

The Bugle Magazine

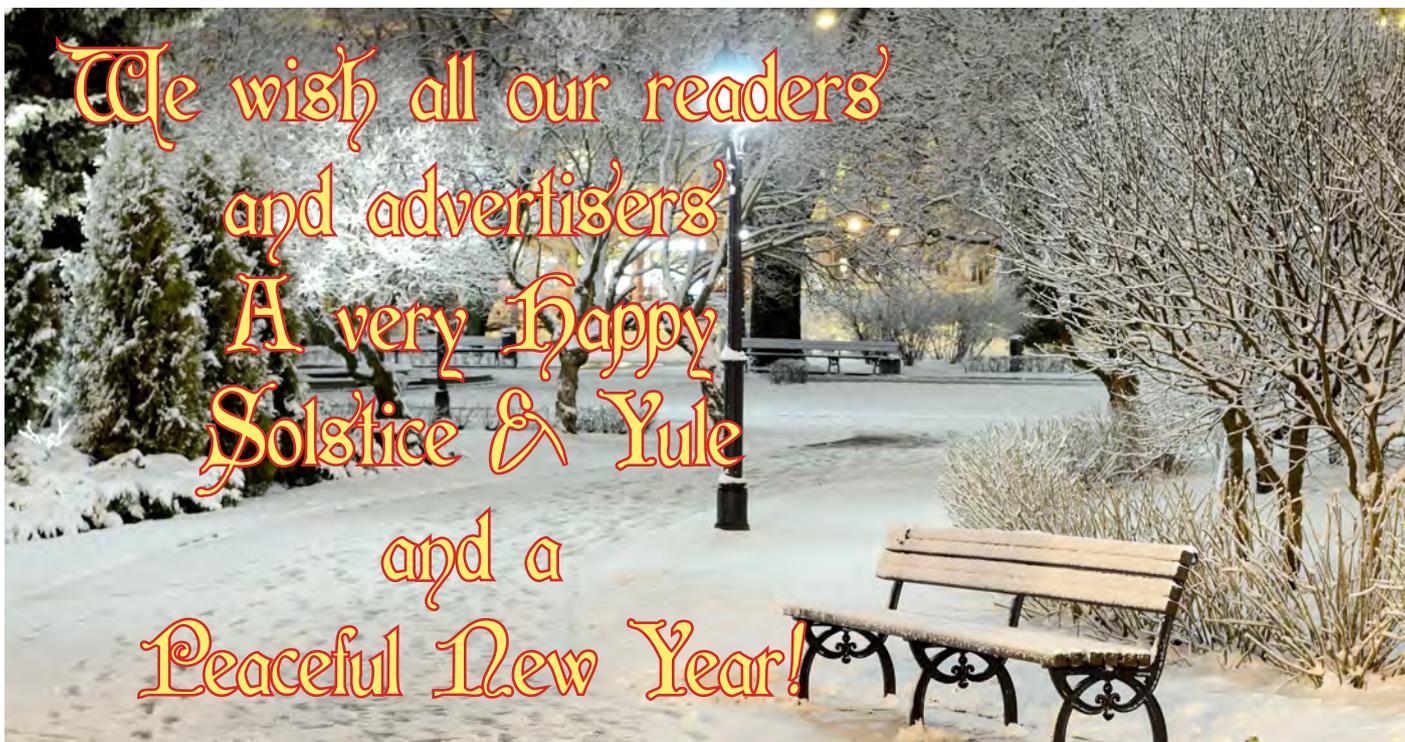
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The Bugle Magazine

Local People, Local events, Local Business

This year has absolutely flown by and here we are staring the silly season in the face once again! It is the time of year when we all tend to spend too much spoiling our kids because we love them so much. We also may just indulge in a little over-eating with a tad too much of the vino! But Christmas comes just once a year (thank goodness) and it is a time to spend with family and friends, check in on neighbours and just have a lovely time with those you love. Enjoy!
A very Happy Christmas to you all!

As always, please support our advertisers, they are all local businesses and we couldn't do it without them.

The next edition of The Bugle is out January 2nd/3rd and the copy deadline for advertising, articles & events is December 14th.

For all your advertising needs, for What's On Guide entries and interesting articles across the area - call Anna & Neal on 01502 578074 or E: the.buglemag@yahoo.co.uk

The Bugle Magazine, Firs Cottage, Church Road, Uggheshall, Beccles NR34 8BH



At the November meeting of the Blyth Valley and Southwold group of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Rob Spray gave a fascinating account of the work of SeaSearch East. This voluntary group of experienced divers record the seabed habitats and marine life of the near shore zone of Norfolk.

The diving season lasts from June to November, when the waters are at their clearest. East Anglian waters are often clouded with silt and mud, but we learnt that there are areas of chalk, where visibility is good, and the chalk reef in north Norfolk is the longest in Europe. This habitat is home to a wide variety of life. A hundred and twenty types of seaweed have been reported, with many varieties of sponge, anemone and starfish. Shoals of small fish, lobsters, and several types of crabs are found in abundance, notably the famous Cromer crab.

Elsewhere, there are areas of mixed geology, and sand, where a favourite species is the Little Cuttlefish, no bigger than a bumblebee. There are dangers to wildlife from lost or abandoned fishing gear, and these surveys help to inform various agencies of the need for sensitive management of these important sites.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 9th, 2020, at 7.30pm, in the Southwold Arts Centre. Gen Broad will talk about Attracting Birds, Bees and Butterflies to your Garden. Admission is £3, to include refreshments. Under 16 are free, and all are welcome.
Penny Mansfield

D J PAGE

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Work started on 'The Ness', the most easterly park in the UK on 18 November 2019. The site of the park, next to Birds Eye on Whapload Road in Lowestoft, will be regenerated with £1m secured from the Coastal Community Fund in 2017.

The Ness, which is being delivered by Lowestoft Town Council, East Suffolk Council and Concertas Design and Property Consultants working in partnership, aims to secure the future of the net drying racks, which were once used by the fishing industry in the heyday of the herring trade, create a play and picnic area and celebrate the history of the Denes. The site also includes the seafront walkway and the most easterly point in the UK, Ness Point.

The Ness will improve access, knowledge, participation and enjoyment of North Lowestoft and its unique maritime heritage. The park will be naturally landscaped to maintain its heritage features with cycling and pedestrian access to the sea wall and the coastal path. The area is a haven for wildlife with some unique flora and fauna and is enjoyed by local people as a wild landscape, therefore the site will not be overdeveloped.

Alice Taylor Mayor of Lowestoft said, "The Councillors and staff of Lowestoft Town Council are thrilled to see The Ness park project move from an aspiration to shovels in the ground. This Ness is a gift to everyone, but mostly it's a gift to our children. It will benefit generations of Lowestoft residents as it gives focus

to an improved tourism offer, celebrates our unique Lowestoft heritage and improves the entire town environmentally and socially."

During the construction, the area will not be accessible to the public for safety reasons. Access to the seawall will still be available via Ness Point and Ting Dene. The contractor, Blakedown Landscapes, is a multi award-winning landscaping company with 50 years of experience. Their projects include Hunstanton Park in North Norfolk, Camden Active Spaces and the historic restoration of Brockwell Park Gardens in London.

An events programme for The Ness has been running throughout the year with a photography competition, Children's Fun Run, Chalk Fest, art exhibitions and workshops, Beach Schools, Waves & Wheels, and much more.



The recently formed Friends of The Ness group, with council support, are looking forward to delivering an opening event in Spring 2020 which is the expected completion date for the park. For info visit, www.lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk/local-information/the-ness/ or Facebook: The Ness Lowestoft.

Picture: Fun for all at one of The Ness Summer events!



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Your Letters to The Bugle

NORMANSTAN PARK & ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM

Dear Bugle

The department of silly ideas at the East Suffolk Council has passed their own planning application for a large bridge across Leathes Ham nature reserve & railway line which purports to connect Normanston Park with the north quay of Lake Lothing. The passing of this application conflicts with the Council's own recently published local plan guidelines and policies regarding the environment, ecology and the declared climate emergency. Leathes Ham is a nature reserve home to some now rare flora & fauna surrounded by tall mature trees. This area is one to admire for its recreational & natural environment which has been well managed over the years. The East Suffolk Council now want to destroy this natural environment with an unnatural bridge to nowhere onto a roughly hewn and probably dangerous quay surface. This is to make provision for a few unspecified wheeled users when a perfectly serviceable bridge which has stood the test of time already exists. It is council instigated environmental vandalism and it also defies belief that £1.3 million is to be spent on this and to also destroy the privacy of the inhabitants of Constable Close. 18 mature trees and their associated wildlife inhabitants including a colony of bats which are a protected species are to be destroyed when there are more necessary and less destructive projects that need funding in the town. The process for this application was questionable and I would therefore suggest that it was undemocratically arrived at without proper prior consultation. The council's

own eco guidelines have been ignored and this project should be stopped before exceptional harm is done and the fund allocated to a more worthy and positive cause.

Yours

Norman Castleton

PASSPORT QUIRKS

Dear Bugle

At the time of writing, Germany is celebrating the coming down of "The Wall". A few years before it came down, I went to Berlin for a short rugby tour with a team that consisted mainly of International players. The Captain was Bill Calcraft, the then Captain of Australia. We stayed at RAF Gatow, the main base for the Berlin Airlift. On one of the days, we were to be taken through Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin. We were promised beer at 10p a bottle and other goodies, so it was to be too good to miss. All we had to do was get on an RAF bus, take our passports and as we arrived at Checkpoint Charlie, we had to hold up our passports to the windows of the bus so that the East German authorities could see that we were all Brits. All that is apart from Bill Calcraft. He was not allowed to come with us because once his Australian passport had been spotted, the authorities would have allowed him in, but they would have to stamp his passport first. Why couldn't he come with us? Because when we got back to RAF Gatow, he would not have been allowed into the camp because he would have an East German stamp in his passport. How daft was that?

Ken Brickell

The moment you start acting like life is a blessing - it starts to feel like one



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Memories of a Wartime Christmas in Earsham with John Archer

In the early days of WW2, Christmas was not mentioned until December, not like today - late August! During the war, times were very hard. Many families found it difficult to cope with fathers and sons away fighting. Christmas lights in the street were non-existent and Christmas trees were hard to obtain. Children made paper chains from old newspapers, coloured them with crayons and pasted them together with flour and water. The stocking would be filled with a packet of sweets, a sherbert and maybe an orange. Families walked the lanes and byways to gather holly to help to decorate the home.

Carol-singing was a natural undertaking during the week before Christmas and we would walk the woods to the hall and out-laying farms to earn an extra shilling (5p today) while searchlights sweeping the skies in readiness for incoming enemy bombers lit our paths in the blackout.

The chicken had to be plucked and the feathers made soft pillows for the bed. On the allotment the 'greens' were gathered for the 'meal of the year'. The Church choir practiced their annual festive carols. With the blackout I would collect the festive music sheets and books from All Saints Church with a torch so that we could practice in the village hall. Several services were conducted in the darkened church. Evensong was held in the gloom of the afternoon. Being head choir-boy I would hold the torch at the altar for Holy Communion so that the rector could see the scripture.

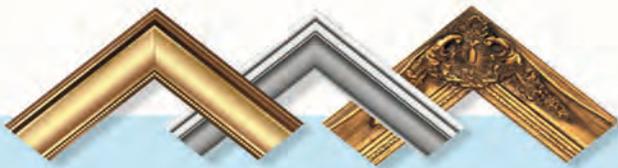
If there was snow, home-made sledges were made. The Riches Hill down Bath Hill was the perfect venue for some fun. During the early days of the war, twelve evacuees lived at the Hall and made the long walk to school in all weathers. One girl had an iron brace on her leg and another was in a wheelchair but they did it without any fuss or bother.

There was a concrete 'pill-box' adjacent to 'The Queen' pub and children would play hide & seek inside it. US servicemen from the camp at Earsham Park held parties for the local children.

They were indeed anxious times but we took each day with the hope that the next Christmas would be peaceful. JA




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The Day the Ground Trembled: with Bob Collis

75 years ago this month, East Anglia was in the grip of terrible winter conditions which often made operating aircraft almost impossible. Snow, ice and freezing fog had resulted in many fatal accidents. On 16 December the Germans launched their surprise Ardennes offensive and the famous "Battle of the Bulge" was underway. The Allies desperately wanted to use their bombers and supply dropping transports in support of the struggling ground forces but bad weather grounded most.

Then on 23 December, meteorologists gave the good news. A high pressure area was moving in and preparations began for a maximum effort on a scale hitherto unknown in the air war. "Everything that will fly" was the order and the American 8th Air Force Bomb Groups across the region complied. Even the brightly-coloured "Assembly ships" which usually did not fly with the formation after it had formed up, were scheduled for the mission, hurriedly retro-fitted with bomb racks and waist guns for defence.

24 December dawned frosty but clear and at 30 second intervals the bombers began to take off and form up, first into Squadrons, then into Groups, then into Wings, and finally into Divisions. It was a sight that those who witnessed it would never forget. As the bombers reached altitude they streamed vapour from their hot exhausts creating a beautiful but deadly picture for those far below on the other side of the North Sea as they approached. Some of the Bomb Groups put up over 60 aircraft. All told, 2,046 B-17 Fortress and B-24 Liberator bombers, escorted by over 800 fighters took to the air that morning. Over 20,000 men aloft in a giant phalanx of aircraft carrying more than 5,000 tons of bombs. So long was the bomber stream that day, that as the first aircraft were entering enemy airspace, the trailing elements were still crossing out over the Suffolk coast en route. There would be huge formations of over a thousand bombers in the months that followed, but never again would such a giant force take to the air. 12 bombers and 10 fighters were missing, and 11 more wrecked in crashes, mostly due to ice and fog on return.



The following day a much-reduced force operated. Sadly there was to be no Christmas Day truce in the air war. Today, the airfields from which this giant bomber force flew are returning to the farmland from whence they came. All that remain are the memorials, the memories of those who were there and the museums which pay tribute to all those brave young men who took to the air 75 years ago on Christmas eve in "The big one".

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REYDON LIGHTHOUSE LADIES

At the Lighthouse Ladies November meeting, Alex Bass, a Wildlife Bio-diversity tutor and Wildlife Guide from Coastal Leisure Learning visited us and talked about the Wildlife of Suffolk and the Heritage Coast, with the main focus on Minsmere.

He spoke of how Minsmere came into being, having been grazing marshes which were flooded in World War II as an anti-invasion measure. At that time the land was owned by Glencairn Stuart Ogilvie who, together with J.M. Barrie created Thorpeness.

He showed us many beautiful slides of these varied habitats and the wildlife which can be seen there and also treated us to wonderful impressions of bird calls, which caused great amusement. He also tested our knowledge of bird life - the Lighthouse Ladies rose to the occasion!

He also talked about Carlton Marshes, Hen Reedbed, Eastbridge and Westleton Heath as being good places for wildlife observation. We also learned that the row of poplars behind the Eels Foot Inn (originally a smugglers and drovers inn) were part of a plantation owned by Bryant and May which were harvested for matchstick making.

Our next meeting is on 21st January at 7.15 for 7.30 in Reydon Village Hall, when we will have a quiz social – visitors are welcome with a nominal charge of £2.

BEFORE YOU GET A PUPPY FOR CHRISTMAS

"My family brought me home, all cradled in their arms. They cuddled me and smiled at me and said I was full of charm. They played with me and laughed with me and showered me with toys. I sure did love my family, especially the little girls and boys."

"The children loved to feed me; they gave me special treats. They even let me sleep with them – all snuggled in the sheets. I used to go for walks, often several times a day. They even fought to hold the lead, I'm very proud to say."

"These are the things I'll not forget – a cherished memory. Now that I'm in the shelter – without my family. They used to laugh and praise me when I played with that old shoe. But I didn't know the difference between the old one and the new."

"The kids and I would grab a rag, for hours we would tug. So I thought I did the right thing when I chewed the bedroom rug. They said that I was out of control, and would have to live outside. This I didn't understand, although I tried and tried."

"The walks stopped, one by one, they said they hadn't time. I wish that I could change things; I wish I knew my crime. My life became so lonely in the backyard, on a chain. I barked and barked all day long to keep from going insane."

"So they brought me to the shelter but were embarrassed to say why. They said I caused an allergy, and then they each kissed me goodbye. If I'd only had some training when I was a little pup, I wouldn't have been so hard to handle when I was all grown up."

"You only have one day left, I heard the worker say. Does that mean I have a second chance? Do I go home today?"

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HALESWORTH TO SOUTHWOLD NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY

The Society would like to wish the community a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. Our volunteers (although there are never enough of them) continue to work - in difficult conditions - for our community railway. On some of the workdays in November, they ploughed on through very heavy rain and cold wind to lay track at the Folly on Halesworth Millennium Green: the Society is very grateful for these extraordinary efforts. Judging by the many favourable comments from passers-by, the community feels the same. The Society continues to receive sleeper sponsorship, but more is required - why not sponsor a sleeper for £35.00 as a Christmas present? As an essential part of the completed project, your sleeper will be a permanent reminder of Christmas 2019. Sponsor on our website www.halesworthtosouthwoldrailway.co.uk, or pick up a form at the library.

The Society had recruited 113 members by mid-November, and seems to be at a stage, a year and a half after inception, where public opinion is changing. There has always been a great deal of support locally - but where in the early days those few dissenters said that "they will never do it", now they believe it will happen, so they tend to ask "why bother?" or "it'll be a nuisance to me". So, in this report, we will change tack a little, to answer these rare objections.

The most recent figures show that turnover from the (approximately) 200 heritage railways in the UK was over £140,000,000, and on the most conservative official estimates, the "add-on" value (to other attractions, accommodation, shops, transport, food and drink providers, and so on) is five times that - which brings the annual nationwide value to well over half a billion pounds. Heritage railways welcome 13 million visitors each year, and employ 2,867 people, also providing meaningful work for about 22,000 volunteers, who, by definition, provide value to the community for nothing. Property values near heritage railways - so houses will be worth more.

In the case of our local railway, all that is needed to make it happen is a thin strip of land - 11 feet (3.5m) wide, on or near to where it ran from 1879 to 1929: and the HSR is almost unique in that the trackbed (with the exception of Halesworth terminus) is physically unobstructed - so it can be done, given goodwill. Small narrow-gauge trains travelling at the legal maximum of 25mph are quiet and unobtrusive (and while we are on the subject, the cloud which comes out of the chimney is water vapour - steam - H₂O), while at the same time providing a fascinating and authentic addition to the Suffolk countryside.

Battery electric technology is now perfectly capable of running an emission-free and silent service, when the line develops to become a means of transport. All that is needed is for owners of sections of trackbed to be willing to allow the railway to be restored to its historic place as part of Halesworth's transport and social history.

Much is said about the effect on wildlife. In fact, there is no evidence at all that such a line (or indeed any other heritage railway) in any way damages the ecology of the area. Railways - particularly heritage railways - are well known to be linear wildlife havens.

Travel on the Welsh Highland Railway in Snowdonia in spring or summer, and your train will pass close by one the few breeding osprey pairs in Wales - and the birds are thriving, not being at all affected by the trains. In fact, the trains form ideal "moving hides" from which the birds can be seen. Hundreds of other examples of wildlife and railways in harmony can be seen, from rail-side fields full of red kites in mid-Wales, to acres of bluebells in Sussex on the Bluebell Railway - from the heathland vistas on the North Norfolk Railway, to the upland pastures and wild flowers alongside the Lynton and Barnstaple and Ffestiniog Railways. Unusually, we are including a photo of another railway, (see page 23) so you can see a typical scene. So it's not a question whether Halesworth and Suffolk would benefit from a heritage railway - but whether Halesworth & Suffolk can afford not to have one! Ken and James, Co-Chairmen

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LOWESTOFT HODs & STARS OF SUFFOLK with Bob Collis

The efforts of both the volunteers and Steering Committee of the Lowestoft Heritage Open Days team were formally recognised when they received the news they had been nominated in the Team of the Year category at the prestigious "Stars of Suffolk" award ceremony.

For the second year running the Lowestoft group achieved the highest number of registered heritage locations or events open to the public in the county of Suffolk. This year the Lowestoft team entered the top 10 in England, an extraordinary achievement when one considers over 800 cities, towns and villages take part in the annual event. An estimated 15,000 people visited a wide array of buildings and locations during the fabulous 10 day event in September.



On Thursday 7th November in company with the gorgeous and extremely talented Diana Moore, I attended the awards ceremony at Greshams in Ipswich. We always knew we were going to be ranked outsiders, the other nominees being Beccles Carnival Committee and Fresh Start: New Beginnings, a charity who help sexual abuse victims.

The narrator described the Lowestoft HODs event as "An amazing success story" which indeed it was, but it was Fresh Start who took the award. We were however, presented with a Finalist Nominee award and a "bottle of bubbly" for our trouble.

So, for Paul King, "Baroness" Jo Leverett, Martin Halliday, Richard Mundy, Mike Sims and a whole host of people who gave of themselves to make it happen this year - this one's for you.

SLICK DIVISION, LOWESTOFT BAND AIMS TO TOP THE CHARTS THIS CHRISTMAS!

SLICK DIVISION one of the most prominent new bands in East Anglia hail from Lowestoft featuring two brothers Jonny and Josh Cooper. In June 2017, they released their debut E.P 'Thick as Thieves'; this received support from BBC Introducing who aired all tracks on local radio awarding a couple 'track of the week'.

After this, the brothers released a trio of outstanding singles, comprising of 'Statues', 'Tremors' and 'Blur'.

In 2019, SLICK DIVISION released their second EP 'Night Flight'; BBC Introducing showed support again; the boys are very proud of its success.

Their new charity single FRACTURED is something very special, released 24th November, in time for Christmas, this is a collaboration with the local BACK 2 LIFE Community Fund for Mental Health.

The song has received rave reviews and is currently supported by BBC Radio. Available from all major sites, including Amazon and iTunes it retails at just 99p.



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LEISTON PANTO TICKETS IN BIG DEMAND

Management at Leiston Film Theatre are urging panto-goers to buy their tickets before it's too late, as the venue makes final preparations, ahead of their next traditional family pantomime at the Leiston Film Theatre between in January.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears appears live on stage at the 105-year-old venue on Thursday 16th, Friday 17th, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th January, with demand for tickets so high, that seats for some performances are already limited, with over 1,000 tickets already sold.

The Pantomime has been written by Wayne Burns and Stephen Ginger, who between them have over 30 years of Pantomime behind them. The show is being brought to the stage under Wayne's 'Team B Productions' title - a group of experienced am-dram performers, many of which have previously appeared on the Film Theatre stage and whose previous sell-out successes have included shows at Leiston Film Theatre and at the Spa Pavilion Theatre in Felixstowe.

The group have ambitious plans to develop further and are promising another fun-filled family pantomime, packed to the panto brim with lots of slapstick family fun, toe-tapping tunes and a huge helping of audience participation, as they tell the

beloved tale of Goldilocks – a story that unfolds in the Pantoland village of Hump-on-the-Hill and sees Goldilocks venturing into the woods, where she encounters Mummy, Daddy and Baby Bear when she stumbles across their woodland home. When the wicked Ringmaster plots to capture the furry family and make them the stars of his Circus, it's up to Goldilocks, Silly Billy and even Dame Trump to come to the rescue.

The Pantomime sees renowned Suffolk musician Tom Horton returning as the musical director and the energetic students from the Coral Stebbings School of Theatre Dance will be making a welcome return to the stage, as part of the Pantomime extravaganza. Goldilocks and the Three Bears will be appearing live at the Leiston Film Theatre on Thursday 16th (7.30pm), Friday 17th (7.30pm), Saturday 18th (3.00pm and 7.30pm) and Sunday 19th (11.00am & 3.00pm) January.

Limited tickets are now available, priced £15.95, £14.95 and £13.95, with £1.00 off all tickets for the opening night (Thursday 16th January). Tickets can be purchased from the Leiston Film Theatre box office on 01728 830549

or on-line at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk.

BECCLES LADIES PROBUS CLUB

The Club is an organisation for retired and semi-retired ladies from all walks of life, the aim is to promote companionship and friendship to enjoy with like-minded ladies, and appreciate similar interests.

The meetings are held the Third Tuesday afternoon in each month at the St. John Ambulance Hall in Blyburgate, Beccles. A Speaker entertains on a variety of different topics, followed by tea and cake.

At the October meeting the Speaker was Nanna Lay, she demonstrated the art of making and cooking Danish Pastries, four different varieties which were all sampled by members and thoroughly enjoyed! The Club would like to encourage new Members to join. Please telephone the President, Jeannie Nicholson 01502 716320.

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SOLSTICE & YULE CELEBRATIONS

At Christmas time Christians celebrate the birth of Christ with Christ's Mass. Jesus was born in March but his birthday was moved to December 25th in an effort to overshadow the Solstice celebrations of December 21/22. The Winter Solstice is a magical event, sadly it is in the main a forgotten celebration now.

The Solstice is however, the complete antithesis of what has now become Christmas in contemporary society. Also known as 'Yule', the Solstice is generally celebrated on the 21st of December, The Winter Solstice is the shortest day, and longest night of the year, and is the traditional time to celebrate the truly important things in life: your family, your children, your home and looking forward to nature's springing into life! Yule is a time that for thousands of years has honoured love and new birth, as well as the collective unity of man. Just as Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ, Yule celebrates the birth of the Sun God - child of the Goddess in the Pagan belief system.



Many people associate the Winter Solstice, or winter itself with death, as it is the season in which nature is dormant, and in which many plants die and crops are scarce. Conversely, the Winter Solstice, although it is the longest night, (boasting more than 12 hours of darkness), it is also the turning point of the year, as following this night the sun grows stronger in the sky, and the days become gradually

longer once more. Thus the Winter Solstice is also a celebration of rebirth, and there are many traditions that stem from this perspective, like Holly Ivy and Mistletoe. The tradition of bringing sprigs of Holly and Ivy into the home pays homage to the masculine and feminine elements. Both of these powerfully magickal plants are evergreen, a reminder in itself that the earth never dies, but merely sleeps during the winter months, (a tradition which was the precursor to our modern tradition of the evergreen Christmas tree). The male element is represented by the prickly holly; with its sexually potent red berries. The mistletoe is the female; entwining, gentle yet powerful. An alternative view of Holly is that the leaves of the plant represent the male, whereas the red berries symbolise the resting Mother Goddess, and life returning to the land.

Although Mistletoe carries a broad array of customs, and benefits in ancient times, the tradition which has lived on is that concerning fertility and love. According to most current day traditions, a young woman stands under the mistletoe and awaits her lover's kiss. But from where did this tradition spring? It is considered that Mistletoe and kissing tradition is borne of a Norse myth.

The Norse god Balder was son of Frigga, goddess of love and beauty. She loved her son to such a degree that she had the four elements: Fire, Water, Air, and Earth- promise that they would not harm her son. However, Loki, an evil spirit, found the one thing that could defy this promise - mistletoe. He made an arrow from its wood, which was shot at Balder's heart, and he fell dead, and Frigga's tears became the mistletoe's white berries. Balder is however, restored to life, and Frigga is so grateful that she reverses the reputation of the offending plant--making it a symbol of love and promising to bestow a kiss upon anyone who passes under it.

In the true spirit of Yule, focus your celebrations as a family upon love, and the fact that every ending is a new beginning. There are many simple rituals that you can enjoy as a family, to seal your bonds and celebrate each other at this magical time of year.

SEASONS GREETINGS!

Wishing you all a wonderful festive season - From Stephen

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Winter Solstice & Festive Fayre

Incense Cone Burner Fairy Houses



A wonderful Winter Solstice Fayre is being held at Neal's Life Awareness Centre in Beccles on the evening of Thursday 19th December! Open at 6.45pm. Admission is FREE!

The Life Awareness Centre is held monthly at The Waveney Centre, New Market, Beccles NR34 9HE and the December gathering has been turned into a fabulous Winter Solstice Fayre with many stands featuring local artisans and producers of gifts, jewellery & much more. We are particularly pleased to be featuring produce from Black Moon Atelier, a really talented lady who creates wonderful figures and items inspired by Magical worlds. We have Lisa's Fairy World too plus rocks, minerals, crystals, jewels and natural creations.

The centre will be bedecked in a Winter Solstice theme with slide presentations playing continually. There will be a special appearance from local Harpist Wren Pretty who will set the tone with some beautiful music for all to enjoy. For that unusual gift for someone special - why not pop along and bring the family! There will be tea, coffee, fizzy, savouries and cakes!



Happy Christmas

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'Muncheon Mingle' win Stars of Suffolk Award

Community is an important aspect of life for students at SET Beccles School and local collaborations are frequent.

On Thursday 7 November Muncheon Mingle won the Community Award at the Stars of Suffolk Awards. Muncheon Mingle saw students from SET Beccles School and Sir John Leman High School work with the Communities Team at East Suffolk

Council to hold a series of intergenerational events to bring together young and older people. Congratulations to all involved!

Deck The Hall!

Deck the 'Hall' with bags of entertainment

Christmas is drawing nearer and Beccles Public Hall is getting into the spirit of the season.

SparkLive Pantomines will return to the Hall for the fifth year running from December 20th until January 1st, for a 14-performance run of the British classic Dick Whittington.

It tells the tale of a young man and his cat who make the journey to London on a quest for fame and fortune.

But with the evil Queen Rat hot on his trail, expect raucous comedy, singalong songs and a purrfect sprinkling of festive magic.

Firm favourite Daniel Hanton is back as Dame Sarah Sweetie, while 18-year-old Tom Major will make his professional debut as Dick Whittington.

A family ticket for two adults and two children is £44, adults are £13, children, £11 and concessions £12.

Great Yarmouth Brass will get the Christmas countdown underway with a concert on Friday, December 13, playing a series of family favourites. The band was founded in 1973 and still continues to provide regular concerts across the region today.

To book, pop into the box office, Monday to Saturday, between 10am and 3pm, or call 01502 770060 between these times.

Alternatively visit www.becclespublichall.co.uk



		BOX OFFICE 01502 770060 Open Mon - Sat 10am - 3pm Book online at: www.becclespublichall.co.uk
	Fri 13th Dec Tickets £8 and £7 (incl. complimentary mince pies)	
BECCLES' LAUGH OUT LOUD PANTO! DICK WHITTINGTON	Fri 20 Dec - Wed 1st Jan Adults £13 Conc £12 Children £11 Family Ticket £44 Performance Times Vary	
90s & 00s DISCO with the legendary PAUL ALLEN	Sat 11th Jan 8pm - Midnight £7.50 Groups of 4 or more £6 each	
YESTERDAY (12) Everyone in the world has forgotten The Beatles - except him!	Film @ The Hall Sun 12th Jan 2.30pm Tickets £5	
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THE GRUMPY OLD MAN-IFESTO!

If only the Grumpy Old Man was Prime Minister - VOTE FOR GRUMPY!

We currently have a parliament full of career politicians all shouting about how many billions of our pounds they will spend when they get into power - but they are not saying just how all those billions will be spent. Truth be told if they just pump countless billions into the NHS it will disappear down the same black hole as the last 50 billion. What we need is drastic changes to the structure of the NHS and some real changes to the way parliament looks after its people. Parliament must CARE. Here is how I would do it. If I am not politically correct then too bad. If I upset the snowflakes then too bad. Time for truth! Here we go!

THE NHS: Remove 4 out of every 5 so-called managers who seem to litter the fifth floors of hospitals like confetti. Remove overpaid consultants brought in to advise those inept managers. That will save billions. Nursing degrees abolished. Return to 'on the job' training and recognised qualification as before. Directly employ cleaners, catering and laundry staff answerable to hospital management. Hospitals to spend 75% of all funding on patient care. One general manager for each major department with 2 assistants - regularly liaise with surgeons and consultant doctors to decide budgets and game-plans. Abolish 50% of the bodies set up to 'service' the hospitals. The NHS would be free at the point of contact for all UK citizens of a minimum 10 years standing. All visitors to the UK and immigrants to be charged. Any patient who turns up at A & E after a drunken night out accident would be charged for treatment. Doctors would not be allowed to own their surgeries and/or the associated pharmacy. It is a system that is ripe with opportunities for over-prescribing and profiteering surely? **TAX:** Giant companies WILL pay tax. loop-holes closed.

Further Education: University degrees returned to pre 1970s academic standards & 3 Year City & Guilds Trades Qualifications requiring 4 days a week on the job training and one day at college would be re-instated.

Services: I don't think it is a good idea for all the profits from our railways, energy companies and water providers to be funnelled abroad. Therefore I would look into taking those companies back into British control by purchasing them from those European companies and offering them to British companies for day to day running. Electricity Gas & Water would again have regional offices and shops.

Holiday Homes. Owning more than one holiday home (unless a legitimate business of an agreed turnover) would be unlawful.

Council Houses: New council homes would be built to 1930s construction principles with good sized rooms, all modern eco systems installed & gardens for fruit & veg

Local Authority Structure: Large Councils to be abolished and we will return to the system of Parish, Urban District, Borough and County councils. Return the power of what happens in a town to the people of the town.

Schools: Arts, music & drama return to the curriculum Driver ed' & personal finance included in final year. No more playing fields will be sold off. For schools that have lost them, alternative sites will be sought. School leaving age lowered to 16 again. Mobiles in schools Banned

Benefits: Restore benefits for the disabled immediately **Care Homes** Care Homes and carers funded and operated by local councils.

Carers will have time to actually CARE!

Parliament: MPs expenses capped at £60 per week. All ministerial cars abolished. All gov officials will use public transport.

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Tel: 07999033452 Or send us a message on..



THE GRUMPY OLD MAN-IFESTO!

If only the Grumpy Old Man was Prime Minister - VOTE FOR GRUMPY!

THE EU: Brexit will mean just that. (Taken from Sky News Australia) And it is SO EASY and always has been it is just that parliament and the EU have all made it seem so difficult! There will be a British declaration that all existing European rules would apply in Britain until they are changed, but that no future ones made on the continent would apply unless adopted. And that no future decision of any European tribunal Council Court or Body would apply in the UK unless it was specifically adopted by a British one. The offer would be as follows: Trade with the EU would be entirely free of tariffs and quotas and there would be full mutual recognition of credentials and standards. There would be the free movement of people for work and high wages but not for welfare and all European citizens currently resident in Britain would be welcome to stay indefinitely and perhaps even apply for UK citizenship. And the ask would have been exactly the same the other way for Brits in Europe. And so-called divorce payments, well none, not a dollar, not a Euro, not a Pound, except for shared costs of ongoing joint projects. And, with Britain unilaterally proposing free movement of goods with Europe, there would be no need for a hard border with Ireland unless the EU tried to make the Irish have one. That then would be a problem for the Irish to resolve, not Britain. We would however enforce a 10 mile territorial waters for fishing.

VAT: VAT would be reduced to 15% immediately. Plus..New initiatives for tree-planting
Help for small farmers and Organic Market Gardeners
Incentives to return front gardens to grass & horticulture
Animal Cruelty to carry minimum sentence of 5 years
Remove prisons from the private sector.
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and much more! What do you think?

WAVENEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE FORUM

Most of us are looking forward to a fantastic family festive season, decorating our homes with twinkling lights and presents under the Christmas tree. Could we trouble you to spare a thought for those that may be less fortunate? Some people, who may have suffered abuse for many years, have finally made the decision for their own and their children's safety, to move away from their family home, even though this should be one of the happiest times of the year. The only other option, to remain, may lead to more serious injury or sometimes death.

By finally seeking help, they may be moved into a place of refuge away from the perpetrator. This can sometimes mean moving many miles away from friends and family. New doctors and other support services will need to be changed.

WDVAF started life as a forum and has been supporting people and their families who have been impacted by domestic abuse for some 39 years. We registered as a charity some 8 years ago. We are a small organisation with a real passion to help survivors through this heinous crime.

Should you need any help, advice or are part of an organisation that you feel would benefit from more information, then please do not hesitate to contact us
Tel: 01502 572143 or email info@waveneydvforum.org.uk
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WHAT'S ON GUIDE

This Guide is a free service and is open to all local fundraising & community events
 Entries are subject to editing and inclusion is subject to space. Incomplete entries will not be included
 Email the details in the format and order as below to: the.buglemag@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday 3rd December - Christmas Open Meeting for Loddon Flower Club. Demonstration by David Wright 'Christmas Dreams' Hobart High School, Loddon, NR14 6JU, 6.15 for 7pm. Visitors £12 inc drink & buffet. Stalls, raffle Tel: Tricia 01508-480522.

Wednesday 4th December. Reydon Women's Institute at Reydon Village Hall at 2.30 pm Mr E. Punaks talks about The Craft of Comic Verse. Do come and join us, all are welcome. Contact Sue Pretty 01502 724361

Thursday 5th December. Beccles and District Historical Society meets at 7.30pm at Hungate Church, Beccles, NR34 9TT. Topic: To The Hammer Born by Stephen Poulter. Admission £2. All Welcome.

Thursday 5th December. You are invited to Beccles library at 7pm to help solve 'a murder most fowl - who killed the farmer?' a crime with clues to help solve whodunnit. £5, inc mulled wine and mince pies.

Saturday 7th December - Make your own Christmas Wreath, at the CORE Wortwell Community Centre, IP20 0HS, doors open 1.45pm entry £15. Booking essential as limited space is available. Call Sarah or Chas on 01986 788079

Saturday 7th December Wenhaston Village Hall Christmas Bazaar 2.00 - 4.00. Festive Stalls, Raffle, Father Christmas in his Grotto. Cafe Open. Come and join the Christmas Spirit everyone welcome. Details Carol Hudson-Jary on: 07864083296.

Saturday 7th December 10.00am – 12.00pm Friends of Southwold Library Coffee Morning. Stella Peskett Millennium Hall. Hot drinks, mince pies/ biscuits. Cake Stall, Craft Stalls, Book Stall, CDs/DVDs & Raffle. Supporting Southwold Library

Saturday 7th December. 1.30pm - 3.30pm Pakefield Church Hall - popular Christmas Fayre with gifts, craft stalls, bric-a-brac, books and bottles, etc. with grand raffle. Admission Free. Refreshments

Saturday 7 December Lowestoft RNLI Fundraising Branch - Christmas Concert with Carols, Pakefield Church. 6 pm - 8 pm. Tickets £7 includes tea or coffee and mince pie. Contact Elaine on 01502 588148.

Sunday 8th December The Waveney Centre in Beccles Annual Christmas Carol Service 2pm start - ALL WELCOME - free admission and stay for coffee and mince pies afterwards.

Monday 9th December 2.00pm. Meet Local Author Martin Wanger (Pseudonym Madeline Dando). He will talk about his life, his struggle as an un-published author, explain how to self-publish and give his views on creative writing.

Thursday 12th December Halesworth & District Gardeners' Society meet at St. Mary's Church Hall, Halesworth, 7.15 for 7.30. Charlie Haylock will "Talk". Members Free, Non-Members £1. Raffle. Refreshments.

Saturday 14th December. Christmas Fayre - Yoxford Village Hall - IP17 3HN. 11am-2pm Free entry. Over 25 new stalls, hand made items, cards, christmas stocking fillers, cakes, savouries and more. Mulled wine & mince pies. In aid of hall refurbishment

Saturday 14th December Sing Out Yoxford present An Evening of Song, St Peter's Church, Wenhaston 7.30. Adm Free.

Saturday 14 December Carol Singing. Join Beccles Friends of Cancer Research UK as they sing carols to raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK at Tesco, Beccles from 10am to 12 noon and from 2 to 4pm. All abilities welcome. Just turn up on the day.

Sunday 15th December Halesworth Community Choir fortnightly rehearsal, 10.30-12.30, The Cut Arts Centre, Halesworth. We're looking for new members - first taster session free. www.hcc1.no-ip.info email: halesworth.community.choir@gmail.com.

Tuesday 17th December - Southwold Jazz Appreciation Society meets in Reading Room, Swan Hotel, Southwold at 7.30. Seasonal programme of Members requests. Small entry charge. All welcome.

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WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Thursday 19th December. Top Time Open House at Beccles Library. 2.00pm. 'Christmas Time' - Poems, readings and a song or two with Alan Weyman. There will be mince pies and mulled wine to enjoy! No need to book, just come along.

Friday 20th December Carol Singing. Join Beccles Friends of Cancer Research UK as they sing carols to raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK at Morrisons Beccles 10am to 12 noon and from 2 to 4pm. All abilities welcome. Just turn up on the day.

Friday 20th December Caedman at Christmas, 7pm. Wrentham Chapel. Music, word & song with buffet and drinks. Attendees are welcome to bring contributions to the entertainment. Free Entry. Retiring collection. Tel: Sue 07771 882 738

Saturday 21st December South Lowestoft Methodist Church (corner of Carlton Road and LRS) will be serving coffee and mince pies 10am to 3pm. See our Christmas decorations. Free admission but accepting donations for EACH and Dementia UK.

Sunday 22nd December 11.30am Festive Badger Craft. Come and decorate your very own Christmassy badger to hang on your Christmas tree. For more details contact Southwold Library 01502 722519

Friday 27th December Join the RSPB Lowestoft & District Local Group for their Christmas Community Walk. Meet at 10am in Normanston Park for a walk to Oulton Broad and back. All welcome, facilities available. Leader: Edwina Beaumont

Sunday 29th December. The Bungay Car Club AutoJumble & Bric-a-Brac Sale at Earsham Village Hall. 8.30am - 12.30pm Donation admission, tables £5-00. Details and allocation, Paul Mauldon 01986 872537. Some yard space available at the hall.

Friday 3rd January 2020 RSPB Lowestoft & District Local Group meet at St Mark's Church Centre, Oulton Broad, NR33 9JX at 7.30pm for a talk entitled 'Plants of Macaronesia', All welcome, visitors £3.00

Regular Events

Every Monday: Adult Acting for fun, drama classes. 7.15 - 8.30pm at Southwold Arts centre. Tracy: 07960006479

Every Monday morning 9.30 - 11.30 and Thursday afternoons 2.30 - 4.30 BADMINTON for over 50's at Waterlane Leisure Centre. Lowestoft. Some experience needed. Contact Betty on 01502574609 for further details.

Monday's & Thursday's Adult Japanese Karate classes 8.30-9.30pm Ruckus MMA Gym, 138 London Road North

First Tuesday of the month Coffee Morning at Frostenden & South Cove Village Hall, Gipsy Lane, Frostenden. 10.30 - 12noon £1.50 admission for Village hall funds. A warm welcome awaits.

Every Wednesday. Table Tennis, Ringsfield Village Hall, NR34 8NT. 2pm - 4pm all abilities welcome. £2 per session.

Every Wednesday. Coffee Morning at The Salvation Army. Beccles. NR34 9TQ. 9-30 to 11-30am.

Every Third Wednesday of the month. Whist Drive at Wangford Community Centre. 7.30pm. Refreshments. Adm £1.50

Every Tuesday & Friday North Lowestoft United Reformed Church Coffee Shop. London Road North, 10am - 12 noon.

Every Thursday Adult Tap-dancing lessons - 7.30 - 8.30pm Millennium Hall, Southwold. Contact Tracy - 07960006479

Every Friday. Beccles Country Market, Quaker Hall, Smallgate. 9.15-11am. Enq: Jill Pulford 01502 715826

Every Friday 10am - 2pm The Hub Café at Gunton Baptist Church, (corner of Hollingsworth Road and Montgomery Ave) Free tea, coffee & soft drinks. Snack meals, toasties, jackets etc. Tel: 01502 537798

Last Friday of each month - MINI MARKET AND CAFE - Blythburgh Church from 10:30am to 12 noon.. All welcome.

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East Coast Events presents:

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Southwold Festive Bazaar

Southwold Winter Solstice Fair



Saturday 14 December 11am - 3pm

Saturday 21 December 11am - 3pm

United Reformed Church Hall, off High Street, Southwold (next to Barclay's Bank)

Gunton Estate Community Hall, Hollingsworth Rd, Lowestoft

Every Tuesday: Open House, 10 - 11.30am, bric-a-brac, local councillors. Refreshments - 9am - 11.30

Every Thursday: Coffee Morning with Bingo 10.30am - 11.15am. Refreshments from 9 - 10.15am.

Every Friday: Fresh Produce Co-op bags of veg & fruit £3 each. Half veg bags £1.50p bric-a-brac. 12noon - 3pm,

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The Gift Shop Oulton Broad - 10 Years young!

This December, The Gift Shop in Oulton Broad celebrates 10 years under current ownership. Andrew took over the business back in 2009, after working for the previous owner who retired.

Those familiar with Oulton Broad will know that The Gift Shop has been on Bridge Road for many decades, with its origins dating all the way back to the 1950s. Humble beginnings offering just a few lines of postcards and novels to tourists, on the new 'broads holidays', soon evolved into a full gift shop with all manner of gift items.

Today the shop has continued to evolve, now providing a wide array of gifts, souvenirs, cards and wrap, collectables, figurines, home fragancing and personalised gifts, and there is a new website offering its products to customers worldwide.

Many people know that The Gift Shop has lots of lovely items for the continuing tourist trade in Oulton Broad, but the shops true focus remains offering gorgeous gifts for the local customers. Stepping inside the shop you will find a little 'Aladdin's Cave' of beautiful gifts, with top brands including Disney Traditions, Willow Tree and Ashleigh & Burwood (the biggest range of fragrance lamps in the area), plus unusual gifts that you won't find everywhere else.

"Good quality matched to sensible prices is key", says Andrew. "Many of our suppliers are small businesses who the big shops wouldn't even consider. We have just taken in a new range of candles and wax melts that are made by a small company in Suffolk".

There is a loyalty card scheme and this December enjoy a free glass of prosecco and chocolate to

celebrate the shops anniversary.

Mention The Bugle and get 10% DISCOUNT too! Shop local this Christmas and discover unusual, affordable, gifts to give – and maybe treat yourself too! The Gift Shop, 119 Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, NR33 9JU

Phone 01502 573219

www.thetraditionalgiftshop.com



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Me Behave? Seriously?

As a child I saw Tarzan almost naked. Cinderella arrived home after midnight, Pinocchio told lies, Alladin was a thief, Batman drove over 200 miles per hour, Snow White lived in a house with seven men, Popeye smoked a pipe and had tattoos, Pac Man ran around to digital music while eating pills to enhance his performance and Shaggy and Scooby were mystery solving Hippies that always had the munchies.

If you lived through all these fantastic shows and just enjoyed the fun of it all, then good for you. Today's programmes are so influenced by the PC brigade many of those fantastic kids shows probably wouldn't get made today - and that is a crying shame.



Win a Meal For Two at Wenhaston Star



Identify the famous film star pictured on the right. Email your answer to us on: the.buglemag@yahoo.co.uk Including your address Closing date 14th December



Last month's winner was Alison Church from Halesworth who correctly identified Donald O'Connor

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LET'S GET A LOCAL BAND INTO THE TOP 20 FOR CHRISTMAS

Southwold Old Hospital Renovation

Wellington Construction Ltd are redeveloping the Victorian building for a community hub and affordable housing. In an ambitious attempt to preserve as much of the original structure as possible, the construction team have been faced with unique challenges.

Jamie Tennant, Site Manager, says the team had no idea what was in store for them when they started demolition work on the old hospital in June this year. However, it soon became apparent that the age and history of the building would make the renovation very complicated. Firstly, foundations from the old Town Farm, which stood on the site through the eighteen hundreds, prevented the builders from laying normal footings.

After removing huge quantities of rubble from the site, pile foundations had to be constructed. This process involves driving several vertical steel columns deep into the ground to give enough support to the new building which will sit on top.

More problems have arisen as the team have tried to save some of the original features of the historic building. Unfortunately, the chimney stacks and some of the old walls were too unstable to retain, and the builders have had to carefully remove many of the old bricks by hand. The team's dynamic and optimistic approach has ensured that the entire front facade of the old hospital will be preserved, with steel structures now being put in place to support the frontage while construction of the new walls continues.

It's not only the old walls that are historically significant, but also what lay beneath them. Mr Tennant and

his team made the fascinating discovery of two half-pennies, dated 1887 and 1901. It's believed the coins were placed under the build as part of a 'builder's rites' ceremony, a tradition where money or newspapers are placed below flooring. This practice has largely died out but was once customary during the construction of public buildings. A mysterious brick structure has also been uncovered about four meters underground. It is suspected that this was a WW1 air raid shelter built for the protection of hospital staff and patients.

Matt Bell of Modece Architects Ltd describes how the brickwork of the facade has been restored using lime mortar, as was used in the original build. Mr Bell says that 'Lime mortar is good for the historic fabric of the building, due to its flexible and breathable qualities and it is also highly sustainable in comparison to cement based mortars'. Although the building's past has shaped the current remodelling, the architects have also considered its future use and environmental impact. The new build includes several environmentally friendly features, such as solar panels to provide electricity and air source heat pumps supplying hot water and heating.

The Old Hospital Hub, which is due to open in 2020, will provide a co-working space, a nursery and a farm to fork cafe, as well as a new home for Southwold library. The hub will be managed by SouthGen, a charitable community benefit society who partnered with Hastoe Housing to buy back the old community hospital last year. The design for the renovated building includes 9 affordable homes to be built by Hastoe.

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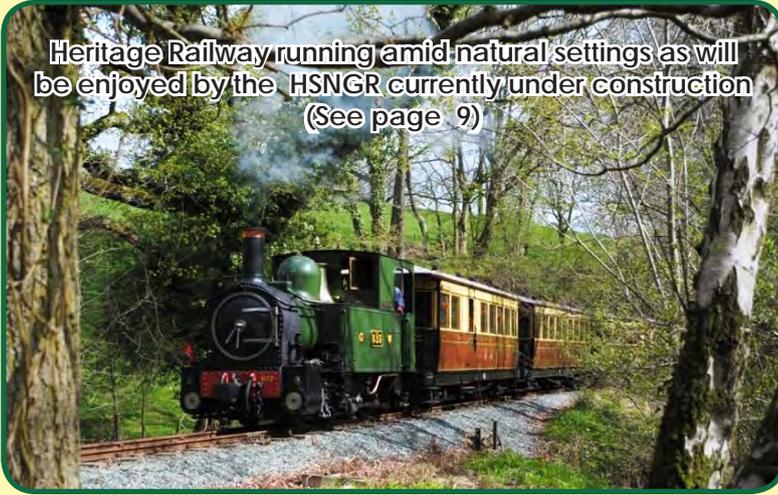
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The Bugle - Pictures Extra!



Heritage Railway running amid natural settings as will be enjoyed by the HSNR currently under construction (See page 9)



Let's not forget. Remembering the horses that died in WW1 - at Lowestoft sea front.



Newly renovated end wall and restored facade at Southwold Hospital site (opp)



Half pennies from 1887 & 1901 found at Southwold Hospital renovation (opp)

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Thurs 19th Dec at 7.30pm

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Fri 27th & Sat 28th Dec at 3.00pm & 7.15pm

Sun 29th Dec at 6.30pm, Mon 30th Dec at 7.15pm

Tues 31st Dec at 3.00pm

Thurs 2nd Jan at 3.00pm & 7.15pm

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