



September is speeding by. Please pause for a moment to think of all those struggling with the losses associated with earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and other significant environmental and social events. This months news includes: hedgehogs, community agriculture, conservation volunteering, business energy efficiency advise and grants and member run events including one on housing. Apologies for the typo in the last newsletter. It is of course £350 million that the energy from waste site will save Suffolk County Council.

If you have received this and are not yet a member please join us

Email greenissues@eastssuffolk.gov.uk or if you do not have email access call 01394 444747 and leave a message. All I need to know is: your name, you main area of interest in the environment, the town/village you are from, the district you belong to and your email address or postal address.

Has your hedgehog registered to vote?



The concept of a census always gives momentary visions of Mary and Joseph and the famous stable. Perhaps some of the nightly visitors to my garden are indeed male and female – certainly the noise levels at times would suggest as much. However the hibernation igloo I have provided for them is a far cry from a stable.

You are probably aware that the UK has lost a third of its hedgehogs in 10 years and (if you read an earlier Greenprint Newsletter) that they need to roam for long distances with gardens rapidly becoming an important part of their nightly routine.

However you may not have spotted that Hedgehog Streets is running a census on the houses we provide for them, between the 15th August to the 31st October 2017. It takes approximately 5 minutes and then you can also report your sightings while you are at it. Once the survey ends data will be analysed by scientists at the University of Reading and fed back via hedgehog street. To take the survey got to www.hedgehogstreet.org



Mine's a cup of tea – volunteering made marvellous

It was raining and a chill had entered the air but even so ten volunteer turned out on 30th August 2017 to help Chris Ryde & Peter Ross from the Suffolk Coastal Norse Countryside Service rake Melton Riverside hay meadows and marsh meadow. This is a good turnout but we could always do with more.

So why not find out when the next task is and give it a try? Always assuming you are not already volunteering of course for [Suffolk Coastal Norse](#), [Suffolk Coast & Heaths](#), [Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#), the [RSPB](#), the [Landguard Partnership](#), [the Woodland Trust](#), [The Friends of Parklands Wood Group](#), [Blyth Woods](#) or another 'get out, active and help nature' group.

What makes people want to leave their cosy homes, drive or walk to a site and get their backs into what is basically an intense work out but without the warmth of a gym? Well of course there are always a couple that have been dragged there by partners or parents but for most it is the combination of helping nature, getting out of the house or office, socialising and putting something back into the community. It helps that those organising it are well liked and known to really care about the countryside they are looking after and that they bring hot drinks and snacks and know when it is time for a break.

As retired engineer Guy Pearse said 'On retiring I was advised to try lots of different things for a year and then pick what I really want to do with my free time. However I joined Chris and Peter on an outdoor task in 2007 and have continued to go out with them ever since. I now also volunteer with Neil Lister at Suffolk Coast & Heaths and with the Woodland Trust in Felixstowe'

Richard Llewellyn became a volunteer with Chris and Peter because 'it makes a nice day out with the dogs and other good company and you can work as hard as you like and feel you are doing your bit'.



Don't let the businesses in your Town or Parish miss out

Money and advice is available to help eligible small businesses in Suffolk and Norfolk improve energy efficiency and save money. Thanks to recent changes to European funding rules retail businesses are now included in this.

44 East Suffolk businesses have so far received advice and over £235,000 of potential savings have been identified, as well as a saving of 1,082 tonnes of carbon. Five businesses in the area have received grant funding exceeding £29,000.

Tim Basey-Fisher, from St. John's Hall Storage in Beccles said:

“Having a BEE Anglia advisor come to our business and take the time to understand our individual needs and requirements was very valuable; the report that they produced for us has enabled us to prioritise improvements to our premises that will have the most significant energy and cost savings and reduce our carbon footprint. The fact they could then help us with a grant towards this was a very welcome bonus.”

Please spread the word in your local newsletters, meetings and when you meet people and if you are a business owner that has not yet taken advantage why not contact them and see how they can help.

Businesses can find out if they are eligible for this free service by signing up online or by calling 01473 350 370.

The BEE Anglia project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and is delivered through a partnership of Suffolk County Council, Norfolk County Council, Groundwork and NWES





Support for start ups

Are you based in Sudbury, Brandon, Leiston and Saxmundham? Do you have a business idea (given this newsletter purpose I will add environmental to this) that will respond to its needs? Are you also a [private limited company](#) or a [community interest company](#) or thinking of becoming one? Are you/will you also be accountable to local people, for example through a community shares?

If so you may want to look at the [Suffolk seed grant fund](#) where you could gain up to £5,000 to get started.

25th September – Funding Round Opens

2nd October – Webinar between 3pm – 4pm

20th October – Deadline for Applications

23rd November (by) – Groups notified of outcome of application

February 2018 – Activities should be completed

For inspiration go to www.powertochange.org.uk/what-is-community-business/stories/

If your idea is more established and you already have an emerging business plan the Community Business Fund, which awards grants of between £50,000 and £300,000, may be more appropriate. A new round opens in 2018 www.powertochange.org.uk/funding/grants/community-business-fund/.

Construction and demolition companies

Do you own a construction or demolition company or utilise their services? Have you heard of the [Sustainability School](#)?

Over 60 major competitors and clients are working together to tackle the environmental and social sustainability issues within the construction industry. They recognise the need to decouple the link between economic growth and increased environmental impact whilst at the same time delivering increased social value for the communities in which they operate. They also know that 80% of the turnover of major contractors goes to their supply chain, the majority of who are small and medium sized businesses and that those businesses need support in understanding and tackling these issues. So they provide members (it is free to join) with FREE practical support in the form of accredited e-learning modules and training workshops, tailored self-assessments and actions plans, bench-marking tools, networking opportunities and access to thousands of online resources. They also have a bronze, silver and gold accreditation scheme so that companies can demonstrate the level of their commitment to clients.



Nothing brings people together like sharing the joys and trials of growing food and flowers in a way that both supports wildlife and benefits people's health. Since 2011 Oak Tree Farm on Playford Lane has provided a 12 acre space for over 150 people to do just this.

The pioneer Joanne Mudhar and all the members of this community agriculture scheme have worked together to turn ruined soil into a productive community farm, without adding artificial fertilisers or using pesticides or herbicides. Members enjoy an equal share of all the vegetables grown on the farm, for a weekly price of £9 per week and a commitment to work a certain amount of hours (although for those who cannot work on the farm there are a limited number of armchair spaces at a higher price). New members gain on the job training from those more experienced at growing and get to share hints and tips on using the harvest. As there are also bees, chickens, pigs and Red Poll there is the chance for people to develop skills in looking after and utilising these.

This is a site where nothing goes to waste, where people walk and cycle when they can and generally try to have as much fun as possible without hurting the earth. A site which is alive with butterflies, spiders and birds; Barn Owls being a much loved inhabitant. You can be involved in several different ways:

- 1) Learning from their experiences: They offer a private tour with a grower to understand more about community supported agriculture and the Oak Tree approach to growing.
- 2) As an active member or an armchair member: They will soon be inviting new members to sign up for a veg box starting June 2018. Please see The Oak Tree website for details.
- 3) As a visitor on an open day on Sat 30th Sept 2017 between 10 –12noon – a donation of at least £5 is recommended
- 4) By donating whatever you can spare to help them grow: <http://www.the-oak-tree.co.uk/donations/donate/>



Snippets sent to me that are worth a read over a drink of whatever you enjoy

1) Issue 249 of [About Fram](#) contains a lovely article on a piece of Woodland I have added to my must visit list—Framsden Wood. Dedicated volunteers moved this from an idea in the Parish Plan back in 2007 to a flourishing community space that is financially and ecologically sustainable. They are currently collecting votes for funding on www.skiptongrg.co.uk/apply-for-funding/2017-shortlisted-groups/east-of-england/framsden-woodland-group-eades-orchard/

2) Have you heard of [Ecosia](#)? You can sit and search via their search engine and 80% of the profits from the search (revenue from ads clicked on) goes to support carefully researched tree planting programs.

3) Did you spot the [June reports from the Committee on Climate Change](#)? The ninth annual assessment of UK progress in reducing emissions and meeting carbon budgets. Key messages: Emissions from buildings have risen in the last two years. The emissions need to fall by around 20% between 2016 and 2030. Insulation and Low-carbon heat (heat pumps, low-carbon heat networks) solutions exist and need further implementation. Transport emissions are rising but innovation and falling costs are driving uptake of electric vehicles. This trend needs to continue with 3 out of 5 new cars sold (60%) needing to be electric by 2030. Low-carbon electricity generation has increased from 20% of demand in 2008 to 50% today. This needs to increase to 75% by 2030.

4) As one of the largest built and non-built estates in Government it is essential that the Ministry of Justice makes the most of opportunities to manage them for the benefit of nature. The estate includes 10 national SSSIs; with 3 of these being European protected sites (SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites); along with 32 local sites with SSSIs; and over 60+ sites with local biodiversity significance, which include Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserves. How are they approaching this? Utilising skilled in house ecologists and volunteers/community groups to carryout, where possible, regular surveys on species and habitats including BioBlitz activities which are recorded in the National Species database through their partner the [National Biodiversity Network \(NBN\)](#)



East Suffolk Partnership Annual Forum
10 November 2017, Trinity Park, Ipswich



The event will explore how to deliver economic growth whilst improving essential local services, supporting communities and protecting the environment. The programme will reflect the key issues of most importance to the ESP

- Our People – Healthy and Resilient Individuals
- Our Environment – Maximising Natural Capital
- Our Places - Resilient Communities and Businesses

The whole agenda looks interesting but of the workshops may be of particular interest to members of the Greenprint Forum are given below. Please read and if you are the right people [book](#) and/or pass onto those who you think would benefit most from attending.

How can you create the housing that meets your community's needs?

This workshop is for town and parish councils, community groups and charities with the ambition to deliver community led sustainable housing solutions. It will also be of interest to developers and philanthropic land owners willing to work with communities to deliver those solutions and environmental solution companies wanting to future proof houses (renewables, passivhaus, electric vehicle charging, designers for nature etc.). Both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney councils can offer starter budgets to enable pioneer communities in East Suffolk to deliver sustainable housing solutions and are keen to find out how these funds can support you to meet you own community needs.

Nature Health Well-being and the Green Light Trust

The Green Light Trust use the natural environment to engage with and support the development and recovery of marginalised and disadvantaged individuals. Working in partnership with statutory providers in health, education and care sectors the work is funded through a broad range of sources. This workshop outlines the methods employed and how the multiple health and wellbeing outcomes of this engagement are evidenced. Feedback from those benefiting from these engagements Delegates will be asked to contribute to the development of this sector in East Suffolk.



Boyton & Hollesley Marshes an illustrated talk

Saturday 14th October

Waldringfield Village Hall in the Kennedy Room

Waldringfield Wildlife Group will host a talk following it's Annual General Meeting by RSPB Site Manager for the Suffolk Coast RSPB Reserves Aaron Howe. Aaron's illustrated talk will focus on two coastal reserves in the lower reaches of the Alde-Ore Estuary in a fantastically scenic location where the Butley River meets the Alde/Ore Estuary.

All are welcome to the AGM starting at 10.00 am, refreshments 10.45 am with the talk starting at 11.00 am.

There will be a small charge or you could sign up as a member to access free admission to the group's illustrated takes, field trip and to take part in the group's wildlife conservation projects.

A weekend introduction to permaculture design @thebusstop

Saturday November 11 and Sun November 12 2017

Sweffling Hall Farm, Sweffling, Saxmundham Suffolk IP17 2BT

During the two days participants will -

- * Learn where permaculture came from and why.
- * Understand why permaculture is relevant today,
- * Be introduced to a number of design tools.
- * Investigate the ethical basis of permaculture and how we can relate to this in our daily activities.

Please note this is a charged for training course.

For further details on cost and content please email - learning@thebusstop.life.

If you are interested in this activity but cannot make this date please let them know.

@thebusstop will be developing a series of events at Sweffling Hall Farm leading to a comprehensive understanding of whole farm design, permaculture design is integral to this process.