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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



As nights get lighter and buds appear there is more to see and do with museums re-opening and there are several with much to offer in Woodbridge and the surrounding area - Bentwaters Cold War Museum will be holding a live 'Operations Room' event which is always very popular, Bawdsey Radar Museum – covering the history of radar and the huge impact it had on WW11 and of course, Woodbridge Museum, set in a lovely location overlooking the river and Tide Mill – to mention a few. A great opportunity to inform and educate youngsters in the Easter holiday.

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

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!

Sitting Bull

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INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

- WOODBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL 5
- Gardening initiative, new councillor- Katherine Turner and more
- BENTWATERS COLD WAR MUSEUM 7
- Live Operations Room event
- DEBEN ROTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD 9
- Nominate a person or organisation who serves this community
- MELTON ST AUDRY'S' SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB 10
- Fund raising campaign begins for purchase of this well loved club
- RAEDWALD'S WARRANT 17
- Anglo-Saxon King's royal warrant offered to backers of charity shipbuilding project.

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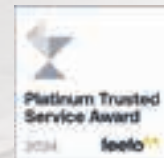
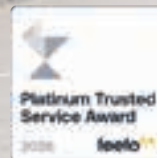
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WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor's monthly - February

Our new in-house gardening initiative is off the starting blocks. We have now recruited our new gardening staff team members, Jess Dighton, Head Gardener, and her assistant. They will officially take over our Town's green spaces on 1st April when the contract with our outsourced provider comes to an end. More on this in future updates.



Jess Dighton, Head Gardener

We are very pleased to have co-opted a new Town Councillor, following the resignation last year of Patrick Gillard, who served many years as a councillor and as Mayor for two terms.

Katharine Turner has joined the Council and we are looking forward to her contribution on behalf of the town. Thank you to all those who showed an interest in the role.



Cllr. Katharine Turner

In January, as required by law, the Council adopted its budget for 2026/27. The amount a Band D household in Woodbridge will pay to Woodbridge Town Council is £186.54 a year, which represents an increase of 57p per week on last year. The 18% increase is driven by three principal decisions of the Council:

Firstly, our grounds maintenance contract ends in March. We anticipated a significant cost increase in any outsourced contract.

In reviewing the underperformance of our outsourced provider and the previous provider, we decided the best solution is to bring the gardening team in-house.

Secondly, with local government reorganisation happening, we have taken decisions to ensure Woodbridge is better prepared if, or when, more responsibilities are passed to Woodbridge Town Council.

We have decided:

- to strengthen our clerking team with an additional senior and junior role.
- to support the outcome of our consultation at the end of last year and undertake due diligence on some of the twenty plus green and built spaces owned by East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council in Woodbridge.

Thirdly, we have increased the funding available to our community and residents through grants and other initiatives. This has been partially offset by the decision not to have a significant event in 2026/7, similar to last year's very successful celebrations of the 450th anniversary of the Shire Hall and VE Day.

Please take a look at our MP, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter's website and her campaign to increase the frequency of trains on the East Suffolk Line. As Mayor, I helped launch the campaign with her at Woodbridge Station.

With the increasing pressure on the A12, it is becoming urgent that the rail network offers local residents in East Suffolk a viable alternative to the car and this can only be done with a train every 30 minutes. Here is the link if you want to sign up www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org/rail.

Nigel Phipps

Mayor of Woodbridge
CouncillorPhipps@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk

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BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

The Museum re-opens on Thursday 2nd April ready for Easter and will once again be running the Easter Trail, which will run on each open day over the Easter holidays. Don't forget – children get in free! The Museum will then be open every Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday until the end of October.

Tables are still available for our fund raising quiz on **Friday 13th March** at Newbourne Village Hall. Book tables via info@bawdseyradar.org.uk. Entry is £7 per person, payable on the night.

A number of very informative podcasts about the history of radar at Bawdsey called 'Echoes of Bawdsey – The Story of Radar' have been produced. The first series is now available to listen to on the website.

Further details of all our activities may be found on our website: www.bawdseyradar.org.uk

For more information contact info@bawdseyradar.org.uk or phone 07821 162879.

BENTWATERS COLD WAR MUSEUM LIVE OPERATIONS ROOM EVENT

Bentwaters Cold War Museum are holding another of their very successful Live Events at the museum.

Travel back in time to the 1980s and experience this unique opportunity to see the Command Post manned and operational. Our amazing staff at Bentwaters Cold War Museum will re-enact the scenarios to bring the Operations Room back to life. There are three performances at 3.00, 4.00 and 5.00 where you can watch from the gallery and take photos.

Tickets are limited so book your afternoon with us on **Sunday 22nd March** now to avoid disappointment. Only £12.50 pp
Details on this link: <https://bcwm.org.uk/>

It really is a great event with the aircraft in the compound on display, the American themed diner serving hot drinks and hot dogs and the museum to view at your leisure from 2.30 to 6.00. See our website for more details.

Simon Gladas

Publicity and Liaison Officer
Trustee



Last year's live event where spectators were able to get up close to watch the re-enactors in the Command Post.

SEEKING GEORGE EWART EVANS' INTERVIEWES' DESCENDANTS

When Leiston author Robert Ashton was researching his book 'Where are the Fellows who Cut the Hay?' he met a number of people whose grandparents appeared in 'Ask the Fellows who Cut the Hay', the book George Ewart Evans wrote in 1956 while living at Blaxhall.

Now he is hoping to meet more with a connection to Evans at the launch of the paperback edition of his book in Framlingham on **Sunday 29 March**.

"We'll be showing two rare films, one written and narrated by George Ewart Evans in 1980, and the other even older, showing folk singing and step dancing in Blaxhall Ship" explained Robert Ashton.

"We hope that people with that connection, who may never have seen the films before, will come along and see who they recognise on the screen."

Robert will also be in conversation on stage with Nick Corke, CEO of Framlingham charity 'Hour Community.' A proportion of the income from books sold on the day will be donated to the charity, as will any money left over once venue and film hire costs have been covered.

Tickets cost just £5 and can be bought here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/leistonbookfestivalcic/2040462>

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
IN CONCERT 12A

From Fri 27th Mar ...

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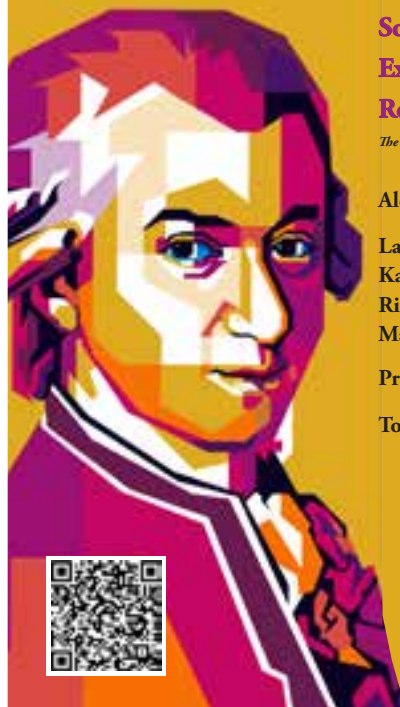
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Aldeburgh Music Club presents

AN EVENING WITH MOZART

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Saturday 28 March 2026 at 7.30pm



Solemn Vespers K339

Exsultate, jubilate K165

Requiem in D minor K626

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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
www.brittenpearsarts.org

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.

C.E.E.C

Report from the Climate & Ecological Emergency Committee, CEEC

Hello people of Woodbridge and beyond; people of the Deben estuary

This report will again focus on the efforts of Woodbridge Town Council to enable and encourage adaptation in our locality. But I want to begin with observations on a report on both national and global perspectives.

In October of last year, a report was presented to COBRA, a UK government committee devoted specifically to national security issues. A political decision was made to delay publication of the report, which eventually was published in November, possibly to coincide with the blanket news coverage about the US Greenland land grab threat.

The report is available on gov.uk, entitled '*Nature Security Assessment on Global Biodiversity Loss, Ecosystem Collapse and National Security.*' and subtitled, 'This strategic assessment explores how global biodiversity loss and the collapse of critical ecosystems could affect the UK's resilience, security and prosperity.' Not everyone will rush to read it! Governments fear panic; it's easier to be seen preparing for war than it is to suggest radical changes in potential voters' lifestyles.

One attendee later launched a petition, demanding an urgent televised national emergency briefing for public broadcast.

He opened the petition with these remarks:

"We were presented with the latest evidence showing that the United Kingdom must urgently prepare for a cascade of serious societal impacts. The rapidly escalating climate and nature crises are set to make the UK increasingly unrecognisable and dangerous, with extreme weather events, the risk of food shortages, price shocks, economic instability and rising geopolitical risks."

"We are deeply alarmed by the scale of fossil fuel-funded disinformation that has flooded Westminster and the media. The lack of public access to accurate, science-based information has created a vacuum which has been filled by polarised headlines designed to deny and delay action."

I'm pleased to claim that, locally, we are forging ahead of this game. We are raising attention to the importance of local action with multiple initiatives to rescue, improve and enhance our biodiversity - viewing it as an essential investment in the future.

Just take a look at the trees in Kingston fields, the works on the restoration of Broomheath, and the Fen Meadow developments. And we know that many other local councils are doing likewise. It all adds up.

At our last Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee, we reviewed our draft biodiversity statement in readiness to present to the next town council meeting for approval. One of the opening paragraphs, composed by DEFRA, explains the risks of the loss of biodiversity very clearly.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

At the same meeting, we discussed intentions to plant two trees, partly to provide shade for the children's playing area, in addition to adding both aesthetically and providing habitat for wildlife.

This has been a longstanding item on our agenda; we recalled that we originally intended for them to be memorial trees. Subsequently an idea emerged that they could be planted as memorials to the number of species likely to have been lost on Kingston Field since it came under management of the local council in 1953.

To give the idea more substance, I've done some AI research. I'll share this table on the WTC website. I used DeepSeek, incidentally, as it is reportedly considerably more frugal in use of energy resources than other models, though I guess we all need to be aware of the vast energy demands that this technology is requiring, accelerating at an exponential rate. We will let you know when we have a memorial service.

Estimated Losses From This Field & Environs (c. 1950s - Present) ... Make a link to the table, which you can find on our website, news page: <https://woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk/news/>

Councillor Martin Wilks, CEEC

PS. Pass it on
councillorwilks@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Every year the Rotary Club of Woodbridge Deben makes an award to a person or organisation who have been working to serve the community whilst sometimes not being recognised for their efforts.

This could be in any form. The award is open to all persons or organisations in our catchment area, which is Woodbridge, Martlesham, Kesgrave, Melton, Bealings and Waldringfield.

There is a shield and a cash sum of £350 towards the work they are doing. If you know of anyone you think may be eligible for this award, please email: mail@debenrotary.org.uk The list of candidates will close on March 31st.

MELTON ST AUDRY'S SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Members of an East Suffolk sports and social club are striving to secure its future by purchasing the site.

Melton St Audry's Sports & Social Club hosts a number of sports and community groups and now they have the opportunity to purchase the property they have launched a fund-raising campaign, seeking help via sponsorship, donations and grants as well as support for their regular activities.

Pledges from local councils have boosted the appeal and the cricket section has launched a crowdfunding campaign. This involves purchasing virtual squares on the cricket field with prices ranging from £100 to £5000 for prime positions in the middle of the pitch.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ensure that cricket and other sports continue to be played in Melton," said Melton St. Audry's Cricket Club Chairman, Malcolm Grubb. *"If we can prove we have security of tenure it makes us eligible for grants from various sporting authorities."*

The cricket club has a thriving youth section, with more than 100 boys and girls covering all age groups and abilities from 6 to 19 as well as four men's and three ladies' adult teams.

History

The social club was set up for members of staff at St Audry's Hospital and included cricket, football, tennis, bowls, golf, snooker, darts and other teams taking part in local leagues and competitions. When the hospital was sold in the 1990s developers Hopkins Homes created Melton Park and provided a new sports field for the cricket and football clubs, which was first used in 2000. The social club is a popular venue for various groups and regularly hosts weddings, dances and parties as well as ballet lessons and meetings for seniors and clubs for the disabled.

How you can help

Go to crowdfunder.co.uk, click on the donate button and search for Melton's Big Appeal. You can donate as much or as little as you want and the names of all donors will be displayed in the clubhouse.

For more information please email Cricket Club chairman, Malcolm Grubb: malcolm.grubb2010@hotmail.co.uk or Social Club chairman, Steve Longbottom: 276ziggy@gmail.com

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WOODBIDGE RIVERSIDE TRUST

With so many signs of new life and new growth around, we can look forward to a great spring and summer in Woodbridge, with The Longshed very likely to have its busiest year yet.

Our 2026 programme of Talks in the John Gibbins Gallery got off to a terrific start on 14th February when Sue Bale shared with us the story of the town's Shire Hall over the centuries.

In this same month we are pleased to welcome another 'Sue' - Sue Pennison is a master craftswoman and life-long sailor who joins us to run two rope-making courses. So popular are the courses that we hope to invite Sue back next year (or even sooner).

In March, we have several schools visiting us to take part in our 'Follow the Ship' programme and later on in the year we will be building on last year's highly successful 'Sail and Save -the Recyclable Regatta' by piloting with two schools a programme which teaches the basics of boat design and gives hands-on skills-building and practice of building a model boat.

WRT was recently asked to review and update an article about the development of Whisstock's Place and The Longshed - please see photo below - and that exercise reminded us of just how much was achieved by a few dedicated people getting together and starting a movement to ensure that the area was developed in a way that would bring community benefit.

To celebrate this achievement, at **3pm on Saturday, March 14th** Bryan Knibbs will speak about the who, the whys, the wherefores and the challenges that had to be overcome that brought this amazing development at the heart of our waterfront to life. It is quite a story!

Tickets are £8 (to include tea and cake) and available from Eventbrite (no booking fee) or from The Longshed Gift Shop.

Our wonderful volunteers are always pleased to welcome you to The Longshed, which is open most days of the year, so please come to see us when you can, and follow us on Facebook and our website: woodbridgeriversidetrust.org
Photo reproduced by kind permission of Woodbridge Town Council/OJ Photos.



Telling tales

You might have seen a romantic view of the story of a buried Anglo-Saxon ship that was discovered near Woodbridge in the Netflix film 'The Dig'. The tale it told was about the people, especially Basil Brown the original excavator and Mrs Pretty the landowner. This tale is about the ship itself.

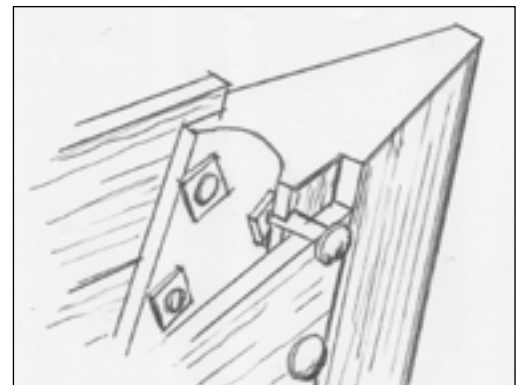
The shape of the ship in the soil was outlined by the metal fixings that had held the ship's planks together. After over 1300 years underground the wood had disappeared, but the iron fixings - actually called rivets, had survived. When wonderful treasure was found inside the ship, attention shifted to that and the ship became the neglected story, until now.

Because war was declared in September 1939 the real excavation was not carefully preserved but left in its 'natural' state. Rain and frost caused the sides of the soft-soil impression to crumble away. In 1942 the heathland was used for general army training with tracked vehicles being driven across the trench. The result of all this was for many rivets to be shifted or misplaced. People just picked them up. They became 'souvenirs' of passing interest. It was rumoured that they changed hands for 10 shillings and that they were common in the surrounding area. Have you any rusty old bolts lying about in the back of drawers at home? Have they been there forever? Did your great-grandad save them and what did he say they were for? Could they actually NOT be bolts, but incredibly old ship rivets? Time has passed.

In The Longshed on the Woodbridge Waterfront, the buried Anglo-Saxon ship is slowly being reconstructed by volunteers. People say that they have old rivets. Do you know where any rivets might be? There were several thousand of them. The real value of the rivets was when they were exactly in their original positions, but that's no longer possible. They are just corroded curiosities. Today, the main interest would be in the tales of the rivets, rather than the rivets themselves. They are part of our social history, the social history of this area. Every rivet has a tale to tell. Do you know the tale? Everybody likes an intriguing tale. Could you share your tale? Paul Constantine, who has had a long association with the ship and who runs the interactive Woodbridge Waterfront Guide website: WoodbridgeWaterfront.co.uk is interested in collecting the rivet stories. If you think that you have a story to share, email Paul: WoodWater.Ship@hotmail.co.uk

Plank to Stem.

Rivets have angled roves





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.

E: Enquiries@aldeburghmuseum.org.uk
P: 01728 567767
www.aldeburghmuseum.org.uk/help



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NEW HORIZONS CLUB

There's been lots going on over here at New Horizons, in Melton, lately and we've been thrilled to welcome lots of new members over the last few months too.

Each week we have a variety of activities and entertainment booked in, whether it's live music, talks/slideshows, quizzes and games, or some kind of craft. At each session we provide tea/coffee and biscuits along with a 2 course home cooked lunch, and members also have the option to join in with seated exercises or manicures.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining us at New Horizons, please do get in touch by calling Ruth on 07514364752 or emailing at newhorizons912@gmail.com, we'd love to meet you!

We are currently looking for volunteers to either help out at the club or with transporting members. And we are also on the look out for a relief cook to join our team, so please do get in touch (email above).

New Horizons is a not-for-profit club, offering a sociable day out for older people, meeting at St. Audry's Club in Melton every Thursday from 10am – 2.30pm.



INNER WHEEL CLUB OF WOODBRIDGE

On a chilly December morning, a group of orange clad members strolled from the Long Shed to Notcutts where everyone enjoyed refreshments and a very orange game! This event was about raising awareness of the United Nations campaign to end violence against women.

December also saw members celebrating the festive season with a delicious Christmas meal, a game of Christmas Bingo and a visit from Santa.

In January, members were very interested to hear Clare Lightfoot explaining how her idea of telling the story of the River Deben, from its source at Debenham to its mouth at Bawdsey, has evolved in the form of a community tapestry.

She envisaged it as a community project and those who signed up to contribute are busy sewing the 12 sections of the 18 foot long fabric, which is likely to take a couple of years to complete.

Inner Wheel day was celebrated with a soup lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and raised almost £200 for a charity called 'Mary's Meals' which provides meals for hungry children around the world.

Members were entertained at the February meeting by President Deirdre, who is Scottish herself, on the theme of Robert Burns. Traditional Scottish poems were read by various members and there was a visual journey around some very beautiful famous landmarks of Scotland.

Preparations are well underway for the **ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT** which will be held at Woodbridge Community Centre on **Friday 13th March**. If you would like further details or to book a table, please email: griffindeirdre4@gmail.com Woodbridge IW members meet at Ufford Park Hotel at 6.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. Find out more about the club and its aims and objectives at District 8 <https://innerwheel.co.uk>



WOODBIDGE ROTARY CLUB

2026 will see us breaking new ground with our first Pop Quiz on **Friday 20th March**. Proceeds will go to the Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity which offers unique care and support designed for and with young people, so that they may have dedicated specialised nurses, youth workers and hospital units within the NHS, to support them throughout treatment. (Visit: teenagecancertrust.org). The quiz will be hosted by Lee Thompson who composes the questions for the 'Ten-To-The-Top' part of Vernon Kay's mid-morning BBC Radio 2 slot.

So, are you up for the challenge? Tickets are now on sale at £40 for a team of four and £10 for each additional member and can be obtained from: TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ROTARYPOPQUIZ. There will be a prize for the winning teams of £100 cash plus a team trophy, the latter to be returned for the 2027 quiz, as well as a raffle. The venue has a licensed bar.

News Flash: The Woodbridge Regatta will now take place on 19th July and will include many attractions, including river cruises, raft racing, a tug of war, duck racing and our own fantastic bottle stall. A great family fun day out on our wonderful Deben riverside. No doubt for some enthusiastic sailors that may mean in the river!

Woodbridge Rotary Club meet most Fridays from 12:30pm, in the bar of The Bull Inn, Market Hill, followed by lunch in Carlow's room. Why not come along and meet us? More information can be found at woodbridgerotary.com

POP QUIZ!
 In aid of **TEENAGE CANCER TRUST**
FEATURING MUSIC FROM 1970S - 1990S
 Hosted by **Lee Thompson**
 Question writer for BBC Radio 2's "Ten-To-The-Top" with Vernon Kay
 Teams of 4-6 (£10 per person)
 First Prize - £100 cash & team trophy
 Raffle prizes to be won
20/03/2026 7PM FOR 7.30 START
 TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM USE THE QR CODE OR VISIT...
TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ROTARYPOPQUIZ
 At Woodbridge Town FO, Fgan Road, IP15 1JZ

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Credit: Images By Anna

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 Architectural historian, archaeologist & conservationist

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Dr William Filmer-Sankey MA DPhil, FRSA FSA MCIFA

As a leading conservationist, William doesn't just study history, he helps us live within it, ensuring our past has a vibrant future. From childhood years in Suffolk to the study of Anglo-Saxon settlements; from the electrification of Brunel's Great Western Railway to the Royal Albert Hall, his expertise ensures that the UK's most precious infrastructure and institutions can thrive in the 21st century. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Royal Society of Arts, William is also a true champion of the 'local'.

WOODBIDGE CRUISING CLUB

As the warm weather approaches, Woodbridge Cruising Club members are starting to get boats in the water after winter maintenance, and hardy sailors are undertaking the first voyages of 2026.

The annual March cruise meeting hosted by cruise captain Andy sees the cruise leaders outlining their programmes, with trips to Lowestoft, Blackwater and even Holland. The well organised cruises are the prime reason for joining the club, as all the marinas are booked, thus enabling a peaceful well organised cruise in company.

The monthly Sunday talks are always popular. The February talk was on Bawdsey Radar, with the March talk being about the ill-fated Franklin Expedition which set out in 1845 to discover the Northwest Passage across the Arctic Circle. Other onshore events include a monthly board games evening hosted by Rosemary and Brian.

Thursday walks are a four-mile stroll through the beautiful Suffolk countryside, and thanks to Bram who led a scenic walk around Orford and Chantry marshes, ending with lunch at The King's Head.

Monica guided a walk around Martlesham Creek, with The Black Tiles the lunch venue. Dog friendly pubs always provided a welcome repast at the end of the walk for a warming lunch.

The annual Fitting Out Supper in March marks the start of the cruising season, and members are looking forward to this enjoyable event under the talented auspicious of Rosemary and Sally, the galley captains. A Beate Quiz is a new initiative for March and is sure to be popular.

The club bar, overlooking the River Deben, is always open at weekends, do look on the club website for the next Open weekend, when non-members are welcome to attend.



If you have a genuine interest in sailing and the sea, have a look at the programme of maritime related events on our website: www.woodbridgecruisingclub.org. New members are always welcome.



WOODBIDGE MUSEUM

In 1860 the Methodist Chapel in Melton was erected. Shortly after its completion a neighbour, who is thought to have been a barrister, claimed the new building compromised his "right to light" and legal proceedings ensued. The case was heard in Bury Summer Assizes in 1861. Unfortunately, the Chapel Trustees lost the case and presumably there were then frantic discussions about what to do as it looked as if the building would have to be demolished.

Henry Collins, a Melton millwright, came up with the innovative idea of moving the building. He and his brother undertook the work which unsurprisingly was reported at length in the Suffolk Chronicle & Mercury. According to the reports the building was moved onto its new foundations 15 feet without any damage to the structure. However, the neighbour was still not satisfied so the Chapel was moved again!

In total it was moved 20 feet 8 inches which by any measure is a remarkable feat of engineering! The building is still there but now used as business premises. The picture of the Chapel being moved is dated 18th September 1861 and is one of the oldest in the Museum's collection. Friends of Woodbridge Museum's next talk is on **13th March** at 2.30pm in Woodbridge Community Hall. It is to be given by Geoffrey Kay and is entitled 'Overpaid, Over Sexed, Over Here' - The story of the friendly invasion of Suffolk by USAAF in World War 11'. Visitors are very welcome.

On the **10th April** Simon Hooton will present a talk on 'Trees, Woods & People'. Same time and place.

Woodbridge Museum will move into Summer Opening hours from 1st April. We hope to be open every day.

We can only do this if we have stewards available to greet our visitors. All of us at Woodbridge Museum are volunteers and we would welcome more people to join us.

If you can give some time we would love to hear from you on stewards@woodbridgemuseum.com or call in and have a chat with one of our volunteers to find out more



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WOODBIDGE & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

The Woodbridge & District Lions Club is inviting local and surrounding village residents to learn more about becoming a Lion and joining one of the world's largest and most respected service organisations. The Woodbridge Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, a global volunteer organisation dedicated to serving communities, supporting those in need, and promoting goodwill. Locally, the club supports a wide range of community initiatives while providing members with opportunities for fellowship, personal development, and meaningful service.

The club is currently seeking new, enthusiastic members who want to make a positive difference in Woodbridge and the surrounding area.

An open meeting for prospective members will be held on **Tuesday, 3rd March 2026** at 7:30 pm at the Royal British Legion, Woodbridge.

No previous experience is required - just a desire to help others and be part of an active, community-minded group.

The open meeting will provide an opportunity for attendees to meet current members, learn about the club's activities, and find out how they can get involved.

The event is informal and open to anyone interested in volunteering, community service, or expanding their social and professional network.

Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to come along on the evening.

GARDENING, CLIMATE CHANGE AND US

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Woodbridge Wildlife Group invite local gardeners to consider how their gardens can both support wildlife and help mitigate climate change when Clive Boase, from the charity 'Climate Change Gardening', gives a talk at Woodbridge Community Hall, Station Road, IP12 4AU, on **Thursday 19 March**, starting at 7.30 pm.

Phil Smith, Chairman of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Woodbridge Wildlife Group said

"Gardeners, through their regular contact with their own private green spaces, are arguably more conscious of the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises, than the broader public. There is now a growing realisation that private gardens in both urban and rural areas have a valuable role to play both in supporting wildlife and helping mitigate climate change."

"We are really looking forward to welcoming Clive Boase to Woodbridge and hearing about some of the ways that gardeners and gardens can make a difference in supporting wildlife." said Mr Smith *"There will be ample opportunity for questions at the conclusion of Clive's talk."*

All are welcome at this talk. Admission to the talk is £4 for adults, with under 25s free. Light refreshments will be served during the evening and there will be a raffle. Doors open at 7pm and there is no need to book for the talk, pay on the door with cash or card.

For further information Tel: 01473 625630 or email: swtwoodbridge@outlook.com

RAEDWALD'S WARRANT

Anglo-Saxon King's royal warrant offered to individuals and local business backers of charity shipbuilding project.

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/get-involved/raedwalds-warrant/ or by emailing: corporatesponsorship@saxonship.org.

Richard Brice, Volunteer

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.

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VALENTINE'S DAY DIP

Over £40,000 has been raised for St Elizabeth Hospice, as supporters took part in the charity's Valentine's Day Dip, following last year's Christmas Day Dip being postponed due to adverse weather.

The rescheduled event saw over 200 'dippers' don a range of fancy dress outfits before plunging into the icy North Sea at Felixstowe to raise funds, through sponsorship, for the hospice which every year delivers free care to over 4,000 patients and their families throughout East & Mid- Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney.

James Fox-Golding, Events and Challenges Manager at the hospice, said: "A huge well done and thank you to all our incredible dippers who showed their love for their local hospice by taking part in our Valentine's Day Dip.

"A special thank you also to our wonderful supporters and volunteers, whose efforts made the event possible and created such a great atmosphere.

"It was a fantastic morning that raised vital funds for our services, which provide care to so many people across our local community."

The St Elizabeth Hospice Valentine's Day Dip took place on Saturday 14 February at 10.30am, opposite Mannings Amusement on Felixstowe seafront, with sea temperatures coming in at a chilly 5 degrees Celsius.

Two brave dippers who took the plunge for St Elizabeth Hospice, were sisters Emma Lockwood and Sian Hillier, with Sian travelling all the way from Wales to take part in the dip alongside her sister.

Emma said: "One of my best friends died under the hospice's fantastic care six years ago. He always took part in the charity's fundraising dip, so since then I have pledged to take part in the dip in his honour.

"Today has had a fantastic atmosphere. A real buzz and it is just brilliant to support such an important local cause." Sian added: "The journey to be here today is totally worth it. I am here to support my sister. Whatever is important to her, is important to me. It has been a brilliant event and a great way to start your day!"

For more information about St Elizabeth Hospice please visit www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/

L to R: Sian & Emma



DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club is a small informal Bridge Club that has been meeting for 26 years. We meet at 6.30pm on Monday evenings at Ufford Community Hall.

If you play Bridge and like the idea of playing Duplicate Bridge we now have vacancies and would welcome you to come along and join us.

If you would like to know more please call: 07967151227

Margaret Harper

WOODBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB

It's with a heavy heart I have to report that at an EGM on January 20th the club members had no option but to close the Camera Club. At our AGM last September, a new Chairperson could not be found and attendance was at a critical level. The club continued to the end of the year having voted for an EGM in January to formally close.

I have been Chair for the last eight years and could not find a volunteer to replace me now my eyesight has almost gone.

Thank you to Club Members and Woodbridge friends for all of their support over the years.

Robin Garrod – Retiring Chair – WCC.

U3A EAST SUFFOLK

Fill your days with new friends and new interests

East Suffolk u3a group invites all older people – primarily those retired or semi-retired – to join their thriving members-run organisation.

For those wanting to keep fit and active, u3a offers walking, sport and physical activity groups. For those wanting to learn and share, there are geology, photography, foreign languages, architecture and history study groups as well as dining opportunities and outside visits.

In every setting there's the chance to meet new people to share conversation, experience and ideas.

Alongside approximately 150 interest groups, there is also a varied programme of talks held across East Suffolk.

10.30am at the Salvation Army Hall in Felixstowe:

March 5th: Sally Sibley, will about the Enigma of Sutton Hoo.

April 2nd: The talk will be all about the History of Headwear.

12th March, 2pm at Saxmundham Fromus Centre: 'The A-Z of Curious Suffolk'.

16th March, 10.30am at Woodbridge Football Club: An ex-firefighter discusses his highly-acclaimed book about dealing with his personal grief after the loss of his wife to cancer.

2pm at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre:

30th March: Hear all about a Solo Walk across Africa

27th April: Stories from a forensic biologist - 'Blood, Sweat & Fears'.

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, subject to availability and at a very modest cost.

Full up to date information is available on the u3a website: www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk or call the secretary on 0300 123 3913.

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

ORFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Class 1: What an exciting start to 2026 we have had in Class 1! Our new dinosaurs hatched early on, and everyone has learnt how to look after them carefully. The children have written clear, step-by-step instructions to help anyone who might need advice on caring for a dinosaur – they can even explain how to wash a woolly mammoth! Our science learning about animals has supported this brilliantly. We have explored mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians, learning how to feed, care for and look after different animals. This knowledge has helped us think like real palaeontologists as we research all things dinosaur, and we can now name a great many species. We are also becoming keen historians and geographers. Using maps, we have discovered different locations around the UK where dinosaur bones and fossils have been found, while learning about the countries, capital cities and surrounding seas of the United Kingdom.

In Maths, we continue to build confidence with adding and subtracting numbers up to 100. We are solving a range of problems and showing our understanding through different mathematical models and diagrams. Most of all, we have enjoyed tackling some tricky mathematical challenges that require us to think logically and explain our reasoning. In Class 1, we love a challenge and confidently embrace mistakes, knowing they help us learn and deepen our understanding. This term, we have proudly shown our new teacher what amazing mathematicians we are!

By Mrs Berry

Class 2: In art, we have made sky pictures inspired by Van Gogh's Starry Night paintings.

We have also been colour mixing and painted some rectangles with all the primary colours like Sean Scully who made the rectangle pictures.

In gymnastics, we have been doing some spins, jumps and twists. Last time we did a handstand and a cartwheel. When we did the handstand we used a block and we leaned it up against the wall for support.

In English, we are doing persuasive leaflets about how plastic rubbish destroys the ocean. We included emotive language, rhetorical questions and facts.

Our authors this month were Alice, Isaac L and Blyth

Class 3 - Spring Term: This term we have been reading 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman. This book inspired our class to write action sequences and learn about the adventurous ways of the Vikings. In writing we had images of a Viking scene and we had to tell the tale of what we saw.

Along with the Vikings, we also chose a simple story book and uplevelled the text into a more exciting and creative piece of work.

In maths this term we have been learning about fractions and decimals. In our fraction work we learnt how to times and divide the numerators and denominators. We learnt the place values of decimals and in the end we were able to convert decimals to fractions. What's more, we entered an East of England sumdog competition and came 10th out of 129 schools - with a total score of 211 points.

At the start of the term in PE it was coming close to Burns night for the Scottish people, so we wanted to join in the fun and do some traditional Scottish dancing. After that we then began circuit training where there are 5 different stations such as: skipping, tennis, relay, stretches and balances. This was challenging however class 3 always manage it.

By Harry & Rose



LIBRARY EVENTS

FOWLplayEvents present Music at Lunchtime: Tuesday 24th March, 12.45pm - 1.30pm. Shake off those winter blues! We are delighted to welcome back The Quaynotes who will be playing traditional and contemporary music at this free springtime concert! Donations to the work of The Friends of Woodbridge Library (FOWL) will be most welcome.

The Friends of Woodbridge Library (FOWL) present The Springtime Quiz: Saturday 28th March @ 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. Bring your own drinks, glasses, nibbles and thinking caps to the ever popular Woodbridge library quiz night! Tickets are £5 per person, a maximum of 6 per team. Don't forget to supply a team name as well. Book your dream team at the library.

WOODBRIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB



Woodbridge Town Football Club
Suffolk Women's League Cup Winners 2022 - 23

Woodbridge Town Ladies were formed in 1998 and played in the Eastern Region Women's League from 1998 until 2012. For most of this period they were managed by Les Ramsey. The Ladies were re-formed in 2018 and play in the Suffolk Girls and Ladies Premier League. They are currently managed by Ashley Rankin. In 2023 the Ladies won the League Cup.

Once again the Club welcomes Stephen Fosters Big Quiz on Friday 13th March at 7pm. It will be a General Knowledge Quiz with teams of 4, 5 or 6 persons and the cost is £10 per person with a Hot Buffet included. These quizzes are always good fun and open to all so please register your team today at <https://shorturl.at/NJQH1>

Forthcoming home fixtures for March (weather permitting)

Sunday 1st @ 2pm: Ladies League Cup Semi Final
Friday 6th @ 7.45pm: First Team v Kirkley & Pakefield
Sunday 8th @ 2pm: Ladies v Stowupland
Thursday 12th @ 7.45pm: Under 18s v Needham Market
Saturday 14th @3pm: Under 23s v Parson Drove
Sunday 15th @ 2pm: Ladies v Needham Market
Thursday 19th @7.45pm: Under 18s v Felixstowe
Sunday 22nd @2pm: Veterans v TBA
Tuesday 24th @7.45pm: First Team v Haverhill Rovers
Thursday 26th @ 7.45pm: Under 18s v Sudbury
Sunday 29th @2pm: Ladies v Capel Plough

WOODBRIDGE 10K – SAVE THE DATE

The annual Woodbridge 10k Round the Town running race for adults and 1.5k for juniors, take place at midday on Sunday 17th May. Organised by local running club, the Woodbridge Shufflers.

It will be the 44th year for the race. Last year entries sold out in minutes, so if you want a place, ensure to be logged in at the 10k website at midday on **Saturday 14th March.**

It's a great day for Woodbridge and attracts huge numbers of spectators throughout the 2 lap course.

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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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