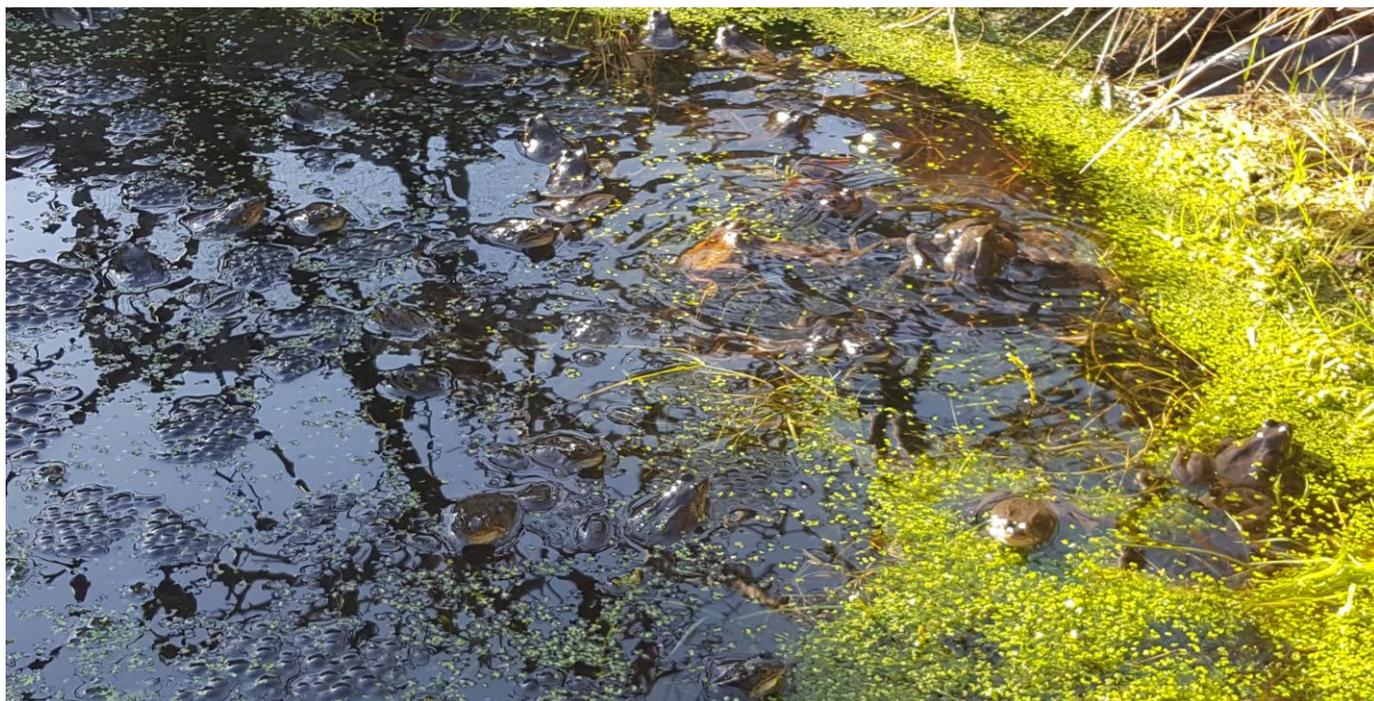


Greenprint Forum newsletter spring/early summer 2022

Greetings Greenprinters – spring has finally arrived and with it the sights and sounds of the season abound once again. Swifts are back in the skies above Suffolk heralding the imminent arrival of summer (lots more about swifts on pages 6, 7 and 8), whilst earlier in the spring the sound of courting frogs filled the Editor’s back garden with 38 frogs counted in this little pond on one bright afternoon in March, resulting in lots of clumps of spawn and now uncountable hundreds of tadpoles.

A garden pond can be an oasis of life in an urban environment, not only providing a breeding ground for frogs and other amphibians, but also for dragonflies, damselflies and certain pollinators such as hoverflies, as well as a source of drinking water for bees, birds and small mammals (if you have a pond remember to include gentle sloping sides and plenty of escape routes for animals who fall in).



The Suffolk Wildlife Trust provide a series of handy guides for anyone wanting to make their garden more welcoming to wildlife: [Wildlife gardening guides | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#) . The Trust’s campaign [Team Wilder](#) takes the concept that if just one in four people take up a cause, that can be enough to change the minds and behaviour of the majority, and applying this to the cause of nature’s recovery to harness the collective energy and talents of our county and bring people together into a bigger, bolder movement for biodiversity.

Nature First small grants scheme

Our small grants scheme is still open to community groups and parish councils who need funding for their projects in East Suffolk that enhance or promote biodiversity. So far, our volunteer panel have awarded over £10,000 to 14 projects, and we have nearly that amount remaining to allocate to more projects. If you have a project that needs some funding, you can find out more or apply by visiting: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/supporting-community-environmental-action/nature-first-small-grants-scheme/>



Coastal Stewardship – monitoring and recording change along the coast and the River Deben

Citizen science projects are going ahead in the Deben Estuary and along the coast from Felixstowe Ferry to Shingle Street.

The [Bawdsey Beach Monitoring Group](#) is recording changes to the shoreline along a stretch of eroding coast below Bawdsey Manor. Measurements from the top of the piling to the changing level of the shingle, taken every week since 2013, show just how much the overall beach level is falling. The data clearly identifies the extent and speed at which change is occurring – providing information that would not have been captured in such detail in the national surveys that may be undertaken twice yearly.

A linked project, [Deben PhotoPosts](#), made possible by a grant from the [Sustainable Development Fund from the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB](#), aims to provide a visual record of changes in the Deben estuary and along the coast.

Supported by Parish Councils and landowners, volunteers are setting up a network of fixed-point photography sites from where to photograph a selected view of the changing beach and estuary. Photographs from these coastal posts are being taken regularly by members of the community and visitors - some local residents are even making sure they visit 'their' post on the same day and the same time each week. Initial assessment of the pictures collected from the coastal posts is beginning to show exactly how and when changes to the beach and cliffs are happening. Up the estuary photoposts will provide information on changes to estuarine geomorphology.



The photopost at East Lane, Bawdsey

Taking part is very simple – • place your smartphone in the tray with the camera lens pointing through the tray aperture • take a photo • follow the instructions to post the picture online

The Deben Photoposts project is a public and community monitoring enterprise involving the Deben Estuary Partnership, Bawdsey Parish Council, and coastal scientist Helene Burningham of University College London (UCL).

Where to find out more - come and see what we have learnt

With backing and support from Suffolk Coast and Heaths, AONB Unit, East Suffolk Council and the business owners of Bawdsey Manor, PGL, an unused riverside building, once a bus and ferry shelter on Bawdsey Quay, has been reconfigured for use as a new exhibition space, the [Deben Marine Centre \(Facebook\)](#), to display and explain the information on change and introduce other projects underway in the estuary - including the Woodbridge water quality monitoring regime, an EA proposal for defence works along a stretch of the Estuary mouth, the planning proposals from private foreshore owners, PGL, for a rock revetment and number of short groynes.

As a coastal 'observatory' the building is perfectly positioned at the mouth of the Deben to attract and inform the public. Open on Thursdays and Sundays throughout the summer it has the exciting potential to expand into a hub for information about East Coast marine issues.

Christine Block, Bawdsey



Community upcycling action in Beccles

BRING & TAKE

The Beccles Community Hub and Volunteer Centre continues to open every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am – 12 noon. We have lots of community members giving us donations and taking items they can make use of through our 'Bring and Take' initiative (same opening hours as the Hub). We welcome donations of preloved items in good useable condition such as tools, clothing, furniture (e.g. chairs, stools but not large items) and bric-a-brac which we seek to rehome within the community.

Beccles Volunteer Centre is a place where people can volunteer or members of our community can contact us for volunteering support for things like one-off shopping, collection of prescriptions, dog walking, and gardening. We also offer befriending and chat/buddy support. In addition to the 'Bring and Take' on the ground floor, the Community Hub has items for hire on 1st floor such as smart clothes for people who need them for a job interview, and space for 'hot desking', training sessions, small sessions of craft for those who need help getting out of social isolation, or smaller specialist chat groups.

We also have people bringing in bulbs which we give to [Beccles Community Gardeners \(Facebook\)](#). We have one lady setting up a seed swap for us and we have a gent who looks after our 'Jigsaw' lending library where we encourage people to take a puzzle, leave a message in it upon return for a future borrower and build a community of puzzlers.



We are still knitting for our world record attempt at the longest line of knitted bunting and have used up lots of those bits of wool that have been lying buried in people homes for years and giving them a useful life. On 11 May we were thrilled to receive 1500 bunting flags from our twinned town of Petit Couronne! After we take the bunting down we will be extending the lives of the knitted and crochet flags by making them into blankets, a lasting legacy of our Jubilee bunting.



You can find the Community Hub and Volunteer Centre at 20 Blyburgate, Beccles, NR34 9TB. For further information, or to volunteer, please contact me via 07825 421117, caroline.topping@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or find us on our Facebook page [Beccles Community Hub/Volunteer Centre | Facebook](#)

Caroline Topping, Beccles Community Hub & Volunteer Centre



#Justonebottle campaign comes to a refill shop near you!

Do you feel overwhelmed by the problem of climate change and wonder what you can do to be part of the solution? Do you believe that small actions can have an impact?

The 'Just one bottle' campaign launched on 1 January 2022 by many of the zero-waste and refill shops in Suffolk and around the country. In Woodbridge, [Cupboard Love](#) has been promoting the campaign to encourage people to try refilling just one bottle for the year. We hope to encourage people who want to do their bit to help reduce plastic waste to just start small. Making big, drastic changes to our shopping habits can sometimes be overwhelming and may not be sustainable so go for 'Just one bottle' instead—maybe your washing-up liquid, hand soap, shampoo or conditioner. If each household did this, imagine the impact it would make – with over 100,000 households in East Suffolk alone, that's a lot of bottles that could be saved from the waste stream!

By reusing bottles that have already been produced we help to reduce the need for virgin plastic, thus protecting the valuable oil reserves and sending a message to the petro-chemical industry that customers want change. Because these liquids are produced in this country, there is a reduced carbon footprint, especially as several of the suppliers offer a closed-loop system whereby the plastic containers are returned, cleaned and reused – so there's not even any need for recycling.

It is often cheaper to refill your existing bottles and if you only need a small amount at a time, that's also fine. And if you find success with this one small change, then next time, take another bottle for refilling!

The household liquids stocked by the local refill shops are often British-made using cruelty-free and plant-based ingredients. They can be just as effective as regular cleaning liquids, without the palm oil, synthetic scents and harsh chemical ingredients, and better for your skin and general health.

Many members of our communities feel powerless against the effects of climate change and that they are not able to contribute meaningfully in the fight against it. The rates of climate anxiety are rising fast. This campaign is about empowering individuals and showing people that together, with one small change, we can ALL contribute to the fight against climate change.

You can find Cupboard Love at Woodbridge Market on Thursdays or Framlingham Market on Tuesdays – where you can also refill your bags and jars with foodstuffs such as pasta, rice, lentils, nuts and dried fruit.

Other local businesses who will happily refill your bottles can be found on Suffolk's Refill Directory: [Refill Directory - Suffolk Recycling](#)

Happy refilling – join the campaign today! #Justonebottle

Mel Menhams, Cupboard Love

(and [Plastic Action Champion](#))



A Gathering of Wildlife Gardeners

On Friday 6 May, Transition Woodbridge gathered their wildlife gardeners together for an uplifting meeting. They had sent ahead fascinating pictures of their wild features, some of which we share in this article, and with tea and biscuits, we enjoyed a 'show and tell' session to inspire us all.



Attendees included members of our Local Wildlife Corridors project, and others curious to find out more. The project, which encourages people to 'wild up' their spaces was inspired by [Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve](#) (about whom you can read more on page 10) and aims to provide routes ("corridors") by which animals both large and small can move around without hinderance or danger.

Built up areas can be difficult to navigate, but by joining up to create biodiversity-friendly spaces close together (such as in groups of gardens), we allow animals to move more freely. This is hugely important for many animals, insects, bats and birds to be able to move from one habitat to another. By planting wildflowers or the old 'cottage garden' varieties, they have provided rich feeding grounds for beneficial insects, as well as helping to keep these plant varieties from extinction.



This ties in with the Woodbridge Town Council's declared climate emergency and pledge to make their three large open areas, namely, Fen Meadow, Kingstone Field and Elmhurst Park, more wildlife friendly and to improve them as carbon sinks. They have planted trees and thickened hedges, as well as held back on the mowing in some areas. And so, together, we aim to make Woodbridge and Melton, and surrounding villages, a haven for wildlife. Our corridors will span between the parks and the surrounding countryside, completing the picture.



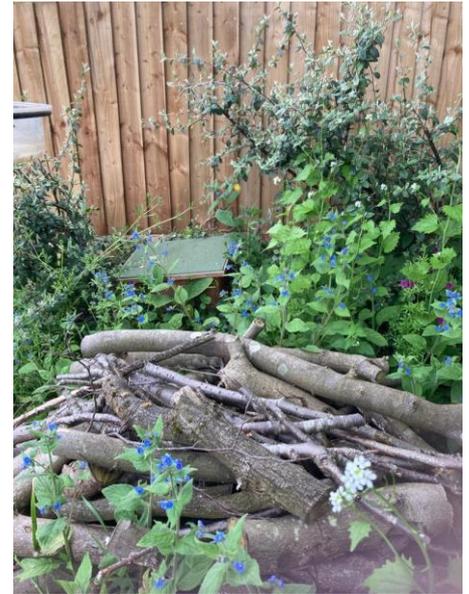
Does this sound like your kind of thing? Do you have a piece of garden or courtyard you could give over to wildlife? Or are you busy doing it already? By going onto our website, specifically, [Local Wildlife Corridors – Transition Woodbridge](#) local residents can find out more information and a survey to fill in, showing what features you already have, e.g. a pond, bird boxes, a log pile. You might be surprised to find how many boxes you can already tick and if you decide to join us, you can let us know whenever you add another feature.

In order for our corridors to be as effective as possible, we need more residents to take part, so if you live in our area, please join up!

Continued over

A Gathering of Wildlife Gardeners (continued)

If you are not a gardener, you are welcome to join our Citizen Science group, which has evolved from this project. We wanted to take the data coming from the online surveys and see what is actually happening and use the data to guide us to improve local conditions further. Inspired by Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve project again, we have created two initial groups studying bird boxes and fruit trees. It is early days and we need more gardens to make results more meaningful, but at least we have made a start. In the future we may well be able to communicate our findings in wider contexts, making information from Woodbridge useful nationally and maybe even internationally as Felixstowe have done.



New members are welcome. You don't need to be a scientist, all you need is a curious mind, a basic knowledge of computers and an interest in improving conditions for wildlife in our area.

We enjoyed the evening so much, we plan to meet again in the Autumn, and maybe organise an 'Open Wildlife Gardens' event for the future.

Jane Healey,
Transition Woodbridge



Swift rescue newsflash!

On Wednesday we found a swift on our driveway looking very sorry for itself so we used a towel and transferred it into the box and put it in one of our small sheds. We called the [Framlingham Swift and Wildlife Group \(Facebook\)](#) for advice and spoke to an extremely helpful lady - sent her a picture and she confirmed it was a swift and told us what to do. She told us they have had a number of calls re tired wet birds who have run out of energy on their flight from Africa.

On her advice, we placed the swift in a dry warm dark place and give it a couple of hours to dry out and recover before trying to let it fly (we were asked to watch it initially just in case it grounded again which might have indicated an injury in which case we were to then take it to the rescuers). We just opened the box up in a clear area and watched it soar away.

Denise Lavender, Ipswich

Editor's note: Advice for those finding a grounded swift, and contact details for local **Swift Carers**, is available here:

[Swift First Aid & Carers \(swift-conservation.org\)](http://swift-conservation.org)

See next pages for more about swifts and how you can help them.



Saving Suffolk's Swifts

What are Swifts?

Distinct from both swallows and house martins, these summer visitors – here for just four months from May to August – thrill us with low-level acrobatics and gyroscopic flights as they scream around the skies, prospecting for potential nest sites. They feed, sleep and even mate on the wing, landing only to fashion a minimal nest cup and breed. With a wingspan of 42cm but weighing no more than a Cadbury's Crème Egg, a newly-fledged swift will depart for Africa, shuttling over and back to the UK for two to three years, before finally landing to breed. Swifts usually produce a brood of two or three chicks each year and – if they survive their first year – they can live to almost 20 years. It is a remarkable lifestyle.

Research has shown that breeding adults are extremely faithful to their nest sites. Juveniles are believed to follow the adult birds back to where they fledged, identifying their own site prior to nesting. New colonies can be established by installing nest boxes and specially designed 'swift bricks', and playing calls to attract interest. The birds are curious and will investigate possible sites, whilst screaming around in tight flocks at low level.

Why do Swifts need our help?

Historically, swifts nested in crevices in cliffs and trees, but since Roman times they have also taken advantage of the built environment, finding nest sites under the eaves and tiles of houses and church towers. In Suffolk, as elsewhere in the UK, swifts have taken to nesting communally in towns and villages.

However, modern building techniques do not favour swifts. The requirement to achieve efficient, air-tight buildings with minimal heat loss and sound transmission reduces the nesting opportunities for wildlife. Meanwhile, renovation and conversion of older buildings results in loss of existing nest sites. Nesting locations are not legally protected outside the breeding season and can therefore be lost whilst the swifts are away. Figures show that the swift population in SE England halved between 1994 and 2007, with a further third of remaining birds lost between 2009 and 2016, resulting in their 'Endangered' status as a British breeding bird, being added to the [Red List of birds of highest conservation concern in the UK](#) last December - they need our help.



Pic: Suffolk Bird Group



Continued over

Who is helping swifts locally / here in Suffolk?

[Save our Suffolk Swifts](#), a joint campaign between Suffolk Bird Group and Suffolk Wildlife Trust, was established in 2014 with the aim of reversing the downward trend in swift numbers. Organising talks, walks and events throughout the county, SOS Swifts encourages the establishment of local swift groups and offers ongoing support. Support includes surveys of suitable nest sites and recommendation of appropriate call systems, as well as education and advice about swift protection, in order to expand existing colonies and create new ones.

What can you do?

Ahead of the birds' May arrival, put up swift nest boxes and log their location. Play swift calls to advertise the site as the birds arrive in May and continue to log sightings of the distinctive, entertaining 'screaming parties' of birds. Contact SOS Swifts to find out if there is a local group, or start one in your area. Local groups have had remarkable successes with installing boxes on houses, church towers, swimming pools, cinemas, libraries and schools. If you have contacts within a public building that might be interested in supporting swifts, please put them in touch with SWT. Contact SWT for help on starting or joining a local swift group.

Editor's note – the Greenprint Forum might be able to help with funding if your group has a project to help swifts in your community – see our **Nature First small grants scheme** for more information: [Nature First Small Grants Scheme » East Suffolk Council](#)

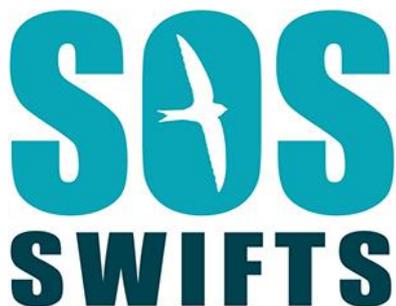
Where and why should you log your records?

There are currently two places to log sightings. The [Suffolk Swift Survey](#), hosted by Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service, plays a vital role because it can influence local planning decisions. Suffolk County Council has classified swifts as a Suffolk Priority Species in their Biodiversity Action Plan. If a Swift population is already identified in an area set for development, District and Borough Planning Officers are able to set a planning condition to include Swift bricks (specially designed brick inserts for new-build houses that mimic the nooks and crannies favoured by swifts) in the requirements for the new development and oblige architects and developers to include them in their designs. The SwiftMapper app, available for smartphones, is quick and easy to use and the data are transferred across to SBIS regularly.

How can you get in touch?

info@SuffolkWildlifeTrust.org

We are here to help you help swifts.



Pic: Suffolk Bird Group

Article provided by Eddie Bathgate



Update on Quiet Lanes

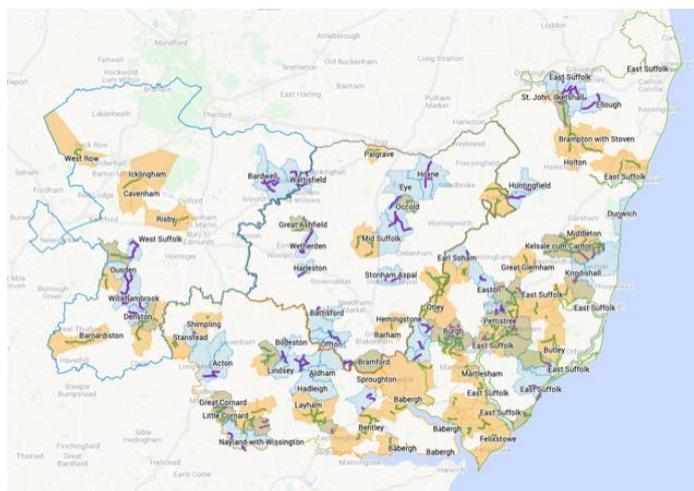


Greenprint continues to support a volunteer-led project to hugely expand the original handful of Quiet Lanes established in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB in 2013/14, with an additional 400km or so of rural tranquil roads across Suffolk becoming designated Quiet Lanes by the end of 2022 subject to process.



Suffolk Quiet Lane Designations as of 18 May 2022

(parishes with lanes now designated in orange with lanes in green; parishes with lanes still in progress shown in blue with purple lanes)



Designated (* In progress)	Values	Local Authority				Grand Total
		Babergh	East Suffolk	Mid Suffolk	West Suffolk	
2014 Pilot	Parishes		7			7
	Routes		14			14
	Lanes		14			14
	Total Km		22.6			22.6
Phase 1	Parishes	1	1			2
	Routes	1	3			4
	Lanes	3	4			7
	Total Km	2.4	5.7			8.1
Wave1	Parishes	3	7	2	2	14
	Routes	6	31	2	4	43
	Lanes	6	41	2	4	53
	Total Km	10.9	44.8	7.5	7.0	70.2
Wave2	Parishes	11	21	7	8	46
	Routes	29	55	21	9	112
	Lanes	38	70	22	12	142
	Total Km	45.9	82.6	40.6	25.0	194.1
Wave3 *	Parishes	9	21	9	7	45
	Routes	17	39	14	22	92
	Lanes	20	46	16	29	111
	Total Km	21.9	56.2	25.0	28.7	131.8
Wave4 *	Parishes	5	10	9	2	26
	Routes	8	10	13	3	34
	Lanes	10	14	18	4	46
	Total Km	9.5	17.2	19.7	6.7	53.1
Grand Total	Parishes	29	58	24	19	128
	Routes	60	143	48	36	283
	Lanes	77	189	58	49	373
	Total Km	90.7	229.0	92.8	67.4	479.9

In many cases, Quiet Lanes connect with existing bridleways and public rights of way, helping to improve connectivity of routes for safe walking, cycling and horse riding, and make more rural routes in Suffolk more appealing to those wishing to visit and enjoy by means other than the car.

The project is coordinated and delivered by a small core team of volunteers chaired by Marianne Munday from Bentley Parish Council with the rest of the volunteer team made up of former Greenprint Chair and Vice-chair Andrew Cassy from Boyton, Chris Taylor from Otley, Tim Beach from Snape Parish Council, and Greenprint Forum Steering Group member Susan Harvey from Kirton. The team have created a self-help template for parish councils across the county to use and follow for their own applications for quiet lanes.

For more information about Quiet Lanes, visit <https://www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk/> or follow us on Facebook [Quiet Lanes Suffolk | Facebook](#)

Air Quality and Exercise Survey



Do you routinely exercise outdoors (run, walk and/or cycle) at least once a week? If so, do you have a little time to spare to help with a short survey on air quality and exercise?

A PhD student at the University of Suffolk (UoS) is looking at the effects of perceived air quality on parameters of health, exercise capacity and exercise performance. She has designed a questionnaire that aims to explore the perceived importance of air quality during outdoor exercise, and how this may influence exercise behaviours and routines. This will hopefully allow the UoS to better understand whether people consider air quality in their exercise and active travel related decisions, and inform future research on this topic.

The survey can be accessed at- <https://bit.ly/37nQOSs>



Would you like to start a community nature reserve?

We all know that wildlife populations are under threat. In Felixstowe, we decided to do something to stop that decline. We call it a community nature reserve. It's a network of small wildlife-friendly spaces in local people's gardens and allotments. We ask local people to allocate at least 3 square yards (about 2½ m²) for any kind of wildlife-friendly feature. They decide what they want because it's their land. Our role is to offer loads of different ideas.

3 square yards might not sound like much, but when you realize that we now have over 1,700 active members, it means the total area of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve is about the same as a football pitch.



Our local citizen science group [Felixstowe Citizen Science Group \(Facebook\)](#) tell us that we're starting to have an impact on improved biodiversity too.

It's also encouraging that other places are starting their own community nature reserves. So far, there are ten other areas in the UK with their own community nature reserve, and one in Portugal.

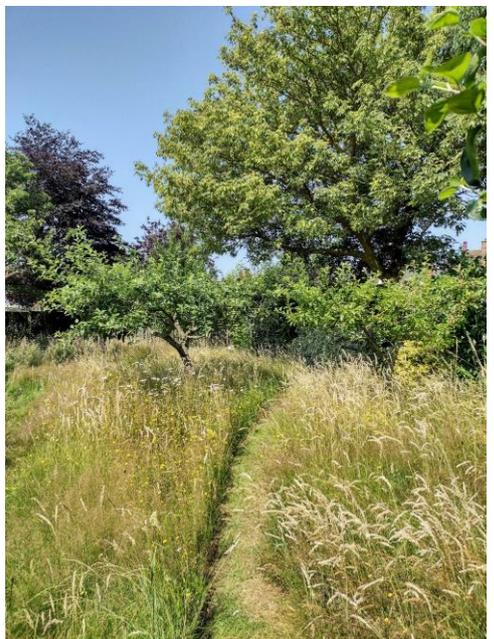
So the big question is: Will you be next? Why not? You should start with a team of friends, and then just share the idea across your community. Always feel free to use any of the information which you find on the [Facebook](#) page of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve. If you need help and advice, just send in a message on Facebook. And then let us know how you get on!

Good luck!

Article by Dr Adrian Cooper, Chair, Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve

Pictures by Gillian Atacocogu

[Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve | Little Green Space](#)



New woodland at Oulton Broad

At Woods Meadow Country Park in Oulton Broad, East Suffolk Council have recently begun the process of creating a 5.8 hectare woodland, covering two previously farmed fields that have been left fallow since 2017. We hope by creating a new woodland we will greatly increase the wildlife value and biodiversity of the Country Park. The canopy will provide an ideal habitat for various species and the trees themselves will supply a food source through their fruits. The Council hopes to plant around 7000 trees in the next few years, which will also help combat the effects of climate change and benefit the local and global environment. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, the main culprit in global warming, and release oxygen back into the air. They also play an important role in flood prevention and regulating temperature of our residential areas.



Involving the local community, for whom the woodland will become a source of outdoor reflection and recreation, was of great importance to myself and the wider countryside team. We started planting in January with the help of the local Limes Primary Academy School, families, volunteers and cooperative groups. We invited everyone to get involved and together we managed to start the project by planting up the first field. We were in no shortage of volunteers as the park is situated adjacent both to a recent housing development and the school. Indeed, it was a pleasure to see so many children and young people attend the tree planting and witness their enthusiasm. As the trees grow, so will the children and hopefully remember having a role in the planting of their humble beginnings in future decades.

In addition to the new trees being planted at Woods Meadow, the creation of this new woodland is also giving a new chance for life for many saplings of birch that have been transplanted from Upper Hollesley Common where birch, as well as pine, have to be controlled to help the survival of the fragile lowland heath ecosystem at that location. On 13 February, we welcomed members of the Greenprint Forum who formed a [work party at Upper Hollesley Common](#) carrying out heathland conservation work, as part of which we carefully removed and saved several small young birch, many of these have been doing really well since being replanted at Woods Meadow.

The new woodland consists of a mix of native, deciduous species that have a high value to wildlife. We planted shrubby species around the edge of the woodland that will form a nice transition from the open space. These smaller species will also form shrub layer habitat which will further increase the wildlife value of the project. A wide footpath was left through the woodland that we are now surfacing, and which will provide a pleasant journey for walkers through the trees. Simply enter through the gate of Longfield footpath, which can be accessed from Hall Lane or Lime Avenue in Oulton Broad; and follow the woodchipped path to explore our newly planted area.

Moving forward, we hope to start planting the second field in November, which will include more footpaths and a large glade with seating. Until then I am working hard with our dedicated group of volunteers to look after the trees and surface the woodland path. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers and if you feel you can give any of your time to help I would love to hear from you!

See you at the Park!

Matt O'Connell, Countryside Ranger

matthew.o'connell@ncsgrp.co.uk

[Woods Meadow Country Park | Facebook](#)



Waldringfield Hedge laying course

On Saturday 5th February, eight of Waldringfield's bravest and fittest residents gathered to learn the skill of hedge laying. The course was kindly subsidised by the Greenprint Forum's small grants scheme [Nature First](#), receiving a grant in autumn 2021. Our course leader was the wonderful Alison Huxley who has been a professional hedge layer for over 35 years. You can see our work half way down the Church Field on Mill Road.



This very old Elm hedge is the perfect example of why hedge laying is such a useful skill to rejuvenate dying hedges. It may look like a brutal practice, to cut almost all the way through trunks in order to bend them over into the layed position, but from these low cuts new growth will come in the spring. We found that many of the elms were rotten in the core, but luckily still living. This is usually what happens to Elm, and if you go along Mill Road past Church Farm Barn, you will see the dead standing trunks of what was once an Elm hedge.

Our work will give each hedge tree a much longer life than it would have had if it were left and flayed every year. Now that we are trained, we plan to continue laying the Church Field hedge over the next few winters. We plan to have another course led by Alison in November 2022 so that more villagers who are interested in joining us can learn. This will also be useful for those who attended this year as there is much more to learn than can be taught in a day.

Mariah Ballam, Greener Waldringfield



Update on allocations of grants from Nature First

Greenprint's small grants scheme, [Nature First](#), remains open to further applications to support community-based projects that enhance and/or biodiversity. Three more projects have received grants so far in 2022:

Saxmundham & District Litter Pickers and Saxmundham Green Team have been awarded £285 to purchase equipment to enable volunteers to enhance the area for residents and visitors to the town and improve the areas of green spaces for wildlife by removing hazardous litter.

Leiston Community Land Trust have been awarded £1000 for the Church Square Community Garden, creating a new inclusive oasis to enhance biodiversity in the centre of town with planting and provisions for pollinators and birds along with education uses of the area including workshops to enhance habitats in garden through making bird boxes and bug hotels.

Greener Waldringfield & Waldringfield Gardeners have been awarded £871.75 for their project to offer to every resident of the parish a free tree to be registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

The full list of projects that have been awarded grants since the scheme launched can be found here: [Nature-First-projects-funded-2021-2022.pdf \(eastsoffolk.gov.uk\)](#)



Could you be an Eco Literacy Champion?

Get Suffolk Reading Literacy Champions and Siemens

The National Literacy Trust is the UK's largest independent literacy charity, working to ensure that disadvantaged children in the UK have the literacy skills they need to succeed in education and in life. In Suffolk, Get Suffolk Reading is working in Lowestoft to help raise literacy levels. [Get Suffolk Reading | National Literacy Trust](#)

We are looking for a diverse range of volunteers

Literacy Champions want to help improve literacy in their community whilst working towards a sustainable future supported by Siemens. They could be a parent, business professional, teacher, student, sports coach or just passionate about making a difference in their local area. They can do this in many different ways depending on who they are and the communities they are living in and working with.

How will it work?

We are looking for a diverse range of volunteers who will want to work on different ideas and initiatives.

Eco Literacy Champion volunteers will attend a short training session to give you practical ideas and inspiration. You will also get a resource pack to help with your ideas. You will learn how you can access free books and resources connected to the environment and literacy.

What do Eco Literacy Champions do?

Literacy Champions will:



- Work in your local community to develop ideas that help improve literacy.
- Encourage the people you are working with to make reading part of their everyday lives and something they enjoy
- Develop an idea for a literacy project that you think could make a difference in your community
- Report back on what you do and how it is going.

Can I be an Eco Literacy Champion?

Whether you have previous experience, or simply have an idea to try to see whether you can make a difference, we want to hear from you!

You can be a Eco Literacy Champion if you:

- Have some time to commit to the volunteer role- to fit around your life and commitments.
- Are keen to learn ways to help promote literacy in your community.
- Can combine the role with your existing employment or volunteering
- Passionate about the environment

How do I get involved?

Contact Sally Connick sally.connick@literacytrust.org.uk particularly if you are interested in Lowestoft, however if you are in other parts of East Suffolk, do have a chat and we can see how Get Suffolk reading can support you through resources.

Sally Connick (she/her) Project Manager,
Get Suffolk Reading – Lowestoft
07729 106232



Woodbridge Climate Action Gathering

The Woodbridge Climate Action gathering, early April 2022, builds upon the previous Climate emergency conference that the Woodbridge Town Council Climate & ecological emergency committee squeezed in just before the covid lockdowns in spring 2020.

An important theme for the gathering was 'the power of localism'. The large majority of our presenters were local people who have developed specialisms in their particular, regenerative field. They included Wild East, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Transition Woodbridge, Lord Deben, and of course Professor Peter Hobson, instructing us to 'throw away our lawnmowers'! Suffolk Mind presented about climate anxiety in relation to mental health and at the end of each day we offered a lightly facilitated "Climate cafe" - an opportunity for small groups of attendees to talk about their feelings associated with the ongoing and accelerating ecological breakdown. Although our gathering was targeted towards taking action, developing the capacity to 'be with' challenging feelings is frequently overlooked in the rush to "do stuff" and there is evidence to suggest that this can lead to activist burnout.

It has been gratifying to note that a proliferation of subsequent projects have come about from the networking at the gathering, such as the reading of the Deben estuary rights with plans for the ongoing testing of Deben water quality by new recruits from the conference. We look forward to further collaborations in the autumn, becoming more resilient and better prepared to meet what lies ahead.

Martin Wilks

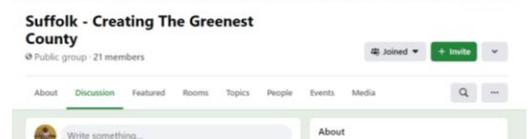
Chair, Climate & Ecological Emergency committee, Woodbridge Town Council

Engaging stakeholders on environmental action county-wide, demystifying home energy efficiency

"Creating the Greenest County" is an aspiration that involves the whole of Suffolk protecting and enhancing its environment, and responding to the threat of climate change. Suffolk aims to be Net Zero by 2030.

To complement the Creating the Greenest County website (www.greensuffolk.org) and to help support the ongoing conversations with stakeholders that is helping to contribute to the development and delivery of actions in support of the [Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan](#), a Facebook Group has been set up, a place to:

- share your community or group's news
- share your community or group's events
- ask the Group questions about making a positive change
- inspire each other to make positive change



So if you're on Facebook, why not join this group to help contribute to the ongoing conversation and networking in support of action for the environment in Suffolk:

www.facebook.com/groups/greenestcountysuffolk



The Greenest County website has a new guide on Low Impact Living, with information aimed at householders to help demystify the products, technology and grants available to help reduce the impacts of our homes on the environment and help us save money at a time of huge hikes in energy costs.



Pardon the Weeds takes root once again

I am delighted to announce again this year that East Suffolk Council's campaign Pardon the Weeds we are Feeding the Bees, launched in 2020, has returned for its third year. This annual scheme creates over 100 essential spaces for where grass and wildflowers will be allowed to return to encourage pollinators and other wildlife and is a key part of East Suffolk Council's commitment to the environment.

It is clearly apparent that nature needs protection and encouragement, not only in specific nature reserves but threaded through our daily lives. Such is the importance of this project to encourage nature across the estate of East Suffolk. Not only this we are reducing our reliance on glyphosate spraying, migrating our fleet of vehicles to either battery electric or hydro-treated vegetable oil and embedding the environment into our decision making process, delivering for our residents a clear environmental vision for now and future generations.

We are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and ensuring responsible stewardship of our open spaces. The wild spaces are well received by local communities, and we are delighted to be bringing them back for another year to help wildlife to thrive and to benefit those living nearby. Not only this with our clear signs it gives a clear signal to our residents why we are cutting less and I hope engages positive discussion and debate in how we care for our biodiversity.



Picture: James Mallinder

I encourage anyone to share their photos of these spaces through our usual social media channels: [East Suffolk Council | Facebook](#) [@EastSuffolk](#) [Twitter](#) [@eastsuffolkcouncil](#) [Instagram](#)

And I hope that alongside projects like Transition Woodbridge's Wildlife Corridors and Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve featured elsewhere in this magazine, and others like them such as Bredfield Wildlife Friendly Village, this project will inspire residents to think about their gardens and give a space for nature. We all need a pocket Minsmere in our back garden.

Cllr James Mallinder, Portfolio Holder for the Green Environment, East Suffolk Council

Contributors

Special thanks to Adrian Cooper, Caroline Topping, Christine Block, Denise Lavender, Eddie Bathgate, James Mallinder, Jane Healey, Mariah Ballam, Martin Wilks, Matt O'Connell, Mel Menhams, and Sally Connick for providing articles for this newsletter.

This newsletter is of most value when content is informed by its members. If you have a story you'd like to share, or would like your project highlighted in our newsletter, please drop me a line on greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

New members welcome!

Membership is free and open to all so if you are already a member please encourage others in your network to join, and if you have received or found this newsletter and are not yet a member why not join us. The easiest way is to go online and register via: [Greenprint Forum membership form - My East Suffolk](#).

You are welcome to share and use content. The editor makes no claims or promises about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of this newsletter and expressly disclaims liability for errors and/or omissions. Editor – Daniel Wareing, Environmental Sustainability East Suffolk Council; Secretary of Greenprint Forum

