

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

JULY 2026

SAXMUNDHAM NEWS



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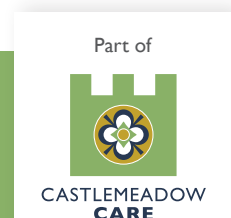
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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Not long now until Sax Community Fest (SaxFest) returns with an extra day added this year. As well as local artists performing throughout the weekend Friday night brings 'Dirty Lookz', performing festival favourites and rock anthems. On Saturday 'Young Elton' entertains with Elton John's iconic hits and on Sunday Ed Nearan brings Ed Sheeran hits, followed by 'Songbird', one of the UK's leading Fleetwood Mac tribute acts. A funfilled weekend and all free of charge! Be sure to put the dates in your diary - **7th, 8th & 9th August**. Thank you to **Ashleigh Sayer** for our cover photo this month, which was taken in Snape.

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

Quote of the Month

When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.

Maya Angelou

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*Hygienist appointments available after 5pm with Rita Hendley







SAXMUNDHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood Plans Published

The planning application for the South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood has now been formally published by East Suffolk Council, marking a significant stage in one of the largest developments ever proposed for the town. The application includes plans for around 800 homes, employment land, a new primary school and pre-school, community facilities, green space and supporting infrastructure. Saxmundham Town Council wants residents to know that, while the site itself is already allocated for development within the adopted Local Plan, there is still an important opportunity for local people to influence how the development takes shape through the planning process. Over the past two years, the Town Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been engaging closely with the developers and planners, scrutinising emerging proposals and pressing for a landscape-led development that is well connected to the existing town and delivers long-term benefits for the community.

Recognising the scale and complexity of the application documents, the Town Council has also been working to help residents access the information and understand how to take part in the planning process. Guidance has been published online explaining how to view the plans, submit comments and understand how planning decisions are made. The Council is encouraging residents to take the time to explore the proposals and add their comments to the application. Thoughtful, constructive comments which draw on local knowledge can play an important role in helping decision-makers understand community priorities and concerns. Information about the application, links to the plans, and guidance on how to comment can all be found on the Town Council website and East Suffolk Council's planning pages.

Progress at Saxon Road Allotments and Community Gardens

Progress continues towards bringing the Saxon Road allotment site back into community use. The Town Council has now agreed to lease the site from Flagship Housing and work is moving forward to prepare the area for future tenants and growing spaces. The project forms part of the Town Council's wider commitment to supporting community wellbeing, sustainability and opportunities for residents to grow their own produce locally.

Alongside the allotment project, the Council is also pleased to see continued progress with the Greener Sax Community Gardens initiative. Work is underway to finalise the lease arrangements which will allow the project to move forward and create a welcoming community growing and learning space for residents. Together, these projects represent an important investment in greener community spaces, local food growing and offer opportunities for people of all ages to connect with nature and one another.

Discover the New Saxmundham Websites: Saxmundham now has two new websites designed to better serve residents, visitors and the wider community. The new Town Council website: www.saxmundham-tc.gov.uk has been created as the central home for civic information and public services in Saxmundham. Residents can find council meeting schedules and documents as well as financial and transparency information. The aim is to make it easier for people to access reliable local information and stay connected with what is happening in the town. Alongside this, the new Visit Saxmundham website: www.visitsaxmundham.co.uk has been launched as a destination website celebrating everything that makes Saxmundham special. The site showcases the town's independent businesses, events, heritage, beautiful surroundings and things to do in the area. It has been designed both to encourage visitors and tourists to discover Saxmundham, and to help local residents keep up to date with what is happening across the town and surrounding area. Together, the two websites provide access to information about civic matters, community life, and promote Saxmundham as a vibrant destination.

Community Calendar

Saturday 11th July, 9am - 3pm: Saxmundham Saturday Market in Fromus Square

Sunday 12th July, 11am - 3pm: Festival of Sport at Saxmundham Sports Club

Monday 13th July @7pm: Saxmundham Town Council Meeting in the Market Hall

Friday 7th - Sunday 9th August: Saxmundham Community Festival on the Memorial Field

Saturday 5th December, 3 - 7pm: Saxmundham Christmas Fayre in the town centre

BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

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

Amateur radio station GB2BRS will be operational on certain days over the summer, including 19th July. Come and say hello to the world or perhaps listen to the Universe!



Over the school summer holidays we will be again running our Spy Trail. Learn how to become a spy and how to communicate covertly.

The virtual reality Climb the Radar Tower will also be available on 26th July.

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

What's On at
Leiston Film Theatre



Fri 10th July at 4pm & 7pm
 Sat 11th July at 1pm, 4pm & 7pm
 Sun 12th July at 12pm & 3pm
 Mon 13th - Thurs 16th July at 5pm & 7.30pm
 Fri 17th July at 4pm
 Sat 18th July at 1pm & 4pm
 Sun 19th July at 3pm
 Mon 20th - Thurs 23rd July at 4pm
 Mon 27th & Wed 29th July at 12pm
 Tues 28th & Thurs 30th July at 3pm

TOY STORY 5 PG

Sun 12th July at 6pm

**HANDA OPERA
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Fri 17th & Sat 18th July at 7.15pm
 Sun 19th July at 6pm
 Mon 20th - Thurs 23rd July at 7.15pm

SUPERGIRL 12A

Fri 24th July at 12pm & 3pm
 Sat 25th & Sun 26th July at 3pm
 Mon 27th & Wed 29th July at 3pm
 Tues 28th & Thurs 30th July at 12pm

**MINIONS &
 MONSTERS**

PG



Fri 24th & Sat 25th July at 7.15pm
 Sun 26th July at 6pm

DISCLOSURE DAY 12A

Mon 27th - Thurs 30th July at 7.15pm

500 MILES 12A

Fri 31st July - Sun 9th Aug

MOANA PG

Fri 31st July at 7.15pm

MICHAEL 12A

Sun 2nd Aug at 4.45pm

**TOP HAT
 THE MUSICAL** PG

Sun 2nd Aug at 7.30pm

**EPiC: ELVIS PRESLEY
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**THE TOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!
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17th - 23rd JULY

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www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

SAX COMMUNITY FEST

Sax Community Fest (SaxFest) is returning bigger and better than ever in 2026, with an exciting extra day added to this year's celebrations. Taking place on **Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August 2026** at the Memorial Field on Rendham Road, Saxmundham, the free festival promises a full weekend of live music, entertainment and community activities for all ages. Supported by grants, donations, sponsors and the fantastic support of the local community, SaxFest continues its mission to bring people together through music, arts and shared experiences, while celebrating local talent and supporting wellbeing across the area.

Festivalgoers can look forward to a brilliant line-up of live performances across the three days, featuring local artists including **DJ Sebina, Eleventh Hour, Ronan Williams, Alternative Jukebox and Sambooba.**

Friday night will end with the energetic sounds of **Dirty Lookz**, performing a mix of festival favourites and rock anthems. On Saturday, audiences can enjoy **Young Elton**, a fantastic tribute to Elton John packed with iconic hits and plenty of sparkle. Sunday's entertainment includes the hugely talented **Ed Nearan** with his Ed Sheeran tribute performance, followed by **Songbird**, one of the UK's leading Fleetwood Mac tribute acts.

Along with the live music, visitors can enjoy family activities, workshops, food vendors, stalls and plenty of community-focused attractions throughout the weekend.

Returning once again is the popular InfoZone, a welcoming community space offering practical help, useful information and friendly faces from local charities, organisations and support services.

The organisers look forward to welcoming visitors back to Saxmundham for a weekend of live music, entertainment and activities for the whole community.



FESTIVAL OF SPORT & DOG SHOW

Saxmundham Sports and Recreational Club is inviting the local community to a Festival of Sport and Dog Show on **12th July** as part of a fundraising campaign to support the club's future development. The volunteer-run registered charity, based at Carlton Park since the late 1940s, serves Saxmundham and the surrounding villages and offers a wide range of activities including tennis, bowls, football, running and fitness, cricket and boules (pétanque).

Plus an adventure playground and 27 acres of open space for public enjoyment. The club is now raising funds to replace its two ageing pavilions, which are no longer suitable for modern use, particularly as the town grows and demand on local facilities increases. The Festival of Sport will give both juniors and adults the chance to take part in mini games from each of the club's sports sections. Everyone who completes will be entered into a grand prize draw, and medals will be awarded to all entrants.

Stalls, refreshments and additional children's games will also be available throughout the day. Alongside the sporting activities, a Dog Show sponsored by Skinner's will offer rosettes and prizes, with entries taken on the day from 11am at £1 per class. Entry to the Festival of Sport costs £5 for adults and £1 for children under 11. Organisers say they hope the event will provide a fun day out for families while helping to raise vital funds for the next stage of the club's development.

SAXMUNDHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

At our May meeting there was no speaker. Instead we had tables around the room with collections of photo albums. The albums have been compiled of photocopies and newspaper articles collected by Peter Drew of Leiston. Peter has shown these collections at various events and they are the result of many years work.

Our members and visitors were extremely interested in the contents of albums about: Thorpeness, Sizewell, Knodishall, Friston & Aldringham, all loaned by Peter Drew. We were also fortunate enough to have some photographs and information kindly lent by Kelsale. We meet in the URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham.

FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

Unwanted litters continue to arrive in our care. As I write, a family of six, five week old kittens, has just been found and brought to safety. A heavily pregnant female has also come into foster care and is now awaiting the birth of her kittens. This is in addition to other litters already in care. By the time you read this, we will almost certainly have more tiny mouths to feed. If you feel you could help with a donation, of money or food, or a gift from our Amazon Wishlist, please see our website for details.

This is a timely reminder: if you have a young cat, please make sure it is neutered. Whether male or female, speak to your vet about the right time to castrate or spay. Neutering is recommended at around 16 weeks of age and is the most effective way to prevent accidental litters. Neutering doesn't just prevent unwanted litters, it also reduces roaming, curbs fighting, and helps keep cats safer and healthier overall. Please help us reduce the number of unwanted kittens. For owners on benefits or a low household income, the branch may be able to help with the cost of neutering. Call us or visit our website to find out more.

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

Save the date: **Friday, 25 September 2026**. After the huge success of last year's fundraising Quiz Night, we're delighted to announce another - this time at the Fromus Centre in Saxmundham. Teams of up to six people are welcome, and tickets are £5 per person. To book your places or find out more, email: fundraising@framandsax.cats.org.uk

Cats / Kittens Looking for Homes: Many of the kittens mentioned above will be looking for their new start in life shortly and can be seen on our website and our social media pages. Website: www.cats.org.uk/framandsax; Email: enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk; Tel: 01728 723499.



NEW FARM SHOP FOR DARSHAM

The Crickmore Family from Fen Farm Dairy are set to open their third farm shop in early June, in Darsham, Suffolk. Their third-generation farm, which is 14 miles down the road in Bungay, is well known for their brie-style Baron Bigod cheese, their cultured Bungay Butter and their fresh raw milk, which draws customers in from around the UK.

"When the opportunity arose to buy an old agricultural building just off the A12, we couldn't resist" explained Jonny and Dulcie.

"The surrounding Suffolk coastline is our home. We spent our childhoods exploring these towns and villages and climbing trees in the local woods."

"It's always been a dream of ours to bring a slice of the farm a little closer to this coast - to share our products with the local community and holidaymakers."

Customers at the new shop, which is based next door to the 2 Magpies Bakery on Hinton Road, can expect to find all of the produce which is handmade at their farm plus a selection of other East Anglian produce made by friends of Jonny and Dulcie, who share their passion for real food.

"There will also be plenty of grab-and-go lunch and dinner options, for those on holiday wanting a quick and easy (but delicious) meal" said Jonny.



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'ART IN RUINS II'

Come and visit Sibton Church, and the Sibton Abbey Ruins between July 18th & 19th, 10.30am - 4pm.



With local artists and craftspeople displaying their work for sale at Sibton Church, the event 'Art in Ruins' which took place in 2024 was a great success. Nicholas Levett-Scrivener has kindly given permission for visits to the wonderful scenery of the Sibton Abbey Ruins to inspire new work. The Friends of St Peter's Sibton are hosting the display 'Art in Ruins II' at Sibton Church with more art and craft for sale again as well as demonstrations this year. Also available will be information on the amazing amount of artwork contained in the church itself. There will be refreshments all day at the church and parking is free.

Tickets: (Cash only) £5pp. A £15 group ticket for four people is available if there is at least one U16 included in the group.

Artists and the public will also be able to visit Sibton Abbey Ruins with beautiful landscape scenery for photography, drawing or paintings.

There will be guided tours available as always on these occasions. (To allow artists to bring equipment, parking will be available at the site)

Artists and craftspeople, if you haven't applied to exhibit there as yet, there is still space but it is filling quickly! This is a chance for you to exhibit your work and display items for sale in the spacious medieval nave and north aisle of Sibton Church beneath its highly decorated Tudor hammerbeam ceiling. Apply to Friends@sibtonstpeter.com for details around setting up time, terms & conditions or visit the website: <https://www.sibtonstpeter.com>



SAXMUNDHAM W.I.

At our May meeting President Jo welcomed members and guests, with a very special welcome for our speaker, Karen Lear from Leiston. Karen arrived with many buckets of beautiful flowers and greenery ready to give us an excellent demonstration of flower arranging.

Karen finds her material from around where she lives, from friends' gardens and buys flowers such as Alstroemeria from a local producer. Karen advised us that we should always put flowers and greenery in water for a good "drink" before we arrange them.

There were five different sized arrangements using different flowers, which were all fantastic.



The hand tied bouquets were particularly spectacular, fascinating to watch the assembling.

At the end ladies gave very grateful applause and five lucky ladies won the arrangements in our raffle.

We meet in the URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham.

On **Thursday 16th July** at 2.30pm we will welcome Marcus Hayward for some wellbeing and breathing exercises.

On **Thursday 17th September** at 2.30pm Steve Everett will do a presentation about Minsmere and the deer rut.

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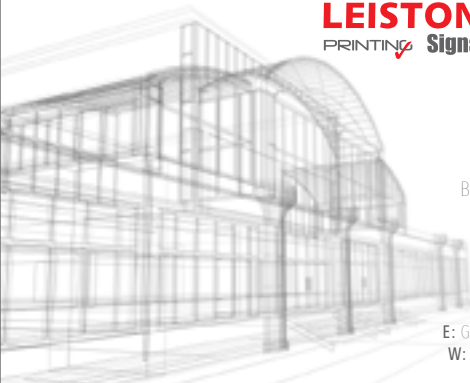
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S K C CHURCH

A Benefice comprising of St John's Church, Saxmundham, St Mary & St Peter's Church, Kelsale & St Peter's Church Carlton.

Football's coming home!* This summer sees the return of the FIFA Men's World Cup and at the time of writing the tournament is just beginning. When you read this England have either been unceremoniously dumped out of the group stages, or we're progressing through the knockout stage. In the lead up to the World Cup there were weeks of speculation as to who might make the team and all eyes were on Thomas Tuchel, England's manager, as to who he might pick. The question he needed to answer was who might make the best team with the highest chance of winning.

Then for six weeks (or less depending on if/when England exit the tournament) our hopes are pinned on the 26 men chosen to represent the country. For each 90-minute match that hope is then placed on 11 men. It's even worse when we get to penalties and the hopes of the nation rest with just one person.

I enjoy watching national sport competitions and I do get excited when England win, but surely there must be something better to place our hopes in? If you're not a football fan you've already said yes to that question! In church we talk about having hope in Jesus (not the football player Gabriel Jesus). We place our faith and our hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why? Because if Jesus died and rose again it means that even death is not the end. We have hope for life after death. Because if Jesus died and rose again it means the price has been paid for all of the bad things in the world and we can have a relationship with God again. Because if Jesus died and rose again it means he can send the Holy Spirit to be with us in all things, the good and the bad. This hope isn't transitory or based on the merits of people who might let us down. It is a confident assurance that Jesus is who he says he is and does what he says he does. This doesn't mean that we don't doubt, doubt is a normal and important part of faith and everyone has doubts from time to time.

So, whether the England men really do it this year and, after 60 years of hurt, football does come home or whether we've already exited after an abysmal group campaign, I remain hope filled for my hope is in someone else.

We'd love to explore hope with you. If this has interested you at all we'd love to see you on a Sunday morning or afternoon some time. Sold-out hope-filled people, no-hopers, doubters, and everyone in between is welcome!

*England's Women made the final of the World Cup in 2023 and won the Euros in 2022 and 2025. The Men haven't made the World Cup final since they won in 1966 and made the Euros finals in 2020 and 2024 but haven't won. Arguably football did come home with the women.

With every blessing,

Dave Preece

Rector Saxmundham with Kelsale cum Carlton

Sunday 5th July: 9:30am informal service in St Johns, Saxmundham, and 11:00am Holy Communion in St Mary and St Peters, Kelsale.

Tuesday 7th July: 10:30am reflective Holy Communion in St Johns, Saxmundham.

Sunday 12th July: 9:30am intergenerational service in St Mary and St Peters, Kelsale, and 11:00am Holy Communion in St Johns, Saxmundham.

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

Sunday 26th July: 9:30am informal service and 11:00am Holy Communion both in St Johns, Saxmundham. 4pm Wild Church, check our website for location.

BURSARIES SUPPORT YOUNG LOCAL TALENT

Young people who seek to pursue a career in the performing arts sometimes face huge challenges. Not only is there fierce competition for places in recognised colleges, but the costs of travel, living and accommodation on top of tuition fees and associated expenses can represent a daunting obstacle to prospective students and their parents.

In a bid to help home-grown talent fulfil its potential, the local charity, Friends of East Suffolk Performing Arts (FESPA) awards one-off bursaries of up to £1500 to a few carefully selected students each year.

FESPA bursaries are designed to provide financial support and encouragement to deserving students of the performing arts who either live in the area or have strong local connections and who have already obtained a place at a recognised institution. Each student is required to submit an application form and CV and specifically to explain how the bursary would be of help. References also have to be supplied.

In the last sixteen years, FESPA has awarded bursaries worth more than £75,000 to students of acting, dancing, music and stage management.

If you are hoping to start a specific performing arts course in the autumn this year, now is the time to submit an application.

You can let FESPA know later if and when you receive a definite offer of a place. The closing date for completed applications is midnight on **Friday July 31 2026**.

To ask for full details and to obtain an application form, please email James Rand at fespa_bursaries@gmail.com

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WILD GARDEN STUDIO

Our gardens are places to socialise in, spend time in and garden in, however they play a much larger role in reversing the decline in biodiversity and curtailing the effects of climate change. The benefits gardens bring underpins the approach of the recently launched Wild Garden Studio who design and create gardens with a difference.

"It's time we change our approach to gardens, so we create spaces which ground us, calm us and invite us in, allowing us to spend time with friends and family while also becoming hotspots for nature and having a positive effect on the planet." says Jonathan Mitchell who directs Wild Garden Studio. *"We achieve this by working closely with clients to understand their needs and wants from their garden and creatively including the latest research in ecology to create spaces which are elegantly different"*.

Jonathan launched the new venture to run alongside the successful landscaping company Teasels Landscapes who for the last 15 years has built and maintained award winning gardens across Suffolk and Norfolk. Joined by Katy Haywood Smith, a young, creative garden designer whose passion for nature heavily influences the flowing, naturalistic style of her work, together they hope to inspire people to connect with nature through their garden while still experiencing all the other benefits gardens bring.



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IP17 GNS

Friday Boogie is Back! This much-loved feelgood session is led by Bev, who has a wonderful knack for lifting everyone's spirits. Whether you want to fully commit to the dance, have a wiggle in your seat, or simply enjoy moving in whatever way works for you — everyone is welcome. The idea isn't to be good at dancing. It's to have fun, enjoy the music, and connect with other people in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Friday Boogie: Saxmundham Market Hall, Fridays 11.30 am – 12.30 pm. Come along, bring a friend, and half a laugh together.

Wednesday Games Club: Looking for a friendly midweek activity? Our Wednesday Games Club takes place in the Gannon Rooms every Wednesday afternoon and everyone is welcome. Enjoy a range of board games and relax among friends. Refreshments are provided and the sessions are completely free to attend. Whether you're a seasoned player or just fancy a chat over a cuppa and a game or two, we'd love to see you there. **Wednesdays, 12.30 - 3pm** at the Gannon Rooms

The IP17GNS calendar is full of other opportunities to join in:

Social Supermarket & Café: Tuesdays 9.30 - 11am at the Gannon Rooms

Gather And Grow: 9.15 – 10.45am at the Market Hall

Men's Breakfast: First Sunday of the month, 9.30 - 11am at the Gannon Rooms

Donations Needed: We continue to support local people through our community activities and food provision, and donations are always hugely appreciated. If you are able to help, we warmly welcome: Cash donations – find the link on our website; Food donations – donate at Saxmundham Pharmacy, Suffolk Building Society, or the Gannon Rooms.

Every contribution, no matter the size, genuinely helps and makes a difference within our community. Thank you for your continued support.



ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

In a change to our previously advertised programme, the July meeting of the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group will be a talk by Janet Few entitled 'Presenting and preserving the past'.

As family historians, we are the current custodians of family memory. With each generation that passes, some of that information leeches away. We owe it to those who follow to halt that erosion and preserve as much as possible of our family heritage.

Family anecdotes and memories, photographs and our own reminiscences are part of that legacy, as well as the stories behind heirlooms and artefacts of family significance. These may not be items of monetary worth but their value in our shared past can be incalculable.

This talk does not focus on scientific preservation and conservation techniques but on the importance of being a custodian of memory, with a duty to hand that down, giving suggestions as to how that might be achieved.

Dr. Janet Few is a British historian, genealogist, and author specialising in 17th-century social history. Best known for her educational books, living history interpretations as 'Mistress Agnes' and award-winning historical fiction, she is the president of the Family History Federation.

The talk takes place on **Monday 20th July** at 2.30pm, in person at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL and, for members only, on Zoom. No need to book - just turn up - free for members and £5 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits.

Good, free car-parking. Membership only costs £10 for a year - see <https://www.avsfhg.org.uk/join-us?section=register> - and Zooming is free.

Further Programme:

No meeting in August

Sat 12 Sept: Family & Local History Open Day, Fromus Centre, Saxmundham

Mon 21 Sept: 'Hands Across the Sea' - Helen Baggott

Mon 19 Oct: Members' Stories

Mon 16 Nov: 'Epidemic Diseases and our Ancestors' - Janet Few

Mon 14 Dec: '200 Years of Farming History' - Ashley Cooper



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18:00 GATES

19:30 FILM STARTS

21:10 FIREWORKS



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**FREE
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MARMALADE AT THE READY

Leiston to host free open-air Screening of Paddington in Peru

- Showing marks 50 years since the Town Council saved Leiston Film Theatre
- Film being shown at Victory Road Recreational Ground on Saturday 1 August
- Event supported by Sizewell C, Leiston Film Theatre, Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council, Long Shop Museum, and Leiston Events Group

Get the marmalade sandwiches ready - Leiston is gearing up to host a free open-air screening of Paddington in Peru this summer.

Delivered in partnership with Sizewell C, The Long Shop Museum and Leiston Events Group, the event will celebrate 50 years since the Town Council saved the much-loved Leiston Film Theatre.

Taking place at Victory Road Recreational Ground on **Saturday 1 August**, the event promises a bear-y special evening, complete with food and drink stalls and a fireworks finale to round off the celebrations.



Wayne Burns, General Manager of Leiston Film Theatre, said: "I am so pleased that our community can gather together to celebrate the fact that our town is home to Suffolk's oldest cinema. The Town Council made a bold move in 1976 when they effectively saved the town's cinema, not only securing the venue's continuation, but also as a major asset for Leiston. It's not always been easy, but the Film Theatre remains, thanks to the Town Council's ongoing commitment and belief in its cultural importance."

Paddington in Peru was selected by the community through a vote on Leiston Film Theatre's Facebook page.

The much-loved bear triumphed over strong competition from Disney's live-action Lilo and Stitch, and A Minecraft Movie.



Marjorie Barnes, Head of Public Relations at Sizewell C, said: "We are incredibly proud to sponsor this special event and to play a part in celebrating such an important milestone for Leiston.

"The Film Theatre holds a unique place in the town's history, and it will be wonderful to see the community come together to celebrate its legacy in such a memorable way. Events like this create lasting memories for families and bring people closer together, and we're honoured to support an evening that showcases the very best of community spirit."

Originally opened as the Leiston Picture House in October 1914, Leiston Film Theatre has been a cornerstone of the town's cultural life for 111 years. After a decline in cinema attendance in the 1970s, the venue was saved from closure in 1976 by the Town Council, which has since invested in carefully updating the building to meet the expectations of today's audiences.

Today, the cinema continues to bring people together, standing as both a historic landmark and a thriving community asset at the heart of Leiston.

Nicky Corbett, Mayor of Leiston, said: "Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council is justifiably proud to be responsible for the continued longevity of our fantastic Leiston Film Theatre. Thanks to the foresight of our predecessors back in 1976, the venue continues to be our Council's jewel in the crown. This celebration will no doubt be an outstanding success and it's great to see how joint working between our sponsors Sizewell C, the Town Council and the Leiston Events Group has resulted in such a tremendous, family event for our town. We can all look forward to an exciting evening. Marmalade sandwiches are optional, of course."

Gates open at 18:00, with the film starting at 19:30. Fireworks will begin shortly after the film ends.

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FROM JENNY RIDDELL-CARPENTER, MP



I have been continuing my campaign for better rail services across Suffolk Coastal, particularly on the East Suffolk Line between Lowestoft and Ipswich, where residents have repeatedly raised concerns about frequency and the need for earlier morning and later evening services.

This work has included bringing together key partners to focus on practical solutions. Recently, I hosted a roundtable in parliament with Greater Anglia, Network Rail and local authorities to look at how we can improve services and ensure our communities benefit from stronger, more reliable rail links. I will also be hosting a further roundtable later this month to continue that work and maintain pressure on delivering improvements for local passengers.

One of the ongoing issues I have been raising is the impact of a new evening service between Lowestoft and Beccles which does not currently extend into communities across Suffolk Coastal.

I have been told this is due to freight paths being used for Sizewell C construction materials during evening and overnight slots.

While I strongly support the principle of getting freight off our roads and reducing HGV movements through our towns and villages, I am concerned that this arrangement is limiting the opportunity to provide better passenger services for local people.

I have raised this directly with Sizewell C, Network Rail, Greater Anglia and local partners, and also with the Rail Minister, Lord Hendy. Following our meeting, he has written to me confirming that he shares these concerns and has asked Sizewell C, Greater Anglia and Network Rail to look again at whether freight services can be adjusted to allow improvements to the passenger timetable.

If that is not possible, I will continue pressing for alternative solutions, including the potential for an evening bus service funded through Sizewell C to ensure local communities are not left without transport options.

Better rail services would make a real difference to daily life in our area - supporting workers, students, local businesses and the wider visitor economy. I will continue working with partners and using the July roundtable to push for clear answers and practical improvements for residents across Suffolk Coastal.

As always, my team and I are here to help with any local issues you may be facing. If there is something we can support you with, please do get in touch.

Contact:

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

A NEW CULTURAL CHAPTER....

Framlingham Arts aims to strengthen the town's cultural identity, expand creative opportunities for young people and enhance the wellbeing of residents through shared artistic experiences. Restoring The Old Theatre building is central to that vision, unlocking it's potential as a vibrant hub for performance, learning, and community connection.

A summer community project has been organised to raise funds towards the refurbishment.

Summer 2026 Production – A Community Project - A Midsummer Night's Dream
Performances on 30 & 31 July and 1 August 2026
Venue: The Old Theatre, Church Street
Director: Peter Hamilton Dyer (RSC/Globe)

This joyful staging of Shakespeare's classic comedy will showcase the imagination, talent, and collaborative spirit that Framlingham is known for. The entire cast and backstage team are local volunteers, bringing the town together in a shared creative achievement.

We're no longer seeking volunteers, but we are inviting the community to support this project by:

- Booking tickets to enjoy the show
- Becoming a sponsor to help secure the future of The Old Theatre and Framlingham's cultural life

All details can be found on the Fram Arts Upcoming Events page: www.framarts.org/upcomin. Framlingham Arts invites the whole community to get involved in this exciting new chapter - helping to shape a cultural legacy that will benefit the town for generations.



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via the app and on Alexa

HUBFEST 2026!

Let's hope that Saturday 1st of August is firmly engraved in your minds or on your calendar. This is an annual event not to be missed. It will sneak up upon us before we know it. Bigger and better than before, Hubfest is the Glastonbury of Huntingfield but without the mud and in the absence of a cowshed.

We are so fortunate to have some amazing bands and artists lined up. We have a mix of genres for even the most discerning music taste. Starting off and opening the event at 1pm on stage 1 will be the hugely talented **Matt and Jon**, playing an acoustic mix of well-known covers, with their duelling guitars and haunting harmonies. Arrive as early as you can, so not to miss one of the best performances of the day.

2.10pm to 2.45pm on stage 2 the **Halesworth Ukulele Band** will be performing those toe tapping rhythms. In bright Hawaiian shirts and demeanour to match they will play a set of popular and well known songs, accompanied by Chris Turner on bass and Andrew Hyde on lead electric ukelele.

On at **2.45pm** on Stage 1 we are lucky to have the exceptional talent of **Steve J Curtis**, a local professional singer songwriter, playing a mix of blues, country and Americana.

At **3.45pm** on stage 2 we have a four-piece band, called '**Ain't Bitter and Twisted**' comprising of double bass, guitar, violin and vocals playing an eclectic mix of 'twisted' folk, along with a bit of country and pop. They are joining us all the way from down south.

At **4.30pm**, often described as Suffolk's Finest Rocking Blues Band, **The Blyth River Blues Band** are a classic Chicago-style Rockin' Blues band playing the music of B.B. King, John Lee Hooker, Howling Wolf, Z.Z. Top, Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac, and many more, to an exhilarating and professional standard.

At **6.15pm** the **Zig Zag Box Cars**, a four-piece band, of drums, rhythm and bass guitar and vocals, will play well known 60s, 70s and maybe some 80s, popular covers. A recently formed band (in the last two years), going from strength to strength.

At **8.00pm** our headlining and final band, **The Annex** who burst out of nowhere in 2024 to take East Anglia's previously undiscovered electro-art rock scene by storm. With pumping bass riffs by Richard Bassett and Ju Brooks welded to hypnotic beats, vocalist/lyricist Ben Sharratt nails the melodrama and jeopardy of Halesworth market town life.

In addition we have a number of food stalls catering for all preferences and tastes, along with craft and similar stalls. Of course, the Huntingfield Arms will be providing a bar.

The event runs from **1pm to 9pm** and tickets can be obtained at a discounted price of £9 from the Huntingfield Arms in advance or £10 on the gate on the day. Free parking in the field, curtesy of Heveningham Hall. Any queries: huntingfieldhubfest@gmail.com

The Hubfest team: David, Peter and Jeannette



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

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

Train with us to be a Citizens Advice volunteer!

We are always looking for people to join us. We asked a recent volunteer to describe her experience of the training, and the Citizens Advice team.

"I had listened to a friend talking about being a volunteer at Citizens Advice and his enthusiasm was infectious.

"However, he is a retired lawyer so it made sense for CA to have snapped him up.

"Pushing the JOIN US button on the Citizens East Suffolk website was easy. Then the fear set in when the online form to apply appeared. As I filled in the form I became increasingly dubious about my credentials. I had owned and run a shop for 20 years. My computer skills were limited and I had no idea how to sign my completed form online, so I printed it off, signed it with a pen and posted it in a post box. I heard nothing so after a month I emailed the CAES CEO just for confirmation of my rejection.

"It turned out that my form had never reached her. Lesson one - everything is now digital.

"After an interview I was allocated what my sons laughingly called 'a handler'. She was an essential part of the training. Almost all the rest of the training is online. On first sight it is frankly terrifying and almost overwhelming. I am not a natural with a laptop. Cut and paste for me involves scissors and glue. The trainer takes you through every step and encourages you just to keep going. You do have to commit though and there is a lot of information to read. It also takes a while to get used to the enormous amount of capital letters and to remember what they all stand for. AA it turns out is Attendance Allowance, not a vehicle recovery service or a support group for recovering alcoholics. You do not have to know everything. Laws on Welfare, Housing and Immigration change all the time. Lesson Two – the Citizens Advice 'Advisernet' provides most of the answers if you know which button to push.

"While you are ploughing through the internet training you also spend days at the offices. I went to Woodbridge and the outreach at Saxmundham library every week and saw how being a volunteer adviser actually works. The CA volunteers, supervisors and trainers are a fantastic team. They are full of enthusiasm and are endlessly supportive throughout the whole process. Everyone smiles and strives in equal measure to provide a wonderful service. It is genuinely rewarding and worth the hard work needed to qualify for the rota."

If you would like to volunteer with us please email us through our website and come for a chat: www.caes.org.uk/email-service.

For advice on any issue you can also email us. Or you can phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10-2 Mon-Fri).

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUL 5 SWT Wildlife Open Garden. Beautiful large garden, with recently created wildflower meadow and prairie style planting. Established wall garden, orchard, pond and moat with 2 bridges. (please note pond and moat unfenced, so please take care). Refreshments available to purchase. Free entry. Card or cash (preferred) donations. No dogs. What 3 words: workroom.cattle.swanky. 11am – 4pm @ Wolseyhouse Farm, Hog Hill Lane, Strickland Manor Hill, Yoxford IP17 3JF

7 JUL 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. July's walk will be mainly along the coast, discovering the special flowers of our dunes and vegetated shingle. Email: minsmere@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281. 10am – 12noon at Minsmere IP17 3BY

JUL 8 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. 2pm & 7pm Snape Maltings Concert Hall.



JUL 20 Birds for Beginners at RSPB Minsmere. Friendly guides will provide tips on choosing and using binoculars, which field guide or App to use, and how to improve your birdwatching. The walk will include a visit to a couple of hides to put newly learnt skills into practice, Ticket price includes a hot drink plus reserve entry. Email: minsmere@rspb.org.uk; phone: 01728 648281

JUL 22 Free Health Walk at RSPB Minsmere. Meet like-minded people on a lovely walk around Minsmere, home to some of Suffolk's greatest wildlife. No dogs are allowed, except assistance dogs kept on a short lead. Led by RSPB volunteers 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: minsmere@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281

JUL 23 Saxmundham History Society meeting. Visit to Colchester Castle for Roman Artifacts. Enquiries to Jenny 01728 604608


JUL 25 Wenhaston Produce and Craft Market. Handmade cards, jewellery, handbags, unusual clocks, soaps, face serums, perfumes, famous Dexter Beef, homemade jams, chutneys, honey, cakes, fresh bread, savoury pies, plants and much more. Tea, Coffee and Homemade Savouries and Cakes in the café. New stallholders welcome. Please park with due care and attention For further details contact Carol at: caz-mike@outlook.com. 10am to 12.30pm at Wenhaston Village Hall


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PROJECT UPDATE

JULY 2026

As we enter the summer, we are finalising work to complete the construction phase of Yoxford and Friday Street roundabouts at the end of July.

Traffic cones and compounds will be removed at Yoxford, and the roundabout will be handed over to Suffolk County Council Highways. At Friday Street, traffic management will be significantly reduced, however access to the construction of the two-village bypass for Stratford St Andrew and Farnham will continue. Grass seed will now be sown ahead of further planting in the autumn.

Along the B1122 corridor the required smaller road closures are being implemented. Pretty Road is now closed for the duration of the Sizewell Link Road construction. Further down the B1122, the Moat Road junction remains closed, however Abbey Lane has now reopened and Buckleswood Road is due to be fully opened without traffic management in mid-July.

Road safety improvement works along the A12 continue in Marlesford. A temporary speed limit is in place to ensure the safety of all road users as the pedestrian crossing is installed, pavement and road junctions improvements and upgrades are all carried out. These works are due to be completed in the late summer.

Work at our Park and Ride sites continue, with further capacity being increased at the Wickham Market site with the access roads now complete. The roundabout at the park and ride in Darsham continues to progress, with the required traffic management now lifted at peak times. Willow Marsh Lane has now been reopened to traffic, pedestrians, and cyclists.

The rail link work continues at pace, with all the tracks laid for the temporary rail line around Leiston installed and trains beginning to run in and out of the temporary construction area. Over the coming months level crossing gates will be installed or upgraded along both the Saxmundham to Leiston, and Ipswich to Lowestoft branch lines, specifically at Melton and Darsham. This will require road closures and traffic management throughout installation.



All our works and planned road works can be accessed on our Works Tracker. Please sign up to receive bespoke alerts via email or SMS.

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

Main Development Site Forum

Wednesday 8 July 18:00, at the Leiston Town Athletic Association (LTAA)

Northern Transport Forum

Wednesday 5 August 18:00, at the 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.



SAXMUNDHAM SPORTS BOWLS CLUB

The Saxmundham Sports Bowls club held its Annual Tournament last Sunday, 14th June. We were generously sponsored this year by the Suffolk Building Society, for which we are very grateful.

The weather was kind to us and we hosted 16 teams from various Suffolk leagues. The overall winners were the Morphew family team, Ian, Marie, and Daniel. Many congratulations to them.

Thanks once again to all who took part and to the Suffolk Building Society for their sponsorship.



L to R: Kirsty Cracknell, Marie, Ian & Daniel Morphew



Ian Morphew receiving the trophy from local Building Society manager, Kirsty Cracknell

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SAXMUNDHAM SPORTS CRICKET CLUB

Some you win, some you lose....

At the time of writing we are a third of the way through the season – 6 games played – 3 wins, 3 losses. On the whole the weather has been kind with only 1 game affected and that was a 25 over game.

Our second game of the season saw Kirby II visit and a close encounter. Batting first, which Sax have done in all 6 of their opening games, Ray and Gary shared a useful opening partnership of 92 when Gary fell 5 short of his 50. Wickets fell steadily and Sax ended on 161, Ray scoring 42. Sax also looked to be in command until Kirby's captain came into bat at number 8, scoring 52 no to see Kirby home by 1 wkt.

The first away game at Dedham, on the hottest day of the year so far, Sax wickets fell regularly with only Gary scoring 57 and a Sax total of 142 not proving enough with Dedham knocking off the runs in 27 overs.

The next home game against West Bergholt III saw a better batting performance, including a 101 partnership between Ray and Isuru with Sax finishing on 206/6. Despite 3 good scores from the West Bergholt batsmen, Sax were always in control and won by 12 runs.

June 6th saw a rain affected game reduced to 25 overs. A good start of 69, Isuru for 35. Gary batted on until the 22nd over and was stumped for 50, Sax ending on 134. Harwich III, travelling with a very strong side, which included a number of 1st team players, reached the target without loss in 17 overs.

The long trip to Brightlingsea saw another good opening partnership of 76 between Ray and Gary before Gary was out for 40. Enter Suranga for a quick 51, Ray finishing on 37 and a quick 16 from Mark at the end saw Sax finish on 191 all out. With some tight bowling (wides aside) Brightlingsea never challenged and finished on 59 all out, Gary 3/4, Suranga 2/1 Rosh 2/11.

During this period club stalwart Gary Butler reached 5000 runs for the club. Congratulations, and may many more come your way.

Our thanks go to our sponsors The Poachers Pocket and BMC Automotive.



MID SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY

Suffolk's award winning only standard gauge heritage railway mid-summer programme - Vintage trains and added attractions most Sundays.

5th July: Steam Railway & East Anglian Practical Classics Day: The East Anglian Practical Classics Group have been visiting us for nearly 10 years now. We will be pleased to see them again with an extraordinary collection of around 20 vehicles from yesteryear, even though some, at least, represent the move from rail to road transport in the middle of last century. All the Middy facilities will be open and steam trains will be running throughout the day.

12th July: Steam Railway Day. A day to enjoy all the Middy has to offer with steam train rides on our genuine Great Eastern Railway coaches, all well over 100 years old, pulled by a vintage steam locomotive, 110 year old Peckett saddle tank no.1370 'May'. Trains run from 11am to the new station 'Aspall Halt' where visitors can admire the Suffolk countryside the railway was built to serve.

Middy volunteers will be in action to provide the vintage train rides and all the railways facilities will be available, including the Museum, Restoration Shed visits, Tea Room and the Middy Real Ale Bar.

19th July: Steam Railway & Suffolk Craft Fair Day. The original purpose of the Middy was to bring coal in and transport, usually agricultural, products out to the wider world. Until transport improved Mid-Suffolk mainly looked after its own needs making and/or creating answers to whatever was required to satisfy local requirements. The Craft Fair will bring to the Middy purveyors of locally produced products and examples of skills of yesteryear plus, of course rides in our steam hauled vintage trains. Living history!

26th July: Steam Railway & Vintage Motorcycle Clubs Day. The annual visit by owners of some exhibition, but still running, early motorbikes, many of which are contemporaneous with the running of the actual Mid-Suffolk Light Railway during the first half of the 20th Century.

Examples from Ipswich, Norwich and Kings Lynn sections of the club are promised this day.



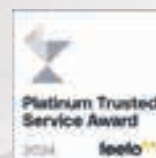
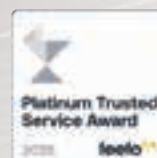
A great opportunity to see the evolution of 2-wheeled motor transport, (optimum viewing time midday) and you can ride the trains as often as you like during your visit. Railway Museum, shop, tearoom and real ale bar all open.

Standard entry prices apply for all July dates: Adults: £15; Children under 16: £8; Families (2+2) £38; Concessions/over 65: £12. Free parking and as many train rides as you like during the day. For more programme information visit: www.mslr.org.uk



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ALDEBURGH YACHT CLUB NEWS

In our last update we mentioned Matilda Nicholls, a club member from Aldeburgh, who is in the British Sailing Team and her campaign to compete at the Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028. We are thrilled - and very proud - to report that she won the Silver Medal in the ILCA 6 Women's European Championship held in Kastela, Croatia in May. This is a huge milestone and we hope to report on her other achievements over the summer.



We hosted 14 young people from South London to participate in a week-long programme in association with the BigKid Foundation. All went out sailing, took a powerboat trip to Orfordness and saw and learnt about the River Alde at first hand. Members of the Club raised a remarkable £16,000 to support the foundation and the programme which now takes place annually.

Year 6 pupils from 13 of the local primary schools joined in our schools programme, supported by the Aldeburgh Yacht Club Schools Sailing Trust. These partnerships are a huge part of our commitment to being an open and inclusive club.

We had sunny weather and light to moderate breezes for most of May before things turned in early June.

We held Flying Fifteen and Wayfarer Open Meetings with over 20 competing boats and staged our Spring Regatta over two days. A number of our cruisers headed north on an East Coast journey.

July and August are the busiest months at the club. Our RYA training programme runs for 5 weeks from mid-July. This caters for all levels and is delivered by our resident instructor and a cadre of 40 part-time qualified instructors. The majority of students on these courses are non-members and use of our training boats is included as part of the package. The programme caters for adults and children. This really is the best way to learn to sail, make friends and become involved on the water with the opportunity to then join in our regattas in August. There are still training places available but we recommend people book quickly: please email via training@aldeburghyc.org.uk. Sailors can then go on to join our RYA Pathway programme that runs throughout the year and join in our many other races and events on the water. We are always keen to show visitors and potential members around the club and to introduce our team. Anyone interested should get in touch via clubmanager@aldeburghyc.org.uk and visit our website www.aldeburghyc.org.uk.

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF ALDEBURGH AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

(Charity Number 247890)

invites you to a

GARDEN PARTY

In the hospital grounds

Sunday 19th July 2026 3pm – 5pm

We will be serving tea and coffee
with cake (inc gluten free)
all made in the hospital kitchen.
Live music too. Do come. Bring a friend.

Free entry. Just turn up.

All welcome.

RAFFLE

Join or renew
your membership.



The League of Friends of Aldeburgh and District Community Hospital is inviting the local community to a summer Garden Party on **Sunday, 19th July 2026**.

The event will take place from **3pm to 5pm** right in the hospital grounds. Attendees can look forward to a relaxing afternoon featuring live music and a free-to-enter raffle. Refreshments, including tea, coffee, and a selection of cakes (with gluten-free options available), will be served—all freshly prepared on-site in the hospital kitchen.

The Garden Party is free to enter, and no prior booking is required; Just turn up and bring a friend along. In addition to the festivities, the event will offer a wonderful opportunity for supporters to either join the charity or renew their existing membership.

All are welcome to attend and support the vital work of the League of Friends.

The League of Friends works to raise vital funds for specialised equipment, capital projects, and community health initiatives that enhance care and support for patients and staff at the hospital and in the community generally.

SUFFOLK COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE

Suffolk County Music Service is progressing a range of environmentally friendly improvements at its Martlesham base to boost energy efficiency. Recent upgrades include a new heating system powered by air-source heat pumps, with a mix of infra-red panels and air conditioning units providing year-round comfort. Work is also underway on a new insulated roof with solar panels, and two EV charging points will soon be installed in the car park through Suffolk County Council's Plug in Suffolk scheme.

County Music Groups - Applications Open! We are currently accepting applications to join Suffolk's premier youth music groups for the next season of quality music-making from September onwards. Suitable for brass, percussion, string and woodwind players, our County Music Group programme offers a varied range of activities throughout the year with Suffolk Youth Orchestra, Suffolk Youth Wind Band and Suffolk Young Strings. This includes rehearsal days, an Easter residential rehearsal course, concert tours and performances at venues such as The Apex in Bury St Edmunds and Snape Maltings Concert Hall. Visit our website for how to apply: <https://suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/take-part/county-music-groups/>.

We're looking forward to other events that we have coming up and hope to see you soon! South Suffolk Youth Jazz, St Margaret's Church, Soane St next to Christchurch Park, part of Ipswich Music Day on **Sunday 5th July**; Suffolk Youth Orchestra Prom Concert, **Tuesday 4 August** at Snape Maltings; **Folk East, 21 - 23 August** at Sotterley Estate nr Beccles. This is an especially exciting collaboration with the FolkEast organisers, as we'll be offering violin decorating workshops each morning of the festival (paint and brushes supplied, and of course enough decommissioned violins too!) followed by a playing session in the afternoon; County Music Groups Gala Concert, **Sunday 6 September** at Snape Maltings

Please visit our website www.suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/take-part, where you can learn more about the wide range of activities we offer your children and young people at various locations across the county. Follow us on our social media pages for more updates and find out how you can join in!

Tel: 01473 264203

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MODERN DAY MAGICK

Witchy emporium casts a spell over paranormal researchers

Two 'ghost' writers have paid a visit to a local esoteric shop to chat about all things spooky and spiritual. The paranormal researchers called in at The Magickal Emporium in Halesworth Market Place to talk about their latest projects and hear what the shop owner had to say about modern-day magick.

Ann Green is Chief Reporter at Psychic News magazine, the world's longest-running spiritual magazine. She recently brought out a book about the ghosts of Halesworth and is still collecting local stories. John West also writes for Psychic News, has written books on the paranormal, works in film and podcast productions and is now a researcher for the hit spooky series Uncanny, hosted by the UK's 'Go-to Ghost Guy', Danny Robins.

The pair talked to Heather Taylor about her shop that stocks all things magickal including herbs, crystals, tarot sets, books and more. It also hosts events from gong baths to psychic development and tarot reading.

Heather, who goes by the title 'The Witch of Suffolk', opened The Magickal Emporium just over a year ago as a community hub that offers a peek into the witches' way of life in the present day. She set out to create "a sanctuary, a warm and welcoming space for all to experience and enjoy, no matter their background, their faith or stage in their life's journey."

Recently it was one of the venues for the popular Ink Festival, hosting a play titled 'The River Witch'. Heather aims to encourage more gatherings and to enable people to share their own otherworldly experiences without fear of judgement. She also hopes to help change the negative image that witches have held for centuries, which in the past has cost the lives of potentially innocent women and men.

Heather said: *"We are dispelling myths, educating and teaching about folklore and our craft. We encourage people to ask any questions they might have. We're always happy to talk about what we do, how we use our herbs for uplifting teas and wellbeing and for magick."*

"We are women and men that have come together to remember and work with the changing of the seasons. We honour all life, there's certainly nothing evil about us!"

After Ann and John enjoyed a refreshing herbal brew and talked about their work and future projects, Heather added: *"Having Ann Green and John West here was an absolute pleasure. Ann's book 'The Haunted History of Halesworth' is a best seller in the shop, people love to know the local history of the paranormal!"*

"We are so pleased to be stocking two of John's books, especially the recent one 'Britain's Haunted Land', signed by John himself. He has just published a new book called 'The Poltergeist Casebook', which we will soon have in stock. John has agreed to come back later this year to give a talk."

Ann continues to collect local ghost stories and tales of the paranormal, particularly focusing on the villages of Wissett, Rumburgh and the Saints. If you have a genuinely spooky tale please email her at annandco@btinternet.com.

John's website is at <http://www.johnwestmedia.com/john-west---writer.html>

The Magickal Emporium is at 1 Market Place, Halesworth IP19 8BA.



Heather Taylor - 'The Witch of Suffolk'



John West & Ann Green

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

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