

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

# SOUTHWOLD ORGAN



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ALDEBURGH TIMES

WOODBRIDGE TALK

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LEISTON OBSERVER

FRAMLINGHAM FOCUS



What's On at  
**Leiston**  
 Film Theatre

Fri 4th & Sat 5th Sept at 7.15pm  
 Sun 6th Sept at 3.00pm  
 Mon 7th Sept at 1.00pm  
 Tues 8th Sept at 7.15pm  
 Wed 9th Sept at 3.00pm  
 Thurs 10th Sept at 7.15pm  
 Wed 23rd & Thurs 24th Sept at 2.00pm

### HOLY DAYS 12A

Sun 6th Sept at 6.00pm

### HANDA OPERA VERDI'S LA TRAVIATA PG

Fri 11th Sept at 7.00pm  
 Sat 12th Sept at 6.00pm  
 Sun 13th Sept at 2.00pm  
 Mon 14th & Tues 15th Sept at 7.00pm  
 Wed 16th Sept at 2.00pm  
 Thurs 17th Sept at 7.00pm

### DE GAULLE: RESISTANCE 15

Sun 13th Sept at 6.00pm

### FUNNY GIRL THE MUSICAL PG

Fri 18th, Sat 19th &  
 Sun 20th Sept at 7.15pm

### SPA WEEKEND 15

Mon 21st & Tues 22nd Sept at 7.15pm

### ONE NIGHT ONLY 15

Fri 25th - Sun 27th Sept

**LIVE ON STAGE**

LIMITED TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

### MOURNING CAMPERS

Sun 27th Sept at 6.30pm  
 Mon 28th Sept at 1.00pm & 7.15pm  
 Tues 29th Sept at 7.15pm  
 Wed 30th Sept at 2.00pm & 7.15pm  
 Thurs 1st Oct at 7.15pm  
 Fri 2nd Oct at 2.00pm & 7.15pm  
 Sun 4th Oct at 6.00pm

### PRESSURE 12A

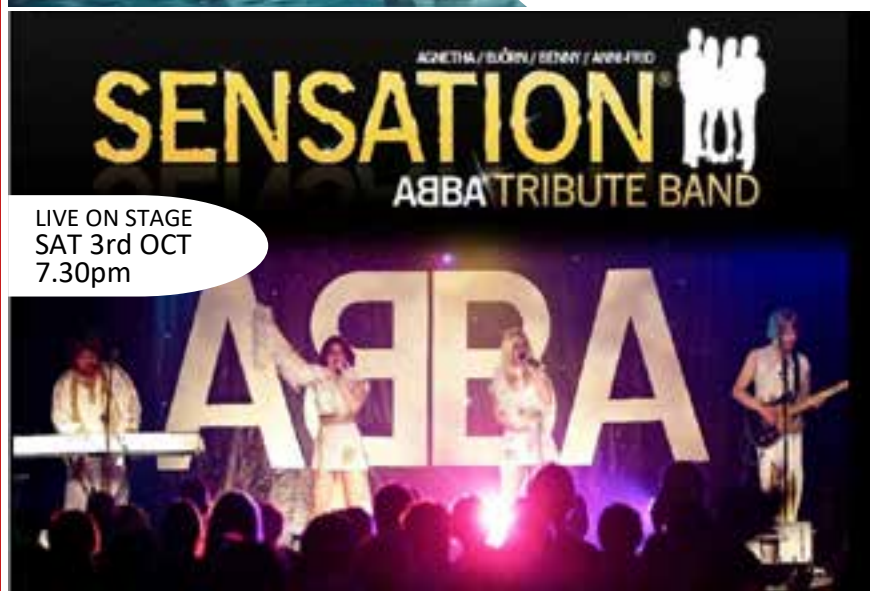
Sat 3rd Oct at 7.30pm

**LIVE ON STAGE**

### ABBA SENSATION

01728 830549

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



## A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Entertainment to suit all this month with Reydon village hall presenting soul, funk & motown with the 'Optics' and the Arts Centre offering 'Washed in Walberswick', 'Horation Nelson - Fever & Fire' - a one-man show from Adam Preston and comedy drama musical - 1816. These local venues welcome your support and you won't be disappointed.

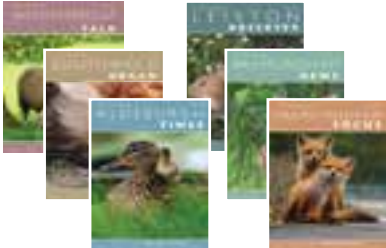
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Email: [lou@tidecollection.com](mailto:lou@tidecollection.com)

### Quote of the month

Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes

Oscar Wilde



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FRAMLINGHAM & SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION 19

- Many kittens needing loving homes!

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- Featuring a wide range of fiction & non-fiction talks by well known authors



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## A FOUNDATION COURSE IN DOWSING

Can people really find underground water with a twig or a bit of bent wire? **YES**, indeed they can! The people who can do this are dowsers or water diviners. It is a natural ability that humans and animals have. Most people can do it with a bit of guidance from an experienced dowser.

### Would you like to have a try?

Here is your chance! This practical course gets you started on water divining and other kinds of dowsing with rods, the pendulum and other tools. You will learn how to dowse for water, earth energies and the human energy field. You will even have a go at map dowsing. We will cover protection, ethics and the art of framing effective dowsing questions. Those with some experience will also benefit.



### Equipment will be available.

Bring a packed lunch, notebook and pen and suitable clothing for outdoors. Free tea, coffee and biscuits. Free parking. Disabled access.

Tutor Sue Pine is an experienced dowser and BSD member

**Where and When?** 17 October 10 am - 5pm  
Blythburgh Village Hall, London Road  
Blythburgh, Suffolk, IP19 9LQ

£90 (BSD members £80)



*This is a British Society of Dowsers' approved and certificated course*

**Bookings: Email: [info@britishdowsers.org](mailto:info@britishdowsers.org)  
or phone the BSD office on 01684 576969**

# MOTORCYCLE DAY

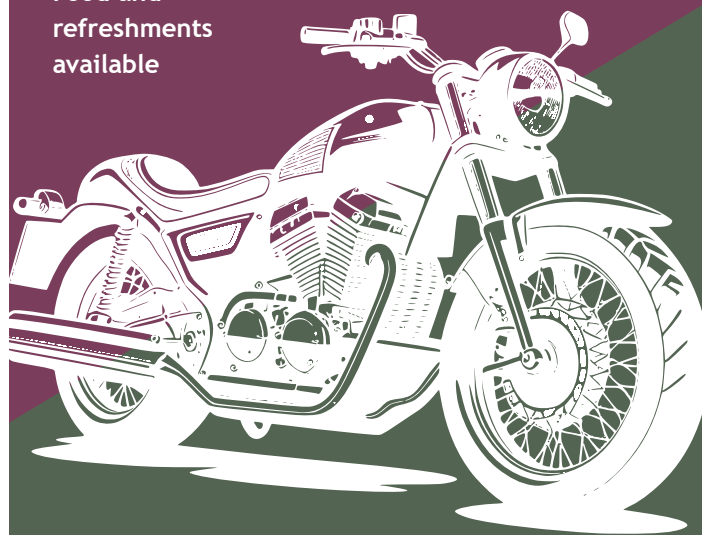
SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

10AM - 4PM

## AT THE LONG SHOP MUSEUM

**FREE ENTRY** to visitors with bikes, trikes & combinations

Food and refreshments available



## WHAT'S ON AT THE SAIL LOFT? 2026

Welcome to The Sail Loft, here you will find all the exciting things that we have going on over the next month.

### AUTUMN SAVER MENU £10 MAIN COURSES

Available from October 1st | Monday - Thursday Lunch & Dinner\*

#### SAMPLE MENU

**Ploughman's platter** of carved ham, pork & cider terrine, cheeses, pickles salad & bread

**Crisp cajun chicken** fillet burger with fries

**Venison stroganoff**, steamed rice & sour cream

**Crispy chicken katsu**, steamed rice and Asian pickles

**Pulled pork**, tomato and chorizo linguine with dressed rocket

**Spiced lentil and chickpea** burger, mango chutney & fries

**Creamy mussel**, sweetcorn, celeriac & baby spinach chowder

*\*Available Monday to Thursday lunch & dinner, excludes school holidays*



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# SOUTHWOLD & REYDON SOCIETY



In August we do not hold a Committee Meeting and there is no usual monthly article. However, we do like to use the opportunity to describe our objectives and what we try to do for the community in Southwold and Reydon.

**To protect and enhance the character and amenities in our area:** This forms the general discussions at our monthly meetings, where we have been speaking for the community for over 50 years.

**We aim to protect and enhance all that makes Southwold and Reydon attractive for both residents and visitors:** Both communities have a full-time population which is buoyed by second homeowners and holiday makers, so for example it is essential that any development plans are sympathetic to these needs. Each month we scrutinise and where appropriate respond to all planning applications in both Southwold and Reydon especially on the issue of affordable housing in any development. We also like to do fun things for the community and this year ran a Sandcastle Completion in Southwold for residents and visitors which took a lot of planning and organising but was a great success attracting over 100 participants.

**We support independent shops, local jobs, affordable housing and a thriving harbour.** In our community local jobs are essential to a thriving local economy but it is difficult for people working in the area to afford to buy or rent. This is why for example we made a freedom of information to East Suffolk Council about their turnaround times for getting Council properties back into use and tenanted which has seen a noticeable increase in occupancy.

We are concerned about the effect of any decrease in footfall on the High Street and are keen to try to do whatever we can to support local businesses. At the harbour end of town we pressed to join the Stakeholders Advisory Group to the Harbour Management Committee and are now members of that Group and amongst other things are actively lobbying for any development of the caravan and camping park to be sensible and sympathetic to users of those amenities.

**We campaign to protect the coast and surrounding countryside.** The environment is very fragile, and we are conscious of the impact of global warming and the effect this will have on the diverse wildlife that this area supports and we have campaigned hard about the environmental impact of National Grid projects such as LionLink and SeaLink. We have also joined a local footpath group formed with Reydon Parish Council, meeting with Suffolk County Council who maintain local footpaths as we think it is essential that these remain accessible and well maintained. Similarly, this year we have been lobbying both Natural England and DEFRA and other agencies and elected representatives about a date for the opening on the Southwold to Pakefield section of the King Charles III coastal path.

**We campaign to improve local amenities and services.** We watch, carefully, all the facilities that our communities require, which include Health provision, Education and Transport links. These essential services plus infrastructure are of particular importance when considering the impact of planned housing developments.

**Membership numbers are very important to us.** The larger the membership we have, the better our lobbying power. Although our membership fees of £3 per annum are low, we do encourage all kinds of donations, which we use to boost those small but important donations we are able to make to local activities and groups such as this year to the Southwold Sailing Club for their much needed new Slipway. There are details on our website: [sandsoc.org.uk](http://sandsoc.org.uk) or email us: [admin@sandsoc.org.uk](mailto:admin@sandsoc.org.uk). The QR code will take you to a membership form.



## SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY

Apologies to all those who attended our open days expecting to see Blyth in steam. We took the decision not to run steam during this dry spell to avoid any stray sparks causing a wild fire. We will let you know when we will be in steam, until then pray for rain! On our open days we run the diesel locos and on the miniature railway we run the electric loco so still lots to see and do. We will be taking part in the Southwold Heritage event with, hopefully, Blyth in steam on **Sunday 20th September**.

Our AGM will be on **Saturday 10th October** 2.00pm at the Electric Picture Palace, all are welcome. We have started our junior member events with one person learning about controlling a diesel loco. More days will be included this year. If you are interested, please ask for a membership form. It costs just £7.50 to join which includes four magazines a year.

We are still looking for generous donations to enable us to have made a replica passenger carriage.

This will enable us to give rides and therefore increase our fundraising. This is going to cost around £100,000 and although we have a pledge of money from the Southwold Trust we are severely short of the target, can you help? If you can help. In anyway, you can donate through our website or send an email to: [treasurer@southwoldrailway.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@southwoldrailway.co.uk). Volunteers are also welcome on any Wednesday at Steamworks.

**Bob Mole**

# 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!"

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"

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**SEASON THREE 2026**

**THE CUT**

**FLOOK 9 OCT**

**LINDISFARNE 4 NOV**

**COLOSSEUM 25 NOV**

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*This event is being sponsored by the TEZMAE Trust,  
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## SOUTHWOLD RNLI

Featuring a display in front of the promenade with Southwold's Atlantic 85 Lifeboat Annie Tranmer, joined by Aldeburgh RNLI's Atlantic 85 Ralph, the beach lifeguard team and the Southwold Sailing Club rescue boat playing the part of a casualty vessel with engine failure and the yacht Elise.

Prior to the display, Aldeburgh's Atlantic 85 Ralph, arrived at Southwold Harbour, and all volunteers and boat teams gathered for a safety briefing.

Just before 11:00 the support boats departed the harbour, heading to their designated positions and within a few minutes began depositing staged 'casualties' into the water for the lifeboat crews and lifeguards to assist.

A rescue mannequin fell from the pier and was rescued by beach lifeguards, meanwhile another rescue mannequin fell overboard from Elise, further casualties included a canoe, two lifeguards on a paddle board and finally a vessel with a simulated engine failure.

Throughout the display the spectators were kept informed by an excellent commentary from a PA system situated outside the Southwold Sailors Reading Room on East Cliff.



By 11:40, the final rescue was completed, and all boats assembled on the beach where crews, volunteers, RNLI mascot Stormy Stan and spectators gathered for photographs, marking the end of a successful and well executed demonstration.

The crews returned to the Lifeboat Station with a visit to Walberswick beach en route, where they refuelled with a BBQ thanks to Henstead Marsh Beef and Penny Bun Bakehouse, and welcomed members of the public for viewings of the lifeboats and the station facilities and a pop-up shop with volunteers from the Queen Street Lifeboat shop.



Southwold Lifeboat Operations Manager, Simon Hazelgrove said *"The crew, lifeguards, fundraisers and the master of ceremonies did a tremendous job this year. All working together to make it a community event that we can all be very proud of. Thank you one and all."*

Lucia Poels of the Southwold & Dunwich Fundraisers said *"It was wonderful to see everyone come together for Lifeboat Day again this year. The crew, lifeguards, fundraisers, volunteers and our brilliant master of ceremonies all played such an important part in making it a real community event. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who gave their time and donated so generously. Every penny raised helps support the vital work of our Lifeboats, and it's something I think we can all be very proud of."*

Southwold's Lifeboat Day once again showcased the dedication of its volunteers and the community spirit that keeps the town's maritime heritage thriving.

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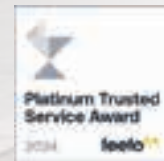
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# FESPA SUMMER PARTY 2026



FESPA is an East Suffolk charity that supports the performing arts across East Suffolk and offers bursaries and grants to young performers as well. FESPA grew out of the Southwold Summer Theatre under the stewardship of Jill Freud, its first president. It was a fitting tribute therefore that FESPA members, friends and Southwold Art Centre staff met to remember the long artistic life of Jill Freud, actress, director and producer who did so much to put the arts in East Suffolk on the map.

It was pleasing to see so many faces fill Southwold Arts Centre auditorium as proceedings were opened with a short introduction by the President of FESPA, Georgie Glen, who recalled her audition for Jill early in her career with such good humour, and it set the mood perfectly as she handed over to the current FESPA Chair, Barbara Horne. Barbara was clearly delighted at the number of new FESPA members and she thanked all for their support. She spoke fondly of Jill, a constant and deeply loyal friend and mentor, who, though lauded by the establishment as Lady Freud for her many years of service as an MP's wife to her husband Clement Freud, was simply Jill to so many.

Barbara had worked with Jill for over 30 years and spoke of her with great passion and respect. She explained how Jill worked tirelessly to develop the Southwold summer theatre, upgrading it from the terrors of rehearsing and opening plays in a week to the luxury of having over a fortnight to learn lines before the first night! Jill introduced lunchtime theatre, poetry and song events, children's theatre and with support from husband Clement, the installation of raised seating allowing for a more comfortable theatre experience. Jill saw audiences build to capacity level and the popularity and professionalism of the company resulted in transfers to Aldeburgh, other East Suffolk theatres and beyond including British council tours to Pakistan. It was during this period that Jill developed FESPA and with Sidi Scott set out to harness support from local theatre goers and create a memberships' scheme that not only gave them more of a personal insight into theatre but also helped provide funding for aspiring young performers.

The current general manager of Southwold Arts centre, a previous recipient of a FESPA bursary, spoke of her gratitude to FESPA for supporting her studies. The personal testament of Gina Stock was compelling as she explained how the financial support helped facilitate her post graduate degree at Cambridge and informed her career path to where she is today. What goes around comes around!

Emma Freud and her husband Richard Curtis recalled the character and traits of a working mother who balanced the demands of summer theatre with a busy home life. Their memories of Jill, alongside those of her dear friend Richard Gibson, were both humorous and touching and delighted the near capacity audience - she was clearly well loved and respected by all. Her grandson, Jake Curtis, had captured Jill talking about her life on film. His short videos were shown where Jill took us through her early acting career in film, theatre and radio and her childhood days as an evacuee.

On leaving London she was sent to billet with the family of CS Lewis who were not only caring and good companions but also helped fund Jill's training at RADA – perhaps that is where the seed for supporting budding artists was born?



Amidst the spoken words of appreciation there were delightful songs from Phyllida Hancock and Jackie Ibbotson accompanied on keyboards by Roy Margolis. They had been part of the original group of talented performers who entertained audiences weekly with song and poetry at lunchtime and Sunday evening events during Jill's tenure. Their close harmonies and stylish delivery of popular songs refreshed the memories of times long gone – and a special treat for FESPA members was the inclusion of Jill's daughter Emma Freud who joined them to touchingly sing *On Children*.

Barbara Horne, as Chair closed proceedings with thanks and praise for the efforts of members and volunteers but one final surprise was still to come as she welcomed a surprise guest, Charlie Mackesey, a close family friend of the Freuds. Quietly, this unassuming artist spoke of Jill's warmth, encouragement and fun whilst creating a black and white pen illustration of Jill at the pearly gates on his Ipad - it was fun, irreverent and skilful – just like Jill Freud.

The event closed with thanks and enthusiasm for this special lady of Suffolk.



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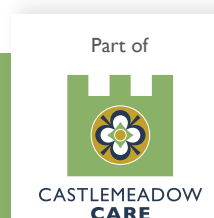
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# FROM JENNY RIDDELL-CARPENTER, MP



## 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](mailto:jenny.riddellcarpenter.mp@parliament.uk)

01394 330260

[www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org](http://www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org)

## DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

If you are interested in the life and works of Charles Dickens then our local branch of the international Dickens Fellowship may be just the place for you! General information about the Fellowship is available on their headquarters website: [dickensfellowship.org](http://dickensfellowship.org).

The Southwold and District branch's new 2026/27 season starts on Tuesday, 22nd September at 2pm in the Cardinal Newman Hall, Manor Park Road, Southwold IP18 6AF (note the change of venue.)

Meetings are held monthly, usually in the afternoons of the fourth Tuesday. The monthly programme consists of readings from the chosen novel – this time it is *Martin Chuzzlewit* - and presentations by members, as well as raffles and refreshments.

The first meeting will hear branch and headquarters news and an introduction to *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Later meetings will include readings from the novel and film extracts; a presentation on Charles Dickens's London;

a Dickens birthday luncheon at a local restaurant, plus Christmas and spring buffets with seasonal drinks.

The annual subscription is just £10 (which includes free entry to the Charles Dickens museum in London). New members will be made very welcome – and visitors can try us out for free. Further information is gladly available from Bill Wallond (01502 722212 or email: [wjwallond@hotmail.com](mailto:wjwallond@hotmail.com)).

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## EVENTS AT REYDON VILLAGE HALL

### The Optics: Funk, Soul and Motown @ Reydon Village Hall with Bar

**Saturday 26th September 7pm**

The Optics are a local high-energy funk, soul and Motown covers band, bringing timeless classics to life. From dance-floor classics to powerhouse vocals and irresistible grooves, if you love a live band come and see one of the best. Check them out at [www.theopticsuffolk.com](http://www.theopticsuffolk.com). Tickets are £12 per person and there will be a bar.

Tickets available from Charlotte 07715388916; [frogclock@hotmail.com](mailto:frogclock@hotmail.com) or online [www.ticketsource.co.uk/reydonvillagehall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/reydonvillagehall)

### Free Community Coffee Morning

**Friday 25th September 9.00am-11.30am**

Tea/Coffee and Toast (Pastries when available)

Reydon Village Hall Management Committee in conjunction with Reydon & Southwold Community Fridge & Pantry.



**Reydon Village Hall**  
... at the heart of the community.

## Free Community Coffee Morning

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
9.00-11.30am**

**@ Reydon Village Hall**

**Tea/Coffee and Toast  
(Pastries when available)**

Reydon Village Hall Management Committee in conjunction with Reydon & Southwold Community Fridge & Pantry

## SOLE BAY MENS SHED

The garden bench for the Sailors Reading Room has been completed and awaits collection by the customer.

Work has now commenced upon the complete rebuild of 'Ginger's Bench' and we produced sale stock for Darsham Show on 8th August.

We will soon be producing sale stock for various Christmas fairs.

Following feedback from members the range of activities offered will be expanded and we will be holding talks on subjects of interest.

Following a recent reorganisation we have changed our email addresses:

For membership enquiries: [sbmsjoin@gmail.com](mailto:sbmsjoin@gmail.com)

For general enquiries: [sbmshelp@gmail.com](mailto:sbmshelp@gmail.com)

Sole Bay Men's Shed is situated at Mights Road, Southwold. IP18 6BE

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

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



## REYDON SHOW 2026

The Reydon Show 2026 was brilliantly attended this year with large numbers coming to see all the lovely entries. The weather always keeps us guessing in this country, and I think the heat has frazzled up the fruit, veg and flowers (though we did have a good selection in the novelty vegetables) as the entries were low. So, remember next year if you can produce anything for a category you might be in luck! I reckon most people would be able to enter a pot plant so bring them along.

It was lovely to see all the baked goods, photography, and handicrafts – but always happy to have more next year. The kids' creativity was amazing, and we would encourage even more children to enter the free kids' categories next year – they can enter any arts and craft including 3D models, miniature gardens and Lego! So, any parents or grandparents out there encourage your children to enter free next year.

When you are planning your 2027 planting or embarking on some arts and crafts remember the first Saturday in August will be the Reydon Show next year.

### The trophy winners for 2026 were:

Ernest Moyse Memorial Trophy – most outstanding exhibit in flower classes: Lynn Nicholls

Challenge Cup (Open) most points in vegetable & fruit section: Phil Dawson

Garden News Shield (Reydon residents only) - most points in vegetable & fruit section: Phil Dawson

Charlie Martin Cup - (Reydon residents only) – runner up in vegetable & fruit section: Celia Wigg

Fitzgerald Cup – most points in flower section – Joint Winners: Lynn Nicholls & Anita Freeman

Frances Moyse Memorial Trophy – most outstanding exhibit in vegetable classes: Joe Taylor

Silver Plate – most points in cookery classes: Carol Horton

Reydon Show Trophy – best exhibit in adult handicraft:

Charlotte Clark

Reg Belcher Trophy – most points in handicraft: Charlotte Clark

Copperwheat Trophy – best exhibit in pot plant classes: Anita Freeman

Reydon Parish Council Shield (Reydon residents only) – best exhibit in cookery classes: Michelle Webb

Sam Adamson Cup – best exhibit in photography classes:

Charlotte Clark (Reserve Sandy Doyland)

Dillon Gibbon Trophy – most points in photography classes: Di Dawson

Jack and Ann Robin's Cup – best exhibit in kids classes: Taylor Murray

## 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](mailto: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](http://feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk/wellbeing-walks)

### James Powell



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# SOUTHWOLD ARTS CENTRE

## 'HORATIO NELSON, FEVER & FIRE'



**FIRE** "When it was confirmed I was bringing my show, *'Horatio Nelson, Fever and Fire'*, to the Southwold Arts Centre I was excited for all sorts of reasons. It's a gorgeous venue that oozes character and it is a hop and a skip from one of my favourite pubs in the world - the Lord Nelson on East Street.

But it is also close to The Southwold Sailor's Reading Room, one of the gems of the British seaside where I love to meditate on our seafaring heritage.

I have been writing about the victor of the Nile, Copenhagen and Trafalgar for many years but in 2025 I grew frustrated with the slow progress of a biopic film and decided to tell this amazing story myself.

Early on I had a stroke of luck. Dougie Hawkes, a Prime Time Emmy winning costume designer, agreed to design Nelson's wardrobe. This encouraged me to up my game and I commissioned a complex soundscape from BBC sound designer Amanda Priestly.

The show premiered at the Tabard Theatre, Chiswick in April this year and, to use a nautical phrase, I was taken aback by the response. Despite a bad cut on my hand (caused by lively swordplay) the first night garnered the most wonderful reviews and a Standing Ovation Award. The whole run sold out.

*'Fever and Fire'* is a one man show, but it is really a play and my favourite review commented on how I convey the importance of the women in Nelson's life.

I conjure several of Nelson's battles, including The Battle of Cape St Vincent. *'Horatio Nelson, Fever and Fire'* is coming to the Fisher Theatre, Bungay on the 21st October, the Southwold Arts Centre on the 22nd October and the Norwich Puppet Theatre on the 23rd and 24th October.

**Adam Preston**



## 1816

Hot on the heels of Brighton, Camden and off-West End success, 1816 heads to Southwold for one night only.

It's Byron and Shelley, as you've never seen them before, in this Friends meets Frankenstein comedy-drama musical, from the same company that originally launched SiX. 1816 is the ultimate origin story of the first modern vampire novel and Frankenstein, where a group of five Romantics get trapped for a summer they'd rather forget in their storm-swept villa by Lake Geneva...

Trapped indoors by torrential rain, legendary writers Byron, Percy and Mary Shelley and their friends, Polidori and Claire search for inspiration by the gloomy Lake Geneva. Driven by a desire for escapism, they challenge one another to create the best ghost story... but things fall apart the longer they are stuck together. John Polidori's diary is brought to life in 1816.

**5 STARS** from THE OBSCURITY:

*"It's a night at the theatre you won't forget, the type that leaves you with goosebumps and a head full of inspiration."*

Directed and produced by Dionaea Theatre, a professional company formed by alumni of the University of Cambridge. Written by Nat Riches and Natasha Atkinson. Directed by Suffolk-based director Gina Stock (Southwold Arts Centre, INK Festival, Barefaced Theatre).



## WASHED UP IN WALBERSWICK

September 13th to 17th sees the return of the brilliant Allegra Productions, with their fifth residency at Southwold Arts Centre and a new outrageous comedy by our resident playwright Robin Brooks, *'Washed Up in Walberswick'*, directed by well-known BBC radio producer Fiona McAlpine.

Their previous productions, *'Death in Southwold'*, *'No Sex in Southwold'*, *'Sex and Death in Southwold'* and *'Salacious Secrets in Southwold'*, had in common that they were adaptations of well-known nineteenth century plays or novels (including Strindberg's *'Dance of Death'* and Henry James' *'Aspern Papers'*)

They are peppered with jokes about local people or institutions. Who could have guessed that Strindberg or Henry James could provide the basis for farce? And what a privilege to be hosting the premiers of these witty plays.

Don't miss their 2026 production. One of the joys will be trying to work out which famous work it is based on. Allegra Productions' acting and direction are always superb.

Tickets (£17) are available from Southwold Arts Centre Box Office (01502 722572, Tuesday & Thursday 11am – 2pm) or online from <https://southwoldartscentre.co.uk>



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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](http://www.commongroundtc.co.uk) or call 07807 341364 for full details and booking for both shows.

### Blyth Valley & Southwold Wildlife Group

## Garden Bird Watch what, why and how to get involved

**Speaker - Susan Jones**  
from the B.T.O Garden Watch Team

7.30pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September  
Southwold Arts Centre  
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Admission £5 inc. refreshments  
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# FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

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 and vaccinations. A responsible seller will also ask questions about you and your home. Most importantly, ensure your kitten is neutered. 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 and £5 per person. Email: [fundraising@framandsax.cats.org.uk](mailto: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 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](http://www.cats.org.uk/framandsax), email: [enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk), or telephone 01728 723499



Georgia



Dakota

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We combined both classical and contemporary styles, seamless blending original period features with new. Paints in rich green tones complement the original beams, whilst in other parts warm neutrals were paired with jewel like aubergine tones all by Zoffany.

We guide our clients from early conception through various stages, depending upon what they'd like to achieve. Our Architectural Design Team assist with technical plans, detailed planning applications and costs, whilst our Interior Design Team selects fabric, finishes, lighting and furniture bringing the whole project together. We then work closely with our trusted tradespeople, ensuring every aspect is planned and lovingly installed.

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## A VIEW TO THE NORTH

Hot and dry! But, at least on the coast, it has been several degrees cooler. The conditions gave rise to the dreadful fire on Dunwich Heath. I was first aware when I could smell smoke and sent my drone up to investigate. On the first evening the wind was blowing to the northwest, and the smoke could be seen in front of the setting sun. The following morning the wind had shifted, and the smoke could be seen blowing out to sea. I hope that the heathland will recover quickly and the wildlife repopulate it. However, I fear it will be several years. I remember the fire that burnt though the gorse on Southwold common and that took a while to heal. I find it incredible that a drone weighing under 250g can take such clear images. The technology has advanced so much in the past few years.



The Southwold maize maze has now opened and I created an image of it using a mirror ball effect. The CAA do not allow flights above 400 feet, which would be needed to get a vertical photo of the whole maze.



Another advance in technology has brought us smart telescopes at an affordable price. Despite the shorter nights, the clear sky has allowed me to target various deep sky objects. One of them was the East Veil Nebula; it is the remnant of a supernova, a star twenty times more massive than our sun, which exploded between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago. It is about 2400 light years away.

The colours are created by hydrogen, sulphur and oxygen emissions.



Another 'toy' I have monitors birdsong in the garden. It is always difficult to work out when swifts depart, it is easy to spot their arrival but trickier to determine their absence. The song detector indicated that they flew south on August 4th. There still seems to be fewer birds around this year. The sedge and reed warblers have stopped calling but I have been hearing the characteristic sounds of green woodpeckers. I have rarely seen them in the vicinity in the past.

The warmer weather has resulted in an increase in the numbers of hummingbird hawk moths, which are not the easiest to photograph. I did manage one when it was feeding on the lobelia.

### Halcyon



# SOUTHWOLD LIBRARY

## Southwold Literary Festival: Friday 13th - Sunday 15th November @ Southwold Arts Centre

Inspired by the success of 'Slaughter in Southwold' Southwold Library, Southwold Arts Centre and Southwold Books launched 'Southwold Literary Festival' in November 2023. The 2026 Festival features an amazing mix of fiction and non-fiction authors speaking about a fascinating range of subjects. Tickets are £7 a talk, £18 Friday Day Ticket, £30 Saturday or Sunday Day Ticket, £78 for the whole weekend. Tickets can be booked at Southwold Library or by visiting: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary) or at Southwold Arts Centre.

### Friday 13th November

2pm: Felicity Goodall: The remarkable life & legacy of Suffolk writer & naturalist Mea Allan.

3.30pm: Erika Clegg: Author of 'Southwold 365', celebrating Southwold gems.

5.30pm: Kevin Crossley-Holland: Celebrated poet inspired by Britain's landscapes, myths & folklore.

### Saturday 14th November

10am: Robert Ashton in conversation with Matt Gaw: Storyteller of vanished rural traditions meets the award-winning nature writer.

11.30am: Robert Colls in conversation with Ronald Binns: 'George Orwell: Life & Legacy'

2pm: Alexander Ballinger: 'Phyllis Dalton: A Career in Costume. From Lawrence of Arabia to The Princess Bride'

3.30pm: James Aldred & Alistair Carr: Emmy winning natural history cameraman Aldred with explorer & artist Carr.

5pm: Stewart White: BBC Look East Legend's biography 'See You at 6.30'

### Sunday 15th November

10am: Geraldine Roberts: 'The Rebel & the Peacemaker: The Incredible True Story of Mary & Charles Bagot'

11.30am: Piers Blofeld: 'Master of Lies: How Anthony Blunt's Treachery Changed Our World'

2pm: Lucy Hughes-Hallett: 'Cleopatra: Histories, Dreams and Distortions'

3.30pm: Scarlett Thomas: Award winning fiction writer of 'The Sleepwalkers' & 'The End of Mr. Y'

5pm: Louis de Bernieres: 'Smelling of Rooks: Nine Years in the Norfolk Alps'

**Monday 28th September for 6 weeks 1:30 to 3:30pm: More Italian.** £120 for 12-hour course. For those with some Italian experience.

**Monday 28th September for 6 weeks 3:40 to 5:40pm: Italian Conversation.** £120 for 12-hour course

Contact the library to book or visit: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldlibrary)

**For details of other regular activities please contact the library**

**Charlotte Clark**

**Executive Library Manager, Southwold library**

**Tel: 01502 442817**



**Tuesday September 15th at 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre**

## LEONARDO'S HORSES – THE EQUESTRIAN STUDIES OF LEONARDO DA VINCI

**Christopher Garibaldi**



Through Leonardo's architectural schemes designing stables for the Sforza in Milan in the 1480s, his equestrian sculptural commissions or preparatory studies for his great set-piece *The Battle of Anghiari* in the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, this lecture explores the role of horses as central subjects of Leonardo's artistic output.

Christopher Garibaldi started his career with English Heritage and the Royal Collection. He was Keeper of Decorative Art and Senior Curator at Norwich Castle Museum and has been Director and Chief Executive of the National Horseracing Museum in Newmarket.

**Guests are welcome at all our events. £10 entrance charge.**

**Please note the change of lecture for September**

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