Catch Up
Stowmarket Communities Newsletter
Stowmarket TOWN COUNCIL

NEWS

Stowmarket Town Awards 2022-23 winners announced

Stowmarket's unsung heroes and inspiring individuals were celebrated at the end of September with 12 awards given out to people, businesses and charities for their contributions to the local community.

The evening, organised by Stowmarket Town Council, and held at the John Peel Centre, championed local people doing extraordinary things. Alex Harrison was awarded Sportsperson of the Year for his astounding achievements as a triathlete with Team GB. Alex has competed in many parts of the world including Canada, Spain, Switzerland and Russia. In June 2022, he competed in the World Championships in Montreal, coming seventh in his category and finishing second as part of Team GB's mixed relay team. In August, he competed in the European Athletics Championship in Munich coming seventh in the 20–24 age group sprint, and 10th overall.



Bonitas Wholefoods, an eco-friendly food and lifestyle shop established in 2021 by Tree and Ollie Walters, was a welcome addition to the Stowmarket high street and has been keenly supported by those near and far.

Their success, community spirit and commitment to their vision has seen them awarded Local Business of the Year, beating off competition from long-standing national and international businesses based in Stowmarket.



Perhaps the most coveted award of the night, the Pride of Stowmarket, went to veteran volunteer Keith Shelton. Keith has provided thousands of hours of voluntary support at The Mix, coaching secondary school children, acting as a mentor as part of the Greenlights programme and volunteering for the annual Crucial Crew event. Keith is also a Committee Member of Stowmarket U3A, a group for those who are retired or semi-retired and love learning new things. Amongst other things, Keith leads a walk and talk group, a history group and organises the calendar of U3A guest speakers.

Mayor Barry Salmon concluded the night by reflecting on the awards as "an amazing celebration of the community spirit in Stowmarket", congratulating all the nominees and winners.

Thank you to our sponsors; Andrew Bingham Independent Funeral Service, Cedars Park Community Centre, Churches Together, Craig Daniels Automotive, East of England Co-op Funeral Services, G Tydeman Jewellers, Gateway 14, Jaynic, Lions Club of Stowmarket and District, Modece Architects, Red Gables, Stowcare, Tesco, The 1936 Café Bar, and our main sponsor Timberwolf.

The Regal wins building award!

We are very proud that The Regal has won the “best non-residential extension or alteration” for East Anglia at the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards 2022!

The Local Authority Building Control represents all local authority building control teams in England and Wales, and works to ensure public safety and consumer protection.

As regional winners, The Regal has qualified for the LABC Grand Finals Building Excellence Awards 2022 taking place in London on 23rd January 2023.

Congratulations to everyone involved with The Regal Redevelopment Project: Mixbrow Construction, Purcell Architecture, Stowmarket Town Council, Northmores, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Building Control.





Remembering Her Majesty the Queen

Following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Stowmarket Town Council and St Peter and St Mary's Church opened Books of Condolence for members of public to leave their messages and reflections. The books will remain in Stowmarket to be looked after by the generations to come.

Mayor Barry Salmon and his Consort Cllr Heather Salmon were joined by local representatives including Rev. Michael Eden, Mid Suffolk District Council Chairman Cllr James Caston, and members of the Royal British Legion to lay wreathes outside Milton House in memory of Her Majesty The Queen. Residents joined in leaving their own floral tributes and mementos at the flag pole outside the Town Council offices.

Following the county proclamation at Ipswich Town Hall, on Sunday 11th September there was a local reading of the proclamation by Stowmarket Mayor, Councillor Barry Salmon, to announce the Accession of the new Sovereign. At the conclusion of the proclamation a Church Service of Affirmation for the new King was held in Stowmarket Parish Church.



NEWS

The Regal nominated for Cinema of the Year Award!

The Regal has been shortlisted for Cinema of the Year Award at The Big Screen Awards 2022!

Our recently redeveloped, multi-purpose venue is one of just six cinemas to be shortlisted for Cinema of the Year Award 2022 (24 screens or less) by Screen International.

Arts and Entertainment Manager David Marsh said: "We are hugely proud to be shortlisted for such a prestigious industry award, we would like to thank the judges for their vote and the people of Mid Suffolk for supporting The Regal in such big numbers."

The Regal and the other nominated venues were chosen from more than 200 eligible cinemas by judges from the film industry, including Daniel Battsek, director of Film 4, Hamish Moseley, head of Netflix UK Distribution, and Matt Smith, head of theatrical for Lionsgate Pictures.

The winner will be named at an awards ceremony in London on 24th November. Good luck to all the venues shortlisted!





ENVIRONMENT

Wild Areas

This year local community groups, residents, schools and businesses across Stowmarket were encouraged to give a piece of their gardens back to nature.

The Wild Areas initiative inspired residents and groups to leave patches of land unmown between spring and autumn to encourage wildflowers, bees, butterflies, bugs and more. From this initiative over 25 acres were given back to nature and marked with a Wild Area sign.

Since the start of the initiative in 2021, Stowmarket Town Council have successfully committed 34,548 square metres of land to rewilding on Town Council property including the Recreation Ground, Milton House grounds, Old Cemetery, New Cemetery, and near the Melford Road play area.





ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity Community Action Day

In September we held our second Biodiversity Community Action Day in partnership with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Food Museum.

Local schools, community groups, residents and Town Councillors attended to help create over 100 new wildlife habitats on Food Museum land. Including installing 50 bug hotels and 25 birdboxes made by Stowmarket Meadlands Men's Shed. Thank you to everyone who took part in helping to increase our town's biodiversity.



Tree Planting Day

This year's Community Tree Planting Day will take place during National Tree Week, on Thursday 1st December 2022. With the support of the Volunteers of Stowmarket (Eco), six mature, native trees will be planted at the Recreation Ground. Since 2019 Stowmarket Town Council has facilitated the planting of 900 trees and saplings on sites across Stowmarket such as the Recreation Ground, Food Museum, Milton House, and along the River Gipping path. This means we are on target to achieve our goal of planting 1000 trees/saplings in Stowmarket.



COMMUNITY

History Digitisation Project

Stowmarket Local History Group, Stowmarket Town Council, and The Hold, Ipswich (Suffolk Archives) are currently working on an exciting project to safely store and digitise the Stowmarket Historical Records Collection.

The collection has been held privately by members of the Stowmarket Local History Group for many years, but it will soon be moved to a new location to ensure the town's history is securely stored for future generations.

There are over 20,000 items in the collection with approximately 11,000 images, 7500 documents, 3000 slides and many books. The collection provides a large amount of important information about the history of Stowmarket.

Stowmarket Local History Group make regular use of the collection at their meetings, and from time to time it is open to the public at community engagement events. It is also used as key point of reference in handling enquiries about the town's past or in developing proposals for its future, for example, proposing new road names which draw upon the history of the town.

However, there is great potential to make the records more accessible locally, throughout the region, UK and across the world. This will be done by digitising the collection and making it available online, free to the public.





COMMUNITY

What's next for Stowmarket

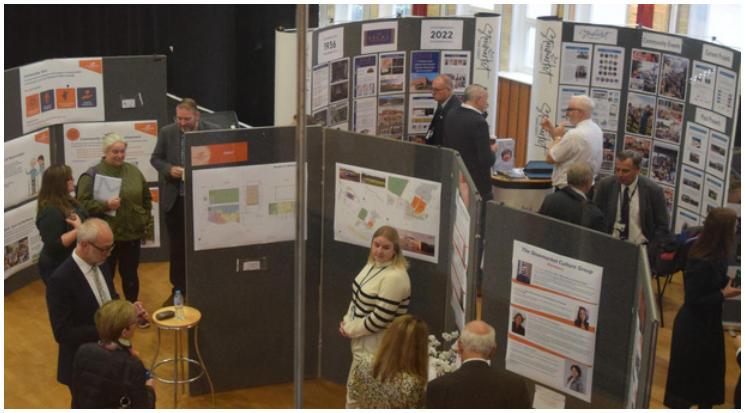
In September Mid Suffolk District Council and the Stowmarket Vision group hosted the 'What's Next for Stowmarket?' event, where they showcased a range of local projects to residents, visitors and businesses.

The event, which took place at the John Peel Centre, provided visitors with the opportunity to learn more about the Stowmarket Vision programme from key partners, as well as info about new projects and plans.

Projects and partners exhibiting at the event included:

- Stowmarket Vision
- Sports, health, education and leisure facilities (SHELF)
- Gateway 14
- Old Middle School Housing Development
- Creative wayfinding and placemaking
- Innovation Labs
- Food Museum
- John Peel Centre and 11 Market Place
- Old Fox Yard Design Quarter
- Stowmarket Culture Group
- Stowmarket Town Council
- Virtual High Street

To find out more about each project and partner, and share your thoughts with Mid Suffolk District Council go to their website: midsuffolk.gov.uk/business/economic-development/stowmarket-vision/whats-next-for-stowmarket/



EVENTS

Stowmarket Christmas Fayre returns!

On Sunday 27th November, 10.00am to 4.00pm, the hugely popular Stowmarket Christmas Fayre returns. The Fayre will be held in a variety of locations across the town centre and will host festive market stalls with gifts, treats, food and drink from local and regional traders . In addition, there will be fairground rides and street entertainment, including stilt walkers, carol singers and brass bands.

The Food Museum will be hosting Father Christmas, fairground rides, animals and a variety of stalls to browse. Their FEAST café will be open along with a pop-up bar in the medieval barn. At the John Peel Centre there will be a line-up of festive music including performances from Stow Chorale and Ipswich Reggae Choir, alongside seasonal drinks and a record fair. The Regal will be showing classic Christmas films thought out the day.

And if that wasn't enough, you can visit over 360 trees at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter and St Mary's Church, and enjoy a Christmas Craft Market at The Mix. A charity family fun area will take place at Red Gables and children will be able to create seasonal crafts at Stowmarket Library. Free toy-building workshops are taking place in St Peter's Hall, and the Stowmarket Lions Club will be hosting festivities at the Royal British Legion on Tavern Street.

Thanks to our generous sponsors:

BONITAS WHOLEFOODS

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Taylor Wimpey



Christmas Tree Lights Switch On



The Stowmarket Christmas Tree Lights switch on will take place on Friday 25th November from 6pm at St Peter and St Mary's Parish Church. ITV Anglia newsreader Becky Jago and Mayor Barry Salmon will switch on Stowmarket's Christmas tree lights. This will include the town centre Christmas tree, Combs Ford Christmas tree and the Christmas Tree Festival lights all being switched on at the same time.





There will also be festive food at the Osier Café, children's Christmas crafts at Stowmarket Library, Christmas arts and a winter art trail at Fox Yard Studio, Christmas films at The Regal, adults pottery painting in the 1936 Café Bar, live music by Baskery at the John Peel Centre, Christmas beers and festive entertainment at The Walnut, live music by Jenna Oxbury and Bagel or Beigel food stall at Pallet Bar, and much more!

Remembrance commemorations



This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the 13th November, a day to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian service personnel in the two World Wars and later conflicts.



The traditional remembrance parade will march through Stowmarket from Red Gables at 9.00am, continuing down Ipswich Street to St Peter and St Mary's Church for the 10.30am Civic Service of Remembrance. Following the service the parade congregates in the Market Place, before marching to the Recreation Ground for a short service at the Memorial Gates. There will be a two minute silence at 11.00am followed by the laying of poppy wreaths which will be carried out by representatives of local organisations and community groups.

At 11.30 the white poppy service will take place at the Recreation Ground Memorial Gates.