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JUNE 2026

ALDEBURGH TIMES



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR




Aldeburgh has welcomed a new Mayor – Kevin Webster, who replaces T J Haworth-Culf, both of whom have shown such commitment to the town by serving their community and will continue to do so I'm sure.

Aldeburgh has also welcomed a new 'Talking Bench' a place to pause, connect and if needed there is access, via QR codes, to several support services. What an excellent initiative this is, mental health issues can lead to so much pain for sufferers and their families. There is no shame in seeking help, it is no different to seeking help for physical health issues, in my opinion – the mind is a complex thing and there is help out there so reach out!

Please drop me a line to boost your business by advertising with us, or if you have any news or events you would like to share with our readers. Email: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

A man should always consider how much he has more than he wants - **Joseph Addison**



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10th to 15th August
SHOW and TELL
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27th July to 8th August
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18th to 29th August
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Main St, Leiston IP16 4ES
www.longshopmuseum.co.uk

ALDEBURGH WELCOMES A NEW MAYOR

Aldeburgh Welcomes New Mayor Kevin Webster as Town Celebrates Community Spirit with New Talking Bench

A new 'Talking Bench' has been officially unveiled on Moot Green in Aldeburgh, offering residents and visitors a welcoming place to pause, connect, and access support in the heart of the town.

The initiative, generously funded by Aldeburgh Town Council, was formally launched last week with representatives from local organisations including Citizens Advice, Aldeburgh United Charities, and St Peter and St Paul Church gathering to celebrate the occasion.

Positioned near the beach entrance on Moot Green, the bench has been designed not only as a peaceful spot to enjoy Aldeburgh's sea views, but also as a symbol of kindness, conversation, and community wellbeing. QR codes displayed on the bench provide direct access to organisations including Citizens Advice, the Samaritans, Aldeburgh United Charities, and Legend on a Bench, offering advice, friendship, and support for anyone who may be feeling isolated or in need of help.

The unveiling ceremony included a special poem written by outgoing Mayor Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, celebrating friendship, compassion, and community spirit. Rev. Mary Brown also blessed the bench with words encouraging people to take time to speak, listen, and connect with one another.

The project reflects Aldeburgh's continuing commitment to promoting wellbeing and strengthening community ties for people of all ages. It also stands as part of the lasting legacy of Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf's two years as Mayor, during which she championed a caring, inclusive, and community-focused approach across the town.

As Aldeburgh now welcomes Cllr Kevin Webster as Mayor for the coming year, the council has praised both councillors for their dedication to the local community. Having served as Deputy Mayor for the past two years, Cllr Webster is widely recognised within Aldeburgh for his caring nature, community involvement, and commitment to the town. Speaking about his appointment, Cllr Kevin Webster said: *"It is a great honour to be chosen as Mayor for this historic town. I look forward to the coming year and continuing the great work achieved by the council and our outgoing Mayor, Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf."*

Cllr Haworth-Culf will continue to support the town in her new role as Deputy Mayor, ensuring continuity and ongoing community leadership.

The Talking Bench initiative serves as a reminder of the importance of conversation, support, and human connection - values that continue to sit at the heart of Aldeburgh life.

A reminder that Full Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the Moot Hall at 7pm every second Monday of the month.

Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

Meetings of the Planning Committee are held as required. Dates are advertised on noticeboards at the Moot Hall, Aldeburgh High Street, and the Co-op on Saxmundham Road, as well as on the online calendar available via the Aldeburgh Town Council website: www.aldeburghtowncouncil.gov.uk

For all enquiries, please contact Lizzy Tuthill, Marketing, Comms and Events Co-ordinator, at marketing@aldeburghtowncouncil.gov.uk



New Mayor of Aldeburgh - Kevin Webster



Talking Bench

FRISTON - CLASSICS ON THE GREEN

Friston Classics Cars and Motorbikes on the Green

Thursday 9th July from 2:30pm.

All types of vehicles that were in production before 1970 are welcome with Classics parking on the Village Green. Teas, coffees, and homemade cakes served in the Village Hall. Pop up bar and BBQ. Free designated public parking in Grove Road Sat Nav IP17 1NP.

Donations only, in support St Mary's Church Friston.



CLASSICS ON THE GREEN

FRISTON

NEAR SAXMUNDHAM SUFFOLK

THURSDAY 9TH JULY FROM 2.30PM

Bring your VETERAN, VINTAGE or CLASSIC CAR or BIKE - or just bring your friends and family along to see the classics






Tea, coffee and cakes will be available in the Village Hall. There will be a Bar and BBQ on the Green and food and drink at The Old Chequers.

All types of vehicle that were in production before 1970 are welcome. Arrive anytime from 2.30pm and depart whenever you wish.



FREE designated parking and entry - all donations to Friston Church
Sat navs: IP17 1NP

Friston Open Gardens

**Sunday 21st June
11.30am - 5.30pm**

**Tickets £7.50 admit
to all gardens
(last sold 4. 15pm)**

**Please park on
Village Green**

**Village Hall open
for light lunches
and refreshments**



In aid of Church Funds

THE ALDEBURGH 82ND CARNIVAL

And so it continues - with more preparations for one of the longest running and greatest Carnivals to be held across East Anglia. We could not run this amazing event without the support of YOU the public, who offer your valuable time to make these a successful and fun 4 days either attending as a volunteer or just to enjoy the festivities and have some well-deserved fun and relaxation. So.....**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all!

Our 2026 Carnival Queen

Yes, we have chosen our 2026 Carnival Queen and she is thrilled to be accepting this honour. Her name is Izzie Buzzard. Izzie is from Aldeburgh, is 20 years old and attends York University where she is studying for a degree in Sociology. Izzie was a Carnival attendant in 2015 and she has also been a huge supporter of Aldeburgh Carnival, volunteering at Carnival for several years.

Our 2026 theme **'Country and Eastern Aldeburgh Ho Down'** clearly has country and western connotations. We will be actively encouraging the Carnival floats to be country themed and for the thousands of people who attend we would also encourage you to join in the theme and don your Stetsons and cowboy and cowgirl boots to get in the spirit!

How To Volunteer - you can start now

ivolunteer is open so please add your names and select the role in which you would be interested in supporting - every hour you can spare is invaluable to us and we encourage you to sign up early as last year we had a last minute panic that we did not have enough boots on the ground to hold the Carnival!

Email: volunteer@aldeburghcarnival.com or go to Aldeburgh Carnival website – go to the 'about tab' and scroll down to the red ivolunteer box – click and this takes you to a choice of roles and ways to volunteer over the weekend.

The Carnival committee **NEEDS YOU TOO!** We need more people to join the Carnival organising committee, we meet just once a month for 2 hours, so it really is not a huge commitment.

We are also planning some new themed ways to entertain you over the weekend with country music and hopefully some line dancing.

Having a variety of stalls over the weekend is hugely important so if you are a stall holder and would like to make an application to put up a stall, please go to the Aldeburgh Carnival website and follow the guidance.

Our 2026 Carnival Queen – Izzie Buzzard



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ALDEBURGH JUBILEE HALL

Friday 5th June, 7pm
**JAZZ @ JUBILEE PRESENTS
CHRIS INGHAM'S STEELY JAZZ**



Steely Jazz

Sunday 7th June, 4pm
**JUBILEE CHAMBER CONCERT:
DELIGHTFUL COMPANIONS**



Delightful Companions

Tuesday 9th June, 10am
CUPPA & COMPANY



Cuppa & Company

Friday 3rd July, 11am
**JUBILEE CHAMBER CONCERT:
SICILIANA WIND QUINTET**



Siciliana Wind Quintet


Friday 3rd July, 7.30pm
**ALDEBURGH COMEDY
CLUB NIGHT**

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It Comes In Waves

A new comedy drama play by James McDermott
Touring East Anglia 19th June - 11th July



easternangles.co.uk | 01473 211498

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ALDEBURGH YACHT CLUB NEWS

It has been a busy time at Aldeburgh Yacht Club since the sailing season started in March. The moorings on the river have been filling up, as has the dinghy park.

The club is an RYA training centre which is run by our new full-time instructor Seb Garfield. Seb, who is from Woodbridge, has a busy schedule of courses running across the year, having already delivered instructor and power boat training in his first few weeks.

In June, we will be welcoming 13 of the local primary schools with up to 250 children joining in during our programme. This will be delivered by Seb with the backing of the Aldeburgh Schools Sailing Trust and numerous volunteer members whose long-standing support has brought over 2,000 children for sailing and water sports on the Alde in recent years. We will also host older students from South London alongside our partners, the BigKid Foundation.

Junior sailing started on Sundays in April. In July we will move to a daily programme, followed in August by our Junior and Youth Regatta and then our main Regatta. We are celebrating the achievements of Matilda Nicholls, one of our members who has been one of the British Sailing Team since 2019 and is now well into her Olympic campaign for Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032.



On the water, we have been racing on Saturdays and Wednesdays and have held open meetings and our annual two-day Spring Regatta.

We are expecting visitors throughout June including cruisers from the Royal Yacht Squadron and to join our Dragon class. Our Loch Long sailors are heading to Cornwall and Scotland over the coming weeks.

We are, of course, far more than a sailing club. Recent social events include an evening hosted by local entertainer Iestyn Edwardes, talks, dinners and a quiz. We have lots planned for 2026, so please visit our website to see what's to come. www.aldeburghyc.org.uk.

We pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming place. Anyone interested in joining or finding out more should get in touch via office@aldeburghyc.org.uk.



Aldeburgh Yacht Club is a great place to learn and develop new skills.

AYC is a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) recognised training centre running courses for every level from beginner to expert, including power and safety boating and first aid.

Our Summer sailing courses run through July and August, Monday to Friday. Whether you're new to sailing or if you already enjoy sailing and want to do more, book onto one of our RYA sailing courses.

Spaces are still available on some of our courses, please visit our website www.aldeburghyc.org.uk/book_courses_at_ayc to view the full programme. Book your course through the online booking forms.

Private sailing tuition is available for all throughout the season in dinghies and this is a great way to improve on water confidence, or work on specific skills – whatever level you are.

To find out more about training opportunities at AYC, please email training@aldeburghyc.org.uk.



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ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS 12TH - 28TH JUNE



Aldeburgh Festival has always been more than an appealing sequence of concerts. It is a place where music is made in full view of its past and its future; where composers, performers and audiences meet in the 'holy triangle' Britten believed was essential to artistic life.

In 2026, fifty years since Britten's death, we reaffirm that principle as a living manifesto. 1976 marked an ending, but also a beginning: the moment the care, curiosity and exacting standards Britten and Pears brought to nurturing young artists became the enduring thread of the Festival and this organisation's identity.

This Festival opens with a gathering of artists who know one another's work deeply – musicians who share a language of trust, risk and detail.

Ryan Wigglesworth, our Featured Artist, leads a circle of artistic collaborators including **Vilde Frang, Laura van der Heijden, Steven Osborne and Nicolas Altstaedt**.

They come not simply to perform, but to pass on what they have learned: forming chamber groups, standing side by side with young players, and allowing music to reveal its meaning through shared attention.

At the heart of this commitment is the new **Festival Academy**, directed by **James Baillieu** with **Lise Davidsen, Nicky Spence, Caroline Dowdle** and **Julia Faulkner** as faculty. Their work, and the Summer Academy that will follow it for instrumentalists, continues the legacy Britten and Pears established.

It marks a new way for the **Young Artist Programme** to work, enabling young artists to flourish when surrounded by the very best musicians, challenged, nurtured and invited to experience the generosity of audiences at Snape.

Pelléas et Mélisande, semi-staged and directed by **Rory Kinnear** with designs by **Vicki Mortimer** and performed by **Sophie Bevan, Sarah Connolly, Jacques Imbrailo, Gordon Bintner** and **John Tomlinson**, opens the Festival with a work of exquisite delicacy and depth.

Alongside Britten's own late works, music by **Feldman, Crumb** and **Kurtág** sits beside new works by **Ryan Wigglesworth, Tansy Davies, Freya Waley-Cohen, Tom Coult, Brett Dean** and others, maintaining our commitment to the composers of today and the artists who bring their work to life.

ALDEBURGH NEEDS YOU!

Aldeburgh is unique. As a small coastal town, set in a wild and tranquil landscape, it attracts many visitors and new residents, who are drawn by the sea, the vibrant high street, the fine sports facilities, a glittering carnival, music and arts events of all kinds, and great food and drink. But Aldeburgh is facing many challenges - multiple large national energy projects are threatening the landscape and our quiet way of life. We all need electricity but building and running the large industrial buildings and cable networks required for these projects risk overwhelming our small scale human environment and driving away the people we need to sustain the local economy.

In order to flourish Aldeburgh must maintain its power of attraction in the face of the traffic and pollution problems coming from the energy projects.

This will demand a clear vision of the best way forward for the town. It will be vital for public services, private enterprise, and community organisations to work in unison to safeguard Aldeburgh's unique character.

This is why the Aldeburgh Society, a charitable civic society open to all who care about Aldeburgh - residents of the area, holiday homers and business owners - is seeking to expand its membership (see enclosed leaflet). The subscription is only £10 per year payable by card or direct debit.

We work through a Committee elected at the annual general meeting, which is open to all members. We want to have as diverse a membership as possible, drawn from all parts of the town.

We work alongside the elected town, district and county councils, aiming to influence their decision-making and services as these affect our town.

Come and join us and get your views heard!

ALDEBURGH RNLI

In February 1959 a new 42ft Beach lifeboat, Alfred and Patience Gottwald (ON-946) was placed on station, at which point Lucy Lavers was withdrawn. Alfred and Patience Gottwald was built with a strengthened hull to withstand the rigours of beach launching across the shingle at Aldeburgh, and her cost of £30,000 was defrayed by the legacy of Mrs Patience A. Gottwald, of Southport.

Alfred and Patience Gottwald became something of an iconic lifeboat during her 20 years on station thanks in part to her prominent position on the beach, visible to all visitors and resulting in her becoming the centrepiece of many picture postcards.

She served the station for 20 years, during which time she saved 31 lives and launched 84 times. Her most outstanding rescue took place on the morning of 10 April 1972, when, in rapidly worsening weather, the local fishing boat, Ocean Pride with three crew, did not return. Concerned, Coxswain Reuben Wood and Second Coxswain Billy Burrell decided to launch the lifeboat.

At 10.05am the maroons were fired to summon the lifeboat crew, and Alfred and Patience Gottwald put out into fierce conditions, with winds reaching force seven and heavy squalls reducing visibility.

The lifeboat located Ocean Pride a mile south of Aldeburgh, and, with gusts intensifying to force nine, Coxswain Wood chose to follow closely behind Ocean Pride as it approached treacherous shoals. Crossing the Outer Shoal safely, Ocean Pride struggled on the Inner Shoal, where a massive wave engulfed it, throwing the crew into the sea.

Wood swiftly manoeuvred the lifeboat, forming a lee to shield the men in the water. Two fishermen were quickly pulled to safety despite the violent seas and shallow waters. The third man was spotted closer to shore but taking the lifeboat any nearer risked grounding. Wood, showing exceptional skill, reversed the lifeboat through massive breakers, guiding it close enough for his crew to pull the man aboard.

Once in deeper water, Mechanic Nigel Saint administered artificial respiration to the third fisherman. The lifeboat was then beached, and the fishermen were rushed to hospital. For his outstanding seamanship and bravery, Coxswain Wood received the RNLI Bronze Medal, while Nigel Saint was accorded the RNLI's 'Thanks Inscribed on Vellum' for giving first aid and artificial respiration.



THORPENESS
COUNTRY CLUB

New
Seaside Sweethearts
Package

Credit: Images By Anna

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

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

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and Castle

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2026

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call 01394 450205 or visit,
www.crownandcastle.co.uk/dine/saturday-lunch

FROM JENNY RIDDELL-CARPENTER MP



One issue I hear about time and time again across Aldeburgh and the surrounding villages is buses – or in many cases, the lack of them altogether. Suffolk Coastal really has become a ‘bus desert’. Whether it’s routes that have quietly disappeared over recent years, services that don’t run at the times people actually need them, or buses that are simply too unreliable to plan around, too many people across Suffolk Coastal are being left behind.

For some residents, particularly older people, young people and those without access to a car, this creates very real barriers to everyday life. It can mean struggling to get to work, college or medical appointments, or finding it harder to stay connected to family, friends and local communities. Reliable public transport is not a luxury – it’s essential, especially in rural communities such as ours.

That’s why I’ve launched a constituency-wide bus survey to gather direct feedback from residents about what is and isn’t working. I want to hear from people who rely on buses regularly, those who used to use them but no longer can, and those who feel local services simply don’t meet their needs.

What makes this even more frustrating is that Suffolk has received millions of pounds in Government funding intended to improve local bus services.

Between 2023 and 2025 alone, Suffolk County Council received almost £3.8 million through Bus Service Improvement funding - yet the total number of annual bus miles operated across the county fell by more than 1.1 million miles, from 9.18 million in 2022 to 8.01 million in 2025. Residents are understandably frustrated that despite repeated promises of improvement, many communities are seeing fewer services rather than more.

With a new Reform-led County Council now in place, I will be pushing hard to ensure rural and coastal communities are not overlooked when decisions are made about transport funding and service provision. Too often our villages and smaller towns are treated as an afterthought when it comes to public transport, and I will continue putting pressure on the County Council to deliver the improvements residents have been promised.

Later this year, I’ll also be bringing together operators, local decision-makers and residents for a roundtable discussion focused on practical improvements and long-term solutions. Good public transport helps keep communities connected, supports local businesses and reduces isolation – particularly in rural and coastal areas like ours.

If you’ve been affected by poor bus services, I’d really encourage you to take part in the survey by visiting my website: <https://www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org/buses> or scan the QR code below.



Together, we can keep building the case for the better, more reliable bus services our communities deserve.

As always, if there is anything I can do to support you, or if you have any thoughts you’d like to share with me, please get in touch.

Contact:
jenny.riddellcarpenter.mp@parliament.uk
 01394 330260
www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org

BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

Activities continue at the block this month. The Museum is open every Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Amateur radio station GB2BRS will be operational on certain days over the summer, including **18th June**.

Come and say hello to the world!

The second series of our podcasts ‘*Echoes of Bawdsey – The Story of Radar*’ will also be rolling out over the summer. Available on our website and most audio streaming sources.

Further details of all our activities:

Visit: www.bawdseyradar.org.uk

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



HALESWORTH ALE DAY

Halesworth Ale Day will take place on **Saturday 13 June 2026**, from 12noon - 6pm, bringing a full programme of events celebrating brewing, history and hospitality across the town.

Following last year's inaugural Halesworth Ale Day, the event returns promising to put the 'ale' back into Halesworth! The day will include a launch of a new Halesworth ale specially brewed by the local Tindall Brewery, along with other collaborations including handmade Ale Day Mugs from a local potter and Ale Bread made using the spent grains from the brewing process. The event will also offer brewery talks, beer-making demonstrations, ale trail, guided heritage walks, a 'Malt Experience' exhibition at The Cut Arts Centre and a brewing exhibition at Halesworth Museum.

New this year will be a 'Dwile Flonking' contest in the park - not seen in the town since 1970! Organising the event is Kelly Parker, Marketing and Events Officer at Halesworth Town Council. She says: "Halesworth has a great tradition of malting and a vibrant hospitality scene. The Halesworth Ale Day is a great opportunity to showcase the very best of our town. Visitors can take part in the festivities, while also visiting award-winning delis and cafés, and browse the town's independent shops."

"The event also shines a light on our local ales at venues including The Tap Room, The White Hart, The Angel and The Swan."

The event offers free family entertainment, which includes live theatre, giant bubble displays, stilt walkers, craft activities, face painting, drumming workshops and garden games. Visitors can also enjoy live music performances from brass, blues, folk and roots bands.

Halesworth's Market Square will be turned into a drinks market, offering produce from local breweries, vineyards, cider makers and distilleries alongside food vendors.

Visitors can also enjoy scenic walks to explore the Blyth Road Navigation to learn how traditional wherry boats once transported malt along the river Blyth for beer production.

Halesworth Ale Day 2026 is funded and supported by the SZC Tourism Event Grant through East Suffolk Council and Halesworth Town Council.

'Dwile Flonking' Photo: Alan Hall



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[aleday](#)

Halesworth Ale
Drinks Market
History Walks
Beer Festival
Street Food
Beer Talks
Ale Tastings
Free Face
Painting
Live Music
Ice Cream
Games
Ale Trail

HALESWORTH ALE DAY 2026

A celebration of brewing, history, & hospitality

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE

[Dwile Flonking](#)
[Family Theatre](#)
[Drumming](#)
[Workshops](#)
[Morris](#)
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19-21 JUNE 2026

BEERS & BEATS

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19th - Live music from 6pm - Richard Hill
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ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Researching Your Pauper Ancestors – Clare O’Grady

At some point in their lives, many of our ancestors would have been in receipt of some form of poor relief, either from the parish or from a Poor Law Union. This talk discusses the records that you can use to find out more, especially:

- Accounts of the Overseer of the Poor
- Settlement records
- Vagrancy examinations and passes
- Pauper apprenticeships
- Workhouses pre and post 1834
- Pauper migration

Clare is a professional genealogist and researcher and qualified tutor with over 10 years professional experience. She has an MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic studies from the University of Strathclyde and is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists and an associate member of AGRA. Her website is <https://herefordshiregenealogy.com/>

The talk takes place on **Monday 15th June** at 2.30pm, in person at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL (behind the library) and, for members only, on Zoom. The speaker will be talking to us on Zoom.

No need to book - just turn up - free for members and £5 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits. Good, free car-parking.



Only members can take part in our meetings on Zoom, but it only costs £10 for a year’s membership – see <https://www.avsfhg.org.uk/join-us>

Zooming is free.

The Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group (AVSFHG) has recently launched a new website: <https://www.avsfhg.org.uk> which has been designed to bring together information about the group’s activities in a modern and simple to navigate hub, easily accessed by scanning a QR code.

Partly made possible by a generous donation from the Sizewell C Community Fund, the website also incorporates a dedicated Members’ Area full of all sorts of interesting goodies! Much easier to navigate than the previous website, anyone can easily find details of monthly talks and events; free family history research sessions and advice; and paid up members have free access to monthly talks at the Fromus Centre in Saxmundham (either in person or online via Zoom); a copy of the Group’s very informative quarterly newsletter; and notifications about events, discounts and family history special offers from the likes of Ancestry and Findmypast. The cost of individual membership is just £10, so whether you are just starting out on your family history journey, an experienced researcher seeking help with a genealogical ‘brick-wall’, or simply have an interest in the people and events that shaped our beautiful county, why not take a look at the re-vamped website and consider signing up? You can be sure of a warm welcome!



QR code for monthly talks



QR code to join

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 Sun 14th June at 6.00pm
 Mon 15th June at 7.15pm
 Tues 16th June at 3.00pm
 Wed 17th & Thurs 18th June at 7.15pm

TUNER 15

Sat 13th & Sun 14th June at 12.00pm
ALL SEATS £5.00

CHARLIE THE WONDER DOG PG

Mon 15th June at 2.00pm
 Tues 16th June at 7.15pm
 Wed 17th June at 2.00pm
 Thurs 18th June at 3.00pm

MY MOTHER'S WEDDING 15

Fri 19th - Thurs 25th June

PROGRAMME TO BE CONFIRMED
PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Fri 26th & Sat 27th June at 7.15pm
 Sun 28th June at 6.00pm
 Mon 29th, Tues 30th June & Wed 1st July at 7.15pm

DISCLOSURE DAY 12A

Sat 4th July at 7.30pm. **LIVE ON STAGE**

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ALDEBURGH GARDENING CLUB

The first time I went to the Chelsea flower show would have been about 45 years ago. I was blown away by the flower displays in the marquee. The bearded iris in particular were displayed en masse with the flowers at about waist height and the range of colours was amazing.

The big petals have a unique velvety looking texture, showcasing the intense colours to perfection. I still get the same awed reaction today when I look at the flowers. The downside of them as a garden plant of course is the short season but maybe that helps make them seem especially delicious.

I have acquired a few over the last few years, digging out a couple of old Cistus bushes to provide the ideal sunny position for them. I am reliably told they will also cope in the dappled shade of deciduous trees; as long as it is on the dry side they will do very well.

I was given three Benton End hybrids which were produced by Cedric Morris in his Essex garden and have become quite popular again in recent years. Cedric produced elegant flowers in clean shapes and colours. Many modern hybrids have come from the USA where there is a preference for huge and frilly. See the 'Honky Tonk Blues' picture which is a lovely colour but over-frilled to my taste. There are worse, believe me or maybe visit the Cayeux Iris website at iris-cayeux.com and see for yourself. It is worth wasting an hour to marvel at the variety they have and they do, of course, also have beautiful unfrilly ones too.

While I think about it, I am told the new import rules mean that plants imported from abroad have to have no soil with them so plants from companies like Farmer Gracy (the Netherlands) are arriving bare rooted. This is not a problem of course for bulbs but for perennials and shrubs, delays might be problematic for plant health.

Our grandparents of course got all mail order plants bare rooted, often wrapped in damp newspaper and hessian so perhaps I am being unfairly judgemental.

Last year my 'Benton Susan' iris produced a full seed head which I planted when it was ripe and I now have five seedlings. I know the chances of them being as good as their parent are very slim but I couldn't resist. The lure of those fat seeds and the mystery lottery of what I will get was too strong.

Producing new bearded iris plants vegetatively couldn't be easier. Once flowering is over dig up the rhizome, cut off any old, soft or shrivelled bits, split what's left and replant, being careful not to bury the rhizome. Cut back the leaf fans by half to reduce water stress. This should ideally be done every couple of years.

I am getting a little collection now and can recommend dwarf 'Cherry Garden' which is a very good doer, and last week I bought 'Langport Wren' which is a bit taller, from Ladybird nursery in Snape. This one I remember from the days of the Bressingham catalogue, so as it is still being sold I suspect it too will be a good doer.

Karen Mountford

aldeburchgardeningclub.org.uk



Langport Wren and blue Dutch Iris

A CHARITY INDIAN LUNCH

June 14th, 1pm at Sibton Church. IP17 2BN

While the world looks towards other crises, people in rural south Asia continue to find staying alive just as challenging; living somehow in inadequate housing, without public services or even a patch of land or a well for clean drinking water to support them.

On June 14th the Friends of St Peter's Church, Sibton are hosting a three course Indian Lunch in Sibton Church organised by the Suffolk based charity Al Tazid Foundation (Reg. Char. Nr. 1164525).

The food is cooked by professional chefs of Royal Jorna Indian Restaurant in Ipswich.

All funds raised go directly to help the poor in rural NE Bangladesh who struggle to live at subsistence level.

Come and hear how the charity works in communities personally known to trustees of the Foundation.

Tickets (£25 - cash only please) will be available on the day. In order to help estimate catering needs, please email sibtonchurchfriends@gmail.com by 12th June with the number of people in your party intending to come.



RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve
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[rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/minsmere](https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/minsmere)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUN 11 Minsmere Safari. Our guides will treat you like a VIP as they take you on an exclusive tour in our 4x4 vehicles, introducing you to some of Minsmere's special wildlife, habitats and hidden history. Excellent photographic opportunities. Four people maximum per vehicle. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281. Website: events.rspb.org.uk/minsmerer

JUN 13 The Lettering Arts Trust Pop-up Shop and Letter carving talk. 10am - 5pm at Aldeburgh Church Hall, Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP15 5DY. 11.30am Tour of letter carving in the church yard and talk; 12noon - 1pm. Drinks. Free event

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JUN 13 & 14 Westleton Garden Trail. 14 varied and interesting gardens will be open and the new Village Allotments. Large and small, old favourites and new ones too. Come and take a stroll through this picturesque village and enjoy the diversity of gardens and perhaps find some ideas to take away. Refreshments available at the Village Hall and a plant stall. All proceeds to local charities. Entry by programme from the Village Hall at £5 each on the day, accompanied children under 16 free. Programme covers both days and gives the opportunity to split your visit over the weekend. 12noon - 5pm at Village Hall, Westleton, IP17 3AD

JUN 14 SWT Wildlife Open Garden. Lovely wildlife garden to explore with lots to see for all the family. Refreshments available to purchase. Free entry, cash donations welcome. 10am - 4pm at Long Acre, Church Road, Theberton, IP16 4SF

16 JUN Fantastic Flowers at RSPB Minsmere. Join RSPB's flower expert, Steve, to discover some of the fantastic flowers found at Minsmere. The May walk will focus on the flowers of Minsmere's drier habitats, including grasslands and heath. In June we'll look at the marvellous marshland flowers. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281. 10am - 12noon at Minsmere IP17 3BY

JUN 24 Fram Concerts: Rose Gosney (Violin). BBC Young Musician quarter finalist 2024 and former leader of the National Youth Orchestra with Duncan Honeybourne (piano). 1.30pm at Framlingham Church. Tickets £10 by email: framconcerts@outlook.com, on the door or online @ www.ticketsource.co.uk/framlingham-concerts

JUN 24 Free Health Walk at RSPB Minsmere. Meet like-minded people on a lovely walk around Minsmere. During the Health Walk access to the reserve will be free. Depending on the weather and walkers' abilities and preferences, we will take a coastal, woodland or reedbed route. No dogs are allowed, except assistance dogs kept on a short lead. Led by RSPB volunteers trained as Health Walk leaders, these walks are run as part of the One Life Suffolk health walks programme. Grade: 2 or 3. 1.5 - 2 miles / 1 - 1.5hours. 11am - 12.30pm. Email: minsmerer@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281

JUN 25 Saxmundham History Society meeting. 'The Old Shops of Saxmundham' with Richard Wills Crisp & Rob Potter. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in the URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham. IP17 1BJ. Visitors £3. Annual membership £18. Enquiries to Jenny 01728 604608

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SUFFOLK COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE

Next in our busy summer programme is our Annual WCIT Festival. 'WCIT Fest' celebrates a year of music-making in Suffolk schools, bringing together large numbers of young musicians. Events take place from **15 - 26 June** at venues in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft. Parents are invited to attend afternoon performances, giving children the opportunity to rehearse and perform together - often for the very first time.

Applications are now open for talented young musicians to join our County Music Groups, Suffolk's flagship youth ensembles offering a season of high-quality music-making. Open to brass, percussion, string and woodwind players, our County Ensemble programme offers a rich variety of opportunities throughout the year, including Suffolk Youth Orchestra, Suffolk Youth Wind Band and Suffolk Young Strings.

Participants can enjoy rehearsal days, prestigious concert tours (this year to Spain and Sweden), and performances at leading venues such as The Apex in Bury St Edmunds and Snape Maltings Concert Hall.

Remissions are available to support families who may need financial assistance, helping ensure that all young people have the opportunity to take part. To find out more about the wide range of activities available for children and young people across the county, please visit: www.suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/take-part



Suffolk Youth Orchestra, Lower Strings ©Suffolk County Music Service



Suffolk Youth Wind Band ©Suffolk County Music Service



Pupils participating in WCIT FEST '25 © Suffolk County Music Service

Follow us on our social media pages for more updates

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ALDEBURGH PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Photoshoot 17 June 2026

The beautiful tranquil setting of Snape Maltings is the location for our next group meeting. Nestled within the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape, Snape Maltings sits on the bank of the River Alde and is just six miles from our usual base in Aldeburgh. A feast of photographic opportunities awaits us from an array of wildlife attracted by the reedbeds and river, old converted Victorian buildings and sculptures by Barbara Hepworth.

Local photographer and writer, Richard Allenby-Pratt, will be leading the photoshoot and he will help us observe and better record the things we see with our cameras and smartphones.

Richard has won international awards and exhibited his work globally.



Closer to home, Richard leads 'The Suffolk Project', a study of the East Anglia landscape and its people so he is very well acquainted with the unique and fragile beauty of this coastal area.

If you want to know more, or if you want to check for up-to-date information please visit the website: www.aldeburghphotographygroup.org.uk

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ART IN THE BARN

A Celebration of East Anglian Artists at Old Hall, Southwold

This June, Old Hall's Big Barn will burst into life as more than 50 East Anglian artists transform it into a vibrant, undercover gallery overlooking the Blyth Estuary. It's a one day celebration of the region's creativity - colourful, eclectic, and full of the character that makes our corner of the world so special.

Visitors can explore an inspiring mix of disciplines: watercolour, printmaking, sculpture, textile art, collage - alongside many more imaginative forms. And this isn't just a chance to browse: every piece on display is original art for sale, with work available for all tastes and budgets. Whether you're looking to add something meaningful to your home, buy a gift or simply fall in love with a piece that speaks to you, this is the place to find it.

Even better, the artists themselves will be there throughout the day, ready to chat, share their process, and bring their work to life. It's a rare opportunity to meet the makers behind the art and connect with the creative community that thrives here in East Anglia.

With a stunning rural setting, a welcoming onsite café, live music, easy parking, and free entry, it's the perfect day out... relaxed, inspiring, and rooted in local talent.

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JUNE AT ALDEBURGH CINEMA...

Lots of 4K feelgood this June with a cracking line-up of movies and more...

THE STRANGER is the new film from multi award-winning writer-director François Ozon - a gripping adaptation of Albert Camus' landmark novella about a detached young expat under trial for murder in French-colonised Algeria.



In the heartfelt and funny **MOTHER'S WEDDING**, three sisters (Scarlett Johansson, Sienna Miller, Emily Beecham) return to their childhood home for a momentous occasion: the third wedding of their twice-widowed mother (Kristin Scott Thomas). Over the weekend, the family gathers to celebrate the new marriage, but mother and daughters alike are forced to revisit the past and confront the future, all with help from a colourful group of unexpected wedding guests.



ROSE OF NEVADA is award-winning Cornish director Mark Jenkin's third feature film. When a fishing boat, the Rose of Nevada, lost with all hands 30 years ago, mysteriously reappears in the old harbour of a forgotten Cornish village, for those who remember, it's surely a sign. The boat must go out to sea again and maybe then the luck of the devastated village will turn. Young father Nick and enigmatic newcomer Liam join captain Murguey, and they head to sea. But when they return, satisfied with their haul, they find something is amiss.

VIRGINIA WOOLF'S NIGHT AND DAY is an un-romantic comedy about a passionate astronomer, Katharine Hilbery, who does everything she can to avoid romantic love and marriage. Fun and contemporary in tone, this refreshing film showcases an ensemble of humorous performances against the ravishing backdrop of London in 1910. Haley Bennett, Elyas M'Barek, Jennifer Saunders, Lily Allen, Jack Whitehall and Timothy Spall star.

Dustin Hoffman, Leo Woodall and Havana Rose Liu star in **TUNER**, where a gifted piano tuner's meticulous skills lead him to discover an unexpected aptitude for cracking safes, turning his life upside down.

We fully expect to bring back, for limited screenings...

Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci in the hit sequel **THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2**.

Steven Soderbergh directs Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel in the delicious **THE CHRISTOPHERS**.

Hugh Jackman and Emma Thompson star in the witty, new breed of mystery **THE SHEEP DETECTIVES** that proves that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE - Based on the beloved The Faraway Tree series of novels, Polly and Tim and their children Beth, Joe and Fran are a modern family forced to relocate to the remote English countryside.

Our June programme isn't finalized at the time of going to print, but we also hope to bring:

POWER BALLAD - When Rick (Paul Rudd), a past-his-prime wedding singer, meets fading boy-band star Danny (Nick Jonas) during a gig, the two bond over music and a late-night jam session. But when Danny turns one of Rick's songs into the hit that reignites his career, Rick sets out to reclaim the recognition he believes he deserves - even if it means risking everything he cares about.

Please visit aldeburghcinema.co.uk for full details about what's on and when. There, you can also book tickets and easily sign up to our regular email newsletter. We're also on X, Instagram and Facebook.

NT LIVE: LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

Thursday 25 June at 7pm

BAFTA Award-winner Lesley Manville joins Aidan Turner in a striking new staging of Christopher Hampton's celebrated adaptation of the classic novel, where among the glittering salons of the super-rich, one misstep can mean ruin. Marquise de Merteuil is a master in the art of survival. Alongside the magnetic Vicomte de Valmont, they turn seduction into strategy and weaponize desire. But when their alliance collapses into rivalry, the battle between them threatens to destroy everyone in their path. Based on the novel by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos and filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, Marianne Elliott (Angels in America) directs this thrilling game of love, lies, and social warfare.



PROJECT UPDATE

JUNE 2026

The works on Sizewell C are progressing very well and on track. We have launched a new hybrid website comprising the Sizewell C Works Tracker and causeway one that can be accessed from the Works Tracker.



This new feature will give the community further information on traffic management and road works across the East Suffolk network which help people plan journeys and further improve accessibility. The site will include an automated table of works related to Sizewell C which is updated in real time: szcworkstracker.co.uk/causeway-one-network



Information on the business support service and tourism fund which are managed by East Suffolk Council can be found at: eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/business-support/resources/sizewell-c-tourism-events-grant

Construction works around the Friday Street roundabout and Yoxford roundabout continue with the removal of the redundant parts of the A12 and building of the footways. Once these are complete later this summer, the landscaping work will begin with initial planting of new hedgerows, trees and grass in the autumn.

At Yoxford, the similar work will require a weekend closure 8pm on Friday 19 June - 5am Monday 22 June.

In early June, we will start the next phase of the A12 improvement works. This time in Marlesford, in which a new pedestrian crossing will be built along with road junction improvements. These works will involve night time road closures and day time traffic management. The Sizewell C Works Tracker will be updated throughout the works.

The Park and Rides are open with Sizewell C workers parking their cars and catching a bus to get to the Leiston sites. The road adjustments have been completed around the Wickham Market site, and the roundabout at the Park and Ride in Darsham continues to progress with the required traffic management removed, easing the traffic flow.

Finally, the Two Village Bypass at Stratford St. Andrew and Farnham is now in the full construction phase. Most of the works are carried out away from the existing road network, which will reduce disruption on the road network. The new works compound that will be accessed from the A12 is now operating and the speed limits along the A12 have now returned to normal (30mph through the villages of Farnham and St Andrew, 50mph on the A12 towards or coming from Ipswich).

Thank you for patience during these works. To find out more about the progress of the works the next round of community forums are listed below.

FORUM

SCHEDULE

Forum timings

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

Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 3 June	Stratford St. Andrew Riverside Centre
Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 8 July	Leiston Town Athletic Association (LTAA)

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.



Sizewell C

FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

The first week in June is designated 'Volunteers' Week'. A week to recognise and thank everyone who gives their time to help out in their communities, with charities and other good causes. At Framlingham & Saxmundham Cats Protection, we take the opportunity to thank all who give their time to help and support the branch and the cats in our care. We appreciate every one of them, not just during this one week, but every week of the year. Without them, we couldn't continue with the vital work we do, caring for cats, finding good homes for them, and raising awareness of cat welfare.

Our volunteers include fosterers, fundraisers, transporters of goods, knitters of catnip mice and blankets, cat duvet makers, cat food collectors, those who handle enquiries, and very many more besides. We salute them all!

If you would like to join our friendly and lively team, please let us know via the email address below or call for a chat. We are in particular need of a fundraising event organiser. We look forward to hearing from you if you can help in any way.

Date for your diary: Come and visit our fundraising stall at the Woodbridge Regatta, Ferry Quay IP12 1BW on **Sunday 19th June**

Cat Looking for a Home: Mr Pepper is a beautiful tabby of about 5 years old. He is a shy, quiet, but very affectionate boy who likes to spend most of his time snoozing! Mr Pepper is looking for an adult-only home. He has only ever been an indoor cat, but in time, he may like a secure garden to explore away from busy roads. You can see Mr Pepper and all the cats looking for loving homes here: www.cats.org.uk/framandsax#adopt-all

www.cats.org.uk/framandsax#adopt-all

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

Mr Pepper



DETECTORISTS TOUR OF FRAMLINGHAM

Follow in the footsteps of Andy and Lance on this charming Detectorists walking tour through the picturesque town that brought Danebury to life. This experience blends iconic filming locations with behind-the-scenes insights, local history and the unique atmosphere that made the series so beloved.

This tour explores the real-life backdrop used throughout the show. You'll discover how the production team transformed this historic town into Danebury, why Mackenzie Crook chose this location, and how the setting became such a vital part of the storytelling.

Along the way, you'll visit key locations featured across all three series and the Christmas special, hear fascinating stories about the cast and production, and uncover the real history behind the buildings and streets seen on screen.

Visit the exterior of the pub seen as the Two Brewers where Andy and Lance unwind after a day of detecting and the DMDC gather. Explore the castle and surrounding area that appears throughout the series and learn about its real-life significance, including its royal connections and links to modern pop culture. Discover many more filming spots, including Maggie's shop, the site of the open mic night and hear about the show's music, including the creation of its iconic theme song. See Framlingham College's exteriors, used for Andy's interview scenes and other key moments from the series.

End the tour at the home used for Terry and Sheila, where many memorable moments and meetings take place.

Whether you're a dedicated fan or simply love exploring scenic English towns with rich history, this tour offers a relaxed, engaging, and highly immersive experience.

Tickets: Adults (16+) £25; Children (5 – 15) £20; Infants (0 – 4 years) FREE



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£210,000 FUNDING BOOST FOR SUFFOLK PROJECTS

Six organisations that support East Suffolk communities by bringing people together have been awarded a share of £210,000 from the Sizewell C Community Fund.

The latest round of funding has been presented to a wide range of projects, including sports clubs, community facilities and initiatives that promote positive mental health. With these awards, the total distributed since the fund launched just over 18 months ago now stands at around £4m. Among the latest recipients is **Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures**, a youth wellbeing programme, which has received an £11,000 grant to deliver football and boxing sessions for young people in Leiston.

Paul Knight, Project Manager, Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures, said: *"We're delighted to have received funding from the Sizewell C Community Fund. Our project will provide local young people with more opportunities to take part in sport, promoting healthy lifestyles, confidence, teamwork and wellbeing. Activities will include boxing and football, with young people able to take part in one or both sessions on the same evening, helping them stay active and safe within their local community."*

Around 30 young people currently attend the sessions in Leiston following the project's launch in October. The programme was initially made possible through funding from Sizewell C contractor Breheny Civil Engineering, as part of its social value commitments. Sessions take place every Monday from 7pm to 8pm at Leiston Leisure Centre and are open to young people aged 11 to 15.

Alfie, a young person who currently attends sessions in Leiston, added: *"The Leiston football project has helped me improve my confidence. It's nice to be able to play football and keep active with my mates in the evening when I wouldn't always get the opportunity. It's something I look forward to every week."*

Across Suffolk, Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures runs 16 projects that use sport to build teamwork, provide a safe and supportive environment and introduce young people to positive role models.

The Sizewell C Community Fund, managed by Suffolk Community Foundation, is making around £2m available each year to projects in the East Suffolk Council area. It supports initiatives that promote the economic, social, or environmental wellbeing of communities closest to, and most affected by, the construction of Sizewell C.

Other organisations to benefit from a share of this round of funding include:

Darsham Village Hall, which has been awarded £82,688 to create a new village green where community activities can take place.

Westleton Village Hall, which will receive £54,000 to help fund the second phase of a refurbishment project to bring the hall up to modern standards.

1st Saxmundham Scout Group, which has been awarded £17,448 to buy new equipment and run activities for members.

Saxmundham Museum, which will receive £7,833 to help fund ongoing improvements.

Suffolk Mind, which has been awarded £36,302 over three years to fund counselling and anxiety management courses for residents in Leiston and the surrounding areas.

For more information about the fund, eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit www.sizewellcfund.org.uk or call 01473 602 602.



The Catch22 project

St. Andrew's Church Aldringham

Presents

A Spectacular Floral tribute to the Saints

June 13th. 10 am until 4 pm

June 14th. 12 mid-day until 4pm

Free admission. Refreshment available

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brittenpearsarts.org



Sizewell Creative presents:

KING ARTHUR REIMAGINED: Voicing the land

A vibrant mythic celebration, this unique event unites classical and folk, past and future, community and professional. All with Purcell's vibrant music at its heart, in a theatrical production featuring Norwich Baroque, conducted by Tim Brown, movement provided by Vanhulle Dance Theatre, and with special performances of Gecko Theatre's acclaimed outdoor show, From Here On.

Wednesday 8 July, 2pm & 7pm
Snape Maltings Concert Hall



LEISTON FOOTBALL CLUB

AWARD SEASON IN FULL SWING AT LEISTON

The end-of-season awards presentations have proved successful as the Club acknowledges the successes of not just its senior players, but also many of the Club's junior players.

On a glitzy night at the Flannery Stadium, first team, U23 and U18 award winners celebrated:

CLUB AWARD

Leiston FC top goalscorer of the season: **Ollie Long (20 goals)**

FIRST TEAM AWARDS

Manager's player of the year: **Seb Dunbar**
Players' player of the year: **Fraser Alexander**

Supporters' player of the year: **Eddie Jackson**

Committee player of the year: **Fraser Alexander**

Most MOM Awards: **Adam Mills**

Vice Presidents' player of the year: **Seb Dunbar**

Leiston FC supporters of the year: **Toby Barker & Ethan Kean**

UNDER 23s

Manager's player of the year: **Liam Shaw**

Players' player of the year: **Liam Shaw**

Supporters' player of the year: **Ewan Parlett**

UNDER 18s

Manager's player of the year: **Nathaniel Copping**

Players' player of the year: **Herbie Ellis**

Supporters' player of the year: **Herbie Ellis**

Meanwhile, the Saturday youth section also held their awards at the Club. The winners were:

UNDER 8s

Player of the Month for April: **Jason Jooda**

Fair Play Award: **Eddie Turner**

Most improved: **Charlie Conwell**

Golden Boot: **David Esan**

Players' player of the season: **Leon Tonev**

Supporters' player of the season: **Darcy Southey**

Coaches' player of the season: **Riley Burgin**

Manager's player of the season: **Harvey Howard-Kraft**

UNDER 10s

Golden Boot: **Kade Norton**

Players' player of the season: **George Gounaris**

Supporters' player of the season: **Zachary Clutterbuck**

Fair Play Award: **Gilbert Scaiff**

Most improved: **James Martin**

Coaches' player of the season: **Victor Sebolatan**

Manager's player: **Reuben Green**

UNDER 11s

Most improved: **Aderinsola Sebolatan**

Golden Boot: **Joe Andrews**

Coaches' player of the season: **Laura Haxell**

Parents' player of the year: **Aderinsola Sebolatan**

Golden Gloves: **Elliot Baxenden**

Team player of the season: **Ralph Williams**

2nd Golden Boot: **Samuel Esan**

2nd Most improved: **Beret Savas**

Most tenacious player: **George Marrison**

UNDER 13s

Players' player of the season: **Alfie Davey**

Supporters' player of the season: **Lily Haxell**

Golden Boot: **Zach Squirrell**

Manager's player of the season: **Isaac George**

Most improved: **Kian Meehan**

Coaches' player of the season: **Alfie Davey and Gabriel Amutei**

UNDER 16s

Clubman of the year: **Ollie Baker**

Supporters' player of the year: **Ollie Baker**

Leading goal scorer: **Archie Reynolds**

Coaches' player of the season: **Freddy French**

Manager's player of the season: **Connor Sheppard**

Players' player of the season: **Archie Reynolds**

Most improved: **Archie Hill**

For information on all things Leiston FC, head over to www.leistonfc.co.uk Or follow Leiston FC on X, Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok and Instagram. Season tickets for the new season, as well as sponsorship packages, including are popular Matchday Experience packages, are now available. Contact chairman, Andy Crisp on 07769 904555

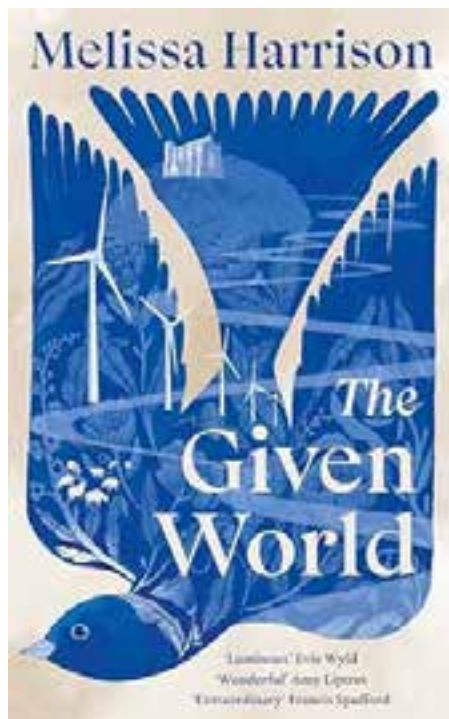


ALL SMILES: Leiston youngsters celebrated on presentation night at the Flannery Stadium. Photo: Nick Boulter.



BOOK REVIEW

The Given World by Melissa Harrison



We have waited several years for a new novel by Melissa Harrison: the wait is worthwhile. Her previous novel, *All Among the Barley*, set in 1930s Suffolk portrayed the darker side of pre-industrial rural life. Nature columnist for *The Times* and acclaimed writer and podcaster on nature and the environment, Melissa presents in her new novel a rich and nuanced portrait of a village, its community, its deep past and its ominous future.

The story is set in the present day and is told over a period of six months from April through the voices of different members of the community.

Tensions between newcomers and the old families, the tough reality of the lives of the farm workers, the deep pull of the folklore and the draining and the swelling of the River Welm are underpinned by intimations of a devastation to come.

But this isn't an eco-diatribes. The sense of unease that pervades the whole novel is a subtle theme in a compelling novel which explores the complicatedness of connections to each other, to the past and to nature. And it is not without humour – I enjoyed the black pepper and samphire scented candle which proves to strong an odour for even the ambitious estate agent.

'The cuckoo has departed the valley unmated. He will not return next spring. Things don't end all at once, though, but in stages; and on the watermeadows a pair of little owls have raised three chicks in a knot hole high in the Treasure Oak.'

(As I write this we have just welcomed the swifts back to Aldeburgh, but alas no house martins at our house in Snape.)

Mary James

The Aldeburgh Bookshop

U3A EAST SUFFOLK

This thriving local members' organisation welcomes anyone retired or semi-retired seeking something new and/or interesting. Its motto is LIVE, LEARN, LAUGH. East Suffolk u3a has a strong following and it offers the chance to participate in more than 150 activity groups, including discussing the arts, history, science, learning a foreign language, walking, quizzing, dining out, short breaks and more. For those wanting to find out more, the organisation's AGM takes place on 8th June at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre at 2pm.

Meanwhile, the group's talks programme continues apace before the summer break.

June 4th, 10.30am at the Salvation Army Hall in Felixstowe: 'Pirate Radio Revolution of the 1960s' with speakers Charles Wright and Brian Nichols.

15th June, 10.30am at Woodbridge Football Club: 'History of Plastic Surgery, both cosmetic and life-saving' with speaker Andy Relf.

11th June, 2pm at Saxmundham Fromus Centre: 'Characters of East Anglia' presented by Mark Michel.

New members are welcome, with the expectation that they will contribute to the success of the group. Membership is on an annual basis and gives members access to all the u3a's many activities, subject to availability and at a very modest cost. Full up to date information is available on the u3a website: www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk or call the secretary on 0300 123 3913.

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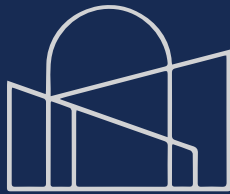
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