

New campaign sheds light on suicide

A new countywide campaign that aims to prevent suicide in Suffolk is taking a new approach to this devastating issue. *Suffolk Life Savers*, was launched on 20 February and is a response to the estimated 60 people who take their own lives in the county every year, calling on people to play their part by pledging to support the campaign. Suicide remains one of the most prevalent causes of death for men aged 15-49 years and the majority of deaths by suicide in Suffolk are by men aged 40 to 60 years. Another important fact is that almost three quarters (72%) of people who die by suicide were not in contact with mental health services in the 12 months before their death. Anyone can join the campaign by making a simple pledge. In return, each organisation or individual will receive dedicated campaign materials and ongoing support to spread the message with friends, family and work colleagues. For more details about how to support, please visit the website: www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/suffolklivesmatter

Design Team announced for 'The Hold'

The design team who will develop the planned heritage centre, 'The Hold' has been announced. Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk, who are partners in the project, have announced that following a highly competitive tender process, world class, award winning architects Pringle Richards Sharratt have won the contract to develop the design for the new building. The name of the new shared building has also been confirmed as 'The Hold', and will use the strapline 'Explore. Discover. Connect.' 'The Hold' is one of the commitments being delivered as part of the Ipswich Vision. 'The Hold' will incorporate facilities to house 900 years of Suffolk's historical archives, along with exhibition space, exciting digital technology, a café, an auditorium and education/seminar rooms. The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) who have provided a grant of £538,000 to help the partners develop their proposals and apply for a delivery grant of over £10m later this year. Pringle Richards Sharratt, who will lead a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to develop the design, have a diverse portfolio including similar projects to The Hold, such as the Hull History Centre, the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton, and the Herbert Gallery and History Centre in Coventry. Their current projects include the Ealing Studios in London, the Alderbrook development in Surrey and the St Cross building for Oxford University. Over the coming weeks they will be familiarising themselves with Ipswich and the Suffolk archival collections that will live in the new building.

One hundred gritting runs completed so far this winter to keep Suffolk's roads safe

Suffolk's gritting teams have treated enough miles to travel around the world more than four times so far this winter. Up to now 100 gritting runs have been undertaken by Suffolk Highways, treating 110,671 miles of the county's road network in the process – enough to go around the earth's circumference four and a half times. A total of 37 operatives, three supervisors, a lead decision maker, an assistant for the lead decision maker and the winter service manager oversee the shifts on the 'Priority 1' route, which covers all A and B roads and is 1,259 miles in length. The majority of gritting runs take place throughout the night and early morning, taking around three and a half hours on average. Before heading out on the road, the gritters are filled with salt and brine and are weighed on return. On the road, runs typically take around two and a half hours. During the busiest period of the winter gritting season, 45 gritting runs were completed between January 9 and January 29, spending around 112 hours on the county's roads. And so far this winter 12,232 tonnes of salt has been used on the county's roads, which is the equivalent to the weight of around 1,750 male African elephants.

Suffolk Adult Learners' Awards 2017

Nominations for the seventh Suffolk Adult Learner Awards are officially open. The Suffolk Adult Learner Awards, organised by the University of Suffolk and the Suffolk Adult Learning Federation (SALF) are being held in order to celebrate the hard work and outstanding achievements by adult learners this past year. The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 22 June at University of Suffolk and once again, BBC Radio Suffolk presenter and University of Suffolk Honorary Graduate, Mark Murphy will be the compère for the evening. To view the list of awards and download nomination form, visit: www.uos.ac.uk/AdultLearners2017 All nominations must be received by 5pm Thursday 20 April 2017 and should either be emailed back to adultlearners@uos.ac.uk or sent to Karen Davis, University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich, IP4 1QJ.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824474741 E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk