

## InBrief

### Nikki has new role at agency

A SOUTHWOLD-BASED company has appointed a new director.

The creative communications agency, Spring, whose clients include governments, UK

luxury brands, food and drink and property companies, has promoted Nikki Barker to client services director. During her time as account director in March, Miss Barker worked closely with clients including Active Web Solutions, The Eastern Enterprise Hub and Sirius Products.



### Poetry chance

A FREE poetry competition is open to people in Suffolk. A poem about Lowestoft or another town in Suffolk could win £1,000. Entry is completely free and anyone, young or old, master or beginner can enter. Send a poem about your chosen place to Local Poem, United Press Ltd, Admail 3735, London, EC1B 1JB. You can send up to three entries, which must be no more than 25 lines and 160 words each.

### Healthy walks

HEALTHY walks organised by NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney for this week are as follows. On Monday, September 26 there is a 2.5-mile walk in Pakefield. All Saints car park, at 10am. On Tuesday there is a 4.75-mile walk at Hardley Staithe, one mile down from Chedgrave, at 10am. On Wednesday 28th there is a 1.5-mile walk in Beccles, meeting at Beccles Common, at 2pm. On Friday there is a 5.5-mile walk in Corton, meeting at Station Road/Colman Road, at 2pm. Contact Justine Hopkins or Rhia Graystone on 01493 744411 or email Justine.Hopkins@nhs.net.

### Winners all!

WINNERS of the Journal Chambers Dictionary competition were: Mrs J Simmons of Middle Way, Lowestoft; John Williams of Breydon Way, Lowestoft; Linda Earnshaw of Wellington Road, Pakefield; Rob Lane of Hall Road, Oulton Broad and Mrs P Ashley of Elizabeth Close, Lowestoft.

# We need someone to save the 'crab' bridge

A FAMILIAR seaside landmark faces demolition if no-one can be found to take on responsibility for its upkeep.

Officials say the 50-year-old bridge at Walberswick is unsafe, no longer of use, and has become a hazardous liability - but locals hope a custodian will come forward in the next 60 days to save it from the bulldozers.

The Environment Agency built the bridge over the Dunwich River in the 1960s to allow vehicles to access the beach for sea defence work.

Since then it has been used regularly by crabbers and tourists but gradually less often by the Agency, which has offered to restore the bridge to its original state for anyone willing to take it on.

David Webb, Walberswick Parish Council chairman, said the Common Lands Charity, of which he is a trustee, was approached to assume ownership of the bridge but could not afford its long-term maintenance. Mr Webb said: "Admittedly, the condition of the bridge is not very good and it is actually outside the parish council's patch, but it is well used."

Mr Webb, who also sits on the Walberswick Crabbing Committee, stressed that the safety of the bridge had no influence on the cancellation this year's British Open Crabbing Championships but that untimely tides and an increasing volume of competitors crabbing from the river banks were the main reasons behind the decision.

"There is no problem with safety at all," he claimed. "Light vehicles can get across comfortably. "It would be a great shame and a big loss during the summer if the bridge went."

A padlocked gate restricts access to the bridge and original planning permission did not allow anyone but the Environment Agency to use it. However, many locals and tourists continue to use it as a walkway. Gary Watson, coastal engineer for the Environment Agency, said: "The bridge is very old and has not been



**BRIDGE WORRY:** Walberswick Parish Council chairman David Webb (right) and his brother Wally on the bridge at Walberswick that the Environment Agency could remove.

used for many years. "It was only really built for us to gain access to the beach but it fails current health and safety standards and we can now access the beach from another bridge nearby.

"We have written to both the parish and district council to give them the option of taking it on if they have use for it."

The Environment Agency has

given 60 days for the parish council and district council to respond with suggestions for the future of the bridge.

If someone is found to take on the responsibility, the Agency will shore up the sides and return the bridge to its original condition.

If not, the bridge will be removed altogether. Mr Watson added: "We are aware of its popularity with

Picture: EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

tourists and the annual crab fishing championship and we are conscious the local community may wish to retain the bridge but they must accept liability and action has to be taken to minimise risk.

"The steel below the bridge is heavily rusted and it has no timber fencing. It does not cost us much to maintain but it could potentially cost us in liability."

## Cash boost for Excelsior

AN historic fishing vessel has received a cash award. Life will be just swell on board the historic Lowestoft-based fishing smack Excelsior thanks to a fund set aside by the managing director of a Norwich business.

The Excelsior Trust is one of 18 East Anglian charities and community causes which are to benefit from £10,000-worth of cash awards given away this week by Norwich-based Almary Green Investments.

An award of £1,000 was made to the Trust which enables young people to work as part of the crew of the historic fishing vessel on sea trips to destinations as far away as Spain and the Baltic. It will be used to buy up-to-date navigational equipment.

Ken Gaylard, treasurer of the Excelsior Trust, said he was delighted by Almary Green's "very kind" gesture.

"The Excelsior contributes to the personal development of young people, many of whom come from disadvantaged circumstances, by boosting their self-confidence and developing team-building skills," said Mr Gaylard.

"It is hugely satisfying to see the progress they make while they are with us."

The fund was set aside by Carl Lamb,



**CASH BOOST:** Fishing smack Excelsior.

managing director of Almary Green, to mark his firm's 10th anniversary. The awards have been distributed throughout Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, where Almary Green's independent financial advisers are based.

The Beccles-based Waveney Stardust project has also benefited from Mr Lamb's generosity. Broads motor cruiser Stardust 1 carried 2335 passengers in its recently-completed 18th season, travelling over 50,000 miles and enabling thousands more disabled and elderly people to enjoy the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.

Waveney Stardust 2 will be launched on October 30.



## LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY...

If you are concerned about not being able to manage your financial affairs in the future and wish to appoint someone to act on your behalf please contact us.



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