

Parish conference: 22 November at Hawstead

Invitations will be going out during September with details of the next St Edmundsbury Parish Conference to be held at Hawstead Village Hall.

The conference starts at 4pm and in an effort to refocus on our rural communities will be open to both parish councillors and community groups.

Items on the agenda will include presentations on setting up an oil buying consortium within your community and Suffolk Sport's Fit Villages and Cycle Suffolk projects.

There will be a refreshment break so people can network with other delegates, officers and representatives from a range of partner organisations.

Delegates will also be able attend a workshop from a choice of three topics:

- Setting up a youth club or training for youth club leaders
- The Big Society
- Training for community leadership skills.

For more information contact Kate Blazeby on 01284 757633, or email kate.blazeby@stedsbcc.gov.uk



Need money? Funding surgeries can point the way

If you are a member of a group that has plenty of 'big' ideas on how to make a real difference in your village, but you need a grant to make it happen, why not book an appointment at one of the community project funding surgeries being held in September?

With support from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk County Council's external funding team has organised sessions for community groups to explore their project ideas.

The first surgery was held at Hundon at the end of August. The other two events are 10am to 4pm:

Culford Village Hall – 16 September

Great Whelnetham Community Centre – 23 September

To reserve your free slot email: jim.brown@suffolk.gov.uk or phone 0780 959 4530 or visit www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/fundingsurgeries.cfm for more information.

Making villages safer

Roy Banks, Chair of Bury Rural South Road Safety Community Speed Watch, explains how the scheme works and how it can help rural communities

MANY people living in our rural neighbourhoods feel that speeding is a serious road safety issue which reduces the quality of life in their communities. Drivers who speed are very often unaware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users: pedestrians, both adults and children, and animals.

With limited resources available, rural roads receive less regular robust Police attention than main trunk roads and motorways, despite the fact that a high proportion of accidents are on country roads. Community Speed Watch has proved to be very effective across the country in helping to reduce the speeding problem in these areas.

What is Community Speed Watch?

Community Speed Watch is a scheme to help residents address speeding problems in their local area. It aims to increase public awareness of the dangers of speeding, provide help and advice to local people to enable them to make their roads safer and promote and participate in national road safety campaigns.

As part of the scheme, volunteers give their own time (unpaid) to work with their local Police SNT to reduce speeding in the area. They are trained to use speed detection equipment to monitor the speed of passing vehicles and record the details.

The drivers are then contacted by Suffolk Constabulary and issued

with a written warning and advice. If two written warnings are issued to the same driver, the details will be passed to a Roads Policing Officer, with a view of targeted intervention or prosecution.

The aim of the initiative is NOT to catch as many speeding drivers as possible, and NO penalties are incurred by drivers through CSW. The objectives are to reduce speed in rural areas, make drivers aware that excessive speed is socially unacceptable, re-educate them about the dangers of speeding, and address concerns from local residents about vehicles speeding.

Bury Rural South CSW Initiative

In 2008 representatives from a number of parish councils in the southern part of St Edmundsbury met and agreed to form a partnership CSW scheme, where the equipment could be used on a shared basis by trained volunteers from nearby villages.

This group became the Bury Rural South CSW Initiative, which maintains an oversight of the scheme and 'owns' the equipment on behalf of the participating communities. At present eight parish councils are involved and three more have expressed an interest.

The members are very appreciative of the support and financial assistance given by Councillors Terry Clements, Rebecca Hopfensperger, and Jane Midwood which was vital in setting up the scheme.

St Edmundsbury's Rural Action Plan also recognised that real or perceived incidents of rural speeding is a major factor in preventing people from safely and peacefully enjoying their local village, and has made a grant towards running the scheme.



Open weekend at the apex — come and see the new venue

The apex, the new music and entertainment venue in Bury St Edmunds, opens this autumn.

The box office is open from 6 September and an open weekend is planned for the weekend of Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 October so people can drop in to see the first class auditorium, studios and other facilities, and discover more about the bands, musicians, comedians and other entertainers already in the schedule.

The apex will be a regional venue for local, national and international talent. It will offer young performers – including local school children – the chance to perform in professional surroundings, and bring established and up-and-coming names to Bury St Edmunds.

You can see the programme on the apex website — www.theapex.co.uk — and in the local press.

It will feature classical, rock, pop, jazz, blues, country, folk and world music, as well as comedy and other entertainment.

There will also be free events throughout the year and it will be open daily when there are no bookings for people to come in and relax over a drink.

The apex will also be an ideal venue for business events, being in the centre of town as part of the arc shopping development and with nearby parking.

People interested in learning about new bookings and special offers will be able to join the online apex community to be the first to hear about events and promotions. Sign up, saying what kind of performances particularly interest you, on the apex website.

Box office: 01284 758000



Clare is worthy winner of Village of the Year

Congratulations to the vibrant and lively community of Clare who have been awarded Suffolk Village of the Year, the competition run by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

The village won the St Edmundsbury round of the contest, a prize of £500, and they received a further £1000 as overall winner.

Clare was judged on its community spirit, the contribution of the parish council, its natural environment, the appearance of the village and special achievements such as the development of a wooded area known as The Nuttery, its French links and their summer pool project.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council has been an active partner in helping several community initiatives in Clare.

The council gave the parish council a grant towards the cost of interpretation boards at the Nuttery and it encourages visitors to spend money in local shops by organising guided tours of the village.

Clare was one of the first places to receive a St Edmundsbury 'Connected Villages' grant which provided a laptop computer, a year's free broadband and help towards other internet costs; and the No. 1 Deli was given funding from the Suffolk Rural Economy Scheme towards a tricycle which is used to deliver refreshments to Clare Country Park.

The bonus of rural buildings

Investing in community buildings can create real economic benefits for rural communities.

Does your village make the most of its public building?

See the attached report on the economic impact of community buildings.

'Green' buildings reveal their secrets at open days

The Suffolk Green Buildings Network is holding 'green building open days' between 9-12 September.

The events are part of the Heritage Open Days, organised annually across the country and promoted by English Heritage.

The Suffolk Green Buildings Network is a collection of buildings which are cheaper to heat and light, have less environmental impact and are better adapted to climate change.

The network raises the profile of these buildings and aims to inspire others to commission similar projects.



Among the 11 properties featured for 2010 are a contemporary family home designed to be carbon neutral, a Tudor public building dating from about 1500, new-build and refurbished village halls and buildings built from straw bales.

Visitors need to book to join most of the tours of the buildings taking part. Book online through: www.greensuffolk.org/green_buildings/events

Attached is a copy of the leaflet describing all the building taking part in the event. For more details contact Hilary Stearn: hilary.stearn@suffolk.gov.uk

Book seats for touring comedy production

The Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds is taking a production of The Two of Us by Michael Frayn on tour across Suffolk in September.

The show is a collection of four mini comedies on love and relationships and was originally performed in the West End by Richard Briers and Lynn Redgrave.

The short plays, performed by two actors, take a look at the complexities of love and marriage in the modern world. What would you do if last night's one night stand moved in the next morning - complete with all his dirty washing? How do you re-kindle the romance of your honeymoon when the newest addition to your family won't stop crying? And how do you cope with a dinner party when you've mistakenly invited the wife, the husband and the new boyfriend all on the same evening?

The Theatre Royal production stars Simon Nock and Alys Torrance. This will be the Theatre Royal's twelfth rural tour.

The local tour dates are shown right. For tickets or more details call the Theatre Royal Box Office on 01284 769505 or visit www.theatreroyal.org

7 September Clare Town Hall
9 September Hawstead Village Hall
11 September Wickhambrook Village Hall
15 September Garboldisham Village Hall
16 and 17 September Stansfield Village Hall
18 September Haverhill Arts centre
21 September Newmarket Kings Theatre
22 September Barrow Village Hall
25 September Hartest Village Hall



Where to find funding

Attached is a document — **Funding Update August** — listing sources of funding from various charities and foundations.



Making the most of your village hall

Two conferences called 'Sustaining your village hall in the 21st Century' were held in June, at Great Barton and Hundon.

Run by Suffolk ACRE on behalf of St Edmundsbury, the conferences were for anyone involved with village halls and other community buildings.

The days included a presentation from John Taylor from the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership about saving energy, and therefore money. Peter Turner from Great Barton explained how the village had developed their 1950s hall into a much larger buildings with areas suitable for all kinds of community events.

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:
kirsty.pitwood@stedsb.gov.uk
T: 01284 757109
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/ruralactionplan.cfm

Grants

Contact Kirsty Pitwood for grants between £500 and £5000:
kirsty.pitwood@stedsb.gov.uk
T: 01284 757109
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/racif.cfm
Contact Paul Rounce for grants of £5000 and over:
paul.rounce@stedsb.gov.uk
T: 01284 757079
<http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/CommunityDevGrants.cfm>

Parish Conferences (twice yearly)

Contact Kate Blazeby:
kate.blazeby@stedsb.gov.uk
T: 01284 757633

Rural youth outreach work

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

Housing

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

Tourism

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

Planning

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

Please visit our Rural Communities web pages: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/ruralcommunities.cfm