



Green Ixworth

News

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greenixworth.org.uk

Crown Lane planting.

Enthusiastic Ixworth Primary School students from Eagle Class have completed the planting of a 150m hedgerow on the South Side of Crown Lane Ixworth. In one morning they planted 170



additional trees and hedging plants. Green Ixworth enjoyed working with Lisa Palmer the Assistant Head and the children, wonderful ambassadors for a greener future which is safe in their hands.

With the active consent of all the residents concerned, this project started 16 months ago to join up the 25m wide tree boundary on the A143 and connect with the cemetery and the playing field to encourage wildlife. Because the trees and bushes are all fruit bearing, some edible to humans, it will, when more mature, provide food and shelter to small mammals, birds and insects. It will also encourage fungi which are essential to the health of surrounding soils.

Due to our successful engagement with Persimmon, the draft Master Plan now protects all of the trees on the boundary to the A143,

including the Parish Wood, and retains the Bramble Bank on the North side of Crown Lane all of which Green Ixworth requested. We shall seek agreement from Persimmon for either them or Green Ixworth to plant within the bramble bank to enhance the wildlife corridor and importantly provide a screen between the new development and existing residents. This should help reduce noise and dust during construction.

Exhibition Space

Visitors to the Ixworth Christmas Fayre will have seen the Green Ixworth Pergola and display. The gusty wind on the day proved too much for the structure and irreparably damaged the light weight pergola. Denny Brothers, the Bury based printers, have kindly bought us a replacement which is more substantial. We are very grateful to the company who already have a leading reputation for minimising their impact on the environment.

Our first booked engagement using the pergola will be at the 20th anniversary celebration of the

Little Ouse Headwaters Project in Thelnetham on 3rd July. LOHP have, in that twenty years acquired, by purchase or lease, much of the land alongside the river between Redgrave and Hopton most of which has been returned to river fen with the plethora of Flora, Fauna and Funga to which wetland provides a home. SWT also has land in the river fen alongside that of LOHP.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

We have sought and received helpful advice from the the trust on a number of projects.

The Black Bourn

Will Cranstoun the West Suffolk Manager of the SWT, will be taking a walk with us in March along those parts of the river which are accessible, to see for himself its current state and the sort of work we may need to consider.

Before we and others can improve the river it is important we know as much as possible about its existing condition. As a start on this process, an aerial survey by drone would provide us with a skeleton to which we can add land or water based observations. We would have liked to cover the river from Bradfield St George to Euston but practically may have to limit our work from Norton to Honington/Sapiston, including the Pakenham Mill Stream and the Stowlangtoft Stream. We are awaiting details from an experienced, professional drone operator. This will not be cheap but we already have a grant going some way towards the cost from County Councillor Joanna Spicer, we shall almost certainly to raise more funds to complete this initial project.

Working with existing experts from Riverfly and the angling community we are already gaining valuable information to inform our knowledge base

Visit to the SWT Blackbourn Reserve.

SWT are kindly providing us with a guided tour of the reserve, south west of Norton on Friday 22nd of April. We are limited 20 spaces. Please apply for a space to debra.j.reay@gmail.com. There is no charge, but I am sure that the SWT would not reject any donations.

House of Commons Environmental Audit Select Committee

This cross party committee holds to account all Government Departments with an impact on the environment. It publishes reports to which the Government is obliged to respond. The latest report on water quality in rivers is devastating with its urgent demands of water companies and government: **“Our rivers are in danger - A chemical cocktail is polluting English rivers. How can we improve our water quality?”**

The report explains why things have got so bad and how government and OFWAT can make them better. The short version is available at: <https://ukparliament.shorthandstories.com/river-water-quality/index.html>

Heating costs.

We are all suffering from huge increases in heating costs. There are ways to decrease your bills some of which are relatively cheap. i.e. Insulation. Green Ixworth is trying to find ways of helping residents obtain independent advice on how to improve the heating efficiency of your own property. Many residents are not aware of how well their property is insulated. Some cavity wall insulation can deteriorate over time and, in properties not bought from new, owners are often unaware what insulation hidden in walls and floors, does or does not exist.

When it comes to solar panels for electricity, batteries for storage or heat pumps to replace gas/oil boilers the options are many and costs can be significant with a balance to be drawn of initial cost against long term fuel savings. i.e. There is uncertainty over future Government incentives with the proposed £5,000 grant for Air Sourced Heat Pumps available in April but limited in number.

Some installers charge a fee of between £100 and £200 for a survey which may be returned when a purchase is made. Some Heat Pump suppliers only install their equipment and leave the customer to find a contractor to provide the electrical connections costing about £1,000

So we are seeking to publish a review of the technology available and its approx costs. For this we need the help of those who have either had a system installed or have contacted suppliers and not purchased. Please let Roger know of your experience at roger.spiller39@hotmail.com. No personal information will be published just your experience.

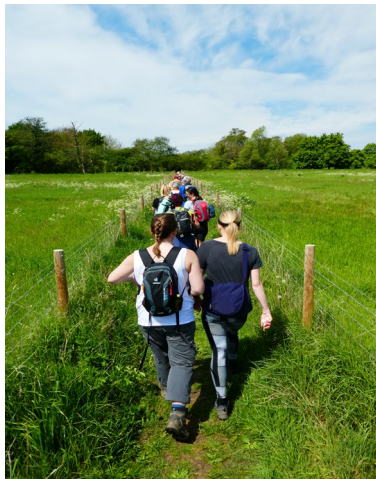
Heat Pumps and Solar Panels are normally “permitted development” but Ixworth and the other villages have additional planning constraints for Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. So, in so far as it is possible to give definitive answers on any planning issue, we shall attempt to draw together the relevant issues to be considered by West Suffolk planners.

We have also been talking to West Suffolk Council to see how together, we may be able to provide a direct and personal service of energy advice based on your specific property.

West Suffolk Council is offering grants to improve heating efficiency in approx 150 homes for those on low incomes i.e. household income below £30,000. We are awaiting more details but if you think you may be illegible contact the WSC Environment Department.

In the meantime any documents we have relating to cleaner energy and reducing costs will be placed on our website for your information.

Early warning - Suffolk Walking Festival



The 14th Suffolk Walking Festival launches on 14 May 2022 with over 70 guided walks over two weeks, that will take you across some wild countryside, outstanding landscapes, rolling hills, forests and coastal beauty spots. With weekend, evening and family walks, the programme has accessible, short, medium, long distance and challenging walks. There is something for everyone!

This year's programme will discover a dragon in the iconic Stour Valley, explore Hawkedon's horizons through

idyllic green villages, celebrate 75 years of the RSPB, at one of the most special places in Suffolk, tell stories of smugglers and shipping routes at Dunwich Heath, and spend time watching Sweep the sheepdog, in action managing Orford Ness Nature Reserve's very own herd of rare breed sheep.

You can tune into bats on a twilight safari through ancient woodland at Priestley Wood, brush up your whittling skills and make damper bread over an open fire in the woods at Thornham Walks, and get crafty at Brandon Country Park finding willow, sticks, leaves and rushes in the woods to make and keep your own creations.

The festival kicks off at Clare Country Park on Saturday 14th May with refreshments and two Launch Jaunts. It then runs every day until 29th May. Tickets are on sale from early March. Check out the website www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk for more details of the programme, to sign up to

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