



## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION



I hope you have had a good summer. Your Town Council has been active, with lots of ideas and plans for the future. We are seeking local residents' and businesses' views on several points, with more details in this Newsletter - we really encourage

and value your feedback. You can send us an email, or drop your envelope off, with your written views, at our office opposite the Station.

100 years ago, the people of Saxmundham raised funds to buy the Memorial Field (which opened in 1922), as a permanent tribute to those who fell in the First World War. To mark this centenary, we want to improve the look and uses of the Field. You can read about our design idea.

Our draft Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan will be published for consultation in the very near future. It looks ahead over 15 years, and sets out planning policies to guide development. There will be a public exhibition (with explainers) for the Plan in the Market Hall on 5th and 6th November, so do drop by!

As we emerge (hopefully) from the pandemic, we

are organizing a number of events with the aim of bringing our community together – and having fun! Our Christmas event will take place in and around the High Street on Friday 3rd December, with a strong Victorian theme.

And next year sees the 750th anniversary of the granting of Saxmundham's first Market Charter. We aim to mark this, and celebrate our town and its history, with a series of events – in particular around the weekend of 8-10th July 2022.

We welcome Amy Rayner as our new (part-time) Environmental Co-ordinator, who works with volunteers to help make our town both more attractive and better for the environment (see article). To guide visitors, we have also put in some new town centre signage, pointing to local venues, and a new town map will soon be in place opposite the Station.

And yes, it is good to see the Station renewed and offering a more fitting 'gateway' to our town and the wider area. Our appreciation to Greater Anglia for getting the works done – at last!

Jeremy Smith

The newly refurbished station is reopened by Therese Coffey MP.

The station adopters are always looking for volunteer gardeners!



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## MEMORIAL FIELD

In early 1922 the Saxmundham Memorial Committee agreed to purchase Snell's Meadow for a permanent memorial to the 40 young men who had lost their lives in the first world war. This was a controversial decision as the Town was split between erecting a monument outside the Market Hall and purchasing land to create a memorial recreation ground. After a public referendum it was agreed to spend the money raised by public subscription on the Memorial Field.

There are now plans to improve

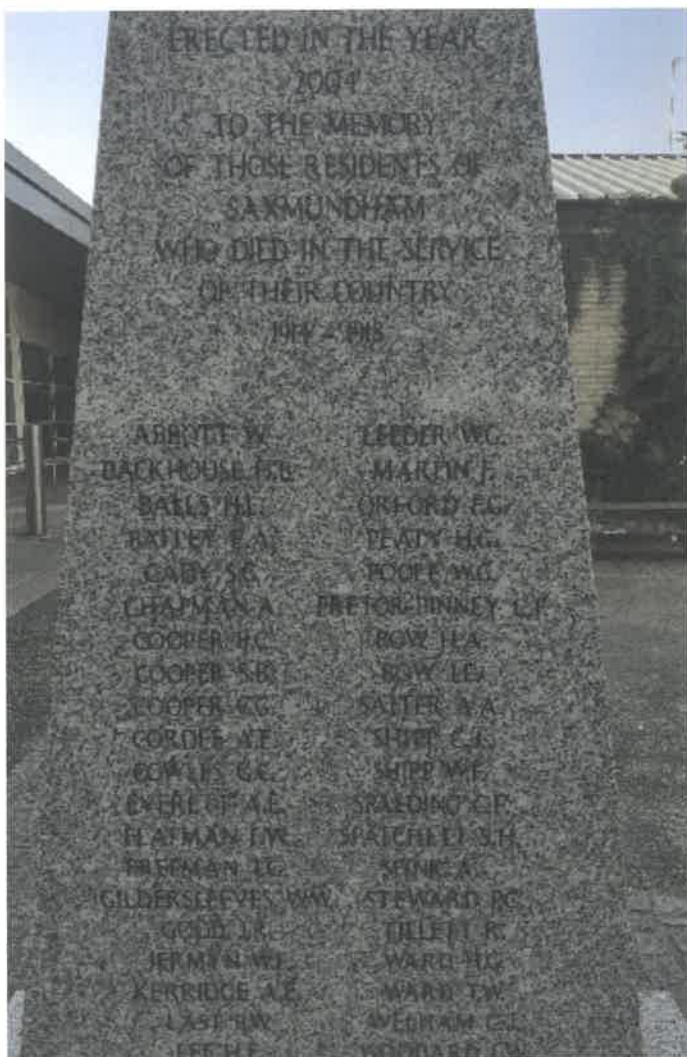
the Memorial Field as a fitting tribute to the 100 years anniversary of this important event in the Town's history. The Town Council ideally want to make the space more attractive, usable, and environmentally friendly. The Memorial Field will continue to be a living symbol of peace and hope in our community.

The Town Council are considering improvements to access, parking, skatepark, play facilities, new signage, picnic benches, new walks and maximising the area for wildlife and biodiversity. The

Council would love to hear your ideas and get your views on the proposals.

Councillor Hedley Lewis, chair of the Memorial Field Working Group envisages that any changes to the Field would happen in stages over the next few years, commencing in 2022

Residents can pick up a copy of the survey from the town council offices or complete the survey online. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CHDKRF9>. Closing date for responses is the 5 November 2021



In 2005 a stone memorial was erected in Fromus Square and was recently generously restored by DS Memorials



Councillor Hedley Lewis shows plan detailing ideas for improvements.

LIMITED  
TICKET  
AVAILABILITY

# SAX cabaret

Music at Saxmundham Market Hall

presents



## Opera-lele

*"Outrageous and irreverent". The internationally renowned Opera-lele is a unique comedy music act specialising in performing music from operas and musical theatre accompanied by the emotionally powerful yet understated twang of their ukuleles*

At the Saxmundham Market Hall IPI7 IAF on

**Saturday 20th November**

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.45pm start

**Tickets £12 sold strictly in advance**

available from The Bell Hotel, and H G Crisp newsagent both located on Saxmundham High Street or email [rosiehoare@gmail.com](mailto:rosiehoare@gmail.com). Attendance limited due to COVID restrictions.

**Licensed Bar**

Supported by Saxmundham Town Council



## SAXMUNDHAM MARKET HALL IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

The Town Council would like to say a big thank you to the volunteer team that have brought music events back to the Market Hall. The first gig featuring the Blues Bluffers was a sell-out success.

There are still tickets left for Opera-lele and the Swing Showband, but don't wait as numbers are limited and tickets are selling fast. Tickets can be purchased from the Bell Hotel and Crisps the newsagents.

Next year The Market Hall Trust team are planning a programme of events for everyone in the community. Already in the pipeline is a theatre production featuring HG wells Time Machine, Charity Bingo, a literary evening, and quiz nights.

We would love to hear from any organisations or individuals in the Town that would like to organise an event in the Market Hall especially for younger people in the Community! Please contact the Town Clerk with your ideas.

# SAX jazz presents

## The Simply Swing Showband

*Saturday 4th December*

*a nostalgic journey through swing music history from Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darren, Peggy Lee, to modern day crooners Michael Bubl  and Robbie Williams*



# SAXMUNDHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – ON THE HOME STRETCH!

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan (NP)?

Neighbourhood Plans are developed by local people and town councillors to provide a positive vision for the future of their community, with planning policies that help achieve it. Once the NP is adopted, these policies have legal force, influencing planning decisions.

The NP's policies must not contradict those in the District Council's Local Plan. Since East Suffolk Council's Plan includes a large 'Garden Neighbourhood' for Saxmundham, our NP can and does seek to add detail to that policy, but not change it.

## The story so far

Work began on Saxmundham's Neighbourhood Plan in 2017, when a Steering Group was set up, with town councillors and local volunteers. The Plan covers the parish of Saxmundham.

A series of community consultation events was organised, to find out what issues and concerns local people want the Plan to address. In summer 2019 we conducted a Household Survey, which had around 1,000 responses from residents. You can find the full results on our Plan website, [www.saxplan.org](http://www.saxplan.org)

Since then, with the help of government-funded consultants, we have worked on the content of the Plan, developing the issues raised into deliverable policies and initiatives.

## This is where you come in!

We are almost ready to submit our draft NP to East Suffolk Council, but first we must hold a six-week public consultation to make sure we've really got the Plan right. This will include an exhibition and event on 5th-6th November at the Market Hall. We really want to hear what you think!

After this, we will review the Plan, taking full account of your views. Then we submit the revised Plan to East Suffolk Council for 'independent examination', to check it meets legal requirements. Finally, there will be a local Referendum - if over half those voting say YES to the NP, it will be adopted.

## What's in it for local people?

First, once the Plan is adopted, we gain more influence over local planning proposals. Together with the District Council's Local Plan, the NP's policies form the legal basis for local planning decisions.

Second, the parish council receives an increase in the local 'share' of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which developers must pay to District Councils for facilities required as a result of their new developments – our share goes up from 15% to 25%.

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR TOWN

### Neighbourhood Plan consultation exhibition



**Drop-in to the Market Hall**  
Friday, 5th November, 6-9pm, or  
Saturday, 6th November, 10am-4pm  
Or comment online (from 5th Nov): [www.saxplan.org](http://www.saxplan.org)



## APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY GRANT

Saxmundham Town Council sets aside a sum of money each year to support the work of not-for-profit organisations in the Town.

The council welcomes applications from organisations providing support for vulnerable groups, advice and information, recreational facilities, cultural

activities, or for other purposes which it considers will bring direct benefit to the Town. The council is looking forward to receiving applications from all parts of the Saxmundham community.

There are certain criteria that must be met to be eligible for a community grant: these are set

out in the council's Grants Policy that is available from the town council's website (saxmundham.org).

**For more information and an application form, contact Roz Barnett on 01728 604596 or email [townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk)**

## YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF THE GANNON ROOMS

Over the summer, we were approached by the long-serving trustees of the Gannon Institute, who explained that they no longer feel able to continue as trustee's, and asked the Town Council to take over responsibility for the charity. We thank them for their service.

The Institute has provided the Gannon Rooms in Station Approach for well over 100 years, for "the benefit of the inhabitants of Saxmundham". If the Town Council is to take over as Managing Trustee, this will need discussion with the Charity Commission. In the meantime, to protect the charity's existence while its future is decided, three town councillors have become trustees.

The Town Council has received a surveyor's report - the building needs a fair bit of decorative and minor repair work, plus a new boiler, but appears to be in reasonable structural state. When open, we might anticipate a modest income of £6000-10,000 per year. The annual outgoings would probably fall in a similar range, but there is a risk that at some stage more major works will be needed, which may need Town Council funding.

Town councillors have agreed 'in principle' to preserve the Gannon Rooms as a charity asset for the town, but need to weigh up potential benefits and costs. The building's role as a meeting place could be expanded e.g. as a place for local exhibitions, and be managed with the nearby Market Hall

(also a charity).

We would welcome your views on whether or not you would in principle wish the Town Council to become the charity trustee for the Gannon Rooms, to keep it open as a community asset. If so, we would wish to work closely with local community organisations to ensure it can serve our town and community in the best way.

Residents can pick up a response form from the town council offices or complete the form online <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5JBYX7J>

Alternately residents can email their views to the [townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk) We would love to hear your stories about the building and receive any old photos of the events held in there over the last 100 years.



# A QUIET RENAISSANCE: SAXMUNDHAM ARTS



Residents may have noticed new arts initiatives that have been coming to Saxmundham and breathing life into the High Street and the community. Saxmundham as a hub for the arts is a vision that the Town Council is keen to promote – but it's more than a vision, it is happening. From the established George Farnham Gallery and the lovely new Vela Gallery to the Art Station, and the increased use of the Market Hall for music and other performances, new channels for creativity and culture are coming to town.

The Art Station deserve a particular shout out – undeterred from seeing their original plans literally go up in flames when the railway station building was devastated by fire, this project re-invented itself at the former Old Post Office and telephone exchange – a unique Saxmundham building – developing it into a creative hub for the town with spaces and studios for artists, designers, architects, tech workers and other creative industries. A recent exhibition partnered with Saxmundham Museum and BT Adastral Park to celebrate the historical significance of the 1950s former BT telephone exchange.

Next year Saxmundham celebrates 750 years of market town heritage, a further opportunity to showcase local arts and culture and link Saxmundham's past and present. There is much to celebrate; we sometimes see Saxmundham described as a "gateway" to the heritage coast – a reference to the town's excellent transport connections down the centuries (the Bell for example was a well-known coaching Inn). Saxmundham is more than a gateway, it's the heart of the heritage coast, from its original market charter which helped the town to grow over the years into a local hub, to today's growing town which is attracting new business, residents and an increasingly vibrant arts scene. Arts and culture-related industries have huge potential to direct economic growth for the Town as well as enhancing quality of life for the local community.

Photos supplied by the Art Station



## SAXMUNDHAM 750 FESTIVAL OF EVENTS 2022

Henry III granted the first Market Charter for Saxmundham to John de Rammeseye on 26th July 1272. In 2022 the Town will be celebrating this momentous occasion with a festival marking 750 years of Saxmundham history.

The anniversary festival will be a great chance to have a lot of fun, learn more about our history, and to promote Saxmundham to a wider audience. We are proposing a series of events of all kinds across the year, with a focal point carnival the weekend of July 8-10, 2022.

The Town Council are inviting everyone to be a part of the festival programme. The festival will be designed to attract people to visit the Town and give a boost to our local businesses as well as providing a welcome celebration to the people of Saxmundham and surrounding area.

We are looking for events for all age groups and different interests. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with the Town Clerk.

## SAXMUNDHAM GREEN TEAM BY AMY RAYNOR

Since my appointment as Environment Co-ordinator for Saxmundham Town Council earlier this year, and thanks to funding for equipment from East Suffolk Council on behalf of Green Print Forum and from Saxmundham Town Council we have been able to get our Green Team working parties up and running. I'd like to say a big thank you to all the wonderful Green Team Volunteers who have so far been helping with maintenance of the Community Orchard on Memorial Field and pruning and tidying up Fromus

Square. Thanks also to Charlotte and Leeroy for help preparing and planting herbs and winter pansies in our Town Centre planters.

If you would like to meet new people and help work towards improving our green space for people and wildlife there are all sorts of tasks and activities to get involved with. For more information please contact me at [amy.rayner@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:amy.rayner@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk).



## SAXMUNDHAM SPOTLIGHTS CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

At its April Meeting, Saxmundham Town Council voted unanimously in favour of a motion brought by Councillor Hiley to support the Climate & Ecology Emergency Parliamentary Bill. This bill was initially presented by Caroline Lucas of the Green Party and is now supported by MPs from seven political parties.

The Town Council recognises that the UK government has strengthened its climate change targets, however this bill seeks to strengthen this commitment and also includes the nature emergency which threatens to lead to the sixth mass species extinction.

The bill was drawn up with help and advice from a range of scientists and academics and further information can be found at <https://www.ceebill.uk/>

Saxmundham Town Council is now acting locally to improve the environment and combat climate change. Amy Rayner the new part-time Environment Co-ordinator will be supporting Councillors to make positive changes in the Town. The Council have launched the Climate and Environment Working Group and is developing an action plan for the Town. If you would like to get involved contact the Town Clerk.

**ROLL UP! ROLL UP!**

FOR AN **AMAZING ★ STUPENDOUS**

**SAXMUNDHAM**  
*Victorian*  
**CHRISTMAS**

WITH A TWIST

AT THE WONDERS, MAGIC  
 & SPLENDOR OF THE EVENT

you won't **BELIEVE** your eyes

**FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2021 4PM - 8PM**

A demonstration of the fabulous new electricity 5.30PM  
 Travelling troubadours & saucy dancing  
 Visit the local emporiums and bazaars  
 Hot Punch and lots of Dickensian festive flavour  
 Prizes for the best Victorian Costumes and Shop Window Competition

Father Christmas and treats for the children  
 Tickets £5 pre-book only from HG Crisps as numbers are limited

## SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS

Saxmundham has lots of independent shops with unique produce.

We love to shop local, and this year it's more important than ever to support small businesses at Christmas time.

Shopping local is good for the local economy, great for the community, AND you get to buy special unique gifts for your loved ones!

The shops will be open late on Friday the 3rd of December, so give them a welcome boost this Christmas.

**"Roll up! Roll up! - the Saxmundham Victorian Christmas Spectacular is less than two months away!**

This is the last call to any Saxmundham community group or local business who would like a stall or want to be involved at the **"Victorian Christmas Event - with a Twist"** on **Friday, 3rd December, 4.00pm - 8.00pm**. Book your space or activity now with Roz, the Town Clerk, at [townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk) so that you don't miss out on an opportunity to raise some money for your community group or your business. Let's make this an evening to remember and a celebration of everything Saxmundham. Don't forget to register for our two competitions for the best Victorian costume and the best Shop Window, both sponsored by IP17GNS. **Entry forms will be available from Crisps and the Town Council Offices from the first of November.**