

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

MAY 2026

LEISTON OBSERVER



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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

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES PG

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

YOU, ME & TUSCANY 12A

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 Tel: 01728 830549, or visit:
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Saturday	Closed

*Hygienist appointments available after 5pm
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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Leiston Town Council, Net Zero Leiston, the Long Shop Museum and others are preparing to take part in the Great Big Green Week for the first time, in June. There will be activities for all ages and a trail is being created to encourage residents and visitors to explore the town during the week and beyond. Members of the community are invited to organise their own events too! For full details check out the Big Green Week website


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

Email: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

Entitlement is just the grossest kind of human behaviour.

Jessica Parker Kennedy



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- *My family and the Royal Family – with Jane Evans*



Have a go at tennis!

FAMILY TENNIS DAY

Saturday 9th | 10:00 AM
May 26 | to 1:00 PM

Saxmundham Sports Tennis Club
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Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1AT



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- Free family coaching with Matt 10am-11am
- Free play on courts 11am to 11.30am
- Free beginners coaching 11.30am-12.30pm
- Refreshments provided
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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.

FROM LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL

Leiston continues to be a vibrant and engaged community, with a range of initiatives, events and updates highlighting the town's commitment to safety, sustainability and local life.

Big Green News! Looking ahead, Leiston is preparing to take part in the **Great Big Green Week** for the first time. This national initiative, running from 6th to 14th June, celebrates community action for nature and the climate. In Leiston, a collaborative programme is being developed by Leiston Town Council, Net Zero Leiston, the Long Shop Museum and other local partners. Activities will be designed to appeal to all ages, showcasing the town's green spaces and sustainability efforts. As part of the celebrations, an activity trail is also being created to encourage residents and visitors to explore the town during the week and beyond. Community members are invited to contribute by organising their own events, helping to make Leiston's programme as inclusive and engaging as possible. Full details of events will be shared locally and through the national Great Big Green Week website.

Report It – Dog Control at Sizewell Beach: A Balanced and Responsible Approach: A current topic of interest is dog control at Sizewell Beach. Responsibility for managing dogs in public spaces is shared between local authorities and the police. East Suffolk Council takes the lead on everyday matters such as dog fouling and nuisance behaviour, while the police deal with more serious incidents under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Tools such as Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), introduced through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, allow councils to implement restrictions where there is clear and ongoing evidence of harm, provided any measures are necessary and proportionate. At present, dogs are permitted off lead at Sizewell Beach, and there is no strong evidence to justify further restrictions. The situation is managed through existing policies, education and encouraging responsible ownership. The council acknowledges concerns raised by residents and visitors and remains committed to monitoring the situation closely, promoting good behaviour and acting where required to protect both people and the environment. Anyone witnessing dog-on-dog aggression is advised to keep a safe distance, avoid intervening, and report the incident to the council or police, providing as much detail as possible.

A Reminder – Leiston-cum-Sizewell Annual Council and Town Meeting: Residents are reminded of the upcoming Leiston-cum-Sizewell Annual Council Meeting and Town Meeting, which will take place from 6.45pm on **Tuesday 26th May** at the Leiston Community Centre. The evening will begin with the Annual Council Meeting, followed by the Town Meeting and Public Forum. This is an important opportunity for residents to hear updates on local matters, share their views and contribute to discussions about the future of the town. Community groups and organisations are especially encouraged to attend. The event offers a valuable platform to showcase their work, outline plans for the coming year and highlight their contributions to the local area. Groups can participate by giving a short presentation, submitting a report or providing display materials.

The meeting also provides a chance for networking, idea-sharing and strengthening partnerships across the community. Anyone wishing to take part is asked to contact the Town Clerk by **19th May**.

Cinema in the Park Returns to Leiston on August 1st – save the date! This popular outdoor event offers a relaxed summer evening of film, food and community spirit. Attendees can bring blankets or chairs and enjoy a film under the open sky in one of Leiston's green spaces. Previous events have attracted large audiences and created a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere. This year's event is particularly significant, as 2026 marks 50 years since the Leiston Film Theatre was saved by the Town Council. As the oldest purpose-built cinema in Suffolk, the theatre represents an important part of the town's cultural heritage. Cinema in the Park continues this legacy, celebrating Leiston's long-standing connection with film and shared community experiences.

Visit Leiston – Get Involved: The Town Council is also working to enhance its digital presence through a refresh of the Visit Leiston website and social media channels. The aim is to better promote the town's attractions, businesses and events while improving online engagement with residents and visitors. Local businesses are invited to submit updated information and images, while event organisers can share listings and promotional materials for inclusion in the online calendar. Community members are encouraged to explore the updated website and provide feedback to help shape its development. Additional support is available through visits from the council's project team, including assistance with photography, online promotion and distribution of Visit Leiston guides. This initiative aims to ensure the town is presented at its best and remains a valuable resource for everyone.

Welcoming Bushell's Bakery to Leiston: Leiston has also welcomed a new addition to its high street with the opening of Bushell's Bakery on 7th April.



Bringing over 140 years of baking experience from Lowestoft, the bakery offers freshly made products using high quality East Anglian ingredients. Sandwich fillings are prepared in-house, salt levels are kept low, and local suppliers are supported

wherever possible. With its focus on quality, sustainability and customer service, Bushell's Bakery provides a welcoming space for residents to enjoy fresh food, coffee and conversation. It represents another positive step in supporting local business and enhancing the town's offering.

Council Meetings: Finally, residents are reminded that Full Council meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at the Leiston Community Centre, starting at 6.45pm. Agendas are available online and on the council noticeboard, and all are welcome to attend or get involved.

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LEISTON YOUTH & COMMUNITY ANGLING SOCIETY (LYCAS)

St. Margaret's Football Club was a great venue for what was upwards of 100 people who gathered for our awards.

Gary did an awesome job of getting the trophies in order and Saxmundham Tackle sorted the engraving.

The ladies put on a lovely spread of nibbles and the bar was suitably manned for refreshments.



A great way to sign off the old season, with the next season imminent.

Well done to the 2025 winners – 2026 looks like being just as awesome!



NEWS FROM LEISTON ARMY CADETS



So Leiston Detachment ACF has carried on where last year left off. We had our First Company weekend in February, with a

dozen Cadets away on a Testing weekend and a number passing their Star passes.

Three cadets went off to the Brecon Beacons in the Easter Holidays for Adventurous Training, and new cadets went away for a 5-day camp in Lincolnshire.



Tuesday training nights cover training for the Testing weekends and Annual Camp in August. We have a new adult with us and are parading about 18 Cadets on an evening.

We will always welcome more!

So, if you are interested then attend the Detachment on a Tuesday night and register interest by visiting: ACF.com



The Railway Inn

Recently purchased from Adnams- opened in April.

Traditional pub with a warm welcome!
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LIVE WELL HUB LEISTON

Sizewell Creative art exhibition comes to Leiston!

A showcase of artwork created by the Sizewell C workforce.

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

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LEISTON FOOTBALL CLUB

BRUCE STEALS THE SHOW AT SPORTING DINNER

Bruce Grobbelaar was the star of the show as the Blues recently put on a terrific Sporting Dinner at the LTAA. The Liverpool legend goalkeeper was in good form, reliving the story of his life as he became one of the planet's most recognisable and successful-ever goalkeepers. From his upbringing in Zimbabwe through to his time at Liverpool and many other clubs and places in between, Bruce had the crowd mesmerised with his stories, including his famous 'spaghetti legs' performance in the 1984 European Cup final, where he did enough to put off Roma players in a dramatic penalty shoot-out. The sell-out crowd enjoyed not just Bruce's stories, but jokes galore from comedian Ian Richards, a fine three-course meal, a complimentary drink from Fishers Gin on arrival, on what was a very successful evening for the Club.

The auction, including a signed Tyson Fury boxing glove, kindly arranged by Steve Jordan of Jordan Fencing, raised fantastic amounts, as well as a heads and tails game and raffle.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the night, either through donating auction prizes, bidding, buying tables and raffle tickets, or by just being there. Thank you and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

We are now all looking forward to **Thursday, November 26**, this year, when Matt Le Tissier will be our guest speaker at our next Sporting Dinner... details will follow in the summer.

It was the Leiston's Chairman's birthday recently and Andy Crisp was presented with a very special cake, complete with Leiston FC badge on top. Andy has been chairman for almost 25 years now at the Club and a fine job he has done, alongside vice-chairman Peter Mayhew, Club president Robin Watson and many others.

There was a nice rendition of 'Happy Birthday to You' sung in the boardroom after the game against Bury, with many of the first team displaying some fine vocals!

For information on all things Leiston FC, head over to www.leistonfc.co.uk. Or follow Leiston FC on X, Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok and Instagram. add leiston fc photos

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keith_swain@hotmail.com



Bruce Grobbelaar speaking at Leiston's Sporting Dinner.
Photo: ELITE GRAPHICS



Photo: Steve Cooper.

1ST LEISTON SCOUT GROUP



The Leiston Scout group has had a busy start to the year, the main event for Beavers and Cubs was the birthday celebration held at Jimmy's farm in March. Beavers celebrate 40 years and Cubs 110 years this year and the event was attended by the whole District. Scouts had an overnight camp to attend Clip N Climb followed by Ten pin bowling, and in April they attended a District Survival camp. At the beginning of May there is a Group camp where all three sections will camp together for the weekend. The Scouts will then have the County Wet Weekend camp at Ramsholt in July, so plenty to look forward to.

We are still looking for new volunteers to join our group in all our sections. Anyone 18 years plus can volunteer, no upper age limit, and if you would like to attend a meeting on a trial basis then please email us: 1stleiston@suffolkscouts.org.uk or myself on the details below.

We are excited to share some fantastic news - Leiston Scout Group is launching a brand new Explorer Unit!

This is an amazing opportunity for young people aged 14 - 17 to take on new challenges, build confidence and enjoy unforgettable adventures.

We'd like to welcome any young people who might be interested in joining.

We are also looking for enthusiastic adult volunteers who can help us bring this new section to life. The Explorer Unit will meet on Tuesday evenings, 7 – 8.30pm, running every two weeks to start with (TBC). If you know someone who would like to get involved - as a young person or a volunteer - please get in contact.

Steve Burch GLV

Tel: 07889 799415 s

Email: teve.burch@suffolkscouts.org.uk

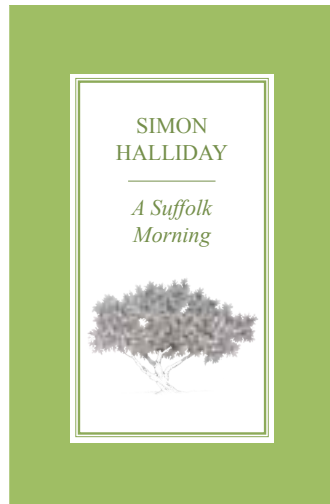
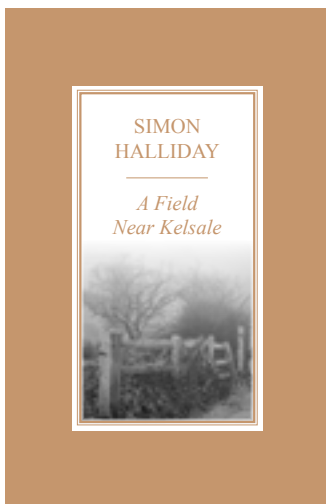
'A FIELD NEAR KELSEA'

Local author Simon Halliday has recently produced a second volume of poetry – 'A Field near Kelsale' following 'A Suffolk Morning'. Most of the poems were completed in 2025 and set out to cover observations of nature and life in East Suffolk. However, the past is also revisited with incidents from the classroom as a boy and teacher, while in March Simon's project was somewhat hijacked by a diagnosis of myeloma. Simon was born in Ipswich, went to school in Lincoln and university in Liverpool before teaching geography in London.

Simon played cricket for Suffolk and now lives in Saxmundham.

'A Suffolk Morning' is a collection of poetry which covers perceptions of childhood, work, nature, sport and the human condition

Simon's books are available locally in Aldeburgh Books, Beccles Books, Woodbridge Books, Halesworth



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'PETER PAN' SUCCESS

Bright Sparks' 40th anniversary production of Peter Pan proved a tremendous success, delighting audiences throughout its five show run at the Jubilee Hall in Aldeburgh.

From the moment the curtain rose, audiences were swept away to Neverland. There were cheers for Peter, hearty boos for Captain Hook, laughter at Smee's antics, and plenty of magical moments in between.

This was our second pantomime at the Jubilee Hall and our most ambitious production to date. Cast and crew worked tirelessly both on stage and behind the scenes. Our younger performers threw themselves into every rehearsal, while our more experienced members helped shape the show and guide it to life.

What audiences see under the lights is only part of the story. Peter Pan was the result of months of planning, teamwork and creativity. Rehearsals were filled with energy, ideas and laughter as we watched the production grow into something truly special.

Then the moment we'd all been waiting for... Peter flying across the stage for the very first time. With less than a week to rehearse using the flying rig, Tink and Peter had a steep learning curve, so hearing the audience gasp and burst into applause gave us goosebumps and there were more than a few tears. The response from audiences was overwhelming. One described it as *"a really magnificent show"*, while another said it had them *"laughing, crying, cheering and booing"*. Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall called the production *"a triumphant success"*, and many praised the costumes, music, performances and flying scenes.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us - your enthusiasm means the world. After such a fantastic response, we are already looking forward to sharing our next adventure.

If you'd like to get involved, on stage or behind the scenes, visit our Facebook page and drop us a message: [facebook.com/BrightSparksPanto](https://www.facebook.com/BrightSparksPanto)



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LIVE WELL HUB LEISTON



March saw the Live Well Hub host Social prescribing day 2026 in partnership with the connect for health team. The event was a great success, well attended and received by both professionals and the general public. Following the event great accolades, were offered, both face to face and via social media channels to all parties involved. 85 people attended, approximately 60% were professionals and 40% members of the public. Suffolk High Sheriff- Gushlan Kayembe was also in attendance. She was invited to open the event and also presented both 'Connect for Health' and 'The Live Well Hub' certificates in recognition of gratitude for dedication and service. We plan to host a similar partnership event in March 2027.



Boccia demonstration and LiveWell Hub Staff receiving certificate of recognition



NEW from May....

Following the success of Social Prescribing Day 'Connect for Health' are now offering **Social Prescribing drop ins - 10am-1pm, fortnightly: 1st May, 15th May, 29th May, 12th June and 26th June from 10am -1pm.** Locals with any non-medical issues can pop along to talk with one of our friendly well informed social prescribers, who can offer support in a multitude of ways.

Sizewell Creatives, Willow weaving workshops with Faye Gosling

ADULTS | FRIDAY, 1 MAY | 10AM-12PM
FAMILIES | FRIDAY, 29 MAY | 10AM-12PM & 1PM-3PM
 *Spaces for the workshops are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment

National literacy Trust Story Telling with Alice Thursday 28th May, 10am - 12pm. This session is free and aimed at early years and their families encouraging all to read. Visitors will be offered a free new book after to take home and enjoy.

Visitors to the **NEW** activities mentioned above and to **ALL** our regular classes at the Live Well Hub are welcomed to stay for a cuppa and a chat after the activities they have attended. This has proved very popular and is great for reducing social isolation and for everyone's mental health and is helping building a fantastic community within the hub.

Please follow us: The Live Well Hub-Leiston on Face Book for more on what's new and coming soon.

Find us: The Live Well Hub is in the Waterloo Centre, off Waterloo Avenue, IP16 4HF (the site of the old Middle School)

You can **contact us on;** 01728 808 388 or 07955 437 070 livewellmanager@leistoncouncil.gov.uk Should you have any questions about any services activities on offer or if you would like to enquire about hiring space at The Live Well Hub

Regular Activities

Mondays, 10am -11.30am: 'Way to Go' Guided Walks;
1.30pm- 3pm: Guided cycle ride, both followed by refreshments.

Third Monday monthly: 18th May, 15th June, 20th July & 17th Aug: The Bike Doctor - servicing and teaching people how to mend their own bikes.

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9am – 5pm: Sizewell Creatives exhibition of Art works and photography. (Evenings or weekends viewings available on request).

Tuesdays, 10.30am – 12noon: New Age Kurling Free to attend, everyone welcome.

Third Friday monthly, 10am – 12noon: Combat2Coffee: A warm welcome to veterans and their families.

Alternate Mondays: Turning Point-addiction recovery service (as well as the usual Wednesday sessions).

Alternate Mondays: Inspire- Youth employment service.



WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOPS

FREE TO ATTEND FOR ALL

ADULTS | FRIDAY, 1 MAY | 10AM-12PM
FAMILIES | FRIDAY, 29 MAY | 10AM-12PM & 1PM-3PM



Local craftswoman, Faye Gosling, is bringing the ancient craft of willow weaving to the Leiston community - come along to make and take home your own wreaths and stars.



CALL 01728 808388 TO BOOK YOUR SPACE TODAY!

The Live Well Hub - Leiston
 The Waterloo Centre, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston, IP16 4HF



Questions?
 Email livewellmanager@leistoncouncil.gov.uk
 or call 01728 808388



ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

MY FAMILY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY – with Jane Evans

On Monday 16th March members and visitors met at the Fromus Centre in Saxmundham for a talk by one of the Group's members, Jane Evans who has 'connections' to the Royal family but she hastened to add that she was not related to them.

The first connection was through her grandmother, Henrietta Baker, who was from Sweffling. Jane knew that Henrietta was a pastry cook, a very good one, and she said she worked for King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at St James' Palace.



Henrietta Baker, pastry cook to King Edward VII



Henrietta's dinner service

The BBC produced a series called *'The Duchess of Duke Street'* set in London from 1900 and 1925 which told the story of a servant who became a renowned cook and eventually the proprietor of a hotel in Duke Street. Watching the video Jane had been able to find out about life during that period.

Jane had learnt from family discussions that her grandmother talked about having to wear pieces of lace on her head and that there were also items of fine crockery in her kitchen at home. When Jane's family held parties and events eight kidney shaped dishes from this crockery were used. There was also a very splendid soup tureen with the same pattern. Looking carefully at all these pieces, Jane saw that they had a crest on them. Careful research by Jane identified the crest as the coronet of a Viscount and further investigation proved it to be that of Viscount Althorp (of the Spencer family).

So, her china dated from about 1903 when the Viscount became Earl Spencer and a new dinner service was bought, with pieces of the old service given out to members of staff. It would appear that Henrietta had been given the kidney shaped dishes, some small dishes and the lovely soup tureen whilst working for the Viscount.

Jane had contacted St James' Palace to see if there was any record of her being employed there. The response was 'No'. Further enquiries showed that she was employed at St James Place, not Palace. Records also showed that she left in 1911 – pregnant.

The next royal connection with Jane's family was through Charles Baker, born in 1888 in Sweffling who died in 1941. Charles joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and was sent to India. He was a very good signaller and while he was overseas he sent a lot of postcards home.

In 1911 King George V and Queen Mary of Teck were crowned in London and on 11th November they sailed from London to Bombay (now Mumbai) and then went by train to Delhi.

They attended a Durbar (a ceremonial gathering held by a ruler in India) at which 100,000 people were present. As Emperor and Empress of India they wore the Crowns of India. As a member of the British Armed Forces, present in India at that time, Charles attended the Durbar when 26,800 medals were awarded. Charles received a silver Kaiser-i-hind medal for his service at the Durbar.



The Delhi Durbar 1911

The next connection was Jane's Aunty Dorothy who, during the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia in 1949, was working as a Nursery Nurse in the crèche. Various visitors came into the crèche and lo and behold there was Queen Mary with a group of other ladies!



Aunty Dorothy and Queen Mary at Olympia

The fourth royal connection was through Jane's mother Doreen, Henrietta's daughter. During the war, Doreen had served in the Women's Land Army and later had become a telephonist. In 1953 seven volunteers were required to work on the Coronation switchboard and Doreen was one of them. On 29th May she attended a rehearsal for the Coronation service. 129,000 people were awarded a Coronation medal including Doreen for her work on the Coronation switchboard.



Mother Doreen and her Coronation Medal

The final connection took place at Burley. Zara Phillips was there, riding her horse Toytown, trained by her father Mark Phillips. Jane's daughter was also there and had her photograph taken with Zara.

A most entertaining talk, very much appreciated by all. 42 people attended the talk, 9 of them visitors and 4 of those visitors left the talk having become members!

'Apprenticeship Records' – Richard Holt - Monday 18th May, 2.30pm at the Fromus Centre, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL Just turn up. Free for members and £5 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits.

Learn about the history of apprenticeship and the numerous sources available for family history research. Discover how these sources helped research a 'brick wall' ancestor.

Pharos Tutors say *"The practice of apprenticing young men to learn a trade is first recorded in twelfth and thirteenth century London. It gradually spread to many other towns and cities and became subject to regulation. The Statute of Artificers 1563 required all tradesmen to serve an apprenticeship of at least seven years before they could trade. Provision for apprenticeship was also made under the Poor Laws. Parish overseers could bind children as young as six or seven to serve as apprentices until they were adults. Such bindings were supposed to ensure that children were taken care of at little cost to the parish."*

Richard Holt is a professional genealogist and runs his own research business, 'Holt's Family History Research'. Richard also tutors for Pharos Tutors, teaching their Apprenticeship Records and Victorian Crime and Punishment courses. He is a Member of AGRA (the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives) and currently serves on AGRA's Council.

Further programme:

Mon 15 June: Pauper Ancestors - Clare O'Grady

Mon 20 July: What to do with Your Research - John Hanson

**THE
LONG SHOP
MUSEUM**

OPEN NOW!

A GREAT DAY OUT!

Visit The Long Shop Museum and explore the Victorian industrial history of Suffolk. Discover the stories and achievements of the people who turned Leiston, the coastal market town, into a Victorian engineering powerhouse!

For more information, visit our website:
www.longshopmuseum.co.uk
Main Street, Leiston, IP16 4ES

EVENTS AT ST PETER'S SIBTON

The Suffolk Strings orchestra will give their concert on **May 10th** which will include works by Elgar, Finzi, Walton and Holst. Our concerts begin at 3.30pm and tea follows performances.

Other events get going from May onwards. 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; free admission and there is ample carparking. Sibton church lies on the A1120 between Yoxford and Peasenhall with its carpark at IP17 2LX.

Watch out for **'Art in Ruins II'** during the weekend beginning 18th July, held both 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.

Unfortunately, the concert in April featuring Zephyr Baroque had to be cancelled owing to illness. We hope to be able to feature the concert later in the season, when they will undoubtedly play a programme of early music that will charm and delight all. As always refreshments are available at all our events and are always popular.

There will be two more concerts in the latter part of the year. 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.

Website: sibtonstpeter.com

Facebook page: Friends of St. Peter's Sibton.



THE CROWN and Castle

Linger a little longer with
Saturday Lunch

New for 2026

Served between 12pm and 2pm
To reserve your table today
call 01394 450205 or visit,
www.crownandcastle.co.uk/dine/saturday-lunch

THORPENESS
COUNTRY CLUB

New
Seaside Sweethearts
Package

Book your Seaside Sweethearts wedding before 30th June 2026 and receive an engagement shoot worth £300 on us.*

For further details visit
www.thorpenesscountryclub.co.uk/weddings

*Terms and Conditions apply.

Credit: Images By Anna

THE BAND OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, LEISTON

Warming up for a busy season!

The band has been working hard in rehearsal and the spring and summer events season has now begun and we'll be out and about around the area.

On **Sunday 10th May** we have our Spring Concert at St Margaret's Church, Leiston. With a varied programme from the Main Band, and a performance from our Training Band, it will be a lovely concert of brass music. Tickets are £10 on the door and will include a delicious Afternoon Tea. Proceeds will be split between the band and the church who are kindly hosting us again.

Also in May:

Leiston Airfield Memorial Event, Cakes & Ale Holiday Park, Theberton - **Sunday 24th May**

Aldeburgh Mayor's Parade and Brass on The Prom, Aldeburgh - **Sunday 31st May**

Do you play brass? Or are you learning?

Our Main band is particularly looking for cornets to strengthen our section, but all brass and percussion players are welcome.

If you are learning to play brass then our Training Band is for you, whether you are young or not so young! We have instruments available to borrow. For more information please email: secretary@leistonband.org



LEISTON ALLOTMENT HOLDERS & GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

During May the weather can suddenly revert to winter! Ensure you have protective fleece or cloches ready to cover seedlings which have now been planted in the open.

Keep up with the hoeing, and this is also a good time to start a new compost heap.

Vegetables: Continue sowing peas but watch out for pigeons – netting can help. Keep up with 'catch' crops of lettuce. Sow French and runner beans in the middle of the month, but don't forget to erect canes to support them. Plant maincrop potatoes, earth up early potatoes - allow about 9ins of growth to develop before drawing up the soil around them – two more 'earthings' should produce a decent crop before the end of summer.

Protect carrot seedlings against carrot fly with Enviomesh.

Make successive sowings of beetroot and radish to maintain a regular supply over the coming months. Last chance to sow parsnips.

Fruit: Redcurrants – apply Nitro chalk, ½ oz per square yard. If fruit looks good, continue with mulch. Gooseberries – feed now with 1oz sulphate of ammonia or Nitro chalk. Keep soil moist and free of weeds.

Roses: Black spot can be countered with a copper-based fungicide spray against greenfly. Use a systemic insecticide feed with rose fertilizer and prune established plants. Mulch with garden compost or manure at the end of the month.

Greenhouse: Don't start feeding tomatoes until the flowers on the first truss have set. Keep on top of any sideshoots by snapping them off when they are about 2ins long. Set up sticky traps to catch aphids or whitefly.

On sunny days the temperature inside your greenhouse can soar, paint the glass with shading. Damp down at every opportunity to reduce heat stress on plants.

Lawns: Rake and mow with blades set high. 'Spike' if badly drained, and brush sandy compost into any holes. Feed, to help grass recover from winter. Apply moss killer if necessary. New lawns – sow grass seed at the end of the month. Turf can still be laid, but must be kept well watered.

Garden: Plant out bedding plants. At the end of the month, sow Cosmos, Larkspur, Cornflower, etc, just a few of many easy-to-grow outdoors. Support tall plants like Lupins and Delphiniums. Feed spring bulbs, don't tie the leaves back. If not already done, you can still cut back shrubs like Buddleia. Plant out Dahlias at the end of the month.

Roderick Linsell

ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB

Aldeburgh Music Club present **FOLK SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

Saturday 30th May 2026 at Orford Church

Following their successful all-Mozart concert at Snape in March, **ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB CHOIR** turn to something completely different for their next concert.

At Orford Church on 30th May, the choir will be presenting an evening of **FOLK SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**, in choral arrangements by a range of composers including Vaughan Williams, Bob Chilcott and John Rutter.

Also in the programme, Aldeburgh Music Club's Vice President, the mezzo soprano Diana Moore, will be singing a number of Benjamin Britten's folk song arrangements, accompanied at the piano by Jonathan Rutherford.

The concert begins at 7.30pm, and tickets are available from the Music Club's website, www.aldeburghmusic.club

Aldeburgh Music Club
Saturday 30 May 2026 7.30pm
St Bartholomew's Church, Orford

FOLK SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Arranged by Britten, Chilcott
Vaughan Williams and others

ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB CHOIR
Music Director **TOM APPLETON**
with **Diana Moore** *mezzo soprano*
and **Jonathan Rutherford** *piano*

Tickets £15. Under 18s half price
Tickets available from www.aldeburghmusic.club

Aldeburgh Music Club
Founded by Benjamin Britten in 1952

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

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.

LEISTON AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Results of the annual competition.

On the afternoon of 25th February the Society held its annual Members competition, when up to ten sheets of display stamps can be submitted by any Member on any subject. All the entries were of a very high standard - there were more than a dozen entries and fierce competition from members for the coveted trophies. All Members present inspected the entries and then voted for their preferred entries by way of a secret ballot. The Secretary then opened and counted the ballots and announced the result of the vote.

First prize and the Richard Cloke Cup went to Graham Crowley for his colourful and comprehensive display of American Revenue stamps and labels from the 19th and 20th century. The runner-up and the Peter Spall Tankard was awarded to Alan Martin with his display of the stamps of Zululand, which was invaded by the British Empire in 1879 and annexed to the Natal Province of South Africa in 1897, resulting in just three stamp issues in 1888, 1891 and 1894, after which stamps of Natal were used in the territory.

The 25th March saw a return to evening meetings, commencing at 7.30pm. in the United Church Hall, Leiston High Street. The Guest speaker and presenter was Reggie Cullum from Norfolk and the meeting was entertained by Reggie's amazing display of 'Birds on Stamps' covering different stamp issues and First Day Covers featuring a huge variety of birds from over 120 countries and territories all over the world.

The evening meetings will continue through May and June, on the last Wednesday of the month commencing at 7.30pm. All are welcome, even if you are a non-member.

Further information about the Society's activities can be obtained by contacting:

Email: andy.soutar@btinternet.com
 Email: alanmartin42@btinternet.com
 Tel: 01728 832455.

Alan Martin
 Publicity Officer.

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

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.



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.





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.**

19-21 JUNE 2026

BEERS & BEATS

WEEKENDER - at The Randolph

Four local, independently poured

SELECTION OF 10 INDEPENDENT BREWS

19th - Live music from 6pm

20th - BBQ/Hog Roast served 12-1:30pm
Live music from 12:30pm with *The Bakery*, followed by *Class of Britpop* from 4:30pm

21st - BBQ/Hog Roast served 12-3:30pm
Live music from 12:30pm with *The Austin Beats!*

01502 728609
THE RANDOLPH, 41 WANGTHERD ROAD
REYDON, SOUTHWOLD, IP15 4PE
WWW.THERANDOLPH.CO.UK

FREE ENTRY

The Engineers Arms
Leiston 01728 635883



May

Sat 2nd
80's DISCO

Sun 3rd
Cool Remedy

Sat 23rd
Ace Karaoke

Sun 24th
Mark Anthony & Issac



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'THOUGHTLANDS'

'Thoughtlands Walking in Writers' Suffolk' is a book about walking and writing: about walkers who wrote and writers who walk. It is about the creative circuit that exists between mind and feet and about landscapes that exist in front of you and that spring to life in a line of words. And since all this walking and writing and thinking must have somewhere to take place, it is also a book about Suffolk, the author's native land.

Following in the literary footsteps of such walkers as Rebecca Solnit and Lauren Elkin and in the character of the 'rambleuse', Colliss Harvey travels from west to east, from velvety farmlands to uncompromising sea, tracing the connections between walking and writing, both on the ground and within the psychogeography of a writer's head. She is in excellent company - her fellow walkers range from Daniel Defoe and Robert Louis Stevenson to Patricia Highsmith, Maggie Hemingway, and Noreen Masud.

They include the poets George Crabbe and Edward Fitzgerald; literary greats Wilkie Collins, George Orwell, W. G. Sebald, who found a new native land here; and those born to Suffolk, such as M. R. James and Ronald Blythe.

The walks themselves can be followed on foot or from within the comfort of a favourite armchair.

Part writer's notebook and part memoir, 'Thoughtlands' is a one-of-a-kind literary journey, and a unique exploration of the Suffolk landscape.

"A delightful exploration of Britain's past, beautifully interwoven with fascinating insights into our rich literary heritage. A wonderful book!" - Alice Loxton

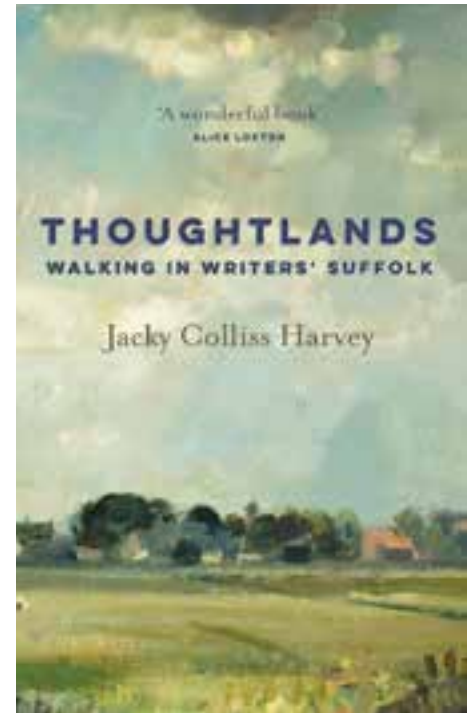
Jacky Colliss Harvey's most recent book, 'Walking Pepys's London', was praised by the Sunday Times as demonstrating "an eye for surprising details and a lovely way with description".

Her other titles include the New York Times bestseller 'Red: A History of the Redhead and The Animals'; 'Companion: People & Their Pets', a 26,000-Year Love Story.

Born in Suffolk, Jacky worked in museum publishing for over twenty years before becoming a full-time writer.

The connection between walking and writing has been a fascination of hers ever since.

"Wonderfully evocative. Jacky Colliss Harvey is the most entertaining and erudite of guides both to her beloved Suffolk landscape and to the many writers it has inspired." - Susan Owens



'Thoughtlands Walking in Writers' Suffolk' by Jacky Colliss Harvey - £14.99.

FRISTON OPEN GARDENS

This annual event is always a lovely day out starting at **11:30am on Sunday 21st June until 5:30pm.**

Last entry **4:15pm** with tickets sold at **£7.50** each, children free entry.



Light lunches are served in the village hall from 11:30am with teas, coffees, and homemade cakes. There's even one secret garden serving a glass of fizz. Many gardens are not visible from the paths and footpaths so it's always a lovely afternoon. Public parking on the village green. Funds in aid of St Mary's Church Friston.

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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.

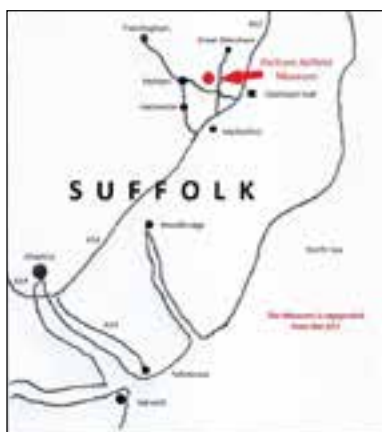
"Fantastic, awesome, touching". JL, (USA) "Another splendid visit—will be back again. Good displays and wonderful volunteers".

"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.



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.

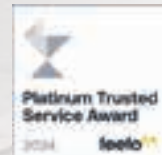
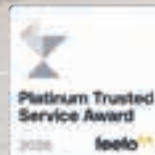
For more information contact:

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



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A FUN DOG SHOW FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Fun for all the family and their four-legged friends is on offer when, The Wardens Trust Charity host their Family Fun Dog Show at Wardens Hall, Sizewell, IP16 4UB on **Sunday 10th May 2026**.

"Gates open at 10am for dogs and their owners to register in good time for judging to start from 11 am" said Bev Levett, House Manager for The Wardens Trust.

"We will have 10 fun classes to enter including Handsomest Dog, Gorgeous Girl, Golden Oldie and Happiest, waggiest tail and entry for each class is just £3 per dog. Entry for all classes will be made on the day. Pay by Cash or Card.

"Entry to the event is free, there is plenty of free parking available.

There will be lots of activities to enjoy including a Gundog and Agility demonstration, lots for the children, inflatable castle, hook a duck, coconut shy and many more stalls along with refreshments, ice cream van, raffle and a Bar-b-que." Bev continued.

"We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, Skinners for supporting us with this event once again" Bev concluded.

For further information about this event please email Bev Levett wardenstrust@btinternet.com



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 16 Experience Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius'! Framlingham Phoenix Singers and Beccles Choral Society join forces and will be joined by The Lambeth Orchestra and acclaimed soloists. Experienced choral singers are welcome to join the choir for the term to perform this great choral work. 7.30pm at Snape Maltings. For more details visit www.phoenixsingers.org.uk

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

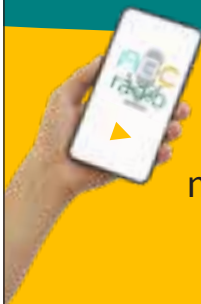
MAY 23 Voxcetera Chamber Choir - I AM A CLOUD: Sacred sounds, folk songs and beautiful new choral music. 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh, Suffolk IP19 9LP. Tickets £15. Under 18s £7.50. Booking: www.voxcetera.co.uk. Direct booking link: <https://www.voxcetera.co.uk/event-details/i-am-a-cloud-sacred-sounds-folk-songs-and-beautiful-new-choral-music>

MAY 28 Saxmundham History Society meeting. 'Photo albums of Thorpeness, Sizewell, Friston & Aldringham', (loaned by Peter Drew). 2.30pm in the URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham. IP17 1BJ. Visitors £3. Annual membership £18. Enquiries to Jenny 01728 604608.

MAY 29 Everyman Folk Club. John Kirkpatrick. John fills the room with an irresistibly joyful noise, 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. IP17 1LL. Email: everyman@wheatstone.co.uk

MAY 31 Tallis Chamber Orchestra. Conductor: James Ham; Soloist: Tayfun Bombos ; Pavane – Fauré; Violin Concerto No.5 – Mozart; Symphony No.4 in F Major – William Boyce. 3pm at St Peter's Church, Westleton, IP17 3AQ. Admission by programme, £15 at the door (cashless payments accepted). For any changes visit: www.tco.org.uk.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Premises Licence – New Application

Name of Applicant: **Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council**

Name of Premises: **Victory Road Park Recreation Ground**

Postal Address of Premises: **Victory Road Leiston IP16 4JB**

This application may be viewed at:

East Suffolk Council

East Suffolk House, Riduna Park	or	Riverside
Station Road, Melton		4 Canning Road
Woodbridge		Lowestoft
Suffolk IP12 1RT		Suffolk NR33 0EQ

Proposed Licensable Activities:
Exhibition of films, live music, recorded music, performances of dance, sale of alcohol ON sales Mon – Sat 12 noon to 22:00 and Sundays 12 noon to 17:00

Dates between which representations may be made to the Licensing Authority:
Start Date: **21 April 2026**
Closing Date: **18 May 2026**

Representations must be made in writing to the Licensing Team, East Suffolk Council (as the Licensing Authority) at either of the above addresses, or by e-mail to licensing@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

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LEISTON TOWN BOWLS REPORT

20 members of Leiston Town Bowls Club turned up for the Town Trophy and opening of the green for another season of Flat Green Bowls on April 19th.

3 games of 8 ends were enjoyed although as expected on new bowls season it blew cold, but the rain kept off.

New members, old members along with not so old stalwarts enjoyed a good opportunity to flex their arms and dodgy knees and at the end it proved a successful day for Lee Newson, the winner - having won all his three games, whilst poor Reg Mann scored 29 in his first two games but lost out on his last game.

All looks very promising for 2026 - two teams in Saxmundham league, 1 Woodbridge league, 1 Fynn league and 1 Bob Wright, guarantees everyone 1 game at least every week.

Following the afternoon's game, the club were honoured by a visit from the family of a long-standing stalwart, both as a bowler but also hard working member of the club, Gerald Free.

A new memorial garden has been created by the club overlooking the green. Two standing roses watch over the plaques of both Gerald Free and long-time serving Greenkeeper Peter Baggott, who both sadly passed away in close season and requested their ashes be shared at the bowls club. A short speech by club Secretary Richard Battle was followed by a touching poem by a member of Gerald's family. All were then invited to the pavilion for refreshments and cakes.

Losing long standing members including another, Free Keen is always a sad day but we are sure all three would wish the Leiston Town Bowls Club every success for 2026.

Ditcher

SAXMUNDHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Summer Starts Here

Here we go – the 2026 cricket season starts here – with the winter ground prep. all done, a new score hut in place, great indoor net sessions throughout April, new players on board and current players - all eager to don those whites.

Anticipation and expectation in equal measure ahead of the season. New teams to play, new grounds to visit but always the same great cream teas at Carlton Park served by the legendary tea ladies.

The season starts on **Saturday 9th May** with a home game against Felixstowe & Corinthians III followed by another home game the following week against Kirby II, one of those teams Sax CC has never played before.

With 10 teams in the division we have 18 games this season so plenty of opportunities for everyone to get their cricketing fix. All details can be found on our website: www.saxcricket.co.uk.

If you wish to come and try your hand at some cricket we train every Wednesday evening (weather permitting) from 6.30pm at Carlton Park, Saxmundham. New members always welcome.

Upcoming Fixtures

9th May: Home v Felixstowe Cor III

16th May: Home v Kirby II

23rd May: Away v Dedham I

30th May: Home v West Bergholt III



GREEN LIGHT TRUST

**Are you feeling isolated?
Do you lack access to green spaces?
Do you want to improve your mental health and wellbeing?**

 **Wardens Trust, Sizewell**  **Sessions 10am - 3pm**

In partnership with the Wardens Trust and Suffolk Community Foundation's Sizewell C fund, Green Light Trust will be delivering activity days in the beautiful grounds of the Wardens Trust in Sizewell, for residents of Leiston and surrounding villages.

Our activity days will run across 10 weeks, starting on 8th April, providing opportunities to engage with nature, learn green woodworking skills, light fires, build conservation knowledge, participate in woodland crafts, and enjoy a host of other activities.

Each week, lunch will be provided, with a chance to meet other people from the community whilst engaging in meaningful tasks around the grounds.

For more information, or to book a place, please contact pecsupport@greenlighttrust.org or visit the website www.greenlighttrust.org

**If you require support with transport to the activity day, please specify on the enquiry form. Please note that whilst we strive to do our best to support with transport, it is not always achievable due to availability.

 **SIZEWELL C COMMUNITY FUND**

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SUFFOLK COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE

Suffolk County Music Service is delighted with the successful completion of another County Music Groups (CMG) Easter Residential Course at the Royal Hospital School - an inspiring four days filled with music-making, collaboration, and exceptional performances from our young musicians; Suffolk Young Strings, Suffolk Youth Wind Band and Suffolk Youth Orchestra.

The course culminated with an extremely enjoyable Easter Concert, music performed included William Tell Overture by Rossini, Cockaigne Overture by Elgar, The TV Detectives by Nigel Hess and Count Basie Salute by John Higgins.

Recruitment for new members of the County Music Groups (CMG) will open soon, inviting young musicians to join one of Suffolk's flagship ensembles; Suffolk Young Strings, Suffolk Youth Wind Band and the premier Suffolk Youth Orchestra.

Meanwhile, our current CMG members are eagerly preparing for an exciting year ahead, with international tours planned to Sweden (SYO) and Spain (SYWB) in July - offering unforgettable opportunities to perform, learn, and represent Suffolk on the global stage.

Closer to home, we are next at Suffolk Show, where you will find us in the main Suffolk County Council marquee this year, with lots of exciting ideas for our stand.

We're also looking forward to our annual WCIT Fest in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft, which sees 2500 children from approx. 70 Suffolk schools come together, perform in front of their families and celebrate their year of musical learning in school.

We are thrilled to share that Suffolk County Music Service will have an even bigger presence at FolkEast Festival this summer, showcasing our work and celebrating the vibrant musical culture of our region. This will be the weekend of 21-23 August at Sotterley Estate, Beccles and if you have never been, is a Festival well worth attending!

Suffolk Youth Orchestra's Cellists



Suffolk Young Strings enjoying their residential course @SCMS]



Suffolk Youth Wind Band



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

Leiston Observer 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 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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