

## News

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# Good causes boosted by a generous businessman

A Norwich businessman has given away £10,000 to good causes to mark his firm's 10th anniversary.

Eighteen East Anglian organisations are benefiting from a financial boost thanks to the fund which was set up by Carl Lamb, managing director of Almary Green Investments based at the Meridian Business Park.

Among those to benefit are the Whitlingham Boathouses Trust, the 222 (Broadlands) Sqn Air Cadets, Harford Manor School and Asperger East Anglia.

Mr Lamb said: "Life has treated me and my business extremely well. I think it is right to share some of that fortune with people less fortunate than yourself – to make a difference in their lives."

He added: "My colleagues and I at Almary Green are delighted we can celebrate our decade of success by making a contribution to a community which has supported us."

Mr Lamb, who chaired the selection committee, said Almary Green had received 55 nominations for awards after announcing his plans in the spring and the committee had a tough time deciding who would receive funding.

The awards were presented at a reception in the Histry at Norwich Cathedral on Monday followed by another reception in Cambridge on Wednesday for winners in the Cambridgeshire area.

Whitlingham Boathouses Foundation, based near Norwich, received £2,000 towards the purchase of an adaptive scull suitable for disabled and novice rowers.

David Ashcroft, from the Foundation, said: "It is very exciting to be given this award and we are very grateful.

"It will open doors to people who couldn't otherwise take part in a



**Donations:** Carl Lamb, left, with representatives from the good causes who have benefited from his cash giveaway.

sport which is so good for people of all ages, all levels of ability and disability and all backgrounds."

The 222 (Broadlands) Sqn Air Cadets, based at Loveton, will put their £750 award towards an activity week in Snowdonia National Park during the October half-term.

Media communications officer Sarah Batch said: "This donation is wonderful, absolutely wonderful. It is a massive chunk towards what we need to raise for the week away."

Other organisations to benefit include the Norfolk branch of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association (£250), the Norwich-based St Vincent de Paul Society which provides friendship and aid for lonely and elderly people (£500), Asperger East Anglia (£500) and the Norfolk Deaf Association (£500).

Hillside Avenue School Nursery, in Norwich, received £225 towards new

play equipment, Harford Manor's After School Club was given £250, Thetford-based Fulmerston Family and Community Project has been awarded £500 and the Teenage Cancer Trust £750.

East Anglia's Children's Hospices at Quidenham will use a £500 award to refurbish a playroom. A £1,000 award has been made to the Lowestoft-based Excelsior Trust which enables young people to work as part of the crew of the fishing vessel on sea trips, and the Beccles-based Waveney Stardust project, which helps disabled and elderly people enjoy the Norfolk and Suffolk waterways, has been given £300.

→ Are you backing a good cause? Call Emma Knights on 01603 772428.

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## Ofsted inspectors praise junior school's progress

A south Norfolk school has been praised for the "significant improvements" it has made to the academic and personal progress of its pupils.

Attleborough Junior School, which was subject to special measures in 2008, was judged overall as "satisfactory" by Ofsted inspectors, but with the capacity to sustain a "good" level of improvement.

A report, following an inspection in July, said: "The school is building a secure foundation for future development and rigorous systems of monitoring teaching and tracking pupil progress are showing the signs

of success." Pupils were found to make "satisfactory" progress, with the majority attaining "broadly average" standards by the time they leave. Inspectors described the teaching as "good" and the school's leadership as "effective". The report said there were "clear signs" of improvements in all year groups, with Year 6 provisional results showing pupils are on track to reach average and higher levels in English and maths.

However, the report highlighted that



pupils' confidence in writing and applying their skills in maths calculation have "not been consistently developed" making it harder to hit the top grades.

Pupils' targets were also deemed not to be challenging enough and more use needs to be made of ICT equipment. But praise was heaped on pupils' "excellent understanding" of how to adopt healthy lifestyles and their "outstanding contribution" to the wider community, with events such as litter picking and planting flowers. Headteacher Chris Read said: "We have come a long way in the past three years."

## Meeting called to discuss pier

A public meeting has been called for November 21 at Gorleston's Pavilion Theatre to air concerns about the town's pier.

MP Brandon Lewis has organised the meeting, with borough and county council officials taking part.

Residents will have the chance to express their concerns about the pier, including their wish for the car park to be returned to community use. Mr Lewis said: "I am confident the community will benefit from this opportunity to make their voices heard."

## Salhouse hosts harvest supper

All Saint's Church in Salhouse is holding a harvest supper on the evening of Saturday, October 8.

Doors are open from 6.30pm for a 7pm start, at the Jubilee Hall on Lower Street, Salhouse.

Tickets are £9.50 each and entertainment on the night will include singalong music from the 1950s and 1960s.

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