

Picture: NICK BUTCHER



NO MORE THE FUEL: Graham Belcher stands by the pumps which are being switched off as the forecourt closes down.

LOWESTOFT

Graham, 66, has filled his final tank

Fill her up please!

It was once a phrase used by motorists across the UK, as they pulled up at their local petrol station, ready to top up their tank.

But the advent of self-service fuel pumps sounded the death-knell for the nation's forecourt attendants, and they will be an even rarer sight in Lowestoft from today.

The Waveney Gardens Service Station, in Westwood Avenue, is closing after decades catering to the needs of local motorists. For the last 36 years its petrol

“It will be sad when we finish. Like all small businesses we are being finished off

Graham Belcher

pumps have been diligently attended by Graham Belcher, 66, who is retiring. He serves about 100 customers a day and dispenses 850 gallons – 3,900 litres – of petrol and fuel a

week at the business, which also has a garage workshop which is to remain open at a new site from May 1.

When Mr Belcher finishes work it will mean the only remaining forecourt in the Lowestoft area with a petrol pump attendant is the Carlton Colville Service Station in The Street.

Mr Belcher said the petrol side of the business was being closed down due to the ever-present threat of supermarkets luring away motorists with discounted prices and because it would cost too much to implement new measures concerning the delivery of fuel.

He said: “It will be sad when we finish. Like all small businesses we are being finished off. We get about 100 people a day and most of them are small spenders, spending a tenner every time. “People go to supermarkets to fill up with £30 or £40 of petrol now.”

The workshop side of the business will be relocating to Carlton Road from May and will be re-named Kirkley Car Repairs. The new garage workshop will be run by Rodney Albon, 65, who has been at the Waveney Gardens Service Station for 30 years. He said the closure of the petrol side of the business was sign of the times.

Mr Albon will be working at the garage with his son, Richard. Kirkley Car Repairs is due to open six days a week from May.

NORWICH

Your work could be the symbol of the festival

HOSTRY FESTIVAL

Media Partners: **Eastern Daily Press**

By **EMMA KNIGHTS**

A city-based arts extravaganza celebrating Norfolk talent is holding a competition for people of all ages to design the cover of the festival's programme.

The Hostry Festival is back at Norwich Cathedral's Hostry this autumn, and its organisers are now looking for a new image for this year's programme of events.

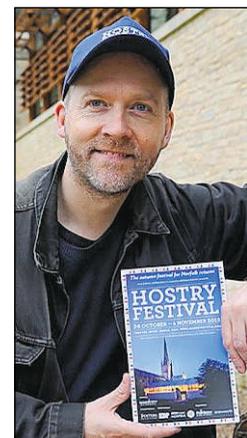
In keeping with the tradition of the festival, the artwork should feature the cathedral's Hostry building, and the winning design will be featured on the front of the 15,000 copies of the festival brochure which will be distributed across Norfolk.

Stash Kirkbride, artistic director of the festival, said: “We are keen that the competition is open to all age groups. The winner could be an established Norfolk artist with lots of experience or somebody who has just graduated from Norwich University of the Arts, or it could be someone with very little experience.

“We are also keen for schools to get involved in the competition and put some of their pupils forward.

“The design can either be an interpretation of the Hostry building or anything to do with the outside of the Hostry building, or it could be based on the photograph of the Hostry at night by Paul Tyagi that we have previously used on our front cover. The artwork could be done in oils, watercolour, charcoal or any material. The winner will have their design put on the front of the brochure which has 15,000 copies printed and goes out right across Norfolk. It would also be the main image for this year's Hostry Festival.”

The finalists in the front cover competition may also have their work



YOUR TURN: Stash Kirkbride with last year's programme.

exhibited in the Hostry Festival's My Norfolk exhibition, which aims to reflect the diversity of the county and the artists living and working here.

Artists are now being invited to send in submissions of their work about Norfolk for consideration for the exhibition, which will run throughout the Hostry Festival.

Mr Kirkbride said: “It's so inspiring to see the submissions to the new exhibition coming in from artists all over the county.

“Once again Norfolk is showing itself to be so full of stories, being told through many different art forms, and we are looking forward to sharing it all with Hostry Festival visitors in the autumn.”

■ **To enter the competition, send a jpeg image of your work to mynorfolk@hostryfestival.org and include the heading “front cover competition” in the subject title. The deadline for entries is 9am on June 15. For the My Norfolk exhibition Norfolk-based artists can submit for consideration one or two works of art inspired by the county. Artists should send in one or two jpeg images with a 100-word description, including dimensions and materials, and a 100-word description of their artistic practice to mynorfolk@hostryfestival.org. The deadline is 9am on June 15.**

■ **The 2013 Hostry Festival will run from October 24 until November 3.**

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