

Wow what a month! Inspiration and **calls to action** from all areas on all topics. Our current steering group has been busy looking at current strengths and achievements and in November will be reviewing the ideas that have come forward for future action. So in the next edition look for a proposed 25 year vision, a forum and events plan for next year and ideas for action groups for which we will be calling out for volunteers. From the conversations to date it is clear this newsletter is valued for you, the community champions, to help you lead the way and give you messages to share more widely—but be aware you may need to simplify some of the messages—depending on your audience.

This edition: Veteran Trees, Suffolk Carbon Charter, Greenest County Conference, Coastal Communities Conference, Clean Growth, looking after your appliances, plastics and celebrations, events and more.

Veteran Trees with Waldringfield Wildlife Group

'Peter Ross's talk and walk on Veteran Trees was fantastic' L.G.

Tree of Ages

Oh the many faces that have gazed up at me
The hands that have caressed my bark so lovingly
The stories I could tell of the rich and ne'er do well
Oh the many creatures that live in and on me now.



#love #trees #greenprintforum

Trees are found in our poems, our stories, our research, our buildings and possessions. They heat some of our homes and schools and create playgrounds for our children. They shade us, feed us and can play a vital role in land and air quality management through reducing soil erosion, recycling nutrients and while young absorbing more carbon dioxide than is released etc.

Veteran trees are those that age, size or condition have made of special interest to us for their wildlife, cultural or aesthetic value. In many you can expect to see trunk cavities or progressive hollowing, naturally forming water pools, decay holes, bark loss and fungal fruiting bodies. The different types have fascinating names: maidentree, coppard, coppice, shredded tree, managed pollard, phoenix regeneration and bundle. **Most management involves keeping an eye on them regularly and only stepping in on the occasions where work is needed to reduce risks to humans and prolong the life of the tree or to grow the next generation of veterans.** One of the tree managers bibles is [Veteran Trees a Guide to Good Management](#).

Peter Ross is the Countryside Officer for Norse. His role is primarily hands on land management but very occasionally he is also available to provide talks on Veteran Tree Management for community groups in Suffolk Coastal. On this occasion he gave a talk and then led a walk around Waldringfield.



#greenprintforum #instagood #nodusthere #energyefficiency

You probably already have your A+++ rated washing machines, refrigerators, dishwashers and cooking appliances, which the European Union estimate 175 Mtoe (million tonnes of oil equivalent) by 2020, roughly equivalent to the annual primary energy consumption of Italy. For you as a householder they state that means just over £400 saving each year by 2020; in homes that only have the highest rated appliances. So what do you need to be aware of and what more do you need to do?

Firstly be aware that the energy efficiency of products is regulated by the Ecodesign [Directive and Energy Labelling Directive](#), gradually being replaced by a [regulation](#) published in July 2017. Be conscious that as with many things not all claims are realised quite to the level anticipated but new things are on more energy efficient than they were (A+ rating is now the minimum for washing machines). The Energy Saving Trust coordinated [Market Watch Project](#) identified that 1 in 5 home appliances tested used more energy than advertised with 18 products breaking EU laws. Through dialogue with retailers and manufactures they made some improvements.

Secondly it is us as users that have the biggest impact on the grid and our wallets. For example I am on dual fuel so my washing machine and dishwasher mainly go on at night, meaning less pressure on the grid at peak times. If you have PV you may want to put yours on at times of maximum generation to reduce your draw from the grid. I am now trying to wash clothes and bed sheets less thanks to a passing reminder from Betsy Reid, a much treasured Greenprint Forum member—basically I use the sniff test rather than religiously washing once a week as my good mum always taught me. I am also dusting in behind my fridge every six months [to reduce fire risk and small loss of efficiency](#) thanks to the advice of Guy Ackers another much valued and long term Greenprint Forum member. I have in addition registered my appliances on www.registermyappliance.org.uk. Many more tips can be found on www.ovoenergy.com/guides/energy-guides/energy-efficient-laundry-tips.html

"It takes 70 million years to make a drop of oil. This is then made into plastic - a highly energy intensive process, used in 5 minutes and binned. Added to that it takes a quarter of a plastic bottle of oil, to make that plastic bottle! Surely oil is too valuable to waste like this?" Charlie Zakss, [Transition Woodbridge](#)



On the 22 September 50 people squeezed into Woodbridge Library to watch the film '[Bag It](#)', hosted for free by Transition Woodbridge. Although based in America it was clear that the issues in here are very similar.

The film started with exploring the use of plastic bags viewed as an international success story as freely available thin plastic bags have been banned in many countries before and since the release of the film in September 2011. The Greenprint forum having joined many others with a letter to the Government on 8th August 2011 to request a tax of 5p or more on single use plastic bags.

The film then highlighted the challenges of recycling plastics across the world and went on to explain the [impact of plastics on the marine environment](#) and ultimately on us. It was a call to action which many in the audience responded positively to, many pledging to go further than they had already.

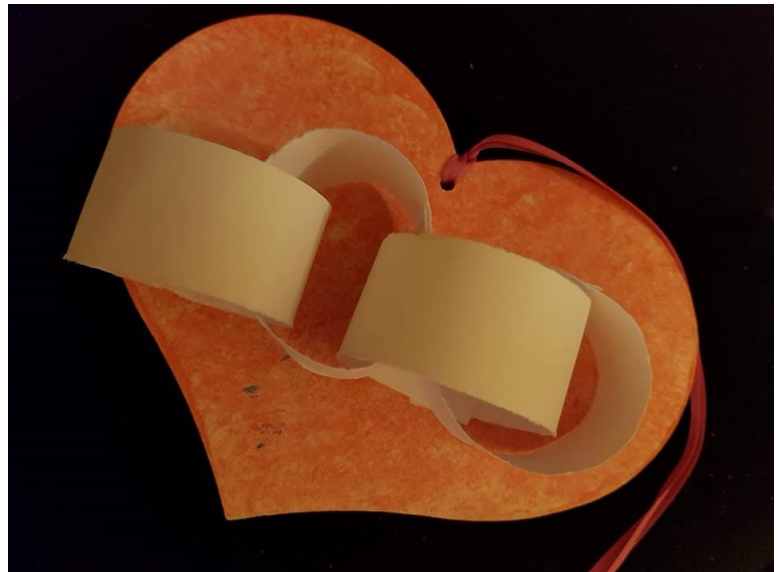
Transition Woodbridge are proud to announce that they will be hosting a night of **PLASTIC REDUCTION ACTION PLANNING** on Friday 19th November, 7-9pm at Woodbridge Library, where they hope many of the audience will return full of ideas and experiences to share. Shop owners and supermarkets will also be invited for an open discussion of how we all can work together to reduce plastics in shops without inadvertently creating food or other product wastage.

For more information email twoodbridge@gmail.com.

Dr Therese Coffey in a response to a recent question in parliament on the issue of plastics in the marine environment noted that *"At the recent Our Ocean conference the UK made several voluntary commitments to help tackle marine plastic pollution. These included signing up to the [UN's Clean Seas](#) campaign, the [Global Partnership on Marine Litter](#) and the [Global Ghost Gear Initiative](#)"*

Celebrating in style

Humans love to celebrate. Whether it is the lives, however short, of those we loved and lost or the birthdays, anniversaries or other special events in our own lives or those of our nearest and dearest or the occasions we decide as a collective are important such as Guy Fawkes, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Halloween, Diwali, Visakah Puja, Eid al-Fitr and so on.



How we remember and celebrate is personal. We can shape each others celebrations with our own stories but ultimately it is our choice and the great majority of us know it needs to be carried out with care for the environment and for those around us. So for me a miscarried baby is remembered each year by a pebble thrown into the ocean. A lost friend is remembered in sunflowers and the seeds I put out for the birds. My mother is remembered each time I pass a hawthorn bush. This year we are celebrating Christmas with a dip in the sea and home made, low impact decorations and nibbles.

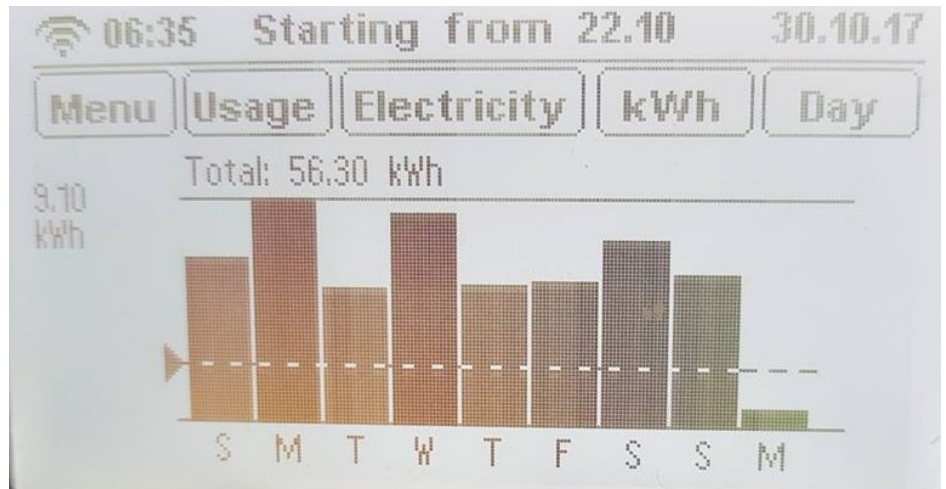
What are the most fun, lowest impact ways you use to celebrate? Please share your celebrations on Instagram with the #greenprintforum or twitter @greenprintforum or on Facebook on greenprintforum or send them to greenissues@eastssuffolk.gov.uk or post them to Deborah War-gate, Environmental Protection Team, East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Melton, IP12 1RT.

What are the ones we try to avoid because they can cause damage beyond the joy/release they bring?

- Sky lanterns: remember back in 2014 thanks to you [Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils](#) banned the release of these and helium balloons on council land. Please [#backbritishfarming](#) by not lighting and releasing them and spread the word www.countrysideonline.co.uk/home/our-rural-wisdom/rural-wisdom/ban-the-flaming-menace.
- Large bonfires where the wood has been piled up weeks in advance. You don't really want to [roast that hedgehog](#) that has found its ideal hibernation spot do you?
- Single use plastic party items: hats, cups, plates, cutlery, decorations etc.
- Fireworks without warning [neighbours](#), [farmers](#) and [horse](#) owners first

On the 12 Oct 2017 the government published its [clean growth strategy](#). This states its intention to work towards creating an economy that works for all and leaves our natural environment in a better state than we found it.

It highlights a 42% reduction in carbon emissions since 1990 and a growth of 66% in the economy over the same time period. It celebrates the more than doubling of our electricity generated by low carbon sources in 2016 (47%) from what it was in 2010 (20%); around 8% being from offshore wind. It notes that on the 7th June 2017 50% of our electricity needs were met by renewables. There has also been a reduction in average household energy consumption by 17% since 1990. England also recycles 4 x more than it did in 2000. Then the strategy notes the benefit to society in terms of jobs: there are currently 430,000 jobs in low carbon businesses and their supply chains. The strategy also contains case studies, one on the flywheel created by [Cress Systems](#) and trialled at the Port of Felixstowe, one on Manchester's ambition to become the city of trees and one on [Clayhill Solar Farm and Battery Storage](#)



So what more needs to be done? The strategy runs to 165 pages, it contains 50 actions. In brief it highlights the areas where a focus is needed in terms of emissions: business and industry (25%), transport (24%), power (21%) and homes (13%). While also recognising that the public sector, particularly central government, needs to lead by example, with the ultimate aim of being carbon neutral.

What is particularly relevant to us in Suffolk? It launches phase 6 of the [energy entrepreneur fund](#) a competitive funding scheme to support the development of technologies, products and processes in energy efficiency, power generation and storage. It notes the intention where feasible for all homes to be at least [EPC Band B or C](#) by 2030 and all to have been offered a smart meter by 2030. It promises a phase out of high fossil fuel (oil) heating in homes during the 2020s. It anticipates that by 2040 conventional petrol and diesel cars will have been phased out. What replaces them is not fixed at this time but likely to be electric, hybrid and hydrogen. £80million will be deployed for electric car charging stations to be ready for the increased demand. [The Automated and Electric Car bill](#) is currently going through parliament to enable government to shape provision and accelerate deployment. It notes that agricultural support should be focused on improved environmental outcomes, that 11 million new trees need to be planted (where appropriate to do so) and that we should aim for zero waste by 2050 (a strategy is to be developed).



Are we still aiming to create the Greenest County?



love every drop anglianwater

On the 20th October 2017 over 100 attended the conference to celebrate ten years of ambition and to start the planning process for the next ten. So yes we are still aiming to create the Greenest County and yes it means we need to work together and be bold and take action.

In his final moment as Chair of the Greenest County, David Barker MBE, a successful farmer of 50 years, gave the keynote speech highlighting the key successes of the last ten years as he saw them.

- Suffolk Barn Owl Project, thanks to this we now have 400 breeding pairs in Suffolk
- Increased uptake of biomass systems
- Improved recycling rates
- Greater support for local food
- Working together to buck the trend of losing local abattoirs with the opening of Lamberts the Abattoir in 2010 and its inclusion of environmental impact reduction measures such as rainwater harvesting and refrigeration heat recovery

He also covered briefly two areas that had not been taken forward as planned due to local feedback, the introduction of the White Tailed Eagle and the switching from oil to biodiesel. Thereby showing the need to be flexible in our planning for the future.

He highlighted that farmers like him are already experiencing the challenges of a changing climate and the need for all farmers to be active on this and in Environmental Stewardship and for sound science and an understanding of farming to underpin policy decisions. He promoted the **Suffolk Agricultural Association and FWAG Brexit Conference taking place on the [15th November 2017](#)**

Ciaran Nelson from Anglian Water, the conference sponsor, spoke of Anglian Waters ambitions first expressed publically in 2007 in the [Love Every Drop strategy](#) and soon to be updated to take them to 2050. With carbon neutrality being one of the ultimate goals. He talked through some of the achievements to date and used them to highlight the importance of bold visions, informed action,

Bold dreams, team work and determination to succeed were also a key message from [Dr Alison Mowbray](#) Olympic Medallist, PhD in Molecular Microbiology, Teacher, Leadership Development Consultant and Coach, Nutritionist and Inspirational Speaker. She noted a collective need to move from a [fixed mind set](#) (belief that talents are fixed, risk adverse behaviours, challenge avoidance) to a growth mind set (dare to learn, experiment, work hard and do things differently as well as build on the past through [appreciative enquiry](#)). Dr Mowbray also highlighted that spending time developing networks, building and retaining trust through personal contact is vital to success and for a team to work each individual member of it needs to be professional (knowing what they are there to do), practical (actively playing their role) and psychological (talking out issues with team members and not outside the team).

[Ed Gillespie](#) hurled 'storybites' at us to challenge us to see the big issues and overcome any mental blocks to progress, such as:

- the absurd stories we tell ourselves that can block progress '[women's bodies not designed to travel at 50 miles and hour](#)'
- the fixation on what worked in the past without recognising that things have changed which he dubbed the '[Kodak Moment](#)' as they were stuck in the camera phase too long before noticing things had moved digital

He then orated a possible scenario for our future:

- Home owners and businesses actively trading energy in [peer to peer](#) approach or by being [prosumers](#)— all carbon neutral
- [Biobean burners](#) and wood fuel heating some homes and business with electricity heating the rest
- Decentralised energy (a utility death spiral akin to Australia's)
- Solar tiles as the new roofing for all homes
- Battery storage the norm within all homes
- Rainwater storage as the norm
- Zero waste lifestyles



Dr David Pencheon added to this vision by sharing the work of visionaries in the NHS who innovatively disrupted to ensure hospitals were supplied by local food made into healthy tasty meals by local people and turned this into an income generation stream but opening it to members of the public. He stressed the need for a CLANGER lifestyle to avoid the system failure of being admitted to hospital. This lifestyle is: connected with people, learning all the time, active, noticing all that is around us, giving freely, eating well and resting regularly.

The workshop feedback is being collated by Suffolk County Council and this will form a key part of Greenest County future planning. One point of note from work experience students is the need to give young people the motivation and means to identify, develop and take forward their own small, rapid actions towards the long term goal. An approach similar to that used by the [East Suffolk Partnership](#)



The key take homes for me from what was a good conference, with 200 people of all ages, professions and backgrounds, were: accept change, **be bold**. Work with the under 30's to ensure innovation that fits their needs as it is them that will be living with the choices we make now and accept that there will be those that do not want to change and some sacrifices will have to be made but stick with it, market it well and most will come round. Temper boldness with evidence, a recognition of what makes an area special, of what all people need not just a wealthy few and seek to ensure the environment is better than it was before each time a change is made.

[Wayne Hemingway](#) gave us a future vision for a thriving, active Lowestoft making the most of its harder industrial look, its beach which could give people camping experiences as well as day time kayaking and paddle boarding experiences and its homes near the sea which could all be income generating through AirBnB. He cautioned against using standard street furnishings and instead suggests locally made, art inspired yet practical innovations. He placed a teaser in his talk for a secret 2019 festival to be held that would better all festivals held to date.

[Professor Graham J C Underwood](#) Reminded us that natural capital is mostly enjoyed without an invoice. Some natural capital like oil and drinking water has a recognised price but does this/should it mean we value it more? He then went on to define ecosystem functions as the characteristic exchanges within an ecosystem: energy, nutrient exchanges, decomposition and production of biomass and ecosystem services as the ecological functions that we directly enjoy/consume. After this he took us into the wonderful world of mud flats and salt marshes and talked about their value as carbon traps, flood defences and fish brooding zones (Isotope ratio indicates young fish show loyalty to a location). He highlighted the unknowns: how effective they are when truncated due to other land use pressures and how long it takes new salt marsh or damaged saltmarsh to fully function. He gave a call for action for those with smart phones and time:

Get the [saltmarsh app](#) and go out and survey. Every marsh survey uploaded will help scientists at School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University learn more about UK saltmarsh soils and how they are helping fight climate change.

Community Voice method workshop Dr Gabriel Cummings [IFCA](#). From this workshop the main take home was that open discussions at start of each process with stakeholder group samples is needed to enable the best selection of consultation and communication tools and move things positively onto solution development and then into project funding and development phases. All need to know from the word go that there will still be those that are not happy but that it is collective understanding of what should and will take place that is the goal not mutual agreement. Videoing interviews in settings that those being interviewed feel comfortable is expensive but does yield good results and can enable people to see what they said and how their views have changed over time.

Minette Batters NFU Deputy President highlighted the challenges farmers are facing as weather patterns change and development and erosion/sea level rise eat away at high quality agricultural land.

Action for us all: raise awareness of importance of home grown/locally grown food and of the knock on benefits to people and nature of accessible farmland managed to high standards to encourage biodiversity.

Action for landowners/farmers: continue to work together to reduce likelihood/impact of coastal flooding and drought and invest in precision farming.



Mark Pendlington the Director of Anglia Water explained that of the 49 beaches where Anglian Water outflows discharge only one is rated as poor. He noted that the anticipated increasing droughts will not mean standpipes in the street for us as there is now a system in place to pump water from the north to here when needed. Although clearly this will have energy implications so the ideal is to store and use locally. For him the key water quality issues that still need tackling are: slurry, sediment dredging, fouling from nesting birds, misconnections and pesticides.

Action for us share 'keep it clear on the coast' messages.



Other events from members that may be of interest

[Suffolk Village Halls and Community Building Conference](#)

Venue: The Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell

Date: Thursday 2 November 2017

Times: 10am to 3:30pm (registration and market place from 9.30am)

Price: £25 per delegate (lunch and refreshments included) payment to be made at time of booking.

Waldringfield Gardeners A CHRISTMAS FLORAL DISPLAY

Saturday 25th November 10.00 – 1.00, Waldringfield Village Hall

A Creative Opportunity to make your own display

All welcome, no skills or experience needed - only enthusiasm!!!

Professional help, inspiration & guidance given.

Refreshments available.

Please book your place asap with Alexis Smith 01473 736257

WG Members £5 Non members £8.00

Tweet sized snippets from our members:

- [Hodmedod](#) from Halesworth won the Food and Farming Awards
- [Midas UK Ltd](#) producer of hydrotreated biodiesel refined from inedible waste and residue (not specially grown crops so it does not compete with food production) was awarded its gold carbon charter at the Greenest County Conference
- Another Gold for [Neutral Territory](#) who provide low carbon properties for forward looking companies and consultancy services to bring Suffolk commercial landlords into the low carbon economy.
- [Motor Fuel Group](#) is rolling out electric vehicle chargers at its London petrol station forecourts
- New dates for AONB volunteer work parties www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Get-Involved/Volunteering/Work-Parties/2017-09-SCH-Vol-Tasks-Poster-Oct-17-to-Mar-18.pdf
- The Suffolk Secrets AONB Fund, supporting community and conservation projects in east Suffolk is now open for applications – the deadline is Wed 15th November. www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding.
- Follow Suffolk's Fab 40 adventures, a range of seasonal activities designed to help families get outdoors and active, on Twitter <https://twitter.com/suffolkfab40> @suffolkfab40.
- A seascape character assessment of the Suffolk and south Norfolk coast is to be prepared to provide a comprehensive baseline description of offshore areas. Suffolk County Council is procuring this work, working closely with Suffolk Coastal District Council and Natural England.
- [BoxIT East](#) a document management service provider gains a [Gold Carbon Charter](#) to add to its [Carbon Smart certification](#).
- [1000 Beautiful Birds of Peace](#) project for schools deadline Monday 13th November—spread the word