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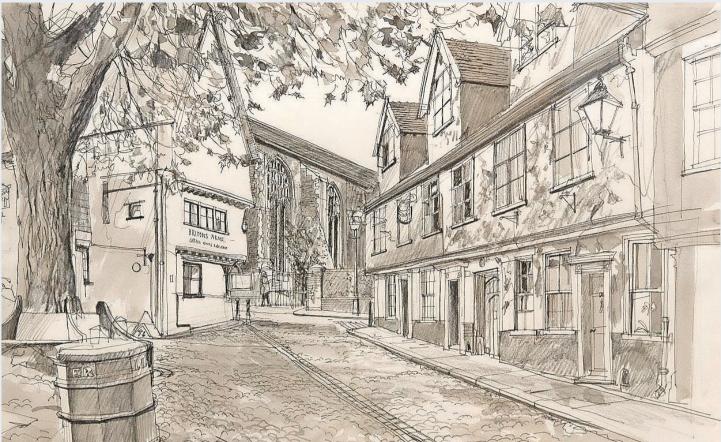
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## Artist Liam is revealed as the People's Choice winner



Works by Liam Wales, right, proved a winner with the public when it came to a vote for the People's Choice award. Above, his view of Elm Hill.

Artist Liam Wales has been named the winner of the People's Choice award for the inaugural Paint Out Norwich competition.

The open-air art event - part of this year's Hostry Festival - saw 28 artists take to the city's streets over two days to create work which was then displayed at Norwich **Cathedral's Hostry from October 24 until last** Sunday

About 5,000 people were

thought to have visited the art show and the public were invited to vote for their favourite artist. Mr Wales won the People's Choice accolade – and a hamper of art products donated by Norwich Art Supplies – for his work featuring Norwich Market, Norwich Cathedral's cloister, Elm Hill, and a view from Norwich Castle.

About his artistic style, Mr Wales, from Highgate, London, said: "I like quirky details and the juxtaposition of nature with the man made."

During the two-day painting competition – on October 22 and 23 – artists painted at seven city landmarks: Norwich Castle, Norwich Cathedral, St John's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Pull's Ferry, Elm Hill, Norwich Market and The Forum.

Visit www.paintoutnorwich. org



## **New equipment allows police** to target drug-taking drivers

#### Peter Walsh Crime correspondent

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Police have today revealed they are cracking down on motorists who put lives at risk by driving while under the influence of drugs, after officers took delivery of new kit to help test drivers.

Chief Inspector Chris Spinks, head of Norfolk and Suffolk's road policing unit, said his unit had secured funding from the Department for Transport to purchase the equipment, which was now operational at all six "police investigation centres" across both counties.

He added: "Driving under the influence of drink or drugs

## **G** Driving under the influence of drink or drugs impairs your judgement

## Chief Inspector Chris Spinks

impairs your judgement, making vour reactions slower and therefore putting lives at risk. Norfolk and Suffolk roads policing unit is actively targeting motorists driving under the influence of drugs."

The warning comes after the recent inquest into the death of Karl Plant, 39, from Loddon, who died in a three vehicle crash on the A146 near Thurton on June 25.

Toxicology results showed Mr

Plant had the presence of cannabis in his blood which could affect perceptions of space and time and impair ability to drive up to 24 hours after use. A police investigation concluded that the drugs in Mr Plant's system "may have impaired his ability to judge the speed of vehicles in front".

It is illegal to drive if you are unfit to do so because you're on legal or illegal drugs.

If the police stop a motorist who they suspect has taken drugs they can carry out a field impairment assessment, comprised of a series of tests, like asking them to walk in a straight line and checking the size of their pupils.

If they are thought unfit to drive they can be arrested and have a blood test at the police station which, if positive, will lead to the motorist being charged. Anyone convicted of drug driving will get a minimum 12-month driving ban and a fine of up to £5,000 while their driving licence will also show they have been convicted for drug driving. This will last for 11 years.

Drug-drive laws are changing to make it easier for the police to prosecute drivers.

A new offence of driving with certain controlled drugs above specified limits is due to come into force on March 2.

Do vou have a crime story? Email peter.walsh@archant. co.uk