

Rural News

Issue 30
April 2012

Produced by St Edmundsbury Borough Council and sent
to people with an interest in rural life



* Important dates for your diary *



St Edmundsbury Parish Conference

Monday 23 April, 6pm to 8.30pm, Great Barton Village Hall

There is still an opportunity for you to book your free place at our Spring Parish Conference. This event is aimed at parish councils, village hall committees and rural community groups. There will be presentations on the future of Suffolk libraries, 'Better Broadband for Suffolk', and the council's Rural Vision 2031. There will also be workshops on the Localism Act and a case study from Clare Parish Council, 'A parish that means business'.

For more information, and to book, please contact Dawn Hale by phone on: 01284 757303 or by email at: dawn.hale@stedsbcc.gov.uk or visit: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/parishconf.cfm

Visit the Golden Age Fair

Friday 11 May, 1pm to 4.30pm, Stanton Community Village Hall

This free event is being held to give people aged 60 plus more information and advice about the support and services on offer locally that could improve their lives by helping them stay fit, healthy and independent. The fair is being organised by the Rural Coffee Caravan with support from St Edmundsbury Borough Council. This will be an excellent opportunity to find out more about issues that matter to you, with people on hand from 25 organisations to discuss fitness, hearing/sight problems, mental health, dementia, benefits advice, making your home warmer, cutting your fuel bills, stimulating arts, social or educational activities, and more.



For more information please contact Ann by phone on: 01379 855338 or visit: www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/

Is there a business in you? Come and find out:

Monday 21 May, 9.30am to 3pm, Great Barton Village Hall

Setting up a small business or community enterprise is a brave decision - you do not have to be special; you do not have to have a new invention; and most of all you do not have to do it alone. You might have been made redundant; you may have had time out to have children; you could be long term unemployed; or you may have been ill. Whatever your circumstances this event will help.

The event is being sponsored by Knights Lowe (experts in the field of young and start-up businesses) and the borough council's Rural Action Plan; and organised by the borough council, Menta, the Suffolk Enterprise Agency and Suffolk ACRE.

For more information and to book your free place (including buffet lunch), please contact Economic Development Services by phone on: 01284 757109 or by email at: event.bookings@stedsbcc.gov.uk



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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More groups benefit from borough council's Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme



Wickhambrook Parish Council has been awarded £10,000 towards the refurbishment of their play area; Suffolk Wildlife Trust has been awarded

£7,500 towards the purchase of Knettishall Heath (see photo); Honington and Sapiston Village Hall Committee has been awarded £2,592 towards tables and chairs; and Friends of Lidgate Churchyard has been awarded £1100 towards an entrance gate to the village war memorial.

For more information about eligibility and so on please contact the borough council by phone on: 01284 757109 or by email at: ruralgrants@stedsbc.gov.uk

Rural Vision 2031

On 1 March we commenced consultation on the draft document 'Rural Vision 2031'. The document establishes the council's corporate priorities and a long term vision for the delivery of services up to 2031 and will set out the council's policies which will apply to development outside the towns.

We are inviting comments on the draft Vision document through an online comments form and by email. Please visit: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/RuralVision2031.cfm

After the consultation ends, the next steps will be the consideration of all of the comments submitted to us, with a view to publishing a final draft document for further consultation in autumn 2012.

For more information or if you have any questions about the Vision 2031 document or the consultation process, please contact us by phone on: 01284 757352 or 757368 or by email at: LDF@stedsbc.gov.uk

Village of the year awards - Still time for your village to enter for a chance to win £500

Organised by Suffolk Association of Local Councils in conjunction with district councils, the 2012 awards are now underway.

This year's competition is open to villages with 501 to 1250 local government electors. Judges will be looking at community spirit, care taken of the village (this does not mean it has to be a chocolate box image), its attitude to caring for the natural environment, the parish council and any special activities the village carries out.

The prize for the district round is a cheque for £500 from St Edmundsbury Borough Council (the Parish Council may put this money towards whatever village project they wish), together with an engraved rose bowl. The winner from the district round will go forward to the county round, and in turn the winners from the county round will go forward to the final round, where more prizes are on offer.

The village of the year awards are an ideal time to promote your village and showcase the great work that goes on through the hard work of local volunteers. If you would like your village to enter, please approach your local parish council (who will need to be the applicant).

**The deadline for applications is:
18 May 2012.**

For more information please contact the borough council by phone on: 01284 757109 or by email at: rural@stedsbc.gov.uk



Grants available for community cafes and community speed watch

As part of the borough council's Rural Action Plan there are grants available towards:

Community cafes



- This grant aims to help villages set up a community café.
- Eligible groups can apply for 50% of the total start-up costs, or £200 (whichever is the lesser amount).
- The grant can be used towards set-up costs only (for example crockery, cutlery, tables, or chairs).

Community speed watch



- This grant is for 50% of the total equipment cost, or £500 (whichever is the lesser amount).
- The grant can be used towards the purchase of community speed watch equipment, as recommended by Suffolk Police/the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership.

For more information and to apply please contact the borough council by phone on: 01284 757109 or by email at: rural@stedsbc.gov.uk

Three more villages receive projector and screen grant

Clare, Fornham All Saints and Great Barton are the latest villages to install projectors/screens into their village halls.



The photo to the right shows the Great Barton Computer Club during one of their regular residents training sessions.

These three villages each received a grant of up to £250 towards the purchase of the equipment through the borough council's Rural Action Plan.

The grants are being allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so if your village would like to benefit you need to get in touch quickly as there are only a few grants left.

For more information on this and other projects please contact the borough council by phone on: 01284 757109, by email at: rural@stedsbc.gov.uk or visit: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/ruralactionplan

Updated funding sources guide available

The borough council produces a funding sources which lists lots of information to assist community groups with their funding searches. If you are looking to raise funds for a community project, why not request an electronic copy. Please contact us by email at: rural@stedsbc.gov.uk

'Wos Up' for 2012

The 'Wos Up' mobile youth club for people over 13 years of age will be going to the following villages in 2012:



Barningham
Barrow
Great Whelnetham
Hopton
Hundon
Ixworth
Stanton
Kedington
Wickhambrook



For more information please contact Simon Pickering by phone on: 01284 757077 or by email at: simon.pickering@stedsbc.gov.uk or visit: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/thescene

More help for small businesses

arp | theangliarevenuespartnership



In November 2011 the Government stated that further help was to be made available to small businesses for the 2012/13 financial year, by extending the more generous small business rate relief scheme for a further six months from 1 October 2012 to 1 April 2013.

Eligible ratepayers will receive relief at 100 per cent on properties with rateable values of not more than £6000 with a tapered relief of between 100 per cent and 0 per cent for properties with rateable values between £6001 and £12,000. Ministers have a clear policy intention - zero or reduced rates for eligible ratepayers from 1 October 2012 to 1 April 2013.

Currently St Edmundsbury Borough Council has a 78.2% take-up rate of eligible businesses and this initiative will mean over 1100 businesses will receive a reduced bill. The take up rate is lower than hoped and St Edmundsbury Council has commenced uptake drives, through the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) to maximise the amount of businesses claiming the relief.

Businesses not claiming this relief need to act to reduce the amounts of business rates payable, by contacting the Business Rates Team.

For more information please contact Anglia Revenues Partnership's Business Rates team by phone on: 01842 756568 or visit: www.angliarevenues.gov.uk

Introducing the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme



From April 2012 the St Edmundsbury Borough Council food hygiene rating scheme will be changing to the new National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

The scheme will cover food businesses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and it will make it easier for you to choose places with good food hygiene when you are eating out or shopping for food. It will apply to restaurants, pubs, cafes, takeaways, hotels as well as supermarkets and other food shops.

Each business is given a hygiene rating when it is inspected, the ratings are on a scale from '5' at the top, which means the business was found to have 'very good' hygiene standards to '0' at the bottom which means 'urgent improvement' is necessary.

When you eat out or shop look for a sticker in the window or a certificate on display which will give the rating.

For more information please visit: www.food.gov.uk/ratings or from mid April onwards please visit: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/foodhygieneratings or contact the Commercial and Food team by phone on: 01284 757054 or by email at: food&safety@stedsbc.gov.uk

Do you have sloppy slippers?

If you do and are over 65, then come along to the Stanton Golden Age Fair on Friday 11 May (details on page 1) and claim a free pair!

Slippers, which are available in a variety of styles and sizes, will be given out on a first come, first served basis but you will need to bring your old ones to exchange them.





Online fundraising tool launched

Localgiving.com

Localgiving.com is a fantastic online fundraising tool that is open to both charities and community groups. It provides ultra-local organisations with a webpage on Localgiving.com where they can seek donations and promote their organisation, generating an online support group. Online fundraising is one of the fastest growing forms of fundraising in the UK, and yet smaller charities and community groups are often missing out – this is an opportunity to address that balance.

The Suffolk Foundation has now launched Localgiving.com here in Suffolk and will be managing it locally across the county.

Localgiving.com offers groups the opportunity to promote the excellent work they do in their local community through the use of a Localgiving.com webpage. This webpage will inform all of their supporters of any projects that they are currently fundraising for. As well as this, it can be linked to the organisation's social media sites and its own website, with a 'donate now' button. For community groups, it also offers the ability to benefit from GiftAid – something that they cannot normally do.

There will be various workshops held throughout Suffolk for organisations to set up a Localgiving.com webpage in a supportive and friendly environment.

For more information about workshops in your area and how your group can be part of this exciting new project, please contact Emma by phone on: 01245 356018 or by email at: emma.rawlingson@suffolkfoundation.org.uk or visit: www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund - exclusive networking event for Suffolk groups

This is an opportunity for voluntary and community groups across Suffolk to attend a workshop hosted by the Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre.

The Big Lottery Fund is keen to encourage eligible groups to apply to their Awards for All and Reaching Communities programmes, since uptake in west Suffolk is currently quite slow.

Two delegates per organisation can attend and you must book your place by Friday 20 April 2012.

For more information, and to book your place at a workshop, please contact Hazel Pidsley by phone on: 01284 766126 or by email at: chiefofficer@volunteercentre.co.uk

Are you looking for funding?

Funding and development advice surgeries are taking place at the Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre on the following dates in 2012:

- Friday 20 April
- Friday 18 May
- Friday 15 June

Advisers can offer help to identify suitable funders, support you with your funding application, help with governance, charity law, policies, procedures and so on.

You can book for an hour of one-to-one advice with Hazel Pidsley, an accredited funding advisor.

For more information and to book your place please contact Hazel Pidsley by phone on: 01284 766126 or by email at: chiefofficer@volunteercentre.co.uk

Big Lottery Fund's SOS scheme

Rural villages that are struggling with issues such as isolation and the closure of local amenities are being offered grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 as part of the £4m SOS funding pot.

Projects may include community-run shops and pubs, energy or transport schemes, and craft or food projects.

For more information and to register (application forms for the funding will be available from 10 April) please visit: www.villagesos.org.uk

£60,000 Community Challenge Prize now open to applications



The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in partnership with the Co-operatives UK, have launched the 'Buy Better Together Challenge', which is a new

initiative that aims to help inspire new models of community buying, stimulate enterprise and promote shared learning. Both Co-operatives UK and BIS have contributed £30k to the prize fund. Community buying, which involves groups of individuals combining their buying power to purchase goods or services together and get better deals from shops and other suppliers, can help businesses spread their overheads and in turn lowers costs for consumers. The 'Buy Better Together Challenge' £60,000 pot will go towards training and mentoring for stand out projects and includes £15k for the overall winner. Applications are open until 15 May 2012.

For more information, please visit:

<http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/buying/the-buy-better-together-challenge-feb-2012/>

Leaflet on environmental grants now available

As part of its Rural Action Plan the borough council has produced a leaflet outlining the various grants that are available for community environmental projects.

For more information and to request an electronic copy of the leaflet, please email:

rural@stedsbc.gov.uk

Prince's Countryside Fund round open until 13 April

This fund was established to help rural areas in the United Kingdom to become more sustainable. The focus areas for the fund are:

- projects to improve the sustainability of British farming in areas of deprivation;
- projects to improve the sustainability of rural communities; and
- projects to reconnect people with the countryside.

The maximum level of funding for individual projects will be £50,000. The fund can pay for a portion or the entirety of the costs of a project and applications for capital, project and resource funding will be considered.

Applications will be accepted from organisations that can demonstrate the support of the community which will benefit from the project. The programme will reopen to applications on.

The deadline for applications will be Friday 13 April 2012.

For more information please visit:

www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/

Applications now being accepted for Summer round of Transforming Suffolk fund

Up to £5000 is available from the Transforming Suffolk Community Fund. Grants are available to community groups, community interest companies and social enterprises who would like to organise a project and need the funding to do so.

Typically grants may be given to groups who undertake youth activities, older persons clubs, groups supporting mental health, and minority groups. Funding could support activities such as educational visits, sporting activities, training, lunch clubs, and so on. Some set up costs may also qualify.

Your project must meet one of the following four themes:

- Active, healthy and inclusive communities;
- a greener Suffolk;
- a vibrant economy; and
- work and life skills.

The closing date for applications is 21 May 2012.

For more information, and to discuss your ideas or how to complete the application process, please contact Sue Wright by phone on: 01473 734127 or by email at: sue.wright@suffolkfoundation.org.uk or visit

Suffolk Foundation website on www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk



Withersfield Village Fete Saturday 23 June 2012 1pm to 4pm

This traditional English fete is held in aid of St Mary's Church, in the picturesque village of Withersfield and will be held on the village green.

It is an annual event with cream teas, a barbeque, bar, flea market, book stall, coconut shy, crockery smash, bouncy castle, 'beat the goalie' and so much more. This can all be enjoyed whilst listening to the Haverhill Youth Silver band.

It is always a great atmosphere and fun for all the family so come along and join in the fun.

Picnic in Culford Park Monday 4 June 2012 From 5pm

A registered Jubilee Beacon will be lit between 10pm and 10.29 pm, and many activities are being planned including a band, disco, races, competitions and a 'Big Match Raffle'.

Any profits made will be donated to St Nicholas Hospice.

For more information please contact Bruce Murdoch by phone on: 01284 728554 or by email at: brucemurdoch42@gmail.com



THE QUEEN'S
DIAMOND JUBILEE
BEACONS

4TH JUNE 2012



'Fit villages':

Would you like to see a Zumba class in your village? Maybe pilates, tai chi or yoga? Nordic Walking perhaps? These are just a handful of the activities the 'Fit Villages' project has delivered since April and we are looking for more villages to get involved. All you need is a space to exercise in and some enthusiastic people.

For more information, please visit: www.suffolksport.com/fitvillages or for an informal chat please contact Henry Tapp by phone on: 01394 444289 or by email at: henry.tapp@suffolksport.com

Get involved in Local Foods Suffolk

The aim of this project is to help community groups set up and run local food projects. This can be anything from community orchards or forest gardens, vegetable growing clubs, community supported agriculture schemes, food cooperatives or community farm shops. Smaller ideas like allotment improvement projects, lunch clubs or tools sharing clubs can also be supported. Indeed any project involving the growing, sharing, eating or selling of local food can be considered. Grants are available (including a £200 grant via the Borough Council's Rural Action Plan).

For more information please contact Tim Freathy from Suffolk ACRE by phone on: 07816 828016, or by email at: tim.freathy@suffolkacre.org.uk or visit: www.suffolkacre.org.uk

St Peter and St Paul church in Clare to become a learning centre

The Angels and Pinnacles scheme will create 32 volunteer tour guides across 24 churches to encourage more people to explore their medieval halls. The project is based around six 'hub' churches in Southwold, Framlingham, Eye, Woolpit, Clare and Mildenhall, and will enlist artists and photographers to engage with schools and local people. It comes after the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a £40,000 cash grant to the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich to kick-start the project.

Free training launched to boost business mentors

A new online training tool has been launched to help get thousands of experienced business people mentoring small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The new training tool is part of the 'Get Mentoring' scheme launched in November 2011 that is recruiting 15,000 new mentors to help entrepreneurs fulfil their potential. The tool, provided by the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI), is free to use, which makes it even easier for people to get mentoring and join the growing network of volunteer business mentors.

For more information and to view the training tool, please visit: <http://getmentoring.org/>

Organisational health check sessions available

If your group is looking for funding you will need to ensure that you have the correct policies and procedures in place. You will also need to know how to effectively plan, monitor and evaluate your work.

A health check training session is taking place on Monday 23 April 2012 from 9:15am to 1:30pm. You will receive copies of a health check booklet and a project planning booklet.

For more information contact Hazel Pidsley or Gill Peat by phone on: 01284 766126 or by email at: chiefofficer@volunteercentre.co.uk



Suffolkvillagehalls.co.uk

If you are looking to hire a venue for an event, why not consider holding it at one of the many village halls/ community centres in St Edmundsbury villages. To find out more about your local village halls visit the suffolkvillagehalls.co.uk website.

If you are on a village hall management committee, remember to update your hall's details.

For more information please visit: www.suffolkvillagehalls.co.uk or contact Suffolk ACRE by phone on: 01473 345300 or by email at: support@suffolkacre.org.uk





St Edmundsbury Borough Council would like to wish you all a very happy Easter.

Please forward this *Rural News* to others who may be interested.

If you edit a local village magazine, please feel free to use any articles.

If you would like to suggest any future articles please get in touch.

If you would like a black and white version for printing, please email:
rural@stedsbc.gov.uk

While there are many benefits to living in a village, smaller communities often need particular help to ensure they thrive and prosper and their unique qualities are protected.

Our clear vision is for active, sustainable and healthy communities and St Edmundsbury plays an important role in helping to achieve these goals.



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

St Edmundsbury supports rural communities through:

The Rural Action Plan

Contact Kirsty Pitwood:
rural@stedsbc.gov.uk
T: 01284 757109
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/ruralactionplan

Grants

Contact Kirsty Pitwood:
ruralgrants@stedsbc.gov.uk
T: 01284 757109
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/grants

Parish Conferences (twice yearly)

Contact Dawn Hale:
dawn.hale@stedsbc.gov.uk
T: 01284 757303
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/parishconf.cfm

Rural youth outreach work

Contact Simon Pickering:
simon.pickering@stedsbc.gov.uk
T: 01284 757077
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/play/scene.cfm

Housing

Contact Niki Hollingworth:
niki.hollingworth@stedsbc.gov.uk
T: 01284 757604
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/housing.cfm

Tourism

Contact Sharon Fairweather:
sharon.fairweather@stedsbc.gov.uk
T: 01284 757093
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/visit/index.cfm

Planning

Contact Planning Helpdesk:
planning.helpdesk@stedsbc.gov.uk
T: 01284 757675
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/planning-services.cfm