

The logo of Diss Town Council is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a wavy pattern, flanked by two fish. The words "DISS" and "TOWN COUNCIL" are inscribed around the perimeter of the circle.

# DISS Matters

Spring/Summer 2024



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# Welcome to the Spring/Summer Edition of Diss Matters!

In this issue, we're gearing up for an action-packed summer season full of fun (and free) events – and hopefully, lots of warm weather too! To kickstart the excitement, Diss will undergo a transformation into the 'Wild West' for this year's Carnival Parade & Fun Day on June 16th. Yee-haw, partners!

For those who love a good bargain, don't miss the popular car boot sales returning to Diss Park on selected dates from April to September. Looking for something unique? On 14th July, Fair Green will host its much-loved Brocante, offering a fantastic selection of vintage items and antiques. And car enthusiasts, remember to mark your calendars for the Heritage Festival of Transport, arriving in the town centre on 22nd September. In the heart of the town, The Corn Hall brings a jam-packed schedule of events catering to all tastes. Music, arts, comedy, theatre, film – you name it, they've got it covered!

Diss is favoured for its incredible community spirit and 'Diss Matters' is a perfect platform to shine a light on the work of local community groups - flick through to read all about the exciting projects led by these amazing volunteers. It's inspiring to see people of all ages coming together for the love of the community.

So grab yourself a cup of tea, find a cozy spot to unwind, and I hope this edition brings a smile to your face! There's plenty to look forward to here in Diss!

Happy Reading!

**Kimberley**

*Kim*



## Contents

4-5	Council News
6	Discover shared learning with Diss u3a
7	Diss URC – at the heart of the community
8	An update from Diss Brownies & Guides
9	80th D-Day Celebrations
11	Priorities for a Safer Neighbourhood
13	Citizens Advice – you need us, we need you!
14	The Corn Hall – events for all
15	A friendly knit & natter!
17	Litterpicking in Diss – going from strength to strength
18-19	Diss Carnival meets the Wild West
20	Diss Museum – a hub of history
21	Join the Museum Friends
23	A busy time for the Rotary Club
24-25	Reflecting on a year as Mayor
27	Diss Youth Projects & Opportunities
28	Green Corridors – Linking Nature Together
29	Heritage Festival of Transport
31	No.8 Marketplace – a space for all
32-33	Diss Town FC
35	Quaker Wood continues to thrive
36	Royal British Legion
37	Walk of Remembrance
39	Fair Green Brocante
41	Car Boot Sales in Diss
44	A helping hand for South Norfolk residents
45	SNC – It's time for the Big Litter Pick!



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# Council news

## Two councillors join DTC

Council is complete after two new councillors were co-opted at the March Full Council meeting.



Annie Goulder, a former senior NHS manager working in large teaching hospitals in central London, spent the last 20 years working in capital investment including the re-development of University College Hospital. Diss became Annie's home in 2019 and she currently volunteers at Diss Citizens Advice.



Declan Craggs worked in health and social care for 10 years. He now co-owns a small accountancy practice with his wife and is Governor for Diss Infant School. Declan believes you must actively participate in your community if you want to continue to see Diss develop and thrive.

## ATM

In April, Diss Town Council welcomed residents to its Annual Town Meeting (ATM), held at The Corn Hall. Chaired by the Town Mayor, Cllr Kieran Murphy, the event served as a platform for residents to engage with the Town, District and County Councils, find out more about projects in the town, voice their concerns and contribute ideas for the benefit of Diss.

Residents perused information stands set up by various local groups including the Diss Youth Group, Police, Parish Fields Friends, Park Radio, Royal British Legion, Designermakers 21, Diss United Reformed Church, Diss Litterpicking and Dovelets Group.

Attendees also heard about the Waveney & Little Ouse Recovery Project, led by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, which is looking at land use changes to help restore the headwater's hydrology, biodiversity and climate resilience between Diss and Thetford. It is hoped the project will deliver increases in river water quality and better access for residents to their local natural environment.

## Honoured Citizens 2024

One of the highlights of the ATM was the presentation of our Honoured Citizen Awards, honouring individuals whose contributions are a shining example of community excellence. This year's awards went to Mary Cotton and Mike Garnham, both members of the Diss & District Royal British Legion branch, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Mary has raised thousands of pounds for their poppy appeal spending over 80 hours





in Morrisons and raising £6k this year alone. Mary also volunteers on the Legion stall at the Carnival and Armed Forces Day events and contributes to Remembrance Day planning and wreath laying. She is a member of the Waveney Choir, the Women's Institute, U3A and Royal Air Force Association and volunteers at Diss Museum. Mike is the Legion's standard bearer, helps with Remembrance Day planning and looks after the wreaths by the war memorial. He works tirelessly at Quaker Wood both by himself when mowing the paths for much of the year and with young volunteer groups teaching them new skills. Mike also volunteers to maintain the boardwalk gardens.

### Beacon extension project

Phase 2 of the town's Beacon of Hope partnership project is underway. The foundations have been dug and landscaping prepared for the installation of the paving, seating area and beacon plinth and panels. Funded in part by UKSPF from South Norfolk Council's Pride in Place Community Grant, this will create a fully accessible and additional tranquil seating area overlooking

the Mere where visitors can reflect on the town's history and recent events including memories of the Queen's life and the King's Coronation. A unique material record will be contained within a time capsule buried in its base and the amenity will act as a key focal point for special occasions such as the 80th anniversary of D-day on 6th June. Pride in Place funding is part of the UK government's Shared Prosperity Fund.



### Have your say!

Following a successful community engagement event in the Autumn and now the warmer weather is here, we are inviting residents to join us on the Market Place on Friday mornings to talk to us about our current projects and plans for the future. The dates of forthcoming events will be posted on our social media platforms, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts.



**Sarah Villafuerte-Richards**  
*Town Clerk, Diss Town Council*

# Discover u3a in Diss

The u3a movement has over 1000 branches across the country. The Diss u3a was formed in 2003 and we now have a membership of around 300.

We provide opportunities for shared learning experiences through a wide range of specific interest groups, monthly talks and outings.

Membership is inexpensive and open to anyone who is not in full time employment. We hold monthly talks on the first Thursday of every month at Diss United Reformed Church (URC) on Mere Street, light refreshments are served from 9:45am, with talks starting at 10.30am.

We currently have 26 active 'Interest Groups' that run in addition to our monthly meetings.

These cover a diverse range of subjects, including art, hand-bell ringing, bird watching, card crafts, crafts & textiles, crime fiction, dance, gardening, history – ancient, mediaeval, lunching, Members on their own (MOTO), Looking at Buildings and various sports, to name but a few.

These groups run at different times and venues both indoors and outdoors according to subject (check our website for details). If there isn't a topic that suits your interest why not suggest a new one?

We celebrated our 20th Anniversary in Diss last Autumn.

Come and visit us – this might be just what you are looking for!

For further information, just go to our website: **[www.dissu3a.org.uk](http://www.dissu3a.org.uk)**

To join us, please email:

**[membershipdissu3a@gmail.com](mailto:membershipdissu3a@gmail.com)**



*Metal Detecting Group Members*

## Some of our 2024 Programme of talks:

MAR: Julian of Norwich

APR: What inspires Novelists

MAY: Silk Road Cities in Uzbekistan

JUN: Mediaeval medicines

JUL: The 1870 Chelsea murders

AUG: Did you jive in 55?

SEP: Moon Landing, true or false?

OCT: Berthe Morisot

# Diss URC - helping to support members of our local community



Community is at the heart of Diss United Reformed Church. We are fortunate enough to be located quite centrally in Diss on Mere Street, just opposite Aldi, which makes us a good place for community groups to meet. Some of the community groups are run independently from the church by people hiring one of our three rooms, but we also run quite a few ourselves.

Each Friday we hold our Welcome Cafe from 9.30am-12pm where anyone and everyone can drop in for a hot drink, one of our famous homemade cheese scones and a chat. Whilst once a month we hold our Dove Dementia Cafe, Dove Song, Dove Song Plus and Dove Cafe Church. The Dove Dementia cafe and Dove Song are primarily groups for people with a Dementia diagnosis and their carers. Whilst Dove Song Plus is a music therapy session for adults with complex needs and their carers. Dove Cafe Church is

a Dementia friendly service, but it is open to anyone who would like to come along.

But our exciting news is that we have started a new, weekly group called Dovelets! This is a community group for children aged 0-5 with additional or complex needs and their parents/carers which takes place each Tuesday from 10-11am. Once a month there is a music therapy session, but the remaining sessions involve sensory and messy play. We have lots of fun and we still have room for more children. So if you know of any family who might benefit from joining Dovelets, please do tell them about us as we are always happy to welcome new friends.

If you would like to find out any further information about any of our community groups, please contact our Community Worker, Ruth Bridges on **01379 309062** or at **rthbridges@gmail.com**



# Start your Guiding Adventure

Would your daughter like to start a Guiding journey and become a Rainbow, (4-7 years) Brownie (7-10 years), Guide (10-14 years) or Ranger (14-19 years)? All Guiding sections offer an array of opportunities and adventures in an environment where girls can gain confidence and flourish whether that be by sleeping away from home, baking bread, learning about different cultures or flying through the air on a zip wire. Guiding is about having fun, building confidence, trying new things and making friends, whatever your age.



Recent adventures have included sleepovers, ready steady cook nights, snow tubing, trying to break a world record, learning about Indian culture by practicing tying saris, making chapatis and tasting Indian food, making pancakes, fire lighting and resilience training from our peer educators.

The adventures do not stop when you're an adult either. Our Rainbow leader Holly was



part of a team of leaders that took part in a GOLD project (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development) in Greece last summer providing training to the Greek Girl Guide Association. Brownie and Guide leader Helen also spent time at the Guiding World Centre in India last year. But it is not all about international adventures some of the best smiles and laughter are at our weekly meetings. We are in need of additional volunteers to support the running of our units, whether that be administrative tasks or helping out at weekly meetings. We have a range of roles which can be designed around the time and skills you can offer. In return you get the opportunity to shape the next generation of girls, learn new skills, have fun and make new friends.

If your daughter is interested in joining any of our sections or you would like to discuss volunteering opportunities, please register your interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

# 80th anniversary of D-Day

Join families of veterans, local organisations, VIPs and members of the public at a special evening event in Diss Park on Thursday 6th June 2024 to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day.



The town will fall silent at 9.15pm as local organisations and groups honour the sacrifice and service of men and women on D-Day in 1944, the largest naval, air and land operation in history.

Arrive at Diss Park before 8pm to see your local Cadet Forces and Scout Group parade into the park and carry out a short drill display. Compered by the Salvation Army, there will be a D-Day commemoration followed by the Last Post, a minute's silence and Reveille.

Two Diss High School students from Year 10 will share the poem for schools created especially for this occasion before Diss Churches Together lead us in prayer and a hymn.

One of our VIPs, a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk, will unveil the newly extended beacon, and a time capsule containing photos, newspaper articles and readings

from these events, condolences messages for our late Queen, information on the beacon walking and cycling trails and much more will be installed during the event.

At 9.15pm and alongside many other communities in the UK, the Diss beacon will be lit, whilst the International Tribute – commemorating D-Day and giving thanks for eighty years of peace and freedom - is read out.

This poignant event will conclude by 9.30pm with the national anthem.



If you are the son, daughter, or grandchild of a Diss veteran who served during D-Day, please get in touch. We would like to invite you as a special guest to our commemorative evening event.

This event is being organised by Diss Town Council alongside the Royal British Legion, Salvation Army, Army and Air Cadets & Diss Churches Together. With thanks to Rosedale Funeral Home for producing the programmes.



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## Day Excursions

**Spalding Flower Parade**

Saturday 11th May 2024 - £27

**Sheringham Park Rhododendrons & Cromer**

Monday 27th May 2024 - £25

**Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

Saturday 8th June 2024 - £57 incl

**Holt to Sheringham on the North Norfolk Railway**

Sunday 23rd June 2024 - £40 incl

**RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival**

Saturday 6th July 2024 - £77 incl

**Bletchley Park - Home of the Codebreakers**

Sunday 14th July 2024 - £52 incl

**Buckingham Palace State Rooms**

Saturday 27th July 2024 - £65 incl

**Sandringham Flower Show**

Wednesday 31st July 2024 - £48 incl



[www.simonds.co.uk](http://www.simonds.co.uk)

01379 647300



# Your Safer Neighbourhood Team

The safer neighbourhood team are currently concentrating on the three main priorities - Road safety, Nuisance Anti-social behaviour and drug dealing. These priorities have been set after public consultation.



Over the past few months, a number of drug warrants have been conducted across the area with some significant results, this is with thanks to members of the public who assisted with being our eyes and ears and reporting what they have seen or heard to the police or via crime stoppers **0800 555111**.

## Crime prevention

Please record serial numbers of items in your home/garages and sheds or take photos of items of value. At warrants we often find items we believe to be stolen and having the serial number or an actual photo of a stolen item makes it easier to return the stolen item to the rightful owner and will assist in any prosecutions. You can also

be overt with security pen markings to make your items undesirable to others.

Just to remind you we are still on Twitter **@SouthNorfPolice** and Facebook where we can provide real time updates on certain activities, or you can join Police Connect which is a messaging service connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via e-mail, text or phone. There is no charge for this service - all messages you receive are free. You can register to receive information about the issues that most matter to you and be among the first to be alerted by police in the case of an emergency affecting your area and details can be found on our website.

## Meet the team

We hold regular online meetings which provide an opportunity for you to meet your safer neighbourhood team and discuss any concerns or ideas with them. Visit our website for dates and information on how to join a meeting: **[www.norfolk.police.uk](http://www.norfolk.police.uk)**



Photo - Norfolk Constabulary

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You could observe an adviser, talk to volunteers and see what's involved to help you decide.

You don't need lots of knowledge and skills, just a willingness to learn, as we offer a comprehensive training programme and ongoing support. You will never work alone - a supervisor is always available and there are other volunteers to ask - it's a very friendly environment.

We help and support people with a huge variety of problems connected with debt, housing, relationships, benefits, consumer and many more. We offer advice through face-to-face appointments or by phone and email.

As a volunteer your personal attributes need to include friendliness, good listening skills, a non-judgemental attitude, patience, compassion, respect, tact, reliability - in fact all the qualities we would like to uphold in everyday life.

If you're interested or would like to find out more please email us at **[v.recruitment@cadat.org.uk](mailto:v.recruitment@cadat.org.uk)** and one of our team will contact you.

For further information see our website **[cadat.org.uk](http://cadat.org.uk)**

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# A hub and hall for all

How amazing it is to have such a vibrant arts venue right here in Diss? Occupying a wonderful Grade II Listed Building, steeped in a rich agricultural history, The Corn Hall remains at the heart of our community, a hub and hall for all.



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Come and enjoy the rising stars of the national comedy circuit, the best regional and touring theatre companies, every kind of music including tribute acts so good that you almost can't tell them from the real thing – and so much more. It's all happening right here in Diss. Who says that you have to head to the city to enjoy a great night out?!

Here are just some of the highlights we have coming up between April and September – new shows are added all the time too!

# CORN THE HALL

- **Saturday 27 April** - The Real Thing – The Brand New Day Tour
- **Friday 17 May** – Discos for Grown Ups – Pop Up Disco Party
- **Friday 31 May** – Solve-Along-a-Murder She-Wrote – Sing a Song of Murder
- **Saturday 8 June** – I'm Every Whitney – Live
- **Friday 14 June** – The Best In Comedy
- **Friday 12 July** – DS:UK Tribute to Dire Straits
- **Saturday 13 July** – Now That's What I Call Drag – Pride!
- **2 - 4 August** – The Corn Hall Beer Festival
- **Friday 9 August** – 50 Years of Fender – The Stratocaster Story
- **Wednesday 21 August** – Le Vent Du Nord



The Corn Hall truly is a hall for all and everyone is welcome. Why not call in and enjoy a delicious lunch or homemade cake in the wonderful café too?

For our full programme of events and exhibitions, go to [www.thecornhall.co.uk](http://www.thecornhall.co.uk)  
The Corn Hall, St Nicholas Street, Diss.  
Norfolk IP22 4LB  
Box office Tel **01379 652241**.

# Diss Wool Shed

Love to knit or crochet, want to meet new people, chat and buy new and pre-loved supplies then look no further. Come along to Diss Wool Shed held the 1st Tuesday of the Month at Diss Methodist Church Rooms, Victoria Road Diss from 10-12 noon. Free car parking.



We are members of Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers (NKAS) and we knit and stitch for charity. Membership is completely free. When you become a member you receive (usually by email) a monthly newsletter. We have our own website with both knitting and crocheting patterns available to print for free. There's a What's Needed section so you never run out of ideas of what to make! Members come along once a month to



donate their made items to us for distribution to local charities. There are lots of other goodies on offer such as new yarn to buy, pre-loved patterns, needles, and haberdashery items, books and jigsaws and donated wool. Raffle and Refreshments. Free Entry



If you're interested please contact me Heather (South Norfolk Organiser NKAS) on **07719 546822** or email **heather79knitting@outlook.com**

## Diss Knit & Natter Group

If you'd like to go to a more regular group then come along to Diss Knit & Natter Group held at the same venue but every Wednesday 2 - 4pm in the Colin Riches Room. There's a small weekly fee to cover the cost of the room hire and refreshments. Bring your own supplies of knitting, crochet, cross stitch etc...

If you've ever wanted to learn how to knit or crochet then come along and see us, there's always someone who'll be able to help.

Contact details as above. Everyone always welcome.

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# Diss Litterpicking Group - goes from strength to strength



The Litterpicking Group is now into its third year, and with every monthly pick we go from strength to strength! Over the past few months we have seen our picks attract many more volunteers, and through this we have been able to clear more areas of town than we were able to before!

We have had new equipment purchased through grants provided by South Norfolk Council and been given further support from Diss Town Council. We are also proud to have co-operated with other community groups in Diss such as the Repair Cafe, who repair and maintain many of our pickers when needed. This prolongs their lifespan and increases the sustainability of our group!

Going into 2024 we continue to meet on the second Saturday of every month. We meet at 10am outside the DYCC on Shelfanger Rd,

where we begin by discussing and sharing suggestions for areas of the town to visit. Equipment is then provided to all volunteers who then head out to pick for two hours before coming back to the DYCC for midday. All collected rubbish is then disposed of in the DYCC bins, provided to us by Diss Town Council.

Anyone is welcome to join us on our litter picks! No registration is required, simply come along to our next pick and everything needed for the morning will be provided. We are also happy to support anyone looking to pick litter in their own time and are always open to suggestions on future locations to clear! If you are looking for support in your own litter picking ventures or would like to learn more about our group, we can be found on Facebook by simply searching for 'Diss Litterpicking Group'.

# Howdy Partners! Saddle up for a Carnival to remember!

Y'all are invited to dust off your boots, grab your Stetsons, and join us for a rootin' tootin' good time on Sunday 16th June! This year, we're takin' it back to the days of saloons and cowboys with the theme 'Wild West' - Diss Town Ain't Big Enough For Both Of Us!



It's gonna be a rip-roarin' celebration, and we reckon you won't want to miss out on the fun. So, saddle up and be part of a showdown like no other! Ride alongside daring outlaws, cowboys, saloon girls and celebrate your favourite icons of the Wild West in this year's procession! Showcasing a great variety of community groups, schools, organisations, and entertainment acts!

This year's procession begins at 12.30 from Diss High School and follows the usual route along Walcot Road down Mount Street then along Market Place, Mere Street, and Park Road, where it completes its journey at Diss Park in time for the Fun Day to begin.

Everyone is welcome to join the parade – whether on your own, with friends, family, workmates, or even your four-legged companions! And for those in sizeable groups, why not spruce up a trailer? The more inventive you get with costumes, float decorations and props, the better! Grab yourselves an application form from our webpage, fill in your details and send it our way: [www.diss.gov.uk/diss-carnival](http://www.diss.gov.uk/diss-carnival), and guess what? It's absolutely free to join... so all the more reason to 'Giddy Up' and celebrate with us!



Following the Parade is the Fun Day which we're super excited for – kicking off at 1.30pm at Diss Park, which will come alive with stallholders, live entertainment, and activities for all ages! We have a fantastic selection of foodies lined up to cater to all tastes, alongside these we have sweet treats, bars, entertainers, crafters, and plenty of have-a-go games.

Larry Gray's Funfair returns even bigger and better this year with rides and stalls to entertain the whole family.

Get ready to turn into a western cowboy in the vintage horsebox photo booth, grab a few selfies with icons from the Wild West, listen to live country music by the pavilion, and have a go at Texas two-step dance lessons with the fantastic 'Hank DJ Sleet'!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the local businesses who sponsored this event – 15 in total! We really couldn't have done it without your generosity - **Thank You:** Diss Scaffolding Services, Priory Healthcare, HL Perfitt Stonemasons, Lexham Insurance, Phoenix Events East Ltd, Dipple and Conway Opticians, Travis Perkins Diss, Reads Property Developments, Rosedale Funeral Home, Larking Gowen,



Immerse yourself in the action with a Western-themed Stunt Show, Tribe-All dancers will help us to get the party started with their fabulous fitness dancers, Foolhardy Circus will guarantee to get us smiling with their cheeky circus antics and their specialist whip act!

Hannah is making a triumphant return this year, bringing along her much-loved Fun Dog Show. This wonderful event promises an array of engaging judging categories, providing you the perfect opportunity to showcase your beloved four-legged companions.

Adkins Opticians, Pearce & Kemp, Tudor Bakehouse, Scott Properties and Baileys Fish and Chips.

*Stay in the loop with the latest Carnival news on our Facebook page (@DissCarnival) and at [www.diss.gov.uk/diss-carnival](http://www.diss.gov.uk/diss-carnival) It's going to be a Wild West Showdown you won't wanna miss! Yee-haw!*

**\* Look out for our official Diss Carnival Programme arriving through Diss letterboxes in May!**



# Diss Museum - a hub of history



**Diss Museum has often been compared to Dr. Who's Tardis.**

It may look small but you can spend hours in it, taking in the imaginative variety of displays.

This season, the main case features the history of the football club.

The display centres on the evolution of the colours and strip, the war years, famous players and the FA Vase success of 1994. Items include memorabilia loaned by former Diss, Ipswich and England striker Trevor Whymark.

In election year, there are wall panels tracing the history of the South Norfolk constituency, from its Conservative and Liberal days in the late 19th century, to the Labour victories in the 1920s and 1945, votes for women and the Conservative consolidation since the 1950s.

There will be a timeline of the life and work of Thomas Paine, from Thetford to Diss and on to Sussex, London, America and Paris before his return to the States.

The author of Rights of Man worked as a staymaker in Diss in the 1760s. The museum commemorated him in 2009, winning local, regional and national awards for the Tom Paine Festival.

New Acquisitions include: attic finds from Mount Street, a scary health remedy, Fair Green Post Office (not Horizon related!), Diss Shopping Week 1949, the Local Home Guard in WW2, Alma Electronics memories and domestic items. It will also feature Diss in 30 objects.

The Community Cabinet will display detectorist items, the Madgett Cycles centenary and also 100 years of the Royal British Legion.

Museum Manager Basil Abbott said; "Many Diss people have never set foot in the museum. Most of our visitors are from elsewhere; but the locals are missing so much that they would find fascinating about the town's past."

The museum has free admission and is open every day, except Sunday, from 11.00am to 3.00pm.

# Disappearing Friends

How would you feel if half your friends disappeared? This is what happened to Diss Museum. The museum's Friends are supporters whose regular contributions are essential to pay running costs. When the museum reopened after its long Covid break it became obvious that only half the original number of Friends had reappeared. Then the museum's finances suffered a second blow. Like other cultural organisations, we had relied on grants from local authorities. Spending cuts meant that this money is no longer available.

At present our income is not enough to cover our expenses. The museum showcases the town's heritage and belongs to everyone, particularly to our children. It is not about to disappear. We do have some reserves, but these must be retained to cover large, unexpected costs, such as major building repairs, rather than be eaten up by every day running expenses.

Meanwhile, although we are determined to preserve the museum's quirky charm, we need better display cabinets and updated lighting. One of the pillars on the museum arcade is rotting and needs to be replaced, like for like. Go and look and you will see what we mean. We suspect the

other six pillars need major surgery too. It is up to the museum trustees to find new sources of income. But the people of Diss and the surrounding area can help with this too. We need to find more people to sign standing orders and replace those lost Friends. The annual cost of being a Friend is only £10 for an individual or £15 for family membership. This provides reduced entrance fees for our First Friday lectures, a newsletter and a ten per cent reduction in the shop. Residents who love the museum may consider leaving a legacy in the future.

We need our Friends now more than ever. If you are able to help, please email us on **fodimus@gmail.com** or drop into the museum.

## 2024 Friends of Diss Museum 2024

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# Rotary Club of Diss and District - An Update



The photograph was taken at Carrow Fire station when Diss Rotarians lent a hand to Brian Earley and to the Norfolk Fire Service, with the loading of hospital beds and medical equipment bound for Ukraine. The club has funded a few journeys of medical equipment to Ukraine, and we are awaiting a number of fire engines which we also plan to send.

The Club received an award for its donations to Shelter Boxes. This has followed collections made at the time of earthquakes and other disasters. In November our President raised £1100 for her President's Charities which this year are Pancreatic Cancer UK and Norfolk and Waveney Mind.

Also the Club supported the Rotary International Campaign "End Polio Now". Money was raised at a garden party and by a bucket collection at Morrisons. The money was supplemented by gift aid and that figure was trebled by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Members of the club enjoy charity fundraising and social events while also having regular dinner meetings twice per month to listen to speakers and plan activities. We had great fun at Christmas, visiting the lights at Helmingham Hall and having an enjoyable Christmas meal to follow. We also supported the Trussell Trust by collecting food at Tesco just before Christmas and the Club presented the Trust with 20 slow cookers to distribute. We went out on four December evenings with Santa Claus and his reindeer and played Christmas music to entertain. People could track our route on their mobile phone and await our arrival. The Santa Claus collection raised about £2000 and will be used locally for Children's charities. Families in Diss were also helped by Rotary funds distributed by The Salvation Army and local schools.

Our next events include whisky tasting and a Quiz. Check our website for details ([www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=465/](http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=465/)).

# Reflecting on a Year of Service: A Message from the Mayor



As my term as Mayor draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the past year with a profound sense of gratitude and fulfilment. Serving as Mayor of the Diss community has been an incredible journey, filled with enriching experiences, cherished memories, and valuable lessons.

Throughout the year, I've had the privilege of attending a multitude of events. One of the highlights of my mayoral year was undoubtedly the Diss Carnival in June, where I was able to join in with the parade celebrations and soak up the vibrant atmosphere at the Fun Day. I've been fortunate to attend many civic services and receptions in the past year; Thetford, Felixstowe, Stowmarket, Ipswich and Bungay, where I had the pleasure of representing our town and forging

connections with fellow civic leaders from across the region. It was a humbling experience to witness the spirit of unity and cooperation that binds us together in service to our respective communities.





The Diss RAF Association's Battle of Britain Concert at Diss Corn Hall and the Diss Remembrance Parade both stand out as other memorable events, reminding us of the sacrifices made by our brave servicemen and women. Similarly, attending the Fair Green Neighbourhood Association's Annual General Meeting at Diss Bowls Club provided me with valuable insights into the grassroots efforts that sustain our community.

But beyond the formalities and ceremonies, what I've enjoyed most about my mayoral year are the moments of connection with the people of our town. Whether it was sharing in the joy of the Diss U3A's Twentieth Birthday Party, turning on the Diss Christmas Lights alongside others or singing at St Mary's Church Lunchtime Carols; these events enabled me to celebrate with our community. Throughout my tenure, I've also had the privilege of hosting several events in support of my chosen charity, Nelson's Journey; a car boot sale, a carol concert and my own civic service. It has been

heartwarming to see the generosity and compassion of our community in action, coming together to support this fantastic charity.

As I look back on the past year, I am grateful for the lessons I've learned along the way. Serving as Mayor has taught me the importance of empathy, understanding and collaboration in building a strong and inclusive community. It has been an honour to serve alongside dedicated councillors, community leaders, and volunteers who work tirelessly to make our town a better place for all.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the residents of our town for supporting me with the role of Mayor. It has been a privilege to serve you and I am grateful for the friendships, memories, and experiences we've shared together. As I pass the torch to my successor, I do so with confidence in the bright future that lies ahead for our community.

With warmest regards,  
**Cllr Kieran Murphy**  
*Mayor of Diss*





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# Opportunities for young people

## **Diss Youth Group (DYG) fortnightly on Wednesdays, 7.00pm – 8.30pm**

We run a fun programme which includes team challenges, dodgeball and crafts for young people in school Years 6 – 9. Entry is £1.50. We are temporarily holding our sessions at Green Hall in Diss due to the DYCC closure.

**Your help is needed** - We are looking for volunteers to join us on a rota basis. If you are interested, please get in touch.



## **Quaker Wood**

Monthly conservation sessions are run with young people aged 11-19 years, which enables them to take social action, be physically active and enjoy the woodland. They learn how to use a variety of tools and have said; "Although the work was difficult and physically challenging, it was worth it," and "I learnt how to make stakes, trim trees and repair the dead hedge." "I enjoyed it because we were in nature, and I was doing something for the community."

## **Informal & Relaxed Drop-in Sessions for Young People** Aged 17 - 20 (or 16 in Year 12)

Qualified Youth & Community Workers will support you to explore what could be next

for you - volunteering, training, employment - whilst helping to increase your confidence, gain resilience and develop new skills enabling you to work towards your goals, all in an inclusive and safe environment. Working in partnership with the South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board and Diss and District Bowls Club ensures the thrice yearly Intergenerational Luncheons run. Young people, with the support of staff and adult volunteers, prepare and cook lunch for all, then sit, chat and participate in activities with the guests. These luncheons bring together people of all ages, and we always receive great positive feedback.



## **South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board (SNYAB)**

- If you are aged 12 -19 and would like to have your voice heard, then come and join us. We work to ensure that services and facilities improve for young people, locally and nationally.

If you would like any further information about any of the above youth sessions, then please contact Julia Fairbrother on **07546 059061** or email **julia@mtmyouthservices.org.uk**

# Green Corridors - Linking Nature Together!

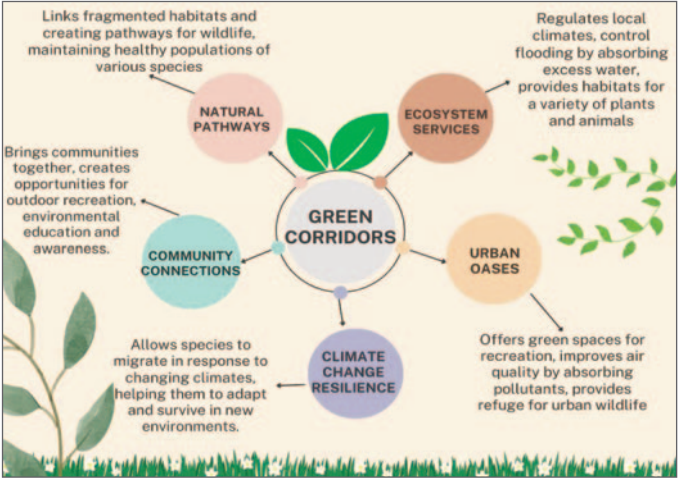
Following suggestions from members of the public at our last Annual Meeting, Diss Town Council have formed an Action Group to implement a Green Corridor Network across Diss!

of town and going out of town to the East! The Action Group is always looking for further advice, suggestions and support in continuing this project from local residents, as many of you already work hard to create



## What is a Green Corridor?

A Green Corridor is a line of hedgerow plants, wildflowers, trees or aquatic plants that create a safe route for various wild animals to travel between the many habitats that can be found across Diss and its surrounding communities! The intention is to create a 'Green Network' between all these habitats so that the town becomes a more safe and suitable place for wildlife to live. Work has already been completed to identify and enhance the Green Corridors between Diss and Roydon, and now the Action Group is looking to make improvements on sites closer to the centre



and maintain safe havens for wildlife across our town! If you are interested in learning more about our project or would like to support this project yourselves in any way, please contact us via email on [towncouncil@diss.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@diss.gov.uk)



# Diss Heritage Transport Festival



It may seem early but plans are already underway for the Diss Heritage Transport Festival 2024 which will take place on Sunday 22nd September with town centre roads closed for through traffic for the event.



As in previous years, classic vehicles (including cars, commercials, cycles and motor cycles) will be on display in and around Diss town centre. As you wander around the town, expect to see the impressive display of the 1950's pop up filling station, or last year's unexploded ordnance, buskers, films at the Corn Hall, dance demonstrations and much more. There will be fun for all the family with live music and delicious food from local traders and the Triangle BBQ. Take the opportunity

to visit the wonderful array of shops the town has to offer, especially those which are usually closed on a Sunday. Drivers and passengers are all encouraged to dress to suit the period of their transport. There will be a prize for the best vehicle and suitably attired occupant/s. In fact, everyone attending the festival is encouraged to dress in vintage or retro style, so rummage through your, or your parents' wardrobes for a stylish outfit! There will also be a raffle offering some really great prizes.

This is a great opportunity to fill up the town centre with our classic vehicles and show off the motoring and transport heritage and our town.

If you would like to assist with this event or if you would like to exhibit your vehicle and are not yet registered, please contact Peter Hyde on **01379 741414** or **annechyde@gmail.com**





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# No. 8 Marketplace - A Real Community Space

No.8 Marketplace is the old Beales department store right in the centre of the town. Through Diss Heritage Trust, the unused building has been turned into a thriving retail space providing commercial opportunities for local craft makers and other small business owners.



No.8, as it is more commonly known, has retail spaces selling craft made jewellery, furniture, ceramics, leather goods, children's clothing, wooden signs and home decor pieces. No.8 also has pre-loved and vintage clothing, vinyl records / CDs, and Take Five café overlooking the market square.

**The Ballroom@No.8**, with its blue barrel vaulted ceiling and newly renovated dance floor, is a legacy from the family home that No.8 used to be. The 200 year-old maple floor has been lovingly restored and is again being used for dancing but there are also art, craft and children's play and learning and wellbeing classes.

The first live music event at No.8 took place on 22nd March bringing the opportunity to dance the night away at Diss market place!

**The Ballroom@No.8** is available to hire for events, classes, weddings, parties, meetings or whatever you need a space for.

Applications from craft makers who would like to have a retail space in the centre of Diss are always welcome.

**No.8 is of the community, for the community.**

Follow No.8 Marketplace on Facebook to keep up to date with this dynamic and ever-developing venture.





# The History of Diss Town FC

In 1888 the cricket club had suggested forming a football club and a meeting took place at the Crown Hotel with Mr W Balls presiding, and it was decided to share the cricket ground at Roydon Road. However other local Diss teams were playing before this 1888 meeting, with The Diss Young Men's Institute and the Diss Young Men's Friendly Society both fielding teams.



on Saturday December 15th 1888 against Beccles 2nd XI which ended 2-2, despite Diss playing with only ten men. Below, we show the earliest known photograph of the Diss team. The team from 1895/96 line up outside the old Roydon Road pavilion. Back row; MW Ireland, A Pearce, GT Williams, RA



In 1892 the football club won their first trophy, the Norfolk Junior Cup, defeating Yarmouth 2nd XI 3-1 in the final after a goalless draw. Here

we show a winner's medal from the final. The first record of a Diss Town match in the local newspaper reports on an away match

Savory (Hon.Sec), CH Chandler, EG Shettle, Referee - CA Campbell (with dog laying at his feet). Middle row; G Pearce, A Murray, CH Corbett (Captain), JJ Bobby, J Drane. Front row; G Rice, F Oakes.

In 1906/07 Diss joined the Norwich & District League and played Ipswich Town (then a Southern Amateur League side) in the F.A Amateur Cup in 1929/30 and 1931/32. Losing 4-2 at Ipswich, but drawing 3-3 at Ipswich two years later before losing 4-2 again in the replay which was actually played back at Ipswich a week later.



The club celebrated its Jubilee on April 5th 1949 and a match was played against a Norwich City XI side (see image of programme). This included Manchester City goalkeeper Alec Thurlow, a local lad who had played for the Diss Tuesday side before eventually signing for Manchester City in 1947. In 1935/36 Diss Town moved up to the Norfolk & Suffolk League and were runners-up in 1955-56. By now they had adopted the new tangerine kit changing from their old black and white quartered shirts.

The colours were put forward as a suggestion by The Diss Express to follow Blackpool who had recently won the FA Cup in 1953.

They won the League Cup in 1956/57, and again in 1960/61. In 1964 the club joined the Anglian Combination, winning Division One in 1967/68 and the League Cup, and were Champions again in 1973/74. In 1975 Diss won the Norfolk Senior Cup beating St Andrews 3-2 at Carrow Road and were also Premier Division runners-up. In 1975/76 they finished as league runners up again and also won the League Cup. They also won the Premier Division in 1976/77 and again in 1978/79 and the League Cup in 1979/80 and 1981/82.

In 1983 Diss moved to Brewers Green Lane, and in 1988/89 became founder members of Division One of the Jewson League (Eastern Counties League). Winning the Division One title in 1991/92, they also returned to Carrow Road for the Norfolk Senior Cup Final against Fakenham drawing 2-2 before losing 2-1 in the replay. The club's reserve team also played at Carrow Road in that same season, winning the Norfolk Junior Cup (100 years after the first team had first won it).

Manager Bill Punton, below, then led the club to its greatest triumph in 1993/94 winning

the FA Vase in front of 13,450 at Wembley over Taunton Town 2-1



after extra time. In 1995/96 they finished as runners-up in the Premier Division and won the Norfolk Senior Cup beating Wroxham 4-0. They won the cup again in 2002/03 defeating Gt Yarmouth 4-1 before losing to Wroxham in the 2003/04

season but beating them 3-0 in the 2004/05 final.

An exhibition of memorabilia of Diss Town and ex-Diss Town player Trevor Whymark who later joined Ipswich Town, is currently on display at Diss Museum.

**Gary Enderby**



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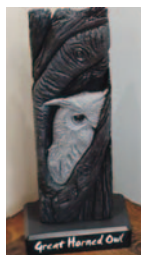
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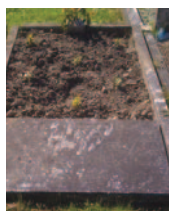
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# Quaker Wood - What have we been up to?

Whilst it may seem in winter that the wood is dormant and waiting for spring, our volunteers have been hard at work with various projects across the site. One such project has been our dead hedging, seen along the Western edge of The Wood.

other traditional techniques in their woodland management plan. As we head from spring into summer we will begin scything again, with training opportunities available to anyone who is interested in volunteering with us or learning more.



Dead hedging is the process of cutting and laying hedgerow plants in a way that makes the hedge stronger, promotes growth of the plants and makes use of natural materials grown in The Wood.



To lay a hedgeplant you cut across enough of the main stem of the plant to be able to lay the main stem down along the course of the hedge (this is called making a pleach or pleacher). Once the hedge is laid you plant stakes along the hedge-line and weave them all together using long stems of hazel, gathered from hazels nearby that have been coppiced for wood production. There is a unique hedge laying style for almost every region in the UK!  
The Quaker Wood team use this and many

Quaker Wood hosts working mornings on the first Saturday of every month, meeting at 9:30am and working til 12:30pm. We always encourage new volunteers, with people of all ages and abilities welcome to join us! Diss Youth Group also volunteer regularly with us. More information about all we do can be found both on our website [www.quakerwood.org.uk](http://www.quakerwood.org.uk) and on our Facebook page.



## My Dad and Operation Overlord (D-Day)

**My father was John Arthur Rogers, born in Forty Acre Lane, Canning Town, in May 1924.**

Two weeks after his 20th birthday, my Dad stormed the beaches of Normandy to free Europe from the yoke of Nazi rule!

He did not do this on his own, a couple of his mates came with him and a few other lads from around the world, plus some friendly Americans he met on the way.

He sadly left some of them forever on the Battlefields of Europe.

My dad had been in the local Home Guard, and in January 1943, he was called up. After his basic training he joined the Royal Engineers, where in 1943 he became a driver. On D-Day he was a member of 962 Company Royal Engineers. He was due on Gold Beach (sub-section Jig Beach) on D-Day, but owing to a delay clearing the beach, he disembarked early on the 7th June.

His job was to help to construct the Mulberry Harbour (B) (British). Once the harbour was established, he moved inland.

The first main town they came to was Bayeux, and then on to Cean. He then fought his way through France, Belgium and Holland, then finally into Germany. His main job was to help to build Bailey Bridges, which he did many of along the way.

Even when peace was declared, the war was not over for him, and he was finally discharged in June 1947 at York.

Dad spent most of his working life with local companies in east London and was working for Newham Council when he passed away in November 1986 at the age of 62 after suffering a heart attack.

**Robert John Rogers.**  
**Branch Secretary,**  
**Diss and District Royal British Legion.**

# Annual Walk of Remembrance – May 2024



Local family run Rosedale Funeral Home are inviting families who have lost a loved one to join them again this year at their annual Walk of Remembrance in Diss Park on Sunday 12th May.

“The walk is an opportunity to remember a loved one whilst enjoying the beautiful local scenery on what we hope will be a memorable Spring Day,” says Christian Fairbrother, Funeral Director at Rosedale Diss.

“Please feel free to bring along your family and friends including four legged friends, so we can all take the time together to remember those we have lost. The Walks of Remembrance are a way for the staff at Rosedale to give something back to our families, and to let you know that you are never far from our thoughts as well as

supporting those who have been bereaved in our local communities.”

Following a minute silence, a dove release will mark the start of the walks, which begin at 12 Noon from The Park Pavilion, Diss. Registration will be available to families on the day from 11.00am to 11.45am and we will again be supported by Park Radio. Each walk offers the opportunity to visit St Mary’s Church, where a special ‘Book of Remembrance’ will be in place in which a message can be written and there will also be an opportunity to light a candle.

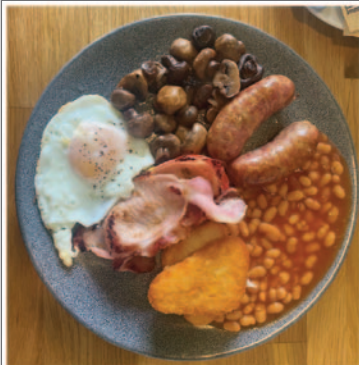
There will be a choice of two circular routes; a shorter walk of one mile around the picturesque market town of Diss and a three mile walk which will take in the surrounding countryside and the local village of Palgrave.



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# Fair Green Brocante

July 14th is more than just France's Bastille Day. While Parisians revel in the streets, Diss celebrates under the sunshine at Fair Green with its annual Brocante. Since 2015, the Fair Green Neighbourhood Association has hosted these events, pausing only during the pandemic. Last year's revival attracted a good crowd of dealers and customers and prompted a repeat for 2024.

Brocantes transcend typical flea markets, offering vintage charm and a treasure trove mixture of bygones and genuine antiques. These markets offer everything from furniture to kitchenalia, books to artworks, plus relics like great-grandma's bed-warmer. Unlike more exclusive markets, brocantes welcome everyone without charging admission fees. Attendees can enjoy ample parking, refreshments and amenities, including a pétanque pitch and playground for children, while well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 14th, 9am to 3pm, for the Bastille Day Brocante at Fair Green. Dealers or amateur enthusiasts looking to sell can book a pitch by contacting [fairgreenbroc@gmail.com](mailto:fairgreenbroc@gmail.com). Pitch fees are £25 for a 5m x 5m space. And for those eager to practice their French, François, the Treasurer, happily accepts payment in pounds or euros.

Additionally, the first car-boot sale of the season will kick off on Fair Green on April 21st. Fair Green, though privately owned, remains open to the public thanks to the efforts of the Neighbourhood Association. Their responsibilities include maintaining the green space, managing amenities and even funding services like the £550 a year for emptying dog-poo bins. Events such as the brocante and car-boot sales, along with contributions from the circus and funfair fees, help sustain Fair Green as a welcoming community space for all.





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# Grab a bargain! Diss Park Car Boots 2024

As the sun starts to shine brighter and the days grow longer, it's time to dust off those forgotten treasures and join in the vibrant atmosphere of the Car Boot Sales held in Diss Park. Hosted by various community groups and organisations, these events are always an ideal opportunity for sellers to have a clear out while supporting a good cause, and buyers to bag a bargain or two! Mark your calendars and get ready for some bargain-hunting fun!

Join the excitement: Starting bright and early at 7am, sellers can secure their spot at Diss Park for just £5 per pitch, payable upon arrival – no need to book. The events will finish at 1pm. Whether you're clearing out your house or decluttering your garage, this is the perfect opportunity to turn your pre-loved items into cash while enjoying a morning out in the community.



## Dates for your diaries

**28th April - Diss Carnival Committee:** Kickstarting the series of Car Boot Sales, the Diss Carnival Committee sets the stage to fundraise ahead of this year's Wild West Carnival on 16th June.

**2nd June - Pink Ladies in aid of Breast Cancer**

**23rd June - Park Radio**

**7th July - 2nd Diss Scouts**

**21st July - Diss Town Hawks Under 11s**

**4th August - Diss Town Mayor** (proceeds to support chosen charity)

**8th Sept - Friends of Roydon Primary School**

**29th Sept - Diss Primary PTA**

Whether you're a seller looking to declutter or a buyer on the hunt for those hidden treasures, these events offer a fantastic opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy the summer sunshine.

Looking to fundraise or promote for a cause? Get in touch for our availability: [www.diss.gov.uk/car-boots](http://www.diss.gov.uk/car-boots)

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## A helping hand for South Norfolk residents

South Norfolk Council recognise how important it is for our elderly residents to stay in their own homes for as long as possible and sometimes a small change can make a big difference.

The Council's Handyperson+ scheme supports residents with a wide range of small household repairs and minor adaptation work.

The experienced team can help with many tasks including fitting key safes, fall prevention adaptations, smoke alarms, grab rails and better lighting. They can also offer advice on staying warm during cold weather.

As well as small works, the handyperson will chat to residents during a visit to see if they would benefit from any additional help. They have an in-depth knowledge of grants, allowances and services a resident may be eligible for.

In addition, the team can direct residents to relevant community support, including social clubs or events in the local area to

help combat loneliness.

You may be eligible for the service free of charge if:

- You are over 65
- Have a long-term condition or disability AND
- Receive either Housing Benefit, Guaranteed Pension Credit or Universal Credit.

You may be eligible for our handyperson service with an hourly charge of £10.32 if:

- You are over 65 AND
- Have a long-term condition or disability

You may be eligible for our handyperson service with an hourly charge of £20.78 if:

- You are under 65 you have no long-term condition or disability.

This does not include the cost of any materials.

To contact the Council to request the Handyperson+ service please call **01508 505284**, or email: **handyperson.snc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk**



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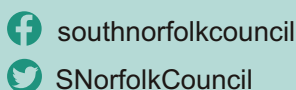
Organise a litter pick with your community group, charity or school and you will automatically be placed in to a prize draw with a chance to **WIN £200\***. Each group taking part will also receive a £20 voucher\* to spend in their community.

\*Terms and Conditions apply, see website for details.

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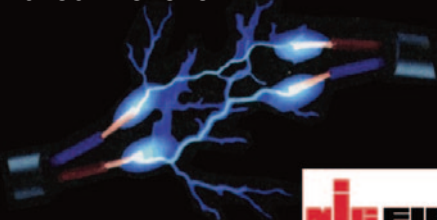
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