

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Come and be part of five days of magic, music and mystery on the banks of the beautiful River Deben**

### **THE SPIRIT OF BEOWULF**

In

Woodbridge Suffolk, May 3rd-7th 2018

A free Community Festival celebrating the clear links between the epic poem of Beowulf and the treasures found in the Royal Burial site at Sutton Hoo

<http://beowulffestival.co.uk>

Daily updates: [www.facebook.com/BeowulfFestival](http://www.facebook.com/BeowulfFestival)

## Imagine - Just imagine!

### An explanation by The Mayor of Woodbridge about 'The Spirit of Beowulf Community Festival'



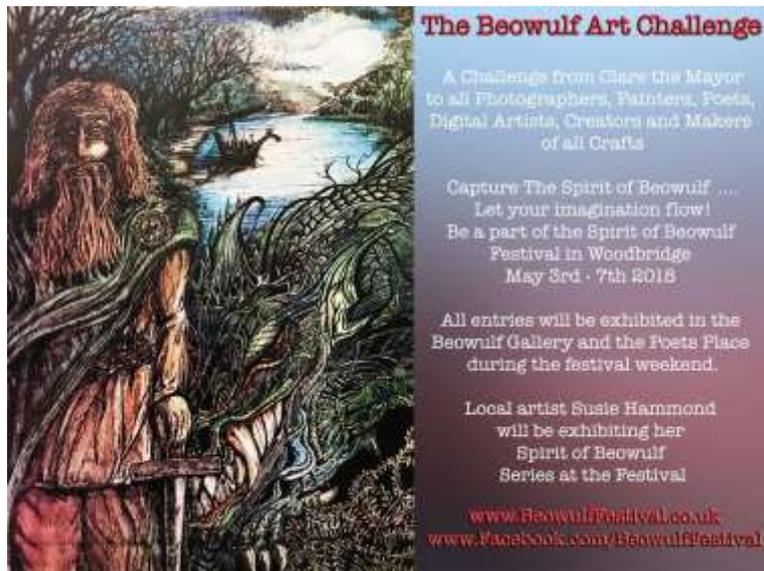
This year has been an interesting and amazing personal journey for me to go on, and to mark the end of the mayoral year, I wanted to do something different, but in keeping with the creative style that I originally set out when I started.

I did not want to do a Mayor's Ball that is the normal way to mark the end of a mayoral year. Being a creative person, I thought I could do something different. I have always loved legends and dragons, and living in a town that is opposite Sutton Hoo, it seemed right to celebrate the links between Britain's most epic poem, Beowulf, and the treasures that were found in the Royal Burial Ship at Sutton Hoo.



**The Spirit of Beowulf Community Festival** is being put on by Woodbridge, for Woodbridge and to Woodbridge, using all the talent that abound in our wonderful town.

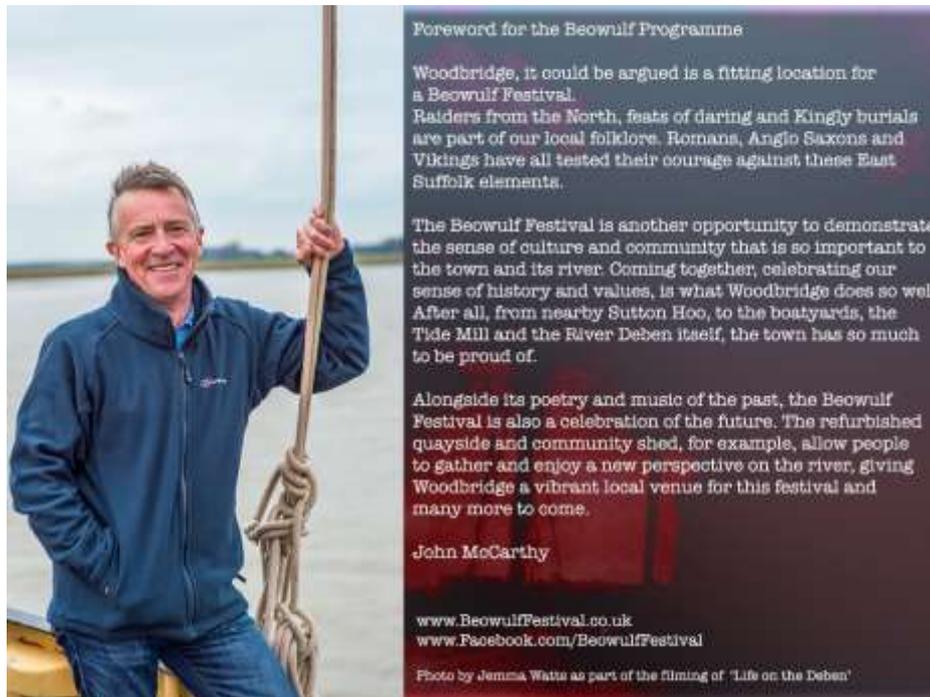
I set a **Mayors Challenge** and have already had many entries for both Poetry and Art from people who have been inspired by the subject. All entries will be displayed in The Longshed with a Dragon guarding (because that is what dragons do ...they guard their treasure)



My Co-Producer and friend Jan Pulsford ( [www.janpulsford.uk](http://www.janpulsford.uk) ) has given up her precious time this year to help me make this festival a WoW for Woodbridge. Jan has worked all her life in music and the arts, writing award winning music for Film and TV and legendary pop artists Cyndi Lauper, Darlene Love, Steps, Eurovision etc. alongside the jazz and improv of Chico Freeman and Deben Collective. She broadcasts from her aMBieNT MuSiC WoRLD in Woodbridge every Sunday evening with electronica and piano inspired by the river - music to relax and unwind. Jan is thrilled to be co-producing the Beowulf Festival.



We are also very proud to have had support from **John McCarthy**, journalist and broadcaster, who has kindly written a forward for our souvenir program.



This is my gift to the town to say Thank You for allowing me to be the 2017/18 Mayor

### **Program of Events for the Five Day Festival**

There will be: Dragons at Woodbridge Emporium, History at The Shire Hall, a 'What Beowulf ate' talk at The Tide Mill, live music from The Boat Stage ,a Beowulf Family Fun activity day at The T-Hut, the half size replica Anglo Saxon ship Sae Wylfing and its re-enactors, Anglo Saxon crafters and makers, Poetry and Painting exhibitions, riddles and story- telling for children, and a Beowulf Beltane walk to the magical mounds of Sutton Hoo plus lots more.

Vegan and Gluten free food by Juan Pablo, Grendel Stew (no monsters used), a Hog Roast and a Beowulf Stew from Vernon Blackmore of The Table, Woodbridge, Beowulf Baps, Beowulf Ale and Mead plus a variety of other drinks to provide more delicious mystery and magic to celebrate The Spirit of Beowulf.

We are very excited to have the Primary Schools in and around Woodbridge involved with The Spirit of Beowulf, as it is part of the curriculum taught, so a lovely reason to do lots of Beowulf themed works of art which will be on display for all to see.

Special guests include award winning author and story- teller Kevin Crossley-Holland (sponsored by Ninni Noo Boutique in Woodbridge), an historical evening at The Shire Hall with radio personality Charlie Haylock and Archeologist Dr Emma Tetlow (sponsored by Woodbridge Deli), Music from Caswell, Oktoba , AArtwork, Jan Pulsford and performed on a specially built boat stage on board the Marie and Anglo Saxon Tales will told by Bards Aloud all over the town at different times during the weekend .

A spectacular Son at Lumiere and light show projected onto the Tide Mill and the Granary as a finale . This has kindly been sponsored by Holly Blue Boutique.

3rd May - DRAGONS!

**THURSDAY** - an "Evening of Dragons" at **Woodbridge Emporium** on the **Thoroughfare** - early session for children and then after dark for adults!

We are also very excited to be building a dragon sculpture from wasted plastic with Wildlife Gadget Man **Jason Alexander**. "Scruff the Plastic Dragon" and **Bon Collins**.

Embrace your inner dragon and get involved!



**DRAGONS**

An evening of Dragons  
at Woodbridge Emporium  
Thursday May 3rd 2018

Teas, Books, Art, Poems, Stories and more.

Discover your inner dragon  
at the Beowulf Festival  
May 2018  
Woodbridge, Suffolk.

[www.BeowulfFestival.co.uk](http://www.BeowulfFestival.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/BeowulfFestival](https://www.facebook.com/BeowulfFestival)

## 4th May - HISTORY!

**FRIDAY** - A fascinating evening of history and archaeology at the Shire Hall with Field Archeologist **Dr. Emma Tetlow** BSC, MPhil, PHD, MCIFA and special guest **Charlie Haylock** - an historian of spoken English, dialect specialist, authority on his native Suffolk and a bestselling author and radio personality.

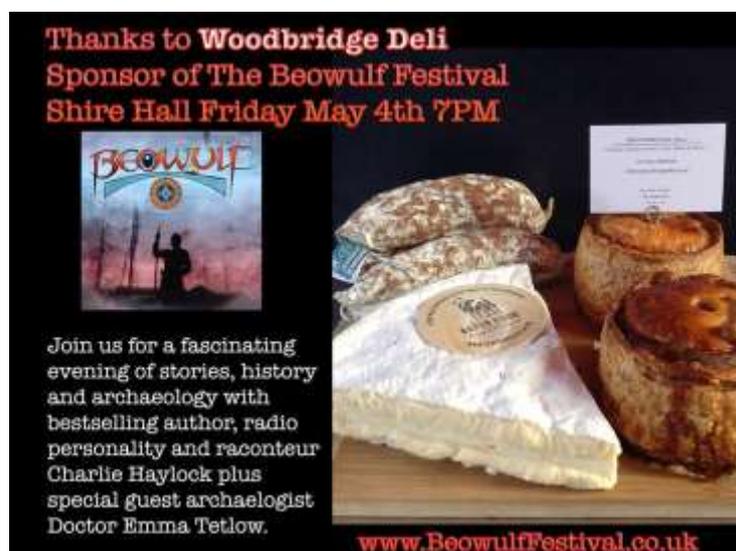
The link between the story of Beowulf and Woodbridge, the River Deben and the Great Ship of Sutton Hoo will be discussed plus an exclusive look at Anglo Saxon treasures recently found in the area.

Limited seating. Tickets are now available from Eventbrite for the Shire Hall event Friday May 3rd 7PM

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spirit-of-beowulf-historical-evening-tickets-43713977684>

Kindly sponsored by the Woodbridge Deli

**LIVE MUSIC** afterwards at the Angel with **FISHCLAW**



**Thanks to Woodbridge Deli**  
**Sponsor of The Beowulf Festival**  
**Shire Hall Friday May 4th 7PM**

Join us for a fascinating evening of stories, history and archaeology with bestselling author, radio personality and raconteur Charlie Haylock plus special guest archaeologist Doctor Emma Tetlow.

[www.BeowulfFestival.co.uk](http://www.BeowulfFestival.co.uk)

5th May - FESTIVAL ON THE RIVER 11am-11pm

**SATURDAY** - A bustling Beowulf Village and Anglo Saxon market on the waterfront.

Lots of food and drink including Vegan and Gluten free by Juan Pablo with their special Grendel Stew; a Hog Roast and a Beowulf Stew from Vernon; Beowulf Baps from the Cake Shop; Simpers Oysters. Beowulf Ale and more from the Angel - Teas and Coffee from the Scouts. The Caravan will also be serving on Ferry Quay.

The **Tide Mill Living Museum** is open all day with a special talk 'What did Beowulf eat?' from **Dr. Debby Banham** at 1.00pm Free Admission!



Renowned author **Kevin Crossley-Holland** will be story telling on the replica ship **Sae Wylfing** at 11.00am with Norse Myths and 2.30pm telling the epic story of Beowulf. Kindly sponsored by **Ninni Noo Boutique**.

Beowulf Festival, Woodbridge welcomes renowned Children's author and Anglo Saxon scholar

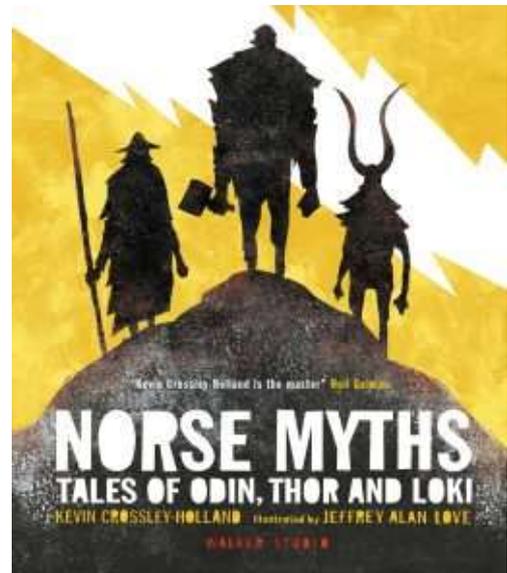
## Kevin Crossley-Holland

Whisstocks Public Space - Saturday 5th May  
11.00 Norse Myths  
14.30 Beowulf storytelling  
(with a book signing to follow each event)

Tea Hut - Sunday 6th May  
11.00 Riddles Ancient and Modern

Free Admission!

Kindly sponsored by  
**NINNI NOO**  
boutique  
57 Thoroughfare



Music in the Longshed throughout the day from Brian Eno's Bloom and aMBieNT MuSiC WoRLD to accompany the Poetry and Painting Exhibitions.

Live Music on the square and the Marie Boat Stage with **Merlyn's Open Mic** at 12.00 and special guest **Peter Hepworth** at 1.30 pm

4pm electronica from **girl in a gale** and DJs **Freeland, Horner and Quinn**

7pm **Oktoba**, 8pm **Caswell** (full band) 9pm **Aartwork**,



10pm The day ends with Beowulf Festival Lights on the Tide Mill (Kindly sponsored by **Holly Blue Boutique**) with music from **Jan Pulsford's aMBieNT MuSiC WoRLD** ending a day of mystery and magic as Woodbridge celebrates "The Spirit of Beowulf" on the banks of the River Deben. Free admission



6th May - TEA HUT - BEOWULF FAMILY FUN DAY!

**SUNDAY** - A Beowulf Family Fun Activity Day at the Tea Hut with **The Distressed Artist** running lots of fun Art and Craft activities for kids and families at this favourite spot on the River Wall. This promises to be a very popular event so come early!

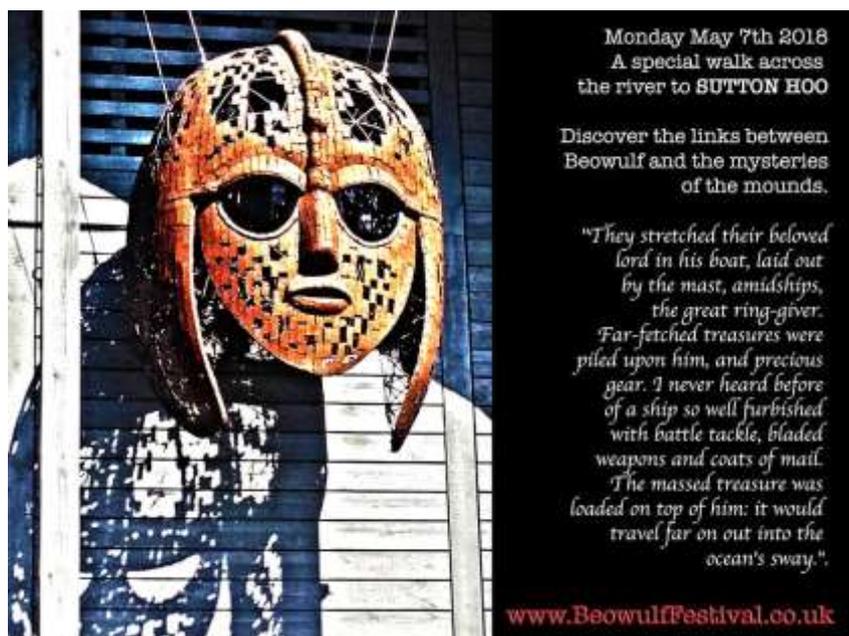
Renowned author **Kevin Crossley-Holland** will be hosting a 'Riddles for Children' at 11AM with a book signing starting off what will be a fun packed day until 4PM.

Then come and chill out at the Riverside with **Caswell**



7th May - SUTTON HOO

**MONDAY** - Join us as we celebrate Monday Bank holiday with an extra bit of Beowulf and Beltane magic along the River Deben and the mystical mounds of Sutton Hoo.



This is a poem I have composed especially for the Festival

**The Spirit of Beowulf**

**By**

**Clare Perkins**

**Mayor of Woodbridge 2017/18**

The Spirit of Beowulf is alive and well  
Across our land with a legend to tell.  
Who was this Hero we have come to admire?  
We tell his story with song and lyre.

Beowulf is said to be the Prince of Geats  
Who comes to Denmark and a monster meets.  
This monster is said to be half man, half beast  
Who doesn't like noise, treasure or feast.

The King of Denmark, Hrothgar his name  
Enjoys a prosperous and successful reign.  
He builds a Hall that is called Heorot  
And all his warriors feast a lot.

But, all the noise from this Hall  
Causes anger to Grendel. He pays a call.  
This monster lives in swamp nearby  
And waits till darkness to vent his cry.

The warriors try to fight this beast  
But they are no match for Grendel's zest.  
They put their arms to sword and shield  
But sadly, many are maimed and killed.

Far away their plight is heard  
By a man called Beowulf who is not a feared.  
He sails to Denmark with a chosen few  
Hardy warriors determined to slew.

The King of Denmark holds a feast  
To honour Beowulf in his quest.  
A man called Unferth doubts the claim  
And challenges Beowulf to play the game.

Beowulf wins and receives the cheer  
From all the Danish warriors who fear,  
That this great monster will not be slain  
So their lives will be normal again.

Later that night Grendel arrived  
But Beowulf fights and Grendel's terrified.  
How can a man be stronger than he  
When unarmed and mortal be.

They struggle, and Grendel tries to flee,  
But Beowulf tears his arm off you see.  
Mortally wounded to the swamp he goes  
And waits to die, this he knows.

The severed arm is hung up high  
As a trophy of Beowulf's victory.  
Hrothgar holds a feast to honour  
This man called Beowulf, a true warrior.

The songs and praise go into night  
They did not know there was another fight.  
But Grendel's mother who was distraught  
At her son's death, has come to wrought.

She roared her way to the hall  
Thrashing those in her thrall.  
She then did kill the King's advisor  
And shrank away before they found her.

Beowulf and his fellow men  
Go to the swamp and search for her den.  
He dives below and finds her lair  
And kills her with a sword that's rare.

He sees the body of Grendel there  
And brings the head to Hrothgar.  
The Danish people shout and cheer  
Because he has rid them of all fear.

Beowulf returns to his own land  
Where he is feted and held in hand  
By the King and Queen who treat him well  
With all the stories he could tell.

In time the Hero ascends the throne  
And rules for fifty years alone.  
He looks after those who want to live  
Without the fear that monsters give.

When Beowulf is old, a thief disturbs  
A mound or barrow a dragon guards.  
Enraged, the dragon fires his flame  
On all the Geats who wrecked his home.

Beowulf knows that tho' he's old  
He must fight this dragon and be bold.

This will be his very last fight  
The cost is heavy ...from a dragon bite.

The dragon has bitten Beowulf's neck  
The venom flows ...its path to wreck  
The Hero falls, and the dragon dies,  
But Beowulf's Spirit will arise.

Beowulf made a wish to be  
Buried, overlooking the sea,  
This was done and with him went  
His sword, his treasure and his helmet.

Today I think that Beowulf's Spirit  
Is on the River and even in it,  
If you think of just one thing  
Let it be, Beowulf the Hero King.

