

# Greenprint Forum Newsletter—Summer 2019

We're only a month and a bit into summer but your Steering Group have already been busy raising the profile of the Greenprint Forum and our projects at events and festivals.



Earlier in the summer your Vice-Chair and Secretary were joined by Jason Alexander from Rubbish Walks to promote the Greenprint Forum with a focus on Plastic Action, at the Suffolk Show—we even managed to chat with Mark Murphy from BBC Radio Suffolk live on air!



Photos above Suffolk Show and right Suffolk Day beach clean —J Alexander

Your Secretary teamed up with again with Jason and with Litter-Free Felixstowe to round off this year's Suffolk Day celebrations with a mass beach clean at sunny Felixstowe.



Photo spot the hedgehog —D Wareing

And then of course there was First Light Festival—more on that on page 7.

Summer is of course a great time of year to enjoy wildlife, and your secretary has been taking great pleasure from watching and listening to groups of swifts screaming and swooping in the sky above Melton during my lunchtime walks. Our garden pond is in full bloom too at this time of year, and we've even been treated to visits from our local hedgehog (left) before dark in recent weeks! Tips for gardening in ways to help wildlife are on offer from the [Suffolk Wildlife Trust's](#) website.

Elsewhere in this summer newsletter—a bumper feature from Portal Woodlands Conservation Group; allotment gardening made easy by Oak Tree Carbon Farm; Travel Forum; consultations on north Ipswich Bypass and SCC Green Access Strategy; Beachwatch; recycling update; and more.



## Update about the Steering Group

The Steering Group would like to welcome a couple of new members to the Steering Group:

### Sue Hall



Sue coordinates the back office work at the Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm, Suffolk's first Community Supported Agriculture scheme. She sees first-hand the impact of climate change on our ability to grow food. Sue previously worked for Cycling UK, Sustrans and on Suffolk Car Share and community transport projects. She volunteers in Kesgrave working with her local council and residents to improve local sustainable transport (better bus services and improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists). She also demonstrates it's possible to live without a car. Sue is deeply concerned about our climate emergency and believes that 'business as usual' isn't an option if we want our young people and our planet to have a future. She believes we need to act urgently, together, to reduce emissions in line with the IPCC report and build resilience in local food, water supplies and zero carbon infrastructure and services in East Suffolk.

### Cllr James Mallinder

"After relocating from London a number of years ago a change in my lifestyle included a greater commitment to volunteering in the local community. As an active Parish Councillor in Hollesley, volunteer for Meet up Mondays and treasurer of a local Good Neighbour Scheme I know first hand the importance of volunteering and community improvement. 2019 saw me enter the East Suffolk Council as ward member for Deben and with my enthusiasm for the environment I now hold the Environment Portfolio. Relaxation involves running and bell ringing at the local church."



The other current members of the steering group are:

Andrew Cassy (Vice Chair); Betsy Reid;  
Cathy Smith; Daniel Wareing (Secretary);  
Jane Healey (Chair); Luke Bennett; Peter Ross;  
Phil Gore; & Susan Harvey.

### How to contact us:

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[greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

[www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum](https://www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum)

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/)



## Portal Woodlands Conservation Group

The PORTAL WOODLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP is dedicated to conserving the woodlands west of the Suffolk Police HQ and alongside the A1214 encouraging the local wildlife to thrive whilst preserving historical sites of interest and inspiring people to enjoy the nature surrounding them. Volunteers meet each month to work on a variety of projects and anybody is welcome to join this friendly group, you will be much appreciated! Any required training will be given on arrival and all tools and equipment are provided.

The PWCG was founded as a working group of the Martlesham Parish Council in November 1999, originally to prevent the area being developed into the Martlesham Park and Ride. Following the hard-won fight, the group worked tirelessly to clean up the woods, which had been rated as of “no wildlife value”, converting places that had only been used for fly-tipping into superb habitats for a whole variety of different flora and fauna.



Since that point, the group has grown, now incorporating around 60 volunteers and has been working to improve the woods not only for its wildlife but also for all the many human users of the area, including dog walkers, wildlife enthusiasts and those interested in the history of the woods.

And that history is well worth a mention. Historically the woods are incredibly significant, hence the determination to ensure they are still around for future generations to observe. Aviation history has played a major role on the character of the woods. They contain not only a section of perimeter track (now part of the Sandlings Walk) that used to comprise part of the runway network of the Martlesham Heath airfield, but also sandbag ‘revetments’ that protected aircraft on the ground and an aircraft fuel store on the woodland’s eastern edge.

Going back even further in history there are two tumuli in the woods - what appear simply as raised circular areas are in fact ancient Bronze Age burial mounds. The group is in the process of clearing them in order to conserve them, with the intention of leaving grassy glades so that passers-by can appreciate them. The project began when the group was granted permission to remove the trees that had been growing on the mounds (the whole of the woodland is under a Tree Preservation Order). By conserving the mounds, they will have the same protection as other National Monument sites, such as Stonehenge. The project is being conducted under the guidance of Historic England (previously English Heritage).



*CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*

Photo—S Chorley



On top of projects that are intended to ensure the long-term survival of the woods, the group also works to make the woods accessible for those users of the woods that appreciate it day-to-day. For several years this has involved the annual process of putting wood chippings down on paths to ensure they are still usable after long days of rain, removing potentially dangerous trees, clearing paths and so much more.

The group has constructed log piles for stag beetles, planted hazel trees as a home for dormice and created a pond for all manner of creatures, including great crested newt, damselflies, dragonflies, water beetles, and the occasional grass snake, and many, many more. The group also monitors avian populations once a year by inspecting our 35 bird boxes and uses Longworth traps to identify the populations of mice, shrews and voles in the woods. We also carry out an annual glow worm survey with which the public is invited to help.



Often our activities involve a session at one of our Nature Watch Club or Nature Explorers meetings - groups for 5 to 11 year olds and 11 to 18 year olds respectively that aim to teach young people about the natural environment around them. The meetings provide a great opportunity to learn something new whilst being in the great outdoors – generally children learn about the wildlife that can be found in the woods and once they reach the age of 11, are encouraged to take a more active role in the conservation side of proceedings, such as, learning how to care for tools, build wildlife habitats and how to properly maintain trees. Over the years we have also had many young people volunteering to build up hours to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The wider educative function of the group has also involved hosting visits by schools and youth groups, with the pond regularly being used for pond dipping. We are very grateful to local Scouts and Guides who have been building bird boxes to replace those that have rotted or been too badly damaged (generally by woodpeckers!). The woods make an ideal setting for company team building events, and we have been pleased to host several such events for BT groups.

As we look to the future, 20th year anniversary celebrations are in the works, but with the threat of increased housing development on the woodlands' doorstep, continuous and growing manpower is needed to maintain its unique historic, wildlife, education and community value for future generations.

If you are interested in joining the group, a new pair of hands is always appreciated and you would be making a real difference to the local area. Upcoming activity dates can be found at [pwcg.onesuffolk.net](http://pwcg.onesuffolk.net) and we can be contacted by email, [pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com](mailto:pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com) and phone, 01473 612632.



Photo—S Chorley

George Pennick, Nature Explorer and Young Volunteer.



## Travel Forum

Marking World Environment Day on 5th June, the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum held a public Travel Forum to start the conversation around active and sustainable travel, and try to identify some of the obstacles to greener travel and how it might be enabled. Over 40 delegates attended including representatives of local community groups, statutory bodies and environmental organisations.

Photo—L Bennett



Following the event, the Steering Group met to discuss next steps the main item of which is an intention to investigate reductions in urban speed limits to 20mph in an effort to create a perceptibly safer environment for non-motorised road users.

The full report into that evening's Travel Forum can be found on the [Greenprint Forum webpage](#) —if you don't have internet access and would like a hard copy this can be arranged on request.





## Public Consultations



# Suffolk County Council Green Access Strategy

Don't miss the chance to let SCC know how well you think SCC's Suffolk [Green Access Strategy—Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan](#) provides, improves, promotes “green access” - i.e. provision for cyclists, pedestrians, equestrians and users of mobility devices; and contributes to the development of healthy and sustainable communities.

The 10-week public consultation opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and runs until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. The consultation will provide the council with final feedback before the plan is presented to cabinet later this year.

To find out more about the consultation and how you can have your say visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/rowip](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/rowip)

A paper copy of the survey can be requested by calling 0345 603 1842 or emailing [discoversuffolk@suffolkhighways.org](mailto:discoversuffolk@suffolkhighways.org) or you can take the survey over the phone by calling 0345 603 1842.

## New Northern Route for Ipswich

You may already be aware of high-profile proposals for a new “Northern Route” for Ipswich. Members of the community are being invited to have their say through a public consultation on the proposals which commenced on 5 July 2019 and will run until 13 September 2019.

There will also be opportunities to attend public drop-in-sessions and have a conversation with members of the project team throughout July as follows:



Tuesday July 9	Grundisburgh Village Hall	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday July 10	Needham Market Community Centre	3pm – 7pm
Saturday July 13	Woodbridge Community Hall	10am – 3pm
Tuesday July 16	Kesgrave War Memorial C.C.	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday July 17	Witnesham Village Hall	3pm – 7pm
Friday July 19	Coddenham Community Centre	3pm – 7pm
Saturday July 20	Ipswich Library	10am – 3pm
Monday July 22	Tithe Barn, Sroughton	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday July 23	Henley Community Centre	4pm – 8pm
Friday July 26	Martlesham Pavilion	3pm – 7pm
Saturday July 27	Claydon & Barham C.C.	10am – 3pm

Do we need a new route? If so which of the proposals is going to be best for our communities and economy whilst having the least negative impact on our environment and wildlife? How will active & sustainable travel be integrated? Don't miss this chance to have your say on these proposals.

More information about the proposals, the information events and how to take part in the consultation can be found on the [Ipswich Northern Route website](#)



## First Light Festival

Your Chair and Secretary teamed up with Jason Alexander from Rubbish Walks to run the Greenprint Forum's stand at Lowestoft's new summer festival, to raise the profile of our network and to spread the Plastic Action message.

The glorious summer sun brought out the crowds and we were amazed by the level of awareness around the plastic pollution issue and the desire to know how to help make a positive difference over this global environmental problem on the local and individual level, and we were delighted to have the opportunity to have conversations with so many enthused people and show them some of the low/zero plastic consumer options available to help enable the switch to lifestyles less dependent on single use plastic.

It was inspiring to meet the 24 individuals who have pledged to do even more by joining our new network of Plastic Action Champions to help others in their own community to become "plastic clever" - we look forward to getting all our new Champions trained up and enabled in their endeavours for the cause (details of next training dates and venues on events page).

Jason and Daniel carried out an early Sunday morning litter pick along with Kirkley People's Forum, and also organised a mass beach clean with some of the fabulous Plastic Action Champions at the end of the festival. Along with regular bin collections and litter picking by crews from East Suffolk Norse, Lowestoft's award-winning South Beach was kept as clean as possible throughout the festival and was returned to its usual excellent condition after the event.

Photo—J Alexander



This is how we should aspire to do all festivals in Suffolk and beyond, with respect for the environment—and it just goes to show that great events like this don't have to leave the venue like a pigsty afterwards. Glastonbury, Download *et al* take note!

## Beachwatch

Of course without data about the litter on our beaches we wouldn't have the evidence to enable us to understand the issues and identify the need for action, such as the action being taken by the Greenprint Forum's Plastic Action Champions. On the national scale, data on drinks containers is currently being used as evidence in support of proposed Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB have recently published the results of Beachwatch Suffolk 2018, which is downloadable from their website <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/beachwatch/> where you can also see the results from 2017, 2016 and 2015. Last year was a record breaking year in terms of numbers of volunteers - 1323 people took part! All of the top 10 most common litter categories were found to be plastics. The report also contains an interesting comparison table of the litter found between 2005 and 2018.

To help continue to build up the evidence to inform effective action on litter, the AONB will again be encouraging volunteers to do a Beachwatch beach litter survey as part of their beach clean during the Great British Beach Clean weekend of 20-23 September, to help the AONB and the Marine Conservation Society collate data on the composition and sources of marine litter on the local and national scales respectively.

The Greenprint Forum will be supporting Beachwatch 2019 with a litter pick and survey, probably somewhere along Suffolk's northeast coast this time; if you'd be interested in taking part in Greenprint's Beachwatch survey contact Daniel on [greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) If on the other hand your own group are planning to do your own Beachwatch survey independently of the Greenprint Forum you can liaise with Lynn Allen at the AONB [lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk) 01394 445225.



Beachwatch team comprised of Greenprint Forum, Plastic Action Champions, 1st & 3rd Stowmarket Scouts; Felixstowe 2018—photo J Alexander





## Recent changes to list of recyclable items collected in Suffolk

I've had a few questions about recent changes reducing the range of items collected for recycling from households in Suffolk. In a nutshell, you can no longer place the following in your recycling bin at home:

- **food and drink cartons;**
- **metal pots, pans and trays (e.g. saucepans, baking trays etc)**

All these items are still accepted at all 11 of [Household Waste Recycling Centres](#) around Suffolk including those in Felixstowe, Foxhall, Leiston and Lowestoft in East Suffolk.

An FAQs page is provided on the Suffolk Recycling website which gives a bit more detail including the reasons for the changes:

[https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/uploads/Recycling\\_Collections\\_from\\_FAQs\\_V2.pdf](https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/uploads/Recycling_Collections_from_FAQs_V2.pdf)

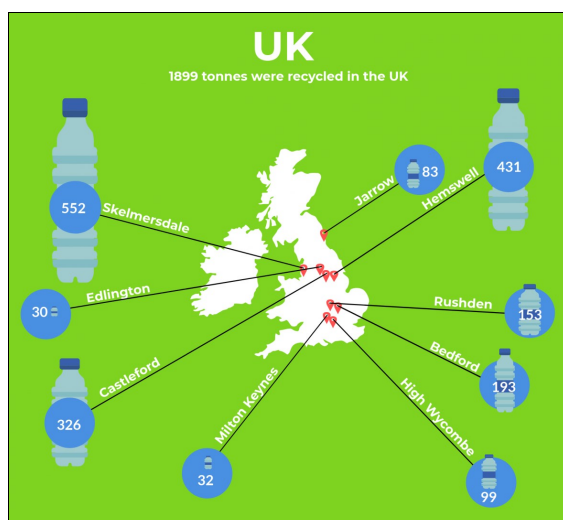
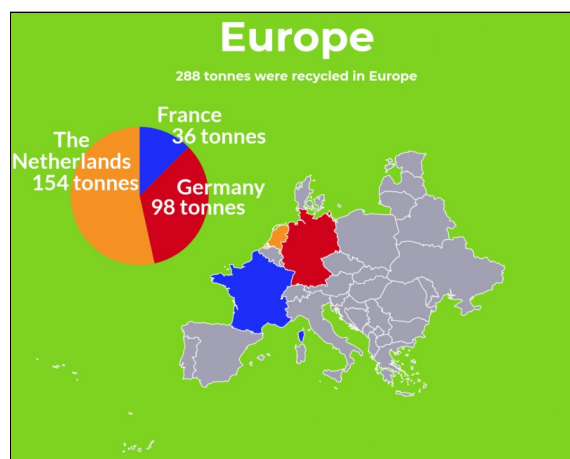
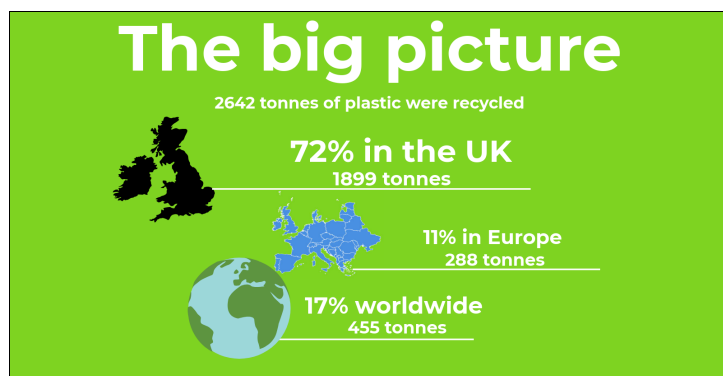
A downloadable leaflet is also available from this webpage which explains what can and cannot be placed in your recycling bin:

<https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/my-bins/what-can-i-put-in-my-recycling-bin-at-home>

During May 2019 (the latest month for which a figure was available at time of writing) the new East Suffolk Council recycled or composted 48% of the waste it collected from households in its district.

### Where does it all go?

The following infographics have just been produced by the Suffolk Waste Partnership to give a snapshot relating to the period April-May-June 2018 of where the plastics collected from Suffolk residents for recycling were sent to for reprocessing; notably more was recycled at Skelmersdale alone than in all the non-European destinations combined:





## The Oak Tree

Low Carbon Farm

# Allotments Made Easy!

At The Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm we grow food together, we're a bit like a large, shared allotment.

We share out the harvest each week too, so everyone gets a regular supply of ultra fresh, seasonal vegetables. Free range eggs, soft fruit and cut flowers are also available and our produce is grown without the use of artificial chemicals.

Much easier than an allotment; great for making new friends and you get to spend time outdoors in a beautiful green space!  
No experience needed, all ages welcome, family-friendly.

Our two paid growers do most of the hard work and our members choose from a list of tasks each week.

Work up to 2 hours a week on average at the farm in summer and up to 1 hour in winter. We have regular work parties, harvest days and we also organise social events at the farm.

We offer a no-work 'Armchair' option too! Simply choose from our three membership options which one suits you best. We are a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme and social enterprise in Rushmere St Andrew (just East of Ipswich).

### Interested?

Find us at: [www.the-oak-tree.co.uk](http://www.the-oak-tree.co.uk) Email: [hello@the-oak-tree.co.uk](mailto:hello@the-oak-tree.co.uk)



## Forthcoming events roundup

- 13 July—**Swap & Mend**—Framlingham Unitarian Meeting House next to the library, courtesy of Greener Fram <http://greenerfram.co.uk/wp/swap-or-mend/>
- July **Plastic Action Champion training sessions**—email [greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) to enquire or book a place:  
23 July – 6pm-9pm East Suffolk House, Melton IP12 1RT  
24 July – 5pm-8pm Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew IP17 1LJ  
25 July – 5pm-8pm Council offices, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ  
30 July – 5pm-8pm Council offices, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ
- 2 August, 11:00-12:30—**Woodbridge Cloth Nappy Chat**, Woodbridge Library, courtesy of Suffolk Cloth Nappies Ipswich and Coastal branches
- 21st September 10:00 – 16:00 **Autumn Open Day**, [Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm](#), Rushmere St Andrew. They offer farm tours so you can see how food is grown in a low carbon, environmentally sustainable way. Refreshments will be available. A donation of £5 per adult is requested.
- 20-23 September—**Great British Beach Clean & Beachwatch**. <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/beachwatch>
- 26 September—**SWT Wellbeing Walks, Carlton Marshes**—Katy Runacres from Suffolk Wildlife Trust will be offering free lunchtime walks at Carlton Marshes to local organisations. Book your place here: <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/wellbeing-walks-local-businesses-carlton-marshes>
- 12 October, 11:00 at Waldringfield Village Hall —Illustrated talk: **Swifts—a Bird You Can Help!** By Edward Mayer, courtesy of [Waldringfield Wildlife Group](#). Members—free; non-members—£3. New members welcome—membership £10. Enquiries to Linda Wilkins 01473 736044 or Anthony Mason 01473 736740
- **Siren Festival 2019** a new free environment festival in Aldeburgh using science, art, performance and music to celebrate our oceans and coast and involve young people:  
29-31 July 10:00-16:00 **Siren Workshops** at Jubilee Hall to create artwork and decoration for the festival and discuss issues around plastics and waste;  
7-9 August **Siren Festival**. The Jubilee Hall will be an experiential sea zone with hands-on ocean science, appearances from artists and activists and more all exploring our relationship with the sea and environment. In the Courtyard there will be a zone for engaging with local organisations and find out ways in which to take action and get involved.



### Closing note from Editor

Thank you to all who have contributed and remember the Greenprint e-newsletter is most relevant when you are helping inform its content. Email me at [greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) with action you are taking towards our vision and would like to share to inspire others—I will try and include wherever space allows and if I cannot fit it in the newsletter, or if it relates to an event due to take place before the next newsletter is ready (please note that the E-Newsletter will for the time being be **quarterly**) then I will wherever possible share via the Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum>. If you're not already following the Facebook page please feel free to do so and feel free to share any posts to your own networks.

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