

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

APRIL 2026

SOUTHWOLD ORGAN



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



No doubt Southwold will be very busy this Easter and there is plenty to do and see for locals and visitors alike, with a wide variety of performances at the Arts Centre, an Easter Bunny Hunt at Old Hall Café and creative Easter activities at the library, to name a few. Whatever you plans over the Easter break I wish you fine weather and fun!

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

Email: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

The world is full of people looking for spectacular happiness while they snub contentment.

Doug Larson

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A NEW ERA FOR THE RANDOLPH

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FREE ENTRY

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



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

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

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



WHAT'S ON AT THE SAIL LOFT? Spring 2026:

Welcome to The Sail Loft, here you will find all the exciting things that we have going on over the next few months.

SAIL LOFT BI-ANNUAL BEER, CIDER & BURGER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

8th 9th 10th May with live music & Dj's throughout & our amazing festival burger menu

Steak Night*: Every Friday evening, starting 5th September – Pan seared minute steak, fries, dressed rocket salad & a brandy & peppercorn sauce for £21.95 inc glass of house wine or pint of draught

Thursday April 23rd St George's day – steak & chips meal & pint £20

June & July FIFA WORLD CUP

Father's Day 21st June – dads get a half pint free with every roast dinner

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SOUTHWOLD & REYDON SOCIETY

Southwold Sandcastle Competition:

We are pleased to announce that the Southwold & Reydon Society has been given permission by East Suffolk Council to hold the Southwold Sandcastle Competition on the beach in front of Gun Hill on the afternoon of Saturday 11th July. It will be a family-friendly sandcastle-building competition for local residents and visitors alike and will be free to enter. We hope that it will generate a lot of interest and be a lot of fun. If successful, we plan to make it an annual event.

King Charles III England Coast Path:

Following the announcement in September 2025 last year by the Secretary of State (approving the section of this walk between Southwold and Pakefield) we have been keenly following the progress of the necessary establishment works to open this section of the trail planned for spring 2026. We have heard from Natural England, who have the statutory duty to establish the trail and the Department of the Environment, that they are working with Suffolk County Council to make this happen.

We'll continue to closely monitor progress and very much hope that these bodies and East Suffolk Council will be successful in their endeavours and that local people and visitors to Southwold will finally be able to walk along the coast north of the pier. With these national and regional organisations and our elected representatives working together on delivering this fantastic project this surely should be something that will happen this year.

Our AGM: This year we are holding AGM at the Southwold Arts Centre on the **Tuesday 28th April** (another date for your diary) starting at 6:30pm with an opening and welcome followed by a presentation by Henry Walker (Commodore) and Jeremy Taylor (Committee Member) of Southwold Sailing Club who will talk about the club and its 75 year history as well as what's happening currently at the harbour from the perspective of a group of active users.

Southwold and Reydon Business Community:

We were delighted to hear from Committee Member Laura Cliff about the formation of this exciting new business group. It's been put together for anybody who is actively running or involved in running, a business in Southwold or Reydon (owners, managers, representatives) or the local area for meet ups and events, promotions and to share information for each other. If you are interested in the group and its activities please contact Laura@duchies.co.uk

Southwold Harbour Stakeholders Advisory Group:

Finally, we have been invited to have a representative join this group attending the April meeting for the first time. We are looking forward to working with the other stakeholders to promote the future of the harbour which is such an asset for the town and our local community. It's fitting that this should be happening now some 60 years after our coming into being as a local group formed initially to oppose plans to develop a hotel on the harbour.

Ian Benson



Southwold Town Council



'Five Minute Showcases'
from Local Groups

to highlight the work of their organisation

 **Southwold Town Hall**
 **Wednesday 15th April 2026**
 **6.15pm for light refreshments**
Showcase begins at 6.30pm

ALL WELCOME TO COME ALONG TO THIS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



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SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY



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

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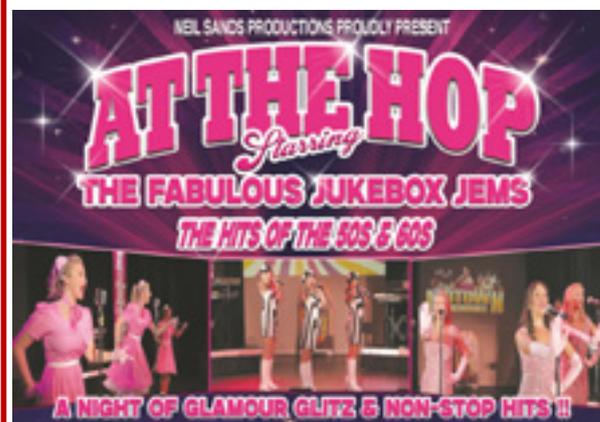
Sun 19th Apr at 6.00pm

LA SCALA MILAN COSI FAN TUTTE - MOZART 12A

Fri 1st - Thurs 7th May

MICHAEL 12A

Sun 3rd May at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE



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www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

SOUTHWOLD ARTS CENTRE NEWS

Southwold Arts Centre has appointed Gina Stock as its new General Manager, strengthening the organisation's ambition to expand its artistic programme and deepen its engagement with audiences across the region.

Gina joins the Centre following the completion of a Masters of Philosophy, Film and Screen at the University of Cambridge, bringing a combination of academic insight, creative leadership and hands-on production experience. Over the past year she has directed and assistant directed work in Cambridge and London, for Barefaced Theatre, the INK Festival in Halesworth, and recently stage-managed a tour of Macbeth in the USA. She has also held event management roles with the Sunrise Film Festival at the Marina Theatre, Lowestoft, and at the Swan Hotel, Southwold.

Gina said, "I'm thrilled to be joining Southwold Arts Centre at such an exciting moment. I'm passionate about creating work that welcomes new audiences, supports emerging talent and strengthens the cultural life of our community."

Chair of Trustees, Michael Rowan-Robinson, welcomed the appointment saying, "Gina brings energy, imagination and a strong track record across theatre, film and events. Her appointment marks an important step in the Art Centre's development, and we are confident she will help us build an even more ambitious and dynamic programme for Southwold and the wider area."

What's on

Saturday 4th April at 19:30: Elvis: through the decades - Starring..... Steve Halliday & Special Guest

Thursday 9th April at 19:30: Suffolk Wildlife Trust Annual General Meeting

Saturday 11th April at 19:30: Supersonic Queen

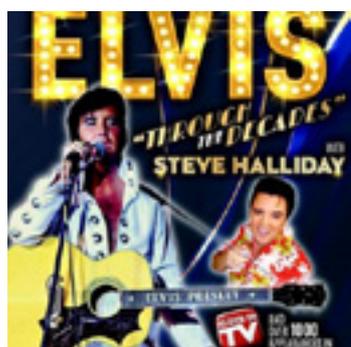
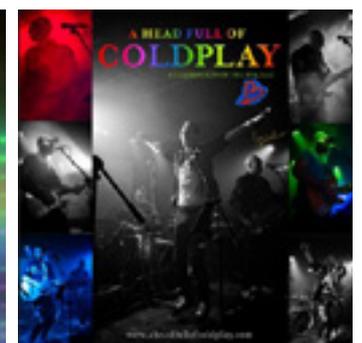
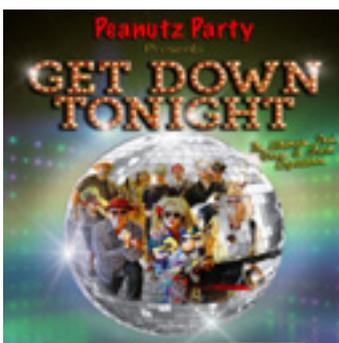
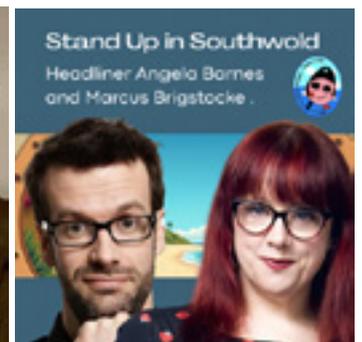
Friday 17th April at 19:30: A Head Full of COLDPLAY

Saturday 18th April at 19:00: WCB Stand up in Southwold with headliners Angela Barnes and Marcus Brigstocke

Friday 24th April at 19:30: Southwold Jazz Club ~ The Cape Crusaders

Saturday 25th April at 19:30: Peanuts Party

Wednesday 29th April at 15:00: Southwold Community Cinema ~ The Choral



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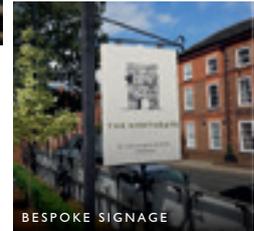
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EASTER BUNNY HUNT!

The popular family-friendly Easter event at Old Hall Farm near Southwold is back for the Easter Holidays, alongside a busy summer schedule.



Each year, the Play Park, which is home to Southwold Maize Maze during the summer months, opens its gates for its popular Easter Event, which includes an Easter Bunny Hunt and the Golden Egg Challenge.

The event runs from **Saturday 28th March – Sunday 12th April**, for the duration of the school Easter holidays. It's a fun day out for the whole family, with seven cheeky bunny character boards hidden discreetly around the play park. It's the task of visitors to find the bunnies and complete their sticker card to receive a prize.

The Golden Egg Challenge is becoming a firm favourite; each day, a golden egg is carefully hidden in the play park, with a prize up for grabs for the winner, including summer maize maze family tickets! It's best to arrive in good time for this one as, once the Golden Egg is found each day, you'll have to wait until the next day for another chance.

Alongside the Easter activities, tickets include access to all facilities within the play park, which includes three jumping pillows, double zip line, ride on tractors, nest swing, climbing towers and slides, downpour derby water play, two giant sand pits, and the recent addition of play cafés and kitchens.

Owner Bella Hall shares her plans for 2026 at Old Hall Farm, including the Café, maize maze and play park:

"After a busy 2025, where we celebrated a milestone 20 years of Southwold Maize Maze, we are excited to bring you yet another year of fun and excitement at Old Hall Farm," she says.

"We will be kicking off the year with our Easter event, opening the gates to our play park for family entertainment over the Easter Holidays. And we will soon be announcing our theme for this year's maize maze.

"We are also thrilled to share our plans for a broader and more exciting events programme in our Big Barn, starting with an Antiques and Vintage two-day Market on Good Friday and Easter Saturday, our Makers Market in May, and a new Fine Art and Sculpture Fair in June," she adds.

Over the Easter weekend, on **Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th April**, Wendy Rabbit will be joining the bunny hunt at the venue, adding extra fun for young visitors. The two-day Easter Antique and Vintage Fair will also take place on the same dates in the big barn.

The play park will be open from 9.30am – 4.30pm each day during the Easter Holidays, with last entries at 2.30pm.

Old Hall Southwold Café and Walks, which shares the site overlooking the River Blyth, will also be open for the duration of the Easter holidays, with a seasonal menu featuring freshly baked spring and Easter specials.

Tickets for the Easter event are available online (£2.50 for adults, £7.50 for children), where there is an advantage over gate prices (£3 for adults, £8.50 for children). For further information and to book tickets: <https://www.southwoldmaizemaze.co.uk/easter>.





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SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY UPDATE

Since buying the land in Blyth Road it was always our intention to provide a natural habitat for wildlife. This is why we have kept the copse of Buddleia, planted over 100 trees and put in two ponds. In the past the pond liners have punctured, resulting in a loss of nearly all the water. Last year we had new liners put in and the surrounds tidied up but last year's summer meant the level of water was still very low. Needless to say, following a very wet winter the ponds are now full again and ready for plants.

To avoid the situation of low water levels during the summer months we have had a borehole dug. This will enable us to maintain a good level of water in the ponds at a fraction of the cost previously. I hope the aquatic birds appreciate this. I'm sure member John Barber will as it means he can now put his boats back on the water!

The display cabinet for our museum should be with us for Easter.

We have a good number of artifacts from the past to put on display but if anybody has anything from the Southwold Railway we would be pleased to see it. We will also be scanning photos and documents which, eventually, will make them more accessible.

2029 marks the centenary of the closure of SR so plans are underway to celebrate the occasion.

Bob Mole

HALESWORTH TO SOUTHWOLD NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY CHARITY

By the time you read this, we will already have started running passenger trains – a major step for a railway that most people believed would never succeed in being restored. Yes, it's a very small step, and there's a very long way to go – but it seems we are on our way! Passenger runs (very short ones) will continue at Blythburgh Station through the year, on **Sundays May 17th, July 26th and September 13th** (which is our Model Railway Show and celebrates National Heritage Open Days).

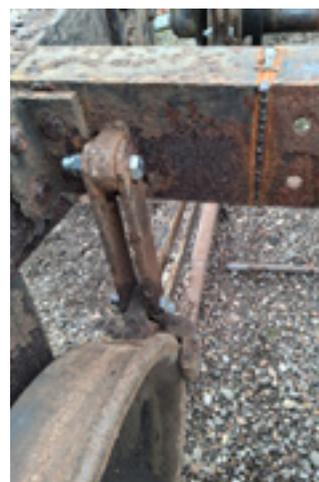
The largest amount of volunteer work over the last few weeks has been at Walberswick Station and on our rolling stock. Walberswick Station was a later addition to the line, in response to pressure from the village – and it has remained mainly untouched (apart from demolition and overgrowth of bracken) since 1940 – thus it is the best-preserved of the five station sites. But that is far from obvious – to the many passers-by - onsite, because of almost 100 years of neglect. Our volunteers have been clearing a small part of the station area of its damaging cloak of bracken, which Natural England say can destroy archaeological sites. We already have the (reduced-size) station platform board, and a small information board about the station and the railway. We are very much hoping that the station owners – the Walberswick Common Land Charity - will be able to endorse our ideas.

At the workshop, engineers Jamie and Mike have been doing some of the final construction jobs on our luggage van No 42. The cover which prevents rainwater from running over the top of sliding door #2 is made and fitted. More painting is done. The three Royal Navy wagons we bought a few years ago have all been dismantled and rebuilt from two-foot-six gauge to three-foot, so they can now be used as parts of our Heritage Train. The brake gear, which has to be removed for this operation, is being refitted. One will be a 'two-plank open' as these were often used to carry Adnams barrels (Adnams kindly donated one a few years ago), while another will probably become a second coach – glazed for wet days.

Smaller jobs include the refurbishment of the coach access steps, and maintenance: the work on the Ruston and Hornsby diesel loco continues at pace with, so far no major problems.

HSNGR's remit as a charity covers the entire line. Thus we are very happy indeed to be included in the Southwold Organ publication. We have no intention to tread on the toes of the long-established Southwold Railway Trust in the town: in fact our Chairmen have regular co-ordinating meetings. You can find their report above and we'd strongly recommend a visit to their Steamworks site on Blyth Road.

James Hewett, Trustee





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.

SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

A botanical tour of Suffolk Wildlife Trust nature reserves.

The March meeting of the Blyth Valley and Southwold Wildlife group were given a taste of spring as Steve Aylward, from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, treated us to a round tour of our nature reserves. Suffolk is fortunate in having a wide range of soil types, and therefore of plant habitats. Some of the meadows have soil that has been untouched for hundreds of years, giving them a rich variety of flora. At Martins' Meadow, fritillaries, early purple orchids and cowslips carpet the floor in spring, and varieties of grass, such as the delicate quaking grass, add contrast. There are old fruit and nut trees, with new Suffolk varieties added to replace fallen timber. Winks Meadow is another exceptional site for orchids.

By contrast, woodland areas, such as Bradfield Woods, offer primroses and oxlips, dog violets and wild garlic, and the rare, crested cow-wheat. Our own Reydon Woods is lucky in that the old coppices weren't bull-dozed away when the conifers were planted, leaving the dormant seeds to re-populate the woods once given the chance.

The marshes offer further diversity, and it is often the ditches that are most plant rich. The common bladderwort traps tiny insects for nourishment, and frogbit and water soldier abound. Taller species like ragged robin and marsh pea add stretches of colour.

The valley fens are different again, with low nutrient levels encouraging other insectivores such as the lovely round-leaved sundew, although you might need to get close to the ground to appreciate its beauty! In the east, the heathlands offer heather, foxgloves and purple milk vetch in abundance. The Saltings and shingle reserves support sea campion, and succulents like stonecrop. Lastly, Steve talked about the new reserve of Martlesham Wilds, which is being left completely alone to re-wild, the only interference being some light grazing. It will be interesting to watch it change over the years.

The beautiful photographs were evidence of the wonderful variety of flora to be found in our county, and they encouraged us to look more carefully at the plants beneath our feet.

Our next meeting is back in the Southwold Arts Centre, Cumberland Road, IP18 6JP, on **Thursday April 9th** at 7.30pm. Our brief AGM will be followed by refreshments, and a short film 'A Suffolk River by Canoe' featuring Paul Heiney. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Penny Mansfield

Contact us at: swtblythvalley@gmail.com

SOUTHWOLD LIBRARY

Easter Pottery Painting with Gallery Thea: Wednesday 1st April, 10am & 2pm. £12 per child. Egg cups, Eggs and Bunnies. Limited spaces available.

Eggtastic experiments and excitement for Kids with Kinetics Science Adventures Lab. Thursday 2nd April, 11am & 1.30pm. Hands-on science experiments including eggtastic ones! Make buggies to carry an egg and then make a basket for your Easter egg collection at home. Decorate an egg and take part in a buggy race with your egg-vehicle! What an eggtastic time for the children and for the adults who will be helping them with their creations. Aimed at 5 years and above. £2 per child. Please do not wear your best clothes.

Tuesday 31st March & 7th April @ 11am & 2pm: Easter Crafts. Make bunny, egg & chick themed crafts - different crafts both weeks. Free crafts - no need to book.

Party with the Good Witch: Thursday 9th April 11am & 2pm. Party games and magical fun with the Good Witch from Lucy's Princess Parties. £3 per child. Limited spaces.

Book your place today at the library or www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary

Booking Opens 1st April: Friends of Southwold Library present Slaughter in Southwold: Southwold Library Crime Writers Festival

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th June at Southwold Arts Centre, St Edmunds Hall

Authors Talks by: Millicent Binks, Simon Brett, Nicci French, Elly Griffiths, Anna Mazzola, Abir Mukherjee, Andrew Hunter Murray, Salman Shaheen, Harriet Tyce & Julie Wassmer. Tickets £7 per talk, £30 Saturday, £25 Sunday or £55 for the weekend

Lunches with the authors

Plus: Kate Ellis' 'Murder at the Crippengate Hotel' Murder Mystery Night: Friday 12th June @ 7pm

Fun Crime Quiz Night: Saturday 13th @ 7pm

Whodunnit Puzzle Sheet available from 1st May - £1. Solve the crime and you could win a £10 Book Token

Raffle for a Luxury crime related hamper (raffle tickets available from 1st May at Southwold Library)

Book at the library or: www.ticketsource.co.uk/slaughterinsouthwold

Italian Conversation: Monday 13th April for 6 weeks 3:40 to 5:40pm. £120 for 12-hour course.

Improvers Italian: Monday 13th April for 6 weeks 1:30 to 3:30pm. £120 for 12-hour course. To book contact library or visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary

Southwold Community Cinema: Wednesday, 29th April @ 3pm: The Choral (2025) 15 Drama. A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr Guthrie to recruit teenagers and experience the joy of singing. Tickets - £5 including refreshments. Book a ticket at southwoldartscentre.co.uk or visit the box office, tel: 01502 722572 Southwold Arts Centre, Cumberland Road, Southwold IP18 6JP

Friday, 1st May, 2.15 - 3.30pm: Blyth Poets 'The isle is full of voices'. A poetry group meeting. All welcome to read or just listen. We invite contributions of original work or well-loved poems. Refreshment break. Free event, no booking required.

Friday 6th & 30th April @ 4.30pm: Chess Club. Free play every week for kids 7+ & adults. Beginners' teaching & assistance. Interested in other board/strategy games? Let us know & we can expand the group

Thursday 30th April @ 6.30pm: Southwold Library Reading Group. This month we are reading: 'All the Light we Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr. Pick up a book at the library. Free event, no booking required.

Wednesdays: 10am - 12noon: Need help with tech? A drop-in advice session where we can help you with things like: Setting up email and social media accounts; Online shopping; Basic support with smartphones, tablets and computers; TStaying safe online and avoiding scams; **2.15-4pm: Crochet & Craft.**

2nd & 16th April, 2.15pm: Rummikub

9th & 23rd April, 2.15pm: Scrabble

10th & 24th April, 2.15-4.15pm: Mah-Jong.

Ongoing jigsaw all other afternoons.

Tuesday - Friday: 10am - 1pm & 2 - 6pm; Saturday: 9.30am - 1pm & 2 - 5pm; Sunday: 11am - 4pm: Weigh your baby.

Sundays, 12.15 - 1pm: Lego Club! Open to kids (and adults) of all ages. This spring we're building: 'Wonderful Wildlife'. All donations of Lego welcome. Free event, no booking required.

Sundays & Tuesdays, 10.30 - 11am: Baby Bounce & Tot Rock. Instruments, clapping, jogging and action rhymes. For babies & toddlers of all ages. Free event, no booking required.

Southwold Library Jigsaw Swap Shop: Come and help yourself to a jigsaw completely free!

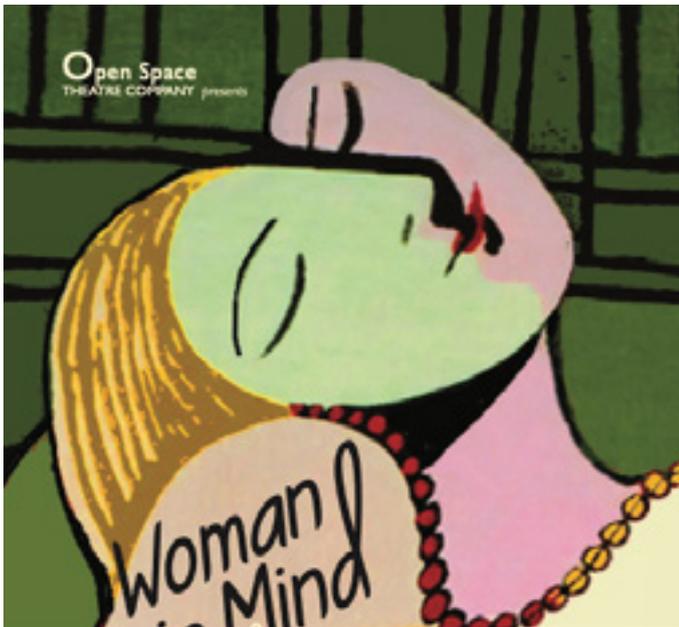
Friends of Southwold Library 100 Club: Would you like to turn your £1 in £25 and support your library? For just £1 a month you could win £25 at our monthly draw. Money raised will be used to support the facilities and services supplied by the library. More members = More prizes!

Charlotte Clark

Executive Library Manager

Tel: 01502 442817

Email: southwold.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk



Open Space THEATRE COMPANY presents

Woman in Mind
by ALAN AYCKBOURN

TOURING 2026

Wednesday	May 6	Wingfield Barns	01379 384509	wingfieldbarns.com
Thursday	May 7	Diss Corn Hall	01379 652241	thecornhall.co.uk
Friday	May 8	Fisher Theatre Bungay	01986 897130	fishertheatre.org
Saturday	May 9	Lastfield Village Hall	01986 87248	openspacetheatre.org
Thursday	May 14	Beccles Public Hall	01502 770090	becclespublichall.co.uk
Friday	May 15	The Cut Halesworth	03003 033211	thecut.org.uk
Friday	May 22	Southwold Arts Centre	01502 722972	southwoldartscentre.co.uk

For more information and to book tickets for all venues, visit openspacetheatre.org

Open Space THEATRE COMPANY presents

Woman in Mind
by ALAN AYCKBOURN

ALL PERFORMANCES 7.30pm ALL TICKETS £12.50

Woman in Mind is a darkly comic play by Alan Ayckbourn that follows Susan, a woman trapped in an unfulfilling marriage whose imagination creates a vivid fantasy family to replace her disappointing real one. As the boundaries between her idealised world and her everyday life begin to blur, Susan's grip on reality slips with both hilarious and heartbreaking consequences. Witty, unsettling, and emotionally powerful, the play offers a compelling journey into one woman's fractured mind. This is one of Ayckbourn's darkest but most hilarious comedies, a play which set the audience rocking with laughter when it opened at the Vaudeville Theatre in London 40 years ago.

COMING SOON FROM Open Space

The Lover, by Harold Pinter

Before leaving for work, a man wishes his wife well for the planned visit of her lover during the afternoon. It is a long-term arrangement which apparently leaves the husband free to see his mistress. But is it? All is not as it seems in Pinter's hilarious and quirky comedy of marital capers.

Also on the bill during an evening with Pinter is **Landscape**, the playwright's classic study of the failure of communication between a man and a woman.

TOURING NOVEMBER 2026

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT Open Space AND FUTURE AND PAST PRODUCTIONS, LOG ON TO www.openspacetheatre.org.uk OR PHONE 01986 872481



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.LUNAbooksublishing.com

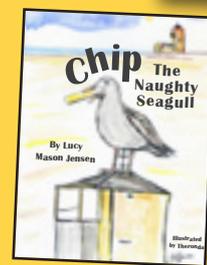
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3rd Annual Art & Book Show

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Aldeburgh High Street,
(next to The Golden Galleon)

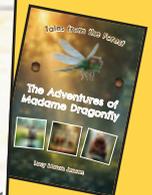
April 16-22, 10am - 5pm



Aldeburgh Memories -
A collection
Theronda Hoffman



Book Launch
Chip
The Naughty Seagull
Lucy Mason Jensen



For more info, contact Lucy
lucymasonjensen@gmail.com

VIEW TO THE NORTH

In my last month's article, I said that I was hoping for better weather. We are now in meteorological Spring, and I struggle to say that we have had more than a few days of sunshine. The cherry plum blossom along North Road looked good against a blue sky and the daffodils on the marsh are flourishing. Patches of sweet violet are looking very pretty but I am less impressed to see alexanders flowers, I wish the Romans had not introduced them. They seem to be thriving more these days, maybe it is a function of climate change.



There have been one or two nights that I have been able to use the smart telescope to image deep sky objects. One of the most recognisable is the Horsehead Nebula. It was discovered in 1888 by Williamina Fleming, a Scottish astronomer. It can be found in the constellation Orion and is a small dark nebula located about 1,375 light years away.



The darkness of the head is caused by dust clouds blocking the light from the stars located behind it. The clouds themselves are a star forming region. The birds have started their morning chorus and it has been good to continue hearing the very loud calls of the song thrushes along North Road.

Robins continue to burst into song and the Cetti's warblers have started their loud call.

They are a very elusive and rather unremarkable in appearance but very noisy. Murmurations of starlings can be seen over the fields to the north of North Road.

There have been very few congregations of geese this year, normally they are a good feeding ground for Barnacle, Greylag and the occasional Brent.

The usual waterfowl have been on the model yacht pond, mallard, shoveler, gadwall and teal. A pair of mute swans have taken up residence and on the grassy banks there have been the usual pied wagtails and meadow pipits.



I have been able to fly the drone on a few occasions during the past month – it is very weather dependent, high wind and rain stops play. The reeds look a beautiful colour in the late afternoon sun. The beach huts in the distance are still on their winter quarters but by the next time I write they should have been returned to the promenade.



Halcyon

FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

Last year, we were asked to intervene with several cats that appeared to lack shelter or domestic homes. These were predominantly young cats and kittens scavenging for food around bins. One of our foster volunteers conducted an assessment and began feeding the cats using un-set traps to acclimatise them to the equipment.

All the cats were severely malnourished and infested with fleas, worms and ticks. They underwent veterinary examinations, and those old enough were neutered. It became apparent that the cats were rather frightened domestic cats, probably abandoned. Unfortunately, one kitten required euthanasia due to a stomach obstruction caused by stones and was too small for surgical intervention.

Two kittens had ingested plastic, which fortunately passed through them.

Following weeks of dedicated and compassionate care, many of these vulnerable, abandoned cats have been adopted into new homes. Some remain traumatised and will require additional time. 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. We believe she is approximately 2 years old. Cally is extremely affectionate and playful. She will need a home with a large garden, in a safe area.

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

Please visit our ebsite: www.cats.org.uk/framandsax, email: enquiries@framandsax.cats.org. Telephone 01728 723499 for more information.





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CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

Holiday Scams

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

Fraudsters go to great lengths to get you to part with your money. They steal images of hotels and rented flats from legitimate reputable companies e.g. Airbnb, Booking.com and create fake websites and online adverts that look completely genuine. The deal will be much cheaper than elsewhere and they will put you under time pressure to book. You will be often asked for payment through a bank or currency transfer. If you've had a holiday cancellation, fraudsters can set up fake social media accounts inviting you to claim a refund and get your details.

Top tips to avoid a holiday scam

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

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

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

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

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

Contact us for advice on this or any other issue. Our advisors are keen to help. You can email, phone or pop into our offices or outreaches.

<https://citizensadviceeastssuffolk.org.uk/>

EMAIL- advice@caes.or.uk

ADVICE LINE - 0808 278 7866 - Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm

REYDON COMMUNITY QUIZ

The Reydon Community quiz took place on Friday 20 February, with Charlotte Clark as our guest quizmaster. She presented an entertaining range of rounds, including a fiendish 'Connections' round which had many quizzers racking their brains! Winners were 'Who are We?', in second place 'What the Eck' and in third place 'Treacle Tarts' - points were all very close!

The evening raised a generous £315.

Money raised this month was donated to the Friends of Southwold Library. We are so lucky to have our wonderful Library which offers so much to the local community. If you are not already a member do pop in and join, or even better become a friend or patron! Thanks to Charlotte and team for all you do.

Amanda read out a card from the VHC thanking us for our donation to them in January.

With thanks to Charlotte, Raffle helpers, and everyone who supports the quiz.

We currently have space for another team so do contact me if you are interested in joining us, on ahumphry@talktalk.net

THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY LOTTERY

The local monthly lottery for The Brain Tumour Charity took place on Sunday 1st March, with Fred & Kate Assmann being present to adjudicate. There were 221 entries, making a total prize fund of £110.50. 1st prize of £55.25 with ticket number 147 went to John Welton, 2nd prize of £33.15 with ticket number 7 went to Jamie Doy and 3rd prize of £22.10 with ticket number 40 went to Liz Wooster.

Congratulations to each of them.

If you would like a monthly flutter, whilst supporting The Brain Tumour Charity, please email John Huggins: thebtclottery@btinternet.com; Tel: 07873 376168. Every penny raised goes to The Brain Tumour Charity and I'm pleased to say my family and friends have raised £68,912 from our various events since losing our 8 year old family member Sophie. Our next fundraising event will be a Plant Sale on Sunday 24th May 2026.

John Huggins

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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**SOUTHWOLD MUSEUM &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

WINTER LECTURES

Tuesday, 21 April 2026 at 2.00pm



'The Story of Southwold Hospital – A Century and more of Community Action'

Jessica de Grazia practised law on both sides of the Atlantic. She has lived full and part-time in Southwold since 1987, serving for 8 years as a Town Councillor. She led the campaign to preserve and regenerate Southwold Hospital and is Chair of *SouthGen* which owns and operates the Old Hospital Hub.

Stella Peskett Millennium Hall

Mights Road, Southwold, IP18 6BE

Admission: Society Members £5 Non-Members £8

Details of the full programme are available on www.southwoldmuseum.org

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

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

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

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



Tuesday April 14th 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre

GAINSBOROUGH AND BROWN

Art as Nature or Nature as Art

Caroline Holmes



Caroline will explore the canvas of eclectic 18th-century profitable, artistic and moral settings from rural Suffolk across England. Her subjects are Brown – an 'earthmover' who transformed estates into profitable sinuous landscapes and Gainsborough – an originator of the English landscape painting; two talented country boys who enjoyed the patronage of many great houses as well as sampling the delights of the 'busiest, idlest place in the world–' Bath. Caroline is the author of many garden-related books and a course director for University of Cambridge ICE. She lives in Suffolk but gives lectures throughout the world

Guests are welcome at all our events. £10 entrance charge.

University of Essex Choir

Britten Pears Chamber Choir

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

An evening of
Sacred Splendour

Joseph Haydn
Missa in angustiis
"Nelson Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Regina coeli

George Frideric Handel
Dixit Dominus

Conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark

Saturday 09 May 2026, 7:00pm

Snape Maltings Concert Hall,
Snape, Suffolk IP17 1SP

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

choir/vol 28/079



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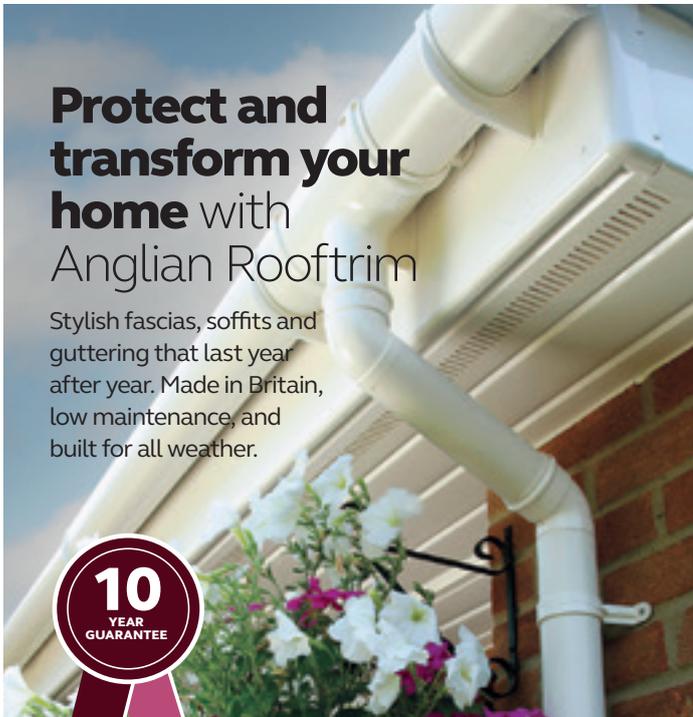
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAR 25 – APR 8 Reydon Art Group Exhibition at Craft Co, 40A High Street, Southwold. IP18 6AE

APR 11 Halesworth Produce Market. A fresh and vibrant produce and craft market over 25 years old with everything from bread, meat and eggs, to cards, stationery and jewellery all from local growers and makers. 9am - 1pm at St. Mary's Church, Halesworth

APR 12 Halesworth Harmony rehearsal at The Hub in Huntingfield. Come along for a free taster session 10.30am – 12.30pm. For further details, email: halesworth.harmony@gmail.com.

APR 25 Quiz Night in Aid of Reydon Rainbows. 7pm at Cardinal Newman Hall (Old Sorting Office). Teams of 4. £3 per person. Bring your own drinks & snacks. Raffle.

Book early to avoid disappointment, limited places. Contact Charlotte Clark: Tel: 07715388916; Email: frogclock@hotmail.com

APR 25 Southwold Lions Club Jumble Sale. 10.30am – 12.30pm at Reydon Village Hall. Coffee, tea and cakes. Please contact 07905711021 if you have any jumble that needs collecting.

WHAT'S ON AT REYDON VILLAGE HALL

April 24th & May 15th, 9 - 11.30am: Free Community Coffee Morning.

Tea/Coffee and Toast (and pastries when available). Reydon Village Hall Management Committee in conjunction with Reydon & Southwold Community Fridge & Pantry

May 9th @ 7pm: Reydon Village Hall Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund Quiz Night. Teams of up to 6. £5 per person, bring your own snacks and drink. Raffle. Soft drinks, sweets & crisps available to buy. Book your tickets with Charlotte at Southwold Library: Tel: 07715388916; Email: frogclock@hotmail.com.

All funds towards the RVH Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund to repair, renovate and refit the hall.

16th May from 7pm: Table 9

Soft Rock Classics from the 60s to the 2000s. From the timeless harmonies of the Eagles and The Beatles to the anthems of the Stones and Stereophonics: great songs everyone knows and loves. Tickets £12. Pay Bar. In Aid of Reydon Village Hall. Tickets will be available from Charlotte: Tel: 07715388916; Email: frogclock@hotmail.com or online www.ticketsource.co.uk/reydonvillagehall



SOUTHWOLD MUSEUM

A treasure trove of local archaeology, maritime and family history.

OPEN FROM

WEDNESDAY, 1st APRIL 2026

Free entry. Donations welcome.

We need **YOUR** help to safeguard the future of the Museum.
Join our friendly team of volunteers who welcome visitors.

Contact: curator@southwoldmuseum.org
or call 01502 725600 to find out more.



9-11 Victoria Street
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Open daily 2-4pm
April to October

www.southwoldmuseum.org

01502 725600

Southwold & Reydon Choral Society
Directed by William Drew-Batty
Organ/piano: Alison Evans

Spring Concert
Fauré: Requiem
Drew-Batty: In Your Deep Floods
Vivaldi: Gloria

Saturday 25th April | 7:30pm
St. Edmund's Church, Southwold

SOLE @ BAY CHURCHES
£12.50 inc. glass of wine/soft drink. 16 and under go free.
Tickets on door or via Ticketsource.
Southwold & Reydon Choral Society. Tel: 0833 666 3366.

REYDON SHOW

Are you a baker, an artist, a photographer, a crafter, a sewer, a knitter, a gardener or a flower arranger? Then why not enter the Reydon Show?

The show celebrates your talents, big and small plus there are prize certificates and various trophies to be won.

The show takes place on the first Saturday of August each year so save the date for 2026 – **Saturday 1st August.**

Entries have to be in on the Friday night or the Saturday morning and the exhibition opens at 2pm.

We also have a range of children's categories open to kids under 12, so if your child is a keen Lego builder, gardener or arts and crafter they can enter too – and kids enter free!

So, plan your preserves, ready your radishes and corral your carnations ready for August.

Programme of categories available at Bridgefoot Stores, Reydon nearer the date.

Photographic categories this year are: A Café Scene; Local Event; Steam; A Creature with its Young

SAVE THE DATE!

THE REYDON SHOW
SATURDAY 1st AUGUST 2026

AT REYDON VILLAGE HALL

Remember to sow your seeds in good time.

PHOTO CATEGORIES THIS YEAR

Café Scene
Local Event
Steam
A Creature with its Young



ADULT CATEGORIES FOR:-

Art
Confectionary
Flowers
Fruit
Handicrafts
Photography
Preserves
Vegetables

KIDS CATEGORIES FOR:-

Art
Crafts
Gardening
Lego

Bring your entries to Reydon Village Hall Friday 31st July 7.30-8.30pm or Saturday 1st August 8.30-10.30am

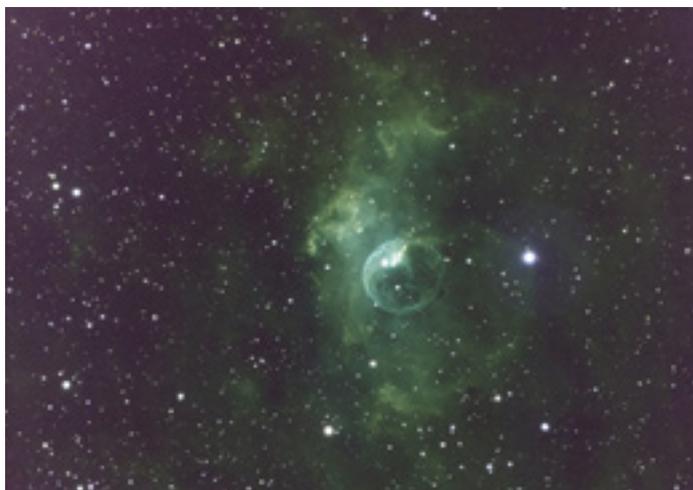
HALESWORTH & DISTRICT U3A

On **Tuesday 21 April** at 2pm at the Cut Art Centre, Halesworth, we welcome Chris Mead who will be presenting our next event with his talk entitled 'The Science of Astrophotography'

Chris has always been fascinated by astronomy and cosmology. Now retired, he can devote much more of his time to learning astrophotography techniques. For example, he has developed an interest in deep sky astrophotography and uses specialist telescopes to help capture images from his back garden in Wrentham, when cloud cover permits! He enjoys the problem-solving aspects of astrophotography, combining, as it does, computer automation and image processing techniques and will talk us through how he captures his stunning images such as the Bubble nebulae photo below.

This is a wonderful opportunity to discover first-hand how it is possible to create spectacular snapshots of the stars above. The talk is free to current Halesworth and District u3a members.

For non-members, tickets are available at £4 in advance, or on the door at the Cut. Why not come along early and enjoy a delicious lunch in the Cut café?



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