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JULY 2026

# SOUTHWOLD ORGAN



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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  
 VERDI'S AIDA** U

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  
 IN CONCERT** 12A

[www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk](http://www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk)



**THE TOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!  
 ON SCREEN 10th - 23rd JULY**



**17th - 23rd JULY**



**ON STAGE SOON  
 COMEDY-DRAMA**

**WHAT COULD  
 POSSIBLY GO WRONG?**

**MORNING  
 CAMPERS**

Leiston Film Theatre, 25th-27th Sept  
[www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk](http://www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk)



## A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Louise Gissing

The Old Hospital are a step nearer the funding goal for their proposed community fitness centre thanks to two grants from East Suffolk CIL Community Fund and the Reydon Trust. I'm sure this will be a great asset for the community, improving health and wellbeing for people of all ages. A new website will be launched shortly so you can follow their progress!


Please drop me a line to boost your business by advertising with us, in one 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](mailto:lou@tidecollection.com)

### Quote of the month

However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at.

Stephen Hawking



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# START YOUR DAY!

mat **BEGINNERS**  
**Pilates**

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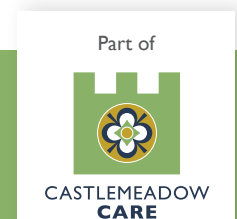
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# SOUTHWOLD & REYDON SOCIETY

**Sandcastle Competition:** It's less than a month until our Sandcastle Competition, which will take place on **Saturday 11th July** (in front of Gun Hill) from 12.30pm to 3pm, followed by judging and prizes being presented at 4pm. We are delighted to be able to announce that Charlotte Clark BEM our Southwold Library Manager and local leading architect John Bennett have both agreed to be on the judging panel for our Competition. There will be prizes donated by local businesses for a number of categories including: best Southwold themed sandcastle; best animal sandcastle; best decorated sandcastle; and best ball run (for a tennis ball). The competition is free to enter, so please put it in your diary and come down and enjoy the fun!

**Harbour and Estuary:** We are now represented on the Harbour Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG). The SAG was established in late 2021 as part of the Southwold Harbour Management Committee (HMC) stated commitment to give user groups a platform in which to voice their views on plans for the harbour and caravan site. The SAG aims to meet just before each HMC meeting with a minimum of twice a year and we are looking forward to working with other member of the group, which is currently chaired by Henry Walker of Southwold Sailing Club, to promote the interests of our community and local environment.

**King Charles III Way:** We have recently written to both Natural England, which has the power and the obligations under a Statutory Instrument to establish this footpath.

We have also written to our local MP, Jenny Riddle Carpenter and in turn to DEFRA and Suffolk County Council, which has the responsibility to carry out the necessary works, to ask again for a date when our section of this national trail between Southwold and Pakefield will be open. All these agencies have stated previously that the Southwold-Pakefield section will be open this year. It would be very disappointing if this didn't happen in time to catch the summer months, which are so important to our local community, especially for local businesses and visitors. Without this section of the footpath it is not possible to walk safely and at all times north of the pier.

**Southwold & Reydon Society walk leaflets:** We are pleased to announce that, due to popular demand, we have printed another 2000 copies of our walk leaflets, and have so far distributed half of those to the tourist information centre, library, Stella Peskett Memorial Hall and a number of hotels who had requested further copies.

The leaflets are also available to download from our website.

**Southwold Arts Centre (SAC):** Supported by generous donations and support from local trusts, work on refurbishing and renewing the roof of the Arts Centre is complete. The external brickwork is next on the list. Meanwhile, a varied programme in May included the Southwold Arts Festival and June hosted Slaughter in Southwold and our Shakespeare Week of films, workshops and lectures. July plunges us into the Summer Theatre which runs from late July until early September. A busy time for all involved and a vital time for volunteers! 01502 725400; 07932355401.

**Local Business Community Group:** This newly formed group has had its first meeting, with around a dozen local businesses attending. It has plans to produce a booklet showcasing our local businesses and is approaching Sizewell C to see if funds could be available for this.

**Ian Benson**



## SOLE BAY MEN'S SHED

It's been a busy month in Sole Bay Men's Shed. The rowing boat that was in its final stages of completion has now been finished with the application of four coats of marine paint and is now ready for sale. The antique garden bench restoration is well underway and we are expecting it to be placed on Southwold's cliff top. The cost of materials was raised for 'Ginger's bench', which is to be completely rebuilt and the plans have been agreed, so work will have started by the time this goes to print. Our smaller outbuilding, which is intended for metal working, is currently being wired and we hope it will be operational by the end of June.

Bug hotels are our next line in production, but these are a little different, as they look like beach huts and are painted in colour gloss. All the money raised in the Shed from sales, go towards our running costs and new tools.

If you are over the age of 18 and would like to join Sole Bay Men's Shed, email John at [solebaymensshed@btinternet.com](mailto:solebaymensshed@btinternet.com) for further details. Our annual membership fee is just £20.

**John Huggins**

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# LOCAL WILLOW WEAVERS' SUCCESS AT CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

A team of four willow weavers (three from Southwold and Reydon), has played a key role in an award-winning rose garden at the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London. Heritage Willow, a partnership between former teacher Chris Webster and his three former students, Josh Hart, Charlie Temple and Jake Whiting, was commissioned by David Austin Roses to build a series of eight bespoke curved willow rose beds. The display in the show's main pavilion attracted significant media attention this year following the release of a unique rose created to mark the 50th birthday of Sir David Beckham.



**Left to right: Chris Webster, Charlie Temple, Jake Whiting and Josh Hart during the willow rose bed construction in the RHS Chelsea Grand Pavillion**

*"We were approached by David Austin Roses back in January to be part of the project. They always produce an impressive and sophisticated display, and this year the aim was to create a classic Cotswold-style English rose garden, featuring a stone wall and a series of eight low, curving willow rose beds. When we first saw the plans, we were hugely excited to be part of the installation team,"* said weaver Josh Hart.

The team were allocated a strict construction window of 8 days to create the willow rose beds, which required careful logistical planning.

*"All of our willow is soaked and then mellowed over a period of eight to nine days before it reaches the perfect condition to work with. We had to carefully coordinate the regular arrival of freshly prepared willow from Suffolk to ensure we were always working with it at its best. If the willow becomes too dry, it will snap and break; if it is too moist, it will flake and shed its skin. It is a unique balancing act,"* said Chris Webster, who was responsible for preparing the willow and supplying the team in London.

Despite the challenges and complexities of the project the team were delighted with the final outcomes with the David Austin rose garden receiving a highly prized gold medal.

*"Our regular work largely involves creating bespoke willow fencing for gardens across East Anglia, so this was quite a change of scene for us. It has been a fantastic experience for the whole team.*

*We were delighted to deliver exactly what the designers had asked for, and it was especially rewarding to hear so many people complimenting our fencing during the show. While we will be glad to return to the gardens of Suffolk and Norfolk after a period of very long days, we are also looking forward to working with David Austin Roses again at RHS Badminton in a couple of months."* Said weaver Charlie Temple.

Heritage Willow started growing willow in 2020 yet only began weaving operations in 2025. *"We aim to be self-sufficient in willow within the next two to three years. It is a fantastic alternative crop that grows reliably without fertilisers or pesticides, and it is clearly well suited to the land we have here in Suffolk. We hope that, as our willow grows, the business will grow with it."*



**Left to Right: Heritage Willow weavers, Chris Webster, Josh Hart and Charlie Temple**



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# SUNRISE FILM FESTIVAL



Sunrise Film Festival, East Anglia's weekend-long film festival, has officially unveiled the programme for its highly anticipated fifth edition. Running from **Thursday 20 – Sunday 23 August**, the festival returns to its home at the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft, expanding into a town-wide celebration of diverse stories, underrepresented filmmakers, and immersive community experiences.

As a BIFA (British Independent Film Awards) and Grierson qualifying festival, Sunrise has solidified its status as a major force in the UK film industry. Made possible with the support of the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), awarding funds from the National Lottery, this year's festival is set to bring world-class independent cinema to wider audiences than ever before.

The 2026 edition marks a historic milestone for Sunrise, which received a staggering 1,136 submissions from East Anglia, the wider UK, and around the world, equating to just over 305 hours of viewing. From this highly competitive pool, volunteer curators built a bold, enlightening programme featuring 263 films. The lineup boasts 37 world premieres and spans 34 countries, striking a masterful balance between homegrown talent and global perspectives, 31 Local Films showcasing the distinct creative voices of East Anglia, 97 films from across the UK, and 122 International Films representing Ireland, the United States, France, Canada, and beyond.

Programmed across 52 screenings, including relaxed screenings, family-friendly outdoor cinema, curated shorts, feature films, music videos, and virtual reality experiences. Find out more at [sunrisefilmfestival.co.uk](http://sunrisefilmfestival.co.uk).

## SOUTHWOLD FITNESS CENTRE

We are delighted to announce that The Old Hospital has been awarded two more grants towards the cost of creating a community fitness centre at The Old Hospital - from the East Suffolk CIL Community Fund and the Reydon Trust. This means that we have achieved over 80% of our funding goal.

As we rapidly zero in on our target, the gym is becoming REALLY real.

So, what does this mean for us and for you, our community?

On our side, we are developing the brand and website. Once launched, the website will become the central hub for all information about the Southwold Gym. It will include a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section covering opening hours, membership fees, classes, how to sign up, and, most importantly, details of our launch date.

We are putting together the recruitment package for the gym instructor. This is a key role within the gym, helping to create a welcoming, supportive and motivating environment for all our members. Admin is only a small part of this person's role. We have automated booking and entry systems so our instructor can focus on what is most important to us – your health and wellbeing. We will be looking for a caring instructor who embraces working with people of all ages and circumstances. We have a tagline for the Southwold Gym: Fitness, Wellness, Community. Community means everyone!

We have applied for planning permission to install air conditioning in the gym and provide additional cycle storage. We are keen to encourage active travel and follow the example of some of our octogenarian residents who still cycle regularly between Reydon and Southwold.

Suffolk County Council has a fund available to support active transport initiatives. This presents an opportunity to explore an off-road cycle link between Reydon and Southwold via St Felix, the bund and the Blyth Road footpath. Much of the route already exists and is used informally by cyclists and walkers alike. Such a link would help people avoid the busiest section of the current route into town, where traffic can sometimes be challenging. This may be something that you, as members of the community, may wish to raise with local representatives and organisations. Social media is often seen as a place to air frustrations, but it can also be a powerful tool for bringing people together and helping to create positive change.

Onwards and upwards, as we say at The Old Hospital.

**Jessica Jeans**  
Chair

# FESPA SUMMER PARTY

**2nd August 2026 at Southwold Arts Centre, 4 – 6pm**

We are delighted to welcome Emma Freud, Jill Freud's daughter, who will give a personal tribute to Jill at our annual summer party this year, when we will be celebrating the life of the late Jill Freud, who played such a pivotal part in the East Suffolk's arts scene. Lady Freud was a leading figure in East Suffolk's regional theatre and having co-founded FESPA, (Friends of the East Suffolk Performing Arts) she was president for many years and always a huge supporter.

This is a 'Members only' event but you can join using the link below and we'll look forward to welcoming you to your first FESPA event! FESPA annual membership (£15 per individual or £25 for couples) gives access to a wide range of fun events and helps us to support young people with bursaries to train in the performing arts and to support local arts organisations.

There will be some live music, light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the actors from this year's Southwold and Aldeburgh season. We also look forward to seeing some film footage of Jill talking about her acting career and also her time as an evacuee with C S Lewis.

Tickets must be reserved in advance by all those attending. They are available on a first come first served basis by using the link here: [www.ticketsource.com/fespa](http://www.ticketsource.com/fespa)

## Bursaries

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](mailto:fespa_bursaries@gmail.com)



Photo: Stephen Wolfenden



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# OLD HALL, SOUTHWOLD WELCOMES NEXT GENERATION

**Old Hall Southwold has welcomed Will Hall, the next generation of the thriving family business, to its management, while Tudor Bakehouse has taken on the management of Old Hall Café and Walks.**

In a stunning spot on the Blyth Estuary sits Old Hall Southwold, home to Southwold Maize Maze, which first opened its doors to visitors in 2005.

In 2019, the popular Old Hall Café and Walks was added to the site, and the business has grown to now include a varied events schedule, including Antique Fairs, Makers Markets, and music events, many of which take place in The Big Barn, which used to house the farm's dairy cows.

In an exciting change, Old Hall Café and Walks is now under the management of the Tudor Bakehouse, a traditional local baking business with 30 years of experience, and a small chain of accomplished bakeries and cafes. The team at Old Hall Southwold are thrilled to welcome the Tudor Bakehouse to the venue and are certain this local business will be a good fit for the site.



At the same time, Will Hall has joined his mum Bella at Old Hall Southwold to help steer the business' future. These changes enable the mother and son team to focus their time on refining the Southwold Maize Maze offering, the Pumpkin Patch, and an ever-growing list of events organised alongside events manager Emily Portsmouth.

**Will Hall**



*"It's a very exciting time to return to Suffolk and join the family business," says Will. "There are some fantastic events planned this summer, and I'm looking forward to getting involved, contributing new ideas and building on my mum's hard work to help Old Hall Southwold become an even greater destination for events and family fun on the Suffolk Coast."*

*"With Will on board, we hope a fresh and younger perspective will bring some positive changes, and help push the business forwards," says owner Bella, who has been running the site since 2005.*

*"Our goal has always been long-term success, which requires development, growth, and an injection of new enthusiasm," she adds. "Hopefully it will also enable me to spend some more time on the family farm with my husband Dave!"*

Sunday 14th June saw a successful *Art in the Barn* event at the location, celebrating over 40 local artists, and musical duo Darby and Danny returned to The Big Barn on Friday 19th June for an evening of live music, dancing and midsummer merriment.

The first ever Southwold Sausage Walk Summer Festival will be taking place on **Saturday 4th July**;

Bella and Will have teamed up with the original Southwold Sausage Walk founder, Laura, promising a day of food, walks, market stalls, live music and more, all focussing on celebrating the Dachshund. There are still a few tickets left for this event, which is looking to be popular.

On **22nd August**, the Maze by Torchlight event will return, held in conjunction with the Halesworth branch of CRUK, raising money for Cancer Research UK, and providing an exclusive opportunity to explore Southwold Maize Maze after dark! On top of this, an Antiques Fair will be taking place on **30th & 31st August**, hosted by the team from Suffolk Heritage Events, and the Christmas Makers Market will be back in November.

One of the first ever maize mazes to open in the region, Southwold Maize Maze reached a significant milestone last year as it celebrated 20 years of family fun.

This year, Will has worked on the 22nd maze design alongside his mum Bella, which will be revealed in a few weeks. This year's maize was precision planted in mid-May, and the recent wet and warm weather has provided good growing conditions, so the maize maze is on track to be in great shape by the opening date of **Saturday 18th July**.

Southwold Maize Maze will be open every day for the summer season from **18th July until 6th September**.

For further information about the upcoming summer maize maze season and to book tickets for events taking place at Old Hall Southwold, visit <https://www.southwoldmaizemaze.co.uk/>.



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# SOUTHWOLD 365

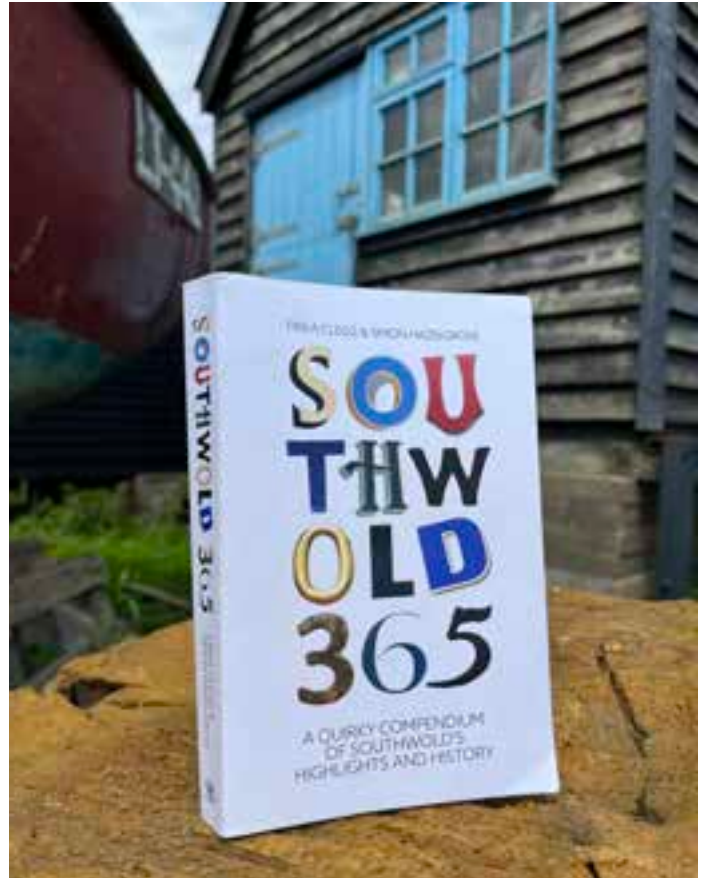
In 2024, I set myself the challenge of celebrating a Southwold gem every single day of the year. What began as a simple online exercise soon grew into an exploration of this charming seaside town's forgotten history, colourful characters and treasures hiding in plain sight.

Once the challenge was complete, it seemed a shame to leave it languishing in the far reaches of Instagram. And so the idea for this book was born. That's when Simon stepped in to reshoot many of my photos, making this a true husband and wife effort.

Our thanks go to Libby Purves and Paul Heiney who have extended the 'husband and wife' theme by kindly providing a forward, sharing their own love of the town.

Thanks to the talented Bex Spillings it has become something rather beautiful, with nearly 400 full-colour pages of photographs, stories and discoveries. Many pages have tick boxes, encouraging readers to seek out the places, experiences and treasures featured in the book and mark them off along the way. We hope that visitors and locals alike will enjoy using it as much as reading it. It will be available exclusively through Southwold Books at launch. They are kindly hosting a launch at 5pm on the **25th July** to which everyone is warmly invited.

**Erika Clegg**



## NEW FARM SHOP

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.



Fen Farm Dairy

### Visit our new FARM SHOP



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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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# SOUTHWOLD LIBRARY

## **Creature Crafts Every Tuesday of the Summer Hols 11am & 2pm**

**21st & 28th July:** Jungle Creatures

**4th & 11th August:** Sea Creatures

**18th & 25th August:** Woodland

Creature

Free Crafts Provided by the Friends of Southwold Library. No need to book.

**Wednesday 22nd July 11am: Meet Local Kids Author Lisa Nickell-Lean with her new picture book 'Snoring is Boring' plus Dog Crafts!** *'Snoring is Boring'* is an enchanting introductory tale of an energetic little girl enticing her sleepy dog to more exciting activities other than boring snoring and sleeping! Will he ever wake up and join in? Maybe, especially if it's to discover fun seaside attractions in sunny Southwold. Becky Carozza is the illustrator.

**Thursday 23rd July 10.30 & 11.45am: Terrific Train Fun! Trainmaster Suffolk @ Reydon Sports & Community Centre** Miles of track and trains to play with plus ride on train and a train roller coaster! £4 per child for 1 hour's play! Limited spaces. Book your place today either through the library or: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary)

**Wednesday 29th July, 11am & 2pm at Stella Peskett Millennium Hall: Summer Pottery Painting with Gallery Thea & Southwold Library.** Mugs, Plates & Bowls. £15 per child. Limited Spaces, book through the library or: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary)

**Thursday 30th July 11am: Sword in the Stone Crafts.** Swords, shields, knights and castles. Free event, no need to book. Celebrating Cambridge Touring Productions performance of *'The Sword in the Stone'* at Thorington Theatre. Visit: [www.thoringtontheatre.co.uk/events/sword](http://www.thoringtontheatre.co.uk/events/sword).

**Summer Reading Quest: Curious Creatures:** Get involved in our summer reading programme for children, open to all ages and abilities! Children can sign up at any library and receive their case file from **18th July** onwards. You can sign up at any time and don't need to read a set number of books.

We encourage children to enjoy reading at their own pace in a fun, interactive way. Reading for pleasure helps children build self-esteem and improve wellbeing throughout life. Bring your case file back to receive a sticker or two! Collect a case file from the library to get started. When you complete the Reading Quest you will receive a medal, a certificate and, at Southwold library, a cuddly creature.

**Wednesday 1st July, 3.30 - 4.30pm:** Come and Read to Amber! Meet Amber the Canine Concern Therapy Dog. Amber loves being read to by young readers. First Wednesday of the month. All children welcome!

**Thursdays 2nd & 16th July @ 2.15pm:** Rummikub Klub. Usually the first & third Thursday. Refreshments available.

**Friday 3rd July, 2.15 - 3.30pm: Blyth Poets 'The isle is full of voices'** - a poetry group meeting. All welcome to read or just listen. We invite contributions of original work or well-loved poems. Refreshment break in The Canteen. Free event, no booking required. First Friday of every month.

**Thursdays 9th & 23rd July @ 2.15pm: Scrabble Club.** All Equipment Supplied. Refreshment break in The Canteen. Free event, no booking required. Second & fourth Thursdays monthly.

**Fridays 10th & 24th July, 2.15 - 4.15pm: Mah-jong Group.** Can you play mah-jong? Do you want to learn? Second and fourth Friday of the month. £1 per person. Second & fourth Thursdays monthly.

**Thursday 30th July @ 6.30pm: Southwold Library Reading Group.** This month we are reading: *'Dream Count'* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Pick up a book at the library. Free event, no booking required.

**Friday 31st July @ 4.30pm: Chess Club.** Free play every week for kids 7+ & adults. Beginners' teaching & assistance. Interested in other board/strategy games? Let us know & we can expand the group.

**Tuesday - Friday: 10am - 1pm & 2pm - 6pm; Saturday: 9.30am - 1pm & 2pm - 5pm; Sunday: 11am - 4pm: Weigh your baby.** No booking required

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

**Wednesdays 2.15 - 4pm: Crochet & Craft Club.** A friendly group for all crafters as well as those who crochet (to any ability). Barbara will be on hand to teach crochet beginners, add to your crochet skills or troubleshoot problems, should you want to. Or just bring along your latest craft project and work on them together. Bring your own equipment or Barbara can supply crochet equipment at a price. Hot drinks supplied. £2 each.

**Sundays 12.15 - 1pm: Lego Club.** Open to kids (and adults) of all ages. This summer we're building: *'Crazy Creatures'*. All donations of Lego welcome. Free event, no booking required. Adults: Would you like to help with Lego Club? Just ask staff

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

**Friends of Southwold Library 100 Club:** Would you like to turn your £1 in £25 and support your library? For just £1 a month you could win £25 at our monthly draw. Southwold Library 100 Club is a fundraising club & money raised will be used to support the facilities and services supplied by the library. More members = more prizes! Southwold Library Jigsaw Swap Shop: Come and help yourself to a jigsaw completely free! You can take one and return it, take one and return a different one or just take one (we have plenty).

**Charlotte Clark**  
Executive Library Manager  
Southwold Library  
Tel: 01502 442817

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## SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY UPDATE

May marked a hugely important milestone in the second coming of Southwold Railway when we ran, for the first time in public, our steam locomotive Blyth. Over 100 visitors came to watch this spectacular event including reports from local papers as well as national railway magazines. This event has gained us and Southwold a great deal of publicity. We plan to steam Blyth during August on 2nd, 16th and 30th. Just a few dates at the moment as there is a cost associated with steaming Blyth, as well as the uncertain situation regarding obtaining coal.

So now we have our steam loco running up and down our track what we need is a replica passenger carriage. This is going to cost around £100,000 and although we have a pledge of money from the Southwold Trust we are severely short of the target, can you help?

During May some of our volunteers have been engaged in training and as such the following are now deemed competent to drive Blyth; Oliver Densham, Richard Stone, Russ Gant and Robin Vintner. In addition, John Handley and Ian Overton passed as fireman. We are very grateful to these people for their commitment, not just for the training but into the future.

We are inviting our Junior members (10 - 18yrs) to join us on **Saturday 1st August** between 11am and 3pm to learn about the railway and to start an experience which could lead to being a driver on the BVL. If you are interested please ask for a membership form.

If you can help in any way you can donate through our website or send an email to: [treasurer@southwoldrailway.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@southwoldrailway.co.uk). Volunteers are also welcome on any Wednesday at Steamworks.

Our next Open Days are on Sunday 5th & Sunday 19th July at Southwold.

### Bob Mole



## HALESWORTH TO SOUTHWOLD NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY CHARITY

The railway charity will hold an Open Day at Blythburgh Station on **Sunday 26th July**, between 10.30 and 15.45. Our visitors will have the chance to ride along a short section of the original railway - 2026 is the first year that this has been possible since 1929. Site entry, light refreshments, and entertainment are all free, while there is a small charge for riding in the passenger train.

Attending the event for the first time are East Suffolk Plein Air Painters – an informal group of artists who enjoy painting outdoor 'en plein-air'. The group of some 300 artists is not tutored, but most are happy to give tips and advice if requested and they welcome any artist, whatever standard, to join. An important function is the social side, and they meet once a month on the last Sunday, the venue will be posted on their site and can be emailed to interested artists. The group consists of both professional and amateur artists - several of whom are well known across the region for their painting and tuition. There will be a small display of finished paintings in Blythburgh Village Hall, which is adjacent to the station. Website: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/239149643623907>.

Meanwhile, the HSNR charity has made the application for planning permission to extend the railway westwards from Blythburgh Station. Last year this had to be withdrawn, as the Parish Council applied to make the trackbed into a Public Footpath. The new application is for the track to move a few metres northwards. You can send a message of support on the East Suffolk Planning Portal, or by letter.

We already have full permission for the station visitor centre: work is now concentrated on compliance with Building Regulations and the provision of services.

The HSNR would like to congratulate our colleagues at the Southwold Railway Trust for their recent first public steaming of replica locomotive 'Blyth', at Steamworks on Blyth Road, Southwold. This was the culmination of many years of work and fund-raising, and is a very fine sight indeed!

### James Hewett, Trustee



# 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 through our website: [www.caes.org.uk/email-service](http://www.caes.org.uk/email-service).

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

## 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.

# VIEW TO THE NORTH

We have experienced all sorts of weather since last month's article, the dry spell continued but then we had wind and rain. The beginning of June was somewhat cool; the central heating has cut in on occasions in the early morning. There have been days when the air has been very clear. The view of Southwold, 120 metres above Town Farm Marsh, shows the town very clearly and I was able to capture, the pier, the lighthouse and St Edmund's church in one shot. The recent wet weather has made the grass very green, good for the grazing cattle and the recently hatched Greylag goslings.



The clear atmosphere has also been good for astrophotography. One of my targets this month was the whale galaxy. Its naming is self-evident; although it is also known as Caldwell 32. The galaxy was discovered in 1787 by William Herschel and is a mere 30 million light years away. It contains a central starburst which is a region of intense star formation.



I am still surprised how few birds I see on my morning walks. I did hear a cuckoo one morning, the sedge warblers are still very noisy in the reeds. Cetti's warblers with their very distinctive call can be heard, although seldom seen. The sand martins are plentiful but there are fewer swallows, and I recollect seeing more swifts in previous years. A frequent visitor to the reedbeds is the marsh harrier; I think it must be feeding young given the number of times it passes by. I have been pleased to see a number of young blue tits in the garden. There are plenty of goldfinches, greenfinches and chaffinches. Great tits like picking bugs off the garden fence. I was less pleased to see a seagull in the garden. Over several days it took the three-remaining fish from the pond. They had been there for over sixteen years and were just left on the garden path – wanton destruction.



There is a patch along North Road which has been planted with wildflower seed. The ox eye daisies have shot up after the recent rain and form a dramatic foreground to the distant storm clouds. The patch contains poppies and foxgloves and I hope to see more in the coming days. I am pleased to report that, the morning I wrote this, I saw the North Road barn owl, the first time this year. If you are interested in more of my photographs, I have recently set up a Facebook page: JH Photography.



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# TILLEY & GRACE OPENS THE DOOR TO ITS WAREHOUSE HQ



Saturday 4th July & Sunday 5th July, 10.30 am - 3 pm @ 38 Yew Tree Courtyard, Framlingham Road, Earl Soham IP13 7SG. Free parking on-site. [www.tilleyandgrace.co.uk](http://www.tilleyandgrace.co.uk)



On **Saturday 4th July and Sunday 5th July**, Tilley & Grace is doing something they've never done before. The family-run Suffolk boutique is opening its warehouse in Earl Soham to the public for a two-day shopping event.

Founder and CEO Sally Hicks started Tilley & Grace when she was in her late fifties with no prior retail experience. She now runs Tilley & Grace with her two daughters and employs 35 women across Norfolk and Suffolk in its Head Office and four stores in Aldeburgh, Holt, Southwold, and Woodbridge.

During the event, everything is for sale. There'll be end-of-line pieces, samples, wholesale-only stock that's never been in store, and brand-new products. Selected items will be available at special event pricing, and every purchase made at the event will earn double Pink Points.

Alongside the exclusive discounts, T&G are using the weekend to hear directly from their customers. Shoppers will have the chance to directly influence the future of the brand, providing feedback on the ideal in-store and online experience, and on what they really want to see on the rails.

*"Starting a business later in life without a background in retail was certainly a leap of faith, but our focus on personal customer service has been the secret to our success. Opening our warehouse doors is our way of saying thank you, while also listening directly to our customers so we can continue delivering an unrivalled shopping experience to our loyal customers."*



## THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY LOTTERY

The local monthly lottery for The Brain Tumour Charity took place on Monday 1st June, with Fred & Kate Assmann being present to adjudicate. There were 230 entries, making a total prize fund of £115. 1st prize of £57.50 with ticket number 25 went to Jeanette Radley-Kane, 2nd prize of £34.50 with ticket number 111 went to Jacqui Garratt and 3rd prize of £23 with ticket number 159 went to Dawn Roper. Congratulations to each of them.

If you would like a monthly flutter, whilst supporting The Brain Tumour Charity, please email John Huggins: [thebtclottery@btinternet.com](mailto:thebtclottery@btinternet.com) or call him on 07873 376168. The lottery is regulated and licensed by East Suffolk Council LOT02110. The next draw will take place on Wednesday 1st July 2026. Every penny raised goes to The Brain Tumour Charity and so far £69,392.00 has been raised from various events.

This has all come about, since the family lost their 8 year old family member Sophie. Due to red tape, the plant sale was cancelled, but most of the plants have now been sold from John Huggins' garden wall raising just over £200.

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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.cats.org.uk/framandsax); Email: [enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk); Tel: 01728 723499.



# Hello Southwold



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via the app and on Alexa



## '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](mailto:Friends@sibtonstpeter.com) for details around setting up time, terms & conditions or visit the website:

<https://www.sibtonstpeter.com>



## DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

**JUL 4 Suffolk Concert Band presents 'Step Into Summer.'**

Whether you enjoy classical favourites, tunes from the shows, contemporary wind band music, a traditional march, a spot of samba or a glimpse of Glenn Miller, you'll find something to like at this summer concert. £15. 7.30 – 9.30pm @ St Edmunds, Bartholomew Green, Southwold IP18 6JA. Website: [www.suffolkconcertband.org.uk](http://www.suffolkconcertband.org.uk)

**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). 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

**JUL 25 Wrentham village hall film night: SONG SUNG**

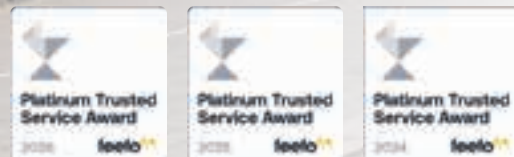
**BLUE** (Certificate 12A). 2025 American musical based on the true story of two working-class dreamers who form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band. Stars Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson. Doors open 18.45, film screens 19.30. £5 on the door. Refreshments available.

**JUL 25 Wenhaston Produce and Craft Market.** Handmade cards, jewellery, handbags, unusual clocks, soaps, face serums, perfumes, our famous Dexter Beef, homemade jams, chutneys, honey, cakes, fresh bread, savoury pies, garden and indoor plants and much, much more. Tea, Coffee and Homemade Savouries and Cakes in the café. New stallholders welcome. Please park with due care and attention so as not to cause any obstruction. For further details contact Carol at: [caz-mike@outlook.com](mailto:caz-mike@outlook.com). 10am to 12.30pm at Wenhaston Village Hall



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# 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.

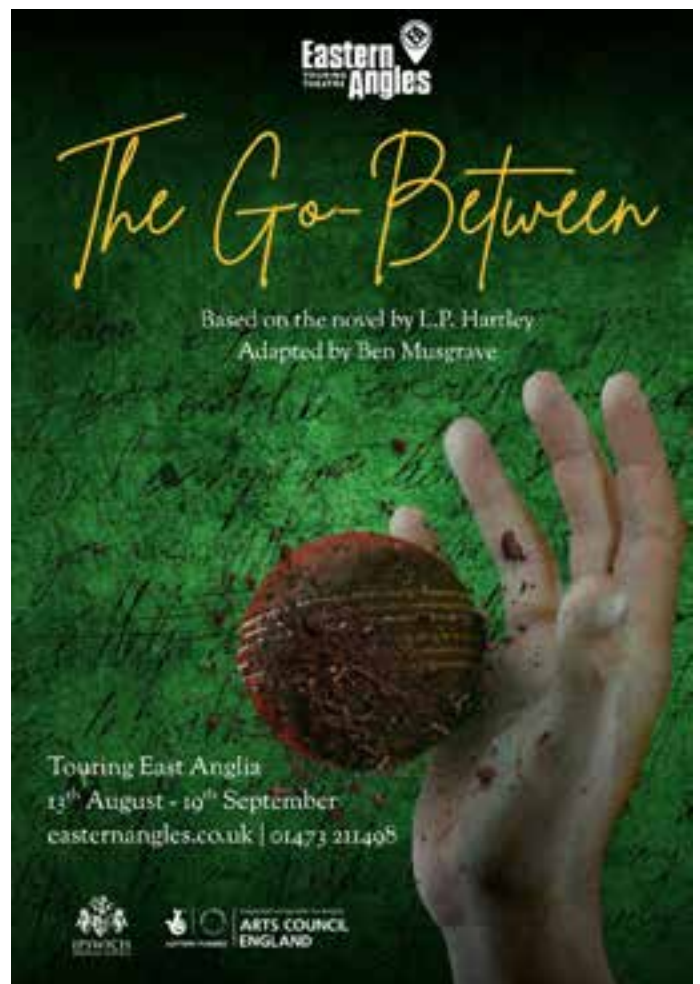
At **6.15pm** the **Zig Zag Box Cars**, a four-piece band, of drums, rhythm and bass guitar and vocals, will play well known 60s, 70s and maybe some 80s, popular covers. A recently formed band (in the last two years), going from strength to strength.

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](mailto:huntingfieldhubfest@gmail.com)

**The Hubfest team: David, Peter and Jeannette**



# 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](https://sizewellc.com/community/forums)

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



## 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](mailto:jenny.riddellcarpenter.mp@parliament.uk)  
**01394 330260**  
[www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org](http://www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org)

## 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 (this year to Spain and Sweden) 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. Details can be found on our website.

County Music Groups Gala Concert, **Sunday 6 September** at Snape Maltings

Please visit our website [www.suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/](http://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; Email: [county.musicservice@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:county.musicservice@suffolk.gov.uk)  
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# LEISTON FOOTBALL CLUB

## JOAO LOOKING AHEAD TO NEW SEASON

Leiston's Timor-Leste international Joao Rangel admits the trust and support he has received at Leiston made it an enjoyable first season for him at the Flannery Stadium. And he tells Blues fans, "There is more to come" as the new campaign hones into view.

The attacking winger, who joined the Blues from Lowestoft a year ago, scored twice in the first three games for Chris Wigger's side, against Halesowen Town and Banbury United last campaign. It helped him settle in nicely to kick on from there. "I feel like I've settled in really well early on," Rangel said.

*"The players made me very welcome and made it easy for me to fit into the group. Chris Wigger put a lot of faith in me this season, giving me the opportunity to play consistently and for 90 minutes, which as a player, is important. I'm grateful for the trust from the staff and the support from everyone around the club."*

Rangel ended up with eight goals overall, from 42 appearances in his first full season at the Flannery Stadium. However, he missed games in October 2025 and March this year as he headed off to play for Timor-Leste in the Asian Cup Qualifiers. The Blues playmaker made his debut away against the Philippines and scored a debut goal in first half stoppage time, although Timor-Leste went on to lose the game in the second half, 3-1.

He then played against the Maldives in their last group match, losing 2-1, before scoring again when Timor-Leste beat Brunei 3-0 last month in a Hyundai Cup clash.

*"Representing your country is one of the best feelings you can have as a player and it's something really hard to describe,"* Joao added.

*"It's always an honour to wear the badge and I'm really looking forward to going away with the team this summer."*

On looking ahead to a new season, Joao is keen to improve individually and help the Blues finish higher in the table this season.

He said: *"The main goal is just to help the team as much as possible, to push for the play-offs and improve on what we achieved last season. Personally, I just want to keep developing my game, stay consistent and contribute wherever I can for the team."*

Joao will be back in pre-season at the end of June with Leiston.

For information on all things Leiston FC, head over to [www.leistonfc.co.uk](http://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: JOAO Rangel pictured with Leiston fans and the Timor-Leste flag.



# 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](mailto: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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The next issue will be published on Monday 3rd August deadline 14th July - but the earlier the better to ensure inclusion

Contacts/Advertisers/Editorial : Louise Gissing at Leiston Press, Unit 1b Masterlord Industrial Estate, Station Road, Leiston, IP16 4JD [lou@tidecollection.com](mailto:lou@tidecollection.com) Tel 01728 833003

Reports, press releases; letters and other editorial contributions with news value are all welcome but are accepted on the understanding that there is no guarantee of inclusion and that they will be selected and edited at the editor's discretion.

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