

ness Soccer@Sea, which takes youngsters and their families on specially tailored football cruises.

But they say the visa blow has been a "bomb blast" for their lives and business as Mrs Everitt cannot go abroad.

The Home Office has her passport while the couple appeal the decision, which they have been told will take a year.

Mrs Everitt, 64, said: "Our business is travel. Part of how we prepare for these trips is to go on the ship and meet the captain. I'm the one that does all the detail for us.

"I can do it from afar to some extent, but it's going to be a nightmare. I'm going to have to train someone to replicate me on every

Steve Everitt,
businessman

ship, which can be done but it's going to eat up the profit." The couple, who were both widowed before meeting online, have been married for five years and holidayed regularly in Norfolk while living in the US, spending a lot of time in Cromer.

Their family have chipped in to help raise the £2,500 needed to appeal the Home Office decision, that must be lodged by Monday.

Mrs Everitt, who has a sister in Peterborough, said: "This will kill me if I don't have a homeland. America isn't home, I have nowhere to go there."

But the couple have disputed this and said they were informed that due to a rule change, she could apply from within the UK.

They have taken their concerns to North Norfolk MP Norman Lamb who has written to immigration minister Mark Harper and asked him to investigate their case and the Home Office decision.

A Home Office spokesman said: "All applications are considered on their individual merits and in line with the immigration rules.

"Mrs Everitt attempted to switch from a six month visitor visa to a partner visa while still in the UK, which is not allowed under the rules."

Celebration of Britten by historic choir

One of East Anglia's oldest choral societies will be performing Benjamin Britten classics in Holt this weekend.

The North Norfolk Chorale will be putting on A Celebration of English Music in the Auden Theatre, Gresham's School, on Saturday from 7.30pm.

It will be taking place a day after the birthday of Britten, who attended the Holt school for two years from 1928-1930. This year is the centenary of his birth.

As well as works by the celebrated

English composer, the concert will include music by his contemporaries and composers who influenced him.

The choir will perform A Hymn to the Virgin, composed by Britten while he was a pupil at Gresham's, and Rejoice in the Lamb, composed in 1943.

Former ITN political correspondent Michael Brunson will introduce each musical piece.

The choir will be accompanied by a string quartet as well as Henry Macey on the piano and conducted by Rosemary Kimmins.

Soloists will be soprano Jayne May-Sysum, mezzo soprano Freya Jacklin, tenor Daniel Bartlette and bass Tom Appleton.

The North Norfolk Chorale was founded as the North Walsham Choral Society in 1873.

■ **Tickets are priced at £12 in advance and £14 on the door, and are available from the Auden box office, which is open Monday to Friday from 12.30 to 2pm. For more information email boxoffice@greshams.com or ring 01263 713444.**

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