



April 2019 Parish Newsletter Cllr Karen Soons Karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk 07864 601 887

Recent local Ofsted inspection reports are published

You may have read recently in the press that **Gt Whelnetham Primary CEVC School** and **County Upper school** have had their Ofsted inspection reports published.

Both the Schools have put robust action plans in place and are working closely with Suffolk County Council to fulfil the recommendations that have been made in their respective reports.

Details of these reports can be found on <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>

Take part in the 2019 Suffolk Walking Festival

With over 120 walks and events the 2019 Suffolk Walking Festival is shaping up to be to the most creative and ambitious to date.

This year's Festival, the 12th to date, launches on Saturday 11 May at West Stow Country Park. It truly has something for everyone: short strolls, gentle rambles, long hikes; family walks, history walks, nature walks; story-telling, art lessons, photography, boat trips, train rides, and rides in vintage military vehicles.

Once again, the festival will also include a challenge walk; this year it covers over 80 miles in just five days. The walk will start at the most easterly point of Britain in Lowestoft and finish in Christchurch park.

This year also sees the return of the Festival Fringe, a series of events that get you close to nature in the very heart of Suffolk's countryside. You can experience a Woodland Night Safari, forage for your own cream tea, or sketch and photograph the landscape.

All walks are ticketed, and all tickets must be purchased in advance. To find out more and buy tickets visit www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk

Suffolk Record Office achieves national accreditation

On 28 March it was announced that Suffolk Record Office has been awarded Archive Service Accreditation.

Accredited Archive Services ensure the long-term collection, preservation and accessibility of our archive heritage. Accreditation is the UK quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery.

Achieving accredited status demonstrates that Suffolk Record Office has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and the service it offers its entire range of users.

The Suffolk Record Office has started its transition to create a reshaped service right across the county with its “The Hold: A Suffolk Archive Service for the 21st Century” project.

The new Heritage and Archives Centre in Ipswich, being created as part of this project, is set to open its doors in Spring 2020. It will replace the existing Ipswich Record Office in Gatacre Road, whilst the Lowestoft and Bury Record Offices will remain open.

The ongoing service transformation brings Suffolk Record Office in line with the latest national guidance and the highest standard of care for preserving Suffolk’s archives.

The accreditation status awarded is provisional, and progression to full Accredited Archive Service status is subject to areas of planned development for the new, revitalised service meeting the national standards. For example, the completion of The Hold building and movement of collections to improved accommodation. A review is scheduled to take place by March 2021.

Alongside a new bespoke heritage facility for the county’s archives, The Hold project will provide greater access to Suffolk’s archives via digital content, as well as a wide range of events and activities across the whole county, bringing people closer to Suffolk’s history than ever before.

Suffolk’s recycling centres opening hours

The opening hours for recycling centres in Suffolk will change from the beginning of April. All 11 of Suffolk County Council’s centres will be open from 9am to 5pm every day from Monday 1 April to September. The new times will give residents an extra hour to recycle their waste during the summer months.

On Thursdays from May to August, all sites will be open until 7pm - a good opportunity for residents to recycle on their way home from work. All sites will be closed on Wednesdays.

On Sundays and bank holidays, the recycling centres will also be open from 9am to 5pm from April to September.

The countdown begins – 100 days to go until Suffolk Day!

The countdown to one of the biggest events in the county's calendar has officially begun, with 12 March marking 100 days until we come together to celebrate everything there is to love about Suffolk.

Suffolk Day is returning for its third year on June 21, with everything from guided walks and treasure hunts to live broadcasts and competitions set to take place across the county. With Suffolk Day falling on a Friday for the first time, organisers are encouraging people to spread their celebrations out over the weekend too.

The day is backed by the East Anglian Daily Times and Ipswich Star, BBC Radio Suffolk, Suffolk Food Hall and Suffolk County Council – and anyone can take part.

Anybody interested in taking part can search for opportunities or register their own event on the [Suffolk Day website](#).

One of the more poignant events on Suffolk Day will be the annual Suffolk Remembers service. Organised by St Elizabeth Hospice, and sponsored by East of England Co-Op Funeral Services, it is the opportunity to celebrate the lives of loved ones no longer with us by dedicating a candle in their memory.

This year, the aim is to light 5,000 candles – 1,000 more than last time – on Felixstowe seafront, on the evening of June 21. If you would like to know more, visit the [Suffolk Remembers website](#).

Beccles and Stowmarket confirmed as host venues for 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour Grand Depart in Suffolk

This year's OVO Energy Women's Tour Grand Depart in Suffolk will take place between Beccles and Stowmarket.

It marks the first time that both market towns will host Britain's leading women's procycling race. Ninety-six of the world's best female riders will line up in Beccles on Monday 10 June 2019 to tackle a 157.6-kilometre (98-mile) route that will take in the northern and central parts of the county before finishing in Stowmarket. Fans watching the action unfold at the finish on Ipswich Street will benefit from seeing a

field comprising Olympic, world and national champions pass through the line twice during the stage.

The opening stage of Britain's longest-running professional women's race - which forms part of the prestigious UCI Women's WorldTour series - will pass through Bury St Edmunds and Framlingham, both of which have previously hosted the event's Grand Depart (2015 and 2017, respectively). For the second year running, the race's prize fund will match that of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain to continue on the path towards gender equality in cycling.

In its four previous visits to Suffolk, the OVO Energy Women's Tour is estimated to have attracted in excess of 250,000 spectators to the roadside and created a net economic impact for the county's economy in excess of £3.5 million.

Almost 70% of spectators surveyed following last year's opening stage, held between Framlingham and Southwold, said that the event inspired them to cycle more often. The race will also return to the county in 2020, as Suffolk County Council and the East Suffolk Councils have partnered with event organisers SweetSpot Group in a two-year deal.

You can download the [Stage 1 map from Beccles to Stowmarket](#) (PDF, 734KB).

Suffolk successful in winning £1.725 million in extra funding for business broadband roll out

Suffolk County Council, working in partnership with West Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Council of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, and Babergh and Mid Suffolk district councils has been successful in securing £1.725 million from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

It will contribute to providing Superfast Broadband access to many businesses across Suffolk's most rural areas, who are not in plans to receive Superfast Broadband as part of the current fibre broadband rollout.

The funding will cover connection to over 550 businesses across the county where current internet speeds are limited to lower speed connection methods. On top of the business connections this funding will also reach a further 600 non-business-related premises who will be able to upgrade to superfast speeds. Suffolk has been at the forefront of fibre broadband rollout, via its Better Broadband for Suffolk Program, since 2010 and currently the county enjoys a superfast broadband coverage of 93%, with the current contract due to reach 98% by 2020.

The additional funding will contribute towards meeting some of the remaining 2% of the county that is not covered by the existing contracts. Work on connecting these new areas will begin later in 2019.

More than 96% of pupils receive a Preferred Secondary School on National Offer Day

On 1 March, Suffolk confirmed secondary school places for Year 7 and Year 9 pupils in 2019/2020.

This year, Suffolk County Council (SCC) received 7,921 applications from parents indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to be educated at from September 2019. Over 96.5% of parents were offered a place at one of their preferred schools. Some 7130 applicants received offers for their first preference school and 7651 applicants received an offer for one of their three preferred schools.

Care Quality Commission ratings for Adult Social Care Locations

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspect all registered Health and Social Care providers in England and Wales, rating them as Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate.

Analysis of the CQC data for 1 March 2019 shows that Social Care Locations in Suffolk (including Domiciliary Care Agencies, Residential and Nursing Care), are more frequently rated Good or Outstanding than the national average.

When looking at similar Local authority areas (based on demographics and geography), Suffolk is ranked 3rd out of 16. Nationally, Suffolk is currently ranked 17th out of 156 Local Authority areas, for the percentage of Social Care Locations rated as Good or Outstanding.

The ACS Provider Support Team works closely with the Service Development & Contracts teams to support locations where there are concerns about the quality of care, identified through a variety of routes, for example, contract management, CQC or safeguarding concerns.

The Provider Support Team uses a Solution Focussed approach to work with location managers, using toolkits to clearly identify the root cause of issues, while recognising what is working well and using this to develop an improvement plan with the service manager and front-line staff. The team also provides workshops, to support staff to contextualise training to their own setting and the individual people it is supporting. The support is well received by the sector and the CQC frequently reference the Council's support to locations, as a positive factor in service improvement.