



**GREEN
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Introduction

Sometimes it is hard to see what is happening in the world and not be overwhelmed. There are so many people in need and so much harm is being done to nature. Yet each member of the Greenprint Forum I have spoken to is stepping up to act and social media and magazines show others doing the same and indeed more across the globe. Nature's Home spring edition shows how the RSPB, working in partnership with others (particularly farmers in Devon) to help species most in need, has helped the [cirl bunting](#), is using tracking to help other species and is turning spent quarry sites into wildlife paradises. January's edition of Suffolk Wildlife highlights work on hedgehogs, the Suffolk Broads and Sustainable Farming.

So for all of us who are contributing to any of these efforts and more well done and keep it up.

Our Updates

Those of you that get the East Anglian will have noticed a few of our members gaining coverage recently for activity linked to the Greenprint Forum. I'll start with Wild Boyton:

As part of the celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum, a fund was established through a partnership of the Greenprint Forum, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Sustainability Fund, the East Suffolk Partnership and Suffolk Coastal District Council. The intention was to make awards to help communities conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the valuable landscapes and biodiversity in the area, while benefitting people who live and work in local communities and those who visit.

Wild Boyton is a project that had been running in the parish of Boyton for some months. The stated intention of the project is to raise awareness and increase understanding of the natural environment around the village.

Wild Boyton was awarded £500 from the fund. As it is an unincorporated organisation, Boyton Parish Council agreed to receive and account for the grant. The money was used to run two events on 29 October a Fungus Foray was led by Rob Dryden, an experienced mycologist and on 5 November a bug hunt was led by Paul Lee a noted entomologist. Both events were used to engage local people of all ages as well as collecting hitherto unreported data. Promotional bug boxes and flyers were distributed to all households.



Blyth Wood also received £500 through the fund. They used it for an essential independent land valuation to inform fund raising efforts for the purchase of a new community wood of native species trees in a two acre field, Grove Piece, adjacent to a small ancient wood. As you will know Wenhaston has been a long term member of the Greenprint Forum and has a long environmental track record. In 2008, the energy group (Wenhaston Energy Support Group WESG) was awarded the Greenest Community Award for Energy by the Suffolk Strategic Partnership, and continued over the next years to focus on insulating homes, reducing energy consumption and facilitating tendering processes for solar panels and other alternative energy sources. Following on from WESG, Blyth Woods was formed in 2012. This project is about making a difference to the natural environment, leaving a legacy for the next generation, informing people and inspiring them to care for the locality and providing resources for all who live in or visit the area. The group has already planted a new native hedge and planted oaks along field boundaries, in hedge gaps - helping provide wildlife corridors, connecting isolated habitats. At the end of December 2016, on a very misty and damp morning, more than 30 turned out to celebrate the signing of our “Licence to Occupy” Grove Piece for a year, while the money is raised to buy it. A hornbeam was planted in the centre of the field, and all enjoyed hot coffee, gingerbread and mince pies to warm up. On January 13th, 22 school children and some of their parents, braved snow and extremely muddy conditions to plant out the oak saplings, which had been grown in the school nursery, from acorns collected by the children two years earlier. A number of hazel and spindleberry have also been planted, donated from a local source.





Developing prospects on the Suffolk Coast

The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB is an outstanding landscape as recognised by its legal designation. According to research carried out by URS Scott-Wilson in 2013 there are an estimated 5380 commercial bed spaces within the AONB. Direct income from tourism equates to just under £190 million per annum, with a further £43.7 million generated through indirect spend. Combined this spend supports around 3,600 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs. This forms a vital part of the £1.85 billion Suffolk wide tourism industry (£5 billion Suffolk and Norfolk).

As part of the Coastal Communities Funded project 'Developing prospects on the Suffolk Coast: Economy, People, Environment' a local resource for tourism businesses has been created called '[Getting the Green Edge](#)' It provides an easy checklist of environmental action, links to case studies and support. Feel free to distribute this link to your contacts.

One paragraph from it which may be of particular interest to you is:

Increasingly research is indicating links between physical and mental health and exposure to nature. This is demonstrated in the report '[a Dose of Nature](#)' which highlights amongst other benefits: that Green Prescription increases physical activity levels and improves quality of life over twelve months giving a 20–30 percent risk reduction in all-cause mortality and that time in a forest reduces the risk of heart problems and improves the immune system. Given the personal implications and the cost to our NHS (inactivity in Suffolk costs £14,046,686,5 per year) it is clear that we all need to both promote activity outside and look after the spaces that make it possible and beneficial.

Other services/opportunities developed through this fund include:

Suffolk Coast Greeters <http://suffolkcoast.greeters.info/>

Wild Days Holidays <https://wilddaysconservation.org/holidays/suffolk-coast-orford/>

Join In <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/join-in/>



Air Quality

Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas.

Recent Defra feedback on Waveney District Council's recent [Air Quality Report](#) was very positive 'We note that the Council has no formal requirement to develop an action plan, but has provided evidence of significant projects in the local region, in conjunction with Suffolk County Council, including a range of active travel alternatives that can expect to contribute to emissions reductions, these are welcomed'.

Waveney District Council has been active with Suffolk County Council in securing funding for a third crossing of the Lake Lothing from Central Government. A third crossing would reduce traffic congestion at the Lowestoft bascule bridge and improve air quality at this location. Free flowing traffic is not so polluting in terms of emissions of pollutants, so that actions to reduce traffic will have a positive effect on local air quality.

The Waveney District Council Planning and Development Team have recently produced a [Cycle Strategy](#) policy document and it is hoped that this will help remove some of the barriers preventing people from cycling more often and reduce the reliance on the car.

Highways England are looking at a number of options to improve traffic flow in the area of the Bascule Bridge and the biggest improvement is likely to come from putting all the Lowestoft traffic signals onto one Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) system. This should make it possible to set different signal timings to optimise traffic flow, not only at busy times, but to completely change the signal priorities when the Bascule Bridge lifts.



Thriving Community Buildings

40 community buildings have benefitted to date from the East Suffolk Partnership, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk Coast & Heaths funded Thriving Community Building Project. Overall cumulative savings of over £19k and 87 tonnes CO²e have been identified.

Full audits or support time can be offered to East Suffolk Community Buildings depending on your need (within our target of 35 further buildings supported in East Suffolk by March 2018).

Contact Jamie or Robert from Groundwork Suffolk on a Friday on 01473 350370 or email jamie.murphy@groundwork.org.uk to talk through your needs. The full offer covers:

- Energy management and monitoring
- Resource efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Emergency planning and resilience
- Health and safety
- Governance, trustees and management
- Safeguarding
- Financial management accounting
- Business planning and fundraising strategies
- Employment of staff and volunteers
- Biodiversity and access to wildlife

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/enabling-communities/thriving-community-buildings/





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Upcoming Forum Events (Please remove all other dates from your diary. To help members we have shuffled some around to avoid clashes with community events) If an event is based on a topic you are skilled in and you want to play a more active role please contact greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk.

Book your space by emailing greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk. All will be allocated on a first come first serve basis (members first but then open to anyone in Suffolk so feel free to share with your networks)

Thursday 2 March 2017 (gather from 6.30 – talks start at 7pm and end at 9pm) **Funny Weather**

East Suffolk House - Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT.

Thursday 30 March 1pm — 4pm Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Great Blakenham

Wednesday 26 April 2017 10.00 - 12.00 Suffolk energy-from-waste (EfW) facility at Great Blakenham

Monday 24 April or Tuesday 25 April either 10am until 12, 2pm until 4pm or 6pm to 8pm

A special insight into the independent minds that have shaped the 'Pool of the Britons' in the past and more recently—energy, food and worship in Cookley and Walpole. It is free but donations to the chapel would be welcomed (Complete the [doodle poll](#) by 13 February so that we can select the best time and date for everyone or call if you can't access: 01394 444747).

Monday 3rd July 2017 – 7pm - 9pm - Creating Sustainable Self Builds with Community Land Trusts

Monday 25th September 2017 – 7pm - 9pm - Communities and enterprises cutting waste



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Other events to support if possible

Every Friday 10am – 3pm from 6th February to 27th March 2017 at RSPB Minsmere, Near Saxmundham Woodland Minds Well-Being Programme - FREE up to 12 people

Would you like to get involved in woodland and countryside activities and at the same time improve your mental and physical wellbeing? Learn about:
Tree & hedge planting * Formative tree pruning * Coppicing * Scrub & ride maintenance * Green woodwork * Hedge laying * Hay raking by hand * Making green wood structures * Creating living willow structures * Willow weaving * Botanical survey* Breeding bird survey * Woodland art and crafts * Animal homes* Bushcraft Contact Beverley at GLT: 01284 830829 if you have any queries or for a registration form beverley@greenlighttrust.org if you wish to attend.

Monday 20th February. Waldringfield Village Hall. 7.30pm

Greener Waldringfield has invited Prof John Midwinter FRS to give a talk about the effects of climate change. John has developed a deep understanding and extensive knowledge of the subject over many years and presents it in a way we can all understand and enjoy. Climate change is happening now and its up to all of us as individuals, groups and communities to understand the implications and think about what actions we can take to mitigate its effects. Please help spread the word among your friends and family members and invite them to come along to this event. Entrance is £2 (students free!). For other events of this nature go to:
www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Uploads/2016-09-SCH-Vol-Tasks-Poster-Oct-16-to-Mar-2.pdf



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Other events to support if possible (continued)

Great Winter Nurdle Hunt on 3rd – 5th February 2017 www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/take-part/the-great-winter-nurdle-hunt.html

Tuesday 21 February 9:30am – 3:00pm Community Conservation Waldringfield

Waldringfield Village Hall, School Rd, Woodbridge IP12 4QP, UK ([map](#))

Cutting bracken, weeding/shaping trees, cut back hedges, removing Japanese Honeysuckle etc. Most tasks start at 9.30 am and finish at 3.00 pm. If times are different you will be notified. You work for as long as you wish and at your own pace. For further information contact Neil Lister on (01394) 445218 or neil.lister@suffolk.gov.uk Visit www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org.

For other events of this nature go to www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/work-parties and www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/diary/diary.php

Monday 27 February

Felixstowe Fairtrade launch St Mary's Church Walton by Felixstowe Mayor, Jan Garfield, at 10.30 am and will be followed by an (optional) walk organised in co-operation with Felixstowe Walkers.

Pop up Fairtrade Cafes between 27 Feb and 12 March Framlingham, Beccles, Lowestoft: follow links on <http://www.suffolkfairtrade.org.uk>