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MAY 2025

SAXMUNDHAM NEWS



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR



Saxmundham Community Festival looks to be off to a good start with the announcement of two great tribute bands – ABBA Chique tribute on the Friday night and a Queen tribute on the Saturday, both of which will appeal to many I'm sure! If you haven't attended before pop the date in your diary. This is a free event for our community. A chance to sit in the sun (hopefully!) and enjoy music, entertainment and a chance to catch up with friends. **8th 9th August, save the date!**

Do you have a story to tell? Please get in touch to share it with our readers or if you have an event coming up why not consider increasing your footfall by placing an advert in the Tide Collection? We know from the feedback we receive that people do engage with our publications and seek them out. I would love to hear from you, email me at: lou@tidecollection.com

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.

Marianne Williamson

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INSIDE YOUR MAGAZINE...

SOCIALBAR

- *Saxmundham welcomes a new modern Café & Wine Bar*

SAXMUNDHAM MUSEUM

- *Join Us in our 80th anniversary VE Day Celebrations*

SAXMUNDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

- *Traffic Lights Disruption, Community Litter Pick, VE Day Peace Picnic and more*

SUFFOLK GRENADIERS

100/25
- *Walking challenge paying respects to Suffolk's fallen Grenadiers*

ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

17
- *Record attendance for 102 year old Manette Baillie's wartime memories*

THE LONG SHOP MUSEUM
The Model Engineering Day
Sunday 8th June
Join us to enjoy the skills and creations of our model engineer exhibitors. We'll have scale trains, cars, boats, planes and agricultural materials, as well as live steam engines!
Adults: £8
Children (5-16yrs): £3
Under 5's: Free
Concessions: £6

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**Friston
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**Sunday 15th June
11.30am - 5.30pm**

**Tickets £5 admit
to all gardens
(last sold 4.15pm)**

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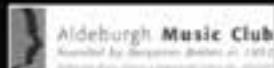
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SAXMUNDHAM COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Get ready to rock as tribute bands announced for this year's Saxmundham Community Festival.

The much-loved Saxmundham Community Festival, fondly referred to as SaxFest by locals, is set to make a lively return on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th August.

Held at the Memorial Field, Rendham Road, Saxmundham, this year's event promises to deliver an electrifying mix of music, community spirit, and entertainment.

A standout of the weekend will be the tribute acts, showcasing some of the finest impersonators in the business.

From legendary rock gods to an iconic Swedish pop act, the bill has been created to entertain music fans of every generation. Revellers can look forward to a weekend packed with captivating performances, sing-along classics and pure nostalgic joy.

Friday 8th August - ABBA Chique Tribute



Festival-goers can sing and dance along to Sweden's biggest band, as a fabulous tribute act ABBA Chique, brings all the glitter, glamour and Waterloo-worthy moves to the stage.

With timeless hits and infectious energy, the performance promises to have the crowd reliving pop glory days—will there be a The Winner Takes It All as they dance the night away?

Saturday 9th August - Queen Tribute - UK Queen with Alexander Koronka



The electrifying **UK Queen** tribute act will have attendees experiencing Queen's glory days with flawless renditions of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Don't Stop Me Now* and other timeless anthems. Crowds can expect the full Mercury experience - soaring vocals, theatrical showmanship and irresistible singalong moments.

Terry Barrow, Festival Director, said of this year's tribute acts; *"We're so pleased to bring such incredible tribute acts to SaxFest this year! The ABBA and Queen tributes are real crowd-pleasers – whether you're a Dancing Queen or a Champion ready to be rocked, there's something for everyone. These bands don't just play the hits; they bring the full glam, energy, and nostalgia of the originals. So, grab your friends and family, warm up those vocal cords, and get ready for a weekend of unforgettable tunes. You won't want to miss this!"*

In addition to live performances, the festival will feature workshops, children's activities, fringe events, and community organisations offering advice on education, finance, health, and wellbeing.

Now a staple of the summer calendar, SaxFest continues to bring the community together through its lively atmosphere and diverse programming. Whether a long-time fan or a first-time visitor, this year's festival offers something for everyone. For more information, updates, and how to get involved, contact Hayley Shave at hayley@saxmusicfest.co.uk or call on 07725 578439, you can also visit the website <https://www.saxcommunityfest.co.uk/> for further information

U3A EAST SUFFOLK

Older people looking to keep fit, make new friends and develop skills, are invited to join East Suffolk u3a, a members-run organisation, catering primarily for the retired or semi-retired.

A key part of its offering is a programme of speaker meetings.

They are held on weekdays in Woodbridge, Kesgrave, Felixstowe and Saxmundham. Upcoming talks include the story of the wartime rescue of Norway's gold bullion, submarine accidents, the toxic legacy of arsenic, John Betjeman as well as the story of Trinity House.

u3a offers walking, sport and physical activity, geology, photography, foreign languages, architecture and history study groups as well as dining opportunities and outside visits. New members are welcome. Visit: www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk website or call the secretary on 0300 123 3913.

First Light Festival are celebrating their 5th full festival and 2025 looks set to be their best yet!

The UK's ONLY FREE beachfront festival returns to Lowestoft's South Beach across Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd June 2025 – here's the full lowdown of why it's one not to miss....

First Light Festival has made its name as the ultimate showcase for creative talent, accessible to all. Since its inception in 2019, First Light has seen **over 1890 acts perform across their festivals, 145k people have attended** and the festival has impacted and supported creative talent year on year with **over 70 new and emerging artists** featured throughout the festivals, many of which have gone on to perform at Latitude and Glastonbury festivals, among others.

First Light Festival's weekend programme is free, un-ticketed and for all, now with 5 satellite venues added as part of their late-night line-up anniversary celebrations.

The theme of this year's festival is 'From the Seabed to the Sky' with a deep-sea focus encompassing the unique beachfront location, key aspects of the 'Planet Positive' programme, as well as headline guest speakers and a collaborative opening parade created in partnership with local Lowestoft schools and groups.

Programme highlights include music from the likes of Nubiyan Twist, Horse Meat Disco, Girls of the Internet & Molotov Jukebox.

2025 will also see the continuation of First Light's partnership with Latitude festival, whereby one chosen act from those selected to perform on the New Dawn stage at First Light, will be given the opportunity to also perform at Latitude festival.

First Light's poetry, spoken word and comedy 'First Word' platform will feature headliners including author Jackie Kay and comedian Brian Bilston.

ART & SCULPTURE:

The environmental and elemental theme of the festival underpins the ever-growing focus on sculpture for 2025. In partnership with Messums East's Sculpture in the Sands programme, three works will be presented, responding to ideas of materiality and temporality, with an incredible installation of two bronze figures, '**Shimmer**' and '**Borrowed Breath**' by Laurence Edwards – always a highlight of the festival for attendees to witness his awe-inspiring creations in-situ on the beach and a new work by artist Zena Holloway will also 'take root' on the beach.

Continuing the festival throughout Saturday night are a series of 'Sundown Events' to please all attendees, a selection of these are ticketed events including a DJ set from Horse Meat Disco at Mossy's nightclub, 'Up Close with Kim Carnie', Moonlit Soundscapes and Take Cover – more info on all of these on the website. Their distinctive dawn programme welcomes the most easterly solstice sunrise with a programme rooted in the sea, land and sky with a communal Seal Calling, a multi-genre collaboration celebrating the oceans, original music Celtic bagpipes, a fish feast, beach yoga and more.

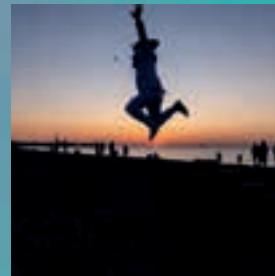
The brilliant sustainability-focused Planet Positive programme will see Charity Super. Mkt returning for a second year - This year the sustainable shopping market will again take pride of place on the beach with a larger footprint!

As if all that that isn't enough, there will also be a **Makers Market**, supporting local and emerging makers encompassing fashion, crafts and art, as well as fantastic festival food & drink showcasing the best local independent traders.

The festival will run from 12pm noon to sundown (9.30pm) on Saturday, and from 10am – 4pm on Sunday, with a Dawn sunrise programme from 3.30am on Sunday morning.

FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL

**FREE midsummer multi-arts celebration
21 - 22 June 2025, South Beach, Lowestoft**



Suffolk's free festival returns to Lowestoft's South Beach for a weekend of unique experiences and performances celebrating the summer solstice...

FREE MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Nubiyan Twist, Horse Meat Disco, Girls of the Internet, Merry Hell, Tom McGuire & the Brassholes, Molotov Jukebox + more!

+ COMEDY, POETRY, SCIENCE, FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Jackie Kay, Brian Bilston, Kim Carnie, World Music Big Band, Laurence Edwards, DanceEast, Natural History Museum, Sunrise Yoga, Wild Beach Camping + more!

Explore the full line up at firstlightlowestoft.com



SOCIALBAR

Husband-and-wife team, Steve Peck and Sarah Park, are bringing a modern café and wine bar experience to Saxmundham with the launch of socialbar on May 5.

By day, socialbar offers a relaxed setting for catching up with friends, working remotely or simply enjoying a book, all within a raw industrial backdrop featuring exposed brick and an eclectic mix of furniture sourced from around the world.

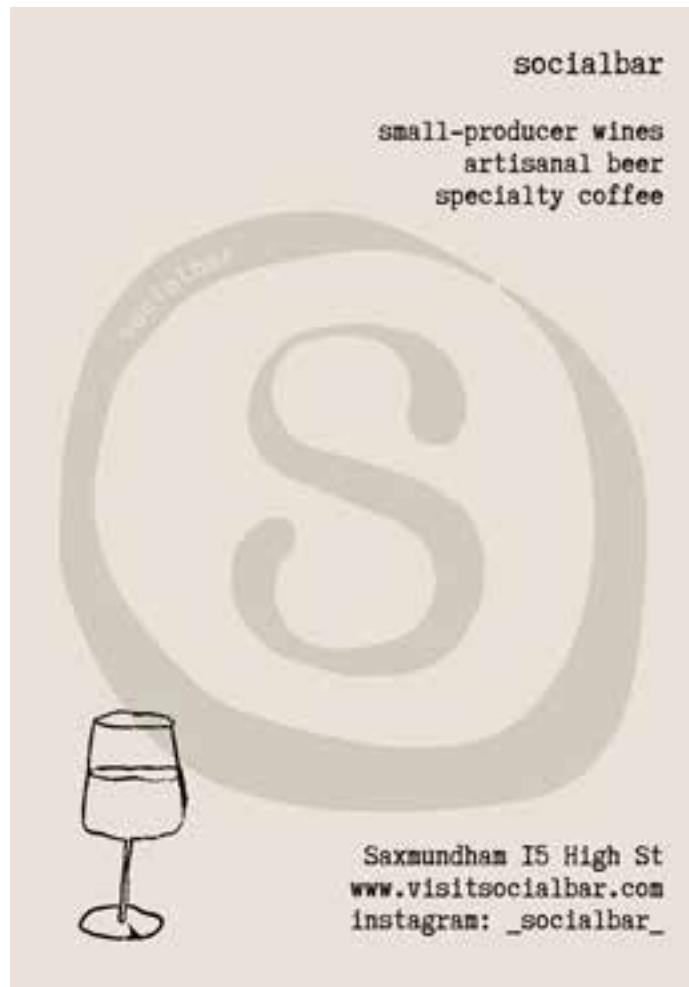
Expect artisanal coffee from Bungay-based Etude Coffee, Harvey & Co pastries and deli-style sandwiches.

In the evenings, the focus shifts to a dynamic list of small-producer wines via the Enomatic machine and craft beers, which can be accompanied by a curated menu of olives, crisps and cheese and charcuterie boards.

socialbar is about creating meaningful connections, whether you're local to Suffolk or visiting from further afield, through conversations, board games, books and an ever-evolving lineup of pop-up nights.

Many of the wines and beers are also available to take home.

Do come and see us!



AN UPDATE FROM IP17GNS

Men-only Breakfast Club – a free fry-up with a side of good company

'Gannon and Eggs' is our monthly men-only breakfast group, providing an exclusive space for men to enjoy a hearty breakfast and good company. The aim is to provide a place to socialise over a full English. The volunteers who run the session are all men, too. The ingredients are high quality and locally sourced, where possible, including meat from The Butcher's Block on the High Street. It's free to attend and takes place at the Gannon Rooms (Station Approach, Saxmundham) on the last Sunday of every month from 9.30 - 11am. Booking is essential – please call 07835064587.

Could you make a regular donation to IP17GNS? Our work in the community is only possible with funding from grants and donations. Using our Paypal link (which can be found on our website and our Facebook page), you can set up a regular donation to support our work. Just £2 a month goes such a long way towards our aims, including relieving food poverty and social isolation. Visit IP17GNS.com to find out how to donate and set up a small, regular payment.

Easter Activities: Eggcellent fun for all! Thanks to a gratefully received donation from a member of the community, we were able to offer two special Easter-themed arts and crafts sessions for children last month, as well as a family-friendly prize bingo event in Saxmundham's Market Hall.

Attendees at this free event were invited to participate in a range of Easter arts and crafts activities such as canvas-painting, decoupage, making an Easter bonnet, and decorating a tote bag.

We all enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere in the hall, excellent displays of creativity, and the stunning works of art which resulted from everyone's hard work. We were even treated to a visit from the Easter Bunny to top things off in true IP17GNS style!

Many thanks to all who attended and all who helped to make it happen.





SOUTHWOLD ARTS FESTIVAL

.....21st - 28th June 2025.....

**ROBERT POWELL DEREK NASH
PAUL JONES & JOHN ETHERIDGE
MUSIC, MAYHEM & A MEZZO
THE OLD TIME SAILORS
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NATHAN WILLIAMSON, ROB GILDON
& BOB JELLICOE ANDREW HARRISON**

STREET FESTIVAL

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SAXMUNDHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

For our March meeting we welcomed another visit from Christopher Parfitt. A good crowd was ready to watch pictures of Morocco from a tailored visit Chris took with specialist local guides. Morocco has two coastlines, one on the Mediterranean and one along the Atlantic. Chris flew to Casblanca and set off by car.

Beautiful colourful photos showed us many aspects of the areas of Morocco, beginning with the Medina, an ancient area with shops and craft workshops. In Marakesh there were 6,000 alleyways leading to areas for shops selling cheese, meat, leather etc. Moroccan leather is said to be the best in the world and leather workshops change the skins into many colours for handbags, shoes and so on. The pictures of the Islamic gardens showed that they have to follow certain rules to make them symmetric, including shade, trees, wild flowers, columns, water and arches.

The ancient gardens showed the same symmetry. Chris went for a 'family experience' where he was involved in preparing the ingredients for a Tangine meal, guided by the lady of the house. It was very tasty. Continuing on, Chris was driven through the Atlas mountains to an ancient Kasbah where traders stayed, having crossed the Sahara Desert on their way to sell gold, salt, and other goods.

Chris travelled across the desert in a four by four and spent the night camping: a very comfortable 'glamping' experience.

In Fez he visited a Medina with many shops and workshops, even a large leather tannery, which had been used for a thousand years.

A range of souvenirs were displayed such as leather, traditional jewellery and brass dishes.

Many buildings featured beautiful colourful tiles and the surrounding countryside had many fruit trees and cereal fields amid very dry areas.

Saxmundham History Society meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in the U.R.C. Chapel Road, Saxmundham. Visitors are welcome.

Jenny Mann



SAXMUNDHAM MUSEUM NEWS



Saxmundham Museum opened its doors for the new season on 1st April.

After a busy winter of maintenance, now is the ideal time to pop in and have a browse around our exciting new displays. These include a special audio-visual display in the courtyard, centred around Crisps' replica shop and some new channels on the wireless, situated in the Reference Room. As well as the ever popular Wilfred Pickles recording, new sounds include various wartime speeches from Churchill and Chamberlain and some blasts from the past from pirate radio stations in the 1960s. The model railway in the front window has also undergone a complete refurbishment and includes new rolling stock.

Around forty friends and supporters attended our special Preview Evening on 31st March and enjoyed a glass of wine and a chance to see the new exhibits. The museum is now open five mornings a week, Tuesday through to Saturday from 10am – 1pm until 30th September.

Join Us in our 80th anniversary VE Day Celebrations



Thursday 8th May marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The Museum has joined forces with Saxmundham WI and the local Poppy Appeal for a special day to celebrate events of 80 years ago.

A new display board has been produced for the event and there will be films and music from the 1940s to get you in the swing. Saxmundham WI have kindly agreed to provide refreshments. The Museum will be open from 10am – 4pm for the occasion, so do come along and join in the fun.

Film Night - Thursday 29th May

Our next film is the 2008 classic 'Easy Virtue', starring Jessica Beal, Colin Firth and Kristen Scott Thomas. This will be shown on Thursday 29th May. 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Seats must be reserved in advance, as we only have limited seating.

Contact Peter Somers on 01728 605744 or email peter_sommers to reserve your seat. Admission is free but we do ask for a donation of £5 per head to cover our costs and you are free to bring your own refreshments. Our unique and cosy 15 seat cinema is also available for hire at very reasonable rates. It's the ideal venue to share your own individual film evening with family and friends. For more details and availability for cinema hire please email: peterminta123@gmail.com

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New Street Market: Culture, Community & Late Nights in the Heart of Woodbridge

There's a quiet buzz building just off the Thoroughfare.

New Street Market — already well-loved for its food, coffee, and atmosphere — is fast becoming something more: a cultural hub, a creative space, and a home for live music, learning, and connection.

This season sees the launch of a new programme of events and gatherings, designed to bring people together in ways both joyful and relaxed. Music lovers can look forward to **The Golden Hour**, a monthly live music night full of warmth and soul; **Circle of Friends**, a gentle, roaming acoustic session; and the return of **The Sundowners**, Woodbridge's own legendary DJ duo, bringing their laid-back, sun-drenched sounds into the evening.

Alongside the music is a growing calendar of **movement and creativity classes**, including **ecstatic dance**,

sound healing, life drawing, and Spanish conversation groups — all held in an open and inclusive spirit, and open to anyone who's curious.

The venue also now features a **gallery space available to hire**, offering local artists an affordable, welcoming place to exhibit in the centre of town.

New Street Market is open every day, with a daytime café offering and a new rhythm of **evening events from Thursday to Saturday**.



Monday to Wednesday: 8.45am–5pm
Thursday to Saturday: 8.45am–11pm
Sunday: 9.30am–3pm

The aim is simple: to offer a space that feels like it belongs to everyone — whether you're here for a workshop, a dance, a drink, or just a quiet cup of coffee.

Keep up with events via @newstreetmarketwoodbridge or drop by and ask what's on. You're always welcome.



SAXMUNDHAM TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Springtime in Saxmundham

Saxmundham in Spring is vibrant and positive place to be. The Town Council's volunteer Green Team have been busy with working parties and other initiatives to beautify the Town Council's green spaces, Saturday markets have returned to Fromus Square, and the Councillors have enjoyed meeting members of the public during consultations on both the Seaman Avenue play park and the draft Strategic Plan for 2025-2030.

Traffic Lights Disruption

Last month, the timing of the traffic lights at the crossroads in the town centre caused noticeable disruption.

It is often assumed that the Town Council has direct influence over Suffolk County Council's Highways team - a power we would welcome, but unfortunately do not possess. That said, our staff actively report issues in Saxmundham which fall outside our remit and are always happy to assist. We also encourage residents to report such matters directly, as multiple reports from different sources tend to be more effective in securing action.

Highways issues can be reported to Suffolk County Council via: www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue. For more clarity, we have also created a helpful page on our website showing which local Council is responsible for what – complete with links straight to the relevant department or reporting tool. Visit www.saxmundham.org/council-services for further information.

Community Litter Pick Cleans Up!

In April, the Town Council led two community litter picks as part of Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean campaign. The sessions were open to all, with all necessary equipment (plus tea and biscuits) provided for every volunteer.

Over the two days, around 15 residents joined Councillors and staff to clear up Saxmundham. Key locations prone to litter or with high footfall were carefully chosen for the sessions.

Together, the litter pickers collected and safely disposed of 24 bags of rubbish - including a full-sized mop, several broken plant pots, an unopened jar of jam, two pairs of socks, a dressing gown, a princess castle roof, two golf balls and several hundred cigarette butts!

Seed and Plant Swap Increases Biodiversity

Our annual seed and plant swap took place in April, organised by the Environment Officer and the Green Team. As always, the event was held at the Wednesday market in Fromus Square, where residents could donate or pick up surplus plants and seeds. This year also featured handmade bug hotels, offered free of charge to provide new habitats for Saxmundham's insect life. By redistributing plants and seeds each year, the swap helps to diversify local gardens and green spaces - which in turn supports a broader range of wildlife.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 10th May: VE Day Peace Picnic, Fromus Square, 10am – 2pm

Saturday 10th May: Saxmundham Saturday Market, Fromus Square, 9am - 3pm

Wednesday 14th May: East Suffolk Council 'Here for you' Roadshow, location TBC, 10am – 1pm

Thursday 22nd May: Annual Town Meeting, Saxmundham Market Hall, 6pm



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Middleton Open Gardens

7th & 8th June (11am-5pm)

We are looking forward to welcoming new and returning visitors to our annual Open Gardens in Middleton. This year we have several new gardens and some favourites returning, as well as the beautiful, regular gardens to see.

There will be an arts/craft/vintage exhibition and a plant/flower stall at the Village Hall, and family wildlife activities in one of the gardens.



Refreshments available all day at the Pavilion

Adults £5.00 - children free

Parking and Maps available from the Recreation Ground Pavilion (IP17 3NZ) and at the Village Hall (IP17 3NG)

Fund raising for Holy Trinity Church, Middleton; also supporting Middleton Thursday Group and NSPCC phone line (East Suffolk)

**Contact: Christine Burgess 01728 649020
or 07826 840478 christineburgess29@gmail.com**

MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS 7TH & 8TH JUNE 2025

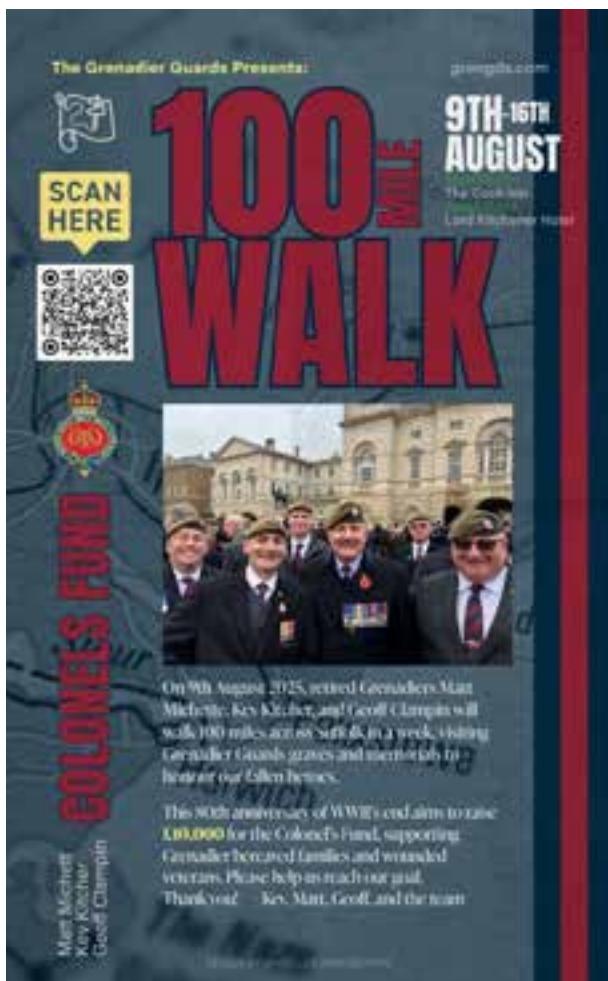
Our ever-popular Open Gardens event offers an eclectic and exciting mix of gardens, some conventional and formal, others more informal or relaxed, including some new to our event. Approximately 18 gardens will be open (the total may vary from day to day).

In the pretty village of Middleton, there are gardens stretching down to the Minsmere River and others overlooking Middleton Moor. Some with views of the marshes and others across the fields; some with the Spire of Holy Trinity church seen piercing the sky in the distance. Many of the gardens have a story to tell, of both their creation and their development over the years.

Several of the gardeners cleverly borrow the beautiful surrounding Suffolk landscape to attract animals, insects, plants and birds. You will also find a herd of alpacas grazing quietly in fields within the village.

Displays by children of Middleton primary school will be displayed in the church. The village hall will also host an exhibition of Art, crafts and vintage clothes, alongside a plant/flower stall. Refreshments will be available all day.

SUFFOLK GRENAIDIERS 100/25.



We are a small team of British army veterans who served in the Grenadier Guards aiming to take on a massive challenge during August 2025. We will be walking through the great county of Suffolk, starting in Clare in the West and finishing in Lowestoft in the East, paying our respects to Suffolk's fallen Grenadiers who have paid the ultimate price. When the idea was first thought about I only had a rough idea about the route - from Clare to Shotley, crossing the estuary then onto the Suffolk Coastal Path from Felixstowe up to Lowestoft.

The intention had always been to start at Clare and to finish at Lowestoft, both points having businesses owned and/or run by ex-Grenadiers thereby 'celebrating those Grenadiers who are still walking with us as well as those who will be supporting us from the start to the finish.'

Groups of Grenadiers veterans from across the country regularly meet up for social events. One such event has been very successful at getting Grenadiers together in Clare, West Suffolk.

Set up and organised by Kevin Kitcher, (ex-Warrant Officer 1st Class), the Suffolk and Essex Grenadier Guards Breakfast Club has been meeting up on the second Saturday of the month for well over 2 years now. Over a breakfast I mentioned the idea of the walk to Kevin and after a short amount of time throwing ideas around the thought of our paying respects to Suffolk's Grenadier heroes, named on memorials, close to the original route was hatched, thus giving the walk an added meaning. When our Regimental Charity the Colonel's Fund was incorporated this gave us the purpose.

We will lay wreaths at the Gravesides of 4 Suffolk Grenadiers and remember 37 others named on memorials with poppy crosses and a spoken transcript remembering each one.

The last being remembered on the way back to Clare was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for valour. Our objective is to raise as much money as we can for our regimental charity, the Colonel's Fund. So, with the full support of the Suffolk Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association the planning phase started - initially pinpointing Grenadiers named on memorials within a 5 mile corridor along the route using O/S maps and search engines and then finalising an exact route with reconnaissance days. Their names on memorials have dictated our course. They have guided us and so now we will walk for them.

We made progress planning and securing five camping areas and gathering needed equipment.

The walking team have spent endless hours around their local areas on training walks, getting used to repetitive days and walking on different surfaces. The Suffolk Grenadiers 100/25 team will cover 130 miles (209km) in total of which 105 miles will be done on foot.

The planning has been given a massive boost by one of our team, Gary Reincke BEM, kindly allowing his mobile home to be utilised for the week. As with most things the team grew in numbers and we are now at our logistical limits with 4 in the walking group and 3 in the Admin group. The walkers are Kevin, Geoff Clappin, Steven Johnston and me. The admin team consists of Gary, Carl Clarke and Anthony Golden. We will be joined on all days by guest walkers and on days 4 and 5 this includes representatives from other veterans' welfare and support groups. We will have 3 administrative vehicles during the week. Gary's mobile home, known as the 'Mothership' giving us a base from which to carry out administration, provide food, beverages and some bed spaces for overnight stops. Carl and Tony's vehicles will be used during the day to access start points for walkers and transport back to campsites and also to take guest walkers back to their own transport. This means that during each day's walk there will be at least one vehicle to shadow the walking team should an emergency situation arise and also to resupply the team as and when. The event has been given a further boost with Bruce Crompton, TV personality and presenter of the programme Combat Dealers offering us his full backing, support and involvement. Thank you, Bruce. Starting on the 9th August after one of our breakfast meets we will be stepping off at midday, arriving in Lowestoft early evening on Friday 15th. Please support us on our epic journey through Suffolk! In essence, we are remembering Grenadiers who no longer walk with us, celebrating Grenadiers who are still walking with us and also those who will be supporting us from start to the finish, either with sponsorship, donations or providing hospitality.

Matt Michette



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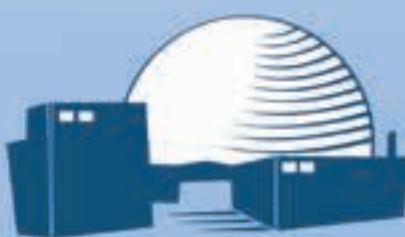


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FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR...

I can give you an update about forthcoming likely changes in the future structure of local Government for Suffolk, these being a summary of the 28-page document the County Council submitted to Government on 21 March. The next stage is to work these up into a comprehensive business case for change, centred around having one Unitary Council for Suffolk, which must be ready for Government consideration by 26 September.

We will meet that deadline and are aware that there is likely to be a great deal of consultation and political debate leading up to that submission date.

I am always happy to hear your views and to attend meetings of local groups to give more details and join in the debate.

I know also that East Suffolk District Council has different views, but it is for them to put forward their proposals; this column gives you the view from the County Council.

Part of Suffolk's enormous appeal is its variety. Sea views, rolling fields, big skies, quiet villages, market towns and busy urban areas. We're proud of Ipswich, our county town.

But we're also proud of the many other places, large and small, that make Suffolk the wonderful place it is, and I am always promoting the virtues of Saxmundham and Blything to my County colleagues and officers.

We have world-renowned food and drink, unique tourist attractions, historic treasures, a national park and protected landscapes, an internationally-renowned horse-racing industry, clean energy production, logistics, science, technology and good connections to London.

Suffolk really does demonstrate the idea that 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts', and it is united by a spirit that is hard to describe which connects and unites our great and special county.

Local Government reorganisation is coming. At present we have six councils (the county, four district and one borough), all responsible for different services and different areas. These have been in place for over 50 years and the time has now come to simplify the system. Suffolk County Council now proposes to replace all six councils with one new Unitary council, delivering all services, local and county-wide. Why is this system better for Suffolk?

It's simpler for residents - one council would make it easier to understand and contact local government

It provides clearer accountability - there would be less confusion over who is responsible for what

Service-delivery will be safer - less risk of breaking-up critical services like crucial social care for adults and young people

Services will be better aligned - with everything under one control, services can be more co-ordinated, with better outcomes for residents

Decision-making will be more efficient - decisions will be taken more quickly

Residents will be empowered - more straightforward and accountable democracy, with enhanced neighbourhood and community engagement

There will be stronger, more influential leadership - a single, visible and accountable body providing a clear strategic voice for Suffolk.

Independent research (by PwC) has indicated that one Unitary council for Suffolk would save £104 million in the first five years; plus £26 million in annual savings after the first five years; and would cost £19 million to set-up. If Suffolk was to have two or even three Unitary councils, then the establishment costs would be far greater and the savings would be much less. Two Unitaries would reduce the savings by 90% and the three Unitary option would make no savings at all, but cost us, as Suffolk taxpayers, over £50 million extra over a five-year time period.

Now we want residents, town and parish councils, and community and voluntary organisations to help shape what a new single council for Suffolk would look like. Change can be daunting, but it also presents huge opportunities to improve things for everyone.

We want our vision for a new Suffolk Unitary council to reflect our unique and diverse county. Your views are essential in shaping the future, and our full interim plan is available on www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution.

If we are going to make the most of this opportunity for a new form of local government for Suffolk, the way forward has to be one Unitary. It will provide Suffolk with a sustainable and effective council structure which is not just the only workable option - it's also the best one.

As ever, please feel free to contact me on any matter which is within the responsibilities of the County Council. My contact details are below.

Richard Smith, County Councillor for Blything Division
richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk
 07545 423817

YOXFORD HISTORY GROUP

A big thank you to everyone who visited our Yoxford at Work exhibition on 12th April.

It was a huge success and so for those who felt overwhelmed by all the information we uncovered, we should like to repeat it in October.

Watch this space for details!

Lesley Perry

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Southwold & Aldeburgh Summer Theatre season 2025 revealed....

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Aldeburgh - 21st to 26th July
Southwold - 30th July to 9th August
Classic West End Farce as V.E. day Vicars chase a German POW – and their trousers!

GASLIGHT by Patrick Hamilton
Aldeburgh - 28th July to 9th August
Southwold - 13th to 16th August
Murder, Mystery, and Manipulation in the original Psychological Thriller

Things We Do For Love by Alan Ayckbourn
Aldeburgh - 11th to 16th August
Southwold - 20th to 30th August
Comic, Cruel, Ayckbourn at his best, in a darkly toxic love-triangle - a 'Private Lives' for modern times.

While The Sun Shines by Terence Rattigan
Aldeburgh - 19th to 30th August
Southwold - 3rd to 6th September
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ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Record attendance for Manette Baillie's talk – 'Life in the Wrens'

Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group's Chairman Chris Broom says he was "blown away" by Manette's talk which took place in-person at the Fromus Centre, Saxmundham on Monday 17th March 2025. Manette, aged 102, stood for an hour and entertained a packed audience of over seventy about her life in the WRNS during WWII.

She was only 17 when Britain declared war on 3rd September 1939. Initially she joined the Land Army and her father said she would become 'a country bumpkin', but that didn't actually happen as Manette had to return to London after 6 months because her sister was having a baby.

Manette then went to commercial college studying shorthand and typing at Wandsworth Town Hall and after a year her sister's boyfriend decided to join the Navy and she thought she would join the Women's Royal Navy Service called the WRENS. We all laughed when she said you'll never guess where I was sent first? Fulham gas works! There she trained air-fitters for defence, called DEMS for short. Manette explained that the idea was to arm our merchant ships to defend themselves against enemy submarines and aircraft.

Manette was secretary to a Lieutenant Commander who was an ex-pilot from WWI and she was the only woman in the whole building. One day a memo arrived asking for volunteers to serve abroad so Manette applied.

About twenty Wrens were sent to a camp of Nissan huts in Devon, they had no idea where they were going, just that they had to wait for a convoy of ships. When it was time to leave, they were told to have a 'really good tea', which has always tickled Manette as that just consisted of a cup of tea and beetroot sandwiches! Their ship was a New Zealand meat ship and Manette thought the slowest in the convoy.

They arrived at the Bay of Biscay, before continuing to Durban during a really bad storm but luckily Manette had taken a sea-sickness pill. The port of Durban was very valuable to the Allied ships, not only was it a stop-over for troops but they could also board trains from there to inland military destinations.

Manette worked for the South African Naval Office in Durban until the UK's ships were back in control of the Mediterranean, then she was sent to work in Cairo because she spoke fluent French.

Manette recalled she helped work on a secret mission concerning a plan called Operation Lustre to land allied forces in Greece, which unfortunately didn't work out. Manette served abroad for about two years until returning to England before the war ended and serving with the WRNS in Dorset until she was demobilised and married army officer Tom Derek Bowden.

Jane Evans



Manette and Tom Bowden's wedding & Manette in WRNS uniform

Future Talks

Monday 19th May - Members' Stories

Charles Turner - 'Family Medals': Medals Charles has collected from family members. Mostly WW2 but also a Peninsula War Medal.

Jenny Mann and Pat Carter - 'Our Uncle Billy': Our Father's oldest brother lost his life when his ship was torpedoed off Singapore in WW2

Maureen Botwright - 'Getting to know my Paternal Grandfather, Walter W. C. Biggs': What Maureen knew, her memories of him, and the story so far. Some surprises, but still more questions than answers!

Mon 16th June: Women's Lives on the Farm by Janet Few

Mon 21st July: The Garrett Family by Fraser Hale

All meetings take place at 2.30pm at Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL.

£1 for members, £3 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits. Free parking.



THE CUT SESSIONS

Curated Gigs – Original Artists

Season 1 - Eddi Reader, Dr Feelgood, Claire Martin Trio

The Cut, Halesworth's arts centre has announced a brand-new music season for the autumn of 2025. Bringing together a series of curated gigs by original artists, The Cut Sessions marks the full return of live music to the venue after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Season 1 opens with a gala performance by Eddie Reader on 12 October. First brought into the limelight as front woman for Fairground Attraction, who's Number 1 single, 'Perfect' and parent album, 'First of a Million Kisses', both topped the British charts, Eddie Reader has effortlessly developed into one of popular music's most thrilling and affecting performers.

The season continues with the 'Doctors Orders Anniversary Tour' featuring Dr Feelgood on 14 November. Formed on Canvey Island in Essex in the early 1970s Dr. Feelgood remains one of the most popular and exciting live rhythm and blues acts in the world.

With decades of experience and an electrifying live presence, Dr. Feelgood continue to prove why they're legends of British rock 'n' roll.

The final gig of Season 1 is the Claire Martin Trio on 6 December. Multi award-winning vocalist Claire Martin OBE joins forces with her long time friend and guitar giant Jim Mullen for an evening of stylishly reworked songs from the great American songbook and beyond.

Featuring work by Gershwin, Arlen, Porter and Donny Hathaway and joined by bassist Arnie Somogyi, this promises to be a night full of swing and soul. Aafke Groenewald, Manager of the Cut said:

"We are so excited to be presenting these world-class artists here at The Cut, complimenting the rest of our eclectic programme. Get your tickets early!"

Nick Dodds, programmer of the Cut Sessions said: *"I am delighted that so many bands have responded positively to our invitation to join this new season of curated gigs by original artists. And this is just the start – Season 2 next spring is shaping up to be equally exciting."*

With so many grass-roots music venues around the country struggling to survive it's great that The Cut can offer audiences the opportunity to see great jazz, blues, folk, rock and pop artists in such an intimate setting, up close and personal!"

Visit: www.thecut.org.uk



Welcome inside

WIGS & MORE

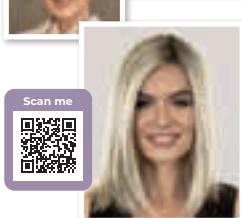
Following on from the launch of my mobile wig business, Wigs & More To Your Door, back in May 2023, I am so excited to now officially open the doors to my new wig studio, situated in the IP12 area.

The studio offers a comfortable and friendly home-from-home, which allows you the opportunity to explore a wide variety of wig options, where you'll be able to feel and try them on within a private and friendly space. This operates on an appointment-only basis so that the care and attention can be solely focused on you, the customer. I offer lots of advice and aftercare products that are available to you. You are encouraged to bring someone along with you so that you feel completely at ease and able to ask for that all-important second opinion from someone that knows you. Although there is a small charge for the appointment, this amount is deductible from a wig purchase but, as with all of my consultations, there is no pressure or obligation to buy.

In addition to offering an appointment within the new studio I am still happy to provide my personal home consultations which have always been at the core of my bespoke business. This extra option, however, now allows me to offer my caring and compassionate service to more people and to be able to reach out to those who live outside my usual area.

So if you, or anyone you know, could benefit from my personal and friendly service, please don't hesitate to get in touch and I look forward to hearing from you.

Allison



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wigsandmore.co.uk

BENHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Squirrels have been captivated by Traditional Tales, with Jack and the Beanstalk sparking the most excitement! Inspired by the story, they explored the bean life cycle - observing changes, recording growth, and nurturing their own "magic" beans in a fantastic hands-on learning experience.

Acorn Class has been writing character descriptions based on 'Where the Wild Things' Are by Maurice Sendak. In art, they explored expressive painting, using different tools to create exciting shapes and patterns.

Oaks Class has been diving into Werewolf Club Rules by Joe Coelho, igniting creativity! The book inspired outdoor learning activities, helping students craft vivid, playful poems and bring poetry to life.

In Woodlands, we finished 'The Nowhere Emporium' and loved its magical world (though we despised Vindictus Sharpe). In geography, we explored desert features, debating its livability. Partnering with The Long Shop Museum, we examined factory roles and trade unions.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped enhance our outdoor area! We now have a beautiful small pond, a newly built hedge (a living hedge made from woven branches), and beetle stacks supporting local wildlife - valuable for both nature and outdoor learning.

We were delighted to welcome our local MP, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, for a school visit. She toured classrooms, observed lessons, and spoke with pupils about their learning. It was a fantastic opportunity to gain insights into the role of an MP.

Our students proudly represented the school in various sporting events. Four took part in an orienteering challenge, showcasing teamwork and navigation skills. Our netball team secured 3rd place in their group stage, playing with great energy and sportsmanship.

Meanwhile, a group competed in a hockey tournament at Harleston Magpies, gaining valuable experience on the pitch.

Following the success of previous art trails, St Elizabeth Hospice is launching Hop to It! - celebrating its swift, compassionate care. Our school's hare, 'Hops and Dreams' showcases pupils' aspirations, with each design reflecting their future hopes.

Oaks Class visited Framlingham Castle, exploring its high curtain walls, defensive features, and historical artifacts. They learned about past residents, including Mary Tudor, gaining valuable insights into medieval life.

We had an incredible morning with members of the City of London Sinfonia, who filled our school with live classical music! Pupils were captivated, joining in throughout this unforgettable experience. Woodlands Class had an exclusive hands-on project with the musicians, deepening their musical appreciation.

For World Book Day, Woodlands created mini-books, while Oaks wrote superhero stories.

Teachers also shared special books, letting pupils choose which to hear - an inspiring day of storytelling and imagination!

A huge well done to everyone in our Poetry By Heart competition! Your heartfelt performances made judging tough. A special congratulations to our winners - your passion truly shone.

Our students were treated to an electrifying Mad Science Assembly! They witnessed Tesla coils, a Van de Graaff generator, and high-voltage energy in action.

The thrilling demonstrations sparked curiosity and excitement, making National Science Week unforgettable!

Prospective parents are welcome to come for a visit. Paul Parslow-Williams or Daniel Millican are always keen to offer a personal tour of the school. Please call us to book an appointment on (01728) 602407.

Daniel Millican
Head of School





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HERITAGE WILLOW

A pair of Southwold school friends have joined forces with their former Geography teacher to form a new sustainable 'grass-roots' enterprise crafting bespoke, insitu willow fences both within Southwold and beyond.

Chris Webster, who runs the Geography Fieldwork Academy from its base in the Old Hospital on Field Stile Road, took advantage of the forced closure of his business during the covid pandemic to learn the craft of willow weaving and began planting willow on a small patch of soggy land at his home. By 2024 the planting of the patch had proved fruitful and had expanded exponentially each year providing a substantial annual harvest of willow rods whilst also transforming the habitat of an otherwise barren and unproductive piece of land.

Chris joined forces with two local weavers and former students of his, Charlie Temple, who has spent many summers on the beach as a lifeguard and Josh Hart, who many will know from Chapmans on the High Street. Together the team benefited from advanced tuition from nationally regarded 'willow weaving expert' Peter Dibble from Halesworth, working to refine their skills and craft further.

Although the trio have been constructing fences for some time, they have only recently launched the business 'Heritage Willow' this spring, which now offers continuous, insitu willow fences constructed from their own home-grown Suffolk willow.

"We share a collective passion for sustainability and craftsmanship and as a team we take immense pride in each of the fence projects we construct" stated weaver Josh Hart. "Our fences reflect the preservation of traditional skills whilst also creating a locally sourced product which compliments the landscape in which it is constructed."

The Heritage Willow team have already been working on creative projects in our area this year including a unique 'mixed willow' fence. Weaver Charlie Temple stated "We grow 12 different varieties of willow, each with their own qualities and unique colours. Recently we have constructed a number of fences which have blended these varieties to create a multicoloured mix, something which is quite unique and creates a real bespoke aspect to our fences."

Chris Webster, the owner of Heritage Willow stated, "As the business grows we hope to be able to offer apprenticeships and employment to other local young people who will join us in the conservation of this historic craft whilst also enhancing the local environment."





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SKC CHURCH

A Benefice comprising of St John's church, Saxmundham, St Mary & St Peter's church, Kelsale and St Peter's church, Carlton.

When we originally set up the Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre in 2018, we felt that by helping people struggling with unmanageable debt we would be able to restore them to the full life Jesus wants for all people - and in the great majority of instances that was true.

However, since the pandemic, the nature and extent of poverty has deteriorated. Rarely are we called upon to support people whose only needs are debt-related. East Suffolk might seem like a prosperous place, but poverty and its causes are all too common. Nowadays, the vast majority of people we work with have a wide variety of causes of poverty: often they are not heavily indebted but nevertheless unable to afford even the basic essentials of life – food, heating, shelter and modest clothing. Helping them out of debt is rarely enough to free them from the experience of being poor.

This change in the financial landscape has caused us to re-evaluate our strategy. Whereas in 2018, we started as a 'debt centre', over the years we added other ways to help people live full lives, all the while retaining debt help as our core activity.

Now in 2025, we have re-orientated ourselves to be a holistic poverty charity, with debt help being just one of a number of key areas. Our hope and aim is to be able to support anyone calling upon us who is experiencing any form of poverty or its many causes.

This is a bold ambition and we will not achieve it in the short-term (and sadly it is inconceivable that we will eliminate poverty ever). However, over the next 5 years we will be working to add services. Already, we are seeking to add counselling support for our service users with mental health challenges. We are looking to work with local partners to create personalised programmes to help people into work.

We are strengthening our relationships with other support organisations, including foodbanks and local churches. We are reaching out to new social prescribers and additional Job Centre+ branches to share our work more widely.

We have just ramped up our educational activities (thanks to a grant from the MSE Charity) to take our highly successful financial education programme into the schools of East Suffolk.

This change of scope has required us to change our name. When we were just a debt help entity, our old name worked but no longer. So we are now:



We still partner with CAP in a number of actual and potential activities but we have discovered that what we are called to do is much wider than CAP alone can partner with us to do. If you would like to find out more, either about our current or future activities to alleviate poverty or to support us in our mission, then please contact either Laura (our manager) at laura.knight@scpa.uk or me (nic@scpa.uk).

Rev. Nic Stuchfield

SKC Church (Saxmundham, Kelsale & Carlton C of E churches)

Chair, Suffolk Coastal Poverty Action

SKC Services in May include:

4th May: Informal Service at St John's, 9:30am; Holy Communion at Kelsale, 11am

6th May: Quiet Communion at St John's, 10:30am

11th May: Intergenerational Service at Kelsale, 9:30am; Holy Communion at St John's, 11am

18th May: Informal Service at St John's, 9:30am; Holy Communion at Kelsale, 11am; Holy Communion (1662) at Carlton, 3pm

25th May: Informal Service at St John's, 9:30am; Holy Communion at St John's, 11am

Do come and join us. If you would like more information go to our website at www.skc.church.

BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

The museum is open as usual on Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays – don't forget children get in free.

Events & Activities

4th, 5th & 8th May: This month we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day over the May Day bank holiday weekend and VE Day itself on Thursday 8th May. The 1940s' themed Vintage Café will be selling tea & cake in the NAAFI tent, with exhibits from the wartime era and special displays. The NAAFI Tent is open to all.

Don't forget the VE Day Family Trail too!

26th May - 1st June: Can you keep a secret? If so, our Spy Trail is for you. (a small charge applies).

28th & 29th May: Visiting the Suffolk Show? You will find Bawdsey Radar Museum in the Military Zone.

For more information: Email: info@bawdseyradar.org.uk
Tel: 07821 162879.
Visit: www.bawdseyradar.org.uk

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What's On at Leiston Film Theatre



Fri 2nd May at 7.15pm

Sun 4th May at 7.30pm

Tues 6th-Thurs 8th May at 7.15pm

THE AMATEUR 12A

Sun 4th May at 6.00pm

Sun 11th May at 3.00pm

FIRE OVER SHINGLE STREET 12A

Fri 9th, Sat 10th & Tues 13th May at 7.15pm

Wed 14th May at 3.00pm

Thurs 15th May at 7.15pm

THE FRIEND 15

Mon 12th May at 7.15pm

SIX: THE MUSICAL 12A

Fri 16th, Sat 17th, Mon 19th, Tues 20th,
Wed 21st & Thurs 22nd May at 7.15pm

THE ACCOUNTANT 2 15

Sat 17th May, 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

THE COLDPLAY TRIBUTE

Sun 18th May at 3.00pm

MISS SAIGON 15

Fri 23rd May at 7.15pm

Sat 24th May at 4.00pm & 7.15pm

Sun 25th May at 6.00pm

Mon 26th & Tues 27th May at 7.15pm

Wed 28th May at 3.00pm & 7.15pm

Thurs 29th - Sat 31st May at 7.15pm

Sun 1st June at 6.00pm

Mon 2nd - Thurs 5th June at 7.15pm

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE THE FINAL RECKONING 12A

Fri 30th, Sat 31st May & Sun 1st June at 11.30am

PEPPA MEETS THE BABY U

Fri 6th & Sat 7th June at 7.15pm

Sun 8th June at 6.00pm

Mon 9th & Tues 10th June at 7.15pm

Wed 11th June at 3.00pm & 7.15pm

Thurs 12th June at 7.15pm

THE SALT PATH 12A

Sun 15th June, 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

High Street, Leiston, Suffolk. IP16 4BZ

Tel: 01728 830549, or visit:

www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

SAXMUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We have had a very busy Spring term at Saxmundham Primary School. Here are just a few examples of what we have been getting up to.

Pupils in year five have been working on something very special this year as part of a collaboration with Orchestras Live and Leiston Long Shop Museum. In the Autumn term, Hawthorn class visited the Long Shop Museum for two experience days, where they spent time as Victorian apprentices learning all about history in a very practical way.

This term, we have started work on the musical side of things as we were visited by Aga (our awesome workshop leader) alongside musicians from the City of London Sinfonia. The whole school was treated to a mini concert performance before Hawthorn class set to work on creating their own piece of music. We are really looking forward to seeing how this turns out!

At our school, we don't just show what we have learnt in books. In geography, children in year six have been learning all about rivers. To demonstrate what they have learnt, they were set the challenge of producing a river out of clay, including all of the different features they have been learning about. We think they look amazing!

As well as this, pupils in years three and four were set the homework challenge of creating a model of a volcano. There were some amazing projects, including a range of materials from papier mache to cake! This linked to their geography topic of Sicily, where they had learnt all about Mount Etna.



Pupils in years five and six were lucky enough to visit Norwich Cathedral and Norwich Synagogue to deepen their understanding of different religions. It was a really interesting trip and everyone learnt a great deal through examining real life objects and even trying some of them on!

To celebrate British Science Week, we held a Science Fair at school. The theme this year was 'Change and Adapt' and pupils designed and created animals from around the world, recognising the changes and adaptations needed for different habitats. There were some very creative exhibits made from a range of clay, artwork, modelling and detailed research.

Pupils also learnt about new sustainable and organic farming methods. We need to say a big well done to our science ambassadors for doing such a brilliant job of showing parents and carers around the exhibition.



PROJECT UPDATE

MAY 2025

Work across all Sizewell C sites continues to progress at pace.

At Friday Street, a works compound has been created on the car boot sale field. The car boot sale is not affected by this. The next steps involve establishing the Friday Street site, including vegetation and necessary tree removal, overseen by an ecological clerk of works to ensure the protection of nesting birds. This activity will be visible from the A12 when travelling to or from Stratford St Andrew and Farnham village.

The Friday Street roundabout will connect the new two-village bypass around Stratford St Andrew and Farnham to the A12. Preparation for the bypass construction includes further vegetation clearance and tree removal, with Heras fencing being installed along the site boundary.

Railway works in and around Leiston are also progressing. Vegetation and some trees have been

removed to create space for track reconstruction and overall operational improvements. Work to upgrade the area's level crossings is ongoing, with surveys underway to assess requirements.

Earthworks at the Yoxford roundabout will begin later this month, starting away from the A12 to ensure no disruption to the road.

At the Northern Park and Ride site, vegetation clearance is complete, and archaeological investigations continue. Archaeology at the Southern Park and Ride is ongoing and expected to conclude in autumn. As areas are cleared, phased construction will begin this summer. Work to realign BT Openreach network wires along the slip road is also ongoing and expected to continue until the end of May.

The updated Sizewell C Works Tracker launched on 5 February with improved navigation. Community members can now sign up for email updates, with SMS updates to follow later this year.

FORUM SCHEDULE

All forum timings
18:30 - 20:30
(Arrival from 18:00)

Northern Transport Forum	Wednesday 7 May 2025	Darsham Village Hall
Southern Transport Forum	Wednesday 4 June 2025	Stratford St Andrew Riverside Centre
Main Development Site Forum	Wednesday 2 July 2025	Leiston Town Athletic Association

For more information and for all 2025 forum dates visit sizewellc.com/community/forums

VISIT THE WORKS
TRACKER SITE



Sizewell C
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 3 Zephyr Baroque at Sibton church (parking: IP17 2LX). A programme of baroque music on period instruments. The concert is always a magical experience in the perfect setting of Sibton's medieval nave. Liz Alexander – Recorders, Baroque Bassoon – Karen Bainbridge, and harpsichord – Geraldine Taylor. £15 at the door or from Weavers Tearoom & Peasenhall General Store (cash only please). 3 - 4pm, followed by tea.

MAY 3, 15, 21 & 29 A seasonal guided walk around RSPB Minsmere. Look for birds, insects and flowers, listen to birdsong and learn about Minsmere's history. Email: minsmerc@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281. 10am – 1pm at RSPB Minsmere Nature reserve. IP17 3BY. Website: www.rspb.org.uk/minsmerc

MAY 4 & 18 & JUN 1 Halesworth Harmony rehearsal. 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. 10.30am - 12.30pm at The Cut in Halesworth.

MAY 7, 14 & 21 The Red House Guided Tours. Come and experience a private tour of The Red House on a day when the site is closed to the public. You will be guided through Britten and Pears' house, studio and library; plus a visit to the Archive where you will get a chance to see the gems of the collection. Includes a chance to explore the garden and The Composer's Place exhibition. The café and shop will also be open. The Red House, Golf Lane, Aldeburgh. IP15 5PZ. Email: info@brittenpearsarts.org, phone: 01728 451700

MAY 11 Alde Valley Ramblers. Butley, Wantisden, Rendlesham forest 5.8 mile walk. Meet at Butley corner/ Rendlesham forest off b1084, Woodbridge Road at 10am tm349502. For more information email: walks.aldevalleyramblers@gmail.com or visit our website.

MAY 11 Halesworth Harmony rehearsal. Come along for a free taster session - no experience is necessary, For further details, email: halesworth.harmony@gmail.com. 10.30am - 12.30pm at The Hub in Huntingfield.

MAY 17 Spring River and Reedbed Ramble at Snape Maltings. RSPB guided walk along Alde Estuary. Many wading birds and ducks are to be found on the River Alde through the spring whilst the reedbeds and adjacent woodland hold raptors and some of our smaller resident and migrant species, including Marsh Harriers and Sedge Warblers. Meet on the Quay at Snape Maltings. IP17 1SP. 10am – 1pm Email: minsmerc@rspb.org.uk, phone: 01728 648281. Website: www.rspb.org.uk/minsmerc

MAY 18 Tallis Chamber Orchestra Concert. A lovely programme with George Ireland playing one of Mozart's best piano concertos, conducted by Thomas Payne. Overture, The Hebrides, Op. 26 – F. Mendelssohn. Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K. 503 – W. A. Mozart. Symphony No. 99 in E flat major, Hob. 1:99 – J. Haydn. 3pm at Potton Hall Studio, Saxmundham, IP17 3EF. Admission will be by programme, £15 at the door (cards accepted). Any changes to concert arrangements will be posted on our website, www.tco.org.uk

MAY 22 Saxmundham History Society meeting: Films: 'A Writer's Suffolk' & 'Health to Barley Mow' by Jim Cecil. Membership: £18 a year. 2.30pm @ URC, Chapel Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1BJ. Visitors £2. Tel: 01728 604608 for more information.

MAY 24 Voxcetera Chamber Choir, Spring's Sweet Voice: Choral music from Byrd to Bacharach. 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh, IP19 9LP. Tickets £15. Under 18s £7.50. Visit: www.voxcetera.co.uk. Direct booking link: <https://www.voxcetera.co.uk/event-details/springs-sweet-voice-choral-music-from-byrd-to-bacharach>

MAY 24 Beccles Food & Drink Festival. Artisan East Anglian food and drink stalls, world street food, cookery theatre, music, children's entertainment, free to attend. 10am – 4pm in the Town Centre.

MAY 25 Alde Valley Ramblers. Framlingham, Parham 6 mile walk. Meet Fore Street car park, Framlingham at 10am. Parking £2 for up to 4 hours tm284633. For more information email: walks.aldevalleyramblers@gmail.com or visit our website.

MAY 25 The Breakfast Club with live jazz. Start your Sunday morning on a smooth note with the soulful tunes of Snape Maltings' resident jazz band. Savour a laid-back ambiance while indulging in our new Breakfast Club Menu, complemented by a delightful selection of cocktails and mocktails. 9am – 12noon at Snape Maltings. IP17 1SP Email: info@snapemaltings.co.uk, phone: 01728 688303

MAY 25, 26 & 27 Sibton's Annual Mighty Three Day Book Sale. Good quality second-hand books are a main attraction: Fiction includes a large number of sci fi titles and Non-Fiction where local history is a specialism and there are often other rarities. Also good quality second-hand clothes, collectibles; bric- a-brac; children's books and toys; plants, LPs, DVDs and CDs. Refreshments available all day, Admission is free and there is ample car parking. 10.30 am – 4.30pm at Sibton church (on the A1120 between Yoxford and Peasenhall with its car park at IP17 2LX).

Thursday 29th May at 10am: Author's visit at Saxmundham library: Ivor Eisenstadt: 'All That Lives Must Die: Suspicion, Obsession and Murder on the Suffolk Coast'. In 'All That Lives Must Die' a retired GP seeks solace from tragedy by spending time in his holiday lodge on the Suffolk Heritage Coast. He finds refuge in nature. He also finds suspicion, obsession and murder. Ivor Eisenstadt is a retired healthcare publisher. Having suffered from anxiety he is keen to share the healing power of nature through this gripping murder mystery novel set on the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Ivor will be selling and signing copies of his book. £1 per person, includes tea & biscuits.

JUN 3 – 7 'Kim's Convenience.' Starring James Yi, a familiar face to fans of the Netflix series of the same name and known for The Interview, Gabby Duran & The Unsittables, Ins Choi's award-winning comedy drama follows the hilarious and heart-warming tale of a Korean family-run convenience store and the growing schism between his first-generation immigrant values and those of his second-generation children. New Wolsey Theatre, Civic Drive, Ipswich. IP1 2AS.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR EAST SUFFOLK COMMUNITIES & VISITORS

THIS IS NOT ABOUT SIZEWELL C

THIS IS ABOUT NATIONAL GRID'S SEA LINK PROJECT

THE NATIONAL GRID ENERGY ONSLAUGHT **IS NOT A DONE DEAL!**

National Grid PLC — an international company, with mainly American investors, **not a British government body** — has yet to receive approval for its proposed onshore energy infrastructure along the Suffolk coast.

These plans threaten to industrialise our unique Heritage Coast, destroying landscapes, communities and biodiversity.

But the good news is:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ACT

A BETTER, SMARTER ALTERNATIVE EXISTS

Other North Sea countries have developed a cheaper, faster, less destructive offshore grid alternative.

This is our best chance to oppose the unnecessary onshore developments proposed for Friston, Saxmundham, and surrounding areas. *Over 80 football pitches of concrete structures up to 26 m high are proposed along with multiple cable trenches criss-crossing the countryside.*

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

Please **sign up** as an **Interested Party (IP)** from **24 April** or thereabouts.

Once the Inspectors have formally approved the application ready for examination.

We have **only four weeks to sign up** from the announcement date.

At the **Development Consent Order (DCO) Examination**, independent Inspectors will scrutinise the merits of the application and we will have the right to object

Your help ensure our voices are heard.

Go to:

www.sign-up.uk



Please share this message with others in your community. **Numbers matter!**



FRAMLINGHAM AND SAXMUNDHAM CATS PROTECTION

Cats Protection Framlingham & Saxmundham – enters its 35th Year!

When a group of concerned people met over 35 years ago to discuss what could be done to help the feral cats in the area, little did they know how extensive the problem was, both for feral and domestic cats.

There are many reasons that force people to make the heartbreaking decision to separate from their much loved cat; moving home, relationship break-ups, illness, family bereavements, and cost of living price rises are just some of them. We also take in many strays and feral kittens. Sadly, the problem of unwanted and abandoned cats and kittens has not decreased despite many neutering campaigns. We now receive frequent appeals to help people who have bought cats and kittens from unscrupulous people on social media, whose now beloved pets are sadly unwell, have behavioural problems or are unsuited to their family lives. All these years later, our work continues, facing similar challenges as in the early days.

Our committed team of volunteers can only carry on with the generosity of our supporters giving their time, money and donations of goods to help us. We give grateful thanks to them all. **We are always looking for new volunteers – please contact us to find out how you can help.**

Date for your diary: Sunday, 25 May 2025 – RSPCA Martlesham Family Fun Day – 11:30 – 15:30: Come and see us on our stand to support us and find out more about what we do.

Cat Looking for a Home: Meet Jack, a handsome, friendly 7-year-old boy. Through no fault of his own, he has been passed from one home to another throughout his life and has been living outside for a considerable time. Jack is a very companionable, easy-going, gentle and affectionate fellow and now needs a stable home. All he wants is a lap and lots of fuss, and a large garden in which to snooze, wander or explore. If you live in a rural area, away from busy roads, perhaps you could offer Jack the new home he craves. Contact us to find out more and to arrange to meet this lovely chap.

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

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Launch event of



A new community-based non-profit
www.pomegranate-ct.co.uk

Refreshments available after the concert

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST

The Renters' Rights Bill – upcoming changes to the law

We see a lot of clients who are in private rented housing and there are important changes coming to the law that applies to private tenancies. The Renters' Rights Bill is going through both houses of parliament at the moment. As we write (end of March) it is expected to become law by the end of the summer. Any changes made by the Renter's Rights Act may not come into effect straight away as additional regulations will need to be made and implemented

As things stand at present the main changes will be:

No more S21 Notices: Currently a landlord does not have to give a reason to serve notice on a tenant telling them that they must move out. This is known as a no fault eviction and the notice served is known as a Section 21 Notice. These notices will be abolished and landlords will have to give tenants a legal reason why they need their property back when they serve notice on a tenant.

Landlords can still get their properties back because the tenant owes rent or has broken the terms of the tenancy agreement or because the landlord wants to move into or sell the property.

Rent increases and bidding wars:

Landlords will have to give tenants two months' notice of a rent increase and will only be able to increase the rent up to the market rent for properties in the area. Properties will have to be advertised at a specific rental figure. Landlords or lettings agents will not be allowed to accept offers from potential tenants above this figure and could face penalties if they do.

Right to keep a pet: Tenants of private rented properties will have the right to keep a pet as long as they have applied for and been given permission by the landlord.

The landlord must not refuse consent unreasonably but can insist that the tenant has insurance cover to cover any damage by the pet.

Children and benefit claimants:

Landlords and agents will not be able to say that a property is not available to people with children or to benefit claimants.

They are however able to take account of a tenant's income to make sure they are able to afford the rent.

What about existing tenancies? The new rules will apply to existing tenancies once the new Act comes into effect. For those wanting more information please see the guide on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-the-renters-rights-bill/guide-to-the-renters-rights-bill>

For further advice on this or any other issue please email Citizens Advice East Suffolk from our website: www.caes.org.uk/email-service or phone us on 0808 278 7866 (lines open 10-2 Mon-Fri). Our website www.caes.org.uk also gives details of our drop-in outreach sessions and how to make an appointment at one of our offices.

SAXMUNDHAM SPORTS CRICKET CLUB

It has finally arrived - the new cricket season is here, those long dark winter nights now a distant memory and the summer sun brings with it the smell of cut grass and the sound of leather on willow. Topped off with probably the best cricket teas this side of Suffolk and it's a great reason to come and play cricket with this super friendly club set in the lovely surroundings of Carlton Park. A great pre-season over has seen a number of new players join the club giving hope for the future.

The season kicks off on Saturday 3rd May away at sparring partners Ipswich & East Suffolk followed by another away trip to Felixstowe & Corinthians on Saturday 10th May. With a new season comes a new captain, after two seasons Simon Halliday has stepped aside. The club would like to thank Simon for his call to arms.

When we were in need of his help Simon didn't hesitate to step up and take on the role for this club. We wish him all the best for the future. We also wish all the best for the incoming captain Niraj Perera.

Fixtures for May 2025:

Sat 3rd – Ipswich & ES II(a)
 Sat 10th – Felixstowe & Cor III (a)
 Sat 17th – West Bergholt III (h)
 Sat 24th – Colchester Cavaliers II (a)
 Sat 31st – Mistley III (h)

For more information please contact Gary 07891691431 or Niraj 07960219653 or visit www.saxcricket.co.uk
Gary Butler

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

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 We distribute the magazines door to door and to many varied outlets.

The next issue will be published on Monday 2nd June deadline 14th April -
 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.

PATMORE WATER SOFTENERS



The image shows a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black top and blue jeans, kneeling on the floor under a kitchen sink. She is holding a white bag of 'TWINTEQ BLOCK SALT' in one hand and a large white salt block in the other. The sink area is white, and the floor is made of light-colored tiles. To the right of the woman, there are three green circular callouts containing text: 'Non Electric', 'Boiler Friendly', and '10 Year Guarantee'.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are desperately in need of volunteers to help with our small, but perfectly formed heritage museum. We don't just need help with 'front of house' but behind the scenes also. It really doesn't matter how much time you can spare; if you can only spare 3 hours

a month, we'd still love to hear from you. We are a friendly and welcoming team of all ages and abilities.

To keep the museum open and flourishing we need help with:

- Front of House
- Curatorial team, assisting with the collection and exhibitions
- Assisting with our activity programme
- Shop Manager; sourcing stock appropriate to the collection and activity programme.

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16m² of native woodland was created in the production of this magazine

