

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

WOODBIDGE **TALK**



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Congratulations are in order this month as the Woodbridge branch of the Royal British Legion received an award for the outstanding work they do in the community and to Woodbridge teenager, Jude who will be taking part in the Clipper Round the World Yacht race - both a credit to Woodbridge and will benefit from the community's support I'm sure!

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

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

Anne Wilson Schaefer



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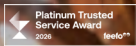
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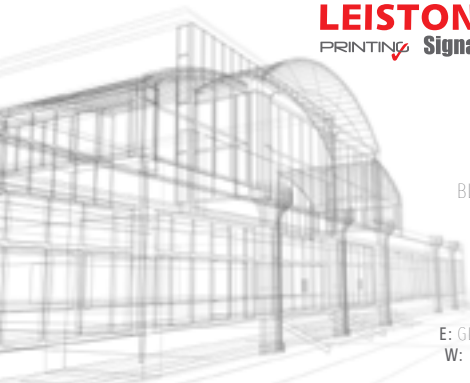
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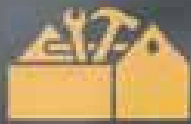
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WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL – MAYOR'S MONTHLY

I am writing this at the beginning of August, and I do hope that despite the heat, you will have had an enjoyable month when the routines of life are somewhat changed for most.

This month, I wanted to tell you about the support Woodbridge Town Council can provide through grants and other financial support. For 2026/27, the Council's budget for 'Town Support' is just over £150,000. £50,000 of this will be spent by our Amenities and Climate Committees to improve the resilience and enjoyment of parks & public spaces in Woodbridge. Another £50,000 is set aside for our priorities including youth, the Tide Mill, Comms and international twinning. £25,000 is set aside for grants and £20,000 to support town events.

Our first round of grants was completed in June and just over £13,800 was paid out to the following organisations:

- 2nd Woodbridge (St Mary's) Guide Unit - funding to provide camping equipment

- 3rd Woodbridge (St Mary's) Brownie Pack - funding to provide craft materials
- Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival
- Opera for Woodbridge
- Woodbridge Festival of Art and Music
- Woodbridge In Bloom - funding to provide watering and floral displays
- Woodbridge Rotary Club - organisation of the Christmas Carol Service
- The Galley - funding to support the promotion of The Asparagus and Strawberry Festival.

This shows a wide diversity in the range of support the Town gives, from £110 to just over £3,000.

Our second round for the submission of applications closes on 30th September. You do not need to be a charity or a voluntary organisation to apply, but you need to demonstrate why you need a grant, its purpose and the likelihood that you can deliver the outcome applied for.

A full set of criteria can be found on our Town Council website. But grants are just one aspect of our support. At our last Council meeting, Paul Finch, Chair and Founder of Community Tech Hub based in Grundisburgh, came to Council setting out the plans to launch a similar hub in Woodbridge. The Town Council voted unanimously to provide support of £2,260 to defray some of the startup costs. The hub will be there to provide help for seniors with online issues, and the money came from our £5,000 seniors' budget.

Woodbridge Town Council is there to support anyone wanting to make a contribution to the Town. A word of warning, we do unfortunately have limited funds so there is always a risk that your project is too big for us, or that the demands we face mean that we have to make some difficult decisions.

Councillor Nigel Phipps

Mayor of Woodbridge
Councillorhipps@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk

WOODBIDGE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

I would like to start by congratulating Woodbridge Royal British Legion on being awarded the runner up place in the Haig cup. It is awarded for all the work that has been carried out in the local community for welfare and keeping the Legion in the public eye. The Certificate was presented to the current chair Graham Kirk at the National conference in Brighton. Please look out for the new Gold star that has now been added to the Standard in recognition.

During these hot summer days, it seems strange to be planning the remembrance events that will be happening in October and November but I thought that I would let you know what's happening and where.

Dates for the diary

24th October: Poppy Appeal Launch.

6th November: School children's Remembrance, 11:00hrs on Market Hill. (Everyone is welcome to attend)

7th November: War Graves Remembrance, 11:00hrs at New Cemetery. (Everyone is welcome to attend)

8th November: Remembrance Sunday, 11:00hrs on Market Hill.

11th November: 2 Minutes silence at Memorial Gardens Market Hill, 11:00hrs

Poppy Appeal

The towns Poppy appeal is run and coordinated by Anne Stevens, who is on the lookout for volunteer poppy appeal collectors, could you help? If so, please contact Anne: stevensonanne61@yahoo.com



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

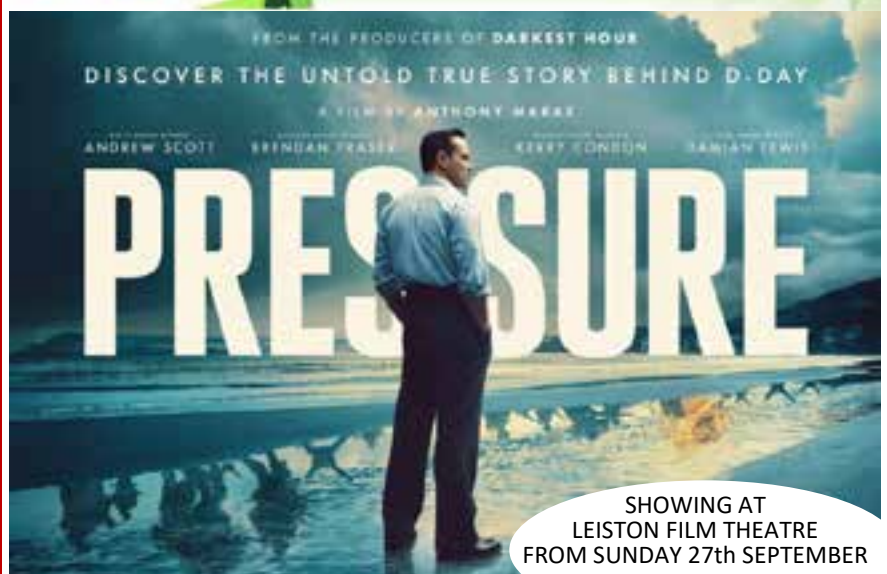
Sat 3rd Oct at 7.30pm

LIVE ON STAGE

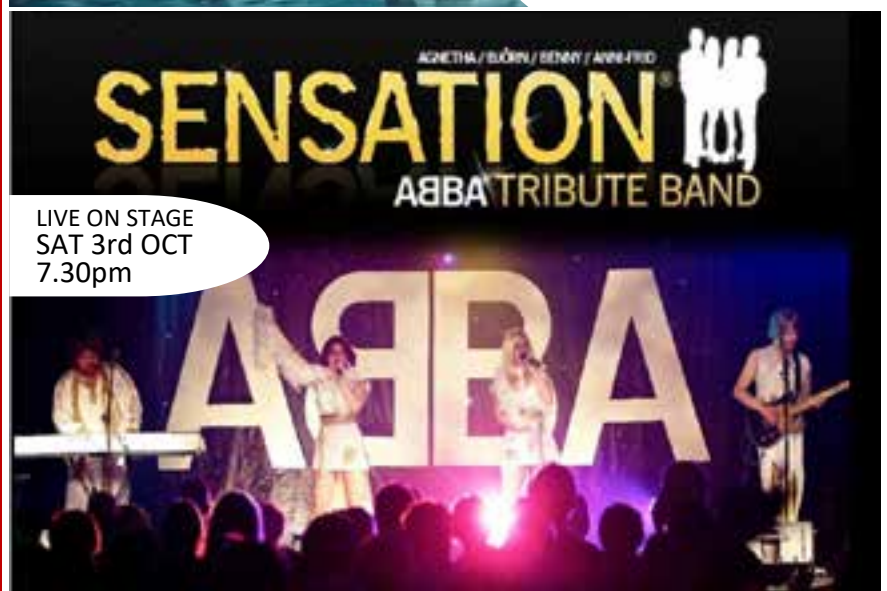
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WOODBIDGE TEENAGER'S EPIC ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

Woodbridge teenager Jude, 17, has been selected as one of the youngest crew members to take part in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race 2027–28. A lifelong Woodbridge resident, Jude attended Farlingaye High School and is now an apprentice rigger at Woodbridge Boatyard.

He will sail across the Atlantic Ocean to South America on Leg 1 – The Atlantic Trade Winds, taking on one of the world's toughest endurance sailing challenges.

After attending this year's Clipper Race Grand Finale at Gunwharf Quays and meeting returning crews, Jude said the experience made his own adventure feel "more real than ever" and strengthened his determination to take on the challenge.

Jude is now seeking sponsorship and community support to help fund this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Every contribution will help him reach the start line and proudly represent Woodbridge on the world stage.

To support Jude's journey, visit his GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-my-clipper-around-the-world-yacht-race-challenge>



WOODBIDGE & MELTON SOCIETY TALKS

Wednesday 2nd September: 'Thomas Seckford – The Life and Legacy of a Tudor Benefactor' by Mark Mitchels.

Mark's talk will describe how Seckford was a man whose astute political and diplomatic personal skills enabled him, in a time of religious upheaval, to successfully navigate the turbulent reigns of five Tudor monarchs. Seckford left behind him a legacy which not only ensures that his name is known and revered, but to this day he continues to improve the lives of people in Melton, Woodbridge and Suffolk.

Wed 7th October: 'Protect and Survive: Cold War Archaeology of East Anglia' By Dr Rik Hoggett.

East Anglia was home to a disproportionately large part of Britain's infrastructure for a potential nuclear war. It included V-bomber bases, one of the country's two nuclear bomb stores. This lecture examines the archaeological evidence for the Cold War in East Anglia, with a particular emphasis on south-east Suffolk, and places it into its national context.

Wednesday 4th November: 'The Real Basil Brown: From Rickinghall to Sutton Hoo and back' by Sarah Doig

Many people will be familiar with the story of Basil Brown who discovered the Anglo-Saxon Great Ship Burial at Sutton Hoo. This talk shines a light on the fascinating life of Basil Brown, a native of Rickinghall; his motivations, passions and discoveries, as well as his ability to enthuse others.

Talks take place at 7:30pm at the Quay Church, Church St, Woodbridge. Entry for members of the Society is free, non-members are very welcome - it is just £5 payable on the door (cash or card).

More details at www.WoodbridgeAndMeltonSociety.org.uk/talks

Cliff Hoppitt
Talks Organiser

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.

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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.



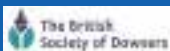
Equipment will be available.

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)



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WOODBIDGE MENCAP AND GATEWAY CLUB - EST. 1969

We are a club that has been running for 57 years and we organise a range of activities for adults with learning disabilities aged 18 and upwards. We meet fortnightly on Tuesday evenings starting at 6.45pm and finishing at 8.45pm during term time, at the Methodist Church in Woodbridge. Some of our members have been attending for many years. Our members always look forward to the range of activities we offer. This could be an evening of playing bingo or a trip to the local pub for chips and ice cream. The cost of each session is £2 and there are a range of snacks and drinks members can purchase on site.

We organise an annual trip to Felixstowe Hut in the summer for fish and chips and a game or two of bingo. We also have an annual trip to watch the Bucklesham Players Drama Group's Pantomime in Bucklesham Village Hall every January.

Please visit our active Facebook page: Woodbridge Mencap and Gateway, to find regular updates of our activities.

We have an activity day planned for the **19th September** (which is free of charge) at Woodbridge Methodist Church. If you would like to pop in and say hello our activities start from 2pm onwards, 3pm is afternoon tea and music with Trevor. If you could let us know if you would like to stay for afternoon tea beforehand you can contact Abi on 07788 790217 or email us on woodbridgegatewayclub@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there.

From all the Gateway team!



WOODBIDGE GATEWAY CLUB

ACTIVITY DAY !

Date: Saturday 19th September 2026

Location: The Octagon, Woodbridge Methodist Church, IP12 1ED

Time: 2pm onwards

We will have a range of activities to do

Afternoon Tea

Trevor will be doing the music....

If you could let us know if you would like to stay for afternoon tea before hand please contact

Abi on 07788 790217

Or by email - woodbridgegatewayclub@gmail.com

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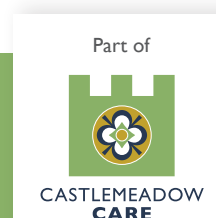
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WOODBIDGE MUSEUM

We are delighted to have recently received a donation of The Seckford Archive. The archive is mainly paper and the museum's intention, once cataloguing is complete, is to invite members of the public to view the archive particularly for family history research. The archive contains a beautifully made wooden box with medical instruments in the moulded sections inside. This is on display together with the Seckford die cast which was used to make the Seckford Almshouse residents' badges. We only have the base of the die so if anyone knows where the other half of it is do let us know.

The photo shows a group of residents proudly displaying their badges. We think the lady would have been a nurse and not a resident pensioner as the Almshouses only accepted male residents. The other photos are of the die and a badge. Do come and have a look in the museum and learn more about the amazing contribution to Woodbridge life of Thomas Seckford & The Seckford Foundations.

Once school term begins the museum will be open every day except Monday & Friday. We are delighted that several new volunteers have joined the museum but we still need more people.

If you are interested, please see our website or contact us via enquiries@woodbridgemuseum.com or better still call in and have a chat.

Friends of Woodbridge Museum's monthly talks season starts on the **11th September** with a talk presented by Dave Steward about Hatfield House & the Cecil Family. On **9th October** Mary Newton returns with a talk '*Hidden in plain sight*' about her work as a forensic biologist. All talks start at 2.30pm and take place in Woodbridge Community Hall and visitors are very welcome.

If you would like to become a 'Friend' and support Woodbridge Museum, please see our website for details. www.woodbridgemuseum.org



SUFFOLK MEN'S CHORUS

Members of Suffolk Men's Chorus are looking forward to returning to rehearsals on Tuesday 1st September when they will be busy rehearsing for their sea-faring themed concert '*Beyond The Sea*' which takes place on **Saturday 28th November** at Dance East in Ipswich commencing at 7.30pm.

The Suffolk Men's Chorus leads the voyage with a powerhouse mix of traditional sea shanties, musical theatre highlights, pop favourites and choral classics. Adding to the voyage will be The VIPs with their signature acappella barbershop style. Tickets priced at £15 are on sale and available from the Dance East website or by telephoning Dance East on 01473 295230.

Suffolk Men's Chorus rehearses on a Tuesday evening between 7pm and 9pm at St Michael & All Angels, The Drift, Martlesham Heath and new recruits are always welcome. There is a varied repertoire, you don't have to be able to read music and there is no formal audition.

Come along and give us a try. For more information on Suffolk Men's Chorus visit our website www.suffolkmenschorus.co.uk or contact the Choir Secretary on 07816678141.



U3A EAST SUFFOLK

Even if you missed East Suffolk u3a's annual Open Day on 4th September you can still get involved in this lively and thriving members' group for older people.

It is all about keeping mind and body active, with the chance to learn, keep active, have fun and make new friends. More than 2,200 retired and semi-retired people in East Suffolk are currently members, finding new interests, new challenges and social activities.

They enjoy walks, quizzes, dining out, visiting gardens or churches, discussing architecture, the arts, current affairs and much more.

Alongside approximately 150 different local activities, there is a varied programme of talks held at different venues in East Suffolk. The 2026/2027 schedule includes talks about Suffolk at the time of the plague, a solo journey across the Atlas Mountains, the work of a wildlife photographer, and much more.

Full up to date information is available on the u3a website: www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk. New members are welcome, with the expectation that they will contribute to the success of the group. Membership is on an annual basis, costs less than £17.50 for a full year and gives members access to all the u3a's many activities, subject to availability.

For more information about u3a please see the website or call the secretary on 0300 123 3913.

AN EVENING BAT WALK

There is a chance to discover more about bats when Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Woodbridge Wildlife Group lead an Evening Bat Walk at the Trust's Foxburrow Nature Reserve, Saddlemakers Lane, Melton, IP12 1NA on **Friday 18 September**, starting from the Reserve car park at 7 pm.

Phil Smith, chairman of the Woodbridge Wildlife Group, said *"This reserve is a mosaic of habitats including re-wilded farmland, woods, orchards and meadows. With several miles of coppiced and re-planted hedges, it is perfect habitat for bats, and a variety of species are present at the reserve."*

We will have bat detectors with us and hope to help our walk participants to see some bats and learn more about them."

Places on this walk must be pre-booked by contacting Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The cost is £5 per person with under 25s free and bookings can be made online at: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org (events section) or by telephone: 01473 625630. The walk is suitable for children over 10. No Dogs except Assistance Dogs. Participants should wear sturdy, waterproof footwear and bring a torch. For further information contact the Woodbridge Group on 01473 625630 or e mail swtwoodbridge@outlook.com

THORPENESS
COUNTRY CLUB



Credit: Images By Anna

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Sunday 18th October | Midday - 4pm

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www.thorpenesscountryclub.co.uk/weddings

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visit www.crownatwoodbridge.co.uk/christmas

FOOTSTEPS WALKING WITH YOU

Footsteps Walking with You is based at Woodbridge Quay Church but covers the whole of Suffolk in providing professional counselling for 8 - 25 year olds, in a safe and confidential space, enabling them to feel validated and heard.

Since the Pandemic, 24% of young people say they have self-harmed, 17% of these say they did this with suicidal intent. One in five children in every classroom suffer mental health problems. These are shocking statistics.

Our service is as accessible as possible. We ensure money is never a barrier to children and young people receiving the help they need. Booking a session with a counsellor is easy, anyone can refer, including the young people themselves.

As part of our fundraising, we are hosting a Charity Concert on **3rd October 2026** at Woodbridge Town Football Club.

Counselling Contact:

- fb.me/footstepswalkingwithyou
- info@footstepswy.org.uk
- 07955 898151
- www.footstepswy.org.uk
- Appointments by arrangement

Charity Concert Information:

- Live Music - Classic Rock, Pop, Blues and Country spanning the decade
- Entry Fee - £10 adults, U16 free

- Woodbridge Town Football Club
 - Saturday 3rd October 2026 from 7:00pm
- Book now using the QR Code or call: 07955 898151



Some Useful Contacts

Customer First for social services in Suffolk:

Adult social care 0800 917 1109

Children's social care 0808 800 4005

Mental Health Advice and Support

Young Minds www.youngminds.org.uk

Parent helpline 0808 802 5544

Suffolk Mind 0300 111 6000 www.kooth.com

NHS non emergency helpline – ring 111 including for mental health concerns

Police non emergency helpline – ring 101

Emotional wellbeing hub - for NHS mental health services 0345 600 2090

Samaritans free 24/7 help line 116123 www.samaritans.org

Papyrus - young people suicide prevention charity

papyrus-uk.org text 07860 039967 ring 0800 0684141

Hub Of Hope www.hubofhope.co.uk/

Reasons to Stay www.reasonstostay.co.uk

Domestic abuse: Domestic abuse helpline 0808 2000 247 nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Kama nirvana honour-based violence support: kamanirvana.org.uk 0800 5999 247

NSPCC www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline www.childline.org.uk 0800 1111

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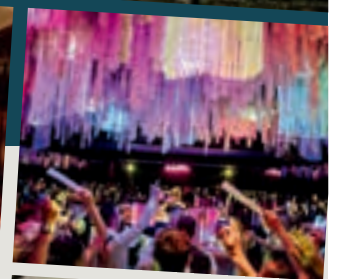
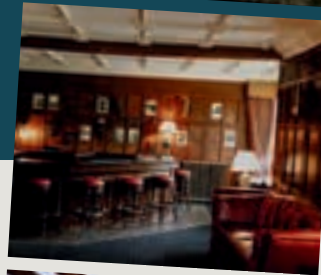


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THE CUT SESSIONS

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"



SEASON THREE 2026

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COLOSSEUM 25 NOV

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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

DEBEN RIVER CLEAN

Did you know that 11 million tonnes of plastic enters the ocean every year? This is mostly items such as plastic wrappers, bottles and bags carried into rivers by wind and rain. Plastic waste can remain in the sea for hundreds of years. Birds, fish and other animals may become trapped in the litter or mistake it for food. Even when plastic breaks into tiny pieces called microplastics it continues to pollute the waters and can enter the food chain. It is estimated that one in three fish we eat contains plastic.

On **27th September** Transition Woodbridge and the 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts are organising a Deben River Clean. In previous years we have pulled traffic cones, polystyrene blocks and bits of broken boats out of the Deben as well as collecting plastic bags and bottles from the river wall. Please join us. Meet at 12 noon in Tide Mill Way (litter pickers and bags provided).



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WOODBIDGE CRUISING CLUB

The summer cruising season is drawing to a close and members are looking forward to the penultimate cruise - the very sociable Walton Pond cruise led by Mark and Clare; and the final Three Rivers cruise led by Graham with the annual cruise dinner held at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club marking the official finale of the cruising calendar.

Members enjoyed the Blackwater cruise, led by Rick and Vicki, which ventured further afield to Burnham, Heybridge and Brightlingsea. For all yacht and motorboat owners cruising in company is one of the best reasons to join the club.

The August Bank Holiday barbecue in the pleasant garden of the riverside club house, was a highlight with the delicious puddings the icing on the cake for many. Members are looking forward to future events including the more formal laying up supper; a lovely occasion to meet with other club members and enjoy a scrumptious three course meal.

The club is a registered RYA training centre and already has the dates confirmed for 'Day Skipper', it is never too early to book for this vital onshore qualification. Dates are: **February 20/21st, February 27/28th and March 6/7th.**

The autumn programme will be starting soon with Thursday walks, the Wednesday suppers and Sunday talks, which have a nautical theme.

The club bar is open summer and winter at weekends, with some of the best river views.

If you have a genuine interest in sailing and the sea, have a look at our programme of maritime related events on our website at www.woodbridgecruisingclub.org. New members are always welcome.





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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.

ORFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

The year has gone by so quickly, this last summer term even more quickly – and there has been a lot going on. Year 6 have said goodbye as 11 children move on to secondary school, with our love and prayers for the future. The results of their Key Stage 2 SATs exams were amazing and we are all very proud.

Class 3 performed their end of year musical *'The Island that Rocks'* before a captivated audience of families and friends. Two teens are shipwrecked on a secret island and had exciting times with the locals. The strong cast were word perfect and the singing and dance routines good enough for Broadway.



By the sea was a continuing theme. Class 1's project – *'If the Sea Could Talk'* - inspired weeks of curiosity, creativity and discovery. They found shimmering fish scales on Orford Quay and painted beautiful pictures of sea creatures, which were displayed at the quay when the children enjoyed singing sea shanties with the wonderful music teaching 'Morabe' and alongside the folk local Quay Whalers. What a treat. *"We read books about the sea and the creatures who live in it, enjoyed an exciting trip to the Sea Life Centre in Great Yarmouth, and made our own Merman for the English Heritage project at Orford Castle"*. The sea and everything about it is part of living where we do.

Class 2 were immersed in things past. They had learned *'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'* as a fun part of curriculum learning about prehistoric Britain. The highlight of the term was a trip to the Neolithic site of Grimes Graves in Thetford Forest where the Stone Age flint mine with over 400 pits was used for over 300 years.

"We walked a trail picking up pieces of flint to take home but the highlight was donning hard hats and descending 9 metres underground into one of the pits to explore the tunnels and discover 4000 year old scratch marks in the rock."

"Back in class, we learned about how bronze objects were crafted by using clay to create arrowhead and axe-head shaped moulds and then filling them with jelly to mimic the fact that bronze is an alloy formed by mixing two heated materials (jelly cubes and hot water) together and poured into a mould before cooling again. Then we ate them!"

The school has had a really good year, culminating in going to Snape Maltings for Britten Pears Arts' 'Celebration' when we sang in the famous concert hall with lots and lots of other Suffolk Children. Thank you to everyone in Orford and the surrounding villages for supporting us. There are lots of ways to help if you would like to – just get in touch by emailing: admin@orfordcvap.org.

FREE HELP FOR SENIORS

A new service will be launching on 18 August. This is the Woodbridge Community Tech Hub CIC (Community Interest Company), a community organisation dedicated to enhancing digital literacy and fraud prevention for senior residents in Woodbridge and neighbouring villages, regardless of their economic background.

Our team is composed of technology-savvy individuals, alongside experts from education and business. Our focus is on helping people feel more comfortable with their devices and applications, including email, banking, NHS services, messaging, and social media.

To facilitate this, we will host 'drop-in' sessions every Tuesday morning between 1000 and 1130 at the Cherry Tree Inn where residents can receive assistance free of charge. This initiative aims not only to empower our community with digital skills but also to safeguard them against online fraud, ultimately fostering greater digital inclusion.

Once launched, further service will be gradually added, including quarterly briefings, the opportunity to seek help by telephone and more. A membership group will be established with a small annual fee to help cover the costs of the additional services.

The initiative is based on a successful scheme launched in Grundisburgh in 2023. We received numerous requests to extend our services to Woodbridge so we propose to establish a Community Tech Hub Branch there, allowing us to serve a broader audience without incurring unnecessary overhead costs. Our organization relies primarily on volunteers, though we do have some basic expenses to consider. We are very grateful to Woodbridge Town Council who have agreed a grant to allow the scheme to launch. The branch will be governed by the CTH main board. All safeguarding requirements will be met. If you want further information please email: woodbridgehub@communitytechhub.org



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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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NEWS FROM WOODBRIDGE RIVERSIDE TRUST

As the days start to get noticeably shorter, we can look back on an exceptional summer at The Longshed. Our Gift Shop continues to thrive, the King's River tapestry is getting more and more attention (the Gallery where the tapestry is housed can be kept deliciously cool in hot weather), and our well-established programme of Talks is extremely popular.

At the Woodbridge Regatta in July, the 'work in progress' project to create an 18' long tapestry of the River Deben was on display and attracted much interest. Clare Lightfoot, the project designer and manager, was on hand to demonstrate techniques.



Photo: Clare Lightfoot

On August 1st we celebrated 'Edith Day' with a traditional cream tea, celebration cakes and two excellent talks.

This was our tribute to Edith Pretty, the remarkable woman who owned the Sutton Hoo estate at the time the Burial Ship imprint and treasures were discovered. Kim Davis gave a fascinating insight into the life of the lady herself, and Clare Lightfoot explained the influences on 1930s' and '40s' fashions through a time of turmoil.

Our autumn programme of Talks begins on 5th September with an 'homage' to another fascinating individual. The subject is '*Edward Fitzgerald – Poet and Sailor*', and the speaker is Pieter Shipster. Tickets (£8 to include tea and cake) are available from Eventbrite, The Longshed Gift Shop.

Advance notice: Following the highly successful rope-making courses last February, Sue Pennison will be returning on **Saturday 14th November** to lead two workshops, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, 8 people per course. The cost for adults is £16. We have set aside 4 free places on each course for young people aged 14-18 years on a 'first come, first served' basis. To register an interest in attending, please contact admin@woodbridgeriversidetrust.org

We are very grateful to the staff at Hasketon Road Co-op who kindly chose to fund raise for us this summer. At the kind invitation of Rob, the store's manager, Nancy and Anne (two of WRT's trustees) spent a few hours at the store recently talking to staff and customers about the work of the Trust. woodbridgeriversidetrust.org



Photo: Rob Sym

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEP 4 & OCT 2 Friday Evening Market at Beach Street, Felixstowe.

Artisan traders, street food, gifts and local produce. 3 - 8pm at 13 Micklegate Rd. IP11 2GN. Email: hello@beachstreetfelixstowe.co.uk. Website: beachstreetfelixstowe.co.uk. Website:

SEP 11 Sunset Anglo-Saxon Myth & Magic at Sutton Hoo. Discover more about the people who were laid to rest there 6 - 7.30pm at National Trust Sutton Hoo, Tranmer House IP12 3DJ.

SEP 12 Fressingfield Sounds present The Mancunium Consort.

The Consort is a professional vocal ensemble of eight unaccompanied singers offering musical gems spanning more than 500 years, bound to delight audiences. Tickets £25, £5 for 25 years and under. Chapel Hall Arts, Fressingfield, Suffolk IP21 5QD, 7.30pm. To book **and** for more information, visit www.fressingfieldsounds.org.uk or phone 07900 350117.

SEP 24 Little Strollers Walking Group at Sutton Hoo.

Take your little ones for a gentle stroll around the landscape at Sutton Hoo along the pram and pushchair friendly pathways. No need to pre-book, please just turn up on the day. The walk is aimed at new parents and guardians of children under the age of one. Free entry. Email: suttonhoo@nationaltrust.org.uk, phone: 01394389700. 10.30am – 12noon at National Trust Sutton Hoo. IP12 3DJ

THE ART HAVEN

The Art Haven is a new community arts venue in Woodbridge, Suffolk, based at 15 Tide Mill Way. It aims to provide an inclusive, welcoming space for exhibitions, workshops, community groups, creative learning and cultural events.

'Curious by Nature: Artists on the River Deben'

A new exhibition, 'Curious by Nature: Artists on the River Deben', will bring together watercolour paintings, drawings, prints, and sketchbooks celebrating one of Suffolk's most iconic waterways. Featuring the work of local artists Claudia Myatt, Hilary Geelan, and Mary-Anne Bartlett, the event forms part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Festival of Nature and will run at The Art Haven from **30th September to 6th October**.

The exhibition offers a fresh look at the Deben as a living, changing environment. Created outdoors directly from their surroundings, the featured works reflect the artists' shared fascination with the river's changing tides, weather, boats, and wildlife. Their pieces capture distinctive viewpoints gathered from walking and kayaking expeditions along the shore and on the water itself, with locations including Woodbridge, Martlesham Wilds, and Hemley.

Each artist brings a unique perspective to the collection:

Claudia Myatt draws on her design background, incorporating intricate patterns inspired by the nearby Sutton Hoo treasures.

Mary-Anne Bartlett utilizes her deep knowledge of nature to produce detailed paintings of the river's native birds and mammals.

Hilary Geelan presents handcrafted artists' books designed to offer a tactile, intimate experience for the viewer.

All three artists also work with Art Safari to encourage others to sketch and paint in the wild. Part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Festival of Nature. Curious by Nature invites visitors to pause, observe closely, and connect with the landscape and wildlife of the River Deben. **10am – 4pm daily at The Art Haven**



Martlesham Wilds

The Art Haven is delighted to announce a rare exhibition of early hand-coloured prints of the **Bayeux Tapestry**, engraved by James Basire after drawings by Charles Alfred Stothard. Running alongside this remarkable showcase, visitors are invited to turn history into art themselves at a special drop-in Stitchathon led by local artist Clare Perkins on Wednesday, 04 September, from 10am to 3pm.

Created in the early nineteenth century, these beautiful engravings capture one of the most famous visual stories in European history: the events leading to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. Long before photography, Stothard recorded the Tapestry with care and precision, translating his drawings into delicately hand-coloured prints that offer an extraordinary record of the work as seen more than 200 years ago.

To bring this ancient technique to life, Clare Perkins is inviting anyone interested in historic crafts to try their hand at the iconic Bayeux Stitch. Tuition for the workshop is completely free, with full stitch kits available on the day for £15. Beginners and experienced crafters alike can simply turn up between 10am and 3pm to learn the stitch and start creating their own piece of history.

The exhibition offers a chance to look closely at the drama and storytelling of the Tapestry, while opening up rich local connections. Just across the River Deben, Sutton Hoo tells the story of Anglo-Saxon England before 1066. The nearby Longshed continues the story of medieval shipbuilding, while Woodbridge Tide Mill speaks of the land, labour, and changing systems of power that followed the Conquest.

Mary-Anne Bartlett, founder of The Art Haven, said:

"Woodbridge is an extraordinary place to show these prints. The Bayeux Tapestry is full of ships, storytelling, craft and human drama. By pairing these rare prints with Clare Perkins' Stitchathon, visitors can not only view this iconic artwork but actively take part in the craft. It gives us a unique chance to explore England before and after 1066 through art, textiles, printmaking and local place."

The exhibition will be held at The Art Haven, 15 Tide Mill Way, Woodbridge from 02–15 September 2026. The free Bayeux Stitchathon takes place on Wednesday, 04 September, from 10am to 3pm (kits £15).

Website: www.thearthaven.uk
starter kits available for £15.

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We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets. The next issue will be published on Thursday 1st October, copy deadline is 14th September- but the earlier the better to ensure inclusion. Contacts/Advertisers/Editorial:

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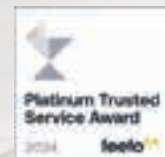
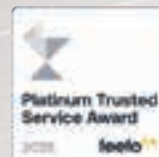
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