

The logo for DISS Town Council is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a checkered pattern, flanked by two figures. The text 'DISS' is at the top and 'TOWN COUNCIL' is at the bottom of the circle.

DISS Matters

Autumn/Winter 2024



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Welcome to the Autumn/Winter Edition of Diss Matters

What a year it's been! We hope you had a fantastic summer and enjoyed another busy events season in Diss. The excitement isn't over yet—there's still more to look forward to! As we dive into the festive season, be sure to save the date: December 7th for the much-loved Christmas Lights Switch-On. Enjoy a busy afternoon of live music, comedy, stalls, Santa's grotto, funfair and more (check out pages 8/9 for more info).

Celebrate fantastic achievements in our community with stories from volunteers who are making a difference in our town. Looking for a New Year's Resolution? Why not give something back to your community by helping out the Diss Litter pickers, volunteering at Quaker Wood or discovering the work of Diss' Rotary Club and United Reformed Church, amongst many more.

Feeling creative? Read about the amazing work of local artists who are brightening up our community.

Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kimberley

Kim



Contents

4-5	Council News
6-7	Celebrating Kindness in the Community
8-9	Christmas Lights Switch-On
11	Diss Library Celebrating 60 Years
13	Diss Rotary Club Update
14	Community Mandala Art
15	Rosedale Service of Remembrance
17	1st Diss & Brownies Update
18	Diss URC - A Community Venue
19	Diss & District Royal British Legion
21	Third Anniversary of Diss Litterpicking Group
22-23	Remembrance Service and Parade
24	Norfolk Building Futures
25	Love Learning with Diss u3a
27	Discover Art with Diss Art Society
28	Joan Johns Diss Paintings help Cromer RNLI
29	Enjoy Lunchtime Carols at St Mary's Church
31	Quaker Wood and The Green Gap
35	Taking a look at Diss Gazeteer 1938
36	The sun always shines in No.8 Marketplace
37	New Xmas Market for Diss
39	Meet the Freemasons of Montgomerie Lodge
41	Staying safe this Bonfire Night
44	Meet Ukrainian artist Andriy Nekrasov
45	A friendly Knit & Natter!



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Council news

Funding success for DYCC Futures project

Diss Town Council has been successful in being awarded a UK SPF Pride in Place Community Grant, which will cover the costs



of a feasibility study to determine the future of the Diss Youth & Community Centre. We have appointed FMG Consulting Ltd to undertake the study, which will consider several options, determine the likely demand for community facilities, engage with stakeholders and provide projected levels of income and operating costs to ensure best value for the community. The Town Council will continue to work alongside South Norfolk District Council who have been supportive of the process and the outcomes of the study should be known before the end of the year.

Further details about this project and to give us your views, please visit our website at <https://www.diss.gov.uk/diss-youth-community-centre>. A resident survey will shortly be available for completion on this page so look out for updates soon.

The Grant is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) programme. FMG Consulting Ltd are recognised leaders in the



Funded by
UK Government



establishment of strategy, feasibility studies, masterplans, options appraisals, operational reviews, business case development and operational procurement in the sports and leisure sector.

Community Grant Scheme

Diss Town Council supports voluntary and not-for-profit organisations working for the benefit of Diss residents as part of the Community Grant Scheme. For more information, visit

www.diss.gov.uk/community-grant-scheme. The application deadline is 30th November.

Staying safe

To help reduce knife crime, it will be against the law to own zombie-style knives and machetes from 24 September 2024. Visit <https://orlo.uk/GR7q2> for more information.

Diss Town Council is supporting the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters and their disposal. They present a real danger to waste collection as they are also used in vapes and dust carts are setting on fire due to the batteries. We encourage residents to carefully consider the safety implications of purchases and to dispose of them appropriately.



Events

There are plenty of events taking place in and around Diss this Autumn / Winter. We honour the sacrifices made by our service men and women to protect our freedom at our Remembrance events in November and get into the festive spirit at the Xmas Lights Switch-On in December. Find out more on pages 8-9 & 22-23.

Town Councillor vacancy

If you are passionate about where you live, want to have a say in decisions that impact

district and county councils to support local needs and progress vital projects for the future of the community.

We currently have one vacancy. Find out more at <https://www.diss.gov.uk/the-role-of-a-councillor>

Have your say!

Thank you to everyone who joined us on the Market Place for our 'Meet, Chat, Ask' pop-up events throughout the summer months. It was really useful for us to hear your suggestions and views on current projects and priorities in the town. We'll be taking a break over the winter but do continue to engage with us either face to face during our office opening hours 9.30am – 1pm, via email at towncouncil@diss.gov.uk or phone 01379 643848.

Following the success of these events, keep an eye out for the new Spring dates.



your community and have some spare time, you could make such a big difference to local people's quality of life.

What matters to you in Diss? Is it the condition of the park, the need for more activities for young people, improving services for older people, making the roads safer or ensuring that local businesses can thrive?

Town councillors invest time in local projects and issues to benefit the residents and neighbourhood. They will help make decisions on local services, work closely with



Sarah Villafuerte-Richards

Town Clerk, Diss Town Council

Celebrating Kindness In The Community



In Diss, we are fortunate to have many unsung heroes who consistently go above and beyond for others in the community. They don't seek recognition or reward, but instead are driven by a genuine passion for helping those around them.

We thought this would be a perfect opportunity for you to give thanks to those who have made a difference and here are just a few of these remarkable individuals, working selflessly to make a difference for the good of others.

I would like to thank Tracey & Steve Jolly who live on Fair Green.

They are such lovely thoughtful people who in their own time help to keep the green beautiful and tidy. They cut the grass where needed, litter pick and generally maintain the green and the beautiful surroundings.

Fair Green is such an important asset to not only the people who live around it, but to everyone who uses it. Whether that's people frequenting the local businesses, i.e. the Cock Inn pub, Angel Cafe or Fair Green Chip Shop, or visitors to the fair, circus, car boot sales/brocantes or other events.

Well done both of you for your selfless hard work!

Anonymous

We at Rosedale Funeral Home, Diss would like to express our sincere thanks to Emily from Park Flowers who always supports us in all our community and charitable events. She always goes above and beyond and we often receive wonderful feedback from our families who have used her.

Thank you, Emily

I would like to put forward Jane Aldous, the Consultant at Slimming World, Diss.

Jane runs four groups in Diss and she has helped what now must be thousands in the last 15 years to lose weight. Her happy go lucky attitude hides somebody who is VERY serious about her job.



She embraces members when they're 'high' after a loss and comforts them when they're 'low' and the scales have not been kind, so a sort of Mother Hen to us all.

She also does NOT Preach, she leads by EXAMPLE, not only as member of a SW Branch in her own right, but also trains with a local running club and does the odd charity run. She also runs a Private Facebook site where members can help each other.

She must have saved the NHS a few bob over the last 15 years, with things like getting blood pressures down, so definitely a positive impact.

Thanks for everything Jane!

Bob Rogers (and many other SW supporters)

Dave Hines is a Diss citizen born and bred, a Military Transport Enthusiast and the Diss and District Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Organiser. He has been collecting for the Poppy Appeal for over 15 years. The Public can see him on Saturdays at Remembrance time at the Mere, collecting on the RBL Stall (with his family) and a large lorry.



He always supports local events such as the Carnival with the RBL Gazebo and Military Transport, the Diss Armed Forces Day with various Military Transport and an exhibition as part of the RBL contribution.

This year for D-Day 80 he was in France with his daughter representing Diss on the Normandy Beaches at Arromanches.

His wife, Julie, was chauffeur to the VIPs who attended DTC's D-Day 80 event in a WW11 Army Staff Car, and his sons also help to support - so perhaps this tribute should not just be for Dave but the whole Hines family!

DISS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

BEN LANGLEY



7TH DECEMBER, DISS MARKET PLACE

1.30PM - 6.30PM

SWITCH-ON
6PM

FREE ACTIVITIES AT
UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH
1.30 - 5PM



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SANTA'S
GROTTO AT URC
1.30PM - 5PM

THE
VOICE
SQUAD



PARADE
5.40PM

PUNCH & JUDY SHOWS
WITH POZ



OUTSIDE URC
2pm & 3.30pm

MEET THE CORN HALL
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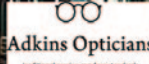


MUSIC FROM



CHARITY STALLS
IN ST MARY'S CHURCH

THE WONKY DONKEY
MOBILE BAR



Diss all set to light up for Christmas!

Save the Date: Saturday, 7th December, 1.30pm-6.30pm

Pantomime Fun

The stars of The Corn Hall's Christmas panto, Jack and the Beanstalk, are heading to Diss! The show kicks off on 20th December, but they'll be joining us early to spread some Christmas cheer.

Local funny man returns as compere

We're thrilled to have Norfolk's own Ben Langley, comedian and Britain's Got Talent favourite, returning once again to host the event. Ben wowed Simon Cowell and the judges back in 2018 on Britain's Got Talent, and he can't wait to be back in his local town to keep everyone entertained!

Live music

Enjoy live performances by Voice Squad, the Salvation Army Band, Serena Grant and our returning favourite from last year, Will Power. Between sets, Park Radio will keep the festive vibes going strong!

Tasty Treats

The Wonky Donkey bar will be serving your favourite tippie, joined by plenty of delicious goodies. From hog roast, chips and spiced specialities to doughnuts, waffles and festive hot chocolates! Start your Christmas shopping in Diss' charming independent shops. St Mary's Church will also be open, with fundraising 'have-a-go' stalls for you to explore.

Family Fun

There's something for all ages with Larry Gray's Fun Fair returning at Mere's Mouth, plus a free 'All About Light' interactive display and activities at the United Reformed Church. Santa and his

elves will be welcoming visitors in his grotto from 1.30 - 5pm, where for just £3, each child will meet Santa and receive a special gift. No need to book a slot, simply turn up!

New Addition

This year, we're excited to welcome local children's entertainer, Poz, with his Punch and Judy show. Catch his free performances outside the URC at 2pm and 3:30pm.

A special thanks

We are incredibly grateful to our 21 sponsors who have been so generous in supporting this event. Your contributions have played a huge part in assisting with infrastructure and entertainment costs, staging and lights, road closures and more. Thank You – Kingsley Healthcare, Kings & Co Lettings, Adkins Opticians, Lexham Insurance, CW Logistics, Hales Group, James' Handyman & Property Services, NSH Developments Ltd, Wonky Donkey Bar, CB Accounting, Andy's Oil Boiler Services, Care UK, Elliots Tree & Garden Services, Scott Properties, Simon Jackson/ SJ Football Coaching, Larter & Ford, Beckford & Lewis, Pearce & Kemp, Phoenix Events East Ltd, UPVC Repair & Replace and Reads Property Developments.

Parade & Lights-On

Santa will arrive on the Steam Museum's vintage fire engine, making his way along Mere Street to Market Place at 5.40pm. He'll be joined by his elves, Dinsdale, the panto cast and the Town Mayor as they make their entrance for the 6pm switch-on.

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/disschristmaslightswitchon

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Diss Library Celebrating 60 Years

In March this year, the current Diss Library building reached its 60th anniversary.

The present Diss Library, in Church Street was opened on the 17th March 1964. Costing £10,000, the building replaced the reading room and library that had been housed for many years in the Corn Hall. Diss had been well served by the library service for many years. From as early as 1780, the town had a circulating library that was established at about the same time as the Norfolk and Norwich Library in Norwich. By 1885 a reading room was established at the newly built Corn Hall and that room had remained connected to the library facilities.

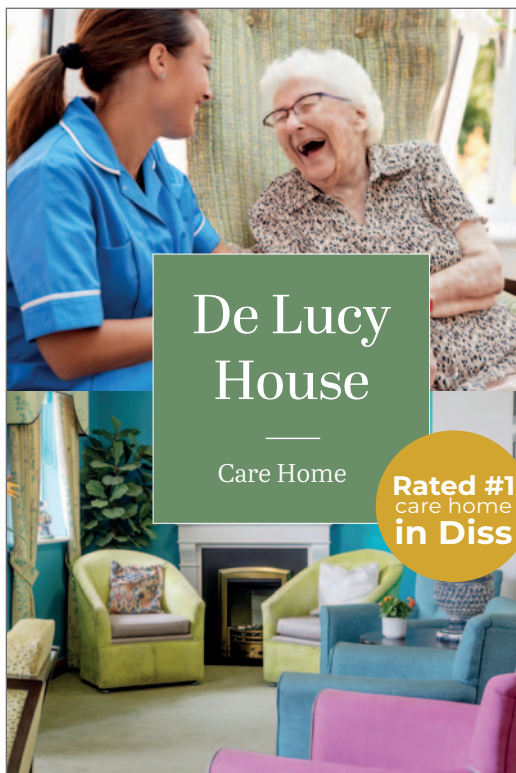
In 1962, after concerns about accessibility of the library in the Corn Hall and with plans for the modernisation and redevelopment of large areas of the town, a bylaw approval was given by the council for the demolition of the bakery premises and adjoining properties in Church Street and building of the new library facilities for the town started at the end of 1963.

For the past six decades, the library has put itself at the heart of the community in Diss, providing access to books and learning, running many events and exhibitions over the years and providing a safe warm space for everyone to enjoy.

Currently the library has a number of groups including Bounce and Rhyme sessions and story times for under 5s, lego club, reading groups, Just a Cuppa meet up Fridays, plus volunteers offering computer advice and 1:1 sessions supporting adults with reading. A number of health and wellbeing services are also available, Tricky Period sanitary items and toiletry bags are amongst the items available free of charge.

The library is planning to hold a 60th anniversary celebration in the new year and would welcome any memories that you may have of using the library service in Diss over the past 60 years to share as part of the celebration.





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Diss Rotary Update



Diss & District Rotary club takes action through raising funds for good causes and organising events to raise awareness – they organise campaigns when needed to help specific charities or tackle disasters globally.

In recent months they have supported the East Anglian Air Ambulance through their Giant Easter Eggs Raffle; continued to support the Waveney Foodbank both financially and through providing much needed slow cookers; their President Bronwen's charity choices for 23/24 were Pancreatic Cancer and MIND (The mental health charity); through their direct relationship with the Chisinau Cosmopolitan Rotary Club in Moldova they have continued to provide financial support for those in need in Ukraine; and lots more...

They had a stand at the Diss Carnival, with a good flow of visitors attracted by their 'Sunflower Seeds' project and 'How many marbles can you get in the flower pot in a minute' competition.

They also held their annual Rotary Garden party where the weather was fabulous and the BBQ, 'International wines'(!) and musical entertainment were as good as ever. Everyone had a lovely evening in the ever-pleasant surrounds of James and Lynn Kay's gorgeous garden and they raised over £2000 for Rotary charities.

In June, Bronwen handed over the Presidential reins to John Cooper, who quickly made it clear that his mission for the year was 'Membership, Membership, Membership!' The club is kickstarting this by planning events and speaker evenings that they hope will appeal to a wider (and also younger) audience as they want the club to grow and the purpose of Rotary to thrive in our area.



Their first such event was their Charity Proms Concert in Sept with the great Stowmarket Concert Band – a great evening of music and fun was had by all.

Further information on all the above and how to get involved with the club can be found at www.dissrotary.org.uk

19th October, 10.00am-dusk,
Fair Green, Diss

Creation of Community Mandala Art

By various community groups and
Rosedale Funeral Home
during the day.

Memory
Making
Workshops
will be held at
10-12noon

At dusk we will have a Lantern Walk

- Local musicians including **Deneside Ramblers** and **Nurtured Sound**.
- **Get involved with the design** of a central ceremonial mandala to be edged with pebble art and built with natural materials ready to receive light.
- The event will culminate in a beautiful **candle lighting ceremony** and a sharing of food and fellowship.

Call Lucy to register your interest and dietary requirements 07753 299925.

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Waveney
:Choir

Remembering those we love at Christmas

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

on

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024
at 2.30 pm

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



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An Update from 1st Diss Brownies & Guides



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Diss and Roydon welcomed leaders from Greece and other parts of the UK, over the summer who were taking part in Girlguiding UK GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development) project.

Returning the hospitality our Rainbow leader Holly received last year when she visited Greece as part of the same project. The girls played games from Greece and learnt about WAGGGS leadership mindsets.

Diss Brownies and Guides also enjoyed trips to Diss fire station, where they learnt about fire safety as well as exploring the fire engine and having a go on the hose - some people ended up wetter than others! We also had fun spending the night sleeping on trampolines at Jump warehouse, took part in the South Norfolk Litter Pick, did outdoor cooking, a town treasure hunt, had an election debate and the Brownies got the opportunity to cast their votes and the Guide Ready Steady Cook night was a big hit.



We have lots planned for this term, including a trip to Pleasurewood Hills, which is being taken over for the day by Girlguiding Anglia, an adventurous activity evening and another two-night residential trip.

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 Rainbow, (4-7 years) Brownie (7-10 years), Guide (10-14 years) or Ranger (14-19 years) or you would like to discuss volunteering opportunities, please register your interest at

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Diss URC - A Community Venue



Diss URC is located on Mere Street, opposite Aldi and next door to the new Post Office. They run several regular community groups:

- *The Dove Dementia Cafe and Dove Song* (music therapy) for people with a Dementia diagnosis and their carers
- *Dove Song Plus* (music therapy) for adults with complex needs
- *Dovelets* (music therapy, messy and sensory play) for children aged 0-5 and their parents/carers
- *The Welcome Cafe* (every Friday 9.30-12) which is open to everyone

They also have one faith based group, *Dove Afternoon Tea*, for anyone who enjoys chatting, singing hymns and hearing passages from the Bible.

If you think you would like to join any of these groups or if you would like some further information about any of them, please email Ruth Bridges, Community

Worker on rthbridges@gmail.com or call her on 01379 309062.

They also put on once a year events too. On November 22nd, they will be holding their annual Charities Fayre. Please go along and get some early Christmas goodies, gifts and cards whilst also supporting charities such as Amnesty International, Tearfund and the Guide Dogs.

On December 7th, as part of the Light Up celebrations in Diss, they will be putting on their annual children's event. Last year they followed a trail, completing activities to help them learn to be good shepherds. This year, all activities will be focused on light. It's always a fun event and they hope to see you with your children there!

Diss URC is also used by a wide range of other community groups too, who hire the premises. If you would like to know more about these groups, please visit <http://dissurc.org.uk/regular-events.htm>

Diss and District Royal British Legion

This year, The Diss and District Branch Royal British Legion will celebrate its Century.



The Early Years

The Royal British Legion, originally called the British Legion, was formed in 1921.

It was created to unite various groups of men who had served in the Great War such as the NADSS, the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Solders, which was formed in Blackburn in 1917.

The first Diss Branch of the British Legion was also formed in 1921.

The National Federation of Discharged Seamen and Demobilized Soldiers formed a branch in Diss soon after the Federation was created.

In 1921 it was decided to become a part of the newly formed British Legion, which was not Allied to any Political Organisation.

The Diss British Legion Branch opened on the 22nd August 1921, but sadly it was short lived.

From the Diss Express 26th Sept 1923

Closing of the Diss British Legion Branch
"Sadly it has been announced that the Diss Branch of the British Legion has been wound up.

Great Credit has to be given to Mr Murray, the Organising Secretary who has mainly kept the Branch going for a long time.

There appears to be a great lack of interest in the movements on the part of those it was intended to serve.

The Contributions has not equalled the expense involved in running the Branch.

There will be a meeting at St Marys Church Hall on Saturday November 29th with a view to re-establishing a British Legion Branch in Diss."

The Diss and District Branch was first established in 1924 and, 100 years later, is still operating.



Robert J Rogers

Branch Secretary,

Diss and District Royal British Legion.



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Diss Litterpicking Group - Three Years of Picking!



In July this year, our group turned three years old. The group celebrated with fish and chips on Fair Green, free to us courtesy of Fair Green Fish Bar! As our group continues to work hard to tidy up our town, we have continued to receive support from various local groups and businesses in Diss. This has included new and improved pickers made from recycled ocean plastic, trolleys for us to transport our collected rubbish back to the DYCC, and advertisement of our monthly picks on Park Radio!

We've continued to have new volunteers come along and join us each month, and our group are now also looking forward to lending our support to other litterpicking initiatives taking place both in Diss and in the surrounding area. Examples of groups we have already provided support to include the Beaver Scouts, the River Waveney Trust, a new group looking to pick litter around Ensign Way here in Diss, and the Town Carnival volunteer team. When all the different groups in Diss work together we can make a real difference!

If you are interested in joining us at one of our future picks, we meet on the second Saturday of every month, at the DYCC on Shelfanger Rd, from 10am-12pm. All equipment needed is provided, as well as drinks and snacks at the start and end of the morning! We also sometimes receive food and drink donations from local businesses, that we all head down to enjoy after our session! Anyone of any age and ability is welcome, and we can also provide Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering experience!



I'd like to give massive thanks to everyone who has supported us over the last three years, our group couldn't be who we are without all of you!

Remembrance Parade and Sunday Service 2024



Diss Town Council and the Royal British Legion warmly invite the public to take part in this year's Remembrance Sunday parade, wreath-laying ceremony and church service to honour our fallen heroes.

The parade will commence as usual from Mere's Mouth at approximately 2.15pm on Sunday 10th November and to accommodate larger crowds and involve younger participants, this year's wreath-laying ceremony will take place on the Market Place.

The procession usually attracts over 35 different organisations including the Salvation Army Band, standard and flag bearers, the Royal British Legion, members of the armed forces, air and army cadets, emergency services, youth groups and

various charities.

A short 'drumhead' service will be held in the Market Place following which representatives of local organisations will be invited to lay their wreath at the drumhead alter. After the ceremony, all are invited to St Mary's Church for a special remembrance service, beginning at 3pm. During this time the wreaths will be moved from the Market Place to the war memorial where this event will conclude with a short dedication gathering after the church service.

The Drumhead Service originated in the 1700's when soldiers about to go into battle required a place for reflection for the difficult times ahead. It was also used 'post battle' as a place of remembrance for their fallen comrades. It allows the regimental padre to hold a church service 'in the field'

and they use the regimental drums, neatly piled and draped in the appropriate colours (e.g. national or regimental flags) to create a platform on which a Bible and other equipment could be placed to allow them to conduct a formal service. The Padre leads an ecumenical service and to this day remains in use.

Remembrance events are organised by a committee led by Diss Town Council, with representatives from the Diss branches of the Royal British Legion, Salvation Army, army and air cadets, RAFA and St Mary's Church.

Town Clerk, Sarah Villafuerte-Richards encourages the public to attend the parade, wreath-laying ceremony and church service, saying, "We invite everyone to join us in honouring the sacrifices made by our service men and women to protect our freedom."



Saracens Head to Market Place), and Market Hill in Diss.

Additionally, a minute's silence will be observed in the Market Place on Monday 11th November, at 11am. Please join us in these important tributes to commemorate the service and sacrifices of our Armed Forces community.

Diss Town Council has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and recognises the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country. To find out more visit <https://www.diss.gov.uk/about-us>



For safety, a temporary road closure will be in effect on Sunday 10th November, from 2pm to 3.30pm for the Remembrance Parade. This will impact Mere Street, Market Place, St Nicholas Street, Mount Street (from



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This project is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

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Diss u3a has been growing for over 20 years.

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To find out more about us look on our website www.dissu3a.org.uk

To join us please email: membershipdissu3a@gmail.com

Or just come along on the first Thursday of the month to the URC as our guest, you will be very welcome.

Our speakers in the coming months are:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Thu 3 Oct 2024 | Berthe Morisot
Geoff Robinson |
| Thu 7 Nov 2024 | St Edmundsbury Tower
Part 2
Horry Parsons |
| Thu 5 Dec 2024 | Heigh Ho! The Holly
Hexachordia |
| Thu 2 Jan 2025 | The History of Surnames
Charlie Haylock |
| Thu 6 Feb 2025 | The City Livery
Companies
David Williams |
| Thu 6 Mar 2025 | Lighting the Fuse
Lucy Lewis |
| Thu 3 Apr 2025 | Climbing Mount Everest
Amanda Richmond |
| Thu 1 May 2025 | Life and Times of a
Suffolk Sculptor
Sean Hedges-Quinn |
| Thu 5 Jun 2025 | The Norfolk Landscape in
10 maps
Sarah Spooner |
| Thu 3 Jul 2025 | The Stowmarket Food
Museum
Lisa Harris |
| Thu 7 Aug 2025 | Radio Caroline
Brian Nichols |



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Discover art in Diss

The Arts Society Diss is part of a nationwide organisation and holds talks every month in the Corn Hall, Diss

All the speakers are experts in their field and make their chosen subject interesting and enjoyable. Here are some comments from our audience:

“A very informative and amusing lecture...”

“Entertaining and informative presentation given in a free and easy way...”

All talks are on Tuesdays at 2pm in the Corn Hall

- **16 October: Princess Kesnia Pterovic Niegas - Montenegro's photographer; the princess who recorded a lost way of life.**
- **19 November: Chrysanthemums in art and culture**
- **3 December: Les Trois Grandes Dames - Three Impressionist artists: Mary Bracquemond, Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt.**
- **21 January: Frederic Lord Leighton - The Curator of Leighton House in London explores Leighton's life and work**
- **18 February: The Ashcan Painters - Founder of New York Realism**
- **18 March: Studio Pottery - The Curator at the Fitzwilliam Museum explores hand-made pottery in Britain from the late 19th century to the present day.**

We don't only do talks. Twice a year we hold a special day - the next one is on



Tuesday 12 November at the Corn Hall. It celebrates the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence. In three talks (with a delicious lunch) you can learn about the history of American art in 25 iconic works.

We also run day trips - a coach trip to Gainsborough's House, Sudbury and the FirstSite Gallery in Colchester is planned for Tuesday 29 October.

You can also get involved in the community as an Arts Volunteer.

To get in touch contact info@artsocdiss.org.uk or go to artsocdiss.org.uk for more information.

New members and guests are always welcome.



Local Artist's Initiative Supports Cromer RNLI with Art Sales



Last year, I painted the shopfronts of 25 traders in Diss. Each of these traders purchased their respective paintings and from these, I produced a calendar titled “Discovering Diss with Joan Johns.”

The sales from the paintings, alongside cards sold at the November Craft Fair and the calendar sales, generated significant proceeds. I am pleased to announce that all the funds raised, totalling £1,200, were donated to Cromer RNLI. The accompanying picture shows me handing over a cheque to the Captain of the lifeboat team. The inspiration for this body of work stemmed from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the shift to online shopping and reduced

foot traffic, many local traders faced the risk of going out of business. I aimed to capture the essence of these beloved shopfronts, hoping to bring attention and support back to our local businesses during a challenging time.

Twenty traders have already signed up for the 2025 calendar which will be printed shortly and can be purchased at various venues around the town or from the artist direct!



Lunchtime Carols at St Mary's Church: A Festive Tradition for All



church service or concert, 'Lunchtime Carols' is all about laughter, singing and enjoying the spirit of Christmas in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

What makes this event so special is its inclusivity – it's suitable for everyone, from young children to the young at heart.

Families are especially encouraged to join in the merriment, making it a wonderful way to introduce little ones to the joy of carol singing. The talented Jenny Vere will be playing the organ, leading us

Hello, everyone!

As the festive season draws near, it's time to mark your calendars for one of our most beloved events in the town—Lunchtime Carols! This year, the joyful gathering will take place at St Mary's Church on Friday 20th December at 12:30pm, and you won't want to miss it!

For the last 13 years, 'Lunchtime Carols' has been a cherished occasion, bringing the community together for an hour of light-hearted fun and festive cheer. If you haven't had the chance to attend before, this is the perfect year to start! Unlike a traditional

through a selection of popular carols that are sure to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

So, whether you're a seasoned 'Lunchtime Carols' attendee or a first-timer, come along on 20th December for an uplifting pre-Christmas celebration. It's a lovely way to take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle, reconnect with the community and spread a little festive cheer.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Warm regards,

Gerry
Organiser

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The Diss Community Woodland Project: Quaker Wood and the Green Gap!

If you have visited Quaker Wood recently, you will have seen how far our site has come as a habitat for wildlife, since its original planting in 2011. What was once a scene of planted trees on old grazing land is now a dense canopy, with paths running through it leading to both our Wildlife Pond and Wildflower Meadow. You will see signs of wildlife everywhere, in our hedgerows, trees, bird boxes and bat boxes. The site has truly come into its own, relying on our team of dedicated volunteers to keep it accessible to people and beneficial to nature.



A major step to achieving this in Diss was the passing of the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan by referendum in September 2023. One policy of the Neighbourhood Plan is the creation of the 'Green Gap', a space allocated between Diss and Roydon where development is not permitted and the creation of Green corridors and open green space is encouraged.

Having successfully established Quaker Wood as a wildlife site open to all, the 'Diss Community Woodland Project' now wish to explore opportunities in the Green Gap to help create a habitat network linking Quaker Wood to other sites.

If you are interested in learning more or supporting us and our project, we have Volunteer Work Parties on the first Saturday of every month, from 9:30am to 12:30pm, where anyone of any age and ability are welcome to join us! We also have a website www.quakerwood.org.uk, a Facebook Page and an email address: quakerwooddiss@gmail.com



A new understanding of biodiversity is developing however, insisting that in order for UK wildlife to survive and to thrive, lone habitats in isolation of each other are not enough. What we all now need to work towards is greater habitat connectivity, through the creation of Green Corridors and new smaller habitats to link the larger habitats together.

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Diss Gazeteer of 1938

The 1938 Diss Gazeteer & Directory was in its 84th year of publication, since 1854.

The front and back advertisements are for Bale's groceries and Doubles' tobacconist, both shops that were still active in living memory.

The telephone exchange was then at 68 Mount Street. As few people were on the phone, Easto's fish shop was Diss 14. Calls could be made from kiosks at Victoria Road and Denmark Green.

The town had a Choral & Operatic Society and an Amateur Dramatic Club.

The Diss Junior Imperial League was typical of right-wing groups that sprang up in the inter-war years.

The Young Men's Friendly Society met in the Victoria Hall at the north-east corner of the churchyard.

In case of fire, application should be made immediately to the Superintendent of the Brigade, Mr. George Rice, Chapel Street. Tel. Diss 81 (and hope that he was at home!)

Frenze Road only went up to No. 25, which was a few houses beyond what is now the

Skelton Road turning.

There are names of men who would die in the coming war.

Donald Brundell, of 3 Church Street,

would lose his life in an air collision between an Anson and a Lysander.

Richard Wells, whose father managed the National & Provincial Bank in Mere Street, died in a Liberator crash.

As Skelton Road had not been built, Mere Manor was considered as 7 Victoria Road.

This was the address of Alan Conrad Coningsby-Gayford, late of New Scotland Yard. His gravestone is in the Heywood Road cemetery. He sounds like a detective ('Coningsby-Gayford of The Yard'); but was just a Civil Servant.

Almanacs had common pages; so there are Dickens illustrations and quotes, helpful hints, words of wisdom and even a short story, An Idyll of the Moss Lands by Oswald Wildridge.



Basil Abbott (*Diss Museum*)





The sun always shines in No.8 Marketplace

Autumn is upon us and winter and Christmas follow soon, but the sun always shines in Diss retail hot spot No.8 Marketplace.

No.8 Marketplace has layers of shopping opportunities and is a must go destination for one-off original hand-made gifts.

Let's take a walk though No.8:

Walk into the ground floor from the market place and be met by a verdant plant display on one side and scrumptious locally-made, responsibly-sourced, Marimba chocolates on the other.

Turn to the right to go to Take 5 café for delicious coffees, hot chocolate (Marimba again) and Norfolk Co teas. Take 5 has a food emporium full of the best locally produced marmalades, preserves, sauces and more.

Turn left and be met by craft, jewellery and hand-made baby and children's clothes lovingly made on the premises.

Opposite, you will find Take 2 pre-loved clothes selling the best fashion brands at

amazingly affordable prices

Up the stairs to the mezzanine floor, you will find Makers Market art and crafts, curated by Jane Rand.

Jane provides an opportunity for artists and crafters to have a retail space in the town. Makers Market presents an ever-changing array of locally produced gifts and home and garden decorations.

Veering to the right you will find 3Cats Vintage, Will's Vinyl Lounge and The Guitar Emporium.

Now that you have finished your tour through No.8 retail you can return to Take 5 for well-deserved rest and recuperation.

There is also the Ballroom@No.8 upstairs so follow us on social media to be informed of future events be they comedy nights, live music, 'Together' club nights, craft fairs or dance classes.

So you see. The sun always shines in No.8 Marketplace.

Contact: Geoffrey Dixon 07775 582305

Exciting New Christmas Market Coming to Diss

After holding successful Spring and Summer Arts and Crafts Exhibitions in Diss this year, Norfolk Creations will be holding a 4 day Christmas Market upstairs in No8 Marketplace, Diss from Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th December and they are looking forward to seeing you.

Norfolk Creations run curated exhibitions and markets to support Norfolk-based artists, makers and crafters. Most of the creations available for sale have been inspired by the beautiful county of Norfolk - its big skies, stunning coast line and abundant views are just some of the Norfolk elements that trigger their inspiration.

The group is run by four dedicated volunteers and travels around Norfolk exhibiting in beautiful, hand-chosen venues offering visitors some of the best quality creators Norfolk has to offer. Liz, the current group's Chairperson is based in Bunwell and is thrilled to be able to exhibit locally.

Different creators will be curating each day offering you the opportunity to meet them and learn more about their work. The market will be open daily from 10am till 4pm daily and they will be hoping to open late on Saturday to coincide with the planned Christmas Lights switch on.



On sale will be lots and lots of Christmas present ideas - special festive chutneys, jams and marmalades, quilled Christmas cards and gift sets, mosaics, festive fused glass decorations, wood-turning, felted art, pottery, converted camera and binocular lighting, seasonal decoupage, fabric gifts, crocheted gifts and decorations, hand-made festive soaps and toiletries, upcycled clocks, lots of Christmas decorations and lots of unique Christmas cards.

DON'T FORGET - 10-4 Wednesday 4th till Saturday 7th December upstairs at No8 Marketplace Diss.



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Montgomerie Freemasons Lodge, Diss.

Who we are and what we do:

Montgomerie Lodge No.1741 will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2028, having been founded in 1878. The list of past members is a history of the business, educational and workday life of Diss during that period.

Our members come from all walks of life and range from young men to octogenarians, a brotherhood dedicated to improving themselves and helping others. We currently have around 70 members in our lodge and meet at what was formerly the Unitarian Chapel at Parkfields, Diss on the second Monday of the month from October to May at 5.45pm.

The first half of the evening involves various administrative activities followed by a ceremony where one of our degrees is performed. These ceremonies can be best described as morality plays using allegory and symbols from medieval stone masonry but to say too much would be to spoil the experience! The second half of the evening is spent dining, socialising, speeches and toasting.

Social events:

We hold a variety of social events during the year including lunches at Christmas and Valentines Day, quiz nights, BBQs, organised visits e.g. race nights and dinner / dance events.

Local charitable work:

The Lodge is active in the community, providing funding and support to numerous charities and participates at the Diss



carnival. Supporting local charities is at the heart of Freemasonry. In the wider Norfolk area funds are distributed to projects that need greater support which the local Lodge could not raise on its own.

In summary, Freemasonry embraces the principles of integrity, friendship, respect and charity through the Masonic virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth - or to put it another way, we take good men and enable them to make the best of themselves.

Contact details:

Lodge Secretary

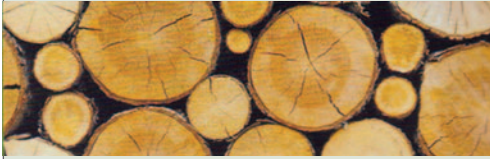
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Firework and bonfire safety advice

Now that autumn is here, you might already be planning get-togethers with family and friends including Bonfire Night on 5th November.

And if you celebrate Diwali, your plans might be underway for 1st November.

To help reduce the risks of incidents and injuries in 2024, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and the county council's Trading Standards team are reminding residents about bonfire and firework safety.

The best place to enjoy Bonfire Night displays are at organised events which are the safest option.

But if you are having your own event at home for Bonfire Night you need to remember these tips to help reduce the risks of harm for everyone attending:

- Build bonfires away from flammable materials such as fences, sheds and trees
- Use only dry and suitable materials for burning
- Don't light your bonfire with petrol
- Keep a hose or a bucket of water nearby.

If you are buying fireworks, it is really important you buy them from a reputable retailer, and not second-hand. Only buy



fireworks with a CE mark and make sure any selection boxes are sealed when you buy them. Also:

- follow instructions on how to use the fireworks carefully
- never ever go back to a lit firework
- never throw fireworks
- always supervise children around fireworks.

Remember not to give sparklers to children under 5, and ensure anyone using a sparkler wears gloves and puts the sparkler hot end down into a bucket of water or sand when it has burnt out.

Always call 999 in an emergency.

Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/43839/Fireworks-safety-and-bonfires for more information and safety guidance.

Have you got what it takes to be a firefighter?

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is on the lookout for on-call firefighters to join the crew at Diss station in Park Road.

If being part of a dynamic team who learn new skills, all while helping their community is for you, you live or work in Diss, Palgrave, Stuston, Roydon, parts of Bressingham, Burston, Shelfanger and Scole, then they'd love to hear from you.



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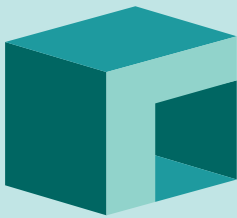
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Painting the Town



Andriy Nekrasov is an Honoured Artist of Ukraine and member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine.

Born on June 14, 1962 into the family of a military man, Andriy spent his childhood in the Kyiv region surrounded by the amazing views of the blue Dnipro and golden meadows which made an unforgettable impression on the young man. Inspired to paint, Andriy studied in the workshops of Ukrainian artists Nartsis Kocherezhko and Vasyl Korchynskyi and quickly found his painting style, where the main focus is a sense of colour and a playful combination in the works. Working in oil and using a palette knife in large strokes, he paints still lifes, sea horizons, city and natural landscapes.

His creative work includes many Carpathian and Crimean landscapes and seacoasts, scenes of rapid mountain rivers, coastal views of Odessa and the ancient river Dnipro as well as studies of the architecture of Ukrainian and European cities.

Personal exhibitions have been widely held at the Ukrainian Culture Fund, the Cultural Center of the Ukrainian Society for the

Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments of Ukraine, the National Reserve "Sofia Kyivska", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Lviv Writers' Union of Ukraine, the Kyiv Central Officers' Building, the Government House and the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Many of the artist's works are also held in private collections, both in Ukraine and abroad.

Today, Andriy Nekrasov works in Suffolk, painting the historic architecture of towns, amazing landscapes, seacoasts of the United Kingdom and London cityscapes.

Andriy has already had several solo exhibitions in London and at the beautiful Fullers Mill Garden (West Stow, Bury Saint Edmunds), where he has been an Artist in Residence for the past two years.

You may have seen Andriy in the town centre, painting Diss from various angles with the help of passers-by who he encourages to take part in his creative canvases! Check out his Instagram page for videos of his creative memories in Diss https://www.instagram.com/nekrasov_artist

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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