



## A SPLASHING year for the Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre

The Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre located in Nicholas Everitt Park has had a splashing year. The centre had a major revamp 18 months ago which has brought the place back to life and is now embraced by visitors. The refurbishment being made possible by the funding from Oulton Broad Parish Council, Lowestoft Town Council, East Suffolk Councillors and Suffolk County Councillors.

The centre now has new equipment including a refurbished safety boat and two brand new ones, wetsuits and life preservers tailored for all ages and sizes. Wing surfing training is now offered at the centre, too.

They have opened their doors to over 1,300 children this year which is a gleaming success compared to previous years. The centre is determined to increase visitor levels for next year and is encouraging people of all ages and capabilities to try out some water sports.

They are hoping to attract more people to the centre by holding a Water Festival next year. This would involve opening themselves up to the public to show what the centre does and how they can get involved to try out new water sports. As well as a festival the hope is more schools and colleges will be interested in bringing along students to learn outside of the classroom to teach them water safety, how to use the equipment and most importantly to have fun in the water but in a safe and supervised environment.

Dell Primary School students are regulars at the centre and thoroughly enjoy their time. The students and teachers have nothing but positive words to say about the centre, including comments about the refurbishment, the activities on offer and the staff and volunteers, who are so helpful.

More recently the club has been affiliated with British Rowing, the national governing body for rowing, with the centre becoming a focus for a series of national winter workshops.

This year has shown everybody what a valued asset this centre is to Oulton Broad. With such a successful year they



### WANT TO LEARN TO SAIL, WING OR WIND SURF? We are open for lessons (Subject to weather conditions.)

Enquire at: [www.obwsc.co.uk](http://www.obwsc.co.uk)

With the festive season upon us - gift someone something different this year. Vouchers are from £10 to £250, and can be put towards any activity. To order a voucher please go to our website.



## Land Spring Drain

The Land Spring Drain (by the 'Banksy-on-the-bridge') is near the main entrance to Nicholas Everitt Park.



Over time this once free-flowing feature, which drains Barnby Broad into Lake Lothing, has sadly deteriorated, with many issues becoming the catalyst of this downfall. We are aware of the overwhelming stench on entering the park, especially during the summer months, and we do apologise.

The Environment Agency, in succession over time from local Inland Drainage Broads, is a leaseholder for the part of Land Spring Drain running through the park. There was a duty on the boards to maintain the drain, however within today's funding regime, the EA has found it difficult to undertake the necessary local works; therefore, we as Park Trustees are attempting to resolve it ourselves. We have been in contact with some companies with the intention of getting it cleaned of leaf debris and litter. This hopefully will stop the smell and improve the appearance.

Contact us at: [admin@ob-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@ob-pc.gov.uk) to advertise your business in the next newsletter.

are hoping to increase staffing in the centre which would give someone the opportunity to get trained-up and learn everything needed to succeed in the role. This is phase 2 of their expansion plan, along with a new incentive to visit the centre and support other local businesses too.

Find out more about the centre on Facebook at [Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre](https://www.facebook.com/OultonBroadWaterSportsCentre) or on their website: [www.oultombroadwatersportscentre.co.uk](http://www.oultombroadwatersportscentre.co.uk)

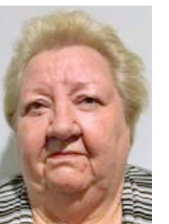


# Oulton Broad parishPRESS

Welcome to the Parish Press Autumn issue. Delivering the latest news, updates and announcements from within the Oulton Broad Parish

## Statement from Councillor Sandra Keller

Chair of Oulton Broad Parish Council



Welcome to our Autumn 2025 newsletter. I hope you'll find it interesting and informative.

We've had another successful year raising vital funds, from our events, for the Nicholas Everitt Park Trust. As the park is a charity we are thankful for every penny raised, as it keeps the park looking good. Thanks go to volunteers at Friends of Nicholas Everitt Park who do a tremendous amount.

Unfortunately, we are still experiencing trouble in the park with the behaviour of some youth becoming even more disruptive. This has led to upset in the local community, so following this we have increased the security presence.

On a positive note, we've had a complete revamp of the children's playground at Sunnyfields. Working with the residents we have upgraded the equipment so more younger children can enjoy the park. The play park located on Kesgrave Field is ear-marked for an upgrade next year.

We've started to organise next year's events which we hope will be well attended by the community. As Chairman, I would like to thank our Clerk and our Administration Assistant for all their hard work -

they do so much behind the scenes to keep everything running so smoothly.

As the end of 2025 is fast approaching I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Play park at Nicholas Everitt Park

Visitors to the play park at Nicholas Everitt Park this summer will have noticed part of the play equipment has been fenced off. After a thorough inspection, that specific equipment has been deemed dangerous due to a large amount of wear and tear. The safety of those using the equipment is top priority so closing it off was the only safe option. We had anticipated the work to be completed by now, but unfortunately this is taking longer than we assumed. We are hopeful the issue will be resolved soon, and apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

### Carols on the Quay

Our annual Carols on the Quay takes place on Sunday December 7th, along the Boulevard, down Bridge Road and in the Lady of the Lake premises.

Starting at 11am and finishing around 4pm, expect a range of stall holders selling their homemade goods. We'll also have charities with a range of games, raffles and fun activities for all to enjoy and to raise vital funds. Mulled wine will be served outside the Copper Smokehouse, with chestnuts and mince pies for sale. A treat you don't want to miss! Carols around the tree on the Boulevard starts at 3pm.

These two events are separate and are pre-bookable only. All information can be found on our Facebook page - Oulton Broad Parish Council, or additionally on our noticeboard in Nicholas Everitt Park. All money raised will be going back into the Nicholas Everitt Park Charity Trust.

### Festive Funday

Following on from our previously successful Carols on the Quay Christmas events we have decided to put on a more inclusive event for the children -

our Festive Funday, taking place on Saturday December 13th. It's an arts and crafts session for the children so they can have fun together making some fantastic festive pieces. In addition to the Festive Funday, we will have a very special visitor who will take time out of his busy toy-making schedule to come and see the children. He'll be in his Grotto on December 13th eagerly awaiting visitors!



Get in touch with Michaela, your Clerk.

Tel: 01502 580942 | Email: [clerk@ob-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ob-pc.gov.uk) | Office Hours: Mon-Thur 11am-4pm

Post: Clerk's Office, Broad House, Nicholas Everitt Park, Oulton Broad, NR33 9JR



Keep updated and follow us

Oulton Broad Parish Council

[www.ob-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ob-pc.gov.uk)





## Friends of Nicholas Everitt Park • UPDATE

The lovely summer weather has given the volunteers and gardeners various challenges this year, but has kept us very busy!

We purchased the Red Begonia plug plants to grow on for the summer display in the circle flower bed. Growing on the Begonia plug plants was a challenge with the variable weather conditions, however it all came together, and the plants did put on a good show all summer. During the summer we repainted the boat planters, removed all the old plants and planted them up with alpine plants including bulbs for summer/autumn colour. We think with their drought tolerance they should do well in the boat planters with just weeding, dead-heading and watering. We top dressed the boat planters with horticultural grit (paid for by the friends) to aid drainage and give a neat finish. A large amount of this project was funded by East Suffolk Councillor Andree Gee with a very generous grant from her community budget.



Getting the Wallflower seeds to germinate was a struggle with the large range of day and night temperatures. The display of Wallflower plants are in the circular flower bed, and we have purchased perennial Heucheras to plant around the tree in three circles of different colours, and then the Wallflowers will be planted in the rest of the bed.

Luckily, we have gained a few new volunteers during the year which has stabilised our numbers, but we would really like some more. So, if you or someone you know has recently retired or has spare time on a Thursday morning, come and join us helping to look after this beautiful park.

Contact me via email [geoffpipe@aol.com](mailto:geoffpipe@aol.com) or message our Facebook page which is **Friends of Nicholas Everitt Park...** or alternatively pop down to the park for a chat to find out more!

## Sunnyfields is a small neighbourhood with a children's play park, tucked in the back of the housing estate.

This year we have completely updated the park by putting in brand new toddler-friendly equipment at the request of the residents. This was made possible by the very generous donations from County Councillor Ceresa and County Councillor Starling.

The park is now a loved asset in the neighbourhood, and they are all very pleased with the latest improvements.



## Lowestoft Museum

The Museum re-opened for the 2025 season in April with a celebration of Lowestoft 'Dingers' kindly provided by Bushells.

On May 8th we welcomed Dr Neil Wilkin who visited us from the British Museum to present his detailed report based around the Somerleyton Bronze hoard which is now on display in the Lowestoft Museum. Dr Neil arrived early so he could meet with Paul Durbidge and tour the Museum.

In May one of our volunteers, Bob Tozer, organised the annual rally of motorbikes where all money raised went to the Lowestoft Museum – we are all extremely grateful.

We had a fantastic day in June with an antiques valuation day, organised by TW Gaze of Diss, led by Elizabeth Talbot our President and Museum Trustee.

June 30th saw a visit from a trustee of the Charles Burrell

Museum in Thetford, so they could learn more about the MEND project to inform their bid for funding.

At the start of July we welcomed two students for their week of work experience. We have introduced a collection of historical costumes in the Turner Room which has proved popular with young visitors, and also some adults, who have tried on the larger items.

August 1st was commemorated with an evening party for all volunteers as this date signified 40 years since HM Queen Elizabeth visited to open Broad House as Lowestoft Museum. Paul Durbidge who was present on the occasion in 1985 gave a wonderful account of the proceedings as he had seen them.

For two separate weeks in September, porcelain from the museum was available to experience in a 'mixed reality event' in the former Tesco store in London Road North. This had positive feedback so we will be introducing a head-set into the museum for any visitors who are unable to manage the stairs, so they are still able to view the porcelain held upstairs.

The season is nearly over now, but for the first 27 weeks we had an amazing 7,145 visitors – including 1,641 children.

[www.lowestoftmuseum.org](http://www.lowestoftmuseum.org)

[lowestoftmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/lowestoftmuseum)

## The Magic of Christmas on Christmas Lane, Oulton Broad

The magic of Christmas will again light up Christmas Lane in Oulton Broad this year – one of only three streets in the country to share that festive name, though none celebrate it quite like Oulton Broad. The official switch-on will take place on Friday 29th November at 6:30 pm, marking the start of a much-loved community event that grows brighter every year.

This year's celebrations are receiving a wonderful boost thanks to the generous support of Oulton Broad Parish Council, who are providing two sets of professional lights for neighbours to share and two projectors to beautifully illuminate one of the Christmas Lane trees. Their contribution is helping the displays shine even more brightly and spread festive cheer well beyond the lane itself. Every household along Christmas Lane takes part in the decorating, with more homes each year on Noel Road, Prospect Road, Church Road, Hall Road and nearby streets joining in to make Oulton Broad shine. As per last year, the event will raise funds for **Angels and Rainbows**, a Lowestoft-based child loss charity. Every penny donated goes directly to the charity's vital work, with 1st Blundeston Scouts supporting the bucket collections and a live brass band providing festive music throughout the evening. Special thanks go to the long-standing residents who began this tradition over 20 years ago, whose vision and community spirit have inspired generations of neighbours to keep the lights glowing brightly. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit the Christmas Lane Christmas Lights Facebook page to see photos and videos, share their own, and leave positive messages of support for everyone who helps make the event so special, with visitors from as far as Luton, Oxford and Doncaster making special journeys to see the lights.

St Michael's Church, a crucial part of the Christmas Lane community, will once again be at the heart of the festivities. After the switch-on, visitors are warmly invited into the church to enjoy the lights and a hot drink. Later in the season, Carols in the Churchyard will take place on Friday December 20th in the evening in the field next



to St Michael's Church – a wonderful outdoor celebration where families and friends can gather to sing beneath the winter sky. Everyone is encouraged to bring a torch and a camping chair for comfort and sparkle!

Thanks to the efforts of residents, the backing of Oulton Broad Parish Council, and the hospitality of St Michael's Church, Christmas Lane continues to shine as a symbol of unity, kindness, and Christmas joy, bringing the true spirit of Christmas to Oulton Broad.

## Kesgrave Field is set in the middle of a large residential area. We feel the field could be more of a community asset – a place accessible to all to be enjoyed by the majority.

A survey was recently put out to all residents surrounding the area asking for feedback on our ideas, with questions regarding ploughing and levelling the field, planting fruit trees, new pathways to the play park, erecting netted football goals, installing an oval running track and reserved allotments. We had a good response and we are pleased to have the opinions of so many. We also had a suggestion box which gained us more insight to what was wanted by the majority.

We discussed the survey results at our Full Council Meeting where a few residents came along to express their opinions on the ideas. We have taken on board all responses and will continue to navigate the best way forward for the residents and the area. We will primarily be focussing on providing pathways to the play park and around the back of the field, taking into consideration the drainage around that specific area and increasing the size of the play park with more equipment for the younger children.

Slaters Pit is adjacent to Kesgrave Field. We've had to place a sign on site to deter misuse of the area, shown here.

