



DISS *Matters*

Autumn/Winter 2026



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Festive Fun Coming To Diss!
- Town Projects Making A Difference
- Schools & Clubs Celebrating Success

“THE MOST IMPRESSIVE FURNITURE STORE I’VE EVER VISITED...”

★ Trustpilot Rated “Excellent” ★★★★★

5.0/5 (1,234 reviews)

John Doe

For all your home needs.

East Anglia's premium furniture and flooring destination



Angela's COFFEE LOUNGE



45,000 SQ FT **superstore** OPEN 7 DAYS-A-WEEK!

IN-STORE Howard House, 46-50 Sawmills Road, Diss, IP22 4DA
ONLINE JohnDoe.co.uk | CALL 01379 644 081 | [f](#) [i](#) [y](#) [d](#)

FLOORING 🏠 BEDS 🛏️ SOFAS 🛋️ FURNITURE 🪑 COFFEE LOUNGE ☕ MORE



A warm welcome

Hi everyone,

I hope you've had a wonderful summer. It's been another busy year in Diss, with plenty happening across the town – from community events and new initiatives to the many individuals and groups who give their time, energy and enthusiasm to support local projects and activities.

There's still lots to look forward to as we head into Autumn and Winter, including the Remembrance Parade & Service on 8th November, Diss Christmas Lights Switch-On on 5th December and the Mayor's Annual Carol Concert on 15th December.

We're also pleased to welcome two new community spaces to Diss – *Co-Lab* in Norfolk House Yard and *Discovered* on St Nicholas Street. Both offer a range of activities, groups and craft sessions for all ages, providing new opportunities to meet, create and connect locally. As a keen crafter myself, I've enjoyed visiting both with my family, and it's lovely to have these kinds of opportunities right on our doorstep.

A big thank you to everyone who continues to give their time, ideas and support throughout the year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Kim

Kimberley

Contents

Pages

4/5	Council News
6	Diss High School: Celebrating Exam Results
7	Year of the Normans at Diss Museum
8	U3A - Learn, Laugh, Live
9	Christmas Lights Switch-On
11	Come and join Diss WI
13	A busy time for Diss & District Rotary
14	Celebrating 20 Years of Service
15	Diss Safer Neighbourhood Team
17	Discover what's waiting for you at DISScovered
18	Remembrance Parade & Service
19	Living, Learning & Laughing in Diss
21	Festive Sing-A-Long at Lunchtime Carols
22	Diss Library: Events, Community and Fun
23	Diss Otters: Making Waves in the Community
24	Girlguiding in Diss: Fun and Adventure
25	Life Fest Celebrates 5 years on Diss Park
27	The Story of Diss Rugby Club
28	Rosedale Service of Remembrance
29	Cooking for One
31	Citizens Advice: Calling all Volunteers
35	Pop-up Sauna / United Reformed Church
36	Diss Panto / Town Mayor's Carol Concert
37	Diss Youth Group
39	Diss & District Horticultural Society
41	Championing Creativity with The Arts Society Diss
44	Team Diss - Keeping our Town a Great Place to Be



Diss Matters is published by **FALCON** Publications
 Falcon Publications, Units 10a-11 Red House Yard,
 Gislegham Road, Thornham Magna, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8HH
 Tel: 01379 773347 / 48,
www.falconpublications.co.uk
 ✉ falconpublications@artseastmag
 Design & Artwork: Nick Oldham
 Diss Town Council: 01379 643848



Council News

Investing in Youth Provision

Diss Town Council has secured £20,000 from South Norfolk Council to strengthen youth provision in Diss and surrounding communities. The funding follows consultation with local young people, which highlighted a clear need for more affordable activities, safe places to socialise and opportunities to build skills, confidence and wellbeing.

A Youth Voice Survey and consultation with pupils at Diss High School received 73 responses. Findings showed that 92% of respondents wanted more opportunities and facilities in Diss, while 75% felt there is currently not enough for young people to do. Young people also identified a need for a safe and welcoming place to meet friends, alongside after-school, weekend and holiday activities, sports, creative opportunities, and wellbeing support.

Following a competitive quotation process, the Council has selected Pilot IMS Ltd to deliver a programme for young people aged 11 to 20. Expected to begin this autumn, the programme will complement existing services and seek to engage those who may not currently take part in organised activities.

The Council is also in the final stages of acquiring the portacabin on Shelfanger

Road, creating a dedicated youth space where young people can meet, participate in activities and develop their aspirations. Opportunities are also being explored to deliver activities from other local venues. Diss Town Council thanks CADAT and South Norfolk Council for their support in helping expand youth provision in the town.

Diss Youth & Community Centre Project Update

Work continues on plans for the new Diss Youth & Community Centre (DYCC) at Shelfanger Road. A topographical survey of the site has now been completed, providing detailed information on levels, boundaries, features and surrounding conditions. Commissioned on the advice of Beech Architects Limited, the survey will help ensure future proposals are appropriate for the site and its surroundings.

The next stage of design development is currently expected to take place during autumn 2026, with further updates to be shared as key milestones are reached. The Town Council remains committed to delivering a modern and flexible facility that will benefit both young people and the wider community for many years to come.



Momentum Builds for a Healthier Diss Mere

Progress is continuing on plans to improve water quality in Diss Mere following strong support at June's Full Council meeting. Residents, councillors, and specialists have met informally over the summer, with the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Diss Mere Water Quality Partnership due to take place this month. The Partnership has been established to coordinate efforts to better understand and improve the long-term health of the Mere.

More than a month's worth of monitoring data has already been collected, including measurements of dissolved oxygen levels at varying depths and water clarity. A digital information hub has also been created to support collaboration and information sharing. The Partnership is pleased to have secured support from the Diss & District Angling Club, the Community Climate Action team and several recognised experts, helping to guide future work to protect and enhance this important natural asset.

Alongside this work, the Council has continued to pursue concerns relating to longstanding obstructions along the Mere drain route, including beneath the Morrisons filling station site. Positive progress has recently been made through engagement with relevant partners and landowners, and discussions are ongoing

to identify appropriate measures that could help improve the performance of the watercourse. The Council will continue to support efforts to enhance local drainage and reduce flood risk where possible.

Another New Councillor

Welcome to Councillor Stephen Willoughby, who was co-opted as Diss Town Council's eleventh member at the September Council meeting.



A retired academic, Dr Willoughby spent much of his career with the Open University as a lecturer, tutor and outreach worker. He also has extensive experience developing public information systems and supporting local authorities to improve access to community information. As a local Neighbourhood Watch representative, he is passionate about helping communities thrive.

The Council still has three councillor vacancies. If you would like to make a difference in your community, visit www.diss.gov.uk/the-role-of-a-councillor to find out more.

Sarah Villafuerte-Richards Town Clerk





GCSE and A Level Results: Diss High School

"I would like to congratulate all of our students on their achievements. These results reflect not only their academic ability but also the commitment, resilience and determination they have shown throughout their studies. We are proud of what this year group has accomplished and grateful to the staff, families and school staff who have supported them along the way.

Whether students are continuing into our Sixth Form or moving on to a different setting, we wish them every success and happiness as they take the next steps in their educational journey and look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future."

Sam Stopps
Headteacher



"Diss High School Sixth Form students and staff are celebrating today after receiving an impressive set of A-level and BTEC results, with many students securing places at top universities, prestigious apprenticeships, and exciting career pathways. Significantly, this cohort achieved the strongest outcomes here since before the pandemic, reflecting the positive trajectory of our Sixth Form and the hard work of both students and staff. Not only were our Year 13 students

academically successful, but they also made an enormous contribution to school life, consistently proving themselves to be a friendly, supportive and outgoing community.

We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and wish them every success for the future."

James Hurley
Head of Sixth Form



Year of the Normans

In 2027, Diss Museum will participate in The Year of the Normans. The Bayeux Tapestry exhibition in London is part of this Normandy project commemorating the 1,000th anniversary of William the Conqueror's birth.

Diss was included in the Domesday Book and was surrounded by Norman castles – Eye, Buckenham, Thetford, Bungay and Norwich. Also, Eye Priory and South Lopham church, built by the Bigods of Bungay Castle. In addition, there was a Knights Templar preceptory at Gislingham.

The Fitz Walters, who built Diss church, were Norman descendants.

Robert Malet, the local landowner mentioned in the Domesday Book, was the son of a knight who fought at Hastings and was entrusted with the disposal of King Harold's body. Robert built Eye Priory.

The conquest meant the end of Anglo-Saxon England. The country was utterly changed. Names like William, Richard and Robert, popular even today, date from that time.

The movement of people across the Channel would undoubtedly have shaped the collective memory of those living in Britain at the time. However, the Saxons were not arriving in an untouched or idealised land. They were themselves newcomers who established a highly stratified society in which slavery played a significant role. The project therefore has considerable historical resonance.

The museum opening event, in March, will feature re-enactors as the Normans, with local groups as Saxons, with something of the rivalry of opposing football fans.

There will be an exhibition in the museum, while art, textile and photography groups have been invited to take part. The project could also involve schools.

The Co-op Travel Agents have planned coach trips to see the Bayeux Tapestry, in partnership with the museum.



U3A Diss - *Learn, Laugh, Live*

U3A Diss's motto is *Learn, Laugh, Live*, and this perfectly sums up this vibrant, self-help, self-managed society.

If you are interested in finding out more about U3A, why not come along to one of their monthly meetings? These take place on the first Thursday of each month, starting at 9.45am with refreshments, followed by a guest speaker at 10.30am. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with a wide range of members, many of whom are involved in one or more of the groups on offer.

Visit: www.diss.u3asite.uk/events/

There are 35 interest groups to choose from. To find out more about the groups available, please visit:

www.diss.u3asite.uk/groups/

It has already been a busy year for U3A Diss events.

- In April, members danced the night away at the Spring Fling, enjoying hits from the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

- The Midsummer Mardle in July, held at the Corn Hall, saw U3A Diss members joined by guests from other U3A groups for a day of feeding the mind, body and spirit.

Dr Tom Newton (as seen on *Time Team*) provided a fascinating insight into the master workshop of Sutton Hoo, followed by a delicious lunch provided by the Corn Hall. Many thanks to the Corn Hall for their support with this event. The afternoon continued to lift everyone's spirits with Jane Hoggett's wonderful performance of *The Magic of the Musicals*.

- In October, the second U3A Quiz Night will take place, with teams of up to six people invited to take part.

So why not come along and see if U3A Diss is for you? Whether your interests lie in crime fiction, Dance: Use It or Lose It, history, mah-jong, pétanque, crafts or writing, there is something for everyone. Whatever your interests, you may well find a group to enjoy at U3A Diss.

u3a

Diss Christmas Lights Switch-On 2026

**Save the date –
Saturday 5th December,
4.30pm–7pm
at Diss Market Place**



Christmas is coming to Diss!

Get ready for an evening of festive fun as Diss comes alive with music, entertainment, food, family activities and, of course, the moment we've all been waiting for – the Christmas lights switch-on! Whether you're coming along with the family, meeting friends or simply soaking up the festive atmosphere, there'll be plenty to enjoy.

Live entertainment

We've got a fantastic line-up planned for the stage, including My Choir Rocks, Carla Balls, The Corn Hall Panto Cast and Soundhouse.

And there's even more to get you singing! Churches Together will lead '5 Carols at 5' around the Christmas Tree. Keeping the festive atmosphere going between performances will be Park Radio, who will also be our compère for the evening.

Eat, drink & be merry!

Come hungry! There'll be plenty of delicious food and festive treats to enjoy, including burgers, chips, pizza, cakes and doughnuts. Fancy a little festive tipples? We've got a bar!

And while you're in town, why not pop into Diss's fantastic independent shops and get a head start on your Christmas shopping? You can also visit St Mary's Church and take a wander around their wonderful Christmas Tree Festival.

Festive fun for all ages

There's plenty happening away from the main stage too!

- Free festive activities at the United Reformed Church
- Santa's Grotto inside Diss Museum:

open 3.30pm–5.30pm,
then 6.15pm–7.15pm (just
for any families who are still
waiting at 5.30pm). It's £3 per child,
including a gift, and there's no need to
book.

- Look out for Glow Lights & Balloons on sale!

Here comes Santa!

The big moment is getting closer... At 5.45pm, keep your eyes peeled as Santa arrives in style on his sleigh, making his way up Mere Street towards the Market Place.

He'll be joined by his elves, Dinsdale, the panto cast, Parky Bear and the Town Mayor – so make sure you find a good spot along the route!

Then, at 6pm, it's time for the BIG LIGHTS-ON COUNTDOWN!

Joining us on stage will be Graham Cole from *The Bill* – who also stars in this year's panto – along with special guests to help us count down to Christmas in Diss.

And the celebrations don't stop there! Popular high-energy function band, Soundhouse, will keep the party going until 7pm.

Bring your family, bring your friends and bring your Christmas spirit!

Follow the Diss Christmas Lights Switch-On Facebook page for the latest updates and announcements.

Merry Christmas from all of us!





If you can walk on it or sit on it
- we can Crystal Clean it!

CRYSTAL CLEAN SERVICES

Domestic and Commercial

Carpet Cleaning	Upholstery Cleaning
Colour Restoration	Hard Floor Cleaning

07984 648 296

01379 678 806

info@crystalclean.services

www.crystalclean.services

ncca



Solution
PRO-STATE

CLASS

4

MOT CENTRE

CLASS

7



CAR & COMMERCIAL SERVICING

GENERAL REPAIRS

TYRES & EXHAUSTS

SELF DRIVE VEHICLE HIRE

CAR & VAN SALES

www.derekfiske.co.uk



DEREK P. FISKE

Sawmills Rd, Diss, Norfolk
Diss (01379) 644314

We're by your side every step of the way



- Home Visits
- Direct Cremation
- Affordable Choices
- Pre-paid Funeral Plans
- Personal Touches
- Bereavement Support Groups and Resources

Recommended by
the good
funeral
guide.



Rosedale
FUNERAL HOME

Exceptional care when you need it most

Diss

24hr Telephone:

01379 640810

Harleston

24hr Telephone:

01379 853999

Also branches in Attleborough, Beccles,
Bungay, Halesworth and Wymondham.

www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk

Come and join Diss WI



A friendly social group of women from in and around Diss and part of the National Women's Institute Federation.

We won't force you to make jam or sing Jerusalem but will cheer you on if that's your idea of fun.

We enjoy monthly meetings with a guest speaker or other entertainment plus refreshments. We also have groups who enjoy walking, crafting, reading, scrabble and taking lunch. Perhaps you would like to introduce another activity?

We have outings in the summer months as well as Norfolk and National WI events to attend.

We may be mature in years but have young and active minds and are looking to attract new members to help us keep current. We offer centuries of wisdom and a warm welcome.

WHEN: We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

WHERE: The Masons Hall (Montgomerie Hall) which is found at the top of Park Road Car Park opposite the Thatchers Needle Public House and near The Mere.

You are welcome to attend any meeting for a £3 donation and decide later if you would like to join.

For further information, check out :

- Our Facebook Page ([Diss WI](#))
- The WI Website
norfolk.thewi.org.uk
- Our page
norfolk.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/diss

Or just turn up - you will be made welcome

Future meeting Dates:

October 13th 2026 -

Connections with the Royals

November 10th 2026-

Friends of Horsey Gap Seals



With compassion, respect, and dignity at the heart of everything we do, our dedicated team is committed to providing tailored care. Whether you're looking for **nursing**, **residential** or **respite care**, Walcot Hall offers the perfect environment for your loved ones to feel safe, supported, and at home.



Walcot Hall Nursing Home

Call 01379 772690
to find out more

healthcarehomes.co.uk



Walcot Hall, Walcot Green, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 5SR

☆euronics

Great Products. Great Prices

Enjoy our range of top brand appliances at low prices

Expert Knowledge | Super Service | Professional Installation

RANGEmaster
UNRIVALLED PERFORMANCE

AEG

LIEBHERR

SENSIS
makes sense

SCHÖNHAUS
BEAUTIFULLY AT HOME

Blomberg
seit 1883

beko

Hotpoint

LG

SAMSUNG

i INDESIT

SONY

Your local independent electrical retailer

Myhills - Attleborough
Exchange Street
Attleborough, NR17 2AB
01953 453107

Myhills - Diss
3-5 Mavery House
Diss IP22 4EX
01379 644078

myhills
☆euronics
For all your appliance needs
f t i
www.myhills.co.uk

Diss & District Rotary – Six Busy Months in Our Community

The last six months have certainly been busy for Diss & District Rotary, with fundraising, community projects, new members, social events and plenty of opportunities to support some fantastic causes.

During the past Rotary year, our club has donated **more than £56,000** to charities, community organisations and good causes locally, nationally and internationally.

Those we have supported include East Anglian Air Ambulance, Diss Stroke Association, Little Lifts, local First Responders, Nelson's Journey, Dementia UK and our local Foodbank, as well as local schools and other community projects. We also raised more than **£3,700 for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign**, contributing to Rotary's worldwide effort to eradicate polio. Following the recent devastating floods in Nepal we donated £2300 to Shelter Box - they provide boxes with emergency aid (hygiene products, cooking equipment, tent, blankets etc) - our donation will cover 4 such boxes. We also joined with others in our District providing £500 per club to send to the Rotary club of Katmandu for them to provide local relief.

Of course, none of that happens without fundraising – or without the tremendous support we receive from people across Diss and the surrounding area.



Over recent months that has included our **Fire Engine fundraising to help send two fire engines to Ukraine**, superbly organised by John Cooper, and "Brass on the Grass" in Diss Park, where Philip Jeffries organised the Stowmarket Concert

Band. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the music and we raised over £4000!

Rotary isn't all fundraising either. We have a varied programme of speakers, visits and social events - including a visit to a cheese factory, which proved very popular! To find out more, please visit the website www.dissrotary.org.uk.

Last year's President, Mark, and I are planning another informal **"Find Out About Rotary"** drop-in during October, hopefully at Ampersand. There is no hard sell – just come along, have a drink, meet a few of us and discover what Rotary in Diss actually does.

Meanwhile, autumn means our thoughts are already turning towards Christmas. Plans are under way for **Santa's Sleigh** to return to the streets around Diss. It is one of our biggest annual undertakings and one of our most popular. Last Christmas the Sleigh raised **thousands of pounds**, all of which helps us continue supporting good causes.

We are also looking forward to **Festive Brass this Christmas at the Corn Hall** on November 30th (tickets on sale via the Corn Hall box office and website) alongside our usual programme of meetings, speakers, fundraising and social events.

As President, one thing I have become increasingly conscious of is that none of this happens because of Rotary alone. It happens because local people, businesses and organisations support what we do.

So, on behalf of everyone at Diss & District Rotary, **thank you**.

David Crawford

President

Diss & District Rotary Club



Celebrating 20 Years of Service

Meet the people behind the scenes as Robert Ludkin, Facilities & Buildings Manager, and Melissa Hawkes, Office Administrator & Cemetery Lead, celebrate two decades with Diss Town Council.

What do you enjoy most about your role, and what has been a highlight?

Robert – The team I work with and the variety of the job. Every day is completely different! I've also enjoyed being involved in organising and helping out at Council events over the years. It's rewarding to see the community come together and enjoy something we've all worked hard on.

Melissa – Definitely the variety. No two days are ever the same, and I never know whether I'll be dealing with a complex problem, responding to customer queries or taking on something completely unexpected. A particular highlight was the Freedom of the Town celebration with the Royal Anglian Regiment.

What is one change you have seen in Diss over the past 20 years?

Robert – The Heritage Triangle development. It's brought some of the older parts of Diss back to life, and it's good to see people making more use of the whole town centre rather than just the High Street.

Melissa – I would agree. Improvements around the Heritage Triangle and the Corn Hall, helping to preserve its historic character while creating a more vibrant destination for residents and visitors.

What might residents be surprised to know about the work that goes on behind the scenes?

Robert – I don't think residents realise just how much goes on in the background. A lot of our work is reactive, helping people with issues and pointing them in the right direction. People often think Diss Town Council is responsible for everything that happens in the town, when in fact two larger councils are responsible for many

of the services we get asked about.

Melissa – Residents might be surprised by the sheer variety of work that goes on behind the scenes. One minute we can be answering enquiries and helping residents, and the next we're dealing with cemetery administration, organising projects, processing paperwork, working with contractors or supporting council meetings. There's far more to a town council than people often realise!

After 20 years, what does working for Diss Town Council mean to you?



Robert – For me, it's about making a positive difference to the town and keeping our sites tidy, safe and welcoming for residents and visitors. I'm proud of what's been achieved over the last 20 years – although I could probably do without being 20 years older!



Melissa – Working at the Council means being involved in the local community and helping residents with the issues that matter to them. I really enjoy being part of such a close-knit, friendly team and knowing that the work I do helps support the town and protect the place where I live and work.

Congratulations to you both on 20 years of service – and thank you for everything you do for Diss and its community.

Diss Safer Neighbourhood Team Update



As summer draws to a close, the Diss Safer Neighbourhood Team reflect on what has been a busy few months across the town and surrounding villages.

Throughout the summer, we have responded to a range of reports, including anti-social behaviour, illegally modified e-bikes, and the use of private e-scooters (which are illegal to use on public land).

These are currently some of the most frequent concerns raised to us, and we will continue to investigate your reports and tackle persistent behaviour. Where offences are identified, officers have the power to seize vehicles and take further enforcement action.

Please do tell us if you know someone who is riding an e-scooter or an illegally modified bike - the last thing we want is for people to get hurt, whether it's the owner themselves or a passing pedestrian. You can report anonymously through Crimestoppers or by emailing into your local Safer Neighbourhood Team via our website.

As we move into the autumn and winter months, now is a good time to review the security of your home. Ensure doors and windows are locked, even when at home, and consider using timer switches for lights if you are away. Simple measures such as keeping valuable items out of sight and securing side gates can greatly reduce the risk of opportunist thieves.

Cyclists are encouraged to think about their safety on the roads as daylight hours become shorter - good front and rear lighting and reflective clothing are essential. We also recommend using a robust lock, securing your bicycle to an immovable object and registering it with an approved property marking scheme.

Thank you for helping to keep Diss a safe place to live, work and visit. Your information and vigilance remain invaluable in helping us tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities.



Safe & Sound Hygiene and Pest Control

Is your garden overrun with moles?



Do you have a wasp nest?



Are your paddocks overrun with rabbits?



For ALL your domestic or commercial Pest Control.

No-obligation - free survey/quotes



Pest infestation can damage your health and your home.

Recent surveys show that numbers of mice/rats and bed bugs found in UK homes are on the rise.

As Local Authorities are cutting back on free pest control services.

We are here to offer you a service at the right price.

**Call us to discuss your pests on
07809226109**

www.safeandsoundhygieneandpestcontrol.co.uk

KITCHEN SENSE of Harleston



**62 London Road, Harleston,
Norfolk IP20 9BZ**

t 01379 852592 f 01379 854411
e staff@kitchen-sense.co.uk

www.kitchen-sense.co.uk

DISS GARDEN CENTRE & DISCOUNT PET STORE



Freshly cut, locally grown Christmas trees

A family run business for over 3 generations, for all your Gardening and Pet needs.

Quality plants and products available with 'Old Fashioned' Personal Service
and Friendly Advice from knowledgeable staff.

Telephone: 01379 642873

www.dissgardencentre.com

Victoria Road, Diss, IP22 4JG (Next to Diss Swimming Pool)

Discover What's Waiting for You at DISScovered



There's a new doorway to step through in the heart of the Diss Heritage Triangle, and inside, the kettle's always on.

DISScovered really started with a simple love for gifts—finding special, handcrafted things and sharing them with people who'd appreciate them. But as time went on, I realised I wanted to offer something more than just shelves full of pretty objects. I wanted to feel part of this community, and I wanted to create a place where other people could feel that too. A quiet, honest space built on trust, where you can slow down, meet others, and just *be*.

The shop is still full of incredible work from local makers, and every piece has a real story behind it. It's a lovely spot to find a thoughtful gift or something for your home, knowing it was made with care right here near us.

But more than anything, I wanted **DISScovered** to be a space for connection—a place to pull up a chair and share a moment, whether you're making something or not. Throughout the week, the space opens up for whatever you might need that day:

- **The Thursday Table:** A warm, easy-going social craft session where we can chat and work on projects together.

- **The Silent Reading Club:** A peaceful, comfortable spot to bring your current book and read alongside friendly faces without any pressure to analyse or perform.

- **French Conversation:** A relaxed, welcoming space to practice your French and chat at your own pace over a hot cup of tea.

You don't need to be an expert, you don't need to buy anything, and you don't need a formal reason to stop by. Whether you come in to browse the shelves, join a table, or just say a quick hello on your walk-through town, you are so welcome to come as you are and stay as long as you like.

I'd love to meet you—pop your head in next time you're passing.





Remembrance Parade and Service 2026

Diss Town Council, together with the Royal British Legion, warmly invites residents to join this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations on **Sunday 8th November**. The annual parade, wreath-laying and services provide an opportunity for the community to come together, reflect and remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation.

The afternoon's events will begin at **2:15pm**, when the parade sets off from the Mere's Mouth and makes its way through town to the Market Place. More than 35 groups are expected to take part, including the Salvation Army Band, the Royal British Legion, Armed Forces personnel, army & air cadets, emergency services, youth organisations, charities, and standard and flag bearers.

The Drumhead Service will take place at approximately **2.30pm**, followed by the laying of wreaths in remembrance of those who have served and sacrificed. Among those invited to lay wreaths at the drumhead altar are the King's

representative, Deputy Lieutenant for Norfolk Philippa Taylor, and Adrian Ramsay MP.

The community is then invited to attend a special **Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church** following the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

The event is organised by a committee led by Diss Town Council, with representatives from the Diss & District Royal British Legion, Salvation Army, RAFA, local churches, local cadet forces, Scouts, Diss High School and Park Radio.

Diss Town Clerk, Sarah Villafuerte-Richards, encouraged residents to attend, saying: "Please join us as we come together to remember the courage, service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, past and present. We warmly welcome any new service providers or groups in the town who would like to lay a wreath for the first time to get in touch."

For public safety, **temporary road closures will be in place from 2pm to 3.30pm on Sunday 8th November**. Roads affected will include Mere Street, Market Place, St Nicholas Street, Mount Street (between Saracens Head and Market Place), and Market Hill.

Poppy Appeal Collection

This year's Poppy Appeal collection will launch with an official opening ceremony at Mere's Mouth on **24th October** where the Town Mayor and guests will be in attendance. The following two collection dates will be on **31st October** and **7th November** at Mere's Mouth.

Last year, the Poppy Appeal raised an incredible **£20,000**, helping to support the vital work of the Royal British Legion.

A huge thank you to Dave Hines, Poppy Appeal Organiser, for all his hard work in organising the collection and supporting this important annual appeal.



Living, Learning, and Laughing Together in Diss

There's a special kind of energy in our town, and we try to celebrate so much of it in our schools. Diss Infant Academy and Nursery on Fitzwalter Road and Diss Church of England Junior Academy on The Entry do so much more than teach the basics - they're a huge part of the local community. Taking children from three-year-old nursery tots through to confident eleven-year-olds, the two schools offer a seamless, supportive journey every step of the way.

Smiles, Learning, and Local Connections

Walk past the gates on any given day, and you'll see pupils throwing themselves into all kinds of adventures. Early years children learn through hands-on play - whether that's splashing through puddle "bear hunts," reading stories with visiting high school students, or making fruit salads. As pupils grow, so do their experiences:

- **Rich Trips & Traditions:** Year 6 pupils head off to London to take in the views on the London Eye and see West End shows like *Wicked*, while Years 3 and 4 tackle outdoor adventure trips to Horstead.

- **Community Spirit:** Pupils regularly pop over to local care homes, including Weavers Court and Walcot Hall, to make crafts, play games, and share a chat with

the residents. Local MP Adrian Ramsay even stopped by to hear what changes the children want to see in their environment!

- **Town Celebrations:** Events like the sunny "Dissitude" festival bring families together for music, games, and the ever-popular teacher wet-sponge throw.

A Safe, Happy Environment to Grow Up In

Alongside academic growth, care and well-being are right at the heart of daily life. The Infant site recently celebrated a fantastic Ofsted result, with inspectors highlighting that "wellbeing of pupils is prioritised highly" in a happy, caring environment. Between dedicated pastoral care, fun events like NSPCC "Number Days" and Samba drumming, and a steady focus on values like respect, resilience, and positivity, pupils are given every opportunity to shine.

As another year passes, from the nervous first days in Nursery to the emotional Year 6 leavers' assemblies, both academies continue to be a fantastic foundation for the town's young people.

Jo Cerullo

Executive Headteacher

Diss Primary Academy Partnership



**ARRIVE
RELAX
TRAVEL**

Package Holidays Tailor Made Holidays Cruises Luxury Holidays Tours and Adventure

01379 468989
reservations@arriverelax.com
 26 The Thoroughfare, Harleston. IP20 9AU

100 YEARS
 Travel Trust Association
 CLIR



**Dis Scaffolding
Services Ltd**

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

Telephone: 01379 643800
Mobile: 07534 222400
Email: info@diss-scaffolding.co.uk

www.diss-scaffolding.co.uk

Our expert team of lawyers is here to help

- Accident Claims
- Clinical Negligence
- Commercial
- Debt Recovery
- Dispute Resolution
- Employment
- Family
- Landlord and Tenant
- Powers of Attorney
- Property
- Wills, Trusts & Probate

Jackamans
SOLICITORS



Park House, Mere Street, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4JY. 01379 643555
 Offices also in Harleston, Ipswich and Felixstowe. www.jackamans.co.uk

Lunchtime Carols – get into the Christmas spirit with a fun festive sing-a-long!

As the festive season approaches, the town is once again preparing to come together for one of its most treasured Christmas traditions - **Lunchtime Carols** at St Mary's Church.

This year's celebration will take place on **Friday 18th December at 12:30pm**, and everyone is warmly invited to join in an hour of festive fun, laughter and community spirit.

Now in its **17th year**, **Lunchtime Carols** has become a much-loved annual occasion, bringing people of all ages together to enjoy the simple pleasure of singing Christmas favourites in a relaxed and welcoming setting. It is not a formal church service or a traditional concert; instead, it is a joyful gathering where everyone can join in, have a laugh and share in the magic of the season.

A key part of the event's appeal is its friendly and inclusive atmosphere. Whether you are a regular attendee or have never experienced Lunchtime Carols before, you will receive a warm welcome. The event is perfect for families, with children encouraged to take part and discover the joy of carol singing alongside friends, neighbours and the wider community.

In the midst of the busy Christmas preparations, Lunchtime Carols offers a chance for families, friends and colleagues to come together

and embrace a free feel-good event in the heart of the community.

So, whether you have been joining us for years or are planning to come along for the first time, make sure you put the date in your diary. Come to St Mary's Church, raise your voice, enjoy the jokes (those who have been before will know!) and help us spread some Christmas cheer.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Gerry Hosking
Organiser



Diss Library: Events, Community and Fun

Diss Library has had a fabulous time over the Summer. This year's Summer Reading challenge ran from 4th July until the 12th September, with 190 children from Diss and the surrounding area aged from 0 through to 11 signing up to enjoy at least 6 books, collecting stickers and joining in activities based on this theme of Read to the Beat.

Children were able to enjoy a character treasure hunt around the branch, made musical instruments and we welcomed Rosie May with live djembe at the end of July for a song and movement story time session. Each child who completed the challenge was invited to the library to receive a medal and certificate during our medal ceremony that took place on 10th September. A huge well done to all who took part!

We continue to run several activities throughout the year. Bounce and Rhyme sessions aimed at children from 0- 3 years continues to be popular at 11am on Mondays and our Stay and Play sessions runs directly afterwards. We are also running story time and crafts for under 5s on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 2pm. Lego club is back on a Saturday afternoon for children aged 5 plus.

Our Just a Cuppa sessions continue to run on a Thursday morning from 10am, offering people the opportunity to connect with others over a cup of tea or coffee and is completely free. If you haven't stopped by yet, we would love to see you.

Books continue to be at the heart of what we do. We run a popular book group for adults once a month and a bring your own book group for young people aged from 9 -14 runs weekly, every Wednesday from 4:30pm. If you haven't got a library card, then why not pop into branch and sign up. You can borrow up to 20 books and take advantage of some fabulous apps including Libby, Borrowbox and Pressreader. All free with your Norfolk Library card.

To keep up with the latest news at Diss Library, head into the branch on Church Street, drop by our Facebook page or visit Norfolk County Councils 'What's On In Libraries' webpage.





Diss Otters Swimming Club: Making Waves in the Community

For more than 40 years, **Diss Otters Swimming Club** has been helping local swimmers develop their skills, build confidence and enjoy competitive swimming in a supportive and welcoming environment. Based at Diss Leisure Centre, the volunteer-led club is a thriving part of the community, providing opportunities for swimmers of all ages and abilities.

From youngsters taking their first steps into club swimming through to county, regional and masters-level competitors, Diss Otters offers structured coaching, expert guidance and a strong team ethos. Training takes place throughout the week, supported by a dedicated group of qualified coaches, officials, committee members and volunteers.

The club has enjoyed another busy and successful year both in and out of the pool. Members proudly took part in the Diss Carnival, helping to showcase local sport and community spirit, while swimmers also enjoyed the club's annual tour to Sheffield. The popular Diss Open Meet and Club Championships continue to provide exciting opportunities for swimmers to test themselves against personal goals and competition from across the region.

Success comes in many forms at Diss Otters. Swimmers regularly achieve personal best performances at competitions, club coaches continue to develop their qualifications, and volunteers have received recognition for their outstanding contribution to swimming in Norfolk. The club has also invested in new equipment, nutrition workshops and strength and conditioning opportunities to help swimmers reach their full potential.

Whether your child wants to develop their swimming, compete, improve fitness, make new friends or simply become part of a friendly and encouraging sporting community, Diss Otters would love to hear from you.

The club welcomes enquiries from prospective new members and offers trial sessions for swimmers who can confidently swim at least 25 metres. To find out more, arrange a trial or follow the club's latest news and achievements, visit www.dissotters.co.uk or follow **Diss Otters Swimming Club** on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DissOttersSC.

Why not dive in and discover what makes Diss Otters one of the town's longest-standing and most successful community sports clubs?



Rainbows, Brownies & Guides: A Term Full of Fun and Adventure

Last term has been busy for the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides of Diss.

1st Diss Rainbows' favourite activity was making tea light S'mores, they have also enjoyed playing lots of different games, with lots of laughs and friendly competition along the way.

Another highlight was movie night-it was lovely to have a more relaxed evening, with everyone settling down together and enjoying snacks. Rainbows also enjoyed getting creative with a range of crafts.

At 1st Diss Brownies we went litter picking around the town, and were pleased with our efforts in helping to keep the town tidy.

We also welcomed the residents from De Lucy Residential home for a games night, which made for the most enjoyable night. The Brownies were able to show some of Girlguiding's new ways as well as allowing the residents to reminisce with old traditions.

We had lots of fun with water team games, we got soaked and had plenty of

laughs, plus it was a great way to cool down during the hot evening!

We did some campfire cooking, toasting marshmallows and pitta pockets, finished by some traditional campfire singing. Next term we are looking forward to our Halloween/Autumn themed sleepover.

2nd Diss Guides enjoyed learning about policing with local officers coming in to visit. Also cooking on open fires and even making chocolate lollies for national chocolate day!

This Autumn we will be developing practical life skills including cooking, basic sewing and using hand tools.

Want to get involved? Come and join in the fun and get in touch:

1st Diss Rainbows (aged 4- 7 years)
Holly – 1stdissrainbows@gmail.com

1st Diss Brownies (aged 7 -10 years)
Sarah – firstdissbrownies@gmail.com

2nd Diss Guides (aged 10-14 years)
Katie – seconddissguides@gmail.com



Life Fest celebrates 5th year on Diss Park!

Organised mainly by Diss Baptist church, Life Fest is a free festival, which aims to share the hope we have in Jesus.

The community enjoyed various activities and music on the day, and this year we were able to do this with the help of at least eight local churches, all bringing their specific strengths to Life Fest. This was particularly noticeable with Dove River Church who led an arts venue creating a reflective space to discover more about God, as well as running the bookstall.

One of the main features which has always been a big component of Life Fest is the live music on the Pavilion (main stage!) throughout the afternoon. This year, we had talented musicians from all over: FYB from Fressingfield, MC J Messy from Eye, Rev21 from London, Jess Debenham from Brighton, and finally Glasby, from up in Middlesborough. They brought with them a range of styles that added to our celebratory vibes, and got the crowd up moving on their feet!



Alongside the music we had other features like our children's tent which had lots of play-based activities and crafts organised by JAM (Jesus and Me). For those interested in sports, we had the Youth For Christ team who brought their football cage, (maybe you came and scored a goal with them this year!)*

We are especially thankful to all the brilliant volunteers that have been a part of the Life Fest team this year, and of course all of those that came along for the fun - you make Life Fest what it is!

If you would like to know more about Life Fest or the message that we share do feel free to get in touch on the socials like Facebook/Instagram or go to:

www.dissbaptistchurch.co.uk/life-fest

**Youth for Christ runs faith based lunch time clubs in local schools and youth clubs in and around Diss, if you have a young person that would like to attend you will find information about when they meet on the Integrate Youth for Christ website.*

WE'RE HIRING! JOIN OUR TEAM



Our business is expanding, and we're looking to connect with passionate local talent who want to grow alongside us.

WHY WORK WITH US?



**High Employee
Engagement**



**Clear Career
Pathway**



**Full Training
Programme**

No experience? No problem!

We provide full training and support to help you succeed.

We're expanding, and new roles open throughout the year.

If you are looking for a supportive workplace with real development, **now is the perfect time to apply!**



Explore opportunities and apply today!

lexhaminsurance.co.uk/careers

Or email: recruitment@lexhaminsurance.co.uk

Lexham Insurance Consultants Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, firm reference number: 303917. Lexham Insurance Consultants Ltd is a company registered in England, Company No. 3897329, registered address: Unit 21, Hopper Way, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4NG.



The story of Diss Rugby Club

In 1958 a small group of rugby enthusiasts, whilst in the Two Brewers, bemoaned the fact they had to travel to Norwich to watch a game. They came up with an ambitious solution – to create a club of their own and Diss Rugby Football Club was born. The first game was ironically away against Norwich City College who not only had to lend us a set of shirts but also a player and very kindly continued their “generosity” by giving us a thrashing! The first “home” fixture took place at what is now Diss High School and it’s fantastic that nearly 70 years on the club can reciprocate by allowing the school to use the club’s facilities. From those early humble beginnings Diss RFC now proudly possesses three pitches, a clubhouse containing its own fitted kitchen and bar facilities, an outside burger hut, six changing rooms, a fully equipped gym and a membership exceeding 600. Notwithstanding this, it remains one of South Norfolk’s best kept sporting secrets.

To this day it is still run predominantly by volunteers and at its home at Mackenders in Bellrope Lane Roydon provides rugby for every age group and ability from U6 through to adults, including a vixens team

and a mixed adult walking rugby team. So, every age group is catered for as befits a grass roots community rugby club. It is a remarkable achievement and all this from a current population in Diss of c10000.

This success story has been built on decades of dedication from volunteers sponsors and supporters too numerous to mention but with today’s key sponsors including CK Meats and Peddars Pigs, The Oaksmere, Quality Equipment, Cranswick and Wild and West.

Rugby is more than just about the game. It is about community, camaraderie and forging friendships which last a lifetime. It provides a place where team values and teamwork, respect and leadership are learned. If you think it might be for you why not come along and have a look? Our fixture lists can be found on our website:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/dissrugby.

Furthermore, if you would like to get involved, be it as a sponsor, volunteer or player there is plenty of opportunity for you at Diss and we would love you to contact us on office@dissrugbyclub.co.uk, and together we can reveal the secret to an even wider rugby community.



Remembering those we love at Christmas

A Service of Remembrance
at ST MARY'S CHURCH,
DISS, IP22 4QQ

on

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2026
at 2.30pm

- ★ Refreshments will be available ★
- ★ Rosedale Christmas Memorial Tree ★
- ★ Waveney Choir singing ★



Rosedale
FUNERAL HOME

Tel: 01379 640810

The service is free to attend and open to everyone.



Cooking for One

Cooking for One is a unique cookbook and personal support guide by Simon Beckett-Allen, Director of Rosedale Funeral Home.

'This book contains no platitudes about time being a great healer; instead, it offers a candid account of the raw pain and utter loneliness that grief can bring. It sits just as comfortably in the self-help section of a bookshop as it does alongside the cookery books. Filled with advice and anecdotes, it helps the newly bereaved begin to learn the art of cooking for one.' **SIMON BECKETT-ALLEN**

We hope you will find comfort in knowing there are people who care about you and want to help. We also hope you may feel inspired, supported, and confident enough to try creating some of these meals, while learning more about how to cook for one.

All profits from the sale of this book will go to Cruse Bereavement Care.

For more information go to:
www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk
 or if you would like to purchase a copy for £20.00, please call our offices.

'Liza's Not Really a Pizza'

Ingredients

- 1 pitta bread
- Small tin of tomatoes
- Handful of grated Cheddar or Parmesan
- Other toppings of your choice

Method

First, toast the pitta bread.

Open it out and grill the outside until crisp. Then add the topping.

Spread some drained, crushed tinned tomatoes on the inside, keeping the juice for another use.

Top with sliced tinned or bottled peppers and a few chilli flakes, if liked.

Alternatively, add any other cooked pizza topping of your choice.

Finally, sprinkle over the grated Parmesan or Cheddar and grill until bubbling.

Top Tip

I find grilled cheese and pickle taste better on pitta bread than on toast.

This is just a taster of what you can find in our book, on our monthly blog, and on Instagram and Facebook, where we share a new recipe each month.

High quality, secure and stylish.

Garage Doors, Gates and Awnings
supplied, installed and repaired.



Visit our Diss showroom to view our range of high quality products and talk to our friendly team about the perfect solution for your home.

Diss 01379 651959

www.chapeldoors.co.uk

GUDGEONS PRENTICE SOLICITORS

Local Solicitors, Expert Advice

Providing legal services to our local community since 1821.

RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING • COMMERCIAL SERVICES
WILLS & PROBATE • MATRIMONIAL & FAMILY

THE GUDGEONS PRENTICE CLIENT APP

- Document signing
- Push notifications
- Multiple cases
- Biometric login
- Forms & questionnaires
- Process flows
- Personalised 'to do' list
- Document upload
- ID/AML
- Secure instant messages

ENHANCING YOUR RESIDENTIAL
CONVEYANCING EXPERIENCE



NEEDHAM MARKET

40 High Street,
Needham Market,
Suffolk
IP6 8AP

STOWMARKET

Buttermarket,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk
IP14 1ED

T: 01449 613101

E: info@gudgeons-prentice.co.uk

W: www.gudgeons-prentice.co.uk



Calling all Volunteers

As summer drew to a close, Citizens Advice Diss, Thetford & District welcomed local people to our Diss office in Market Place for a special Have Your Say drop-in event – an opportunity for everyone to meet our staff and volunteers, enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake, and tell us what they thought about the services we provide.

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to come along. We particularly valued hearing your thoughts about The Shelf, our community grocery store, including what products you would like to see stocked and how we could make it easier to access. We're now using your feedback to help us ensure our services continue to reflect the needs of our community.

The event also provided a great opportunity to showcase another essential part of our work - our volunteers. As an independent charity, we simply couldn't provide the range of free services we offer without them. And there are so many ways to get involved.

Our volunteer Advisers provide vital support to people facing life's challenges and help them find a way forward. At The Shelf, volunteers help collect donations, stock the shelves and welcome customers, while our volunteer community fundraisers help generate the vital funds that keep our work going. Meanwhile, our Trustees use their experience to ensure the charity is well governed and always acts in the best interests of the communities we serve.

So, as the days get shorter and we look towards the year ahead, why not consider whether volunteering could be your resolution for 2027? It's a chance to meet new people, learn new skills and, most importantly, make a genuine difference to people in your local community. No prior experience is required and full training is provided.

You don't have to wait until January either! If you're curious about volunteering with Citizens Advice Diss, Thetford & District, get in touch to find out more. Call into our Diss office or visit www.cadat.org.uk



De Lucy House Care Home

40 Victoria Road, Diss
01379 778 466



No.1 non-profit
care home in Diss*

*Source: Carehome.co.uk

It's time to
feel good
about care

greensleeves
care

Hayward Moon

PROPERTY LAWYERS

01379 646040
dissreception@haywardmoon.co.uk
www.haywardmoon.co.uk



GET A MOVE ON WITH YOUR LOCAL CONVEYANCING SPECIALISTS ACROSS EAST ANGLIA

Our Residential Conveyancing Services Include:

- House Sales and Purchases
- Flat Sales and Purchases
- Buy-to-Let Sales and Purchases
- Remortgages
- Transfers of Equity

Diss
Caxton House
Victoria Road
Diss
IP22 4JN



We also provide a comprehensive range of services for Commercial clients.



Do it with



SUPERIOR WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES LTD

www.stylewindows.co.uk



Visit our website



Contact Gavin Barson on

T: 01379 770764

E: gavin@stylewindows.co.uk

3-4 Station Way, Brandon IP27 0BH

Gavin is on Diss market every Friday



Scan this
code to start
a WhatsApp
chat with us



FINANCE AVAILABLE From 10.9% APR Representative

Spread the cost of your windows and doors over 3 – 15 years
with Phoenix Financial Consultants

Phoenix Financial Consultants Ltd (Company No 7436334) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Financial Services Register No 539195). Phoenix is a credit broker not a lender and offers finance from its panel of lenders.



CHRISTMAS
AT

BRESSINGHAM
STEAM MUSEUM

A TRULY
MAGICAL TIME
OF YEAR!




FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION
BRESSINGHAM.CO.UK/EVENTS

Award
winning care
homes

Day Club
available

We're proud to be recognised for our excellence in care,
winning more awards than any other provider in the last
three years.

Hartismere Place care home, Eye
01379 398 316
careuk.com/hartismere-place

Inspected and rated
Outstanding
Care Quality
Commission

Trusted to care

care UK





The Sanctuary Proposal Moves Forward

Diss Town Council has given its support in principle to proposals from Community Sauna Box CIC to create The Sanctuary, a community sauna and wellbeing destination at the Pavilion on the Park. The scheme has the potential to provide a unique year-round facility overlooking Diss Mere, promoting health, wellbeing and increased use of the Pavilion site.

Plans currently include sauna facilities, cold-water experiences, relaxation spaces and complementary community-focused

activities. The proposal would be privately funded and, if approved, could also bring economic benefits through increased visitor numbers and wider use of the site.

The Sanctuary remains subject to planning permission and other statutory approvals. Sauna Box Ltd is currently working towards submitting a planning application and securing project financing, with the aim of opening in Spring 2027.

Diss United Reformed Church – Supporting Our Community and Charities

Diss URC runs a range of community groups, including the Dove Dementia Café, Dove Song, Dovelets, Dove Song Plus, and the Welcome Café, offering friendship and support for people of all ages and abilities. Find out more at www.dissurc.org.uk.

Our annual **Charities Fayre** takes place on **Friday 20th November, 9.30am – 12pm**. Local charities can sell goods free of charge to raise funds, with previous beneficiaries including Guide Dogs, Amnesty International, Marie Curie and To Kenya With Love.

It's a great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping while supporting worthwhile causes. The Welcome Café will also be open, serving hot drinks, homemade cakes and scones.

For more information, contact our Community Worker, Ruth Bridges: rthbridges@gmail.com.



SPARK
LIVE

Starring ITV's The Bill 'PC Tony Stamp'

GRAHAM COLE OBE
as Abanazar

Sponsored by

Dipple
Conway



'A dazzling spectacle
of a pantomime'

**THE CORN
HALL** DISS

**18 Dec 2026
- 3 Jan 2027**

Box Office **01379 652241**
Online www.thecornhall.co.uk

Follow us on @DissPanto



SAVE THE DATE

TOWN MAYOR'S

Christmas Carol Concert

**15TH DECEMBER 2026
ST MARY'S CHURCH, DISS
7PM**



TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON!



All Things Youth!

Diss Youth Group (DYG) provides a variety of fun activities, including games, arts & crafts, baking and social time in a safe space. It is open to young people in school years 6 – 9; those in Year 10+ can become young volunteers. New members are always welcome. The volunteer team works alongside a qualified Youth & Community Worker, meeting fortnightly on Wednesdays, 7.00pm – 8.30pm (except summer and Christmas holidays) at the Diss Salvation Army Community Room.

Locally, the South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board (SNYAB) and its Youth Workers, work in partnership, organising various local opportunities where young people learn important life skills, and socialise with different generations. Recently, these included two Dementia Café sessions, *“Thank you to you and your young volunteers! They were wonderful. I know that our members had a lovely time. If ever your young people would like to come again, they would be most welcome!”*

And at Walcot Hall Care Home, young

people led activities including picture bingo. New skills were learnt at a course delivered by Street First Aid *“It was engaging. They framed it with real-life situations”*; a Water Safety Skills Programme with Waterbility4All and Diss Swim Centre,

“I learnt how to float, stay safe, be aware of currents, and not to go in after someone, call for help”; and a Conservation Day linking with Diss Community Woodland Project, for a bat information talk, litter pick, and working at Bombard Copse to clear the space: *“It makes you feel that you are doing something physical for yourself, though it also benefits your community”*.

SNYAB also runs Young Commissioner groups for young people aged 11+ (Year 7) who work to improve opportunities and services for others in South Norfolk.

For further information, contact Julia on **07546 059061** or julia@mtmyouthservices.org.uk
Visit www.mtmyouthservices.org.uk
or www.snyab.org

Susan Whymark Funeral Service Ltd

Independent and Family Run



Serving Eye, Harleston, Diss, Framlingham and the surrounding areas since 2004

We offer a range of services to suit your individual needs

- Funerals tailored to your needs and budget
- Full estimates given at time of arrangement
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans available
- Direct Cremations
- Support Groups
- Memorials

We provide an efficient but friendly service through our professionally qualified staff **24 hours a day**

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Chestnut House,
12 Progress Way,
Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HU
Tel: 01379 871168 | • Denmark House,
1 & 2a Carmel Works,
Park Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4AS
Tel: 01379 831332 |
| • Ley House,
11a London Road,
Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 9BH
Tel: 01379 851253 | • Moore House,
8 Fore Street
Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9DY
Tel: 01728 723448 (Formerly Moore Bros) |



See our customer reviews at

www.susanwhymark.co.uk

Email: susan@susanwhymark.co.uk





Diss & District Horticultural Society

The Society was originally founded in 1844 with the aim of educating, encouraging and improving the cultivation of flowers, fruit and vegetables by the arrangement of horticultural exhibitions, competitions, talks, floral art and similar activities.

We are affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society, National and Local Dahlia Society's for Flower Show competition purposes.

Whilst the title sounds grand, today the society is not the exclusive group of its founding days. Today we are a group of people who have an interest in gardening, horticultural and the natural world around us.

We strive to entertain and educate still with approaching 100 members we meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the United Reformed Church, Mere Street at 7.30pm.

Guests are always welcome to attend; entry is £2.00 per person.

Each year we hold a Spring & Autumn Show in The Village Hall, Roydon.

In recent times, the interest in the shows has been increasing with the 2026 April Show being one of the most successful staged.

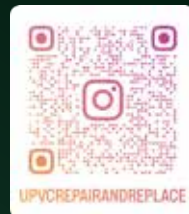
It was pleasing to see a big increase in members and guests entering exhibits in the show, along with a large number of the public coming to visit and see the displays. On show days we not only have the exhibits to view but also refreshments, lunches and a tombola are available for everyone.

If you would like to know more about the society or would like to join us, please contact The Secretary on:
info.disshorticulturalsociety@gmail.com
call 01379 643952 or pop along to a monthly meeting.



UPVC REPAIR & REPLACE

Double glazing since 1995



All your double glazing needs...

- ✓ Replacement & New Glass
- ✓ Supalite Warm Roofs
- ✓ Conservatory Roofs
- ✓ New Windows
- ✓ New Doors
- ✓ Aluminium & UPVC



Call: **07919 873696**

rob@upvcrepairandreplace.co.uk

www.upvcrepairandreplace.co.uk

Celebrating Creativity with The Arts Society Diss

Members of The Arts Society Diss share a passion for creativity in all its forms, bringing together a love of art, music, design, drama and dance within our local community. Each month, we welcome experienced and knowledgeable lecturers to The Corn Hall, where they bring fascinating subjects to life through their engaging talks.

Our members regularly tell us how much they enjoy these events:

"Excellent talk, the speaker knew his subject, was approachable, answered questions fully and had an easy speaking style that flowed. I was sorry when the lecture ended!"

Hemingford Grey. Our annual residential trip to Hampshire included visits to The Mary Rose Museum, the Isle of Wight and Osborne House.

Through our Community Arts Volunteers, we continue to support and encourage creativity locally. Recent projects have included collaborations and funding for local schools, Designmakers 21, The Bank Art Competition and Wingfield Barns.

New members and visitors are always warmly welcomed. Membership for the coming season remains excellent value at **£45 for 10 lectures**, and visitors are invited to attend for a suggested donation of **£8 per meeting**.

Our 2026–2027 Lecture Programme

20th October – *Cartoons and Contraptions: The Wonderful World of Heath Robinson*

17th November – *Stanley Spencer: Cookham, a Village in Heaven*

December – No meeting

19th January – *Australian Aboriginal Rock Art: The World's Longest Art Tradition*

16th February – *The Banksy Effect: Art with Attitude*

16th March – *The Rebirth of Notre Dame de Paris*

20th April – *Rain, Steam, Speed: JMW Turner and the Great Western Railway*

18th May – *Winnie the Pooh: A Centenary Celebration*

15th June – *The Making of Landscape Photography*

20th July – *The David Parr House: A Decorative Artist's Palace of Art*

Alongside our monthly lectures, we hold two Special Interest Days each year, featuring three lectures and a delicious lunch. Our next event, **"Morris to Ikea – Modernity and Tradition in the Home"**, will be presented by Stephen Taylor on **Tuesday 13th October 2026, 10.00am – 3.30pm**.

We also enjoy exploring art and heritage beyond the lecture hall. Recent visits have included The Mansion House in the City of London, The Roman Mithraeum, Anglesey Abbey and The Manor House at

We meet at **2pm on the third Tuesday of each month** (excluding December and August) at **The Corn Hall**.

For more information, email info@artsocdiss.org.uk or visit www.artsocdiss.org.uk



Larking Gowen

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

**Our Diss team can support you and
your business, get in touch!**

01379 651067 | larking-gowen.co.uk

Local Self Storage Diss

**LOCAL, SECURE STORAGE
WITH 24/7 ACCESS**



07902 084722

enquiries@localselfstoragediss.co.uk
www.localselfstoragediss.co.uk

Newman & Co

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors



*Newman & Co Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
have been serving local businesses and individuals in
East Anglia for over 25 years.*

We offer a range of services tailored to suit our clients' individual
needs that include:

- * Tax Returns Advice and Planning
- * Preparation of Annual Accounts
- * Bookkeeping services and Management Accounts Preparation
- * Business Start-up Advice
- * Payroll Services including Real-Time processing
- * VAT Returns and Advice

We provide an efficient, friendly and competent service through our
professionally qualified staff and believe that there is a real value in
developing long-standing professional relationships with our clients.

Please contact us to arrange a free initial consultation.

4b, Church Street, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4DD

T: 01379 640640

E: diss@newmans-online.co.uk

W: www.newmans-online.co.uk

CHRISTOPHER ALDRIDGE

T/A FRANK A. ALDRIDGE & SONS

Timber Merchants



Suppliers of All English & Foreign Hardwoods
Softwoods, Veneers, Plywoods, etc.
House Beams cut from old logs.

Logs sawn to Customer's requirements.
Specialists in Tree Surgery and Firewood.
For Firewood Orders and our New Showroom
'All Things Old and Beautiful'
please call 07754 678984

Timber Yard, Heath Road, Eccles
Quidenham, Norfolk NR16 2PD

Tel: 01953 887415

Mob: 07833 794803

email: cfatimber@aol.com

Richard
Walpole
Roofing



- New Roofs • Re Roofs
 - Roof Repairs • Leadwork
 - Chimneys Repointed
 - Fascia, Soffit and Guttering
- FULLY INSURED**

Tel: 07747 784742

Classifieds

IRONMONGERS

**LARTER & FORD
IRONMONGERS LTD**
INC. 052

Larter & Ford stock quality brands of kitchen equipment, DIY tools and materials along with gardening supplies.

15 MARKET HILL, DISS IP22 4JZ • 01379 642720



CARPET CLEANING

TURRELL CLEANING SERVICES
Est. 1989

- Carpet Upholstery & Cleaning
- Fully Insured
- Stain Removal & Carpet Protection
- **FREE ESTIMATES**

Tel: 01379 687751 Mobile: 07801 398247

www.turrellcleaningservices



LOCKSMITHS

**South Norfolk
LOCKSMITHS**

*Diss based
independent locksmith
and UPVC door repairs*

Please call
07919 152960

FOOTCARE

**DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO LOOK
AFTER YOUR FEET AND NAILS?**

I offer a 30 min pedicure in the comfort of your home

- Discount for a couple
- Qualified in Pedicure (don't paint nails)
- 10 years experience
- DBS checked

Interested? Contact Katie 07535702793

Katie's Pedicure

PUBLISHING

*To advertise in
the Classifieds
call:*

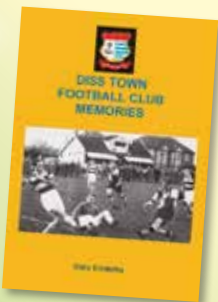
01379 773347

PUBLISHING

**Christmas Stocking Idea
for Football Fans**

Covering the history of Diss Town FC through old photographs, programmes and memorabilia from 1888 to present day.

Only **£4.99** (plus £2.20 p&p).
Contact Gary on **07722 163703** for details.



SENSORY DOG PARK

**Westbrook Green
Sensory Dog Park**

Sand Pits • Secure 6 ft Fencing • Tunnels
• Tyre Mounds and much more!
Spread over 3 fields.

We are a 1 mile walk from Town Centre

Located at:
Westbrook Green Farm,
Shelfanger Road, Diss IP22 4XX.

Find us on 

01379 642464 / 07591 008252
Email: westbrookgdp@gmail.com

SWIMMING SCHOOL

**Water Lilies
Swimming School**

Swimming lessons for all, across Norfolk & Suffolk

- Small Group Swimming Lessons (4 per class)
- Babies & Preschool Lessons (3mths +)
- 1:1 & 2:1 Private Tuition
- Adult Swimming Lessons
- Water Aerobics
- Splash & Play Sessions

T: 01379 740483 E: info@waterlilieswim.co.uk



Team Diss – Keeping Our Town a Great Place to Be!



2026 for Diss has seen several exciting projects come together at once, all working towards keeping our town a great place to live in, to work in and to visit!

Diss Litterpicking Group reached its fifth birthday in July, five years of volunteers meeting on the second Saturday of every month to work hard to keep our streets, our estates and our green spaces clean and litter-free! The occasion was marked on the day with lunch donated by Fair Green Fish Bar, a longtime friend and supporter of the group.

Wanting to mark the occasion further, the following weekend we launched the first ever Diss Town Tidy. This session was to tackle various tasks such as weeding, pruning and general tidying up of areas across our town centre in need of attention. Meeting initially at No8 Marketplace, in just two hours our team of volunteers tidied the front of the Library, all along Mere St, through the Causeway and all around the Morrisons roundabout. Our session ended at the new Co/Lab community hub at Norfolk House Yard with refreshments and a chance to socialise and reflect on the success of

the morning. Diss Litterpicking Group continues to meet the second Saturday of every month, from 10am at the DYCC on Shelfanger Rd.

The Diss Town Tidy will happen on a seasonal basis for the time being, once roughly every three months, meeting at No8 Marketplace. Got a suggestion for somewhere in Diss in need of litterpicking or a general tidy? Suggestions can be sent in via our Diss Litterpicking Group Facebook page or left with either the team at Diss Town Council, No8 Marketplace or Co/Lab!

Across the town of Diss and Parish of Roydon, the Diss Community Woodland Project continues to manage its sites for the benefit of people and for nature. Our main site is Quaker Wood, a 4.5 acre site found at the North-Western corner of Diss near the Football Club. Volunteers at the Wood are undertaking a programme of canopy thinning and wildflower meadow development. This is in order to help the site achieve County Wildlife status and improve its biodiversity. Volunteers meet on the first Saturday of every month from 9:30am, no experience or sign-up is required, simply turn up on the morning if



you would like to get involved!

Our second site, Bombard Copse, was acquired last December, and following a period of consultation and fundraising, we had our first volunteering session at the end of August, led primarily by Diss Youth Group. This was to begin a programme of clearing and improvement works to enhance and preserve the biodiversity and heritage value of the site. Bombard Copse is a much smaller and more established site than Quaker Wood, and is named after the Second World War anti-tank mortar base located on the site. Work parties will be on the third Saturday of every month from 9:30am for the duration of the improvement works.

More information about both sites and our other work managing the Diss Town Garden can be found at our website, disswoods.org.uk

As Chairman of Diss Community Woodland Project and organiser of the Diss Litterpicking Group, it's been my privilege this year to see these projects gain further momentum and have a bigger positive impact on Diss and Roydon. Massive thanks to everyone who has helped and supported all these projects, we are the sum of all of your efforts and couldn't do what we do without all of you!

Kind Regards,
George Waterman

The sooner you *start*, the sooner you *move*.

Thinking of *buying, selling or letting*? Your local experts are here to support you.



"We recently used Minors & Brady's Diss branch for the sale of our home and the *experience exceeded our expectations* from start to finish. Nicola was fantastic throughout - *professional, warm, and genuinely invested* in making sure everything went smoothly. We were kept informed at every stage and what can be a stressful process was made to feel completely manageable. It's clear the team *really care about their clients* and not just the transaction. We wouldn't hesitate to recommend Nicola and the team to anyone looking to sell in the area. Thank you so much!"

Phoebe Dean, May 2026, Google



Meet *Lee*
Director



Meet *Nicola*
Branch Manager



Meet *Claire*
Aftersales Team Leader

Minors & Brady

Get in touch today to book your *free* home market appraisal



diss@minorsandbrady.co.uk



01379 771444



46-47 Mere St, Diss, IP22 4AG

BURY ST. EDMUNDS | CAISTER-ON-SEA | DEREHAM | DISS | NORWICH | OULTON BROAD | WROXHAM

SPIRE SOLICITORS^{LLP}

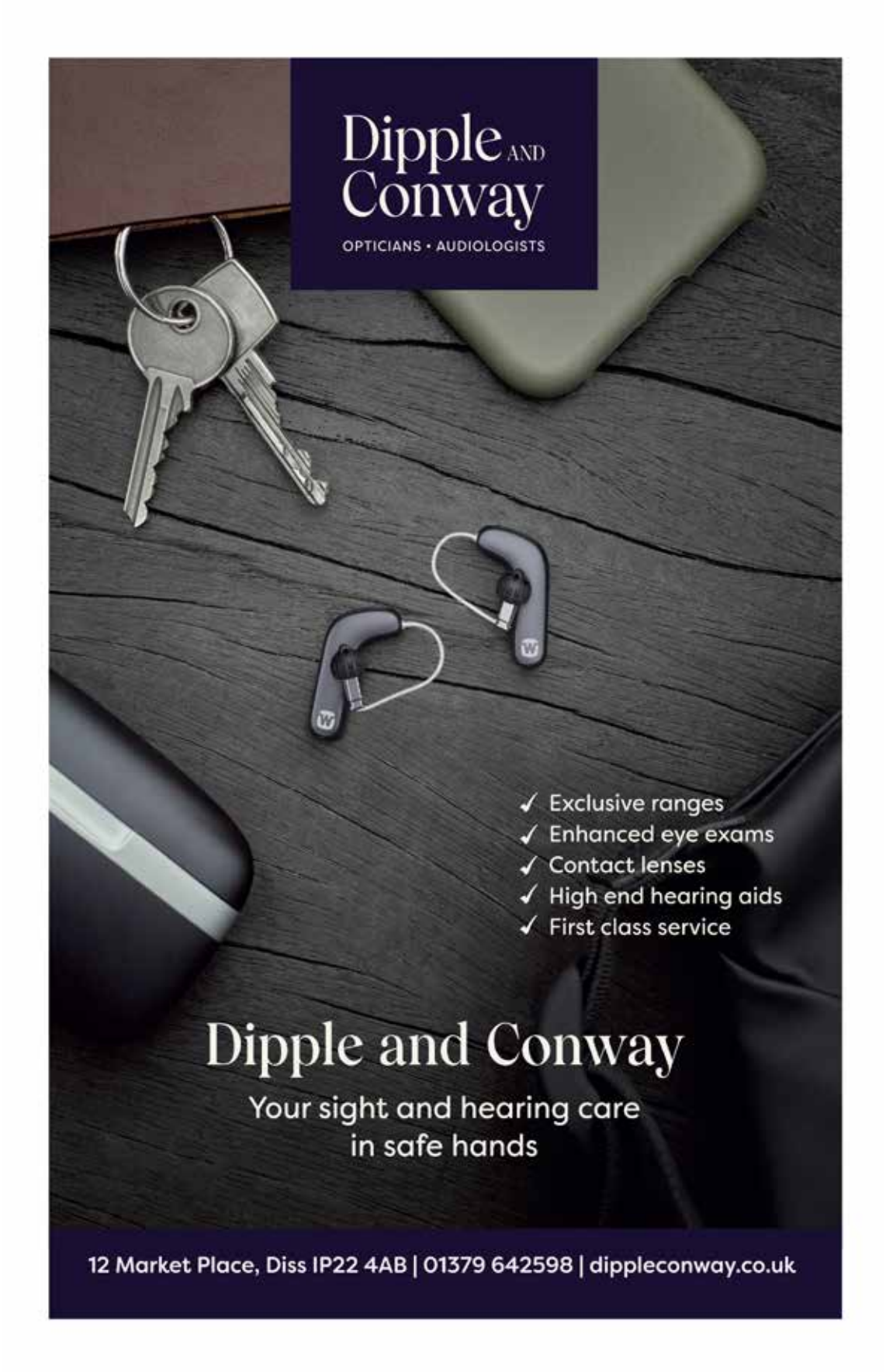
Local. Legal. Personable.

- Wills, Tax & Probate
- Family Law
- Employment Law
- Residential Conveyancing
- Dispute Resolution
- Debt Recovery
- Agriculture & Estates
- Corporate & Commercial
- Commercial Property

Attleborough | Aylsham | Dereham | Diss | Norwich | Watton | Wymondham

 01379 641221

 www.spiresolicitors.co.uk



Dipple AND Conway

OPTICIANS • AUDIOLOGISTS

- ✓ Exclusive ranges
- ✓ Enhanced eye exams
- ✓ Contact lenses
- ✓ High end hearing aids
- ✓ First class service

Dipple and Conway

Your sight and hearing care
in safe hands

12 Market Place, Diss IP22 4AB | 01379 642598 | dippleconway.co.uk