

# news Broadland

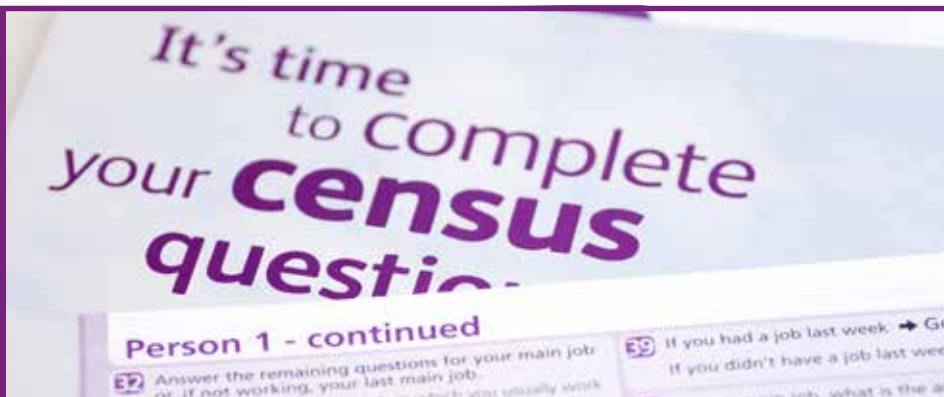
News and information from your local council

Spring 2021





# Ready, steady, census



## The decennial census is almost upon us.

Households across Broadland will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is Sunday 21 March.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk)

Broadland News is distributed to over 62,500 homes and businesses in the Broadland district, three times a year.

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If you would like this information in a different format, such as large print, audio, Braille or in a different language please call 01603 431133 and we will do our best to help.

## Useful contacts

### Broadland District Council

Main switchboard: 01603 431133



Mon – Fri  
8.30am – 5pm

**Benefits** 01603 430602 [benefits@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@broadland.gov.uk)

#### Building control - CNC Building Control

08081 685041 (Freephone) [enquiries@cncbuildingcontrol.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cncbuildingcontrol.gov.uk)

**Council Tax** 01603 430600 [council.tax@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:council.tax@broadland.gov.uk)

**Election services** 01603 430483 [election.services@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:election.services@broadland.gov.uk)

#### Environmental services (bins, recycling, waste, dog fouling)

01603 430534 [environ.protection@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:environ.protection@broadland.gov.uk)

**Help Hub** 01603 430431 / **Business Support** 01603 980441

**Housing advice** 01603 430641 [housing.options@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:housing.options@broadland.gov.uk)

**Licensing** 01603 430574 [licensing@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@broadland.gov.uk)

**Planning** 01603 430509 [planning.administration@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:planning.administration@broadland.gov.uk)

#### Pollution control (noise, bonfires)

01603 430488 [environ.protection@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:environ.protection@broadland.gov.uk)

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 BroadlandDistrictCouncil

# Welcome to the spring edition of Broadland News



It is good to start to see and enjoy the blossom in the trees and the bright colours of the spring bulbs emerging around us bringing us hope for the year ahead, certainly some warmer weather would be welcome.

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected each and every one of us, the last year has been difficult for us all in so many different ways, but it has also been an opportunity for our communities to pull together and show just how strong Broadland is as a district. The response from residents has been exceptional and I can't thank you enough for everything you've done to help us in the fight against Covid-19.

Reflecting back, who could have predicted, just a year ago, that so many of us would find ourselves working from home. That we would be using Skype, Teams and Zoom to keep in touch with our

loved ones and work while at the same time learning how to home school our children.

The light is growing brighter at the end of the tunnel. But, sadly, we are not there yet. I continue to ask for your adherence to Government guidance, to look after yourselves and loved ones and to have your vaccine when it is your turn.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to the hundreds of residents who have come forward to volunteer and those that continue to do so. Also to our Council staff, in our Help Hub, Economic Development, Finance and Business Rates Teams for the speed of their response in supporting our local businesses and helping our most vulnerable residents stay as safe as possible.

Recognition also needs to be given to our staff and partners who have kept the Council running,

doing the 'day job', such as those in our Planning, Environmental, Enforcement Teams (to name but a few) and our refuse collectors who have continued week in and week out to get our bins emptied.

I am also proud of the help that we have given to support the NHS and the roll out of the vaccine. Our staff have been working in the local hospital, directing traffic in vaccine centre car parks, contacting residents and knocking on doors to make sure our elderly residents do not miss their opportunity to have the jab.

We still have a long road ahead of us and we must work together, but with help from our friends and partners we will continue to look after the people who need our services the most and beat this virus.

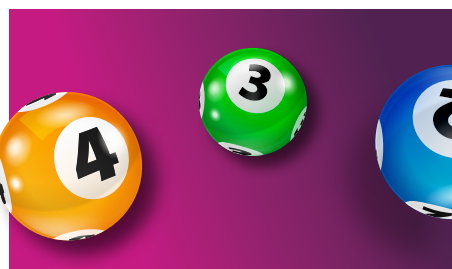
**Councillor Shaun Vincent,  
Leader of Broadland  
District Council**



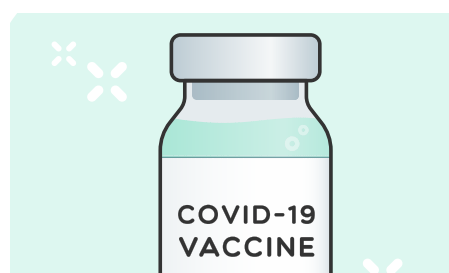
**Community at Heart 4-7**



**Grants for local projects 8-10**



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**Business Awards 16-18**

# Community at Heart

## The Broadland Community at Heart Awards were presented at a virtual ceremony

The event, hosted by Chairman Karen Vincent and the Council's Managing Director Trevor Holden, was streamed on the Council's YouTube channel.

The awards acknowledge the valuable contribution of volunteers, individuals, businesses and community groups as well as the work they do in the district. A judging panel chose the winners in a variety of categories from the many fantastic nominations made by members of the public.

Each winner received a trophy and £250 to donate to their chosen community group or voluntary organisation. All the nominees received a hamper full of goodies to enjoy while watching the event and to thank them for their work in the community.

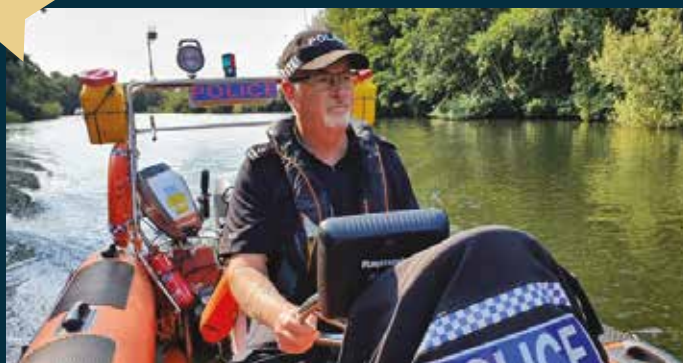
Our Chairman, Councillor Karen Vincent, said: "My heartfelt thanks go not just to our amazing and incredibly deserving winners, but to everyone nominated for an award. Each nomination demonstrates the positive difference a person or group has made and I want to say a huge thank you to each and everyone of you for your selfless work and achievements that help to make Broadland such a special place to live."

John Warren, Partner of award's main sponsor Price Bailey, said: "This is the fourth year running we have had the pleasure of being involved in these awards. Each year, we are moved by the amazing stories of kindness and generosity. These wonderful volunteers really are at the heart of our communities and we are delighted to be able to celebrate their achievements."

### Special Recognition Award

#### Special Inspector Mike Chambers

Mike has volunteered as a Special Constable in Broadland for over 15 years and has been in his role as Special Inspector for last 10. His role sees him managing the Broadland Specials team, working closely with both Broadland Police and Broads Beat officers.



### Special Recognition Award

#### Broads Beat Police

Broads Beat are currently in the 25th year of reducing marine crime in the Broads area. They provide a High-Vis presence in the rivers Bure and Yare and have worked extra hard to maintain safety and order during the influx of visitors as lockdown was lifted in the summer and people went on staycation.



# Art Awards 2020

Chartered accountants  
Price Bailey are the  
award's key sponsor.



Broadland

Community  
at heart

Awards 2020

## Safer Broadland

### Broadland Special Constabulary

Broadland Specials are volunteer police officers who support emergency response, neighbourhood policing and events.



## Young Person of the Year

### Evie Sansom

Every year 11-year-old Evie raises money for autism charity Sunbeams Play by writing to celebrities and asking them for their support. This year, she took her fundraising efforts one step further by completing 24 mini challenges and raising over £300 for Sunbeams and the NHS.



## Carer of the Year

### Kayleigh Griggs

Kayleigh has been caring for people with disabilities since she was 14. She has worked in a variety of different settings, always going the extra mile to offer the best support possible.



## Good Neighbour or Friend of the Year

### Julie Douglass

Julie leads the Good Neighbours Group for the Coltishall and Horstead area along with her team of dedicated volunteers. She has been helping people in the community by collecting prescriptions and shopping, as well as taking people to medical appointments.



## Environmental Champion of the Year sponsored by Barnwell Print



### Tina Johnson

Tina makes Lingwood a cleaner and safer place to live. She runs the village TerraCycle scheme, collecting waste such as crisp packets, toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes to be re-purposed and bought. All the funds raised are then donated to local causes in the village.



## Community Group of the Year



### SENsational Families

This local charity works tirelessly for children with special educational needs and their families. They offer advice and support to parents and carers to help them through difficult times.



## Inspiration of the Year



### Jackie Hamilton

Jackie founded TherapyAid in 2019 to try and give something back. The charity provides support to unpaid carers in Norfolk to support their wellbeing. During lockdown, Jackie and TherapyAid began delivering wellbeing hampers and offering sessions over Zoom, as well setting up a book and podcast club.



## Volunteer of the Year



### Michelle Thackham

When Michelle is not working as Deputy Sister at Cromer Hospital's Dialysis Unit or fulfilling her role as a Councillor for Coltishall, she volunteers as a treasurer and trustee for Coltishall and Horstead Preschool. On top of this, she recently became a director of Coltishall Activities and Sports Trust.



## Business Community Support of the Year



### Hug a Mug Café

Hug a Mug is a community café, offering fresh brewed coffee, home-baked cakes, savouries and light lunches. They host regular events, including a mini produce market, a free jigsaw library, book swaps and regular craft stalls.



## Sporting Achievement of the Year *sponsored by CiM Signs & Graphics*

### Mandy Foyster

Mandy has been a marathon runner for many years, and has completed many marathons, one dressed as a sheep. Along the way, Mandy has raised money for various charities. During lockdown she organised several virtual races including the Sheepy Shuffle half-marathon which raised £6,500 for Mirkwood Rest Home for Retired Sheep.







*Congratulations*

to everyone nominated  
for a Community at  
Heart Award



# Councillors award grants to local community groups



Each of our district councillors has a Member grant of £500 to help deliver community projects within their wards.

A wide variety of worthy causes have benefitted over the last two years, with the grant scheme making a real difference to communities across Broadland.

One recent example of grant money benefitting residents is in South Walsham, where Councillor Nigel Brennan allocated £350 of his grant budget to cover the cost of four new speed awareness signs in the village.

The project came about following a suggestion from a South Walsham

resident, and pupils from local school Fairhaven C of E VA Primary School who enjoyed getting involved by designing the signs.

“It is hoped these signs will reinforce the existing road safety initiatives within South Walsham and continue to provide enhanced safety for pupils walking to and from the school for years to come,” Cllr Brennan said.

Schemes that benefitted earlier in the year include Drayton Youth Football Club, supported by Councillor Adrian Crotch, and Sprowston Community Hub, supported by Councillor Breanne Cook.

Drayton Youth Football Club has expanded over the past couple of years and currently has around 100 young players,





from an under 14's side right down to the mini kickers. After receiving funding from Tesco the Club bought extra equipment and goal posts but they were struggling to store them. The grant will help pay for new storage facilities.

Club Chairman Paul Dodimead said: "The grant was really welcome and so very needed, it will make storing our equipment much easier."

Social enterprise, Independence Matters also benefitted from a grant, with Councillor Breanne Cook giving £500 to Sprowston Community Hub.

The money will go towards sensory equipment such as infinity mirrors, a sensory mood cube and fibreoptic lights.

Business Support Officer for the organisation Julie Milton said: "It might not seem a lot, but it will make such a difference to the people we support."

Meanwhile, in Thorpe St Andrew tails will soon be wagging thanks to a new dog agility course made possible through the grant scheme.

Cllr Trudy Mancini-Boyle, Cllr Sue Lawn and Cllr Jonathan Emsell each committed their £500 member grant to the project, which should be open for our four-legged friends in early 2021.

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council is supporting the project with additional funding and through the construction of some equipment in-house.

Town Clerk Thomas Foreman said: "The Town Council has dedicated an area in the Queen Elizabeth II woods



*From left to right : Cllr Lawn, Cllr Emsell, Cllr Mancini-Boyle & Thorpe St Andrew Town Council representatives.*

at Fitzmaurice Park for this, as it has sufficient space and is away from traffic which might otherwise distract dogs using the equipment."

He added that feedback from local residents about the proposals has been positive with dog owners pleased with the prospect of a new safe and

enclosed area to exercise their dogs in.

Charitable organisation Vedic Cultural Society of East Anglia will also be able to better host community gatherings for years to come following a £300 grant awarded by Cllr Grant Nurden, which enabled the purchase of new equipment.





**Cllr Nurden with Vedic Cultural Society of East Anglia representatives at the Annual Indian Summer Fair. Picture taken pre-COVID-19.**

This furniture was needed for the Annual Indian Summer Fair at the organisation's Hindu Temple in Tunstall and will be reused at future Summer Fairs, as well as at other community gatherings and events throughout the year.

In Sprowston, various groups have benefitted from cash injections, with Cllr Judy Leggett, Cllr Ian Moncur and Cllr John Ward allocating their budgets to local groups.

Sprowston Community Churches received £300, which covered the cost of coffee making equipment, crockery, a storage unit and toys.

This enabled regular events to be set up for residents who had recently moved into new housing in Sprowston that is some distance from the established Sprowston community activities and groups.

The coffee drop-ins, hosted at the newly opened White House Farm Primary School, quickly

became popular and have helped to foster a greater sense of community among residents.

Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) has benefitted from £700 in grant money to help it support young people in the area. SYEP runs a weekly teen café, a Community Greenhouse project that also meets weekly, and provides 1:1 support for young people who have been referred by schools or the Police.

Around £300 was awarded to The Papillon Project to create and develop an allotment at Sprowston Community High School, which is hugely beneficial to the mental and physical health of pupils and the wider community.

In addition, Sprowston East councillors gave nearly £200 to the Eco Council at Sprowston's

**“ This new initiative promotes sustainable living and environmental awareness among young people by encouraging them to grow food for themselves. ”**

**Councillor Judy Leggett**

Cecil Gowing Infant School to enable new trees to be planted on school grounds.

**If you think your community group could benefit from a grant, please contact your local councillor.**



**For more information, visit:**  
**[www.broadland.gov.uk](http://www.broadland.gov.uk) and search 'Member Grants' or email**  
**[communities@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:communities@broadland.gov.uk).**





# Grow Your Own

Have you ever wanted to have a go at growing your own food? You don't need an allotment or even your own garden to get started – all you need is a windowsill and some time to give seeds a little TLC.

Using her member grant, Council Chairman Karen Vincent is supporting a new “Grow your Own” initiative in her Ward of Old Catton and Sprowston providing residents with free seeds to grow at home.

These include microgreens which are packed full of nutrients, quick and easy to grow. They will thrive inside on a windowsill and can be grown and harvested all year round.

It is also a great way to reuse plastic food packaging from your weekly shop or takeaway, as you can plant the seeds in these small tubs.



Cllr Vincent said “Gardening and growing your own food can be fun, rewarding and a cheap hobby that can boost your mental health and wellbeing. It is also a great way to get children involved and encourage healthy eating.”

The pack includes sunflower seeds and to create a little competition it would be great to receive a picture of you and your tallest sunflower.

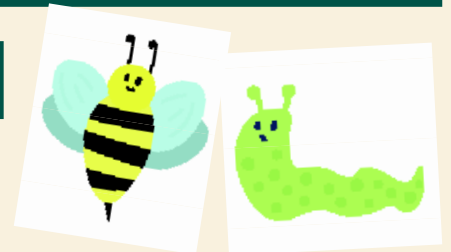
If you would like some free seeds and live in Old Catton or Sprowston please email [comms@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:comms@broadland.gov.uk) with your name and address. We have a limited number of seeds available and they will be posted on a first come, first serve basis.

## #RewildBroadland

Last Summer, you may have noticed that we weren't mowing our public open spaces as much as usual. Instead, we left areas uncut to encourage a more diverse range of flowers and grasses and provide food and cover for a wider range of insects, which in turn support birds and mammals such as hedgehogs and bats.

Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence Cllr Judy Leggett said: “The number and diversity of insects and wildlife is in decline, but we can do something to help. We are rewilding many areas that we look after, leaving the grass long to help our flora and fauna recover.”

We look after more than 150 open spaces and last year many of our wild patches thrived, full of colourful flowers including Ox-eyed Daisies, Bee Orchids, Pyramidal Orchids, Evening Primrose, Selfheal, Yarrow, Lady's Bedstraw and various Vetches, Hawkbits and Speedwells. We also noticed an increase in insects in these areas, most notably moths and butterflies.



Cllr Leggett added: “Help us to support our wildlife and leave a no-mow patch in your lawn and you could be enjoying a thriving mini meadow this summer.”



# WIN!



**Do your bit for nature and leave a no-mow patch in your garden, or grow wildflowers in pots and planters. Tag your social media photos #rewildingbroadland for your chance to win free seed packets and other goodies.**

**For more advice and ideas about how you can rewild your garden, visit [www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening), or [www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/wildlife/rewild-your-garden](http://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/wildlife/rewild-your-garden)**



# Raise money for local good causes and be in with a chance of winning up to £25,000

Tickets for the new Broadland Community at Heart Lottery are on sale now, so you can support local good causes, while being in with a chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!

Players have a 50 to one chance of winning one of the prizes which, aside from the top cash prize, include £2,000, £250, £25 or three free tickets.

What makes our new community lottery special is that while players have fun trying to win big, money from ticket sales goes directly to local groups, charities and non-profit organisations.

All players have to do is pick a local good cause to receive 50% of the £1 ticket price when they go online to buy tickets. So far more than 50 good causes have joined the weekly community lottery, all keen to benefit from this fun way to raise funds.

Clare Lincoln from Sprowston Youth Engagement Project said: "We feel it's a great way for people to donate to charity while having the opportunity to win something themselves. It has been difficult in terms of funding some of the important projects we deliver and broadening what we do to reach even more young people. Having an opportunity like this is really important and means a lot to us as a small charity."

**“We’re thrilled to see people supporting our community lottery and getting behind causes that are close to their hearts. I wish all players lots of luck in our first ever draw and I want to thank them for helping to directly benefit people in our district.”**

**CLlr Trudy Mancini-Boyle, Deputy Leader of Broadland District Council**



Jeremy Cocks from Aylsham St Giles Cricket Club said: "We signed up as a good cause because we are expanding the coaching sessions we are providing to Aylsham youth, from ages five through to 13. Cricket can be an expensive game to play, especially in the higher age groups where a lot of protective equipment is needed, and our coaches need to attend accreditation courses. Funding can be especially hard to find during the Covid-19 pandemic, so any funding through

the Community at Heart Lottery is fantastic."

It's free for good causes to register for the Community at Heart Lottery and there is no deadline for applications – go to [www.communityatheartlottery.com](http://www.communityatheartlottery.com) to sign up or buy tickets.

Lottery management company Gatherwell has been appointed to run the scheme, having already launched similar lotteries in Portsmouth, Corby, Peterborough, and many other areas.

**For more information, head to our Community at Heart lottery page:  
[www.communityatheartlottery.com](http://www.communityatheartlottery.com), email [Heart@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:Heart@broadland.gov.uk) or call 01603 430591.**







## Charmaine swings it for Horsford

We have worked with Horsford Parish Council to rejuvenate three of the village's play areas.

Park View was the first to be completed in April 2020 followed by play areas in Coltsfoot Road and Beckside. The £70,000 project was inspired by 10 year-old-resident Charmaine Blythe, who petitioned the Parish Council to ask for a new swing at Park View play area by Horsford Village Hall.

Charmaine said: "The play area had hardly any play equipment and what was there was old and wasn't any good."

With the help of her parents, Charmaine petitioned the local community for improvements to the play area and gathered over a hundred signatures.

The family presented the petition to the Parish Council. As a result, working in partnership, the parish council and Broadland District Council drew up plans for a much needed new play area.

The councils removed the dilapidated old equipment at Park View and replaced it with not one, but three swings, 2 slides, a roundabout, climbing frames, sensory boards, extra seating and much more.

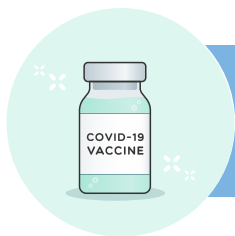
**“ When I heard we were getting the new play area, I felt really happy and excited, as we finally had something to do. ”**

**Charmaine Blythe**

The project was such a success that the councils also worked together to rejuvenate two other play areas in the village, one at Coltsfoot Road and the other at Beckside.

Our portfolio holder for Housing and Wellbeing, Cllr Fran Whymark, said: "Charmaine is an inspiration and thanks to her and the collaborative work of the two councils, children in Horsford have fantastic play facilities that will be enjoyed by children for many years to come."

If you would like your good cause to benefit from our lottery, please email: [Heart@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:Heart@broadland.gov.uk) or call 01603 430591.



# Vaccine update



The NHS is currently offering the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine to people most at risk from the virus.

The vaccine is safe and effective, giving you the best protection against coronavirus and Broadland District Council's Vice-Chairman, Cllr Roger Foulger, recently received the vaccine, along with his wife.

Cllr Foulger said: "We received a text message from our surgery so we called them back immediately and arranged to have the first dose of the vaccine the following day. We felt extremely keen to get it done."

Cllr Foulger and his wife, received the vaccine at their local hospital.

"When we arrived, we saw a doctor who asked us about allergies, health problems and medications. They ran through a thorough checklist. Then we waited in another room – socially distanced – and they called us through when they were ready. It was very orderly. The jab itself was completely painless and we sat for 15 minutes afterwards enjoying socially distanced tea and biscuits, so they could make sure we were fit to leave. We had no problems at all."

Cllr Foulger and his wife have also received their second dose. He said: "Getting vaccinated is doing what is absolutely required. I would strongly recommend that anyone offered the vaccine has the jab. It's in everybody's interest."

Cllr Foulger praised the NHS staff carrying out COVID-19 vaccinations, and said it was great to see how excited they were about it.

"I would like to compliment the hospital on the excellent way it was organised and the enthusiasm of the staff, which is admirable given the pressure they're under at the moment," he added.

Former Chairman, Cllr Ken Leggett, also received both doses of his Covid vaccination recently. He welcomed the opportunity to be vaccinated and described the whole process as "extremely well organised".



*Cllr Foulger and his wife, Brenda*

"We all want to try to protect ourselves but we have got to think about protecting other people as well. The more people who get vaccinated and the sooner it happens, the better. I can understand people feeling unsure but

it all went smoothly and I felt fine after and it is important to think about the future, about being safe for our families and friends," Cllr Leggett said.

He added "I am very impressed by the number of people who are volunteering to help the NHS, and support the vaccination programme. This has really brought out a tremendous sense of what people can and will do in an emergency – it's very encouraging."

The vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through all the clinical trials and the same safety checks that all other licensed medicines go through.



*Cllr Leggett*

**To get your jab you must be registered with a GP surgery – please do this if you are not currently registered. The current vaccine is given in two doses – the first dose should give you good protection from coronavirus and the second dose (given three to 12 weeks later) provides longer lasting protection.**

**You will be contacted when it is your turn to have the jab so please do not call your local surgery or hospital. When you are contacted it is really important that you keep your appointment so if you need help with transport please contact our Help Hub on 01603 430431.**

**For up to date information about the coronavirus crisis, visit [www.broadland.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.broadland.gov.uk/coronavirus)**

**Vaccines are being given to groups in order of their priority. To find out which group you are in visit: [www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk)**





## BROADLY ACTIVE

**If you could benefit from some gentle exercise, losing weight or making some improvements to your diet, then our new Broadly Active Facebook page can help you.**

We have put all our health and fitness advice in one place, so follow and like our page for help on how to improve your health, fitness and mood.

Each week our instructors set exercise challenges to help you stay active and are on-hand to answer your questions and give you advice.

Portfolio holder for Housing and Wellbeing, Cllr Fran Whymark, said: "Even if you've never exercised before, we can help. Our low impact challenges can be done in your living room and will ease you into a new fitter you."

You will also be able to access healthy eating tips, tasty low-fat recipes and more from our Why Weight? Scheme, which has helped residents of

Broadland lose weight and keep it off for good. If you struggle to stay motivated, you can join in our virtual coffee morning, Broadly Brew, which puts you in touch with like-minded people who can support and encourage you to achieve your goals.

The new Facebook page will also include information about our popular exercise referral scheme, Broadly Active, which has already helped around 5,000 people over the last 15 years to build up their fitness and improve their health.

The scheme is great for people with conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis, high cholesterol, stress, anxiety and depression. Our professional instructors can guide you through a programme of exercises which will help you to manage your condition and improve your fitness. If you feel you could benefit from the exercise referral scheme, please mention it next time you see a health professional who will be able to refer you.

If you'd like a taste of what to expect, take a look at our range of YouTube videos ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCj7Hf43ELyvgWcpesDAgVJw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj7Hf43ELyvgWcpesDAgVJw)) that offer simple home exercises for anyone who struggles with their mobility or has health conditions that require lower levels of exercise.



**To access all our health advice, please like and follow us @Broadlyactive on Facebook, or for more information about our exercise referral scheme, please visit [www.broadland.gov.uk](http://www.broadland.gov.uk) or call 01603 430487.**

# Local businesses shine at awards



Nine local companies have been recognised for their excellence, innovation and best practice at the inaugural Broadland & South Norfolk Councils' Business Awards – with two of the local businesses celebrating double wins.

All 12,500 businesses that have an operating base in Broadland and South Norfolk were able to enter the awards. Members of the public were also able to submit nominations for the Retailer of the Year award.

This is the first time that the councils have held a joint Business Awards and, as the planned ceremony was cancelled due to the pandemic, winners were announced on our social media channels.

“Broadland is a great place to do business and I am proud that as a council we are doing all we can to help businesses of all sizes.”

**Broadland District Council Chairman  
Cllr Karen Vincent**

Broadland District Council Chairman Cllr Karen Vincent said: “It was a privilege to present the awards to recognise our local businesses and congratulate them on their outstanding achievements, from tackling Type 2 Diabetes to conserving ancient woods. These awards showcase the incredible diversity of business across the district.

“It is especially important we recognise the achievements of our local businesses given the challenging year they have had. The determination and resourcefulness shown by all is epitomised by award winner myDNAhealth, which adapted its business to help in the fight against Covid.”

## Congratulations to all the winners:

**SNAP** won our **Excellence in Digital Creative and ICT** award, sponsored by InTouch Systems. With its cashless payment system, SNAP is revolutionising the haulage sector and modernising industry procedures right across the UK and Europe using its in-house designed technology.

“Technology and ICT have played a huge role in our ongoing mission to digitalise the haulage industry. We are thrilled to have been awarded the Excellence in Digital and ICT Award,” said Managing Director Mark Garner, who described SNAP as “a proud local business”.

**SNAP** also won the **Business Growth** award, sponsored by Big Sky Living. The company demonstrated a strong performance in every area of growth – turnover, profit, customer base, market share, territory and new products.

Mark said: “Having established a presence in the haulage industry, we have focused on growing our offer to help customers in both the UK and Europe.”



**Sponsors of Broadland & South Norfolk Business Awards 2020**





**myDNAhealth** won the **Excellence in Life Sciences** award, sponsored by Norwich Research Park. Founded in 2014, myDNAhealth provides in-depth testing results designed to give vital information, which allows for personally tailored lifestyle changes, to improve health and wellbeing. A commitment to use the latest technology and analytical tools ensures reliable, consistent and relevant results.

Bernie Williams, Co-founder and CEO of myDNAhealth, said: "We are very happy and honoured to win this award, which is a testimony to the myDNAhealth scientific and technology teams who are committed to developing evidenced-based products and technologies aimed at promoting wellness and optimising healthy ageing."



**Ansible Motion** won the **Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing** award, sponsored by Mirus Aircraft Seating. Based at Hethel Innovation Centre, Ansible Motion creates Driver-in-the-Loop simulators for vehicle engineering and their unique immersion technology places drivers and engineers into compelling virtual worlds.

**Ansible Motion** is another of our double award winners, also taking home our **International Business Growth** award, sponsored by Hethel International. This award recognised its investment in securing a pipeline of international orders resulted in a doubling of their exports in 2019.



**Credo Asset Finance** won the **Excellence in Financial Services and Insurance** award sponsored by Jarrold Training. Established in 2005, Credo Asset Finance has already brokered over £400m to more than 8,000 local businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk and considers itself the premier trusted Business and Personal Asset Finance specialists. Its philosophy is based on treating each customer as though they are their only one, and building long lasting relationships with the vehicle and supplier networks.

Fran Brown, Marketing Manager of Credo Asset Finance, said: "Now in our 15th year, Credo

Asset Finance are thrilled to win this award, and we dedicate it to our Founder Simon Gray who passed away in September. For Simon looking after the customer was everything, and he would have been delighted for us to be recognised in this way.

“We understand how this year has been a challenging one for so many people, so it is a big boost for the company to be recognised for helping so many businesses at a local level. We all feel we won this for Simon.”

**Flint Vineyard** was the **Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Drink** sponsored by Pasta Foods. In an idyllic Waveney Valley, family-owned Flint Vineyard’s state-of-the-art fermentation equipment and techniques perfectly blend with age-old tradition and a passion for making English wine.

**The Norfolk Mead** won in the **Visitor Economy Experience** category, sponsored by Adnams. As a luxury destination in Norfolk, it provides excellence in hospitality across its bedrooms, restaurant, spa treatment rooms, and event venue.

Owner James Holliday said: “Our ethos has always been to continually evolve, adapt and expand our luxury offer. This resolve has helped us through this challenging year for hospitality where the resilience of our staff and our new services including takeaway afternoon tea, have helped us to continue to weather the storm.”

**Simon’s Table Ltd** was the **New Business** award winner, sponsored by CNC Building Control. Husband-and-wife team Simon and Nicola Rawcliffe produce a range of tasty

products, initially inspired by a 30-year-old marmalade recipe. All products, such as shortbread and a gin liqueur, can be found in stockists nationwide.

**Emmaus Norfolk & Waveney** won the **Environmental Impact** award, sponsored by UEA’s Low Carbon Innovation Fund. The charity provides a home, meaningful work and a sense of belonging to formerly homeless people.

**Our Slice of Country Life** was awarded **Retailer of the Year** – the category that members of the public submitted nominations for, and sponsored by Fosters Solicitors LLP. This arts and crafts gift shop in Diss is a successful hybrid of high street and online, mixed with a strong community focus and partnerships with other local businesses.



The headline sponsor of the awards was Fosters Solicitors and the media partner was Greatest Hits Radio Norfolk and North Suffolk. For more information on our winners visit [www.broadland.gov.uk/businessawards](http://www.broadland.gov.uk/businessawards)

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# Commemorating local people

Four notable former Broadland residents have been recognised with a blue plaque.

We first launched the scheme in 2019, commemorating five of the district's most pioneering women. Since then, we have received nominations for four distinguished men who have all had a significant impact on Broadland and the wider area.

One of the new plaques remembers the work of socialist George Hewitt, who was born in Horsham St. Faith. George became well known for fighting hard to get a fair deal for agricultural labourers in the early twentieth century.

Samuel George Soame, a pioneering engineer from Marsham, who is famous for the production of an early steam car – the Soames Steam Wagonette – as well as for making the first steam engine to



drive a fairground roundabout, is also to receive a plaque.

Canon John Patteson is commemorated for his work as a priest in Thorpe St. Andrew and as chaplain for the 1st Volunteer Battalion Norfolk Regiment, as well as for his work for the Church of England Young Men's Society.

His brother Henry Staniforth Patteson will also receive a plaque, is also remembered for the huge contribution he made to the City of Norwich. He was Sheriff of Norwich, Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk and later Mayor. He was also president of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society.

For more information on any of the amazing people that we have recognised through our scheme, please visit our website [www.broadland.gov.uk](http://www.broadland.gov.uk)

## Elections in 2021



On Thursday 6 May residents in Broadland will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at Norfolk County Council and as the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner. Neighbourhood Planning Referendums will be taking place for Spixworth and Taverham and in a small number of parishes there may also be by-elections.

There are a number of ways for you to cast your vote and have your say in May. You can vote in a polling station, you can appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf, this is known as a proxy vote or you can cast your vote by post.

Due to the current circumstances we understand that some people may be concerned about visiting a polling station, but we can assure you that we are taking additional measures to make voting as safe as possible.

Our polling stations will have two-metre floor markings and signage to encourage physical distancing and the wearing of face coverings.

Polling stations will be safe places to vote in May, but there are other ways to vote.



Want to vote by post? Apply early

The Electoral Commission

YOUR VOTE MATTERS  
DON'T LOSE IT

Where possible, a one-way system will be in place with hand sanitiser available when you enter and leave.

Screens will be in place, for the safety of our staff and voters and the polling stations will be cleaned on a regular basis.

We would also ask you to bring your own pen or pencil to use when voting.

**More information about postal and proxy voting can be found by visiting [www.broadland.gov.uk/elections](http://www.broadland.gov.uk/elections)**

# Working together to beat homelessness

The last year has left some people struggling to pay their bills and for the first time ever they may be facing the daunting prospect of becoming homeless.

As a Council we do all we can to prevent homelessness and have been working across the Greater Norwich area with South Norfolk and Norwich City Council for many years to help keep a roof over our residents' heads.

Right now, this work is even more crucial than ever and last year we worked together with 25 other organisations to develop a new Greater Norwich Homelessness Strategy to prepare for the effects of the pandemic and help beat homelessness in the area for good.

The strategy determines the key drivers for homelessness over the next five years and ensures resources are put in place to help meet the demand.

Our Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing, Councillor Fran Whymark, said:

"The strategy underlines our commitment to work together to

ensure robust systems are in place to help prevent people becoming homeless, particularly during this difficult time. While the effects of this pandemic have not yet been fully realised, we are ready to support our residents who need our help, when they need help. "

One such household that found themselves in need, were the Keen family.

Daniel and Emma Keen and their two young children first found themselves in difficulty in January after Daniel lost his job.

"We were struggling to pay the bills and our rent and we fell into arrears," reveals Daniel. "Our landlord was also trying to sell the house."

When the family was given notice by their landlord, they found themselves at risk of homelessness.

The family contacted the council who quickly found them temporary accommodation.



Daniel said: "It was a really nice place and we were so grateful to have somewhere to stay." However, the family all had to sleep in one room, which "wasn't easy with a one and two-year-old."

The Council gave the family help and advice to manage their debts, and during the height of lockdown, helped the family secure a new home through a local housing association in Broadland.

"We can't believe how things have turned out," said Daniel. We couldn't have picked a better house. We are forever indebted to the people at the Council who helped us so much. We talk about it every day. Without them who knows where we would be now, they changed our lives."

**If you're homeless or threatened with homelessness, please contact us on 01603 430641, or email [housing.options@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:housing.options@broadland.gov.uk)**

## How to get help with housing



How you access housing support and advice is changing - from April we will be launching our online customer portal, where you will be able to manage your housing need including accessing social housing.

By moving much of the system to an online portal you can now access our service at the time that suits you best. We will still be available via phone, post and emails but the portal will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



# New homes for greater independence

Being able to stay in your own home for longer is an important factor in the wellbeing of our residents and work has begun on a new Independent Living Scheme in Acle.

The new scheme, developed alongside Norfolk County Council and Saffron Housing Trust, will provide 58 affordable 1 and 2 bed independent living apartments.

The 'Living Well for Norfolk' homes are for people over 55, whose current home no longer meets their needs.

Broadland District Council Chairman Councillor Karen Vincent said: "We must look after our older residents by ensuring we are providing the homes and support they need to remain independent for longer."

The new homes are close to local amenities, such as shops and hairdressers and they offer 24/7 emergency care.

The Council gave planning permission for the scheme. Once completed the affordable apartments will be available for rent through the Broadland's



Housing list or as shared ownership.

Local Councillor Lana Hemsall, who is Portfolio Holder for Planning, said: "I am delighted that we are building these homes in Acle. They provide an alternative to residential care, with the assurance that help is there if residents need it. This also means people can stay close to family and friends, while continuing to be part of the wider community."

For more information visit Norfolk County Council's website and search for 'Living Well Homes'.

If you are interested in the shared ownership apartments, please register with Help to Buy South [www.helptobuyagent3.org.uk](http://www.helptobuyagent3.org.uk)

For applicants in housing need within Acle, please contact the Council's Housing Options Team to express an interest in the affordable rented properties, by calling 01603 430641, or emailing [housingoptions@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:housingoptions@broadland.gov.uk)

**This new approach will put you in control of finding your new home. You will be able to see where properties are available and make bids, if you think a property is appropriate for you. We are making it possible for you to see every property that becomes available in both Broadland and South Norfolk and the average waiting times in each area to help you make an informed choice.**

**At the beginning of April all residents on the Housing Register will receive a letter from us with details of your housing band and how to log on to the portal and view available properties.**

**Some residents have already been sent review forms, to enable us to ensure their application is up to date. If you have received a review form and not returned it but wish to stay on the Housing Register, please contact us immediately.**

**Until our online portal opens in April you are able to access our housing service on our website.**

**For more details of the changes happening and for updates please visit [www.broadland.gov.uk/housing-register](http://www.broadland.gov.uk/housing-register)**

# Celebrating three decades of tree champions

Protecting the environment and the future of Broadland has always been a priority for the council and for 30 years we have supported a fantastic network of volunteers that champion the growing of trees in our District.

Broadland's 37-strong team of volunteer Tree Wardens, plant, look after and raise awareness about our local trees. They are the eyes and ears of the Council, helping to ensure our ancient and precious trees are cared for and preserved.

Their role provides a multitude of opportunities to make a difference to the local area. They help to look after local woodland, arrange tree planting days, set up tree nurseries and work with schools to inspire the younger generation.

They also recommend trees to us for protection with Tree Preservation Orders and monitor and comment on applications for works to preserved trees.

To celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the Tree Warden Network in Broadland, local Tree Warden Jo Parmenter will be planting a commemorative disease-resistant Elm in Reedham, which was donated by the Tree Council.

Portfolio holder for Environmental Excellence, Cllr Judy Leggett said: "We are very grateful for the contribution the work of the Broadland tree wardens make to our Environmental Strategy. I look forward to working with the wardens as we plan and implement our mission to plant a tree for every Broadland resident."



**Top:** Bex Cross, our Tree Warden for Hellesdon, with John Fleetwood planting in Mountfield Park in Hellesdon. **Bottom left:** John Fleetwood, Tree Council CEO Sara Lom and Andrea Rowlands, Broadland Tree Warden for Freethorpe, with three of Freethorpe's Junior Tree Wardens. **Bottom right:** Three Freethorpe Junior Tree Wardens planting trees in Wrongs Covert.

Broadland Tree Warden Co-Ordinator John Fleetwood has been a Tree Warden since the Council first set up the scheme in 1991 and has been the East Anglian Representative on the National Committee of Tree Wardens for the past three years.

He said: "Since 2018, we have been an independent network, but we are very lucky in Broadland to have the continued support of the Council. By investing a little in us, we are able to deliver a lot out in the community."

The Council helps with purchasing the trees, guards and stakes. Last year we allocated £5,000 to support the newtwork. This meant that 1,243 trees and 205 meters of hedgerow could be planted.

John added: "We are always looking for more volunteers, we provide all the training, all you need to have is a love of nature and a passion for trees."

If you would like to find out more, please contact John Fleetwood email: [john.fleetwood@hotmail.com](mailto:john.fleetwood@hotmail.com), or call 01603 716297



# Community shop and café open



A group of local residents saw an opportunity to create a new community enterprise so they teamed up with surrounding businesses, including the learning disability hospital, to find a suitable site.

They identified a derelict Victorian walled garden in a prime location near the church and school in Little Plumstead. The eager group of volunteers knew that with careful restoration they could transform the site into a visitor attraction and a beautiful spot to host community events.

Together, they formed a Community Benefit Society, with any profits going back into the business. The group has received support from the Parish Council and from teams at Broadland District Council in Planning, Conservation (with the garden wall renovation), Growth Delivery, Environmental Health advice and Licensing.

Our East Area Team Manager for planning, Nigel Harriss said: "This is an excellent example of the local planning authority working together with stakeholders in a positive creative way to secure, not only the future of the once derelict walled garden, but also a development and that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. It has also helped deliver on objectives identified in the Great and Little Plumstead Neighbourhood Plan."

The Community Benefit Society raised the necessary funds and coordinated construction of the shop and café. The restoration of the walled garden, led by the parish council, ran in parallel with this project. The aim of the group was to provide an attractive area

for visitors to enjoy and for the garden to grow produce to sell in the shop.

Last year, after a great deal of hard work and cooperation, The Walled Garden Community Shop and Café, opened. The venture has enjoyed a strong start, welcoming hundreds of customers in its first week, and continues to grow in popularity as word has spread.



Visit [www.thewalledgardenshop.co.uk](http://www.thewalledgardenshop.co.uk) to find out more and next time you're in Little Plumstead, make sure you pop in. Follow @thewalledgardenshop on Instagram and Facebook, and @wallgardenshop on Twitter, for updates.



## Help Hub

The Help Hub is available for anyone who needs support, for example:

- To obtain basic essentials
- If you're feeling isolated or lonely
- If you're worried about issues at home including relationships
- If you have oney worries
- COVID-19 related help

**E:** [Helphub@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:Helphub@broadland.gov.uk)

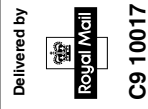
**T:** 01603 430431

## Business Support

If you or your business requires any COVID-19 support or advice please get in touch.

**T:** 01603 980441

**W:** [business@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:business@broadland.gov.uk)



If this item is undelivered or for postal address:  
Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Rd, Norwich NR7 0DU



**Every child has their story.  
As a foster carer in Norfolk,  
you can help them begin a  
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There are dozens of children and young people of all ages and backgrounds in Norfolk who need foster carers prepared to understand their story and help them begin a new chapter.

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