

May 2019 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Further details of Suffolk stage of 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour on 10 June announced

Action will get underway in the centre of Beccles, with 96 riders from 16 teams due to take to the start at 10.30am. The finish on Ipswich Road in Stowmarket is expected between 2.30pm and 3.10pm. Riders will tackle two SKODA Queen of the Mountains climbs and contest three intermediate Eisberg Sprints from Beccles to Stowmarket. The first intermediate Eisberg Sprint, backed by the UK's number one alcohol-free wine, will come after 98 kilometres, or around two hours of racing, outside the entrance to RAF Honington, near Ixworth. The day's second Eisberg Sprint comes not long after at Fornham St Martin on the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds. Riders will also contest a third Eisberg Sprint as they race through Stowmarket for the first time, before tackling a 12-kilometre finishing circuit. The first three riders across the line at each Eisberg Sprint will earn points on a 3-2-1 basis, with the leading rider being presented the Eisberg Sprints Jersey on the podium in Stowmarket following Stage One. Two SKODA Queen of the Mountains climbs are in the second half of the stage, with the first at Little Whelnetham after almost 125 kilometres. The second comes with just over six kilometres of racing remaining at Buxhall, giving riders the perfect opportunity for a late attack to try and steal victory in Stowmarket. The race continues to form part of the prestigious UCI Women's WorldTour series, which began with the Strade Bianche one-day race in Italy on 9 March.

Searching for Suffolk's environmental superstars – deadline extended!

Nominations are needed to celebrate Suffolk's green champions at this summer's 10th Creating the Greenest County awards. The deadline for entries has been extended until Monday 20 May. The awards are a chance to shine a light on anyone who inspires others to make Suffolk a better place for its residents and its wildlife. This could be someone in your workplace who has persuaded you to ditch single-use coffee cups for a reusable mug, or an organisation which has transformed its business operations to be carbon-neutral. In the last three years, since the awards were last held, there has been a huge shift in attitudes and understanding about better caring for our environment. Many individuals have taken it on themselves to lead the way in creating change, voluntary organisations have formed to help transform their local communities, and businesses are taking their environmental responsibilities even more seriously. If you know an individual, business, community, school or voluntary organisation who should be recognised for the environmental work they do to combat climate change, or simply for improving the area where they live, put them forward for an award. Nominations can be submitted www.greensuffolk.org/awards/. The awards ceremony will be held on 17 July 2019.

More than 98% of pupils receive a preferred primary school on National Offer Day

On 16 April 2019, the council reported that it had received 7,505 applications from parents indicating which primary school they would prefer their child to be educated at in Reception for this year. Over 98.6% of children were offered a place at one of their parents' preferred schools. Some 7,037 children received offers for their first preference school and 7,403 children received an offer for one of their three preferred schools. Gordon Jones, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills at Suffolk County Council said: "We have a good track record of offering places at preferred schools and this year is no exception. I am delighted that we have been able to give most parents a place for their child at one of the schools they want."

Suffolk Domestic Abuse Champions Network needs you

The search is on for volunteers to join a network of Champions that will help spread the message of support for those experiencing domestic abuse. The aim of the Champions is to offer a consistent response to domestic abuse across Suffolk and support which is rooted in the community. The Suffolk Domestic Abuse Champions Network is looking for people who are passionate about domestic abuse awareness raising and who are motivated to make changes. The Champions will be provided with free training to equip them with the skills to spread awareness and share information of where to go for support within their organisations and networks. The Suffolk Domestic Abuse Champions Network will offer Champions a variety of support, knowledge, multi-agency links as well as access to training and events. Champions will be able to recognise the signs of abuse and will be confident in encouraging disclosures of abuse. They will respond in a professional manner, giving people the tools to stay safe and get the right support promptly. Email dachampions@suffolk.gov.uk for more information and to register interest.

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