We crown our Pub of the Year
Win a Christmas hamper
Get ready for Brexit

Prepare for Brexit at gov.uk/brexit

If you need information about what might change after Brexit visit www.gov.uk/brexit where you will find information for businesses, UK nationals and for EU citizens living in the UK.

The Government has already announced that EU nationals can apply to stay in the UK after Brexit, provided they claim, ‘settled status’.

This will allow non-UK EU citizens to continue to live and work in the UK. They will also continue to be eligible for public services, public funds and pensions, and British citizenship (assuming usual requirements are met.) But, of the three million people eligible to apply, so far only one million have done so.

To be granted Settled Status, you need to have paperwork to show that you have lived in the UK for at least 6 months in any 12 month period for 5 years in a row. People who do not pay household bills or have been homemakers rather than being employed may not have, easily to hand, some of the required proof of residency.

If that is the case, we might be able to help. If you have received benefits or if you are registered to vote, your local council will have a record and may be able to help you provide the proof needed.

If you think we might be able to help please call us on 0808 168 2000.

Help shape our future

The Budget Consultation Survey is your chance to let us know what is important to you. Your opinions and priorities will help us decide the way in which we set the Council’s budget for the year.

Have your say – www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/residents/have-your-say/consultations

Contact us

24 hours a day, 7 days a week access our services online.
Visit: www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

Email: council@s-norfolk.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/southnorfolkcouncil
www.twitter.com/SNorfolkCouncil

Main Number: 0808 168 2000
Write to: South Norfolk Council, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2XE

South Norfolk Freephone Numbers
Automated Touchtone Payments 0808 178 7146
Benefits and Council Tax 0808 178 7141
Business Rates 0808 178 7142
Car Park Enquiries 0808 178 7145
Housing Advice 0808 168 2222
Planning 0808 168 3000
Waste and Recycling 0808 168 3333
Flytipping 0808 168 2999
Norfolk County Council 0344 800 8020

101 is the new number to call when you want to contact your local police - when it's less urgent than a 999 call. 101 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Our website has a ‘Get Ready for Brexit’ button that links through to the Government’s Brexit webpage where you will be able to find information but, whatever the Brexit situation is when you are reading this, remember, we are here to help.

We stand-by to work with Norfolk Chamber and the NewAnglia LEP to help local businesses make sense of new import/export paperwork that may be needed to keep the wheels of industry turning and jobs protected.

Thinking long-term, our plans to support the economy and exploit the proposed ‘Shared Prosperity Fund’ locally are well advanced. We have also had good news from central government with an announcement of £500,000 to move the Long Stratton Bypass to the next stage, keeping the multimillion pound project on track for construction to start in 2022.

Our construction of new offices to rent to growing firms in the Enterprise Zone at the Norwich Research Park will start in January to support high paying jobs in the local economy. And in the New Year we will publish the draft local plan, that details where land designations for new homes and business will be made to 2038.

It is all part of a massive investment programme that is focused on building better lives and a stronger economy. It means that whatever happens with Brexit, our area will be best placed to play a part in the global economy supported by new local jobs, and new homes alongside the required infrastructure.

And while we’re thinking global, we act locally: As you will read later, Bressingham & Fersfield Allotments £2,292.80
Brooke Playpark £15,000.00
Burston War Memorial Group £1,000.00
Chedgrave Parish Council £15,000.00
The Otter Trust £4,000.00
Gissing Children’s Centre £5,040.00
Mulbarton Gymnastic Club £3,405.00
Scole Nature Trails Trust £1,637.00
Chelsfield Bowls Club £1,300.00
Grassroots Projects have received £65,000 in funding to make life better locally paid for out of the extra council tax paid by the growth in housing. We’re also just about to expand the car park at Wymondham Leisure Centre so we no longer turn away customers at peak times so everyone can lead active and healthy lifestyles.

The seven district authorities in Norfolk and the County Council have been working with central government to identify the potential impacts to you, your family and also to businesses and charities on the risks and opportunities that Brexit may bring.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER, leader@s-norfolk.gov.uk

The seven district authorities in Norfolk and the County Council have been working with central government to identify the potential impacts to you, your family and also to businesses and charities on the risks and opportunities that Brexit may bring.
CHILDREN’S CHARITY DIVES IN AT DISS

Over the summer, children from the Friends of Chernobyl’s Children’s Charity took part in two free swimming sessions at Diss Leisure Centre. The children enjoyed two fun educational sessions run by our experienced Swim School teacher Lindsey Chapman.

This is the second year Lindsey has given up her time for free to help the children who are from some of the most disadvantaged areas of Belarus.

Kirsty Neve, the Charity’s branch co-ordinator for Diss said: “We are very grateful to Lindsey and Diss Leisure Centre for offering the children swimming lessons as most of them wouldn’t get that opportunity at home and we know what an important life skill it can be.”

The charity is always looking for support and sponsors. If you can help, please contact Kirsty Neve on 07706899093 or 01379 890310, or email focc.diss@gmail.com

GOING THE DISTANCE FOR CHARITY

To celebrate National Fitness Day staff and members from South Norfolk Council’s three leisure centres biked around Britain.

There were ten static bikes at both Wymondham and Long Stratton Leisure Centres and two more at the leisure centre in Diss. The target was to cycle the length of Great Britain’s mainland coastline.

The challenge started at 7am and lasted 12 hours. The £280 raised will be donated to local charity, Star Throwers. The charity is dedicated to supporting people with cancer and their carers, from diagnosis through to life after cancer.
**FLYING THE RED DUSTER**

In September we celebrated Merchant Navy Day. It was a chance for us to show support to the men and women from the Merchant Navy community, which includes personnel and their families, veterans and the cadet forces.

Since 2000, Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September has honoured the brave men and women who kept our ‘island nation’ afloat during both World Wars, and celebrated our dependence on modern day merchant seafarers who are responsible for 95% of the UK’s imports, including half the food we eat, plenty of the fuel we burn and virtually all the products and goods we take for granted.

As well as delivering our Christmas by boat each year the Merchant Navy is also responsible for delivering 75% of our country’s exports.

**KNIGHTS ARE CHAMPIONS**

Congratulations to the Norfolk Knights Wheelchair Rugby Club who have finished top of the national WR5s Championship table, winning promotion to the Premier League.

In 2017 we gave the club a Community Action Fund grant of £5,802 which was used to buy a trailer to enable the team to transport their wheelchairs to away matches.

The Norfolk Knights also won a Community Champion Award in 2017.

**SWIMMING SUCCESS**

Hannah Griffiths has been awarded the title of Miss Mermaid Norfolk 2019 and was sponsored by our Swim School to represent Norfolk at the Miss Mermaid UK finals where she won the title of Miss Mermaid Scotland.

Miss Mermaid UK is an eco friendly national competition where mermaids compete to be crowned Miss Mermaid UK.

Hannah is raising vitally needed funds for Sea Shepherd UK, a marine conservation charity who conserve and protect the UK’s and world marine ecosystems, habitats and species.
We have seen a great return on our investment at Long Stratton Leisure Centre.

Since it re-opened its doors in March, membership has doubled at Long Stratton Leisure Centre, following a £2 million improvement scheme that has transformed the centre.

The state of the art, 80 station gym has proved very popular with both members and casual users and we now have twice as many people using the new equipment. The brand-new class programme featuring over 40 classes, in our new airconditioned fitness suite, has succeeded in attracting people of all ages and abilities.

The class programme, which is being extended even further, means fitness enthusiasts have plenty of choice and there really is something for everyone.

Cabinet member Yvonne Bendle said:
“It’s been wonderful to see so many new people using the leisure centre. We always intended to build a real community hub, offering a place where friends and families can spend quality time together. We are investing in the health and wellbeing of our residents, but it is also important that we see a financial return for our tax payers as well.”

The bright new, multi-tiered Bananas Soft Play and toddler area has also been incredibly successful. Little ones have had great fun and have been entertained while parents and carers have enjoyed a coffee and a catch up with friends in the new Café.

The opening of Long Stratton Leisure Centre is the latest phase of improvements to leisure facilities across the district. The Council invested £700,000 in a 3G pitch in Long Stratton, £4 million in its Wymondham Leisure Centre and has opened a fantastic, full sized, 3G football facility at Kett’s Park, following an investment of £1.2 million.

Find out more by visiting www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/leisure
Backed by the Football Association the college offers 16 to 18 year olds the opportunity to train in a football related career while continuing their academic studies.

The football training program is designed to enhance every players’ game, with sessions and matches led by highly qualified UEFA coaches, including ex professional players and managers. The individual sessions focus on improving the students’ technique, as well as tactical awareness and understanding of the game.

Students are also given strength and conditioning training, to make sure that they are fully prepared for the demands of modern football.

Director of Education, Darren Cox told us:
“The college combines modern academic study, practical hands-on learning and the experience of working in the football industry. Our aim is to provide our students with the skills, experience and qualifications to prepare them for an apprenticeship, university place or employment in the football industry.”

The college arranges friendly fixtures against Premiership and Football League opposition, while specific trial matches in front of scouts are held, giving each student a chance to showcase themselves to professional clubs across England.

Away from the pitch a number of activities are also arranged to help the students’ football development and to make the course even more beneficial, these include:

• FA Referees seminars
• Sessions about contracts with a FIFA-approved Player’s Agent
• Expert coaching sessions for all outfield positions from UEFA qualified coaches
• Specialist goalkeeping sessions from UEFA qualified coaches
• Physiotherapy sessions / first aid training
• Sessions with a Strength and Conditioning coach
• Excursions to see Premier League and Football League matches
• Visits to pro and semi-pro games with analysis

For more information about taking the first step in a footballing career visit www.footballindustrycollege.com

Football college comes to Wymondham

Our new sports facility at Kett’s Park in Wymondham has become one of only five places in the country to host the Football Industry College.

Away from the pitch a number of activities are also arranged to help the students’ football development and to make the course even more beneficial, these include:

• FA Referees seminars
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For more information about taking the first step in a footballing career visit www.footballindustrycollege.com
The announcement was made on 7 October after our judges picked the Kings Head from the four category winners.

Anton Wimmer, whose family have owned the pub for more than 35 years told us: “I would like to thank the judges and congratulate the other category winners. To be successful, you have to cover all bases and be willing to diversify. You also need great staff who buy into your ethos and who make sure our customers enjoy their whole experience.”

The Kings Head is a traditional 17th century inn with six boutique rooms and two self-catering apartments, all individually designed by Anton’s wife Tet and her friend Tami Collins.

The pub also boasts an award winning restaurant and has been awarded the title, ‘Norfolk’s Dining Pub of the Year’, by the Good Food Guide.

Anton said: “It’s difficult to put a label on what we do. We believe in serving good quality food, made from ingredients provided by local producers. Our two menus; we have one that changes daily and a seasonal a la Carte, are available throughout the pub, whether you’re sitting in the restaurant or our dog friendly bar.”

Cabinet member Kay Mason Billig said: “The Kings Head is a beautiful pub and a worthy winner of this coveted title. Anton and his team have proved that hard work, dedication and imagination can provide fantastic results.”

Anton added “I’ve always got plans. You can’t afford to stand still – but you have to do the right thing and offer your customers value for money. My passion is to develop the Kings Head to its full potential.”

The winners in each category were:
Outstanding Community Focus – White Lion, Wheatacre
Best Customer Service – The Countryman, Tasburgh
Most Family Friendly – Fighting Cocks Inn, Winfarthing
Tastiest Food and Drink – Kings Head, Bawburgh

To find out more about the Kings Head and to book your Christmas meal visit www.kingsheadbawburgh.co.uk
We have started to work with Norfolk Police to support a new Pub Watch initiative in Wymondham.

The idea behind the scheme is to crack down on the very small number of troublemakers in the town and to prevent anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol and drug abuse. Anybody caught causing trouble will face being barred from all of Wymondham’s pubs and bars.

The scheme is supported by the Cross Keys, Green Dragon, Queens Head, Robert Kett, White Hart, Wymondham Ex Servicemans Club, Wymondham Rugby Club, Wymondham Sports Bar and Wymondham Town Football Club. Members will meet regularly as part of the initiative to discuss issues they have experienced and individuals responsible for any trouble will be banned from all establishments.

South Norfolk Sergeant Adam Flello said: “While Wymondham is generally a very pleasant place to enjoy a drink there is a minority of individuals who either drink too much or take in illegal substances and cause low level crime or anti-social behaviour."

"We want to ensure that this is dealt with and the Pub Watch initiative helps to pro-actively tackle crime in the town."

The landlords use a messaging group to keep in contact should anything happen.

We also support a similar scheme running in Diss.

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**New pub scheme in Wymondham**

**Wheatacre White Lion**

The judges were particularly impressed with the support given to the local community by the team at the pub.

**The Countryman in Tasburgh**

Their number of votes demonstrates the great support the new owners have received since taking over the pub earlier this year.

**The Fighting Cocks in Winfarthing**

A pub with a great family team behind it who demonstrated they have lots of great ideas and ambitions.
EAMA race gathers pace

On 24 November hundreds of runners will take to the streets of Wymondham for our new 10K race.

The EAMA 10K, sponsored by East Anglian Motor Auctions will start at 10am at Lady’s Lane in Wymondham on 24 November 2019.

The route, which starts near the famous 12th century Abbey, takes in some of the district’s most picturesque views as runners follow the quiet country lanes that skirt the town.

Cabinet Member South Norfolk Councillor Yvonne Bendle said:

“Getting people fitter and healthier is one of our key priorities. This event is part of an overall project that will help to boost community leisure provision across the district.

“We’ve already had a huge amount of interest and have worked closely with Wymondham Athletics Club to create the event. It’s going to be a fantastic day and bring lots of people to the town. If you haven’t signed up yet, there’s still time.”

Chris Beckett, MD of EAMA said: “We are delighted to be involved with a local event which we hope will be fun and inclusive, appealing to lots of runners of all standards.”

All participants will receive a medal and a t-shirt for taking part and there will be trophies and prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, as well as first place prizes for different age groups.

Find out more visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/eama-10k
Robert Kett returned to Wymondham in September to celebrate the 470th anniversary of his famous rebellion.

Once again, he was surrounded by hundreds of followers who all enjoyed an interactive day with medieval antics and the modern-day excitement of funfair rides, craft stalls and delicious food and drink.

Kett’s Fun Day and Fayre celebrated Wymondham’s very own hero Robert Kett who in 1549 led a rebellion against the injustices faced by the peasants.

Cabinet member Kay Mason Billig said:
“What a day. I would like to thank everyone who supported our event. It was fantastic to see so many people, of all ages, enjoying themselves and learning about an important time in both Wymondham’s and the country’s history.”

The Black Knight Historical performers recreated a Tudor Camp, allowing visitors to interact with characters from the 16th century and learn what life was like in this turbulent period.

Robert Kett delivered the famous speech he made to the peasants before they marched on Norwich at the start of the Rebellion. If you would like to know more about what happened to Robert Kett, visit Wymondham and take our Heritage Trail.

Wymondham’s Heritage Trail is a free interactive augmented reality walking tour that you can download to your smart phone. You can download the app on Google Play or the App store for free and go to the Wymondham museum to try out the seated virtual reality experience free of charge.

For more information, visit www.south/norfolk.gov.uk/wym-trails
What’s on this Christmas

Wymondham Abbey Christmas Gift and Craft Fair 2019
Saturday 2 November, 11am – 3pm
The popular Christmas craft fair is back, with a wonderful selection of Norfolk crafters, makers, artists and producers. The beautiful Abbey (and its grounds) will host a myriad of goods, perfect for treating yourself or someone special.

Norfolk Showground
Friday 8 (10am – 5pm), Saturday 9 (10am – 5pm) and Sunday 10 November (10am – 4pm)
Enjoy three days filled with festive shopping and fun. Packed with Christmas gifts, presents for all the family and delicious festive food & drink, this really is a festive event that all the family can enjoy. With real life reindeer and magical unicorn carriage rides at the show, there really is something for everyone.
For more information, or to book visit www.norfolkshowground.rnaa.org.uk/events

Thornham Coach House Christmas Fair
Saturday 16 November, 10-30 - 3.30pm
Make a start on your Christmas shopping with some wonderful handmade and local goodies.

Goodies Christmas Food, Drink & Craft Fair
Goodies Food Hall
Saturday 23 November, 9am – 4pm
Join us for a day of Christmas inspiration with tasters, samples and demos plus crafts, Father Christmas and more!

Diss Christmas Light Switch On
Saturday 23 November, 2.30 – 6pm
Diss is the place to be for all your Christmas shopping and entertainment with the renowned Diss Christmas Lights Switch-On in the Market Place. Come and see what festive delights are on offer in the heart of Diss. The grand Switch-On will take place at 5.15pm!

The Snowman and the Snowdog Brick LiveTour
Banham Zoo
Friday 29 November until Sunday 5 January
Come and enjoy an interactive festive trail made from brightly coloured toy bricks, inspired by the much-loved animated films The Snowman and the Snowdog. Prices are included in zoo admission www.banhamzoo.co.uk

Harleston Christmas Market & Lights Switch on
Saturday 30 November, 9:30am – 6pm
Celebrate the start of the festive season in Harleston with local stalls and seasonal food and drink.

Christmas Celebration at Roarr! Dinosaur Adventure
Saturday 30 November
With lots of activities, festive entertainment and surprises and the chance to meet the big man himself, come and join us for the day in the lead up to Christmas.
£12.95-£13.95
www.roarrdinosauradventure.co.uk

Wroxham Barns
Hoveton
Saturday 30 November – Monday 23 December
Santa has agreed to take time out of his busy schedule to come to Junior Farm at Wroxham Barns with his Elves for his hugely popular ‘Santa Experience’ and this year there’s even more fun to be had with our ALL-NEW Animal Nativity Barn where you can meet our real North Pole reindeer.
Best suited for children aged 2 to 10 years.
For tickets visit www.wroxhambarns.co.uk

Santa Cruise
Broads Tours Day Boat Hire, Wroxham
Saturday 30 November – Tuesday 24 December
A very special visitor lands on the roof of the Vintage Broadsman with a sack bursting with presents! Before Santa arrives, you are welcomed onboard by the pixies with mulled wine and mince pies for grown-ups and a festive cookie and juice for children.
Visit www.broadstours.co.uk/santa-cruise/

Christmas at Bressingham
Father Christmas, his wife and elves are coming to Bressingham on selected dates in December.
To book visit bressingham.co.uk

Loddon and Chedgrave Victorian Evening and light switch on
Friday 6 December, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Lots of fun to be had at this special festive event, including a steam engine display, Punch and Judy, Santa’s Grotto, carol singing and much more. Parade starts at 7pm with prize for best dressed.
Free Parking

To help you relax and enjoy Christmas shopping in South Norfolk we are offering free parking on the three Saturdays in the run up to the big day.

On 7, 14 and 21 December charges will be waived in all of our car parks, allowing you to do your market town shopping, and enjoy the festive entertainment.

Wymondham Wynterfest theatrical parade
Saturday 7 December, 3 – 6pm
A theatrical parade with local community singers, actors and dancers to welcome in the festive season, part of Wynterfest. Starts outside the Wymondham Arts Centre and moves to the Town Cross.

Festive Wreath making workshop Carrowbreck House, 7 Carrowbreck Road, NR6 5FA
Monday 9 December, 6:15 – 8:45pm
Learn techniques to make your own festive wreath. You will cover a wire frame with moss and foliage and decorate it with traditional materials: pine, fir cones, dried oranges, cinnamon sticks and seed heads. £30 per person (materials, refreshments and parking provided.)
To book call 01603 788950 or email carrowbreck@broadland.gov.uk

Wimondham Wynterfest theatrical parade
Saturday 7 December, 3 – 6pm
A theatrical parade with local community singers, actors and dancers to welcome in the festive season, part of Wynterfest. Starts outside the Wymondham Arts Centre and moves to the Town Cross.

Wimondham Wynterfest theatrical parade
Saturday 7 December, 3 – 6pm
A theatrical parade with local community singers, actors and dancers to welcome in the festive season, part of Wynterfest. Starts outside the Wymondham Arts Centre and moves to the Town Cross.

Reno Wines of Wymondham is leading the way in sustainable living. Not only can customers refill their wine and gin bottles, but they now offer refills of body wash, washing liquids, oats, chopped nuts, herbs, spices, coffee, tea, and much more!

Manger Saskia Kerr said: “Five years ago we opened the shop on the basis that people could refill their wine bottles, and by removing the packaging we could offer them a good quality bottle of wine for a decent price. Since then we’ve refilled over 28,000 bottles.”

The shop is growing in popularity, bringing people into the town to shop who are keen to embrace a more sustainable lifestyle.

To be in the draw to win a hamper full of sustainable goodies all you have to do is email magazine@s-norfolk.gov.uk by 6 December with your sustainable Christmas idea.

Make a vintage Christmas Robin
Diss Corn Hall
13 December, 10:15am – 1:45pm
Local craftswoman and Fluffology founder, Tracey Baldwin will guide you through the process of creating a needle felt robin. Price includes the full starter kit with additional materials to take away.
Age 14+, £40 incl tea or coffee & cake.
www.thecornhall.co.uk

Robin Hood
Diss Corn Hall, Friday 20 December - Monday 30 December
Don’t miss this feast of fun, fair maidens, fabulous panto magic and the usual madness and mayhem everybody has come to expect at the Corn Hall in Diss come Christmas.
www.thecornhall.co.uk

Win a sustainable Xmas Hamper!

Reno Wines of Wymondham is leading the way in sustainable living. Not only can customers refill their wine and gin bottles, but they now offer refills of body wash, washing liquids, oats, chopped nuts, herbs, spices, coffee, tea, and much more!

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**Tips for a green Christmas**

Every Christmas a huge amount of waste is created, but with a little planning this can be easily reduced, reused or recycled. We may have a white Christmas this year but we can help you make it a green one with our festive tips and advice.

Think ahead and plan what food you’ll need for both Christmas and New Year. Use leftover items for your New Year recipes and save money – check out www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for recipe suggestions for all your leftovers.

**Send e-cards, it’s much cheaper for you and better for the environment.**

**Don’t forget to recycle your plastic bottles over Christmas. If everyone in the UK recycled one more plastic bottle it would stop nearly 400 cars worth of CO2 getting into our atmosphere. Rinse your bottles and put in your green bin.**

**Keep your Christmas decorations and use these again and again. Buying new decorations can be expensive.**

**Encourage children to get into the Christmas spirit by donating unwanted toys and items to charity.**

**Buy loose fruit and vegetables, preferably in season, and only buy what you need. When all the work is done you can compost your peelings in your home composter.**

**Christmas Bin Collections**

You can find out all the dates for your bin collections by visiting www.south-norfolk.gov.uk and going on to My Account.

**Garden waste bins**
There are no collections from 25 December to 3 January.

**Rubbish and recycling bins:**

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<th>Usual Collection Day</th>
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‘Pride of the People: Helping History Out of the Closet’, is being displayed across sites in South Norfolk and Broadland.

The exhibition explores gender and sexual identities through a selection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer related stories from the past and present.

Originally the exhibition was put together by the Teenage History Club at Ancient House in Thetford who were spurred on by their shock discovery that being gay was once considered a crime.

The exhibition has since been adapted by the Council and Museums Service working with Teenage History Club and is available to see at various locations including libraries, workplaces, GP surgeries and schools.

Cabinet Member Yvonne Bendle said:

“It’s important that we raise awareness of the LGBTQ+ community, especially in the more rural areas, where people are more likely to feel isolated. The exhibition throws a light on some of the extreme prejudice the LGBTQ+ community have faced in the past, but also celebrates people’s differences and how far society has come.”

Elio, a Teenage History Club member said: “Positive things like this make others feel accepted, as it’s made me feel. I am so happy and proud to be a part of this.”

If you would like to visit the exhibition, it will be at the following locations:

Tour dates 2019 - 2020
30 October – 8 November, Broadland District Council Offices
11 – 16 November, Harleston Library
19 – 2 December, Sprowston Library
3 – 20 December, Old Mill and Millgates Medical Practice
23 December – 10 January, Alysham Library
13 – 24 January, Long Stratton Medical Partnership
27 January - 2 February, Sprowston Medical Centre
4 February – 28 June, Lynne Museum Kings Lynne
25 July – 6 September, Norwich Castle

If you are interested in displaying the exhibition, please contact Laura Woollacott on lwoollacott@s-norfolk.gov.uk

Men’s Shed Ambassador and local volunteer Henry Gowman borrowed our beautiful rainbow flag over the Summer while skippering the iconic Wherry Albion along the Norfolk broads.

Henry was taking a group of ladies in their 60s and 70s from the LGBTQ+ community out for the day on the 121-year-old boat belonging to the Wherry Trust.

He said: “The flag generated lots of whooping and waves of support from passing boats. It was a very enjoyable and interesting day.”

If you would like to borrow our flag for an event, please contact Laura Woollacott on 01508 533816 or email lwoollacott@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Winning award is a tonic for local company

Finalists in our Business Awards 2019
OakVilla Gin Distillery has attracted international recognition.

The Wymondham based gin distillery OakVilla has won two International Wine and Spirit Competition Awards (IWSC), for its trade-mark Vryheid Gin.

The family-run business won a Silver Award, as well as a bronze in the Gin & Double Dutch (Cucumber & Watermelon) Tonic Award.

This is the second year in a row the business has been recognised in these prestigious international awards which are the benchmark for quality and reward only the very best wines and spirits from across the world.

Business Owner Lindi Hancke said:
*The IWSC is the Oscars of the wine and spirit industry and we are over the moon to be bringing these fantastic awards home to Wymondham.*

Lindi’s husband and business partner Shaun said: “There was some tough competition in a very crowded market, so a small-batch craft gin distillery, we were thrilled to win.”

The family’s recent success is even more remarkable given that they have only been in business since February 2018 and distilling is a far cry from the couple’s day jobs in accountancy and procurement.

For more information about Vryheid gin and their new Heart of Oak gin visit www.oakvilla.co.uk.

Family businesses with innovation at its core

In March, family-run business Harleston Cider Co. won our Innovation in Agriculture Award 2019.

The small business based in the Waveney Valley produces 12,000 litres of craft cider a year.

Master cider maker Ken Woolley started the business in 2010 from his garage, after he noticed apples going to waste.

He said: “It was really just a hobby that took off.”

Since then the business, which uses local apples, has flourished with the whole family getting involved.

The family’s creative thinking caught the judges’ attention, and they were particularly impressed with their luxury Ice Cider and their spicy Fire Cider Vinegar.

The company sell cider from their cidery in Palgrave, supply local shops and pubs and are often at regional events. Look out for them at the Harleston Christmas Fair on 30 November.

They also hold regular free tasting tours. For more information, visit www.harleston cider.co.uk

Lindi and Shaun Hancke

Family businesses with innovation at its core

In March, family-run business Harleston Cider Co. won our Innovation in Agriculture Award 2019.

The small business based in the Waveney Valley produces 12,000 litres of craft cider a year.

Master cider maker Ken Woolley started the business in 2010 from his garage, after he noticed apples going to waste.

He said: “It was really just a hobby that took off.”

Since then the business, which uses local apples, has flourished with the whole family getting involved.

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Our business awards are back and bigger than ever. We have teamed up with Broadland District Council to celebrate excellence, innovation and best practice across all sectors in our districts.

The awards are open to all 12,500 businesses within the area from small start-ups to independent retailers and larger organisations and aim to celebrate their success and diversity.

To enter the awards, businesses need to nominate themselves by 30 December in one of the following ten categories:

- Excellence in Digital Creative and ICT
- Excellence in Life Sciences
- Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing
- Excellence in Financial Services and Insurance
- Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Drink
- Visitor Economy Experience
- New Business
- Business Growth
- International Business Growth
- Environmental Impact

The awards ceremony will take place on 26 March at the Open in Norwich. For more information and to nominate your business, please go to www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/businessawards

Thank you to our generous sponsors:-


Nominate your favourite retailer

Nominate your favourite independent retailer and you could win £100 of vouchers to spend at a local independent shop of your choice.

Broadland and South Norfolk Retailer of the Year Award celebrates and recognises those businesses that go the extra mile for their customers. Retailers include most of the businesses you find on the high street, including shops, cafes, hairdressers and travel agents.

For more information and to nominate please go to www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/businessawards
SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Warm Homes Fund is saving our older and more vulnerable residents thousands of pounds by helping them to heat their homes more efficiently.

We are working in partnership with all Norfolk Councils to offer central heating system grants and advice for anyone struggling to heat their home.

Local resident, Mrs Donnelly was recently visited by one of our Warm Homes Officers. She was paying £99 per month direct debit for her gas and electricity. The support officer called her energy company on her behalf and her tariff was changed, reducing her payments to £66 per month, plus they sent her a refund of £1,300 as she was in credit.

Another resident to benefit was Mr Richardson who is in his late 70s. He was struggling to heat his bungalow with a solid fuel stove. Due to his ill health he was finding it increasingly difficult to bring in coal and wood to light the fire and so he applied for a Warm Homes Fund grant for central heating.

Our officers advised Mr Richardson that, as he was receiving benefits, he was eligible for a grant for a new oil central heating system and working with our officer he was successful in securing an additional £3,377 charitable funding to bridge the gap in oil grant funding, so he will have a new central heating system in time for winter.

Mrs Garrett, whose home was recently fitted with a gas boiler and central heating for the first time, replacing old and inefficient storage heaters, said:

“I’m sure there are elderly people living alone who hesitate to apply for this grant, worrying about who they may be dealing with. May they be reassured they will find kindness from the time of applying to the finished job.”

If you are struggling with your heating bills, or do not have central heating then you could be eligible for help.

The Norfolk Warm Homes Fund isn’t just for homeowners either; private landlords can get up to 75% off first time central heating systems to help tenants reduce their energy bills.

To find out more call 01603 430103 or email warmhomes@broadland.gov.uk
If you’re not on a fixed energy tariff, you could be overpaying for the energy you use. The Big Switch & Save is a collective switching scheme that could potentially find you a cheaper deal.

### Smart meters

**Smart meters can bring huge benefits for you, your energy company and the wider energy system.**

A smart meter allows you to have in-depth information about your energy use – for example how much you’re spending when you boil your kettle. This can help you reduce your energy consumption.

Smart meters enable energy suppliers to remotely record how much electricity and gas you’re using - doing away with the need for estimated bills and meter readings.

If you or someone you know is struggling with debt, we might be able to help. Contact our Help Hub by visiting www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/helphub

To find out more about the smart meter roll out visit www.smartenergygb.org
STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Join our Dementia Alliance

We are looking for people to get involved in the South Norfolk Dementia Action Alliance and help us improve the lives of our residents, living with Dementia.

Dementia can affect a person at any age but it is more commonly diagnosed in people over the age of 65 years. There are over 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK and this is set to rise to over one million by 2021.

Pat Simmonds, who founded the Harleston Dementia Friendly Community five years ago is now leading the South Norfolk Dementia Action Alliance.

Pat told us; “The aim of the Alliance is to make all towns and villages in South Norfolk dementia friendly communities. These will be places where people living with dementia can continue to play a full part in their community and feel included, safe and confident in their everyday life.”

A dementia friendly community is somewhere where those living with dementia can do their shopping and go for a coffee with friends and be served by people who understand how to give support if needed.

The Dementia Action Alliance works with businesses to show how it’s possible, by making small changes to the way they work, to make a huge difference to the quality of life for those living with dementia.

Pat said: “We’re working to break down the stigma of dementia by increasing awareness and understanding and to increase awareness of the support that’s available.”

The Dementia Action Alliance provides a forum to help people share experiences and identify opportunities to support the development of dementia friendly initiatives across the district.

If you are interested in joining the South Norfolk Dementia Alliance please contact Pat by emailing patricia.simmonds@mail.com

Become a champion

Earlier this year we ran two independent Dementia Friends training sessions at the Costessey Centre.

Following the training five people have asked for information on how to become a Dementia Champion. This means they will be able to run Dementia Friends Sessions in their own communities.

Find out more by visiting www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/dementia
Grant helps Trust stay on track

We recently awarded The Otter Trust £4,000 from our Community Action Fund to help with ongoing maintenance of a new nature reserve.

Since work began on Dickleburgh Moor Nature Reserve in 2016, the 60-acre site with a former glacial lake at its heart, has become hugely popular with bird watchers and plant enthusiasts, keen to catch a glimpse of the precious and rare wildlife and fauna.

Volunteers at the site have spent 500 hours digging a new ditch system to manage water levels and create a 2-mile circular walk, with views of each of the habitat areas.

Trustee Ben Potterton has led the project, using funds from the Otter Trust to purchase much of the land. He said:

“So many people drive through South Norfolk on their way to the broads, or the coast, but we should be proud of what’s on our doorstep, the Waveney valley is a fantastic place with so much access to water, with amazing wildlife and the potential to attract even more.”

“This is a great community project and a brilliant educational site, which we hope will be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. We want to create something here that is loved and cared for and will be enjoyed for generations to come.”

While the traditional livestock on the site, including the famous Suffolk Punches, provide a limited income that helps with maintenance works, the Trust did not have a proper mower.

“We have been struggling to mow the 2 miles of footpaths with a garden lawnmower,” reveals Ben, “so the funding will be put towards the cost of a new mower, which will save us a lot of time.”

“There’s still lots to do, but we hope to have the path complete with bird hides ready for next Spring,” said Ben.

If you’re interested in finding out more, you can join in free monthly guided nature walks, with different themes each month.

Ben also manages Earsham Wetland Centre where the Otter Trust is based and Shorelands in Rushall. For more information, please visit Earsham Wetland Centre’s Facebook page.

For more information on grants and funding opportunities, please visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/community-grants
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The Friends of Swardeston Common were hailed as ‘Environmental Champions’ in our Community Awards back in May.

Since the group formed in 2017, they have had a real impact on Swardeston Common, clearing overgrown areas and encouraging flora and fauna in Queen Mother’s Wood and around the Village Hall Pond.

“The wood was planted by school children in the 1980s,” reveals founding member Derek Barber, “however it had not been maintained and was encased in brambles that were 10 feet high in places.”

“The area around the village pond was also heavily overgrown with brambles and rosebay willowherb and the pond itself completely choked with reedmace. Some people in the village, who’ve lived here 20 years, didn’t even know it was there.”

With help from donations from residents, charitable donations, and Members Ward Grants from local Councillors Colin Foulger and Nigel Legg, volunteers were able to clear the sites.

They also received help and advice from our Community Assets Officer and the Norwich Fringe Project.

Thanks to the Friend’s efforts, there’s now a beautiful pond and a splendid woodland for people of all ages to enjoy and a place where wildlife and wild flowers can thrive.

Around 20 volunteers are involved in the ongoing maintenance and working parties meeting 5 times a month.

As Community Award Winners, the Friends also received £250 to help with their project. Derek said: “We will probably put our winnings towards a new bench or two, so people can sit and enjoy the newly formed views.”

For more information on The Friends of Swardestone Common, please visit www.swardeston-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

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TO WIN A BIKE

If you're a member at Diss, Long Stratton or Wymondham Leisure Centre, refer a friend in Oct or Nov to be in with a chance to win.

Bike's from Howards Cycles, Wymondham. Ts and Cs apply. See website for full details.

Visit south-norfolk.gov.uk