

April 2019 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

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. 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 (except Wednesday) 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.

Beccles and Stowmarket confirmed as host venues for 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour

This year's OVO Energy Women's Tour will take place between Beccles and Stowmarket. It marks the first time that both market towns will host Britain's leading women's pro-cycling 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 World Tour 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.

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