

NEWSLETTER



Issue 2 | September-December 2022

JAZZY FUNDS

Last month, we held a Jazz event at The Guildhall in Bury St Edmunds.

This very successful and enjoyable event was held on a beautiful evening with drinks and canapes in the Guildhall garden before the sixty guests sat down for a sumptuous meal in the Banqueting Hall.

Many of us have already enjoyed the music of The Chris Ingham Trio with singer Joanna Eden at venues such as The Apex and The Hunter Club. On this summer evening the group treated us to a wonderful evening of Jazz with a broad range of numbers with a special focus on the American Songbook.

Of course, no Citizens Advice event is complete without a raffle and in this particular case an auction. The auction included a week's stay at a beautiful cottage on the coast nearby as well as a day in court observing a criminal barrister at work and a round of golf at a nearby club.

The raffle prizes included dinner and a film at the local cinema, theatre tickets, kitchen appliances and perfumes. After all the thrills of an auction and raffle, and support by sponsors, the event raised over £4,000 which will be of great benefit to help support the service we provide to our community. After the success of this evening, plans are being made for a similar event next summer.

Grateful thanks go to our sponsors – many of whom also purchased tables for their guests – Whittings LLP (Chartered Accountants), Bluesys (IT services), Ashtons Legal, Rees Pryer (Architects) and Bedfords (Estate Agents).

Raffle prizes were donated by Baileys, Abbeygate Cinema, The Bury St Edmunds and Farmers Club, The Theatre Royal, Hays Travel, Hughes Electrical, Bannatyne Spa and Anna's boutique.



AWAY DAY

The Trustees met for a strategy day in early August to evaluate the service currently being offered and to consider the way in which it should develop over the coming three to five years. The changes made in order to support clients effectively during the pandemic are already being capitalised on in terms of enhanced use of technology and the plan is to continue down this route while ensuring that we remain accessible to all. This is likely over time to include extending the hours during which clients can get assistance.

Extending the service into the evening in due course is seen as particularly important if, as we expect, the medium term effect of the cost of living crisis is that it affects people who would not traditionally have seen themselves as Citizens Advice clients, may be in full-time employment but may in due course nevertheless be in need of our help. Going down this route will require us to recruit and train additional volunteer advisors and also to secure further funding to support various aspects of the delivery.

Citizens Advice has traditionally not been particularly successful locally in obtaining funding from local businesses under their CSR initiatives, partly as a result of a long-held misconception in many quarters that CA is government funded rather than being a charity. It is hoped that in coming years we can work more closely with local businesses, particularly as some will see their employees struggling with the cost of living rises and may perceive greater relevance of the CA service to their businesses than previously.

More detail will follow in due course but in the meantime if anyone would like to know more about becoming a volunteer adviser or is involved in a business which might consider making Citizens Advice West Suffolk their Charity of the Year for the coming year, please do get in touch.

You can contact any of the officers using the website contact address below.



UKRAINE SUPPORT

East Cambridgeshire District Council has supported Ukraine Lifeline in setting up a weekly Community Hub for Ukrainian guests.

The Hub takes place on Thursdays between 10am-1pm at the Lighthouse Centre in Ely, and is open to all Ukrainians, host families and organisations offering relevant support.

The Hub is designed to be a space where Ukrainians and host families can visit to socialise, meet fellow Ukrainians and receive advice about living in the UK.



Ukraine Community Hub

Every Thursday 10AM-1PM

Lighthouse Centre
13 Lynn Road
Ely, CB7 4EG



The Hub is open for all Ukrainians, host families and anyone providing relevant support in the community. Come along for a drink and a chat, the UK.

For more information for Ukrainian guests, visit www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/s-ten-guest-ukraine



KEY DATES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 Race Night in Haverhill

We are running another of our popular Racenights at Haverhill Golf Club. All the thrills of an Evening at the Races make this a wonderful event for families, groups from work or just on your own.

There will be a raffle and we hope an auction with special prizes! A buffet will be provided and a bar is available. The event will raise funds for Citizens Advice and raise our profile in the community. From 7pm, at Haverhill Golf Club, Coupals Road, Haverhill CB9 7UW.



Tickets £20, or a reduction for parties of four or more. Email Tony Howard for tickets via fundraising@swcab.org.uk or call in to the Haverhill Golf Club bar.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 Quiz Night with Supper

The Riverside, Mildenhall.

EMAIL US YOUR EVENTS

Tell the whole CAWS community about what event you have coming up by adding it to this newsletter. Email us via jo.chatt@swcab.org.uk

++NEWS+++NEWS++

■ Did you know you can help to net cash for Citizens Advice while you shop online? CAWS is signed up to two platforms - Amazon Smile and Give As You Live.

Check out Amazon Smile here: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/charity?orig=%2F>

You do have to remember to go to smile.amazon.co.uk rather than amazon.co.uk - but after that everything is automatic.

Details on Give as you Live are here: <https://suffolkwestcab.org.uk/support-us/give-as-you-live/>

The donation percentages are quite small, but it all adds up.

■ Pop a reminder in your diary for November 4 - that's when our AGM takes place. It's at 9.30am for a 10am start at the Quaker Meeting House, in St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds.

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Check out our website via suffolkwestcab.org.uk/contact-us/