

# Greenprint Forum Newsletter—Spring 2019

## Introducing your new Secretary

Thank you all for your patience during this phase of transition since my predecessor Debbie Wargate moved on. Deborah wishes us all well and hopes to see us at a future Greenprint Forum event. Whilst we will all of course miss her as secretary it's good to know that someone with her passion for and commitment to the environment is "on the inside" so to speak supporting heavy industry in meeting its environmental duties.

As many of you will know I'd been involved with the Greenprint Forum myself prior to my new role when I was Recycling Officer/Waste Management Officer with SCDC and then SCS/SCN for some time and it is great to be back after a spell in between with Essex Wildlife Trust and I look forward to doing my best to support the Forum and its projects from now on. To those who have joined the Forum since November—a great big welcome and hope to meet you at some point.

We have our **next Greenprint Forum event which will be held at East Suffolk House on the evening of 5th June 2019** (coinciding with World Environment Day 2019) and will be on this year's theme of sustainable and active travel so make a note in your diary and look out for an event agenda and invitation soon.

I hope you find this Greenprint Newsletter, containing updates from the Steering Group as well as items on EV charging, Yellow Fish, Community Tree Planting, Plastic Action Champions, and much more interesting and enjoyable.

Daniel Wareing

Secretary, Greenprint Forum / Environmental Sustainability Officer, East Suffolk Councils

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Don't forget—it's [Ride to Work Week](#) this week (25-31 March) - one cycle-commute for me so far this week. You don't have to cycle all the time to help make a difference—even if like me you just manage to avoid the occasional car journey it is still a start and every effort adds up. It's also our year of Sustainable and Active Travel and as the weather's reasonably cycle-friendly at the moment, if you're not already in the cycling habit then what a great time to give it a go !



## News from the Steering Group

### Guy Ackers

Many of you will be aware that Guy Ackers sadly passed away recently. Guy was a founding member and longest serving member of the Greenprint Forum and over some 22 years made a considerable contribution to the Forum right from its inception, in particular his painstaking work on the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey, and of course his role as a key and active member of the Steering Group right up until his passing. He will be much missed though his legacy will be a lasting one.



Above: founding member Guy Ackers pictured at the 20 year anniversary event of the Greenprint Forum in 2016

### Welcome to new Chair of East Suffolk Greenprint Forum Jane Healey

On a happier note I am pleased to inform members that we now have a new Chair—Jane Healey (also of Transition Woodbridge) has been confirmed as Chair taking over from Andy Cassy. Andy has taken on the role of Vice Chair which will help enormously in this time of transition and I wish them every success in these roles.

### Calling all potential Steerers!

The Steering Group of the Greenprint Forum would like to invite any existing members who might be interested in joining the Steering Group to put themselves forward. We meet three times per year to set the themes, plan the ongoing activities, and ensure that the work of the Greenprint Forum remains in touch with the grass roots issues and concerns.

Our summary constitution: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Green-Issues/East-Suffolk-Greenprint-Forum-Constitution-summary.pdf> has a bit more but if you would like to find out about becoming a member of the Steering group, please Email me at [greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk). Remember notes of all past Steering Group meeting are available online: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/greenprint-steering-group/>



## Have you seen a Yellow Fish ?



Did you know that road gullies and surface water drains are usually not connected to sewage treatment systems (unlike the drains from our kitchens and bathrooms), but connect straight to our natural water-courses? This means that any rubbish, litter, or waste liquids washed into the surface water drainage system are at risk of polluting streams, rivers, beaches and the ocean, with serious consequences for aquatic ecosystems and wildlife. “Yellow Fish” is an initiative of the Environment Agency designed to remind people of these facts and encourage greater care when disposing of wastes that commonly end up polluting freshwater and marine habitats, through a clear message of **“Only Rain Down the Drain”** together with stencilling Yellow Fish symbols by surface water drains to remind people of the link with natural watercourses.



This January, February and March, Groundwork Suffolk have, on behalf of the Greenprint Forum, been trialling a [Yellow Fish campaign](#) in Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Lowestoft, engaging with businesses, community groups and residents to raise awareness of the issues and offer advice available via the [Suffolk A-Z of recycling](#) about sustainable disposal routes for waste that often end up washed or chucked into gullies, making cigarette end “pocket ashtrays” available to smokers for free at supporting shops and restaurants—and inspiring a big joint litter pick between Groundwork and Kirkley People’s Forum in Lowestoft !

At the end of the trial, we will use the findings to determine the feasibility of expanding and/or extending the campaign—so watch this space—and a big “thank you” to all the businesses and community groups who have supported this well-received project.





## Spring has sprung—have your frogs sung?



A wildlife pond big or small can be one of the single best features for attracting new wildlife to, and supporting existing wildlife in, your garden not only including the dragonflies, damselflies, and amphibians that depend on ponds for their complex lifecycles, but can also be important feeding grounds for birds, hedgehogs and bats, and can even be important watering stations for bees.

The Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society have just launched a handy booklet full of advice about how to make a wildlife friendly garden pond as well as ideas of how to help wildlife if a pond isn't going to work for your own garden:

<https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-03/Big%20or%20small%2C%20ponds%20for%20all%20Wild%20About%20Gardens%20booklet.pdf>

As the photo above shows a pond doesn't need to be big to help wildlife—our pond is about a metre across and half a metre deep and has had frogs breeding every spring since we dug it in 2015. I counted 32 when took this photo earlier this month!



### Nature Summit

Join Suffolk Wildlife Trust for a wide-ranging discussion on the state of the county's wildlife and wild places.

This nature summit, the first of its kind in Suffolk and featuring speakers from the worlds of environmental campaigning and politics, is a chance to discuss a united vision of a wilder future.

Friday 7 June 5pm-10.30pm, Dance East, Ipswich Waterfront

Book your free place online:

<https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/nature-summit>



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## Transition Woodbridge—fruit trees and pen recycling !



Transition Woodbridge have been busy planting 9 new fruit trees at Balliol Close, Queens Avenue and Oxford Drive. These trees were kindly donated by the Deben Rotary. Thank you to all those who turned out in the rain and sun to plant the trees. These will be watered and cared for by Transition Woodbridge for the next 3 to 4 years, if you would like to help water these or the trees in any of TW's other community orchards please do contact: [twoodbridge@gmail.com](mailto:twoodbridge@gmail.com).

This makes the total number of fruit trees TW have planted 53 over the last 5 years! TW are incredibly proud of this effort and hope the fruits will bring lots of pleasure to local communities for many years to come!



## New pen recycling at Woodbridge Library!

Woodbridge Library are now collecting pens for Transition Woodbridge to recycle! These will be sent to Terracycle, via Gusford Primary School as part of their 'Turn Trash into Cash' campaign – see pages 3 & 4 of their newsletter at <https://www.gusfordprimary.net/newsletters>. It is fantastic that Gusford have taken this initiative and can earn money at the same time for their school but we would love a local Woodbridge or Melton school, church or business to take part, so we can help them raise money locally!

Woodbridge Library can accept "Any old pens, with or without lids, or lids without pens, including biros, highlighters, markers and felt tips. They will also accept old Tipex pots."

Get collecting!

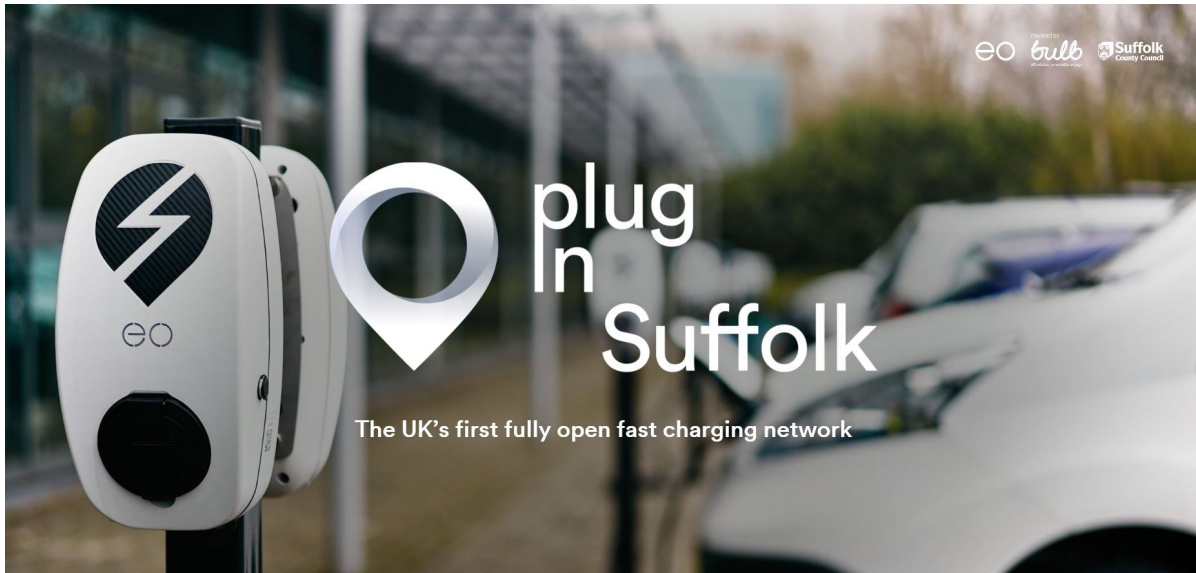




## Plug-In Suffolk



Are you a forward-looking business keen to help improve the network of EV charging points in Suffolk and reap the benefits in the process? Then read on....



Together with a local manufacturer and local installers, Suffolk County Council's Plug in Suffolk project gives potential site holders the opportunity to provide EV charging points to the potential customer base of all EV owners with a contactless credit or debit card.

Are you in control of a car park that could benefit from E.V. charging facilities? Or perhaps a business considering installing E.V. chargers for your clients? Could offering public EV car charging be a potential revenue stream for your organisation? Different operating models are available and there is also the option of 100% green energy.

Visit the website at [www.pluginsuffolk.org](http://www.pluginsuffolk.org) to find out more information.

## New Suffolk Recycling Website!

Whilst on the theme of waste—please note that the Suffolk Waste Partnership's website "Suffolk Recycling has migrated out of the Green Suffolk website and is now a stand-alone site (more smartphone friendly) with a new web address you can find it here: <https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/>



## Defra consultations on resources and waste strategy, and plastic packaging tax



Could a DRS for drinks containers mean fewer scenes like this?

### Resources and Waste Strategy Consultations

The recently published [Resources and Waste Strategy](#) set out the UK Government's ambitions for higher recycling rates, increased resource efficiency and a more circular economy.

Defra is now consulting members of the community, industry, businesses, and others on three flagship policy commitments outlined in the government's Resources and Waste Strategy:

- Reforming the packaging producer responsibility regulations in the UK
- Introducing a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers in England, Northern Ireland and Wales
- Measures to accelerate consistency in recycling for both households and businesses in England

**(The three consultations above all close on 13th May 2019)**

### Plastic Packaging Tax Consultation

Defra are also consulting on proposals to introduce a new tax on single-use plastic packaging produced or imported with less than 30% recycled content (**this consultation closes on 12th May 2019**)

### How do I respond?

If you want to try to influence the government's proposals on these important issues please tell Defra what you think by responding to the relevant consultation(s).

All the consultations are available here:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/resource-and-waste-and-plastic-packaging-tax-consu-1/>





# Could YOU, or someone you know, become a Plastic Action Champion and help us turn the tide on plastic pollution?



*Re-used plastic crafts, waste-free pebble art and litter fishing game; community litter action; community litter art*

A plastic action champion is a volunteer (or indeed a group of volunteers) who:

*Is not perfect.....Is not a preacher...Is trying their best to cut plastic waste and wants to help others do the same through advice, education, and / or hands-on activities... Is willing to keep things fun whilst recognising the need for action.*

In return for the comprehensive Champions' Handbook, resources, support and networking/training opportunities 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 (this can be shared if joining as a group) 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, for example: giving talks to schools or community groups in your area; gently nudging shops and restaurants you use to do even better and letting them know how; arranging or supporting local litter picks; getting the plastic action messages across at public events or even organising a give-and-take event in your own community.

**If this sounds like you then get in touch via [greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)**

**(If you're already registered you will soon receive an invitation for a training/introductory session)**





## Recent talks attended by the Editor

### Mark Cocker—For Love of Nature



On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February the Suffolk Coastal group of friends of the Earth hosted a talk “For love of Nature” by the author and columnist Mark Cocker in which he gave an overview of how conservation in England has got to where it is today. Leading us through the fascinating histories of the National Trust and RSPB and the different motivations behind their foundations by female activists – whether the battle for access rights for the benefits that access to nature has for us as human beings, or outrage at the slaughter of billions of birds for feathers to adorn Victorian ladies’ hats reflecting concern for nature for its own sake – and how these difference in motivations for conservation were reinforced by the establishment of National Parks as places of amenity for people, and SSSIs and NNRs as places for nature, reflecting how “nature” can mean different things to different people.

We were invited to wonder whether we would be able to appreciate, for example, the meanings of the 700 years-worth of poetry and literature inspired by the skylark if we never heard a skylark sing. A thought provoking evening.

Related info:

- The speaker mentioned Sizewell C. Consultation Stage 3 is under way – EDF invite responses via: <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/sizewell-c>

### Lord Deben—Overcoming the Obstacles to Action on Climate Change

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March Waldringfield Village Hall was ram packed with those who came hoping to hear Lord Deben John Gummer tell us how to overcome the obstacles to climate change – an apt theme for a Waldringfield Winter Talk when we haven’t really had a winter to speak of. In his very interesting talk he gave us an overview of how the Climate Change Committee works as well as giving us a few of his thoughts on how we can all act. Stressing that individual actions all add up even if they seem minor on an individual scale it is still worth doing!

So plant for the pollinators to give them options to help them to adapt to disruptions to patterns of flowering; avoid food waste, use what you have, manage the fridge; consider the impacts of your purchases, research the environmental credentials of the companies you buy from and exercise your freedom of choice.

Encourage the government to make it easy to be good and difficult to be bad – engage with your local MP and councillors on the issue, ask them what they are doing, thank them for any positives and encourage them to go further. Lord Deben had a positive message which was “we can do this” and asked us to tackle the issue with optimism, enthusiasm, realism – and urgency.



Related info:

- The [Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#) has lots of advice for pollinator-friendly gardening.
- The Suffolk Waste Partnership’s [Food Savvy](#) campaign has loads of handy hints and tips to help you make the most out of your food.



## Community Litter Action

22 March-23 April—Great British Spring Clean—get involved with a local litter pick !

The opportunity to get together with like-minded members of the community for a walk, fun and chat with the end result of a cleaner and safer environment for our residents, visitors and wildlife is of course reason enough to do a litter pick—but did you know that if you do a litter pick during March-April-May in East Suffolk, an extra little bonus is available from Norse who will donate £20 to your chosen good cause and also enter them into draw for the chance to get £200, through the Love East Suffolk scheme—register here: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/love-east-suffolk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/love-east-suffolk) .

All Suffolk Councils can loan equipment to volunteers and arrange to collect the gathered litter afterwards, at any time of year not just during the national campaign.

You can see dates of community litter picks as well as who to contact for support from local councils throughout the rest of Suffolk here: <https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/learning-zone/get-involved/Suffolk-litter-picking> . Get your event added to the calendar and reach more potential volunteers by emailing [waste.management@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:waste.management@suffolk.gov.uk)



### Breaking news—Government funding for community litter action

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government made a grant of £42,000 to Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils to promote cleaner, prouder high streets. This is part of a £9.75million initiative from government to help support town centres to look their very best by offering additional support to volunteers and community groups during the period of Keep Britain Tidy's Great Spring Clean campaign which starts on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and runs until 23rd April.

The fund is being held by Norse, who will be considering applications from community groups in East Suffolk. These applications could cover the following:

- Requests to purchase equipment to help community groups to keep their high streets clean (brooms, wheelbarrows, gloves, litter pickers and shovels etc)
- Schemes to remove graffiti, or tidy up fly tipping
- Promotional material, produced by the community and targeted at solving local problems
- Support for community events promoting clean up activity to the wider community

If this sounds like something that your community would benefit from please contact East Suffolk Councils' Communities Team [Communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) 01502 523111 **by the 3rd of April**. (All projects need to have been actually delivered by 23rd April.)





## Forthcoming events roundup

- 29 March, 19:00 at Long Shed, Woodbridge — **free screening of the film Tapped** courtesy of Transition Woodbridge and Rubbish Walks. This film examines the role of the bottled water industry and its effect on our health, environment and resources <http://transitionwoodbridge.onesuffolk.net/events/view/64>
- 2 April, 11:30-15:30—**Climate Change and Decarbonising the UK Energy Sector Symposium**, University of Suffolk. keynote from Dr James Davey, BIES Head of Performance and Delivery in SICE. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-change-and-decarbonising-the-uk-energy-sector-symposium-tickets-51520592479?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
- 26 & 27 April 09:30-16:30 — **Master Composter Volunteer Training Course** (Please note volunteers must be able to attend **both days** training); Stowmarket Community Centre. Are you a keen gardener or just want to do your bit to help the environment and to help others reduce and compost organic waste in Suffolk? Volunteers are asked to commit to 30 hours composting promotion post-training through a wide range of activities around the county. Find out more [here](#) or contact Craig Renton on 07736 950634 or [mastercomposters@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:mastercomposters@suffolk.gov.uk) to book your place.
- 11 May-2 June—**Suffolk Walking Festival**—walks with owls, walks with nightjars, walks with a sheepdog and loads more! Visit the website for details <http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk/> (May is National Walking Month)
- 5 June—World Environment Day but also (in the evening) - **Greenprint Forum Sustainable Travel event**, East Suffolk House, Melton —further details to follow !
- 26 June & 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>



## 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@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsuffolk.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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