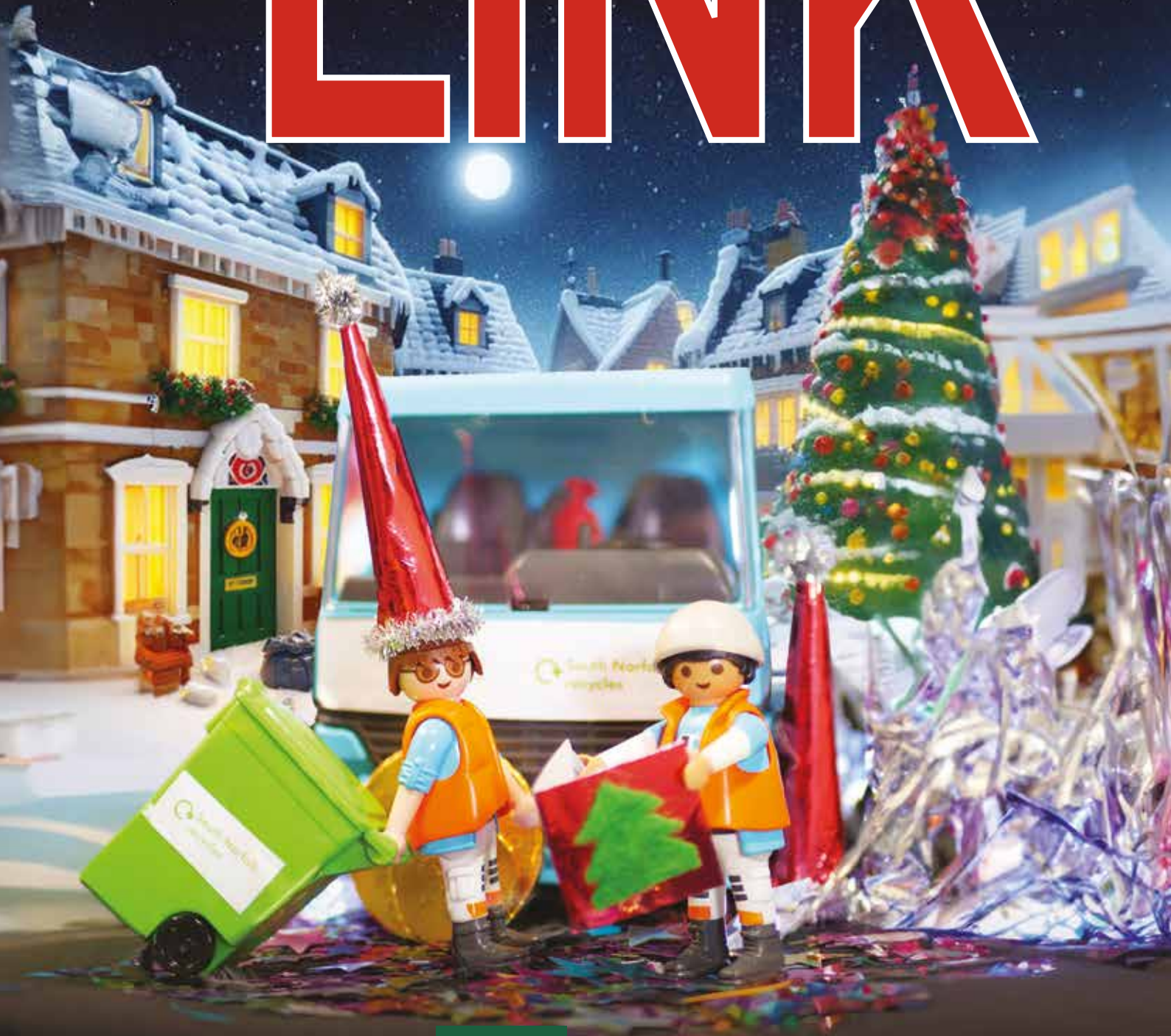


WINTER 2023

# LINK



Watch our Christmas  
recycling video



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**South Norfolk**  
COUNCIL

## New Honorary Aldermen



Six of South Norfolk's finest former public servants have been enrolled as Honorary Aldermen after giving years of notable service to the community.

South Norfolk Councillors assembled for a special meeting to hold only their fifth ever Honorary Aldermanic service.

The Council voted unanimously to confer the title on: Yvonne Bendle, Vivienne Clifford-Jackson, Christopher Kemp, Jeremy Savage, Joe Mooney and Florence Ellis.

Chairman, Cllr James Easter said: "This is our way of saying thank you to each and every person for their public service, and more widely, it is our way of underlining to our community that self-sacrifice and service without prejudice are not empty words, but values we live by and uphold."

To qualify for the honour, you must have "rendered eminent, or notable, service generally, or by service as Chairman, Cabinet Member, or a Chairman of a Council Committee or holding one or more senior positions on the Council in any political group".

## Useful contacts

South Norfolk Council main switchboard:  
01508 533701 Monday – Friday 8.30am to 5pm  
Website: [southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](http://southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)

@SNorfolkCouncil @SouthNorfolkCouncil

## Support for anyone who is feeling vulnerable:



- ▶ All ages
- ▶ Help with obtaining the basic essentials
- ▶ Feeling isolated
- ▶ Worried about issues at home, including relationships
- ▶ Money issues

Call Help Hub: 01508 533933  
e: [helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)



## Editorial

Marketing and Communications Team, Horizon Business Centre, Peachman Way, Broadland Business Park, NORWICH, NR7 0WF  
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## Christmas opening hours

Friday 22 December	8:15 – 5pm (Normal opening hours)
23 – 26 December	Closed
27 – 29 December	8:30 – 4:30pm
30 – 31 December	Closed (Weekend)
1 January	Closed (Bank Holiday)
From 2 Jan	Normal opening hours





# A message from the leader



It's now five months since the Council moved to our new offices at Broadland Business Park near Norwich. We are sharing our new home with colleagues at Broadland Council and together we have achieved an 84% reduction in energy consumption, while saving £700,000 a year. That's money that keeps Council Tax down for everyone and helps us to improve the lives of residents and businesses in every town and village in our district.

It hasn't just been a case of moving house. Bringing our

teams and IT systems together in one place is driving excellent efficiencies and the much-improved working environment is encouraging staff to come into the office every day, rather than working from home in back bedrooms and attics.

Following the election, we have published our four-year plan that will guide the work of the Council until 2027. Included in that plan is a complete refurbishment of Diss swimming pool, a new doctors' surgery and pharmacy in Hethersett, underwriting the construction of the Long Stratton bypass, new village halls for Easton and Cringleford, and large-scale improvements in Wymondham, to the town centre and the area around the station.

We are also investing in the best IT systems so residents can contact the Council when it's convenient for you, including evenings and weekends. Investing

in IT also releases time for those who don't have a computer to call us and speak to an advisor and have their problems dealt with promptly.

And our waste collection service is also being reviewed as we explore how we can introduce weekly food waste collections. While these collections will be delivered as standard in urban areas, we are still considering whether it makes sense to have heavy lorries trundling along country lanes in our rural areas, where many people have gardens and compost heaps or pets and domestic fowl that can make better use of kitchen scraps.

I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas, and remember, for those who are struggling with bills or accommodation costs, our teams are available to help.

Councillor John Fuller,  
Leader of South Norfolk Council

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## Life-saving training rated Excellent

Our leisure team have been awarded an Excellent rating by the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) for the training courses they offer at Wymondham Leisure Centre.

Following an external quality assurance audit, the leisure team met all the requirements of the RLSS.

Our Cabinet Member, Cllr Kim Carsok, said: "I'm incredibly proud of the team who have put in so much hard work to receive the highest possible rating from the RLSS. Our staff are highly qualified and are using their skills to train people from other organisations too."

As an Approved Training Provider, our leisure team can continue to deliver Royal Life Saving Society qualifications. For more information on the courses available search National Pool Lifeguard Courses on [southnorfolkleisure.co.uk](http://southnorfolkleisure.co.uk)



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## Top marks for holiday club

**Kids Camp at Long Stratton Leisure Centre has passed its recent Ofsted inspection with flying colours.**

Kids Camp has been registered with Ofsted since 2008 and is open Monday to Friday during school holidays for children aged between five and fifteen.

The scheme offers a range of activities including the exclusive use of Bananas Soft Play, football, arts and crafts and can be booked as either full or half day sessions.

For more information on what's coming up at Long Stratton and Wymondham Kids Camp over the Christmas holidays, see page 15.

## Finding homes for Ukrainians



**In September, our Chairman, Councillor James Easter joined our teams on the streets of South Norfolk to encourage people to offer homes to Ukrainians, who were already in the area and looking for new hosts.**

The roadshows took place across the market towns within the district, providing more information on

what's involved in hosting families and individuals through The Homes for Ukraine scheme set up by the Government.

Cllr Easter said: "There were a number of people who were looking to move on from their original hosts. They had been living in the UK for around 18 months, many had jobs and were well integrated into community life.

"The support South Norfolk residents have offered has been amazing. These people have lost almost everything and to offer them a home and a chance to rebuild their lives is an incredibly generous thing to do."

There are still Ukrainians in need of homes. If you have empty accommodation you need to fill, you could receive £500 tax free a month, with no implications to benefits.

Contact 01508 533987 or email [H4U@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:H4U@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) to find out more.



# New pavilion underway

**Construction has started on a new multi-use Sports Pavilion, the Jubilee Centre, on Big Sky Living's 350-homes St Giles Park development in Cringleford.**

The Jubilee Centre is a purpose-built facility that will provide leisure and recreation options for a broad range of ages and interests. The new building is designed to be a flexible space that can be adapted for multiple uses and hirers. The centre will also improve the availability of childcare in the parish, with an integrated space for a local nursery that can take up to 30 children.

The sports facilities will be home to local junior teams, and the new sports hall can be hired for community functions as well as sports and exercise classes. The

changing rooms will be used for both the adjacent sports pitch and the main hall.

Our Cabinet Member, Cllr Lisa Overton-Neal said: "The Jubilee Centre will be a fantastic new resource for people living in and around Cringleford.

"This new facility underlines our determination to look after the health and wellbeing of our residents and the importance of delivering essential infrastructure at the same time as housing delivery."

The project is being funded by £800,000 from our Co-Investment Grant Fund, £1,800,000 from Cringleford Parish Council's CIL reserves and a £650,000 developer contribution from our building company Big Sky Living.

Our Co-Investment Grant Fund was introduced to encourage and support the delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects so they can be delivered alongside growth in South Norfolk's parishes and Towns.

The fund supports significant capital projects with match funding, to enable the delivery of infrastructure that benefits the wider community.

Cringleford Parish Council is the third applicant to benefit from the fund, the first being Easton Parish Council, which was awarded £500,000 in December 2022 and the second, Stoke Holy Cross Parish Council was awarded £465,543 in June 2023.



# Nominations now open



**Businesses in Broadland and South Norfolk are once again being recognised for their outstanding achievements in our annual business awards.**

Businesses based in the two districts are invited to nominate themselves in any of the ten categories to be in with a chance of winning a prestigious award.

Our Cabinet Member for Stronger, Greener, Economy, Cllr Lisa Overton-Neal, said: "Despite

the difficult economic times, many of our local businesses are thriving and this is a chance to congratulate them on their success and recognise their hard work. These awards are just one of the many ways we are supporting our fantastic business community."

The categories recognise the diversity of businesses operating in the two districts, they are:

- **Business Growth**
- **Business Innovation**
- **Employer of the Year**
- **Environmental Impact**
- **Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing**
- **Excellence in Insurance, Financial and Professional Services**
- **Food and Drink Producer of the Year**
- **New Business**
- **Small Business of the Year**
- **Tourism Business of the Year**

The awards ceremony will take place at Norwich City Football Club on 5 March 2024. The Business Awards are sponsored by local law firm Birketts LLP.

Closing date for entries is 15 December 2023. To nominate and vote search Broadland and South Norfolk Business Awards.

Headline sponsor

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Next Level Law

**WIN!**

## Support your favourite business!

Vote for your favourite Retailer of the Year or Pub of the Year and you could win £100 of shopping and pub vouchers. Visit our website and vote, for your chance to be entered into the prize draw. There will be two South Norfolk winners, one for each category, so make sure you enter both and show our local businesses how much they mean to you!



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# Business Builder helps over 200 entrepreneurs

7

Since we launched our Business Builder scheme last year, we have helped over 200 businesses secure grants totalling almost £700,000.

This investment has accelerated growth and supported start-up companies, creating jobs and boosting the local economy.

Alongside investment, business owners have also been able to access advice and training, tailored around each business and its specific needs.

Cabinet Member, Cllr Lisa Overton-Neal, said: "For many entrepreneurs, taking the next step in growing a business can be challenging. Lack of funds or a gap in knowledge or skills can put a stop to the best of plans. This is where the Business Builder scheme can make a huge difference."

Phil Halls, founder of Grain Brewery said: "Last year we were looking for ideas to improve our turnover, as the business was under pressure. I had always wanted to convert the barn alongside the brewery and create a taproom where people could stop by, however I wasn't financially in a position to invest in the work on my own.

"So, when the opportunity came up to apply for a Development Grant I jumped at it. The whole application was very straightforward and fast, with Jo guiding me on which expenses the grant could cover, right down to details on items such as tables and chairs. Within months the work was done and the taproom was open and ready to welcome customers. The locals really appreciate having somewhere they can pop in after work, especially since our local pub closed. Not only has it made a significant and critical difference to our turnover, it's also a fun place to be for our local community."

People looking to launch a business, but don't know where to start, can also get help through the scheme. Our team can work out if the business is viable and provide a free in-depth online training course which covers everything a first-time entrepreneur needs to know. Once established, they can come back and apply for a Build-Up Grant to take the next step.

For rural businesses, the Rural England Prosperity Fund has also provided a welcome pipeline of significant grants to assist investment in capital equipment, with all applications are going through Business Builder.

Search our website for South Norfolk Business Grants to find out how Business Builder can help businesses in our district grow and succeed.



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Sign up for the Business Newsletter to keep up to date with all the latest business news, including funding opportunities and dates for the next Business Breakfast – great for networking and finding further help that's available.

# Business fixes new home

**The Ella May Barnes building, providing state-of-the-art laboratories and workspace at Norwich Research Park, has welcomed its first tenant.**

Colorifix is a biotechnology company that has developed the first entirely biological process to produce, deposit and fix pigments onto textiles. Their process cuts out the use of harsh chemicals and leads to huge reductions in water and energy consumption. Fashion brands such as Pangaia, H&M and Vollebak have all launched products dyed with Colorifix technology.

The company was started in 2016 by Jim Ajioka and Orr Yarkoni. Jim and Orr worked together at Cambridge University developing biological sensors to monitor heavy metal contamination in drinking water in Nepal and Bangladesh.

While they were there, they learned that one of the largest sources of contamination was textile dyeing waste. Jim and Orr realised that using synthetic biology, they could develop a real and viable solution for change.

The Ella May Barnes building, named after the leading microbiologist at the Norwich Food Research Institute in the 1970s, was built to provide space for organisations interested in joining the region's growing agri-food knowledge economy. The building is expected to unlock further investment at the Enterprise Zone site that could lead to the creation of up to 150 jobs, adding to the community of 12,000 people already working at Norwich Research Park.

Our Cabinet member, Cllr Lisa Overton-Neal, said: "I would like to welcome Colorifix to the Ella May Barnes building. This is another huge step forward and the Council continues to invest in the Norwich Research Park Enterprise Zone to allow our global lead in genetics and other life sciences to extend still further, providing the space for careers and ideas to grow."

We invested £3.25m in the 19,000 sq ft building and more than £550,000 towards the road infrastructure. New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) has contributed £2.9m towards the building and £1.5m to the road infrastructure work.



Image credit: RG Carter





# Long Stratton Bypass gets green light

Work on the Long Stratton bypass can now get underway after the Council's Development Management Committee granted full planning permission for its construction, along with over 1,800 new homes, new land for employment and a site for a primary school.

Our councillors and Long Stratton residents have campaigned and lobbied government for a bypass for decades. Now, at last, the people of Long Stratton can look forward to the start of this regionally important scheme that will cut congestion and support the local economy for many years to come.

The bypass will create hundreds of new jobs and homes, open up improvements for cycling and walking, and solve the traffic and transport issues local people have been facing for more than a generation.

Council Leader, Cllr John Fuller, said: "I am absolutely thrilled on behalf of South Norfolk residents and the whole of Norfolk that South Norfolk Council has now secured planning permission for the long-awaited bypass. This is a generational achievement which will bring far reaching benefits and I look forward to work starting on the bypass next year."

We have worked hand in hand with Norfolk County Council and with Norfolk Homes Ltd and Norfolk Land Ltd. This collaborative approach has resulted in a significant funding commitment from government

which will enable the road to be delivered alongside the housing development, rather than having to wait years for it to be built.

The estimated cost of the bypass is approx. £46.23m with funding primarily sourced from central government, local developer

contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The target date for work to start on construction is spring 2024 with an 18 month construction period, with the road open to traffic before the end of 2025.



# Getting builders back on site

**Nutrient neutrality has had a profound impact on many parts of the country and has stalled thousands of much-needed homes. One of the most significantly affected areas is here in Norfolk where districts have been unable to grant planning permission for new homes for the last 18 months leading to a backlog of approximately 16,000 new homes.**

While it is acknowledged that the government is continuing to seek a 'silver bullet' solution to the restrictions arising from nutrient neutrality, in this vacuum of uncertainty there is a need to deliver local solutions to re-start our growth agenda.

In response, councils in Norfolk have formed a unique partnership to address this potentially problematic impediment to growth. Four councils – South Norfolk, Broadland, Breckland and

North Norfolk – have established a new joint venture company called, Norfolk Environmental Credits (NEC). The company will provide a trading platform for nutrient offsetting and other environmental credits, including Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Norfolk Environmental Credits is designed to secure largescale nutrient mitigation from projects such as changes in use of agricultural land, septic tank conversion and water infrastructure enhancements, etc. These credits are then parcelled up by the company and sold to developers to offset the equivalent amount of nutrients arising from their new development.

NEC's first deal will provide credits to offset approximately 5,000 new homes and the company will prioritise the needs of SME builders to ensure they can

secure much needed cash flow. Assuming an average house price of £300,000 this equates to a £1.5 billion initiative which will have a profound positive impact upon the respective districts.

Norfolk Environmental Credits has launched its new website [norfolkenvironmentalcredits.co.uk](https://norfolkenvironmentalcredits.co.uk), allowing housing developers to calculate their additional nutrient load and register an interest in purchasing credits as they become available. The website also provides a mechanism for landowners and interested parties to come forward with potential nutrient mitigation solutions that the joint venture may wish to invest in.



Scan me



Norfolk  
Environmental  
Credits





# Step up your fitness with EGYM

**A new tailored workout experience arrived at Long Stratton Leisure Centre in September which has been keeping gym-goers motivated to reach their goals.**

Our Cabinet Member for Healthy and Active Lifestyles, Cllr Kim Carsok, said: "EGYM completely transforms the way you work out. This state-of-the-art gym equipment is powered by smart technology and offers personalised workout experiences suitable for everyone, from beginners to experts. Each piece of equipment is automatically set to meet your needs and to challenge you, making sure you get the very best from every workout, while also reducing the risk of injury. It's also a quick and efficient way of getting exercise. You can complete a full body workout in under 40 minutes!"

The new equipment is also very simple to use. Gym members will have a quick on-boarding session with a Fitness Instructor who will help them get set up on the Fitness Hub. Then they simply scan their wrist band on each machine, and it automatically

adjusts to suit their needs and abilities, so no need to choose the weight or set up the machine.

The machine then guides users through the exercises, automatically adjusting resistance to challenge them and help them meet their goals.

Members can track their progress and body metrics on the Fitness Hub in the gym or on the EGYM mobile app.

EGYM was installed at our Wymondham Leisure Centre last year and attracted an additional 180 members in the first two months.

Visit [southnorfolkleisure.co.uk](https://southnorfolkleisure.co.uk) to find out how you can join.



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Leisure  
South Norfolk  
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## FREE ONE DAY FITNESS PASS

Try our facilities for **FREE** with this one-day fitness pass. This voucher gives you access to all the facilities at one of our Leisure Centres. Just present this at reception on arrival. This voucher expires 31 January 2024.

Tear me  
out

# Twelve delicious ideas for a Love Local Christmas



Christmas is nearly here, with the very best feast of the year coming up. Here are some ideas on how to make it extra delicious and fun by shopping locally.

While you're picking up your Love Local ingredients, enjoy exploring festive market towns and farm shops dotted across our beautiful district and stop in cosy cafés and pubs along the way.

## 1. NORFOLK TURKEY

The star of the table, so order ahead with your local butcher and ask them for top tips to roast it right. While you're there, stock up on pigs in blankets and freshly made pork stuffing. You can also order from a farm like Darrow Green Farm, near Harleston.

## 2. ROAST POTATOES

Try Paddock's Farm Shop for potatoes in Mulbarton. Scrub, peel, parboil and roast for satisfyingly crispy roasts. A generous dusting of flour and salt can help achieve that essential crunch.

## 3. CARROTS

Ask your favourite greengrocer for sweet, local carrots and then peel, chop and cook at the lowest heat possible in a saucepan with butter and salt and lid on top.

## 4. CHOCOLATES

The Pod chocolatiers in Harleston has a delicious range of handmade seasonal chocolates and gifts. Christmas Pudding fudge anyone?



## 5. SPROUTS

Whether you love them or hate them, they are a Christmas staple and they are grown just outside the Aldis & Sons Farm Shop. On the day give someone else the job to chop into quarters, fry quickly with bacon or chestnuts, add a tiny bit of gravy and cook for a few minutes until tender. You might even hear someone asking for seconds!

## 6. SAUSAGE ROLLS

If you haven't got a favourite yet, then try the counter at Old Hall Farm where you'll find veggie rolls too. Perfect for drop-in visitors.

## 7. MINCE PIES & GINGERBREAD

Bakeries and tearooms on your high street, like Spooncake in Loddon, are full of inspiration for anybody who likes a sweet Christmas treat.

## 8. CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS & CAKE

Farm shops, like Church Farm in Hethersett, are the place for finding locally-made-with-love Christmas puds and bakes.

## 9. CHEESE

In Reno's Refills in Wymondham treat yourself to regional cheeses and other temptations.

## 10. CHUTNEYS & PICKLES

Boxing Day sandwiches are always better with local chutney.





## 11. SOUTH NORFOLK WINE

Did you know there are five vineyards in South Norfolk? Look out for labels with the words Flint, Chet, Humbleyard, Old Hall and Winbirri and raise a glass on the day to the grapes grown on a slope nearby. Prefer beer? Choose a rich and satisfying Christmas ale from local micro-breweries, like Grain Brewery.

## 12. SET THE TABLE

Get some Christmas table inspiration from Room with a View in Diss, Marmalade Tree in Wymondham and 2 The Fold in Harleston.

### For less than a tenner!

Some budget inspiration for stocking fillers.

- ★ Pretty jar of jam
- ★ Chocolate truffles
- ★ Flower seeds, Green Pastures Garden Centre - near Bergh Apton
- ★ Mini craft and knitting kits, try Diss Wool & Craft Shop
- ★ Wrapping paper, try Reeve's Wymondham
- ★ Vintage games, try Robinson's Traditional Stationer's, Harleston and The Brickyard, Hedenham
- ★ Books, try Kett's Books in Wymondham or Diss Publishing by the Mere in Diss



### One gift solution for a whole family

- ★ Day out at Bressingham Steam and Gardens
- ★ Llama walking at Stubbs Farm near Loddon
- ★ Afternoon Tea at Lincoln's Tea & Coffee Shoppe in Hingham
- ★ Norfolk Hampers from Goodies, near Long Stratton
- ★ Tour at a local vineyard

### Festive style

Head to your local boutiques, vintage and charity shops to find new outfits, like The Little Boutique in Wymondham and Daisy & Co in Harleston.

**Sending a big**

*Love Local*

**Thank You**

Whenever you support local businesses, you're giving them a great Christmas present too because your support means a lot. Even if it's only a few pounds, you're making a big difference.

## Even more fun at Bananas

Bananas Soft Play at Long Stratton Leisure Centre has had a makeover! Come and try out the improvements, including an up and over climbing net, new pyramid decks and lots more! Search Bananas Soft Play to book your child's session today.



Scan me



**Bananas**  
Soft Play

## ROLLER SKATING

At Long Stratton Leisure Centre

**TWO  
for  
ONE**

until the end  
of the year

Join us every

**Sunday morning** for some roller skating fun. Book two places for the price of one until the end of the year!

**Beginners**

9:30am to 10:30am - £4

**Open Skate**

11:00am to 12:30pm - £6

Skate hire is also available for £2.

Book online now at

[southnorfolkleisure.co.uk](https://southnorfolkleisure.co.uk)



**Long Stratton**  
Leisure Centre  
South Norfolk



## Investing in our residents' health

**We are investing £2.75m to make much needed improvements to Diss Leisure Centre and its swimming pool.**

The refurbishment work will secure the future of the leisure centre for years to come and improve the overall quality of our leisure facilities in Diss.

Our Cabinet Member, Cllr Kim Carsok, said: "At a time when other local authorities are closing their swimming pools this Council is showing its

commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents by investing in our leisure centres. We have already improved our centres in both Wymondham and Long Stratton and now it is time to invest in Diss Leisure Centre."

The improvement and refurbishment work will see the swimming pool depth reduced to help save energy, a full re-tiling of the pool and surrounds and a total refurbishment of the changing rooms, including expanding the size of the changing area.

The Council has also secured £1.2m of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding from central government and this will be used to reduce the carbon footprint of the leisure centre. The work includes improved insulation of the building and the installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps. Works are due to start in February 2024.





# Festive fun at Kids Camp

**Children will have a jolly good time this Christmas at our festive Kids Camp at Long Stratton and Wymondam Leisure Centres.**

Kids can be active and entertained on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 December, Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 of January.

There will be plenty of Christmas crafts, sports and games to keep them amused all day long run by our fully trained staff. There will also be swimming sessions at Wymondham and use of Bananas Soft Play at Long Stratton.

It's just £20 for a half-day session and £30 for a full day.

Kids Camp is Ofsted registered. For more information and to book, search Kids Camp on [southnorfolkleisure.co.uk](http://southnorfolkleisure.co.uk)



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Leisure  
South Norfolk

Kids Camp  
South Norfolk

## An extra hour on us!

When you're Christmas shopping, you don't want to have to worry about how much the parking will cost, so every Saturday in December we are giving you an extra free hour in our Pay and Display car parks in our market towns. That means instead of the usual one hour free, you will now have two! On all other days in December parking will be free after 4pm. Shop local this Christmas and support our local retailers.





## £75,000 for communities

**Nine projects that will enhance life in our district have received funding totalling £75,000 from our Community Action Fund. The panel made up of councillors, met in October to allocate grants up to £15,000.**

Chair of the panel, Cllr Kim Carsok, said: "These grants make a huge difference, supporting projects that bring people together and improve life in the community. The grant can also be a catalyst for other funding streams."

Projects that benefitted were:

- Alburgh Village Hall £1,231
- Brockdish Village Hall £5,500
- Bungay Black Dog Running Club £8,000
- Harleston Exchange 2 £7,500
- Loddon Town Council £15,000
- Pulham Market Memorial Hall £10,000
- Runhall Community Group £15,000
- Waveney Volunteers for Nature £7,500
- Wymondham Community Outreach Project £5,269

One successful project from last year was Hempnall Playpark. In July 2022, Hempnall Parish Council successfully applied for a £15,000 Community Action grant to help transform their playpark.

The park was over 30 years old and in desperate need of a revamp. A group of six residents got together and approached Hempnall Parish Council who agreed to fund 50% of the project. They then began fundraising and applying for grants.

As well as funding from our Community Action Fund, they also received money from the National Lottery, Geoffrey Watling Fund, Saffron Housing, Adnams and raised hundreds through community events.

Sarah Batchelor, who was instrumental in getting the park updated, said: "The park was in need of drastic renovation, and we knew it could be a really fantastic asset to the village and much better used. We surveyed local residents and worked with the local children and the school to establish what the community wanted from the park."

Work started in December 2022, with the old equipment swiftly replaced by a brand-new climbing frame, zipwire, rope swing, wheelchair accessible roundabout and swings. The park also has a new fenced-off toddler area, which includes a mini climbing frame, baby swings and role play area.

Eleven benches were also added to the area paid for by local companies and community groups.

In September 2023, the village celebrated the new park with a community event, which included village rounders, food trucks and live bands.

Sarah said: "Overall it was a real community effort with input from the design of the park, the fundraising, and the celebration event. During the opening a broad cross-section of all ages come together to support the village.

"It has been lovely to see that the park is being used far more than it was previously and is now a destination for people to come with their children and grandchildren."

For more information about our Community Action Fund and to apply, please contact your local district councillor. Search South Norfolk councillors on our website to find out who your local councillors are.



# Group game for funding

**Each of our Councillors has £1,000 to help make a difference to their community.**

Funding is available for schemes that bring the community together, to help kickstart new groups and support the health and wellbeing of residents.

Cllr Delme Thompson, representative of Beck Vale, Dickleburgh & Scole, has given £250 of his ward funding to Scole Juniper Group.

This 40-strong community group run by volunteers meet every Thursday at Scole church, where they play games, chat, swap books and puzzles, problem-share and have an occasional meal.

They also run bi-weekly arts and craft sessions on Tuesdays at the Playing Field Hall where people can craft together, socialise and share skills.

The group has used the grant to purchase a microwave, two new puzzle boards and games, and



they will also be buying additional craft equipment.

Cllr Thompson said: "District Councillors are well-positioned in the community to recognise projects that will really make a difference to local people. This is a lovely, sociable group that brings the retired community together, helps prevent isolation and is great for its member's wellbeing."

Cllr Thompson has also supported Starston Youth Club and history group Dickleburgh Village Society.

Dave Roberts, Councillor for North Wymondham has used some of his money to help fund a new sports cage at Robert Kett Primary School and to support local cancer charity Star Throwers.

Cllr Roberts said: "I am delighted that I can support Star Throwers – a fantastic charity that supports people with cancer and their families. The new sports cage will also be a welcome addition to the school and give local youngsters greater opportunities to participate in sport."

If you would like to find out more about Members' Ward Funding in your area, please contact your local councillor.



# Funding picks up pace



**Bungay Black Dog Running Club is the latest community group to benefit from one of our Pride in Place Grants. The Club which has been helping people get fit for over 40 years, received £17,883 towards creating a covered area for their training ground in Ditchingham.**

They also successfully secured an £8,000 Community Action Fund Grant towards the work.

The new covered training area will enable the 200-strong Club to operate in all weathers and encourage more people of all ages to get fit and active.

It also means the Club that runs a monthly DSAActive session for athletes with Down Syndrome, will be able to increase the frequency of their training sessions as they will no longer have to hold them in the village hall.

Plans are also underway to hold buggy runs for new parents and carers using the new area.

Coach John Wharton said: "The new Covered Training Area (CTA) will enable us to grow our facility and reach more members of the local community. Wet weather will no longer restrict what we can do. Training always goes

ahead whatever the weather, but even the hardest athletes have reduced enthusiasm in cold rain! With the new facility anyone will be able to look forward to joining an inclusive and fun running club whatever the weather."

The covered training area will comprise a sturdy, hot-galvanised steel frame and heavy-duty fire-resistant PVC fabric. It will also be towable on sleds, enabling modules to be separated and moved to different locations on the training ground for running events and training sessions.

Our Pride in Place Grant is funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and provides funding for town and parish councils and voluntary and charitable organisations to enhance the local community.

Proposals should foster a sense of local pride and belonging and build resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods that people want to live and work in.

For more information and to apply, search our website for Pride in Place Community Grant.



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## Bookshop's novel new building



**Kett's Books has a beautiful new home in the heart of Wymondham's Market Place after benefitting from a Pride in Place Grant.**

The not-for-profit community bookshop reopened its doors at the end of September, wowing locals with its stunning interior designed by Jack Kinsey – winner of BBC's Interior Design Challenge. Over 45 volunteers brought his vision to life creating an enchanting space for the whole community to enjoy.



# Stepping up improvements at Community Park

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**Since we took on the ownership of Queen's Hills Community Park in late 2021, we have worked with local volunteers and the Parish Council to continually improve and enhance the area for both visitors and wildlife.**

Our latest round of improvements will provide better access to the park and protect the existing woodland.

Cabinet Member for Supporting People, Cllr Graham Minshull, said: "The park is a wonderful asset to the community, great for people's health and wellbeing and a haven for local wildlife. These latest improvements will help protect the fauna and flora and make getting onto the park much easier. It will also help people

discover some of the district's longer walking routes."

We will be adding new paths in the western woodland, to protect our native bluebells from getting trampled and creating five circular walks of 1-2km, to encourage people to get active. For those who fancy more of a challenge, wayfinding posts will also link the park's pathways to other longer walking routes.

A new access point from the estate to the western woodland has already been created, with steps providing a safe route down the steep slope, the next phase of this work is to link the steps up to the existing surfaced path.

Twelve new cycle racks will also be going in, as well as stock fencing around the southern meadows which runs alongside the River Tud to enable it to be grazed. This will increase the species diversity and improve the biodiversity of the wet meadows.

Volunteers from the Friends of Queen's Hills Community Park will be working with us to deliver this programme of improvements. We will be working with the local primary school to improve the educational resources around the Community Park so they can learn about the flora and fauna, and this will include items such as information boards which will be placed along the routes letting people know what to look out for throughout the year.

Cllr Minshull added: "I'd like to thank the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. They put in a huge amount of effort and time for the benefit of the whole community, and they have helped create a fantastic legacy for future generations."

## Extra spaces for chariots

**If you're a regular visitor to Venta Icenorum (Caistor Roman Town) in Stoke Holy Cross, you'll be pleased to hear we are expanding the car park. Visitors will no longer need to park on the verge, which will make it much safer for all road users.**

This is the first phase of a larger project to improve the infrastructure of the site, the visitor experience and linking up Venta Icenorum with other permissive and Public Rights of Ways in the Caistor, Stoke Holy Cross and Poringland area.



# Increase your home's green credentials

Improve your home's energy efficiency, by applying for a Home Upgrade Grant.

Grants of up to £38,000 are available for energy efficiency improvements, such as loft, cavity wall insulation and renewable air source heat pumps.

If you own your home, do not have mains gas central heating and meet one of the below criteria then you could qualify for fully funded home improvements:

- Owner- occupier in receipt of a means-tested benefit.
- Gross annual household income of £31,000 or less or £20,000 after mortgage or rent payments.



The energy-efficient measures will reduce homeowners' carbon emissions, helping the UK towards its 2050 net zero target. All grants are subject to survey, your home's suitability and the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating, which must be rated D-G.

Landlords will need to contribute a minimum of one third of the total costs.

The funding is being distributed through the Warm Homes

Scheme, formed from the County's Local Authorities and led by Broadland Council.

Please search Norfolk Warm Homes online, or call 01603 430103 to speak to a member of our friendly team today.



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## Christmas bin collection day changes

Your rubbish and recycling collections will be **one day late**.

### Normal collection day

Tuesday 26 December → Wednesday 27 December  
 Wednesday 27 December → Thursday 28 December  
 Thursday 28 December → Friday 29 December  
 Friday 29 December → Saturday 30 December

### Collection day change

**Important:** there will be no garden waste bin collections from 25 December 2023 to 5 January 2024. Garden waste collections will recommence on Monday 8 January.

Keep up to date with collection changes by downloading the South Norfolk Bin Collections app. Search Bin Collections on the App Store or Google Play.



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# Recycle better this Christmas

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**Please do**



**Please don't**

## Christmas cards and envelopes



Do recycle cards and envelopes made of paper.

Don't recycle if they are covered in glitter or foil. Instead, dispose in your rubbish bin.

## Wrapping paper



Do remove all tags, bows, ribbons and Sellotape and try the 'scrunch test'. If it stays in a ball once scrunched it can go into your recycling bin.

Don't put it in recycling if it doesn't stay scrunched, pop it in your rubbish bin. If it's glittery or has foil on it, it can't be recycled.

## Christmas crackers



Do separate your crackers out once you've used them. Any cardboard and paper can be recycled, if they don't have any glitter or foil on them.

Don't put other items in the recycling bin, such as plastics, ribbons, any foil or glittery card, these need to go in your rubbish bin.

## Food and takeaway plastic and foil containers



Do rinse any plastic food trays, pots and foil containers and put them in your recycling bin.

Don't put dirty, food-stained containers into the recycling bin.

## Glass bottles for water, drinks and wine



Do rinse glass bottles and jars, put the lids on and pop them in your home recycling bin. Alternatively, drop them at your nearest glass bank.

Don't put wine or drinking glasses, or broken glass into recycling. It should be carefully wrapped and placed in your rubbish bin or taken to the nearest recycling centre.

## Christmas tree lights, electrical items and batteries



Do take old electricals to your nearest recycling centre. Batteries can be recycled at recycling points in big supermarkets.

Don't put any electrical items or batteries in your rubbish or recycling bin. This can cause fires.

## Old Christmas jumpers, textiles and shoes



Do put unwanted clothes or shoes in textile or shoe banks, or drop them off at your nearest recycling centre. Charity shops will be happy to receive clothes, shoes and textiles in good condition.

Don't put old clothes, shoes and textiles in your recycling bin.

# Working to combat homelessness

The Council has purchased Clare House, a former care home previously used for sheltered accommodation that has been vacant for nearly two years. The purchase allows us to provide ongoing support to our residents and work with families to find them suitable homes in the future.

Clare House will provide temporary accommodation to vulnerable residents who are risk of becoming, or already are homeless. The accommodation has 26, one and two bed self-contained flats, and will be able to house individuals and families who are in need of suitable long-term accommodation, offering a safe space and ongoing support.

The property will now undergo refurbishment work to bring the empty building back into use. The work is expected to start early in 2024 and last approximately 16 weeks.

Cabinet Member, Graham Minshull, said: "One of the Council's main priorities is to be there to help when people need us. Our teams work very hard to help prevent people from losing their homes but when the worst happens we are also there to help get people back on their feet."

Due to the rising cost of living, South Norfolk has seen an increase in homelessness, and we currently have over 100 households in emergency

accommodation, with a cost to the Council of £250,000 to date. This is a common issue faced by local authorities and residents across the country.

The purchase has been made possible through the support of partnership working with Saffron Housing Trust. Clare House was previously owned by Saffron who are supporting the delivery of social housing and affordable accommodation to support residents who are facing hardship.

Jason MacCormick, Director of Sustainability at Saffron Housing Trust, said: "We are very pleased that Clare House will be receiving a new lease of life through this project with South Norfolk Council.

"The property had become inadequate for the needs of our tenants and was therefore empty for some time. This sale will ensure that the building can be put to use for the benefit of the local community, and we are delighted to be supporting the council in this endeavour."

If you are at risk of homelessness, or are currently homeless, or require support and advice; please contact the below services today or visit the South Norfolk Council website.

[housing.advice@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:housing.advice@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)  
[helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)





# Landlord fined £30,000 for putting tenants lives at risk

**A Diss landlord has been fined £30,000 by South Norfolk Council after breaching multiple housing regulations.**

Mr Jubayer Rimon and his company Ambreen Properties were both found guilty of Failing to licence an HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) and Breaches of management regulations in respect of HMOs.

Our officers proved Mr Rimon was operating as an HMO without the required licence, with up to 17 people residing in the 4-bedroom terraced property in Mere Street, Diss, putting the health, safety and wellbeing of the occupants at risk.

Our Cabinet Member for Supporting People, Cllr Graham Minshull, said: "This is a fantastic result. The Council will not tolerate sub-standard accommodation which puts the lives of residents at risk.

"HMOs, when run responsibly, offer much needed low-cost and safe accommodation for residents. However, this property was not built for multiple occupation and there were clear safety issues including overcrowding, fire risks and use of limited facilities."

"The safety of our residents is paramount, and we will not hesitate to take enforcement action when required."

The Council was first alerted about the case in July 2022 and over the next 4 months, undertook an in-depth investigation, involving the



Norfolk Police, Housing Department and other government agencies.

Several visits to the property were made and the landlord's company was interviewed under caution. However, despite legal notices and other interventions, the problem continued, with spot checks revealing overcrowding.

In December, the Council and Norfolk Police visited unannounced and discovered 17 people were staying at the property. Some were sleeping on mattresses on the floor. Two of the occupiers requested to be removed due to the fear of being exploited and were taken into the care of Norfolk Police.

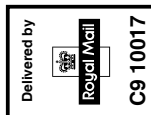
Cllr Minshull said: "Tenants in illegal HMOs can be vulnerable and open to exploitation by rogue landlords, so it's crucial we clamp down on any illegal activity.

We have a dedicated and pro-active team investigating illegal HMOs and if we discover someone breaking the rules, we will not hesitate to act."

In January 2023, 4 civil penalties were served upon both the company and the company owner. However, the civil penalty notices were subsequently challenged and a lengthy legal process was then undertaken resulting in all 4 offences being secured in the Council's favour and a total fine of £30,000.

Rogue HMOs are often linked to organised crime, people trafficking, and modern slavery. If you have suspicions that a property is operating as an illegal HMO or you have safety concerns concerning the condition of the property please contact the Councils' Housing Standards Team.

## Meeting rooms for hire



The Horizon Centre,  
Broadland Business Park

- Accessible, ground floor meeting rooms
- Equipped with projectors and screens enabling hybrid-meetings
- Tea and coffee facilities in house
- Catering can be arranged locally
- Free wireless internet provided
- Fits up to 100 people
- Free parking on site



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If this item is undelivered or for postal address:  
South Norfolk Council, Horizon Business Centre, Peachman Way,  
Broadland Business Park, NORWICH, NR7 0WF

## Handyperson+ Service

- practical help
- support
- advice

Cost effective small  
household adaptation  
and repairs for  
older South Norfolk  
residents

### Contact us:

**Phone:** 01508 430518  
**Email:** handyperson.snc@  
southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

**Website:** [www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-stay-existing-home/handyperson](http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-stay-existing-home/handyperson)



Help  
Hub



# WE ARE HIRING!

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vacancies please visit  
**[www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/WhyWorkForUs](http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/WhyWorkForUs)**,  
or simply scan the QR code



Two Councils  
One Team

