



Saxmundham Town Council Newsletter

Spring 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Saxmundham Spring 2022 Newsletter



This year, 2022, sees the 750th anniversary of the King's grant of our town's first Market Charter in 1272. Saxmundham proudly boasts being an historic market town, while also facing the future with confidence. A Town Guide published back in 1940 called Sax "a strange but fascinating mixture of the ancient and the modern." That still rings true!

We're living through difficult times again – which makes it all the more important to take time out to celebrate and promote our town, our history,

businesses and community. After all, it's not every day that you're 750 years old!

The Market Charter was granted by King Henry III, whose 56 year reign was the longest ever at that time. We will, of course, also be marking the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II (a 70 year reign thus far!), with a Saxmundham Community Lunch on Sunday 4th June in the Market Place. The '750' celebrations will kick off on Saturday April 23rd, with a heritage & history event at the Market Hall in partnership with the Museum and Local History Society, with a little liquid refreshment to inspire our memories...

On the weekend of 8 – 10th July, we are organising a Festival with a 'Middle Ages' theme, complete with knights, colourful tents and activities, a Charter signing ceremony, plus a Vintage Market in the High Street and Fromus Square.

The Memorial Field, created in the aftermath of World War 1, sees its own 100th anniversary this year; we have a planned programme of improvements, and will hold a remembrance event there in November. The final main event of our year will be in December, when our Christmas Fair will again have a Victorian theme.

We hope you'll join with us in making our 750th anniversary a year to remember for Saxmundham.

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EXCITEMENT AT SAXMUNDHAM MARKET

Thanks to grant from East Suffolk and a donation from the Saxmundham Business Association the Town Council has appointed Jess Palmer and Michael Light as Town Centre Coordinators for 6 hours a week.

For our new coordinators, the top priority is to revive Saxmundham's Market which is currently a very small affair. There could be no better time to tackle this than in the 750th year of Saxmundham's Market Charter.

This year the Town Council is piloting 8 new artisan markets to be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month April-November. From April we will also be working to reinvigorate the

Wednesday Market with new stalls and a fresh new look.

If the town is to retain its long-held status as a market town, we need to better support our loyal traders, entice new ones in, and increase footfall to ensure we can keep this vital resource in our town.

Saxmundham's Town website has had a redesign and we need your ongoing help to keep the information up to date. If you have a business or community group in Saxmundham you can have a free listing advertising your activities. Check the website to view whether you have been listed already and contact the Council with your

details if you would like to be added! There is also an events calendar to promote activities in Saxmundham. Everyone can submit an event by visiting the website Submit an Event (saxmundham.org)

We would love to hear your views on The market there is a short survey that can be completed online using the link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W3SJWV7> Paper copies are available from the Town Council Offices (Across from the station).

Responses should be submitted by the 15th of April 2022



Jess Palmer



Michael Light



Fresh fruit and vegetables at the market

SAXMUNDHAM BUDGET 2022/2023

Each year, the Town Council works out a budget to support its policies for the town and our community. Most of our income comes from the Town Council element of Council Tax, collected by East Suffolk Council. This year we have been able to hold our element of Council Tax at last year's level, because our finances are in good shape and we fully appreciate the economic difficulties our community will be facing in the months ahead. Our element of Council Tax for a Band D property will therefore be £143.28 a year, just £2.76 a week.



Chair of the Resources Committee Cllr John Findlay

SAXMUNDHAM BUDGET SUMMARY		
INCOME		
Including £227,328 from Council Tax	£	£229,528
Plus a transfer of £25,092 from our reserves.		
So the total we have to spend is		£254,620.
PLANNED EXPENDITURE		
Staff salaries and related costs	£	85,350
Councillor development		2,550
Office and administration		24,820
Grants and events		68,000
<i>Including the Market Hall, the Christmas event, community, and youth events</i>		
Loan repayment (the Town House)		21,400
Communications		8,500
<i>Including newsletters, website, and town promotions</i>		
Neighbourhood Plan		1,000
Town improvement		22,500
<i>Including Sax in Bloom, market development, Fromus Square and walkways, town gateways and speed reduction, environmental improvement, and Memorial Field</i>		
Maintenance		20,500
<i>Including play areas, street furniture and the Youth Booth</i>		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£254,620

750 HIGHLIGHTS

Join us for a year of fun-filled family events to celebrate the 750th anniversary of our Town's first Market Charter. King Henry the III will be visiting the town with his entourage to stage a reenactment of the signing of charter on the 9th of July.

There will also be an antiques and vintage market and lots of historical activities for everyone to enjoy over this weekend. The Sax Community Fest makes a welcome comeback at the end of July.

Themed outdoor markets are scheduled to take place on the second Saturday each month. Look out for the Market Hall Events program which is launched in April with a family production of the HG Wells Time machine.

THE SAXMUNDHAM MARKET HALL PRESENTS H.G. WELLS THE TIME MACHINE

Tickets are £8 and can be purchased online

The Time Machine Tour 2022 Tickets, Fri 8 Apr 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite

An eccentric Victorian inventor travels into the planet's distant future, where he discovers an idyllic garden-earth and quickly bonds with the peaceful inhabitants.

But when, in the still of night, his Time Machine disappears the traveller is forced to confront the true fate of humanity's future and must overcome a subterranean horror in a desperate escape back to his own time.

Utilising spoken word, puppetry and a fully working Time Machine The Keeper's Daughter transform this classic Victorian sci-fi into a neon-electro adventure for the entire family. Suitable for ages 7+



Saxmundham Market

2nd Saturday of the month & every Wednesday



SHOP LIKE YOUR HIGH STREET DEPENDS ON IT, BECAUSE IT DOES!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MARKET, SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

SPEED WATCH FOR SAXMUNDHAM



In common with many villages and towns across Suffolk, Saxmundham Town Council is seeking to encourage a volunteer-led *Speedwatch* team to work with our local Police in reinforcing the 30 mph speed limit in areas of our town.

It is common knowledge that excess speed for the conditions, or the speed limit is one of the main reasons for accidental deaths and injuries on our roads. Speeding is also a concern that is often raised by residents and councillors and establishing a local *Speedwatch* is seen as one way to improve the safety on our roads for pedestrians, dog-walkers, cyclists and all road users.

Assistance has already been offered by our local Police and the next step is to form a team of volunteers.

Here’s how you can help:

We need a small team of volunteers (approx. 12) to help make our roads safer. If you think you can help, or have any questions, please email townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk

Please note, this is not a massive commitment! After some initial training by the Police on what to do and how the equipment works, it is anticipated 2 or 3 *Speedwatch* sessions a year, subject to the availability of equipment. Each session is about an hour long and involves a team of 3 volunteers: so we think roughly 15 hours or so for each volunteer over a year. That is a small commitment but could help make a big difference to safety on our roads.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

We published and consulted on the first draft of the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan (NP) late last year. Over 150 people came to our drop-in sessions at the Market Hall, and in the end nearly 100 written comments – some brief, some lengthy – were received. Many thanks to all! Most responses were broadly supportive; many helpful comments and criticisms were received on specific issues.

The NP Steering Group has looked in detail at each of your comments, and as a result, a number of changes will be made.

The next steps (it’s a long and complex process!) are:

- The Steering Group sends its 2nd

draft, with the changes, to East Suffolk Council (local planning authority), which does its own 6 week consultation

- East Suffolk then passes the draft NP to an Independent Examiner, who may also propose drafting changes
- The final version is published by East Suffolk Council, which organizes a local referendum in Saxmundham
- If more than half of those voting in the Referendum say Yes, the Plan is adopted.

Please note, a NP cannot by law contradict National or Local Plan

SHOULD THE TOWN COUNCIL SEEK TO TAKE ON MORE PUBLIC LAND?

Saxmundham Town Council is the owner of some public land in the town – e.g. the Memorial Field, some playgrounds (not all) and the Market Hall – but more public land is owned by East Suffolk Council. This includes Fromus Square (between Waitrose and High Street), the Market Place car park and WCs, as well as other green spaces. These include the green between the Hopkins estate and the river (‘Fromus Green’), and the area along the brook in Brook Farm estate.

The District Council has asked us if the Town Council is interested in taking on any of their land assets in the parish (though they do not promise to do so). The Town Council has identified Fromus Square is its number one priority to take on, since it offers many opportunities for activities such as market stalls and entertainments.

We also have a potential interest in taking ownership of the car park, as this would allow parking policies and pricing to be adapted to the town’s needs. However, maintenance of car parks and WCs does not come without significant net cost, which would fall to the Town Council (i.e. our ‘share’ of council tax). Of the green spaces, ‘Fromus Green’ is near the centre of town and could give local people more say over how it is maintained and used – but the cost of maintenance would fall locally as well.

At this stage, we would like to ask whether you agree or disagree in principle with the Town Council seeking ownership of any of these assets, and if so, which one(s). We would, of course, need to ensure that the cost of doing so was reasonable before doing so.

policies. The 800 dwelling Garden Neighbourhood is a policy of East Suffolk’s Local Plan. We have tried to ensure that this new development will work as well for the town as we can, but the NP cannot change that policy.

There are two big pluses to having a NP in force:

(a) it provides more local say, through its policies, when planning applications for development in Saxmundham come forward,

(b) the town gets more funding via Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers; the percentage received by the town for new developments goes up from 15% (now) to 25% .

Celebration Events



Month	Event		Location	Times and Info
April	8	HG Wells Time Machine	Market Hall Town Centre Market Place	Starts 6pm Tickets £8 10-3pm Free 10-2pm Free 7pm – Free booking required
	9	Spring Market		
	13/20	Saxmundham Sunflowers		
	23	Heritage Evening		
May	14	Food and Drink Market	Town Centre	10-3pm Free
June	11	Artisan Makers Market	Town Centre Market Place	10-3pm Free 12.30- 4.30 £8 per table of 6-8
	5	The Queen’s Jubilee Lunch		
July	9/10	750 Festival weekend	Town Centre	9am- late Free 12pn- late Free
	29/30	Sax Community Fest		
August	13	Family Friendly Market	Town Centre	10-3pm Free
September	10	Green Market	Town Centre	10-3pm Free
October	8	Beer & Food Market	Town Centre	10 – 10pm Cost TBC
November	11	Memorial Field Dedication	Memorial Field	TBC 10-3pm Free
	12	Christmas Handmade Gifts Market	Town Centre	
December	2	Victorian Christmas	Town Centre	4pm – 8pm Free

For details of all events please visit www.saxmundham.org



A year of celebration events to mark the 750th anniversary of the royal grant of Saxmundham’s first Market Charter in 1272.

The Town House, Station Approach, Saxmundham, IP17 1BW

Tel: 01728 604595 Mobile No: 07508 677873

IP17GNS UPDATE

Saxmundham's community-based volunteer service, IP17GNS, is busier than ever. We're setting our sights on building a resilient and inclusive community that cares for each other. Now, 2 years after we began, we intend:

- People in our community are confident in asking for help when they need it and providing help to others when they can.
- People in our community feel less lonely, more connected and have opportunities for social interaction.
- People in our community are more confident and motivated to make changes to their lives to improve their health, well-being and life chances
- People are proud to live in our community.

Our trustees and management committee are dedicated to these aims and providing services and activities which achieve them.

The idea behind a Good Neighbour Scheme is different from a lot of charities in that while we do offer financial and practical help to people, we also place a big emphasis on finding solutions and skills within our existing community that will enhance the lives of others.

Our volunteers and funders live in the community they serve and there is a real sense of coming together to make our local area a better place to live.

Since the beginning of the year, we have completed 382 jobs which are in line with our values. These include 134 prescription deliveries to people isolating or unable to leave their homes, supplied 144 people with emergency food provision (including distributing £5k of Tesco vouchers kindly supplied by Suffolk Community Foundation). 'There is an acute and ongoing need for services to support struggling families in IP17,' explains Bryony Peall, IP17GNS's Operations Manager. 'People are being squeezed with higher bills alongside cuts in support such as Universal Credit.'

We have also made 41 personal-shopper trips for people who can't get to the shops themselves and our Line Dancing, Gather & Grow and Funky Fridays groups have attracted 160 participants and encouraged social interaction and physical activity.

This month we will be celebrating our 2nd anniversary, as a charity. The activities our volunteers carry out now is often quite different to those early days of Covid. But the impact it has within our community is no less important or impressive. In recent years we have navigated

some of the most challenging times. IP17GNS is proud to have facilitated our community growing stronger as a result of coming together to support each other.

High Sheriffs Award Winner 2022:

We are absolutely thrilled to have been recognised as **Suffolk's Caring Community Award Winner**.

The annual Suffolk High Sheriff's Awards are designed to reward the volunteers and charities devoting their time and energy to improve the communities in which they live.

We certainly could not have achieved this without a lot of energy from our incredible team of volunteers. An enormous **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported us.

Community-to-community support set to bloom across IP17 with the Sunflower Spectacular

This year, to commemorate the 750th anniversary of Saxmundham's Market Charter, we'll be planting 750 sunflowers around the town.

The aim is to create a colourful display whilst getting local residents involved in growing. It's well documented that spending time in nature is a great way to boost wellbeing and we're hoping this, along with the joy that comes from a community effort, will make this event a success.

The inspiration for this project was given to us by Saxmundham resident Jean-Jaques DeBelgeonne who is incredibly passionate about growing sunflowers and wants to share his expertise with the community. Together, with the Town Council's Sax Green Team, we're aiming to work with local schools, care homes, businesses and volunteers to bring it to fruition.

Join us & get planting!

There will be a pop-up stall on Samundham Market **20th April 10am-1pm** where you can sow sunflower seeds for your own garden and the community flower beds. Green Team leader, Amy will be there to welcome anyone who wants to get involved. Help us fill our town with sunshine this summer!

Sunflower awards

In September, after a season of growing, we'll be awarding prizes to the most interesting sunflowers, with categories including tallest, shortest, most heads etc. Watch this space for further details.



SAXMUNDHAM
SUNFLOWER
SPECTACULAR

Seed sowing event

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL
SAX MARKET POP UP STALL

Help us fill our town with **Sunshine** this Summer, by planting **Sunflowers** to enter our grand competition.

(judging will take place w/b 19th Sept)

IP17GNS
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Saxmundham GREEN TEAM

Free Entry, Everyone Welcome

Gather & Grow

A weekly group for little ones (under 5) and their grown-ups

NEW TIME & DATE!

Market Hall,
Saxmundham
Thursdays
9:15-10:45am

Providing a place for young children & their Parents, Grandparents or Carers to meet, socialise, play & have fun.

Adults must stay & be responsible for those in their care. £2 donation per child. Text **07592042079** or email **contact@ip17gns.com** for more info.

IP17GNS
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Beginner's Line Dancing

Saxmundham Market Hall

Monday evenings
7:30-9 pm

Line dancing will continue each Monday evening (except Bank Holidays and the 2nd Monday of each month)

Call **07835 064509** to book a place or further details.

No need to pre-book, we adhere to social distancing regulations, We take a register to ensure we can Track And Trace.

IP17GNS.com
HERE TO HELP - STAY SAFE

Sax Community Fridge

Opening Times

Monday: 11am - 1pm
Friday: 11am - 1pm

Saxmundham Community Fridge is a way of redistributing good food to **ALL** members of the IP17GNS community.

A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of food that would otherwise be binned.

The Town House,
Station Approach,
Saxmundham,
IP17 1BW

Community fridges promote a spirit of sharing to strengthen community bonds, alongside helping to reduce food poverty in these challenging times.

IP17GNS
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

For more information or to contact us please use:
0333 335 5266 or Find us on Facebook

SAX
COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Saxmundham Jubilee Lunch

A community lunch in Saxmundham to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Live music, singing, dancing and activities for the children.

Tables and chairs for groups of **6-8** can be booked online at a cost of **£12**.

There will be cakes and nibbles provided but everyone is welcome to bring their own picnic and refreshments.



If you do not want to book a table, you can bring your own fold up chairs, but please email the Town Clerk if you are coming, so we make sure we have enough cake! townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk

Booking:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/saxmundham-jubilee-lunch-tickets-274176117147>

Saxmundham Market Place
Sun, 5 June 2022
12:30 – 16:30



Eventbrite booking:

