

LOWESTOFT

Christmas swim appeal to groups

Charities and voluntary organisations across Waveney are being invited to apply for a share of the money raised at Lowestoft's annual Christmas Day swim.

Preparations are already well under way for this year's event, which is expected to draw a big crowd to the seafront.

Last year, about £11,400 was raised – with 12 local groups benefiting.

Organisers of the popular swim have now sent out a call to all local charities and voluntary organisations that would be interested in applying for funding from the event.

Those selected will receive a share of the total, as decided by the swim committee.

Lawrence Chapman, of the Swim Committee, said: "The committee would welcome applications for grants.

"There are just a few guidelines for the application of funds from the Lowestoft Christmas charity swim.

"Your organisation should help disadvantaged people of any age in Lowestoft or the surrounding area and your organisation should briefly set out how it intends to use any money awarded to you from the swim."

■ **To apply to become a beneficiary download an application from www.splash4cash.org.uk/ or you can write to Lowestoft Christmas Charity Swim, PO BOX 42, Beccles, NR34 7WA.**

BECCLES

Man, 20, jailed after break-in

A burglar who stole a cash tin containing more than £400 during a break-in in Beccles has been jailed for more than two years.

Justin Bell, 20, climbed into a building, which was divided into residential accommodation and a takeaway restaurant in Ravensmere, Beccles, through an unsecured kitchen window, Ipswich Crown Court heard.

The burglary took place between 10pm on October 9 and 10am on October 10. Bell admitted being responsible for the burglary and told police there had been £410 in the cash tin. Bell, of no fixed address, was jailed for 876 days.

AYLSHAM

Teen in accident taken to hospital

A young man had to be taken to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital following a car accident at Aylsham on Tuesday.

A crew from the East of England Ambulance Service was called at about 7.55pm to a man described as "in his late teens" suffering with back and shoulder pain, with a suspected dislocated shoulder.

Fire crews from Aylsham and Reepham helped free the man from the car.



WAITING GAME: The cast in rehearsals for *Five Marys Waiting* which debuts at the Hostry Festival.

NORWICH

A debut show that is worth waiting for

By EMMA KNIGHTS

Five Marys from Biblical times are to be the subject of a brand new play commissioned for this year's Hostry Festival in Norwich.

The show – called *Five Marys Waiting* – has been penned by actor and writer David Banks who said the play has been a year in the making, after a post-show discussion of the play *Father and Son: Son and Father* in the 2011 Hostry Festival sparked the idea of creating a show for strong women performers about women of the Bible.

The finished result is a story set in 44AD Jerusalem. For 11 years an impassioned Jewish sect has been without its founding leader. His followers are persecuted, scattered, arguing about his promise to return, and now their current leader has been arrested. Five Marys meet to explore their grief and belief, to remember, and to wait.

Mr Banks, who among his acting roles played the Cyber Leader in *Doctor Who*, appeared in *Brookside*, and is in the cast of the Hostry Festival show *Hamlet: The Undiscovered Country*, said: "My first

HOSTRY FESTIVAL

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thought was the play could have strong women as all of the characters, and I thought it would be fun if they were all called Mary. I also wanted to explore grief and bereavement and loss that all of us have to go through at some points in our lives, and how we have to get on with our own lives and that means laughing sometimes when you want to cry, and what love means in that context too."

The five Marys are: Mary, mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene; a Mary Mr Banks refers to as "Aunt Mary" who is believed to be a relation of Jesus's mother; Mary, the mother of John Mark and whose house is thought may have been the scene of the Last Supper; and Rhoda, a servant of Mary, mother of John Mark, whom Mr Banks said was sometimes called Mary-Rose. In the show each Mary

has an alternate name, Miriam, Madeleine, Salome, Maria and Rhoda respectively, and the play looks at what happens as they wait in the room thought to have housed the Last Supper.

Mr Banks said: "It is not a devotional show specifically for people who belong to the church, it is basically a way of looking at ourselves. We are all waiting for something, that's the state in which we live and so there are some kind of spiritual and philosophical questions there too. Do we live in a constant state of turmoil or anxiety? We tend not to. Sometimes we suffer terrible accidents and tragedies but life goes on and we simply become part of that life. The show applies to all of us who have something in view – some exams, a wedding, a funeral for example – but we do not stop living, we still continue to hurt and to laugh."

■ **Five Marys Waiting is at Norwich Cathedral's Hostry on Sunday afternoon as part of a double bill with cellist Clare O'Connell and violinist Marcus Barcham-Stevens in concert. Tickets £10 – call 01603 218450. Visit www.hostryfestival.org**
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Earnest words in a strange half-life of a play

REVIEW

Hamlet: The Undiscovered Country
Norwich Cathedral Hostry

condensation of the tragedy from a troupe of wildly mixed abilities.

The rest of the play is something of an extension however: an over-long unpacking of words that loses the name of action. We are presented again with each character – including Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, with a coin-tossing nod to Stoppard – as they deal with some sort of purgatory.

New details of their past lives emerge – Rebecca Chapman's distraught weeping Gertrude and David Newham's arrogant and majestic old Hamlet particularly – but despite that the characters themselves shift little.

There are pleasant comic turns, including Peter Barrow as Yorick, but we also have a great deal of earnest words. It is an interesting exercise, but difficult to tell on one view how well it adds to the canon.

James Goffin

Hamlet: The Undiscovered Country runs nightly at 7.30pm until Saturday.

SWANTON MORLEY

Proposal for new bungalows in village

A "one stop" health care community could be created in a mid-Norfolk village following an application for 27 assisted living bungalows.

The proposal for full planning permission to increase the number of assisted living units at Lincoln House Nursing Home, Dereham Road, Swanton Morley, has been submitted to Breckland Council by the home itself.

If approved, the 27 bungalows would be built on Woodgate Road next to 24 assisted living units, built in 2007, and a doctors surgery which are connected to the nursing home.

The application's design and access statement said there is a "much needed requirement" for this type of development.

It added: "It is also meant to provide a one stop health care community with residents starting in the assisted living units, with the doctors surgery on site and, as needs require, eventually moving into the existing home for more specialist care where residents will already be familiar with staff."

Three letters of support have been received for the plan – from Norfolk County Council; Elmham Surgery in North Elmham; and Castlemeadow Care.

An email from a Breckland planning policy team said that 27 additional bungalows would create a "hard new edge" to Swanton Morley.

TAVERHAM

Burglars flee in stolen Mercedes

Burglars fled from a Taverham home in a stolen convertible Mercedes loaded with the spoils of their break-in.

The burglary on Nightingale Close in Taverham happened between 9pm on Friday, October 26 and 5.45am on Saturday, October 27.

Suspects entered the home through an unlocked back door and stole a widescreen Phillips television, laptop and Nintendo Wii.

Keys to a Mercedes CLK were also taken and the vehicle was later found abandoned on Taverham Lane in Costessey.

■ **Anyone with information should contact Det Con Pete Williams at Norwich CID on 101.**

NORWICH

Scoliosis group meeting in city

A group for people with scoliosis will meet in Norwich at the weekend.

The Norfolk and Norwich SAUK (Scoliosis Association UK) group will meet from midday to 3pm on Saturday, November 3 at the Queen of Icenii pub on Riverside. Anyone with scoliosis, a type of curvature of the spine, their families and those in the medical profession are welcome.

■ **For more information, email martin.symons@sauk.org.uk or call 07747 666255.**