residencies in Snape and Aldeburgh.

Trio Archai: 27 February & 6 March; Terra String Quartet: 13 March & 20 March; Paddington Trio: 27 March & 3 April. Tickets £15 each or only £12 each when you buy for 3 or more concerts.

Artist Development

Open Sessions offer a unique chance to go behind the scenes and experience work-in-progress created during Britten Pears Arts Residencies. The following Open Sessions are taking place from February to May:

Can you hear the alarm? This new performance work from Crispin Lord (director/performer), Tom Foskett-Barnes (composer/performer) and Rita Mazza (dramaturg/performer) reimagines Béla Bartók's Bluebeard's Castle for two performers, one deaf, one hearing, using live electronics, gesture, image and written English to explore how sound and silence shape our understanding of danger, communication and story: **13 March, 7pm, Britten Studio.**

Family Concerts

Concerteenies: The Duck with No Luck: Narrator Polly Ives, bassoonist Daria Phillips and pianist Annabelle Lawson combine new music, composed by award-winning Paul Rissmann, and digital animations by Victor Craven, with this much-loved children's book written by Jonathan Long and illustrated by Korky Paul. For children aged 3 – 7 and their families, The Duck with No Luck features songs and actions to join in with and a relaxed and friendly environment, this is a perfect introduction to music, animation and storytelling: **29 March, 12noon, Britten Studio, Snape Maltings. This is followed by a Family Music Makers: 29 March, 2pm, Britten Studio, Snape Maltings.**

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

Family Music Makers is a free, fun session of music and play activities for 5–10-year-olds including warm-ups, musical games and creating new music: **Monthly, Britten Studio, 2pm.**

Participatory Events

Art Talks

Britten Pears Arts and celebrated Art Historian Dr John-Paul Stonard takes us on a cultural historical tour that begins in Constable's native Suffolk, then takes us far afield, to the foothills of Himalayas, the landscape of China, and even as far as the moon. The lectures will be accompanied by Stonard's trademark drawings, films and photographs and mark Constable's 250th anniversary in 2026: **Weekly from Monday 23 February - 30 March, 6.30pm, Britten Studio, Snape Maltings.**

Lecture 2: The Borough, 2 March; Lecture 3, 9 March; Lecture 4, The Lock, 16 March; Lecture 5, Riverrun, 23 March and Lecture 6: Summerland, 30 March. Buy a season ticket to all six talks in the John Constable series and receive a multibuy discount off the full price (from £75 to £60).

Art Exhibitions

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

Full listings online at www.brittenpearsarts.org



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ALDEBURGH GARDENING CLUB

I keep looking outside and thinking that when (if) it stops raining I will go out and fill the empty green bin before it is collected next week. The snowdrops are looking lovely in my woodland area along with a couple of puny aconites (they have never done very well here) and there's a nice colony of *Arum Italicum* producing their lush green leaves with silver veining. I have planted windflowers (*Anemone Nemorosa*) which struggle a bit but keep going and various *vinca minor* as ground cover. Celandine 'Brazen Hussy' seeds about and mostly comes true. The odd green one can be easily weeded out. It's all rather pretty in there till May when the bluebells take over and smother everything in sight. Mine are inherited and have a strong mixture of Spanish bluebell genes which makes them resilient and vigorous but sadly scentless. They seed everywhere and the bulbs dig themselves very deep.

I have loads of stuff that needs cutting into the bin. The final clump of bamboo (inherited not planted) is a foot and a half heap of spindly shoots with really rather pretty, bright green leaves. It seems a shame to cut them off but if I don't I will have another forest in a couple of years' time. Chopping it off at ground level a couple of times a year does kill it eventually but you have to be persistent and consistent or it takes advantage and romps back. Maybe I'll put some in a vase to enjoy indoors. This woodland area was once an elm hedge, long before my time here, and elm produces suckers and twiggy whiskers appear across the woodland floor. If left they eventually produce small trees up to maybe twenty feet tall but then the bark beetle moves in and Dutch elm disease kills the tree. Standing deadwood is said to be very good wildlife habitat so I only have a clear out of dead stuff once every ten years or so. The base of the trunk doesn't always die and more suckers appear from hawser like roots that can spread twenty feet or more and are a nuisance but elm is a larval food plant for comma butterflies so it gets to stay.

I have planted other trees among the elm to diversify a bit and maintain the shelter belt. Two hazels, a hawthorn and a holm oak are well established.

There are two self-set plain green holly trees that have reached ten feet or so up and almost as much across. Holly makes a good evergreen windbreak and long twisty shoots are good for making wreaths but it also blocks out the light underneath and grows surprisingly fast, even in my low nutrient sand. I shall take the top out and reduce the volume of them by about half. The plants underneath can then get their fair share of rain and daylight. I sometimes think I should remove them but then the easterly blows and I change my mind, again.

Karen Mountford

aldeburchgardeningclub.org.uk



CITIZENS ADVICE: HOW WE WORK

Citizens Advice has been providing advice nationally for more than 85 years. The volunteers at Citizens Advice come from a variety of backgrounds and often have to provide advice on matters which they never previously encountered in their working careers or in their personal lives. The good news is that the advisers must undertake many hours of training before they are allowed to advise clients. The advisers have constant access to a knowledge base, resources and tools, similar to those accessible on the public website: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

The further good news is that no adviser will provide advice to a client without first conferring with experienced supervisors.

More complex or unusual issues may take a little longer for the advisers to be able to provide advice. This may include asking the clients for further information. Some clients find completing an official form difficult, possibly because of a concern about getting it right or because of disability. We can help. We can also assist with benefit checks. We can, with the authority of the clients, make direct contact with creditors and service providers. We have specialist debt advisers who can advise and assist.

When an issue falls outside the range of the areas upon which we provide advice, such as income tax advice and pension advice, we try to direct the clients to an appropriate contact or resource.

(For tax advice it is Tax Aid <https://taxaid.org.uk/tax-information> and for pensions it is Pension Wise <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pension-wise>)

It can be extremely rewarding for advisers to be useful to people in the local community by providing advice which may explain a difficult situation or to provide a solution to a long-standing problem.

Don't be self-conscious about contacting Citizens Advice. The service is free, confidential and the advisers are keen to help. You can email, phone or pop into our offices or outreaches. Contact us: <https://citizensadviceeastsoffolk.org.uk/>
Email: advice@caes.org.uk

HELPING SAVE LIVES IN TOBY'S MEMORY

More than 210 young people aged between 14 and 35 have been screened for undetected heart conditions during a very special memorial event held at the Pear Tree Centre. The screening took place in memory of much-loved footballer Toby Chenery during February. Over two days, 211 young people had an electrocardiogram, with 11 then referred on to a GP or hospital for further investigation – potentially saving their lives.

The event was organised by Toby's family in partnership with CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young). The screenings were paid for with a portion of a staggering £49,433 raised in Toby's memory after the 23-year-old passed away suddenly in his sleep last February. Sadly, Toby suffered with an undiagnosed heart condition and had been asymptomatic his whole life.

The event at the Pear Tree Centre was the first in a series of screenings that Toby's family are funding to detect similar conditions in other young people. They said: "It was a very emotional weekend for us all as none of it would have happened if we hadn't lost our beautiful boy almost a year ago. Toby was a kind, caring and generous soul and the legacy we've been able to create is a tribute to him in every way.

"We'd like to say thank you to everyone who has donated – we appreciate every single penny. We'd also like to thank the Pear Tree Centre for letting us use the building. It couldn't have been more perfect and gave a lot of people the opportunity to visit the centre who had never been before."

During the weekend, Toby's family also raised more than £550 by selling CRY wristbands and collecting donations, all of which will help pay for future screenings. To make a donation, visit www.c-r-y.org.uk/toby-chenery. Toby's memorial page is available by searching for 'Toby's CRY page – forever 23' on Facebook.

The Pear Tree Fund offers vital information, advice and holistic support to people with life-changing illnesses or who have been bereaved. Please visit www.peartreefund.org for more information or call 01986 899655 if you'd like to discuss holding a similar event at the centre.



The Pear Tree Fund

Local support when you need it most



Providing information, advice and holistic support to people facing life-changing illnesses, long-term conditions and bereavement

If you or a loved one could benefit from our support, please get in touch



01986 899655



info@peartreefund.org



www.peartreefund.org

Charity Number 1155419
(England and Wales)

LIVE WELL HUB LEISTON

With spring fast approaching, The Live Well Hub has lots of new activities, all aimed at and boosting both the mental and physical health of the local community.

Following the huge success of DWP-Introduction to Construction course, we are delighted to report that 8 of the 20 attendees of the last courses have already been offered employment with Carmichael UK and HW Martin!

Also, a further course has been planned next starting 2nd March 2026, if anyone would like to attend contact your local job centre or you can self-refer with QR code (right). This course has been generously funded by Suffolk County Council. (Over 19s only).



Families Together Suffolk - March 5th, 12noon – 1.30pm: One-off afternoon coffee catch-up for parents of SEND children - to scope the needs and support required for families in the local area, an opportunity to meet other families and to help shape the SEND support available in our area. Both Parents and children welcome to attend.

Future Female Society - Happiness brunch: Friday 20th March from 9.30am - 1.30pm. ALL Females welcome. Please come join us for lunch, yoga and other activities to boost mental health and wellbeing. Females getting together empower each other to be the best version of themselves

Social Prescribing Day: March 26th, 9am- 12noon: In collaboration with Connect for Health we are celebrating social prescribing to increase awareness of what social prescribers and other local support services can offer. Everyone is welcome to come and learn what social prescribing is all about!

Combat2Coffee will be present at the Hub, 10am - 12noon on the third Friday of each month offering a warm welcome to veterans and their families.

On the third Monday of each month 'Way to Go' are offering Guided Walks, 10 – 11.30am followed by a guided cycle ride 1.30 - 3pm. Both will be followed by refreshments served at The Live Well Hub.

New Age Kurling: Tuesdays, 10.30am – 12noon. Free to attend, everyone welcome to join or pop along to have a go.



Headway Open Day - Tuesday March 24th ,11.30am - 2.30pm: An opportunity to learn more about how people affected by brain injury and neurological conditions can be supported.

Follow The Live Well Hub-Leiston on Facebook for more news. We are sited at Waterloo Centre, off Waterloo Avenue, IP16 4HF. For more info. Tel: 01728 808 388 or 07955 437 070. Email: livewell@leistoncouncil.gov.uk or livewellmanager@leistoncouncil.gov.uk. or to enquire about hiring space at The Live Well Hub

Sizewell *Creative* art exhibition comes to Leiston!





A vibrant showcase of artwork created by the Sizewell C workforce.

VENUE
The Live Well Hub, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4HF

OPENING
Monday 23 February 2026

VISITING HOURS
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am–5pm*

*Evening and weekend visits available on request. Call **01728 808388** or email livewellmanager@leistoncouncil.gov.uk



Community artists wanted!

We're inviting local creatives to submit work to be included in this touring exhibition.

For community submissions, please contact us via email at SizewellCreative@sizewellc.com

What's On at
Leiston
 Film Theatre

Fri 6th Mar at 4.30pm
 Sat 7th Mar at 2.00pm & 4.30pm
 Sun 8th Mar at 11.30am

GOAT PG

Sun 8th Mar at 2.00pm

OTHELLO 15

Fri 6th, Mon 9th, Tues 10th, Wed 11th &
 Thurs 12th Mar at 7.15pm

COLD STORAGE 15

Sat 7th Mar at 7.00pm

**JAMES ACASTER
 CINEMAGOERS WELCOME** 15

Wed 11th Mar at 2.00pm
 Sun 15th Mar at 3.00pm

H IS FOR HAWK 12A

Fri 13th & Sat 14th Mar at 7.15pm
 Sun 15th Mar at 6.00pm
 Mon 16th Mar at 1.00pm & 7.15pm
 Tues 17th & Wed 18th Mar at 7.15pm
 Thurs 19th Mar at 2.00pm & 7.15pm
 Fri 20th Mar at 7.15pm
 Sun 22nd Mar at 3.00pm
 Mon 23rd Mar at 1.00pm & 7.15pm
 Tues 24th & Wed 25th Mar at 7.15pm
 Thurs 26th Mar at 2.00pm & 7.15pm

MOTHER'S PRIDE 12A

Sat 21st Mar at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

**THE STADIUM
 ROCK EXPERIENCE**

Wed 25th Mar at 3.00pm
 Sun 29th Mar at 6.00pm

**EPiC: ELVIS PRESELY
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www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

AT THE HOP



Leiston gets ready to swing with an evening of glamour, glitz and rocking hits!

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of musical nostalgia and high-energy entertainment as the fabulous Jukebox Jems bring their critically acclaimed new show, AT THE HOP, to the Leiston Film Theatre.

Step back in time and relive the magic of the 1950s and 1960s in this electrifying musical theatre celebration, packed with timeless hits and dazzling performances. AT THE HOP invites audiences to "Rock Around the Clock," "Twist and Shout," and so much more in a spectacular journey through the golden age of pop.

The Jukebox Jems are a dynamic three-piece vocal harmony group and this show promises powerhouse vocals, breathtaking harmonies, and glamorous retro costumes, capturing the spirit of Rock 'n' Roll, the Swinging Sixties, Motown magic, and not forgetting the Summer of Love.

Whether you're a teenager at heart or reliving cherished memories, AT THE HOP is the ultimate feel-good night out and a true celebration of the music that defined a generation, bringing the hits of yesterday to life today!

AT THE HOP appears live at the Leiston Film Theatre on **Sunday 3rd May** at 7.30pm. Tickets are now available from the venue box office on 01728 830549 and via the Leiston Film Theatre website at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve
 Wildlife - Shop - Café - Events - Family Activities







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


DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAYS. Chat and warm space hub. Coffee/tea/biscuits/cake/fruit. 10.30 - 11.30am at The Fairfield Centre, Aldeburgh IP15 5JS. All Welcome!

TUESDAYS SEND Coffee Morning. Coffee/tea/biscuits/cake/fruit. Chat and support group. 10.30 - 11.30am at The Fairfield Centre, Aldeburgh IP15 5JS. All Welcome! March 10th hosted by Families Together Suffolk

MAR 6 World Day of Prayer Service followed by Soup and Bread Lunch. This is a United Churches event prepared this year by women from Nigeria. (for further information visit wwdp.org.uk) or contact Elizabeth Smith on 01394 385052. 11am at The Fairfield Centre, Aldeburgh.

MAR 7 Craft Fair at St Margaret's church, Leiston. A wide variety of hand-made goods and unique gifts. There will also be a raffle for church funds, charity stalls and delicious home-made refreshments. Admission is free and there's plenty of parking. 10am - 2pm at St Margaret's Church, Leiston

MAR 10 SWT Alde Valley Group talk: 'Flora and Fauna of Namibia' by Roger Pinkney. 7.30pm at the United Reform Church, Leiston. £4 entrance fee (cash please). Free raffle

MAR 15 Tallis Chamber Orchestra. The orchestra will be directed by violin soloist David Alberman. Symphony No. 4 in F major - William Boyce; Nocturne in B major - Antonín Dvořák; Violin Concerto in A minor BWV 1041 - Johann Sebastian Bach; A Downland Suite - John Ireland; Divertimento for String Orchestra - Béla Bartók. 3pm at St Peter's Church, Westleton, IP17 3AQ. Admission by programme, £15 at the door (cashless payments accepted). Any changes will be posted on our website; www.tco.org.uk

MAR 26 Saxmundham History Society meeting. 'Ethiopia - An Antique Land' by Christopher Parfitt. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in the URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham. IP17 1BJ. Visitors £3. Annual membership £18. Enquiries to Jenny 01728 604608.

MAR 28 Knodishall Cancer Research UK Support Group Coffee Morning & Sale. Draw, refreshments, cake stall, tombola, craft items etc. all with an Easter Theme. 10am - 2pm at Knodishall Village Hall. Please come and help us raise money for Cancer Research UK.

MAR 28 Spring River and Reedbed Ramble at Snape Maltings. Join RSPB Minsmere's expert guides as they help you to enjoy spring wildlife at this special location. Many wading birds, ducks, geese and swans are to be found on the River Alde through the spring. This walk starts and finishes at Snape Maltings, IP17 1SP. Meet on the Quay at Snape Maltings. 10am - 1pm. Email: minsmerc@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728648281

MAR 31 Family Wildlife Walk at Snape Maltings. Join Minsmere's enthusiastic RSPB volunteers on a fun family stroll. This walk starts and finishes at Snape Maltings, IP17 1SP. Meet on the Quay at Snape Maltings. 10am - 12.30pm. Email: minsmerc@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281



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Client & Professional References Available

PROJECT UPDATE

MARCH 2026

We thank you for your patience during the recent weekend A12 closures

These have enabled important works on drainage and kerb alignments for the roundabouts that are being constructed along the A12.

We are on schedule to open them in early April, and whilst the works will not be fully complete, this will improve the traffic flow and the safety of the roads at these important junctions. Once the full work on the structure of the roundabouts is complete, the community will start to see traffic management in the immediate areas reduced. Later in the year landscaping and planting of flora will begin.

Both the Southern Park and Ride (Wickham Market) and Northern Park and Ride (Darsham) will be opening in phases with full openings due in late summer.

The roundabout that links the A12 to the Darsham Park and Ride is being linked to the A12 in phases. The bottom of the roundabout will be connected at the end of February and fully operational by the end of March. The access road to the Park and Ride at Wickham Market is due to open in March. Sizewell C workers are being allocated parking space, which will alleviate local roads.

Our bus fleet is increasing and will be transporting workers to and from the Park and Rides, using the A12 and B1122.

Improvements to the Saxmundham to Leiston rail line continue, with construction of the branch line to the Temporary Construction Area continuing at pace.

Level crossing improvements and construction will require small road closures, you can see these on the Sizewell C Works Tracker. Engineering trains will start running along the line from early March.

During March the temporary Main Bulk Import Facility (MBIF) will continue to be constructed. The MBIF will extend approximately 500 metres from the Main

Construction Site into the North Sea, supporting our strategy to deliver 60% of construction materials by rail and sea. A jack-up barge has arrived to facilitate marine works for the jetty. Whilst construction on the beach end is carried out, there will be weekday beach closures at the northern end of the construction site. The closures will be lifted from 06:00 Saturday to 22:00 Sunday. The footpath will fully reopen once construction progresses into the North Sea. We anticipate this work will be complete by the end of March 2026 and will keep you informed of progress.

Thank you for your patience as we work towards the completion of many of the road schemes and as always if you need to speak to us, please contact us via the **FREEPHONE 0800 197 6102***.

FORUM

SCHEDULE

Forum timings

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

Southern Transport Forum

Wed 4 March

Stratford St Andrew
Riverside Centre

Community Forum

Thurs 19 March

Sizewell Sports
and Social Club

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

*Calls to 0800 numbers are free from UK landlines. Call costs from mobile and international numbers may vary.

VISIT THE WORKS
TRACKER SITE



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ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

'My Family and the Royal Family' – Jane Evans

In a change to the previously advertised event 'Members' Brick Walls', our next talk will be the story of the relationship between Jane Evans' family and the Royals: Jane's grandmother cooked for King Edward VII; her great uncle was at the Delhi Durbar in 1911; and her mother received a Coronation Medal in 1953. This is their story.

The talk takes place on **Monday 16th March** at 2.30pm, in person at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL (behind the library) and, for members only, on Zoom. The speaker will be talking to us in person. The talk starts at 2.30pm. No need to book - just turn up - free for members and £5 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits. Good, free car-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.

Further programme:

Mon 20 April: Annual General Meeting

Mon 18 May: Apprenticeship Records by Richard Holt

Mon 15 June: Pauper Ancestors by Clare O'Grady



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SAXMUNDHAM CHAUFFEUR COMPANY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

A Saxmundham-based chauffeur company is celebrating a major milestone this February, marking 10 years of providing professional, reliable and discreet transport services across East Suffolk and beyond.

Torrens Chauffeurs, established in 2016, has grown from a dedicated local operation into a trusted name supporting corporate and executive travel, airport transfers, regular private chauffeur services, weddings, special occasions and event transport coordination.

Over the past decade, the company has delivered thousands of journeys safely and professionally, building long-standing relationships with corporate clients, private customers and some of Suffolk's most prestigious venues.

Founder Mike said: "Reaching 10 years in business is something we are incredibly proud of. Our success has always been built on reliability, professionalism and personal service. We are truly grateful to our loyal clients and hardworking drivers who have supported us throughout the years."

Looking ahead, the company remains committed to delivering dependable, high-quality chauffeur services across East Suffolk and beyond.

For further information, please contact:
Torrens Chauffeurs 07532 044085 / 01728 573573
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A MADRIGAL HISTORY TOUR

A brief survey of madrigals from the 16th century to the present day

Sunday March 15th 2026 at St John's church, Snape

For this light-hearted concert Nota Bene's musical director, Janette Ruocco, has curated a one-hour programme that sheds light on the journey of the popular vocal musical form of the madrigal from its origins in early 16th century Italy to the present day.

During the Renaissance period, the popularity of the madrigal owes much to the ways in which Italian composers explored the expressive relationship between text and music, often using stringent harmonies to express anguish which we still find striking today.

The Italian madrigal became the most popular form of secular polyphony by the second half of the 16th century and served as a model for madrigals in other vernacular languages throughout Europe – most notably from 1588 in England, with what is known as the Elizabethan Madrigal School, which flourished from 1588-1602.

The concert includes some madrigals by 20th century composers, for instance the American composer William Hawley who uses the 16th Italian composer Monteverdi style as a model, and John Rutter who has a more English style but infuses his pieces with some 20th century jazz. The concert concludes with two fun recent takes on the madrigal form, but you'll have to come along to the concert to find out what they are!

Janette Ruocco
janette.ruocco@gmail.com

RAEDWALD'S WARRANT OFFER

The charity rebuilding the world-renowned Sutton Hoo ship in Woodbridge, is appealing to individuals and local businesses to join its sponsorship programme and offering in return an Anglo-Saxon royal warrant in the name of Raedwald, the 7th century king of East Anglia.

"King Raedwald would surely be delighted with the reconstruction of his ship by a team of nearly 200 local volunteers and we are sure he would also wish to recognise those who demonstrate their support for our exciting community project that will see this majestic ship return to the River Deben at long last," said Richard Brice, a Sutton Hoo Ship's Company volunteer.

Historians believe Raedwald was buried in the ship, which then lay beneath a burial mound for 1,300 years until archaeologists unearthed it in 1939, shedding new light on Anglo-Saxon England.

The Sutton Hoo Ship's Company charity is nearing completion of an ambitious £1.5 million community project to rebuild the 90-foot vessel using authentic materials and reviving ancient boatbuilding skills. The project has captured the imagination of local residents and the wider public. An estimated 100,000 people each year visit the Longshed to learn about the ship's past and present – including school groups, fans and practitioners of wooden boatbuilding, history enthusiasts, and tourists – making it a prominent and integral part of the town's history and heritage.

Local businesses and individuals sponsoring the ship's construction will receive a framed certificate and a 'Raedwald's Warrant' decal for display in their premises, in recognition of their support. There are three tiers of sponsorship available, with full details available on the Ship's Company's website: www.saxonship.org/getting-involved/raedwalds-warrant/ or by emailing: corporatesponsorship@saxonship.org.

Richard Brice, Volunteer

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

Aldeburgh Times is your free local paper, 2000 copies are printed every month. We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets. The next issue will be published Wednesday 1st April, copy deadline is 14th March - 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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TIER 1 SZC HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING FIRM - STARTING TO RELOCATE THEIR SENIOR TEAM:

- 10 bedrooms
- 3rd March 26 - 19th February 27
- Budget £40 per room per night
- Uninterrupted occupancy
- Can be split across 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 bed properties

If you have suitable accommodation near Sizewell and would like to discuss, please get in touch.

TIER 2 RAILWAY ENGINEERING COMPANY - SEEKING TO CLUSTER SENIOR TEAM OF ENGINEERS IN PROPERTIES:

- 12 Bedrooms
- 15th March 26 - 15th August 26 (with option to renew for further 6 months)
- Budget £40 per room per night
- Uninterrupted occupancy
- Ideally 3x 4 bed (Leiston or up to 15min drive to site)

If you have suitable accommodation near Sizewell and would like to discuss, please get in touch.

OUTAGE - STRONG DEMAND COMING THROUGH FOR UPCOMING OUTAGE (17TH MAY 2026 TO 10TH JULY 2026)

- 54 nights
- Budget circa £50 per room per night
- Uninterrupted occupancy
- Mostly 2 / 3 / 4 bed properties required

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