

Greenprint Forum Newsletter, May 2018



Thank you to Mark Kemp for this photo of some of our fabulous team helping out in the community in their lunch break.

Active, passionate people willing to pitch in and help whilst still taking time to enjoy time outside. If you are reading this newsletter the chances are you are one of those people. Thank you. I ask one thing. Please share this newsletter with a friend and ask them to do the same. The wider the reach the more impact we will have.

This bumper edition covers: allotments, community energy, experiences of two electric vehicles drivers, GDPR, Realise Futures, Regional Flood and Coastal Committee annual review event notes, river clean volunteer opportunity, Shingle Street litter pick, swifts, Suffolk Wildlife Trust events and Tools with a Mission.



Balloons blow—please don't use as decoration outside. If you run a church or community hall or any kind of event space why not add 'to save wildlife no balloons are allowed outside' as one of your terms of hire. Alternative decorations can be found at <https://balloonsblow.org/environmentally-friendly-alternatives>.

This was one of four found in a litter pick near a lovely church in Melton.

Keeping your allotment wildlife friendly

The wonderful productive time of year has begun and our pollinators and aerators are hard at work for us. What we do on our plots can have a significant impact on the wildlife around us – in a positive or a negative way. This article shares the experiences of two novice plot holders at KALGA. If you would like your own plot, there are still some available. www.kesgrave-allotments.org.uk/



The plot in this picture is four year old. It now has places for birds to nest (Blue Tits love aphids and caterpillars), space for solitary bees and compost bins which are inhabited by many creatures. It has a water tray for wildlife to drink from which is topped up regularly from the water butt. It contains a mix of rotating vegetables, fruit and flowers and no chemicals are used on it. The plot owners have made the choice to use hand tools and a push mower to keep the grass down to avoid the risk of accidentally harming hedgehogs. Slug pellets are a no.

Year one: Dug rear half of the rocky, poor quality soil using a mattock and removed rocks to create a patio. Weeded and added organic compost. Put in shed, compost bins and water butt. Planted insect attractors:

roses (petals also used to create confetti), heather, nasturtiums (to add colour to salads), sun flowers, mint and rhubarb. Veg beds were planted with nitrogen fixing peas and beans (dug in once harvested) and Phacelia (bees love this).



Key lesson learnt: Plastic sheeting under woodchip does make for two years without weeding paths, but in the third year it starts to break down and you are adding lots of micro plastics to the soil and the weeds come back. Better to seed with grass or just put woodchip down and keep pulling up weeds as they show through.

Year two The other half of the plot was weeded and then mulched with a layer of soil improver and a layer of cardboard and another layer of compost. This was left over winter before planting it up with squashes, corn on the cob, tomatoes, chard, spinach, lettuce, and more, which made it a lot easier on the back than all that digging. Now the soil has improved this top up and leave approach will be used every couple of years. Two raised beds were created from old fencing. Now it is just plan, plant, water, hoe and harvest.

Key lesson learnt: Don't create bird traps with nets or chicken wire. If you really have to create a small contained space ensure there is no way in.

Thank you for this photo and for the bug box made from reclaimed items Daniel Wareing.

Energy in your Community

Households, businesses and community groups all rely on our modern, easy access supply of energy for heating and powering their premises. For many of us improving/ensuring energy efficiency and cutting non essential usage remains key. Pioneers are beginning the move from being consumers to 'prosumers'.

A prosumer produces as well as consumes energy and increasingly will participate in the energy market through storage and release to meet demand, even though it is not their primary commercial or professional activity. What does this mean for us?

According to Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy Regional Renewable Statistics Energy from renewable sources has been steadily increasing since 2000 and the East of England is one of the three top generators of renewable energy. Whilst this progress is welcomed, with just 9% of total National energy consumption coming from renewables, more still needs to be done to improve our energy security and reduce emissions.

Electricity capacity of the National Grid is a current constraint to be overcome. Offshore wind is a particular local strength in terms of energy generation where there are already three large windfarms and planned development of at least another ten. However, in the right locations, solar, onshore wind and energy from waste/bio crops also plays a part. Over time it is thought that they will provide a potential for businesses, community groups and householders to become 'prosumers'.

Businesses

Business Efficiency East Anglia has helped 616 businesses identify measures they could take to cut energy bills and provided £290k in grants to 57 businesses. There are just 30 weeks left to gain a grant. For inspiration and contact details visit www.beeanglia.org. Further inspiration can be found in the 33 organisations that have achieved Gold status with the Carbon Charter, the majority of these have not only put in measures to reduce energy use but have installed at least one form of renewable energy generation.

The next step towards 'prosumerism' is storage and release on demand. There are less examples of this. In France [Carrefour Hypermarchés](#) are working with demand side response specialists to unlock energy from their refrigeration units to provide grid balancing services without affecting food quality. In England the [East of England Co-op](#) has, since 2011, partnered with Open Energi to do a similar thing with their boilers and air handling units at Wherstead Park. Glass manufacturer [Encirc](#) provides another example.

There are likely more examples that have not been found in researching this article. If you know of any or good sources of information do email them to greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk as it is one that will likely come up again in the future and it would be helpful to keep local organisations aware of progress and pitfalls.



Community Groups

Maximising local value from renewable energy to enable further community action is important. The [Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Project Officer](#) John Taylor recently attended a [National Community Energy England Conference](#) on energy efficiency and gave a talk on community renewables at a recent Community Resilience Forum.

The key learning he noted from the National Conference included:

- Mistrust is still a big issue for the domestic energy efficiency sector. Community energy groups, working alongside local authorities, suppliers and contractors can provide that missing grassroots link.
- Pay as you save loans can be viable if marketed correctly and community energy groups can help households become 'prosumers' and gain savings and income from becoming participants in local energy flexibility markets.
- [Brighton and Hove Energy Services Company](#) is heralded as a good example of best practise.

His talk on community renewables reminded us that DECC estimate that by 2020 3GW of electricity could be generated by community energy schemes and that Suffolk has examples of community groups that are amongst the pioneers including: [Power 4KCC](#), [Green Energy Nayland](#) and [Stutton Green Energy](#). He also reminded us of the commercial schemes in Suffolk that offered community benefit funds: [Ellough Airfield Solar Farm](#), the developers funded 4 solar panel arrays for nearby schools and village halls. Thrive Renewables [Eye](#) Wind Turbines makes an annual contribution to Mid-Suffolk District Council which is distributed to community initiatives. Greater Gabbard Offshore Windfarm provided [grants](#) of £2,000 to £2,500 within a 5km radius of Sizewell.

Households

Existing homes owners have the option, alone or as part of a collective to: cut energy use, switch energy provider, switch to a low cost and low impact as possible energy source and where it will work install solar PV. There is still information on the first on www.energysavingtrust.org.uk as well as various reports on heating.

Given that households use anywhere between 2000kWh and 4600kWh electricity a year depending on size, age of property and occupancy and the average solar installation produces approximately 3000kWh a year the natural thought might be that there is little spare to store or export. However, as much of the use is at night or in low light conditions at least 50% and as much as 70% is thought likely to be exported. This is where battery storage and/or an electric car has a role. Home batteries are available as are thermal stores, BRE produced a guide [in 2016](#) which may be of interest, however they remain at this time in the realm of pioneers. Over time it is anticipated that they will be mainstream along with electric heating and smart appliances as part of a smart grid system. Indeed funding from BEIS and OLEV called Innovation in Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) Systems has resulted in £30m funding being set aside for 21 projects. So this is an area that is worth keeping an eye on if you are a settler and getting involved in if you are a pioneer.

Electric Cars Update



Photo provided by John Taylor, John.taylor3@suffolk.gov.uk.

According to the [Department for Transport](#) 3.1 million vehicles were registered in Great Britain for the first time. Of these 53,000 (under 2%) were ultra low emission vehicles. This is an increase of 27% on 2016. It shows that Electric vehicles are still in the realm of the pioneers but are set to become main stream soon as the range between charges increases ([now up to 250 miles in test conditions](#)), charging infrastructure improves ([16,553 public points available](#)), costs come down and the variety of cars available increases. This month we talk to Andrew Cassy, Chair of the Greenprint and John Taylor Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Project Officer about their experiences as Electric Car Owners.

What made you want to get an electric car?

AC: In 2014 we needed a second car and given my role in promoting sustainable transport I wanted to ensure it was economic to run and had low tail-pipe emissions. I researched options and given that the mileage would be low and that a second car would not be needed permanently opted to lease one.

JT: Being a rural county, many people are reliant on their car to get to work, reach family and go shopping so it's a tricky sector for us to decarbonise. When I found the all in cost was the same as buying an efficient petrol car I decided it was time to make the leap. Also, it's just a great driving experience, I had to drive a rental car on holiday last month and it felt so old and clunky, electric cars feel like the future.

What model did you go for and why?

AC: Renault Zoe, Dynamique Nav: because it offered an affordable way to get TomTom© LIVE navigation (showing charging points to reduce range anxiety), DAB FM tuner, Bluetooth© audio streaming, hands free calls and voice control. What I would have liked it to have but it didn't was heated seats, these are the most effective way to heat a person in an electric car.

JT: A second hand Renault Zoe – I've always driven smaller cars so the Nissan Leaf felt a bit large for my needs. The Renault Zoe is just the right size and range for me and it looks pretty cool too. It was also the most affordable option for me.

What would you say to someone who is unsure about whether now to buy or lease an electric car?

AC: Driving it always put a smile on my face and I would say if you don't have to travel long distances all the time give leasing one a try. Just try to get one with heated seats.

JT: Having had one now for close to two years as my primary and only car I would say there is nothing to worry about and just go out and try one. Most dealers can arrange for you to have an extended test drive and the choice and variety of plug in cars is growing all the time. If you do a lot of long distance motorway driving a plug in hybrid car may be a better option for the time being but for everyone else, I reckon you could switch to electric tomorrow and not notice the difference.

AC I leased the car at £139 a month and the battery at £90 for a 10,000 mile per year plan, this included a guaranteed range warranty and roadside assistance and annual servicing. I also purchased a 13amp plug in adaptor for home (£500) and got a free outdoor charge point (worth £1000).

JT I got a second hand car from Bristos Renault in Ipswich for £6,000, which I'm paying off via a loan over five years. I don't actually own the battery, I lease that from Renault which costs £70 per month for a 7000 mile per year plan (this includes a guaranteed range warranty and roadside assistance). Tax is £0 and the MOT is around £40 and there are no exhaust pipes or clutches that need replacing. The electricity I generally get for free, but even if I was paying 12p per kWh it would still only be £17.50 per month. So all in, to buy and run it's around £180-190 per month, and once I've paid the car off this'll drop to £80-90 per month. New ones on a PCP deal are in the region of £200-£250 per month.

Do you find yourself monitoring carbon intensity – if so, what site do you use?

AC Not really. Where the grid gets its power from is outside of my control. My primary aim was to reduce tail pipe emissions.

JT Yes, as this was the main reason I got the car I find myself doing this all the time. When I first did the maths, I found that overnight, my carbon footprint from driving had dropped by 70%! Even though we have gas in our electricity mix and still some coal sometimes, the CO2 savings from switching to an electric car are substantial and as the carbon intensity of grid electricity drops further this will only improve. Last Sunday I charged up when it was really sunny and windy, and the CO2 saving increased to close to 90%! For a quick check I use an app on my phone called Grid Carbon www.cs.ox.ac.uk/people/alex.rogers/gridcarbon/. A more in depth site is www.electricinsights.co.uk and now the National Grid publish CO2 data for the East of England <http://carbonintensity.org.uk/> which is very handy.

What is the furthest distance you have travelled on a single charge?

AC 100 miles, this was not deliberate it is just that at the time the charging points in Norwich did not work with the Zoe.

JT On a single charge it's 98 miles, I've not quite made it to the 100 mile club yet, but that's fine for travelling around Suffolk for work. The range does drop to around 70 miles in winter but I've never really felt range anxiety as I've planned my trips around the charging network. The furthest journey I've made is to the New Forest. I ended up making 3 x 30 minute charging stops to use the motorway rapid chargers which wasn't too different to the stops I would have made anyway in a petrol car. The new models have ranges closer to 200 miles per charge now; some friends of mine who own a Tesla drove to the Alps and back using the Tesla Supercharger network.

Where do you charge the car the most?

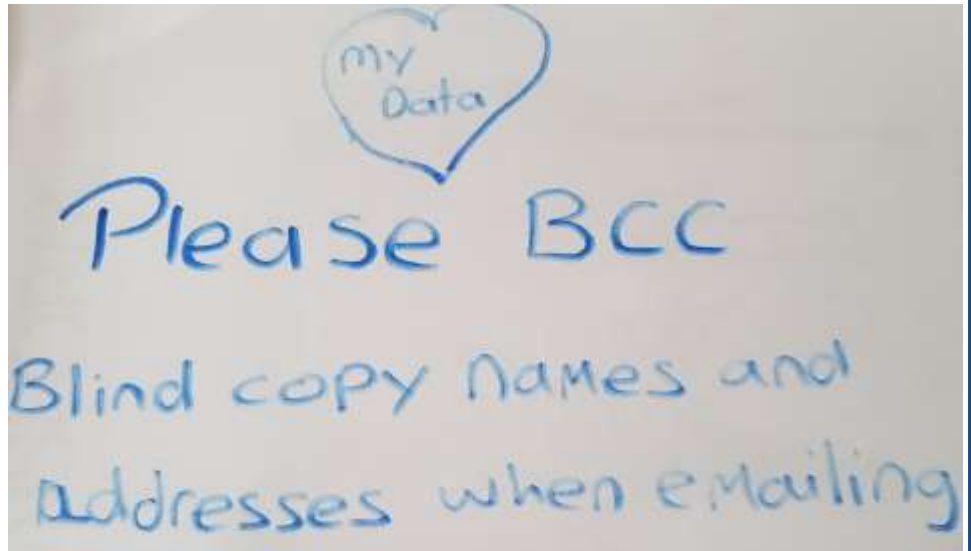
AC At home. Occasionally at work or on the public network.

JT At work. I don't have off street parking at home so am reliant on my work car park and the public charging network. SMEs can get grant funding to put in charge points for employees. Go to www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles#workplace-charging-scheme and www.beeanglia.org/ to find out more.

The General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018

This became law on 25 May 2018.

A huge well done to the volunteers and small business owners, who have ensured they meet the requirements without losing all their valuable contacts. Thank you to each and everyone who took the time to respond to my requests.



Data protection is everyone's responsibility. If you process personal data as part of your volunteer role, you are responsible for looking after other people's data in the same way as you would your own.

Two big principles of the GDPR are purpose and informed, unambiguous consent. This means that if we want to collect data, we have to be clear about why it's being collected and ask people to give their consent to their data being used for these purposes. Data must not later be used for other purposes incompatible with the original purpose. We are not allowed to contact individuals unless we have their active, informed consent and they have positively opted-in to hearing from us. This means we can't use pre-ticked checkboxes, or assume that if someone is happy to hear from us by email we can also call them. They must actively choose to hear from us, and tell us which channels they are happy for us to use. We must also record how and when consent was given.

If you run a membership list and have not yet asked people to opt in do take the time to look into this. Three sources of information I have found useful are:

www.ramblers.org.uk/gdprguidance?utm_source=GDPR+Guidance&utm_campaign=5a107013ac-Guidance+GDPR+24.03.18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d70b984c1b-5a107013ac-35281363&mc_cid=5a107013ac&mc_eid=f2f9559600

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/training/gdpr-general-data-protection-regulation/ - Training is available

The east Suffolk Councils and east Suffolk Partnership have come together with The DPO Centre to provide an online toolkit for small businesses. Go to www.dpocentre.com/gdpr-policy-toolkit/ to get practical advice and tips on how to get your organisation ready for GDPR.

Realise Futures

Creating fairer employment opportunities for people with disabilities and/or disadvantages, to realise their potential whilst protecting the planet we thrive on is a core principle for Realise Futures Community Interest Company. They employ approximately 340 people in six businesses of which 30% are disabled and/or disadvantaged.



Hattie, Poppy's Pantry, 28th March Plastics Know Your Place in the Community.

[Poppy's Pantry](#) is a wholefood store in Melton, near Woodbridge which specialises in plastic free or low packaged, ethically made, low impact vegan or vegetarian goods. To the rear of the shop they have a packaging store. On Tuesdays they run a pop up community coffee shop in St Mary's Church, Woodbridge.

[Realise Futures Eco Furniture](#) make outdoor furniture from red, yellow, green and blue planks made out of waste soft plastic such as carrier bags and plastic milk bottles. This furniture needs no treatment and depending on conditions is expected to last for decades. Customers can have furniture repaired at a cost to keep in use as long as possible. When furniture is no longer needed or usable it can be wiped down and taken back at a cost for Realise Futures to strip down and use all that can be and send the rest back for returning into new panels.

[Growing Places Organic](#) veg box scheme which currently delivers to Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Stowmarket & Woodbridge and various towns and villages in between.

[Nowton Park Nursery](#) produces a colourful array of plants to buy or order, including seasonal hanging baskets and plants for pots and containers for households and the commercial market.

[St Lawrence Café](#) is open Monday to Saturday and offers drinks, freshly made cakes and nibbles as well as free WIFI.

[Fulfilment services](#) provide folding, counting, assembling cartons and labelling services to meet customer requirements.

Anglian Eastern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Annual Review – 16th May 2018



Eli Sanyari attended this event on our behalf and provided a write up from which this is taken.

The purpose of the day was to bring together people who care about East Anglia and are concerned enough about flooding and erosion to want to take action to reduce risks to people, property and nature. It was co-ordinated by the Anglia Eastern RFCC which covers major parts of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and brings together key funders and decision makers to attempt to improve impacts of investments. Increasingly it will need to draw in private investors and ensure that new developments are flood resilient and flood risk is reduced overall, that there is the capacity to keep gathering relevant data to evidence change/ need and to develop and manage capital projects and that we all are kept engaged at a suitable level. One talk covered the [Cranfield University](#) data visualisation project which aims to turn dry spreadsheet data, needed to inform the flood risk and projects to reduce it process, into a more accessible format. The potential is shown on www.rfccobservatory.net but more work is underway to make it appealing for officers, organisations and communities to look at and use.

A key take home message for developers and investors from Laura Kitson, Strategic Flood Planning Advisor was: Flood management is an infrastructure investment with a highly favourable return compared to other sectors. £1 of flood risk funding brings an average of £8 of benefits.

For further information go to:

www.gov.uk/government/groups/anglian-eastern-regional-flood-and-coastal-committee

Shingle Street

Waves crash against shingle, turning, churning and spitting stones out. A single succession of cottages guards the land against the chill North Sea. There is little else there beyond birds and vegetation and litter. Yes, even in this relatively remote gem of a place there is litter. Two bags were collected by 24 volunteers weighing a total of 6kg from Shingle Street, 83% of the waste was Plastic/Polystyrene pieces.



Picture provided by the [Wildlife Gadget Man](#).

Orwell Foreshore

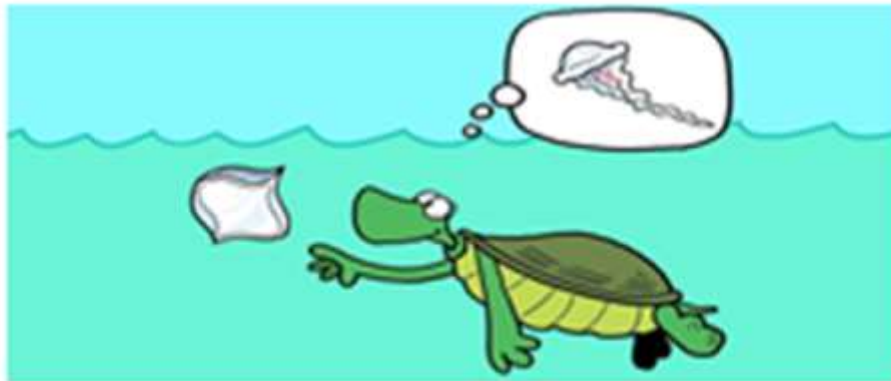
75kg of waste collected from the Orwell Foreshore on 23 April 2018 by 10 Suffolk Coast and Heaths volunteers. Once again, the most common items were Plastic/Polystyrene pieces, which most likely came from members of the public.

Alderton

The Alderton annual Spring litter pick, organised by the Parish Council on the 11 March saw 15 volunteers helping to keep their community clean and free of unsightly and dangerous rubbish. 18 bags of rubbish were collected and a fly-tipped mattress and mirror reported to Suffolk Coastal Norse.

Although the Love East Suffolk campaign has now come to a close for the year you can still register your pick at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/love-east-suffolk/. Here you can get equipment and arrange collection if needed. Regardless of how you do it, it would be great if you could share your pictures and stories with us by emailing greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

River Clean Woodbridge



Sun 3rd June 2-4pm
Meet at The Tidemill

Transition Woodbridge are working together with 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts, and other local boat clubs on litter picking both river banks of the Deben and riverside.

JOIN US!

Registration essential:

rivercleanwoodbridge@gmail.com



[facebook.com/TransitionWoodbridge](https://www.facebook.com/TransitionWoodbridge)
transitionwoodbridge.onesuffolk.net





Rendlesham Forest Discovery Day

Sat 16th June 11am-3pm

**BIG WILD
WEEKENDS**

As part of '30 Days Wild', join us den building, orienteering, pond-dipping and creating natural art!

Adults £2, children £4 Event for all ages, children must be accompanied.

Booking in advance website phone 01473890089 essential

Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, IP12 3NF



If you go down to the woods today you're sure of a.....

www.wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild/Random-Acts-Of-Wildness

June is the Wildlife Trust's national month of 'random acts of wildness' all designed to get more people out and enjoying our wonderful natural environment. If you are reading this the chances are that you are already doing all or many of the things on their list – but spread the word and perhaps offer to 'build for beetles' or 'scatter seed bombs' in a neighbour, friend or family members garden. Or maybe offer to take their children to a [Wild Beach event](#).

Don't forget to:

Add your Stag Beetle sightings to www.suffolkbis.org.uk/stagbeetlesurvey and keep an eye out for them on roads and paths and move them if they are in danger.

More information on stag beetles is available on <https://ptes.org/get-involved/wildlife-action/help-stag-beetles/>

Swift season has begun



Thank you Bill Baston and SOS Swifts for this image.

You may have heard their distinctive screaming cry or seen their dark sooty brown silhouettes with their slightly forked tails in the sky. If you have been to Hadleigh you may have seen the bumping and Swifts going into their nest boxes. You might well have caught BBC Look East reporter Richard Daniel's coverage of the Suffolk Save our Swifts project which included the boxes at East Suffolk House and Deben Leisure Centre.

Now we are asking you to do four simple things.

1. **Log** sightings of screaming parties, nest sites in buildings and dedicated nest boxes
2. **Make** space for Swifts – useful information on https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/sites/default/files/sos_swifts_information_sheet_9.pdf
3. **Report** wildlife crime - If you see re-roofing work going on in May, June, July or early August on houses or buildings where swifts are nesting (low screaming flight around the building and/or access in and out of eaves, ventilators etc. are key signs) contact Suffolk Police's Wildlife Officer. <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/animal-protection/wildlife-crime>
4. **Volunteer** info@suffolkwildlifetrust.org, 01473 890089



Tools wanted

Answering the question What can we use? What can't we use?

It's not about what we want, it's about what people can use

We send our tools to the developing world for one purpose only, **livelihood creation** and what may be useful to us, may not be useful to them. If we say we can't take something, we're not being ungrateful, we're just being honest.

Got any old tools?

During the week June 16th to the 24th, Woodbridge Rotary are organising a series of collection points for people to bring their old tools or haberdashery items as part of the celebrations around Suffolk Day on June 21st.



Examples of tools wanted



Collection Points:

- Houchalls Building Yard, Grundisburgh Road, Woodbridge IP12 4HG
- Notcutts Garden Centre, Cumberland Street, Woodbridge IP12 4AF
- Wyevale Garden Centre, Grundisburgh Road, Woodbridge IP13 6HX

Yes please

Builders' tools: Chisels, hammers, screwdrivers, hacksaws, pliers, trowels, spirit level, tapes

Carpenters' tools: Saws, planes, chisels, hammers, pliers, screwdrivers, hand drills, clamps, vices

Electricians' tools: Hammers, pliers, files, screwdrivers, spanners, soldering iron, voltmeter, lamp

Gardeners' tools: Spade, fork, rake, hoe, sickle, secateurs, loppers, axe

Ground workers' tools: Axe, pick axe, spade, fork, sledge hammer, crowbar, shovel, spirit level

Leatherworkers' tools: Bradawls, clamps, cutters, hammers, pliers, punches, knives

Motor mechanics' tools : Pliers, punches, grips, screwdrivers, chisels, metric and adjustable spanners, wrench, hacksaw, drill, screwdrivers, socket set, gauges, clamps, squares

Plumbers' tools: Drill, files, grips, hammers, pipe cutter, hacksaw, solder wrench, blowlamp

Garage workshop : Files, pliers, spanners, snips, wrench, screwdrivers, hydraulic jack, screw trolley, battery charger, car ramp, axle stands, winch, soldering irons, electric drill

The above lists are key items supplied not a complete list of tools in each kit.

Power tools : Hand and bench drill, sander, planer, jigsaw, circular, band and chop saw, lathe cultivator, rotavator

Children's scholar packs and educational books

Sewing machines: manual, electric and treadle

Knitting machines, machine wool and needles

Haberdashery: needles, cottons, large material pieces/rolls, buttons, zips

Fully working IT equipment: Desktop computers, Laptops and Tablets ; Computers running a minimum of Windows XP

Reuse – Bring your old tools to 'Tools with a mission'

Since it first started in 1984 in a shed and garage Tools with a Mission has been dedicated to collecting, bringing back to life, sorting and packing tools into trade kits for people who need them for their livelihoods across the world.

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Remember if you are taking action towards any of our goals particularly #plasticaction or #activetravel we would like to hear from you.

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/

greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

