BUSINESS FESTIVAL WEST SUFFOLK

Your guide to this year’s Business Festival, October 4-15
RESULTS DRIVEN LAND PROMOTION AND BUSINESS SPACE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

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This wonderful part of the country

John Griffiths MBE, councillor and leader of West Suffolk Council, looks ahead to a festival which he feels is sure to inspire...

Welcome to your Bury Free Press/West Suffolk Business Festival supplement.

This is your essential guide to all the events that we and our partners have coming up to help your businesses continue to grow and succeed here in West Suffolk.

I know that operating a business during the pandemic will have presented challenges for many of us. We also recognise that despite government and other support, West Suffolk businesses are still struggling and many have not survived. However, as a council dedicated to working with our business community, I have been heartened by the many stories of resilient businesses who have changed and adapted, as well as individuals who have decided to start their journey as an entrepreneur afresh.

It’s now the 11th year of the West Suffolk Business Festival, which, alongside key national events, is the opportunity to make new business connections, find out how to access financial support and advice, to break up and learn new skills, and be inspired by innovation – has never been more important to all of us in businesses as they are now at this time of economic and social recovery.

So, we are delighted to be able to offer a strong mix of face-to-face and online events for this year’s festival. It has been more than a decade since we first got together with partners including the Bury Free Press to discuss creating a festival to support, challenge and champion the very best of West Suffolk businesses.

A great many things have changed in that time. New partners have come on board, but principles have remained the same – doing what we can to help businesses achieve their ambitions.

MENTA, New Anglia Growth Hub, Heritage Innovation, West Suffolk Manufacturing Group, the Eo Centre in Hadleigh, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, New Anglia LEP, Cambridge to Norwich Tech Corridor, the CBI, the University of Suffolk and West Suffolk College are all involved in the festival this year.

We hope our latest festival inspires you and provides a network of contacts to help you realise your ambitions, whilst also contributing to the economic vitality of this wonderful part of the UK.

The festival, of course, all comes to a head with the brilliant Bury Free Press West Suffolk Business Awards. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the success that has been achieved by many West Suffolk businesses, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at the festival and celebrating the success of West Suffolk businesses once again.

BUSINESS AWARDS
Join us at the 10th Bury Free Press Business Awards!

The awards showcase the best businesses from the length and breadth of West Suffolk. A great opportunity to support and share in the Business Festival’s vision to raise the profile of industrious, hardworking and enterprising companies.

Friday 15th October 2021
St Edmund’s Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds

Tickets are now available on 01284 757831
Award-winning creative director Cam Morris

Chris Morris
Bury Free Press Business Reporter

A copious amounts of coffee, jumping in at the deep end, a supportive partner and an office dog. These are just some of the secrets of success for Cam Brown.

Cam, 36, founded Allegro Creative Agency in 2017 after leaving university. It has been the success of his venture, his client base has now grown from local to international.

He has moved office twice to bigger spaces, the agency now has four staff as well as a team of freelancers he calls on.

Cam is now also working with a new business partner, Mat Schollar, XI.

“I’m really pleased how things have worked out and how Allegro’s reputation has grown, especially around Suffolk,” he said.

“In a short space of time, since I founded the business in my living room, it’s still surprising and delights me when people call having heard of us through word of mouth, or I post something on the street, and people say you’re Cam from Allegro.”

Allegro is a multi-service creative agency with a focus on film, photography and graphic design. Cam won the Bury Free Press West Suffolk Business Award for Young Entrepreneur in 2019.

His clients now range from local companies to major organisations. He has been called to work on events in Europe and design projects for clients in South Africa, Paris, Los Angeles and London.

“A recent project involved raising awareness for a musician in Malawi,” he said.

“We produced the album cover and posters amongst other things, and filmed him when he came to London. That work came through a music producer I have worked with in the past, who also produced Mumbri & Sons.”

Having founded the company in west Suffolk, however, Cam is committed to the region. Companies he works for include Constable St Edmunds, Oakville St Edmunds, Trottier and Dune, Burtonworth & Sons, Wrights Cafe, Casa Tapas & Bar and the Theatre Royal.

He has also just got married to his partner, Kate.

“Kate has been very patient.”

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It still surprises and delights me when people call having heard of us through word of mouth.

Cam Brown
Allegro Creative Agency

putting up with the late nights and stress and it’s been great to have that kind of support along the way,” he said.

“I have always been a believer in jumping in at the deep end and taking on projects, for example, that make you nervous, as you learn from them.

“And I mustn’t forget our dog, Hugo, too, who comes to the office every day, and has been with me all along.”

New business partner Mat said:

“Cam and I used to share office space when I was running a video production company; so it was a natural fit for me to join Allegro.

“As an events-led business, I’m looking forward to the next couple of years as the world returns to a new normal.”

Dan Cole, Allegro junior creative, Cam Brown, managing director, and James Stoten, videographer

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Prospects are once again on the rise

Matt Hancock
MP for West Suffolk

As I reflect on the past year and a half, I recognise the trials and tribulations that businesses have been presented with under these unique circumstances. Long term closures, financial hardships and keeping custom are just a few such challenges businesses, both small and large, have faced over the last 18 months. What is most poignant is the inspiration taken from these businesses when I consider the way they have adapted to operate throughout the pandemic, during and after these challenges. We’ve seen businesses increase their online operations from selling products and services to communicating in a virtual world and developing their social media presence to achieve this.

Moving through the months, it is encouraging to see businesses accelerating out of the pandemic, which is a clear achievement of those operating in West Suffolk. I have been the Member of Parliament for this constituency for the past 11 years and I have consistently seen that West Suffolk is such a great location for both business and personal growth. Nowhere is this captured better than at the West Suffolk Business Festival, which I am proud to be supporting as it enters its eleventh year.

As we collectively move out of the pandemic, the festival is a great opportunity to network during a brunch event hosted by Bury-based business support organisation MENTA, and support each other and businesses to continue to raise the spirits and prospects that are once again on the rise. In addition, the festival’s events ensure that this will be a place to encourage practices in keeping with the current climate, including teaching tips on how to effectively use social media to communicate and advertise and a lecture on business sustainability at West Suffolk College.

As we recover from the pandemic it is vital we support our local businesses - who create the jobs, income and prosperity on which we all depend. This event is one that fundamentally aims to address the business challenges faced during the course of the pandemic which is why it deserves the utmost support. Providing businesses the chance to develop new and existing acumen skills, broaden their networks and lean on each other as restrictions ease, are all crucial to success post-pandemic.

The West Suffolk Business Festival encompasses all of these opportunities and I have no doubt it will be a valuable event for all those who engage.

Matt Hancock is encouraged to West Suffolk business’ resilience

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Let’s celebrate our business offering

Jo Churchill
MP for Bury St Edmunds

Given the challenges I know local businesses across all sectors have faced over the past 18 months, this year’s West Suffolk Business Festival is more important than ever.

We are fortunate locally to have a wide range of vibrant business sectors, agriculture and food production, logistics, technology, finance and hospitality to name a few.

Many have played a crucial role during the pandemic, despite the difficulties and challenges they have faced.

It has been a testament to the ingenuity and adaptability of local businesses that we have seen innovation of offer and working practices.

This, in a timespan that many would have previously believed not possible.

As we are all aware, businesses are pivotal in creating a thriving economy and as we begin to rebuild and refresh, we must ensure that the support so universally welcomed by businesses allows them to grow and succeed whether they are servicing needs locally or globally.

We need to look to the future, and this is why I supported the creation of a Freeport at the Port of Felixstowe, already a major trading hub.

As the UK’s biggest container port, it will increase opportunities for businesses to trade globally and enter fast-growing markets across the world.

I know workforce and skills are a key concern and it is important to see continued relationships between businesses and educational institutions locally.

Ensuring our young people have the skills the future economy will need is vital to growing successful businesses and a sustainable economy.

Businesses have an important role to play in this and I never become tired of hearing of the cooperation that takes place locally.

Businesses start with a new idea, offer or innovation, but grow their success because of people and skills.

West Suffolk has a lot to offer on the business front – so let’s celebrate and grow our offer from there.

“I never become tired of hearing of the cooperation that takes place locally.”

Bury St Edmunds MP Jo Churchill believes West Suffolk is fortunate to have such a wide variety of industries.

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Our Bury St Edmunds
Business Improvement District
Sense of community is still just as strong

This will surprise all of you – I celebrated my 21st this year. It went slightly under the radar but, nevertheless, the anniversary was marked, albeit with the threat of Covid still looming large. So many happy returns... to me.

Yes, May 2006, was certainly a very different time for Bury St Edmunds on the day I first walked through the doors of the Bury Free Press as editor.

No internet. All news was put out via the printed newspaper. It all seems so very a-s-e-w looking back now.

Imagine telling your children the internet was down at home and they would have to read a book instead. Or play a board game. You know, like growing up in the 1990s.

Times change and so does the way children play, learn and so, too, does the way we do business, the way we shop and the way our customers and clients interact with us.

For the news business, we have morphed in those 21 years from being a once-a-week newspaper to a 24/7 operation. If news breaks, you can read it from one of my journalists via our app, our website, and our social media channels on the smartphone in your pocket. Now that’s what I call progress.

Bury itself, was very different at the turn of the century.

Yes, the medieval grid looked pretty similar, but the Castle Market was still here, there was no arc, no Cineworld cinema, and the sight of someone walking around in a mask would have drawn curious stares.

In my first few days, the newspaper staff went off to the rugby club to take part in a charity firewalk for St Nicholas Hospice, raising funds for Nicky’s Way. And that same sense of community and togetherness saw me and other partners launch the business festival and these business awards a decade ago.

That thankfully is what hasn’t changed in the intervening years – there’s always a sense of others in this corner of West Suffolk and long may that continue.

We come together each year as business leaders, as community champions and as award hopefuls to celebrate what we have, praise excellence and shine a light on our stars in this glorious corner of West Suffolk that we call home.

Barry Peters, editor of the Bury Free Press

Barry Peters: “There’s always a sense of others and long may that continue.”

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A special festival that always offers more and more

John Digmore
Chief Executive, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce is proud to once again be a partner in the West Suffolk Business Festival, working alongside owners, Elves Media. Suffolk Chamber is the leading voice of business across the county. We are also like the businesses we represent - a major force nationally, being one of the largest of the 33 accredited chambers in the British Chambers of Commerce's network. As it happens we are also local leaders in being the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the country.

The Suffolk Chamber is West Suffolk based, led by our chair Steve Elson, provides a dynamic and focused forum for both lobbying for the needs of our local business communities and in shaping the policies of Government and local councils to ensure that sustainable prosperity is always a priority.

Because of this grassroots approach, we are agile and responsive to the very precise challenges and opportunities faced by our members in west Suffolk, whether they are based in Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Mildenhall, Newmarket and each of their respective surrounding areas.

Specific west Suffolk campaign objectives include
- improving East-West rail links, addressing A14 junction bottlenecks, encouraging local businesses to be better ready for procurement opportunities arising from construction projects at West Suffolk Hospital and RAF Lakenheath,
- working with training providers to ensure that local businesses have long-term access to the skills they need to grow.

We are also a consistent voice for our members and the wider business community on the big ticket issues that affect all of us no matter where we are based in the county. These include improving all aspects of our county’s infrastructure via our Transport & Infrastructure Group, addressing the productivity puzzle through our new People & Skills Group and ensuring that Suffolk businesses are ready to take maximum advantage from the emerging international trade deals.

This year’s Festival is the festival because it is about the West Suffolk business community in the right way. It allows companies to showcase their products and services. It gives businesses the chance to share ideas and discuss the issues that really matter. It rewards and recognizes great business success stories.

We wish everyone a great Festival!

Paul Braden
President, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

Over the years the West Suffolk Business Festival has become a key feature in the local business calendar allowing local and regional firms like mine to explain their business propositions and their staff to network with a purpose.

Each year there appears to be more going on, more events than ever before, across more locations and platforms than ever before and with more entries than ever before for the awards.

But the 2021 Festival will be special, not least as our economy recovers and is renewed from the challenges that we have all faced due to the economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I think the collective responses to the last 18 months or so reflects the very real dynamism and innovation that seems to be a part of the natural makeup of west Suffolk’s business community.

Our economic base seems to be able to adapt and improve almost regardless of what else is going on around it.

But of course, the impact of big decisions taken elsewhere cannot be ignored; whether that be our new trading relationship with the European Union or the continued need for us to have a skills base that accelerates and does not impede our wealth creation activities.

Yet such is the confidence and ceaseless pursuit in delivering great products, services and solutions to customers that I’m sure our local businesses will continue to succeed and be part of the wider East Anglian story of being a net contributor to UK plc.

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce looks forward to playing a key role whenever and wherever it can; whether that be through the advice and support we can offer from New Anglia Growth Hub, which we manage on behalf of New Anglia LEP through to our prospective role in representing businesses on the Local Skills Improvement Plan project to ensure the future skills pipeline.

We also organise numerous networking events – both of the physical and virtual variety – offering the chance to hear inspiring business speakers and to meet like-minded businesses in your area.

In short, we’re here to help you and your business.

I’m very much looking forward to this year’s Festival and hopefully will see you there!
MENTA asked what business wanted and delivered the perfect solution

MENTA Business Support chose to rest its traditional business show event this year for public safety concerns.

In 2020, the exhibition at The Apex registered a footfall more than 1,600 and so “plans had to change”, according to MENTA events producer Nick Pandoili.

He said: “We have welcomed the opportunities Covid has given us in rethinking what businesses want and the shape our events for the festival will take. As a result, we kick off the two-week festival with an official launch event which includes a business networking brunch prepared by award-winning Bury St Edmunds café No 5 Angel Hill.

“This event will welcome partners, businesses and see the leader of West Suffolk Council, John Griffiths MBE, cut the ribbon to start things off. The networking event will also be streamed live across Facebook and YouTube.”

MENTA business support and training helps business professionals build on experiences, win new skills, make new contacts and take their enterprise to the next level.

Rated as one of the top three business training providers in the UK, it operates in Suffolk and Norfolk and has one-stop shop business hubs in Bury St Edmunds, Brandon, Haverhill and North Norfolk.

MENTA also offers business unit spaces, co-working and meeting spaces in some of these locations. The organisation researched its database for the West Suffolk Business Festival and asked what specific business support SME owners wanted.

More than 48 per cent of respondents suggested assistance in growing business online – with methods to reach customers, as well as how to generate online sales.

A series of digital training sessions will be delivered without charge thanks to the support of Bury-based Apex Deli & Office Supplies and energy provider EDF.

The sessions include SEO advice, social media marketing and branding of businesses online. Sessions in Instagram, Facebook and Pinterest are also being delivered.

MENTA CEO Alex Til said: “We have adapted our selection of events to include smaller scale face to face events as well as online options.

“We feel this gives the support businesses have told us they want and expect from us. MENTA has also partnered with EDF energy and will be hosting a

Sinewell C suppliers chain event. This event, hosted by MENTA in partnership with West Suffolk College, will allow West Suffolk businesses to hear directly from the EDF team and understand the business opportunities for their business.

Nick Pandoili continued: “We are excited to help showcase the immediate and lasting economic benefits this project offers cross-sector businesses from across West Suffolk.

“Working with hospitality and live event production students at the college, the evening tickets event will include talks, food and drink and break-out networking.

“We feel it adds a fresh element to the West Suffolk business festival.”

JAYNIC
RESULTS DRIVEN LAND PROMOTION AND BUSINESS SPACE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND
WELCOME BACK TO THE WEST SUFFOLK BUSINESS FESTIVAL
JAYNIC.CO.UK
Meet the company building a dynamic economy in Suffolk

Bury St Edmunds-based Jaynic is on a mission to boost business and support the community as well.

Jaynic, the property developer which focuses most of its activities in Suffolk, has had a bumper 12 months expanding its development portfolio and doing deals with warehouse occupiers.

Managing director Nic Rumney is very happy with the way events have unfolded.

He said: “Of course it has been a very challenging year for everyone but finally the hard work is beginning to pay-off and we are seeing real progress right across the board.

The company has 7.38 million sqft of warehouse and business park development, mainly in Suffolk but also in Cambridgeshire and Essex, that is being, or is earmarked for development, resulting from land promotion agreements with landowners.

The latter half of 2020 saw its biggest-ever warehouse deal with Belgian logistics giant Weerts selecting Suffolk Park in Bury St Edmunds as its launching pad for UK expansion with an 876,000sqft warehouse building that Jaynic is in the final throes of completing for the company.

It has just submitted a planning application for phase three at Suffolk Park with a unit for parcel carrier Hermes and two further warehouses to be developed speculatively adding another 280,000sqft of space at the park.

And towards the end of 2020 Jaynic, acting as development manager, completed the multi-million pound 112,000sqft first phase of the new UK headquarters for Treant plc at Suffolk Park.

The company is a London Stock Market quoted global flavour and fragrance solutions provider, that has been based in Bury St Edmunds for nearly 50 years.

In 2021, with the Covid pandemic appearing to recede, the mantra throughout the country, and indeed the country, has been ‘back to business’ – and Jaynic has taken advantage of this.

In the spring, Jaynic bought Karru Food Limited’s redundant 28-acre southern site opposite Karru’s retained plant at Little Whittington on the A14 between Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds.

The development is to be called the Stoner Business Park with five acres already allocated for employment in West Suffolk Council’s adopted local plan, the Rural Vision 2031.

Jaynic has made representations to the council to seek an extension to the existing employment allocation in the new emerging local plan on the remaining 14 acres.

It may also include land for recreational sport and open space.

Nic said: “We have bought the Karru site because we are seeing substantial demand for warehousing space at each of our sites in Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket.

“We believe that this location will prove attractive to potential occupiers.

“It has the potential to accommodate a single facility up to 220,000sqft.”

One of the company’s successes stories this year has been The EpiCentre at the Haverhill Research Park.

Having opened in the midst of last autumn’s lockdown it has quickly established its innovation centre credentials, providing occupiers with the option of both laboratory and conventional office space on flexible terms.

The centre manager, Oxford Innovation, has plenty of experience in managing innovation centres with a network of 26 centres around the UK.

At Haverhill, facilities include wet and tissue culture labs, 30 offices of varying sizes, co-working space and communal areas including equipped kitchens and a café.

There really is something for everyone whatever stage their business is at.

As well as the business support Oxford Innovation provides, The EpiCentre has a Cambridge postcode but, unlike congested Cambridge, it offers occupiers ease of access with plenty of car parking on more economical terms and is helping to extend the London-Cambridge tech corridor.

Suffolk Park is the only major allocated employment site with planning permission in Bury St Edmunds.
into Suffolk.
And, finally, in August of this year, Gateway 14, a mixed use business, technology and warehouse park in Stowmarket at Junction 8 of the A1120 was granted planning consent for 245 million sq ft. The park will deliver a range of opportunities for occupiers. New facilities will be available on a bespoke and speculative basis making it the ideal location for office, R&D, logistics and manufacturing users. The mixed-use park will comprise high specification space and will have the benefit of on-site and local amenities and will also provide access to a strong local and regional labour pool. Gateway 14 is a development by Gateway 14 Ltd (wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council) and Jaynic. Nic has the final word: “With all these schemes underway and more planned in the pipeline, we will be busy for some years to come providing employment generating uses and helping to build a dynamic economy for Suffolk.”

‘We are proud to support the community’

Jaynic, as well as developing business and logistics facilities in Suffolk, recognises that there is more to creating a thriving community than just putting up buildings. There is a need for the community not only to have pride in its workplace, but also to have pride in the area in which they live. The company is sponsoring the Bury Free Press Awards and has made a three-year commitment to support the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds.

Nic Burney, Jaynic’s managing director, said: “We plan to develop in Suffolk for many years to come, so we think it is imperative to play our part in helping to knit the community together over the longer-term. “We recognise the importance of the working environment where local people spend the majority of their working hours during the week, and for this reason we are sponsoring the Bury Free Press Awards, as well as the Lifetime Achievement Award.”

This award recognises a business person or organisation whose culture and commercial principles are targeted at bringing a greater good – and solving social challenges for the local community. Also, Jaynic is proud to be principal sponsor of the Theatre Royal at a time when it has never been more important to support local and regional communities where the arts play a vital part. “There can have been no greater loss to the communal vitality of Bury St Edmunds when the lights went out in early 2008,” said Nic. “We are very happy that, 14 months on, the theatre is alive and well with an exciting programme of events already in the diary for the coming year.”

And, for the second year in a row, Jaynic was also the main sponsor for the Girls Night Out sponsored walk in Bury St Edmunds in aid of St Nicholas Hospice Care, in Bury St Edmunds.

Jaynic is the main sponsor for Girls Night Out in Bury St Edmunds.
### Monday, October 4

**Launch and Networking Brunch**  
@INC, Bury St Edmunds  
9:30am

Join the businesses and key stakeholders for the launch of the 2021 West Suffolk Business Festival. The official launch of this two-week festival includes opportunities to network with key business leaders as well as a means for you to discover the business support opportunities and festival events available to SMEs.

### Tuesday, October 5

**Skills for Growth**  
Online  
10am

At this free event, you will be able to access the knowledge and expertise of professionals working in or adjacent to skills sectors. If there are skills or knowledge gaps in your business and you want to develop your workforce but need help with training and securing funding, this event will give a snapshot of some of the projects or initiatives and will help you make the most of the public funding available.

**Key Aspects of Google my Business**  
@INC, Bury St Edmunds  
10am

This Google my Business sixty-minute session will give you take-away actions to make your business more visible, to those searching for your business sector right now.

### Wednesday, October 6

**Back to Business**  
The Epicentre, Haverhill  
9:30am

As we prepare to get ‘back to business’ post-Covid, many people are not aware of the support available to them locally to help with recovery, growth and acceleration. This event is designed not only to demonstrate the strength of our own team and offering but also the infrastructure of business support that exists from the wider network that can help build and reinforce this eco-system and help your business with your own ambitions to strengthen and grow.

**Eat to Enhance Your Productivity**  
Online  
12pm

As part of the West Suffolk Business Festival 2021 we are pleased to bring you this fascinating workshop. Many people avoid snacking during the day but at this session you will learn that the right type of snacking has the potential to support and enhance your daily productivity. Learn about the power of snacking and how it can build and support your energy levels.

### Thursday, October 7

**Top Tips for Facebook**  
@INC, Bury St Edmunds  
10am

This sixty-minute session is designed to help business owners realize the potential of the platform and show how to utilize the many business benefits that exist.

**How can we help your business?**  
Online  
11am

Discover what the New Anglia Growth Hub can do for you and your business. You will have the chance to meet some of our advisors, ask some questions and learn ways in which we can help.

### Friday, October 8

**Virtual Tour of BT Innovation Showcases at Adastral Park**  
Online  
4pm

Join us for a virtual tour of BT’s world-class innovation showcases, featuring over 250 technology demonstrations set in real-world scenarios.

**Sizewell C Supply Chain Supper & Networking**  
Edmunds, Bury St Edmunds  
6pm

This free ticketed event is an opportunity for business leaders to hear directly from EDF Energy and understand how your business could benefit from this proposed infrastructure project. The event will include key representatives from EDF Energy who will share the business contracts and supply opportunities available.

**A Taste of Sustainability**  
West Suffolk College, Bury St Edmunds  
8am

Join us for A Taste of Sustainability coffee morning from 8am to 10am. Have a hot or cold beverage and breakfast item on us. Introduction from the Sustainability Development Coordinator. Talk about what is to come with the Sustainability Centre, joining and creating a network. Talks from our guests, plus a chance to network.

**Practical Leadership Skills**  
Online  
10am

One hour session with Dr Wil Thomas, Senior Lecturer at the

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**JAYNIC**  
RESULTS DRIVEN LAND PROMOTION AND BUSINESS SPACE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND  
[jaynic.co.uk](http://jaynic.co.uk)
a packed diary of events

Introduction to Agile Project Management
Hethel Innovation
Online
10am

Right now a project is failing. Projects fail or suffer delays every single day. The failure of projects is almost never due to lack of technology. It is because of poor management of people and process.
Agile project management is a way of approaching a project using small and powerful teams. These teams take greater ownership of tasks, understand the bigger picture and work on a cycle of continuous improvement to accelerate towards being the best they can be.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Energy for Business
New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Online
10am

Join us to find out about the changes you can make to improve energy efficiency in your business. From the first steps measuring and auditing your energy use to practical changes and longer term investments.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Tech & Beer
The Epicentre, Haverhill
The Epicentre
5.30pm

Join us for our tech extravaganza from (what we believe is) the South East’s newest tech/science centre of innovation. The Epicentre, located in the Suffolk/ Cambridgeshire countryside - perfect for an evening of meeting, networking and inspiration!
Five tech speakers will compete head-to-head for the elusive Tech and Beer challenge of victory, plus a whole of energy and positive tech collaboration.

Your Funding Journey
Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor
Online
10am

The Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor is home to the people and the innovative and technology businesses tackling the grand challenges facing humanity and shaping the future of food, energy, medicine and mobility and more.
Part of the work we do is helping businesses that are actively looking for investment and funding support to understand where they are in their funding journey and connect with those organisations within the funding and investment landscape.
This event will enable you to discuss, understand and meet four options and organisations that form part of the funding journey.

West Suffolk Manufacturing Group
Online
2pm

The West Suffolk Manufacturing Group was established in 2019 and is supported by West Suffolk Council, the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, Hethel Innovation and West Suffolk College.
It is a growing group, keen to meet like-minded ambitious manufacturing & engineering companies who are interested in sharing best practice and collaborating to assist the growth of members and develop the sector across West Suffolk.

Safari Networking with Tour
West Suffolk College, Bury St Edmunds
8.45am

Join us for a safari networking breakfast event at West Suffolk College as part of the West Suffolk Business Festival - a great way to make business connections, boost wellbeing and just have fun.
The format is relaxed but structured to ensure you get the best possible experience enabling you to move around the room and connect with multiple business contacts to get the best value for your time.

Mental Health
in Haverhill
Haverhill Business Centre
9.30am

Our popular face-to-face business networking events in Haverhill take place at our business centre on Hollands Road in Haverhill.
We host these events on the first Thursday of each month apart from August and December.
Join us and enjoy networking that welcomes all and is free of membership and long presentations.
These events attract a wide demographic of business owner, freelancer, and employee.

Brush up your Social Media
Menta
Online
1pm

This FREE session is designed for business owners that are looking to improve their digital skills and grow their business online through the help of key social media platforms.

Changes – Transforming Women in Business
The Epicentre, Haverhill
5.30pm

To bring together a community of women to share experience and fast track changes in their belief around what is possible in their careers. Each female key note speaker will share the biggest challenges that have impacted them, and how they overcame these and the overall influence this has had on their career. The event explores how gender and change punctuates our careers: how can we derail our ambitions and define who we are, unless we learn how to confront it and activate change.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Bury Free Press Business Awards
St Edmundsbury Cathedral
7pm

The awards showcase the best businesses from the length and breadth of West Suffolk. A credible opportunity to support and share in our vision to raise the profile of industrious, hardworking and enterprising companies.
Business awards are a sought-after accolade of achievement, a veritable endorsement of success in business which offers exceptional marketing and PR opportunities as well as increasing your credibility and standing in the eyes of your peers and your customers. Of course, it feels pretty wonderful too!

For further information about the festival or any of these events and to book a place, visit: www.businessfestival.org/
MAKE THOSE WISHES KNOWN...

It is not always a given that your loved ones know your wishes for a funeral or service of celebration. A lot of decisions must be made at the time, and it can be stressful for those entrusted to make arrangements.

Here at Armstrongs we have been working towards a way that the stress and worry can be reduced, and have produced a booklet that anyone can have, complete, and possibly share with their loved ones.

There is no financial commitment to doing this, and you don’t have to use Armstrongs at the time you need a funeral service.

The guide provides the main points to consider when arranging a funeral such as burial or cremation, choice of vehicles, flowers etc, and there is also plenty of space for writing your own notes and instructions should you wish to expand on the details.

We have also included a section on the steps to take once a death occurs. We are all aware that if you have not experienced a funeral before, the process may be daunting. It is our aim to give the information necessary to allow the next of kin to take the first steps in the process, and to hopefully make this less confusing.

The Reverend Tony Redman, priest with the Blackbourne team had this to say about our booklets:

“Death is part of living. We will all be faced with it at some stage. I am always encouraging people in my parishes to write down their wishes, and the things they want to be remembered for. It is another way of both planning a fitting service, and keeping your own memories alive after you have gone”.

The My Last Wishes guide is available at our office or at various outlets in Bury town; but you can also request a copy, with no obligation by calling 01284 723 889 or emailing office@funeralhelp.co.uk and we can post one to you.

01284 723889
www.funnelhelp.co.uk

From the worst of times to the best possible future

Mark Cordell
Chief Executive
Our Bury St Edmunds BID

Our Bury St Edmunds BID is now in its 11th year and is well established as the organisation that represents the majority of town centre business in Bury.

The past 12 months or so has been a very challenging time for our members and customers. We commenced our fifth year term on April 1 last year and were immediately faced with a national lockdown and the need to provide advice and guidance for our businesses working closely with West Suffolk Council in co-ordinating the provision of Government grants.

I am very proud of the role we played in this process but am also extremely grateful for the diligence and speed in which the council dealt with this issue, overseen by the Economic Development Team, which undoubtedly enabled some of our businesses to survive at a time of complete turmoil for them in regards of their immediate future.

Little did we know at the time that this would not be the only time that Government funding would need to be distributed to our businesses, during 2020.

Thankfully, the past few months have been less chaotic, although not without its challenges and we have been able to work with the council and businesses regarding trading in an unrestricted environment.

We have co-ordinated the provision of the cafe seating on Angel Hill and worked with the district and county council in extending the prohibition of vehicles in Abbeygate Street, which has consequently encouraged hospitality businesses to access pavement licences and have

an outside dining alternative.

I personally think both of these changes have enhanced the atmosphere and appearance of this part of the town but as has the other areas of outside dining that now exist around the town. Since the beginning of the year we have seen an influx of new independent businesses in the town and more recently notification of some national brands also opening here, which is very encouraging.

The reopening of the town in the early summer has enabled us to deliver three outside events in the town centre, all of which have been a great success and well attended and we were delighted that they were so well received by the public.

The footfall in the Abbeygate Street and Angel Hill part of the town has been excellent and exceeded 2019 levels, undoubtedly partly due to the popularity of the Abbey Gardens - but we are mindful that this level of visitors has not been replicated across the town centre and is something we will be working on.

As you would expect we are already planning for Christmas and we are working with other organisations in preparing a number of activities to attract visitors and also at the same time planning for next year, so the ‘in tray’ is overflowing.

The concept of the ‘achievement’ has been highlighted this year and no doubt town businesses have benefited as a consequence, and with the likelihood that next year will see the return to international travel, then we will once again be competing with other locations for the tourist spend, and this is a very competitive market.

We are hopeful that the Abbey 2000 celebrations in 2022 will give us the edge over our competitors and the BID will be organising an interesting and informative Heritage Trail around the town, as well as helping to promote a number of other attractions under this banner.

So, as mentioned above, the past 12 months of so have been interesting, challenging and at times very difficult for many businesses but history shows that the overwhelming vast majority have survived and are still trading and are looking forward to a more optimistic, positive, and successful future.

We, at the BID, will do all that we can to support, advise, guide and assist our members, wherever we can, as thriving local businesses will only benefit the local community and attract visitors to the town.
The class (acts) of 2019

See more on our 2019 award winners overleaf

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26 years supporting Employers, Apprentices and Learners
A celebratory night to remember

It was a night to remember.

Twelve categories, twelve winners - each at the top of their game.

Cheers filled The Apex on the night of October 11, 2019. The eighth Bury Free Press and West Suffolk Business Awards brought to an end the ninth West Suffolk Business Festival and celebrated our business heroes, in style.

It also celebrated and was attended by all those who make west Suffolk such a vibrant and dynamic place to work, and live.

Guests were welcomed by Bury Free Press and BF Media's chief revenue officer Ricky Allan. He praised the innovation of the west Suffolk business community and the special relationship BF Media's newspapers and digital platforms have with the community. A relationship steeped in history and trust.

MP Jo Churchill highlighted the many and varied business success stories she hears about first hand on her regular visits across the area, saying innovation and job creation remained strong and growing.

Host and comedian Ian Moore proved a popular MC and introduced all sponsors and winners to the audience of 300. No one knew then however, how the landscape would shift so dramatically just six months later. The pandemic turned the world upside down, in every way, and confusion reigned as people were consigned to their homes and business forced to shut down.

But it is testament to the west Suffolk community that the region is not only emerging with vigour, but prospering, once again.

“The past 18 months has been a challenging one for all our communities and local businesses; challenges for business owners to remain afloat and the challenge to hold on to the successes worked so hard for over many years, at a time when our communities were threatened with the worst pandemic most will ever see in their lifetimes.

“But there are always individuals and organisations that galvanise to ensure we get through the pain, and no more so than in the west Suffolk business community.

“It is these we will celebrate at the West Suffolk Business Awards, 2021,” said Bury Free Press editor Barry Peters.

The Apex was the venue for the 2019 Bury Free Press West Suffolk Business Awards.

Hall Farm are proud supporters of the Bury Business Festival and sponsors of the Rural Enterprise category at the Bury Free Press Business Awards.

Good luck to all the well deserved finalists

Instagram HallFarmFornham
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Supporting West Suffolk Business

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Bury Free Press
Business Awards

BUSINESS AWARDS

15th October 2021
Venue: St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Dress Code: Black tie
Arrival time: 6:30pm Drinks Reception
7.00pm - 3 course meal followed by awards
Finish: Midnight

Table of 8 - £470+vat
Individual tickets - £59 +vat

To purchase tickets: please contact
Lesley on 07803 505617
Sara on 01284 757831

Email: lesley.smart@iliffepublishing.co.uk
or cse@iliffepublishing.co.uk

WEST SUFFOLK 2021