

Congratulations to Sgt Duncan Slater from Scole who was named as the Overall Champion and Against All Odds winner at the recent national Brave Britons awards 2021. He was presented with his award by the Falklands War hero Simon Weston.

A plaque has been commissioned for every parish and town council across Norfolk to recognise the work of communities during the pandemic. In order to highlight the unity displayed by people throughout the COVID 19 crisis, Lady Dannatt, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Norfolk, has approved the plans. The plaque will use the design skills of Norwich University of the Arts graduate Ruby Douglass and the wording from a team at Norwich's National Centre for Writing. The style of lettering and shape of the plaque were chosen as a visual way to celebrate the community overcoming such a difficult year. The cost of the project has been met by local Norfolk charities and parish and town councils can apply to wellbeing@norfolkALC.gov.uk for their plaque.

Norfolk County Council has agreed to put £70,000 into an online scheme called Crowd Fund Norfolk. Communities would be able to bid for cash from the county council pot to pay half the cost of an environmental scheme, with a maximum grant of £15,000. The initial focus would be on encouraging tree planting and protecting the county's windmills. On tree planting, that could include a single tree on the edge of a sports field, or a small orchard on the boundary of a village. On the windmills, Norfolk has the finest collection of historic wind and water mills and pumps in Britain, 21 of the best examples being conserved by the Norfolk windmills Trust for the nation as a whole.

Fire Safety reminder for Norfolk's Businesses

Many businesses had to close their doors or change their ways of working due to the pandemic. But as they have now reopened business owners and responsible persons must review Fire Risk Assessments to reflect any changes they have made in response to the pandemic in the workplace. It's important that steps are taken to ensure staff are suitably trained, fire equipment is checked and maintained and any covid secure measures do not compromise fire safety. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service can provide free help, and guidance to help and to minimise the risk of fire in the workplace. You can find out more at Safety in your business – at Norfolk County Council. Business owners needing fire safety advice can contact the community fire protection team on 0300123 1669 who will gladly offer support.

At the recent Connected Britain Awards, NCC won the internet of Things (IoT) Award for its Long-range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) for sending and receiving low power signals from digital devices and objects. Objects and devices in the LoRaWAN each have built in sensors that capture small packets of data about their status or information from their surroundings and report the information via the network. The technology allows roads to flag up when they need gritting, rubbish bins to say they need to be emptied, rivers to say when the water level is getting close to flooding, and parking spaces to say whether they are empty or occupied. Sensors in the home can help people to keep living independently in their own homes for longer, and much more. It also helps businesses in Norfolk to innovate, develop expertise in this emerging sector and grow.

Finally, it's good to see the new Zebra Crossing in Wilderness Lane.

My next surgery is at HIP on Saturday November 6th at 10am

Best Wishes
Martin