



SUFFOLK Community Awards 2022

Suffolk's community champions have been awarded and applauded at a special awards ceremony at the Food Museum in Stowmarket

WORDS: Jayne Lindill ♦ PHOTOS: Warren Page

The Suffolk Community Awards, organised by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, celebrate and recognise groups and individuals who go the extra mile to improve our quality of life in the county. As Christine Abraham, chief executive of Community Action Suffolk, says, they are the unsung heroes in Suffolk – “volunteers, young people and those helping in the community who make such a difference to people’s lives.”

The 13 awards categories range from youth participation and young person of the year to community building, contribution to volunteering, most active communities, good neighbours and village and town of the year. Here are this year’s winners.



COLONEL PROBERT AWARD: QUIET LANES

The county-wide project run by volunteers identifies small rural roads which can be safely shared with walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users. Launched in 2020, there are now more than 350 Quiet Lanes designated in Suffolk, covering approximately 400 kilometres (248 miles) of country road.



IAN CAMPBELL MBE AWARD: GRAEME WOODCOCK

The award for Outstanding Individual Contribution to their Community went to Graeme for his work in East Bergholt, where he has taken the lead in growing the village's participation in all kinds of sports, including cricket, football and tennis, as well as setting out the Constable walking trail.



VILLAGE HALL & COMMUNITY BUILDING AWARD: THE CODDENHAM CENTRE

The Coddenham Centre won this award for its place at the heart of its community and its positive impact on the lives of the people living there. The centre is run as a charity and provides facilities for recreation, celebration, learning, wellbeing, sport and enjoyment that are sustainable and accessible to everyone. It hosts and supports a wide range of groups and activities, and has become a valuable asset to the village.

SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS TOWN AND VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Small Village of the Year: Bredfield (top)

What makes Bredfield a great place to live? This inclusive community of under 1,000 people has a shop that is “more than a shop”, hosts the Rural Coffee Caravan, runs a pop-up bar in place of the pub they lost, established a Jubilee meadow and orchard, tennis courts, runs a scarecrow competition and uses technology to ensure everyone knows what’s going on so they can get involved.



Highly commended: Harleston (left)

Harleston was highly commended as a great place to live where the community comes together to enjoy regular picnics organised by the church, which attract up to 100 people. Volunteers play a key role in sustaining village life, organising events like litter picks which keep the village safe and beautiful.



Town of the Year: Carlton Colville (right)

With a can-do local council that has a clear neighbourhood

plan for the whole community, Carlton Colville demonstrated that it is a great place to live, now and in the future. This

year’s Jubilee showed the town knows how to celebrate, as well as tackle local challenges and issues.



COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AWARDS

Andrew Towers

Award: Joint winners – Connor Blowers and Jordan Prior (top)

Connor Blowers is an exceptional young person who works hard to encourage others to get involved in local projects and activities, helping the next generation to find motivation, energy and self-esteem. He played a key role at Lowestoft's First Light Festival as a volunteer photographer and compere.

Jordan Prior is an inspirational young person who quietly goes about his volunteer work, "trying to be a friendly face". Jordan gives up his Christmas Day to help deliver lunches to people in his community who have no one in their lives, and during Covid he also helped deliver hundreds of meals in his local area.

Roddy Macleod Award: Lowestoft Boxing Academy (middle)

This award for the Suffolk Youth Club of the Year, which makes



a difference to its community, was won by Lowestoft Boxing Academy run by Ben Poole. The club provides a wide range of services accessible to all, working with schools, helping young people to be physically and emotionally fit, providing motivation and building confidence.

Anne Dunford OBE Award for youth Participation: Student Life

Student Life is a charity that aims to improve education, skills and quality of life of young people through workshops, mental health training, work experience opportunities and information delivered through its magazine and mental health films. It was particularly valuable during Covid. It's a peer-to-peer organisation, collaborating with schools, colleges and alternative settings such as PRUs to help young people develop the life skills they need to support themselves and others.

SUFFOLK'S MOST ACTIVE COMMUNITY AWARDS

Most Active Village of the Year: Honington cum Sapiston

This small village provides opportunities for volunteering and involvement in a wide range of activities from bowls to dance, soft play, adult fitness training on the playing field, walking and gardening on allotments. It also shares with neighbouring hamlets that don't have facilities.

Most Active Town of the Year: Felixstowe

It's the sheer extent and diversity of opportunities available in Felixstowe for people to be active that won the town this award. Felixstowe has numerous clubs including football, fishing, tennis, triathlon, golf and rugby. It's a top location for water sports including open-water swimming, kite and wind surfing, paddle boarding, rowing and kayaking. The Park Run on the prom regularly attracts hundreds of junior and adult participants, and there are lots of opportunities for getting outdoors with yoga, walking, allotments and dog walking, which contribute to good mental and physical wellbeing.

COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

Event Organiser of the Year: Suffolk Environmental Projects

This team runs and supports environmental projects in Suffolk which benefit the planet, the public and communities, and create lasting, positive change. These include litter picking and tree planting. So far, Suffolk Environmental Projects has supported or run 29 tree planting projects and planted over 6,000 trees in the county. They support groups, schools and individuals, and can lend out equipment.

Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering Award: Joint winners – Annie Bowen- Wright and Ann Lockwood (pictured bottom above)

Annie works at St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich, where she has volunteered at the inpatient unit since May 2013. She enjoys volunteering and finds the work

rewarding, especially the "super people" she works with, as it enables her to give back to those less fortunate than herself. Ann, a retired teacher, has worked as a volunteer with Anglia Care Trust since 2019, supporting juveniles in custody. Ann's role is to ensure young people understand what is happening to them. She also supports adults in similar circumstances who have mental health problems.

Suffolk Good Neighbour Award: Melton Good Neighbour Scheme

Melton's Good Neighbour Scheme provides a helping hand, volunteer drivers and information to people in the village. It was launched at the start of Covid in March 2020 to support people with their shopping, collecting prescriptions, transport to and from vaccination appointments, or with phone call. It now provides news and information about local events and also runs monthly coffee mornings, where people can enjoy a chat over a drink and cake made by the volunteers. ♦