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AUGUST 2026

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## A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Congratulations to Ron Hepworth, MBE, who recently, not only celebrated 53 years as a Rotarian but also his 100th birthday! A special lunch was held for him and tributes shared. What a contribution Ron must have made to his community over the years and is still doing so! Ron has been described as 'unstoppable'. I'm sure you will join me in sending very best wishes.

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### Quote of the Month

I realise that humour isn't for everyone. It's only for people who want to have fun, enjoy life, and feel alive

**Anne Wilson Schaefer**



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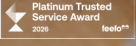
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# WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

## – MAYOR'S MONTHLY

I am writing this at the beginning of July, one month into my new term as Mayor. At our June Council meeting, it was a pleasure for me to appoint Elliot Astbury as the first Mayor's Cadet for this town - it's an annual appointment and the role is to support the Mayor in his official duties. Any older teenage resident in Woodbridge can apply providing they are part of a uniformed group (cadets, scouts, police, etc). A week after the appointment, Elliot supported me at the Civic Service on Suffolk Day.



**Mayor's Cadet, Elliot Astbury and Mayor of Woodbridge, Councillor Nigel Phipps**

Woodbridge Town Council worked with Father Nigel and St Mary's Church to celebrate Suffolk Day on the 21st June. Events were in the Church, on Market Hill, in the Shire Hall and in The Bull Hotel and provided plenty of interest to the day. It's (<https://www.suffolkday.co.uk/>) always on the longest day of the year and the aim is to celebrate all that makes the county (and in our case, Woodbridge!) a great place to be. Each year a town in Suffolk is chosen as the main host and this year it was Bury St Edmunds. The following weekend on 27th June, Woodbridge Town Council, together with our MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, hosted a Community Day at the Football Club for the 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron. The soldiers and their families arrived recently at Rock Barracks, transferring from Maidstone.

As part of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, they have the Freedom of our Town. With a traditional English tea, some games for the youngsters and over 100 badges being made, it provided an enjoyable occasion and an opportunity for the town to show its appreciation of the Gurkhas and what they do for us all.



At our Amenities Committee, we held a discussion about improvements the Town Council might undertake in Warwick Avenue and elsewhere in Farlingaye and Kyson wards. Supporting all parts of our Town remains a priority for this Council and there will be more on this in due course as Local Government Reform gathers pace.

Finally, there is an important consultation out from East Suffolk Council on their local plan. By the time you read this, the first stage of the consultation will have closed but your council has encouraged residents to respond and also made a submission on your behalf.

As Mayor, I send my best wishes to you all for the summer.

**Councillor Nigel Phipps**

Mayor of Woodbridge

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# NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR FARLINGAYE HIGH SCHOOL

Farlingaye High School is celebrating an extraordinary achievement after four of its students were invited to perform at the prestigious National School Theatre Awards, held on 22nd June at London's iconic Gillian Lynne Theatre.

Affectionately known by students as the 'Oscars for schools', the National School Theatre Awards recognise the exceptional talent, commitment and creativity behind school productions from across the UK. This year's ceremony welcomed an audience of more than 1,300 people, including leading figures from the theatre industry, West End performers and actors such as Natale Paris from 'Six the Musical' and award-winning playwright James Graham ('Dear England').

The four Farlingaye students, Sophie May Anderson, Zak Wilson, Freya Balding and Clement Anderson, took to the famous West End stage to perform 'Doll on a Music Box' and 'Truly Scrumptious' from the school's acclaimed Upper School production of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. Farlingaye was one of only 13 schools invited to perform from the hundreds of productions viewed nationwide and was also one of the very few state schools selected to perform alongside leading private and independent schools.

The school's production of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' received an impressive five award nominations, including Best Musical and Best Ensemble, recognising the outstanding quality of the production. Farlingaye is especially delighted to announce that Sophie May Anderson won and was awarded 'Best Female Solo in a Musical' for her breath-taking portrayal of Truly Scrumptious.



Sophie said, "To win is amazing. And it's given me the confidence to pursue a career in music. It was so encouraging to watch the awards and see the quality and talent being performed in other schools."

To have the honour of performing at such a prestigious national event and to return home with an award was, quite fittingly, a 'Truly Scrumptious' experience. The school is immensely proud of Sophie's remarkable achievement and extends its congratulations to the entire cast, band, backstage crew and staff whose dedication, talent and teamwork created such an exceptional and professional production.

Headteacher Peter Smith said: "We are incredibly proud of the students and members of staff involved in this production. To be invited to perform on a West End stage alongside some of the very best school productions in the country is an outstanding achievement in itself and for Sophie to return with a national award makes it even more special. What makes me most proud, though, is what sits behind moments like this, the months of hard work and commitment that help our students to develop the confidence to go and do brilliant things. Opportunities like these are exactly what school should be about, and it is wonderful to see our students recognised on a national stage."

This national recognition reflects the importance Farlingaye High School places on the performing arts and celebrates the incredible opportunities available to its students. The school is immensely proud of everyone involved and is already looking forward to beginning preparations for next year's production.



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# WOODBIDGE & MELTON SOCIETY

After a summer cruise on the Deben the next event in The Woodbridge & Melton Society's 75th Anniversary Celebrations is a talk on Thomas Seckford by Local Historian Mark Mitchels who has researched this topic at length.



Mark has been active in public life in Woodbridge and Melton for many years and was a teacher at Woodbridge School.

He is a photographer and author of many books about Suffolk and Essex, and has lectured on topics ranging from Elizabethan Theatre to the Bayeux Tapestry. Mark's talk will describe how Seckford was a man whose astute political and diplomatic personal skills enabled him to successfully navigate the turbulent reigns of five Tudor monarchs. Seckford left behind him a legacy that ensures that his name is known and revered.

To this day he continues to improve the lives of people in Melton, Woodbridge and Suffolk. In honour of Seckford's contribution to the area this will be the very first of an 'Annual Thomas Seckford Memorial Talk' to be given by prominent speakers.

More details at:  
[www.WoodbridgeAndMeltonSociety.org.uk](http://www.WoodbridgeAndMeltonSociety.org.uk)



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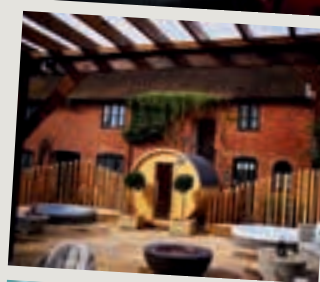
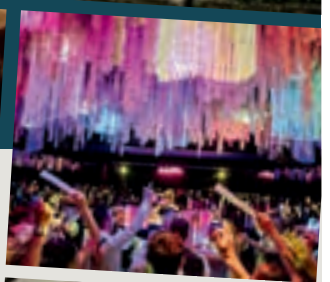
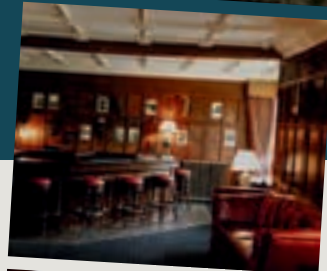
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# FAIRSTEP SOLICITORS

## New Presence for Long-Established Suffolk Solicitors in Woodbridge

While much of the modern legal sector shifts towards automated digital platforms and centralised call centres, Fairstep Solicitors is taking a different approach. The long-established Suffolk firm has expanded its regional presence by opening a new office at 2B Riduna Park, Melton, reaffirming its commitment to accessible, face-to-face high street legal advice. The opening marks a notable milestone for the firm, which has been an anchor of the Felixstowe professional landscape since its founding in 1988 by Michael Stephenson (originally practising as Fairweather Stephenson).

Over nearly four decades, the firm has grown into a 30-strong team, building a respected reputation across core specialisms including residential and commercial conveyancing, wills, probate, and lasting powers of attorney. For the firm's leadership, the move to Riduna Park is grounded in both professional logic and personal ties.

Managing Partner Patrick Cooney, who joined the practice in 1995, is a long-term resident of Woodbridge. Partner Aiden Jakubik, who joined the firm in 2015, also lives locally. Having looked after clients in the Woodbridge area from their Felixstowe office for many years, the partners view physical premises here as a natural progression, allowing them to better serve the local community.

To coincide with the expansion, Fairstep has introduced a refreshed brand identity and an updated website. The new look is designed to reflect a practical, straightforward approach to the law, focusing on clear communication and the removal of unnecessary legal jargon. The new branch also brings modest economic benefits to the immediate area.

The firm is currently recruiting for a receptionist to manage the front desk at Riduna Park, with further recruitment planned for the conveyancing and support teams as the office establishes itself.

Additionally, Fairstep has confirmed St Elizabeth's Hospice as its primary charity partner moving forward, anchoring its support in the wider Suffolk community. The office at Riduna Park features private consultation rooms to ensure client confidentiality. It is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.



**Fairstep Solicitors partners Patrick and Aiden Jakubik, officially opening the new Woodbridge office. Photo: Simply C Photography**

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# WOODBIDGE ROTARY CLUB

## Rotarian Ron Hepworth, MBE, celebrates his 100th birthday

Woodbridge Rotary Club honoured their most senior Rotarian Ron Hepworth MBE with a special lunch during the week of his 100th birthday celebrations after completing 53 years as a Rotarian.

He was of course honoured by the King and Queen with congratulations and a card.

The special lunch at the Bull Hotel was attended by Rotarians from both Woodbridge and Deben Clubs, Inner Wheel and partners of club members. District 1080 was represented by Assistant Governor Richard Perkins.

The history of Ron's involvement with Rotary was shared with those present by the President of the club Robin Pivett. Ron is also a Freeman of Woodbridge.

Letters of congratulations of this wonderful achievement and Ron's involvement with Mencap, The Red Cross, The Methodist Church and numerous other organisations were received from HM Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Mark Pendlington, the High Sheriff Oliver Paul DL, the Mayor of Woodbridge Nigel Phipps, Francesco Arezzo President of Rotary International and past and present District 1080 Governors Ian Graham and Andy Roberts.

Ron was presented with a certificate marking his 50 years' service to Rotary by Richard Perkins although having completed 53 years and was made an Honorary Member of Woodbridge Rotary Club by President Robin Pivett.

Highlights of his membership were shared with all present. Ron was President of the Club in 1980 and 2000 and it is worth remembering that when Ron joined Rotary, petrol was 39 pence per gallon, a pint of beer was 18 pence and a new Ford Cortina was £1,075 - how times have changed.

Ron was presented with a replica of The Presidents' Perch in the same way he was presented a perch when he was President of the club.

Highlights of his endeavours were mentioned, of which there are many but those of particular interest were when Ron joined a convoy taking caravans to Italy after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, the time when he was very vocal in objecting to the closure of a number of Post Offices and when he helped club members understand VAT when it first landed upon us all.

For many years he has compèred the Annual Open Air Carol Service on Woodbridge Market Hill and he will be there again this December at the top of the steps at the Shire Hall.

Ron can still be seen offering a helping hand at many of the events in the town - to quote the Lord Lieutenant "he is unstoppable"!



**Happy 100th Birthday Ron!**



**Ron being presented with his 50 years' service certificate by President of the Club, Robin Pivett**

## TWAM – Tools with a Mission

Some people will remember the time when the 'rag and bone' would tour around streets 'Steptoe-like', with a horse and cart and later, with a battered flat-bed lorry shouting out, incongruously "Any old iron!" Those days are long gone, but what to do with 'any old iron' remains.

Enter 'Tools with a Mission', the UK-based Christian charity founded in the 1980s which continues collecting, refurbishing, and sending redundant tools overseas to support sustainable livelihoods. It collects unwanted DIY and garden tools, together with redundant computers and sewing machines etc. These are refurbished for reuse in third world countries. Its aim is to help provide skills, equipment, employment and income for those whose lives would otherwise be destroyed by the power of what TWAM calls the 'Poverty Thief', which affects lives through disease, lack of education and unemployment. Once refurbished, these tools provide the means for people to start a small business or farm crops.

During the middle of June, Woodbridge Rotary Club ran a two-week campaign to collect these items from across the community, including schools, churches, allotment societies as well the town's residents. Notcutts also collected on behalf of the club at the store's checkout and Houchell's Yard became the final collection point. In total three van loads of tools and other items were collected. This is an amazing result for which we would like to express our gratitude.

If by any chance you missed the collection, then you can still donate at its Ipswich base. The website is: <https://www.twam.uk/>



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## DISCOVER THE MARTLESHAM WILDS RESERVE....



Suffolk Wildlife Trust's local Woodbridge Wildlife Group invite you to join them for a morning nature walk through the Trust's Martlesham Wilds Reserve on **Saturday 29 August**, starting from 9 am.

"Work is progressing on making this wonderful area on the banks of the River Deben into a real space for nature to recover" said Phil Smith, Chairman of the SWT local group

*"We are excited to show our participants how the work undertaken at the reserve in the last couple of years is attracting a wider variety of wildlife to this area."*

This walk starts at 9am from Martlesham Church car park, Church Lane, Martlesham IP12 4PQ and will last until approximately 11am. Places on this walk are strictly limited and must be pre-booked by contacting Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

The cost is £5 per person with under 25s free, and bookings can be made online through [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org) (events section) or by telephoning the local group on 01473 625630. The walk is suitable for children over 10.

Total distance walked will be around 3 km. No dogs except assistance dogs. Participants are advised to wear sturdy footwear and bring binoculars and a drink.

For further information please contact Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Woodbridge Wildlife Group on [swtwoodbridge@outlook.com](mailto:swtwoodbridge@outlook.com) or telephone 01473 625630.

## WOODBIDGE MUSEUM

We are now in our Summer Season and plan to open every day during school holidays. To encourage our younger visitors, we are running a children's story writing competition which is free to enter. We are grateful to Woodbridge Books for their generous support in providing the prizes and judging the entries. The theme for the story is 'The mariner's cat', which is our children's guide around the museum. More information is available in the museum and at Woodbridge Bookshop. Entries can be handed in at Woodbridge Museum or at the Woodbridge Bookshop no later than 5th September.

Friends of Woodbridge Museum Monthly Talks season starts on the 11th September and will be presented by Dave Steward who will talk about Hatfield House and the Cecil family. All talks start at 2.30pm in the Woodbridge Community Hall. Members £4 and non-members £5. The 'Friends' support the work of Woodbridge Museum and if you would like to become a member please see our website for more information.

You will remember that in our June article we had a photograph of a bride laying her bouquet on the Woodbridge War Memorial and we wondered if anyone knew who the couple were. We are indebted to David who has done some great research. He has established that the couple are likely to be Florence Ida Hannah Briggs née Newson (1896-1980), known as Ida, who married Petty Officer Robert Victor Briggs (1890-1971) at Woodbridge on 21st April 1924.

Details of the wedding were reported in the Suffolk Chronicle & Mercury, and the report mentions that the bride's bouquet was a sheaf of arum lilies, which after the ceremony she placed on the War Memorial.

We don't know why she did this but, given the date of her wedding shortly after World War 1, it is highly likely she knew some of the people commemorated on the memorial.



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| Thursday  | 8.30am - *7pm |
| Friday    | 8.30am - 2pm  |
| Saturday  | Closed        |

\*Hygienist appointments available after 5pm  
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# CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE, CEEC

Recently, the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee sat with the main item on the agenda: to consider what our priorities are for the coming year. Where do we put our efforts? What is the best value for money spent when it comes to planning for the future for the people, and other beings, who live in Woodbridge and the broader environment? No hard and fast decisions were made at this meeting. We just went through topics such as floodwater management, preserving and protecting our diversity, and our green spaces. Can we capture and store our rainwater during the stormy times in anticipation of longer periods of drought in the future? Should we aim to install solar panels on WTC property roofs? And hopefully becoming more resilient to increasing uncertainty and extremes in our climate.

There is no air conditioning in the shire hall where we meet. The whole town was still hot from the record-breaking heat wave at the end of the hottest June on record, which followed the hottest May on record. And according to the weather forecast, we will be having another heatwave next week.

There are still people in our town and probably in every town, who protect themselves from the consequences of climate change by holding a principled position of denial - denying that climate change is happening, or that it is some kind of hoax that they have managed to see through. I guess they still sweat alongside the rest of us, but, protected from climate anxiety though denial, they probably won't approve of anything the committee may choose to work on to make the town more resilient in the increasingly uncertain future.

There are people on the committee who have been watching with growing concern for four decades the decline of living conditions on this one and only planet Earth, our home. We used to think that raising awareness of such matters was key for communities to change. But people will only be aware of what they can bear to be aware of. As Al Gore's film, 2010, *'The Inconvenient Truth'* points out, folks don't want to see what they don't want to see. Having said that, looking around our town in the late spring, so many people now have wilding patches in their gardens, front and back, and new ponds are appearing. There are many more bicycles; such that, even with the generous provision of cycle lock spaces provided by WTC, it's often challenging to find a place to lock my bike.

These longer grasses, alongside the many young trees planted on council property over the last few years and multiple 'bee hotels', will have a measurable effect in slowing the rate of acceleration of the heating up of our planet and our town.

Our committee is the only one that includes non-councillor members. Individual councillors and townsfolk members alike can bring items to the agenda for our monthly meetings. We very much appreciate the individual expertise and perspectives and, if you like, pet concerns - that our townsfolk members bring to the table. We currently have a few vacancies. Please consider; would you like to join us, or do you know somebody who would? Just let us know. Drop into the Shire Hall on a weekday or reply on the email address below.

**Councillor Martin Wilks, CEEC**

[councillorwilks@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:councillorwilks@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk)

## FROM JENNY RIDDELL-CARPENTER, MP



Access to good healthcare close to home is something we all rely on, but for too many people in East Suffolk it still feels increasingly out of reach. That is why I have launched a new campaign calling for Saxmundham to be included in the Government's Neighbourhood Health Centre programme.

For more than 20 years, Dr John Havard and the team at Saxmundham Health Centre have been working on an ambitious but practical vision for a 'one stop shop' for healthcare in the town.

This would bring together GP services, diagnostics, dentistry, mental health support, childcare and wider family services all under one roof. Importantly, this is not just an idea on paper - detailed plans have already been developed and are ready to progress.

The Government has committed to delivering 250 Neighbourhood Health Centres across England, with the aim of shifting care out of hospitals and into local communities. This is a welcome and important ambition, particularly for rural areas where distance and transport remain real barriers to accessing care.

However, NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Integrated Care Board's initial list of locations does not include a single site in rural East Suffolk. For many residents across Saxmundham, Woodbridge and the surrounding villages, that simply does not reflect the reality of everyday life.

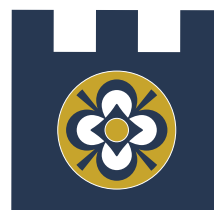
Journeys to Ipswich or further afield can take over an hour, and public transport is often limited or indirect.

If the principle of Neighbourhood Health Centres is to bring care closer to where people live, then rural communities must be part of that plan from the start. I am therefore asking residents to support the campaign for Saxmundham to be designated as a Neighbourhood Health Centre site. Every signature helps strengthen the case and shows the strength of feeling locally that our area should not be left behind.

### Contact:

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

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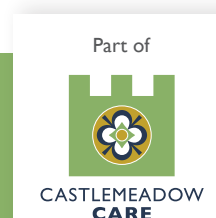
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*\*Full review available on [carehome.co.uk](http://carehome.co.uk)*





# WOODBIDGE RIVERSIDE TRUST

The record-breaking warm days in June and July have brought their challenges, but we've managed to keep the John Gibbins Gallery in The Longshed cool and welcoming. It is where visitors can see 'The King's River' tapestry, and the Robert Mellamphy painting of the Sutton Hoo treasures.

We have a wonderful team of volunteers, not least Bill who makes beautiful marquetry bookmarks and chess boards for The Longshed's Gift Shop, and who, at 98 years young, has recently become a 'celebrity' due to his extraordinary fitness regime! You may have seen him on TV.

Speaking of volunteering, we are looking to recruit two or three new volunteers over 18 years of age to help maintain Sae Wylfing, the half-length version of the Sutton Hoo Burial Ship on long-term loan to WRT – please see photo. Experience of sailing and/or rowing would be useful but not essential. If you are interested in helping with this interesting assignment, please get in touch with us via [admin@woodbridgeriversidetrust.org](mailto:admin@woodbridgeriversidetrust.org)

Our programme of Talks continues, and at 3pm on **Saturday 22nd August** in the John Gibbins Gallery, Rachel Bescoby will be speaking about 'Wyr, Words and Wonder': Anglo-Saxon Healing Herbs. Tickets £8 (to include tea and cake) are available from Eventbrite (no booking fee) or The Longshed Gift Shop.

Looking further ahead, on **Saturday 5th September** at 3pm in the Gallery, Pieter Shipster will be talking about 'Edward Fitzgerald – Poet and Sailor'.

This year's programme of model boat building culminated on the 8th and 9th July with 2 Mini-Regattas at the model boat pond. 51 Year 6 pupils from two local primary schools - Woodbridge Primary and St Mary's - working in teams of three, participated in a programme of tutorials and practical sessions in the John Gibbins Gallery. The sessions were designed and led by John Rowles from the Model Boat Club (MBC), with WRT volunteers and MBC volunteers on hand to support and coach participants. Feedback was wonderful - as was the fun that children and parents had at the Regattas. In addition to the races with the boats the children had built, members of MBC demonstrated some of their remote-controlled boats, including a submarine, speed boats, a fully-rigged Thames Barge, and a fire boat. Very generously, MBC members allowed the children to drive some of those boats.

**Summer opening times:** The Longshed's opening hours will be 10am - 4pm on weekdays, and 11am - 4pm at weekends and on Bank Holidays. Entry to The Longshed is free and dogs on leads are welcome.

Please follow us on Facebook, and on our website: [woodbridgeriversidetrust.org](http://woodbridgeriversidetrust.org)





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# PROJECT UPDATE

## AUGUST 2026

We are committed to bringing 60 per cent of construction materials by sea and rail. The Marine Bulk Import Facility (MBIF) is being built in the Sizewell C harbour to accommodate deliveries by sea during construction.

The structure will extend 500 metres from the beach into the North Sea. We have now reached the sea and the landing stage is already established in the harbour. Public rights of way are open, with marshals ensuring safety of beach users and our workers.

Friday Street and Yoxford Roundabout construction is now complete. Road safety improvement works along the A12 continue in Marlesford, which includes a new pathway and signalised crossing. The western arm of the works is now complete, we have switched the traffic management requirements to the other side of the road as we build new footways along the eastern section of the A12.

The Park and Ride work capacity has now increased at the Wickham Market site with more of our workers using the site to park their cars and access our sites on

Sizewell C buses. The roundabout at the park and ride in Darsham continues to progress, with the required traffic management now lifted at peak times. We are sorry that the opening of Willow Marsh Lane has been delayed by a few weeks due to technical issues, we anticipate the road reopening by mid-August. During August the A12 will be closed at nights between The Street, Darsham and Westleton Road (10 August to 14 August, 21:00 – 06:00 and 17 August 21:00 – 06:00) to enable road improvements including resurfacing and construction of a new pedestrian crossing. Details of the works can be found on the Sizewell C Works Tracker.

The rail link works continue at pace with all track installed on the temporary rail line around Leiston, and trains beginning to run in and out of the temporary construction area. Throughout August the B1122, Station Road in Leiston will be closed to enable Cadent Gas to install new gas mains ahead of the installation of new level crossing gates. Traffic management is also required on the B1122 as the Sizewell Link Road roundabout to the site plaza is constructed.

Along the B1122, Pretty Road has now been closed throughout the construction of the Sizewell Link Road, Hawthorn Road will also shortly be closed and Fordely Road will also be closed in the late summer.



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:

### Northern Transport Forum

Wednesday 5 August 18:00,  
at the High Lodge, Darsham

### Southern Transport Forum

Wednesday 2 September 18:00,  
at the Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre

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.



Sizewell C



# WOODBIDGE FLOWER CLUB

In July we had a very interesting talk and demonstration given by Sheila Pipe, who is a florist in Framlingham.

Sheila told us how she first started training in floristry at Otley college after becoming interested in flower arranging by helping with church flowers when she was younger. Sheila explained how ideas and fashions, especially with bridal bouquets, had changed over the years and how there is now more emphasis on moving away from plastic materials.

Her first arrangement was a hand tied bouquet and Sheila showed us how the stems have to form a spiral. When Sheila had completed the bouquet the flowers were tied with string and then wrapped in paper as she tries to limit the use of cellophane.

Sheila also told us about table scaping, a term first used by designer David Hicks. For this, flowers are placed in low containers or bud vases so that the flowers are below eye level. The containers are then placed in smaller groupings along the table. Again, plastic material is not needed to hold the flowers in place as the containers are small.

Our meeting ended with tea and biscuits when members also had time to chat and look at the sale tables.

Next month we are all looking forward to our outing to the Exotic Garden in Henstead.



## U3A EAST SUFFOLK

**September 4th, a 'red letter' day for older people wanting more from life**

Older people looking to discover new interests, meet new people and live life to the full, should hotfoot it to Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre on the morning of **Friday 4th September**.

From 10.30 to 12.30 East Suffolk u3a will be showcasing its activities with stalls representing dozens of different interest groups. There is no need to pre-book.

East Suffolk u3a, a members-run organisation, has more than 2,000 members locally and is all about helping older people to keep fit, make new friends and develop skills.

For those wanting to remain active, u3a offers walking, sport and physical activity groups.

For those keen to learn and share knowledge, there are geology, photography, foreign languages, arts, architecture and history study groups as well as dining opportunities and outside visits.

There are also speaker meetings at four locations each month, covering a wide range of topics, with the intention of providing something for everyone.

In every setting there's the chance to meet new people to share conversation, experience and ideas.

New members are welcome, with the expectation that they will contribute to the overall success of the group. Annual membership, for a very modest £17.50, gives access to all the u3a's activities, subject to availability.

For more information, please see [www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk) or call the secretary on 0300 123 3913.

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# POOCHES AND PAWRENTS!

Think your pooch really is the top dog? Well, there is a chance to prove it at the upcoming RSPCA Dog Show in the grounds of their Martlesham Animal Centre on **Sunday 6 September**.

The show has classes for every type of dog including crossbreed with character, fabulous female and marvellous male. There are also great prizes on offer for the winners including rosettes, prize bags, vouchers and dog treats and the Dog of the Day overall winner gets a luxury dog hamper and trophy to take home with them.

Although the focus of this event is the fun dog show, there will be lots to entertain you in between classes including food stalls, refreshments, craft stalls, an opportunity to buy pet goodies and gifts, as well as an RSPCA tombola and raffle.

RSPCA corporate and community fundraiser, Lorna Goodwin, said: "We love our dog shows and really enjoy meeting everyone's dogs, they really are all the goodest boys and girls! But if you think your dog really is the best in Suffolk, this is your time to prove it!"

The Suffolk Central branch of the RSPCA is a small, independent charity affiliated to the National RSPCA that is dedicated to helping animals in need across Suffolk. They helped nearly 3,000 animals find new homes or receive low-cost vet care, treatment and medication through their welfare clinics.

The dog shows each boast eight categories: crossbreed with character, happiest hound, young at heart (for dogs older than eight), second chance (rescue dogs), fabulous female, marvellous male, marvellous mover and dog of the day.

Dog Show registration is from 12 noon with judging from 1pm. £3 per class or 3 classes for £8 (per dog)

All proceeds will go to the RSPCA Suffolk Central Branch to help animals in need across Suffolk.

Full details of the event are on the RSPCA website at <https://rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk/martlesham-open-day-fun-dog-show/>

**Photos: Hoff Media**



Odie - 'Dog of the Day' at Aldeburgh Dog Show



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# KAY GODDARD – A TRIBUTE

The local dance and theatre community mourn the loss of Kathleen Iris Page, affectionately known to generations of pupils as Kay Goddard, whose remarkable life inspired a lifelong love of dance, theatre and performance in thousands of young people across Suffolk and beyond.

Beginning her teaching career shortly after the end of the Second World War, Kay built one of the region's most respected and enduring dance schools. With unwavering dedication, she travelled each week to teach in Halesworth, Saxmundham, Framlingham, Leiston, Diss and Woodbridge, sharing her passion for ballet, tap, modern, jazz and musical theatre with generations of aspiring dancers.

Kay's career was one of extraordinary commitment. She continued teaching until the age of 85, retiring after an incredible 68 years devoted to dance education. In that time she became far more than a dance teacher; she was a mentor, role model, confidante and friend to countless young people and their families.

Her influence extended far beyond East Anglia. Many of Kay's former pupils went on to perform professionally on Broadway, in London's West End, on television, in summer seasons and aboard international cruise ships. Others achieved distinction as soloists with The Royal Ballet, while many followed in her footsteps as dance teachers, passing on the values and love of dance she instilled in them.

Yet professional success was never how Kay measured achievement. She believed every child deserved the chance to discover confidence, discipline, creativity and joy through dance. Whether a pupil dreamed of the world's greatest stages or simply danced for the love of it, Kay encouraged each one with equal warmth, patience and enthusiasm. Her classes created lasting friendships, treasured memories and a sense of belonging that endured long after the final curtain call.

Known for her wonderful sense of humour, captivating storytelling and infectious enthusiasm, Kay had the rare gift of making every student feel seen, valued and capable of more than they imagined. Her warmth, kindness and high standards earned the respect and affection of generations of families, many of whom entrusted not only their children but later their grandchildren to her care.

Kay's legacy is measured not only by the remarkable careers she helped launch, but by the thousands of lives she enriched. Her influence continues every time a former pupil steps into a dance studio, teaches a class, takes to the stage or remembers with affection the lessons she taught both in dance and in life.

She leaves behind a community of grateful students, colleagues, families and friends who will forever cherish the memories she created and the opportunities she gave so generously. We mourn her passing deeply, and her life remains one of dedication, generosity, artistry and service. Her contribution to dance education will not be forgotten.

Donations in Kay's memory, if desired, may be made to the Royal Ballet Benevolent Fund, a charity close to her heart, helping to support those within the dance profession she loved throughout her life.

Kathleen Iris Page – Kay Goddard – leaves a legacy that will continue to dance through the lives of generations to come.

*"Kay always believed that every child could shine. Her gift was not simply teaching dance - it was helping people discover confidence, discipline and joy. We were incredibly fortunate to have known her, and her legacy will live on in every life she touched."*

## Coral Stebbings



# LEISTON BOOK FESTIVAL

The 2026 Leiston Book Festival on **Saturday 19th September** promises to be a day of adventure and exploration, taking you beneath the grounds, up in the air and out into the countryside. Your day will begin right here in East Suffolk, with Jacky Collis Harvey talking about her book *Thoughtlands* in which she walks familiar local lanes with almost forgotten local writers.

Other authors include Deborah Tomkins, Matt Gaw, Robert Ashton and Louis de Bernières, who will reflect on everyday life with the warmth and eccentricity for which he is known. His latest book *Smelling of Rooks* will be published a few days before the festival.

The festival, in its third year, takes place in the town's Edwardian film theatre, which has 240 seats. Last year's festival sold out, with people travelling from as far away as California and London to attend. Tickets cost £35.00 for all six sessions: <https://www.leistonbookfestival.co.uk/>

Robert Ashton (right)



## LEISTON BOOK FESTIVAL

Join us for the 2026 Leiston Book Festival featuring inspiring authors whose books explore the ground beneath our feet, the gulls that soar above our heads and the weather that envelops us. You'll learn about the spirituality of walking, and Louis de Bernières will give us an insight into how he sees the landscape around his Norfolk home.

**Sat 19 Sept - Leiston Film Theatre**  
 For more info and tickets scan the QR code or visit [leistonbookfestival.co.uk](https://www.leistonbookfestival.co.uk)

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**Headteacher Talks: 5:00pm & 6:00pm**

**Address: Seaward Avenue, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4BG**  
**Contact: 01728 830570**

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

Woodbridge Talk is your free local paper, 2000 copies are printed every month. We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets. The next issue will be published Tuesday 1st September, copy deadline is 14th August - 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.





Fri 7th Aug at 6pm  
Sat 8th & Sun 9th Aug at 3pm

### **MOANA** PG

**PLEASE NOTE** - THE SCREENING ON SUN  
9th AUG IS THE SING-A-LONG VERSION

Sat 8th Aug at 6pm  
Sun 16th Aug at 3pm

### **ANDRE RIEU'S 2026 MAASTRICHT CONCERT**

Fri 14th Aug at 7pm  
Sat 15th at 5pm  
Tues 18th - Thurs 20th Aug at 7pm

### **THE ODYSSEY** 15

Fri 21st Aug at 12pm  
Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd Aug at 3pm  
Mon 24th - Thurs 27th Aug at 12pm

### **PAW PATROL: THE DINO MOVIE** U

Fri 21st Aug at 7.15pm  
Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd Aug at 6pm  
Mon 24th - Thurs 27th Aug at 7.15pm

### **SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY** 12A

Fri 28th Aug at 7.15pm  
Sat 29th & Sun 30th Aug at 6pm  
Mon 31st Aug, Tues 1st &  
Thurs 3rd Sept at 7.15pm

### **THE END OF OAK STREET** 12A

Fri 4th & Sat 5th Sept at 7.15pm  
Sun 6th Sept at 3pm  
Mon 7th Sept at 1pm  
Tues 8th Sept at 7.15pm  
Wed 9th Sept at 3pm  
Thurs 10th Sept at 7.15pm

### **HOLY DAYS** 12A

Sun 6th Sept at 6pm  
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**Saturday 8th August at 6.00pm**

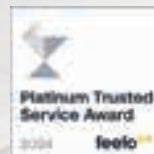
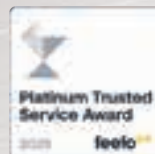
**Sunday 16th August at 3.00pm**

ON SCREEN IN AUGUST - André Rieu's 2026 Summer Concert: Viva Maastricht. This year, André Rieu celebrates a spectacular milestone — the 20th anniversary of his iconic summer concerts on the magnificent Vrijthof square. Captured live in his beloved hometown, this brand-new cinema event marks two decades of music and unforgettable magical summer nights. Joined by his world-renowned Johann Strauss Orchestra and a vibrant ensemble of artists, André brings the spirit, culture, and warmth of his hometown to life in a dazzling new concert filled with emotion and wonder. From timeless waltzes to soul-stirring classics, this landmark anniversary concert promises an evening of passion, joy, and togetherness.



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## Legal Services for Woodbridge and the Surrounding Areas



**At Attwells Solicitors, we provide expert support in conveyancing, Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Probate, helping you make confident decisions at every stage of life.**

We offer clear, practical advice with a friendly, personal approach. Whether you are moving home, planning ahead, administering an estate or updating your Will, our experienced team is here to guide you every step of the way.

With the opening of our Woodbridge office, we are proud to serve clients across Woodbridge and the surrounding areas with trusted, accessible legal support.



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### Why Choose Attwells Solicitors?



#### Plain-English Advice

We avoid complicated terminology when communicating with you and adapt our service to suit your needs.



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#### Trusted Advisor

We promise to support you in achieving the best possible outcome and therefore if we can't help we will always recommend someone who can.