

## Composer's life seen through cousin's eyes

The childhood of renowned composer Benjamin Britten will be recounted by his cousin at an event staged in his old school.

Uncle Ben – Family Memories sees John Britten recalling rarely-heard tales of the prodigy's younger days, including his time at Gresham's School in Holt from 1928-30.

Following the talk at 7pm at the Auden Theatre on Friday, November 15, the evening will also enjoy a performance of some of Britten's



■ Benjamin Britten pictured during his time at Gresham's School between 1928 and 1930.

unpublished songs, which will include Farfield – Britten's personal tribute to his boarding house, composed for the school in 1955. They will be performed by Old Greshamian Tom Appleton, and senior school music director Mark Jones.

■ Tickets are £10 from the Auden Theatre box office, 01263 713444, or via [boxoffice@greshams.com](mailto:boxoffice@greshams.com).



■ The Winter Gardens on Great Yarmouth seafront is one of the buildings featured in a new TV programme about important but neglected buildings.

the safety of the structure.

Darren Barker, senior conservation officer at Great Yarmouth Borough Council, said: "There are very few surviving winter gardens, particularly in seaside towns. The main problem is that a lot of the glaz-

ing has been held in by wooden frames which have rotted and there are other structural problems."

Officers are currently working up a multi-million pound bid to repair the building and give it a sustainable use as a mini-Eden Project.

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programmes connects with the original Restoration series, which saw Griff Rhys Jones tell viewers about listed buildings in need and ask them to vote for the one they wanted to rescue.

Among those being re-visited by the programme is Greyfriars Tower in Kings Lynn, which has been fully restored despite missing out on the public vote.

Mr McGrady said: "The focus in Yarmouth is on the Winter Gardens. We will be talking about some of the challenges the building faces and how you look after something of that size and vintage."

The Grade II\* listed building was originally built in Torquay but it was sold to Great Yarmouth in 1903. It shut suddenly in 2008 amid fears over

Winter Gardens the most important buildings in the increasing cases for repairs.

being made by Wavelength Films for the purpose to spotlight the neglected cemeteries and the iconic Winter Gardens which is blighting

Wavelength company would be today and speaking in conservation

journalist and Sergeant, the shown locally on will ultimately be a series focusing on the country and's Heritage. of half-hour