



Green Ixworth News

January 2022

No. 9

greenixworth.org.uk

To all our friends and supporters, a happy and healthy New Year.



Ixworth Water Mill

A recent report from the front line.

From our river & kayak correspondent and photographer, Steve Wilson.

December. I went for a blast on the river. I could not get above the dumped car in the Cross House Field because of a fallen tree from the Duck Farm which did not look like the tree that used to stop me.

I was able to get under the fallen tree from the Abbey Farm land below Hempyard because of the low water level and go as far as the Watermill .

I saw an egret, a heron, a kingfisher and several moorhens. The swans were lurking behind the island at the

mill. I spoke to an angler who had managed to hook a perch but lost it; he was very gloomy about fish stocks in the river. On my return I saw a shoal of about six decent-sized fish just below Ixworth Bridge. Event of the day was me disturbing an **otter** halfway between Hempyard and the Watermill.

Two reasons why we must look after our river to provide healthy levels of fish and the presence of an otter showing the care with which the repair work on the bridge must be carried out.

River Fly training

We are making arrangements with River Fly to start the training soon for kick sampling. If anyone is interested and you have not already indicated this to us, please mail Liz Ambler asap at:

liz.ambler@btinternet.com; .

Next GI General Meeting

Green Ixworth will be holding its next General meeting on 27th January. The speaker will be Sam Westwood from Anglian Water to talk about the roles and responsibility of AW along with the work of Cameo which monitors and acts on behalf of all the interested parties in the local river basins.

As usual the meeting will be in the Courtyard Cafe at 7.00pm. unless Covid dictates otherwise in which case the zoom connection will be notified to you asap.

Brighter News

UK Government defeated by public opinion.

Ministers announced in March that they would allow oil drillers to keep exploring the North Sea for new reserves as long as they passed a “climate compatibility” test (whatever that means) in addition to the existing environmental checks.

The International Energy Agency, the global energy watchdog, produced a report in May 2021 saying no new oil and gas exploration and development should be conducted after this year if the world was to stay within 1.5C of global heating, the target the UK made the focus of the Cop26 summit.

Public opinion has persuaded Shell to pull out of the Cambo oil field development and its partner company has stopped further development while they considered their options (which are not many). The public pressure on Shell was substantial forcing them to pull out of various sponsorship deals and now UK Waters Oil and Gas development, so the UK Government has been overtaken by events.

Tree Wardens.

Tree Wardens are volunteers who often work closely with their Parish Councils. They gather information about local trees and get involved in local projects related to trees and woods. Through their local knowledge they can provide valued advice on tree management and in preserving and improving the health of our local trees. In Ixworth John Sharpe has served as Tree Warden since 1997 and remains passionate about the health and welfare of Ixworth's trees. He is an encyclopaedic source of information and continues to study, learn, enjoy and protect our local trees. If you are interested in joining John as a local Tree Champion we would be pleased to hear from you. Now more than ever there is much to be done to encourage tree planting and positive tree management.

The Suffolk Tree Wardens is the body that can register Tree Wardens with the Tree Council and is active in our area. If you are interested in becoming a Tree Warden in Ixworth please get in touch – debra.j.reay@gmail.com

Hedgehog coordinator.

Unfortunately our newly appointed Hedgehog coordinator is move homing and will therefore have to give up the job before she started. So we are looking for a replacement, would you like to help? The job is to act as a central point in the village for information about Hedgehogs and to help encourage the idea of Hedgehog Streets where neighbours cut small holes at the bottom of their fences so hedgehogs can pass through on their search for food, they often walk over a kilometre each night. There is a lot of help available from the Hedgehog Street website and the job is as big or small as you make it. If you are able to help please contact us on the website.

Persimmon.

Persimmon have presented initial proposals on their Master Plan for the whole of their Crown Lane to A1088 site. The master plan has to be approved by West Suffolk before Persimmon design and submit the detailed planning application. Consultation took place in the Village Hall with a poster presentation and online. With the exception of the Ghost Junction, our reaction has been to welcome the outline, as they have taken full account of our previously expressed concerns especially the preservation of existing trees and hedges. We shall have to wait for their further proposals with vigilance and interest. The response of Green Ixworth is available on our website. See above.

Parish Council Environment Policy

At its meeting in November our Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council agreed to set up a Working Group to develop an Environmental Policy with the intention of identifying practical actions that the Parish Council can take to reduce damaging contributions to climate change. Councils around the country have set out policies aimed at making an impact at local level, including many across Suffolk. They vary in scope but the best appear to be those that are most closely honed to their locality and where they capitalise on local interest and engagement. As the Parish Councillor convening the group I am grateful to those people, some of whom are Green Ixworth members, who have volunteered to help.

Our primary task is to identify where and how the Parish Council itself can be most effective in safeguarding the environment. But we will also consider how best to encourage positive action by local residents, community organisations, businesses and service providers. The priority areas we have been asked to look at are; Procurement, Waste Management and Recycling, Hedges and Green Spaces and Trees, Carbon Reduction, Development and the Built Environment and public information.

The Working Group is asked to report of the Parish Council on 9th March and we will aim to run a public consultation event to test ideas and interest in February. If you have ideas to offer do drop me a line debra.i.reay@gmail.com. Thanks Debra Reay.

Primary School presentation to Parish Council.

Ixworth Primary School Eagle Class, working with Lisa Palmer, Assistant Head, prepared a report on Climate Change and what individuals could do to help reduce Carbon Emissions. They made a presentation to the Parish Council which was very well received and will now be contributing its contents to the development of the Parish Council Environment policy.



Energy costs.

With energy costs escalating by the day, more and more people are seeking ways of reducing or halting the rise in prices. Thus now is an entirely propitious time to maximise energy efficiency. But where to start. It is a technological minefield where many of us do not even know the questions to ask of suppliers let alone the answers they may give.

Green Ixworth **want to see action** in providing reliable information to Ixworth residents on how to save money and move to green energy.

If you have already made a change to greener fuel by fitting, Heat Pumps, Photo Voltaic (electric) panels, hot water panels and insulation etc we would like to hear about your experiences. If you are willing to take part in a survey looking into which of the many companies offering "good value for money" really do, whether they have offered the most suitable technology, has it saved you money please contact Roger Spiller on rogerspiller39@hotmail.com and we will include you in our survey.

If we get a good enough response we hope to put some guidance together on getting best results.

We shall also be drawing up some basic guidance on what each of the technologies can offer and what their limitations are so we are forewarned when the sales engineer comes to call.

Ixworth Christmas Fair.

Green Ixworth would like to congratulate the Ixworth Events Committee for the very successful Christmas Fair. The enjoyment of those attending was obvious. We were happy to welcome many visitors to our stall and impressed at how many people were trying to do their bit for the environment and defeating Climate Change. Our Secretary Liz Ambler engaged with families by offering a bucket of sweets and Roger with those less tempted by sweets, resulting in reaching more members and contacts. Most encouraging were the children who were passionate about the environment with recycling and better choices of food and other products at the heart of their concerns. Many thanks must go to both parents and the schools for their good environmental educational work. We were able to welcome GI supporters from several local villages. A number of whom signed up to join us and some the opportunity to apply for River Fly training

Again thanks to the hard work of those who organised and participated in the Fair.

Reduction in transport needs predicted

A recent interviewee on a BBC program The Spark, was a shipping expert. The most interesting comments he made were about all the factors beyond shipping e.g. reductions in population growth, fall in bulk transport of oil and coal which will decrease shipping pollution. It is these factors which are particularly worth listening to as they show real signs of hope for achieving net Zero as population changes. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001286x>

Not brighter news

Government still seems determined to let coal producers continue to pollute as the proposed reopening of a mine in South Wales shows. This is against the wishes of the Welsh Government.

We still await the Government decision on the Welsh and the new Cumbrian mine.

Dangers of Wood smoke in and out of the home.

Wood smoke is a more important carcinogen than vehicle fumes. Wood burners cause nearly half of urban air pollution cancer risk – so a recent study concluded.

The balance in rural areas is unlikely to be very different.

Research published in the last year has shown wood burning in homes is the single biggest source of small particle air pollution in the UK, producing three times more than road traffic, despite just 8% of the population using wood burners.

*Even new wood burning stoves meeting the “ecodesign” standard still emit 750 times more tiny particle pollution than a modern HGV truck. **Wood burners also triple the level of harmful pollution inside homes and should be sold with a health warning, according to scientists.***

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in tiny pollution particles are produced by burning fuels and have long been known to have carcinogenic effects. The new study examined the sources of the PAHs and found **wood burning produced more than diesel fuel or petrol used in vehicles.**

Why is the UK incapable of enforcing environmental protection?

A partial explanation is on our website, under “**Water Quality**” and “**EU Law and the environment**”. Very briefly it comes down to a principle which will be applied in future if

Government gets its way and is already, in reality, applying it through the water regulator, OFWAT. The principle is BATNEEK which broadly means if a problem costs too much to put right then it needn't be done. There is no requirement to measure costs to the environmental for comparison.

Another part of the explanation of why things are getting worse, concerns the Government's desire to make it easier to weaken existing regulations. This was proposed by the late Lord Frost prior to his resignation as Brexit Minister.

The recent government back down on all car parks having EV chargers is an example: The original plan required every new and existing non-residential building with parking for 20 cars or more to install a charger. However, the Department for Transport (DfT) has now revealed it will only require chargers to be installed in new or refurbished commercial premises if the costs are not too great.

The requirement to install chargers in domestic premises, rather than just wiring, is further delayed until the new regulations are implemented some time in 2022, so developers can carry on as before, after complaining that the cost was so great it would reduce the numbers of houses built.

Regular news on the environment

[Down to Earth](#) is the weekly environment newsletter from the Guardian. Subscription is free. Really disturbing article from 16th Dec on above limit levels of dangerous pesticides in European and UK waterways and fields: [Sign up for Down to Earth - The Guardian;](#)

Stop Press: Green Ixworth is on Radio Suffolk at approx 7.40am Friday 14th January for Tree Day.