



The winners gathered at the Food Museum



Colonel Probert Award:  
Suffolk Sounds Radio CIC

Councillor of the Year: Lesley Hill



Most Active Village winner: Great Barton

Most Active Town winner: Framlingham



The Faith Award: Tools with a Mission

# Honouring those who make a difference

The annual Suffolk Community Awards returned in style last month, with the Food Museum in Stowmarket providing a fitting backdrop for a night of inspiration, applause and heartfelt stories.

The awards celebrate those who devote their time, energy and compassion to helping others, with individuals, teams, groups, charities, communities and even a horse honoured. The event is jointly staged by Community Action Suffolk (CAS), Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC).

The event was hosted by Mark Murphy MBE, and a total of 18 awards were presented, following a summer of judging a record-breaking number of nominations.

Among the many moving moments of the night was the presentation of the Andrew Towers Award, which went to

Harli Dixon. Harli's inspiring story of raising £24,000 for St Elizabeth Hospice in memory of her late mother touched hearts across the county, earning her a standing ovation from the audience.

The Special Award category was given for the first time in more than five years, and receiving it was Robbie the horse, in recognition of his 10 years of service in the role of police volunteer. Robbie and his owner, Sarah Hills, have patrolled tens of thousands of miles of rural roads in support of tackling rural crime, reporting fly-tipping and hare coursing, as well as acting as the 'eyes and ears' of the community.

Robbie and Sarah's volunteer work has inspired 22 other horse owners to join the mounted police volunteer scheme, and he has also helped raise thousands of pounds for the children's palliative care charity Together for Short Lives.



Guests gathered for a heartwarming event



Certificates at the ready!



Anne Dunford OBE Award winner: Newmarket Detachment Army Cadet Force



Award winners were treated to the VIP experience



Roddy Macleod Award winner: Level Two Youth Project

Congratulations to all the winners, who proved once again that Suffolk is a place of kindness and generosity.

#### COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

##### Council of the Year

Joint winners: *Haverhill Town Council* and *Saxmundham Town Council*

##### The Colonel Probert Award – for community initiative

Winner: *Suffolk Sound Radio*

##### Councillor of the Year

Winner: *Lesley Hill*

Highly commended: *Peter Fisk*

##### The Ian Campbell MBE Award – for individual initiative

Winner: *Greg Deeks*

##### Most Active Town of the Year

Winner: *Framlingham*

##### The Faith Award

Winner: *Tools with a Mission*

##### Clerk of the Year

Winner: *Colin Poole*

Highly commended: *Joanna Abbott*

##### Most Active Village of the Year

Winner: *Great Barton*

Highly Commended: *Crowfield*

##### The Village Hall or

##### Community Building Award

Winner: *Gosbeck Village Hall*

##### Climate Response of the Year

Winner: *Holbrook Parish Council*

#### YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD WINNERS

##### The Andrew Towers Award

Winner: *Harli Dixon*

##### The Roddy Macleod Award

– for youth club of the year

Winner: *Level Two Youth Project*

##### The Anne Dunford OBE Award

Winner: *Newmarket Detachment*

*Army Cadet Force*

#### VOLUNTEERING AWARD WINNERS

##### Suffolk Good Neighbour Award

Winner: *Lee Maddox*

##### Event Organiser of the Year

Winner: *The Rotary Club of Bury St Edmunds*

##### Outstanding Contribution to

##### Volunteering Award

Winner: *Mark O'Reilly*

##### Special Award for Exceptional

##### Community Volunteering

Winner: *Robbie and Sarah Hills*



Hannah, Robbie and Sarah with the police rural crime team



The marquee at the Food Museum was the perfect backdrop



Andrew Towers Award winner: Harli Dixon



Mark Murphy MBE presented the awards



Village Hall & Community Building Award winner: Gosbeck Village Hall