



Editors note

Our milkman battled the ‘beast from the East’ to get these to us and we lapped them up too quickly for a photo of full bottles, as you can see. For we are still going with the small steps towards long term freedom from single use plastic items, a challenge we started in November 2017. In some cases we have simply stopped buying items. In others we have switched to vendors, like the milkman and farm box delivery scheme and local veg store, who give us a reusable option. Whilst in some cases (e.g. cereal, crisps, chocolate and bagels) we are still thinking about what to do for the best. So while I sip my tea, made from leaves to avoid the plastic infiltrated teabags, I review February’s newsletter. This contains useful information for businesses, community champions and individuals on hedgehogs, trees, food, plastics, air quality and fly tipping.

Made to last

Buying, then keeping or exchanging, products that stand the test of time is a good way to avoid wasting our money and finding ourselves with over stuffed cupboards. Especially when people and planet are properly valued within it from material extraction to final use of the product. There are many of us that recognise this and strive to live by it. Indeed it is interesting to note in the 2017 Annual Ethical Consumer Markets report that the value of ethical spending grew by 3.2% in 2016 to £81.3 billion (to put this in context [Statista](#) put 2016 spending at £1,202 billion).

Locally once you have purchased wisely there are many ways to keep your goods in circulation and you will be familiar with them and probably use them: selling stuff online, charity shops and of course community ‘swap and mends’. Indeed on **Saturday 10 March 2018 at 10am** Greener Fram is celebrating 10 years of action. One key area of which is their monthly ‘swap and mend’ events. At each event people can bring something they don’t want to swap, or bring something that has broken and volunteers will see if they can mend it, or people can just go along and take what they like for a no pressure donation. They serve Fairtrade tea, coffee and sometimes cakes all for free. Their mending is also for free as volunteers do the work and Greener Fram pays for the parts from donations.

So why not join this group that is made to last because it gives further life to much valued items: Greener Fram, Saturday 10 March 2018 at 10am at the Unitarian Meeting Hall next to the library in Framlingham, 15 Bridge St, Framlingham, Woodbridge IP13 9AJ.

<http://greenerfram.co.uk/wp/>



Image by Tero Laakso, CC BY 2.0

Hedgehog friends

Article by Ali North

With hedgehogs soon to be emerging, now is the perfect time to ensure your garden or grounds are hedgehog-friendly!

A call to action by garden owners aims to link more gardens and create more critical habitat patches for our dwindling hedgehog populations – they need all the help they can get!

Have you got a Hedgehog Highway (fence hole or garden access point), wild area or hedgehog nest box in your garden? Suffolk Wildlife Trust would like to hear about it! Their new online map is ready for you to log your hedgehog-friendly garden features as well as any sightings you may have in the coming months. This will help us target their future hedgehog conservation work, identify gaps and continue to build on the Hedgehog Street approach.

Please head to <http://hedgehogs.ispywildlife.org/> to log your garden.

Suffolk Tree Wardens – celebration & relaunch Saturday 14th April

Article by Frances Jannaway, acting chair of the recently formed Suffolk Tree Warden Network

Suffolk Tree Wardens have been caring for the trees of Suffolk for nearly 30 years. Suffolk was one of the first counties to set up a network of parish Tree Wardens. As established Tree Wardens will know, the Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative enabling local people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The scheme was founded and is supported by The Tree Council, promoting the importance of trees in a changing environment. It is working in partnership with communities, organisations and government to make trees matter to everyone.

Throughout Britain, councils are finding they no longer have the resources to support and train parish Tree Wardens and Suffolk is no exception. On 1st March 2017, a meeting was arranged in response to this withdrawal. Attended by the Tree Council, local authority Officers, Suffolk County Council and parish Tree Wardens in Suffolk, the meeting confirmed a strong commitment to see the Tree Warden scheme continue but it was felt necessary to move to a self managed network of parish Tree Wardens across the county.

As a result of this meeting, the Suffolk Tree Warden Network was established. It has a constitution and bank account and an acting executive committee which has been meeting regularly over the last year. The network continues to work under the umbrella of the Tree Council and benefit from their support and encouragement. Their aim is to have every parish supported by a Tree Warden and work has begun in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, dividing around 200 parishes into 11 sub-areas each with a local Tree Warden coordinator. The plan is to mirror this approach in other areas, creating local networks of Tree Wardens enabling them to be part of a group rather than feeling isolated. They will be able to meet and call on each other for mutual support, exchange ideas and knowledge and feed back needs for training, funding and other help to the executive committee.

Suffolk County Council have pledged their support by giving the group a generous grant to set up the network including a website and help organise a number of events, training days and projects in 2018. Their first event to celebrate and relaunch Suffolk Tree Wardens will be a Spring Forum to be held on **Saturday 14th April** 9.30am to 4.30pm at the Red Feather Club & Redlingfield Wood, Denham near Eye.

A short AGM will be followed by talks on Ash trees: monitoring their health & planning for the future' - Jon Stokes, 'Working the Wood' - David Mitchell, 'Trees & Bats' - Sue Morgan, ecological consultant and 'Green Light Trust & Debenham High School' – Tom Brown. There will also be plenty of opportunity for networking. After lunch delegates will have a great opportunity to join themed guided walks in David Mitchell's wonderful Redlingfield Wood which will be looking at its best in April.

Other events planned for 2018 include exploring the delights and wonders of Gallowfields Wood, Haughley on 9 June and a really important and informative Tree Health seminar held by the Forestry Commission (date to be arranged).

Contact francesjannaway@gmail.com or 01379 672987 for more information.

FREE TREE HEALTH SEMINARS

Stay informed on the latest tree health news/research.

09:00 – 12:30 breakfast provided (but not lunch)

The Forestry Commission are holding three seminars aimed at Tree Officers and Tree Wardens to bring you up to date on the existing and potential tree health threats, particularly those facing us in the East and East Midlands.

These events will provide a horizon scanning session on potential threats that are on our doorstep, such as the bacterial disease, *Xylella fastidiosa* and there will be an interactive biosecurity workshop session. The Tree Health team will talk about how we can identify, report and thus reduce the impact of pests and diseases. Each seminar will feature a local area tree health concern with a detailed update from national experts:

8th March 2018: Winthorpe Community Centre, Newark; Acute Oak Decline: Dr Sandra Denman

15th March 2018: Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell; *Phytophthora ramorum* Dr Joan Webber

22nd March 2018: Honington & Sapiston Village Hall, Suffolk; Oak Processionary Moth: Millie Toft

To register for a place email eandem@forestry.gsi.gov.uk East and East Midlands Forest Services or telephone Teresa on **0300 067 4574**.

The Tree Council Tree Care Campaign

Saturday 21st March – Friday 21st September 2018

The annual campaign highlights the need for better care for all trees, in order to ensure their survival and increase the numbers reaching maturity. In particular, anyone who has planted trees in the past 5 years is reminded to involve their local community and revisit them to carry out a few simple tree care tasks that can save young trees from dying and allow them to develop into the mature trees. This helps enhance our urban and rural landscape, provide shade and local climate change, and supports biodiversity.

Find out more on their website: www.treecouncil.org.uk

Local Food Growing Scheme Seeks New Members! - Article by Sue Hall



Rebecca—A recent new member

Community Shared Agriculture scheme the Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm was featured on BBC TV's Countryfile and Escape to the Country last year and they would like you to join them.

The Oak Tree Farm grows food in an environmentally-sustainable way without the use of artificial chemicals. They grow all the food themselves so they know exactly where and how it is grown. There are few/zero food miles involved and very little plastic and members can be eating food harvested fresh from the field just two hours ago!

They are a bit like a shared allotment. But instead of everyone having their own separate growing areas, they grow food together in a shared area of around 2 acres. And, unlike a regular allotment where you may need to put in 12 hours work a week to get enough food to live off; you only need to work an hour or two every week with their scheme. The other great bonus is that when you want to go on holiday you don't need to panic about who will water your crops and keep them weeded – because they have two paid growers and a community of people to help with this!

Their scheme is all about re-connecting with food and sharing the work and the reward. (It is worth noting that some members also run allotments simply because they enjoy growing).

They have a limited area of land and operate through a membership system. They have some membership places available at the moment and are looking for new members to join for 2018- 2019. As a member you would receive a vegetable box each week which is an equal share of everything harvested at the farm. You would also have the opportunity to buy chickens' eggs from our free range chickens, as well as rare breed beef, cut flowers and soft fruit (in season).

They offer three membership options: Full Membership, Reduced Hours Membership and Armchair Membership. The costs and work hours vary between the different categories with Armchair Members doing no work at all and Full Members contributing up to 2 hours a week on average in the spring and summer.

Rebecca 'If someone had asked me what "community supported agriculture" meant a few months' ago, I would have had very little idea what they were talking about. However, my time at Oak Tree Farm has been a revelation and has allowed me to carve out my own piece of the countryside that has improved my well-being no end. We have become a close-knit family, doing tasks together and enjoying the sense of community that this entails'.

For more information about the Oak Tree Farm visit the website: www.the-oak-tree.co.uk/

A sea of people wanting to act

Article by Marguerite Camu



Transition Woodbridge and the Greenprint Forum were heartened by 90 passionate people turning up to watch A Plastic Tide on Friday 2nd February.

Hosted for free by Transition Woodbridge, with support from the Greenprint Forum, A Plastic Tide – a documentary released by Sky News in 2017, explained the significance of the increase in single-use plastics and micro-plastics found in our rivers, seas and oceans.

Single-use plastics are those which are thrown out within a year of production, many used only for seconds (straws, plastic bags, cotton buds, baby wipes – yes these are made of plastic!)

Many of these, we were informed, end up in our rivers and oceans through drains on our streets. The litter we drop gets washed into the drains, over-flows into our local rivers and is washed out to sea, where over many years it breaks down into “micro-plastics”. These are tiny bits of plastic that never go away! They are less than 5 mm and are eaten by plankton, fish, birds, turtles and now, we are just starting to understand – being eaten by us!

A Plastic Tide, although quite shocking at times, is also inspirational. It introduces us to people determined to make a change in attitudes to single-use plastic and determined to clean up the mess we are in – not just for wildlife’s benefit but for our own and for the next generation.

After the film, inspirational talks were given from local shop owners that have been wise to the issue and are selling plastic-free-products. Jules Button from the Woodbridge Emporium and an expert on tea, informed us about the benefits of loose-leaf tea drinking compared to tea bags which contain plastic both within the bags themselves and in the glue that is used to seal them. Tea drinkers may want to go and talk to Jules and try out loose-leaf tea. Claire Hindmarch, owner of the Rainbow Apothecary, knowledgeably informed us about micro-plastics and cosmetics. She has a range of plastic free cosmetics, soaps and shampoos. Poppy’s Pantry, Melton, also displayed their range of plastic free household goods to help you on your waste reduction journey.

Air Quality – views sought by Monday 19th March 2018.

Suffolk Coastal District Councils would like to offer you the chance to view and comment on Suffolk Coastal's Annual Status Report (ASR) for the District 2017, recently approved by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

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.

Under the Local Air Quality management regime all local authorities have a duty to assess air quality across their district and to report on the findings. The ASR provides an annual review of air quality across Suffolk Coastal. The report includes monitoring data for 2016 and details progress on actions to improve air quality both within our 2 designated Air Quality Management Areas (Woodbridge and Stratford St. Andrew), and across the district as a whole.

The Air Quality pages on our website have recently undergone a revamp, making them easier to read and navigate and to include lots of additional information such as how you can get help reduce emissions. To visit our new site go to: <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/>

There is a whole new section on Wood Burning with advice on how to get the most out of your open fire or wood burning stove whilst keeping emissions to a minimum. It includes information on the 'Woodsure Ready to Burn' initiative backed by Defra which identifies dry or seasoned wood that is ready for use and will produce fewer harmful emissions such as particulates.

The ASR Consultation can be viewed on the new website at; <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/air-quality-consultations/open-consultations/> Alternatively, hard copies can be viewed at Customer Services in Woodbridge and Felixstowe libraries.

Comments

Suffolk Coastal District Council is seeking, and would welcome, comments on the report. These can be emailed to environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk, or sent to Environmental Protection at the Council's Offices, East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT.

They 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 Monday 19th March 2018.**

Don't get caught out

Householders in Suffolk are being reminded of their legal responsibilities to ensure their waste does not become fly-tipped, following the successful prosecution of a Suffolk resident after several sacks of general, unsorted household waste were found fly-tipped at Monument Farm Lane, Foxhall in August last year.

Donna Last of Riverside Road, Ipswich appeared at Ipswich Magistrates Court on 20 February, where she pleaded guilty for failing to fulfil her Duty of Care towards household waste contrary to Section 34 (2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Ms Last was ordered to pay a total of £830.

Residents are asked to remember the '**Scrap Code – Suspect, Check, Refuse, Ask, Paperwork**' before allowing anyone to remove waste on their behalf:

Suspect Beware of rogue waste carriers – reputable companies do not usually make direct approaches. If in any doubt, do not allow them to take your waste. Always carry out your own research and choose who you wish to approach.

Check Ask for their Authorised Waste Carrier Registration details, and verify them by checking the online register or by calling 03708 506 506. Always note down the registration number of the vehicle used to take your waste away.

Refuse Unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away. Always carry out your own research and choose who you wish to approach. Legitimate waste carriers are unlikely to seek business by going door-to-door.

Ask questions Always ask what is going to happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately. A legitimate, professional waste carrier who wants your business should not object to being asked reasonable questions.

Paperwork Make sure you obtain a proper receipt containing the written information for your waste. This should include what has been removed, and where it will be going. Make sure the company or person's details are included.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has produced a video aimed at householders, emphasising the importance of the Duty of Care and how to do their bit to prevent their waste ending up fly-tipped by rogue waste carriers and avoid risking a fine of up to £5000: www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1X83ka_AqQ

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Who we are

For those of you that don't know, the Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network facilitated by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils to help deliver their [business plan](#). Specifically enabling community environmental action to improve lives and strengthen our economy. Whilst our focus is on east Suffolk anyone, anywhere can join for free to help inform and learn from our thinking. Please do be aware that we have one passionate part time staff resource (two days a week dedicated to this), a steering group of 12 who give of their knowledge while being active in their own communities/ organisations and all other effort is voluntary or requires funding to be gained to pay for it.

How to contact us

www.twitter.com/GreenprintForum

www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum

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