

NORWICH

CITIZEN

AUTUMN 2014

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NORWICH
City Council



4-5

New mixed recycling scheme is launched



15

Update on new cycling routes



12

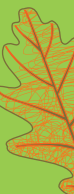
Big Boom! fireworks display is back



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CONTENTS

PAGE 6 Making more space for city parking

PAGE 8 Keeping warm this winter

PAGE 11 Riverside Leisure Centre is better than ever!

PAGE 20 Celebrating Norfolk's Black History



“Back by popular demand, is our Big Boom! fireworks display”



Message from the leader, Brenda Arthur

As the nights begin to draw in, now is the time to think about preparing for autumn and winter – a time of year that brings some real delights.

The trees in our parks will be looking colourful and this edition of *Citizen* has a feature on Wensum Park, which is a great place to visit. Other autumn highlights include Black History Month – a chance to celebrate the diversity of our city – along with Heritage Open Days, which provide an opportunity to explore some of our city's architectural gems.

At the end of October there will be a chance to celebrate Halloween with the Spooky City events at Norwich Castle and The Forum. And, back by popular demand, is our Big Boom! fireworks display.

While there are plenty of opportunities for people to get out and about and enjoy our fine city, I know many people find themselves worried about their fuel bills as the temperatures

drop. So in this issue there are also some helpful tips on how to save energy in the winter months.

Meanwhile, given the pressure there is with on-street parking in Norwich and the growing demand for spaces, we consulted with people about our parking permits and listened to what they said. You can find out about the resulting proposals for visitor permits in this issue and how to give us your feedback.

Additionally, we are considering changes to the road network as part of our Push the Pedalways cycling initiative. You can read the latest on the programme in our article on page 15.

Finally, there is good news about a new mixed recycling scheme which will make it easier for people to recycle more items than ever before.

I hope you'll enjoy this *Citizen* and take advantage of this city's wonderful parks and open spaces and enjoy the diverse programme of events on offer this autumn.

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Norwich City Council events

A recycling REVOLUTION

The countdown has begun for a revolution in the way people in Norwich can recycle at home.

Exciting improvements are on the way from **Wednesday 1 October** which mean you will be able to recycle lots more in your blue bin.

For the first time, you will be able to recycle plastic pots, tubs and trays, including yogurt pots, margarine tubs and plastic meat and vegetable trays.

Tetra Paks, like the ones containing juices and soups, will also be taken, along with shredded paper and envelopes (including windowed envelopes).

And kitchen foil and foil trays, like the ones containing takeaways and ready meals, will also be added to the list of things you can recycle.

The other major change is that the green box will become redundant. Glass bottles and jars will go in your blue bin with everything else, rather than being separated out. From **Wednesday 1 October**, we will not collect your green box or dispose of it for you. However, they are very handy around the home and you can use it for whatever you like.



aerosol cans. Please remember to rinse everything out.

Don't worry if your blue bin becomes full, because we will collect extra recycling if it is put in a cardboard box or clear bag next to your blue bin.

However, you must put your glass in the blue bin and not leave it loose on the pavement as side waste.

Keith Driver, cabinet member for recycling, said:

“We are keen to urge every resident of our city to recycle as much as possible.”

“These improvements to our service are great news. Not only can you recycle more, but it's actually easier because you can put everything in one bin and be done with it.”

You can still put all the same materials you always have done in your blue bin, including cardboard, cans, plastic bottles and



Look out for your letter!

Within the next three to four weeks we will be sending you a letter telling you personally how your new recycling service will work.

Please look out for it and take the time to read it carefully, as you will need to know how to adapt to the changes.

We would also ask you to make sure your blue bin lid is properly closed. Your weekly food waste collection stays the same.

The changes are happening across the county because all eight local councils are part of the Norfolk Waste Partnership, which has recently signed a new waste and recycling contract to enable a higher rate of recycling.

All councils need to recycle more and reduce what they send to landfill, both to help the environment and avoid expensive European Union (EU) fines.

For more information, log on to www.norwich.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling or call 0344 980 3333.

Please remember, the changes don't come into effect until Wednesday 1 October.

Please remember to wash out all your food and drinks containers before you put them in your blue bin. All you need to do is rinse the materials out with water. This is really important as it helps to keep your recycling bins clean and improves the quality of the recycling that we collect.



Have your say on visitor permits

We've been reviewing our visitor permit parking scheme and now we want to know what you think about the proposed changes.

In our public consultation last year about the parking permit system as a whole, a lot of people voiced concerns over the misuse of visitor permits.

In many parts of the city this has led to reports of there being insufficient on-street parking spaces for residents.

With this in mind, we have responded with proposals for a new scheme that we feel should help address these issues.

At the end of July, our highways committee approved the following proposed changes to be put forward for consultation:

- A new short-stay, visitor permit offering two hours of parking for visitors (operated by a 'clock'). This would be offered free to households on certain means-tested benefits.
- Up to 60 'pay-as-you-go' day-permit scratch cards per household, per year.

Based on 'spot' surveys, we estimate a typical customer would use a short-stay permit, plus between 10 and 20-day permits per year. Some might choose not to buy visitor permits at all and just buy a few day-permit scratch cards.

The committee felt this system should cover most people's needs.

However the consultation provides a chance for residents to identify circumstances that might fall outside of this provision.

Details on how to comment are below. In particular councillors would like to hear from people with carers who visit their homes and whether this scheme would fit in with their needs.

How to comment

A full report on the proposals is available to download at www.norwich.gov.uk/permits Alternatively, please call 0344 980 3333 to request a hard copy.

You can share your thoughts on the proposals by emailing transport@norwich.gov.uk, writing to us at **City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich NR2 1NH** or by calling the number above.

All comments must be received by 5pm on Friday 26 September.

The outcome of the consultation is due to be reported at the highways committee meeting in October.

Any changes to the visitor permit scheme are likely to be put in place at the beginning of next year.

What are the proposed new costs?

Short-stay visitor permit:

£19	12 months
£14.50	6 months
£23.50	18 months

Pay-as-you-go scratch cards:

£1 a day in city centre controlled parking zones,
50p a day in outer area controlled parking zones.

Transforming city traffic

Shoppers, cyclists, pedestrians and bus users are all set to benefit from traffic improvements to the St Stephens and Chapel Field North area of the city.

The work is part of a £1.4m vision for the area to introduce ways of improving sustainable travel in the city centre – hugely important for a growing city, which has many demands placed on it.

Central to the success of the project will be effective traffic-flow management, while at the same time balancing the needs of all who live, work in and visit our vibrant city.

The scheme will transform the way traffic uses the city centre and includes making St Stephens Street a car-free zone and introducing a 'bus gate' between Marks & Spencer and Debenhams.

This will allow access for buses, cyclists and taxis to the area but not private cars – significantly reducing the level of traffic in these busy streets. Access will be managed through a new camera enforcement system, rather than physical barriers on the road.

To give people the chance to get used to the new arrangements, they won't be enforced immediately, but we do need to make sure that the anticipated benefits to this part of the centre are fully realised. If it proves successful, we will extend it to other bus priority areas.

In addition, Chapel Field North, Cleveland Road and Bethel Street will become two-way. This will maintain access to homes, businesses and car parking in the area, but the other measures will reduce through traffic. Little Bethel Street will become cyclists and pedestrians only.

Mike Stonard, cabinet member for environment, development and transport, said: "These improvements will reduce traffic in the city centre, making it a more pleasant place for shoppers and cyclists, while also improving the reliability of public transport services."

Scheme funding came from the Department for Transport's 'Better Bus Area' fund, Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council, the Greater Norwich Development Partnership and developers.

Work started on Chapel Field North at the beginning of July, with the scheme due for completion in time for the Christmas shopping season.

For more, visit
www.norwich.gov.uk/transportfor Norwich



IN SHORT

As part of the Transport for Norwich (Norwich Area Transport) strategy, the scheme as a whole is designed to:

- make the area a better place for shopping
- make journeys into and around Norwich easier
- create a safer and more accessible environment for cyclists and pedestrians
- promote quicker and more reliable bus services.



Keeping cosy, cutting costs

Saving money, staying warmer in your home and helping the environment have all become much easier thanks to a new city council project.

Cosy City is a scheme through which people in Norwich can access public funding to help pay for energy-efficient improvements to their homes.

It could potentially pay for a whole range of upgrades, including external wall and flat roof insulation, double-glazing and new boilers.

And in some circumstances, you could even get loft and cavity wall insulation completely free.

Making sense of all the energy-efficiency grants and money available from central government can be tricky, but the Cosy City scheme does all the hard work for you. All you have to do is sign up and hundreds of people have already done just that.

Sign up now to Norwich's Big Switch and Save to find out whether you can save money on your energy bills. It's free and there is no obligation.

The scheme is open until Monday 13 October.



Register your details for free, and with no obligation, and our trained officers will do the rest. Whatever your income or circumstances, you might be surprised at your entitlement.

Our officers will look at the type of property you live in, your postcode and a range of other factors and contact you.

If appropriate, you could be visited by a trained energy assessor who will assess your home to establish all the elements you need for optimum energy efficiency. We will inform you of your grant entitlement – hundreds or even thousands of pounds could be available.

Mike Stonard, cabinet member for environment, says: "As a council we are dedicated to tackling fuel poverty, helping people maximise their incomes and generally playing our part in making Norwich's economy as prosperous as possible. The Cosy City scheme helps us to achieve these aims.



"The main thing to remember is that the time is now – sign up now so you stand the best chance of reaping the benefits of a warm home by the time the winter is upon us."

Note: Cosy City is available to homeowners and landlords only.

For more information and to sign up log on to www.cosycity.co.uk

Find out more about how to keep warm and well this winter with our Winter Wellbeing event. A range of agencies will be offering help and advice along with tasty tea and cakes on **Monday 29 September at Blackfriars Hall in Norwich.**

A monumental occasion



As Norwich prepares to mark the centenary of World War I, four of the city's war memorials have been refurbished in honour of the occasion.

Work to the Edith Cavell, Boer War, Duke of Wellington and

Admiral Lord Nelson statues was carried out earlier in the year ahead of the commemorative events this autumn.

Interest in all of our memorials will increase during this time, but there will be particular attention on the Edith Cavell statue.

Situated in Tombland, just outside the grounds of Norwich Cathedral, this 1918 memorial by Henry Pegram stands in tribute to the Swardeston-born martyr.

Edith Cavell trained as a nurse and worked for the Red Cross in Brussels, but in 1915 was charged and executed by the Germans for helping British soldiers to escape.

All four of the memorials were cleaned of pollution and verdigris using steam cleaning techniques

and then a finish was applied to protect their surfaces.

On behalf of the city council, NPS Norwich appointed the contractor Fairhurst Ward to carry out the work, which was completed well in advance of the centenary events.

Mike Stonard, cabinet member for environment, development and transport, says: "These war memorials are an important part of our heritage and we have a duty to preserve them. It is fitting the statues are looking their best at this significant time."

Roll of Honour

Another project marking the centenary is the restoration of the Norwich Roll of Honour.

Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, who was also responsible for the War Memorial, the roll is a record of 3,500 men from Norwich who



lost their lives in the Great War. It consists of a wall-mounted case with oak panels bearing the names of those who died. It is a unique piece of history; there are no other Rolls of Honour like it in the rest of the country.

Plans for its refurbishment will see it move from The Keep in Norwich Castle to the City Hall foyer.

The city council is working on the project with Norfolk Museums Service and a group, including the War Memorial Trust, Norwich Society and veterans' organisations, has been established to raise the money needed.

Battle of Britain Week

For details of our events, log on to www.norwich.gov.uk/events





But a major revamp of the eight-and-a-half acre area was carried out in the 1920s.

It cost £10,598 and was carried out under a scheme to employ the workless men of Norwich.

The park was finally completed in 1925 and the pavilion and architecture of the well-known parks superintendent of the time, Captain Sandys-Winsch, still remains today.

Wensum Park is laid out as a series of wide terraces enjoying a view of the river. The main entrance opens onto a balustrade viewing platform looking out over woodland to the Wensum Valley beyond and there is a central, lawned terrace and a circular rose garden.

It is Grade II-registered on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.

Along with St Clement's Park, Wensum Park is one of only two city parks in which dogs are not allowed.

Love your parks!

Our series celebrating the picturesque parks of Norwich this time focuses on one of our smaller, but no less loved parks north of the city.

Wensum Park is well worth a visit. It is close to the city centre off Drayton Road in a lovely riverside setting, boasting superb wildlife, pretty river walks and an enclosed children's play area.

With its slopes, unexpected nooks, and natural wildlife areas, it's an

ideal place for exploration. Children can splash about in the paddling pool in summer and there is also a charming labyrinth, which was installed as part of Norwich's millennium celebrations.

Back in the early 1900s, the park had been used as something of an unofficial dumping ground.

Green Flag success!

It's official – Eaton Park is one of the best in the UK.

In July, it was given the prestigious Green Flag Award by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy.

A Green Flag recognises the park as a place that boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully

maintained and has excellent facilities.

This fantastic news is the result of a lot of hard work from groups including Friends of Eaton Park, Norwich Norse and the council's parks and open spaces team.



Read more about all our parks and open spaces, at www.norwich.gov.uk/parks

Leisure at your pleasure



A little over a year has passed since the city council's new contractors, Places for People Leisure, took over the helm at Riverside Leisure Centre. And what a year it's been!

With almost half-a-million pounds worth of investment by the Living Wage employers since the new 11-year contract began in March

2013, the centre has been the focus of some fantastic improvements which have restored pride in the council-owned facility.

Improvements include a brand new gym. This has resulted in the doubling of the group exercise class programme, with more than 50 classes now offered, ranging from body combat to body

balance and aquafit to indoor cycling.

In addition, a steam room and sauna have been installed, the gym's changing rooms re-decorated, and wi-fi introduced.

Brenda Arthur, cabinet member for sport and leisure, said: "I'm always delighted to hear about sports facilities which provide lots of different activities at affordable prices, as it encourages people to lead active lives and reap the health benefits this brings."

Our sports heroes

On 2 July, Norwich City Council was proud to hold its annual Norwich Sports Awards. The 2014 winners were as follows:

Young achiever – Cameron Kirby, Norfolk Snow Sports Club

Adult achiever – Nathan Dale, The Kickstop, Norwich

Volunteer of the year – David Mann, UEA City of Norwich Swimming Club

Sports school of the year – City Academy Norwich

Team of the year – UEA Women's Rugby Union Club

Club of the year – City of Norwich athletics club

Coach of the year – Jane Blackwell, UEA City of Norwich Swimming Club

Contribution to disability sport – Katy Dunne, The Garage

Active for health award – OPEN Youth Team

The Norman Centre award – Barry Ferguson, Norman Centre Bowls League

Championing active travel – Suzanne Reeves, Health Walks



This year's winners with the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Judith Lubbock.

Membership offers

Riverside has reduced its full membership price from £37.40 to £29.99 per month. This includes access to the gym, swimming and classes.

Casual visitors

Centre users can opt to pay each time they visit and Go 4less customers can enjoy the benefits of their sport and leisure card to claim discounts.

Go4less

Swimming programme

This has been developed to offer pool time to everyone in the community – including schools, swimming clubs, aqua fit classes, general swimming and lessons for all ages.

SPOOKY CITY

Mon 27 – Fri 31 Oct

Join us if you dare!

- **10am-6.30pm Costumes and mask making • Norwich Castle**

Make costumes, masks and accessories for the Spooky City parade. Enjoy live music and spooky snacks.

- **5pm-8.30pm Carved pumpkin display • Outside The Forum**

Bring along your carved pumpkin to feature in the pumpkin display before 5pm and see if you win a prize.

For details visit www.theforumnorwich.co.uk/events/spookycity.

Sponsored by Almary Green Investments.

- **6.30pm Spooky City Parade**

Norwich Castle to The Forum
Dress to impress and join all the other witches, wizards, ghouls and ghosts, on this city centre parade.

- **6.30pm-7.30pm Ghoulish performances and glowing pumpkins outside The Forum.**

- Half-term activities for families in the heart of the city.
- Spooky crafts and chilling dungeon tours at Norwich Castle. Entry ticket required.
- Free Halloween craft workshops, story-telling and a truly MONSTER pumpkin at The Forum.



Pumpkin carving competition sponsored by

Almary Green



the Forum

BIG BOOM!

Norwich Castle fireworks

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

We are here for the craic, the burst and the boom, so join us in the city this November for a spectacular free fireworks show.

Seating for disabled people will be on St Peters Street, at the Gaol Hill end.

Public transport: **Bus:** Five-minute walk from Norwich Bus Station. **Train:** 15-minute walk from Norwich Train Station. **Park and Ride:** Thickthorn and Airport Park and Ride is open until 9pm.

For more information about our events, visit:

www.norwich.gov.uk



@EventsNorwich



Norwich City Council events

History comes alive

Uncover historic Norwich murder stories, witness a Victorian trial re-enactment or visit a life-size blitz street as part of this year's Heritage Open Days.

The free events, organised by Norwich's Heritage and Economic Regeneration Trust (HEART), are a chance to delve into the city and county's fascinating heritage.

This year's programme runs from Thursday 11 to Sunday 14

September and is extra special; the nationwide scheme celebrating its



20th birthday and HEART marking 10 years running the event in Norwich.

Events include: open buildings, guided tours and walks, heritage literary events, exhibitions and performances across Norfolk.

Among the highlights:

- A Guildhall literary day comprising talks on Norwich murders, the history of Bracondale and stories of renowned city merchants, including the Pettus family and Robert Toppes.
- Norfolk in the First World War at Norfolk Record Office.
- Kid's Takeover Day at The Guildhall, featuring a



Victorian trial re-enactment and an opportunity to make your own stained glass window.

- Two heritage walks with the East Anglian Pilgrimage Network.
- Blitz Street – a life-size street scene transporting you back to the Second World War.

To find out more, get a brochure from the Tourist Information Centre at The Forum or log on to www.heritagecity.org

Please note that some events need to be pre-booked.

World War I events

A host of events are taking place in Norwich and across the rest of the county to mark the centenary of World War I.

You can keep up to date with all these and read about Norfolk's Great War stories via <http://Norfolkinworldwar1.org>

The World War I project, which will run for four years, will tell Norfolk's unique story and look

at the conflict's impact on everything from families and the work of women to support services like the Red Cross and Forage Corps and local agriculture and industry.

If you have any 'Norfolk in World War 1' stories you'd like to share, email norfolkinworldwar1@gmail.com





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An artist's impression of plans near Magdalen Street.

Magdalen Street

This project will enable people to cycle down Magdalen Street into the city centre – a route that is currently blocked by the one-way system. It will also be easier for pedestrians to cross the top of the street at Magdalen Gates. The image shows what the changes will look like.

These proposals were supported by most people that responded to the consultation and, having been approved by the highways committee, will now be built.

Current consultations

We are currently consulting on proposed changes in The Avenues and the Park Lane to Vauxhall Street area.

Have your say and find out more about the project as a whole at www.norwich.gov.uk/pedalways or by calling 0344 980 3333.



Progressing the pedalways

It's been a year since the council was awarded a £3.7m grant from the Department for Transport and £2m of local transport and health money to improve the pink pedalway.

Since then we've started work on a series of projects that, together, will create a high quality, safe cycle route across Norwich that can be ridden confidently by everyone.

During the first half of the programme, work has focused on developing proposals and asking the public to help shape the plans.

Three significant projects are now in the stages of being finalised.

Heartsease

We consulted the public on introducing a 20mph speed restriction for the whole neighbourhood and tree-lined cycling and walking paths across the recreation ground between Sale Road and the towers.

These paths will give people a direct route that avoids traffic on the surrounding streets and

improves the quality of this important open space. This project was approved at planning committee in August and will now be built.

Mousehold

This project will create a new cycle path out to Heartsease from the city centre across Mousehold Heath. The consultation involved asking the public to help choose between different route options.

As a result we are taking forward a route that follows an old cavalry track called Dragoon Street. It will connect to Heartsease via Gurney Road and Valley Drive.

The Dragoon Street path will feature a new ramp that is shallow enough to ride up and will give access to those with mobility restrictions who would otherwise not be able to access Mousehold from this area. A viewing point is also being built to give a beautiful panoramic view of the city.

These proposals are now being put forward to the planning committee for consideration.

→ Get involved

We're running a survey to build a picture of cycling habits across the city. You can take part at www.norwich.gov.uk/cyclingsurvey



More than just good food

Exciting new social enterprise 'The Feed' officially launched at The Great Norwich Nosh-up earlier this year – and it's proving popular with food fans at home and abroad.

The Feed produces quality African, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Food as well as training and employment opportunities for people who need support.

World famous chef Jean-Christophe Novelli was hugely impressed with both the food, and the concept, and made a pledge at the event to support The Feed any way he could. The food went down a storm and at The Lanes Fayre in Norwich two weeks later, queues stretched down the street.

The visionary behind The Feed is Munya Mutsinze. Originally from

Zimbabwe, Munya found himself homeless in Norwich after the breakdown of a relationship.

The city council's partnership project with St Martins Housing Trust, known as 'LEAP', helped him get back on his feet, and he now wants to give the same opportunities to others.

LEAP provides learning, employment and accommodation for vulnerable people, taking a wholehearted approach to tackling homelessness in our city.

The Feed currently provides private and corporate event catering, as well as a tailored lunch delivery service. But Munya's dream is to set up a community café in the city that can give further opportunities to more LEAP clients.

Munya says: "When you eat at The Feed, you get high quality food from great people, but more than

that, you get that nice feeling knowing that you've helped someone."

If you'd like The Feed to cater for your workplace or event, call it direct on 01603 627841 and keep an eye out for its stand at Porkstock on Saturday September 27, Redwell Brewery, 7 The Arches, Bracondale, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2EF www.porkstock.co.uk

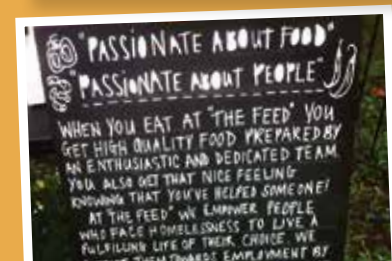


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1,000 up for LetNCC!

Another innovative council project known as 'LetNCC' recently celebrated a major milestone when its 1,000th tenancy under the scheme was completed at City Hall.

Our private sector leasing scheme was set up in 2006 to provide another means of helping those facing homelessness in the city, while also bringing empty homes back into use.

LetNCC provides vital access to housing for many people who may otherwise find themselves excluded from the sector while also reducing pressure on council waiting lists.

By leasing their property to the council, accepted landlords are guaranteed a rental income for the duration of the lease and the return of their property in a reasonable condition, safe in the knowledge they can leave all

management and repair issues to the LetNCC team.

If you have a suitable property to lease email pslt@norwich.gov.uk or call the LetNCC team on 01603 212841.

For more information, visit www.norwich.gov.uk/letncc



1,000th tenant, Natasha Bringham, pictured with our deputy leader, Alan Waters.

Help to pay your rent

If you are claiming housing benefit, you may be eligible to claim a discretionary housing payment. This could help you top-up your housing benefit if you are finding it hard to pay your rent, meet other bills or pay to start up a new tenancy.

A discretionary housing payment won't be a long-term solution, but could help you in the short-term. The temporary

payments are designed to help people over particular circumstances and enable them to adjust their costs and/or lifestyles to make their rent payments achievable. Anyone living in rented accommodation in the Norwich City Council area and receiving housing benefit is eligible to apply.

The council has a pot of money for this purpose each

year and decides who should receive a discretionary housing payment and how much and how often it is made. It may be paid weekly or can be a lump sum. Payments can also be backdated.

The claim form and further information can be found on our website www.norwich.gov.uk under 'D' in the A to Z for Discretionary Housing Payments Policy.

If you do not have internet access, contact our customer contact team on **0344 980 3333**.

Your vote, your duty



registration has been 'confirmed' under IER or whether you need to complete and return an Invitation to Register (ITR).

If you're not registered, it's really quick and easy to do it online by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You'll need to have your National Insurance Number handy to complete your details.

If you don't have internet access or need help, you can call the council on 0344 980 333.

For more information visit
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Changes have recently been introduced to the way we all register to vote. It's important to know about these changes so you can have your say in next year's general election, as well as your local elections.

The new system is called Individual Electoral Registration (IER). Previously, the head of the household was responsible for registering everyone who lived at the address. Now every individual is responsible for this.

Why should I bother to register?

You need to register in order to be able to vote. If you aren't registered, you can't have your say on who represents you. Some people also register to vote because they want to apply for credit – credit agencies rely on the register to confirm applicant's details to counteract fraud.

So what do I need to do?

If you were registered under the old system, you should have already been told if that



Brenda Arthur



Alan Waters



Bert Bremner



Mike Stonard



Keith Driver



Gail Harris

While there is a total number of 39 councillors at Norwich City Council, six of them make up the key decision-making body of the 'cabinet'.

Cabinet members' responsibilities

Brenda Arthur is chair of cabinet and leader of the council. As part of her portfolio, she looks after strategy and policy, strategic partnerships, culture and sport, economic development and health and wellbeing.

The council's deputy leader and member for resources is Alan Waters. The four other cabinet members are: Bert Bremner – housing; Mike Stonard – environment, development and transport; Keith Driver – neighbourhoods and community safety; and Gail Harris, who has responsibility for customer services.

Your city council

Following the local elections in May, Labour remains the party in power, having a majority of the council's 39 seats. The political structure at City Hall is: Labour 21 seats, Green 15, and Liberal Democrat 3.

For more information click on 'councillors' at www.norwich.gov.uk

Norfolk Prepared Week

Being caught up in an emergency can be scary. Whether it's severe weather, flooding, or a power cut, it's good to know what to do to help yourself, as well as those around you.

This is part of the reason why the multi-agency Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF) stages Norfolk Prepared Week, as it reminds us of the simple measures we can all take to make sure we're ready in the event of an emergency.

This year's event runs from 20 to 26 September, with a special launch organised at The Forum on Saturday 20 September from 10am to 4pm.

At the launch, you'll see how the NRF brings together the different responders, including the emergency services, local authorities, utilities companies and voluntary agencies – all so vitally important when an emergency strikes.

The theme is 'Be prepared, stay safe' – a message that will be echoed throughout the day at The Forum via a range of demonstrations, activities and competitions with some cool prizes to win.

You'll be able to pick up tips on fire safety, First Aid, flood protection and much more.

And if you're bringing youngsters along, they'll be able to find out about someone who's always ready for an emergency....Ready Eddy the Emergency Teddy!

Keith Driver, the city council's cabinet member with responsibility for emergency planning, says: "When people think of emergencies they tend to envisage major catastrophes.

"But problems are often of a smaller nature, such as a flash flood in your street, loss of power or water, communities isolated due to severe weather or, for a business, a key member of staff leaving and taking vital knowledge with them.

"The launch event at The Forum will be a great opportunity to get practical and useful advice. The kind of information available on the day could be something quite simple, but which may end up being of great importance to you when you most need it."

For more information on Norfolk Prepared Week, visit www.norfolkprepared.gov.uk



Celebrating black history



Lively lectures, exhibitions, music and fabulous food feature in an exciting line-up for this year's Norfolk Black History Month.

This year the theme will be 'Black history: a force for change' acknowledging the contribution of those who have made a huge impact in shaping and developing our present world.

Abraham Eshetu, chair of Norfolk Black History Month, said: "Black History Month serves as an education project as well as an entertaining experience for those who know little of, or are just curious about Britain's African, Asian and Caribbean cultural heritage.

"This year we have organised more than 100 events across the county for different ages and

tastes – there is something for everyone."

Events start on Friday 26 September with a launch at Norwich's City Hall. A colourful African market at The Forum is planned for Friday 3 and Saturday 4 October and there will be dinner, music and dancing at Café Marzano on Friday evenings.

This year's programme also includes a multi-media presentation entitled 'Norwich: The Birthplace of the British Soul Scene' and a Rebus Theatre Group presentation called 'Josephine Baker, modernism and black aesthetics in Jazz Age Paris'.

The finale event is an evening with Nigerian poet and Booker prize winning novelist Ben Okri (pictured above) at The Playhouse on Thursday 6 November.

To find out more, visit www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk follow BHM on Facebook and Twitter or email bhmnorfolk@gmail.com

National Fraud Initiative 2014-15

Norwich City Council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers and may use the information you provide for the prevention and detection of fraud. It can also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or overseeing public funds for these purposes.

The Audit Commission requires the council to take part in its anti-fraud initiative. It has asked for information about payroll, housing benefits, housing rents and right to buy, market rents, street traders, council tax, insurance claimants, taxi

driver licences, personal licences to supply alcohol, residential parking permits, electoral register, and trade creditors.

For more information, visit www.audit-commission.gov.uk/national-fraud-initiative

Be amazing and foster



Break charity's big event of 2015 is GoGoDragons! and will help change young lives. You could change young lives too by **fostering** for Break!

We need full-time foster carers and foster carers who can offer respite for a weekend or two a month and some days in the holidays. Our carers are from all walks of life.

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• Do something amazing •

Contact Hilary, Malcolm or Jess in the Fostering Team on **01603 760110**

See www.break-charity.org
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AROUND THE CITY

Civic charity launches appeal

Cruse Bereavement Care in Norwich is delighted to have been chosen as this year's civic charity and has launched a new fundraising appeal.

The charity offers confidential support to people who have suffered the loss of someone close. A few months ago it relocated to St Augustines Street and volunteers worked hard to prepare new counselling rooms for clients in distress.

Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Judith Lubbock, will officially open the new Cruse Centre in September.

"We are a small charity yet achieve a huge amount," said Heather Griffin, area co-ordinator for Cruse. "Our work is about helping local people find hope and happiness again. More funds are needed so we can support more local people. Cruse is keen to hear from

anyone who would like to run a fundraising event."

To support the work of Cruse Bereavement Care in Norwich, you can find it at 68 St Augustines Street, Norwich, call **01603 219977** or visit **www.cruse.org.uk/Norwich**



Helping people with dementia

Dementia Friends is a campaign to help people develop an understanding of the disease and turn it into action by befriending people in their community living with it.

It is estimated that 16,400 people in Norfolk have dementia, with more than 665,000 affected across the country.

Public Health England and Alzheimer's Society have come together to inspire a campaign which aims to create

a network of one million Dementia Friends by 2015.

People are being urged to watch an interactive online video to increase their understanding and, as part of the campaign, advertisements will be appearing on television and in the press.

To find out more about the campaign, go to **www.dementiafriends.org.uk**

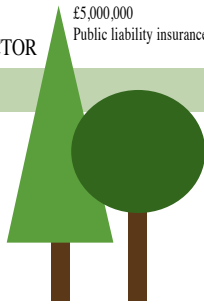


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