

Welcome



Aldeburgh & Thorpeness *our towns...*

Welcome to the third edition of Our Towns: Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.

Our Town focuses on all the great things about living in Aldeburgh and the surrounding towns and villages, from the food and fashion, to music, art and more.

In this issue we're celebrating the festive season and showcasing some of the best present ideas and Christmas events in the area.

On pages 6 and 7 local retailers tell us what to buy your loved ones for the perfect gift, while fashionistas should turn to pages 10 and 11 to find gorgeous garments for their office party.

We've also got foodie tips from Lawson's Deli and a Christmas cake recipe from CRUMB.

And, if you're looking to buy a property in the area, turn to page 4 where we showcase an interesting home that's currently for sale.

If you have any events or good news to share please do get in touch. Call us on 01473 324750/1 or email charlotte.smith-jarvis@archant.co.uk or claire.holmes@archant.co.uk.

Get ready for the festive season in Aldeburgh

Annette Mason-Gordon from the Aldeburgh Business Association counts down to Christmas

Let the countdown to your Christmas begin in Aldeburgh. Allow the town to inspire you and make your Christmas shopping a pleasure with delicious local produce to tempt your taste buds; decorating ideas to give your home a magical festive look and unique gifts to delight family and friends.

November 24: Traditionally the day when families gather together in the kitchen to bake and enjoy Christmas pudding with everyone getting a turn to mix, and an opportunity to make a wish. So gather those ingredients together and get stirring!

November 30: A very special

day for the town when residents and visitors are invited to celebrate the switch on of the Christmas lights and soak up the festive atmosphere with celebrations organised by the Aldeburgh Business Association, its members and businesses throughout the town.

December 3: At 6.30pm Aldeburgh Parish Church will be packed with children and adults celebrating the Christingle – a symbolic fruit made from a decorated orange surmounted by a candle. This popular service originates from the Moravian community and celebrates Christ, the Light of the World.

December 4: The day to remember someone dear who cannot be near this Christmas. Be sure to visit Peter at the Post Office for the last chance to post cards to Asia, the Far East and New Zealand.

December 11: Last orders! This may be your last chance to place orders with many independent suppliers in Aldeburgh so plan ahead to keep your family and friends well fed throughout Christmas and the New Year with free range turkeys, Suffolk hams, lovingly made chutneys and relishes, richly fruited Christmas puddings, cakes and mince pies.

December 17: Seven days to

go and running out of ideas? Aldeburgh has a wealth of independent and well known high street shops to inspire you from fun stocking fillers for all the family, to books, fashion, accessories and handbags, pointsettias and amaryllis, vouchers for family portraits, electrical goods, glittering jewellery, fine wine and fine art.

December 24: No matter how much planning you do, or how well organised you are there's always a last minute purchase which you simply cannot live without and, even if the east wind dost blow, you can be sure to receive a warm welcome in Aldeburgh.

NEWS IN BRIEF

We take a look at some of the stories that have made the headlines in the last month



The 25th Aldeburgh Poetry Festival was a success, with renowned literary figures and actors such as Ben Whishaw, Bertie Carvel and Jack Laskey taking part.



The Red House in Aldeburgh won the best non-residential new built design in the 2013 Suffolk Coastal Quality of Place Awards.



Retailers battered through the effects of St Jude, with many shops remaining without power until the day following the storm.

Christmas show from Common Ground

Following the success of their first Christmas show, The Perils of Pinocchio, Common Ground Theatre Company present The Canterville Ghost and Other Spooks – created by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries, best known for their productions for Eastern Angles.

The plot focuses on Mr and Mrs Otis, who move with their children to Canterville Chase, undeterred by its reputation among locals for a headless horseman, white ladies,

ghostly pirates and zombies, all presided over by The Canterville Ghost – a Tudor fop with a centuries-old curse and a (very silly) hat upon his head.

Whymark and Harries use "The Canterville Ghost" by Oscar Wilde as the springboard for a series of spooky encounters, as the family become acquainted with the other inhabitants of their new home – all of them singing and playing instruments.

Joining Julian in the cast is Suffolk-based actor Stefan Atkinson, who played the title role in one of Julian and Pat's most popular Eastern Angles Christmas shows, Parson Coombes and the Ballad of Mad Dog Creek.

Performances take place from December 27 to 31 at Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh. Tickets are available from 07928765153.

www.commongroundtc.co.uk



■ The Canterville ghost



■ Towards Iken by Sara Johnson

Exhibition to celebrate Britten

New artwork by watercolourist Sara Johnson and members of the Harleston and Waveney Art Trail opens at the Aldeburgh Gallery tomorrow, November 21. The show, entitled Britten's Birthday Bonanza celebrates the East Anglian coastal landscape to coincide with the composer's centenary.

This exhibition follows Sara's recent successful The Rhythm of Reeds show at Snape Maltings Gallery. In Aldeburgh, she will be showing new paintings inspired by the unique atmosphere of the Alde estuary and coastal area so beloved by Britten.

Sara, who moved to Suffolk 25 years ago, said: "I choose places to paint that I love. The Alde and the extensive reedbeds around Snape Maltings are endlessly fascinating.

I am particularly drawn to the atmosphere in winter; the subdued colours, the call of curlew and redshank and the clear light of a crisp, cold day. The sweeping lines of the mudflats at low tide and the soft swaying of the reeds are spellbinding."

The Aldeburgh Gallery exhibition also features oil paintings by Gill Levin and hand printed woodcuts by Chris Mound as well as other painters, textile artists and potters from the HWAT collective.

Cards and smaller items of work will be for sale alongside larger pieces.

"Britten's Birthday Bonanza" exhibition at Aldeburgh Gallery runs from until Wednesday, November 27, 10am to 5pm.



See the town lit up

Aldeburgh High Street will be fully engulfed in Christmas cheer on Saturday, November 30 as the town's Christmas lights are switched on. The event, which will also include a range of festive activities, has been organised by the Aldeburgh Business Association.

Turning on the lights will be TV and radio broadcaster Emma Freud, who will take to the stage at 4.30pm.

As part of the countdown to the tree lighting ceremony, Father Christmas will be arriving in a horse drawn carriage to the sound of the Martlesham Brass Band, and there will be more entertainment throughout the day.

Local shops will also be offering special discounts and competitions and there will be festive master classes to attend too, where you can taste wine, learn how to paint furniture and wrap the perfect gift.

Other family-friendly activities include fairground rides, story time and the opportunity to meet Santa in his grotto at the Baptist Church.

And, once the sun has set at 5.30pm the festivities will end on the beach with a magnificent firework display in front of The Brudenell, which has been sponsored by TA Hotel Collection.

Naomi Tarry, chairman of the Aldeburgh Business Association, said: "This year's celebrations could not have gone ahead without the dedication and support of local businesses and individuals who have volunteered their time and resources generously to make this community event possible.

"A special thank you goes to the East of England Co-op who have, once again, been the main sponsors. Aldeburgh Town Council, Heritage Coast Market Towns Initiative's (HCMTI) Portas funding, Magnox and EDF Energy have also given generously to ensure that Aldeburgh is looking at its best this festive season."

She added: "I'd like to give a huge thanks to Liz and her team for the many months of work put into this special event in Aldeburgh on behalf of the Aldeburgh Business Association. The lights are their gift to the town and we hope that many people will visit both on the switch on day and in the run up to Christmas to soak up the festive atmosphere and show support for our local shops. We're privileged to have a wonderful seaside high street full of independent shops, providing a unique range inspiring gift ideas for Christmas – please do come and see for yourself!"



Programme of events

A range of family-friendly activities will be taking place in the town throughout the day, so make sure you don't miss out.

HIGH STREET STAGE ENTERTAINMENT

2.30pm Opening ceremony by town mayor
2.30pm Craig Cameron
2.45 Martlesham Brass Band
3pm Father Christmas arrives in a horse drawn carriage at his grotto
3pm Framlingham Pop Chorus
3.15pm Martlesham Brass Band
3.30pm Bassline
3.45pm Martlesham Brass Band
4pm Aldeburgh Primary School
4.15pm Revd Canon Nigel Hartley – Mini songs of praise
4.30pm Christmas lights main tree switch on
5pm Fireworks on the beach in front of The Brudenell

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

12.30pm Children's story time session at Write The Blurb
2pm – 4pm Children's face painting at Avocet
1pm – 4pm Hook-a-duck outside Prezzo
10am – 5pm Aldeburgh Through The Ages at the Aldeburgh Gallery

MASTERCLASSES

10am Festive butchery at Salters Family Butchers
10.30am How to wrap gifts with style at Burnett and Company
11am Vegetarian Christmas ideas at Lawson's Deli
11.30am Learn furniture painting with Sandlings, outside Caramel (weather permitting)
12noon Photography with Tony Pick
12noon Festive wine and ale tasting at Russell and Newnes
12noon Cider and wine tasting at Marc 1 Wines
12.45pm and 2pm Learn to jive with Jive Bunnies
2.30pm Hints and tips for an alternative Christmas from Jason Shaw of The White Lion and James Barber of The Brudenell.

PARKING

Please note the High Street will be closed to all traffic from 12noon to 6pm. Parking will be restricted in the High Street from 8am. Free parking will be available in all the Suffolk Coastal District Council car parks on Oakley Square and King Street from 11am to 6pm.

Events in Aldeburgh and Thorpeness in November and December

■ November 21-24:

Aldeburgh Music presents a weekend celebrating Britten's Centenary. Events include a Big Birthday Sing, family concert and performance of Noye's Fludd in Lowestoft. Visit www.aldeburgh.co.uk for full listings.

■ **November 24:** Cool Yule Festive Market, Snape Maltings.

■ **November 29:** A Double Helping of Caramel. Caramel fashion stores have joined forces with B Chocolates of Snape to present a fashion show at Aldeburgh Community Centre tonight from 7pm. Entry

is £13 to include a glass of wine and canapés.

■ **November 30:** Christmas Fair at Aldeburgh Baptist Church, 10am to 1pm.

■ **December 1:** A Celebration of Community at Aldeburgh Parish Church, 10.30am. Trees decorated by various organisations in the town will be blessed.

■ **December 3:** Christingle Service, Aldeburgh Parish Church, 6.30pm.

■ **December 5 to 7:** Friston Aldeburgh Players present Black Comedy, Jubilee Hall

from 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 including a glass of wine and a mince pie. Call 01728 687110 for tickets.

■ **December 7 to 8:** Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Bazaar at Jubilee Hall from 1pm to 4pm.

■ **December 8:** Advent Carol Service, Aldeburgh Parish Church, 6pm.

■ **December 10:** A Community of Carols and telling of the Christmas story, 6.30pm at Aldeburgh Parish Church with mulled wine and mince pies.

■ **December 13 to 22:** Marvel at the singing and dancing in the Co-op Juniors' annual Christmas Spectacular, which is ideal for all the family. Tickets are available from www.coopjuniors.co.uk

■ **December 15:** Festive Carol Service, Leiston All Saints Catholic Church, 3pm. Mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies afterwards.

■ **December 15:** Father Christmas sails into Snape Maltings.

December 21: Winter Solstice at Sutton Hoo from 2.45pm to sundown. Costs £10 per

person to include hot drinks and chocolate yule log. Booking is essential on 01394 276770.

■ **December 22:** Nine lessons and Carols at Aldeburgh Parish Church from 6pm.

■ **December 24:** Christmas Eve Service with carols and the blessing of the crib from 3pm at Aldeburgh Parish Church.

■ **December 24:** Christmas Eve Service, Festival Communion 11.15pm at Aldeburgh Parish Church.

■ **December 25:** Christmas Day Services at Aldeburgh Parish Church from 8am to 10.30am.

■ **December 25:** Brave the cold for the St Elizabeth Hospice Christmas Day Dip, 8.30am to 11am. Call 01473 727776 to take part.

To keep up to date with the latest events in and around Aldeburgh pop into the Tourist Information Centre at 48 High Street. The centre is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Saturday (not Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day).