

Greenprint Forum Newsletter, April 2018



Editor's Comment

Another month has flashed by in a whirl of litter picks, community action, knowledge sharing and baking. Seed planting has begun in earnest and birds, butterflies, bees, frogs and other creatures are an active delight to see. It is coming up for exam time for many young people and I wish every single one the very best in this step towards their future. Learning never stops of course and I have also been busy catching up on my continual professional development. So before the seven pages of the newsletter proper which cover plastic action, Blyth Woods, Business resilience and more here are two highlights from Transform: the IEMA Magazine.

- US Company GE Renewable Energy is to develop a [12MW offshore wind turbine](#) over the next five years generating enough power for up to 16,000 households; 45% more generation capacity than current best-in-class machines. The turbine will feature blades that are longer than the size of a professional football pitch. How long it will stay the largest turbine and what impact this development will have on European rivals [MHI Vestas](#) and [Siemens Gamesa](#) remains to be seen.
- [Smart Lampposts](#) are they the future? They include: LED and wireless controls to reduce costs and emissions used in the lighting element; safety features such as push-to-talk and CCTV; environmental monitoring sensors; smart services such as increased mobile connectivity, digital signage and electric vehicle charging points; and boundary sensing such as footfall traffic and waste bin monitoring. There is certainly a rise in interest globally with Hong Kong using Cambridge company [Telensa](#) to run a pilot and locally as Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils are partnering with Telensa to assess the potential quality-of-life and economic benefits of a range of smart city technologies. As with all developments the environmental impacts also need consideration and appropriate management as part of this as shown in a 2017 [study](#) by Exeter University.

Oh and in case you haven't spotted it and you eat fish the Marine Conservation Society has updated their [Good Fish Guide](#).



Plastic Action

As David Burrows, freelance journalist writing for Transform notes in a recent article: Microplastics are appearing every where. [The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation](#) found that over 55% of the 220 different marine species that are known to ingest plastics are species of commercial importance.



Plastic contamination has also been found in honey ([polyethylene terephthalate fibres](#), [sea salt](#) and beer, although the limitations of the studies carried out are [noted](#). The potential impacts on these industries over time is currently an unknown as is the impact on our health. However research has begun alongside a more large scale shift to alternatives than we have seen to date. These alternatives will also have potential environmental, social and economic risks so a carefully considered shift is required.

So what is happening locally?



The recent 'Plastics know your place in the Community' event was very well supported by stallholders, speakers and attendees. The notes are available by request: 01394 444747 if you do not have internet access. If you do please go to: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/events/past-events/

A write up by the East Anglia Daily Times can be found on www.eadt.co.uk/ea-life/suffolk-environmental-group-plots-action-on-plastic-plague-1-5461226

15 came to the Viridor Material Recycling Sorting Centre at Great Blakenham on Tuesday 17th April. This talk and tour was provided by Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal Norse officers on behalf of the Suffolk Waste Partnership and the Greenprint Forum. For more information on the site go to www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/where-it-goes/material-recycling-facility-mrf/

There are also resources available for schools on www.suffolkschoolsrecycling.org.uk/



The Beccles Bombles,

Every Tuesday at 3pm you will find the Bombles' going underground and over-ground to improve the cleanliness of Beccles.

On Tuesday 17th of April, the group took to the River Waveney and recovered 10 bags of rubbish. They were joined by; River Waveney Trust, Big Dog Ferry, Hippersons Boatyard and Broads Authority. A Tesco Community Champion also kindly provided free refreshments for the day and Waveney Norse supplied the picking equipment and collected the rubbish.



Beccles Bombles collect between 10-20 bags of rubbish every week, with a six weeks break over Christmas and January. In their time they have collected nearly 2000 black bin bags of rubbish and have no plans to stop there.

We asked one of the group's founders, Councillor Caroline Topping, to tell us more about how the group got started and where they are today and she said:

"Beccles Bombles was preceded by my son and a friend wanting to do their Duke of Edinburgh Gold volunteering in the town. They under the watchful eye of myself and Hugh Taylor, both members of the River Waveney Trust, cleared The Scores in Beccles over a period of time and made them safe, enjoyable and better places for members of the public to access the River Waveney from the Beccles side.

Once the boys had cleared the Scores they then made up their additional hours by litter picking. They finished their volunteering, my son went to university and Hugh and I decided that we wanted to continue with the litter picking. We were both Town Councillors at the time, I was Mayor of Beccles and he was my Deputy. We put a bit in the press and Bombles were formed."

There are ten regulars but the group is very keen to recruit new members. Take a look on Beccles Town Council 'News' section: <http://www.beccles.info/towncouncil/posts/> and/or contribute to the conversation: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1751540178409696/about/>





Dog Poo Bag, Kingston Park, Woodbridge

Woodbridge Spring Clean

As part of the Woodbridge Spring Clean 58 volunteers picked A LOT of rubbish over seven sites supported by the Town Council, Norse, Transition Woodbridge, Woodbridge WI. the Woodbridge Deben Rotary club, Woodbridge Lions and Farlingaye School.

Key items of concern:

Cigarette butts

These contain cellulose acetate, a modified natural polymer which requires [esterases](#) to initiate break down. Butts also contain hazardous chemicals such as cadmium, arsenic and lead that are partially filtered out during the smoking process. When butts are discarded, wind and rain carry them into the water supply. The toxic chemicals they contain are then leached into aquatic ecosystems, threatening the quality of the water and marine life.

Bagged Dogs' Mess

Whether it is hung with the thought of collection on the way back and forgotten or left through sheer laziness the unsightly end result is the same and poses a risk to health and the environment.

So what have people been doing to tackle these at source?

To cut the butts:

- Quit smoking. Help and advice on how to stop on: www.nhs.uk/Livewell/smoking/Pages/Gethelp.aspx
- Use a pocket ashtray. An example is one that can be found on [Amazon](#)

To carry the crap:

- Use a specially designed—low odour and no leak bag to take your bagged waste home and pop it into your bin destined for energy from waste. Three (untested so purchase at your own risk) examples are: [Dicky Bags](#), [Turtle Bags](#) and [Poop Pots](#)

Any success you have had in stopping either of these from becoming pollution would be welcome news—email greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk. Yes some locations have bins. Yes the Council can issue fines if you are caught. But ultimately is it not up to all of us that are dog owners or walkers to scoop the poop and take it home?



Blyth Woods

If you go down to the wood today it will look like a field and yet the vision and plans and now the documents of ownership are all there for a wood of native species, with wide rides to provide walks, a pond and osier bed.

This vision is that of a group of dedicated volunteers from the villages of Wenhaston and Bramfield who came together in 2012 to buy land, plant and manage it to encourage fauna and flora and to be enjoyed by local communities and visitors from further afield.

In late 2016, Blyth Woods was granted a licence to occupy a 2.2 acre field in Wenhaston, called Grove Piece, and negotiations began for the purchase of the field. They applied for funding from a number of organisations most of whom were supportive and generous, The Greenprint Forum was delighted to use the East Suffolk Partnership Green Dragon funds to help in this.

The Blyth Woods group have involved Wenhaston Primary School who have been enthusiastic supporters of the project since its start. The schoolchildren created their own oak nursery and the very first trees planted in Grove Piece were the acorns planted 4 years earlier – and they are doing well! Every schoolchild is involved in at least one outdoor activity every year: collecting and planting acorns, weeding and mulching, planting saplings, nature trails, construction of bug hotels, etc.



Local volunteers have worked mighty hard too. Nearly 1,000 saplings and some more mature specimens, all free donations, have been planted. A bridge has been laid linking Grove Piece with the adjacent ancient bluebell wood to complete a circular walk, and homemade bird boxes have been erected. It's not all hard work, though. Work parties are fun and they have had some social gatherings too with more to come, including a celebration to mark their new ownership.

Their website will be launched shortly, so go to www.blythwoods.org for more information.



Suffolk Coast and Heaths Coast & Estuary Wardens

Warden's are volunteers who whilst out enjoying a good walk also provide valuable, on the ground support to the AONB team, identifying any problems or issues in the area and reporting them back.

Every year the team reports back on action taken as a result of those reports.



Below is a sample of concerns raised and action taken:

Map 8: Slaughden, Aldeburgh – dangerous metal structures and poor signing:

Concern was raised about erosion resulting in the exposure of significant hazardous metalwork along the beach. The existing signing was considered insufficient and ineffective in informing the general public about the hazards, especially at high tide. These concerns – and the photos taken by the Warden – were shared with the Environment Agency, who were very appreciative of the comprehensive information. They installed additional, better-placed signs, and have a programme of works in place to remove the hazards, as conditions allow.

Map 15: Woodbridge river wall – graffiti: Graffiti was reported at 2 locations along the flood defence wall and was reported to the Environment Agency. Both occurrences were resistant to normal cleaning methods and had to be dealt with by using brick acid and paint respectively to obscure the offending words.

Map 16: Martello Park, Felixstowe - vegetated shingle protection: Concern was reported about the noticeable encroachment of grass and invasive weeds into a shingle area of sea holly, sea pea, sea kale, yellow horned poppy and other vegetated shingle species, since the previous year. This was reported to Suffolk Wildlife Trust who identified it as an area in need of protection, and they have written a management plan in order that it is properly managed to the benefit of the vegetated shingle species.

Two issues that remain a challenge which we all need to help on are:

- Balloons—the best way to ensure they do not become litter is to only buy and indeed sell for indoor use and to pop and bin after the fun.
- Dogs off leads in sensitive areas/near ground nesting bird sites—dogs are great company and it is lovely to see them running and having fun but devastating for the owner and others if that fun turns into a loss of ground nesting birds and other wildlife or harm to another's much loved pet.

To become a warden call 01394 445225 or email neil.lister@suffolk.gov.uk. For more information go to:

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/coast-and-estuary-wardens/



in partnership



Greener Rendlesham

The Magic of Grow Your Own

Wednesday 25th April at Rendlesham Community Centre 7:30 pm for 7:45 pm

Therefore Greener Rendlesham have lined up an evening full of expert advice for both novices and those with experience—if you have knowledge please share it during the discussions. Topics to be covered are:-

Growing vegetables

Growing fruit

Raised beds—if you are interested we can make and install these at cost price.

square foot gardening

Herbs

Greenhouses

During the evening there will be plenty of opportunities for questions and discussion.

If you have seedlings or young plants to swap or give away please bring these along.

Suggested donation of £2.00 to £3.00 which includes refreshments.

Maple Farm tour

10am, Wednesday 23 May

This local organic farm produces genuinely free-range eggs, mills its own organic flour, has planted orchards and practices agroforestry.

Places for the tour are limited.

Please book your place by emailing greener.rendlesham@uwclub.net



Is your community prepared for flooding?

Free Flood Workshop - Lowestoft, Saturday 12 May

Time: 10:30 to 15:00 Venue: Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 2NH

Flooding can be unexpected and disruptive, but there are a few simple things you can do to prepare.

Join us to share your experiences of emergency situations, chat through your concerns and find out what support is available to you.

Lunch is provided and you will also meet some of your local emergency responders who will be able to answer your questions about flooding as well as demonstrate the support available with lots of useful information.

This event is organised by the British Red Cross and sponsored by our corporate partner, Aviva.

To reserve your place please RSVP by 12 May to: <https://tinyurl.com/y99guw8f> or contact Anna Grafitti on 0207 877 7064



Free Flood Workshop - Lowestoft,

Saturday 12th May 2018 10.30am – 15.00 at Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH

Lunch is provided.

To book your place please use Eventbrite at

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-flood-workshop-lowestoft-registration-43881844779

Or contact Anna Grafitti on 0207 877 7064

Your help is needed—if you run a business or know someone who does

We want businesses to succeed and grow whilst reducing any negative environmental impacts. One area of consideration is the ability of a business to successfully adapt to interruptions. If you run a business please click on the link and answer the single, simple question to help us gauge where our businesses are with this at the moment. If you don't run a business but know someone who does please ask them to respond.

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Businessres2018

Thank you on behalf of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and its members which include Groundwork, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council and The Environment Agency. We will use this as an indicator to help inform our future work.

Work recently completed to support Suffolk and Norfolk Coastal Business Resilience has resulted in a toolkit [Business Efficient Resilience Toolkit \(BERT\)](#) to help businesses to review their current resilience status against a number of different factors, to build a tailored improvement action plan and to develop a full business continuity plan. In addition to this online support Groundwork successfully directly supported the original target of 10 businesses via on-site audits and the 20 businesses via telephone and email support between July 2017 and March 2018 producing written reports and action plans to aid and encourage planning.

