

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

APRIL 2026

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Welcome to the first edition of the Framlingham Focus!

Most copies will be delivered to homes but I will also leave copies at various outlets throughout the town. I just have to check who is happy to receive them but you should see them around at the beginning of each month.

Please get in touch with anything of interest to our readers – you may be a member of an organisation, club or charity or are holding a fundraising event. I would love to hear from you. Also, if you are a local business looking to boost your trade, please get in touch. Our magazines are free of charge, so advertising is essential to keep them going. I receive very positive feedback from our other titles, people engage with them.

I look forward to hearing from you! My email is: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.

Andre Gide

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A NEW ERA FOR THE RANDOLPH

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FREE ENTRY

Few pubs can claim more than a century at the heart of their community, but The Randolph has been welcoming locals through its doors for an impressive 127 years. Now, the historic pub is beginning an exciting new chapter: for the first time in its long history, The Randolph has become a Free House.



The change means the pub is no longer tied to Adnams brewery, giving the team behind the bar the freedom to carefully select a wider and more varied range of drinks. Alongside familiar favourites, customers can now expect rotating guest ales, craft beers and ciders, as well as an expanded choice of spirits and wines. The move not only broadens the selection but also opens the door to showcasing independent breweries and producers.

While the bar offer is evolving, the character of The Randolph remains firmly rooted in tradition. Known for its friendly faces, relaxed atmosphere and loyal regulars, the pub continues to offer the same warm welcome that has defined it for generations.

For a venue with such a rich history, becoming a Free House represents the perfect balance between heritage and progress — honouring the past while embracing new possibilities. As this next chapter begins, The Randolph invites guests old and new to pull up a chair, raise a glass and be part of the story.

STEAM UP!

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 10am - 3pm
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info@longshopmuseum.co.uk
 or
 01728 832189

THE LONG SHOP MUSEUM

THE ELUSIVE HARRY.....

Several weeks ago, local residents had a 4am wake-up call from a cockerel which had been abandoned nearby. He was swiftly named Harold and was fed (initially with coco pops – don't judge).

With worries for his safety, contact was made with the 'Fresh Start' chicken rescue page on Facebook and it was established that Harold had been abandoned with five other cockerels, (which is sadly quite a common occurrence as they don't lay eggs and are quite vocal!). A local chicken rescuer had captured the four smaller boys quite quickly and the larger black and white boy a few days later but as it turns out Harry has been very well named (like his namesake Harry Houdini), as despite regular searches there was no sign of him and it was assumed he had fallen 'fowl' of a fox maybe, so his would-be rescuer was very pleased to find he was alive and well. Despite an attempted dawn raid at his known hangout, with tempting treats and traps, Harry has so far evaded capture!

He still pops up at breakfast time so hopefully it won't be long until he's safe!

Meanwhile, I'm hoping 'coq au vin' does not appear on the menu in any local restaurants....

To be continued.....



Harry enjoying his freedom



Harry's 'gang' await his return to the fold

FILM AT FRAM



8th April - **The Choral (2025) 15**

Director: Nicholas Hytner
With Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam
Runtime: 113 mins

Ramsden, Yorkshire, 1916. The chorus master and most of the men of the ambitious local Choral Society have volunteered for the front, so under the direction of the demanding, driven Dr. Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), the Choral recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls.

Together they discover the joys of singing and the urgency of desire as the new boys come to terms with their imminent conscription into the army.

Why watch this film?

It's a Nicholas Hytner/Alan Bennett collaboration, like *The Lady in the Van* and *The History Boys*.

"This wintry tale of art blooming in adversity is far from a schematic feel-good jaunt. Set in the fictional West Riding town of Ramsden in 1916, when young men are being plucked from their community and sent to a front line in Europe they can barely comprehend, it's an anthem for doomed youth in a familiar Bennett key: wry, melancholic, sneakily profound." **The Telegraph**

"By focusing on a choral society, the film presents a different take on wartime. Whilst it does acknowledge the sadness of the ongoing conflict, the film, through its practicality and light humour, offers a hopeful interlude." **The Upcoming**

There is no need to book, unless you want to pay by card. Visitors and guests are welcome and entrance is £4 for members and £6 for guests/visitors. Please pay in cash or by cheque.

You can also pay by bank transfer and if you want our bank details, just let us know. Or you can book online <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/filmfram>. Don't forget members' tickets can be booked online too!

We are on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/filmatfram/>, Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/filmatfram> and our website is <https://mycommunitycinema.org.uk/cinemas/filmfram/>

We are happy to receive your feedback at any time.

Gillian Hetherington
Chairman





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PARHAM AIRFIELD MUSEUM – A NEW SEASON

The 390th Bomb Group (H) Memorial Air Museum is a tribute to the B17 'Flying Fortress' crews who flew from Framlingham. 743 airmen were killed or missing in action and 740 became Prisoners of War.

The museum houses a unique collection of engines, machine guns, equipment, paintings, photos and memorabilia to illustrate life on the base and war in the air. The museum opened in 1997 after research involving the surviving men and women who had been bound by the Official Secrets Act. It holds a large collection of photos, manuals, weapons and sabotage equipment. Visitors can enter our reconstruction of the underground Stratford St. Andrew Operational Base. An Operational Patrol of 7 or 8 auxiliaries would have lived there with supplies for just two weeks. The Museum of the British Resistance Organisation tells of the 'Secret Army'. Had Britain been invaded, these Auxiliaries would have fought a ruthless guerrilla war.

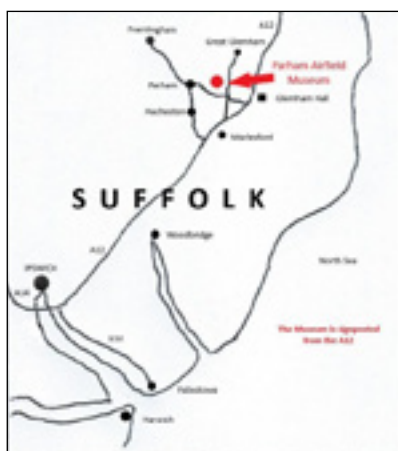
The original Control Tower opened in 1981 after a five-year restoration project. Soon Nissen huts and more recently modern buildings were added to display our various artefacts.

"Fantastic, awesome, touching". JL, (USA) "Another splendid visit—will be back again. Good displays and wonderful volunteers".

"Good displays and wonderful volunteers". HM

Parham Airfield Museum is situated one mile SW of Great Glemham, (turn off from the A12 opposite Glemham Hall.

From Easter Sunday, 5th April the museum will be open on Sundays and Bank holidays through to the end of October, 11am to 4pm. From June to August the museum will also be open on Wednesdays, 11am to 4pm.



Parham Airfield Museum,
Parham, Woodbridge,
Suffolk. IP13 9AF

Tel: 01728 621373
Visit: www.parhamairfieldmuseum.co.uk

Email: parhamairfield@yahoo.co.uk

Groups and research are welcome by arrangement.

A shop with café serves light refreshments and there is a grass picnic area and of course parking. There are also meeting facilities, a library and archives and a Memorial Chapel.

Due to wartime design, upper floors of Tower are not accessible to wheelchairs.



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SPRING MAKERS MARKET

Join us at Old Hall Southwold on Sunday 3rd May as we kick off the 2026 season with our first Makers Market of the year.

With over 55 talented makers joining us, you'll find a vibrant mix of jewellery, ceramics, homeware, textiles, woodwork, fine art, cakes, cosmetics, fashion, glassware, candles and more under the cover of our Big Barn.

Alongside the stalls, enjoy live music, delicious street food, and our dog friendly café serving breakfasts, lunches, and great coffee.

The playpark will be in full swing too, giving little ones plenty of space to burn off energy on our zip wires and jumping pillows.

The market is free to enter, with plenty of onsite parking and beautiful walks along the Blyth estuary.

Come and enjoy a relaxed, creative, family friendly day out at Old Hall — we can't wait to welcome you.



Theronda and Lucy are proud to bring to you their 3rd annual Art & Book show in Aldeburgh.

Theronda is the artist in residence at the gallery and studios of Kesgrave Arts at Kesgrave in Suffolk. She is inspired by the Suffolk skies and landscapes, particularly

of Aldeburgh and the neighbouring seaside towns.

She has a large body of work - acrylics, oils, drawings, metal sculptures and more - and has exhibited widely in the area. (see her website: www.kesgravesarts.co.uk)

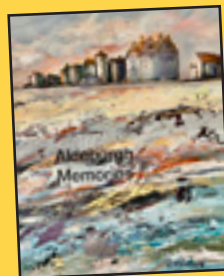
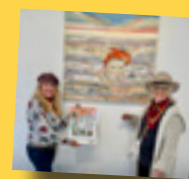
Lucy was born in Aldeburgh and visits frequently from her animal rescue ranch 'Solace' in California. Lucy has an extensive background in real estate, newspaper and animal rescue and has published several books to date, most recently 'Tales from the Forest - The Adventures of Madame Dragonfly'.

She will be launching her new book - 'Chip the Naughty Seagull' at the Aldeburgh Gallery, April 16-22. Read her newspaper columns at www.LUNAbookspublishing.com

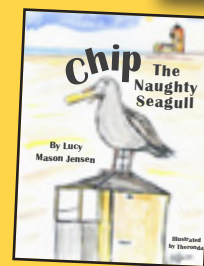
Welcome to the.. Theronda & Lucy 3rd Annual Art & Book Show

at The Aldeburgh Gallery,
Aldeburgh High Street,
(next to The Golden Galleon)

April 16-22, 10am - 5pm



Aldeburgh Memories -
A collection
Theronda Hoffman



Book Launch
Chip
The Naughty Seagull
Lucy Mason Jensen



For more info, contact Lucy
lucymasonjensen@gmail.com

CHAMBER MUSIC IN FRAMLINGHAM

Framlingham may be famed for its castle and market town charm, but it's fast becoming one of the UK's most exciting small hubs for classical music. Over the past year, its chamber concerts have quietly transformed the town into a place where world class artistry meets genuine community spirit.

"Classical music comes alive in local communities - it brings people together, encourages young talent, and places world class culture at the heart of everyday life. That is why we offer free tickets to Framlingham local schools - so young people can experience the magic of live music and feel part of something extraordinary," says Penny Cook, Founder of Framlingham Concerts.

And that ethos runs through every performance. These concerts don't just showcase music, they cultivate it. Young musicians share the stage with seasoned professionals, audiences mingle with artists, and newcomers are welcomed with open arms. The atmosphere is intimate, the programming bold, and the ticket price, just £10, refreshingly accessible.

Framlingham's approach mirrors a growing movement across the UK, where market towns, coastal villages and rural communities are reclaiming classical music as their own. Each place adds its own flavour, proving that culture thrives not only in big cities but in the everyday spaces where people live, gather, and belong.

With its blend of authenticity, ambition, and heart, Framlingham Concerts shows what's possible when music is rooted in community rather than convention.

Classical music doesn't have to be distant or formal - it can be local, lively, and full of soul.

Full details of the Spring 2026 programme are available at: www.framlingham-concerts.co.uk

Great music, close to home.

Penny Cook

Framlingham Concerts Community Interest Company



FRAMLINGHAM CONCERTS

A Community Interest Company

SPRING 2026 CONCERTS

15 April 2026 - George Ireland - Pianist
(A Samling Institute Artist)

20 May 2026 - Collatus Piano Trio - From Royal Academy of Music

24 June 2026 - Rose Gosney (Violin) (Former leader of National Youth Orchestra and quarter finalist BBC YM 2024)
and Duncan Honeybourne (Piano)

1.30pm at St Michael's Church
Framlingham IP13 9BH

Tickets £10 in advance from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/framlingham-concerts
by email: framconcerts@outlook.com
or on the door
www.framlingham-concerts.co.uk

COMPANY NUMBER 16278821



FRAMLINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

SATURDAY 2ND MAY

CASTLE COMMUNITY ROOMS, CHURCH STREET
10.00 TO 16.00

The Framlingham History Society is hosting a Local History Fair. There will be many displays of our local history along with other local organisations, including:

- ❖ The Lanman Museum
- ❖ Alde Valley Suffolk Family History
- ❖ Charnwood Genealogy
- ❖ Framlingham College
- ❖ Parham Airfield Museum
- ❖ Saxmundham History Society
- ❖ Thomas Mills High School
- ❖ Wickham Market Area Archive Centre
- ❖ Worlingworth History Group
- ❖ Yoxford History Group

Admission is free, but donations would be most welcome. Put this date on your calendar.



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FRAM GALA FEST - SAVE THE DATE!

The historic Framlingham Gala Fest celebrations take place over the **Weekend of the 23rd to 25th May**, beneath the walls of the Iconic Framlingham Castle.



This year's theme is *'Once upon a Time'*

The event kicks off on the morning of **23rd May** with a family friendly Duathlon (run and cycle event) at the Sports club, Badingham Road, Framlingham. A relaxed music event follows in the afternoon with children's games and family entertainment. Entry to the music event is £10 pounds in advance or £13 on the day (under 16s free).

Great singers and bands play throughout the day and the evening concludes with an excellent Spice girls Tribute act – *'Band Spice forever'*.

On **Sunday 24th May** the Town hosts a Craft Fair at the Community rooms in the heart of the Town.

English Heritage has generously granted Free entry between 10am and 4 pm to the castle to those with a IP13 9 post code.

Framlingham sports club on Badingham Road is holding a free acoustic Music event on the Patio throughout the afternoon with lots of space for children to play safely.

Monday 25th May is the Grand Framlingham Gala with a large Parade starting at 12.30, led by the Young Gala Stars meandering through the Town centre and finishing at the Castle Meadow.



There then follows an afternoon of free family entertainment and colour in the Show ring on the Castle Meadow with children's races, local acts and the mesmerising BMX Show with their death defying tricks.



The Craft Fair will remain open to all throughout the day and Stocks funfair is in residence throughout the weekend, also on the Castle Meadow. The event comes to a close at 5pm with the Grand Gala draw and some amazing prizes to win. The whole event is produced by a group of hard working, driven volunteers with two aims ...to keep the Iconic event in the Framlingham Calendar for many years and to provide a whole weekend of community activities and fun. Any profit will go to the Framlingham Sports and Community Foundation charity maintenance and improvements to the Sporting facilities offered by the Sports club.

Full details are available at the Framlingham Galafest.co.uk website

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PROJECT UPDATE

APRIL 2026

Our work along the A12 to bring forward junction improvements is progressing well and we would like to thank you for your patience as this continues.

A12 ROUNDABOUTS: We are on schedule to open the roundabout at Friday Street to traffic on Monday 30 March. Whilst the works will not be fully complete, this will be a significant milestone and will improve the traffic flow in the area and the safety of the roads at this important junction. Once the full work on the road structure of the roundabouts is complete, the community will start to see a reduction of traffic management in the immediate areas and later in the year landscaping and planting of flora will begin.

The roundabout that is being constructed at Yoxford is also progressing well and will be operational to traffic Tuesday 31 March. As with Friday Street, the roundabout will not be fully complete at this time, with landscaping and planting to commence later in the year.

PARK AND RIDES: Both the Southern Park and Ride (Wickham Market) and Northern Park and Ride (Darsham) are now open. Work will continue to increase the capacity of both car parks through to late summer 2026.

NORTHERN PARK AND RIDE (NPR): The roundabout that links the A12 to the Darsham Park and Ride is also being linked to the A12 in phases. The western arm of the roundabout is now linked to the A12 for traffic, we expect the roundabout to be operational by the end of March.

Traffic lights remain in place to pace the traffic flow. We are now working to increase the capacity at the NPR to 280 spaces.

AT THE SOUTHERN PARK AND RIDE (SPR) the access road at Wickham Market is due to open at the end of March, which is timed with the completion of the Cadent gas works that are ongoing on the slip road and roundabout. This enables us to increase our bus fleet to transport workers to and from the Park and Rides. The prescribed routes for the buses are along the A12 and B1122. Road signs will be put up on the A12 during March.

The local road improvements at Yoxford have been completed. The works included the construction of a signalised crossing across the A12 and access improvements to the High Street and the A12 (picture below). In early summer, further improvements on the A12 will commence at Marlesford and then Little Glemham; we will share further details on the Sizewell C Works Tracker.

RAIL: The 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, which will be outlined via the Sizewell C Works Tracker: www.szcworkstracker.co.uk. Between 23 and 31 May Network Rail will be working on the rail line between Ipswich and Lowestoft. A bus replacement service will be in operation throughout.

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)

Main Development Site Forum	Wed 15 April	Leiston Town Athletic Association
Northern Transport Forum	Wed 6 May	High Lodge Darsham

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



New Road crossing at Yoxford



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APR 4, 5 & 27 Discover RSPB Minsmere in Spring. Savour the spectacle of spring at Minsmere with guides, in search of breeding and migrant birds, spring flowers and early insects. 10am – 12.30pm. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk; Phone: 01728 648281

APR 7 Family Wildlife Walk at Snape Maltings. A fun family stroll along reedbed and hedgerow in search of Snape's birds, butterflies and dragonflies, beetles and bugs. This walk starts and finishes at Snape Maltings, IP17 1SP. Meet on the Quay at Snape Maltings. 10am – 12.30pm. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281

APR 9 & 26 Minsmere Safari. An exclusive tour in our 4x4 vehicles, introducing you to some of Minsmere's special wildlife, habitats and hidden history. Excellent photographic opportunities. Four people maximum per vehicle. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281.

APR 12 Halesworth Harmony rehearsal at The Hub in Huntingfield. Come along for a free taster session - no experience is necessary. 10.30am – 12.30pm. For further details, email: halesworth.harmony@gmail.com.

APR 15 Fram Concerts: George Ireland, piano. 1.30pm at Framlingham Church. Tickets £10 by email: framconcerts@outlook.com, on the door or online @ www.ticketsource.co.uk/ framlingham-concerts

APR 20 Birds for Beginners at RSPB Minsmere. Friendly guides will provide tips on choosing and using binoculars, field guide or App to use, and how to improve your birdwatching. The walk will include a visit to a couple of hides. Ticket price includes a hot drink plus reserve entry. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk; phone: 01728 648281

APR 23 Saxmundham History Society meeting. 'Tales of Suffolk Smugglers' by Barbara McElroy. 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.

APR 24 Everyman Folk Club. Northern Irish singer-songwriter, Anthony John Clarke, whose performance is hilarious, serious, compassionate, irreverent, brave, and challenging - a lyrical feast with just a dash of Viking. Tickets £10 in advance or £12 on the door. 7.30pm at The Riverside Centre, Gt Glemham Road, Stratford St Andrew. IP17 1LL. Email: everyman@wheatstone.co.uk

APR 25 Spring River and Reedbed Ramble at Snape Maltings. Join RSPB Minsmere's expert guides as they help you to enjoy spring wildlife. Wading birds, ducks, geese, swans raptors, warblers and other resident species. This walk starts and finishes at Snape Maltings, IP17 1SP. Meet on the Quay at Snape Maltings. 10am – 1pm. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728648281

University of Essex Choir
Britten Pears Chamber Choir

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

An evening of
Sacred Splendour

Joseph Haydn
Missa in angustiis
"Nelson Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Regina coeli

George Frideric Handel
Dixit Dominus

Conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark

Saturday 09 May 2026, 7:00pm
Snape Maltings Concert Hall,
Snape, Suffolk IP17 1SP

Tickets: £33, £27, £17; students & under 18s £10
Book at: www.brittenpearsarts.org/

Join University of Essex Choir, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and special guest soloists for: 'An evening of sacred splendour' - Saturday 9th May, 7pm at Snape Maltings

The University of Essex Choir returns to Snape Maltings this May with an exuberant programme of Mozart, Handel and Haydn. Musical director Ben Vonberg-Clark will lead the choir, who will be joined by the acclaimed Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Britten Pears Chamber Choir and four talented soloists [see below].

This evening of glittering sacred music unites three titans of the Baroque and Classical eras. The programme opens with Mozart's radiant Regina coeli, K.127, a work that captures his gift for combining profound spirituality with effortless melodic grace. This leads into the uplifting Dixit Dominus, where Handel demonstrates his early explorations of counterpoint and dramatic expression. The evening reaches its zenith with Haydn's monumental Missa in angustiis, better known as the 1798 "Nelson Mass", a work born from the composer's mature genius against the tumultuous backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars. Under the expert guidance of conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark, this collaboration promises to illuminate all three composers' shared commitment to music as spiritual expression.

The University of Essex Choir, renowned for their precision and musicality, will be joined by the Britten Pears Chamber Choir, with both perfectly complemented by the orchestra's period-informed approach. Soloists: Soprano: Charlotte Bowden; Alto: Rebecca Leggett; Tenor: TBC; Bass: Božidar Smiljanić



A brand-new comedy drama is to premiere at the Leiston Film Theatre in September 2026. 'Mourning Campers' has been written by Leiston Film Theatre manager Wayne Burns and is being brought to the stage under his 'Team B Productions' banner, who also are responsible for creating the venue's popular annual Pantomimes. Inspired by the iconic sit-com, Hi-de-Hi, Mourning Campers is set in a Suffolk holiday camp in the 1980s and follows the drama behind the scenes and on stage at Archers Holiday Camp. At a time when the package holiday is growing in popularity, what can be done to keep the campers coming? Thankfully, the campsite owner has an idea and it's now up to the staff to make it a success. The idea for this comedy drama, which is deemed suitable for ages 16+, came literary out of the blue - 35,000 feet off the ground! "We were returning home from Florida in 2017 and I grabbed a few serviettes and scribbled various notes about possible characters, their mannerisms and a potential storyline to help me through the flight! These notes then sat in my panto box until 2024, when I finally started work on a draft script in earnest." said Wayne, who originally hoped to bring the show to the stage in 2025, but ended up postponing it until 2026, as he wasn't happy about one section of the script.

Wayne was a huge fan of the 1980s BBC sit-com Hi-de-Hi and in 2016 met Jeffrey Holland, who played the comedian Spike Dickson in the hit TV series. "I told Jeffrey that I was hoping to write a script about a Suffolk holiday camp and he wholeheartedly encouraged me to do it - so I did!" said Wayne.

Wayne has spent most of 2025 buying up authentic props for the production and will shortly start making a custom-built set for the play.

"Mourning Campers is something very different for us and requires a different discipline from those performing on stage. It's a very exciting exercise for us and there is already a lot of interest in this particular production." said Wayne.

Tickets are currently discounted for a limited time and available from the venue box office on 01728 830549 and via the Leiston Film Theatre website at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

What's On at Leiston Film Theatre

Fri 3rd Apr at 7.00pm
Sat 4th, Sun 5th & Mon 6th Apr at 3.00pm
Tues 7th, Wed 8th & Thurs 9th Apr at 2.00pm

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE U

Fri 3rd, Sat 4th & Mon 6th Apr at 6.00pm
Tues 7th, Wed 8th & Thurs 9th Apr at 7.00pm

PROJECT HAIL MARY 12A

Sun 5th Apr at 6.00pm

EPiC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT 12A

Fri 10th, Sat 11th & Sun 12th Apr at 3.00pm
Mon 13th, Tues 14th, Wed 15th &
Thurs 16th Apr at 4.30pm
Sat 18th & Sun 19th Apr at 2.00pm

THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE PG

Fri 17th Apr at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

THE ELO ENCOUNTER

Sun 19th Apr at 6.00pm

LA SCALA MILAN COSI FAN TUTTE - MOZART 12A

Fri 1st - Thurs 7th May

MICHAEL 12A

Sun 3rd May at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE



High Street, Leiston, Suffolk. IP16 4BZ

Tel: 01728 830549, or visit:

www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE BOWLS CLUB

Framlingham Castle Bowls Club is a long-established member of the Suffolk bowling community.

Situated under the walls of Framlingham Castle, the green and its surroundings are owned and maintained by the members. That the club is called Framlingham Castle Bowls club is very apt. It not only explains our location but also our history. Historical records which exist for Framlingham mention bowls as played on the present green more than once. Revd. Richard Goltz, the long serving Rector of the town in the 17th century wrote that in a park attached to the castle were "Castle yards, 4 acres, John Moore had them in 1649 and an acre of barley, in the bowling aly".

The club affiliated to the County Association in 1922. The County in turn joined the EBA in 1934. Framlingham was first mentioned in the national handbook in 1949.

Visitors delight on playing on an excellent surface with one of the best settings to be found. We welcome members from all walks of life, both male and female, newcomers or experienced bowlers, whether they are interested in competitive bowling, or just friendly roll-ups. We currently have a playing membership of around sixty members with many young members playing at county level as well as many long-established players.

We have a good sized clubhouse, with a well-stocked bar, excellent kitchen facilities, and male and female changing rooms. This clubhouse has undergone several improvements in the last few years, all carried out by the members and we are always looking to make further improvements whenever we can.

We hold quizzes, a charity day and Wednesday social evenings for members and an annual dinner and presentation each year.

Club Telephone Number: 01728 724659
 Hon Secretary - Howard Isaacs:
 Email: secretary.framlinghamcbc@gmail.com



FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE BOWLS CLUB






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SECRETARY ON EMAIL: SECRETARY.FRAMLINGHAMCBC@GMAIL.COM OR
TELEPHONE PAUL ON 07392 334922 OR ELIZABETH ON 07468 414841,
OTHERWISE JUST TURN UP.

WEBSITE: WWW.FRAMLINGHAMCASTLEBOWLSCLUB.ORG.UK

FRAMLINGHAM PHOENIX SINGERS

Experience Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius' at Snape Maltings!

This term Framlingham Phoenix Singers and Beccles Choral Society join forces to prepare for a joint concert at Snape Maltings presenting Elgar's spiritual epic, 'The Dream of Gerontius'. The two choirs will be joined by The Lambeth Orchestra and acclaimed soloists. The date for your diary is Saturday 16th May, at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale now.

Experienced choral singers are welcome to join the choir for the term to perform this great choral work. Rehearsals are held at Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School in Framlingham, from 7.30 to 9.30pm. For more details visit www.phoenixsingers.org.uk

Esther Mower
 On behalf of Phoenix Singers



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MID-SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY

The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway has announced that 2026 will be a very busy year for both arrivals and departures of engines as the railway ensures that there will be a variety of engines in service throughout the running season.

The first to depart is the privately owned Andrew Barclay 0-4-0 saddle tank engine no.2315. This engine first arrived at the Middy during the summer season 2025 from the Spa Valley Railway. At the time the railway was pleased to welcome the engine to the home fleet as the owner had decided to base the engine at the Middy where it is very suitable for the railway's needs. Unfortunately, last year the engine suffered a significant mechanical failure and the engine has now departed for Somerset where it will be taken in hand for full repairs before returning to the railway in due course.

Arriving in time for the Easter reopening of the line will be the R2 class 0-4-0 saddle tank locomotive No. 1370, May. This engine was built by Peckett & Sons in 1915 to work at the Yates Duxbury & Sons paper mill at Heap Bridge near Bury and has been in preservation since the 1970s. The engine is currently owned by the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre and will be on loan at the Middy for much of the 2026 running season. This means the 2026 Middy running season will open with May and also another on loan engine, the 1916 built Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0 engine Illingworth.

This engine, after service at the railway over the Christmas and Easter period will then depart following the expiration of its steam 'ticket' and enter a period of refurbishment and recertification by the owners.

In June the very first Railbus ever to operate at the Middy will arrive on loan from the East Anglia Railway Museum at Chappel and Wakes Colne station Essex. The railbus is a single coach example built by the German firm of Waggon und Maschinenbau. Numbered E 79963 in British Railway service, the railbus saw service in East Anglia including the Marks Tey branch to Sudbury and beyond.

John Durrant the Mid-Suffolk railway's Locomotive Manager said: *"This is a very important arrival at the railway. Despite the original Middy being a completely steam operated only railway, up to the closure of the line in 1952. This railbus demonstrates what might have been, as it operated on the branch line of the region in the 1960s."*

"Our visitors will this June therefore have the opportunity to experience what might have been, as they take a trip to Aspell Halt aboard E79963 and speculate that this is what the Middy would have been like if it had survived into the 1960s."

By the summer, the long-term resident at the Middy, Class Y7 No. 953 is intended to be back in service following a complete overall and new boiler 10 year certification. Similarly, by August it is planned, 2315 will return following the repairs and will immediately enter service at the railway. The Chairman of the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Ian Meigh said: *"2026 is an extremely important year for the Middy with a number of significant developments."*

We always strive to provide a variety of traction for our visitors to enjoy. It is something we are known for and this year we will achieve that with the mix of four different steam engines in service, plus the railbus, a first.

"This variety of traction compliments the first full season running to Aspell Halt, where for the first time passengers will be able to get off the trains there. Additionally, they can travel in our newly acquired historic Great Eastern Railway Inspection Saloon coach, No 14, which will once again, since the days of British Railways, be travelling on a part of the Middy."

Details of operating days and ticket prices are available from the railway's website: www.mslr.org.uk. **Photos: MSLR**



BAWSDEY RADAR MUSEUM

As some of you may have seen in the local news, coastal erosion is now on our list of things to worry about for the future. However for the time being we are still quite a way away from the sea, so business is very much as usual for now.

The Museum is open every Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday until the end of October.

On Sunday 5th May we will be running our award winning virtual reality 'Climb the 360 feet transmitter tower'. This is an opportunity to experience what everyone stationed at RAF Bawdsey had to go through.

The first series of very informative podcasts about the history of radar at Bawdsey called 'Echoes of Bawdsey – The Story of Radar' is now available to listen 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.

FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

One of the many services our branch provides is assistance with cats reported as feral. Last year, we were asked to intervene with several cats that appeared to lack shelter or domestic homes. These were predominantly young cats and kittens scavenging for food around bins at a local hotel. One of our foster volunteers conducted an assessment and began feeding the cats using un-set traps to acclimatise them to the equipment. Over time, she was able to set the traps and successfully captured ten cats and then brought them into our care.

All the cats were severely malnourished and infested with fleas, worms and ticks. They underwent veterinary examinations, and those old enough were neutered. It became apparent that the cats were not truly feral but rather frightened domestic cats, which had probably been abandoned. Unfortunately, one kitten required euthanasia due to a stomach obstruction caused by stones and was too small for surgical intervention.

Two kittens had ingested plastic, which fortunately passed through them without complications.

Following weeks of dedicated and compassionate care, many of these vulnerable, abandoned cats have been adopted into new homes. Some remain traumatised and will require additional time before they are ready for adoption.

Without the dedicated support of our branch and the generosity of our donors, these cats would have faced a precarious, uncertain future.

Cat Looking for a Home: Cally came in as a stray with her kittens. The kittens have been homed and now it is Cally's turn. We believe she is approximately 2 years old. Cally is extremely affectionate and playful. She likes to get up onto your lap, although she is not a fan of being picked up for cuddles. She will need a home with a large garden, in a safe area.

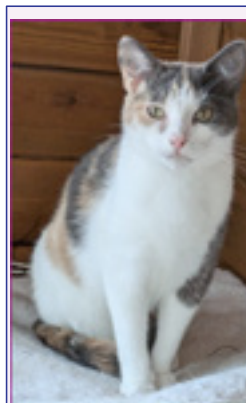
You can see her and all our cats looking for homes on our website: <https://www.cats.org.uk/framandsax#adopt-all>

Website: www.cats.org.uk/framandsax, email: enquiries@framandsax.cats.org, uk, or telephone 01728 723499 for more information about adopting cats in our care; how to become a member of the branch; event dates; neutering; cat-care leaflets; how to become a volunteer fundraiser or fosterer, make a donation and other ways you can support us. Also find us on Facebook and Instagram.



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ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Looking at Military Records by Graham Bandy

At a recent meeting members of the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group were treated to a master class by Graham Bandy in ways to identify service records, and the history of their ancestors by identifying pieces of kit and uniforms.

Graham started his talk by telling us of his long term interest in the Armed Forces and military history. He had served in the Army twice, once in the Royal Military School of Music and for a second time as an Army nurse. He writes articles each month for Family Tree magazine. Looking at photographs of people in uniform he was able to correctly identify which units they had served in and at what time. If there was a picture of a First World War soldier wearing or carrying a steel helmet the photograph was taken in 1916 or later: Graham told us that Britain didn't use steel helmets until then. It seems easy if you know your uniform items and Graham certainly did. The position a badge was placed on a tunic or sleeve told him during which period the item was worn. Cap badges, medals, styles of headgear, belts, collar badges and cuffs all help to date the uniform wearer accurately. These also help him to identify in which theatre of war they served.

To find out more about our ancestors it would be easy if we could ask them what we want to know. Unfortunately, most of us don't think to do that until all family members who would know the answers to our questions are no longer with us. So, we need to look at surviving documents and old photographs. The census may help, rolls of honour, birth, marriage and death certificates can also give clues. If your soldier is seated on a horse, a military horse will be wearing two sets of reins.

The senior service is the Royal Navy, which has been in existence for more than one thousand years. Naval officers' records starting in 1660 can be found at The National Archives. Any surviving documents prior to that date will be found at The National Archives under the State, Chancery and Exchequer series. Searching The National Archives website for your sailor ancestor should prove fruitful. Army lists for Officers started in 1703 and have been published annually from 1740. Lists for other ranks began in 1809.

The Royal Air Force began officially on 1st April 1918; the Air Force lists are available at The National Archives.

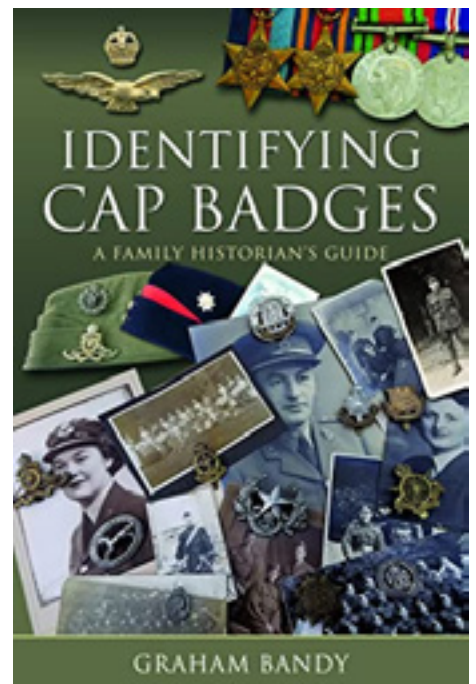
One warning from Graham – Artificial Intelligence cannot be trusted!

Further programme:

Monday 20th April: Annual General Meeting

Monday 18th May: Apprenticeship Records - Richard Holt

Monday 15th June: Pauper Ancestors - Clare O'Grady



SUFFOLK COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE

Suffolk County Music Service (SCMS) is helping thousands of children and young people across the county discover music as a source of confidence, creativity and connection, committed to making high quality music education accessible to every child, whatever their background.

Working closely with schools, SCMS delivers whole class and small group programmes that introduce pupils to instruments and build essential musical skills. Many young people begin their musical journey here, before progressing to individual instrumental or vocal lessons taught by specialist music teachers who nurture technique, self expression and confidence.

SCMS also ensures that financial circumstances never prevent a child from learning music. Beyond lessons, the service runs a wide range of ensembles, orchestras, bands and choirs, giving young musicians the chance to rehearse together, perform publicly and experience collaborative music making.



These opportunities help build resilience, teamwork and friendships that often span schools and communities.

A strong commitment to inclusion underpins all SCMS activity. The service supports young people with special educational needs and disabilities, adapting teaching so everyone can participate.

By developing creativity, discipline and teamwork, SCMS equips young people with skills that last a lifetime, helping the next generation find their voice through music.

Find out more at <https://suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/>.

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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AT ST PETER'S SIBTON

Two concerts open this year's season of events at Sibton church. **Zephyr Baroque** performing on April 11th is a popular early music ensemble known to audiences from previous years, as is the Suffolk Strings orchestra who give their concert on **May 10th**. Our concerts begin at 3.30pm and tea follows performances.

This year Sibton's **'Mighty Three Day Book Sale'** is on **23rd, 24th & 25th May** and is open from 10.30am – 4.30pm. The choice is as wide as ever. Everything on sale is good quality second-hand, and the sale includes clothes; quality collectibles; bric-a-brac; children's books and toys; and plants as well as LPs, DVDs and CDs. All items are individually priced. Refreshments are available all day, Admission is free and there is ample carparking. Sibton church lies on the A1120 between Yoxford and Peasenhall with its carpark at IP17 2LX.

Watch out for further events including **'Art in Ruins'** during the weekend beginning **18th July**.

Both are at Sibton church and, by kind permission of Nicholas Levett-Scrivener at the Sibton Abbey Ruin where you can draw, paint or photograph in the serene surroundings of the ancient remains.

As always refreshments are available at all our events and are always popular.

Including more concerts, all our events are advertised in advance. Tickets go on sale at the Weavers Tearoom, Peasenhall and the Peasenhall General Stores, and are also available on the door.

To keep up to date visit our website: sibtonstpeter.com and our Facebook page: Friends of St. Peter's Sibton.



CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

Holiday Scams

Have you ever turned up to an airport to find you are not booked on your flight or after an exhausting journey, you find your Airbnb flat is occupied by the owner and does not exist? This is more common than you think - £12 million a year is lost to travel fraud (MSE June 2024).

Fraudsters go to great lengths to get you to part with your money. They steal images of hotels and rented flats from legitimate reputable companies e.g. Airbnb, Booking.com and create fake websites and online adverts that look completely genuine. The deal will be much cheaper than elsewhere and they will put you under time pressure to book. You will be often asked for payment through a bank or currency transfer.

If you've had a holiday cancellation, fraudsters can set up fake social media accounts inviting you to claim a refund and get your details.

Top tips to avoid a holiday scam

Do your research: Check the website URL in your browser and make sure its legitimate. Search for company details on Gov.uk website to check if it's a registered. Is there a full postal address and contact details and not just a PO Box? Look for ABTA and ABTOT logos and verify membership. Don't rely on customer reviews from their own website.

Be cautious: Take time to make a decision and if the price is low its likely to be too good to be true.

Don't click links on emails or texts and only book a holiday or flight directly with the company on their own website. Look for the padlock icon in the email address bar.

Pay safely: There are different rules about whether you can get your money back depending how you have paid.

Paying by credit or debit card may give you extra protection if things go wrong. If eligible, your bank should refund up to £85,000, but not if there was a bank transfer to an account outside the UK. By using a credit card you may be able to claim money back between £100.00 - £30,000 under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act. Asking for payment via transfer using Western Union or Moneywise is a red flag. These payments are difficult to trace and are not refundable.

What if you are scammed? Report the details to your bank immediately. Contact Report Fraud Tel: 0300 123 2040 or <http://reportfraud.police.uk/>. For other support contact Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline Tel: 0808 223 1133,

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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

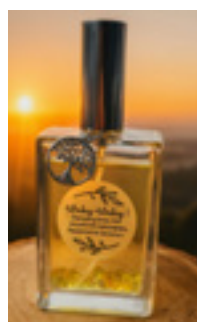


Editor's note: Jenny has several other products such as body mist, pillow mist, bath salts etc.



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!



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

Framlingham Focus 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 on Friday 1st May, copy deadline is 14th April - 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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