**News Release**

Saxmundham Museum new season IMMEDIATE

**Saxmundham Museum new season opening**

*Saxmundham Museum re-opened on 1st April after a winter rest for repair and rejuvenation. The Museum is open through from 10 am to 1pm Monday to Saturday until September 30th. Entry is free.*

You’ll find Saxmundham Museum at 49 High Street, next to the railway bridge.

At first glance it looks tiny. However once you’re inside, you’ll see why Saxmundham was once of the most important towns in East Suffolk - there are five rooms, including a replica cinema.

One of the most significant changes this year is to the front window display.

The model trains continue to race round the track but now, they do so in a brand new landscape.

The station and its surroundings have been re-vamped and re painted and there’s now a large aerial view of Saxmundham as a background. It’s already enticing passers by to try and spot their homes.

***In the Green Room, there’s a new display featuring the life of Ron Thompson.***

Ron Thompson was born in Dennington in 1921 and moved to Saxmundham as a small boy. His father worked at Bower’s Coal Merchants in the town.

Ron went to the Gas Works when he left school and was a reserve fireman. When he was 18, he was posted to the Far East almost straight away and was sent to work on the railway but he was captured by the Japanese and interred as a Prisoner of War in Changi jail between 1942 and 1945.

***Don’t lose it!***

“It’s really important that we capture all available knowledge of Saxmundham and its surroundings,” says Peter Minta, Saxmundham Museum Trustee. “If you know about the town from years gone by or have experience of a particular subject, please find time to drop in to the Museum and talk to one of the stewards or jot your details on a piece of paper and we’ll be in touch.”

***Be our friend***

Becoming a friend of Saxmundham Museum costs just £15 a year. You’ll be invited to talks and events of special interest, plus the annual party.

Saxmundham Museum has no paid staff and relies on the support of Friends and volunteers.

To become a Friend, please drop into the Museum and complete a form, or send your name, address and contact details plus a cheque for £15 made out to ‘Saxmundham Museum’ at 49 High Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1AT.

ENDS

Caption: Saxmundham Museum now open for the 2015 season

For further press information: Belinda Moore 07850 782573 or bmoore@anglianet.co.uk