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APRIL 2026

SAXMUNDHAM NEWS



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



I would like to give a shout out to Saxmundham's Good Neighbour Scheme (IP17GNS) for all they do. I took my four year old granddaughter over to 'Gather and Grow' in Market Hall last Thursday and she had a lovely time, plenty of space and toys. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly and snacks and drinks were provided, all free of charge. See page 9 for details of other great services they provide.

I would also like to wish Richard Smith all the best for his retirement and thank him for his service as a County Councillor, representing Saxmundham – council tax budgets and highways can't be the easiest things to tackle!

Please drop me a line to boost your business by advertising in any, or all of our six titles (including our new Framlingham Focus!). Email: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the Month

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.

Confucius

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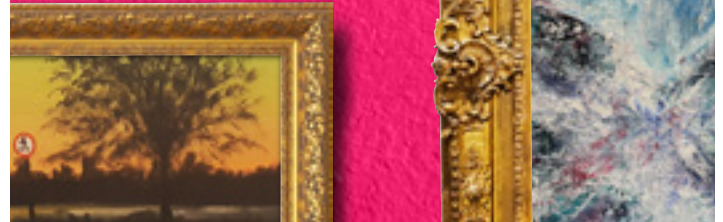
Sizewell *Creative* art exhibition comes to Leiston!

A showcase of artwork created by the Sizewell C workforce.

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

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

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



OLD HALL SOUTHWOLD CAFE & WALKS

Spring Makers Market



FREE ENTRY

Sunday 3rd May 2026
10am - 3pm

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OUR BIG BARN!**

Live music | Onsite cafe | Free parking

OLD HALL CAFE & WALKS, HALESWORTH ROAD, REYDON, IP18 6SG

SPRING MAKERS MARKET

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAXMUNDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Council in Action

Saxmundham Town Council Celebrated at National Awards

Saxmundham Town Council was recently honoured to attend the National Association of Local Councils' **Star Council Awards** ceremony at the House of Lords. The event was attended by the Council's Vice-Chair and the Town Clerk after Saxmundham was shortlisted as a finalist for Council of the Year.

The awards recognise outstanding town and parish councils across England that are making a positive difference in their communities. Although the top award ultimately went to Oswestry Town Council, being named among the five national finalists was a proud moment for Saxmundham.

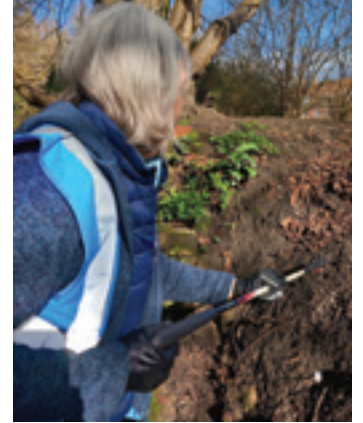
Chair, John Findlay said the Town Council was *"incredibly proud to have been nominated and recognised at a national level,"* adding that the acknowledgement reflects the hard work of councillors, staff and volunteers supporting the town.



People and projects shaping Saxmundham.

Saxmundham's **Green Team** volunteers are out in force as spring arrives, bringing renewed energy to the town's green spaces. This dedicated group regularly runs working parties to plant, weed, tidy and care for gardens and wildlife areas around Saxmundham, helping keep the town looking its best while supporting local biodiversity. Recently, the team collaborated with the **Men's Shed** to create and install handmade bird boxes around town, providing new nesting spots for local wildlife.

The **Green Team** has also formed an official partnership with Saxmundham Blue Spaces, the citizen science group that cares for and enhances the town's waterways. Once a month, Green Team working parties will focus on improving the town's rivers and streams alongside Blue Spaces volunteers.



Looking ahead, the Town Council's Environment and Community Officers are planning Nature Quest: **Discover Wildlife on Fromus Green on Tuesday 26 May (10am–1pm)**. This free, family-friendly event will give residents the chance to explore local wildlife, take part in nature activities, and collect a Nature Quest kit to help support biodiversity at home. Everyone is welcome.

Community Calendar – opportunities to join in

- Green Team Free Seed and Plant Swap – Wednesday 8 April in Fromus Square
- Saxmundham Saturday Market – Saturday 11 April 9am – 3pm in Fromus Square
- Town Council Meeting – Monday 13 April 7pm at the Market Hall
- Saxmundham Saturday Market – Saturday 9 May 9am – 3pm in Fromus Square
- Fromus Green Nature Quest – Tuesday 26 May 10 am – 1 pm in Fromus Green
- Sax Fest – Friday 7 – Sunday 9 August at the Memorial Field
- Saxmundham Christmas Fayre – Saturday 5 December 3pm – 7pm

Short updates and reminders

Thank you to everyone who joined in with last month's community litter picking events. The staff and councillors were delighted to see members of the community volunteering to keep Saxmundham looking clean and tidy.

The Market Hall is once again open for community use, which is wonderful to see. If you're looking for a venue to host a club, group, meeting or event, the hall is available to hire. For details or bookings, contact administration@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk. Stallholder bookings for the Saxmundham Christmas Fayre and monthly Saturday markets are now live. Visit Eventbrite.co.uk and search Saxmundham.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AT ST PETER'S SIBTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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SAXMUNDHAM COMMUNITY FEST

Saxmundham Community Fest announces 2026 dates with an extra day added.



Photos: Saxmundham Community Festival / Steve MacLachlan - Wilde Bloom

Following the success of the 2025 festival, which saw the biggest turnout to date and brought the town together in a celebration of music, arts and local talent, the Saxmundham Community Festival team is pleased to announce the dates for its 2026 event.

The festival will return on **Friday 7th and Saturday 8th August**, both free to attend, and, due to popular demand, an additional day has been added for 2026. **Sunday 9th August** will round off the weekend.

Terry Barrow, organiser of the festival, said: *"Last year's festival exceeded all expectations, and the support from the community was fantastic. With so many people asking for more, we're pleased to be extending the 2026 event to three days. We're already working on a programme that reflects the best of Saxmundham."*

The festival received three years of grant support from the Sizewell C Community Fund in 2025, along with continued backing from Saxmundham Town Council, giving the team the stability and resources needed to focus on delivering an unforgettable festival experience in 2026 and 2027, suitable for people and families of all ages and music to suit. Further details, including the full programme and additional dates for fringe activities, will be announced in the coming months. Organisers are already working with local groups, performers and businesses to build on the energy and enthusiasm that made the 2025 festival such a standout moment for the town.

Calling all local musicians! Applications are now open to perform at Saxmundham Community Fest 2026. This is your chance to showcase your talent and be part of an event that celebrates the vibrant music scene in the community. To apply, please email: mattsaxmusicfest@gmail.com. For more information, updates, or to get involved, contact Hayley Shave at hayley@saxmusicfest.co.uk or call 07725 578439. You can also visit www.saxcommunityfest.co.uk for further details.



SAXMUNDHAM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Are you aged between 14-18 and are interested in training as a Youth Standard Bearer for our town? We would love to hear from you! Our Standard Bearer, Alf Bloomfield is also the County Standard bearer and represented Suffolk at HRH Queen Elizabeth II's funeral as well as HRH Charles III Coronation, so he sets a great example!

We'd also welcome any enquiries from adults as ideally it would be great to train up a Deputy for him.

Saxmundham RBL are also actively looking to recruit membership for our small Branch with a big heart.

Do feel free to get in touch, without obligation via: SaxmundhamPAO@gmail.com or: Saxmundham.Secretary@rbl-community

Jane Anderson

Chair Saxmundham Branch RBL and Sax Poppy Appeal Organiser

SAXMUNDHAM W.I.

President Jo welcomed members and guests to a talk by Erik Punaks, in February. Erik began entertaining everyone by reading several humorous poems written by himself, some accompanied with his guitar. The light-hearted poems were very amusing and very enjoyable. Jo gave a vote of thanks.

Members were reminded of the Suffolk East Federation Women's Institute's annual meeting at Trinity Park, Ipswich in March.

Several members attended, meeting friends from other institutes.

The National A.G.M. will be held in June and Saxmundham W.I. members will be able to watch on Zoom, enjoying a bring-and-share lunch.

The new programme begins in April when subscriptions can be renewed.

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SAXMUNDHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman Richard Wills Crisp welcomed a full hall to hear our February speaker Christopher Pratt, Curator at Parham Airfield Museum. G.H.Q. Auxiliary Units was the title of the talk. General Headquarters refers to the main command centre from which military operations were organised. The units were also known as Churchill's Secret Army. The secret units were formed in June 1940 by Colonel Colin Gubbins and were a secret resistance force. Underground guerilla groups along the east coast, highly trained in sabotage and assassination in the event of a German invasion. Men who were in reserved occupations, such as farmers. Scout Sections were stationed around to give training to the Auxiliers. The units were stood down in 1944.

Local farmers Herman and Percy Kindred, having signed the Official Secrets Act, obtained permission to tell their story some 50 years later.

Parham Museum has a museum within it to show the work of the British Resistance Organisation.

A reconstruction of the underground Operational Base which was found at Stratford St. Andrew can be entered to see exactly how the men lived underground, with supplies for just two weeks and armoury in readiness to sabotage the enemy invasion, should it happen.

Parham Airfield Museum opens on Sunday the 5th of April and there is so much to see and learn. Entry is free and there is a small cafe. Donations welcomed.

A COMMUNITY UPDATE FROM IP17GNS



OPENING HOURS

Tuesdays: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesdays: 9:00 am - 2:45 pm
Thursdays: 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Open for drop ins, enquiries, or donations. Contact hello@ip17gns.com or 01735064587 outside these times.

As we head towards spring, there are lots of ways for people in our community to connect, get support, and spend time together.

We're currently appealing for donations, including Easter eggs, to help bring a little Easter cheer to local families. If you're able to contribute, your donation would be very gratefully received and will make a real difference.

Donations can be dropped off at the Gannon Rooms during our opening hours, or there are donation stations in the Pharmacy and Suffolk Building Society on Saxmundham High Street.

Our 'Beating the Winter Blues' Sunday Winter Warm Rooms have now finished for the season.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along, volunteered, or donated. Subject to funding, we hope to bring it back next winter, as it's proved to be both a valuable lifeline and a lot of fun.

We're also delighted that 'Gather and Grow' is now back in the Market Hall. This is a friendly stay-and-play session for little ones and their grown-ups, running Thursdays during term time from 9:15 - 10:45am. It's free to attend and offers a lovely chance for children to play while parents and carers meet others locally.

Alongside these, there are several other welcoming activities running each week:

Men's Breakfast: 1st Sunday of each month, 9:30 - 11am – a relaxed space to share a meal, chat and make connections.

Social Supermarket & Café: Every Tuesday 9:30 - 11am – helping make food more affordable while offering a friendly place to sit, talk and enjoy a drink.

Gannon Games: Every Wednesday 12:30 - 3pm – a chance to drop in, play board games and enjoy some good company. All of these activities are about bringing people together, supporting one another, and strengthening our local community. Everyone is welcome to come along.




GATHER & GROW

Thursdays during term time.
9:15 - 10:45 am

Saxmundham Market Hall

A free stay and play group for pre-schoolers and their grown-ups.

With thanks to:
Suffolk Building Society
For funding support

IP17GNS
CONNECTING FOR COMMUNITY

BRIGHT SPARKS PANTO PRESENTS PETER PAN!

Bright Sparks Panto is celebrating a special milestone in 2026, marking 40 years of bringing family pantomime to local audiences - and what better way to celebrate than with one of the most magical stories of them all, Peter Pan?

The group has long wanted to stage this much-loved classic, but until now it has felt just out of reach. With its flying, fantasy and sense of adventure, Peter Pan is a show that demands ambition - making it the perfect choice for an anniversary year.



Audiences can expect a lively, funny and heart-warming pantomime, packed with the traditional ingredients Bright Sparks is known for: colourful characters, original humour, lively music and plenty of opportunities to boo the baddies and cheer the heroes.

From the Darling nursery to the pirate ship and the magic of Neverland, the show promises excitement for all ages.

Bright Sparks Panto has been performing in the area for four decades, staging favourites including Rapunzel, Snow White, Dick Whittington and more. The group prides itself on producing professional-standard amateur pantomimes, with self-written scripts, imaginative staging and a strong focus on storytelling.

The cast for Peter Pan ranges in age from five to sixty-and-a-bit, reflecting the welcoming, multi-generational spirit that has kept Bright Sparks going for forty years.

Join us this April as we celebrate 40 years of laughter, adventure and community spirit — and come with us to Neverland!

Rebecca Vincent

Bright Sparks Secretary and Assistant Chairman

APRIL 2026

Bright Sparks
40th ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION OF
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PETER PAN
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FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR...

First, an apology. Although a column from me did not appear in last month's Saxmundham News, I did write one! It was on Local Government Reform and I laid out a likely timetable. Alas, it was overtaken by events and I had to ask the Editor not to publish it. The cause was the Government, who announced its fifteenth major U-turn, changing its decision from postponing the County Council elections to re-instating them for May 7th. This meant that my column was no longer accurate, and I didn't have time to pen a replacement.

That U-turn also means that this column will be my last. I have been a County Councillor for 16 years and I have taken the decision to retire. I would have retired already if last year's elections had not been postponed. The time has come to retire gracefully from the scene and have more time to do what I want to do without quite onerous County duties intervening.

I have always enjoyed writing this column and thank the Editor for being helpful and supportive. What's more it has been the privilege of my life to represent Saxmundham, a town where I have lived for half of my life since 1991. It is a fine, friendly place. Yes, not without its problems but endowed with lots of good things and good people. I intend to continue living here but will now take a low profile and not criticise from the sidelines!

As I write this I am in the process of saying goodbye to the parish councils I represent and have attended my last meeting of Saxmundham Town Council. It would be silly to say that I will not miss my daily involvement with local government, but it is the right time for me to retire. I am above state retirement age and none of us know how long we have left. There are many things I want to do with the free time I will now enjoy, including not getting up so early each morning!

Also, I want to thank those of you who have contacted me for whatever reason. Sometimes, but not often, people say nice things and offer thanks, but more usually people have something to complain about and feel passionately that they are in the right! Life is, alas, usually not that simple!

I have ensured that Saxmundham's needs have been put constantly in front of decision makers at the County Council.

Yes, that is a big part of my role, and having latterly been Deputy Leader of the Council, I have had many opportunities to do this and I can assure you that I have done so.

I won't miss the frequent car journeys to Ipswich, made much worse recently by the roadworks caused by the Sizewell C project, and it will be nice to not give up a considerable number of evenings each month to attend parish council meetings. It is hard, especially in wintertime, to go out to these meetings when it is cold, frosty, wet and generally unpleasant, but that task is almost at an end.

Now we face elections to a new County Council which will be abolished on March 31, 2028 – an elected term of just over twenty-two months. Further elections will take place in May 2027 for a 'Shadow Authority' who, on 1 April 2028 will become responsible for running either one or three new Unitary Authorities in Suffolk – a decision we are still waiting to hear from Government, but which may have been announced by the time you read this.

I want to end my last article with a thank-you to all who read this column. And can I encourage you all to exercise your valuable right to vote on May 7th, for whatever party you choose to support? My successor will represent a different area under boundary changes which reduces the overall number of County Councillors from 75 to 70, and our electoral area will start in the north with Kelsale-cum-Carlton and Saxmundham and then take in the villages in a south-easterly direction down as far as Orford. Whoever is elected, I wish them good luck for the future – and hope the new Councillor will keep the interests and concerns of Saxmundham and its people uppermost in the minds of those who take the decisions in our special county.

Thank you again and good-bye. I remain your County Councillor until the May 7th election so, if you need to, please contact me on any matter which is within the responsibilities of the County Council. My contact details remain as below until the day of the election.

Richard Smith
richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk
07545 423817

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I wonder what gives you hope? I can tell you that I don't find looking at the news very hopeful! I can't remember the last time the news didn't include something about a conflict, a political scandal, financial struggles, or a new health thing to worry about. There is a lot in the world that can make us afraid.

In the Bible there is a verse that says *'What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun'* (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

If we were to travel back in time 100 years to 1926 not much was different. There were floods, hurricanes, train derailments, political upheaval in various countries, and other events that we see today.

If we were to travel back in time nearly 2000 years to the first century again, not much was different. There were earthquakes, famine, political oppression, countries in conflict, and a stadium disaster in the year 27 in Fidenae that killed at least 20,000 people.

However, there was one significant event in small corner of the Roman world that changed the entire course of history and still gives billions of people hope today.

Jesus of Nazareth was crucified.

It seems a bit odd today that one person's death can bring hope two thousand years later but here's the thing, as a Christian I believe that Jesus rose again from the dead. In church this month we will be celebrating Easter.

On Good Friday we remember Jesus' death on the cross and then on Easter Sunday we celebrate his resurrection. Our belief is that Jesus' death and resurrection mean that death is no longer the end but we can have eternal life. We believe that his death means we can have a relationship with God. This gives us hope. Hope for today that God loves us and is with us. Hope for now that all the rubbish will one day end. Hope for the future that one day all will be right.

This is something we celebrate every time we gather together and especially at Easter. If this is something that you're interested in, or have questions you'd like to ask, we would love to get to know you.

With love,

Dave Preece

Rector Saxmundham with Kelsale cum Carlton

April Services

Maundy Thursday 2nd April: 7pm Holy Communion in Kelsale Church

Good Friday 3rd April: 2pm at St John's, Good Friday Reflections

Easter Sunday 5th April: 9:30am informal service in St John's, Saxmundham (celebrating the Holiday Club), and **11:00am** Holy Communion in St Mary and St Peter's, Kelsale.

Sunday 12th April: 9:30am informal service in St Mary and St Peter's, Kelsale, and **11:00am** Holy Communion in St John's, Saxmundham.

Sunday 19th April: 9:30am informal service in St John's, Saxmundham, **11:00am** Holy Communion in St Mary and St Peter's, Kelsale. 3pm Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion in St Peter's, Carlton

Sunday 26th April: 9:30am informal service and **11:00am** Holy Communion both in St Johns, Saxmundham.

FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

Last year, we were asked aid several cats that lacked shelter or domestic homes, predominantly young cats and kittens scavenging for food around bins. One of our foster volunteers began feeding the cats using un-set traps to acclimatise them to the equipment. Over time she was able to successfully capture ten cats, all severely malnourished and infested with fleas, worms and ticks. They underwent examinations, and those old enough were neutered. It became apparent that the cats were not feral but rather frightened domestic cats, probably abandoned. One kitten required euthanasia due to a stomach obstruction caused by stones and was too small for surgical intervention.

Two kittens had ingested plastic, which fortunately passed through them without complications. Following weeks of dedicated care, many of these vulnerable, abandoned cats have been adopted into new homes. Some remain traumatised and will require additional time before they are ready for adoption. Without the dedicated support of our branch and the generosity of our donors, these cats would have faced a precarious, uncertain future.

Cat Looking for a Home: Cally came in as a stray with her kittens who have been homed and now it is Cally's turn. We believe she is approximately 2 years old. She is extremely affectionate and playful. up for cuddles.



She will need a home with a large garden, in a safe area.

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ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Looking at Military Records by Graham Bandy

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

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

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

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

The Royal Air Force began officially on 1st April 1918; the Air Force lists are available at The National Archives. One warning from Graham – Artificial Intelligence cannot be trusted!

Pat Carter

Further programme:

Monday 20th April: Annual General Meeting

Monday 18th May: Apprenticeship Records - Richard Holt

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



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PROJECT UPDATE

APRIL 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAIL: The improvements to the Saxmundham to Leiston rail line continue, with construction of the branch line to the Temporary Construction Area continuing at pace. Level crossing improvements and construction will require small road closures, which will be outlined via the Sizewell C Works Tracker: www.szcworkstracker.co.uk. Between 23 and 31 May Network Rail will be working on the rail line between Ipswich and Lowestoft. A bus replacement service will be in operation throughout.

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

FORUM

SCHEDULE

Forum timings

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

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

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

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

VISIT THE WORKS TRACKER



New Road crossing at Yoxford

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SAXMUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We have been very busy at Saxmundham Primary School this month, with plenty of exciting things to tell you about! First up was the annual K'nex challenge for all pupils in year four and five. The challenge was to create a structure that would meet a certain height and be strong enough not to collapse. All pupils threw themselves into the event and created some truly wonderful models! Congratulations to everybody who was involved!



Our year three pupils were treated to a 'Colours of Chemistry' workshop, thanks to Cimone Bedward of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Pupils were transformed into actual scientists and had an amazing time creating lava lamps. Our pupils were praised for their creativity and excellent listening.



We have also been visited by Anglian Water, who delivered a whole school assembly before running a workshop in key stage two. We learnt all about saving water, how our sewage system works and top tips for how we can all do our bit to protect this valuable resource. We also learnt how important it is to not flush things like baby wipes and cotton buds down the toilet!

Thursday 5th March was World Book Day, which is many people's favourite day of the school year! This year KS1 had an under the sea theme focussed on the book, 'Interview with a Shark'. We saw some incredible sharks, jellyfish and beautiful mermaids! KS2 looked at the book, 'Interview with a Kangaroo', and dressed up as a range of different animals. Throughout the day, different classes got together to share their favourite stories and talk about one of our favourite topics - books! There was also a Masked Reader competition where the children had to guess which member of staff had read an extract of a story.

All of our pupils in Beech, Oak and Poplar have visited Woodbridge by train. After a short train journey, they spent the morning at the Sutton Hoo Ship Company learning all about the ship they are recreating.

They all got to try out the very old-fashioned tools and techniques used to build this boat and the original. After that, they ate lunch by the river before burning off some energy at the park!



How lucky we are to have places like this close by and a train station on our doorstep.



Finally, on Wednesday 11th March the whole school was visited by Rich Potter from Great Athletes. Every pupil took part in a fitness challenge, which we collected sponsorship for to raise money for sports equipment. We then had a whole school assembly where we got to listen to the inspirational tale of how Rich won his medals. He made a big impact on us all with his story and his three words: Aim high always!



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

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

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

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

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

What's On at Leiston Film Theatre

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

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE U

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

PROJECT HAIL MARY 12A

Sun 5th Apr at 6.00pm

EPiC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT 12A

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

THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE PG

Fri 17th Apr at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

THE ELO ENCOUNTER

Sun 19th Apr at 6.00pm

LA SCALA MILAN COSI FAN TUTTE - MOZART 12A

Fri 1st - Thurs 7th May

MICHAEL 12A

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Conductor **Ben Vonberg-Clark**

Saturday 09 May 2026, 7:00pm

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University of Essex | BRITTEN PEARS ARTS | University of Essex Choir | Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

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

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

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

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



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

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

of Aldeburgh and the neighbouring seaside towns.

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

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

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

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A NEW ERA FOR THE RANDOLPH

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



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

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

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

KELSALE AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE ACTION GROUP

Public Meeting on the state of the River Fromus 7pm,

Wednesday 15 April at Kelsale Village Hall, Bridge Street, Kelsale IP17 2PB.

This meeting will discuss the current state of the River Fromus, how it got that way and what could be done to improve it, both in terms of water quality and flow management.

A video will be shown of a walk along the Fromus from its origin in Coe Wood, Sibton to where it flows into the River Alde near Snape.

Come and take part in the debate on our proposals to improve it. Join us for what should be both an entertaining and an informative event.

Chair: Keith Dickerson Email: keith.dickerson@mac.com



BENHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Squirrels have loved exploring traditional tales, especially *The Gingerbread Man* and had great fun joining in with the repeated phrases. We even created our own cleverly disguised class *Gingerbread Man*! We are continuing our phonics journey, practising our sounds daily and growing in confidence and fluency when reading words and simple sentences.

In Acorn class, we have been learning how to write our own stories inspired by *'The Secret of Black Rock'*. In science, we have been exploring how to classify different animals based on their features.

This month, Oaks have been working on length and perimeter in Maths, exploring both written and practical methods, including measurement hunts and comparing each other's heights. We have loved learning more about the Romans and did some critical thinking about the reasons for the decline of the Roman Empire, which we found really interesting. Oaks loved their walk around Snape Marshes this month, stepping into the role of nature detectives and spotting signs of wildlife all around them!

Pupils in Woodlands have been honing their basketball skills, growing in confidence as they develop a range of passing, movement and shooting techniques. In English, they have been thoroughly enjoying *'Rooftoppers'*, immersing themselves in the mystery of the story and sharing thoughtful ideas and predictions as the plot unfolds.

We had a hugely successful NSPCC Number Day! We raised money for the fantastic NSPCC, filled the school with wonderfully creative number-themed outfits and completed some brilliant maths work along the way. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success!

Two Year 6 pupils had an amazing experience at Sizewell C. They observed the site, tried out a range of exciting technology and enjoyed the challenge of coding. It was a fantastic opportunity and an experience they will remember for a long time!

Pupils in Squirrels had the exciting opportunity to speak with a farmer and learn more about life on a farm. They asked thoughtful questions about farming and even got a close-up look at a tractor!

Prospective parents are welcome to come for a visit.

Paul Parslow-Williams or Daniel Millican are always keen to offer a personal tour of the school.

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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

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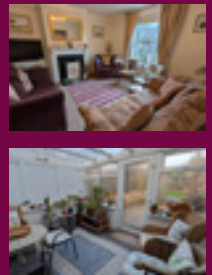
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