

Town & Country News Tel. 01692 582287

A DIARY DATE A FEAST OF G&S

The new exhibition at Aylsham Heritage Centre – funded by the Love Norfolk fund through the Norfolk Community Foundation – contains 200 Years of history, through a collection of personal diaries from all over the world and across the UK.

It includes a huge range of people from across different walks of life – a boy scout recording events during the Second World War; a farmer seeing a car for the first time; all the films a teenager sees in the 1950s; an elderly woman in New England eating Thanksgiving dinner alone. Alongside this are information and photographs about what was happening in Aylsham at a similar time so that visitors can still find out more about the history of the town.

The exhibition is proving popular and the Centre has found that once visitors start to explore the diaries they discover more and more little gems – there have already been repeat visitors. The Centre is also looking for people who may have personal diaries that are based locally, that it can share with visitors. If you have anything which may be of interest please contact the Centre at aylshamheritage@gmail.com.



The Centre has published its calendar of events for the year, including talks and illustrated history walks, and there is a varied programme to suit everyone, so look out in the May edition of this paper and onwards for more details.

The well-known singing group 'The Wandering Minstrels' will present "The World of Gilbert and Sullivan" in St Michael and All Angels Church, Aylsham on Saturday 15th April at 7.30pm.

They will sing, act and dance their way through many of The Savoy Operas including "Iolanthe", "The Mikado", HMS Pinafore", "The Gondoliers", "The Yeomen of the Guard", "Utopia" and "The Pirates of Penzance". Artists appearing in this concert are Alexandra Ferrari, Emma Stratton, Charles Mills, Bruce Graham and Tim Hurst-Brown, with Peter Hewitt at the piano. The Wandering Minstrels have been delighting audiences throughout East Anglia for many years and have helped to raise almost half a million pounds for various charitable causes as a result of their popular Gilbert and Sullivan concerts. Their light-hearted evenings of excerpts from The Savoy Operas, beautifully sung and delightfully staged, are events to remember. This



is the company's fourth visit to Aylsham – don't miss what promises to be a fun-filled evening.

Tickets cost £12.00 and are available on Eventbrite, from Postles in Aylsham marketplace or on the door. The event is a must for G&S fans, so members of the public are advised to purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment.

There will be more G&S in store next month, when the East Norfolk Operatic Society present the comic opera 'Iolanthe' at The Maddermarket Theatre, Norwich from Wednesday 3rd May to Sunday 7th May.

Performances are at 7.30pm each evening to Saturday with a matinee show on Sunday 7th May at 2.30pm; tickets are priced £16.50 and the theatre will offer a 25% discount on bookings of eight or more. To reserve a seat, contact the Theatre Box Office 01603 620917 or at www.maddermarket.co.uk. Full details next month.

LOOKING AND BOOKING AHEAD

Coming up next month is the annual Folk on the Pier festival, which in 2023 will be celebrating its 25th anniversary when it returns to Cromer's Pavilion Theatre on May 5th, 6th and 7th.

Again, full details next month but 'The best gig on the North Sea' always attracts a plethora of well-known and up-and-coming folk, folk-rock and acoustic artists from across the UK, and in this celebration year that choice is well represented by the 'old guard', the 'newer blood' and music and mirth from Anthony John Clarke's new trio and Richard Digance, acoustic blues guitar from Spikedrivers' Ben Tyzak, instrumental fireworks from the Kevin Dempsey Trio, fiddle driven Celtic-rock from the Roving Crows, folk-rock shanties from The Salts, songs and stories from Billy Mitchell, melodeon led tunes from Simon Care and Gareth Turner and Irish tunes, songs and more from guitarist Chris Newman and harpist Máire Ní Chathasaigh, plus Festival Patron, Ashley Hutchings MBE and his son, Blair Dunlop. Tickets are available for single concerts, for each day tickets or for the full weekend but all seats for each concert are limited to 500 per show and sell quickly – so call 01263 512495 or visit www.cromerpier.co.uk to book yours.

Folk on the Pier musicians and crew will be rolling up their sleeves, alongside the Pier's management and staff, for a one-off gig to help the North Norfolk Foodbank as part of 'The Big Help Out' on Monday 8th May, the extra Bank Holiday as part of King Charles's Coronation celebrations.

This concert will run from 2.00pm to 4.30pm and will feature three acts: well-loved local singer-songwriter duo 'The Browns', Anthony John Clarke, and the eight piece tour-de-force that is Merry Hell!

All parties involved in the concert have given up their time to enable a very special discounted ticket price of £15.00 – you can get yours at the Pier Box Office, as above.

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