

**NORWICH**

# Delight at return of city arts festival

Excitement was building last night ahead of the return of a major arts festival to Norwich.

Around 100 volunteers who are putting on the Hostry Festival gathered at Norwich Cathedral for a launch night.

Meeting for the first time the volunteers, included actors, directors and back stage crew.

The festival's artistic director Stash Kirkbride said: "Things are really starting in earnest now with the start of rehearsals."

"We have all been working on this project for 10 months alongside our day time jobs."

The festival gets started on October 26.



**GETTING TO KNOW YOU:** Volunteers get set for the Hostry Festival, which was launched last night.

**WAVENEY/GREAT YARMOUTH**

# Information on hospice during library tour

A hospice charity is touring libraries in Waveney and Great Yarmouth to tell people about the palliative care services it offers to both areas.

St Elizabeth Hospice is investing £2.2m over the next three years in Waveney and Yarmouth and provides day care services in Lowestoft, Beccles and Ditchingham and Yarmouth. It also has a three-bed unit at Ditchingham.

The charity's tour of libraries starts at Beccles on Tuesday, September 25 at 7pm, followed by Yarmouth library on Friday, September 28 at 2pm.

It then moves onto Halesworth library on Wednesday, October 10 from 10.30am and then Lowestoft on Tuesday, October 16 at 2pm.

**NORTH WALSHAM**

# School confident it will make progress

By ALEX HURRELL

Parents whose children have just begun a new year at a north Norfolk school have been told that it has been placed under special measures.

Government Ofsted inspectors say North Walsham Junior School is "inadequate" in four out of five categories, including the quality of teaching, leadership and management, and pupils' achievements. But the school's new head teacher, Clare Fletcher, says a raft of improvements have already been introduced.

Although Ofsted visited the school in late June, the inspectors' findings were only made public last week.

Their visit had been a "bolt from the blue", according to Mrs Fletcher, now executive head teacher of both the Manor Road junior and neighbouring infant school and nursery.

The two schools had formally federated on June 1, with a combined governors' body and head, and Mrs Fletcher, who has been head of the infants' school for 10 years, officially took up her new executive role on September 1.



**TURNING THINGS AROUND:** New head Clare Fletcher.

But she unofficially stepped in to the breach when the Ofsted inspectors arrived because junior school head teacher Ruth Brumby, who was due to retire at the end of the summer term after 18 years in post, had taken authorised leave from mid-May.

The junior school had received an overall "satisfactory" ranking last summer and the inspectors' findings had been "devastating", said Mrs Fletcher. Their sole "satisfactory" grade had been for the children's behaviour and safety.

"It was a real roller-coaster for the staff, who were coming to terms with saying goodbye to a well-regarded head.

"They didn't understand the

difficulties they were in because the school was running smoothly. They have been absolutely wonderful in coming behind me to turn things around."

On the two days immediately following the inspectors' visit, Mrs Fletcher said the staff of both schools had undergone intensive maths training.

The infants' school was ranked "outstanding" by Ofsted in 2008 and 2011 and Mrs Fletcher said its successful ReadWrite and maths-teaching systems, practices and policies were now all in use at the junior school too.

"In a way it's been a positive thing because the inspectors' report gave me and the new governing body a mandate for change," she added. "It feels like I'm inventing a school from scratch."

Paul East, chairman of the combined governors' body, said they were finally heading in the right direction.

He added: "I am confident that rapid progress will be made."

The schools have a total of 570 pupils.

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# Teachers' artwork goes on show in school exhibition

Art from teachers at Langley School, near Loddon, will be on display at St Michael's Church on Friday.

The free exhibition of photography, fine art, textiles and ceramics will be on display from 6-8pm.

It will then also be available to view from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays for the next month.



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