

...YOUR FREE LOCAL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2026

SOUTHWOLD ORGAN



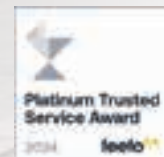
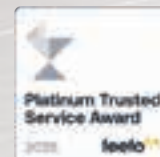
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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



If you're looking to get together with friends or family why not take a look at the very varied entertainment offered at Southwold Arts Centre? Comedy, music, theatre and Southwold's Literary Festival, with plenty of authors to meet and a signed book would make a great gift as we approach the festive season! See pages 6 & 11 for more details

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

Quote of the month

Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.

Buddha



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INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

SOUTHWOLD & REYDON SOCIETY 5

- *Harbour issues, King Charles III Coastal Path & more*

FITNESS CENTRE OPENS! 5
- *The new Southwold gym is open! 250 members already signed up*

SOUTHWOLD LITERARY FESTIVAL 6
- *Come and meet a wide variety of authors and get your books signed - an ideal gift for someone!*

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH -ON 7
- *Late night opening, Christmas Market, entertainment, street food - fun for all the family!*

SOUTHWOLD ARTS CENTRE 11 NOVEMBER
- *Comedy with Geoff Norcott, Look East's Stewart White, Ghost stories for Christmas & more!*



SOUTHWOLD MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER LECTURES

Tuesday, 1 December 2026 at 2.00pm



'Jurnet's House in Norwich: A Local Touchstone to Jewish History' by Professor Oren Margolis, University of East Anglia

Oren Margolis is Associate Professor of Renaissance Studies at the University of East Anglia and leads a project there investigating Jurnet's House in Norwich, the oldest identifiable place of Jewish residence extant in the country. Its early thirteenth-century owner, Isaac Jurnet, was a renowned benefactor of learning who played a role in the building of Norwich Cathedral. Recent historical and archaeological research gives a new picture of life in medieval Norwich and Jewish life in England in the same period, with implications for how we understand England's place in a global story.

**Stella Peskett Millennium Hall
Mights Road, Southwold, IP18 6BE
Admission: Society Members £5 Non-Members £8**

Details of the full programme are available on
www.southwoldmuseum.org

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2027 New Year's Day Concert The 'TROUT' QUINTET

Magnus Johnston, violin
Jim O'Toole, viola
Jody Hughes, cello
Andrew Durban, double bass
Nathan Williamson, piano

Welcome in the New Year with Schubert!
A sparkling, joyful masterpiece performed by some
of the region's leading musicians

Friday 1st January 2027 3pm to 4pm

St. Edmund's Church
Southwold

Tickets from £10 to £30
 16s and under FREE!
 Book online at southwoldmusictrust.co.uk
 Or call the box office on 0333 666 4466



Scan me

The 2027 Southwold New Year's Day concert will be Schubert's 'The Trout Quintet', directed by Southwold-based pianist and composer Nathan Williamson. The concert will take place at 3pm on 1st January, in Southwold's St. Edmund's Church.

Schubert's Trout Quintet, for piano, violin, viola, cello and double bass, was written when he was just 22. It is one of the most joyful and distinctive works in the chamber music repertoire. From its graceful opening to the sparkling variations on his famous song 'The Trout', the music is full of sunshine, intimacy and infectious good humour...a perfect way to start the New Year!

Nathan has brought together a talented ensemble of friends and close colleagues including violinist Magnus Johnston, Concertmaster of the Royal Opera House. Many locals may remember that Magnus, his wife Marije and their two children lived in Southwold during Covid when they contributed a huge amount to the local community through concerts on South Green and online during lockdown. Joining them will be musicians Jody Hughes, Jim O'Toole and Andrew Durban (the latter two based in the local area), who lead exciting freelance careers playing in all the major orchestras in London and beyond.

The concert will last approximately one hour. Younger audience members are welcome, with tickets for 16s and under completely free. Visit: TicketSource at www.ticketsource.co.uk/southwoldmusictrust, www.southwoldmusictrust.co.uk or phone 0333 666 4466. Seats are reserved and demand is expected to be very high, so prompt booking is advised. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Southwold Music Trust.



Christmas at Snape Maltings

A magical festive season with concerts, shopping and family events

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SOUTHWOLD & REYDON SOCIETY NEWS

Harbour Issues

Following the Society securing a place on the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) for Southwold Harbour and its associated lands (which include the Caravan Site and Camping Field) our representative, Philip O'Hear, has now been asked to chair the group. Phillip's remit is to persuade the Harbour Management Committee (HMC) to listen to the views and concerns of the stakeholders. Philip has written separately about the upstream issues in the River Blyth which pose an existential threat to the harbour and the shocking refusal of the HMC to agree to pursue these issues, and his article can be found on page 9.

In the last three months, however, the focus of the SAG has been to try to ensure that plans for the Caravan and Camping site are developed with the concerns and wishes of the Caravan owners taken fully into account. Some real progress seems to have been made with regard to the major (and necessary) redevelopment of the site planned for 2027/8 and it is hoped the detailed plans for this are developed with further consultation with the caravan owners and the SAG. But a recent fire risk and insurance assessment has led to a need to 'reshuffle' the static caravan site to ensure that all the spaces between the caravans meet insurance requirements. The caravan owners have asked to see the risk assessments and insurance requirements in order to try to minimise the disruption of a reshuffle. However, it seems they have not had their questions answered and notice was given that all caravans would be moved and must be prepared for this by 31st October. This seems to us to be a very high-handed approach by East Suffolk Council and we had hoped for better after seemingly constructive discussions between the SAG and the HMC.

King Charles III Coast Path

It is just over a year since the September 2025 decision of the Secretary of State to approve the establishment and implementation of the section of the King Charles III Coast Path between Southwold and Pakefield. During this period, we have been writing to a number of government agencies and our local MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter and our focus over the last few months has been on Natural England which is under a statutory 'coastal access duty' to secure a continuous long-distance route around the English coast.

It seems inexplicable that while the Pakefield end of this section opened in June residents and visitors to Southwold are still unable to walk the path North of the Pier. We have therefore written formally to Natural England to ask for the reasons for this state of affairs and have also requested a meeting with Jenny Riddell-Carpenter to discuss the situation and ways forward.

The Southwold and Reydon Society Annual Luncheon

A date for your diary is **Wednesday 18th November** when we will be holding our annual lunch at The William Godell Pavillion on the Common. To enjoy a convivial lunch and to hear this year's speaker, Philip O'Hear, who will talk about the restoration and opening up to the public of the impressive and rare circular pill box on Mights Bridge, please contact the Treasurer, Andrew Wallington-Smith at gtgc@wallington-smith.net. Non-members of the Society are also very welcome.

FITNESS CENTRE OPENS!



The Southwold Gym, a new community fitness centre that is part of the Old Hospital on Field Stile Road, officially opened on 3 November.

With modern cardio and strength equipment, plus a dedicated studio for group classes, it is a welcoming gym for everyone – whether you're just getting started or already love to train.

In October, the gym launched its membership presale. Its success defied all expectations. In less than three days, 250 founding members signed up.

Jessica Jeans, the Old Hospital's Chair said, "

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has chosen to become part of The Southwold Gym, and also to our funders who enabled us to raise all of the money needed to create the gym in a record 10 months.

"We are deeply grateful to James and Selina Hopkins of the Denbury Charitable Fund; the Fore; Sport England; the East Suffolk Community CIL Fund; the East Suffolk Thriving Places Fund; the Reydon Trust; and Reydon Parish Council."

For those who missed the pre-sale, the Southwold Gym will be releasing a second wave of memberships soon.

Register your interest now at www.thesouthwoldgym.com to be the first to hear about membership releases and open days and follow us on @thesouthwoldgym on Instagram or Facebook.

SOUTHWOLD LITERARY FESTIVAL

Southwold Literary Festival will be returning this November at Southwold Arts Centre.

Inspired by the success of the Slaughter in Southwold crime and thriller festival, the Southwold Literary Festival was first launched in November 2023 as a partnership between Southwold Library, Southwold Arts Centre and Southwold Books. Now in its fourth year, the 2026 festival boasts 13 talks with 16 guest speakers over the weekend of **13 - 15 November**.

Charlotte Clark is the Manager of Southwold Library and is one of the organisers of the festival. Charlotte said:

"We are very excited this year by the breadth and interest of the authors we have attending the festival this year.

"Local interest, like Louis de Bernieres memoir of Norfolk, Stewart White the legend of Look East and Erika Clegg with her celebration of Southwold. Fascinating historical figures with books on Cleopatra, George Orwell and Anthony Blunt. Writers of the natural world with Robert Ashton about soil, Matt Gaw about the weather and wildlife cameraman James Aldred on his New Forest childhood.

"Plus amazing fiction with Scarlett Thomas and poetry with the legendary Kevin Crossley-Holland. And that's not even all of them!"

Tickets for individual talks are £7 each. All-day Friday tickets are available for £18, all-day Saturday and all-day Sunday tickets are £30, and full weekend passes to see all author talks can be purchased for £78. (Price excludes booking fees). Tickets can be booked at Southwold Library, either in-person or by calling 01502 442817 or book online on TicketSource. All events take place at Southwold Arts Centre in St Edmund's Hall. The full line up of authors is as follows: **13 Nov:** Former journalist and freelance foreign correspondent Felicity Goodall; Author of Southwold 365 celebrating local gems Erika Clegg; Celebrated poet inspired by Britain's landscapes, myths and folklore Kevin Crossley-Holland. **14 Nov:** Storyteller of the vanished rural traditions Robert Ashton in conversation with award-winning nature writer Matt Gaw; George Orwell biographer duo Robert Colls in conversation with Ronald Binns; Expert on writing about cinema Alexander Ballinger; Emmy winning natural history cameraman James Aldred in conversation with explorer and artist Alistair Carr; Legendary BBC Look East presenter Stewart White. **15 Nov:** Regency-period historical biographer Geraldine Roberts; Literary agent and columnist Piers Blofeld; Biographer, cultural historian and novelist Lucy Hughes-Hallett; Award-winning fiction writer of The Sleepwalkers and The End of Mr. Y Scarlett Thomas; Award-winning and best-selling writer, poet and musician Louis de Bernieres.

Southwold Books is kindly providing all books for sale and there will be an opportunity for buying books and having them signed by the authors.

Seats from **£18**

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SOUTHWOLD RAILWAY UPDATE

It's been a good year for the railway with, on average, 100 visitors on each of our open days. This has been helped by the steaming of Blyth, when the weather allowed. Our last open day (in steam) for 2026 was in October.

We do have planned our usual two **Santa Specials on 5th and 12th December** when our site is transformed into a festive fairyland complete with Santa's Grotto. We run from 4 -7.30pm but you must book a time slot to avoid overcrowding.

Cost: £7 adults and £10 children, this includes a ride on the miniature railway, a gift, festive drink and a craft workshop with Santa's elves. Please book on: 01502 7254

We have big plans for 2027 not least the purchase of a replica carriage!

If you would like to join us please come along any Wednesday or give me a call
Bob Mole
07786 334213



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Southwold's annual Christmas Lights Switch-On Event is **Saturday 28th November** and it gets bigger every year! It's Light Up Southwold's fourth year as the event organisers and we have more lights, more free entertainment and more fun for all the family. We hope to see you there.

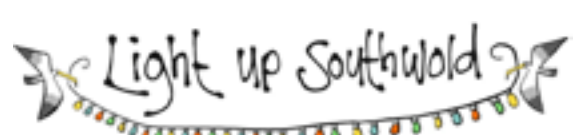
The high street Christmas Market opens at 2pm, with a great selection of local handmade crafts, perfect for festive gifts. All our fantastic high street stores will be open as usual, with many of them spilling out onto the pavement in their Christmas fancy dress. We'll have even more street food stalls ranging from German sausages to Greek gyros and Thai rice bowls to delicious filled brioche buns. East Suffolk Donkey Sanctuary will be with us again from 2pm so you can meet Orlando and his friends. And by popular demand, our face painters are back - there'll be by the Market Place from 2pm.

The live entertainment starts in the Market Place at 2pm. We begin with St Felix School choirs followed by Southwold and Reydon Pantomime Group. There's festive music from Cam T, then Daisy, Charlotte and Nathan followed by the Wrentham Band. Santa will arrive outside the Town Hall at 5pm and with the help of the Mayor and some local 'minor' celebrities we'll switch on the Southwold Christmas Lights for 2026.

After that you can find Santa in his grotto in the Adnams Tour Centre at the back of the Swan courtyard. There's no need to book, just turn up and queue. The grotto is free but any donations will be gratefully received. Meanwhile the Market Place entertainment concludes with dancing from Julia's GI Jivers.



Thanks in advance to all our generous sponsors and donors. We couldn't do this without your amazing support and generosity. If you'd like to help us with a donation then please donate to our Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lightupsouthwold> or follow our QR code.



Southwold Christmas Lights Switch On 2026

Saturday 28th November 5pm

Santa's Grotto in the Adnams Tour Centre from 5:30

Stalls, Street Food & Outside Bars in the High Street from 2:00

Live Entertainment in the Market Square

- 2:00 St Felix School Choirs
- 2:30 Southwold & Reydon Panto
- 3:00 Cam T Xmas Classics
- 3:40 Daisy, Charlotte & Nathan
- 4:10 Welcome
- 4:20 Wrentham Band
- 4:45 Carol Singing
- 5:00 Lights Switch On
- 5:30 1940s GI Jivers







Light Up Southwold Just Giving



Sample Menu



Winter All Day Menu

2 COURSES FOR £15 PER PERSON
(Available Mon-Thursday) not in school holidays)

Starters

White onion soup, cheesy croutons, toasted sour dough bread & butter V*
Pressed ham hock terrine with toasted sourdough & chefs' piccalilli *
Crispy Surimi crab claws with chilli oil & wasabi mayo

Mains

Pot-roast beef casserole with pancetta & thyme dumplings*
Crispy mushroom & tarragon burger, Swiss cheese & relish in brioche bap, fries*
Roast stuffed Ballentine of chicken on linguine carbonara
Aromatic Taiwanese slow cooked pork, Asian veg, rice & soy egg GF
Creamy mussel, celeriac, spinach & sweetcorn chowder GF

Desserts

Crumble of the moment with vanilla custard
Charlie & the chocolate factory ice-cream sundae
Affogato - espresso coffee with vanilla ice-cream*

2 course £15 or 3 course £17.95 per person

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Join us at Old Hall Southwold this November for our fantastic two-day Christmas Makers Market, now firmly established as one of our favourite community events of the year!

With more than 55 talented makers gathered under the shelter of our Big Barn, it's the perfect place to start, and finish, your Christmas shopping. Browse an inspiring selection of handmade gifts and treats, including jewellery, ceramics, textiles, homeware, woodwork, fine art, candles, cosmetics, greetings cards, and delicious local produce.

There'll be live music throughout the weekend and lots for younger visitors to enjoy. Santa's Chief Elf will be helping little ones write and post their letters to the North Pole and, weather permitting, the much-loved Miniature Donkeys for Wellbeing will be paying us a visit. We also have some fantastic street food vendors joining us, alongside a bar serving a selection of suitably festive tipples.

Make a day of it by exploring our beautiful estuary walks, which are lovely at this time of year as the landscape takes on its autumn colours. Your four-legged friends are very welcome too, making it the perfect outing for the whole family.

With oodles of free parking, beautiful estuary views and a wonderfully festive atmosphere, Old Hall is the perfect place to soak up a little Christmas magic this November and support the brilliant independent makers and small businesses that make our region so special.

Entry £2.50 per adult. Children aged 16 and under go free.

OLD HALL SOUTHWOLD
Christmas Makers Market
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th November, 10am - 3pm
Live music | Street food | Kids corner | Bar
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OLD HALL SOUTHWOLD, HALESWORTH ROAD, REYDON, IP18 6GQ

EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR

I am writing as Chair of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) for Southwold Harbour. We advise the Harbour Management Committee (HMC, a Subcommittee of the Cabinet of East Suffolk District Council) which directs the management of the Harbour and its associated lands, including the Caravan and Camping site. Our role is to try to ensure that the views of all the stakeholders in the Harbour are taken into account when decisions are made.

At the most recent meeting of the HMC on 10 September, I presented a paper from the SAG about the future management of the Blyth Estuary upstream from the Harbour. This is important because the Environment Agency are relinquishing their responsibility for this.

Most readers will know that the estuary from Wolsey Creek to Blythburgh is an enormous area of tidal mud flats which contain a huge volume of water at each high tide. This creates an enormous tidal prism in the estuary – the term for the amount of water entering and leaving the estuary on each tide. Since the mouth of the estuary is quite narrow at the sea end of Southwold Harbour, this results in a peak flow of 5mph as the water ebbs from the estuary. This is the fastest ebb flow from a harbour in the UK.

The mud flats at Blythburgh are the result of the breaching of the river walls in that area caused by the 1953 floods and their continued erosion since. At low tide, the remnants of these walls can be seen and they continue to be worn away and the depth of water on the mud flats at high tide is increasing making the ebb current in the harbour stronger.

At present, the water in the estuary below Wolsey Creek is contained by the mud walls alongside the river, protecting Tinkers Marsh, Reydon Marsh, and the Harbour area. These walls, however, will no longer be maintained by the Environment Agency and are liable to breach in future surge tide events – as happened in 2007 and 2013.

If future breaches are not prevented by adequate maintenance of the river walls (or repaired very quickly if they do occur), Tinkers and Reydon Marshes will become mudflats in the same way as those at Blythburgh. This will cause another major increase in the tidal prism and cause a peak ebb flow in the Harbour of up to 10 mph – making the harbour inoperable. Prevention requires raising and maintaining the estuary river walls, ensuring that they are at a consistent height and with a slope on the inland side that allows for water that overtops the walls during a surge tide event to run off evenly. Breaches occur where a low point allows a torrent of water to flood in one place, undermining the wall in that location.

If we do not find a way of maintaining the walls in this way, the future of the harbour is at real risk. Most regrettably, the HMC in September refused the request from the SAG to take the initiative in seeking ways to work with landowners and funding agencies to develop a plan for addressing these upstream issues.

I should stress that the HMC was not asked to take responsibility for funding upstream works (although its remit allows it to do so where this is necessary for the protection of the harbour) but simply to use its resources (principally the work of East Suffolk Council officers) to undertake planning and liaison with relevant partners and agencies.

The SAG will consider what else we can do to encourage the HMC to use its influence and human resources to address what we see as an existential threat to the future of the Harbour.

Philip O'Hear

Chair of the Stakeholder Advisory Group for Southwold Harbour.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOV 10, 17 & 24 Halesworth Harmony's rehearsals. We're actively looking for new members (especially men!) so come along for a free taster session - no experience is necessary, everything is taught by ear, and you'll receive a warm welcome. For further details, email: halesworth.harmony@gmail.com. 7 – 9pm @ The Cut in Halesworth.

NOV 21 Reydon Village Hall Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund Ceilidh! 7 - 10pm @ Reydon Village Hall with the Once Bittern Ceilidh Band. £15 per person including soup supper. BYO alcohol. Soft drinks & snacks available. Book In advance with Charlotte 07715388916 frogclock@hotmail.com or online www.ticketsource.co.uk/reytonvillagehall. All funds towards the RVH Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund to repair, renovate and refit the hall

NOV 27 Free Community Coffee Morning at Reydon Village Hall. Tea/Coffee and Toast (Pastries when available). Reydon Village Hall Management Committee in conjunction with Reydon & Southwold Community Fridge & Pantry. 9 - 11.30am

NOV 28 Wenhaston Produce and Craft Market. Jewellery, handbags, perfumes, framed prints, our famous Dexter Beef, homemade jams, chutneys, honey, cakes, fresh bread, savoury pies, plants and much more. The cafe will be open for Tea, Coffee and homemade Savouries and Cakes. New stallholders welcome. Please park with due care and attention so as not to cause any obstruction. For further details contact Carol at: caz-mike@outlook.com. 10am to 12.30pm at Wenhaston Village Hall.

FROM JENNY RIDDELL-CARPENTER, MP

Every November, communities across Suffolk Coastal come together to remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country. From Remembrance services in each of our towns, to ceremonies in the smallest of villages across our constituency, it is always moving to see so many people take the time to pay their respects. Over the past few years, I've been really struck by the numbers of people gathering to give remembrance. I think we often have a sense, or perhaps a fear, that as a society we might begin to forget the huge sacrifices so many men and women gave – in both World Wars and all the conflicts since – to protect our nation, and our values. But each year, for me personally that fear is put to rest – and I am humbled and proud to see so many, across all generations, coming together to remember. I hope that you too have been struck by the same feeling in recent years. Of course, the involvement of schools, young cadets and even cubs, brownies and scouts is so important in helping to ensure that the stories and sacrifices of those who came before us are heard and carried forward to the next generation.

Remembrance provides an important moment to reflect that behind every name on a war memorial is a person with a family, friends and a future they never got to experience. These were people from our own communities who left their homes to serve, often making the ultimate sacrifice. Their stories are an important part of our local history and deserve to be remembered. Though remembrance is not simply about looking back. It is also about recognising the service and sacrifice of those serving today – and making sure that we value and support them and their families while they are part of our communities.

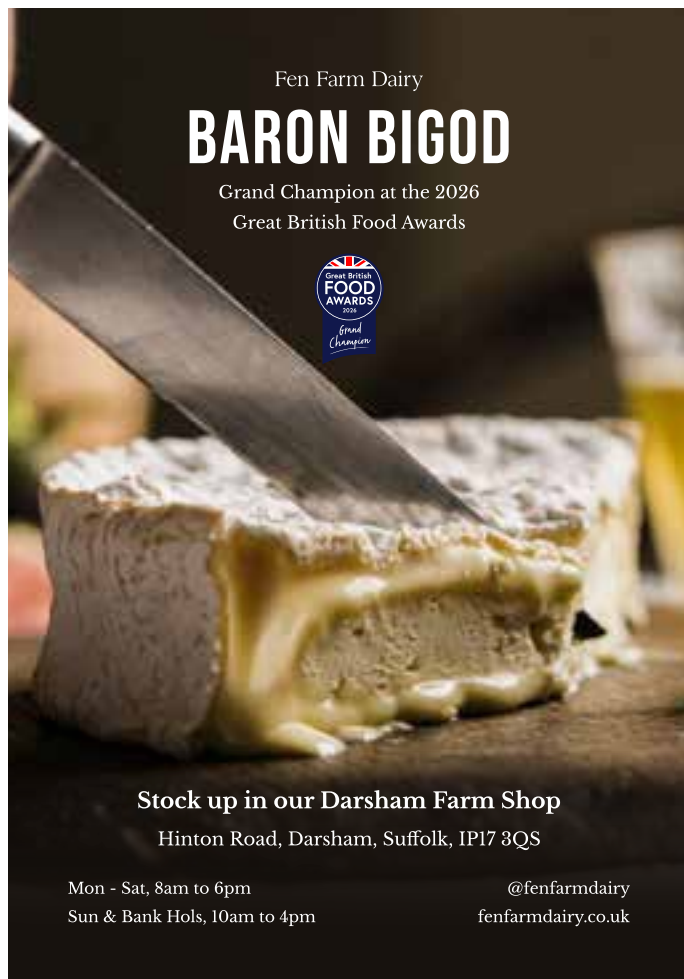
We have a strong and proud connection to our Armed Forces here in Suffolk Coastal. Rock Barracks at Sutton Heath is an important part of our local community and is the new home to 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment and 70 Gurkha Parachute Squadron. I was delighted to welcome the Gurkhas and their families to Woodbridge with a community event hosted by the Mayor of Woodbridge and myself.

I have continued to provide support to military families in our area, and to make sure they know that my office is here to support them when they need it.

Having served (albeit briefly) in the Territorial Army, I have a huge personal appreciation of the commitment, teamwork and sense of duty that comes with military service. Those experiences have stayed with me throughout my life and have given me an even greater respect for those who serve in our Armed Forces today. I am always grateful to everyone across Suffolk Coastal who helps organise our Remembrance services, supports the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and keeps these traditions alive.

Their efforts, alongside the many residents who attend each year, show the strength of our communities and ensure that we continue to remember those who gave so much for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP
www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org



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SOUTHWOLD ARTS CENTRE – NOVEMBER

Comedy

One massive night of stand-up with **Geoff Norcott** from *Live at the Apollo*, *The Last Leg* and *Back Stage* with Katharine Ryan, joined by a master of satirical storytelling and veteran of *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow* – Keith Farnan plus two more acts to be revealed. Big names. Secret guests. One unforgettable night!



Among the many people appearing at the **Southwold Literary Festival** is **Stewart White** who was a familiar face on *Look East* for more than 37 years, during which time he interviewed Royals, Prime Ministers and some of the biggest stars of stage, screen and music.



Ghost Stories for Christmas

Join **Edwyrdian Tales** for three haunting stories from classic authors of the age – H R Wakefield, Algernon Blackwood and an original tale from our storyteller. A one-man performance, directed and haunted by Matthew Wood. Bone chilling tales to conjure the spirits of Christmas... (Not suitable for children under 10 years of age)



Musical Theatre

Enjoy old-time classics and newer favourites in a celebration of song and dance with 'Broadway by the Beach', returning after a highly successful show in May 2026. This cabaret evening of musical theatre features local professional and amateur talent.



Music

Step back into the golden glow of the sixties with *Keep on Running* – a spectacular live theatre event celebrating the music that changed everything. This joyful production takes you on an unforgettable journey through a decade that transformed popular culture.

Relive the era through the timeless hits of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Spencer Davis Group and many more. By the final chorus, you'll be twisting and shouting for more. A sensational evening of first-class entertainment not to be missed.



Drawing on Steely Dan's catalogue of Jazz-Rock classics, 10-piece line-up, **Steemy Dan** have been described as 'the closest you can get to the real thing', praised by legendary session guitarist Elliot Randall who played on many of Steely Dan's original recordings. Founding member Bob Cushing and keyboardist David James have performed live on stage with Rag n Bone Man.



Theatre

Join the critically-acclaimed *Pantaloons Theatre Company* for a hilarious festive parody - **Every Christmas Movie Ever** - An Atlantic-spanning fairy tale of New York and London full of romance, magic, music and puppetry.



Saxmundham.

Find your new favourites.

You may already know Saxmundham for Waitrose and Tesco or as a stop on the way to the coast. But a short walk from the supermarkets and the train station lies a growing community of independent shops, galleries, cafés and restaurants that can turn a practical trip into an afternoon worth remembering.

Around the High Street, Market Place and Fromus Square, new arrivals join established businesses, bringing fresh energy to the town. Whether you've been a local for decades, are newly finding your feet in Suffolk or are here on holiday, take time to get to know Saxmundham. Your next regular coffee stop, favourite shop or evening out could be waiting for you.

Cafés, dining & drinks

As If Turkish Restaurant



Finding a great Turkish meal in Suffolk used to mean travelling to one of the big towns. Enter As If: a local standout serving up authentic charcoal-grilled meats, fresh fish, rich meze and vibrant vegetarian dishes that easily stand toe-to-toe with the capital's best. Choose a few plates for the table and make lunch or dinner in the Market Place part of your visit. Takeaway is available for an evening at home.

www.asiftrankishrestaurant.co.uk

Spice Zone Indian Restaurant



With bold flavour right on the High Street, Spice Zone's menu has both classics, such as tandoori grills and biriyani, alongside more authentic regional specialities, such as the South Indian garlic bhuna or the Nepalese chicken. Dine in the stylish restaurant and bring your own alcoholic drink of choice, or enjoy the same delicious food at home with collection or delivery. Open seven days a week.

01728 441114
www.spicezone.saxmundham.co.uk

The Bell Hotel



This historic High Street hotel has reasons to call in throughout the day. Stop in for a hearty breakfast, drop by for coffee and cake, meet up for cocktails made with locally sourced spirits or dine on a menu drawing on Suffolk producers. Its individually styled bedrooms make The Bell the perfect base for getting to know the town and coast.

@thebellhotel.saxmundham
www.thebellhotel.saxmundham.co.uk

Keep exploring

And there's so much more to discover...

Leading the town's creative energy, The Art Station brings exhibitions and talks from internationally renowned artists alongside engaging community events. The George Farham Gallery showcases the work of local creatives.

The town also boasts a pet shop, classic stationers, takeaways, barbershops, salons aplenty and a hand car wash.

In Fromus Square, boutique finds at The Store In the Cupboard join cuteries like The Thai Saxmundham, Black Dog Deli and Willows' vegetarian box salads.



Saxmundham Christmas Fayre. This year it's on Saturday, December 5

socialbar cafe/wine bar



Specialty coffee, brunch and lunch bring people together by day; small-producer wines, cocktails, small plates and pizza give them reasons to return at night. Alongside live music, talks and poetry, socialbar's creative and cultural gatherings offer an easy way into the town's social life. Check out the programme and put something in the diary. Vegan & dog friendly.

@_socialbar_
www.visit-socialbar.com

tap.social taproom



Just off the High Street, tap.social opens onto Fromus Square, with an ever-changing rotation on tap of craft beer, cider and low/no alcohol. With courtyard seating and Back Yard Pizza close at hand, socialbar's sister taproom is the perfect stop-off spot for a pint and bite to eat following an afternoon of exploring.

@_tap.social_
www.saxmundhampizza.com

Shops & everyday services

There are many ways to shop that support local businesses and producers. Here are just a few on Saxmundham High Street...

Cotton Tree Interiors



Cotton Tree Interiors brings vast expertise to every project, offering a complete design and build service from initial concept, featuring luxurious fabrics and bespoke furniture, custom bathrooms and curated kitchens. Based just off the high street in the Market Place, the studio's portfolio includes The Bell Hotel, an opportunity to see local design talent in action.

@cottontreeinteriors
www.thecottontree.co.uk

Fisher's Home Hardware



From a single fixing to paint for an entire room, Fisher's is a place to talk through the job and find exactly what you need. Family run for over 30 years, this independent hardware shop is packed with tools, plumbing and electrical essentials, gardening supplies and everyday household goods. Bring along your empty bottles for an Ecover refill while you're here.

www.fishershomehardware.com

Jackey L Jewellers



Mark an anniversary, commission something personal or bring a much-loved piece back into use. Jackey L combines gold, silver and gemstone jewellery with bespoke design, restoration and repairs. Celebrating 20 years in Saxmundham in 2026, this independent jeweller also handles everyday jobs, from watch batteries to restringing.

www.jackeyl.co.uk

Jeffery & Associates Opticians



Eyewear is a daily constant; selecting yours deserves personal attention. Independent since 1965, Jeffery & Associates believes in building lasting relationships with their patients, combining meticulous eye care with honest, individual guidance every step of the way - plus a curated range of frames to match your style.

www.jefferyopticians.co.uk

Park and explore...

Saxmundham is served by the closest railway to the beautiful beaches of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness as well as the world-renowned Snape Maltings. If you're driving, Waitrose and Tesco accommodates two hours' parking each whether or not you're shopping there! Aside from the expansive supermarket car parks, public parking is available at the station car park next to the Market Place - free after 6pm.



www.visitaxmundham.co.uk

Make Good



One-of-a-kind pieces for home and life, chosen for how they look, feel and function. At No. 1 High Street in a beautifully calming space, Make Good brings together handmade art, ceramics, textiles, baskets and woodwork by East Anglian artisans. Take your time choosing a gift or something special for yourself.

@_makegoodshop
www.makegoodshop.com

Ruby Tiger



Building on its success in Framlingham, Ruby Tiger brings a curated mix of effortless womenswear, accessories and homeware to Saxmundham's High Street. The collection features flattering cuts, cosy knewear and thoughtful finishing touches for your wardrobe and living space - making it an easy addition to your weekend browse.

@rubytigerframlingham
www.rubytiger.com

Saxmundham Post Office



Turn multiple errands into a single, effortless trip. Conveniently placed at the heart of the High St, Saxmundham Post Office is a true one-stop shop where you can send packages, collect parcels (handling Royal Mail, Evri and DPD), and pick up prescriptions, plus browse a selection of greeting cards, gift wrap and small gifts.

www.postoffice.co.uk

The Wholefood Shop



Sourdough bread, locally made bean-to-bar chocolate and organic wholefoods give your shopping basket an ethical upgrade. John Fisher's shop brings together Suffolk producers with foods from further afield, continuing his family's long connection with Saxmundham retail. Browse the shelves, ask for a recommendation and discover something for your own kitchen. Vegan friendly.

saxmundhamwholefoods.org

RoughCast Theatre Tour of The Seagull by Anton Chekhov
Nov 19th – 28th 2026

"We are all fools in love—and even bigger fools in art."

Anton Chekhov wrote comedies, bittersweet comedies about our dreams and our human failings. Set on a country estate where everyone is in love with the wrong person and convinced their life is a tragedy, RoughCast's typically fast-moving production and clear storytelling bring out all the humour and poignancy of Chekhov's enduring and endearing masterpiece. Diss Corn Hall Nov 19th, Fisher Theatre, Bungay Nov 20th, The Cut, Halesworth Nov 21st, Chapel Hall Arts, Fressingfield Nov 26th, Southwold Arts Centre Nov 27th, Wingfield Barns Nov 28th



Fear in the Funhouse. Terror in the Tunnel of Love, Shivers in the Shooting Gallery! On the trail of stolen artifacts, Brown faces a motley crew of churls and showgirls, led by Mozzarelli, the big cheese.

For those who fancy a bonkers, surreal and hilarious alternative to panto, book now for Common Ground Theatre Company's ever-popular Xmas spoof! *"Madcap comedy gold"*, as The Stage put 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 Xmas/New Year 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 recently unearthed Roman gold and silverware, the Hiddenham Hoard, has been stolen whilst in transit to the British Museum! Maud Fiveways of the Hiddenham archaeology society asks her old flame Father Brown for help, but his investigations are disrupted by the arrival of Mozzarelli's Carnival! How will he find the culprit before the precious Hoard is sold off on the black market?

Dick Mainwaring & Julian Harries star as Brown and Flambeau. Julian is known to East Anglian audiences from his many performances in the region. He has also made TV appearances in EastEnders, Detectorists, Father Brown & Mary & George.

Suitable for ages 8+. Venues include: Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge (11-13 Dec), Harkstead Village Hall; Laxfield Village Hall; Southwold Arts Centre; Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall. Full tour schedule on our their website - www.commongroundtc.co.uk.

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East Cliff, Southwold

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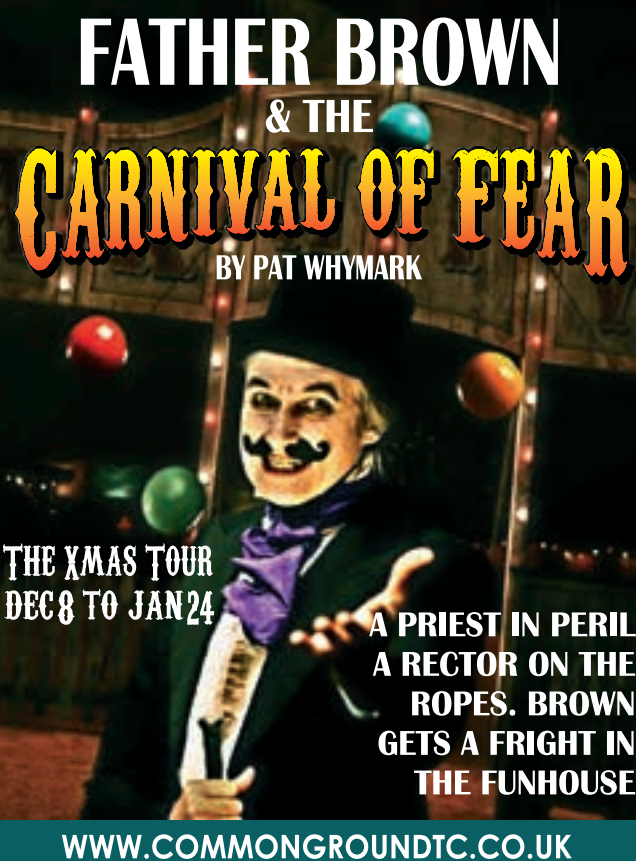
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RECORD YEAR FOR SOUTHWOLD PUMPKIN PATCH

With the return of autumn comes a fresh appetite for family days out, and the team at Southwold Maize Maze got very busy preparing Southwold Pumpkin Patch for visitors throughout October, when visitors of all ages were welcomed to explore the patch and pick their own pumpkins.

Over 15 pumpkin varieties - squashes and gourds covering all shapes, sizes and colours, from the medium Mellow Yellow, to the large white Polar Bear variety, as well as the more traditional round orange varieties perfect for carving, and the edible Crown Prince and Red October squash - were hand planted in May and, after a very warm summer, the one-acre pumpkin patch thrived, thanks to an on-site bore hole, which kept the crop well-watered during the heatwave.

"The bore hole is mostly used to provide water down to the marshes along the Blyth Estuary, which are grazed by cattle during the summer months" explains Will Hall, who runs the summer maize maze attraction, pumpkin patch and events business at Old Hall Southwold alongside his mum Bella.

"It's been really useful this year for making sure our pumpkins haven't withered away in the heat, and it's paid off, as this year's pumpkin patch is our best yet in terms of quantity of pumpkins produced - there's more pumpkins than we've ever seen!"



GARDEN BIRDWATCH

The Southwold and Blyth Valley Wildlife Group welcomed speaker Susan Jones to our first autumn meeting this year. Susan, of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), gave us a fascinating account of how the Garden BirdWatch works. It is a survey of birds and other fauna in British gardens that takes place week by week throughout the year.

Gardens are a wonderful resource for wildlife, but by nature they are private, and so the BTO enables volunteers to join an online survey that records their garden visitors, principally birds, but also mammals, amphibians and other wildlife. This is then submitted weekly. As volunteer numbers have increased over the last thirty years, knowledge and understanding of the state of birdlife has been helped significantly. The rapid decline in greenfinches through disease was recorded and investigated, and the latest advice on bird feeding, and the type of feeders, is one result. The decline has been arrested, and the future for these birds looks brighter. Other diseases affecting great tits and blackbirds are being monitored.

Non-native species are also noted. The first ring-necked parakeets have been seen in Suffolk gardens, and the tree bumblebee recorded. The BTO has not found these species to be detrimental to our native breeds, but monitoring will continue. Trends in other insects such as pollinators are noticed, and this has been a butterfly 'Painted Lady' year.

This is Citizen Science at an accessible, inclusive and flexible level, and the BTO website has full information on how to become involved.

It was a lively and informative evening, which we all enjoyed.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, 12th November, at Southwold Arts Centre**, when Alex Bass will talk about the Wildlife of the Brecks. Talks start at 7.30pm. Entry is £5, to include refreshment, under 25's free.

Penny Mansfield

Contact us at:
southwoldandblythvalleywg@gmail.com



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CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

What happens to your debts when you die?

When someone dies, there is often confusion among family members about what happens to their outstanding debts. Do they disappear, does the family have to pay them? The answer, in England, is usually straightforward: debts are normally paid from the deceased person's estate, rather than by their relatives. An estate consists of everything a person leaves behind, including money in bank accounts, investments, property and personal possessions. It also includes money they owe to other people or organisations.

Common debts might include a mortgage, credit card balance, personal loan, overdraft, utility bills or unpaid tax, there is more information on this on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/probate-estate>

The person responsible for sorting everything out is known as the Executor, if there is a will, or an Administrator if there is not.

Their job includes identifying the deceased person's assets and debts, dealing with creditors, paying what is owed and then distributing anything left to the beneficiaries. Probate or letters of administration may be required before some assets can be dealt with.

Importantly, family members do not normally inherit someone else's debts simply because they are related to them. Being a spouse, civil partner or child does not, by itself, make you responsible for debts in the deceased person's sole name.

If the estate does not contain enough money to pay all the debts, creditors will generally have to accept that the remaining debt cannot be recovered. There are, however, some exceptions. Where a debt was taken out jointly – such as a joint loan or another shared financial arrangement – the surviving borrower may still be liable for it. Jointly owned property and debts secured against a home can also raise complications. Anyone in this situation should seek specialist advice rather than assume the debt no longer exists.

The key message for families is simple: don't panic and don't automatically pay the deceased person's debts from your own pocket. First establish what belongs to the estate, what is owed, and whether any joint liability or insurance applies.

Where an estate is complicated, insolvent, or involves property or substantial debts, professional legal or debt advice can be invaluable. Handling an estate correctly protects both the deceased person's beneficiaries and the person responsible for administering it.

We are here to help if you need more information about dealing with the debts of a family member who has died – or for more general advice about what to do following a death.

For help with this or any issue please contact us through our website: www.caes.org.uk/email-service. You can also phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10-2 Mon-Fri). Our website also gives details of our drop-in outreach sessions and how to make an appointment at one of our offices.



The Arts Society Southwold invites you to a lecture on Tuesday, November 10th at 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre, St Edmund's Hall

THE CENOTAPH - ARMISTICE DAY Graham Jones



Lt Col Jones provides a personal account of the behind the scenes preparation of the National Day of Remembrance held at the Cenotaph, Whitehall in the presence of the Royal Family, Heads of State, veterans and serving military personnel. Timing and precision are everything. Dr Jones started his professional life as a musician in the British Army. When he retired, he held the position of Senior Director of Music, Household Division and Director of Music, Coldstream Guards. He pioneered a music education programme for military musicians with the University of Salford. He has recorded over 40 albums and been responsible for commissioning over 30 new works for wind band. In 1993 he was awarded an MBE for outstanding service to military music.

Guests are welcome to all our meetings. £10 entry charge



SOUTHWOLD MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER LECTURES

Tuesday, 3 November 2026 at 2.00pm



'Magna Carta: The East Anglian Connection' given by Nicholas Vincent

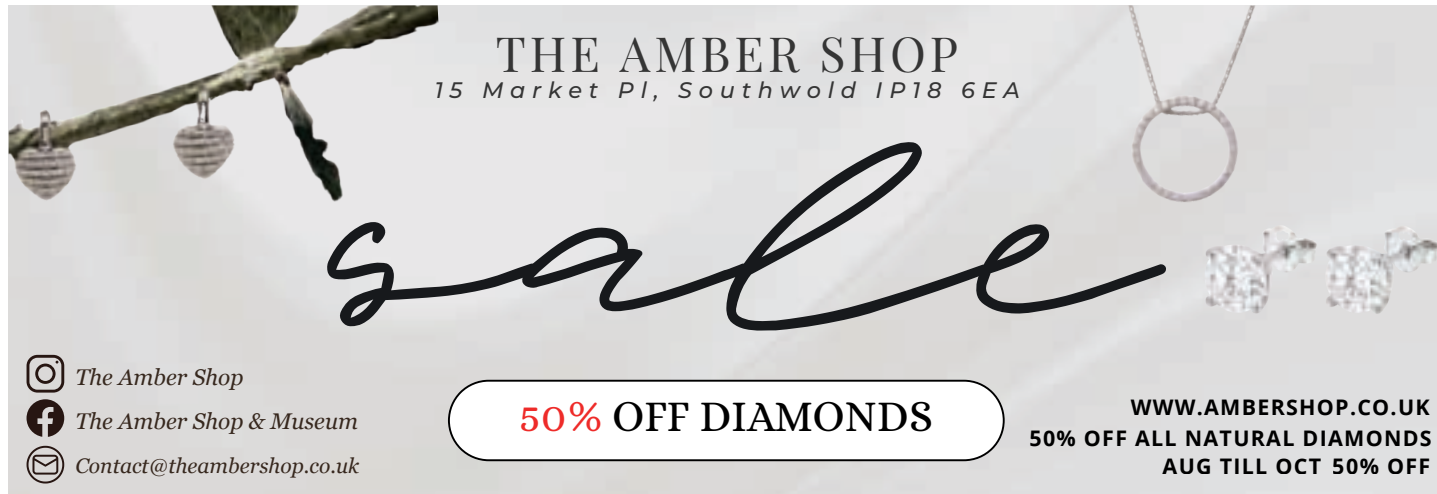
Nicholas Vincent is Professor of Medieval History at the University of East Anglia and the leading academic expert on the history of Magna Carta. He is the author, among many books, of *Magna Carta: Origins and Legacy* (2015)

Stella Peskett Millennium Hall

Mights Road, Southwold, IP18 6BE

Admission: Society Members £5 Non-Members £8

Details of the full programme are available on
www.southwoldmuseum.org



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MUSEUM TALK RECALLS HALESWORTH'S QUAY TO PROSPERITY

Guests at the September gathering for the Halesworth & District Museum talk were treated to two speakers on the theme of 'Quay Street Through the Looking Glass'.

Who could have guessed that a seven-mile strip of water could cause so much rivalry, intrigue and illegality? Those were just some of the aspects of the Halesworth Navigation and Quay, a sorry tale of vision clouded by adversity, as told in the first half by local historian Heather Calo.

The packed audience heard that the scheme was the brainchild of pub-owning entrepreneur Thomas Knights and friends, who voiced the idea for a new commercial waterway between Southwold and Halesworth. They acquired an Act of Parliament granting the proposal in 1757.

Surviving letters show the level and range of objections by people whose vested interests were threatened by the change. Thomas Knights kept meticulous notes in a small leatherbound pocketbook which, remarkably, also survives to tell the tale.

A near-Herculean task of creating cuttings, bridges and locks followed – slowly – plus a turning basin at Halesworth for the enormous wherries and barges to manoeuvre. Another 'necessity' – a pub named The Wherry Inn – also sprang up. The new Navigation was first used on 16th July 1761 when a craft went up the river from Southwold with a cargo of 11 tons of coal.

Sadly, despite tolls and fees, in the first year the scheme made a loss of 4s 3d. Worse was to come, with poorly-constructed bridges failing while the owner of Wenhasston water mill *"frequently, wilfully and maliciously obstructed the navigation by drawing off the water."*

Meanwhile, Blythburgh bridge was discovered to be a hotspot for offloading smuggled tobacco and spirits.

In 1821, Patrick Stead bought the maltings in Quay Street and extended the river to the town bridge. His efforts were thwarted by apathy at the Southwold end, where the harbour was frequently allowed to decline.

Heather said: *"Things came to a head in 1839 when the grain carrier 'Lord Exmouth', loaded with barley and bound for Cardiff, was trapped by a silt bar from January to April. The entrance to the harbour became completely blocked. The cargo was spoiled and Stead gave up exporting grain."*

The waterway was still navigable by pleasure craft, but in 1884 the route was officially declared closed. Its fate had perhaps been sealed by the coming of the railway, opened in 1879. Attempts have been made to restore the Navigation – what a wonderful asset it could be for Halesworth – but so far, the cost and difficulty have outweighed the enthusiasm.

For the second part of the evening's Quay Street double bill, Lesley Scott covered 100 years of the working lives of those listed in the street, mainly in trade directories, census and newspaper reports, and with the aid of wonderful old photos. Goods and services on offer ranged from fresh fish to clothing, barrel-making to printing. The latter business was kept particularly busy in the early 1800s when a heated debate around the morals of the stage and theatre professions was played out in a blizzard of pamphlets.

Nineteenth-century multi-tasking was common: for instance, Lesley found that a builder also specialised in garden seats and everything needed for keeping pigeons and poultry. Frederick Kent, a cooper, doubled as a local insurance agent. The Sago family were successful coal merchants in Quay Street, and from 1930 until wartime they would tow the fire brigade's Merryweather Hatfield trailer pump to tackle blazes. Sadly, nothing could save the thatched Wherry inn when it had burned down in 1887; the pub was insured and so it was rebuilt, but nearby houses, waterproofed with tar, were lost.

The history of Quay Street would not be complete without a look at the building in which the talk was being held: the United Reformed Church opened in April 1836. Its first incumbent, Rev John Dennant, was very much in the 'against' camp when the opposing sides disputed the morals of stage and theatre productions. He served the church for 44 years and continued to preach in the area after his retirement.

'Halesworth Through the Looking Glass' gave a fascinating insight into the highs and lows of the local quay and its waterway, and also brought into focus the lives and trades of the people who knew it in its heyday.

Researchers Heather and Lesley are members of the University of the Third Age (U3A) local history group. Admission to the talk was free as part of the Heritage Open Days events, supported by Halesworth Town Council with grant funding from East Suffolk Council.



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VIEW TO THE NORTH

One of the highlights this month has been a sighting of a short-eared owl. It was too quick for me to photograph. According to the RSPB website, at this time of year there is an influx from Scandinavia, Russia, and Iceland, especially around the coast. They are amber listed, as are kestrels, which I have seen hovering along North Road. There have also been a pair of purple sandpipers which are winter visitors, often accompanying turnstones on the sea wall north of the promenade. They are on the conservation red list.



There are regular skeins of barnacle geese passing overhead with their characteristic calls. They have not yet landed in the North Road fields, maybe they are waiting for the cattle to be moved to their winter residence.

It is a very good year for berries, the whitebeam in the garden is laden, it has been popular with the wood pigeons, and I was surprised to see a magpie feasting.

The number of butterflies has decreased with the cooler weather.

The ivy has flowered and is popular with ivy bees. They are small solitary bees and do not stay on the flowers for any length of time making them very difficult to photograph. They feed almost exclusively on ivy and therefore are seen during the ivy flowering season, largely September and October.



Another insect that I saw was the Roesel's Bush Cricket. Originally, they were only found on the southeast coast, but they are spreading north and west. Their song is a long, monotonous, mechanical noise.

This one appears to be a rare, winged variety which may be more numerous in hot summers.



The hot weather is now a remembrance,

and it has been quite cool. I was reminded of the word apricity when I walked along the promenade one afternoon. The sun provided a warming effect even though the temperature was cool in the northerly wind.

There have been a lot of clear nights, and I have been able to target a number of deep sky objects, galaxies, nebulae and star clusters.

One that I felt apt for November was the Fireworks Galaxy (NGC 6946 or Caldwell 12). It is about 25 million light years away. Light started its journey when very large predators such as the megalodon patrolled the oceans. It was discovered by William Herschel on September 9, 1798.



Halcyon

REYDON SHOW 2027

We are hoping to encourage lots more of you to enter the Reydon Show 2027, so we thought we had better start by explaining what a village show is. A village show is a traditional community event where people from a village and the surrounding area come together to show off their skills and display their best produce, baking, flowers, crafts and other talents.

So why should you enter? You should enter the Reydon Show because it's a fun, low-pressure way to get involved in your local community, a wonderful celebration of local talent, creativity and community spirit. From home-grown vegetables and beautiful flowers to delicious cakes, homemade preserves, crafts, photography and children's creations, there are classes for all ages and interests.

But you don't need to be an expert or a prize-winning gardener to take part, the fun is simply in having a go. Entering the Reydon Show is a chance to show off something you've grown, baked or made, try something new, meet other local people and perhaps even take home a trophy! Most importantly, by entering, you're helping to keep a much-loved local tradition alive and making the show a real celebration of the people who live in our community.

So why not have a go? You might just discover a hidden talent! You don't have to be an expert, just enter something you enjoy, have a go, and see what happens!

So, save the date, the 2027 Reydon Show will take place on **Saturday 7th August 2027.**

COVEHITHE PLOUGH DAY

Blyth Valley Rotary, in collaboration with Graham and Christine Scriven, organised the Covehithe Plough Day on Sunday, 4th October 2026. This annual community event took place on a beautiful field, generously provided by Lady Gooch of the Benacre Estate in Covehithe, near Southwold, Suffolk (NR34 7JP).



Thank you to the Community First Responders for attending; it was lovely to see you again. We are pleased to announce that we raised an impressive £3,294 profit.

The day was full of excitement, featuring a vintage tractor ploughing competition, a tractor display, a traditional barbecue, a refreshment stall, cake stall, tombola, raffle, and various craft stalls. Lamarti's Ice Cream was particularly popular!

Sixteen entrants competed in the ploughing competition, with Mick Debenham winning the Ann Balls Trophy and Jack Miller the runner-up.

We were fortunate to have great weather and sunshine all day, which led to a wonderful turnout. All profits will be donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) and its vital emergency response services. The public's support was incredible.

Additionally, YANA (You Are Not Alone) was present, offering essential mental health support to rural communities. The day was truly full of fun, food, and community spirit, all while supporting these important causes. We extend a huge thank you to the public for their support and a special shout-out to Graham and Christine Scriven for their tireless work in the community!

Thank you,

Steven Seager,

President, on behalf of Blyth Valley Rotary



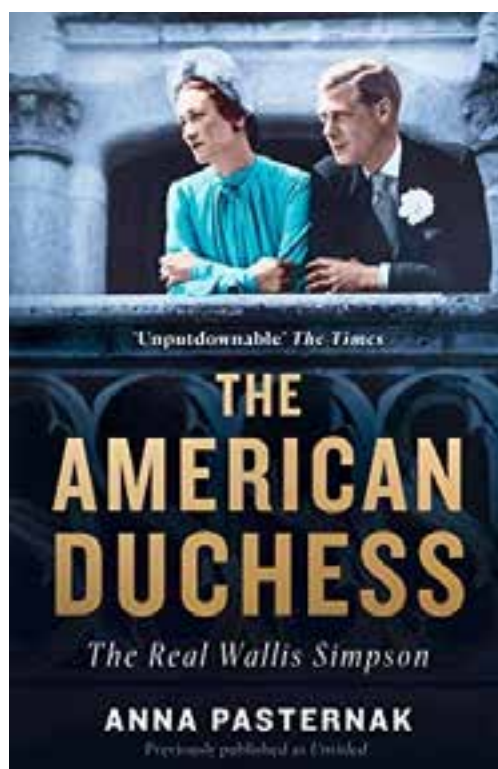
ANNA PASTERNAK - AUTHOR AND ROYAL HISTORIAN

**Monday, 30 November 2026 at Thorpeness Country Club,
The Benthills, Thorpeness. IP16 4NU. 6.30–8.30pm. £15**

The true story of the abdication of King Edward VIII: To mark the 90th anniversary of the abdication of King Edward VIII, royal historian and bestselling author Anna Pasternak reveals the fascinating and intimate story behind one of the greatest constitutional crises in British history.

Anna Pasternak, author of *The American Duchess: The Real Wallis Simpson*, will recount the gripping events of December 1936, when King Edward VIII abandoned the throne for the woman he loved, Wallis Simpson. Anna will explore the relationship between the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the events that led to the King's abdication, and the remarkable story behind one of the most controversial royal relationships of the twentieth century. She will also discuss the modern parallels and consider why, almost a century later, many of the tensions surrounding the House of Windsor remain remarkably familiar.

Suffolk played a significant part in the story. In 1936, Wallis Simpson stayed in Felixstowe, while her divorce proceedings took place in Ipswich, making the county an intriguing and often overlooked part of the abdication story.



The evening will include a question-and-answer session with Anna Pasternak, followed by a book signing. Books available for signing:

The American Duchess: The Real Wallis Simpson

Lara: The Untold Love Story That Inspired Doctor Zhivago

HALESWORTH TO SOUTHWOLD NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY CHARITY

The autumn is seeing a great deal of activity by our volunteers. At Walberswick Station (with the kind permission of the Walberswick Common Land Charity Trustees), the information board which has a potted history of the railway and station is garnering much interest – it will soon be joined by a reduced-size version of the station nameboard. The omnipresent bracken, which Natural England say must be removed from archaeological sites like this, is being weeded out. It is hoped that grass will replace it, so that we can maintain the site with a mower, which will be a lot easier.



HSNGR hope for a resolution to the planning hiatus at Blythburgh very soon, so that our short but important track extension can go down to be enjoyed by next year's visitors. Meanwhile we are carrying out preliminary work – measuring rails, counting fishplates, and estimating materials required. When the extension opens, we will still be one of the shortest Heritage Railways in the UK (a 20-chain round trip) – but at least longer than we were before! The station Visitor Centre ground-works are planned to start in November, with the hope that this facility can be opened in basic form next year.

At the station, we took advantage of the unusually warm October weather, with volunteer signwriter Bernie Ward (from the East Anglia Transport Museum) providing the complex lettering and numbering on the MOY private-owner coal wagon, which has a very unusual flexible wheelbase. Our open wagon No 18 has been re-painted and re-lettered as well.



We have already decided on the two main event dates in 2027: trains will run on Easter Monday, and on Sunday September 12th (for Heritage Open Days and our popular Model Railway Show): our other Open Days will be decided by the end of this year, and announced. Membership of the railway charity – only £10 per year – makes an ideal Christmas present, and provides the recipient with the satisfaction of helping us to retore a railway closed for almost 100 years – with a fortnightly illustrated newsletter included, and the ability to volunteer if that is wanted, and to join our social events. Join on our website or Facebook.



James Hewett, Trustee

PROJECT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2026

It has been a busy summer with works continuing to progress well. We have reached a key milestone with the arrival of the first commercial trains, delivering materials directly to the Temporary Construction Area via the newly installed rail line, known as the Green Rail Route.

Each freight train prevents the equivalent of around 50 HGVs from having to travel on our roads. Between now and Christmas around 100,000 tonnes of material will be delivered by rail, removing the need for approximately 5,000 HGV journeys from local roads.

Added to this, our jetty – what we call our Marine Bulk Import Facility (MBIF) – will be operational in the New Year, at which point we can open up more deliveries by sea too.

Overall, 60% of our materials will be delivered by rail or sea. That means less HGVs on the roads and less impacts on local communities.

The Park and Ride capacity continues to increase at our southern car park near Wickham Market with more of our workers using the site to park their cars and access our sites on Sizewell C buses. Our contractor has now removed the temporary welfare building as they complete the access to the Southern Park and Ride site.

The A12 road improvements at Marlesford are also almost complete, improving community connection and safety for the community.

Whilst train movements have commenced, there are still investments being made to further upgrade the main and branch lines which are being carried out by Balfour Beatty Rail and Network Rail. From Saturday 24 October – Monday 2 November, there will be a nine-day blockade of the East Suffolk branch line to support rail upgrades. The works include:

- Complete renewal of Saxmundham rail junction
- Upgrade of signalling system between Westerfield and Halesworth
- Civils work around Bealings level Crossing that includes installing bases for signalling future equipment

Throughout the blockade, buses will replace trains between Lowestoft and Ipswich. A separate shuttle bus will operate for customers travelling to and from Beccles, these customers will need to change bus at Halesworth.

More information will be made available in the coming weeks on greateranglia.co.uk.



All our works and planned road works can be accessed on our Works Tracker. Please sign up to receive bespoke alerts via email or SMS. Thank you for patience during these works. To find out more about the progress of the works, the next round of community forums are:

Northern Transport Forum

Wednesday 4 November 18:00, at the High Lodge, Darsham

Southern Transport Forum

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

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.

Sizewell C



BLYTH VALLEY & SOUTHWOLD WILDLIFE GROUP

The marine life of Scotland's west coast.

The meeting of the Southwold and Blyth Valley Wildlife Group welcomed Rob Spray, a volunteer with Seasearch, to talk about the range of wildlife to be found in some of Scotland's western sea lochs.

Rob and his diving companions explore this area in winter, and although they must be fully equipped with drysuits and warm clothing, the water temperatures in fact are not as cold as they are here. They moved from Loch Long around to Loch Creran, recording the marine flora and fauna found there. The lochs are clear and generally calm, but also deep and dark, and lamps are used when necessary, lighting up the brilliant colours of the creatures found. The rare firework anemone has a spectacular display of long white tentacles up to 30cm long. Beautiful sessile sea squirts come in a wide range of colours. There are small spotted catsharks, lion's mane jellyfish, and starfish. Octopus and cuttle fish are present. Loch Creran is known for its serpulid worms, a beautiful marine tubeworm with pink and orange feathery tentacles, that grow to create reefs that home many other animals.

Seaweeds vary in each loch, from huge, tough beds of bladderwrack to fields of waving kelp. The quiet Loch Sween has maerl beds, red seaweeds that grow into hard, twig-like lumps that grow and intertwine, forming spiky beds that are ideal nurseries for a range of species. They are very slow to grow, and can take hundreds, or even thousands, of years to form.

This is a beautiful area, home to many different and sometimes rare creatures, but Rob drew our attention to the two main factors that can damage this environment; fishing with dredges, and the large amount of rubbish found everywhere in the lochs. The photography was spellbinding, and we all enjoyed the rich diversity on display for us.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday, November 12th, at the Southwold Arts Centre. Alex Bass will talk on the Wildlife of the Brecks. Entry is £5, to include refreshments, under 25s free. All are welcome.

Penny Mansfield

Contact us at: southwoldandblythvalleywg@gmail.com



Southwold & Blyth Valley Wildlife Group Wildlife of the Brecks

Alex Bass



Thursday 12th November at 7.30pm

Southwold Arts Centre IP18 6JP

Admission £5 inc refreshments (under 25s free)

Raffle – Everyone Welcome

In association with



THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY

A new year for the local monthly lottery for The Brain Tumour Charity has just begun and took place in October. There were 207 entries, making a total prize fund of £103.50. 1st prize of £51.75 went to Camila Dunn, 2nd prize of £31.05 went to Angela Yates and 3rd prize of £20.70 went to Clare Lamming. Congratulations to each of them.

If you would like a monthly flutter, whilst supporting The Brain Tumour Charity, please contact John Huggins, email: thebtclottery@btinternet.com; Tel: 07873 376168. The lottery is regulated and licensed by East Suffolk Council. The next draw will take place on **Sunday 1st November 2026**. Every penny raised goes to The Brain Tumour Charity.

I'm pleased to say local fund-raising efforts have totalled **£72,884.96** from the various events since losing our 8 year old family member Sophie.

Books and terracotta pots are still on sale at 56 Hotson Road for the charity.

John Huggins

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SUFFOLK ANIMAL RESCUE

Piggy the gentle tabby has lived outside, for the whole of his 15 years. His 'owner' moved away and someone else took on giving him a little food. Now they are moving away too. They all thought he was fine, living in an old box, outside in all weathers, the chill of 15 winters invading his skinny frame.

Suffolk Animal Rescue took this little sweet soul in, and he joined 200 other rescued felines, all hoping to find comfort and affection as autumn and winter nights begin to march in and bite.

SAR is a tiny but massively-effective animal welfare charity based near Debenham, Suffolk. Next year it celebrates 30 years of relentlessly rescuing animals, but founder Mrs Jayne Roberts says things have never been so bad. The charity is overwhelmed by cats and kittens, dogs, rabbits and even some wildlife... all needing rescue and veterinary treatment.

The veterinary bill for last month alone was £18,000. SAR is unusual in that it concentrates on the feral cats and kittens because, as Jayne says: *"Nobody else is keen on doing that. And they make the best pets, grateful for the kindness, attention, shelter and food."*

Luckily the local community rallies to raise funds, including the parishioners at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Aldeburgh. And Debenham Veterinary Practice is generous and hugely supportive. Jayne says: *"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports us but we really need to find good homes for cats like Piggy."*

Jayne said: *"I want him to have comfort and kindness and a little luxury."*

"He's such an adorable, sweet and lovely chap"

If you can offer this little Piggy that kind, special home, please contact Suffolk Animal Rescue. We are always grateful for donations or items to sell in our Ipswich shop, and offers of help. Please visit: <https://www.suffolkanimalrescue.org.uk/> Please call: 01728 860937 or email: suffolkar@hotmail.com if you can offer poor Piggy a home or wish help to this fantastic local charity. Charity Number:1065934.



FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

Our Quiz Night was a great success with a full house, a lively, fun, and very successful evening. Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and generosity, we raised almost £500!

Updating Microchip Details: We have recently encountered a number of issues while checking microchip information on cats that have been found. The problem arises because the owner has moved and not updated their contact details with the microchip database, making it much harder, and sometimes impossible, to reunite lost cats with their families.

How to Check or Update Your Cat's Microchip

- If you've lost your cat's microchip paperwork, ask your vet to scan your cat to obtain the microchip number. If you're unsure which database holds the registration, you can use this website to find out: <https://www.identi.pet/catsprotection>
- Once you know the correct database, make sure to update them if you: move home: change telephone number; transfer ownership of your cat to someone else or your cat sadly passes away
- Keeping these records accurate ensures that, if your cat ever goes missing, they have the best possible chance of being returned to you quickly and safely.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday, 7 November: Reydon Village Hall 10am to 1pm

Saturday, 14 November: at The Fromus Centre, Saxmundham 10am to 12 noon

Tuesday, 17 November: We will be at Leading Lives Coffee morning at the Hub, at the Fromus Centre
Ample free parking at all these events.

Cats Looking for a Home: Phoenix and his sister Juneau were found outdoors with their mum Georgia and the rest of their litter, seeking shelter. These two lively siblings are ready for their new start in life together. They are full of energy, love a good game of chase, and are huge fans of fishing rod toys, ping-pong balls and catnip mice. Could you offer them the home they need?

See our website: www.cats.org.uk/framandsax, email: enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk, or telephone 01728 723499 for more information





Fri 6th Nov at 7.15pm
Sat 7th Nov at 5.00pm
Sun 8th Nov at 6.00pm
Mon 9th Nov at 2.00pm
Tues 10th, Wed 11th &
Thurs 12th Nov at 7.15pm

WICKER 15

Sat 7th Nov at 7.30pm
Sun 8th Nov at 3.00pm

GEORGE MICHAEL: THE FAITH TOUR 12A

Mon 9th Nov at 7.15pm
Tues 10th Nov at 2.00pm
Sun 15th Nov at 6.30pm

THE UPRISING 15

Fri 13th Nov at 7.15pm
Sun 15th Nov at 4.00pm
Mon 16th Nov at 7.15pm
Thurs 19th Nov at 2.00pm

WHALEFALL 15

Sat 14th Nov at 12.00pm
Sun 15th Nov at 2.30pm
Sat 21st Nov at 12.00pm
Sun 22nd Nov at 2.30pm

FESTIVE FUN WITH PEPPA U

Thurs 19th Nov at 7.00pm
Sun 22nd Nov at 4.30pm

GIANT - THE PLAY 15

Fri 20th Nov at 7.15pm
Mon 23rd Nov at 1.00pm
Tues 24th & Wed 25th Nov at 7.15pm
Thurs 26th Nov at 2.00pm

I PLAY ROCKY 12A

Thurs 26th Nov at 7.00pm
Sun 29th Nov at 3.00pm

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S STARLIGHT EXPRESS PG

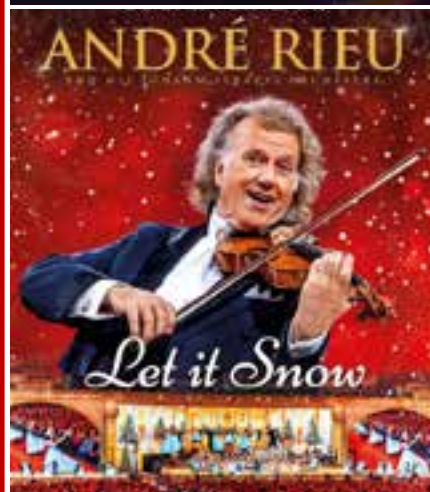
Sat 5th Dec at 3.00pm

ANDRE RIEU'S 2026 CHRISTMAS CONCERT: LET IT SNOW PG

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Thurs 26th Nov at 7.00pm
Sun 29th Nov at 3.00pm NOW BOOKING www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT at LEISTON FILM THEATRE

Saturday 14th November, 7.30pm
THE COLDPLAY TRIBUTE

Friday 27th November, 7.30pm
DS:UK ... IN TRIBUTE TO DIRE STRAITS

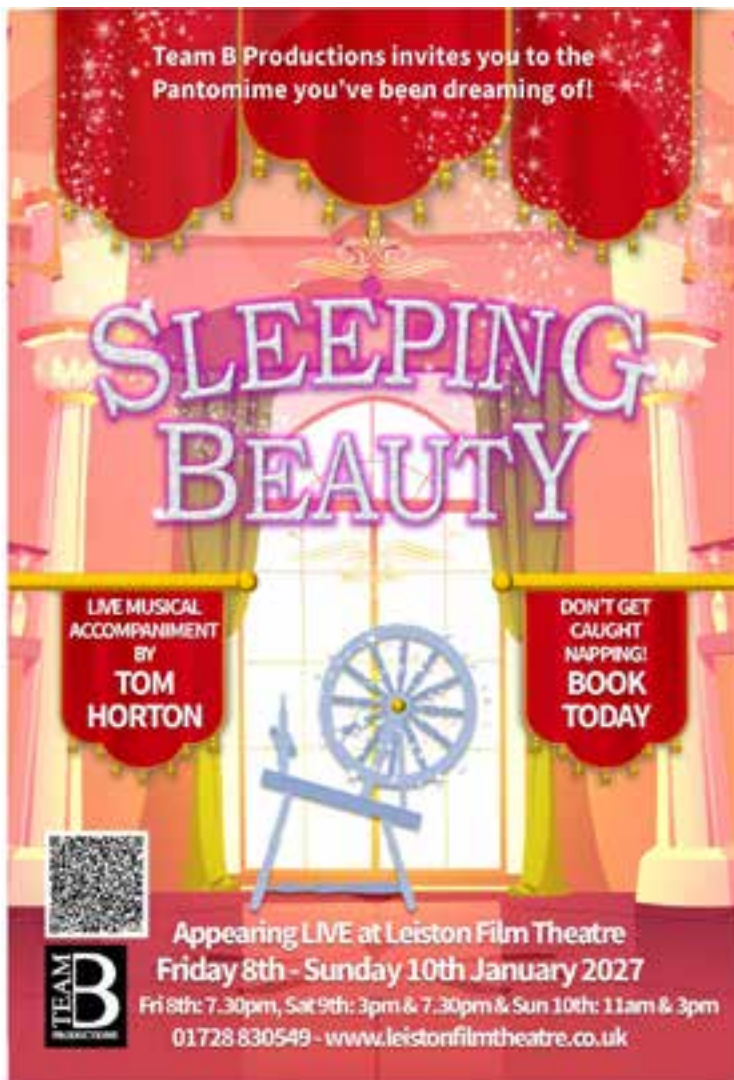
Saturday 28th November, 7.30pm
HONEY AND THE BEAR

Sunday 6th December, 3.00pm
**LEISTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th January 2027
PANTOMIME - SLEEPING BEAUTY

www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

YOU'RE PROMISED A PANTOMIME WORTH STAYING AWAKE FOR AT LEISTON FILM THEATRE THIS JANUARY!



Team B Productions invites you to the panto you've been dreaming of ... Sleeping Beauty, appearing live at the splendid Leiston Film Theatre between the 8th and 10th January 2027 and tickets are in big demand, with seats for some performances already limited.

As a baby, the beautiful Princess Aurora is cursed by the evil Carabosse, destined to perish on her 18th birthday, by pricking her finger on a spinning wheel. But when the good fairies intervene, the Princess falls under a sleeping spell and into a deep slumber and can only be awoken by true love's kiss.

Now it's up to a dashing Prince, the good Fairies, and the Princess' best friend Muddles to save the day. Will good triumph over evil, will true love's kiss be enough to break the spell and will they all live happily ever after?

The Pantomime has been written by Wayne Burns and Toby Young and is being brought to the stage under Wayne's 'Team B Productions' title - a group of experienced am-dram performers, who have enjoyed numerous sell-out successes, gaining a reputation and following for their polished performances.

Sleeping Beauty promises another traditional family Pantomime, bursting with colourful costumes, dazzling effects, toe-tapping tunes and sprinkled with magical mayhem!

The Pantomime sees renowned Suffolk musician Tom Horton returning as the Musical Director and the energetic students from the Chloe Kinrade School of Dance will be making a welcome return to the stage, as part of the Pantomime extravaganza.

Sleeping Beauty will be appearing live at the Leiston Film Theatre on Friday 8th (7.30pm), Saturday 9th (3pm & 7.30pm) and Sunday 10th (11am and 3pm) January 2027. Limited tickets are still available, priced £19.95, £19.50 and £17.95. Book your seats on 01728 830549 or at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk.

INTRODUCING THE PANTO PRINCESS FOR 2027

There are no words to express how excited Kelly Eagle was to be offered the role of Princess Aurora, in Sleeping Beauty. Kelly first contacted Team B back in 2024 to enquire about getting involved in their productions and after a brief audition process, patiently stood in the wings waiting to take to the stage in the 2026 production of Mother Goose. Since then, Kelly has appeared in Team B's recent comedy/drama, Mourning Campers and this year is their leading lady in Sleeping Beauty.

If you've ever thought about taking to the stage, or working in the wings as the vital stage support, now's the time to get in touch. Simply message Team B Productions via their Facebook page, or via the Leiston Film Theatre website at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk



SOUTHWOLD LIBRARY

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

The 2026 Festival features an amazing mix of fiction and non-fiction authors speaking about a fascinating range of subjects, including: Felicity Goodall; Erika Clegg; Kevin Crossley-Holland; Robert Ashton in conversation with Matt Gaw; Robert Colls in conversation with Ronald Binns; Alexander Ballinger; James Aldred & Alistair Carr; BBC Look East Legend Stewart White; Geraldine Roberts; Piers Blofeld; Lucy Hughes-Hallett; Scarlett Thomas; Louis de Bernieres.

Tickets are £7 a talk, £18 Friday Day Ticket; £30 Saturday or Sunday Day Ticket, £78 for the whole weekend.

**Sunday 22nd November, 2 - 3pm:
Celebrating 100 Years of Winnie the Pooh.** Winnie the Pooh crafts, games and fun celebrating the silly old bear's centenary. Free event, no need to book.

**Sunday 29th November, 2 - 3pm:
Gruffalo Granny Crafts, Games & Fun.** Celebrate the publication of the newest Gruffalo book with associated crafts and puzzles. Free event, no need to book

**Southwold Community Cinema
25th November @ 3pm: The
Christophers (2025).** A once-celebrated artist's children enlist a forger to access his unfinished canvases in a deceptive bid to secure an inheritance.

16th December @ 3pm: Savage House (2026). A gloriously unscrupulous social climber and his razor-sharp wife prepare to host a dinner party for a duke and duchess in 18th-century England.

Tickets - £5 including refreshments. Book a ticket at southwoldartscentre.co.uk or visit the box office tel: 01502 722572 Southwold Arts Centre, Cumberland Road, Southwold IP18 6JP.

Southwold Library is looking for a Get Connected volunteer (18+): We are looking for volunteers who are confident in using digital technology (including devices and software) to facilitate IT support sessions in libraries. What's involved: Working under the direction of the Library Manager and library staff, volunteers will: Help to set up email and social media accounts such as Facebook or Instagram; Help with online shopping eg. Amazon, eBay and groceries; Help with the basic functionality of both mobile phones and/or PCs; Help with travel plans using Google app and alternatives; Help with basic Office functions such as word processing and spreadsheets. As you will be working with sensitive information and potentially vulnerable adults, this role will require a DBS check and both safeguarding and GDPR training which will be provided. For more information contact the library. Apply at <https://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/volunteer/volunteering-roles/>

Friday mornings: Have You Been Affected by Crime? Support from Catch 22 / Norfolk & Suffolk Victim Care. We provide free and confidential support for young people and adults who are victims and witnesses of crime. Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care provides: Practical support, someone to talk to, signposting to relevant agencies, support through the justice system. Meet the team and learn more about how we can help. Contact use 0300 303 3706 nsvictimcare.org

Last Friday of every month 10am - 12noon: Citizens Advice East Suffolk Drop-in. Whatever the problem, we are here for free, confidential and impartial advice. Debt & money, Housing, Benefits, Consumer, Family, Work, Immigration & Health. Call us via 0808 278 7866; Email us via caes.org.uk

Wednesdays, 10 - 11am: Home Educators Group: Are you educating your child(ren) at home? Come and meet with like-minded adults and children and shape this new group.

For details of these other regular activities please contact the library:

Come and Read to Amber, the Canine Concern Therapy Dog
Rummikub Klub
Blyth Poets 'The isle is full of voices' - a poetry group meeting
Scrabble Club
Mah-jong Group
Southwold Library Reading Group
Chess Club
Weigh your baby
Crochet & Craft Club
Lego Club
Baby Bounce & Tot Rock
Friends of Southwold Library 100 Club
Jigsaw Swap Shop

Charlotte Clark

Executive Library Manager,
Southwold library

Tel: 01502 442817

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

Southwold Organ is your free local paper, 2000 copies are printed every month.
We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets.

The next issue will be published on Tuesday 1st December deadline 14th November -
but the earlier the better to ensure inclusion

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

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

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