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MAY 2026

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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR




I hope you enjoyed reading our first edition of Framlingham Focus in April. Nearly all the local outlets I visited were happy to take copies, so I thank them for that. Please feel free to send me anything you feel will be of interest to our readers, I will be happy to include it. We can include small entries in our 'Dates for you Diary' section for events, which is free of charge but if you would like to place a paid, larger advert for more impact do get in touch. My email for both editorial and advertising is: lou@tidecollection.com

I hope the two major May events in Framlingham go well! Fram Gala and Fram Climate Day. More details of both within these pages.

Quote of the month

When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.

Peter Marshall



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FRAMLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

From the Town Clerk

As I write this, the sun is shining and we've just returned from the Easter break. The Easter Bunny Hunt has come to an end with an impressive 51 entries, hearing the laughter and excitement of the children as they follow the trail truly brightened my days. A special thank you goes to Ann (you know who you are!) for your invaluable help and support in getting the trail ready in time for the holidays — it simply wouldn't have come together without you. By the time you see this newsletter the winners will have been announced so we hope that they are enjoying their prizes.

Annual Town Meeting – Thursday

14th May: Every year the Chair invites residents to the Annual Town Meeting. This meeting celebrates our local groups and organisations and the achievements made over the year. This year we will have talks from a representative of the steering group of the Neighbourhood Plan providing an update and one other speaker to be confirmed.

Council Strategic Plan: In May, Framlingham's Town Councillors will meet to begin shaping a new five-year strategic plan for the town. This plan will help guide local priorities and prepare us for the upcoming changes brought by Local Government Reorganisation. We want to hear from you. Your ideas and insights will help ensure the plan reflects what matters most to our community. If you'd like to contribute a suggestion, please get in touch with the Town Clerk at townclerk@framlingham.com

Councillor Surgeries – Have Your Say:

In support of our Strategic Plan, Councillors will be holding a series of Councillor Surgeries this summer. These sessions are a great opportunity to share your ideas, ask questions, or raise any local issues directly with your Councillors. You'll find us on Market Hill on the following dates between 10am and 12pm

Saturday 9th May – Cllrs Eastwood and Green

Saturday 11th July – Cllrs to be confirmed

Saturday 5th September – Cllrs (tbc)

Your views help shape our town's future – we look forward to seeing you there!

Neighbourhood Plan Review -

Important Update: Framlingham's Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2017 and runs until 2031. Plans need to be reviewed regularly to remain up to date and carry full weight in planning decisions, particularly as national policy and East Suffolk Council's Local Plan continue to change. Work to review the plan is well underway. However, following recent discussions with East Suffolk Council - particularly around uncertainty in housing targets for the town and a significant shortfall in the district's housing land supply - the Town Council has agreed to reconsider one key element. East Suffolk Council is currently unable to demonstrate a full five-year housing land supply (with only around 3 years available). This triggers a national policy position known as the "*presumption in favour of sustainable development*", meaning planning applications for housing are now far more likely to be approved. In practical terms, this means Framlingham is likely to see an increase in speculative and large-scale housing applications in the near future - potentially before a full Neighbourhood Plan Review, including site allocations, could be completed and adopted. If that were to happen, the relevance and influence of our reviewed plan could be significantly reduced before it is even in place. For this reason, and on advice from our consultant and the NPR Steering Group, the Town Council has decided to remove site allocations from the review. We recognise this is not ideal, as it means decisions about where development takes place are more likely to be made by East Suffolk Council rather than being led locally.

However, this approach allows us to:

- complete the review much more quickly
- ensure the plan regains full weight in planning decisions
- secure enhanced Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding
- reduce overall costs by removing the need for detailed site assessment work
- use the site assessment work already completed to comment on planning applications as they come forward

Continuing with site allocations would significantly delay the review, increasing the risk that multiple developments are approved before the plan is in place and that the plan itself may not get sufficient support at the referendum stage. Stopping the review altogether would leave Framlingham with an increasingly outdated plan and less influence over future decisions. By now focusing on what we can deliver, we can ensure Framlingham has an up-to-date, robust plan in place as quickly as possible. We expect to publish a draft for consultation in May or June, with submission for examination in September or October and we will continue to update you as to progress. More information on the Neighbourhood Plan Review can be found on our website www.framlinghamtown.gov.uk

Visit Framlingham Website – Share Your Local Events!

We're excited to share that the new Visit Framlingham website is now live! Designed for both residents and visitors, the site showcases the very best of Framlingham - from places to eat, stay and shop, to local attractions and things to do in and around the town. We're currently adding upcoming events to the site. If you're organising an event and would like it featured, simply visit www.visitframlingham.co.uk and click on the 'Submit an Event' tab at the bottom of the homepage. Once submitted, we'll add your listing to the website so everyone can see what's happening locally. Why not take a look today and see what's on in Framlingham here <https://visitframlingham.co.uk/?>

Five on Friday: Finally, we are excited to share a new initiative designed to keep our residents better informed about what's happening at the Town Council. Each Friday, the team at the Town Council offices will highlight five key projects or activities we've been working on during the week. These updates will be posted on the Framlingham Town Council Facebook page, giving you a glimpse into the wide range of work and community projects we're involved in. We hope you'll enjoy following along and discovering more about how we're supporting our town every week.

Emma Chandler

GREENER FRAM NEWS

GREENER FRAM-NEWS action for a positive future

At Greener Fram we think it is important to create a positive approach in Framlingham towards climate issues, given that our community is now directly experiencing the growing environmental crisis.

We feel a collective celebration of all our efforts to reduce our carbon footprints is needed to help people see that they are not alone in this change towards living more sustainably in Framlingham.

We have launched two new initiatives:

A LOW CO2 Fram? Business Survey: All Framlingham business, retail and community organisations can now complete the survey which will help us to promote their sustainable activities.

We are hoping for one response from each organisation.

This will be followed by a residents' survey later in May.

As well as publishing the results, we will be holding a celebratory event in the Autumn, handing out 'I love Low CO2' badges, signs, leaflets & posters so that everyone can see we are on the way to reducing our carbon footprints.

Fram Climate Day - Saturday 30th May

This is an event in two halves.

Firstly in the morning:

A surprise happening from 10am in Market Hill - for everyone to join in!

Followed in the afternoon by:

A special film screening and discussion of The People's Emergency Briefing from 2pm - 4.30pm in Castle Community Rooms. This is a screening of a powerful new film, with leading UK scientists, explaining latest evidence on the climate & nature crisis - what it means for food, health, weather and the cost of living and why it matters.

The NEB exists to help create a societal tipping point towards the action now required. You can help make it happen.

After the film there will be an open discussion about what it means for our community and what we can do locally.

Scan the QR Codes to complete the survey and book your free seat at the film screening.



**LOW CO₂ FRAM?
BUSINESS SURVEY**

Would you like to celebrate all the work you are doing to make Framlingham a more sustainable place?
It is time to create a more positive approach in Framlingham towards climate change given that our community is now directly experiencing the effects of environmental crisis.

To do this we need information from our community
From businesses, retailers and traders, pubs, cafes and restaurants, education establishments, the Council, Library, and many community groups. (householders will have their own separate survey)

You can help by completing our survey
(It is not asking for complex calculations)

go to: [LOW CO₂ FRAM? BUSINESS SURVEY](#)

Or scan the QR code:

The aim is to celebrate publicly what Framlingham is already doing to reduce emissions, developing sustainability. All participants will receive "I Love Low CO₂" badges and signs, leaflets & posters promoting their sustainable activities, and a copy of the survey results.

Contact: info@greenerfram.org.uk Website: greenerfram.org.uk

Fram Climate Day

Saturday 30th May

In the morning - from 10am

What's happening in Market Hill?

Join in the surprise event in the centre of town!

In the afternoon Film Screening Discussion

from 2.15pm
In Castle Community Rooms
Please book a free seat as places are limited
(doors open 2pm)



- Extreme weather
- Food security
- Health
- Cost of living



Let's create a "people's tipping point" to get action!

You can help make it happen

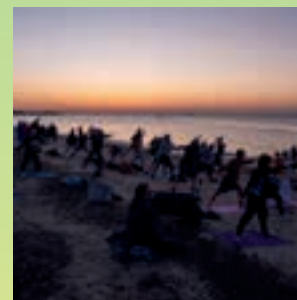


Free tickets here

People's Emergency Briefing

FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL

FREE midsummer multi-arts celebration
20 - 21 June 2026, South Beach, Lowestoft



Suffolk's free festival returns to Lowestoft's South Beach for a weekend of unique experiences and performances celebrating the summer solstice...

FREE MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

DJ Jamz Supernova, Seth Lakeman, Another Taste, Polly Gibbons, Jason Singh, Lizzie Berchie, ShunTa, Cut Capers, N'Famady Kouyaté, Ashton Jones, Levi Fruits & Friends, Caswell, Like Optimists, Magnolia...

+ COMEDY, POETRY, SCIENCE, FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Patrick Grant, Simon Day, John Hegley, Luke Wright, Laurence Edwards, Inua Ellams, Ashley Hickson-Lovence, DanceEast, Natural History Museum, Gainsborough's House, Sunrise Yoga, Cabaret, Silent Disco, Wild Beach Camping, Campervan Glamping + more!

Explore the full line up at firstlightlowestoft.com



Summer begins at Lowestoft's First Light Festival! Taking place on South Beach - the UK's most easterly point and first place to see the sunrise - the free multi-arts festival returns on 20-21 June with an expansive line-up spanning music, comedy, spoken word, visual arts, workshops and more. This year's festival features over 200 free performances - New additions include a cabaret night at East Point Pavilion, a dedicated Vertical Space teen zone, and a glamping option for visitors. While the main beach programme remains free, ticketed events will run on Saturday evening after 9:30pm.

Celebrate the Summer Solstice: At the heart of First Light Festival is its iconic Dawn Celebration, held this year on the summer solstice itself (Sunday 21 June). Beginning at 4am, the programme opens with beach yoga followed by a live improvised performance from sound artist Jason Singh. Festivalgoers can then share a communal fish feast while watching the sunrise - marking a symbolic start to summer. A special highlight follows: a new co-commission between Aldeburgh Festival, Britten Pears Arts and First Light, with interdisciplinary artist Tendertwin creating a work inspired by Benjamin Britten in the 50th anniversary year of his death.

Festival Highlights: Across the weekend, the Sunlight Stage will host a diverse international music line-up, including BBC 6 Music's Jamz Supernova, Dutch disco collective Another Taste, soul artist Ashton Jones, neo-soul singer Lizzie Berchie, folk musician Seth Lakeman, Balkan-inspired group ShunTA and West African artist N'famady Kouyaté. The First Word Stage brings spoken word and comedy, featuring Luke Wright, Inua Ellams, Elf Lyons, Louise Exactly, Bradley Taylor and John Hegley.

Meanwhile, the Talks and Interstellar Ideas tent includes appearances from Patrick Grant, Chris Lintott, Ashley Hickson-Lovence, George McKay and Julian Barnwell, covering topics from music and literature to history and discovery. Visual arts remain a key part of the festival, with sculptor Laurence Edwards' *The Long Wait* returning to the beach for the summer. Other installations include Maddie Exton's 'Meet me at First Light', *Hotel Kittiwake*, *Leviathan*, and the *Noon to Moon* exhibition alongside the Easterly Artists showcase in Kensington Gardens.

Family Fun: Families highlights include social dance sessions ranging from Charleston to hip hop, interactive theatre, wellbeing sessions on the sand, and the new Vertical Space zone for young people, offering creative drop-ins, DJ sessions, gaming and sports. Camping options are also expanding, with wild beach camping, cliff-top campervan spots, and - for the first time - pre-bookable fully equipped VW campervans available.

Sundown Events: Saturday night's ticketed programme offers a variety of after-dark experiences: an after-party with Jamz Supernova, intimate jazz from Polly Gibbons, classical and acoustic performances at St Peter & St John Church, a debut cabaret show at East Point Pavilion, and the ever-popular Silent Disco. Blending culture, community and coastal beauty, First Light Festival continues to offer a unique way to welcome the summer - starting with the UK's first sunrise.

The festival will run from 12pm noon to sundown (9.30pm) on Saturday, and from 10am - 4pm on Sunday, with a Dawn sunrise programme from 3.30am on Sunday morning.

FOLK.

Folk. is a quiet, curated space for home, scent and slower living, based in Framlingham, Suffolk.



Thoughtfully brought together by Kinfolk Studio, the shop champions local makers and independent businesses alongside its own fragrance collection - offering a considered edit of homeware and scent to be lived with and enjoyed over time.

Folk. has been created by Lauren and Connor Banks, the founders of Kinfolk Studio - a Suffolk-based home fragrance brand known for its small-batch candles and scent-led products, all designed and developed in-house.

What began as a focus on scent has gradually grown into a wider appreciation for the objects we live with day to day.

Folk. brings that thinking into a physical space - a place to discover not only Kinfolk Studio's collection, but a wider selection of goods from local makers and independent brands, each chosen for their quality, simplicity and longevity.



FILM @ FRAM



Save the date Saturday 1st August 2026 at 7.30pm! We are going to show a recording of a live theatrical performance by Eastern Angles Theatre Company of their brand new musical 'Caroline'

which will be performed and filmed at the New Wolsey Theatre. More details to follow!



Finally, our new season of films:
 May 13th: *H is For Hawk* (2025) 12A
 June 10th: *Nouvelle Vague* (2025) 12A



July 8th: *Hamnet* (2025) 12A
August 12th: *Rental Family* (2025) 12A



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 or online: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/filmfram>.

We are on: **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/filmatfram/>
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What's On at
Leiston
 Film Theatre

Fri 1st May at 7.15pm
 Sat 2nd May at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
 Sun 3rd May at 12.00pm
 Mon 4th & Tues 5th May at 7.15pm
 Wed 6th May at 3.00pm & 7.15pm
 Thurs 7th & Fri 8th May at 7.15pm
 Sat 9th May at 4.00pm & 7.15pm
 Sun 10th May at 6.00pm
 Mon 11th & Tues 12th May at 7.15pm
 Wed 13th May at 3.00pm & 7.15pm
 Thurs 14th May at 7.15pm
 Sat 23rd May at 7.30pm
 Mon 25th May at 6.00pm

MICHAEL 12A

Sat 2nd & Sat 9th May at 1.00pm

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE U

Sun 10th May at 3.00pm

**EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY
 IN CONCERT** 12A

Fri 15th & Sat 16th May at 7.15pm
 Sun 17th May at 6.00pm
 Mon 18th May at 1.00pm & 7.15pm
 Tues 19th May at 7.15pm
 Wed 20th May at 2.00pm
 Thurs 21st May at 7.15pm

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 12A

Sun 17th May at 3.00pm
 Wed 27th May at 1.00pm

GLENROTHAN 12A

Fri 22nd May at 4.30pm & 7.15pm
 Sat 23rd May at 2.00pm & 5.00pm
 Sun 24th May at 3.00pm & 6.00pm
 Mon 25th, Tues 26th, Wed 27th,
 Thurs 28th & Fri 29th May at 3.00pm
 Sat 30th May at 2.00pm & 5.00pm
 Sun 31st May at 3.00pm & 6.00pm

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Tues 26th, Wed 27th &
 Thurs 28th May at 7.15pm

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21st - BBQ/Hog Roast served 12-3:30pm
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18th to 29th August
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SIR ROBERT HITCHAM'S CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

At **Framlingham Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVA Primary School** we strongly believe that every child should have the opportunity to engage with music and be inspired through it.

Two of our current year groups (100 children) are learning instruments through the Suffolk Music Hub, where Year 5 are learning to play the violin, and Year 3 are learning to play the clarinet. Our Year 4 continue to develop their skills on the recorder, and last year all the Year 5 had cello tuition and several of them are continuing with it this year.

As a school we are fortunate to also be able to employ a specialist music teacher to work with all the other year groups within our specialist music hub for 2 days a week. There is a strong base of peripatetic music available.

Children are able to have small group or individual tuition in guitar, violin, cello, brass and woodwind and drums. Our lunchtime clubs include recorders and hand chimes, and our Year 5 and Year 6 children form our Senior Choir.

This term marks the start of a Samba Band club which we expect to be as popular as our Friday lunchtime Playground Disco Singalong for all the children (and staff!) to enthusiastically join in.

Last month we held our annual House Singing competition where 200 children performed spectacular versions of Abba songs, the quality of their performances were brilliant. Our Friends Association also funded the provision of two days of Bassistry Arts Drum & Bass Workshops for the whole school.

In addition, we are thankful for the opportunity we have been given for our Year 5 and 6 children to attend the lunchtime professional concerts held in St. Michael's Church, Framlingham.

You might have caught site of us singing at Framlingham Castle during the Christmas late night opening, which is an annual occurrence for us and one where we can share our joy of music & singing with the wider community.

Find out more on our website:

Framlingham Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVA Primary School - Music in School



SUMMERTIME BRASS WITH MARK GLOVER

Principal Euphonium of Grimethorpe Colliery Band and Castleton Brass

On **Saturday 27th June** Mark Glover, the Principal Euphonium Player of the famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band, will be guest soloist with Castleton Brass at a concert at Needham Market Community Centre.

Band Secretary, Christine Wade said *"Band members are all very excited. Mark is one of the best euphonium players in the country and to have him play with the band is a real privilege.*

Mark will play four solos accompanied by the band".

The concert starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £13 each and are available from TicketSource: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/castleton-brass> or by telephoning 07934169721.

For more details about the band visit www.castletonbrass.org.uk.



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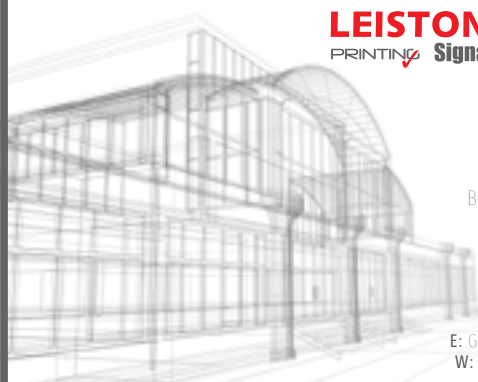
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THE GREAT GARDEN TRAIL 2026

In aid of St Elizabeth Hospice

24th May: Crow's Hall, Debenham. IP14 6NG

Situated on the island of a 16th century moated manor house, this garden is surrounded by a fish filled moat and a series of secluded garden rooms.

Highlights include a lavender courtyard, a formal pool garden with box hedging and traditional English planting, a knot garden, a box topiary amphitheatre, grass borders and more. Refreshments and craft stalls will be available in the barn and plants will be available to buy. Dogs on leads allowed, there is wheelchair access (it may not reach all areas though). Limited parking.

31st May: 2 Mill Street, Stowupland

A beautiful wildlife garden full of trees, shrubs and flowers. Also includes a wonderful rose wall and pond. Refreshments. Dogs on leads allowed, there is wheelchair access (it may not reach all areas though). Limited parking.



21st June: Stowupland Open Gardens

A range of beautiful gardens, providing inspiration for all, one featured on BBC Look East and won the Daily Mirror Shed of the Year.

Refreshments. Plants available to buy. Dogs on leads allowed, there is wheelchair access (it may not reach all areas though). Limited parking.

Visit: <http://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/>



MARATHON RUN FOR THE DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

A huge congratulations to Lydia, our Deputy Clerk, who took part in and successfully completed the Manchester Marathon on Sunday 19 April. This is a tremendous achievement and one that she has been working towards for many months through dedication, training and commitment. Lydia ran in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, supporting an important charity that does vital work for people affected by dementia, as well as their families and carers. It is all the more impressive when you consider how she managed to find the time to train while also working and enjoying valuable family time.

We are extremely proud of Lydia for this fantastic accomplishment and are delighted to celebrate her success. Well done, Lydia, on completing such an impressive challenge.

Emma Chandler, Town Clerk



CHARITY CERAMICS SALE

**THE GREAT
BLUEBIRD POTTERY
CHARITY SALE**

**Large range of beautiful
handmade ceramics donated
by local artists**

Thursday 21 May 2026
to
Wednesday 27 May 2026
10am to 5pm

ARTSPACE WOODBRIDGE
Apothecary House - 64 Thoroughfare
Woodbridge IP12 1AL

 **in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice**
Registered Charity No. 289154

Bluebird Pottery in Sudbourne Park, a local ceramics studio with over 50 members, will be holding a **Charity Sale** at the **ARTSPACE** Woodbridge from **21st to 27th May**.

A wide and wonderful array of ceramics will be on sale with **ALL PROFITS** donated to **St.Elizabeth's Hospice**. The artworks promise to be highly creative, unique, one-off pieces, lovingly handmade by skilled ceramic artists.



Prices will be well below what they usually charge so an early visit is recommended.

21st to 27th May 10am to 5pm, ARTSPACE, The Thoroughfare, Woodbridge.

And when you visit, join their mailing list and you will also be part of a prize draw to win a free pottery class for up to 4 people.

MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS

6th & 7th June 2026

Our ever-popular Open Gardens event offers an eclectic and exciting mix of gardens, some conventional and formal, others more informal or relaxed, including some new to our event. Approximately 18 gardens will be open (the total may vary from day to day).

In the pretty village of Middleton, there are gardens stretching down to the Minsmere River and others overlooking Middleton Moor. Some with views of the marshes and others across the fields; some with the Spire of Holy Trinity church seen piercing the sky in the distance. Many of the gardens have a story to tell, of both their creation and their development over the years. Several of the gardeners cleverly borrow the beautiful surrounding Suffolk landscape to attract animals, insects, plants and birds. You will also find a herd of alpacas grazing quietly in fields within the village.

Displays by children of Middleton primary school will be exhibited in the church. The pub barn will also host an exhibition of Art, crafts and vintage clothes, and there will be a plant/flower stall. Refreshments will be available all day.

Middleton Open Gardens

6th & 7th June

18 Gardens

11am
to **5pm**

Refreshments
at the pavilion
available all day



(last entry 4.15pm)

Adults £5.00 - children free

**Arts, Crafts,
Vintage &
Plants event**
at the Pub barn

**Family Bug
Hunting
Sessions**

*Have fun, catching and learning
about the many different
wildlife species that inhabit our
gardens*



**Guides available from:
Recreation Ground, Fletchers Lane (IP17 3NZ)
& at Middleton Moor (IP17 3LW)**

Major fundraiser for Holy Trinity Church, Middleton
Also supporting East Anglian Air Ambulance & Project40seven
Contact Christine Burgess: 07826 840478 or christineburgess29@gmail.com

FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

Every spring and summer, the UK enters what we term kitten season. Although cats can have kittens at any time of year, the majority of litters arrive between March and September, creating a predictable surge in tiny paws, hungry mouths, and pressure on rescue centres. Kittens require intensive care, and older cats often get overlooked during this period, meaning they wait longer for homes.

A cat's reproductive cycle is triggered by daylight rather than temperature. As days begin to lengthen in January and February, unneutered female cats (queens) start coming into heat. This cycle continues every two to three weeks throughout spring and summer until they mate. A cat's gestation lasts around nine weeks, and she can become pregnant again just two weeks after giving birth, which means one cat can produce up to 18 kittens a year.

Neutering both male and female cats is the most effective way to help prevent unwanted litters and ease the strain on rescues. Neutering should be carried out at around 16 weeks, before a cat reaches sexual maturity. As well as preventing accidental litters, neutering; reduces roaming, fighting, and spraying; lowers the risk of certain cancers and infections; and, crucially, keeps the stray and feral cat population under control.

You can make a real difference during kitten season by:

- Neutering your cat at four months
- Supporting us through fostering, donations, or volunteering
- Considering adopting an older cat, who may be overlooked during kitten season



Framlingham & Saxmundham
CATS PROTECTION

01728 723499

- ↓ Fostering & re-homing cats & kittens
- ↓ Neutering support and advice
- ↓ TNR (Trap Neuter & Return) feral cats
- ↓ Fundraising to continue our work
- ↓ Cat welfare education

Cats looking for loving homes available for adoption

www.cats.org.uk/framandsax

Registered Charity: 203644(England/Wales SC003771(Scotland)

If you are on a low household income or in receipt of some social benefits, Cats Protection can help with the cost of neutering. Contact us to find out more.

Date for your diary: Come and visit us on 24 May at the RSPCA Family Fun Day, Martlesham 11:30 – 15:30

Cat Looking for a Home: This beautiful cat is Aurora, who was found scavenging in a skip and is estimated to be about 8 years old. Aurora is very friendly and she will need a home with a garden to explore, with people who can now give her affection and a settled home life. See Aurora and all the cats in our care at: <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.



BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

May is quite a busy month at the block. The Museum is open every Thursday, Sunday and both Bank Holidays during May. On **Sunday 3rd 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.

Sunday 24th May sees a veteran car run stop at the Museum, while on **24th and 25th May**, the popular 1940s' Café will be in operation too.

The Museum will also be present at the Suffolk Show on **27th and 28th May** at the Trinity Park Show Ground.

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

For more information contact:

Email: info@bawdseyradar.org.uk
Tel: 07821 162879



JOIN US - SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY! WE ARE RECRUITING...

GENERAL MANAGER – FLEXIBLE WORKING (28 HOURS PW) – £ COMPETITIVE

IP17GNS is keen to hire a manager who will be pivotal to our next phase of development. Our trustees, team of 35+ volunteer superstars and service delivery co-ordinator are now ready to meet the emerging needs of our community through an exciting range of targeted services. There's so much more we can and want to do and this is where you come in...

As well as helping deliver our day-to-day services, you will be responsible for a number of strategic goals:

- evolving new community support initiatives
- developing our volunteer base
- improving stakeholder engagement
- researching and leading on fundraising, and
- ensuring all our governance remains on track.

It's a challenging role which would benefit from knowledge and/or experience of the charity sector; good links to the area and an understanding of the challenges faced by our community. You should be a self-starter, a brilliant networker with proven ability to lead, manage and motivate. You will need excellent IT skills as well as being a natural communicator. It's a big job, but for the right person, the rewards will be immense!

For further details or to apply, please contact Jacqui Newvell, Managing Trustee, IP17GNS – email: jacqui@ip17gns.com or call in when we are open. We are located at The Gannon Rooms, Station Approach, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1BW. **The closing date to apply is Monday, 18 May 2026.**



Uvedale Hall Care Home

Coddenham Road, Needham Market, Suffolk, IP6 8AX

Uvedale Hall offers residential care for both permanent and respite stays in a friendly, welcoming and peaceful setting with beautiful landscaped gardens.

Our friendly team truly care for your family like they would their own – providing compassion, respect, and dignity.

With a deep commitment to meeting residents' individual needs, whether it's residential, palliative or respite care, Uvedale Hall is your perfect choice.

Call us on 01449 708708 or visit healthcarehomes.co.uk



Committed, compassionate, caring

**Framlingham
Gala Fest
2026**
Once Upon A Time
Saturday 23rd May - Monday 25th May

*Where music plays, magic sparkles
and the community comes alive in
celebration.*

Thank You For All Your Support

Fundraising for the Framlingham Sports & Community Foundation

Saturday

Framlingham Sports Club, Badingham Road, IP13 9HS

GalaFest Music Day

GalaFest Duathlon: No Purchased Tickets £10 - £13 On The Day
No Wheelchair, No Entry

Junior Race - 9:00am	1:00pm - Grass Cubes 2:00pm - Project Six 3:30pm - Joe Kealey
Senior Race - 11:00am	5:00pm - Smokin' Saus of Stratford 6:30pm - Rubika 80 8:00pm - Epic Movers 9:30pm - Spice Travellers 11:00pm - End

Only Alcohol Purchased on These Premises May be Consumed
No Dogs Allowed

Sunday

Free Entry @ 8:30 @ The Clubhouse

12:00pm - Band Burst
1:30pm - Jazz & Dix
3:00pm - Whistlers Mathers
4:30pm - 16yo Gold Band
6:00pm - Backstreet
7:30pm - End

Times May Vary and Acts May be Subject to Change

Monday

10:00am - 5:00pm Craft Fair -
Castle Community Rooms
Church Street, IP13 9BQ

GalaFest Parade 12:00pm

Main Event @ The Castle Meadow
Free Entry

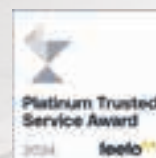
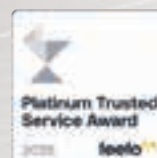
Stocks Funfair

Childrens Races (10-4 & 5-7)
Childrens Races (8-11)
Youth Races - Circuit x 2 Laps (12-16)
Adults Races
Sambomba Samba Band
Love BMX Act
Chloe Kinrade School of Dance
Grand Gala Draw



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MID-SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY

The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway has taken delivery of this summer's guest steam engine with the arrival of the Industrial 0-4-0 Saddle tank steam locomotive No. 1370, 'May'.

On a cold, grey and drizzly Tuesday at Brockford the Railway's Ops team took delivery of the steam engine and after a complicated shunt operation to get 'May' into the right place, a warming fire was lit, after the boiler had been first filled with the water. The engine was tested and Middy drivers and firemen familiarised with the steam engine on Wednesday 1 April.

With the arrival of 'May', 'Illingworth' will now return to its owner, as the 10 year boiler certification is due to expire, necessitating a refurbishment and boiler re-certification before further service is possible.

John Durrant the Mid-Suffolk Railway's Locomotive Manager said: "The arrival of May continues the Middy's policy of securing a diverse and interesting range of small industrial and shunting steam engines to haul our passenger trains.

"The Easter weekend saw both steam locomotives in service together with the recently arrived Great Eastern Railway Chief Engineer's Salon coach no 14."

'May' was built by Peckett and Sons of Bristol in 1915, with the works number 1370, and was designated as a Class R2.

During its working life, 'May' was first delivered as new to the Coventry Ordnance Factory, before then moving to GEC Stafford and named 'Lady Godiva'.

The steam engine was next bought by Cohens scrap dealers and loco merchants who sold it to Yates Duxbury, based at Heap Bridge Bury, Lancashire. This was when No. 1370 was named 'May' and operated at Yates until being sold into preservation in 1975.

'May' is currently based at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre at Quainton. All at the Middy are grateful for the loan of May for the summer running season.



THE ART STATION

Healing Generational Trauma Through Interactive Straw Art



Did you get in trouble at home for drawing on the walls? If so, you must visit The Art Station, where you will not only be encouraged to draw or write on walls, but you will also be rewarded with a corn dolly created by Kristina Tonev, a Suffolk-based artist who is currently inviting audiences to 'The Mother Lode' exhibition part two, where they can immerse themselves in the straw installation.

"It was very powerful, had an ancient folk vibe, some kind of ceremonial but also intimate, domestic process ritual activity was taking place, artist hands created a fascinating focal point, it was absorbing, immersive, mysterious, and also had a grand scale. The material was evocative and the smell pricked something in the deep psyche, the oddness of straw in winter lent a surreal quality and the universal activity that people across the globe would know" - Laurence Edwards, British Sculptor.

This exhibition encourages children and young people to stay playful, while also allowing older generations to reconnect with their inner child and have fun in a safe, caring setting. The Mother Lode is a series of solo exhibitions by artists who are also mothers, exploring motherhood as a profound creative force rather than a detour from artistic practice.

The Art Station PRESENTS

SAX ● ■ ■

ARTS FEST

FREE arts festival in Saxmundham

Saturday 13th June
12pm – 9pm

www.theartstation.uk

Supported with funding from SZO Tourism Event Grant, East Suffolk Council and Saxmundham Town Council.

find out more

PROJECT UPDATE

MAY 2026

The Friday Street Roundabout and Yoxford Roundabout are now open to traffic. This is a significant milestone for the Sizewell C infrastructure improvement works, making two notorious junctions on the A12 a lot safer.

Delivered as part of Sizewell C's commitment to strengthening regional infrastructure, the new roundabouts replace older junctions that had become increasingly congested and challenging to navigate at peak times. The redesigned layouts now provide safer access to the A1094 at Friday Street and the B1122 at Yoxford, reducing queuing and lowering the risk of accidents. Whilst traffic management in the area will reduce, works around the roundabout will continue as the now redundant parts of the A12 are removed and prepared for landscaping, and the construction of the two-village bypass that will eventually connect to the Friday Street Roundabout continues.

The Southern and Northern Park and Ride car parks are open and our workforce are being bussed from the locations onto site. At the Northern Park and Ride, there are now 280 spaces, and 80 spaces at the Southern Park and Ride.

The roundabout that links the Northern Park and Ride with the A12 and Willow Marsh Lane continues to be constructed and linked to the road network; we expect the works to be completed by early summer.

A12 road improvements

We have recently completed the first of three signalised road crossings along the A12 in Yoxford. The next crossing will be constructed in Marlesford and is due to commence in May. Works will then proceed onto Little Glemham for the third signalised crossing. These works will require traffic management along the A12 and will be outlined on the **Sizewell C Works Tracker**.

In the wider road network, Sizewell C will be making general improvements on local roads, in particular on the B1122, B1125 and B1119. These works will improve safety accessibility and include high friction surfacing, new footways, vegetation management for improved visibility, signage, and village gateways. The first work to commence will be the B1122 footpath improvements starting in mid-April.

This work will involve traffic management during the day and some night time closures to maximise time and lessen disruption on the road network during the working day. We are also conducting these works in collaboration with other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in the area, in particular Scottish Power Renewables.



Scan the QR code for further details about the collaboration.

FORUM SCHEDULE

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

Northern Transport Forum Wednesday 6 May High Lodge Darsham

Southern Transport Forum Wednesday 3 June Stratford St. Andrew Riverside Centre

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.



LANDGUARD TRUST

Preserving What Matters for Future Generations

At the southern edge of Felixstowe, where river meets sea, three remarkable places stand side by side: Landguard Fort, Felixstowe Museum and Landguard Nature Reserve. They are more than visitor attractions. They are charitable, community-supported sites that protect centuries of national history, safeguard local memories and conserve one of Suffolk's most scientifically significant coastal landscapes. As a new season begins, these places invite you not only to visit, but to help ensure they continue to thrive for generations to come.

Landguard Fort

Protecting a National Treasure For nearly 500 years, Landguard Fort has guarded the entrance to Harwich Harbour. From its Tudor origins to its role in both World Wars and the Cold War, it has witnessed defining moments in English history - including the last opposed invasion of England in 1667.

But historic buildings do not preserve themselves. Stonework must withstand harsh coastal weather. Exhibitions require careful interpretation. Tunnels and casemates need ongoing safety checks. None of this is funded by central government; it relies on admissions, donations, grants and the dedication of volunteers.

Every ticket, event booking or donation directly supports:

- Conservation of historic fabric
- Educational workshops for families and school
- Volunteer training and research
- Essential maintenance and safety works

Supporting it ensures future generations can walk the same parade ground and stand in the same gun positions.

Felixstowe Museum: Safeguarding the Town's Story: A short stroll from the Fort, Felixstowe Museum occupies the former Submarine Mining Establishment - itself an important historic structure.

Inside, the story becomes personal.

The Museum preserves the memories of Felixstowe: seaside holidays, wartime resilience, the growth of the port and community life through the decades. Many visitors recognise echoes of their own lives in the displays.

Almost entirely volunteer-run, the Museum depends on local support. Volunteers catalogue artefacts, research archives, design exhibitions and welcome visitors. Behind every carefully labelled display is a team committed to preserving the town's shared heritage. Income from admissions and donations helps fund:

- Conservation of fragile artefacts
- Archival storage materials
- Building upkeep
- New exhibitions and interpretation

Without sustained community backing, small independent museums face increasing challenges. By visiting and supporting Felixstowe Museum, you help ensure local history is not lost or forgotten.

Landguard Nature Reserve: Protecting a Rare Landscape: Beyond the historic buildings lies one of Suffolk's most important coastal habitats. Landguard Nature Reserve is nationally recognised for its vegetated shingle, rare plants and migrating birds. Its scientific importance extends far beyond Felixstowe, providing vital breeding and feeding grounds for protected species and forming part of a wider network of coastal conservation sites.

Volunteers and wardens monitor wildlife, maintain pathways, install seasonal protective cordons for nesting birds and help visitors enjoy the area responsibly. Visitor support helps fund:

- Habitat management
- Wildlife monitoring equipment
- Educational interpretation
- Conservation materials and tools

For many, the Reserve offers something invaluable: space for reflection, walking and quiet connection with nature. Protecting it ensures this landscape remains unspoilt and ecologically rich.

Why Supporting Charity-Funded Heritage Matters:

Across the UK, heritage sites and nature reserves face rising costs, ageing infrastructure and reduced public funding. Landguard's sites are no exception.

What makes Landguard distinctive is its community model. These places are sustained by people who care - volunteers, trustees and visitors who understand that preserving history and nature requires collective effort.

When you buy a ticket, attend an event, make a donation, become a member or recommend a visit, you are investing in the preservation of nationally important history, locally significant heritage and scientifically valuable habitat.

Discover the past. Explore the landscape. Support what matters.

Discover, Explore, Support Landguard.



Hello Framlingham



We are your local community radio station, broadcasting online to bring you a varied mix of music programmes, stories and information about what's on in our area.

Have you discovered us yet?

Listen online at: www.abcradio.co.uk via the app and on Alexa 

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 9 Fressingfield Sounds presents Andrey Gugin, BBC award-winning, virtuoso pianist, performing works by Grieg and Liszt, and ballet transcriptions by Tchaikovsky (Sleeping Beauty) and Stravinsky (Firebird). 7.30pm @ Chapel Hall Arts, Fressingfield, IP21 5QD. Visit: www.fressingfieldsounds.org.uk or call 07900 350117.

MAY 16 Experience Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius'. Under the baton of Geoff Lavery, Framlingham Phoenix Singers and Beccles Choral Society are joining forces to present Elgar's spiritual epic. The two choirs will be joined by the Lambeth Orchestra and acclaimed soloists. 7.30pm at Snape Maltings. For more details please visit www.phoenixsinger.org.uk

MAY 27 Free Health Walk at RSPB Minsmere. Meet like-minded people on a lovely walk. We will take a coastal, woodland or reedbed route. No dogs except assistance dogs on a short lead. Part of the One Life Suffolk health walks programme. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281



MAY 20 Fram Concerts: Collatus Piano Trio. Three young players from the Royal Academy of Music. 1.30pm at Framlingham Church. Tickets £10 by email: framconcerts@outlook.com, on the door or online @ www.ticketsource.co.uk/framlingham-concerts

MAY 29 Everyman Folk Club. John Kirkpatrick. John is an instrumental virtuoso, and a superb singer, topping his sparkling squeezebox playing with lusty vocals, presented with wit and humour. Tickets £10 in advance or £12 on the door. 7.30pm at The Riverside Centre, Gt Glemham Road, Stratford St Andrew.

MAY 23 Voxcetera Chamber Choir - I AM A CLOUD: Sacred sounds, folk songs and beautiful new choral music. 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh, Suffolk IP19 9LP. Tickets £15. Under 18s £7.50. Booking: www.voxcetera.co.uk. Direct booking link: <https://www.voxcetera.co.uk/event-details/i-am-a-cloud-sacred-sounds-folk-songs-and-beautiful-new-choral-music>

MAY 30 Fabric Sale. A huge variety of fabrics on sale, plus buttons, zips, cottons and other items. 9.30am – 4.30p at the St Elizabeth Hospice shop in Stowmarket. All proceeds will go to St Elizabeth Hospice's work to provide outstanding palliative and end-of-life care in the local community. Both cash and card payments are accepted. IP17 1LL. Email: everyman@wheatstone.co.uk

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 Monday 1st June, copy deadline is 14th May - 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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