

Events in June for your diary

Nowton Park Country Fair
Sunday 19 June, 11am to 5pm
Nowton Park, Bury St Edmunds

A free, family fun day with arena entertainment, children's petting farm, craft stalls and fun dog show.



Bury St Edmunds Armed Forces Day
Saturday 25 June, 11am to 5pm
Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds

A free event to celebrate Bury St Edmunds' links with the Armed Forces. Entertainment includes live music, children's games, a vintage and craft market and displays. The day will incorporate the homecoming parade for RAF Honington and there will be a flypast by a Spitfire.



For more information, or to request a full programme for both events, please contact the Tourist Information Centre by phone on: 01284 764667 or by email at: tic@stedsbc.gov.uk

New offices for the Revenue and Benefits service

In April 2011 St Edmundsbury Revenues and Benefits service joined Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) to deliver a service dealing with all aspects of council tax, non domestic rates and council tax, and housing benefit, across Breckland, East Cambridgeshire, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils.

The partnership is now based at Breckland House, St Nicholas Street, Thetford, IP24 1BT, but customer services are still available as normal at:

- West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds (phone: 01284 757269).
- Lower Downs Slade, Haverhill (phone: 01440 765108).

For more information please visit: www.angliarevenues.gov.uk

Rural Vision 2031 update

The Rural Vision 2031 issues consultation ended last month and planners are currently analysing all of the comments received and preparing a draft document for consultation in late summer 2011.

For more information, and further details of the process and timetable, please visit: www.ruralvision.org.uk or contact the Planning Policy team by phone on: 01284 757368.

Results of 5 May 2011 election

On 5 May 2011, as well as the referendum, borough and parish/town council elections took place throughout St Edmundsbury.

Borough council elections: elections were held for all 45 seats on St Edmundsbury Borough Council and all councillors elected will take up their seats for four years. The 45 seats are spread over 31 'borough wards' and each ward has a set number of councillors that represent that ward (the number depends on the number of electors).

The borough results are available at: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/BoroughElectionResults2011.cfm

Parish and town council elections: elections were held for all parish and town councils within the St Edmundsbury area.

The parish and town results are available at: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/Parish-and-Town-Councils-Election-notice.cfm



Parish Conference - your views needed

The Spring conference took place on 12 May 2011, with information items on the Rural Action Plan, Rural Vision 2031 and the Localism Bill. Interactive workshops were delivered on the recent housing reforms and how parishes can be prepared in an emergency.

The council holds the Parish Conference twice a year, so the next conference will be in the Autumn.

Now is your opportunity to let us know about the issues affecting your parish—what is important to you, and what would you like more information about.

We will do our best to arrange presentations and workshops that meet your requests.

Please email your thoughts to: rural@stedsbc.gov.uk or call us on: 01284 757109.

Has your village recently lost a bus service?

If so, read below about a new toolkit available



Suffolk County Council has produced a step by step guide to help you identify your local public and community transport provision and needs.

If there are gaps in service provision you will be able to find details of organisations that may be able to help you develop solutions.

The guide also explains the range of community transport schemes that can exist, as well as things you need to know should you consider getting involved in reshaping local transport services.

The toolkit is available on the Suffolk County Council website:

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/
CouncilAndDemocracy/AboutSCC/
NewStrategicDirection/
Informa-
tion+and+Support+for+Divestment.ht
m](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/AboutSCC/NewStrategicDirection/Information+and+Support+for+Divestment.htm)



Calling all businesses in Suffolk

The British Chamber of Commerce's (BCC) Quarterly Economic Survey is the largest business survey of its kind in the UK.

It is important that the BCC gets a good response rate from Suffolk because the results can be used as an accurate indicator of our locality's economic performance.

Please spare a few minutes to complete the business survey. It is very simple, just log on to: www.britishchambers.org.uk/qes/ and use the password 'economy' and the Chamber ID No. 77.

The deadline for completion of the survey is Monday 13 June 2011. The results of the survey will be published by the BCC in July 2011.

£500 grants to generate home energy

Grants worth up to £500 are on offer to St Edmundsbury home owners interested in generating their own energy.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council have launched a home renewable energy grant, available on a first come first served basis, for homes that have not yet had any renewable energy technologies installed.

The renewable energy technologies that qualify are:

- Biomass room heater/stove
- Ground Source Heat Pump
- Solar Thermal Hot Water
- Wood fuelled boiler system
- Air source heat pump

For more information, and to apply for a grant, please contact Andrew Oswald by phone on: 01284 757622, by email at: Andrew.oswald@stedsbcc.gov.uk or visit: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/HREGrant.cfm



Rural News

Issue 25 June 2011

Enterprise in the rural communities

Menta, the Suffolk Enterprise Agency, has been commissioned (as part of our Rural Action Plan) to bring their free business advice service to St Edmundsbury villages, allowing local people to discuss starting a new business with Menta's experts.



Menta will be arranging a range of visits to villages in St Edmundsbury, giving local people a chance to discuss their plans for starting a business with experts. They will also be sending rural 'enterprise champions' to the villages in advance to promote the programme and ensure that as many people as possible can benefit from it.

Full details, with times and venues, will be published on the Menta website and promoted locally in advance. We are encouraging anyone that is interested to register their contact details to receive more information as it becomes available.



To register your interest, please contact Menta by phone on: 0800 085 5090 or visit: www.menta.org.uk

Co-operatives East regional conference, for all those with an interest in community enterprises

Thursday 30 June, 10am to 4pm, at Great Barton Village Hall

This event is being held in conjunction with Rural Action East, Suffolk Acre and the Norfolk Rural Community Council. It is also being supported by Rural Community Councils across the East of England.

The conference will showcase current community enterprises, providing insight into how to succeed in establishing a flourishing local enterprise that benefits the local population.

Enterprises featured will include community shops and pubs, village hall services and food initiatives, community transport and housing. There will also be detailed advice workshops covering the important aspects of setting up a successful community enterprise.

With keynote speakers from the Plunkett Foundation (the leading national charity supporting rural community enterprise) and The Solar Co-op, this conference promises to be one of the most important in the East of England for groups seeking to set up a community owned project.

Thanks to sponsorship from a number of local organisations (including St Edmundsbury Borough Council, as part of its Rural Action Plan), **attendance is free.**

For more information, and to book your place - booking is essential - please contact Barry Henson by phone on: 01473 345332 or email:

communityenterprisenow@suffolkacre.org.uk

Alternatively, an application form can be accessed through:

www.cooperatives-east.coop or

www.ruralactioneast.org.uk



Housing advice event taking place in July

St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Housing Team is holding a housing event on **Wednesday 13 July 2011 at The Apex, Charter Square, Bury St Edmunds.**

Come and get housing help and advice from a variety of different agencies and organisations. The event opens at 11am and finishes at 7pm.

For more information, please contact Julie Salisbury by phone on: 01284 757608 or by email at: Julie.salisbury@stedsbc.gov.uk



New grant scheme for rural projects

Every year dozens of rural projects get a cash boost from St Edmundsbury.

Until now, we have had a couple of pots of money to help these schemes but from this summer we are launching the Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme (RIGS) to bring together all the money available to support village projects.

The new scheme will mean there is one initial point of contact and one application form.

Councillors will also be considering other changes to the scheme before it is launched. Recommendations include lowering the minimum grant to £250 to help smaller schemes and setting the maximum at £10,000.

It is also proposed that where we give a grant up to £4000 applicants will have to wait two years to apply for more funding, and for awards between £4000 and £10,000 the gap will be three years.

Grant money can only be used for capital projects – that is, not towards running costs – and we can only provide half the cost. Applicants will have to raise the other half, through local fund-raising or applying to other organisations.

Please talk to your local councillor or contact us to discuss potential funding for a rural project.

For more information, please contact the Grants Officer by phone on: 01284 757079 or by email at: ruralgrants@stedsbc.gov.uk

Food safety award scheme in operation

The council's food team have been running a food safety award scheme since 1 January 2010. At every routine inspection, food businesses are assessed using national scoring criteria. These scores are then converted into a 'star rating': 5 stars for the best businesses down to 0 stars.

The areas covered are food hygiene and safety, structure and cleaning and confidence in management.

Each business receives a certificate with its star rating on. Although the business does not have to display the certificate, the results are displayed on the council's website: www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/FoodSafetyAward.cfm

From April 2011 the results have also been loaded on to a national 'scores on the doors' website, which not only allows customers to search easily for food businesses in different villages in St Edmundsbury, but also other parts of the country: www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk/council/st-edmundsbury-borough-council



Homes assistance grants available

Grants are available from St Edmundsbury Borough Council to help home-owners maintain their property to prevent it from falling into serious disrepair and to enable them to remain in their home in safety, security and warmth. We currently have three main types of grants available:



Healthy homes grants:

- Small works: work to repair the fabric of the building and minor adaptations for disabled occupants (excludes fences, sheds, conservatories and garages); and
- Home safety: essential works to the property to enable the existing occupier to remain in the property in safety.

Home security:

- Provision of security devices as determined in partnership with Suffolk Police.

Decent homes and thermal comfort grants:

- Works to the structure and internal services and amenities where they need replacing or major repair (e.g. boilers, electrics, and so on).
- In certain circumstances the improvement of old kitchens (over 20 years) and bathrooms (over 30 years).
- The provision of efficient heating systems and effective insulation.

For more information please contact Environmental Health by phone on: 01284 757053 or by email at: env.health@stedsbc.gov.uk

'Protecting Playing Fields' funding round open now

Sport England's funding programme, Protecting Playing Fields, is part of the Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme, and £10 million of National Lottery funding is being invested in community sports projects over three years from 2011 to 2014.

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds. The first round opened on 25 May 2011 and closes on 6 July 2011, and the second round opens on 24 October 2011 and closes on 12 December 2011.

For more information, including details of further funding rounds, please visit:

www.sportengland.org/funding/protecting_playing_fields.aspx



Funding sessions available for voluntary and charitable groups

The Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre can give advice on issues including funding applications, charity law, and developing plans for your group.

Hour long slots (between the hours of 9am and 12pm) with Hazel Pidsley, accredited funding advisor, are available at the following venues and dates:

Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre, 86 Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1NX:

- Friday 10 June
- Friday 8 July
- Thursday 18 August
- Friday 9 September
- Friday 14 October
- Friday 11 November

The Time of Your Life, Fred Archer Way, Newmarket, CB8 8NT:

- Tuesday 28 June
- Tuesday 26 July
- Tuesday 6 September
- Tuesday 11 October
- Tuesday 15 November



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

West Suffolk voluntary and community sector hub to be developed

Are you looking for new horizons? Do you want to have new flexible and exciting office space with dedicated and shared services? Do you want to be with people who can work together and share future planning, offer complementary services and organisational support, and other benefits?

Then we have the solution to your aspirations, whether you are a big or small organisation, a social enterprise or a community interest company, or anything in between.

For more information, or to register your interest, please contact Hazel Pidsley by phone on: 01284 766126 or by email at: burystedmunds@volunteercentre.co.uk

Would you like to get out and about and have some fun?



Would you like to make your life a bit easier by getting things sorted at home?

Then Suffolk Circle is for you!

Suffolk Circle is a membership organisation for people over 50. Members can choose social events they would like to come to and can also get a hand with jobs around the home.

Suffolk Circle members receive a packed monthly newsletter, featuring money saving offers and a calendar of events which all members can choose to come along to. Highlights of the social calendar have included an exclusive visit to RAF Lakenheath, where members toured the base, spoke with a pilot and were able to explore an F-15 fighter plane; walks led by local people, including a daffodil walk and a foraging walk; talk and tastings at a specialist chocolate shop; pub lunches and events hosted in members' homes, including a royal wedding party, a garden party and a DIY lunch!

What social events are on in June?

Visit to Pakenham Water Mill, Thursday 2 June, 10am. 1 Token or £6:

Come and join us to visit the last working watermill in Suffolk. For almost a thousand years, millers have been using the simple technology of water power to produce stone ground wholemeal flour from locally-grown wheat. On the day we will see milling in action and have a guided tour of the site. We will then finish the visit off with a cup of tea in the New Mill Team Room.

Chris' garden party, Monday 6 June, 1pm. 1 Token or £6:

Suffolk Circle member Chris invites you to her beautiful garden to enjoy the summer sunshine with a bring and share picnic. This is a lovely opportunity for you to meet some new members or catch up with some you met at other events, and we are sure Chris will not mind giving you a guided tour of her garden and sharing some hints and tips!

Tour of the Mill Green Brewery, Thursday 9 June, 11am. Free (or 2 tokens/£12 for lunch):

The Mill Green Brewery not only produces beautiful beer using locally sourced ingredients, but also does so in a sustainable fashion. On the day we will be given a guided tour of this purpose-built 'green' building, talked through the brewing process and then go on to the White Horse pub next door for a drink or two (not included in the price)! For those who would like to, they can stay to have a hearty two course home-cooked pub lunch.

Jazz at The Fox, Sunday 12 June, 7:30pm. Free

Sunday is the new Saturday! Come and join Suffolk Circle to sample one of Bury's regular treats – jazz at The Fox. It's a lovely pub serving excellent freshly prepared, locally sourced food. We will book tables – you can choose to just join us for a drink or to have a meal.

Indoor bowls at Risbygate Club, Friday 17 June, 6:30pm. 1 Token or £6

On the evening we will have a chance to try out indoor bowls with instructors on hand to show us the 'do's' and 'don't's'. We may not be turned into professionals but hopefully we will have a lot of fun!

Rural News

Issue 25 June 2011

Foraging walk at Bradfield Woods, Tuesday 21 June, 10am. Free

Over 90% of the species in the ancient woodland are edible or medicinal. Steve Adams, who lives on site, will give us an introduction to what we might be able to use or consume. For those brave enough you can sample some natural goodies on the way round!

D.I.Y lunch with Janet, Bury St Edmunds, Saturday 25 June, 11am. 1 Token

Suffolk Circle member Janet invites you to an interactive D.I.Y lunch! Join in creating asparagus polonaise, followed by pork tenderloin served with a mixed green salad or rice and peas, and finished off with rhubarb frangipane tart. Expert and beginner chefs all welcome!

Swimming at Abbeycroft Leisure Centre, Bury St Edmunds, Monday 27 June, 2:15pm. Free

An exclusive chance to try the Aquabuddy session at Abbeycroft Leisure Centre for free. This is an open session with Aquabuddies available to help you develop skills and confidence if you have not been swimming for a while or would like to try it out. After all that swimming you will be very thirsty, so our friends at the Centre have even thrown in a free drink for us in the café!

Email Workshop @ Suffolk Circle Office, Wednesday 29 June, 2pm. 1 Token or £6

Get Connected! Keep in touch with family and friends; get your own email address, learn how to send and receive emails and attach photos. Or if you are already on email, is there a task you wish you could do on your computer, or a nagging problem you wish you could sort out? If so, friendly Neil will see if he can help. If you use a laptop feel free to bring it along or you can use one of ours.

If you need a lift to an event we will try our best to link you up with someone else who is going. If this is not possible we can arrange for a 'helper' to drop you off and pick you up.

Getting things sorted around the home

Suffolk Circle members are able to get a hand with sorting things out at home from one of our friendly 'helpers'. 'Helpers' lend a hand with everyday jobs like hanging pictures, mowing the lawn or clearing out a cupboard.

There are also 'helpers' who are good with technology; they can do things like getting members going with email accounts, tuning in TVs and sorting out stereos. 'Helpers' can make sure you know how something works and if you still have a problem or cannot remember how it works, there is a free phone number to give us a call.

Everyone has different to-do-lists; we are pretty sure that we can help with whatever is on yours.



Membership costs just £30 a year or £2.50 a month – and then members buy tokens to get a hand from a 'helper' or to join events that are paid for (some are always free). Join now and start to get more out of life!

Suffolk Circle is currently operating in the West of Suffolk.

For more information, or to join, please call Suffolk Circle by phone on: 01284 774880 or visit: www.suffolkcircle.org.uk

Falls prevention support



Having a fall in later life can be a concern for many of us. As we age, the risk of falling can increase and the consequences can be more serious to our physical and emotional health.

It is not just the physical effect (e.g. injury from a fall) that can have an impact on quality of life, but the fear of falling again. This can reduce confidence, limiting daily activities and reducing independence.

Ann Hunt, Falls Prevention Co-ordinator for West Suffolk, will be visiting the Rural Coffee Caravan to meet people who may have concerns relating to falling, or look after someone who may be at risk of falling. She will be at Ousden on 2 June and 1 September and Cowlinge on 21 July; all from 10am to Midday.

Ann will be offering advice regarding simple lifestyle changes that can be made to increase safety and prevent injury. Ann is also able to look at, and replace, worn 'stoppers' on the bottom of walking aids.

Ann says: "Staying active, staying aware and making simple lifestyle changes such as identifying potential hazards that cause falls, such as worn carpets or old slippers or by having a regular eye test, can make life safer for many older people. There's a varied range of activities happening throughout the county and we will welcome people visiting the events to find out what they can do for themselves to keep safe."

Come along, have a coffee and a chat.

For more information, please contact Ann by phone on: 01284 748824 or by email at:

ann.hunt@suffolkpct.nhs.uk

To contact the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project, please phone: 01379 855338 or email:

coffee.caravan@btinternet.com

Energys share grant fund recently launched

Up to £500,000 available for community renewable energy projects.

Energys share is a 100% renewable energy community giving everyone in the UK the opportunity to get involved in sourcing, using, and generating your own renewable energy.

Energys share's founding partners, River Cottage and British Gas, are committed to finding more funding. As a start, British Gas is distributing a further £3m to communities for renewable energy projects through the energys share fund over the next three years.

Go to the website to register your community's interest. Here you can download the information pack, which includes frequently asked questions and the registration form.

There are lots of other features on the website for households and communities, including case studies of community projects like Woolsey Community Hall who have cut their running costs by 90%.

The fund deadline is 30 June.

For more information and to register your interest, please visit:

www.energys share.com or email:

info@energys share.com



Doors open for rural micro enterprises



Introduction

The LandSkills East training programme (which is funded through the Rural Development Programme for England) has previously focused its training on farming and land-based businesses. Through a review of its priorities the programme is pleased to announce the inclusion of micro enterprises as eligible for training and has ring fenced approximately £300,000 of grant funding for these rural businesses.

What does the funding cover?

The funding is available to cover up to 75% of the costs of courses and training which will improve the economic performance of micro enterprises.

Which businesses are eligible?

Small rural businesses (with a staff of less than 10 full time equivalent people and a turnover or net worth of below €2 million) located in a rural part of the East of England which fit one of the following business descriptions (full guidance on eligibility can be found on the programme website):

- Public house
- Food retail (with a regional food focus)
- Specialty food businesses (with a regional focus)
- Adding value businesses which focus on farm produce (non food)
- Garages
- Post offices
- Tradesmen (builders, plumbers, electricians) who focus on servicing farming and other rural businesses
- Vets
- Conservation and land managers organisations
- Small scale tourism attractions
- Green technology companies

What training is available?

There is a great array of training available, which includes customer care, technical skills to allow businesses to develop new products, and management training and coaching. New courses are put on the website, but if you are unable to find a course which fits your need then LandSkills East will do all they can to get a partner to develop the course around your requirements.

For more information, or to book a course, please contact LandSkills East by phone on: 01603 748844 (Ext 4) or by email at: landskills@easton.ac.uk

Alternatively, you can visit: www.landskillseast.co.uk or Twitter: <http://twitter.com/LandSkillsEast> or Facebook: www.facebook.com/LandSkills.East

Suffolk e-sourcing system now up and running

St Edmundsbury Borough Council, together with Babergh District Council, Forest Heath District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, and Waveney District Council have collaboratively implemented a new E-Sourcing System to manage their procurement and contract management activities. Improvement East is funding this system for all district and borough councils in Suffolk for the first year.

The business benefits associated with use of this system are:

- to implement a common approach to procurement and contract management across all Suffolk Councils;
- to assist collaboration between councils on procurement activities;
- to improve supplier access to Suffolk local authority tendering activities and contract information as per the Government's transparency agenda;
- reduced tendering timescales through use of an electronic tendering system; and
- to reduce the overall cost of the tendering process.

**To access the system,
please visit: www.suffolksourcing.co.uk**

From the website you can:

- view current tender opportunities issued by any of the councils in Suffolk by clicking on the 'current tender opportunities' link;
- view and download tender documentation; and
- respond online to tenders of interest.

Users of the website can obtain assistance with use of the system via the supplier helpdesk which is run by the system provider. Details can be found under the 'contact us' link on the website.

Suppliers are encouraged to register on the system so that they can be kept informed about new tendering opportunities as they arise.

For more information, please visit: www.suffolksourcing.co.uk



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

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

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

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

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

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



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

St Edmundsbury supports rural communities through:

The Rural Action Plan

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

Grants

Contact Paul Rounce:
paul.rounce@stedsbc.gov.uk
T: 01284 757079
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/grants

Parish Conferences (twice yearly)

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

Rural youth outreach work

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

Housing

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

Tourism

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

Planning

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