

President's Address

Dear all,

The Annual Report for 2020 makes interesting reading. Its contents reflect the steadfast commitment of the LA&LHS committee, members, supporters and advisors, who have banded together throughout the year to ensure that, despite every obstacle and complication encountered, the last 12 months represent continued progression and advancement in the Museum's exciting evolution and the role the Society plays in the preservation, understanding and sharing of our history and heritage.

During such an extended period of upheaval and deprivation of traditional social interaction, one might expect there to be little to report upon. However, whilst the Museum has been unable to welcome visitors, almost all public events have been prevented and any income stream has been depleted, the private time and personal energy invested by some members in pro-actively mastering new, or refining existing, technology skills has been incredibly productive. It has facilitated outreach into the community with online presentations and talks, increased the level of accessibility to information and imagery for fellow-enthusiasts and also led to the production of a digital newsletter; all of which has enriched our lives during many difficult months. It has undoubtedly raised our profile amongst new audiences. This has been admirable work by several people and will, I believe, help to enhance the capabilities, relevance and reputation of the LA&LHS as we move into the third decade of the 21st Century.

Equally, there has been quiet, dedicated application of skill and care to the fabric of the Museum by teams of people who have actively taken advantage of the fact the building has had to remain closed to the public. As you will read, projects have been moving forward and opportunities taken to progress plans for some significant future developments. Interestingly, the requirement to record the comings and goings of volunteers to the Museum site in a register of attendance has highlighted just how generous members are with their time and attention: the number of hours invested is amazing and the Museum would be the poorer without them.

There have been meetings of Trustees and sub-committees, fruitful partnership with Oulton Broad Parish Council, plus valuable input from both the Making Waves Project and the Museums Project. So, from every aspect, positivity has shone through.

It is my pleasure to publicly offer thanks and appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this report, by ensuring that through their tireless enthusiasm and dedication, there is something to report upon! It has been a challenging year, and perhaps it concludes in a way we could not have anticipated; but, in light of the bigger context of circumstance, please read the report with pride.

Elizabeth Talbot

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All line drawings in this report are by courtesy of Paul Durbidge

Chair's Report

At the beginning of 2020 the society was in a fantastic position. Our membership numbers were as high as anyone could remember. We began the year by announcing the appointment of a new president, following the sad passing of former president Malcolm Berridge. We were very pleased to announce that auctioneer Elizabeth Talbot agreed to join us. We look forward to great future together. We got programme year off to a good start on 23rd January when Anthony Thurston presented his talk 'Aspects of War in Lowestoft'. This was followed by talks in February by Robin Keightley (Battlefield tours) and Ivan Bunn (The work of John Louth Clemence). These first three talks of the year were well attended by many members and visitors too.

In February the Winter Meal was held at the Lowestoft College restaurant. This was enjoyed by all who attended. Special thanks to Ray Collins who organised this so well this year and every year.

In early March the Suffolk Local History Council's 'Societies Day' was held at Elmswell. Marilyn and Rodney Duerden put a display together to promote the Lowestoft Museum. The event was also attended by Janis Kirby and myself. Society's day also supplies the opportunity to talk to other groups across the county sharing knowledge with each other and getting new ideas.

On 12th March Trudie Jackson presented her talk 'The Rev Francis Cunningham and the Abolition of Slavery'. By this date the effects of the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic had begun. Although, I must add, on this date it was still perfectly legal for us to meet and the full effects of the virus were yet to be realised. Unfortunately, the virus did affect the turnout of members. Trudie is an excellent speaker, having seen her perform before, so hopefully we can have her back in the future with a larger audience.

The committee made an early decision, in order to keep our members safe, to cancel the remaining three talks we had scheduled.

In the national lockdown, throughout April and May, the society attempted to bring something to its members by presenting online talks; utilising our Facebook page to do this. During this period, I presented two of my talks 'The London Underground' and local Lowestoft talk 'The Changing Esplanade'. A member of our Facebook group, Nick Black, also volunteered his services and presented his on-line talk 'The Life and Times of Frank Vigers Worthington'. I thank Nick for supplying his services and knowledge for free in which was a difficult time for us all. He is due to present a talk to the society in the future and we look forward to seeing him in the flesh.

Our AGM was postponed and was held on 10th September at Pakefield Church Hall. Special thanks must go to Marilyn and Rodney Duerden for not only organising this but ensuring all Covid 19 procedures were in place and legal requirements met. There were some key changes at this meeting. Irene Ashman, who had been the secretary for at least 20 years retired from that role but remains on the committee. Jenny Hatton was elected as the new secretary. Rodney Duerden, having served his three-year term as chair, stood down from the role - as stated in the constitution - and I was elected as the new chair. Ron Ashman who has been part of the committee for decades, taking on many roles in that time including at least two stints as chair to my knowledge, retired from the committee. Jeremy Stine was elected as Vice Chair and David Hatton was elected to the committee. Special thanks and presentations were carried out to say a sincere thank you to both Ron and Irene Ashman for their service to the society's committee. I would like to add my personal thanks here to the both of them, and also my thanks to Rodney Duerden for his work throughout his three - year term as chair.

In September many society members got involved in the national Heritage Open Days. Janis Kirby, Sue Barnard and Paul Durbidge and I all contributed to events with great success.

In the autumn Sue Barnard took responsibility for putting together a newsletter which was made available to all members. This was a good vehicle to show our members we were still active. It included articles from Rodney Duerden, Paul Durbidge, Elizabeth Talbot, David Butcher, Ivan Bunn and I.

In December we decided to utilise the society's Facebook group again by doing an 'Advent Calendar'. This consisted of uploading a local picture of interest each day during advent. At the time of writing we are on day 12 and it is going very well. This event has increased our online group to over 840 members. The hope being that we can transfer this new interest into our paid society membership in the coming year.

What a year it has been indeed. At the time of writing, we are still unsure what 2021 will bring and when we will be able to resume in person activities and talks in halls. But there is hope that it should not be too long. We have a strong committee, of which I am proud to be the chair and I am sure that any challenges the future brings we shall meet to continue the success of our great society.

Richard Mundy



Mariners Score

Membership list

Honorary members

Mr P Durbidge

Mr A Charlton

Members

Ms J Arnopp

Mr I Hart

Mr D Pyecroft

Mrs I Ashman

Mr J Harvey

Mrs S Pyecroft

Mr R Ashman

Mr D Hatton

Mr D Randelsom

Ms J Baldwin

Mrs J Hatton

Mr P Rasbery

Ms S Barnard

Mr B Jeffrey

Mr J Read

Mrs J Berrey

Ms C Kimmance

Mrs A Sims

Ms J Brown

Mrs J Kirby

Mr S Sims

Mr J Knowles

Mrs P Smith

Mr D Chivers

Mrs M Knowles

Mr C Stone

Mr R Collins

Ms S Layzell

Mr J Stone

Mr B Cook

Ms J Long

Ms M Symonds

Ms S Day

Mr S Lovewell

Mrs I Thompson

Mr E Diestelkamp

Ms K Matatko

Mr P Thompson

Mrs M Duerden

Mr D Matthew

Mrs H Townsend

Mr R Duerden

Mr R Mundy

Mrs T Unitt

Mrs J Durbidge

Mrs I O'Toole

Mr H Van Pelt

Ms P Ewels

Mrs D Peck

Mrs J Van Pelt

Ms P George

Mrs T Penman

Ms S Webber

Mrs D Gillings

Mr T Phelps

Mr P Gillings

Mr P Pulfer

Obituary

Just as we were going to print, we learned of the death of Sue Barnard, one of the committee members. She will be sadly missed by all of her friends in the Society.

LOWESTOFT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Regd. Charitable Trust No. 268011

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019 -2020

INCOME		
<u>2018/2019</u>		<u>2019/2020</u>
811.00	Membership Fees	969.00
320.00	Visitors	330.50
60.00	Annual Reports	73.00
420.00	Gifts and Donations	500.00
0.00	Fund Raising	47.00
38.00	Sundry	24.50
2.96	Deposit Account Interest	5.97
214.00	Xmas Social College Meal Feb.19	na
na	Xmas Social College Meal Feb.20	420.00
1865.96		2369.97
	Cash and Bank Balances at 1/4/19	
	Cash in hand 57.79	
	Current Account 931.67	
	Deposit Account 2933.57	
	3923.03	3923.03
		6293.00
EXPENDITURE		
<u>2018/2019</u>		<u>2019/2020</u>
306.00	Lecturers Fees	150.00
208.00	Charitable Donations	158.00
336.00	Room Hire	336.00
11.25	Postage, Printing and Stationery	16.98
36.45	Annual Report costs	48.64
420.00	Sundry	504.99
25.00	Suffolk Local History Council	25.00
214.00	Xmas Social. . . . College Meal Feb.19	na
na	Xmas Social. . . . College Meal Feb.20	420.00
1556.7		1659.61
	Cash and Bank Balances at 31/3/20	
	Cash in hand 76.81	
	Current Account 1617.04	
	Deposit Account 2939.54	
	4633.39	4633.39
		6293.00

The assets of the Society, as written down for the current year, are as follows :

Laptop £450, Digital Projector £310.

R.A.COLLINS, HON. TREASURER.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have reviewed the financial statements of the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society for the year ended 31 March 2020 and agreed the entries to the supporting documentation.

The financial statements have been reviewed solely for the confidential use of the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society and may not be relied upon for any other purposes whatsoever.

I neither owe nor accept any duty to any other party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by their reliance on these figures.

Auditor

Date

Signed by the Chairman at the Annual General Meeting, 28th May 2020.

Museum Report

When Lowestoft Museum closed at Halloween 2019 for the Winter break, there were already detailed plans for the new season starting at Easter 2020, including family quizzes and trails, saffron “Dingers” and a display of the Somerleyton bronze hoard from the British Museum. The Hoard was due on Monday March 23rd, just before re-opening but Lockdown 1 arrived instead and the Museum has remained closed to the public throughout. Volunteers who steward when the Museum is open, were consulted but because of age and shielding, too few felt able to man the desk to make a success of a restricted access.

Even so, there has been a lot of work done. Paul Durbidge established a fresh display in the case where the bronzes were to be, and he has been in, safely distanced from the other conservators who work on most Mondays since. The new infra-red heating (thanks to OBPC) was installed and eventually “fired up” resulting in a much cosier environment for the winter workers and improving the relative humidity to the great benefit of all the displays. The cellar, however continues to be a problem and several consultations have taken place to remedy the ingress of water which contributes to deterioration of fabric and artefacts.

Two rooms above the foyer, in what was the park keeper’s flat, were transferred to the Museum by OBPC and have been given planning permission to convert into one large space with access through a blocked-up arch to the rest of the Museum. A business plan has been drawn up by Patricia Day, from “Making Waves Together”, incorporating the creation of an Education Room and re-organising the Porcelain displays. She also attended outside the entrance to Broad House, on three separate days during the Heritage Open Days in September, to talk about fossils and flints, with examples from the reserve collection.

During the pandemic restrictions, there have been “safe” meetings of MMC and Trustees as well as online with OBPC and LTC to discuss the building plans and ways to obtain funding for the various work which is planned for all areas of Broad House. A record of all volunteers entering the Museum and the length of visit, has shown how much time they contribute even when it is closed.

It has been an unusual year as everyone will obviously know but the strength of the team at Lowestoft Museum has been a really valuable example of ways of working in the face of adversity. We look forward to re-opening at Easter 2021, with many new and re-furbished displays.

Museum Accounts

LOWESTOFT MUSEUM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	2020 Unrestricted Funds	2020 Restricted Funds	Total	2019
Income				
Donations and fundraising	2,215.89	-	2,215.89	2,764.97
M Turner	-	-	-	6,000.00
Interest from National Savings and Natwest	222.38	-	222.38	146.75
Shop and book sales	2,319.60	-	2,319.60	2,550.68
	<u>4,757.87</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,757.87</u>	<u>11,462.40</u>
Expenses				
WDC - share of donations	1,040.40	-	1,040.40	1,279.99
Display and maintenance	878.51	-	878.51	1,051.12
Subscriptions	186.40	-	186.40	184.00
Insurance	1,399.57	-	1,399.57	1,315.65
Valuation	-	-	-	350.00
Training	-	-	-	228.00
Banners etc	-	-	-	321.60
Sundries	170.99	-	170.99	156.74
Printing, stationery and postage	131.59	-	131.59	144.62
Shop purchases	651.15	-	651.15	1,458.37
	<u>4,458.61</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,458.61</u>	<u>6,490.09</u>
Movement in funds	<u>299.26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299.26</u>	<u>4,972.31</u>

**LOWESTOFT MUSEUM
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

	2020 Unrestricted Funds	2020 Restricted Funds	Total	2019
Current Assets				
Cash in hand	71.72	-	71.72	179.59
Bank current account	1,357.45	-	1,357.45	1,134.62
Business reserve account	9.56	-	9.56	9.51
National Savings account	22,604.77	6,000.00	28,604.77	28,382.44
	<u>24,043.50</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>30,043.50</u>	<u>29,706.16</u>
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	38.08	-	38.08	-
Net Current Liabilities	<u>24,005.42</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>30,005.42</u>	<u>29,706.16</u>
Funded by				
Balance at 1 April 2019	23,706.16	6,000.00	29,706.16	24,733.85
Movement in funds	299.26	-	299.26	4,972.31
	<u>24,005.42</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>30,005.42</u>	<u>29,706.16</u>
Total funds as at 31 March 2020				

The trustees have agreed the restricted fund represents the money received from Mr Turner and be held for the specific purpose of dedicating a room to the memory of Mr and Mrs Turner.

Talks report

Suffolk Police Battlefield Tours - Robin Keightley – 13 February 2020

The previous talk, two weeks earlier, had been about the visible remains of wartime conflicts in the Lowestoft area, whereas the title of this one would seem at first glance to have little relevance to local history. As the well-illustrated presentation unfolded, however, the more this talk appeared like the reverse side of the same coin.

Robin began by showing how his interest in visiting battlefields and war graves on the near continent grew out of his childhood in Bungay, living close to St. Mary's churchyard and a war memorial, after his Londoner parents were relocated to Clays the printers following bomb damage to their home area.

No child born or growing up just after WWII could have been unaware of family members or friends affected by serving in the armed forces, some of whom never returned home. As a member of 1st Bungay Sea Scouts, Robin performed Bob-A-Job tasks including one at a country house near Hedenham, not far from Bungay, involving dusting a large collection of stuffed animals with DDT for an elderly gentleman. Unexpectedly, he turned out to be a war hero, Lt. Colonel Victor Buller Turner, the recipient of a Victoria Cross for his conspicuous gallantry in the Western Desert on October 27th 1942 and even more remarkably, the brother of Alexander Buller Turner, who was similarly recognised for his bravery in France but killed in action on September 28th 1915.



Lt Col Victor Buller Turner VC



Lt Alexander Buller Turner VC.

When Robin joined the police, he was trained in Oxford and later posted to Lowestoft where, as was often the case, his superior officers were military men, navy as well as army veterans whose tales of their service made a mark on the young constable, and encouraged his desire to study more closely the theatres of war, initially on trips to hypermarkets in Calais or Zeebrugge, then further afield to search for relatives such as Great Uncle Brett. This new interest was passed on to colleagues and with the help of Colonel Alain Chissel, who had set up a Battlefield Tour Company in Essex, now known as Anglia Travel, and experts such as Bill McQuade, groups of police were able to visit on different occasions, as many as 14 widely separated sites, from D-Day Landings to Berlin, from Dunkirk to Berchtesgaden.



Of all the cemeteries and war graves visited, perhaps the most evocative of all is the Menin gate where nightly at 8 pm, the Last Post is sounded.

The Work of John Louth Clemence Ivan Bunn 27 February 2020
Lowestoft



Marine Terrace

This excellent presentation by Ivan was not only a fascinating story of Clemence's work, much of it in and around Lowestoft, but also the additional aspects of his civic life which developed into a character whom, as Ivan said, "one would like to meet".

Ivan divided the talk into sections, early architect, middle antiquarian and late civic-leader stages of Clemence's long life. He was born in 1822 and baptised at St. Mary-le-Bow in London. Little is known of his early years apart from what he writes in a document completed as 'Candidate's Separate Statement', applying to membership of R.I.B.A. in 1883. He worked with his father from the age of 10, then with Charles Cockerell for four years. In 1846 he was with Samuel Morton Peto and then Lucas brothers in Norwich and Lowestoft. From 1854 he was in Lowestoft almost continuously, managing a large building works and 700 men for Lucas Bros. beside Lake Lothing, where Asda now is.

Among the early architecture he was involved in were The Old School, Cambridge and the Bank of England branch in Manchester. It can be seen that during this formative period, John developed a liking for the classical triangular pediment and round topped arches, features which can be discerned on almost all the buildings he designed. Some still exist but not all. For the last years of his life, he lived in No. 14 Marine Terrace one of the only remaining original houses in this fine development which made Lowestoft the desirable resort it was to become.



The next notable building he designed between 1853 and 1861 was St. John's, sadly demolished when the stone work was badly affected by the 1953 flooding.

During the next stage in his career, Clemence made designs for the Harbour Village with well constructed houses for workers fitted for the first time with flushing toilets. One of these streets, between Denmark Road and Norwich Road is named Clemence Street in his memory.



On the High Street are two buildings designed by Clemence, one the Methodist Church, now demolished (only four shallow arches remain) and the other the Town Hall, empty but awaiting

restoration. The latter's Italianate design shows several of the features which he incorporated into many of his works, namely the triangular pediment and rounded arch to the upper windows.

Ivan proceeded to list numerous other buildings, some extant, with which Clemence was involved, such as Kirkley Cemetery, and elsewhere in Lowestoft and also in Beccles, Norwich and further afield.



Kirkley Cemetery Chapel and Lych Gate

As Ivan Bunn is in the process of producing a book on this very subject, it will be suitable to await that publication and not attempt to list them all here.

During this productive period as an architect, J.L. Clemence was also fully involved as a volunteer with the 17th Suffolk Rifles, from 1861 as ensign, lieutenant in 1870 and captain the following year. A picture in the Journal of 1875 shows him in officer's uniform. He continued after his wife's death in 1871 but finally resigned in 1877.



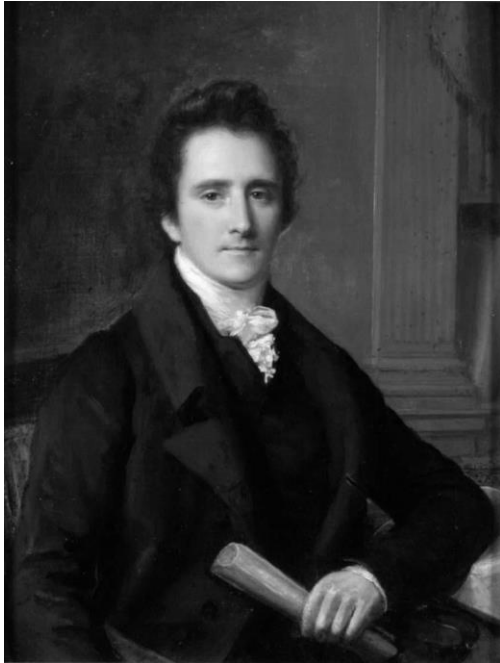
During those years and afterwards, he became involved in numerous activities, 13 in all, including horticulture, St. John's Vestry, bee keeping and schools. Such was his civic involvement after the Borough was incorporated in 1885 that he was elected as mayor for 1886/7. Although he was described as "not the most fluent", but "a real English gentleman" he was not averse to putting criticisms of other councillors in a book with humorous verses published as 'Reminiscences of Old Lowestoft'.

John Louth Clemence died in October 1911 at 14 Marine Parade and was buried alongside his wife in St. Margaret's, with the restoration of which he had been involved 50 years earlier. His was a life filled with valuable activity and one would repay study by all who are interested in Lowestoft's history.

John Louth Clemence, 2nd Mayor of Lowestoft

Reverend Francis Cunningham - Trudie Jackson – 12 March 2020

Francis, the younger son of John Cunningham and Ann Hardy was born on July 27th 1785 at St. Marylebone, Westminster. His brother John went to Cambridge in 1798 when 18 but Francis did not



enter until he was 24 which is rather unusual, as was his failure to matriculate until 1811. The death of his father in 1812 may be connected with this delay, yet he graduated BA in 1815 and MA in 1818 after he had already been ordained deacon in April 1813 and priested the following month.

Firstly he was assistant curate to his brother at Harrow and in 1814, he became Rector of both medieties at Pakefield, presented by Robert Sparrow Esq. of Worlingham Hall. William Wilberforce spent the summer of 1816 in Pakefield, where he met Francis Cunningham, who introduced him to the Gurney family and Thomas Fowell Buxton, also a campaigner for the abolition of slavery, married to Hannah Gurney.

In 1818 Francis married Richenda Gurney of Earlham Hall, Norfolk. She was a talented artist, the sixth child of John Gurney and sister to Elizabeth, later Fry, the prison reformer. These were local connections which drew together a forceful group of influential persons devoted to improving humanity's lot.



The slave trade had been banned in Britain in 1807 but still continued abroad until 1833. In 1817, Francis agreed to look after a young man, Simeon Willhelm, brought from Sierra Leone by Edward Bickersteth to be educated for missionary work back in West Africa. "Pakefield was however found to be much too cold for him". He began to have a constant cough, was taken back to the Church Missionary House in Shoe Lane, London, and died there, probably from TB in August 1817. In 1824 Pakefield itself suffered from a 12-week fever epidemic (symptoms included headaches, high temperatures, coughing and muscle pain) in which Francis risked his own life by attendance on the sufferers. One of 15 who died was his niece Anne, only 17, also Martha Lewis, a 27 year old school teacher and her mother Margaret.

Revd. Cunningham had proved his worth and in 1830 he became Vicar of Lowestoft, moving to the High Street. Pakefield was put under the care of curates, one of whom became an “ultra-Calvinist”. In 1832, Rev John Hawtrey arrived at the rectory, then on Pakefield Street, and was warmly welcomed by the Cunninghams. Hawtrey describes Francis as being rather unworldly and naive and Richendra as “the Bishop”. A story of smuggling of lace into St. Margaret’s churchyard occurred by means of the fake funeral of a seaman presumed dead on a ship anchored offshore.

He operated a mini bank for citizens who could not obtain accounts normally and there are many Pakefield names in the ledgers, for example Nathaniel Colby, the lifeboat coxswain is down for £100 in 1833 (about £9000 today) and Robert Lincoln, Trudie’s great, great, great grandfather £15 (around £1550).

Another person he took under his wing was an eight year old African slave, rescued by a British ship, HMS Alert, after whom he was named; Thomas Alert later joined the Royal Navy. The years as Vicar of Lowestoft were filled with further campaigning for the British and Foreign Bible Society, the London City Mission and supporter of the Lowestoft Railway, with the proviso that no excursion trains ran on Sundays. Richendra must have been an equal partner in these good works for when she died in 1855, 16 carriages formed the cortege, while shops closed as a sign of respect.



Pencil drawing of Earlham Hall, Richendra’s family home, one of several she drew in the local area.

Francis lived a further eight years continuing his charitable work, including providing a two week summer holiday in Pakefield for working-class boys from St. Mark’s School in Windsor founded by Rev Stephen Hawtrey. Up to 70 boys and teachers travelled to the small Suffolk fishing village in 1861.

He died on August 5th 1863 and on the day of the funeral, the cortege of dignitaries processed from his residence to the Town Hall and on to St. Margaret’s where the church and graveyard were packed. Tributes included “venerable and greatly loved, useful and honourable career, a man of great piety and benevolence and of great influence and usefulness”. His will and legacy are also indicative of his character providing not just for relations but servants and parishioners too, and a fund raised for the construction of Christchurch on Whapload Road. In Pakefield, a more modest building, Cunningham Hall, at the end of the Causeway, served the village until 1972 as a school and church hall.

Francis Cunningham was “kind, thoughtful, gentle, a true man of God, who dedicated his life to his parishioners”.

The Silver Cradle - Charles Young Fry and family - Ron Ashman

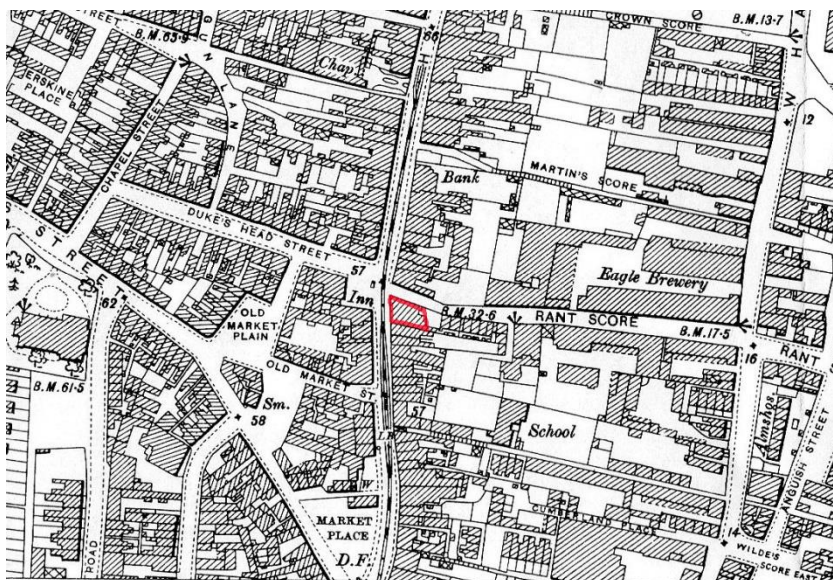
In January 2020 the Lowestoft Museum received a letter from a solicitor in Surrey stating that Olive Fry had bequeathed to the museum in her will, a silver cradle that had been presented to her grandfather, Charles Fry, in 1899 when he was Mayor of Lowestoft, to commemorate the birth of her father Douglas.

To give some background to this story, Charles Young Fry was born in 1857 in Alresford in Hampshire. His father, Young Fry, is recorded as a watchmaker in the 1861 census and a watchmaker and jeweller in the 1871 census. By 1881 Charles Young Fry was living in New Swindon in a shop at 6 Regent Street, with an occupation of Outfitter (tailor) with his sister Mary Louisa, who was a Housekeeper, and Millicent Webb who was a General Servant. On 13 April 1882 Charles married Cordelia Alice Laverick in Swindon, Wiltshire. In 1887 Cordelia gave birth to a son on 13 July, then shortly afterwards on 14 July, Cordelia died. The son was named Charles Laverick Fry, Laverick being his mother's maiden name.

Charles had trouble with the local council in 1883 as reported in this extract from the newspaper *The Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard*, 28 April 1883

Charles Young Fry, outfitter, of Regent Street, New Swindon, was summoned by the New Swindon Local Board for having a blind or awning in front of his shop less than eight feet in height from the pavement. The blind had been measured at seven feet. Defendant pleaded guilty but said that the blind had been in its present position for years. The Bench fined the defendant 5s and allowed £1.10s 6d costs.

At some point between 1883 and 1890 Charles Young Fry moved to Lowestoft where in 1891 he was resident at 70 & 71 High Street. Here he is recorded as a widower with the occupation of Outfitter. Also living at this address is his son Charles Laverick Fry, his brother Walter Fry an Outfitters Assistant, Robert Rudd from Aldeburgh, an Outfitters Apprentice, Carrie Paul a widow from Camborne, Cornwall, a Housekeeper and Louisa Fisher from Blythburgh, a Domestic servant.



Numbers 70 and 71 High Street relate to the premises on the corner of Rant Score and the High Street, on the south side, opposite the Old Blue Anchor public house. (outlined in red on this 1904 map) The shop had previously been owned by T Hodgson who traded as a tailor and hatter.

In February 1890 the Eastern Daily Press printed a report of a court case where three men, who were described as tramps, were convicted of stealing six or seven 'guernseys' (a thick woollen sweater) from

Charles Fry's shop. William Dutt, an assistant in the shop, informed the court that the 'guernseys' were being sold for 9s 6d each. The men were each sentenced to six week's hard labour.

Other incidents of shoplifting were a navvy from Dublin who was sent to prison for 14 days for stealing a pair of trousers and another man was committed to trial at the Quarter Sessions for obtaining two jackets and two pairs of trousers by false pretences. He had charged the goods to the account of Mr Boardley, a fish merchant, without his permission and had supplied a document he said came from Mr Boardley. The man was given the jackets and trousers but the truth came out when Mr Boardley received the bill.

Charles Young Fry married Caroline Mary Tyack in 1894 in Cornwall. Caroline having been born in Camborne, Cornwall.

By 1896 Charles had been elected as a councillor for the North Ward on the Borough of Lowestoft Council, sitting as a Liberal. He also served as a Justice of the Peace and was appointed to the Lowestoft School Board, as a Non-Conformist. Charles was of the Wesleyan faith.

In 1899 Charles Young Fry was appointed Mayor of Lowestoft, the year that son Donald Bernard was born. To commemorate the birth of his son the Council presented Charles with this silver cradle.





The inscription on the plaque is:-

PRESENTED
TO
Mr & Mrs Charles Young Fry
The Mayor and Mayoress of Lowestoft
BY MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND FRIENDS
In commemoration of the Birth of a Son
DONALD BERNARD FRY
DURING THEIR OFFICIAL YEAR
1898 - 1899



Charles Young Fry (left) in his Mayoral robes.

The family were still at the High Street address in 1901, which now comprised sons Charles Laverick, Eric Rosewarne (born 27.02.1895 in Boscombe Hampshire), Donald Bernard, (born 9.4.1899 in Lowestoft) and daughter Dorothy Vivian, (born 25.4.1897 in Lowestoft). There were also two servants, Emily Johns, a General Servant (Domestic) from Breage in Cornwall, and Emma Long a Housemaid (Domestic) from Lowestoft.

Daughter Edith Mildred was added to the family in 1902.

In 1911 Charles and Caroline had been married for 17 years and were again recorded as living at 71 High Street. Charles Young Fry had been joined in the business by son Charles Laverick, who was a Gentlemen's outfitter shop assistant. Children Eric Rosewarne, Dorothy Vivian, Donald Bernard and Edith Mildred were in school. Looking after the family were Emily Johns and Frances Spurgeon, who came from Pakefield.

By 1913 Charles Young Fry and family had moved to live at 1 Station Road, Lowestoft, and the shop was now owned by Thomas Lake who traded as a clothier.

At some point after 1914 Charles Young Fry moved to Heathfield in Sussex where he had a men's outfitting business, before he moved at a later date to Mayfield, Sussex. Charles Young Fry died in 1933, as reported in a local newspaper.

Extract from the Kent & Sussex Courier, Friday 12 May 1933.

The funeral took place at Mayfield on Monday of Mr Charles Young Fry. He passed away at Worthing nursing home the previous Friday in his 77th year, and up till going to Worthing he resided at Tunbridge Wells. He took a keen interest in parish matters and was officially associated with the Horticultural Society. Nominally a Wesleyan, he attended the Congregational Church during the time that Theo Devine was resident minister, but he was also an accredited lay preacher in the Tunbridge Wells Methodist Circuit, and often occupied the pulpit at Rotherfield Methodist Church. The late Mr Fry lost his wife about ten years ago, and it was in her grave at St Dustan's Churchyard that he was interred. A native of Lowestoft, he was a member of the Town Council there for some time, being made Mayor in 1899.

[Author's note:- The reporter was obviously not aware that Charles was born in Hampshire and not Lowestoft when they described him as a native of Lowestoft]

Donald Bernard Fry joined the army in 1915.

On his attestation papers, dated 2 September 1915, his previous trade or calling was given as 'just left school', with his home address as 1 Station Road, Lowestoft. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers, as a wireless operator, with the regimental number 113983.

Donald gave his age as 17 years, when in truth his age was 16 years and 5 months. (his birth date was 9 April 1899). His religion was given as Wesleyan.

On the Enrolment Form, for Wireless and Telegraph Operators for the Royal Engineers, it stated that if the applicant was under the age of 19 years a parent or guardian also had to countersign it. Charles signed his son's form.

This form does not have a date when completed but Donald's age is recorded on this as 17 ½ years. It also recorded that his last school having been Lowestoft College.

Within Donald's army record are the following conditions for becoming a Wireless and Telegraph Operator in the Royal Engineers:-

Applicants must be between 17 and 19 years of age and have had a good education.

Have two written recommendations as to Character.

They will be enlisted for the duration of the War.

Will be attached to the Royal Engineers as Telegraph Operators.

Will then proceed to the General Post Office or some other School for a course of Instruction in Telegraphy.

If after a fortnight's trial they do not show aptitude for the work, will be discharged to their homes.

The rate of Pay during Instruction will, in addition to their keep, be half per day plus ordinary Services allowances.

His service record shows his campaigns were as follows:-

Home: 2 September 1915 to 26 October 1916

B.E.F: 27 October 1916 to 6 March 1919 (B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) was the official name of the British armies in France and Flanders throughout the First World War.)

Home: 7 March 1919 to 1 April 1919

On 1 April 1919 Donald was discharged on the grounds of being no longer physically fit for war service. The following is an extract from his service record:-

Full Address	1 High St Heathfield The Laurels Sussex	Discharged - no longer physically fit for War Service, para. 392 XVI King's Regulations.	W 3977c W 3994 D 400 B 149 (12) B 148 (12) B 103 B 100 Sold 3-4-19
Unit			
If Overseas	Yes		
Date Enlist	2-9-15		
Date Discharge	1-4-19		
Cause	G.S.W. both hands	Disability Right hand attributed to active service, Left hand aggravated by Permanent yes Previous enlistment no.	
Age on Discharge	19		
Permanently Invalid	Yes		
Grade	IV		

GSW is gun shot wound.

Donald's home address was recorded as 1 High Street, Heathfield in Sussex, then The Laurels Mayfield, Sussex.

In 1929 Donald married Muriel Annie Winchester in Heathfield.

The Sussex Express of Friday 8 March 1929 printed a report on the wedding of Donald Fry and Muriel Winchester. The following is an extract from this report.

At the Union Church Heathfield, on Wednesday afternoon, Miss Muriel Annie Winchester, the only daughter of Mrs Winchester and the late Mr James Winchester, of 1 Churwell-villas, Heathfield, was married to Mr Donald Bernard Fry, youngest son of Mr C.Y.Fry and the late Mrs Fry, of "The Laurels" Mayfield. There was a large attendance at the church where, for thirteen years the bride had been a member of the choir, whilst both the bride and bridegroom are members of the Young People's Society in connection with the church.

The bride was given away by her brother (Mr James Winchester), wore a dress of ivory suede georgette, a silk embroidered veil, surmounted by a spray of orange blossom. She also wore silver shoes and a string of pearls (the gift of the bridegroom) and carried a shower bouquet of white tulips.

The newspaper article also included a list of presents given to the bride and bridegroom.

In 1930 Muriel gave birth to a daughter Audrey, then in 1933 she gave birth to daughter Olive, who donated the cradle to the Museum.

The family is recorded in the 1939 Register as living in Bexhill Sussex, and Donald has the occupation of Radio Service Engineer.

Donald died on 20 May 1993 in Brighton.

TRANSFER TO ARMY RESERVE 59 Army Form B. 179A

NOTE.—This Form is only to be forwarded to the Ministry of Pensions in cases of discharge under para. 392 (xvi. or xvii.), King's Regulations, and in cases of discharge under para. 392 (vi.), King's Regulations, when the soldier has suffered impairment in health since his entry into military service, or in cases of transfer to Class P., or P. (T), of the Reserve.
In cases of soldiers not discharged or transferred to the Reserve as above, but who are qualified by length of service to be considered for a Service Pension this Form is to be sent to the Secretary, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, S.W. 3.

Medical Report on a Soldier Boarded Prior to Discharge or Transfer to Class W., W. (T), P., or P. (T), of the Reserve.

1. Unit and Corps. 2. Regt. No. 334894 3. Rank. Pioneer 7. Former Trade or Occupation } *Clothes and outfit*
4. Name. *Fry Charles Laverick* (Surname) (Christian Name)
5. Age last birthday. 31
6. Posted for duty on. 21/4/18 at. *Sandwich* in category (or grade). *B.1.*
8. If the disability is an injury was it caused
(a) in action (b) on field service
(c) on duty (d) off duty?
9. If a Court of Inquiry was held on an injury state:—
(a) When

10. Date of Discharge: 26 OCT 1918
11. Cause of Discharge: 19B, TAVISTOCK SQ. W.C. 1.

It is not known where Donald's older brother Charles Laverick worked after their father had sold his shop in 1913. He was still in Lowestoft in 1914 where on 7 May 1914 he married Edith Elizabeth Proudfoot. Edith had resided at 44 Church Road, where her father James was recorded in the 1911 census as a Monumental Mason. By 1917 Charles and Edith had moved to Sussex where on 30 November 1917 their daughter Molly Edith was born.

On 24 June 1916 Charles Laverick Fry enlisted in the army. However, he was not 'called to service' until 21 April 1918.

Charles joined the Royal Engineers, Inland Waterways & Docks Corps, with the army number of

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON JOINING.
(To correspond with Entries on the Medical History Sheet.)
Applicable to all ranks.

Christian Names *Charles Laverick* Surname *Fry*
Apparent age 30 years 7 months. Height 5 feet 6 inches.
Chest Measurement { Girth when fully expanded 36 1/2 inches.
Range of expansion 2 1/2 inches.
Distinctive marks

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT.

Name and Address of next-of-kin *Mrs Edith E. Fry*
Golden Cottage - Ghyll Rd Relationship *Wife*
Particulars as to Marriage.

(a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow. (b) Place and date of marriage
(c) Present address. (d) Initials of Officer verifying entry.

(a) *Edith Elizabeth Proudfoot* (b) *44 Church Road, Lowestoft* (c) *1914* (d) *1914*
(e) *Spencer 7-5-14*

Particulars as to Children.

Christian Names. Date and Place of Birth.

Dorothy *1918* *Lowestoft*

334894. His next of kin was his wife Edith and her address was Garden Cottage, Ghyll Road, Heathfield. (Heathfield is where Charles father had moved after leaving Lowestoft and had opened a men's outfitting business, so it is possible that Charles Laverick worked there before joining the Royal Engineers).

Charles Laverick only served about 8 months in the army as his age on discharge is given as 31 years 3 months. Charles service records

were damaged by fire during World War 2, hence the black edges.

The Royal Engineers, Inland Waterways & Docks Corps had been formed in 1914 to deal with transportation across the channel and along the canals and waterways in France and Belgium. The sappers worked to maintain communications and the transportation of food, supplies, ammunition and the evacuation of the wounded. In 1916, due to congestion at the major ports, it was decided to construct a new port at Richborough in Kent. This port grew rapidly during the war and declined equally rapidly at the end of the war.

This document shows that Charles was posted just after being 'called to service' to Sandwich which is close to Richborough. His army service was all in the U.K.

Army Form D. 400.

Descriptive Return of a Soldier medically boarded before Discharge or Transfer to the Reserve.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Parts A. and D. of this Army Form are to be completed for every soldier prior to his being medically boarded with a view to discharge or transfer to Class W. (T), P., or P.(T), of the Reserve, as follows:—
(a) By the O.C. unit prior to the soldier being sent to the Discharge Centre.
(b) By the Officer in Charge of the Hospital, when the soldier is a patient in hospital, prior to his being brought before an Invaliding Board.
It is most important that all particulars should be correctly filled in, and that the soldier should be given a full opportunity of examining the Army Form before he signs the Certificate below as if awarded a pension, his subsequent identification may depend on the correctness of these entries. The "rank," "station," and "date" following the soldier's signature are to be in his own handwriting.
This Army Form is to be forwarded with the proceedings of the Medical Board to the Officer in Charge of the Records, and Parts B. and C. completed by that officer before forwarding the Form with the remainder of the soldier's documents, to the Controller, Ministry of Pensions, Burton Court, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

PART A. Soldier's Name *Charles Laverick*
(Surname) *Laverick* (Christian name) *Charles*

Unit from which discharged *1st W.D.R.B.*
Regimental Number *33424* Rank on discharge *Pioneer* Age on discharge *31 3/2*
Married, widower with children, or single *married*
Occupation before enlistment *Clothier*
Special qualifications (if any) for employment in civil life *Carpenters mate*
Nature and locality of employment desired *Carpenters mate Brooks Shipyard Lowestoft*
Full postal address to which proceeding on discharge *Garden Cottage Heathfield Sussex*
Name of Approved Society (if any) *Oddfellows*

PART B. Period of service, and in what Corps
Disallowed
Service towards pension
All service abroad, with Stations, Years Days
India
South Africa

Number of G.C. badges medals

PART C. Wounds and actions in which received

PART D. Where born (parish, town and county), and date *Swindon Wilts 10/7/87*
Colour of hair on discharge *Brown* Colour of eyes *Blue* Complexion *Fair*
Christian name of father *Charles*
Christian name of mother *Caroline*

NOTE.—Army Forms D. 400 and W. 3463a and b are issued in sets in pad form for use with carbon paper in cases where the soldier is a patient in hospital. Army Forms D. 400 and W. 3463a are similarly issued in sets for use in cases where the soldier is not a patient in hospital. The Statements on Parts A. and D. of Army Form D. 400 and on Part A. of Army Form W. 3463a and b are to be completed by the Officer in Charge of the Hospital before a soldier is brought before an Invaliding Board. The Statements on Parts B. and C. of Army Form D. 400 and on Part A. of Army Form W. 3463a are to be completed by the O.C. unit before the despatch of a soldier to the Discharge Centre.

[P.T.O.]

Charles's Discharge Papers (above) record the following:-

Occupation before enlistment:- Clothier.

Special qualifications for employment in civilian life:- Carpenters Mate.

Nature and locality of employment desired:- Carpenters Mate, Brooks Shipyard, Lowestoft. (This would have been the J.W.Brooke shipyard).

His occupation is not known during the early war years, maybe he worked for J.W.Brooke before moving to Heathfield in Sussex.

Address to which he would be proceeding on discharge:- Garden Cottage Heathfield, Sussex.

Charles mother's Christian name is recorded as Caroline, who was in fact his step-mother.

In the 1939 Register, Charles and his wife Edith are residing at 10 Summerheath Road, Hailsham, with Charles occupation given as Gents Outfitter.

Charles Laverick Fry died on 9 September 1960 in Wokingham Hospital. His wife Edith had passed away three years before him.

Eric Rosewarne Fry enlisted in the Military on 23.09.1914. He gave his father, Charles, as next of kin, living in Station Road, Lowestoft. His trade was listed as electrical engineer.

Eric served as part of the M.E.F from 6.3.15 until 6.6.16, then the B.E.F until 31.1.1919.

(The M.E.F was the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force which fought at Gallipoli and Salonika).

It is possible that Eric joined the Royal Naval Division as the letters R.N.D are written at the top of the form below. After fighting at Antwerp and Gallipoli, in 1916 the Division was transferred to the British Army and fought on the Western Front for the remainder of the war.

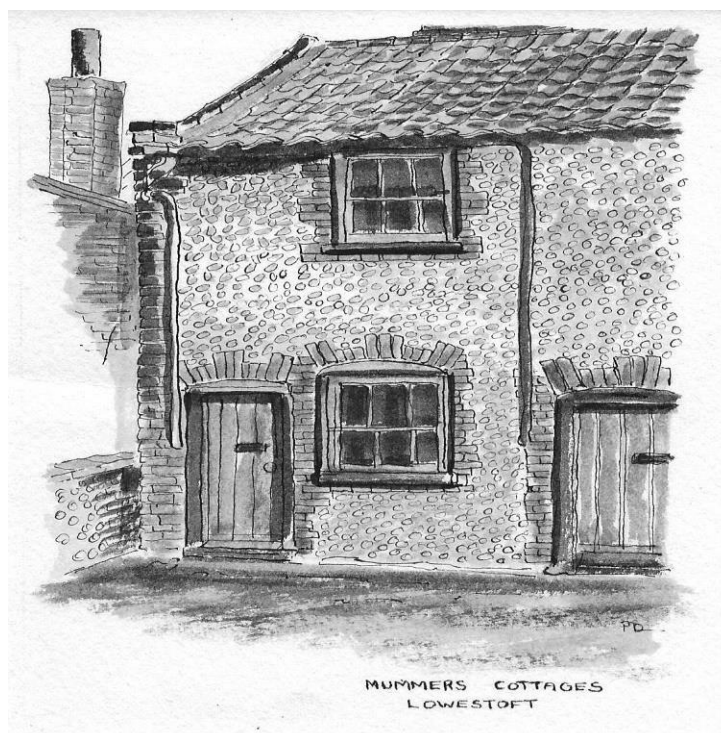
Name Eric Rosewarne Jnr. Register No. 149 Division Div. Eng.

Birth	<u>24 February 1896</u>	When enlisted	<u>23 September 1914</u>	DESCRIPTION OF PERSON.	Stature.	Color of		Marks, Wounds, and Scars.		
Where	<u>London</u>	Where enlisted	<u>London</u>		Feet.	Inch.	Complexion.		Hair.	Eyes.
By whom	<u>Technical Engineer</u>	By whom	<u>near you</u>		For Drummers (On Enlistment as a Boy.. ..					
When re-engaged		When re-engaged			only. (On Attaining the age of 18					
On Enlistment	<u>Private</u>	On Enlistment	<u>Private</u>	On Enlistment	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Flesh</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Brown</u>	
On Re-engagement		On Re-engagement		On Re-engagement						
On Final Discharge from the Service		On Final Discharge from the Service		On Final Discharge from the Service						

In what Regiment.	Period.	Authority.	Date.	Character.	Service.
		<u>4657</u>			

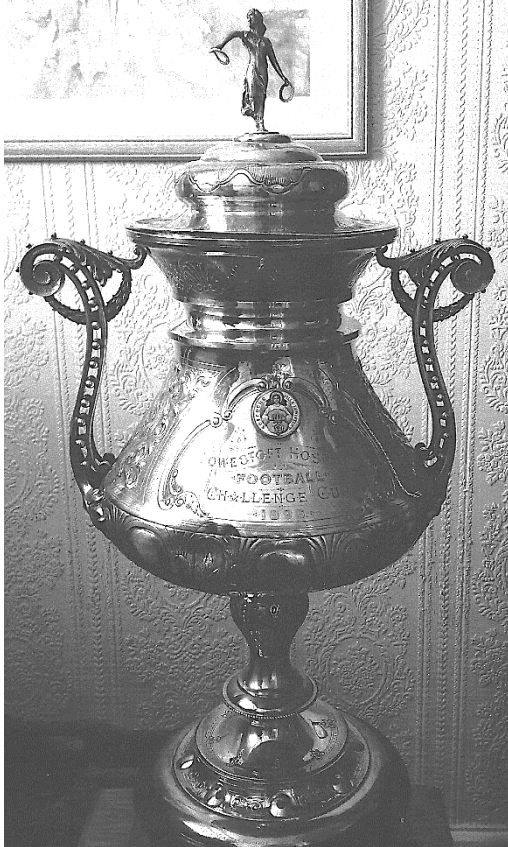
Co.	Name of Division or Ship.	No. on Ship's Books.	Date of		Cause of Discharge from Division or Ship.	Character.	Ability.	Recommended for Medal and Gratuity.	Name of Commanding Officer.	SERVICES FORFEITED.			
			Entry.	Discharge.						TOWARDS ENGAGEMENT.			
										Cause.	Date.	Years.	Days.
	<u>Real</u>		<u>23 Sept 14</u>	<u>26 Dec 15</u>	<u>Promoted</u>	<u>V.L.</u>	<u>Sup</u>		<u>J.N. Riley</u>				
			<u>24 Dec 15</u>	<u>31 Dec 16</u>	<u>To R.C.</u>				<u>H. F. Smith, White</u>				
	<u>Auth. W.C.</u>		<u>1/12/14</u>	<u>1/12/15</u>	<u>1/12/16</u>								
	<u>Emb. M.C.F.</u>		<u>6.3.15</u>	<u>26.2.16</u>	<u>S. B. C. F.</u>								
	<u>B.C.F.</u>		<u>6.6.16</u>	<u>31.1.19</u>	<u>Id. to R.C.</u>								
					<u>Oversas</u>								

TOWARDS G. C. BADGES.



THE LOWESTOFT FOOTBALL CUP - Elizabeth Talbot and David Hatton

The Friends Supporting Lowestoft Healthcare (formerly Friends of Lowestoft Hospital) have a rather good silver cup known as The Lowestoft Football Cup. Latterly, this cup was used as the prize in the annual pre-season warm up match between Lowestoft Town and Kirkley and Pakefield football teams.



The cup is about 83cm tall, including its ebonised socle (the base), and weighs about 8Kg. It was made by Fattorini and Sons of Bradford in 1898. It is engraved "Lowestoft Hospital Football Challenge Cup 1898, Presented by John W Butterfield".

It is thought that John Butterfield was born in Lowestoft in 1866 and was a notable fish merchant of the town. In Floods Lowestoft Telephone List pre 1914, he is recorded as having addresses in Herringmarket and Whapload Road.

Fattorini and Sons are a firm of gold and silversmiths established in Bradford in 1826 and are still working today. Fattorini also made the current FA cup in 1992.

The socle has a number of small shields declaring who won the cup in a particular year. The earliest shield is dated 1898 when it was won by Kirkley and the latest is 1992 when there was a draw between Lowestoft Town and Ipswich Town. Other notable teams recorded on the shields include Arsenal (1938), Norwich City (1936), Bury Town (1968), 16th Lancers (1912), Carrow FC (1914), 644 North Midlands Royal Engineers (1916) and the

Pembroke Yeomanry. Try sorting out that fixture list!

The lid is surmounted by a statue of Victory holding two laurel wreaths.

The cup bears an enamelled boss bearing the motto "Soffoche Villa Lowestoft". Another version of this symbol is in the museum. There is a stone version of the boss over the door, at eaves height, to the old Jarrold store on the corner of Beach Road and Grove Road. "Soffoche Villa Lowistoft" is believed to be the earlier wording of the Lowestoft coat of arms. It was superseded by "Suffolk Villa Lowistoff" and, from 1913, by "Point du Jour".



CHILDHOOD - THE EARLY YEARS - Paul Durbidge

The following are memories of my childhood from the age of 5 up to my early teens, the irony being I can remember more of those early years than the later ones. For most part these early days were happy but it was lonely. There was no television only a radio but there was always something to do and I roamed far. Being isolated, living on a railway station, for a young child was not ideal and frequently I heard disagreements between my parents over this nevertheless ten years were spent there and for the most part they were happy ones.

Gissing, Norfolk

I was one of three children born to Florence Elizabeth Byatt and Hector Macdonald Durbidge on 25 July 1938 in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. I had an elder brother Peter James Durbidge, who was some 10 years older. Peter joined the army at an early age and was in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers attached to 6th Royal Tank Regiment. He became a crack shot with a rifle and later won the Manchester Regiment Cup at Bisley. We also had a baby sister who tragically died two days after she was born, the reason my mother said, was to do with the local doctor, although she would not be drawn any further into the sad affair.

The family lived in a cottage beside the railway track on the outskirts of a village called Gissing in Norfolk (about five miles North of Diss). The cottage was end-onto a fast main line with little more than 40 feet of ground separating us from trains travelling either from Norwich or Liverpool Street. The trains carried both passengers and freight and there was a large road bridge built of blue engineering bricks a short distance from the house and this straddled the two railway lines at an angle and from the top it gave a perfect view of oncoming trains from both directions. Thinking back, it was a dangerous place for children with only a wire fence separating our land from the railway. There was a heavy, white painted gate which gave access across infilled sleepers between the railway lines to some tempting apple trees on the other side. The white gate was very heavy and had a strong spring which ensured that it was always kept shut but there was so much more to see and do over the other side and the wet ditches were often full of frogs and newts. In addition, there were also the many colourful wildflowers, especially primroses and cowslips. Further up the line and fixed between the railway lines were lengths of shallow steel troughs, which were usually full of surface water and the fast line passenger trains would lower a wide scoop into these and take up water whilst travelling at speed. Whilst the majority of the water would rush upwards into a water container in the tender of the locomotive, an equal amount would spray on both the track and carriages, which was quite a sight when viewed from the top of the embankment.

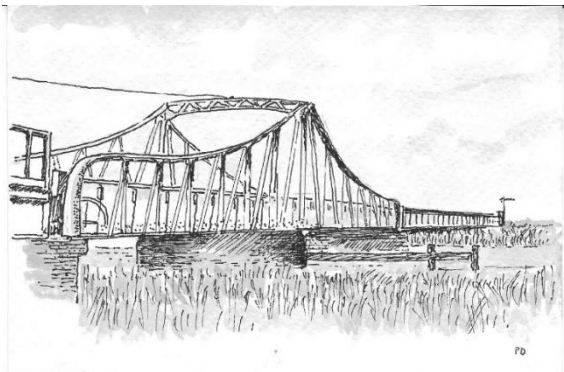
At right angles to our house was a much older house, black in colour and thinking back, from the irregular surface of the external walls, it probably dated back to the early 18th century. Auntie Hubbard lived here and she appeared quite tall with her white hair in a large bun and she always seemed to dress in black but was always very kind. The back door of her house revealed a large room with a brick floor and a single window. The window looked out onto the railway while an iron range, complete with a high mantle shelf covered with a brown cloth with tassels, seemed quite large for the room. Above the shelf was a black and white picture entitled "The Gleaners" and home-made rug mats were on the brick floor around a large scrubbed table with black legs. A ledge door led to the pantry which had white washed walls along with wide bare wooden shelves with the occasional cuphook screwed into the edges and it was here that jam tarts could often be found. The pantry was always very cool and more of the pale yellow bricks made up the floor area.

Another ledged door with a latch led to a front room where, if you could negotiate around a large plant in an equally large pot, you could see the railway bridge and a very long set of wooden steps which led to the roadway above. The smell of apples could often be detected in this room and trays

were usually placed beneath a large bed in the middle of the room. The furniture was dark in colour and the leather upright chairs were always cold to sit on and were trimmed with lots of brass studs. I was often drawn to a large black and white picture in this room; it hung on the chimneybreast and showed a soldier wearing a period helmet and a breastplate, with one hand holding a halberd while the other hand was on the shoulder of a small boy. The boy appeared to be being questioned by one of Oliver Cromwell's officers sitting opposite behind a long table. I have since seen another copy of this picture which is entitled "When did you last see your father?". At the back of the house was a dilapidated wooden shed and opposite this was a small, brick-built, toilet and growing all around it was a mass of Japanese knotweed. It was possible to snap the stems of these which gave off a pleasant smell and they also made good pea shooters. I was allowed on several occasions to take various pieces of china out of the house and play with them in the dusty earth floor of the shed. On a couple of occasions, breakages occurred but nothing was ever said.

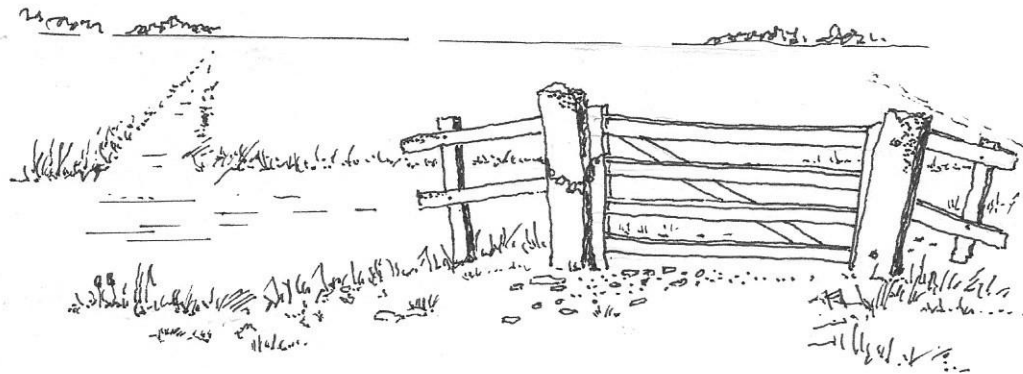
Leading to our house from the road was a wide trackway and hallway along this was a well that supplied our drinking water. It had two opening doors and the wooden framework sat on several courses of brickwork. A galvanised bucket attached to a long rope was lowered down into the water via a wooden roller and iron handle. When the bucket hit the water below, it broke up the reflection of the sky above as well as the young face peering down. All very frightening when I look back. In conversation with my mother in later years, she told me my father kept a few pigs and some poultry and a couple of small black and white photographs show my brother Peter, complete with woolly hat, standing amongst the pigs. She told me of the time when my father was trying to remove the milk teeth from some piglets when he was attacked by the boar, resulting in a nasty gash on the inside of his thigh. Father decided to see the doctor in Gissing, but on his way, he passed the local gypsy who asked him why he was limping. The gypsy was quite well established with the local community and lived in a horse-drawn caravan not far from our house. He asked if he could see the injury. With father sitting in the caravan, he took down an opened jar of jam which had mould on the top. Removing some of the mould with a small knife, he applied it to the wound, covered it with a pad and secured it with a bandage. By all accounts, the injury healed quite quickly and things got back to normal after several days.

Looking at the many photographs taken at Gissing, they show happy times when relations visited and three particular photographs show them sprawled out on a wide, flower-covered, embankment. When mother's sister, Eve, called to stay, there was always fun and laughter. During one visit, my brother somehow got his clothes wet and they were thrown up on the telegraph wires to dry and they had to throw stones at them to get them down! Father owned a small car and another photograph shows him sitting, smiling, in the driver's seat. Another shows him in his porter's uniform complete with watch chain, possibly leaving off work at Tivetshall Station. After a brief spell, he was transferred to Diss - again as a porter - and then, several, months later, to Haddiscoe, where he was promoted to Signalman at Reedham swing bridge and later to Somerleyton.



Somerleyton swing bridge

Haddiscoe consisted of two platforms, one on the High Level, where trains went to Great Yarmouth and Liverpool Street, and the Low Level, where passengers caught trains to either Lowestoft or Norwich. Our railway house was on the Low Level platform and this was to be our new home for the next ten years. My earliest memory of the move was standing on a very long station platform and looking upwards to where the High Level platforms were sited and beyond towards the swing bridge which spanned the river. Beyond this, I could see a mass of yellow sand which formed part of a high cutting on the far side of the river as the railway curved towards St Olaves station. The location had a certain mystery about it; I had never seen marshes before along with cattle and a network of dykes was certainly different and of course, there were still the steam trains.



To be continued

Lowestoft Scene – Jenny and David Hatton

January

New President announced

The Society expressed pride this week when it announced that Elizabeth Talbot, the auctioneer and valuer and star of BBCTV's "Flog it!" had agreed to be its new President.

Pontins Pakefield bans children

Its reputation has been built on providing family holidays at affordable prices – but now Pontins in Pakefield has sparked potential controversy by banning children from the resort. It has been converted into an "adults only" destination for 2020 after extensive renovations last year.

End in sight on 'nightmare' school run

After years of campaigning to improve what has previously been described as a 'nightmare' school run, work has started on a new car park to ease congestion at Carlton Colville Primary School.

'Unusable eyesore' pool set for new lease of life

The former swimming pool in Nicholas Everitt Park, which has been out of action for more than 10 years, looks set to be given a new lease of life. The pool is to be infilled and a new children's splash pool, complete with central beach area, play equipment and seating area is to be provided.

Suffolk court ordered death penalty for witches

On 10 March 1664, the Bury St Edmunds assizes convicted two women, Rose Cullendar and Amy Duny, of bewitching two children from Lowestoft. The jury took less than 30 minutes to reach a guilty verdict and the pair were executed a few days later. The events are recorded in a rare book, "A trial of witches at the Assize", which has gone on sale and is estimated to fetch £500-£800.

Flood barrier defence costs soar by £40M

Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, told parliament that the cost of Lowestoft's tidal flood barrier had rocketed from about £30M to £70M. This is to protect areas like Kirkley Street and Battery Green. However, an extra £43M is now needed to for a barrier on the EAST side of the bascule bridge. He warned that if the barrier is not built, floods could devastate the region, damaging vital community assets including schools, doctors surgeries, government buildings and community centres.

Councillors award themselves a 53% increase in allowances

East Suffolk Council's full council meeting approved proposals to raise the allowances paid to councillors. The basic allowance has gone up to £7500. Since the amalgamation of Waveney District and Suffolk Coastal councils, it is claimed that councillor's workload has doubled and their wards have doubled in size. It is also claimed that the allowance bill is lower than hitherto because of the reduction in the number of councillors.

Leaked report shows floods "could have been prevented"

Flood chiefs have been accused of failing to act on an alarming report that called for urgent improvements to a town's defences – nine years before tidal surges wreaked havoc. In 2004, the Environment Agency (EA) report called for action to bolster Lowestoft's defences, but nothing was done before catastrophic flooding in 2013. The report shows the EA did not consider Lowestoft as at a "significant" risk of flooding, despite areas of the town being listed on the agency's own flood risk maps. It also said flood defences at Lake Lothing and the town's outer harbour only offered protection against minor events and could not protect the town from extreme floods: so-called "once in 200

year” events. Waveney MP, Peter Aldous, said the report “made clear that Lowestoft was in significant risk” and added that he would invite EA to answer why its recommendations were not pursued.

Work starts on £1M town park

Major works have begun to transform Britain’s most easterly point and create a landmark destination. The plans to turn Ness Point in Lowestoft into a true visitor attraction will see a new park and gateway unveiled. With work officially starting at The Ness, the site, adjacent to Birds Eye on Whapload Road, will be regenerated after £1M was secured from the Coastal Community Fund in 2017.

Holocaust memorial ceremony

Wreaths were laid as a town fell silent during a special service of remembrance. Taking place at the spot where hundreds of young Jewish refugees had arrived in 1938, Holocaust Memorial Day was commemorated at Lowestoft. The Kindertransport train carried 520 Jewish children who were escaping persecution prior to the outbreak of WWII.

Funding to help rough sleepers

East Suffolk Council has been awarded £693,735 in the next financial year to help in its response to homelessness – part of a £112M national drive to help get people off the streets and into safe accommodation.

February

Yet another fast food outlet

Plans have been lodged for a new Greggs to be built in a new unit on North Quay Retail Park on Peto Way. The plans centre around a 111m² ‘pod’ building and associated works. If given the go-ahead, it would create six full-time equivalent jobs.

Conservatives dwarfed Labour in election campaign donations

The full amount of money donated for every parliamentary candidate in the recent general election has been announced. Pater Aldous (Cons), who was returned as member for Waveney, received £11,107. Sonia Barker (Lab) received £90. The Labour Party agent in Waveney blamed the failing High Street, Brexit and UKIP supporters turning Tory for the lack of donations.

Neighbours hit out about dwindling wildlife in neglected pond

Residents of Jenkins Green, Lowestoft say their communal pond has not been maintained properly, leaving water to become contaminated and reeds to overgrow. A local resident said “It’s an important wildlife haven, but we’re losing it. Every week you read something about ponds disappearing and this is how”. Another resident said that the pond was “home” to ducks, herons, kingfishers, geese and terrapins, but numbers were dwindling.

Britain’s most powerful warship spotted off Lowestoft

HMS Queen Elizabeth, Britain’s most powerful warship, has been spotted off the coast at Lowestoft. The vessel was in the North Sea to carry out training flights for F35 Lightning jets from RAF Marham and Merlin Mk2 helicopters from RNAS Culdrose. Other weapon and engineering experts were believed to have been aboard. Sightseers described the sight as fantastic.

Coastguard launches new aircraft

Two new Beechcraft King Air B200 aircraft, equipped with state-of-the-art sensors have been added to the Maritime and Coastal Agency’s fleet and will be patrolling the seas off the region. The sensors

can spot a person in the sea 40 miles away and can drop emergency locator beacons, communications and first aid equipment to those in danger.

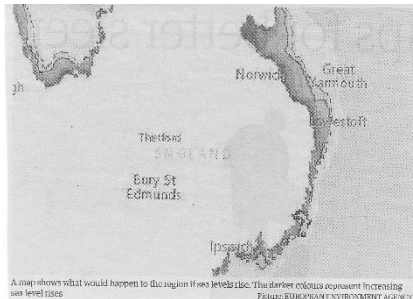
Could Rows revamp project re remedy or long-term rivalry?

Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft might have fallen out over fish, but now they are making up by rebuilding their Rows. That is the idea behind “Making Waves Together” – a project focusing on the regeneration of Great Yarmouth’s Rows and Lowestoft’s Scores. According to a representative from Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust, the project, which will enhance and improve the remaining 80 Rows in Yarmouth and 11 Scores in Lowestoft – out of an original 145 and 13 – draws on the “shared heritage” of the area.

Port investment in new offices

As Lowestoft continues to handle more international cargo and serve offshore energy and fishing industries, the new Associated British Ports offices are expected to help grow the region’s economy by as much as £36M per year with other ports in Ipswich and Kings Lynn.

Map gives warning over impact of sea level rise



A disturbing snapshot of how Norfolk and Suffolk could look if global warming goes unchecked and sea levels rise has been published – with the likes of Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Hemsby and Wroxham under water. A six-metre rise in sea levels could mean that the new Norwich Northern Distributor Road could become a coastal road and Norwich become a seaside city.

Council tax plans unveiled

East Suffolk Council has revealed plans for a 2.98% council tax increase from April 1, meaning all the county’s authorities are planning rises. The leader of East Suffolk Council said that the current funding system makes it very hard to pay for vital services that care for our elderly, protect our children and help our communities thrive.

Rugby club saves bus service!

The 108 bus service, which runs from the James Paget hospital, to Oulton and into Lowestoft town centre was taken off the road last October. Following a successful trial run last December, Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Rugby Club has launched a new service using the club’s minibus. The service is offered in an attempt to tackle instances of rural isolation within the villages north of Lowestoft. The service is free and runs on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Final Beales stores to close

The final 11 Beales department stores in the country, including the store in Lowestoft, are set to close, putting hundreds of jobs at risk. Beales has two sites locally, having bought out Palmers in 2018. The administrators, KPMG, are continuing negotiations with a number of interested parties, but have yet to receive any deliverable offers”.

Computerised signalling system switches on along Wherry Line.

The Wherry Lines, linking Norwich to Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, were closed on February 1 for maintenance work and on February 17, engineers switched the signalling system from the old, Victorian mechanical method, to the modern computer-based model.

Devolution and elected mayor for East Anglia?

Back in 2016, Suffolk's councils backed the plans for devolution for East Anglia, but Norfolk's councils were split. Having a mayor allows devolved regions more control over the allocation of central government funding and permits regular meetings between the mayor and the Treasury to outline what funding is required. An Ipswich MP has reignited the debate with a letter to the Department of Housing and Local Government to ask what plans there were to elect a mayor to represent Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

Cost of sending people out of the region for mental health care soars to £7M

The cost of out of area placements for Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust has risen to £7.25M in 2018/19 compared to £4.5M for 2017/18. In the year December 2018 to November 2019, only 20 people were able to receive treatment within 25km of Norwich. The majority of cases were sent between 100 and 200km away, with 125 people sent more than 200km away.

MP criticises police deficit

A police funding deficit of £30M is failing rural towns in Norfolk and Suffolk. Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, said it was wrong for Suffolk Constabulary to be one of the police forces most reliant on local taxation in the country and urged for a review of police funding.

Number of people on Universal Credit is up

Universal Credit is "plunging people into debt" campaign groups say, as figures show the number of claimants in the East has risen to 214,000. Data released by the Department for Work and Pensions shows nearly twice as many people are claiming Universal Credit in Norfolk and Waveney compared to last year, with 44,308 claiming it last month.

March

New era for region's train network

It has taken years of preparation, planning and engineering works. After a 23-day closure as works were carried out to modernise the rail lines locally last month, new signals were switched on for the first time last week as the completion of a computer-based signalling system heralded a "rail revolution" for train users.

Jobs at risk after council makes "U-turn"

Two hundred jobs could be lost after East Suffolk Council turned its back on an approved planning application to make changes to the long-awaited bridge. Nexen Lift Truck Technology say they are one of Lowestoft's biggest employers, trading in excess of £6.5M each year across the globe. To keep up with demand, the company applied for planning permission to build a £8M, 40,000 sq ft office expansion in 2007. The application was granted but delayed due to the 2008 financial crisis. Now that they have the funds to go ahead, last minute changes to the plans for the third bridge mean that the company cannot go ahead with the planned office building.

Town disability charity hit by sewer works

Disability charity, Shop Mobility, claims extended waterworks are shaking its store so much it feels as like the building will collapse and is killing passing trade. Anglian Water started work to repair a damaged sewer and manhole at Commercial Road on the A47 in January. The works were due to be completed in eight weeks, but the completion date has been moved back until the end of March "due to unforeseen complications".

Restoration plan for town hall

A creative hub has been proposed as part of a significant scheme to revitalise the historic town hall site which has stood empty for almost five years. Options for the future development of Lowestoft's historic Town Hall are being explored following a Historic England-commissioned report. And with the Grade II listed town hall building to be repaired and restored as part of the Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone, it will enable the building to be brought back into public use.

Surge in staycations

Holiday agents are reporting a "surge" in bookings across East Anglia by as much as 30% as people opt to take a holiday closer to home because of the coronavirus.

New post office

The new Dixon's Carlton Colville post office has been opened in a well established independent newsagents. As part of "an exciting modernisation and investment programme" taking place across the Post Office network, the new post office opened at Dixon's News in Ashburnham Way, Carlton Colville.

Sea wall repairs

Coastal Partnership East and contractors, the Water Management Alliance, are continuing with coastal protection asset repairs and maintenance works across the sea wall from South Pier/Fisherman's Wharf southwards.

Homes may "rejuvenate" town centre

A scheme to rejuvenate a vacant town centre site could see more than 30 new flats built, provided the plans get the go-ahead. The proposed residential development centres around the demolition of existing buildings on land previously used by a tool hire business and the construction of 31 new flats on Alexandra Road, Lowestoft.

Communities rally as virus takes hold

As the first cases of the virus were confirmed at the James Paget University Hospital, venues started to close their doors across the region and supermarkets saw a surge in customers as families also prepared for the closure of schools from March 20th.

"Acts of kindness" praised after Marina Theatre closed

As the coronavirus crisis deepens, management at the Marina Theatre closed the venue following Government advice and alongside other UK theatres. The Chief Executive said that she had received a number of messages of support and requests that the value of lost tickets be donated to the theatre.

Beales closes 21 branches

A much-loved department store, which went into administration in January, has closed all its final stores after retail was hit by coronavirus concerns. All remaining Beales department stores have shut their doors for good.

"The Hold" opening delayed

Completion work for the new archive office in Ipswich has been pushed back to May and coronavirus means that the opening could be much later.

April

‘An amazing response’

With Lowestoft Rising and East Suffolk Communities Team working across the district to ensure those in need of essential supplies – but have no way of getting them – are assisted, a call has gone out for volunteers to join the effort.

Five patients die at James Paget Hospital after testing positive for COVID19

Five patients, all older than 70 and with underlying health conditions, have died whilst being treated for coronavirus. Their families were informed.

Zoos appeal for help

Both Banham Zoo and Africa Alive! are appealing for help towards the cost of feeding their animals and for staff costs for looking after the animals, because their income has dried up owing to lack of visitors after the coronavirus outbreak.

Work on £1M park “paused”

Plans to turn Ness Point into a landmark destination has seen major works to develop the most easterly park in the UK under way over the last few months. But construction work on the new park and gateway that celebrates Lowestoft’s “unique maritime heritage” and “relationship to the sea” was paused amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

Care and dementia services under threat

Palliative care charity, Sue Ryder, which has 20 shops in Norfolk and Waveney, is on the brink of closure and “will lose its hospices” without emergency funding. It will also be forced to stop caring for people in their own homes. It anticipates a £12M funding gap over the next three months due to the coronavirus lockdown.

Shortage of signallers

An appeal has been made for retired signallers to return to work to help keep the region’s trains moving during the coronavirus pandemic. Network Rail has made the plea because of possible concerns that staff sickness could leave them short of operators to keep signal boxes and control centres going.

More than 35,000 key workers in the region not earning a living wage

At least 35,000 key workers in Norfolk and Waveney – those considered critical to handling the coronavirus crisis – are not earning a living wage. NHS staff, teachers, and those working in utilities, transport or food industries are among the hundreds of thousands of people across the country helping the UK to deal with the coronavirus outbreak despite not earning enough to live on, according to data released by the Office for National Statistics.

Council houses dozens of rough sleepers

East Suffolk Council have taken steps to protect homeless and vulnerable people across Waveney from sleeping rough during the pandemic. The emergency accommodation consists of social housing stock (including the revitalised Avenue Mansions), self-contained hotel rooms and private housing which has been furnished with essentials including furniture, white goods and food parcels.

Some schools to be open over Easter

Schools which are providing care for children of key workers are to remain open over Easter to ensure that there are safe places for youngsters while their parents are at work during the national

emergency. Schools are a crucial part of the county's response to the coronavirus pandemic and without their work, many key workers would not be able to continue delivering essential services.

St John Ambulance rises to the challenge

St John Ambulance volunteers have been busy supporting the NHS and providing a vial service amid the continuing crisis. Waveney MP, Peter Aldous, highlighted the role that the voluntary sector can play in supporting the NHS as part of the UK's response to the pandemic.

Council scraps rise in burial costs

In January, East Suffolk Council agreed to increase fees across Waveney to bring them into line with the former Suffolk Coastal district after the merger of the two councils last year. The increase, with some fees due to rise by 15%, was due to come into force on 1 April, but with the coronavirus death toll rising, the council has opted to defer the increase until next year.

Third crossing edges nearer

Associated British Ports (ABP) had objected to the Lake Lothing Third Crossing proposal amid fears that the development would have a detrimental impact on offshore wind employment, as well as concerns surrounding port operations and marine safety. However, ABP has written to the Secretary of State for Transport to formally withdraw its objections after reaching an agreement with Suffolk County Council addressing the concerns.

May

Unemployment in Suffolk rockets by 40% due to virus

According to government data, the number of Universal Credit claimants surged by nearly 40% between March and April due to the virus – and continues to rise. The biggest increases have been in the more affluent areas where there is not normally an unemployment problem. But people have seen their companies closed or they have been laid-off. East Suffolk is the area with most claimants, up 35.6% since March.

Empty store set for new lease of life

The former Coes store – which used to be the Old Clapham Arms pub – is to be redeveloped into new flats and two retail businesses. The building has been closed since May 2019.

More trains on Greater Anglia – but passengers stay away

Extra measures to maintain social distancing have been put up at Greater Anglia stations and on the trains – but so far there has not been any need to implement the new rules as passengers continue to stay away. The company is running trains for essential staff only. Just over half the normal trains are running but only carrying 5% of the normal passenger numbers. Rail companies are being subsidised by the government to keep the trains running.

Some schools to reopen on June 3

Seven local schools from the Active Learning Trust, including Red Oak Primary, Grove Primary, Pakefield Primary and Westwood Primary, are preparing to reopen with a phased return to the classroom.

Refurbishment works start on seafront toilets

The toilets of the Jubilee North facilities – below the pagoda-style shelter on the promenade – are temporarily closed for the next six to eight weeks as they are refurbished. The work includes new

toilets, sinks and floors, energy efficient lighting and water saving equipment which is estimated to save 150,000 litres of water a year.

Sexism row breaks out at town council

Waveney's Labour and Green parties have been accused of working as a group to carry out a "highly organised and well-orchestrated takeover" of Lowestoft Town Council following their annual meeting where no women were elected as chairs or as mayor or deputy.

New vision for high street store

The former Lowestoft Electrical store – which closed in October 2018 – is to be converted into eight flats and three retail units, after plans were approved by East Suffolk Council. Concerns were raised by Suffolk County Council's Highways department over a lack of parking and information regarding deliveries, but the report states "Officers consider that the site is sustainably located with non-car modes of transportation available. The proposal will support the vitality and viability of the town centre".

Seaside huts to be demolished as part of £2.5M replacement scheme

A new scheme has been lodged for the 58 concrete beach chalets on Jubilee Parade, which were closed in the summer of 2016 due to safety issues. The rear wall of the huts, which form part of the existing cliff retaining wall, is cracking in places. It is the intention to use the ground anchors of the huts plus the filling-in of the huts to shore up the cliff. Then construct a steel deck over the huts on which wooden huts will be placed.

Poignant memories of popular coastal rail link

On May 2 1970, the last train ran between Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, having operated for 67 years. The closure came after the line had been run down by British Rail, with mainline services re-routed and stations left unstaffed and derelict. One comment said that the line was and could have continued to be, a superb transport and tourism artery, connecting Lowestoft and Yarmouth, via Corton, Hopton and Gorleston.

Recycling centres and tips reopen

The recycling centres and rubbish tips reopened on 14 May – by appointment only. But there are restrictions of what can and what cannot be recycled.

Lockdown does not stop VE Day celebrations

Hundreds of people around Lowestoft and Waveney commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day, moving planned events indoors and cutting guest lists to maintain social distancing.

Local MPs calling for more government support

More than 80 MP's, including Peter Aldous MP for Waveney, have signed a letter to the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, urging him to provide additional support to the region. The letter sets out the importance of the tourism and hospitality sectors and their significant role in the UK and local economies.

Work continues on major CEFAS development plan

Work began in the summer of 2018 on the new headquarters for CEFAS. The major renovations, which have seen the former Grand Hotel being demolished and replaced with a new research centre and modern office building, was due for completion this summer but are now scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

Brewery charity to aid local hospital

The Green Jack Brewery has come up with a novel idea. The beer, named Nightingale after the temporary hospitals erected to cope with the virus, will be sold and £10 from every firkin sold (approximately 40 litres) would be donated to James Paget hospital.

Routine surgery set to resume

The James Paget hospital is looking to resume routine operations as 100 beds remain empty and the number of virus cases falls. It will still need to be flexible in case of a second wave of infections that could further impact on services and hamper any return to “normal”. The message is that the NHS is “open for business”.

Zoo hopes to be open this summer

The Chief Executive of Africa Alive! has praised the public for their financial support during the pandemic and said that he has not written off the tourism season yet. The zoo needs £90,000 a month to feed the animals and pay essential staff. However, in a later article, The Zoological Society of East Anglia, which runs Africa Alive! and Banham Zoo, announced a cut of a third of the workforce to “give the attractions a fighting chance of survival”. The Society had been turned down for a recent government zoo support grant.

Third crossing given the go-ahead

The third crossing over Lake Lothing has been given the green light by the government, five years after plans were first outlined. The confirmation comes following a year-long Development Consent Order process, with the County Council hoping to open the bridge in 2022.

First Light launches banner competition

Organisers of the First Light festival, which was cancelled due to the COVID 19 virus, has unveiled a programme of online workshops and activities and a competition to keep connected with people in Lowestoft and audiences elsewhere.

New mayor hails town’s resilience

The new mayor of Lowestoft, who was elected earlier this month, said that the people of the town have proven time and time again to be very resilient in adversity. He added that it has been a very difficult time for the whole country, but Lowestoft can be proud that by keeping to the lockdown rules it has contributed to Suffolk having one of the lowest spreads of the virus in England.

“Overdue” boat sparks coastal search

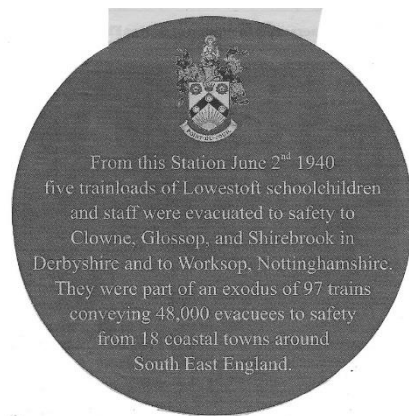
The Lowestoft lifeboat “Patsy Knight”, the Great Yarmouth lifeboat “Samarbeta” and a HM Coastguard helicopter were called out after reports that a powerboat with four people on board had not returned to its moorings. After a four-hour search, it was reported that the vessel and its occupants had been found safe and well.

June

Town’s role in Dunkirk evacuation remembered

A plaque commemorating the involvement of Lowestoft in the evacuation of British and French forces from Dunkirk in Operation Dynamo in May and June 1940 has been commissioned by Lowestoft Town Council, with Lowestoft historian Chris Brooks researching the town’s key role. Lord Cavan LT68, Silver Dawn LT194, Fisher Boy LT334, Jacketa LT296 and Formidable (Fidget) LT100 were among the nearly 1,000 vessels involved in the operation – some of which would not return.

Commemorating the 80th anniversary of schools being evacuated



On Sunday June 2 1940, 3,000 schoolchildren of all ages were joined by teachers and welfare staff as the threat of war moved towards the East coast meaning they were uprooted from their homes as they left Lowestoft to live with other families in and around Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Since then, many of those involved have attended reunion events over the years that have been organised through the Lowestoft Evacuees Association.

Store confirms closure

The Lowestoft branch of Burton's menswear is to close after the expiry of the store's lease. Rumours have persisted about the future of the store in the town for more than a year. However, the company has confirmed that they will endeavour to find alternative employment for the staff within the parent company, Arcadia group.

New Greggs store

Plans for a new Greggs store to be built in a new unit on the North Quay Retail Park on Peto Way, Lowestoft, have been given the go-ahead.

Historic pub to be converted into flats

The historic Eagle Tavern on Tanning Street, Lowestoft, which was closed in 2014, having served customers since the 1800's, is to be converted into homes. Having remained empty since its closure, plans centering around "the conversion of the tavern with demolitions to the rear, to provide four self-contained dwellings with rear gardens and storage buildings" have been approved, with conditions, by East Suffolk Council. Suffolk County Council's Highways team objected to the proposed development due to the potential impact on on-street parking.

Rail crossing work to enable faster trains on the East Suffolk line

Network Rail has upgraded safety systems on 28 crossings on the East Suffolk line between Lowestoft and Ipswich in a move that could ultimately lead to increased train speeds on the route. It has installed new devices that tell signal staff exactly where trains are on the route, thus improving safety at the small crossings where people have to ring signallers for permission to cross. It does not affect automatic levels on most crossings on the route.

Tankers offshore

The presence of oil and chemical supertankers off the coast of Suffolk has sparked fresh fears on the possibility of pollution. More than 20 tankers are currently anchored in an area less than 10km offshore designated by the government as a zone for ship-to-ship transfers.

Vandals hit UK's most easterly park

The UK's most easterly park has been subject to "disgusting and abhorrent" vandalism and workers have been verbally abused during lockdown. The Ness, which is currently being regenerated after a £1M community fund grant was secured in 2017, has been the site of "spitting, urination and criminal damage" over the past weeks. In a statement, East Suffolk Council reported verbal abuse of workers since construction resumed on the site in May.

Lifboat responds to “suspicious object” call

At 11am, a Lowestoft lifboat, HM Coastguard rescue teams and police officers were mobilised after concerned residents raised the alarm concerning reports of a body in the water off Kessingland beach. The coxswain reported that the “dark shape floating close to the shore” was, in fact, a tent. On returning to shore, the lifboat was redirected to search for a missing man thought to be in the North Denes – Gunton – Corton area. He was found safe and well in Carlton Colville.

Vintage arrival signals new heritage project

Work has begun on creating a new heritage area next to Lowestoft Station. The Lowestoft Central Project, in association with the Wherry Lines Community Rail Partnership, has taken delivery of a set of railway crossing gates, which will be installed to form a 60ft wide backdrop to the area at the back of the station, where the former track across to the harbour has been preserved – 50 years after it was last used.

Holiday firms see surge in home bookings

Holiday parks and campsites in East Anglia are seeing a rise in demand as people look closer to home for a post-lockdown break. As the government eases restrictions, self-catering and camping bookings are already on the increase.

Step forward for vital flood protection project

Anglian Water will begin preparations ahead of Lowestoft’s new flood defence installation. Engineers will start trial hole investigations in Hamilton Road and Waveney Road to help with the installation of the new flood defence scheme to protect the town. This will help the company determine which water or sewage pipes need to be moved or diverted in order to allow the multi-million pound flood protection scheme to continue.

Hope for boost to breathe new life into Lowestoft

Up to £25M could be awarded to Lowestoft, Norwich, Kings Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Ipswich under the government’s £3.6B Towns Fund initiative. The money would help transform prospects, with a focus on improved transport, better broadband, skills and culture. The councils now have to decide whether or not to submit a Town Investment Plan.

MP praises ‘tremendous’ zoo amid calls for more support

Speaking in Parliament, Waveney MP Peter Aldous hailed Africa Alive! as a tremendous tourist attraction, but urged government ministers to reassess the zoos support fund to help as many zoos as possible as weeks of enforced closures come to an end.

New retail units and housing proposed for former TESCO

The TESCO Metro store closed in Lowestoft town centre in September 2019 after decades of serving the community. Having remained empty since, a new lease of life is being proposed with a scheme for almost 40 homes and three retail units being lodged with East Suffolk District Council. The proposed residential mix includes eight one-bed apartments, 29 two-bed apartments and two three-bed townhouses spread over four floors with the commercial units on the ground floor.

Lifeguards set to return to Lowestoft beach

Since lockdown restrictions were eased last month, the RNLI has been working to roll out lifeguard cover on 47 beaches in England, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. Having reassessed their procedures and equipment, they are now confident that they can lifeguard 80 beaches, including Lowestoft, this summer.

Two Boots stores set to close

The chemists on St Peters Street and Meadow Road in Lowestoft, will close by the end of August, it has been announced. The company said that the viability of stores is always under consideration and that colleagues in the stores will be offered jobs within Boots stores.

Hotels preparing to welcome back holidaymakers

Hotels in the region have been inundated with bookings after announcing they will welcome back visitors within weeks. Both the Hotel Victoria and the Hog Hotel in Pakefield said that they have received many calls for bookings and that since lockdown, they have revised their procedures and dining arrangements so that they are ready to go following the latest guidance.

Tourist bosses predict £1.8B loss to local economy

Tourism bosses in Norfolk and Suffolk have given their bleakest view yet of the future of their industry – calling for more government support. The forecast is hundreds of job losses in tourism and venues closing in the next four months alone. The facts of tourist attractions losing £26m in profits and many struggling to see it through until October, have been revealed in a report.

Neighbourhood plans under development

35 towns and villages across East Suffolk have begun work on extra measures to protect their areas from speculative developments. Neighbourhood plans are documents drawn up by parish and town councils or working groups to effectively map out areas suitable for development, whilst identifying important green spaces and wildlife corridors and ensuring communities can meet the needs of future housing.

Apprenticeships drive unveiled

ScottishPower Renewables is seeking people with a passion for science, maths, engineering, problem solving and those with good communication skills and strong team ethic to serve as mechatronics maintenance apprentice technicians on the windfarm being developed 30 miles off the Suffolk coast.

Grass cutting gets the chop

40 areas across East Suffolk are being allowed to “re-wild” with weeds, grasses and wildflowers allowed to grow uncut to attract wildlife. These areas, which are large enough to provide an environmental benefit and do not present and safety issues for communities, will be marked with new signs to make residents and visitors aware. Local areas affected are:

Castleton Avenue (footpaths)	Stradbroke Road (open space)
Bloodmoor Road, Carlton Colville (two roundabouts)	Dorleydale, Carlton Colville (open space)
Yarmouth Road	Dales, Lowestoft (footpath)
Beaconsfield Road/Field Lane, Kessingland	Colsterdale, Carlton Colville (open space)
Lloyds Avenue/Church Road, Kessingland	Aveling Way, Carlton Colville (open space)
Marbella Green, Carlton Colville (open space)	Westwood Avenue/Long Road
College Meadows	

Supertrawlers have been reported fishing in protected areas

“Destructive” supertrawlers have been fishing in the UK’s protected marine areas including the southern North Sea off our coastline, environmentalists say. The controversial factory ships can be more than 100 metres long and “vacuum up” huge quantities of fish every day. A Greenpeace investigation reports that 25 supertrawlers – none of which are UK owned – spent nearly 3000 hours fishing in marine protected areas in 2019.

Easing lockdown; What is changing on July 4?

Social distancing: The two-metre social distancing rule can now be relaxed and replaced with a “one-meter plus” rule.

Indoor gatherings: Indoor gatherings of any two households will now be allowed, no matter how many people.

Pubs and restaurants: Restaurants, cafes, workplace canteens, bingo halls, social clubs, bars, pubs and cinemas can reopen.

More entertainment and services: Hair salons and barbers to reopen with staff asked to wear visors. Places of worship, libraries and community centres to be allowed to reopen. Museums, galleries, theatres and concert halls can reopen but not for live performances.

Hotels and holiday accommodation: Hotels, hostels, bed and breakfast accommodation, holiday apartments or homes, cottages or bungalows, campsites, caravan parks or boarding houses can all reopen provided they are “Covid-secure”.

Tourist destinations and local attractions: Outdoor playgrounds, outdoor gyms, funfairs, theme parks, adventure parks and activities can reopen. Amusement arcades and outdoor skating rinks can reopen. Social clubs, model villages and indoor attractions at aquariums, zoos, safari parks, farms, wildlife centres, and any places where animals are exhibited to the public can reopen.

What will remain shut?

Nightclubs	Casinos	Bowling alleys	Indoor skating rinks
Indoor play areas, including soft play areas		Spas	Nail bars
Massage parlours	Tattoo parlours	Piercing parlours	
Indoor fitness and dance studios		Indoor gyms and sports venues	
Swimming pools and water parks		Exhibition or conference centres	

July

Security guards to patrol park

Security guards will now patrol a popular Broads park to tackle a rise in anti-social behaviour. Oulton Broad Parish Council has announced multiple guards will patrol Nicholas Everitt Park each night, covering the park and the surrounding area.

Toilet works

Major works started on the public toilets on Lowestoft seafront in May. East Suffolk Council carried out the works to the Jubilee North facilities beneath the Pagoda-style shelter on Lowestoft promenade.

Charity shop to close

The British Heart Foundation store at 39 London Road North in Lowestoft will not reopen. But its furniture and electrical store will stay open on the same road.

Lifesavers helping to keep beaches safe

Over the past few weekends, volunteers from Waveney Surf Life Saving Club have been patrolling the beach North of Claremont Pier in Lowestoft. Acting as “beach wardens”, the volunteers patrol the beaches, offering safety advice and assistance to the beachgoers. The beach wardens began patrolling following a request from the national Surf Life Saving Club GB who asked them to get involved as more people began to visit beaches as lockdown restrictions eased.

Historic theatres illuminated “in red”

The Marina Theatre, the Players Theatre at The Bethel in Lowestoft and the Seagull Theatre in Pakefield all supported the “Light It In Red” initiative as buildings and landmarks across the UK

highlighted the situation facing the events industry. The Marina Theatre, which first opened to live events in 1883, is a charity that relies almost entirely on ticket sales.

Most of Suffolk's libraries reopen

More than 30 libraries have reopened across Suffolk as community services continue to return following the coronavirus lockdown. Current government guidelines discourage browsing in libraries. Customers can contact their library in advance and local teams will put together a bundle of books or other items, tailored to their personal taste, for them to collect. Online reservations will not be available.

New tourist information office to open at rail station

For the first time in five years, Lowestoft will have its own dedicated, large scale tourist information office, as work is completed on a brand new facility at the town's railway station. The Lowestoft Central Project and the Wherry Lines Community Rail Partnership have joined forces to open the office in time for the summer holiday. The facility will see a mix of tourist information combined with books, locally produced crafts and souvenirs available in addition to stocking public transport timetables, railway collectables and refreshments.

Customers enjoy social-distanced day out

Though Woody Bear couldn't make it to the party, there were plenty of impressed customers enjoying a day out at Pleasurewood Hills on its second reopening weekend. The sun helped create a sense of normality as park benches filled up with families – but sanitising stations, 2m distance markers and a one-household-to-a-car policy on rollercoasters was a reminder that was definitely a "new" normal.

Cruise liner laid up off East coast

Aerial pictures of the cruise ship taking shelter off the East coast reveal empty decks and an abundance of places around the usually packed pools. The Queen Victoria has been sitting off the coast at Lowestoft since the weekend, providing an unusual spectacle for local people watching it from the shore. The ship, a Vista-class cruise ship operated by the Cunard line, is currently at anchor three miles off Kessingland. Left with a surplus of food following lockdown, Queen Victoria, and her sister ship Queen Mary 2, both currently moored in UK waters with no guests on board, donated some 23 tons of their supplies to UK food rescue charity, JUK Harvest.

Free face coverings to be handed out in town

With new regulations coming into force on 24 July, shoppers will need to wear a face covering when visiting shops and supermarkets. Lowestoft Vision - the town's business improvement district managed by Suffolk Chamber of Commerce – and the town council is supporting the new rules. A spokesman said that the council are supporting the mandatory rules where all shoppers need to cover their faces to enter shops. With a clear message of "Don't make us ask, wear a mask" we can all make the town a safe and pleasant place to shop. Free disposable face masks will be offered on London Road North – between the Marina and the Britten Centre – subject to availability.

Unsafe seafront beach chalets to be demolished

A new scheme to demolish the 58 concrete beach chalets on Jubilee Parade in Lowestoft, which closed in the summer of 2016 due to safety issues, will begin as part of a wider investment programme in the area. An East Suffolk Council spokesman said the scheme will ensure the cliff is stabilised and also includes the construction of a retaining wall, to prevent any slippage and risk to the public. A platform will also be installed for new beach huts.

£43M of funding to protect the town announced by government

A tidal flood barrier will be built in Lowestoft's outer harbour, along with tidal flood walls to the north and south of the barrier, to protect the town from flooding and provide much needed protection to hundreds of homes and businesses.

August

Theatre's fight for survival

An iconic theatre has issued a desperate call for support after launching a survival appeal - which raised £10,000 in its first week. Lowestoft's Marina Theatre is calling on the local community to help with a campaign to raise £100,000 to deal with the "devastating" effect of the coronavirus crisis.

History of the Marina Theatre

The original theatre started life in the 1870s as a roller-skating rink. The Rink Theatre was converted into the Marina in 1897 and it was operated as a live venue until 1929 when cinema made the future uncertain. However, it survived after Associated British Cinema took it over until it was operated by EMI. With cinema attendances dropping in the late 1960s following the introduction of colour television, the Marina continued as a cinema before finally closing on Christmas Eve 1984. After being bought by Waveney District Council in 1985, 24 hours before a demolition deadline set by EMI, the Marina underwent a huge renovation. It reopened on 1 October 1988, and the venue has hosted numerous world-class and diverse acts since. In 2005, the Marina became a residence of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, but in 2011 the theatre again faced an uncertain future. But it was saved with the formation of the Marina Theatre Trust. Now, after launching the survival appeal, the theatre remains in talks with Lowestoft Town Council, East Suffolk Council and with Arts England, who continue to "remain supportive" of their campaign.

Smart Towns scheme set to receive £450,000 boost

A scheme to digitally transform East Suffolk's market towns and help them recover from the impact of coronavirus has been awarded £450,000 in funding. The East Suffolk Smart Towns project is benefiting from £250,000 of government funding, which will be used to install digital town technology - such as free to use WiFi, football tracking sensors, analytics and retail apps - in Lowestoft and Felixstowe. The project has also received £200,000 from the New Anglia LEP's Innovative Projects fund to enable the project to be rolled out across 11 market towns in East Suffolk.

New fuelling facility

Associated British Ports (ABP), the owner and operator of the Port of Lowestoft, has invested more than £250,000 in the new fuel bunkering facility, which has received its first fuel from the vessel Thun Grace. John Shade, UK Fuel Manager said "This new fuel bunkering facility provides operators from the oil and gas offshore wind sectors with another reason to use Lowestoft as their port of choice, with capability and capacity now in place to service any vessel that comes into the port."

Transport museum to reopen

After four months of closure amid the coronavirus crisis, the East Anglia Transport Museum has reopened, with visitors able to enjoy socially distanced tram, trolleybus and train rides and access to the displays and collections of historic vehicles.

New film showcasing town's forgotten fishing village

A new film of an acclaimed touring show has been premiered. Pearls from The Grit, the film, has been created from the theatre show written by Dean Parkin that toured venues in Norfolk and Suffolk in

2018 and 2019. The evocation of Lowestoft's lost fishing village was premiered on Facebook and is now available on YouTube.

Resort makes top ten destination list

Two popular East coast resorts are among the top ten seaside destinations on Airbnb amid the rise in staycations. The website has revealed the most sought after UK destinations this summer, with Lowestoft the sixth most popular, while Great Yarmouth in ninth.

Traders "very busy" as thousands flock to the coast

Thousands of families flocked to the East coast to hit the sun-drenched sands as the temperatures soared. Holidaymakers and locals made the most of the hottest day of the year so far as they baked in glorious conditions.

Libraries back to normal

Readers will be able to browse the shelves and select the books they want to borrow as Suffolk Libraries offer more services during the autumn. Most libraries have been open for the last few weeks offering the select and collect service. Now they are looking to take the next steps including offering access to computers for tasks such as Universal Credit applications and job-seeking, photocopying and printing.

House prices

The cheapest places to live in Suffolk are in Ipswich and Lowestoft. The figures, released by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, also show that in December 2019, four parts of Lowestoft were found to be some of the cheapest areas of the county. Two parts of the Harbour ward and two areas of the Normanston ward had house prices ranging, on average, between £97,000 and £113,500.

Students results are "outstanding"

An "outstanding" set of A-level results have been hailed at Lowestoft Sixth Form College, with a near perfect pass rate. With 85% of students earning A* to C grades, a 6% increase from 2019, the college also saw a 99.7% pass rate.

Family behind town fish and chip shop take over pier

A family who now own a 117-year-old pier have taken inspiration from the past as they look forward to the future. The new owners of the Claremont Pier in Lowestoft have been working tirelessly to open new facilities. The changes have already seen Rock Salt turned into a new gift shop - Pinky's Beach Shop - whilst the amusement arcade has been extended and renamed as Lucky Lucy's. Bar 1903 has reopened, along with the new Fish and Chips@The Pier. The new pier's owners, the Mayne and Llewellyn families, will be hoping to attract some grant funding or lottery financial support to allow them to open up the structure to the public so they can walk along and potentially run a ferry service in the future. The Claremont began life in 1903 as a landing stage for Belle Steamers.

Artwork celebrates town's vibrant mix of culture

Work has been completed on a new photographic installation that celebrates Lowestoft's cultural activities and heritage. Celebrating the cultural work of local organisations and individuals, FlipSide has produced a 180-metre photographic installation on land around the back of the old Town Hall at Compass Street, Mariners Street and Jubilee Way. As plans for the site are developed, more than 50 new artwork panels - which features stunning photos and poems from schoolchildren - have transformed the land that has been vacant for years. The panels have been printed and installed by SPP Digital Ltd. The site was originally the historic Coopers biscuit factory off Jubilee Way. Work

started in 2016 to develop the site as a Burger King drive-through restaurant, but development stopped in 2017 after the franchisee due to be managing the site went into administration.

Police stop 50 vehicles on "day of action"

A day of action targeting criminals on the roads saw more than 50 vehicles stopped by police. Suffolk Police and partner agencies carried out a day of action in Lowestoft to disrupt criminal activity - with more than 40 vehicles caught speeding. Police checked 57 vehicles as part of a Protective Services Operation, with just nine vehicles leaving the site in Lowestoft clear.

Keeping cool on the coast as temperatures soar

Horses paddling on the beach, a refreshing drink under a parasol and staff keeping cool with ice during the soaring temperatures, these were just some of the scenes in south Lowestoft as scorching temperatures attracted thousands of visitors to the East coast on one of the hottest days of the year so far.

Work starts on new flood defence scheme

With a number of areas vulnerable to surface water flooding, particularly around Kirkley Stream, works on a localised flood defence scheme has begun. The works taking place in the area of Velda Close and Aldwyck Way will see a sheet piled flood wall built for about 300m alongside Kirkley Stream and downstream of the Bloodmoor Road roundabout to reduce the risk of flooding from the stream.

VJ Day commemoration

Lowestoft Town Council organised a remembrance event in which trees were planted in Kensington Gardens to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VJ Day.

Passengers warned ahead of engineer work on main railway route

Network Rail has urged people travelling between Norwich, Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth to be aware as track renewal works on the Wherry Line are due to start. The works to improve reliability of services will see engineers replace around 4km of track around Cantley, including through the station.

Crossing costs

Costs to build a third crossing over Lake Lothing have ballooned by more than £34M. Original costs for the crossing were estimated at £91.3M, to be funded with £73.39M from the Department of Transport and £18.34 in local contributions, £10M coming from the county council alone. But upward cost pressures, including land costs, compensation costs, delays caused by the general election and COVID has meant that the estimate is now £126.75M.

Theatre launches "socially-distant" September season

The Seagull Theatre in Lowestoft has been putting in place the necessary restrictions and changes to ensure that it is COVID-secure and will offer shows again. The experience will be a little different to what patrons have been used to in the past with only 36 seats available for each show and masks mandatory for the audience.

Food collections

A chain supermarket held extra summer food collections to support the Trussell Trust and FoodShare as they responded to an increased demand for food in the wake of the COVID pandemic. Special delivery points were put up at every TESCO Superstore and Extra store, with customers asked to donate essential items of long-life food. TESCO topped up all customer donations with an additional 20% donation in cash to both charities.

Beaches recognised as best in country

Three of the UK's most Easterly beaches have been named as among the best in the country. Lowestoft South beach, Southwold beach and Kessingland beach have all been recognised as part of annual seaside awards. Hosted by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, South Beach and Southwold beach have been recognised for bathing and resorts, whilst Kessingland beach has been honoured with a non-bathing award.

Third crossing name revealed

The name of Lowestoft's long-awaited third crossing over Lake Lothing has officially been announced with councillors giving their final approval to the plans. The bridge will be named Gull Wing, with a trio of pupils from Somerleyton Primary School beating 21 other entries in a competition to name the crossing. It comes as councillors at Suffolk County Council's cabinet meeting gave unanimous backing to the plans, which should see construction begin in spring ahead of a summer 2023 opening.

Theatre cuts staff

Lowestoft's Marina Theatre which is attempting to raise £100,000 to recover from the impact of coronavirus, has announced 11 members of staff have been made redundant. The theatre has made the cuts following the end of a staff consultation process, with 24zero and variable hours staff also given notice. The move comes as a bid to restructure the theatre's staffing model as it attempts to overcome the effects of lockdown, which saw the curtain drawn on performances for a number of months.

Whale found on beach was "out of habitat"

A rare Sowerby's beaked whale was washed up on Lowestoft beach after getting into difficulty "out of habitat" in shallower water, a post mortem has confirmed. The whale was discovered on the beach days after a pair of the rarely sighted whales were spotted off the north Norfolk coast.

Green light given to changes to children's centres

Changes to children's centres provision in Suffolk have been given the final approval after more than a year in the pipeline. Suffolk County Council's cabinet gave the green light to close two centres in Woodbridge and Ipswich as well as hand eight centres back to schools or nurseries they are attached to, and turn 11 into part - time hubs. Three Lowestoft centres - Kirkley, Riverside and The Ark - will remain open, while Village Rise will remain open on a part-time basis.

September

First Light Festival to return in 2021

A commitment of £140,000 has been made for the return of the First Light Festival to Lowestoft in 2021, after coronavirus forced the cancellation of the 2020 event. East Suffolk Council's cabinet agreed to pump the six-figure sum, from retained business rates, into delivering the 2021 event following the success of the inaugural 2019 event.

Leisure centre to close for major revamp

Waterlane Leisure Centre in Lowestoft will close in October with work expected to last three months. The refurbishment will include replacing flooring and equipment in the gym, upgrading the lighting and adding new flooring in the sports hall. Repairs and upgrades to the showers, repairs to the teaching pool and pool tiles and decoration will be done.

Pupils returning to school after lockdown

Pupils of all ages across Lowestoft have started returning to school for the beginning of a new-look academic year. For some pupils, the return will mark a first day in school since lockdown was introduced in March 2020.

Dine Out scheme proves a hit with customers

Moss and Co, which runs six venues across East Suffolk, including The Jolly Sailors in Pakefield, said that it will put its own Eat Out to Help Out - style offers in place after an "unbelievable month". The management will continue to offer discounts after the governments Eat Out to Help Out scheme closes.

Revised plans for historic site

Plans to turn an historic hotel into flats and a café have been amended after concerns were raised. A scheme was lodged with East Suffolk Council in March to transform the former Royal Court Hotel in Lowestoft - which has stood empty for more than a decade - with 29 flats and a café.

Task Force to combat rising cost of projects

Suffolk County Council confirmed that a Task Force had been set up to tackle the problem of rising costs, and had been in operation for nine months unbeknownst by many councillors. The force had contributed to the cancellation of several infrastructure projects and had saved £16M on the Gull Wing (Lake Lothing crossing).

New coastal plan to bring "joined up" approach

The first steps are being taken on a new plan that could guide the region's response to coastal development and erosion for years to come. An initial consultation on the plan, which would cover the coast from Holkham to Felixstowe, has begun.

Coastal holiday park extends season

A Lowestoft holiday park has announced that it will extend their season by an extra two months following a "deluge of demand" for staycations. Instead of closing as usual after the October half term, Broadland Sands Holiday Park will continue welcoming guests until the week before Christmas.

New nursery play area

A brand new play area that helps to teach children key skills has been unveiled after the garden and outdoor area at the YMCA Childcare St Margaret's Road early years setting had been transformed. The new play area and roadway - which features road markings, flower beds, a zebra crossing and even a pretend car wash - is to be used to teach the children key social interaction skills.

Anglo-Saxon graves found on homes site

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery dating back 1500 years has been discovered by archaeologists during excavations ahead of a housing development. The excavations were carried out in Oulton, where skeletal remains have been recovered which reveal the existence of what was once a small farming community. Many of the skeletons are only visible as 'sand-silhouettes' - a rare phenomenon of preservation in highly acidic soil. Other items found include graves containing copper-alloy brooches, wrist clasps, strings of beads made of amber and glass, small iron knives and silver pennies.

New mural at railway station

A new mural giving a splash of colour has been unveiled at Lowestoft railway station. The mural is a joint commission by the Broad Partnership Team and Wherry Lines Community Rail Partnership to promote tourism.

Work gathers pace at major development

Demolition work has been completed as construction of a major £16M development continues. Work started on a new marine science centre in the summer of 2018 as new headquarters for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture Science (CEFAS) at its site on Pakefield cliffs in Lowestoft. The major renovations were due to be completed this summer, but due to the coronavirus lockdown earlier this year, the works were delayed.

'Bigger and better' store opens in new spot

A popular town centre retailer is making final preparations ahead of unveiling a larger store in a new location. The Works has moved to the former Clinton Cards site after a decade in its old store in Lowestoft town centre.

'A little bit different' - new café complex is a hit

A business complex which is bringing something 'a little bit different' to a Broads town has been a hit among locals and tourists since opening, its landlord says. The Old Dairy in Oulton Broad, which includes a café, artisan florist, holiday let, record store and hairdressers was opened by landlord Matt Jary and his family after he identified a gap in the market in the Lowestoft area.

'An exciting future'; town to get boost

A scheme to revive historic parts of Lowestoft will begin next month. South Lowestoft is set to be supported through the High Street's Heritage Action Zone scheme after a successful funding bid of more than £560,000 - to support regeneration and improvements in and around London Road.

October

Popular postcard auction boosts the arts

A popular postcard auction run by the Ferini Gallery in Pakefield has raised funds for Suffolk Artlink. With buyers bidding on line for the 90 artworks in the auction from as far afield as Staffordshire, Bicester, Tring and London, there were also local buyers from Lowestoft, Halesworth, Norwich and Woodbridge. The highest hammer price was £200 and the auction raised £2931.

Anniversary of bombing raid marked by commemoration

A wartime bombing raid that caused death and destruction in Lowestoft during the Battle of Britain in 1940, has been marked with a short commemorative event. The event was organised by local historian Bob Collis, but with COVID constraints, only a handful of people attended the event.

Bird lovers get in a flap!

Birdwatchers were left stunned with the unexpected sighting of a rare black-browed albatross along the coast. The adult albatross was spotted flying south down the coast with its appearance causing something of a flap. It is understood to be only the second sighting of the near-threatened species in Suffolk. The last sighting was at Minsmere in July 2015.

Farrans appointed as contractor for third crossing

Suffolk County Council has announced building and civil engineering contractor, Farrans, will construct the Gull Wing - with more than 50 local employment and training opportunities to be created. It comes as Suffolk-based company Archaeological Solutions Ltd, is digging trial trenches at the site.

Railway exhibition returns to station

People will have another chance to view a hugely popular exhibition as it returns to Lowestoft station. Departures, an exhibition of more than 70 photographs taken over the past five decades by Norwich-based photographer David Pearce, illustrated the evolving nature of the railways of Norfolk and North Suffolk and was originally funded by Community Rail Norfolk.

Suffolk Show 2021 is cancelled because of COVID uncertainty

Organisers of the Suffolk Show have decided to cancel next year's event after deeming it not possible to hold it "with safety and certainty". Show organisers, the Suffolk Agricultural Association, said it had taken the decision "with regret" and added that it was an extraordinarily difficult decision.

Excitement as zoo welcomes first giraffe calf in six years

A male calf was delivered to mother Kibibi, without any complications, at Africa Alive! Reticulated giraffes are one of the most common giraffe sub-species that are kept in captivity and are normally found in North and East Africa. Kibibi was the last calf to be born at the zoo, in 2014.

Pavilion revamp plans approved by councillors

After East Suffolk Council was awarded £720,000 through the Government's Towns Fund in July, a revamp of Lowestoft's iconic East Point Pavilion has been confirmed. Now, a team incorporating internationally renowned designers Hemingway Design and Hudson Architects are drawing up plans for the building.

"A reunion like no other"

The format may have had to change amid the continuing coronavirus crisis, but it did not prevent the brave service of sailors in WWII from being remembered. Heroes who gave their lives during WWII were honoured as the Royal Naval Patrol Service Association (RNSPA) held their 45th annual service of remembrance at Belle Vue Park in Lowestoft, where a memorial to fallen service members is based. During the war the town was the central depot of the RNSPA, as the men - who manned minesweepers and escort vessels in all parts of the world - carried out duties to keep vital supply lines open.

Staff and students hailed

East Coast College raised more than £2000 through the FE Foodbank Friday initiative that started in April to tackle food shortages in the community throughout the coronavirus crisis. After joining 10 colleges across the country at the start of lockdown, a total of £2021 was raised by the college through a JustGiving page.

Lifeline arts funding boosts are handed out

The Marina Theatre in Lowestoft was one of 21 organisations in Norfolk and Suffolk to have received a culture recovery grant from the Arts Council and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The theatre has received £309,922 to help them face the challenge of the pandemic. The Lowestoft company Scenic Projects Ltd, which designs and builds scenery for more than 600 theatre companies across the country, received a grant of £250,000.

When a bomber sat on the football pitch!

It has held many memorable football matches and attracted colourful away teams over the years, but perhaps the strangest sight to grace Crown Meadow in Lowestoft was a German bomber exhibited there 80 years ago. The bomber had been shot down over Kent but had been taken "on tour" to boost morale and raise funds for the war effort.

Charity gears up to deliver help

Access Community Trust, a Lowestoft-based charity, established the Pink Orange in the summer. Volunteers deliver free ingredient kits during the school holidays to households that receive free school meals during term time.

Long queues after new Burger King opens

The first Burger King restaurant to open its doors in Lowestoft has seen a brand new drive-through outlet unveiled on North Quay Retail Park. There were reports of early morning queues around the retail park as a spokesman for Burger King said that the new restaurant was creating 25 new job roles in the local area.

Our War Graves, Your History

The Lowestoft Naval Memorial commemorates almost 2,400 sailors of the Royal Naval Patrol Service that were killed in WWII that have no grave but the sea. Ahead of Remembrance Sunday, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is encouraging people to "Go Local" for remembrance. The CWGC has unveiled new digital resources - Our War Graves, Your History - allowing people to discover the World War heritage on their doorsteps across the UK, including Lowestoft.

Changing face of historic High Street "brought to life"

Right Up Your Street is a new video poem that celebrates the High Street and Scores area of Lowestoft over the years. Written and created by poet and writer Dean Parkin, Right Up Your Street has been commissioned by the Heritage Action Zone North Lowestoft team.

Remembrance Sunday

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and in light of the risks posed, the National Remembrance Sunday March Past at the Cenotaph did not take place this year. Similarly, Lowestoft Town Council announced that, regrettably, they would not organise a service and parade this year as they cannot guarantee that the necessary social distancing rules could be adhered to or the risks to the public appropriately managed.

War memorial history

A war memorial has stood on Royal Plain in Lowestoft since it was first installed in 1921 and each year it has been the centre point of a ceremony to remember the loss of many lives. It was built of Cornish granite by James E Proudfoot, who also installed the war memorials at Pakefield and Carlton Colville.

November

Restaurant group keen to make this year's Christmas "One to Remember"

With last orders temporarily called this week, the management at Moss and Co closed the seven venues it runs across the area on Monday night, but said it will be back as soon as it is allowed. The management further added that they would be giving each venue small renovations during lockdown but were preparing plans for reopening for Christmas.

Optimistic signs for tourism next year

After making a strong return this summer following the previous lockdown, Suffolk's tourism industry is preparing to fight back once again. Many businesses, particularly on the coast, were able to make the most of a bumper influx of "staycation" holidaymakers eager to enjoy the sunshine over the summer which helped to make up from the loss of revenue at the start of the season. Despite further restrictions now in place, there remains some optimism about the end of this year and the beginning of 2021.

A second baby giraffe!

Africa Alive! announced the arrival of a second baby giraffe, this time to mother Kiara. This arrival makes Kiara a mother and a grandmother at the same time, as Kiara is also Kibibi's mother (see October)! The reticulated giraffe is one of nine species of giraffe, which can be found in the arid areas of North and East Africa and is on the endangered list.

Town could "thrive" with major investment plan

The Lowestoft Place Board have submitted a 10-year investment plan to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of a bid for £24.9M in funding for a range of projects. The Board, which is managed by East Suffolk Council, announced the plan which could see a total investment of more than £540M by 2030. The bid comprises:

£14.7M for demolition of the Battery Green car park and erecting a "vibrant" new building to support the performing arts and development of the Marina Theatre,
£2.9M on development of the station area,
£3.3M on development of the Historic Quarter,
£2.7M improvements to the port to create high value jobs, and
£1.3M on seafront improvement projects.

Lowestoft showcased in new Burberry advert

Iconic British brand Burberry has showcased some of its latest collection in an advert that was partly filmed in Lowestoft. The two-minute video on the Burberry Youtube channel features the strapline "It's about that fearless spirit and imagination when pushing boundaries". The advert recreates Gene Kelly's "Singin' in the Rain" with a modern take.

Scheme for modern flats approved

Plans to turn a former hotel into flats and a café have been unanimously approved after "substantial improvements" were made by the developer. The Planning Committee previously expressed concerns about the size of the flats being proposed at the former Royal Court Hotel in Lowestoft and around concerns that only eight car parking spaces were being offered and waste disposal. But after discussions with the developer, the number of flats has been reduced and the remainder enlarged.

Work on £1M park is completed

A scheme to turn Ness Point into a landmark destination has seen work to develop the most Easterly park in the UK continuing over recent months. East Suffolk Council confirmed that "construction work has now been completed".

Disappointment as post office branch closes

Residents in Lowestoft have been left without a vital post office branch for over two months after it unexpectedly closed. The Post Office branch in the Premier store on Pakefield Street has been open on and off for the past year. But now, there is anger in the community after the branch was shut in September, with a Post Office spokesperson confirming it has closed temporarily due to 'operational reasons', with no indication as to when the branch will reopen.

Developer hits out at refusal of plans for seaside café

The developer of a proposed seaside café has hit out at a council branding them as 'disgraceful', after it stuck to its decision to refuse the plan. Proposals to build the seaside café were rejected by East Suffolk Council's planning committee. The Planning Officer recommended refusal based on Lowestoft Town Council, the landowners, also objecting and the developer, Peter Colby, refusing to carry out contamination or environmental surveys. Mr Colby wished to redevelop the North Denes car park and immediate surroundings into a café and restaurant. Proposals were put forward for an unlicensed restaurant which would serve fish and chips, a separate toilet block and a small motorised train for

children. He also planned to cut back land between Links Road and the Victorian Oval buildings as a venue for outdoor events.

Thousands of patients left waiting more than a year for operations

Thousands of people have been waiting for more than a year for operations in Norfolk, as the health service continues to count the cost of the pandemic. NHS figures for September show 4,595 patients waiting for more than 12 months for treatment at the county's hospitals, compared to just 93 at the start of the pandemic. That is a rise of almost 5000%. At the James Paget University Hospital in Gorleston, 439 patients waited for longer than a year in September, up from none in March and four in April.

MP calls for support for "hard hit" hospitality businesses

Suffolk was placed in a higher tier of coronavirus restrictions "with a heavy heart", according to health secretary Matt Hancock. The response came after Waveney MP Peter Aldous questioned the West Suffolk MP in the House of Commons, shortly after the whole of the East of England was placed in tier two. Mr Aldous called for support for the "very hard hit" hospitality businesses in the county. He also asked for "very clear indicators as to what else needs to be done" to make sure the county moves to tier one "as quickly as possible". Despite Suffolk witnessing lower levels of infection than elsewhere in the region and country, the current infection rate of 85 cases per 100,000 people is more than double what it was when Suffolk went into tier one in October,

Green light for new TESCO

Plans for a new TESCO at the former BrightHouse Lowestoft store on London Road North have been given the go-ahead. TESCO lodged proposals with the council for illuminated advertisement consent, a though-the-wall ATM, CCTV camera, LED lighting and automatic aluminium telescopic doors, all of which have been given approval. The original TESCO store in town, which closed in September 2019, was only 100m away from the new store.

Somerleyton Hall stands in for Sandringham

When the director of the award-winning Netflix series The Crown rounded a corner and saw the full majesty of Somerleyton Hall, she stopped in her tracks and gasped. This is exactly what the production team were looking for - an exact double for the Queen's private country retreat Sandringham House - and here it was bathed in Autumn sunshine. The hall had to be completely refurbished, including painting, before filming. It took 12 days to strip out the hall, repaint and refurbish it before just three days of filming.

"Staggering" public response to group's appeal

Lowestoft Players launched a crowd-funding campaign to replace their heating system. Owing to the COVID crisis, all performances and events have been cancelled at their home on Battery Green Road. The company is hoping to welcome people back into the venue soon. Within 24 hours £8,370 had been raised but there is still £35,000 to raise.

"Gull Wing is go"

Work will begin on Lowestoft's Gull Wing early in 2021, after the government gave final approval to the scheme. With Suffolk County Council's cabinet giving approval to the project in August, preliminary work for the bridge started in September. The Gull Wing project team at Suffolk County Council received official confirmation that its full business case has been approved, meaning that the £73.9M funding from the Department of Transport can now be accessed, the long awaited Third Crossing receives the green light. The Gull Wing is planned to open in the summer of 2023.

December

Service expands to help thousands over the winter

Access Community Trust established the PINK Orange in the summer after receiving external funding. After a few busy months in which they delivered thousands of essential food ingredient kits to families that receive free school meals, the service is resuming this winter. As demands for the service soared, the organisation has relocated its distribution hub to larger premises in Lowestoft. The new warehouse covers 4,000 sq ft, allowing for larger storage and a bigger workspace for an increasing number of volunteer packers.

Government urged not to compromise on fishing

Peter Aldous, Waveney MP, has argued that the renaissance of the East Anglian fishing industry depends on there being more fish in ports such as Lowestoft. This, he believes, would provide a framework for investment and processing in the local area. The government spokesperson confirmed that the negotiating team is working hard with the EU, as fishing is a huge sticking point for coastal communities.

Greater Anglia record high punctuality figures

Greater Anglia has recorded its best figures for punctuality in a decade, figures have revealed. More than nine out of every ten trains ran on time in November. The Norwich to Lowestoft trains recorded a punctuality of 96.1%.

On 80th anniversary of raid, Italians were behind bombing

It was a wartime raid which wrecked part of a canning factory, killing three people as it caused extensive damage. For more than 70 years, the bombing raid was thought to have been the work of the Luftwaffe. But after recent research by local historian Bob Collis, has led to the discovery that the bombs which hit the CWS (Co-op) factory in Waveney Drive, Lowestoft were, in fact, of Italian origin.

Merger plans revealed for Pupil Referral Units

A consultation has been launched over the plans for Harbour Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), Old Warren House and First Base, all in Lowestoft, to unite with The Attic in Bungay and its Carlton Colville subsidiary, The Dragonfly. PRU's are schools teaching children where mainstream education is not appropriate for them at that moment and are designed to help support pupils back into mainstream settings. The public consultation runs until December 18. The final decision will be made in late December/early January 2021 and, if approved, the revised structure will be implemented for September 2021.

Fresh safety plea issued

Last month a "stay safe on the coast" campaign was launched, as Coastal Partnership East and HM Coastguard issued warnings to people to stay away from eroding cliffs and not to climb on sea defences. Now residents and visitors to the East Suffolk coast are being reminded to stay safe after a youngster was seen playing at the base of the cliffs in Pakefield.

High street store up for auction as "residential development"

The former Lowestoft Electrical shop, which closed its doors in 2018 after 65 years of trading, looks set for a new lease of life. A new vision was proposed earlier this year to convert the empty store into three commercial units and eight flats. This vision has been approved by East Suffolk Council.

Curtain goes up again

The Marina Theatre has reopened after having to be shut during the second lockdown. But after temporarily closing its doors amid the continuing coronavirus crisis and this month's national lockdown, the theatre has reopened under the new Tier Two restrictions. The Chief Executive said that the theatre was planning to go ahead with the film and screening programme. [* See page 54]

Funding boost for groups tackling crucial local issues

The Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership has launched its Small Grants Scheme. The scheme offers grants of between £250 and £2000 to voluntary and community groups which address the area's key priorities of social isolation, mental health and childhood obesity.

Christmas swim cancelled

The organisers of the annual Lowestoft Christmas Day swim have taken the decision to cancel this year's spectacle amid the continuing COVID crisis. 3,000 people watched last year's event and the event has raised more than £60,000 for local charities.

Emergency works continuing to protect homes and coastline

A scheme of maintenance work is nearing completion as part of temporary protection to the base of eroding cliffs in South Lowestoft. The work in Pakefield has been carried out to provide temporary protection to the base of the cliffs and beach. The work involves beach material being transported from Lowestoft South beach, between Rectory Road and Kensington Road, and used to fill one-tonne bags that were placed in an area 100m long South of Arbor Lane, Pakefield.

Road closed as footbridge undergoes emergency repairs

Motorists are being warned of delays after the Ravine in Lowestoft was temporarily closed. It comes after safety concerns were raised during an inspection of the Jubilee Bridge, which runs from Belle Vue Park over The Ravine. The footbridge was built in 1887 and features an inscription on the South side referring to Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

Life Line

A pantry is proving to be a lifeline for those in the community who are struggling with everyday food bills. In response to the needs of Kirkley community, Kirkley Pantry, a branch of 'Your Local Pantry' has opened in Kirkley Church Hall. The pantry is the only one in the East of England and is not a food bank because there are no referrals, no vouchers and no questions asked. Talking about the pantry, volunteer Paul Light said: "Anyone who has found that after paying all the household bills there is very little left over for food can become a member of Kirkley Pantry at any time. It is a membership scheme where, for £3.50 each week, members can shop at the pantry and select at least 10 items of their own choosing from a wide selection of high quality products including tinned, chilled and fresh. The approximate value of these items is £15". Kirkley Pantry is a member of Lowestoft Food Forum and working with FareShare, Neighbourly, Church Action on Poverty, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk Council, Suffolk Community Action and Lowestoft Rising. The aim of the forum is to reduce food poverty, food inequality and reduce the amount of food finishing up in landfill sites.

Santa and shopping

Independent businesses and traders in a historic high street welcomed Santa Claus during a special late night shopping event. Organised by the Most Easterly Community Group, in conjunction with local businesses, the event in Lowestoft High Street was hailed a success. Many of the High Street's diverse group of independent shops and traders stayed open late for the event, with all the businesses reporting good trade.

County placed in Tier 4 [*]

Pubs, restaurants and non-essential shops will be forced to close from Boxing Day after Suffolk and Norfolk were moved into the highest tier. With cases on an upward trajectory and a new variant of the virus spreading, many places moved into the highest tier of restrictions. It means that pubs and restaurants must close unless offering takeaway or delivery, theatre shows will halt and supporters will no longer be able to attend football matches.

Academy raises £1000 for winter food bank

A local academy has raised over £1000 for its winter food bank which will be used to deliver much needed food to the town during the new year. A teacher at Everitt Academy in Carlton Colville set up a GoFundMe page to raise funds. At the Academy, over half the pupils receives free school meals, with 20% of its pupils being in care, which means anytime away from school often means children having no access to warm meals.

New holiday park owners say work could start "within weeks"

Park Holidays UK is the new owner of Pakefield Holiday Park - formerly Pakefield Caravan Park. The group is now drawing up investment plans for the previously family-owned holiday park, which has access to the beach. Park Holidays UK said the park has almost 400 pitches for caravan holiday homes and guests bringing their own motorhome or touring caravan.

College spreads festive joy

More than 600 items have been distributed to the Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth foodbanks this week as staff and students at East Coast College rallied round to support families in need this Christmas. The college has been supporting the FE foodbank Friday initiative along with other colleges across the country since the first national lockdown, donating more than £2000 to the foodbanks in October.

Festive performances for free

For the first time in more than 50 years, The Lowestoft Players will not be able to stage a pantomime or Christmas show due to the continuing COVID crisis. So, The Players are showcasing an online seasonal treat - "A Very Merry Little Christmas Spectacular"- to the people of Lowestoft and beyond. Each film - and there are four of them - was shot in Lowestoft and shows some well-known landmarks around the town. It features a cast of more than 30 members of The Players who dance, sing, act and provide light-hearted comedy moments.

New book shop on High Street

Owners of a new book shop are hoping it can be a key part of the regeneration of the historic High Street. Books+Prints opened its doors earlier this month in a prime location on the corner of High Street. As well as selling donated books, the owners want to offer courses in printmaking, writing workshops and book club meetings.