



# Green Ixworth News

## Number 5 – July 2021

Hi everybody. As you will be aware there has been a short hiatus as we have got to grips with the changing Covid rules and worked out what we can achieve away from the peak planting season, so here's an update for you.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at SET Ixworth School at 7pm on Wednesday 21 July having been cancelled last year for some reason or other. It is hoped that several local groups will be there to talk about their work and GI will certainly be putting up a small display. Do come along and say hello.

### **July General Meeting**

With fingers firmly crossed it seems we are, at last, to get to see each other face to face at our next Green Ixworth General Meeting on Thursday 29 July. We will be meeting in the Pykkerell's Courtyard Café at 7pm and we are delighted to announce that our next-door neighbour Sir Kenneth Carlisle, of Wyken Vineyards, will be joining us as our special guest for the evening. Sir Kenneth is a leading light of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and he will be sharing his experience of running an ancient estate in the 21st century as a beacon for wildlife and sustainability. He is keen to hear what GI is up to too.

It is only by meeting in person that we will ever work out what we really are as an organisation and generate the innovative ideas that we need. Please make an effort to get along and say hello. It would help hugely if you could let us know you will be attending by emailing us at [\*greenixworth@yahoo.com\*](mailto:greenixworth@yahoo.com) but if you suddenly find yourself free to attend on the evening please come along anyway.

### **Dairy Farm Visit**

On 30 June six members of Green Ixworth were privileged to spend a morning learning about the current actions and future plans of S W Cross & Sons at Dairy Farm. We were given a presentation and taken on a walk by the farm manager Peter Wilson. There are some real innovations underway at Dairy Farm both in environmentally-friendly agriculture and the creation of a variety of wildlife habitats. Special thanks must go to Nick Cross for making the visit possible.



## Carbon Reduction Project

GI has been invited to support a new initiative to help communities reduce their carbon emissions beginning this month. Can you help us to get it started?

The project is sponsored by Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and will be delivered by Groundwork East with Sarah Gill as the Project Co-Ordinator.

To initiate the project and agree details such as time table, promotion and reporting, Sarah is setting up an inaugural Zoom event for us at 7.30pm on Thursday 15 July. Debra has been handling the communications with Sarah so far and she would appreciate other GI members and supporters joining the Zoom meeting to consider how we can best help and support.

If you are concerned about carbon emissions and are interested in how we can individually and collectively make a difference, this project is for you. Please contact Debra at [debra.j.reay@gmail.com](mailto:debra.j.reay@gmail.com) if you'd like to join the Zoom meeting to find out more.

## The Black Bourn

Efforts to contact all the landowners with rights over our river are well underway and we must engage with everyone to explain our aims for the river and encourage practical actions to achieve them. We are taking baby steps with our first project, the improvement of water flow under the central arch of Ixworth Bridge. Our hope is to reduce sediment load here and restore the gravel bed with its freshwater mussels which some longer-term residents of Ixworth can remember. Exposing the gravel will help invertebrates to lay their eggs too. Legislation is tight in this area but we are allowed to improve flow by clearing a path through the mass of vegetation which builds up there every summer. So that is exactly what we have done. In the longer term we may need to redirect the flow a little on the upstream side but that would require official permission.



The first downstream channel



Some evidence that the mussels are hanging on in there

## September Social Event

As if holding a General Meeting in person wasn't exciting enough, we would also like to organise a GI social event to be held in September. At the moment we are considering a Sunday afternoon and possible venues include the Pykkerell, the Village Hall or someone's garden. The very best of live musical entertainment will be available wherever we end up. If organising happy times is your superpower please get in touch to volunteer your services.

### **Money Money Money**

We have also started to generate some income for ourselves recently. Roger's amazing work propagating and selling wild flower plants has boosted the coffers and you can still help by paying your £5 to become a full member of GI by following the ***Join Us*** link on the website.

### **Volunteers Needed**

We will always be in need of people to come forward and help us with running GI and the projects we undertake. Specifically at the moment we would highlight:

The **Party People** needed to ensure the September social event is a success.

Someone steeped in the world of **social media** to help us get the most from our existing platforms.

Unfortunately Steve Wilson is having to step back from his duties as GI's **Secretary** for personal reasons so we need someone to keep the routine administration ticking over.

If you can help with these activities, or anything else, please drop us a line at

***greenixworth@yahoo.com***

### **Dates for your diary**

Thursday 15 July 7.30pm – Zoom meeting for the Carbon Reduction Project.

Contact [debra.j.reay@gmail.com](mailto:debra.j.reay@gmail.com)

Wednesday 21 July 7pm – Annual Parish Meeting, SET Ixworth School.

Thursday 29 July 7pm – GI General Meeting, Courtyard Café.

Late September (ish) afternoon – GI Social Event, location TBD.