

President's Address

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Dear all,

As I was preparing to compose my message for this year's introduction, it struck me how important the Annual Report of the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society is as a document for recording history in the making; a document which charts the personal strivings of individuals, groups and committees, whose names become as familiar to the regular reader as characters in an Arthurian legend and whose exploits on behalf of the LA&LHS are set against the backdrop of fascinating social, economic and legal developments. Sometimes schemes are set about with problems or are attempted in the context of exceptional circumstances (never more so than with Covid19); sometimes there is excitement, celebration, and undoubted achievement. All members of the Society are far too modest and self-deprecating to define themselves as heroic or "martyrs to the cause", and there is no accurate record made of any individual's personal sacrifice in terms of time, energy, and outlay. However, what will become apparent to future generations of scholars, students, and historians, as they pay retrospective attention to these regular accounts of the work of a band of devotees and fellow-supporters of both the Lowestoft Museum and the LA&LHS, is just what advancement is made year-on-year by loyal, dedicated people who, together, continue to maintain and enhance a living legacy.

2021 has been a year of flux, with every single aspect of communal functionality still being operated in the shadow of the pandemic. However, the LA&LHS has certainly gained ground in multiple aspects of its management and planning over the last 12 months. Much of this is thanks to the continuity of effort and some extra-ordinary, progressive work which was achieved throughout 2020, all of which was beneficial for the Society's long-term certainty. We started 2021 in a good position, managing to build-upon an understanding of new systems and the application of refined communication and accounting technology, and with a clear focus on how to push ahead with some long-spoken-of major schemes. My goodness, what developments have been forged upon these sure foundations! You will read exciting accounts in the pages to come.

2021 has also been a year when two worlds collided, leaving some people totally bemused. I speak of the surprising juxtapositioning of events and etiquette in the traditional vein, with the rush of international media attention and visitor attraction, which was witnessed this summer. Who could have scripted it? A sublime and honoured visit from the Lord Lieutenant, Countess of Euston, to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the official opening of the museum by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II (one year delayed, for obvious reasons), accompanied by a delightful afternoon tea in the museum garden at the beginning of August; swiftly and unexpectedly followed, later that same month, by the spirited appearance of an artwork by world-famous Banksy on the bridge adjacent to the museum.

I interpret this chapter in our own history as a fitting allegory. Our tireless custodianship of the past via the LA&AHS is a continuum which encompasses a duty to look after the present, because our own "here and now" will form an aspect of history valued by future generations.

Elizabeth Talbot

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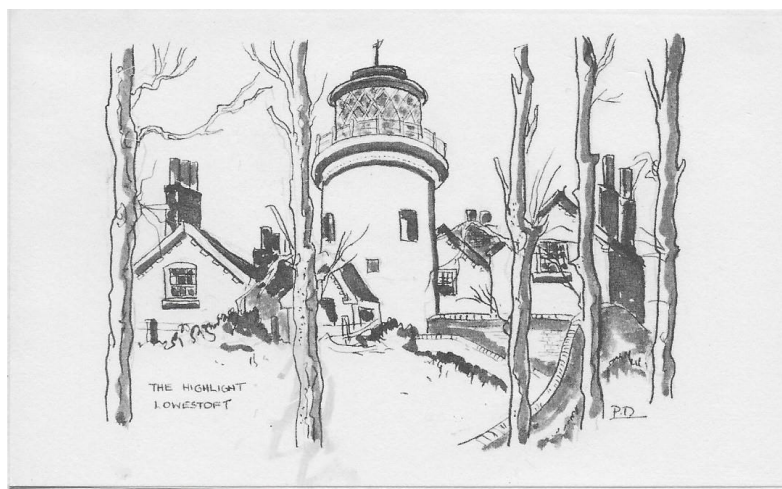
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Chair's Report 2021

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I hope you enjoying reading this very informative annual report. I will give you a run down of how our last year has gone.

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At the beginning of 2021, any plans for the society going forward were still firmly on hold as we were still in the middle of the pandemic with many restrictions in place which would not allow us to progress with any meetings safely.

In early February 2021, we heard the sad news that committee member Sue Barnard had passed away. Sue had been an active member of our committee and regularly attended our talks and events. I speak from personal experience when I say she was very good at encouraging people and getting the best out of them. She will indeed be very much missed, not only in our society but also in the many other groups and organisations she was involved in across the town.

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On 21st April 2021, local aviation historian, Bob Collis, presented his talk 'The Night the Church went up'. This was presented online only due to the on-going restrictions, using the Facebook page. The talk was presented on the exact 80th Anniversary of Pakefield Church being badly damaged by WW2 enemy action. This was a popular event and a few hundred people have viewed the talk since it went out live.

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On 19th August 2021, the committee had their first meeting since August 2020. Plans were put together so we could restart meetings and enjoy the great talk programme Marilyn has put together. We had to do this safely and work out how we would adhere to any rules and regulations set by the hall hire. Also, the important decision was made to renew current members membership for free for the 2021 - 2022 season.

On September 9th 2021, we were able to hold our AGM where the current Committee was voted in again with minimal changes. This was a very well attended AGM, the busiest one I

have been to in my years with the society, this gave us a lot of hope for the autumn programme, as it was clear that people were willing to come out again.

The Autumn season kicked off on September 23rd 2021 with a fabulous talk by Trudie Jackson on The Gisleham Murder of 1844. This was rather fitting as Trudie was the last speaker we had in March 2020. This talk was well attended indeed, with society members and visitors coming along. This trend continued throughout the rest of the Autumn with the following talks: The Dockside Dandies of Lowestoft by Peter Wylie, Fiammetta Wilson, Astronomer & Daughter of Lowestoft by Bill Barton, The Life of Nicholas Everitt by Rodney Duerden and The Lothingland, Lowestoft, Yarmouth Trading Disputes c1200 – 1660 by David Butcher. It was very pleasing indeed to see that all of the efforts of the committee were rewarded by seeing our members and visitors enjoying these lectures. Thanks to all those that attended and were part of it.

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In September I personally got involved in Heritage Open Days - putting on many events in Lowestoft either myself or supporting others with events. Society member Janis Kirby also helped me with some research. This contributed to a very successful festival here in Lowestoft and our society is glad to play its part in that.

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In December we decided to do another 'Advent Calendar' as we did in 2020. Utilising the society's Facebook group. This consisted of uploading a local picture of interest each day during Advent with an informative mini write up by local historian David Butcher. At the time of writing, we are on day 16 and it's going very well indeed, bringing local history to the general public. Special thanks must go to David for helping make this a great success. I may even be tempted to do it again for a third year running in December 2022!

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I think with the pandemic still looming we are aware that plans could possibly change but we still have to plan and hope for the best result. So, with that in mind I am very much looking forward to 2022 and the continued success of our great society.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for the work they have put in making the autumn season so successful and to all members and visitors for coming out and showing their support. I am very proud of what we have been able to achieve together.

Richard Mundy – Chair

Chair Report



Membership List

Honorary Members:

<u>Mr P Durbidge</u>	<u>Mr A Charlton</u>	
<u>Ms J Arnopp</u>	<u>Mr D Hatton</u>	<u>Mr D Pyecroft</u>
<u>Mrs I Ashman</u>	<u>Mrs J Hatton</u>	<u>Mrs S Pyecroft</u>
<u>Mr R Ashman</u>	<u>Mr B Jeffrey</u>	<u>Mr D Randlesom</u>
<u>Ms J Baldwin</u>	<u>Ms C Kimmance</u>	<u>Mr P Rasbery</u>
<u>Mrs J Berrey</u>	<u>Mrs J Kirby</u>	<u>Mr J Read</u>
<u>Ms J Brown</u>	<u>Mr J Knowles</u>	<u>Mrs A Sims</u>
<u>Mr D Chivers</u>	<u>Mrs M Knowles</u>	<u>Mr M Sims</u>
<u>Mr R Collins</u>	<u>Mrs H Layzell</u>	<u>Ms P Smith</u>
<u>Mr B Cook</u>	<u>Mr P Layzell</u>	<u>Mr C Stone</u>
<u>Ms S Day</u>	<u>Ms S Layzell</u>	<u>Mr J Stone</u>
<u>Me E Diestelkamp</u>	<u>Ms J Long</u>	<u>Ms M Symonds</u>
<u>Mrs M Duerden</u>	<u>Mr S Lovewell</u>	<u>Mrs I Thompson</u>
<u>Mr R Duerden</u>	<u>Ms K Matatko</u>	<u>Mr P Thompson</u>
<u>Mrs J Durbidge</u>	<u>Mr D Matthew</u>	<u>Mrs H Townsend</u>
<u>Ms P Ewels</u>	<u>Mr R Mundy</u>	<u>Mrs T Unitt</u>
<u>Ms P George</u>	<u>Mrs I O'Toole</u>	<u>Mr H van Pelt</u>
<u>Mr P Gillings</u>	<u>Mrs D Peck</u>	<u>Mrs J van Pelt</u>
<u>Mrs D Gillings</u>	<u>Mrs T Penman</u>	<u>Mrs M Vigo di Gallidoro</u>
<u>Mr I Hart</u>	<u>Mr T Phelps</u>	<u>Mrs S Webber</u>
<u>Mr J Harvey</u>	<u>Mr P Pulfer</u>	

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Statement of Society Funds**LOWESTOFT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY**

Regd. Charitable Trust No. 268011

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020 -2021

<u>INCOME</u>		
<u>2019/2020</u>		<u>2020/2021</u>
969.00	Membership Fees	0.00
330.50	Visitors	0.00
73.00	Annual Reports	25.00
500.00	Gifts and Donations	0.00
47.00	Fund Raising	30.00
24.50	Sundry	0.00
5.97	Deposit Account Interest	1.58
420.00	Xmas Social College Meal Feb.20	na

2369.97		56.58
Cash and Bank Balances at 1/4/20		
	Cash in hand	76.81
	Current Account	1617.04
	Deposit Account	2939.54
	4633.39	4633.39
		4689.97
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
2019/2020		2020/2021
150.00	Lecturers Fees	0.00
158.00	Charitable Donations	0.00
336.00	Room Hire	30.00
16.98	Postage, Printing and Stationery	98.08
48.64	Annual Report costs	40.80
504.99	Sundry	0.00
25.00	Suffolk Local History Council	25.00
420.00	Xmas Social. . . . College Meal Feb.20	na
1659.61		193.88
Cash and Bank Balances at 31/3/21		
	Cash in hand	131.81
	Current Account	1423.16
	Deposit Account	2941.12
	4496.09	4496.09
		4689.97

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

Laptop £300, Digital Projector £250.

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 2021 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, 9th September 2021.

Museum Report

Although the Museum, which was closed in 2020, was not able to re-open until July 1st 2021, volunteers registered attendance and length of stay during the closed period, which contributed to over 1500 extra hours given during the last 12 months. A bespoke screen for the desk was paid for from a £300 grant from East Suffolk Council and a sign denoting the days actually open, (5 out of the usual 7).

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From July 19th, Lowestoft Museum has been open every day and visitor numbers are encouraging. 3,343 of whom 860 (25%) were children. In 2019, for the same period there were 4,007 visitors in total. The presence of a "Banksy" in Nicolas Everitt Park has attracted visitors to Oulton Broad and the Museum and requests for directions to the 'artwork', many of whom spent time in the museum. The acquisition of a SumUp machine has attracted more spending at the shop and extra donations, £800 in two months compared to zero last year.

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During the winter of 2020/2021, a lot of cleaning and re-arranging was done especially after builders started on creating the new room, which will be named after Michael and Barbara Turner, in what used to be part of the Park flat. Electricians have installed new wiring and the old alarm system has been replaced with additional devices on the Lowestoft Porcelain and Taylor cases.

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The major devotion of time and effort has been to submit an application to a new MEND (Museum Estate and Development) Fund operated by Arts Council England specifically to support museum buildings. Project officer, Patricia Day, has been overseeing this application which is very detailed and complicated, involving architects and builders examining the fabric of Broad House, specifically the water in the cellar and external drainage. The Museum Trustees were pleased to hear that the final submission is going forward and will hear in February if the application for funding has been successful.

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The Museum closed on Sunday October 31st. after the shorter season. In that time there were 5,222 visitors of whom 998 were children, almost 20%. These are lower figures than for 2019 over the same time period but sales and donations were promising. Since then, volunteers have continued to catalogue the collection, prepare for the arrival of the Somerleyton Bronzes in February 2022, and decorate in the Turner Room. At the social get together at Lowestoft Museum on Saturday November 6th, a full complement of volunteers was able to share coffee and cakes while hearing about the season and latest plans. The final installation of the new alarm system was completed in mid-December and this will allow the builders to remove the arch which faces the main stairs in Broad House.

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A separate project to obtain funding for the purchase of a pair of Lowestoft porcelain pugs, by Tony Howe, a trustee who is assisting the curator, Mike Chester, has been successful with half coming from the V & A and half from the Beecroft Bequest which specialises in 18th century items.

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The Lowestoft Museum will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 2022 with much to look forward.

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Statement of Museum Funds



REPORT OF MEETINGS

The Gisleham Murder of 1844 - Trudie Jackson 23 September 2021

This presentation came into being as a result of Trudie researching family history and discovering that an ancestor of her husband had been named in the enquiry which followed the death ~~of 26-year-old~~ 26-year-old ~~r-old~~ Police Constable James MacFadden who lived in Kessingland and patrolled a number of villages in that part of Suffolk.

It is not only the facts of the case as we know them today but the background events leading up to the murder and the way in which the case was examined and the suspects tried that makes it a more than everyday event.

There had been considerable unrest in the countryside particularly among the poor farm workers during the recession following the end of the Napoleonic War, exacerbated by Corn Laws in 1815 and Poor Law in 1834. The introduction of farm machinery reduced wages and increased unemployment. Even 'gleaning' a traditional countryside perk of the poor

agricultural family, was being denied in some areas. Incidents of barn burning and animal killing had already occurred An early example of police uniform

and one Edmund Botwright was awaiting deportation after conviction only a week before the Gisleham event, for writing a threatening letter to Robert Watling of Sotterley.

McFadden had been informed that there was to be an attack on Button's Farm and when he arrived there, saw four men by the barn who let themselves in with a lock pick key and started to remove sacks of wheat. He removed his hat, outer uniform and shoes and crept up on them. He shouted to them to stop but didn't even after one warned him to get back. One of the robbers took a gun from another, aimed it at MacFadden who still advanced, and shot him at close range. One of the robbers even went over to kick the wounded policeman twice, as he lay on the ground.

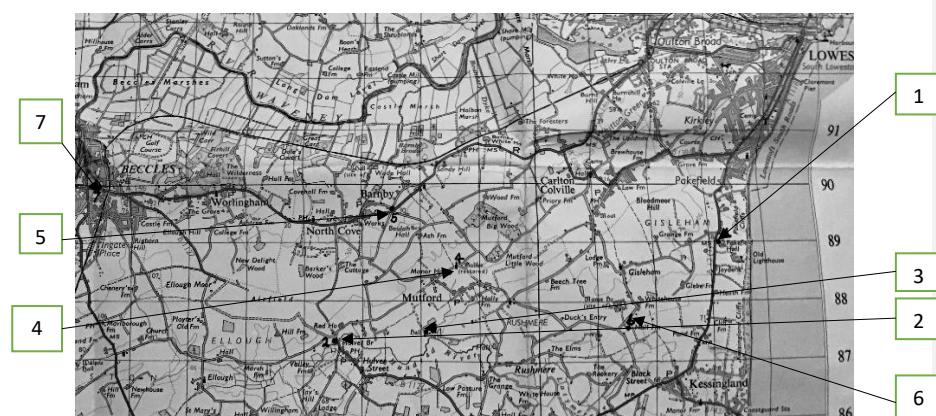
MacFadden crawled to the farmhouse where the Buttons sent for doctor John Smith who tended his wounds and had him transported back to his lodgings in Kessingland. The following afternoon he was visited by a surgeon Mr Prentice, at which time he was in a stable condition although badly wounded. The following day at 11 am. Mr Prentice could see that there was infection setting in and by 4pm he was so much worse that he advised MacFadden to make a deposition with the magistrate Mr. Clarke because he had already stated that he knew who had shot him.

At 9.30 pm on Tuesday 30th July 1944 James McFadden died. He received a Policeman's send off and although a Roman Catholic, was given a Church of England funeral and buried in Kessingland Churchyard where his elaborate tomb can still be seen.

Before he died, MacFadden identified the man who had shot him as William Howell, who lived in Mutford. On the same day as the funeral, Thursday 1st August, PC Charles Nayler and Inspector Richard Dean went to Howell's house and finding a long dark coat and a policeman's hat, arrested him. He was taken before the coroner at the inquest and after hearing the evidence, was remanded in custody to Ipswich prison to await trial.

The next stage of this story concerned the trial and the evidence. Hearsay is inadmissible in court except for certain reasons. The testimony was given by a man who was then dead. If he knew that he was dying, the statement could be used as evidence. However, MacFadden was brought up as a Catholic but did not ask for a priest for the last rites, so the evidence was shaky.

On October 30th, Inspector Deane receives a request from a young woman, Harriet Botwright, in Lowestoft Infirmary who has information regarding the case. She claimed that she was in the garden with MacFadden waiting for the men to arrive. She saw five men including William Howell and his brother Walter and also named another man Israel Shipley. She left the farm, crossed neighbouring fields by a footpath, heard a shot but did not go back. The sequence of events which she then related are fascinating but hardly believable, involving as they do a series of movements in the local area starting at 6 pm at Pakefield Hall(1), reaching Hulver (2) by 8 pm, claiming that she saw William, Walter and Israel on the marshes, heading towards Mutford Hall (3) after passing their adjoining cottages earlier, and saw Howells and Shipley in



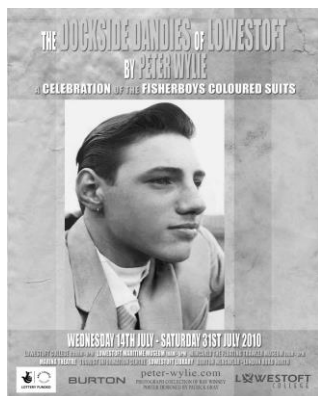
going towards Mutford Church (4). Another cross-country trek brings her to Barnby Five Cross Ways (5) by just after 10 pm where she saw them with others up to seven in all. She returns by a different route to Gisleham Hall (6) meeting MacFadden at about 11.30 pm when they see Walter Howell arrive with three others who enter the barn, when she then leaves. At midnight MacFadden was shot and although she had already stated that she did not return after hearing the report, then said that she went back, heard him groaning but left at 10 minutes after midnight to walk to the Black Boy pub (7) in Beccles, a total of about 15 miles in over eight hours.

The evidence helped to condemn the prisoners, but the fact that Harriet was sister to Edmund Botwright, transported to Van Diemens Land just two weeks earlier on 15th October and that the Howell brothers' mother, Mary Anne, had testified against Edmund at his trial, as well as the long unusual journey she made on that fateful night meeting all the suspects, makes this story an even more intriguing and mysterious one than it appears at first sight.

The Dockside Dandies - Peter Wylie October 14th 2021

Although Peter Wylie grew up in Lowestoft, he was too young to have been one of the Dockside Dandies but after training as an artist and teacher, he became fascinated by the bright colour of these distinctive suits and contacted the Lowestoft Journal from his home in London. This search became a labour of love as gradually over the years more and more details emerged and information from living exponents of this short but extremely bright

period in the history of Lowestoft fishing folk, leading eventually to a display in Burtons with a replica suit as seen in the poster below advertising the event.



The story he uncovered was of the young fishermen who came ashore after their wet and dirty days at sea and wanted to spruce up before going on the town with their hard earned pay. Lawrence Green's tailor shop at 64 High Street, (which closed in 2009) catered for all sorts of fine clothing but the foundation story of the coloured suits is that when these young men came into his shop to be measured for a suit (usually a dull, formal grey colour), he was reluctant to serve them, so waiting for attention they came upon a selection of colourful cloths which were intended for female attire. It was difficult for Peter to determine exactly who was the first to choose this unusual material for his extravagant party dress but the craze soon caught on. Suits cost 17 or 18

guineas a time and each dandy might buy 3 or 4 a year to ring the changes. One unusual fact uncovered during this research was that the practice did not appear to have caught on outside Lowestoft, even among fishermen in neighbouring Yarmouth and the heydays of the bright suits only lasted from about 1959 to 1965.

During his research, Peter was able to identify and meet some of the existing "Dandies" who preferred the term he used to the ones used at the time by local papers, trawler boys being the most gentle and frequently used.

For seven years there were photographs of 27 of them, on a wall above the main stairs in Lowestoft library, each one next to coloured circles of the individual suits they had worn.

Based in London Peter was able to pursue his interest at the Victoria and Albert Museum where there is a large fashion collection and curators there were researchers through whose interest, he was able to receive funding to continue the quest. The fashion died out as the Dandies grew up and never wore the suits again. Some were given to charity shops but more often reused as material by wives and mothers, with the result that very few still exist and a replica had to be made for the display in Burtons.



One of the most evocative photographs from that spectacular but short-lived period when Dockside Dandies were the rage in Lowestoft Town.

Fiammetta Wilson, Astronomer and daughter of Lowestoft - Bill Barton 28 October 2021

[The report that follows is an extract from an article provided by Bill Barton for The Antiquarian Astronomer Issue 13 dated June 2019]

Fiammetta, whose real name was Helen Frances, was born on 19 July 1864 in Lowestoft. She was the eldest of five children, of Dr Francis Worthington and his wife Helen Felicite nee Till. Francis, and his younger brother James, had a medical practice in the town, which had been established by their father, William, in 1820. Francis was elected president of the East Anglian branch of the British Medical Association. The family were well connected enough for Frances to be educated at home by a Danish governess. She completed her formal education in Switzerland and Italy before going to finishing school in Germany. Later, she studied music in Italy and travelled in Canada and USA.

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Fig. 1: Fiammetta Wilson c.1903. This, the only known portrait of her, was taken by the London photographic studio Lejaffre, based in Bond Street, who were noted for their pictures of English high society. It was published in the scientific magazine Knowledge in 1913.

On 29 October 1889, she married Herbert William Webster in London. Webster had been educated at Magdalene College, Oxford and was a singer and music teacher. The marriage did not last and on 1 February 1907, Helen filed for divorce on the grounds of desertion and adultery; the decree final was granted on 21 October 1907. On 29 February 1908, she married Sydney Arthur Wilson, a bank clerk at the Bank of England. By this time, she had changed her name, by deed poll, to Fiammetta Waldahoff. Fiammetta means "little flame" in Italian, presumably originated at the time she was studying in Italy. Why she chose Waldahoff as a surname is not known.

From 1897 to at least 1916, Fiammetta held an appointment at the London School of Music as professor teaching the mandolin. She was influential in the origin of the short-lived British Guild of Mandolinists and Guitarists. She also gave public and private recitals on the mandolin. Fiammetta and Sydney lived in

Cheshunt, Reigate, Bexleyheath and finally, Totteridge, North West London.

She is said to have become interested in astronomy through attending lectures given by Professor Alfred Fowler at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. From this time, she withdrew from her active social and musical life to follow astronomy. Fiammetta and Sydney Wilson were both elected to the British Astronomical Association (BAA) on 23 February 1910. In April 1910, Fiammetta and her husband issued her first publication - an occultation (eclipse) of Mars by the Moon - an event that both had witnessed from the belfry in the centre of Bruges, Belgium. After that, they published eight further observations. She is best known amongst astronomers for her meteor work, even during World War 1 air raids. She noted some 10,000 meteors between 1910 and 1920, 650 of which were seen by fellow astronomers in either Suffolk or Bristol. As well as meteors, she also observed zodiacal light, aurorae, comets, planets and variable stars.

From 1911 to 1921, the BAA Meteor Section was directed by Rev Martin Davidson, but during World War 1, he left the UK to serve as padre in the British army. In his absence, the section was run by Fiammetta and Alice Cook. Fiammetta was elected to the BAA council in 1916, 1917 and 1919. She was in the first group of female Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society. She was a founder member of the Chaldean Society (founded to promote naked-eye astronomy).

In autumn 1919, on medical advice, Fiammetta took a complete rest from astronomical observations. She died on 21 July 1920 after four days of illness. Her death certificate cites uraemia (kidney failure) and coma. Her husband Sydney remarried within seven weeks and his name vanishes from the BAA membership lists [from that time](#).

The Life of 'Nicholas' Everitt - Rodney Duerden 11 November 2021

For many residents of Lowestoft, Oulton Broad and surrounding districts, the name Nicholas Everitt will be synonymous with the park of that name. This talk was an attempt to expand the brief outline of that life displayed outside Lowestoft Museum at Broad House, the family home of several Everitts and that of Henry Reeve (known as "Nicholas") Everitt until his death in 1928. In the course of researching his life story, many interesting facts were discovered but there were also a number of aspects which remain hidden and which would repay further investigation to complete the picture of

a local personality who is not as well known as perhaps he should be. Firstly, a little information about his parentage and family, the background to a very varied life story.

A Simplified Everitt Family Tree



William Spencer Everitt born in Lowestoft in 1835, the only son of William Everitt of North Cove Hall and Sophia Thurtell of Holland Hall, Bradwell, Norfolk. Educated at Fauconberge School Beccles, he served in marine transport to the Black Sea during the Crimean War. As a result, became a coal and grain importer, one of the largest in N.E.Suffolk. He was also chair of the Norfolk Ice Manufacturing and Storage Company of Great Yarmouth.

William Spencer was a good yachtsman and took a keen interest in sailing and after purchasing the estate at Mutford Bridge, Oulton Broad, he was able to sail more often close to home. In 1860 he married Elizabeth Josephine, the eldest daughter of Robert Reeve of Holton Hall near Halesworth. He died at North Cove Hall on December 27th 1913 and was buried at St. Botolph's, North Cove, in a grave now containing six of his family. A pier for the public to use at Oulton Broad was donated by his two surviving sons, (Charles having died in a boating accident on "Swiftsure" in 1875) where the dedication stone can be seen today.

Henry Reeve "Nicholas" Everitt was born in Garvestone, Norfolk, in 1867 where his father was recorded as living in "The Cottage" in the 1861 census and was described, at Charles's baptism in 1863, as a farmer. By 1871 the family are living at Mutford Bridge. Henry's early education is not known but he was at Tonbridge School in Kent from 1879 -1884, and was therefore missing from the 1881 census at home. His tertiary education is not known but he was admitted as a solicitor in 1890 and practised at Watson and Everitt, 32 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich and Baltic Chambers, Lowestoft until his death in 1928 at Broad House. He stood as Parliamentary candidate in 1892, and in 1898 married Ethel Maude Harriett Thompson of Wolverhampton in a register office ceremony in Norwich, witnessed by Robert Tuddenham and Bessie Whittaker. Later that year, there was a church ceremony in London but only a few months afterwards, he was suing for divorce, granted in 1899.



Sketch of Henry ("Nicholas") Everitt by Sir Alfred Munnings, done about 1908. Nicholas Everitt was Sir Alfred Munnings' landlord in Norwich when the latter began as an artist. Bridget Everitt, who in 1996 provided the picture and the accompanying information observed that "Nicholas looks (and probably was, judging by the scribble at the bottom) totally legless! (I bet he had a hell of a hangover)!"

As well as the Mitford Bridge estate, the family also owned North Cove Hall where William Spencer died in 1913. Henry, now known as Nicholas, is said to have rented Broad house from 1910 but is not present on the 1911 census, when he may have been on one of his "round the world" trips or simply resident in Norwich. When he wrote 'Told at Twilight' in 1904, a young up and coming artist, Alfred Munnings, was a tenant of his and drew the 46 sketches contained in the book, of which one is of a dog (and none is of a horse for which he became famous afterwards).

The Writings of Nicholas Everitt

1897 Practical Notes on Grasses and Grass Growing in East Anglia, William S. Everitt; Ed. H.R. Everitt

1897 Ferrets, their management and legal status

1901 Shots from a Lawyer's Gun

1902 Broadland Sport

1903 Sport Without Words

1904 Told at Twilight

1910 How to win an Election, 'The Worker's Guide'

1918 Round the World in Strange Company (1913)

1920 British Secret Service during the Great War

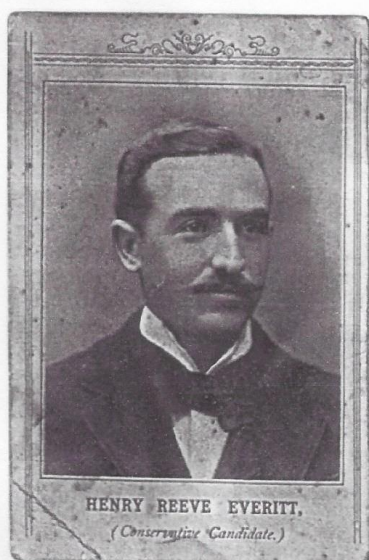
Some of these books were based on numerous articles published in various magazines as Hon. Sec. of 'Field Sports and Games Guild' and as Fellow of Zoological Society.

Although there are many details of his life missing from this enquiry, a great deal of his character may be deduced from the books he wrote, from which a few quotations may be selected. When 'Shots from a Lawyer's Gun' was first published in 1901 it attracted favourable comments from the general reading public but scorn from the legal profession. By the time of the fifth edition in 1910, it was almost a recommended text book. Two pages of 'characters' (such as 'Mr. Six and Eight, and Mr. Erudite') introduce the book and 26 chapters debating different legal problems to do with sport and game in

the countryside are addressed. 'Round the World in Strange Company' describes in humorous detail a journey from Liverpool across to America and Canada in 1913 and the people he encounters. In Boston, he is challenged by an American as to his knowledge of the learned tome about ferrets written by a Nicholas Everitt and is reluctant to believe that the "professor" of the study could be as young as N.E. himself. After crossing Canada and visiting the 'Wild West' he reaches a sheltered harbour town on an island near Vancouver and met up with his brother (William George). This location became the home of his younger sister Clare and named as Oulton Lodge, Ganges, British Columbia.

On completing his tour of the California, he decided to return home by continuing westwards and so visited Japan, China and other Asian ports but these are not recounted in the book. Although this tour took place either in 1913 or just before, the book was not published until 1920 owing to the start of the Great War in 1914. Nicholas was then 47 but immediately offered his services to the authorities to assist the war effort in any way suitable to his age and experience. After much correspondence to the War Office and much delay, he was eventually taken into the "Secret Service" largely at his own expense, to spy on German activities in Northern Europe. His book 'British Secret Service during the Great War' is not only an interesting and exciting read but also an indication of the author's outlook towards those in government to whom he applies the term first used by Charles Dickens in 'Little Dorrit', namely "The Circumlocution Office". Nicholas's ability to travel in Scandinavia and Northern Europe was facilitated by his previous travels there for sailing and game sports and he indicated in the previous book that his knowledge of Danish and Norwegian was good enough to understand what was being said. Although he mostly travelled as a rather 'innocent' English businessman, he did on occasions adopt a disguise but no reference to him having been a match seller, as is often mentioned in and around Broad House, could be found.

14. Nicholas Everitt in 1892



Henry Reeve Everitt (Conservative Candidate). Xcopy of photo, provided by Bridget Everitt in 1996.

After the war, Nicholas devoted time to improving the Mutford estate, contributing to local projects such as the Royal Yacht Club and in 1927, setting off to Hong Kong in S.S. Kasgar on another round the world trip. His death in June 1928 was a shock to many people for only the previous day he had been discussing further improvements to what is now Nicholas Everitt Park at the Lowestoft Journal offices. The article "Some Reminiscences" in the Lowestoft Journal of July 7th is available in the Lowestoft Record Office, as is an account of the funeral held at North Cove Church on the following Monday. Among the mourners were his sister, Mrs. Ray, Dr. Watson, his solicitor partner, and Mr. and Mrs. P.R. Murray who were Everitt relatives and from whose descendents Peter Murray in Canada, has been a great source of useful information. Howard Hollingsworth, who presented the Mutford Estate to Lowestoft in 1929, was not able to attend, nor is there evidence of his brother William being there but, as he died in 1929 not long after witnessing his brother's Will and the conveyance of the estate, he may have been suffering ill health.

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Articles

The Lothingland-Lowestoft-Great Yarmouth Disputes (Part 1) - David Butcher

“All Because of the Herring”

Great Yarmouth’s disputes with its near-neighbours in Suffolk, during the Late Medieval and Early Modern periods, are generally well known in outline – if not in detail. The following series of notes (summarised, by the writer, from the sources cited) relates to the long-running conflict between the Norfolk borough and its Suffolk neighbours, regarding the former’s legally granted commercial rights and its control of the local herring-trade. Yarmouth’s initial conflict was with the nearby communities of Gorleston and Little Yarmouth, which was effectively one township divided into southern and northern sectors. King John’s grant of a market to the manor of Lothingland in 1211 (following on from his bestowing of Yarmouth’s first charter, in 1208) was bound to have caused trouble on both sides of the River Yare almost from the word “go”, with Gorleston being the hub of the hundredal jurisdiction. Once market-rights had been established by royal approval, “the men of Lothingland” (as they are often termed in documentation of the time) had legitimate justification for organised commercial activity on their side of the River Yare and opportunity also to infringe Yarmouth’s privileges and see what they could get away with. More than 100 years of conflict ensued, before Yarmouth was able to fully establish its superiority over its troublesome near-neighbours – by which time a more potent threat to its authority had arisen further down the coast.

The town of Lowestoft had the status of manorial *outlier* only, at the time of Domesday (1086), but by the year 1212 had become a manor in its own right. Among the many details of its status revealed in the Lothingland Hundred Roll of 1274 is one which records that it had

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right of gaol and stocks (along with Gorleston) – this, showing that it now shared judicial control of Lothingland Half-hundred with the manorial hub. During the time of conflict between Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-Little Yarmouth (the latter, known later as Southtown), Lowestoft was quietly developing its economic strength and local influence, almost unnoticed perhaps, a few miles further to the south – until, by the time that Yarmouth had subdued its immediate rival(s) in terms of length-of-time and physical proximity, it found another one flexing its commercial muscles within its compass. And one, moreover, that was sufficiently close to cause real trouble, but far enough removed also to make its subjugation difficult (if not impossible) to achieve. If the Great Yarmouth-Gorleston-Little Yarmouth disputes were a protracted affair at more than 100 years, then the ensuing strife with Lowestoft was of epic proportions in terms of time, stretching to well over three centuries' duration.

It is hoped that the pages which follow, covering the first phase of contention (as well as those to feature in the LA&LHS *Annual Report* for 2023, looking at the second) will serve to give some sense of how local people sought to use governing institutions to resolve their mercantile and civic rivalries by employing a technique which would, today, be described as "lobbying". As the years went by, the centre of attention increasingly came to focus on the presence offshore, during the autumn, of a certain, small, pelagic fish – a species which, in some ways, had perhaps as much of the "silver demon" about it as the "silver darling", considering all the controversy and strife that its capture and processing caused!

There was no way in which this article, and its follow-up, could have been set out here in continuous prose, as a means of delivering the narrative. It would have run to an excessive number of pages and end-notes. Therefore, a means of presentation focusing on key-dates and events in note-form (sequentially arranged) has been adopted, with different fonts and underlining used as a means of varying the text visually and making the information easy to take in. Spacing-lines have been employed to make the text less dense than it might otherwise have been, except where different events occurred on the same day or where closely connected ones sit naturally together. Commentary by the writer has been added where felt to be useful, as a means of creating context and providing further, relevant details. For those readers who already know about this long-standing local commercial and civic saga, it is hoped that the pages which follow will provide further information. For those who don't, it may serve perhaps as something of an eye-opener.

18 March 1208 – charter of incorporation granted to Yarmouth, with market rights (for an annual fee-farm, or rent, to the Crown of £55) – confirmations of Henry III, Edward I, Edward II and Edward III followed the original grant. (*RC*, 175-6; *CoCR*, 3, 236 & 5, 224; *NRO* Y/C2/1.)

May 1211 –

- a) **Grant of a weekly (Sunday) market to Lothingland Half-hundred manor** – located in northern Gorleston, near the river (possibly, the area of Malthouse Lane

junction with Southtown Road-Beccles Road) – flooding caused it to be moved further to the north into Little Yarmouth/Southtown, with the trading-day changed to Thursday – house encroachment onto the market-place by inhabitants of Little Yarmouth, noted in the 1274 Hundred Roll, is perhaps suggestive of diminishing function.

b) Trading activity allowed by the grant, on the Suffolk side of the River Yare.

c) Early disputes between Yarmouth citizens and “the men of Lothingland” as to which merchandise could be traded – did “lesser foodstuffs” include herrings?

d) Provocative acts carried out by both sides.

e) Market’s decline, plus demands on its trading-space to locate dwellings, probably caused eventual relocation to the southern end of Gorleston High Street.

- The Internet resource-site *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1516*, in citing the year 1211 as the founding-point of the Lothingland market, refers to the Patent Rolls of 13 King John as the source. However, the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth years of John’s reign are missing from the published versions of both the *Patent Rolls* (1835) and the *Charter Rolls* (1837) – which presumably means that the original documentation was missing at the time of printing. Has it, then, resurfaced since? Or is some earlier reference being used?

- The grant of the market was made to William de Longspée, Earl of Salisbury (1176-1226), an illegitimate son of Henry II and therefore King John’s half-brother, who was lord of Lothingland and dozens of other manors throughout the realm.. On 2 May 1211, John and the Court were in Norwich, before moving on and arriving at Nottingham ten days later (see the Internet site, *The Itinerary of King John*). De Longspée was very likely to have been accompanying John and it seems logical to suppose that their proximity to Lothingland was used by some of the area’s leading inhabitants to lobby for the grant of a market while the Court was in temporary residence locally.

- Lothingland title leased by the Crown to Geoffrey and Reginald du Bois [de Bosco] by 1199, at a price of £61 4s 0d p.a. (ref. Internet source, *The Lands of the Normans in England, 1204-44*) – William de Longspée (Earl of Salisbury) was lord before 1212, and up until his death in March 1226 – followed in June 1226 by Roger Fitz Osbert [al. le Fitz Aubern], of Somerleyton, on a three-year tenancy at £80 p.a. – the “trustworthy men of Lothingland” were admitted in June 1230, at £70 p.a. – in December 1237, the manor was conveyed by Henry III (along with other royal estates) to Dervorgille de Balliol, in exchange for lands held by her in Cheshire – taken back by Edward I in 1294, when he dispossessed John Balliol II (King of Scotland and her son) of his English estates – granted to his nephew, John de Dreux (Earl of Richmond) in November 1302.

- The de Balliol conveyance, of 10 December 1237 included not only the Lothingland manor, but Great Yarmouth borough also and its £55 annual fee-farm. (*CCR, Henry III*, vol. 4, 12.)

- The de Longspée, Fitz Osbert and “men of Lothingland” tenancies are to be found referred to in *CFR, Henry III*, C60/22 (no.130), C60/24 (no. 162), C60/29 (no. 409) and C60/30 (nos. 156 & 164).

- The disposal of the Lothingland title, by the Crown, to absentee lords (particularly remote, far-distant ones) meant that the manor effectively remained in the control of influential local people.

- **The gradual decline of Gorleston, spread over a century or more, was largely caused by its proximity to Yarmouth and was definitely a factor in the rise of Lowestoft, which had become a manor in its own right by 1212. It was still smaller than Gorleston in the 1274 Hundred Roll, but with an equal share in the governance of Lothingland Half-hundred (cf. with the Domesday situation, when it was a mere *outlier* to the manorial hub in Gorleston). At some point, unable to be determined, Lowestoft and Lothingland manors became interconnected without ever merging into a single entity – and this was an important step in the town eventually becoming its home-area’s dominant community.**

15 February 1228 – commission of *oyer and terminer* given to Martin de Pateshall and associates to investigate the activities of Roger Fitz Osbert, lord of the Lothingland manor – alleged by citizens of Yarmouth that he had taken [illegally] customs duties from their vessels. (*CPR, Henry III*, 2, 210 & *Swinden*, 63-5.)

- *Oyer and terminer* is a partial translation of the medieval French *oyer et terminer* (“to hear and to determine”) and refers to the operation of itinerant royal justices on the assize circuit.

- Reference made to a charter of 1228, **giving Yarmouth complete control of the River Yare on both sides of the water.** (*Ecclestone*, 94-5.)

This grant of privileges has not been traced in *CCR*, *CoCR* or *CPR*, but Henry Manship, in *The History of Great Yarmouth*, 162, implies that the town had once had a copy of it. He further names Martin de Pateshall’s companion justices as Walter de Evermewe, Fulk de Banignard and Havo de Stanhoe, and he says that their judgement was in favour of Yarmouth (regarding Fitz Osbert’s taking of customs) and gave the town sole control of its haven. It may well be that this legal decision was regarded as a charter of rights.

4 October 1235 – order given to the bailiffs of Lothingland to assist Jakelinum Engaine in **collecting the revenues due from the Yarmouth herring fair** – this, because the Lothingland manor was part of the Crown Demesne. (*CCR, Henry III*, 3, 319.)

- This royal authorisation of involvement in the seasonal, autumn Free Fair (29 September to 11 November) by the Lothingland authorities was probably not received with great enthusiasm in Yarmouth! Exactly why the Government should have involved Lothingland officers in the collection of tax is not made clear. Was it, perhaps, a means of keeping the Yarmouth officials themselves under some kind of scrutiny?

10 December 1237 – grant of the manors of **Yarmouth** and **Lothingland** to Dervorgille de Balliol, as referred to in the May 1211 notes above. (*CCR, Henry III*, 4, 12 & *Swinden*, 65-6.)

17 September 1263 – commission of *oyer and terminer* authorised in the following case: a royal order had been given to the Sheriff of Norfolk to visit Yarmouth and cause Clement

Thurkil, William Flach and others, accused of the deaths of Nicholas Enges, Henry le Careter and Simon Gase, to be brought before Suffolk JPs – Adam de Greynvill and Geoffrey de Roenges to adjudicate in the matter and also in that of Yarmouth trespasses against Little Yarmouth and Gorleston.
(*CPR, Henry III, 5, 288.*)

26 October 1272 – **royal confirmation**, by letters patent, of **Yarmouth penal laws and rights** within the borough (including gaol procedure). (*CoCR, 2, 185-6 & NRO, COL 6/1.*)

0.0.1274 – local jurors testified, to Hundred Roll commissioners, that Yarmouth burgesses (during Henry III's reign) had taken control of the water which divided Norfolk and Suffolk, of which a *moiety* [southern side] belonged to the manor of Lothingland – **this action had caused the manor's value to diminish by £10 p.a. [£80 to £70]** – said burgesses had also collected customs from ships on the southern side of the river and charged fees for the drying of fishing-nets on the marshes of Stonere, Fulholm and Buterdish. (*LHR, 116-17.*)

- See the entry of 15 February 1228 above.
- The £10 decrease in value occurred in 1230, when “the men of Lothingland” took over the manorial title from Roger Fitz Osbert.
- Gorleston had seven areas of marshland altogether. Mickle-marsh, Ubbe-marsh, Northtown-marsh and Cobholm are not referred to here.

- **The Lothingland Hundred Roll of 1274 contains many fascinating details of that particular jurisdiction, one of which may relate directly to the conflict between certain of its inhabitants (notably, those of Gorleston and Little Yarmouth) and the citizens of Great Yarmouth. The documentation clearly shows that leading townsmen of the latter community held property in Gorleston-Little Yarmouth of insufficient nature or extent to be a significant part of their commercial enterprises, but with the ability to integrate them into the administrative structure of the Lothingland manor, as tenants, so as to be aware (from the inside, as it were) of commercial developments and activity on the Suffolk side of the River Yare. Thus, what may be termed a “watching-brief” was able to be kept, legitimately, simply because the holding of land in the rival townships gave the people concerned a bona fide presence there!**

- The Hundred Roll informs us that the following citizens of Yarmouth held land in the Northtown common field (an area closest in proximity to the town, adjacent to the crossing-point of the River Yare): William Aleys [Aley], one strip; William Gerberge, one strip; William de la Mawe, one strip; Roger Perebrun, two strips (one unused); and Robert Thirkyld, one strip. Four of these men were (or had been) port bailiffs at one time or another, while Perebrun (al. Perebrowne) belonged to another of Yarmouth's leading families – a later member, John, being commander of the English fleet at the great naval victory of Sluys, in 1340.

- Additionally, de la Mawe held a 2½-acre piece of land somewhere else in Gorleston, while a man named Thomas Thirkild shared a profitable 5-acre turbary in Lowestoft with the Abbot of Langley (an area long since flooded and known as Leathes Ham, abutting onto

what is now Normanston Park). Thurkild might well have been the Yarmouth port bailiff of that name, with a legitimate means of monitoring what was taking place in the southern sector of Lothingland. Regardless of the differences in spelling, Robert Thirkyld, of the previous note, and the man here (as well as Clement Thurkil of 17 September 1263) were almost certainly members of the same family-group – and of Anglo-Saxon origins.

- Further Yarmouth “infiltration” is to be noted in the presence of Ashman family members (two small pieces of land in Gapton), John Bruman (two small pieces of land in the Brotherton sector of Hopton) and Oliver With (two land-holdings in Lound – one very small and a much larger one, with house attached – and a shared 100-acre serjeanty in Lound, Ashby and Somerleyton). Both Bruman and With also served, at one time or another, as port bailiffs.

2 August 1302 – commission of *oyer and terminer* granted to William de Carleton and William Haward, because of a plea from Yarmouth that it did not have the money to pay its *farm* [annual rent of £55 due to the Crown] – enquiry made as to whether it would be to the King’s detriment if houses were built on the market-place and other empty spaces and the rents charged used to help pay the farm – such revenue to be borne by the town’s inhabitants and their heirs, in perpetuity. (CPR, Edward I, 4, 87.)

- Might the encroachment noted above (0.0.1274) onto the Lothingland market-place have influenced this enquiry from Yarmouth? And was it a serious one or simply an attempted means of leverage in gaining relief from its financial obligations?

6 August 1302 – commission of *oyer and terminer* granted to William de Carleton and William Haward on behalf of Yarmouth, concerning men of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston who, at times of Yarmouth fairs [i.e. the autumn Herring Fair], attracted vessels laden with herrings and other fish and merchandise away from Yarmouth itself to their own towns – jury to be appointed from the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. (CPR, Edward I, 4, 87.)

26 November 1302 – grant of **the manor of Lothingland**, to John de Britannia [al. John de Dreux, Earl of Richmond – nephew of Edward I]. (CPR Edward I, 4, 97.)

- No reference made to **Great Yarmouth** being included, as previously, with regard to the de Balliol occupancy of 10 December 1237.

- There are three references in the *Close Roll* entries of 1305 (10 March, 18 October and 8 November) to de Dreux holding Lothingland manor, but not Yarmouth borough. (CCR, Edward I, 5, 245, 293 & 305.)

22 July 1306 – **confirmatory re-grant of a charter of Henry III**, giving Yarmouth burgesses the right of free trade in fish and other goods, on condition that *brokers* [middle-men] did not interfere in the process and that no *forestalling* took place. (CPR, Edward I, 4, 455.)

- No direct record of a Henry III transaction of 1228 has been found in CCR, CoCR or CPR. The reference here might be to either of the grants of 25 March 1256 and 28 September 1261

cited in the confirmation of 28 March 1314 (though, again, no specific record of these has been found).

- Stated in *The History and Antiquities of Great Yarmouth* that the de Balliol bailiffs [of Lothingland] had, for many years, taken tolls and customs in Yarmouth, this behaviour not being contested because of the family's powerful position. (Swinden, 241.)

- C.J. Palmer, in his notes added to Henry Manship's history of the town, comments on the de Balliol and de Dreux occupancies of the Yarmouth borough title.

(Manship, 322.)

- *Patent Roll* and *Close Roll* entries do not reveal any interest on the part of de Dreux, so Edward I had probably taken Yarmouth back into Crown control after the 1294 confiscation of de Balliol estates in England. That family's holding of the Yarmouth fee-farm did not entitle Lothingland bailiffs to the right of taking tolls in Yarmouth (which was the task of the port bailiffs), but with the borough and half-hundred in the same hands it gave them both opportunity and excuse to "muscle in"!

10 November 1306 – reference made to the granting of certain English estates of John de Balliol [King of Scotland] to John of Brittany being made on 1 August 1299 – followed by **the grant of the manor of Lothingland** on 26 November 1302, as above. (CPR, Edward I, 4, 471.)

- Again, no mention is made of **Great Yarmouth**.

15 February 1307 – commission of *oyer and terminer* granted to Peter Malorre [Malory] and Hervey de Stanton, on petition to the King from John de Gorleston, William Man, Simon de Belton, Bartholomew Love, John de Blundeston, William de Gaptun, Thomas de Enges and Roger Woderove, men and merchants of South Yarmouth [i.e. Little Yarmouth/Southtown] and Gorleston, that Henry Rose, William Fastolf, John Elys, William de Gosford, Robert de Norfolk, Alexander de Ocle [Acle?], Walter le White, Peter Ratele, Thomas Starling and others had taken ten ships laden with firewood, herring, fish, corn, salt and other victuals at the said towns and "led them away". (CPR, Edward I, 4, 541.)

15 February 1307 – *oyer and terminer* also granted to the same two justices, "on trustworthy complaint", that Henry Rose and the same associates had taken 200 ships of "merchants strangers", loaded as above at the same towns, and would not permit them to pay the customs due to the King "by reason of the said half hundred". (CPR, Edward I, 4, 541.)

- The latter incident suggests that the Yarmouth men had prevented payment of customs due because these vessels, in using Little Yarmouth-Gorleston, were bypassing the head-port and any collection of customs outside of it would have seemed to diminish Yarmouth's authority and give its rivals a status which they did not, in law, possess.

15 July 1308 – order made to the Sheriffs of Norfolk and Suffolk to proceed to Little Yarmouth, Gorleston and Yarmouth itself and hold inquisitions there concerning acts of "armed force"

by both parties in their dispute (in breach of the undecided pleas made by them) – guilt to be established, where possible, and the offenders brought before the King on 2 May 1309. (*CCR, Edward II*, 1, 121.)

12 August 1308 – reference made to various former de Balliol family estates (including **Lothingland manor**) being “lately granted” to John of Brittany [John de Dreux]. (*CoCR*, 3, 121-2.)

- In a medieval sense, “lately” does not necessarily mean “recently” (see 26 November 1302).

15 November 1308 – **grant of a weekly Wednesday market and annual fair at Lowestoft** made to John de Dreux, Earl of Richmond, lord of the Lothingland and Lowestoft (titles bestowed in 1302) – again, this suggests that, at some point, the two manors had become inter-connected. (*CoCR*, 3, 123.)

28 March 1314 – **royal confirmation, by letters patent, of previous Yarmouth charters**: those of 18 March 1208, 25 March 1256, 28 September 1261, 12 June 1285, 1 July 1285 (letters patent), 28 April 1298 (letters patent) and 22 July 1306 (letters patent). (*CoCR*, 3, 236-7).

- No record found in *CCR*, *CoCR* or *CPR* of 25 March 1256 or 28 September 1261.

20 January - 9 March 1315 [Parliamentary session extended beyond these dates, into May] – reference made to a petition of John of Brittany [John de Dreux, Earl of Richmond] re harassment of his tenants in Little Yarmouth and Gorleston – his petitions and those of Yarmouth had been heard by the Council at Westminster on 9 May 1315 – enquiry ordered to be carried out in Yarmouth and in Little Yarmouth-Gorleston (as to the matter of *forestalling* and other things) and to report back – both parties ordered not to commit *acts of trespass* against each other. (*PRME, Edward II, January 1315*, 61(49).)

8 October 1315 – the plea re dissensions between the men of Yarmouth and those of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston would be settled at the next parliament to be held [27 January - 20 February 1316] (*CCR, Edward II*, 2, 251.)

- No record found of this; nor at the parliament of January 1318.

24 September 1318 – prohibition order made to the bailiffs and men of Yarmouth, and to those of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston, not to inflict damage upon each other – order given to the Sheriffs of Norfolk and Suffolk to prevent this from happening. (*CCR, Edward II*, 3, 100.)

25 March 1326 – royal writ of 14 January 1326 (made at South Elmham) sent to the Sheriffs of Norfolk and Suffolk, ordering the men of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston to appear at Norwich on 22 January 1327 to present their case against Yarmouth’s privileges – lengthy account follows of both sides’ arguments against each other. (*CCR, Edward II*, 4, 457-61.)

- Nb. that the Bishop(s) of Norwich had a palace (effectively, a “rural retreat”) at South Elmham St. Cross, near Bungay, adjacent to the site of a former minster. Edward II was being hosted there.

8 May 1327 – royal confirmation of the 1314 Yarmouth charter-endorsement above.

(*CoCR*, 4, 13.)

25 June 1328 – Earl of Richmond (and his Lothingland tenants) claimed the right of possession of one half of Yarmouth haven and of the customs revenues on ships’ cargoes, maintaining that the Lothingland title had held that right until Henry III’s charter had negated it (see 15 February 1228) – Yarmouth defended its own exclusive rights and cited judgements of 1306 (charter-confirmation of 22 July) and 1326 [8 May 1327?] in its favour. (*Swinden*, 250-1; *Manship*, 159; *Ecclestone*, 94.)

- There is no evidence, whatsoever, that the manor of Lothingland had ever had a legal claim of any kind on the privileges of Great Yarmouth. John de Dreux may well have been harking back to Roger Fitz Osbert’s illicit taking of customs payments in Yarmouth when he was Lothingland’s lord, 100 years before (see 15 February 1228), or to the de Balliol family’s holding both the half-hundred and borough titles (10 December 1237) when bailiffs of the former jurisdiction reputedly interfered in the collection of tolls in Yarmouth haven. See notes on 22 July 1306 above.

3 August 1328 – order given that the men of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston be allowed to load and discharge goods at their own quays, without impediment, and that they were to respect Yarmouth’s privileges – men of Yarmouth required to acknowledge the rights of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston and not to interfere with them – this, in order to create “peace and concord” between both sides.
(*CCR, Edward III*, 1, 309-10.)

1330-2 – parliamentary enquiries into Yarmouth’s status and rights authorised, in the face of counter-claims from Lothingland’s lord [John de Dreux, ob. 1334] and his tenantry.
(*Manship*, 160-2.)

- Nothing found in *PRME* for these three years.

12 May 1331 – writ made to Sheriffs of Norfolk and Suffolk, ahead of an enquiry to be held by John de Stratford, at Norwich, on 11 June [re Yarmouth and Lothingland disputes] – stated that, before the charter of 2 July 1306 [*sic*] granted by Edward I to Yarmouth, ships had unloaded cargoes on either side of the River Yare – after said grant, discharge was at Yarmouth only, to the detriment of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston. (*CIM*, 2, 293-4, no. 1199.)

- Date of the 1306 charter cited given as 22 July in *CoCR*, 3, 236.

19 June 1331– indenture from the commonalty of Yarmouth and from the men of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston submitting their disputes re the loading, unloading and entry of ships

in the water and port of Yarmouth – submission made to John de Stratford and to others of the King’s Council. (CAD, 1, 566, no. 1799.)

25 June 1331 – **ratification of the declaration**, made at Norwich on 3 June 1331, at the enquiry led by John de Stratford, Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor of England: **Yarmouth was the only port present and its function belonged to the town** – all customs due were to be paid there, but Little Yarmouth and Gorleston vessels were exempt if landing goods on their side of the river – ships entering harbour with herrings or other fish or uncustomed cargoes were to discharge at Yarmouth only (Little Yarmouth and Gorleston craft excepted) – **there was no share of the haven or of the dividing river belonging to Lothingland** – neither party in previous disputes was to molest the other, with £100 penalty imposed for so doing.

(CPR, Edward III, 2, 124 & Manship, 163-4.)

- It appears that the Norwich enquiry had been held earlier than originally planned (see previous entry but one).
- Little Yarmouth-Gorleston ships were declared exempt from paying tax on goods landed at their quays because Lothingland manor, *as ancient demesne of the Crown*, was free of such obligation. This would not have applied to wine, which was always taxed and would have entered via the *head-port* [Great Yarmouth].

8 October 1331 – disputes and civil disorder continued after John de Stratford’s enquiry – in a directive to the bailiffs and citizens of Yarmouth, the King ordered representatives of both warring parties to appear at Westminster on 21 October to account for their actions. (CCR, Edward III, 2, 327-8.)

28 May 1332 – order given to Robert de Morley to send, to the King, indictments against the men of Little Yarmouth made at John de Stratford’s enquiry – these to reach him fifteen days before midsummer, so that they might be determined upon. (CCR, Edward III, 2, 569-70.)

10 July 1332 – **endorsement of a charter of 34 Edward I (22 July 1306)**, which stated that all kinds of merchandise brought by ship could only be unloaded at Yarmouth, and nowhere else – John of Brittany [i.e. John de Dreux, Earl of Richmond] and his tenants were allowed to load and unload their own vessels at Little Yarmouth and Gorleston, paying the customs due thereon (this, after plea made to be able to do so) – men of these two towns **not allowed to try to attract trade away from Yarmouth** – both parties to abide by the decisions above.

(CPR, Edward III, 2, 316-17 & NRO, Y/C2/3.)

- The Gorleston-Little Yarmouth request that customs charges due be paid by their merchants probably related to outgoing goods (mainly wool, woollen cloth, sheepskins, hides, leather, butter, cheese, lard and grease) and may have been a way of validating trading activity carried out under the shadow of Yarmouth – no complaint could be made by the latter if export dues were being paid.

21 February - 2 March 1334 – reference made, at Parliament held in York, to the bad effect on the whole herring trade, at home and abroad, caused by Yarmouth's actions (inc. price increases of 40d per 1,000 fish) – "said community" [i.e. Little Yarmouth and Gorleston] asked that the King assign justices to adjudicate upon points of dispute and to impose penalties if necessary – **decision made to uphold the current judgement in favour of Yarmouth**, but also to appoint judges to hear submissions and determine trespasses. (*PRME*, C65/4, 14.)

20 April 1334 – commission of *oyer and terminer* granted to Geoffrey le Scrope, John de Stonere, John de Cantebrigge [Cambridge], Ralph de Bockynge and William Scot to enquire into complaints made by men of Little Yarmouth and Gorleston concerning the outrages committed by Yarmouth on them and on visiting merchants – this, after the final judgement of the King and Council re the long-standing discord between them – complaints made at the previous Parliament, held in York. (*CPR, Edward III*, 2, 577-8.)

- **A new adversary.** It was somewhere around this part of the 14th century that Little Yarmouth and Gorleston, collectively, began to decline in importance as Great Yarmouth's main opponent(s), with Lowestoft increasingly assuming that role. The Suffolk town had been developing its fishing and mercantile capacity for some little while, relocating its area of settlement onto a cliff-top site and building the extremities (tower and high-altar crypt) of what is still the third longest church in the county – exceeded only by those of St. Mary and St. James, in Bury (the latter serving as the St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese cathedral).
- A major and detrimental impact on all communities at this time (regardless of their location) would have been the effect of the Black Death during 1348 and 1349. Yarmouth, with its often cited total of 7,000 deaths (out of a stated population of 10,000) has probably been given too high an estimate with regard to both figures, given the unreliability of early "statistics". O.J. Benedictow, in his formative and important work, has calculated an overall mortality rate of c. 60% for England (and for Western Europe, in general), which would produce c. 6,000 dead. However, Yarmouth's population was probably no more than half of 10,000 – a total number that could not have been accommodated within the walled area of the town, which was no more than about a mile long and a quarter of that distance at its widest point.
- Manship's *The History of Great Yarmouth*, edited by C.J. Palmer in 1854, cites 7,000 deaths (pp. 35, 100, 158 & 221), while Swinden's *The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Burgh of Great Yarmouth in the County of Norfolk* (1772) gives 7,052 (p. 814). Neither writer mentions the town's overall population.
- Regardless of what the town's population actually was, the ravages of Plague were a body-blow in social, economic and demographic terms! Lowestoft, which may have had a population of c. 500-600 people at the time, would also have lost more than half of them to the disease. Recovery from such human devastation must have taken decades.

[To be continued.]

Reference key:

CAD – *Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*.

CIM – *Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous*.

CCR – *Calendar of Close Rolls*.

CoCR – *Calendar of Charter Rolls*.

CFR – *Calendar of Fine Rolls*.

CPR – *Calendar of Patent Rolls*.

Ecclestone [A.W., ed.] – *Henry Manship's Great Yarmouth* (1971).

LHR – *The Lothingland Hundred Roll of 1274* (ed. J.W.N. Hervey, 1902).

Manship [H.] – *The History of Great Yarmouth* (1619) – ed. C.J. Palmer, 1854.

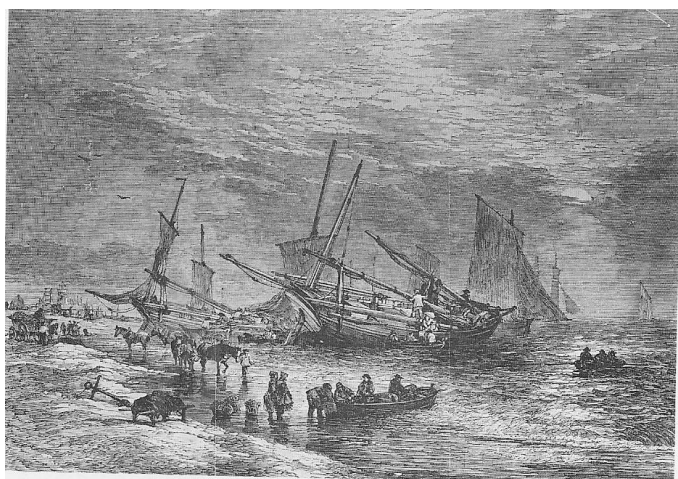
NRO – Norfolk Record Office.

PRME – *The Parliamentary Rolls of Medieval England*.

RC – *Rotuli Chartarum in Turri Londinens* (*Charter Rolls in the Tower of London*).

Swinden [H.], *The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Burgh of Great Yarmouth in the County of Norfolk* (1772).

- All the documentation referred to in the key (except for *Ecclestone*, *Lothingland Hundred Roll* and Norfolk Record Office) is available on the Internet from various digitised volumes of published Printed Primary Sources and the *PRME* specialist-site. Both of the Great Yarmouth histories (those of *Manship* and *Swinden*) are also able to be accessed online.
- The numbers following most of the different works cited refer to volumes and pages in those particular books. *CFR* and *PRME* have reference numbers only relating to the material reproduced.



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Fishing from the Lowestoft beach - early 19th C

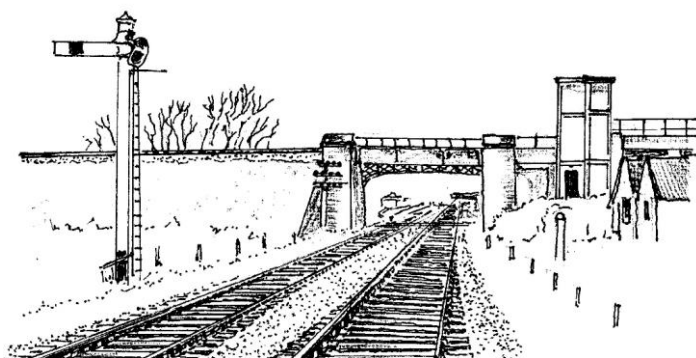
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CHILDHOOD - Part 2 - Platelayers and Honeybees Paul Durbidge

With father's new job as a signalman, the family moved from Gissing to Haddiscoe, where we relocated to a railway house, the middle one of three, on the platform for Lowestoft. I could actually stand in the front room and watch the train stop outside. Just past the house was a sharp winding slope which led to the high-level platform. At the top, the visitor was standing on the platform for



High level and low level lines at Haddiscoe. To the right are the timber framed dwellings, clad externally with brown painted corrugated iron and known to the locals as "the tin huts". In the top right hand corner

is the high level concrete lift used to lower heavy baggage to the platform below. The bridge was constructed in 1936.

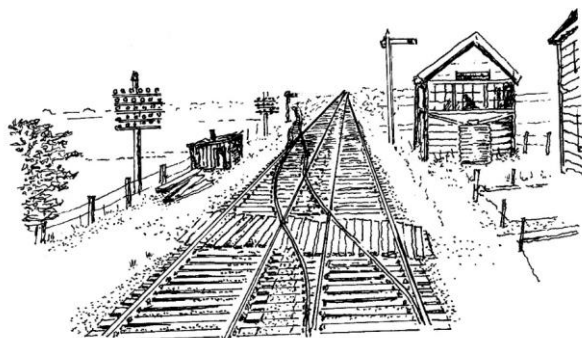
Great Yarmouth, whilst on the other side was the platform for Liverpool Street. The two platforms had fine views across the marshland and were quite basic affairs, being formed of open concrete columns which supported the platforms, with a loose clinker infill. Several years later, some of the clinker caught fire due to internal combustion. The fire brigade had to push a machine on a two

wheeled appliance along the lower platform to the beginning of the higher platform, where a number of water pipes fed the machine from a near-by dyke. I believe the firemen were there for two days damping down.

At the time of our arrival at Haddiscoe, the only other children were the Franklin twins who were aged about 10 or 11, and were called Roy and Colin. They lived with their parents at the far end of the second block of houses. Mr Franklin was short and powerfully built and came over stern at times, whilst his wife was very gentle and suffered from ill-health. Other residents of the block were Arthur Benns and his wife; he was always in his small shed making wooden items on a treadle lathe. Next to the Benns lived the Mills family, who had a son of about 18 who had lost a finger when he picked up some unexploded ordnance on military land in Waveney Wood. If you required cigarettes or tobacco, it would be a visit to Mrs Gennis, who kept a supply in two large cardboard boxes either side of the fireplace. When she went through the boxes, she always seemed to have what you asked for - even down to the cheap blue packets of Turf, which had a picture of a footballer on the back.

My school years started in Reedham because we lived in Norfolk, but it was not long before this changed and I went to Somerleyton School where most of my learning began. I went to Somerleyton by train and used the guards van - the result of an arrangement made by my father. Over the years that I travelled this way, the guards were always friendly. The short journey usually involved sitting on a small seat on the side of the van with a very narrow forward-facing window where you could see along the line with its various signals and the mass of grey smoke from the engine blowing over the marshland. The school was about 1½ miles from the station and this often caused concern getting to reach the school before assembly if the train was running late. At Somerleyton I began to settle, made friends and got on well with the three teachers. I certainly was not academic but did try hard.

There were two ways to reach the school from the station; either by Station Road or by way of the rough roadway and various paths through the brickfields - and this was often the chosen route. For the majority of this route, I would run and try to get to school before assembly, but this was near impossible. In the winter months, the train was sometimes late especially if there was fog and on these occasions there was panic, both before and during the journey. In the brickfields, there was a large block of kilns, almost nine feet high, with numbers of tall openings on the sides. These were used to fill the kilns with clay bricks. The openings were later sealed up with bricks before the kilns were fired. These entrances to the kilns were reinforced with old railway lines. Inside the kilns was the dark red dust from previous firings and this was everywhere. It was all very dry and playing inside the kilns resulted in getting covered with the dust. The narrow irregular path that led from the kilns veered to the right and ran parallel to the drying sheds and the remains of sacking would swing and blow in the wind. There was also a large steel container where much of the clay was mixed and the decayed remains of a long, squared piece of timber lay on top, with one end fixed to the metal container. The distinctive houses in the brickfields were built to house the workers and the small bungalow on the edge of the marsh near the kilns was where one of the managers once lived.



Signal box at Fleet Junction. The main line heads toward Haddiscoe high level. The freight spur leads to Haddiscoe low level. The plate layers hut is on the left.

The railway station at Haddiscoe was always busy with the high level serving trains either to Great Yarmouth or Liverpool Street and the low level served trains to Lowestoft Central or Norwich. There was also a branch line from the low level which led to Fleet Junction which then joined the main line, but this was not often used and then only to move freight or railway sleepers, and stone prior to replacing parts of the main line tracks.

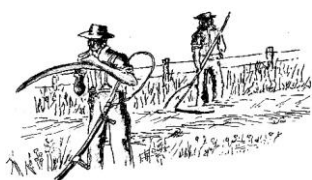
The station platforms were quite long with well-tended gardens, consisting of fine rose bushes and lavender. There were three large buddleia bushes at one end which were a mass of butterflies when in flower. On the opposite platform there were long narrow flower beds protected by small wired angle irons which were painted white. Pretty climbing roses were trailed along high iron railings forming the back of the flower beds. Both platforms had general waiting rooms and both had male and female toilets. The opposite platform also had a lamproom. This consisted of two aluminium-covered work tops where all the signal lamps were cleaned and filled with paraffin. Without doubt, the best roses were growing on our side! One particular train guard called Harry Crane would frequently select a rose from one of the bushes and, after carefully trimming the stalk, would thread it through his buttonhole. Upon completing this task, he would usher the passengers by calling "Hurry up and take your time!" or "Haddiscoe where the wind blows!", after which he would make sure things were all clear before blowing his whistle and waving his green flag, whereupon the train would start to move.

The steam trains were always a source of interest and those going to Lowestoft stopped outside the house. Several attempts were made to sketch the engine on any piece of plain white paper I could find. The other things of interest were the heat and smell of smoke from the engine, the sight of the large, oiled rods and moving parts, how much coal was there in the tender and was the firebox open. Sometimes in the winter months the early morning was thick with fog and a platelayer, wearing an armband and carrying a shoulder bag, would clip a detonator on the line to tell the driver that the way ahead was clear to pass the "Home" signal. The detonators were usually bright orange or blue and made quite a bang when the engine passed over it. After returning from school and no-one was about, you could recover the remains of the lead clips providing the porter or station master did not see you.

From time to time, new tracks were laid and this was preceded by trucks tipping out large amounts of chipped stone, later to be used for ramming under new wooden sleepers along with fresh rails which

were offloaded beside the current track. Sometime after this, usually on a Sunday, a large gang of plate layers would arrive and work would begin. Often old sleepers would be replaced and it was fascinating to watch - and listen to the often colourful language! Large, long handled, single-ended spanners were employed to undo the large bolts that held the fish plates and the wooden blocks that held the rails in the steel chairs were knocked out using long-handled hammers. With these operations complete, several men working in pairs would lift up the long, heavy rail with what appeared to be a large pair of tongs, and manhandle it to the side of the track. When sleepers were replaced, the operation was more involved, with the steel chairs being removed and re-bolted to the replacement sleepers. When all was completed, the sleepers were rammed tight with fresh stone. All the time during the operation, there was a lineman acting as a lookout. He carried both a red flag and a green flag and a horn on a strap slung over his shoulder. If a train was distant on the adjacent line, he would warn the platelayers by sounding the horn. In the summer months, a heat haze would be visible on the rails, so a space of about ½ inch was always left between the rails to allow for expansion. The overall width between the rails was frequently checked by another lineman called Mr Yaxley. He was always dressed in a long dark coat and wore a trilby hat. He carried a long mahogany template with a brass upstand at each end, which he would place across the rails at various points to make sure the width was correct. Another person seen walking along the line would be a plate layer carrying a long, narrow ended hammer over one shoulder and a bagful of wooden blocks on the other. Occasionally, he would stop and hammer home a wooden block that had become loose in an iron chair or if one was missing or damaged, it would be replaced. The noise made by the hammer was very distinctive and the man would have walked miles while first checking the up-line and then the down-line.

As the year progressed, weeds and vegetation would grow and at certain times of the year, a group of platelayers would arrive to cut back the vegetation which gradually encroached on the cinder pathway that ran beside the main line. Dutch hoes would make short work of the cat's tails and small weeds, whilst scythes were used to cut down the longer greenery that had grown on the wider aprons.



Before starting, the platelayers would thread a leather holster on the back of their belts into which was inserted a narrow sharpening stone. Then they would stand the scythe upright with the wide blade at the top and set about sharpening the blade, from side to side, with an almost carefree indifference. When the sharpening was done, the sharpening stone was put into the holster which was then pulled round the body until it was on the man's lower back. Then he was ready to start. To this day, I have never seen men use scythes with such ease.

The action was both steadied and unhurried with the only sounds coming from occasional conversation and the hiss of falling grass. There was the occasional curse when the blade hit something hard. The vegetation was always cut very short and lay in layers like corn in a field and mixed in with it were large white daisies and large yellow flowers with very large soft leaves. I don't know what these were apart from the fact that it was usually possible to find black and yellow banded caterpillars feeding on them.

Sited at various locations beside the railway track were platelayers huts. There were three at Haddiscoe; two on the Lowestoft line and one near Fleet Junction. These were very solid affairs being built of vertical railway sleepers with a lean-to roof and a single door secured with a heavy chain and

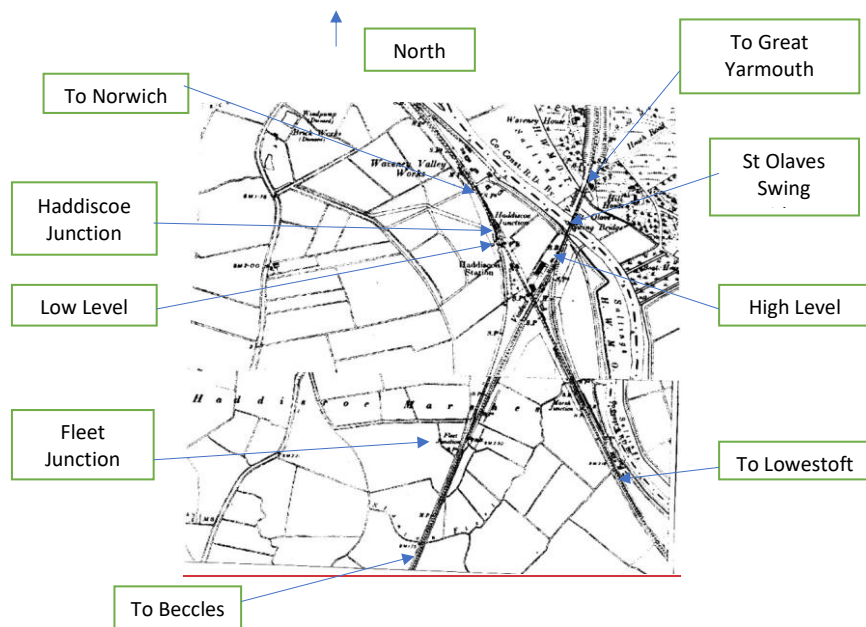
padlock. I had the chance to enter the one at Fleet Junction to join the platelayers for a mug of strong tea and half a very thick cheese sandwich. On entering, there was a strong smell of creosoted sleepers from the wooden sides. When my eyes became accustomed to the dim light, there were more sleepers laid horizontally for seats and in the middle was a small table. Shovels and large forks were hanging from iron nails and there was a locked wall cupboard which contained the fog detonators. A scattering of tea-stained cards and a newspaper were on the table, together with a couple of stained mugs. The air smelt of strong tobacco. Like all the huts, there was a small cast iron tortoise stove complete with its chimney which took the smoke out through the roof. Although the huts were very basic, they provided shelter and a place to keep equipment.

At the end of our garden, beside an old shed, was a hutch containing two white ferrets. On one occasion I was foolish enough to stick my finger through the mesh netting and got my finger bitten! When we went rabbiting, the ferret box would come out and one of the ferrets would be lifted into the box and the lid securely closed. I usually carried the box and after a while, gained confidence in handling the pair, even to the stage of putting on their small collars before rabbiting. The ferrets were real hunters. A line was attached to their collars before they were placed at the entrance to a likely burrow after others had been covered by purse nets. This was in case the burrows were linked up and the rabbit escaped the ferret and made a run for it. Rabbiting was carried out on a narrow strip of land which ran parallel to the high level embankment which we rented from the railway and this extended half way to Fleet Junction. Part of this was cultivated for crops and fruit bushes and we also had several chickens and five bee hives. Further up the line, father shot rabbits with a 4.10 shotgun, so there was always a good supply of food. On Tuesdays, it was off to Beccles by train to buy groceries, sausage meat and a balancer meal for the chickens. Whilst it was relatively straightforward digging out rabbits on the open ground, we tried to keep some distance from the elder bushes because if the burrows led into these, it was nearly impossible to dig out the quarry because of the extensive roots. In the normal course of events, the ferret would be placed at the entrance to a fresh burrow. If it picked up a scent, it would enter the blackness with the line paying out. If not, it would play about and show no interest, so we would try another hole. Once the ferret got a scent, it would be off with the line paying out as it progressed. Some time later, we would follow up the line by digging shafts about a foot apart with a long-handled rabbiting shovel, which had a hook at the end of the handle. As we traced the ferret, we would use the hook to retrieve the line and dig another shaft. The close centres allowed for any change in direction but you had to be careful not to come down on both ferret and rabbit amongst the loose soil. In such situations, father would work out where the head of the ferret was and then carefully draw them both from the hole. He would then apply gentle pressure to the neck of the ferret to make it release its quarry.

A short distance from some elder bushes there were a number of grassy clumps and where these bordered the marsh, there was also a spread of reeds. Amongst the clumps were grass snakes and on hot days, they would lie coiled amongst the grass and reeds. Close to this place, we had bee hives and during the winter months, I would go with father to feed the bees. Some seasons the honey was of good quality; others not so good, probably due to a bad summer or a lot of wet weather. One afternoon, one of the station porters called at the house to say that there was a large swarm of bees on a small hawthorn bush beside the embankment. With father still at work, mother and I went to have a look. The bush was entirely covered by thousands of bees, all crawling over each other to try to get to the queen. The noise was frightening. It was a situation that mother had coped with before and she disappeared home, later to return dressed in a large raincoat, gloves and battered old hat and carrying a large cardboard box. This was then pushed against the bush, just below the mass of bodies, and with the other hand she grasped the top of the bush and began shaking, tipping the swarm gradually into the box. I stood some distance away! I heard her say that she was concerned as to the possibility of them all taking off if the queen was able to set herself free. Fortunately, this did not happen. Father was on early duty at the swing bridge that day and on his return, was able to transfer

the swarm and its queen, to an empty hive where they finally settled and this increased the number of our hives to five.

To be concluded.



Lowestoft Scene - Jenny and David Hatton

January

International vessel specialist unveils new base

Rapidly expanding Norwegian firm OHT is targeting the UK's offshore wind farm pipeline from a base at OrbisEnergy in Lowestoft. OHT chose OrbisEnergy confident that it would plug its growing UK team into "an established industry network". OHT had been moving quickly into the offshore wind market since it announced its order of Alfa Lift, its first custom-built vessel, in 2018 and has won the contract to install foundations on Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm - set to be the world's largest development.

"Phenomenal" response to new book

A new book providing insight into the experiences of 40 wartime evacuees has proved a runaway success. A Long Way from Home, written by former evacuee Clive Capps and author Sandra Delf, was launched at Lowestoft Railway Station this month. It features accounts from 40 evacuees, now aged in their 80's and 90's, who left Lowestoft Station 80 years ago - and the authors have been thrilled with the response from the public.

COVID-19 funds

Public Health Suffolk have launched additional support for people forced to self-isolate during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authority has pledged £140,000 for training to support volunteers who will help people in the county having to isolate, which includes help for food, medicine and supplies, as well as ongoing support to access community groups for those at risk of loneliness.

School features in council's Garden Village scheme

A new primary school, a pre-school for 480 pupils, a retirement community and 1,300 homes are earmarked as part of a vision for a landmark garden village. The proposed development is on a site the majority of which is owned by Suffolk County Council. The 89-hectare site is of arable land that includes "a significant area" of Suitable Access Natural Greenspace to the East of the A47 and within the parish of Corton.

Coronavirus cases double in a week

The number of coronavirus cases in Suffolk doubled in a week, with more than 3,400 people testing positive for the virus. The latest government figures show that in the seven days up to January 1 2021, cases increased by 100% - with more people testing positive in the county than ever before. East Suffolk saw the biggest increase, with cases jumping by 130% over the space of seven days.

World bowls

World bowls is set to go ahead in this region under strict new lockdown rules which allow for elite sport. Potters Resort in Hopton confirmed that it intended to stage the World Indoor Bowls Championship behind closed doors.

Revamp of historic Post Office is approved

Plans to give Lowestoft's former Post Office a new lease of life have been approved, with nine new homes set to be built behind it. East Suffolk bought the Grade 11 Listed Post Office in London Road North in 2018, and submitted plans to bring the ailing façade back to life, complete a revamp inside for a new commercial business tenant and demolish buildings to the rear. Those buildings at the rear, which do not have Historic England listing, will make way for nine new affordable homes - five town houses and four in flats, as well as an extension to the listed building part itself. However, Lowestoft Town Council urged refusal of the plans, claiming more information came to light last year. The town council said "the town council, does not support the design of the new extension and would wish to secure a high level of design for this heritage building."

Hospital's virus death toll reaches 200

According to the latest figures released by Public Health England, 200 people have now died within a month of a positive coronavirus test at James Paget University Hospital. The hospital recorded its worst single day of the pandemic on January 7, when seven people died. A statement on the hospital's website said the latest six people to die all had underlying health issues.

College is joining scheme to boost work chances

East Coast College has been approved as a gateway provider for the Kickstart Scheme, helping businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk to employ 16 to 24-year-olds. The scheme that helps young people to develop work opportunities and employability skills, provides funding to create new six-month job placements for those on Universal Credit who are at risk of long-term unemployment.

Clearing oil from beach is not council option

There are no plans to clear historic crude oil which has been exposed on North Denes beach. The exposed crude oil on the beach is from the Eleni V tanker spill, which occurred just off the coast in 1978. At the time, the spill was so big that it was impossible to clear up all the oil, so some was buried at the beach. But recent erosion has resulted in more oil deposits being exposed. [But see page 5]

MP says government's BTEC call creates worry

Conservative MP for Waveney Peter Aldous has said the government's policy on BTECs has led to "worry, confusion and uncertainty". His concerns come after the Department for Education said vocational exams would go ahead this month across England, but that it was down to schools and colleges to judge whether they would go ahead there. It was confirmed last month that GCSE and A-level exams this summer have been cancelled. Mr Aldous addressed the confusion in the House of Commons and said "The economic recovery will be skills-based and the government have quite rightly placed much emphasis on the importance of BTECs. However, there is confusion, worry and uncertainty in colleges and schools. Many have cancelled this month's exams but others have not. They should not have been placed in a position of having to make their own choice as to whether to go ahead with exams - the government should have shown clear leadership so that all students across the country were in the same situation".

"It's a lifeline"

Ladies in Lockdown was formed by Jo Harmer who owns her own wedding supplier business in Lowestoft during the first national lockdown in 2020. Starting out as a small online group for ladies in Lowestoft, it now has 20,000 members from across the world. The group has been a focal point for

many, especially those who live alone or who are vulnerable. Mrs Harmer said "The group is a fun and positive place for ladies of all ages to talk to one another".

Will direct trains run from Lowestoft to London?

Direct train services between Lowestoft and London could help the town's economic recovery, it has been claimed as users continue to wait for their introduction. The services had been promised as part of Abellio's nine-year franchise agreement with the Department for Transport, which would begin in October 2016 and would have seen four trains each way per day between Lowestoft and London. Yet more than four years later, the operator, which trades as Abellio Greater Anglia, admits there are "no indications" of when services may be introduced.

Hundreds receive COVID vaccine at pharmacy

Management have praised "a real team effort" as the first chemist in the region started giving COVID vaccines to the community. Hayden Chemist, in Oulton Broad, began providing vaccines as it increased the number of locations locally for patients to get their jabs. After joining GP-led sites in Waveney vaccinating patients at Kirkley Mill and Sole Bay in Southwold. Pharmacists said around 600 people had received vaccines at the chemist during the first two days.

Council distributes £14M to COVID-hit firms

East Suffolk Council has paid out more than £14M in the past week to businesses affected by the current restrictions. With the national restrictions introduced on 5 January, council staff have worked tirelessly to ensure businesses in East Suffolk receive the much-needed financial support to which they are entitled through the Government's Business Grant Scheme.

Minke whale found on beach

A 15ft Minke whale has been found on the South beach, near the lifeguard station. Dog walkers were asked to keep their dogs on a lead when walking in the vicinity. The mammal was removed by a specialist company.

February

Book released in memory of heroic lifeboatman

A new book, Sheet 137, has been unveiled in memory of a heroic former lifeboat coxswain. Containing a selection of felt pen drawings that were made at locations on a discontinued Ordnance Survey map from the 1950's, the book has been produced by Mickey Gibbons, the son of former Lowestoft lifeboat coxswain Peter Gibbons. The former coxswain served with the RNLI in Lowestoft for 21 years, receiving two bravery awards.

Tributes paid to 'a dedicated town councillor'

Sue Barnard passed away at The James Paget University Hospital eight years after being given 12 months to live after battling cancer. She represented the Gunton ward since Lowestoft Town Council was formed in 2017. A council spokesperson said "She served on many of the town council's committees and had a particular interest in open spaces and the local historical environment". Sue, who was born in Lowestoft and lived in the town for most of her life, was on six council committees. As well as her work with the town council, Sue was an active member of the Gunton Residents Association, the town's branch of the Suffolk Family History Society and Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society and helped establish the Friends of Dip Farm group.

East Suffolk Council agrees to freeze its council tax

A freeze on the East Suffolk Council's portion of the council tax bill has been agreed by the authority's cabinet, citing the challenges many are facing from the COVID pandemic as a key reason. The authority last week unveiled its first draft budget at its scrutiny committee meeting, in which it proposed to keep the council tax level for 2021/22 at the same level this year. [But]

Council tax bills to rise as police precept rise for county is approved

Suffolk households can expect to pay more towards funding the police following approval of plans to increase the constabulary's share of council tax. Residents of Band D properties will pay an extra £14.94 for the 2020/21 financial year after the Police and Crime Commissioner successfully put forward his plans.

New operator unveiled for Waveney's leisure centres

Leisure facilities in Waveney are under new management as part of a new eight-year deal. East Suffolk Council has agreed the management contract with Everyone Active to take on the day-to-day running of the Waterlane Leisure Centre in Lowestoft and the Waveney Valley Leisure Centre in Bungay.

Lifesaving oximeters to be rolled out

Vulnerable people in Norfolk and Waveney suffering from COVID will now have access to potentially life-saving devices called pulse oximeters. The small device clips onto the finger and monitors not only the heart-rate but also oxygen levels in the blood. If the level is falling, the person with symptoms will know that their condition is at risk of deteriorating and intervention can be sought sooner.

Work begins on bridge projects 10 miles apart

Two major infrastructure projects are now officially underway. Just 10 miles apart, the Gull Wing project in Lowestoft and the Third River Crossing in Great Yarmouth have both been identified as nationally important, with the Department for Transport committing a total of £170M towards the £246M cost of both ventures. Road closures for both projects have already been implemented as preparation work begins, whilst trial holes for utilities are underway in Lowestoft.

Dangerous 'dragon's teeth' sea defences to be removed

They were planted to prevent enemy landings along a stretch of beach during WWII. Now coastal defences uncovered by erosion over recent years look set to be removed from Kessingland beach. Beacons look set to be installed to warn swimmers, as a marine licence application proposes "the removal of WWII anti-tank landing structures". A Marine Management consultation is under way that proposes the metal spikes - known as dragon's teeth defences - and scaffold trap structures are removed.

New funding to help rough sleepers

East Suffolk Council has secured an additional £389,482, on top of the £93,312 already received, to help support rough sleepers. The money, as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme and in conjunction with Orwell Housing, aims to provide support and long-term move-on accommodation for rough sleepers and homeless people.

Second COVID rapid testing facility to open

The new centre, to be based at the Waterlane Leisure Centre, will become the second rapid testing facility in the town, targeting people who unwittingly have the virus and do not show any symptoms. The new centre joins the first, which is located at the Kirkley and Pakefield FC clubhouse in Walmer Road.

Work progresses on flood defence scheme

A scheme of work to reduce the risk of flooding to homes in Lowestoft has taken a significant step forward. The works, taking place in the Velda Close and Aldwyck Way area, has seen a sheet piled flood wall being built for about 300m alongside Kirkley Stream and downstream of the Bloodmoor Road roundabout and a new pumping station.

Conservation area

A public consultation has been launched ahead of proposed changes to the North Lowestoft conservation area. The proposal, as part of regular reviews by East Suffolk Council, includes a extension to include the Denes Recreation Ground with boundary extensions.

Wartime ordnance dredged from seabed

Two unexploded wartime shells were brought up from the seabed by a Belgian registered dredger working 42 miles off the East Coast. With a South Easterly wind blowing at near gale force seven, temperatures just above zero and seas with a two to three metre swell, the Royal Navy divers were unable to dispose of them. They were weighted, let down back onto the seabed and marked so they could return later and dispose of them.

Buildings that 'add character' to East Suffolk

The winners of East Suffolk Council's Quality of Place Awards, which recognises the efforts of people in creating high-quality builds has been announced. Nominations were received last summer and the winners, judged on quality of design and detailing, quality of workmanship, use of materials and sustainability, were chosen during a series of COVID-secure visits. CEFAS Lowestoft received a Highly Commended in the Design Award criteria.

Beach chalets demolished as part of £1.6M scheme

Beach huts which were closed in Lowestoft almost five years ago have been demolished ahead of a new "two deck construction". Health and Safety engineers raised fears over the structural integrity of the 1930s buildings. East Suffolk Council, said that the project is on schedule to be completed at the end of May - ahead of the summer season - with an upper terrace of beach huts featuring among a "two deck construction".

Council to tackle oil spillage

Work to remove oil from a Lowestoft beach after a tanker spill more than 40 years ago will take place. The tanker, Eleni V was sailing in thick fog when she was struck by the bulk carrier Roseline on May 6, 1978, spilling more than 5,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil, four miles off the Lowestoft coast. The work will be carried out by East Suffolk Norse, working with a specialist disposal company. It comes as a petition calling for the clean up of the exposed oil passed 500 signatures, with members of the public taking matters into their own hands. A council spokesperson said "Work is continuing to identify a cost-effective way of locating the buried deposits to give us the option of dealing with them before they are exposed by the tide, if necessary".

Proposal to develop care home rejected

Proposals to build a two-storey, 26 bed, care home have been rejected over fears it would lead to overdevelopment of a street. It was proposed that the construction of the facility by Kingsley Healthcare would replace the current care home at 44 Gorleston Road. But these plans were decisively rejected by councillors at an East Suffolk Council planning committee. Despite Planning Officer Matthew Gee putting forward a recommendation for approval, all councillors rejected the proposal.

'One in five town centre buildings empty'

More than one in five Lowestoft town centre buildings are vacant as progress on a council's local plan is revealed. Since adopting the Waveney Local Plan in 2019, East Suffolk Council has been working towards protecting town centres and improving "quality of life for everyone growing up in, living in, working in and visiting" the area.

COVID breach and vehicles seized on 'day of action'

Suffolk Police carried out a day of action in Lowestoft to disrupt criminal activity - with the occupants of 16 vehicles caught for not wearing safety belts. During the day vehicles were pulled over for a range of offences including not having insurance, defective brake lights, tyre offences, driving whilst using a mobile phone or not wearing a seat belt. A total of 33 Traffic Offence Reports were issued and a car and motorbike were taken off the road by police.

March

Lowestoft secures £24.9M for key town centre projects in Chancellor's budget package

Ambitious plans to transform Lowestoft for generations to come will go ahead after a major funding boost of almost £25M. Two years after the UK's most Easterly town was chosen as one of 100 places to benefit from the government's £3.6B Towns Fund, Lowestoft is set to receive £24.9M for five key projects in the heart of the town. The bulk - £14.7M - will be spent in the new Cultural Quarter, involving upgrades to the Marina Theatre and demolition of the vacant Battery Green car park. A "new, vibrant building to support the performing arts" will be built in its place, as well as commercial and leisure facilities. With additional funding being sought from Associated British Ports, the plan includes improvements to the port gateway to "secure the town's future as a hub for the clean energy sector", with £2.7M of the Town's Fund earmarked for the site. The remaining £1.3M will go towards a programme of seafront improvements projects, including improvements to the promenade, replacement of the Royal Plain fountains and redevelopment of the East Point Pavilion.

Arsonists target two town parks

Two popular parks in Lowestoft have been targeted by arsonists, prompting a furious outcry. A picnic bench was set ablaze in the early morning at Fen Park, Kirkley. The incident was the second in just over 72 hours after charred remains were left at the children's play area at Normanston Park. Police are investigating as the fires are believed to have been started deliberately.

Schools reopen

After months of learning remotely, there were smiles aplenty, cheers, waves and a few nerves across Lowestoft as children returned to the classroom after weeks away.

Cooler conditions keep crowds away

Seafront strolls, bike rides and family walks were enjoyed, but the cooler weather kept large crowds of people away from the East coast. With it being the final weekend before the country takes its first step out of lockdown on March 8, people in Lowestoft were continuing to adhere to the regulations. Suffolk police had issued a warning after last weekend's sunshine had seen people flock to the coast, with many attending DIY stores and beauty spots. Police warned people to stay disciplined with officers, COVID wardens and partners out in force across the county.

New affordable homes

Work to transform a vacant town centre site with new homes will start later this year. More than 30 affordable homes will be built on a brownfield site in Lowestoft, which had previously been used by a tool hire centre business. The scheme for 31 flats was approved by East Suffolk councillors last

September. The scheme centres around "the demolition of existing commercial buildings and the construction of a residential development of 31, one bedroomed flats over three/four storeys with undercroft parking and associated works" at the former JD Power Tools hire centre site on Alexandra Road, Lowestoft.

Cranes move in for new McDonald's

A new drive-through restaurant is due to open next month. More than 55 jobs will be created as the brand-new McDonald's restaurant opens on Kirkley Rise, Lowestoft. Work to develop a drive-through outlet of the fast-food restaurant chain off Mill Road started in January, and there has been significant progress with the site being transformed in recent weeks. Now, with buildings being craned into place this week, a McDonalds spokesman said that the new restaurant will open on April 21.

"Relight My Fire" campaign success

Work is underway to install a new heating and ventilation system at the home of a popular amateur dramatics society. After the Lowestoft Players launched a Crowdfunder campaign to replace a condemned heating system at The Players Theatre in November last year, they reached their initial £35,000 target. With the theatre left without any heating, there was a strong possibility that they would not be able to reopen after lockdown.

Government rejects County Council's bid

The day after a bus boss said Suffolk County Council was 20 years behind the best local authorities for public transport planning in the country, the county saw a bid for government cash for new, on-demand bus services rejected.

Post boxes get crochet hats!

Lowestoft is being hit by random acts of crochet kindness. Post boxes in the town have been given colourful crochet "hats", topped off with cuddly creatures including a Teddy bear, a bunny and a chick. As well as many of the designs being found by people in Lowestoft, others have mysteriously appeared in other areas across Waveney, East Suffolk, and Norfolk, including Southwold, Kessingland and Great Yarmouth.

School closed

A primary school has been forced to close until after Easter due to a small number of COVID cases. Phoenix St Peter Academy in Lowestoft was expected to reopen on 23 March, but the decision has been taken to postpone its opening until 12 April.

Construction of Gull Wing bridge starts

After more than 100 years of waiting, dreams have become reality as the start of construction work on Lowestoft's Gull Wing third crossing has been formally marked by a video featuring a range of people involved with the scheme. The new £126.75M Gull Wing bridge, which will cross Lake Lothing and link Waveney Drive to Denmark Road and Peto Way, is expected to open in the summer of 2023.

Enjoy the beauty of the region's coast from your own home

With thousands of people shielding in Suffolk, a new virtual walking programme has launched to help everyone enjoy walks around the coast, without leaving their homes. Funded by the Lowestoft and Northern Parish Community Partnership, the Lowestoft Mile Walks have been filmed using 360° virtual reality and drone footage. The walks currently available include Nicholas Everitt Park, a circular walk around Lound, the Claremont Pier and Kensington Gardens and Lowestoft Lighthouse to Ness Point.

April

Train services

A selection of off-peak train services will resume across Norfolk and Waveney with Greater Anglia anticipating a rise in passenger numbers as lockdown restrictions are eased. The company has announced that most of the network will once again have at least an hourly service, with further increases planned on other routes.

"Dragon's teeth" removed from beach

"Dragon's teeth" - vertical iron spiles that were installed on Kessingland beach and formed part of the anti-tank sea defences have been removed. The spikes were exposed on the beach at low tide and were considered to be a danger to users of the beach.

Increase in fly-tipping

Fly-tipping in East Suffolk soared during the COVID-19 pandemic, latest data has showed - and efforts to work on a joined-up policy across the county could be a means of cracking down on offenders. East Suffolk Council's scrutiny committee assessed the problem, with data presented indicating that Quarter 3 of 2020 saw more than 600 reports - nearly double the 350 reports seen in Quarter 4 of 2019.

Sycamores felled as 100 new trees planted

A group overseeing Gunton Wood in Lowestoft has planted almost 100 trees on the 6.1acre - two and a half hectares - of land, lauded as "a safe and wonderful haven" for wildlife and visitors. With the Gunton Woodland Community Project having reported "a vast increase in footfall" during the pandemic, the new trees have been planted to replace about 20 mature sycamores that had to be felled "for safety reasons" as they had succumbed to Sooty Bark disease. The new trees were provided by The Woodland Trust and Waveney Norse.

Councillors discuss beach hut plans

Controversial plans to replace beach huts on Lowestoft seafront have been examined by town councillors. The £1.6M scheme began in July 2020 to demolish the 58 concrete beach chalets on Jubilee Parade and reinforce the lower cliff face at the southern end of the beach. Plans for a "two-deck" construction design for 72 beach huts were unveiled last month. The plans have, however, divided opinion among locals, with some branding the designs "hideous" and "too modern" while others say they are "beautiful" and "just what Lowestoft needs".

Tourist office reopens

The Tourist Information Office at Lowestoft Railway Station has reopened to the public. The facility has been closed since December following government restrictions to suppress the pandemic. Combining tourist information, a railway book shop, local crafts, souvenirs and refreshments, the office is operated by the Lowestoft Central Project in conjunction with the Wherry Lines Community Rail Partnership.

Park hit by flooding

Strong winds led to high waters reaching the public benches in Nicholas Everitt Park in Oulton Broad on Easter Monday. HM Coastguard rescue from Lowestoft had issued warnings after parts of the popular park were flooded with The Boulevard car park and walk through "completely under water" as high waters hit.

Works under way as part of major flood defence scheme

Preparatory works were under way as part of the next phase of the Lowestoft Flood Defence Project. The scheme, which is being carried out as part of the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project (FRMP), will see a tidal flood barrier built in Lowestoft's outer harbour, along with tidal flood walls to the North and South of the barrier. With the FRMP representing a major capital investment for the town of around £67M, and the target date for completion being 2025, a spokesman said "When finished, the project will support the economic growth and regeneration of Lowestoft and reduce the risk of flooding to over 1,500 homes and 800 businesses".

Possible opening date of 2030 for new hospital

Integrated care systems, which require all parts of the NHS to work with each other, local councils and other partners, have been rolled out across the country from April. The Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership, which involves hospitals, community and mental health trusts, GP practices and other care providers met for the first time. The JPOUH was built with an expected working life of 30 years, but is still in use four decades later. It has high maintenance costs and structural defects. They include the reinforced concrete roof planks which have started to deteriorate in buildings elsewhere. A report says that the JPUH has "inadequate space to deliver modern health and social care services", whilst replacing it will enable a health campus to off "truly joined up services" for patients. It added that it will also help tackle "challenges" such as the area's older population and related issues, deprivation, smoking, obesity, alcohol, and drug dependency. An outline business case will be submitted in July 2022, with final approval expected in April 2024. If granted, work would also begin in April 2024 and continue until April 2029. Moving services to the new site is expected to be complete in January 2030.

Trust celebrates as centenarian receives funding grant

The Excelsior Trust in Lowestoft is set to receive £80,000 from the second round of the government's £1.57B Culture Recovery Fund. The trust is among a number of arts and heritage organisations across Norfolk and Waveney which will receive a share of £4M in funding. The trust operates the 100-year old Lowestoft sailing trawler, Excelsior - a familiar and much loved sight off the East coast.

"Map of Dreams" illustrates East Anglia's wild ambitions for nature recovery

The wild ambitions of East Anglia's newest nature movement have been visualised on an interactive "Map of dreams" - aiming to inspire a regional culture change in wildlife recovery. WildEast which was founded last year with the 50-year goal of returning 20% of East Anglia to nature, has launched the map to incentivise and track projects that encourage ecological regeneration. It is a live representation of the pledges already made, ranging from farms and landowners to a vicar, a special needs school and a village community. And it is hoped that the Map of Dreams will inspire others from all sectors of society to contribute 20% of their landscape to nature, bringing WildEast closer to its target of 1,000 pledges by the end of 2021. The map can be seen at www.wildeast.co.uk.

"Marmite" beach huts supported

Controversial beach hut plans for Lowestoft seafront have been backed by town councillors, despite their "marmite" design. Although approved by the town council's planning and environment committee, a final decision on the plans is yet to be made by East Suffolk Council's Northern planning committee.

"Innovative" street light sparks interest

A futuristic street light has been installed as part of an innovative trial. Having appeared lately on Pakefield cliffs, the wind and solar powered street lamp has sparked lots of interest. Its installation forms part of the £4.4M ADEPT SMART Places Live Programme running across Suffolk. With Suffolk County Council being one of nine local authorities to successfully bid for funding as part of a £22.9M project funded by the Department for Transport, it aims to use its existing street lighting infrastructure

to provide a showcase of "innovative technologies" which bring efficiencies to Suffolk now, and others in the future.

Deadly wartime raids remembered

The mayors of a town and a city at opposite sides of the country have exchanged poignant letters of commemoration to mark the 80th anniversary of wartime bombing raids that destroyed historic churches. The messages were shared between the mayor of Lowestoft and the Lord Mayor of Plymouth. On 21 April 1941, 130 German bombers blitzed Plymouth for the first of three consecutive nights. A smaller force of bombers - detailed to attack Yarmouth - went astray and most of their bombs landed in Kirkley and Pakefield, killing three people and causing serious damage to property, including St Margaret's church, Pakefield, which was gutted. The church was rebuilt in 1948 and rededicated in 1950 at a service held by the Bishop of Norwich.

Five new businesses to discover in Lowestoft as lockdown eases

It is not all doom and gloom on Lowestoft's historic High Street. There are some brand new businesses to discover as lockdown eases. The five breathing new life into the High Street are:

Door to the Cosmos, 113 High Street. A coffee shop that offers a variety of food including pastries, cakes and soups and also some vegan produce.

Books + Prints, 113 High Street. A book shop selling new and second-hand books from local authors, both fiction and non-fiction, and are associated with bookshop.org. Printmaking courses are coming soon.

Chari Boutique, 104 High Street. A boutique specialising in ladies' clothing.

Lennie's Plants, 132 High Street. Most of the plants come from the owner, but she has been doing click and collect and home delivery.

KK's Sweet Treats, 46 Queens's Road. The shop incorporates the traditional elements of a sweet shop, but offers a modern twist as well.

"Disappointment" for town centre McDonald's closure

Signs were being removed as the McDonald's restaurant on London Road North, was being emptied - a day after the new restaurant for the fast food chain had opened elsewhere. Having hosted memorable children's parties and served tens of thousands of people in the town centre over the past 35 years, the closure has shocked business leaders.

May

The kittiwake problem

There are only two colonies of rare kittiwakes in Suffolk and both are in Lowestoft. Recently, fire crews from Lowestoft have rescued several birds that have become trapped in netting that adorns the BT building in Surrey Street and Papa John's in Station Square. BT have confirmed that they are looking at new types of netting and that they would leave one side of the building free for the kittiwakes to use. Papa John's is a franchised building and the landlord has been approached regarding the netting. A spokeswoman from the RSPB said that "Kittiwakes are as an endangered species as giant pandas so it is important to look after the local population. We cannot keep trying to squeeze nature into smaller and smaller spaces or demanding it fits in with our plans when we are in a nature an climate emergency".

Royal visit marks Wildlife Trusts 60th Anniversary

[Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, visited Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve and unveiled a plaque commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The Trust has obtained in excess of £6M to buy former bean fields and transform them into a vibrant mix of wetland habitats where wildlife such as otters and kingfishers can thrive. Carlton Marshes has become the Southern gateway to the Broadlands National Park; it contains 28 species of dragonfly and is the UK's richest dragonfly site.](#)

[Primary school premieres song](#)

[Somerleyton Primary School was one of 10 school choirs selected across the country who were selected after entering an open call in December. They performed a song entitled 'Movement' - a work that makes up a song-cycle entitled 'Everything', composed by Russell Hepplewhite and words by Michael Rosen. The project by "Britten Pears Arts' Friday Afternoons" aims to promote singing in schools.](#)

[Lockdown easing](#)

[Further easing of the lockdown rules on May 17 means indoor hospitality will be allowed as museums, theatres, cinemas, soft-play centres, restaurants and pubs can throw open their doors. Per day between Lo](#)

[Work to start on beach huts that have divided opinion across the town](#)

[A £2.6M scheme, which will see 72 contemporary beach huts installed as a replacement for the 58 concrete beach chalets that were demolished on Jubilee Parade, was approved last week. The new huts, described as either "hideous" or "beautiful", divided opinion across the town. The scheme was approved by the East Suffolk Planning Committee by six votes to three. Public comments included 25 objections and nine supporters.](#)

[End of era as furnishing business closes](#)

[Having provided quality soft furnishings for decades, a prominent, independent family-run business is set to close its doors at the end of the month. FW Knights in Lowestoft, was established in 1962 and has been run by three generations of the same family since.](#)

[Rail shake-up casts fresh doubt on the Lowestoft-London direct line](#)

[Direct services between Lowestoft and London are in doubt after the biggest railway shake-up in 25 years was given the go-ahead. The service was promised as part of Abellio's nine-year franchise agreement with the Department for Transport, which began in October 2016 and would have seen four trains each way between Lowestoft and London. However, Great British Railways is set to take over train operations across the country later this year which means the local Greater Anglia franchise will cease to exist, leading to fears it will be delayed further or forgotten.](#)

[Lowestoft charity handed national prize](#)

[Lowestoft-based Access Community Trust is celebrating after scooping highly-prized accreditations from top workplace engagement specialists Best Companies. The charity - which delivers a range of projects throughout Suffolk and Norfolk - has been ranked as the second best charity to work for in the UK. The Trust has recently completed its Easter holidays campaign, which saw more than 21,000 children and their families being supported across Suffolk and Norfolk, through its "PINK orange" meal kits project. It is set to transform two vacant high street stores in Gorleston and Kings Lynn into walk-in mental health cafes.](#)

[Town's "dental desert" fears raised by MP](#)

Dentists in Waveney have backed calls for the government to take action over a "growing crisis". With some people being told that they have to wait until 2024 for appointments, and others being removed from lists for not making appointments sooner, numerous concerns have been raised. An adjournment debate on NHS Dentistry in the area, led by Waveney MP Peter Aldous, called on the government to provide dentists with the resources to tackle the backlog and to end the cycle of retirements leading to funds being removed from the area.

New homes in town centre

Work has started to demolish the old JD Power/Lowestoft Tool Hire centre on Alexandra Road to provide 31 flats as affordable homes. Orwell Housing Association purchased the land in March and the housing scheme was approved by East Suffolk councillors last September.

June

Planning Inspector orders caravan park to remove unauthorised extension

A caravan park has been ordered to remove an unauthorised extension on council-owned land, by the government's planning inspector. The council had ordered Tingdene (North Denes) Ltd to restore the land to its previous state and remove the development which included the laying of caravan bases, construction of a road, installation of a pumping station with settlement tanks and the laying of pipe works. Tingdene appealed the decision arguing that the works were approved by Waveney District Council. The Planning Inspectorate however, has rejected the appeal, refusing to grant planning permission and upheld the council's enforcement notice, which a report says must now take place within three months.

Demolition work starts at third crossing site

Demolition works forming part of the eagerly-awaited construction of "an iconic and important bridge" for Lowestoft have begun. The vital bridge will cross Lake Lothing and link Waveney Drive to Denmark Road and Peto Way. Last month more than 1000 tonnes of concrete was broken up and a project spokesman said that a concrete crusher had been busy on site meaning that all that material could be re-used for the piling platforms for the bridge. "It all helps to minimise the amount of new materials needed and road transportation".

"Great offers for a fiver"

With the Totally Locally Fiver Fest being organised to show the importance of supporting our high streets, Lowestoft will be part of the national campaign, which is designed to help put money into independent businesses and celebrate these stores that make our town unique.

Sailing smack is set to star in Mayflower celebrations

The historic Lowestoft-based sailing smack Excelsior departed to take part in the "Mayflower" ceremony commemorations in London. With Excelsior LT472 - the last remaining working Lowestoft sailing smack - marking its 100th anniversary in 2021, there was joy for the trust that operates it after being invited to take part in the "historic celebrations". The Excelsior - representing the historic "Mayflower" ship - will be moored close to Tower Bridge in London to receive salutes from a flotilla of vessels carrying civic dignitaries from both London and the USA.

"They only sing when they're outside" - Choir backs rule shift

Members of a popular choir have been braving the elements to rehearse outside as they campaign to sing indoors again. The 65-strong Pakefield Singers choir - led by Vetta Wise - is backing calls for restrictions to be lifted. While people can now meet indoors, thousands of choirs across the country have been hit by a change in government guidance. With non-professional singing only able to take place in groups of up to six people indoors, Pakefield Singers, in common with other choirs across England - have been rehearsing outdoors.

Boxer Charley hails hometown ahead of Olympics

Lowestoft boxer Charley Davison has praised the support and backing of her hometown after sealing her ticket to the Tokyo Olympic Games. Community well wishes, video messages from her children's school and social media support have all helped as she was still coming to terms with the "amazing" achievements. Charley, 27, said she was determined to realise her dreams and make her children proud of her after securing a place at the Olympics - becoming the second boxer from Lowestoft to represent GB boxing at an Olympics after Anthony Ogogo won bronze at the 2012 games.

Sadness at latest town centre store closure

Discount retailer Poundstretcher looks set to close its prominent town centre store next week. Having been based at the large former Woolworths and QD stores outlet since October 2016, the bargain chain is closing its doors. The latest blow to beleaguered businesses in the town comes less than two months after the closure of McDonald's left a major site prime for development on London Road North.

Parkruns delayed and Gala Day postponed

After the Prime Minister announced the delay of Freedom Day, fun runners will have to wait a while longer for Parkrun's return. The popular bank holiday Gala Day has been cancelled for only the second time in its history. The Lowestoft Lions' main charity event of the year - the Oulton Broad Gala Day - was set to take place on August 30.

New policy for commemorative benches

A council has introduced a new policy for commemorative benches in East Suffolk. Applications are now open for people to sponsor a new bench on land owned by East Suffolk Council. The service allows people to sponsor seating at locations in the district to remember a friend, colleague or relative who has died. People can now sponsor a bench with a commemorative plaque for a period of 10 years in numerous locations on council land, mainly replacing existing benches that are coming to an end of practical use.

Development of third crossing to be documented

A long-running media company is set to document the development of the new Lowestoft bridge over the next two years. Lowestoft-based media company CHPV has been awarded the contract to provide film and photography services that will record the development of the third crossing. The four-strong CHPV Offshore Energy Media Services team, based at OrbisEnergy in Lowestoft, has been filming and photographing impressive feats of engineering and industry on land, sea and air, around the world for more than 50 years.

Toilet blocks closed after vandalism

The public toilets below the Pagoda-style shelter at Jubilee North on Lowestoft promenade - which underwent major refurbishment last summer - are among three toilet blocks in the town that have been closed after being damaged by arsonists and vandals in the past few days. The toilets in Kensington Gardens and in Pakefield Street have also been closed.

Fascinating insight into Norfolk and Suffolk railway scene

A fascinating record of railway engines, trains and coaching stock recorded across Norfolk and Suffolk is set to raise funds towards a local community rail project. Original footage, which was taken between 1988 and 1991, has been unearthed and now placed on a limited-edition DVD. Railway enthusiast Paul Godfrey has presented the volunteer-run Lowestoft station shop and tourist information office with several copies of his DVD - Suffolk and Norfolk Railway Miscellany. The railway-themed video compilation features numerous diesel and electric locomotives and unusual workings to the area including Orient Express coaching stock and an Inter-City 125 rail tour.

Flood-hit primary school hails "amazing" response

Children and staff have returned to a Lowestoft-area primary school after flash flooding led to its temporary closure. After torrential rain had hit the East coast last Friday, it was "business as usual" at Grove Primary School on Tuesday as more than 300 children were back in the classroom. The pupils had to be evacuated last Friday afternoon after the deluge of rain flooded the school's library and atrium area. With severe leaks coming through the roof, as water also came up through the floor drains, staff battled to salvage books, carpets, tiles, soft furnishings and equipment in the library area. Within hours, the Parent Teachers Friends Association had set up a GoFundMe page calling for people to "Help rebuild our library!". Initially asking for £1000, that target was quickly surpassed and within three days it had attracted more than 90 donors as it reached £2000.

Town turns down chance to bid for city status

Lowestoft Town Council rejected a proposal put forward for the town to apply for city status. As part of the upcoming Platinum Jubilee civic honours competition, the Queen has agreed that competitions may be held for a grant of city status and Lord Mayor or Provost status to mark the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. There are no prerequisites for entering and entry is free. But some councillors were not optimistic, pointing out that Ipswich, a much larger town than Lowestoft, has been trying for 30 years.

Health chiefs are encouraged by COVID level figures

Health bosses in Suffolk say they remain "encouraged" by the number of cases in the county despite rises in the past few weeks. The latest data for Suffolk shows that cases have risen in all districts but remain some of the lowest in the country. In East Suffolk between 16 and 22 June, 34 people had a confirmed positive test result. This shows an increase of 6.2% compared to the previous seven days. Mr Keeble, Director of Public Health for Suffolk said that "COVID case rates have increased in Suffolk in the last seven days, which is concerning, but current rates locally remain lower than the East of England and England average case rates".

Pupils forced to isolate after wrong test result

Pupils at a SEND school were ordered to self-isolate after a COVID test result was wrongly recorded as positive. An alert was sent out to staff and pupils at the Warren School in Lowestoft, warning them to self-isolate for 10 days after a negative test was incorrectly recorded as positive online.

Two recycling rounds cost council £50,000 in contaminated waste

Contaminated recycling waste from just two rounds in Lowestoft have resulted in more than £50,000 in lost cash, new figures have revealed. Data compiled for East Suffolk Council's scrutiny committee showed that the financial impact per year of contaminated recycling waste in the district was £51,947 in lost recycling performance payouts. But £50,308 of that was lost from the district, with two Lowestoft rounds identified as culprits. It is understood food waste, used nappies and glass bottles put in recycling bins are the key contaminants, although the details of which streets are in those rounds have not been disclosed. Waste collection chiefs have said that more work is being done to combat the problem.

July

Terry Butcher unveils sports hall at school

There were cheers. Loud applause and lots of goals as former England football captain Terry Butcher returned to his hometown. The Ipswich Town legend was back in Lowestoft to rename a sports hall on school grounds close to where he used to hone his skills. The Terry Butcher Hall was unveiled at Red Oak Primary School - the former Fen Park Primary - that Mr Butcher had attended in the 1960s.

New accommodation block for rough sleepers

East Suffolk Council has turned a large former home on St Peter's Street in Lowestoft into a seven-bed house of multiple occupancy (HMO). After a successful bid last year to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, East Suffolk Council received £93,312 to provide accommodation and support to rough sleepers during the pandemic. An additional £389,482 was then secured earlier this year to provide support to rough sleepers in East Suffolk through the delivery of longer-term 'move on' accommodation. This led to the property on St Peter's Street being bought and over the last few months, the council's housing maintenance team has transformed the building into a seven-bed unit of specialist, supported accommodation specifically for rough sleepers and single homeless people.

Bird boxes and flags decorate town

While the First Light Festival had to be cancelled this summer amid lockdown uncertainty earlier this year, organisers instead put together the Days of Summer programme. Kensington Gardens, East Point Pavilion and the historic High Street hosted more than 2,000 bird boxes created by local pupils and acclaimed artists. The outdoor exhibition recognised Lowestoft as one of the first landing posts for a number of different birds migrating across the world to settle and breed. South Beach also saw the installation of 500 individually designed silk flags to mark the start of a 500 mile walk from Lowestoft to Tilbury in Essex.

Hospitality sector faces struggle for staff

The East of England's £10B hospitality sector is facing a staff crisis as it wades into a make-or-break season. The true impact of Brexit has been overshadowed by the pandemic, with people who would have potentially left the UK for the continent returning sooner to be with their families for lockdown. But this has led to sky-rocketing labour prices, hospitality bosses have said, leaving them to rely on their company culture to attract staff.

Volunteers from St John Ambulance help roll out vaccines

Volunteers from St John Ambulance are working alongside NHS colleagues to deliver the COVID vaccination programme in Lowestoft. Two St John volunteers work each shift at the Lowestoft vaccination centre at the town's Old Court building, located in Old Nelson Street. This is part of the charity's work with NHS partners across England to deliver a local response to this national programme.

Park shelter hit by arson attack rebuilt

A well-used park shelter that was destroyed by fire more than two years ago has been rebuilt. The shelter at the sunken gardens entrance to Nicolas Everitt Park in Oulton Broad, was gutted in a blaze in the early hours of 13 April 2019. This week, the Nicholas Everitt Park Trust said that it was "delighted" to see the shelter at the park finally rebuilt.

'We owe them' - Lowestoft Freemasons thank the NHS staff

Lowestoft Freemasons joined with Masonic lodges throughout the country to thank NHS staff on its special birthday. Aneurin Bevan led the establishment of the National Health Service 73 years ago. In Lowestoft this week, representatives of the freemason lodges came together to mark the NHS anniversary with a 'thank-you' flag raising ceremony and cheque presentation. After a special flag was raised - which included a written tribute to the NHS - Provincial Junior Grand Master Mike Dobson expressed his thanks to all the doctors, nurses and support staff in the NHS for looking after us during COVID.

Funding sought to restore 'landmark' town hall

Transformation of a historic town hall has taken another important step forward. The Grade II listed Town Hall in Lowestoft has been vacant and unoccupied since 2015. It looks set for a brighter future as a scheme progresses to revitalise the landmark building, owned by Lowestoft Town Council, with a community focus. Earlier this year, almost 1,000 people in Lowestoft shared their thoughts on how a restored Town Hall could be used for the community - with a café, museum and heritage hub all mooted. The online survey sought views on what the public would like to see in a "restored town hall in Lowestoft" and now the Lowestoft Town Hall business plan has been developed.

Councils announce joint bid for UK City of Culture 2025

Two councils have announced plans for a joint bid for UK City of Culture 2025. In an unusual move, East Suffolk Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council have announced the bid will focus on Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston. The bid aims to showcase the three towns' culture, diversity and disadvantage in the area. UK City of Culture 2025 is the first time a collection of linked or neighbouring towns have been eligible to apply together.

New apartments could be built above former McDonald's

A scheme has been lodged to turn vacant offices into eight new apartments above the former McDonald's restaurant on London Road North, which closed in April. The change of use plans for the prominent three storey building would see the development retain the ground floor retail/shop units with apartments to the first and second floors. With all three floors of the former Suffolk House building vacant, First Equity Holding Ltd lodged change of use plans from offices to "dwelling houses", with an application submitted to East Suffolk Council.

Curtain set to go up at the Marina

The Marina Theatre in Lowestoft is set to open its auditorium on 24 July, for the first live show since March 2020. Popular returning show, Frankie's Guys, will take to the stage with their celebration of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Lowestoft streets awash with colour for annual In Bloom competition

The streets of Lowestoft were awash with colourful displays of blooming flowers and vegetables as communities came together again. The Lowestoft in Bloom annual competition returned with countless entries across the town. The charity added a street competition this year in an effort to bring communities together with floral displays brightening the town's streets, as well as the usual categories for gardeners, businesses, schools, allotments and guest houses.

Joy as CityFibre backs Lowestoft landmark with sponsorship deal

An iconic pier has received a funding boost that helps to secure its future. CityFibre, the UK's third national digital infrastructure platform, is sponsoring the South Pier for the next 12 months to help protect the future of the local landmark. At a special ceremony, the South Pier - with a legacy that dates back to 1846 - benefitted from a sponsorship deal that will ensure the community can continue to enjoy it long into the future.

We're so proud of you Charley!

That's the community response echoing out around Lowestoft in support of talented Olympian Charley Davison. The 27-year old - hailed as a supermum after she spent six years away from the sport to have three children and then returned to boxing before making the Team GB Olympic squad in an incredible comeback - saw her golden hopes dashed on Thursday. Her remarkable Olympic journey ended at the last 16-stage.

Bouncing Back: new visitor guides and events to boost town centre

Events to boost footfall and encourage more people to "discover" a coastal town have been unveiled. The popular Freddie the Fish and Friends trail has returned as Lowestoft Vision teams up with businesses and retailers across Lowestoft town centre and the historic High Street to host an event that captivates thousands over the summer. Having returned for a seventh year at the weekend, the trail will be in place all summer for families and visitors to the town, with people encouraged to find Freddie and all 15 of his friends in shops and businesses across Lowestoft.

Trust receives grant to 'bring the Broads to Lowestoft'

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has received a government grant worth £247,000 to fund its Bringing the Broads to Lowestoft project. The project aims to create habitats and restore the landscape around the Carlton Marshes nature reserve near the town, as well as extending paths to create more opportunities for locals to get close to nature.

'Hallelujah!': Choir gets to perform its first concert in 18 months

"We're back" - that was the message from the popular Pakefield Singers choir, as an outdoor concert was held to celebrate them being able to sing together once more. With the government's restrictions easing, an informal concert took centre stage on the field in front of Pakefield Church Hall. An appreciative audience was treated to a programme of music which included some of the choir's favourites as well as new pieces learnt during the pandemic.

Delight as port welcomes luxury cruise ship for maiden call at Lowestoft

A luxury cruise ship made a welcome stop at ABP's Port of Lowestoft for its maiden call. Noble Caledonia's flagship vessel, the MS Island Sky spent almost nine hours at the UK's most Easterly port for its first ever cruise call. The port, which is more widely known for its support for the burgeoning offshore wind industry, its historic fishing industry and handling cargo for agricultural and construction industries, welcomed the Italian-built vessel. Passengers aboard the 90.6m vessel were offered coach excursions to Southwold and elsewhere while others ventured into Lowestoft.

Laser light show

A stunning laser light show illuminated the night skies over a prominent Lowestoft landmark. Hundreds of people turned out and gathered in front of the Claremont Pier on the South beach in Lowestoft. The laser light show took place to mark the end of the first year of the pier being in the ownership of the Mayne, Manning and Llewellyn family.

Powerboat racers return

Powerboat racing returned to Oulton Broad with a fine turnout for a first meeting in almost two years. Spectators thronged along the viewing areas as they were entertained to some thrills and spills as three classes of boats eagerly took to the water once more.

August

Boardwalk opportunity to view nature reserve

The new boardwalk, at Share Marsh on the Carlton Marshes nature reserve, has been officially opened. The boardwalk provides a pathway for visitors to enjoy Carlton Marshes without damaging the natural habitat. It was officially opened by Suffolk Secrets, part of the Original Cottages family, with charity partner the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. It comes after Suffolk Secrets had committed two years of funding to help support the county's wildlife charity.

Emotions run high as evacuees meet for the first time in two years

Emotions ran high as the Lowestoft Evacuees Association met for the first time in two years. The event was held at the Parcels Office Public Exhibition Space at Lowestoft Railway Station with the evacuees being hosted by the Lowestoft Central Project. The evacuees were treated to the experience of being the first group to see their evacuation story permanently recorded on two new display panels on the portals of the station wall opposite.

Park run returns!

With it being well over a year since the last parkrun had been held at Lowestoft due to the continuing COVID crisis, the weekly event restarted with an enthusiastic response. The 5km long course at Lowestoft Promenade attracted 350 entrants for the first week back.

Nearly 20,000 parking fines since council took control of enforcement

Civil parking enforcement powers changed in April 2020 so that local authorities could take control rather than police, as overstretched constabulary resources meant the issue could not be prioritised. Selfish motorists were told to expect tougher crackdowns on problem parking, and new figures for East Suffolk Council for the first year of its operation up to the end of March, has found that nearly 20,000 penalty charge notices were issued.

Art sculpture installed in memory of fishermen

A new stainless steel art sculpture has been installed on Lowestoft's South Pier in memory of the town's fishermen who lost their lives at sea. It is part of the "Via Beata" project which aims to establish a 440mile long trail of art work and sculpture across the UK following a line from Lowestoft to St David's in Pembrokeshire.

'Spread a little Kirkleyness' video

A new video poem has been produced to celebrate South Lowestoft as the history of the Kirkley area takes centre stage. Shops and businesses, past and present, have been celebrated in the new video poem, which has been written and created by Dean Parkin and produced by Poetry People's Naomi Jaffa. Entitled 'Spread a little Kirkleyness', it has been commissioned by East Suffolk Council under the London Road, Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone, and is the sequel to Poetry People's 'Right Up Your Street' that Mr Parkin was commissioned to create last year, focusing on the town's High Street and Scores.

Banksy confirms he is behind eye-catching street art

Graffiti artist Banksy has confirmed that he is behind spray paintings that have popped up around Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth. The artist confirmed the rumours, which had been circulating for a week, with a video on his Instagram account titled "A Great British Staycation". Four of his pieces had



been discovered around Lowestoft, including a boy making a sand castle on London Road North, a seagull swooping on a skip on Denmark Road, a group of children in a boat on Nicholas Everett Park and a rat drinking a cocktail on North Beach.

But hours after he confirmed he is behind the artworks, one of his pieces was defaced overnight. The piece on North Beach, depicting a rat drinking a cocktail, was daubed with what eyewitnesses say is roller paint. Suffolk Police have launched a criminal investigation, with East Suffolk Council confirming the vandal was caught in the act by security put in place to protect the artworks.

Hughes at 100

It began as a one-man band rewinding industrial electric motors for the Lowestoft fishing industry. Now, a century later, and Hughes is a household name, an electrical empire employing more than 800 people across East Anglia. The company was founded in 1921 by Frank Hughes, who seven years later bought his first shop in Toning Street, Lowestoft where he built and sold radios. His grandson Robert Hughes, now chairman of the company, said his grandfather would be astounded by the scale of the company now, 100 years later. The centenary was marked by an exhibition of the examples of historic electrical appliances at The Forum in Norwich.

Leisure centre set for further improvements after major revamp

A leisure complex at the centre of a £1M refurbishment is set to undergo further improvement work. New work will see Waterlane Leisure Centre's roofs, some of which date back to 1975, replaced or recovered, with further work in the soft play area, spin studio, squash court and gym changing area.

Work on 'Marmite' beach huts to begin

Work on Lowestoft's controversial beach huts is due to get under way in September. The £2.6M scheme, which has already seen more than 50 beach huts demolished, will move into its next phase over the coming weeks. Plans for 72 new huts on Jubilee Parade are part of a wider investment programme for the area being led by East Suffolk Council. The huts are being manufactured by Lowestoft company PJ Spillings, while the platform and ancillary works are being undertaken by another Lowestoft firm, MS Oakes. They will be offered for sale on lease and rental, and will include four accessible huts with level access from the lower promenade.

Sea rescue

A Dutch yacht in difficulty almost halfway between the UK and the Netherlands sparked a response from the East coast lifeboat crew. The Lowestoft RNLI relief lifeboat, Bridie O'Shea, responded to a mayday message from the 32ft Dutch yacht after she suffered electrical problems and lost power 42 miles East of Lowestoft. In another incident, the Bridie O'Shea was launched to rescue two men and

a dog on a 32ft sailing cruiser with engine problems a mile off the coast between Kessingland and Benacre.

HMS Tyne pays visit to Lowestoft

HMS Tyne, one of the busiest ships in the Fleet, visited Lowestoft. She docked at 11am and left at 5pm, during which time the Naval Liaison Officer and the Commanding Officer visited the Mayor's office at 3pm.

New outdoor gyms unveiled in Oulton Broad

New outdoor gyms have been installed at two sites in Oulton Broad. The new exercise and keep fit equipment for adults have been unveiled at Nicholas Everett Park and at Kesgrave Drive. The installation of the equipment which has taken place at the two sites overseen by Oulton Broad Parish Council, has proved popular as it is also well used by youngsters.

Demand for free school meals rises by 60%

The pandemic has left increasing numbers of parents in Suffolk looking to free school meals to help feed their children. The number of applications has risen by 60% in the past year. Ormiston Denes Academy in Lowestoft had more pupils eligible for free school meals than anywhere else in Suffolk.

Road to close for 10 months for crossing works

With works continuing on both the northern and southern sides of Lake Lothing in Lowestoft, the Gull Wing crossing will see a much-needed third crossing built to reduce traffic congestion in the town. But motorists are being warned to expect delays as work starts on Waveney Drive from September 6 to July next year, with part of the road being closed.

Pair jailed for smuggling Albanians into the country

Two men have been jailed for attempting to smuggle a boatload of Albanian nationals into the UK via the Suffolk coast. Immigration Officers boarded a yacht after it docked at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club in Lowestoft. Found on board were eight male Albanian nationals and just four lifejackets.

New splash pool attraction at Oulton Broad

A disused outdoor swimming pool that had been out of action for more than a decade has been given a new lease of life. New and improved leisure facilities for all the family have been unveiled in Oulton Broad. Having welcomed guests and visitors over recent weeks, the new sand, deck and splash pool area was officially unveiled last week - and it was hailed as a "wonderful addition".

Eight hour waits at A&E at the Paget

Patients experienced waits of more than eight hours at a Norfolk hospital, which is urging people not to come to Accident and Emergency unless it is a "genuine emergency". The NHS across Norfolk has, throughout the summer, urged the public to seek the right treatment for illnesses and injuries, with patient numbers at A&E reaching record levels, in part due to a surge in visitor numbers to the county. Patients at JPH reported waits of up to nine hours, with staff triaging patients in order of highest clinical need.

September

Banksy effect adds £200K to store price

The owner of an empty town centre store that's now been adorned with a Banksy mural has put the building back on the market - for an extra £200,000. The former Lowestoft Electrical store had been

withdrawn from sale last month after world famous street artist Banksy confirmed that he was behind the artworks in Suffolk and Norfolk as part of the Great British Spraycation.

Life of "Mr Old Lowestoft" is celebrated with painting presented to museum

An oil painting of the much-loved local historian, raconteur and author, Jack Rose, was presented to Lowestoft Museum, for public viewing. The work of Oulton Broad man Bill "Robbie" Robertson had been presented to the Jack Rose Old Lowestoft Society - the town's history group bearing his name - in 2019. The museum trustees accepted the painting from society chairman Chris Brooks during a special presentation.

Revamped bar has reopened with burger firm link-up

A Lowestoft pub and bar has reopened after a revamp and a new link-up with a popular Norwich burger brand. The Harbour, which was bought by Moss and Co in Spring and underwent a refurbishment programme, is teaming up with Fupburger, which has become a firm favourite with food lovers. It is currently based at The Dog House on the city's St George's Street. The Harbour, at Bridge House in Lowestoft, opposite the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club, reopens with a new round bar, a list of craft beers and a cocktail mixologist, as well as The Hatch, which will serve takeaway coffee and tea.

Tory MP joins call to scrap cut to universal credit

Waveney's MP has joined the growing call to keep the £20-a-week universal credit uplift. In a joint letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Waveney MP Peter Aldous and Carlisle MP John Stevenson have called for the government to reconsider October's planned cut.

Push for City of Culture status

East Suffolk Council has committed £100,000 to developing its City of Culture bid with Great Yarmouth and Gorleston to give it "the best chance possible" of winning. The councils teamed up to submit a bid last month for the 2025 City of Culture - the first time neighbouring towns can bid collectively. The bid covers the whole coastal area, stretching from Landguard Point in Felixstowe to the village of Winterton on Sea, 10 miles North of Great Yarmouth.

Afghan refugees arrive in Suffolk

At least three Afghan men are now living in Lowestoft after councils began welcoming refugees to the town. In East Suffolk, under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, accommodation has already been offered as people flee the Taliban.

Lowestoft campaigners join Greenpeace in call for urgent fishing action

Campaigners from Lowestoft have joined anglers, fishers and businesses to call for urgent action to protect fishing communities and seas. Greenpeace and the New Economics Foundation think tank have lined up with fishers, including the Lowestoft Fish Market Alliance, to issue a statement declaring a "state of emergency" in the English Channel and southern North Sea due to industrial fishing pressure. Industrial methods of fishing have severely depleted fish populations and left fishers with little to catch.

Town's bicycle bookstore creates new chapter in the story of print

A pedal-powered bookshop is set to make its debut at the Two Rivers book festival in Lowestoft. The shop-bike - based at Paper-works Books and Prints in the town's High Street - will cycle downhill to Christ Church Hall to take part in First in the East. The mobile store is the brainchild of shop owners Hugh and Lisa Davies who wanted to take their bookshop to events in the wider community.

Concrete slabs "repurposed" to help protect cliff-top properties.

New defences have been installed to slow erosion and help support the vulnerable cliffs at Pakefield. A further scheme of maintenance work was being carried out as part of temporary protection to the base of eroding cliffs in South Lowestoft that took place all along the beach at Pakefield. It comes as numerous one tonne sandbags had been installed in a 100m length protection at the base of the cliff and beach between December 2020 and January 2021, to the eroding cliffs at Arbor Lane.

Freedom of the town honours awarded at special ceremony

For the first time since its formation in 2017, Lowestoft Town Council conferred the title of Freedom of the Town to three recipients - with two Honorary Freeman Awards handed out earlier. Historian Chris Brooks received one of the awards in June. A special ceremony was held at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club as the popular Lowestoft-based sailing smack Exelsior LT472 and John Wylson - a founder member of the Exelsior Trust - received freedom of the Town of Lowestoft honours from the Mayor of Lowestoft, Alan Green. With the Exelsior marking its 100th anniversary, there was a ceremonial cutting of a birthday cake on deck to celebrate the centenary. This was the first time that the new mayoral robes were worn. The town council commissioned the robes with a brief that they will be unique whilst keeping in the civic tradition and truly reflect our special town.

Historic High Street pub transformed as sea food restaurant

Owners of a new seafood restaurant and bar have expressed their delight after being overwhelmed by the response to opening on a historic high street. Mark Gee and his partner Joanne Croom opened the doors of their premises at the pub formerly known as The Old Blue Anchor Stores in Lowestoft. They welcomed customers at the beginning of the month and since then the tables at the historic High Street pub have been booking up fast and far in advance. The current building dates from around 1888, on the site of an older inn that stems from around 1820.

All smoke and kippers!

It is one of the few remaining smokehouses in the area that uses traditional techniques to cure and smoke herring. There was a new addition to the Waveney Valley Smokehouse in Lowestoft as a new kiln was craned into position. For the owners of the popular smokehouse, based on Newcombe Road, the arrival of what they describe as "the largest fish smoking kiln in the area" is proof that there is still strong demand for local artisan smoked foods. Once commissioned, the new kiln will be capable of smoking up to a metric tonne of salmon, herring and mackerel a day.

Spotlight on Lowestoft's storied past and present

A new book that celebrates Lowestoft's past and present has been unveiled. Remembering "the old places" while being brought up to date with "what's happening there now", the new book showcases North and South Lowestoft. "Right Up Your Street and Spread a Little Kirkleyness" is the title of Dean Parkin's new book which offers a double-bill of his recent community poems highlighting the past and present of both North and South Lowestoft. The limited-edition publication features the poems commissioned by East Suffolk Council and supported by Historic England that celebrate Lowestoft's two Heritage Action Zones - the High Street and Scores, and London Road South.

October

Drivers reassured of 'ample' fuel supplies

Long queues of traffic formed across petrol stations around Lowestoft this week despite reassurances of "ample fuel stocks". From having to sleep at work to missing medical appointments, hundreds of people across Norfolk and Waveney were hit hard after wide-spread panic-buying of fuel.

Sailing ketch rescued by RNLI crew

A sailing ketch that was drifting in "choppy conditions" out at sea with engine failure sparked a 7½ hour rescue mission. The voluntary crew of the Lowestoft RNLI lifeboat responded to a call to assist

the sailing ketch with engine problems. The crew of 'Patsy Knight' headed towards the vessel which was stranded 15 miles East of Orford Ness and 28 miles off shore.

Breakfast club boost

Red Oak Primary school in Kirkley has been awarded £1,000 from Kellogg's to enhance its breakfast club and help feed children in the morning. The school on Southwell Road said that they were "so pleased to be able to help more families" with the funding award. It comes as more and more schools struggle to find the budget to fund this service for their pupils.

Large crowds flock to Herring and Ale Fayre in Pakefield

Hundreds of people flocked to the cliff top at Pakefield for a special fayre and open-air service. Trinity Green at Pakefield was bathed in sunshine as people turned out for the popular annual Blessing of the Herring ceremony.

Heroes who gave their lives during WWII honoured

The Royal Naval Patrol Service's annual reunion service was held at their wartime headquarters in Lowestoft. Heroes who gave their lives during WWII were honoured at the 46th annual service of remembrance at Belle Vue Park in Lowestoft, where a memorial to the fallen service members is based. During WWII, the town was the central depot of the RNPS, whose main role was minesweeping to keep vital supply lines open.

Visitors welcome new arrival

Africa Alive recently revealed the arrival of a new female cheetah cub, which was born on August 1st, by first time mum, Kilima. After spending a few months settling in, the cub - which has not yet been named - was introduced to the paddock and seen by visitors for the first time.

Pipeline at risk of erosion relocated through nature reserve

Work has started in North Lowestoft to move a sewer pipe that is at risk from an eroding coastline. Anglian Water has begun work to lay three new sewer pipes as the existing pipelines that run through Gunton Warren Nature Reserve are being put at risk by a rapidly eroding coastline. It means Anglian Water "urgently" needs to move assets located there, to ensure residents can continue to use their washing and toilet facilities in the future.

'Perfect storm' as thousands brace for tough winter after Universal Credit uplift cut

Soaring fuel costs are the latest "body blow" for thousands of people "living on the edge of coping" after furlough ended and Universal Credit face a £20-a-week cut, one foodbank has claimed. Concerns have been raised for countless people struggling to make ends meet around Norfolk and Waveney. Waveney MP Peter Aldous was one of the first Conservative MPs to urge the government to reconsider the planned cut to Universal Credit. In a joint letter with Carlisle MP John Stevenson, he said 26% of working-age families in Waveney will be affected by the cut.

MP still hopes to host surgeries in person

Waveney's MP said he still plans to host his surgeries in person but is mindful of the safety of his staff in the wake of the fatal stabbing of Essex MP Sir David Amess. Mr Aldous said he is in constant communication with the police regarding his safety and, despite his hesitation to move his surgeries on line, will look at the safety of his staff before making a decision.

Olympian Charley honoured on return to former school

There were cheers, smiles and excitement as Olympian Charley Davison was honoured at a special celebration. The 27-year-old Team GB Olympic boxer was treated to a celebratory homecoming parade at the site of her former middle school in South Lowestoft. Pupils and staff at Red Oak Primary School in Lowestoft presented the "inspirational" super mum with a series of awards to honour her remarkable achievements in representing her country at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the women's flyweight U51Kg competition.

GP phone appointments warning amid fears of a NHS winter collapse

Patients should get used to phone appointments with their GP - despite what the government has pledged - a leading doctor has said, warning that the alternative would be the NHS collapsing. Dr Tim Morton, chairman of the Norfolk and Waveney Local Medical Committee (LMC), blamed a lack of doctors and investment for the change, dismissing the focus by politicians and the media on face-to-face appointments "a preoccupation". It comes as the LMC and the region's Healthwatch, which champions patients, wrote an open letter, pleading with them to be "kind and respectful" when contacting their GP surgery and asking them to use online contact methods where possible. Mr Javid's department announced last week that they would publish league tables and even fine clinics which fail to offer enough face-to-face appointments.

Roadmap for region's future unveiled at event

A roadmap for promoting sustainable and inclusive growth in the East of England, while spearheading the UK's battle against the climate emergency, has been showcased at the House of Parliament. MPs, business leaders, councillors and entrepreneurs from across the region attended a reception in parliament as they launched a roadmap for the future. The report outlines several priorities to ensure that the East grows in an eco-friendly way and so that nobody is left out.

Waveney MP, Peter Aldous, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), said that there was no region better placed to lead recovery after the pandemic and be the vanguard on the road to Net Zero. He continued by saying that the East of England has a strong track record in making the most from any investment in our region, for example New Anglia LEPs Growth deal has already led to the creation of 3,005 new jobs, 2,189 learners, more than 800 homes and £676M of matched funding. Investment in green recovery and levelling up in this region pays dividends - after all, it is only one of three regions that gives more than it takes from the Treasury. I am sure that the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation will want to support our globally renowned life sciences sector, which so instrumental in the development and delivery of the Astra Zeneca vaccine, so they can play their part in the green recovery.

The APPG's plans, which were handed to the Minister, identify four priorities. They include delivering a climate positive region, ensuring sustainable and inclusive economic growth, improved connectivity and decarbonisation and securing financially resilient councils.

Popular family-run business looking to the future

Marshall's Produce has supplied fresh fruit and vegetables to the people of Lowestoft and the surrounding area since 1988. Having been based at the former market in the Britten Shopping Centre and then more recently in a shop unit at the Britten centre, they have now moved into a previously empty store in Lowestoft town centre, at 108 London Road North.

Local recruitment crisis for dentists in East Suffolk

Suffolk and Norfolk dentists exposed the extent of the problem at a meeting of East Suffolk's scrutiny committee, in which it was "not unusual in our region of the country to have unfilled vacancies for over two years". The issue had been brought to the committee for discussion by Kirkley and Pakefield ward councillor Louise Gooch, who has experienced problems since the closure of Ferns and Yaxley

on Kirkley Cliff Road. The committee heard that the region has historically relied on European and New Zealand dentists, but this had become more difficult as a result of Brexit and COVID.

Petrol prices surge

Petrol prices at Suffolk forecourts have surged as figures revealed that the cost of fuel nationwide has hit an all-time high. The average UK price of petrol reached 142.9p per litre - beating the April 2012 record by 0.46p. Meanwhile, diesel prices hit 146.5p a litre, short of its all-time high of 147.93p.

November

"Disappointment" at blow to hopes for trains to London

Hopes for direct train services between Lowestoft and London have been dealt another blow after they were removed from a franchise agreement. Four trains each way per day between England's capital and its most easterly town had been promised as part of the agreement which saw Greater Anglia run services around the region. But disruption to services caused by the COVID pandemic has seen that agreement end four years early, with no sign of direct trains being introduced. Greater Anglia said "We have agreed to look whether there are any opportunities to run direct trains between Lowestoft and London, even though it is not in our new contract. The introduction of direct services was always dependent upon a number of operational, infrastructure and timetabling factors that would enable them to happen at without any adverse impact on other services. Unfortunately, those factors are not in place".

Unique charity embarks on next big challenge

A charity that provides a welcoming seafront holiday accommodation to former members of the armed, merchant and emergency services is looking to the future. After being set up in memory of one of the nation's greatest war heroes on August 7 1919, the Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre in Lowestoft has made numerous changes over the past 18 months. But given the history of the building, it needs significant improvements - with a number of adaptations desperately required - including wheelchair lifts and wetroom facilities in the bathrooms so guests can continue to visit.

Permanent new post office serving up further treats

A new post office branch has permanently opened its doors in a popular bakery after a successful pilot scheme. Extended post office and banking services are now being offered alongside the in-store baking and coffee shop facilities at an historic bakers in Lowestoft. A Post Office spokesperson said "Last year, following a review of Post Office service provision in the local area, we piloted a new branch format which opened on 7 December 2020, at Bushells Bakery, 61 Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft. After reviewing the performance of the pilot branch, we have decided to make this branch permanent".

Monuments men tell story of war memorials

Last year Ivan Bunn and Bob Collis made "Lest we forget", a film about war graves in the Lowestoft area. Mr Collis said "The war graves film was quite well received. So this year we decided to suggest doing something on war memorials. It wasn't until we started compiling a list that we began to realise just how many plaques, monuments and rolls of honour have been erected over the years in and around our town. Eventually we had to make the decision to cover a cross section of memorials as there were simply too many to include in a film of this nature".

Milestone reached to boost ABP's £25M "state of the art" vision for Lowestoft

Earlier this year, Associated British Ports (ABP) unveiled its vision for the port, which said it would help create a competitive edge for companies across the Southern North Sea (SNS) energy sector and the wider region. The five-year plan centred around ABP developing the Lowestoft Eastern Energy Facility (LEEF) with the aim of delivering infrastructure to meet the offshore energy industry's demands. And now ABP has welcomed the news that the Marine Management Organisation has given consent for its £25M development of the LEEF.

"Enough is enough" - protesters take to the streets demanding climate action

As world leaders gathered for COP26, town protesters walked from the square up to London Road North demanding politicians address the climate crisis. The 6 November demo was just one of a world-wide day of action with people of all political persuasions attending. Alongside protesters, Extinction Rebellion, green New Deal and other political organisations were present at the march. Kevin Wingfield coordinated the demonstration and said "Enough is enough. We've got to have decisive action, stop the use of fossil fuels and move to renewables".

"Disappointing" post-Brexit deal is "bad" for local fishermen

Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney and chair of the Renaissance of East Anglian Fisheries, has claimed that parts of the deal favour European fleets, which undermine the legitimacy of local fishing fleets. The debate over fishing rights between the UK and EU has carried significant political weight, with a key tenet of the Leave Campaign's message in 2016 focusing on "taking back control of UK waters". The deal means 25% of EU boats fishing in UK waters will be transferred to the UK over five years with the government believing this is fair as the "adjustment period" gives the EU fleets time to get used to the new arrangements. But Mr Aldous said "There is no denying that the Trade and Co-operation Agreement with the EU was a bad deal for the East Anglian fishing industry".

"Winter is going to be tough" - vital service extended

The Thin Ice project - a winter community response - has now been extended to those who are vulnerable and in need. After previous Thin Ice campaigns had seen Access Trust, Lowestoft Rising, the council and foodbanks successfully supporting local homeless people, the service has been enhanced to "help those most at need this winter". Access, Lowestoft Rising and East Suffolk councillors are teaming up with Sams Café on Bevan Street East to provide free hot drinks and hot meals to those who find themselves homeless or vulnerable within the community.

Joy at new play centre "inspired by the natural world"

The smiles on the youngsters faces said it all - as a new nature play centre thrives in Lowestoft. A hub for all things natural is seeing children and families being inspired by nature at the site of a former children's centre. With the concept of providing play with nature, the Nature Play Centre successfully opened its doors two months ago at the former Sure Start premises in Ashburnham Way, Carlton Colville. Believed to be the first of its kind in the UK, the nature play centre is "a play centre inspired by the natural world, bring curiosity and wonder into children's play".

A Murder Mystery and so much more - it's all to be found down at the library

Lowestoft Library is bouncing back after the recent COVID restrictions with a series of events designed to bring customers back, raise funds and highlight the work of the Friends group - the trustees who support the library within the community. Jane Healy, chair of the Friends of Lowestoft Library said "We are so pleased to be able to bring back our regular events this autumn, including a craft fair and a Christmas Murder Mystery. These have been popular events pre-COVID and we are looking forward to welcoming old friends and newcomers into the library".

"Beautiful Bittern" booms into view

Popular artist ATM has been putting the finishing touches to his latest works - as a "beautiful bittern" mural has been unveiled on Bittern Green in Lowestoft. Having once again teamed up with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, ATM returned to Lowestoft last week to paint the fifth in a series of spectacular murals that are being created as part of a graffiti art trail throughout the town. The trail, which was commissioned by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, began in October 2018 with the aim to "bring wildlife into the town" as the works showcase "iconic marshland species" that can be seen at Carlton Marshes.

"Golden opportunity missed" - disappointment after Banksy removed

People across Lowestoft have come together to express their shock and disappointment at the removal of a Banksy artwork in the centre of the town. The mural on the side of the former Lowestoft Electrical shop in London Road North, showing a girl building a sandcastle with a crow bar, was one of a series painted by the world famous artist and had become a popular stop on the 'Banksy trail'. But hopes for it to become a long-standing part of Lowestoft's cultural scene were dashed at the weekend, with workmen coming in to remove it on Sunday. It will now be taken away for sale at a private auction, with art experts expecting the piece to fetch millions.



Another Banksy artworks in Lowestoft

Police warn anti-social drivers causing misery near retail park

Drivers causing a nuisance with noise and antisocial behaviour near a retail park are being warned that they will be dealt with "robustly" by police. Having been targeted by officers in a crackdown in recent months, additional police patrols will be carried out around Gateway Retail Park in South Lowestoft, and in the Pakefield area, following further community concerns. Numerous warnings have been dished out for careless and inconsiderate driving, while Traffic Offence Reports have been issued and vehicles seized by officers during patrols in June, July and August.

TESCO Express store opens in town centre

A new TESCO Express store has opened its doors in Lowestoft town centre. TESCO welcomed customers to its new Express store in London Road North. With 15 new jobs being created, store colleagues and members of the Royal British Legion Lowestoft branch were involved in the official opening ceremony.

Special recognition for popular town historians after years of work

At a Jack Rose Old Lowestoft Society meeting at Trinity Methodist Church, historians Ivan Bunn and David Butcher were surprised after they had given a talk entitled "Lowestoft-Then and Now 1618-2021". Chairman Christopher Brooks presented a certificate of honorary membership to the pair. Mr Brooks said "Jack Rose Old Lowestoft Society members are pleased to recognise you as major influences in promoting the history and heritage of the Lowestoft area".

Delight as petting zoo reopens after two years closure

Animal-lovers can meet a whole host of furry friends at a town's mini petting zoo which has officially reopened. Pets Corner, also known as Oulton Broad Mini Zoo, was a day out enjoyed by many families in its heyday. Now the petting zoo has made its long-awaited return with visitors treated to a host of new enclosures and animals.

Freedom of town bestowed on Royal British Legion branch

Lowestoft Town Council has conferred the title of Freedom of the Town on the Lowestoft and District Branch of the Royal British Legion. The honour was granted in the town council offices during a special ceremony, after the annual parade and service to mark Remembrance Sunday, "for its lifetime of commitment and service".

Calls for council decision making overhaul rejected

Calls to scrap the leader and cabinet system of decision making at a Suffolk authority have been rejected as fears were raised that a committee model would be "cumbersome and long winded". East Suffolk Council voted by 32 votes to eight against a motion for a new style of governance. As it stands the leader of the largest party, currently the Conservatives, selects a cabinet with members holding specific responsibilities such as planning or finance. However, the authority's Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent group lodged a motion calling for that to be scrapped and a system of committees around each portfolio to be formed.

'Like an earthquake'

Locals living next to Lowestoft's £126.75M Gull Wing construction site have described how the constant noise and vibrations is impacting on their everyday lives. With works continuing on both the northern and southern sides of Lake Lothing, contractors are progressing as part of the new third crossing. But for residents living on Waveney Drive right opposite the site, it is a different story. They say the noise for them starts at 7.15am and continues until 5.15pm. There are house vibrations, constant noise, teenagers in the middle of the night pulling all the cones down and no regard for their welfare.

MP - "I'm acting in my people's best interest"

In this era when MPs rarely seem to go against the party whip and are often criticised for failing to do so, Peter Aldous has been like a breath of fresh air sweeping through parliament in recent weeks. He was one of just 19 Tory MPs to rebel against party lines at a crunch vote on social care reforms. He refused to take part in a controversial standards vote and was a vocal objector to the move to slash the £20-a-week Universal Credit uplift.

On social care reforms he said that despite the amendment being passed by the House of Commons, he hoped the objections would be noted when the bill is assessed by the House of Lords. He said that ministers were unable to fulfil an election pledge to guarantee no-one would have to sell their home to pay for care. He added that, in his view, this was not a high-value property area and an awful lot of his constituents would be worse off.

On Universal Credit uplift, he called on the government to rethink the scrapping of the £20-a-week uplift during the COVID pandemic. He said that the local feedback he was getting was withdrawing the uplift when food prices and energy costs were rising would create many challenges.

On Standards, he abstained from the vote because he believed the government had made a complete misjudgement of the situation.

On Moving Forward he believed the UK's post-Brexit deal was "bad" for local fishermen and vowed to continue fighting for the interests of the people in his towns and villages.

December



Stunning portrait of "A Lowestoft Man" delights all

Providing a fitting tribute to those who work at sea, the recently installed artwork has captured lots of attention. "A Lowestoft Man", by award winning Suffolk photographer Gillian Allard, has been unveiled after months of hard work. For having captured a portrait photo of Malcolm Wright - a Lowestoft man born and bred - an artwork installation of the former sea worker has now been showcased on a concrete surface at Ness Point.

Dismay as church targeted

Police patrols are being stepped up around Lowestoft town centre following recent criminal damage incidents at the North Lowestoft United Reformed Church. It comes after numerous intricately-lead glass windows were smashed at the London Road North church. With three separate criminal damage incidents reported at the church over the last three months, at least eight windows have been targeted with around 13 panes smashed. The church, which has been undergoing renovations and repair work since July, has had scaffolding installed around the historic Grade 2 listed building throughout this time.

Pakefield cliffs erosion solutions 'may not be ready until 2025'

A review of the shoreline management plan is currently underway which will determine future plans. The plan has three levels - no active intervention, hold the line (where current defences are maintained) and managed realignment. Under the current plans, the Pakefield cliffs area has a measure of no active intervention until 2105, but Coastal Partnership East said erosion since 2019 has

"exceeded all predictions". A series of potential options have been put forward for future assessment, but an update to East Suffolk Council confirmed that while temporary measures had been put in place "any scheme would not be in construction until 2025 and the temporary measures cannot be guaranteed to hold up under weather and tidal events".

'Richly deserving': Freedom of town awarded

A Lowestoft man who has dedicated his life to preserving the memory of one of the town's most significant wartime events has been honoured with the community's highest civic award. Retired teacher and author Chris Brooks - who founded and has been the driving force behind the Lowestoft Evacuees Association for more than 30 years - was presented with the Freedom of Lowestoft at a special ceremony by the town's mayor, Alan Green. The event, held at Lowestoft Railway Station, was attended by friends, family and former evacuees.

Council to create trading company to deliver key services

East Suffolk Council are to create a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo), which will be separate to the council and will operate as a commercial business. The move means the council will not renew its contract with Norse, who currently provide the services, which ends in June 2023. Operational staff currently employed by East Suffolk Norse will be legally entitled to transfer to the new organisation on the same terms and conditions. Councillor Steve Gallant said "This new trading company will allow us closer control of key services so we can maximise our support for, and investment in, our local communities and local economy. We will also explore the commercial potential of these particular services, so that we can deliver profit which will be invested straight back into our communities".

Victorian theme attracts hundreds for festive tradition

Hundreds of people turned out as festive fun for all attracted the crowds to Lowestoft for the return of a popular tradition. An afternoon and evening of fun for all the family attracted a fine turnout as a Victorian-themed event, hosted by Lowestoft Vision, took centre stage. A 'Charles Dickens - A Christmas Carol' theme transformed the town centre, historic High Street, Bevan Street East and Suffolk Road in Lowestoft as shops and businesses took part with staff dressing up in Victorian costumes. Characters roamed the area before taking to the stage later in the afternoon.

Homes in demand

Homes in Kessingland sell faster than those in most other UK coastal resorts, with average purchases taking less than a month, it has been revealed. Figures from Rightmove show properties in the Suffolk village are sold for an average price of £219,538. But they are very much in demand, with houses in the village being snapped up an average of just 25 days after they hit the market.

Pressure group's anger over speeding drivers

A local pressure group have expressed their anger over speeding drivers on a busy bypass and have called for the county council and police to get involved. Residents Against Noise and Speed (RANS) in Kessingland say that speeding goes unabated on the Kessingland Bypass. However, the group have welcomed the news that Kessingland Parish Council will be working alongside Suffolk Highways, to bring a public consultation on traffic calming measures on London Road. They say this will help ease speeding on London Road Gisleham.

'Lifeline' pantry celebrates first anniversary

Kirkley Pantry, located on St Peter's Street in Kirkley, opened in December 2020 as a branch of 'Your Local Pantry' in response to the needs of the community. Since then, the pantry has gone from strength to strength, opening a café on Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning for people to socialise and a garden with concrete slabs installed by workers from Farrans as well as flower beds

installed by students from East Coast College. The philosophy of the pantry is not to act as a food bank but to keep people out of crisis with no vouchers and no questions asked.

Historic pub and restaurant to reopen

After being closed and vacant for the past few years, a new lease of life is in store for The Blue Boar in Oulton. New signage was unveiled as the popular pub and restaurant opens once more. With Burwood inns opening this "fantastic venue" after a full refurbishment, the new leaseholders have invested £150,000 in transforming the pub and restaurant.

Have your say on new hospital for Great Yarmouth and Waveney

People across the Great Yarmouth and Waveney areas are being asked their views on the development of a new hospital for the region. In early 2022, the James Paget Hospital will submit its strategic outline case for review, a significant step towards its vision of a modern hospital and health and social care campus. It is planned the new Gorleston hospital would be built by 2030. As part of the process the hospital has set up an online survey asking patients and residents for their views on how plans for a new hospital can build on the quality of health and care services locally and how the future hospital can benefit communities.

New virtual high street initiative to help businesses

A virtual high street service launched by East Suffolk Council aims to help independent businesses across the district. Residents anywhere in the district can use Click It Local East Suffolk enabling them to buy from any participating local shop and have it delivered on the same or next day. From weekly food essentials, gifts and treats to last-minute basics, customers can buy everything they need from as many shops as they like, with one payment and one delivery. The scheme is funded through the ERDF Welcome Back Fund and is supported by East Suffolk Council. Almost 30 stores have already signed up to Click It Local East Suffolk.

Call goes out for booster army

People in Lowestoft are being called upon to volunteer once more to turn the tide against COVID, as rates rocket. Thousands more booster jabs need to be rolled out in the town after the prime minister put the vaccination programme in fast forward. Clinics are set to extend opening hours into evenings and weekends to ramp up delivery of third jabs, while a pop up centre at Lowestoft Town Football Club was very busy. But more volunteers are needed to keep up the momentum and get jabs in arms.

Artist 'gives back' by recreating lost Banksy artwork

Walking down Lowestoft high street, you'd be forgiven for thinking that the elusive graffiti artist Banksy had returned for another go. The previous mural showing a little girl building a sandcastle with a crowbar was removed by workmen after owners of the Lowestoft Electrical building sold it off to an auction house in California. But now, Greater Than, a graffiti artist from Gorleston, has recreated a similar version of the artwork to give something back to the town. The artist was approached by representatives of the owners of the building to create the new artwork. It took him two weeks to put the piece together at home and then he installed it onto the former electrical store.

Charity launches a campaign to give vulnerable free drink and a meal

A café is launching a campaign to help the vulnerable this winter by offering them a free meal and drink. Sam's Café, located on Bevan Street East, is run by Access Community Trust who work to prevent people from becoming socially excluded across Norfolk and Suffolk. The charity has launched the Thin Ice campaign aiming to reduce homelessness this winter and to help those being forced to choose between food and electricity.

PM agrees to meet region's MPs

The prime minister has agreed to meet East Anglian MPs to help turn the region into a leader for new industries. At Prime Minister's Questions, Waveney MP Peter Aldous said East Anglia was a mix of opportunity and deprivation, and that a new strategy was needed to realise its possibilities.

Lowestoft's Christmas Day swim cancelled - again

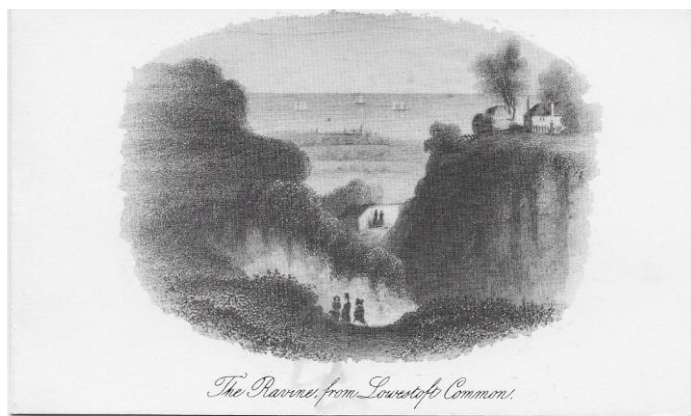
Organisers of the annual Christmas Day swim have taken the decision to cancel this year's event at COVID 19 cases rise again. It means that the popular swim - which attracted crowds of around 3,000 people for the 42nd festive plunge into the sea in 2019 - has been called off for the second year running.

'Miracle' rare rhino calf born at Africa Alive

Africa Alive in Kessingland, had its first ever southern white rhino calf born on December 18. The calf was born to nine-year old mother Nijiri and 13-year old father Zima, which have successfully bred as part of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) breeding programme. Graeme Williamson, head of living collections at Africa Alive, said "We are absolutely thrilled about our new arrival at Africa Alive. This is the first time white rhinos have ever been bred at Africa Alive, so the birth of this calf truly is a little miracle".

Scheme proposed 'to enhance' Victorian footbridge

Plans have been lodged with a scheme of "repair and reinstatement works" being proposed to a designated listed structure in Lowestoft. A listed building consent application was submitted to East Suffolk Council centring around the "Repair and refurbishment of existing pedestrian bridge". The Jubilee Bridge, which runs from Belle Vue Park over The Ravine in Lowestoft, was closed after safety concerns had been raised during an inspection in December 2020.



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Princess Anne in visit to Lowestoft

Princess Anne was in the town as part of a visit to East Coast College to launch the new Athena programme. She was shown around the college's Energy Skills Centre which delivers training for the engineering, maritime, energy and offshore sectors. Athena encourages women into careers in the energy sector working with local high schools, further education and sixth form students and industry mentors.

Anger as region misses out on millions of levelling-up cash

A new report has highlighted how the region, which has pockets of major deprivation in areas including Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, is being short-changed as the government's much-vaunted agenda focusses on the North and Midlands. Waveney MP Peter Aldous has raised the issue in the Commons, whilst Norfolk County Council leader Andrew Proctor warned that the region could be "left behind". Analysis by the East of England Local Government Association, which represents 50 councils in the region, looked at how the region fared following the chancellor's recent spending review. When it came to the government's actual Levelling-Up Fund, the region received £87.5M. None of that was for Suffolk or Norfolk.