

A repeated thank you to all those that made the Queens Jubilee such a special time for everyone. The planning, organising and co-ordinating of many different events and attractions were a credit to our wonderful community and volunteers. It was an honour to contribute towards the celebrations with a locality grant.

As you are all aware and previously mentioned, SASES and SEAS commenced judicial review proceedings against the Secretary of State for the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, Kwasi Kwarteng, in respect of decisions to grant consent for Scottish Power's EA1N & EA2 wind farm projects. And, as you all know the final decision on plans for Sizewell C has been pushed back as government said it needed more time/information, the final decision is to be no later than the 8th July.

My thanks to all at Alde Valley Academy for giving up their time during another school holiday to run GCSE revision lessons. Good luck to all the students that are in the middle of their exams who are soon embarking on their next chapters. It hasn't been an easy or normal few years for any of them.

Please note that I will be in an element of imposed self-isolation in the next few weeks but will still be contactable. I will be on annual leave early July, again contactable when possible and wifi allows.

Very best wishes and many thanks again,

TJ

Suffolk Archives invites people to donate Platinum Jubilee souvenirs for 'memory box'

As the county celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Suffolk Archives is inviting the public to contribute souvenirs from their celebrations.

From tomorrow, Monday 6th June, people can donate items such as photographs, postcards, programmes, invitations, and leaflets from local events.

After past royal events, the public has donated a variety of physical and digital items. With the Platinum Jubilee being a rare event in British history, this is an opportunity for local people to help build on the Archives' existing 900-year records, providing valuable research content for future generations.

We are encouraging people of all ages to help us capture Suffolk's celebrations this summer, be it a family gathering, a performance, a school or village festival or a street party. Part of the Archives' job is to gather a 'living history' and any mementos of the celebrations could help us to create a lasting record of how our county marked the Platinum Jubilee – a major historic occasion.

Digital content can be submitted online via the website, and hard copy posters, postcard and similar materials can be brought into local branches in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft. All donations will be subject to assessment, as archivists can only keep the best quality materials and need to prevent duplication of items. Items cannot be returned. For more information and to submit digital content visit the Suffolk archives website Email any questions to suffolk.remembers@suffolk.gov.uk or call 01473 296666.

Suffolk celebrates as 185 Platinum Jubilee events approved

Communities across Suffolk prepared to celebrate Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as Suffolk County Council, as of May 12th, approved applications for 185 events.

Thousands of residents across the county came together with neighbours and attend celebration events between Thursday 2 and Sunday 5 June, to mark Her Majesty, The Queen's 70 years of service.

Originally, fees were waived for events taking place on Sunday 5 June only - which is being referred to nationally as the 'Big Jubilee Lunch', however due to the unprecedented demand for events taking place across the rest of the weekend, Suffolk County Council also waived fees for events taking place on Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June.

The waived fees are associated with costs related to road closure applications and traffic management, such as signs and barriers.

The approved celebrations were made up of smaller street party style events in roads and cul-de-sacs; held by residents and community groups, and bigger events organised by town, parish, borough and district councils.

This milestone for Her Majesty, The Queen is an incredible achievement we are delighted that so many communities across Suffolk joined together with their neighbours and celebrating this momentous occasion. By waiving fees for events across this weekend of celebration, we were able to encourage as many as possible to get involved, whether it be a small gathering in a local street, or a larger event, organised by town or parish councils. Our highway teams have worked tirelessly to approve as many of these events as possible and will be working with communities to ensure they can carry these events out safely and successfully.

Council on course to plant 200,000 trees

Additionally, on May 11th it was announced that Suffolk County Council had planted 198,547 trees across Suffolk in just the last two years (at an average of 272 per day).

Much of this was possible thanks to £400,000 of the council's own Suffolk 2020 Fund, to protect and encourage biodiversity in the county.

In one year, 198,547 average adult trees could absorb the equivalent CO2 emitted by:

- 8,845,898 miles travelled in a typical petrol car
- 903 typical household gas boilers running for a year
- 199 Suffolk residents each year.

The planting includes 12 miles of new mixed native species hedgerows across 15 county farm holdings, delivering new wildlife habitat, ecological corridors and enhanced landscapes.

The council worked with many partners to make the tree planting a success, including The Woodland Trust, Suffolk Tree Warden Network, county farm tenants, landowners, local authorities and communities, and contractor Giles Landscapes.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Environment and Public Protection, said:

“This amazing achievement would not have been possible without all the partners we work with, to whom I'm grateful for getting these trees in the ground. From the support of our exceptional Suffolk Tree Warden Network volunteers, through to the children at local schools, we really have put Suffolk on the UK map for tree planting.

“Once the healing wood is completed at Howard Community Academy later this year, we will have surpassed our target of 200,000 trees for Suffolk.

“New trees will help protect and enhance biodiversity in our environment, which is crucial. They will provide habitats and havens for wildlife, supporting the delicate and special ecosystems we have in Suffolk. We will continue to explore ways of planting even more.”

“Of course more trees will absorb more CO2 from the atmosphere, and contribute to slowing the increasing rate of climate change. But that is not enough on its own in our ambition for a Net Zero Suffolk by 2030, and as a council we are committed to using less energy and cutting our own carbon emissions.”

All the trees have been registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and contribute to the continuing Suffolk-wide ambition of Creating the Greenest County.

Business owners urged to #ThinkSprinkler to protect lives and property

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service supported National Sprinkler Week, helping to raise awareness of how sprinkler systems can protect people and property.

The campaign, established by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), ran until Sunday 22 May, where fire services across the country took part.

Calls are also being made by the NFCC for government to remedy building regulations in relation to sprinklers, which currently differ across the UK. The NFCC are particularly concerned about new build schools, care homes and warehousing. At present, sprinklers are a requirement in new build care homes and schools in Scotland and Wales, but this legislation doesn't extend to England and Wales, with the NFCC fearing that this could lead to a fire risk for vulnerable people.

Fire sprinklers are widely recognised as the single most effective method for fighting the spread of fires in their early stages. Research carried out by the NFCC and the National Fire Sprinkler Network (NFSN) found that, when in use, sprinklers help to extinguish or contain fires 99% of the time. They also reduce fire related injuries by at least 80% and property damage by 90%.

Jon Lacey, Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, shared why they proudly supported Sprinkler Week once again:

“We have seen first-hand how sprinklers can help to control a fire within seconds of it breaking out, protecting not just people and property but also our firefighters. For this reason, we would encourage new build non-domestic properties to consider installing a sprinkler system, as these are relatively inexpensive but really do make a difference in keeping communities safe. We are always on hand to provide guidance on sprinklers and other fire safety measures as part of our ongoing protection work, and anyone wishing to benefit from our advice can visit the Suffolk Fire and Rescue website to find out more.”

Suffolk residents encouraged to use their Quiet Lanes

People in Suffolk are being encouraged to explore more of the beautiful countryside on their doorstep through the growing Quiet Lanes initiative.

Quiet Lanes is a nationally recognised designation for narrow, rural roads which can be shared with walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users.

The scheme aims to encourage everyone using the lanes to travel with caution, so everyone can enjoy the rural lanes with greater safety.

Launched in 2020 it is a county-wide project overseen by a volunteer steering group supported by Suffolk County Council's 2020 Fund, the East Suffolk Community Partnerships and the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum.

Since its launch nearly 200 parish councils have engaged and there are now more than 350 lanes designated in Suffolk, covering approximately 400 kilometres (248 miles) of country road.

All Quiet Lanes are marked with green signs at either end, which clearly show the hierarchy of right of way for people using the road. Residents can use the interactive map on the Quiet Lanes Suffolk website to find out where the nearest lanes are to them.

Visit Quiet Lanes Suffolk to access over 350 Suffolk country roads designated as Quiet Lanes for recreation. <https://www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk/>

Council has a new Chairman.

Cllr Robert Everitt was elected as the new Chairman of Suffolk County Council in May. He has taken over the role from Cllr Graham Newman. Cllr Keith Robinson was elected as Vice Chairman. Congratulations to both gentlemen.