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SEPTEMBER 2026

LEISTON OBSERVER



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September

**Sat 19th -
Ace Karaoke**

**Sun 20th -
Ace Karaoke**



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



It's so nice to see Alde Valley Academy's young carers receive a platinum award - following on from a bronze, silver and gold! What a wonderful job these youngsters do and it's good know they get support from the school. You too can support them when there new recipe book comes out! See page 5 for more details.

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

Email: lou@tidecollection.com

Quote of the month

Let the beauty of what you love be what you do

Rumi



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INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

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- Fun, music and movement to improve your overall wellbeing from Coral Stebbings

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- Up for the FA Cup!

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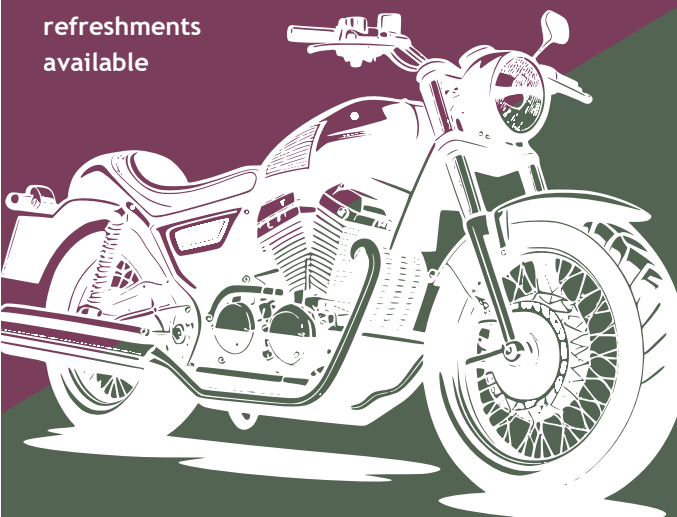
- Revd. Caitlin Harland and her family look forward to joining the Leiston community

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AT THE LONG SHOP MUSEUM

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YOUR CLASSES ARE GLOWING UP!

There's something exciting happening this September...

The classes you've come to know and love are entering a bright new chapter, and Coral is delighted to introduce the Groove & Glow family.

Formerly known as Zumba®, your much-loved dance fitness classes are evolving into a fresh new brand that reflects everything you've always believed in, moving with joy, exercising with confidence and leaving every class feeling happier than when you arrived.

While the name is changing, the heart of the classes remains exactly the same... in fact, it's even better!

Look out for the exciting new programme:

Groove & Glow Fitness – high-energy dance fitness with exciting playlists, easy-to-follow choreography and a Latin-inspired party atmosphere.

Groove & Glow Gold – all the fun, music and movement at a gentler pace, ideal for those returning to exercise or simply preferring a lower-impact workout.

Groove & Glow Toning – combining dance fitness with strength and toning exercises to help improve muscle definition, posture and overall fitness.

Stretch & Glow – the popular chair-based class, designed to improve flexibility, mobility, balance and wellbeing in a friendly, supportive environment.

Pilates & Glow – a calm space where you can reconnect, move with confidence and progress at your own pace. Each session offers a thoughtful blend of gentle strength, mobility and mindful movement.

Whether you're looking for an energetic cardio workout, a gentler class to build confidence, or simply an hour of laughter, music and movement with wonderful people, Coral has a Groove & Glow class waiting for you.

Expect uplifting new playlists, simple dance moves, plenty of smiles and that feel-good atmosphere that has always made our classes so special.

To celebrate the September relaunch, everyone attending their first Groove & Glow class of the new term will receive a special welcome gift as a thank you for joining Coral on this exciting new journey.

Classes are held each week at Aldeburgh, Walberswick, Leiston, Martlesham and Stratford St Andrew. Contact Coral for more details.





Groove & Glow FITNESS

**Great Music, Great Fun,
Great Dance Fitness Workout**

Starting Monday September 7th
Aldeburgh Church Hall
Monday 9.30-10.30pm

Starting Thursday September 10th
Leiston St Margaret's FC
Thursday 6.00-6.45pm



Groove & Glow TONING

**Focused resistance training
to sculpt and tone to addictive
music tracks**

Starting Thursday September 10th
Leiston St Margaret's FC
Thursday 6.50-7.20pm



Groove & Glow GOLD

**A Popular Fun Dance Fitness
Class at a Calmer Pace for the
older active adult**

Starting Thursday September 10th
Leiston St Margaret's FC
Thursday 3.00-3.45pm



Stretch & Glow CHAIR

**The Chair Exercise Experience as
Recommended by Medical Professionals
Keep Smiling, Keep Active, Keep Moving**

Starting Monday September 7th
Aldeburgh Church Hall
Monday 10.45-11.15am

Starting Tuesday September 8th
Wenhaston Village Hall
Tuesday 11.45-12.15pm



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or call 01728 830468

PLATINUM AWARD FOR ALDE VALLEY ACADEMY'S YOUNG CARERS

After achieving Bronze, Silver, Gold in the past 18 months, in the Suffolk Family Carers Awards, Alde Valley Academy's young carers have now achieved the top Platinum award!

Julie Dawes, Young Carer Lead at Alde Valley Academy says "I am immensely proud of what our Young Carers have achieved to reach the Platinum Schools Award in such a short period of time, especially as there are only a few schools that have achieved this within Suffolk."

"We have a lovely mix of students across the whole school who are a lifeline to those who they care for."

She added "We have now completed our recipe book, kindly sponsored by the Suffolk Freemasons, and this will shortly be in print so we will be able to give a copy to each Young Carer as well as being able to sell them to enable us to take them on more well-deserved adventures."



L to R: Sue Henry (Suffolk Family Carers) middle: Sander Van Den Berg (Young Carer Ambassador) and right Julie Dawes.

FROM JENNY RIDDELL-CARPENTER, MP



Woodbridge and Martlesham

I'm delighted to share that I have been appointed as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature and Rural Affairs at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

This is a role that feels incredibly personal to me, because both nature and rural communities have been at the heart of my work since I was elected as your MP.

Suffolk Coastal is one of the most beautiful parts of the country, with a landscape shaped by our coastline, estuaries, rivers, heathlands, farmland and ancient woodlands. We are incredibly fortunate to live in an area that is home to such a rich variety of wildlife, from rare species and important habitats to internationally significant landscapes. I have often said that Suffolk is the wildlife and nature capital of the UK, and I truly believe that.

Our natural environment is not just something to admire - it is part of what makes our community and local area so special. It is a critical national natural infrastructure for biodiversity and wildlife, and it is also vital to our local economy and society - attracting tourism, improving our own wellbeing and giving our towns and villages their distinctive character.

From the back benches I have worked to ensure that nature and environmental issues were properly recognised in decision-making, and that the experiences of local communities were heard. From raising concerns about the impact of development on our environment, to highlighting the importance of nature recovery and working with local organisations, these issues have been a central part of my work as your MP.

I have also spent a great deal of time listening to rural communities across Suffolk Coastal. Rural areas have huge strengths, but they also face particular challenges - from access to services and transport, to pressures on farming, water, housing and infrastructure. Too often, rural communities feel that decisions are made without properly understanding the realities of living and working in the countryside.

Taking on this ministerial role gives me an opportunity to bring those local experiences into national decision-making. Andy Burnham talks about having a "Makerfield test" when making decisions in Government. For me, it will be the "Suffolk Coastal test" - making sure the experiences of rural communities like ours are reflected in the decisions we take, while delivering better outcomes for nature nationally and internationally.

I know many people locally care deeply about nature and rural issues, and I want that knowledge and passion to continue shaping my work. Whether it is protecting our rivers and coastline, supporting rural communities, or ensuring nature recovery is delivered in a way that works for people as well as the environment, I will continue to make sure Suffolk Coastal's voice is heard.

I'm incredibly proud to take on this new challenge, and I look forward to getting started in the role.

As always, if there is anything my team or I can help with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contact:

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

LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL

Cinema in the Park

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy the free event, Cinema in the Park. We hope you had a wonderful evening and enjoyed the film, entertainment, delicious food and fantastic range of attractions and services on offer. Events like this are only possible thanks to the dedication of so many people behind the scenes. Our heartfelt thanks go to the organisers, volunteers, sponsors, stallholders and performers, and to Leiston Events Group, Sizewell C, Leiston Film Theatre, The Long Shop Museum and Leiston Town Council for making it happen. Most of all, thank you to everyone who attended and helped create such a fantastic community atmosphere.

Welcoming the New Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council is delighted to announce the appointment of Kim Puttock as Town Clerk (Designate) and Michelle Tomkins as Deputy Town Clerk.

Kim is an experienced local government professional and Town Clerk, with an MBA and senior management qualifications. Passionate about community engagement and good governance, she is active across Suffolk's local government and voluntary sectors, bringing extensive administrative, leadership and governance expertise.

Michelle brings extensive experience in community engagement, workforce development and training. She is passionate about supporting local people, developing accessible and inclusive services, and making a positive difference. Having grown up locally, Michelle is particularly proud to give back to the community she calls home.



Kim



Michelle

Fantastic News for Leiston's Young Riders!

Leiston's BMX track was officially reopened by the Mayor of Leiston on Monday 20 July following a fantastic renovation. Adding a personal touch, local young person Teddy designed the new information board installed alongside the track, celebrating the facility and everyone involved. See page 15 for more details.

Meet Your Town Councillors

We held our first Meet Your Town Council event on Saturday 25 July.

The Mayor and fellow councillors were there to listen to the issues and concerns raised, from fly-parking to fly-posting. We have taken your feedback on board and will continue to work on your behalf to address the matters highlighted. While there are sometimes limits to the Town Council's powers and influence, we will always do everything we can to represent residents' interests and help achieve positive outcomes for our community. Thank you to everyone who came along and shared their views. The next Meet your Town Council session will take place on **Saturday 10 October 2026.**

Get to Know Your Mayor, Cllr Nicky Corbett



Nicky was born in Leiston.

Her father, a Garrett draughtsman born in Yoxford, joined the firm as an apprentice straight from Leiston school and remained in the same office – now part of the Long Shop Museum – until retirement.

Nicky attended Leiston Primary School and Leiston Grammar School, which later became Leiston Middle School. Christened, confirmed and married at St Margaret's Church, Nicky and her husband Richard raised their three sons, Steve, Tim and Ben, in the town.

They now have six granddaughters and one grandson. All three sons owe their successful careers to an education at Leiston High, now Alde Valley, and Nicky says the loss of the town's sixth form remains one of her biggest regrets.

"Suffolk New College on the Coast, planned to open in September 2027 and funded by Sizewell C, will partly make up for the lack of sixth form, but the distance students are forced to travel if A levels are their chosen path is a huge disadvantage for local teens. The return of a sixth form in Leiston would make me very happy indeed."

Nicky's career in Marketing and Communications included roles with The Aldeburgh Foundation (now Britten Pears Arts), Suffolk Coastal District Council (now East Suffolk Council) and EDF Energy.

TOWN COUNCIL

Among the highlights was collecting world-famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin from Saxmundham Station with her seven-year-old son Ben, who had strict instructions to be on his best behaviour – only for the pair to chat in the back of the car ‘like old mates’.

At Suffolk Coastal, another highlight was helping create the two-week out-door festival, Woodwose.

Now retired for eight years, Nicky has turned her focus to the Town Council. Her biggest ambition is to see the planned re-generation of Leiston town centre come to fruition.

“I have many happy memories of the town centre when I was a child, with its vibrant shopping centre and an economy fuelled by the job security provided by Garretts. Times have changed and our town centre needs to be a place not only to shop, but to meet friends and family, see a film, provide safe spaces for young families and enable older people and those with mobility issues to move around comfortably.

“The Council is working hard with other stakeholders and is determined to make it happen – it’s at the top of my personal list. Leiston is a unique place with a rich social history. We need to keep it that way.”

A Thank You Beyond Words

With the fires at Dunwich Heath now under control, heartfelt thanks go to Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, neighbouring fire services, emergency services, volunteers, partner agencies and everyone who supported those affected. Crews and support teams worked tirelessly in incredibly challenging conditions to protect lives, homes, businesses and Suffolk’s precious countryside.

The impact on Dunwich Heath’s unique landscape, habitats and wildlife is heartbreaking, and recovery will take time. Suffolk owes an enormous debt of gratitude to everyone who worked on the front line and behind the scenes.

Thank you for your dedication, resilience and selflessness.

Christmas 2026 Preparations

Planning for Christmas 2026 is already well underway. New LED festoon lighting has been installed on the Council building, and residents can also look forward to new festive lighting at the Film Theatre. Behind the scenes, essential electrical condition reports and safety checks are also taking place to ensure lighting and fixings are ready for the festive season.

Look out for another update next month as preparations continue!

Dates for Your Diary & the Mayor’s Thought for the Month

Keep an eye out for more information on upcoming community events, including:

- Monthly Charity Coffee Mornings and Quiz Nights organised by Leiston Events Group.
- Town Council By-Election – Thursday 3 September 2026. The outcome can be viewed on the Town Council website.

Mayor Corbett’s Thought for the Month

Leiston Film Theatre, then known as The Picture House, was bought by Leiston Town Council in 1976 for £12,500 – around £116,790 in today’s money.

It may seem like a bargain, but the building was in a very poor state of repair and undoubtedly would not have survived had the Council not stepped in.

Fifty years later, the Film Theatre continues to be one of the town’s proudest assets.

For further information, please contact:

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
projects@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk
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LEISTON QUAKER MEETING HOUSE OPENS ITS DOORS

Quakers have been meeting in Leiston since the 1670s and will be taking part in Heritage Open Days for the first time this month.

The present Meeting House, with a burial ground behind, sits on the crossroads opposite the White Horse Hotel.

It was built in 1860 and is currently the temporary home of Leiston's Banking Hub. Funds to replace an older Meeting House on the same site were raised by Gundry Neave, who had a shop on Leiston High Street.

The building will be open to visitors from **11:00 to 16:30 on Saturday 12 September and Saturday 19 September**, with Quakers on hand to show you round.

There'll be four opportunities to hear an hour of stories from local storyteller Justine de Mierre about the building, its history and the role Quakers have played in shaping our society through the ages. Come and join Justine at 13:00 and 15:00 on both days. There's no charge and you don't need to book. Don't miss this opportunity to see inside this local landmark.



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Credit: Images By Anna

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LEISTON FOOTBALL CLUB

UP FOR THE FA CUP

THE FA Cup is the most famous domestic football Cup competition in the world.

And Leiston Football Club have certainly had their moments in it over the years.

Back in 2008 the Club got to the First Round of the competition, losing out to Fleetwood Town after a replay. The teams drew 0-0 at Leiston. And more recently the Blues lost to Dagenham & Redbridge at Victory Road after a fine run in the competition.

And September will see the Blues in FA Cup action again as they get their hopes of a run to Wembley up and running. Check out the Club's socials to find out when and where you can watch the Blues in FA Cup action.

Meanwhile, the season is now up and running and the Club has again been blessed with sponsorship and partnership deals with various companies that help the Club continue not just to play at Step 3 (just three rungs down from the English Football League) but also run various boys' and girls' youth teams – the Club is proud to be such a community Club.

Away from the action, former England and Southampton midfielder, **Matt Le Tissier**, will be headlining the Club's Sporting Dinner on **26th November**. Again, look out on the Leiston social media feeds for more details on how you can book your place. The event will be a sell out, so get in quick.

Leiston Football Club are proud to announce a new partnership with CMT Group.

CMT Group, who provide a wide range of products for construction sites, consumables, signage, barriers and PPE, ensuring safety and efficiency have teamed up with Leiston FC, supplying new crowd barriers in club colours with logos on, as well as heavy steward jackets, lightweight steward jackets, traffic cones and a first aid kit.

Loren Ward, regional sales manager at CMT Group, said:

"Leiston FC is at the heart of this community, and supporting it was an easy decision for us. We employ local people, our teams live and work in this area, and grassroots clubs like Leiston are exactly the sort of thing that keeps a community strong."

"Providing the crowd barriers, signage and stewards PPE was a small way of backing the volunteers who give up their time. We're proud to help."

For information on all things Leiston FC, head over to: www.leistonfc.co.uk

Or follow Leiston FC on X, Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok and Instagram.

Sponsorship packages, including our popular Matchday Experience packages, are now available. Contact chairman, Andy Crisp on 07769 904555



LEISTON FOOTBALL CLUB
FOUNDED 1910

MATCHDAY EXPERIENCES

HERE AT LEISTON FC

Come and enjoy a game with us here at Leiston FC. We look forward to seeing you.

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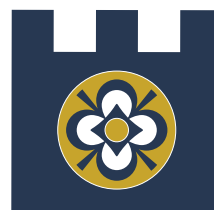
Contact chairman Andy Crisp or any committee member for more details on these packages and book yourself a Matchday Experience e-mail: acrisp5@aol.com

www.leistonfc.co.uk



The Blues have a new Club Shop open at the Flannery Stadium, selling all your Blues merchandise and goodies. It's new this season. Pop in if you're at a game!

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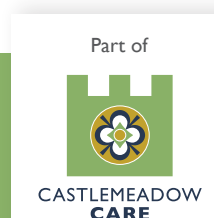
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A NEW VICAR FOR LEISTON

News from the parish church of St Margaret of Antioch, Leiston with Sizewell

We are delighted to announce the arrival of our new vicar the Revd. Caitlin Harland, who is coming to us with her family from East London. Below is a personal profile prepared by Caitlin. The service of Licensing and Installation will be held at St Margarets church, Church Road, Leiston at 3pm on Sunday 6th September. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please come along and join us in giving Caitlin and her family a warm welcome.



Caitlin says:

"I am joining St Margaret's in Leiston after time spent as Assistant Curate at St George in the East in Shadwell, East London, where I previously trained to become a Priest in the Church of England.

"I grew up in York and went to a comprehensive school in a North Yorkshire market town. My parents ran a touring theatre company and were very involved in our local church.

"I studied Geography at university and later did an art foundation, before working for the Centre for Theology and Community, a charity rooted in East London and committed to supporting churches to engage with their communities.

"Building on this experience, I took on a role as Community Organiser for CitizensUK, the charity most famous for the Living Wage Campaign. As the Community Organiser for Hackney I spent 5 years building a local alliance of schools, churches, mosques, synagogues and charities who then worked together to tackle issues affecting the local community. This included supporting a group of 16 year olds to win a campaign for paid living wage work experience placements, supporting a campaign of parents to tackle poor housing conditions in council housing, and helping children improve the safety of their streets. I also helped to build the alliance 'Colchester Citizens'.

"While working in this role, I developed a sense of calling to be a Priest in the Church of England, inspired by a vision for how a church deeply rooted in its neighbourhood could be both a place of genuine home for all kinds of people, as well as a place from which a church might meaningfully play its part in working for the good of the local community. Since joining the team at St George in the East I have held responsibilities which have ranged from developing the liturgical life of the church on a Sunday and midweek, to using art and creativity to help people to pray, building a community cafe, work with local schools and supporting a campaign for affordable housing and a new local swimming pool.

"I am very excited to move to Leiston and join the congregation at St Margaret's. I will be joined by my husband Joel who works as an engineer on Sizewell C and our 3 daughters, Iona (4) and Lily and Joy (1).



CALLING ALL NEW BRASS PLAYERS!

Have you started learning a brass or percussion instrument? Have you always wanted to play a brass instrument? Then come and join The Band of the Royal British Legion's Training Band!

The Training Band has recently been growing in number but we'd love even more players!

The band is suitable for anyone aged around 9 and upwards, including absolute beginners.

The band can provide instruments to borrow and tuition, including learning to read music. For anyone learning a brass instrument at school it's a great way to practise, improve playing skills and make friends. There are no membership fees for the Training Band, so come along and give it a go.

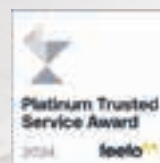
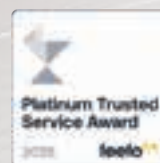
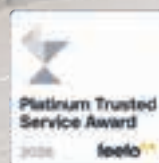
The band rehearses weekly on Thursdays from 7 – 7.45pm at The Band Hall, Victory Road, Leiston. Contact leistonband@gmail.com for more information.





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ROSE & SWEET WILLIAM CLUB

"Everyone is so friendly and we all have great fun"

A regular at an older people's social club which has received a grant from the Sizewell C Community Fund has described the get-togethers as 'great fun' while praising the positive difference they have made to her life.

Barbara began attending the Rose and Sweet William Club for the over 60s, which meets every Tuesday afternoon at Leiston Community Centre, after moving to the area three years ago.

Barbara at the Rose and Sweet William Club



The club is run entirely by volunteers and gives older people the chance to socialise and enjoy a wide variety of activities while making new friends. It was awarded £10,500 from the Sizewell C Community Fund, which is managed by Suffolk Community Foundation, earlier this year, and is using the money to pay for transport for people who may

otherwise struggle to leave their homes.

"I moved to Leiston three years ago and as I didn't know anyone here, my neighbour Christine, who is a volunteer at the club, invited me to join her at a session," said Barbara.

"I have enjoyed coming each week since then and have made many new friends. I especially liked our strawberry cream tea and Christmas lunch as well as meeting visitors who come along to speak to us. I always go on the coach trips for shopping and lunch, which are usually to a nice garden centre close by. Everyone is so friendly and we all have great fun each week."

Anne Bayley, club chairperson, said: "We rely heavily on the Coastal Accessible Transport Service (CATS), which helps us transport around 16 members to the club. Without this service, some of our members would not be able to leave their homes or socialise with anyone each week.

"This grant means we can continue using CATS for our transport needs and will also help us to provide outings for our members to venues which are further afield."

The Sizewell C Community Fund supports initiatives that promote the economic, social, or environmental wellbeing of communities closest to, and most affected by, the construction of Sizewell C.

"We saw first-hand the difference the Rose and Sweet William Club is making to local people when we were lucky enough to visit it earlier this year," said Sarah Mortimer, Sizewell C Community Fund Project Manager with Suffolk Community Foundation. *"It offers a wide range of activities and support for older residents, all of which help to promote inclusion and reduce social isolation. It is heartening to hear how invaluable people find the get-togethers and we hope this funding will mean even more people can access and enjoy the opportunities arranged by the club."*

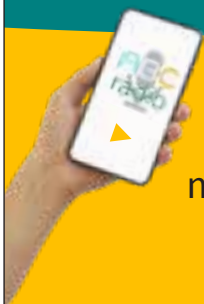
"We would encourage any voluntary groups working with people affected by the construction of Sizewell C to get in touch to discuss any project idea they may have. We would be happy to help."

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



The Rose and Sweet William Club Committee (left to right) Julie Cook, Anne Bayley, Christine Harvey, Angela Tischler and Kay Curtis.

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Sun 6th Sept at 6.00pm

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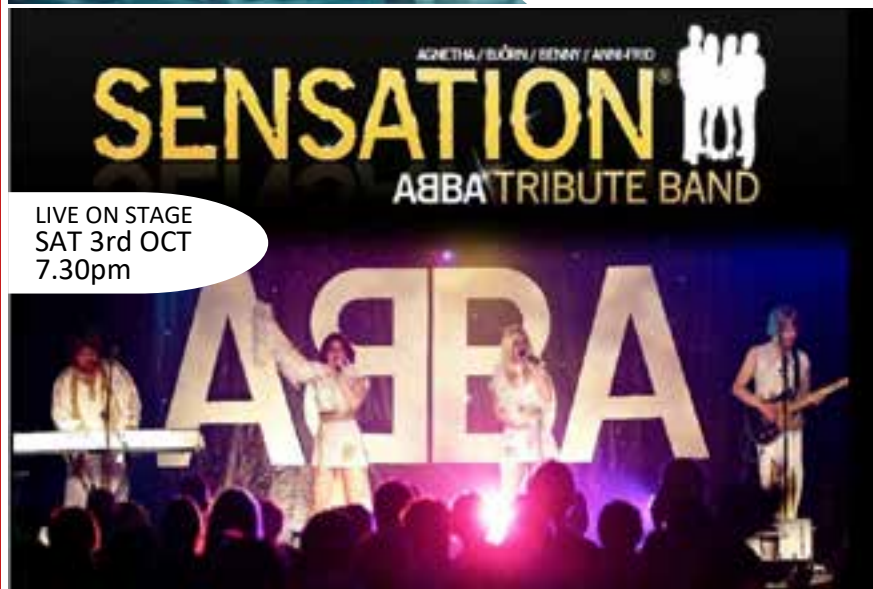
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LEISTON BMX PUMP TRACK GETS MAJOR UPGRADE

Sizewell C contractors have revived a popular BMX track in Leiston, with significant improvements completed in time for the summer holidays. Workers from Jackson Civil Engineering, Toppesfield, Ovenden, Lynch, and ATM volunteered their time, expertise, and resources to give the pump track a much-needed makeover. The upgraded facility was officially opened on Monday by Cllr Nicky Corbett, Mayor of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council, which owns the track and supported the project. Around 20 children and their families also attended the celebration. Charmaine Emmerson, whose son uses the track, said: *"It looks absolutely brilliant. It was always busy down here before, and the track is now big enough for multiple children to use it at the same time. We will be spending a lot of time down here in the summer."*

Pump tracks are purpose-built circuits featuring a series of rollers and banked turns that allow riders to maintain speed and flow through body movement rather than pedalling. The track was originally built in 2015.

Caroline Rinder, Responsible Finance Officer and Assets Officer at the Council, said: *"Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council is delighted to see the BMX track brought back to life for our community. This project is a fantastic example of organisations working together to create something positive for young people, giving them a safe and enjoyable space to be active, have fun and make the most of the summer."*

The project was made possible through Sizewell C's Site Social Benefits Forum, which brings together contractors to identify opportunities to support local communities and create a positive legacy alongside construction of the new nuclear power station.



Jackson Civil Engineering, based in Ipswich, coordinated and managed the project, while Toppesfield, based in nearby Claydon, provided a new hard-wearing asphalt surface. Earthmoving specialist Ovenden carried out landscaping works, Lynch supplied an excavator, and ATM donated and installed fencing around the track. Damien Leydon, Sizewell C's Site Delivery Director and chair of the Sites Social Benefits Forum, said: *"This project is an excellent example of the work being delivered through our Site Social Benefits Forum, which is focused on creating social value safely and efficiently for local communities."*

"On behalf of the project, I want to thank Jackson, Toppesfield, Ovenden, Lynch, and ATM for delivering such a fantastic outcome. Their work has accelerated much-needed improvements to this valued community asset, benefiting local people while enabling Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council to prioritise funding for other initiatives across the town."

"Jackson and its sub-contractors have truly embodied the values of Sizewell C and they're helping to demonstrate what it means to be a good neighbour." The track improvements now provide a safe and enjoyable outdoor space for young people to stay active, build confidence and spend time with friends - while demonstrating the positive impact local partnerships can have on the wider community.

Jackson Managing Director Brian Crofton said: *"Being involved in the Sizewell C Project is not just about building a new piece of UK renewable clean energy infrastructure, but also about ensuring that we have a positive impact on the community of Leiston. Our work on the Sizewell C project is about more than building vital energy infrastructure for the UK, it's about the lasting legacy we leave behind in Leiston."*

"We are incredibly proud that Jackson, alongside our dedicated supply chain partners, has transformed the local BMX track into an enjoyable space for the community. By investing our time and resources here, we're ensuring that local families have a safe, vibrant environment to stay active and enjoy the outdoors for generations to come."



Damien Leydon, Nicky Corbett & Brian Crofton at the Opening Ceremony



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SIZEWELL A CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENT

Sizewell A has marked 60 years since first generating electricity, bringing together current employees, former colleagues, partners, stakeholders and members of the local community to celebrate the site's contribution to the region and the UK's nuclear industry. Since first producing electricity in 1966, Sizewell A generated around 110 terawatt hours of low-carbon electricity over more than 40 years of operation, enough to meet around a third of East Anglia's electricity needs on any given day.

As part of the anniversary programme, Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) took its interactive roadshow trailer into the heart of the local community. The trailer visited Leiston on 29 and 30 June before attending the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) community outreach event at Leiston Town Athletic Association on 1 July.

Marianne Fellowes, Chair of the Sizewell SSG, said: "As we celebrate 60 years of Sizewell A, it was wonderful to see the community, former employees and stakeholders come together.

The SSG exists to help ensure local voices are heard and this event provided a valuable opportunity to engage with residents and reflect on both the site's history and its future."

John McNamara, Director of Communities and Stakeholder Engagement at the NDA, said: "This year marks over 20 years of Site Stakeholder Groups, which continue to play a vital role in helping communities stay informed and involved in decisions affecting their local sites. It was fitting to celebrate this milestone alongside Sizewell A's 60th anniversary and continue the conversations that help keep local communities at the heart of our work."

Alan Walker, Site Director at Sizewell A, said: "Reaching our 60th anniversary is a significant milestone for everyone connected with Sizewell A. It has been an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of past and present employees and thank the local community for its continued support and understanding.

"Our teams remain committed to safely decommissioning the site while creating career opportunities and benefits for the region."

The celebrations included a special event at the site, where guests reconnected, shared memories and learned more about Sizewell A's transformation over the past six decades.

As Sizewell A continues its decommissioning mission, the anniversary has provided a fitting opportunity to celebrate the people, achievements and community partnerships that have shaped the site's first 60 years and will help define its future.



NEW LIFE SKILLS GROUP

Local churches are working with Suffolk Coastal Poverty Action, inviting local people to join a free Life Skills group starting Tuesday 6th October, in a bid to help them budget well, cook healthy meals on a budget, improve their wellbeing and learn new vital skills.

Julia Rose, CAP Life Skills Manager in the Suffolk Coastal area says, "We are launching our new Life Skills group to help local families and individuals in our area who are really struggling to manage with all the rising costs right now.

"It can feel like a constant battle when you're trying to stay out of debt, eat well and juggle all of the other things life is throwing at you. Struggling financially often makes people feel really isolated and can negatively impact their mental health.

"We're here to provide for anyone who feels they will benefit from joining a friendly group that will help each other through this difficult time and who wants to learn new skills along the way."

CAP Life Skills offers a free, friendly and relaxed group where we learn how to cope with rising costs and share tips to help each other through life. Each week we cover different topics, from how to cook healthy meals on a tight budget to ways to save money on things like energy, food and other essentials.

We will also look at caring for our mental health, building healthy relationships and improving our communication.

"We do this over eight sessions with a soup lunch included, but we hope all those who attend will make friendships that last a lot longer.

"We also offer one-to-one coaching with a trained Life Skills Coach for members who would like further support."

Former Life Skills course members say, "Life Skills helped me with budgeting my money better, helped to reduce my bills and it was great just having some lovely people to chat with." and "The course has helped me to make new friends."

The course starts on **Tuesday 6th October 2026**. It will then run weekly on Tuesdays for eight sessions (leaving out 27th October, half term week), from 10am to 1pm, including a soup lunch, at Leiston Baptist Church, John Street, IP16 4DR. To register your free place or to find out more, call/text Julia on 07942 377087 or email julia.rose@scpa.uk or go to the CAP website <https://capuk.org/get-help/life-skills>

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'MAD ABOUT BOOKS' SHOW LAUNCHES ON ABC RADIO

East Suffolk radio station Alde Blythe Community Radio has launched a new weekly book show 'Mad About Books'. The show is aired on Wednesdays at 6pm and repeated on Sunday mornings.

The show is hosted by regular presenter Brad Young, with local authors Robert Ashton and Simon Eyre.

Non-fiction author Robert Ashton, whose latest book *Down to Earth* was published in July by Wilton Square Books takes a different author onto the beach each week, where they talk about books, writing and their favourite music.



L to R: Simon Eyre, Robert Ashton, Brad Young at the desk

Novelist Simon Eyre, author of the popular Daniel Sawyer thriller series, will share his tips on successful self-publishing, focusing on a different aspect of the writing journey each week.

Over the coming weeks the team will also interview booksellers, festival organisers and anyone who like them, is mad about books.

To find out more about 'Mad About Books' visit www.ABCradio.co.uk where you can listen to the show live or download to listen to later.

ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Local and Family History Heritage Open Day - 12 September 2026

Following on from last September's event at the Leiston Long Shop, the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group will be holding another Family and Local History Open Day, but this time back at the Fromus Centre in Saxmundham, on Saturday 12th September 2026, when at least a dozen other groups will be taking part. Among the exhibitors, new this year we are delighted to welcome Parham Airfield Museum and Dunwich Museum.

There will be free advice and assistance with personal family history research, using computers, Internet and DNA. Just turn up with your family tree queries.

Janet Huckle's help with dating photographs will again be in demand. Bring your old family photographs for her expert opinion.

Forever popular, Peter Drew has kindly agreed that his historic local postcards will also be on display.

This year our Open Day will be part of the Heritage Open Days Events organised by the National Trust with the support of FindMyPast – and one of the exhibitors, the Benhall and Sternfield History Group, has been shortlisted for FindMyPast's 'Everyday History Hero' competition – the only shortlisted group from Suffolk!

Free entry. 11am - 4pm. Good, free car parking. Light refreshments. Railway and bus stations nearby.



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Our opening times:

Mon - Thurs 12-11 | Fri + Sat 12-12
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Common Ground Theatre Company have been delighting East Anglian audiences for many years now with their hugely popular mix of classic stories and hilarious, surreal comedies and spoofs - "madcap comedy gold", as The Stage puts it. With their unique brand of music theatre, they've been described by Libby Purves as "One of the best things on the road in East Anglia right now...A proper treat."

This autumn, they're taking to the road again, with **THE PHANTOM OF FRIAR STREET**. Part ghostly tale, part murder mystery, part love story, this show has it all! We'll be performed in theatres, community centres and village halls across Suffolk, Essex & Norfolk, visiting Diss, Southwold, Framlingham, Woodbridge and many more. Then for Xmas/New Year, after the huge success of last year's **SHERLOCK HOLMES SMELLS EVIL!**, they return in full bonkers mode with their traditional festive comedy caper, which this year will be **FATHER BROWN & THE CARNIVAL OF FEAR!**

A haul of Roman artifacts, The Hiddenham Hoard, has been stolen whilst in transit to the British Museum. Father Brown's investigates but is distracted by the arrival of Mozzarella's Carnival. How will he find the thief before the precious Hoard is spirited away?

A classic Yuletide mystery with all the Common Ground trimmings - sparkling wit, ingenious staging, hilarious songs, and surreal flights of festive fancy.

Featuring live original songs performed by the talented band of actor-musicians, who also play a host of increasingly bizarre characters.

With a liberal helping of one-liners, puns and sight-gags, it's the perfect panto alternative - from **December 8th to January 24th**. Visit their website www.commongroundtc.co.uk or call 07807 341364 for full details and booking for both shows.



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SAXMUNDHAM CRICKET CLUB

Here we are – September and nearly the end of the cricket season – the hundred winner decided (unknown at time of writing) and only the 3rd test of the England v Pakistan series left to play.

Promotion is still very much on the cards for Saxmundham CC as we moved into game 11 away to Melton St Audreys. Melton batted first but were skittled out for 87 with Captain Roshan taking 5 wickets. Showing their promotion credentials Saxmundham soon set about chasing down the runs and a quick fire from Suranga saw Saxmundham win by 8 wkts.

The following week (game 12) saw a short trip up the A14 to bottom of the league Felixstowe. Some excellent bowling by Mark Bolderston (5/40) and a 1st wkt for Paul Gear restricted Felixstowe to 135 all out. Chasing down the total Gary (54no) and Tom (39no) saw Saxmundham home by 7wkts for another 20pts.

Game 13 saw a long trip to Kirby, Essex but first a visit to the seaside for a team breakfast to a former teammate's café.

On another hot summer day Saxmundham CC got off to a flying start with Gary and Tom hitting the ball to all parts of the ground against 9 man Kirby.

An opening partnership of 82 saw Tom depart for 26. Gary continued to a quick fire 58 and Abi 31 but 167 all out was disappointing after such a great start. Despite some good bowling by Mark who again took 5 wickets for a second running, the other bowlers couldn't offer him the support he required along with dropped catches and Kirby got home by 4 wkts with 6 overs to spare.

Now firmly in the top 4 and with promotion in mind 2nd place Dedham came to Carlton Park, but with only 9 players Saxmundham CC felt they had a good chance of winning. Restoring the successful and longstanding opening partnership of Gary and Ray they put on 79 for the 1st wicket until Gary was out for 40. Ray batted out for a score of 80 and contributions from Abi (29) and Suranga (24) saw Saxmundham finish oh 235/9. With some tight bowling by all the Saxmundham bowlers Dedham were going to reach the target and ended up 95 runs short. A special mention should go to Balaji who on debut had bowling figures of 3/9 – well done.

With the final game away to Colchester Cavaliers on September 5th this could be a winner takes all – promotion or even title to the winners.

Thanks go to our main sponsors The Poachers Pocket and BMC Automotive.

LEISTON TOWN BOWLS

2026 continues with the most sunshine we have seen in a season for many a year and it's all good. With progress across most league sides, it will be interesting to see the final tables at the end of the season.

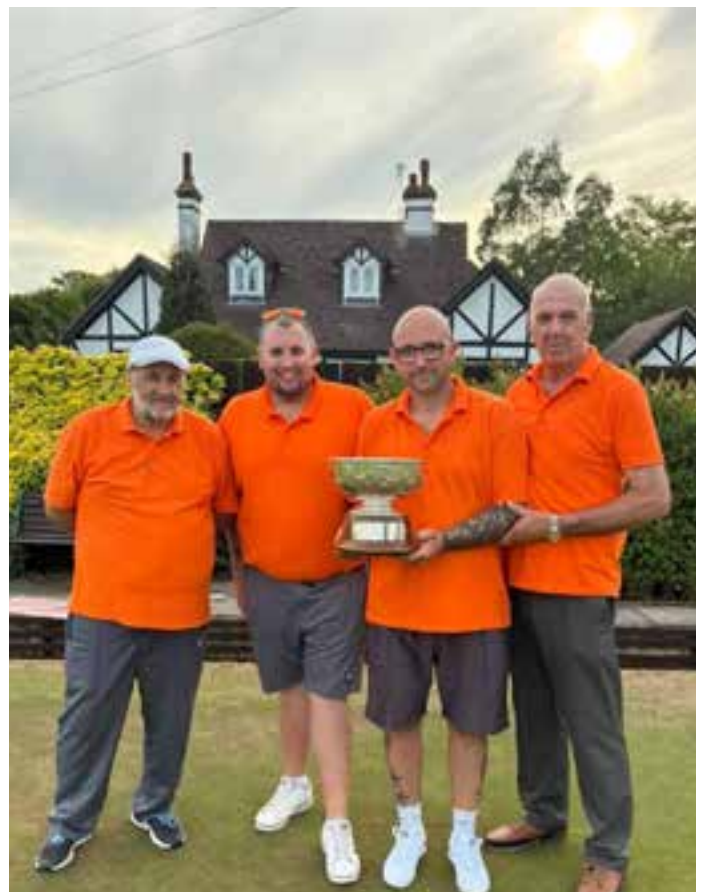
Our first team, who play in the Woodbridge league are top - 5.5 pts ahead of Laxfield. In Saxmundham 1, A side are second, behind leaders Laxfield who are running away with that league having lost no games this season. Saxmundham B side are third with a game in hand in division 2.

In the three wood leagues - Fynn league - although seventh we again have games in hand. Whilst the Bob Wright side remain consistent, playing well but not getting the rub of the green hence still the bottom club with only one win so far in 2026.

Steady progress across all teams, the Bob Wright side ensures all members get at least one weekly game, it trains new members, gives older players chances to recover from injuries and is much loved by its regulars.

The LTAA block of Grennie Wright, Tom keen, Cameron McGregor & Captain Richard Battle were a winning block in the successful Area B winning side that won the 2026 Marie Denny Trophy, in the photo showing our smart our orange club shirts!

Next important club date is Thursday September 3rd when our popular 4 wood open pairs tournament takes place. Enquiries to Secretary Richard Battle: 07841647166.



THE CUT SESSIONS

The Cut, Halesworth's arts centre, has announced Season 3 of The Cut Sessions, the new music series of curated gigs by original artists, for autumn 2026. After the sellout success of the second season, three great concerts are planned for October and November 2026.

Season 3 opens with **FLOOK** on **Friday 9 October 2026**. The iconic Anglo-Irish band bring their inimitable trademark sound, where traditional Celtic folk meets a contemporary vibe, to Halesworth for the very first time. A celebration you don't want to miss!

The season continues with **LINDISFARNE** on **Wednesday 4 November 2026**. The legendary '70s' folk-rock pioneers with a classic five-piece line-up of long-time members fronted by founder-member Rod Clements and a repertoire of unforgettable songs like Meet Me On The Corner, Fog On The Tyne, Lady Eleanor and Run For Home, Lindisfarne are guaranteed to get the crowd on their feet.

The season ends with **COLOSSEUM** on **Wednesday 25 November 2026**.

British jazz-rock legends and pioneers of progressive music at its most fearless, virtuosic and vital - essential listening, and an unmissable live experience. Led by soulful powerhouse vocalist and 60s icon, Chris Farlowe, and featuring blues guitar virtuoso Clem Clempson.

Aafke Groenewald, Manager of The Cut said: "We are so excited to be presenting these three world-class gigs here at The Cut, complimenting the rest of our eclectic programme. Get your tickets early!"



SEASON THREE 2026

THE CUT

FLOOK 9 OCT

LINDISFARNE 4 NOV

COLOSSEUM 25 NOV

THE CUT SESSIONS

CURATED GIGS | ORIGINAL ARTISTS

WWW.THECUT.ORG.UK The Cut Arts Centre, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8BY

Nick Dodds, programmer of the Cut Sessions said: "Selling nearly 1,300 tickets for the first two seasons shows there is demand for great music in Halesworth, with sell-out audiences coming from far and wide to see original artists in the intimate setting of The Cut. We are building a reputation that brings bigger and bigger artists to the town"

LEISTON ALLOTMENT HOLDERS & GARDENERS ASSOCIATION - SEPTEMBER

September nights can be much cooler and early morning frosts may be a hazard for us gardeners. Protect against gales by making sure stakes and ties are secure.

Vegetables: Runner beans reluctance to flower can sometimes be the result of over-feeding and/or over-watering. If they flower but only a few turn into beans, they may be in a chilly or windy part of the garden so try somewhere else. It is essential to lift your remaining potato crops before any autumn rains arrive, best carried out while the soil is dry, to speed up the drying of the potato skin and help with the storage life of the tubers.

Fruit: Prune loganberries after fruiting has finished. Cut all fruited stems back to ground level, before tying in the new stems. Fit grease bands to fruit trees to try and trap winter moths.

Dahlias: Feed with liquid fertilizer once every two weeks. Sow hardy annuals in for flowering next year. **Gladioli:** Leave corms undisturbed until fully matured.

Bulbs: Plan your layout after removing summer bedding as it fades. Replace with bulbs, plant from centre outwards.

Hedges: Clip new growth for the last time, remove any weeds around base. Plant any new evergreen hedges from the middle of the month to the middle of October.

Lawns: Apply autumn fertilizer 2oz per sq. yd. Scarify, rake, and remove debris. Fertilizer is best applied before the middle of the month. **Greenhouse:** Sterilize and wash inside and out. Replace any broken panes of glass. Remove shading to allow for maximum light. Towards the end of the month a little artificial heat may be required, set thermostats to around 7oC (45oF).

As tomatoes slow down towards the end of the month, to help them receive maximum sunlight take off all the leaves, but be careful with watering, avoid any splashes. Take cuttings of fuchsias, zonal pelargoniums other greenhouse plants. Bring primulas and other plants into the greenhouse. Annuals to sow for spring such as clarkia, cornflowers, nemesia, antirrhinums and calendulas, grown in pots in a cool greenhouse will make a colourful display next spring and early summer.

Tip for the Month: Lift and dry gladioli corms, put the corms in a net and hang from your shed roof to allow air to circulate. If you only have a few corms, put them in an old pair of tights!

Roderick Linsell

FEEL GOOD SUFFOLK

Can you step up this summer? New volunteer leaders needed for wellbeing walks across Suffolk.

Feel Good Suffolk is looking for volunteers to lead more walks across the county that help people with their wellbeing and physical health.

Feel Good Suffolk runs around 90 regular walks in Suffolk in partnership with The Ramblers. Over 1,000 people take part in walks every month from Haverhill to Lowestoft, with locations including the coast, countryside and town parks.

The wellbeing walks are a fantastic way of becoming more active, improving your wellbeing and meeting new people, all whilst exploring the Suffolk countryside.

There's a walk to suit everyone. Walks have different levels of ease and accessibility, from gentle strolls to more brisk routes and take from between 45 to 90 minutes. Most walks run during the week with some taking place every week and some, every one or two months.



Each walk is led by friendly, experienced volunteer walk leaders in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Feel Good Suffolk is looking for more of these leaders to support existing walks or to help set up new walks across the county. Walk Leaders would be encouraged to plan and set up new walks in their area.

Their role is to ensure walks are safe, inclusive and enjoyable and to be welcoming and friendly, creating a positive experience for everyone taking part.

Sonny Baldry, Wellbeing Walks Coordinator with Feel Good Suffolk, said: "We'd love to hear from anyone keen to help us set up new walks which people across Suffolk can enjoy. We're looking for friendly, reliable and confident volunteers who enjoy being outdoors and want to help others improve their health and wellbeing. Leading a walk is really rewarding and you can help to make a real difference to other people in your community."

Anyone interested in volunteering can email sonny.baldry@ipswich.gov.uk

Phil is a volunteer for a walk in Shotley. He says: "I volunteer to keep my fitness and mobility going. You get a chance to meet new people and make new friends. There is a lot of socialising as we go along."

Gerald is a walk leader for a regular walk in Woolpit, he says: "I volunteer because I enjoy walking and I wouldn't do this if it wasn't important. Socialising is definitely part of wellbeing and these are wellbeing walks which encourage that."

You can find out more about the walks near you at feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk/wellbeing-walks

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PROJECT UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2026

Works to improve and install infrastructure to facilitate the construction of Sizewell C progresses well. We are aiming to reduce disruption as much as possible as the works continue and thank the East Suffolk community for their patience.

The B1122, Pretty Road is closed for the construction of the Sizewell Link Road, along with Hawthorn Road and Fordely Road.

The two-village bypass continues to progress, with the new roundabout at Tinker Brook Lane beginning to take shape. Earthworks continue with piling at the Alde bridge.

Road safety improvements along the A12 continue in Marlesford, including a new pathway and signalised crossing. The western arm of the works is complete, we have switched the traffic management requirements to the other side of the road as we build new footways along the eastern section.

Park and Ride capacity at Wickham Market has increased, and more workers are using the buses. The roundabout at the Darsham park and ride continues to progress, and track management is now lifted at peak times. Both Park and Rides will be operating at full capacity by the autumn.

The B1122, Station Road in Leiston closed in August so Cadent could install new gas mains before new level crossing gates are fitted. Track management is also required as the Sizewell link road roundabout is constructed. We will continue to update the Sizewell C Works Tracker on a daily basis.

Leiston now has a refurbished BMX pump track thanks to Sizewell C contractors and Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council. Teams from Jackson Civil Engineering, Toppesfield, Ovenden, Lynch and ATM volunteered to transform the facility with a new riding surface, landscaping improvements and enhanced safety features.

All tracks are laid to the temporary rail line around Leiston and trains are running to the temporary construction area. There is an engineering train running from Saxmundham Road level crossing to the TCA over the next few weeks to consolidate track ballast and place the track in its final alignment.

The Marine Bulk Import Facility (an offshore loading platform) at Sizewell beach has reached the shoreline and is now progressing across the sea, with work due to be complete in early 2027.

The final sheet pile on the 783m Temporary Sea Defence wall has been installed, ending this phase of work. This helps to protect the site and allows the next phase to go on. The steel installation on our campus steel structure is complete, and the next stage includes the foundations for the first 8 accommodation blocks. Cladding for the amenity building begins Q3-26. The concrete batching plant is progressing well - the first of 4 is due to be operational in September.

East Suffolk Council has granted planning permission for College on the Coast. The new two-storey facility will be built on King George's Avenue and will accommodate 150 students, 20 full-time staff and a dedicated drop-in hub for 50 apprentices. Delivered with Suffolk New College, it will offer technical and vocational courses in engineering, digital skills, business and logistics.

Archaeological work began in August, with main construction to start as archaeology progresses. Teaching and training are scheduled to begin in 2027, before expanding further in following years.

Our thoughts are with communities affected by the Dunwich Heath wildfires. We continue to support the emergency services that have worked incredibly hard at the scene.



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 your patience during these works.

To find out more about the progress of the works, the next round of community forums are:

Southern Transport Forum

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

Main Development Site Forum

Wednesday 7 October 18:00,
Leiston Town Athletic Association

Sizewell C

For more information and for more forum dates visit sizewellc.com/community/forums

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

FROM THE WOLLASTON CONSORT

The Wollaston Consort (Julie Harmer - flute, and Peter Clayton harpsichord) have become well-known for their baroque music concerts at Sibton Church. They will be returning to Sibton on **19th September** at 3.30pm. Much loved and admired by audiences, their music is perfect for the acoustics at Sibton. The repertoire includes music for flute and harpsichord and often includes music for Sibton's historic organ. Composers represented this year are Bach, Bavet, and Quantz.

Teas follow the performance and as always, tea is included in the cost of a ticket. Tickets: Adult £15, U8s £10.

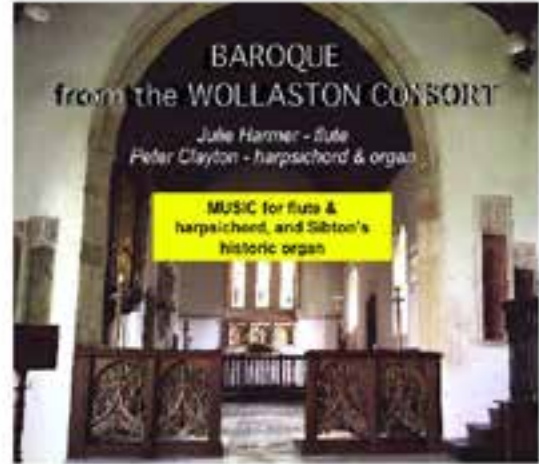


St. Peter's Church, Sibton

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Saturday September 19th 2026 at 3.30pm

CONCERT



An afternoon including music by
Bach, Blavet, Quantz
followed by tea and cake

Tickets Adults: £15.00
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Tickets on sale for cash only at Peasenhall General Store;
The Weavers Tearoom; and on the door

Organised by the Friends of St Peter's Church, Sibton (Reg. charity No. 1063822)
In aid of repairs to the roof of the nave of Sibton Church

SUFFOLK DOG DAY

Join us on **Sunday 13 September** at Trinity Park, to celebrate all things canine at Suffolk Dog Day hosted by St Elizabeth Hospice.

Sponsored by Skinners, Suffolk Dog Day is a popular event which celebrates man's best friend and will feature a range of fun dog classes, dog agility and scurry activities as well as over 50 stalls full of doggy goodies, Crufts style competitions, children's entertainment and plenty of food and drink stalls for attendees to enjoy. Gates open to the public at 10am and close at 4pm. Proceeds from ticket sales and donations will go to St Elizabeth Hospice's care in the local community.

James Fox-Golding, Events and Challenges Manager at St Elizabeth Hospice: *"Suffolk Dog Day is a much-loved event, and we are excited for it to return in September."*

"The day brings together the local community to celebrate our love of dogs and raise vital funds for the hospice. Tickets are on sale now, so don't miss out on this year's event which is set to be the best yet!"

All ticket proceeds and donations from Suffolk Dog Day will go to St Elizabeth Hospice, which every year provides support to over 4,000 patients & families living with life-limiting illnesses in East & Mid-Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney.

Annually, these services cost around £12 million to deliver, with 70% of these funds being generated by the local community's support of the hospice's income streams.

To book Suffolk Dog Day tickets and for more details, please visit www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/get-involved/events/all-events-challenges/suffolk-dog-day-2026/. To find out more about St Elizabeth Hospice call 01473 727776 or visit www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk.



**Ellen Sutcliffe with Tig -
Best in Show winner in 2025**



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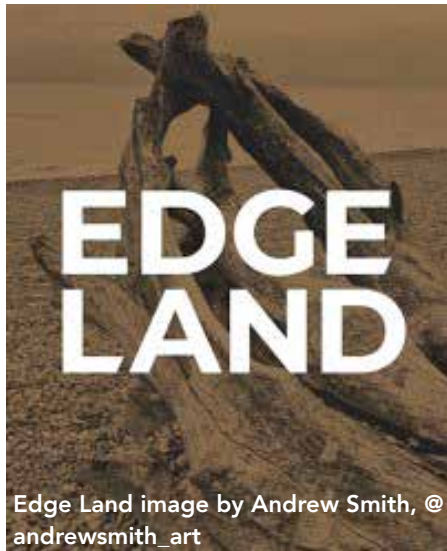
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CREATIVE FORCES UNITE TO SPOTLIGHT SUFFOLK'S CHANGING COAST

The Suffolk coast, is to be the focus of a wide-ranging collaboration between 20 artists and writers exploring natural and man-made change. The project, called Edge Land, is led by curator and artist Jen Hall, and will culminate in a number of exhibitions later in 2026 and 2027.



"The Suffolk coast and its hinterland is a wild and beautiful place, but at the moment it seems to be under threat from all directions, natural and man-made," explains project lead, sculptor and botanical artist Jen Hall. *"In some cases, the transformation to the landscape has been dramatic and sudden. As artists and writers, we want to reflect on this through our art and, hopefully open up debate with the public around these significant changes."*



Old Oak, Staverton Park, etching and aquatint by Jen Hall

Over the next two years, the Edge Land poets, performance artists, sculptors, writers and photographers, all of whom live in or have strong roots in Suffolk, will travel along the coast and its hinterland creating new work to be shown in a series of exhibitions and they're inviting the public to join them.

One of those involved is artist **Caroline Wright**, whose on-going PhD research is centred around the village of Thorpeness and its eroding coastline.

"Working with the Edge Land project will enable me to be part of a conversation with many different artists, raising awareness, and at the same time making meaningful art," says Caroline Wright, *"there's an emotional impact when you're by the sea, and in the sea. A realisation of the rapid amount of change."*

Photographer and writer **Richard Allenby-Pratt** agrees, *"I'm keen to support any initiative in East Suffolk that promotes dialogue and community interaction, at this time when many people are feeling challenged by what they're seeing in the landscape around them. The large-scale construction projects currently under way can cause fractures and divisions in communities. We have to work hard to maintain and rebuild connections – art is an ideal medium to explore this period of change."*



Writer **Vicky Proctor** hopes the project will act as a reminder of our relationship with the landscape. *"Human beings are connected to the places they live,"* she says, *"this connection creates meaning and a sense of belonging. If the Edge Land project can bring a slowing down, a reconnection, and a remembering that we are just one piece of a landscape that is populated by more than people, then it will have done well."*



Writer Vicky Proctor: **"Taking inspiration from East Anglian farming equipment"**.

"There'll be plenty of ways for the public to interact with the work," explains Jen Hall. *"During September and October 2026 we are holding an exhibition and writing workshops at the Long Shop Museum in Leiston. In November 2026 we'll be at the 142 Gallery in Felixstowe. Our final show will be a major exhibition at The Old Theatre in Framlingham (to be confirmed) during August 2027."*

"Follow the @edge_land Instagram account for announcements of further events, and to see our work develop as we go back out into the landscape over the next two years," she concludes.



Caroline Wright working at Thorpeness

ALDEBURGH COMEDY WEEKEND

Jack Dee, Jo Brand and Joanna Lumley Lead Aldeburgh Comedy Weekend's Return

The man who helped create Blackadder, Spitting Image and QI will be honoured in Aldeburgh this October as the town's Comedy Weekend returns with its biggest line-up yet.

Following a sell-out debut in 2025, Aldeburgh Comedy Weekend returns from Friday **16th to Sunday 18th October 2026** with an expanded programme bringing some of the biggest names in British comedy to the Suffolk coast. Jack Dee, Jo Brand, Ed Byrne and John Lloyd lead this year's line-up at Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall, with Joanna Lumley appearing at neighbouring Aldeburgh Cinema. Half of the Weekend's eight events are led by women, and a new 'Have I Got New For You' strand will introduce Aldeburgh audiences to rising and less familiar names, beginning with Sofie Hagen.



Created by comedy producer Paul Schlesinger and writer Jon Canter, the Weekend launched in October 2025 with three days of stand-up, satire, improvisation and comic theatre, selling out performances across the programme. Its return firmly establishes the event as an exciting new fixture in Aldeburgh's cultural calendar.

The 2026 programme brings together established favourites, influential comedy-makers and a wider cast of performers.

Jack Dee brings his masterfully dry observations, Jo Brand her sharp, subversive humour, and Ed Byrne the intelligent, quick-witted stand-up that has made him an audience favourite for more than three decades.

On Sunday 18th October, John Lloyd will receive the Lunchtime Achievement Award at a special event sponsored by The Suffolk.

The producer and writer behind Blackadder, Spitting Image and QI has helped shape British comedy for more than 40 years and the event offers a rare opportunity to hear from one of the industry's most influential creative figures.

On the same day, Joanna Lumley will appear at Aldeburgh Cinema in Desert Island Comedy Flicks, sharing her wit and the stories of her remarkable career, completing a weekend rich in comic talent.

Aldeburgh Comedy Weekend producer, Paul Schlesinger, said: *"After the reception Aldeburgh gave our first Comedy Weekend, we couldn't wait to return.*

This year's expanded programme brings together an extraordinary line-up of performers and comedy-makers, some of whom we have admired for decades and others who are rising stars, across two of the town's most characterful venues."

Writer Jon Canter said: *"We are delighted to honour John Lloyd's exceptional contribution to British comedy and grateful to The Suffolk for generously sponsoring this special event. There can be few better places than Aldeburgh to spend an October weekend laughing."*

Emily Mummery, General Manager of Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall, said: *"The first Aldeburgh Comedy Weekend filled the Hall with laughter and brought us new audiences. Its return with such an exceptional line-up is wonderful news for the town and a real vote of confidence in Jubilee Hall as a home for outstanding live entertainment."*

The full programme, performance times and booking details are available at www.aldeburghjubileehall.co.uk



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FROM JENNY RIDDELL-CARPENTER, MP



Woodbridge and Martlesham

I'm delighted to share that I have been appointed as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature and Rural Affairs at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

This is a role that feels incredibly personal to me, because both nature and rural communities have been at the heart of my work since I was elected as your MP.

Suffolk Coastal is one of the most beautiful parts of the country, with a landscape shaped by our coastline, estuaries, rivers, heathlands, farmland and ancient woodlands. We are incredibly fortunate to live in an area that is home to such a rich variety of wildlife, from rare species and important habitats to internationally significant landscapes.

I have often said that Suffolk is the wildlife and nature capital of the UK, and I truly believe that. Our natural environment is not just something to admire - it is part of what makes our community and local area so special. It is a critical national natural infrastructure for biodiversity and wildlife, and it is also vital to our local economy and society - attracting tourism, improving our own wellbeing and giving our towns and villages their distinctive character.

From the back benches I have worked to ensure that nature and environmental issues were properly recognised in decision-making, and that the experiences of local communities were heard. From raising concerns about the impact of development on our environment, to highlighting the importance of nature recovery and working with local organisations, these issues have been a central part of my work as your MP.

I have also spent a great deal of time listening to rural communities across Suffolk Coastal. Rural areas have huge strengths, but they also face particular challenges - from access to services and transport, to pressures on farming, water, housing and infrastructure. Too often, rural communities feel that decisions are made without properly understanding the realities of living and working in the countryside. Taking on this ministerial role gives me an opportunity to bring those local experiences into national decision-making. Andy Burnham talks about having a "Makerfield test" when making decisions in Government. For me, it will be the "Suffolk Coastal test" - making sure the experiences of rural communities like ours are reflected in the decisions we take, while delivering better outcomes for nature nationally and internationally.

I know many people locally care deeply about nature and rural issues, and I want that knowledge and passion to continue shaping my work. Whether it is protecting our rivers and coastline, supporting rural communities, or ensuring nature recovery is delivered in a way that works for people as well as the environment, I will continue to make sure Suffolk Coastal's voice is heard.

I'm incredibly proud to take on this new challenge, and I look forward to getting started in the role.

As always, if there is anything my team or I can help with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contact:

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

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

As part of the Government's Crisis and Resilience Fund, Suffolk County Council has continued to run its Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS). This scheme is designed to help low-income households experiencing financial hardship. There are lots of reasons why someone might be in financial hardship and the LWAS is there to help those who are most in need with essential household costs or energy, water or phone bills. To receive financial support from the LWAS you must live in Suffolk, be over 16 years of age and able to demonstrate that you are in financial hardship.

Your combined household income should be under £30,000 and your savings below £1,500. (Savings limit for those aged 66 or above is £6,000). Details of the scheme and how to apply can be found on the link below: Crisis and Resilience Fund - Suffolk County Council

We have a dedicated team of advisors who support clients in making LWAS applications. They will contact a client to gain an understanding of their personal circumstances, check their eligibility to apply and to gather the necessary supporting documents.

Last year we helped 1,250 households, who have been significantly impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. Alongside this support, we also offer debt, budgeting and housing advice, with a view to helping households become more financially resilient in the longer term.

If you would like more information on the LWAS or help with making an application, please email us from our website: www.caes.org.uk/email-service. Or you can phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10-2 Mon-Fri).

FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION



The summer has been all about kittens in our foster pens. At the time of writing, we have 30 kittens in our care, all needing

socialisation, feeding, litter training and vet visits before they can be rehomed. Every kitten adopted from Fram and Sax Cats Protection is health checked, treated for fleas and worms, vaccinated, microchipped and neutered (or goes home with a neutering voucher if under 16 weeks) plus four weeks' free insurance via PetPlan. While the love and attention are freely given, veterinary treatment, neutering and microchipping are not. Our adoption fee of £95 for kittens under six months goes some way to cover the cost and helps us continue our vital work.

Buying kittens from online ads or social media can be risky and may fuel indiscriminate breeding. Private ads rarely mention the mother's health, how often she has been bred, or whether she has been vaccinated and regularly checked by a vet. Always be wary if you cannot see the mother. Ask for proof of vet treatments. If a kitten is said to be vaccinated, you must be given the vaccination card.

A responsible seller will also ask questions about you and your home.

Most importantly, ensure your kitten is neutered to prevent yet more unwanted litters. If you or someone you know is looking for a kitten, please adopt rather than shop.

Still time to book your places for our Quiz Night on **Friday, 25 September 2026, 7pm for 7.15** at the Fromus Centre in Saxmundham. Free parking on site. Teams of up to six people are welcome, and tickets are £5 per person. To book your places or find out more, email: fundraising@framandsax.cats.org.uk

Cats Looking for Homes: these beauties are one year old Georgia and her 12 week old daughter Dakota. Georgia is long, sleek and striking, with a graceful, almost aristocratic look. She's very friendly and chatty, loves her food, and enjoys joining in games. Dakota is a bold, cheerful little girl who is always happy to roll over for tummy tickles and adores fuss and attention. We are looking for a home where Georgia and Dakota can stay together.

They will need a safe garden to explore in an area away from busy roads. You can see them and all our cats and kittens here: <https://www.cats.org.uk/framlingham-saxmundham#adopt-all>

Website: www.cats.org.uk/framandsax, email: enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk, or telephone 01728 723499 for more information about adopting cats in our care;

how to become a member of the branch; event dates; neutering; cat-care leaflets; how to become a volunteer fundraiser or fosterer, make a donation and other ways you can support us. Also find us on Facebook and Instagram.



Georgia



Dakota

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

Leiston Observer 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 Thursday 1st October, copy deadline is 14th September - 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 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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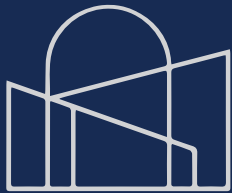
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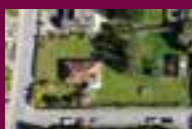
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