



The changing seasons

Autumn is a lovely time of year for getting out, reconnecting with and exploring nature. This photo is of the River Gipping, which the Environment Agency is actively working to improve along with local industry. It is soon to become a haunt of the current editor of this newsletter as I move into my new role as Environmental Manager/Scientist for Climax Molybdenum.



So this is a ‘so long and thanks for all the fish’ edition. I am sure I will see many of you again as I will remain a member of the forum and am still going to be out litter picking when I get the time.

Please bear with us for a few months or so as there will be no newsletter whilst my replacement is being recruited.

Read on for the advert and much more. **Debbie**





Environmental Sustainability Officer

Could you be the new go to person for the Greenprint Forum, East Suffolk Councils and other partner organisations?

Talks. Events. Activities. Policy and project development and monitoring. Expert advice.

£30,756 - £34,106 plus essential user allowance

On 1 April 2019, we will become East Suffolk Council – a new ‘super district’ authority, replacing Suffolk Coastal and Waveney. It will be the largest district council in the country, providing high-quality services to a quarter of a million people across east Suffolk. Our councils are an exciting place to work and a great place to make a real difference to people’s lives, delivering vital services to those who need them most.

This post is key to the delivery of the council’s environmental agenda and we are looking for someone with drive and enthusiasm to work with a wide range of stakeholders including local communities, businesses and other public, private and voluntary sector organisations to promote and encourage them to reduce their environmental impacts and address the challenges of climate change.



For the job description and personal specification and to apply by 2 December 2018 go to:

www.suffolkjobsdirect.org/EastSuffolkCouncils/environment-conservation-waste-recycling-environmental-sustainability-officer/51993.job

Remember it is rarely 9 to 5 in this sector - flexible working will be essential as community engagement often requires working outside of normal office hours.



We have now created the Plastic Action Champion Handbook which contains over 100 pages of useful information on plastics including: who does what in waste and litter, how to organise a litter pick, home composting, the Suffolk A-Z of reducing and recycling waste at home, frequently asked questions and the answers, useful links, connecting projects to be aware of and so much more.

You can access an electronic and hard copy of this resource by volunteering to be a plastic action champion. In return for the resources, support and training we provide we ask that you attempt to volunteer as a plastic action champion in your local community for at least 20 hours a year and that you attend relevant training/knowledge share opportunities or read the notes from them if you can't get there. How you use those 20 hours is up to you. Although there are suggestions within the contract you will sign you can negotiate these.

Email greenissues@east Suffolk.gov.uk to express your interest

PLASTIC ACTION CHAMPION HANDBOOK 2018



Plastic Action Champion visit to RPC M&H Plastics plant.

On the 16th November 2018 three of us visited the RPC M&H Plastics plant in Beccles to understand what they produce and what they are doing to reduce their environmental impacts whilst remaining a profitable local employer.

It was a fascinating three hours. The key learning was:

- Established in 1973 they currently employ 800 people at the site we visited and 200 in Ellough. This year they provided 32 apprenticeships, which will lead into permanent jobs.
- Many individuals in the factory care just as much as we do, as evidenced by 50 volunteering to clean 25kg of litter from Pakefield Beach on a Sunday lunchtime in November. They do not want to see plastic entering nature.
- Plastic sprue (polymers solidifying in die passages and which connect the wanted parts together), purge, Jazz and other post industrial plastics are reduced as much as possible and collected for recycling within the plant.
- They have looked at becoming a circular economy business on site however the size of it does not allow for it and their food safe plastics rating. They do however have a plastics recycling firm within the group and are adopting [RecyClass](#) certification to help their customers make informed choices on recyclability of plastics.
- They have teamed up with Radical Waste to move to zero waste to landfill as soon as possible.
- They are a member of Operation Clean Sweep and have a Hoover rapid response procedure to tackle any pellet spillages and filters on drains which are cleaned daily in case any do escape into them.
- They encourage customers to opt for a carbon free black in their black packaging to ensure it is seen on conveyor belts.
- Awards have been won for an innovative flat profile 100% recycled polyethylene wine bottle that can fit through letter boxes, the contents drunk and then the bottle recycled.



A quick round up and thank you to just a few of our fabulous communities for all your efforts:

Beccles Bombs continue to be busy

Beccles Bombs picked the A146 layby area on 13 November 2018. Five black bin bags of rubbish including bottles of urine and fast food takeaway packaging!

Blyth woods volunteers have been busy planting trees to fill gaps in the Grove Piece Community Woodland.

Greener Fram is running one of their swap and mends on Saturday 8th December at the Framlingham Unitarian Meeting Hall (next to the library). 9.30- 1pm. <http://greenerfram.co.uk/wp/swap-or-mend/>

Have you gone 'Beach Bonkers' yet?

1st December from 10:00 - 12:00 There will be a winter beachcomb at Bawdsey beach. A great spot for sharks' teeth and sea glass. All details here: <https://www.beachbonkers.org.uk/come-to-the-beach/dec1ambawdseybeachcomb>

16th December from 10:30 - 12:30 There will be a beach clean and litter survey at Landguard Nature Reserve, Felixstowe.

Twenty wonderful beach cleaners turned up for the September beach clean and removed 268 individual items of litter from the beach, 215 of them plastic. More info: <https://www.beachbonkers.org.uk/come-to-the-beach/dec16amlandguardbeachclean>

Litter Free Felixstowe launch event on the 18th November had over 70 people volunteering to pick litter to stop it going into our watercourses and oceans and harming wildlife.

Sustainable Bungay relaunched Happy Monday's on Monday 19th November with a lovely spread of local food for over 50 folk.

Orchards East is running training for those who care for community orchards, especially those planted within the last 20 years or so. Tuesday 5 February – Orchard Pruning, People's Community Garden Ipswich 9.30am to 12 noon and Chantry Walled Garden Ipswich 1pm to 3pm. Tutor Bob Lever. Contact Howard.Jones@uea.ac.uk, 07854 701363 for information or to see if there are any spaces left.

Transition Woodbridge are holding a free screening of Albatross tonight (23.11.2018) at the Community Hall in Woodbridge starting at 7pm. Afterwards people will have the chance to buy plastic free Christmas presents from local traders.

Woodbridge Swifts group have alerted us to a Swift Adviser training morning, on Saturday morning March 16th 2019, 9.30 – 1pm at SWT offices, Brooke House Ashbocking. The (free!) training is for anyone who would like to know more about the amazing lives of Swifts, the reasons for the decline in their numbers and most importantly how we can all help them by setting up a local swift group. To express your interest contact: Tracey Housley. tracey.housley@suffolkwildlifetrust.org.

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events/2019-03-16-how-save-our-suffolk-swifts: for details.

Don't want it ? Swap it !

Bring **your** unwanted items
and swap with others who have
brought along **their** unwanted items

BLYBURGATE HALL

Saturday 8 December 2018

doors open 1pm - 3pm



www.beccles.info/towncouncil/blyburgate-hall/

Blyburgate Hall, Blyburgate, Beccles NR34 9TF





Rising High Intern gains coveted employment with the Environment Agency

Bethany Lamb is now a Permitting Officer with the Water Resources Team at the Environment Agency, Ipswich.

What environmental roles did you have before this?

Prior to this I held the Environmental Services Intern role with East Suffolk Councils during Summer 2017. I undertook this internship between my second and third year at Oxford Brookes University where I read Geography. One of my main task during my 3 month internship was researching and compiling a report suggesting measures to reduce fuel usage and emissions for one of the council's vehicle fleets. I was also given the opportunity to shadow Air Quality Officers to gain an insight into how air pollution is managed in Suffolk.

How did the Suffolk Rising High internship help you with getting this job?

My experience with East Suffolk Councils was invaluable in that it equipped me with transferable workplace skills

and the experience to be a competitive candidate at interview. Having experienced working in a professional, environmental role I had an advantage where otherwise I might have only had my university experiences to draw on. Having a knowledge of how local authorities and other governmental organisations work together to manage environmental issues gave me a competitive advantage during the Environment Agency recruitment process.

What would you say were the strengths of the Greenprint Forum having had a brief chance to get to know the network?

The breadth and diversity of the topics the Greenprint Forum engages with struck me even during the limited time I was with East Suffolk. Some of the events I attended included talks on self-building in Suffolk, community renewable energy, as well as tours of Lakenheath solar farm and Suffolk's Energy From Waste facility. The Greenprint Forum appeared to me to be a fantastic place for community-minded individuals to come together, share ideas and broaden their understanding of the environment around them. Possibly its most notable strength, however, is its function as a hub for community action, as it brings together individuals from different groups, organisations and areas.

Is there anything else you would like to say about your internship?

This role not only provided me with workplace skills but also academic ones, seeing environmental management in action and meeting a wide range of environmentally-minded people I was able write more well informed essays, drawing on real world examples.

Is there any advice you would give to a young person starting to think about work?

I would recommend starting to think about career options early on in your degree and doing as many work experience placements and internships as possible during university - in other words, grab every opportunity! Not only does this help you narrow down what you might want (or not want) to do after university, having workplace experience and examples of where you have demonstrated key skills will give



Air Quality

We would like to offer you the chance to view and comment on our first joint air quality report for the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney districts – the 2018 Annual Status Report (ASR).

The ASR is produced every year and provides a public facing update on air quality across both districts. The 2018 ASR was submitted to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and has recently received approval. The report includes monitoring data for 2017 and details progress on actions to improve air quality across the districts.

Clean air is important for our health and for the environment. Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts and 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.

The 2018 ASR confirms that air quality within both districts remains generally good. The Air Quality Objectives are not exceeded at any locations within Waveney, and within Suffolk Coastal there are 2 declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) for nitrogen dioxide covering very small specific areas, one located in Woodbridge and the other on the A12 at Stratford St. Andrew.

The really good news is that our 2017 monitoring reveals that the nitrogen dioxide levels within both AQMAs have reduced in recent times to below the standard set by the Government – for the fourth year running in Woodbridge and for the first year in Stratford St. Andrew.

The ASR and Defra's comments can be found on our website at <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/air-quality-reports/>. Alternatively, paper copies are available for viewing at Customer Services in The Marina Centre at Lowestoft and also at Beccles, Felixstowe and Woodbridge Libraries.

We are seeking, and would welcome, comments on the report. These can be emailed to environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk, or post them to: Environmental Protection, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT.

We may not be able to reply directly to every consultation response, but be assured all comments received will be taken into account. **The Consultation closes on Friday 18th January 2019.**



This article has been written by a young person, Janitha Bodhinayake at the request of the Greenprint Forum. It is important to not only demonstrate that young people do care enough to attend talks and take action but also for us all to have the chance to learn from them.

Hastings hosts symposium raising awareness of the current state of our seas

The Ocean Symposium and Marine Exhibition, at the St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings, was held to raise awareness of the current state of our oceans and all global marine activities. Myself, my two younger sisters and my dad attended the Symposium as representatives of the UNA-UK Ipswich & District Branch led by Mr. Charles Croydon (Chair, Ipswich & District United Nations Association).

The Ocean Symposium was chaired by Marine biologist, Gonzalo Alvarez and his team of specialists and community leaders. The panel included Jan Cutting (Active Communities Lead, Rother Voluntary Action Group), Martin Fisher (CEO, Rother Voluntary Action Group), Tim Pharaoh (Senior Specialist for Marine Advocacy, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wild Life Trust) and Sarah Ward (Living Seas Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust). The event was also packed with a variety of speakers from a number of organisations, with each speaker being given the opportunity to elaborate and enlighten the people in attendance of what it is that they represent, their views on the current situation concerning oceans and the environment as a whole and their thoughts on what the future holds and what people can expect from them going forward.

Natalie Samarasinghe (Executive Director of UNA-UK), Dr Nicholas Watts (Senior Research Fellow, University of London) and Dr Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries and Conservation Officer, Sussex Inshore Conservation Authority) were some of the key individuals in attendance. The symposium was split into three main topics – Oceans and Global Issues, Marine Conservation and Fisheries and Regional Marine Projects. The speakers were allocated into those three topics and throughout the event they were able to discuss and answer questions from the audience regarding that particular area and additional matters. Also throughout the event, the organisers provided a number of stunning films/videos (BBC Earth / Wildlife Trust). The footage, full of nature's beauty and its current state, added extra context to all discussions that took place, allowing the viewers to get an even better understanding. During each break, the people in attendance were able to take a look and enjoy the Marine Exhibition, consisting of a variety of organisations showcasing their work and current projects they are working on.

My youngest sister, Sajanee, said that she "learnt about many things that we can do to stop pollution in our seas" and my sister Yeheni expressed her view that "there should be events like this all over the UK". The event was a positive experience for not only the senior members at attendance, but also the younger audience.

We would like to thank UNA Bexhill & Hastings, RVA (Rather Voluntary Action), Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Sussex Wildlife Trust for organising the event. And also thanks to Southern Water and Surfers Against Sewage for supporting it.

A call to record your wax sightings from Lynn Allen, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB

“In 2011, I became aware of paraffin wax being washed up on our beaches, and compiled records of reports. It quickly became apparent that this wasn’t just a local issue, but was a global occurrence. I contacted Cefas, (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science <https://www.cefas.co.uk/>) who analysed samples. Owing to the scale of the problem they have since taken on the co-ordinating of reports.

I have recently been contacted by **Katie Moore**, Radiological Survey Scientist at Cefas as they are continuing to record findings and analyse samples, but they would like to maximise awareness of the issue, and have composed the following which they would like shared.

“As you may know, there are sporadic incidents of waxy deposits being washed up on our coastlines, but little is known about the location, frequency and nature of these deposits. Many are incorrectly assumed to be Palm Oil, but Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science <https://www.cefas.co.uk/>) have been working on a project to investigate the frequency and location of waxy deposits, and to try to identify chemical composition, in order to collate information into a database.

To further develop this database and an identification tool we need to get records of sightings and samples of the substances. Please send photos and details to katharine.moore@cefas.co.uk.

