



Green Ixworth

News

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greenixworth.org.uk

17th September Ixworth

All residents in the area with access to the riverside and any one else who is interested, are welcome to attend our workshop session between 10.00am and 2.00pm in the Cyder House Yard. We shall provide kits and help in making small rafts for attaching to the river bank for tracking water voles. The objective is to observe the rafts to look for signs of water voles on them which we know have been living along parts of the river.



Then we can enter your information on the new map we are creating with aerial photography of the river and its banks. Accompanied children will be particularly welcome. There will also be film showing the water vole and what to look for. Alice, our expert from Suffolk Wildlife Trust can help answer your questions. Refreshments will be provided.

11th September - Langham

Why not join us at Langham Hall Walled Garden Harvest Fair from 12.00 to 18.00 where we shall be exhibiting. Explore the plants and other goodies on show and for sale and see how productive organic growing can be. A great afternoon with music and refreshments available.

Autumn and winter

Drought-tolerant plants

Green Ixworth will be providing information and advice later in the year on which native and appropriate non-native plants might be useful if we suffer regular drought conditions. We are looking for help on this from anyone with experience of planting in dry climates. We are also looking for advice on which non-native plants, can fill niches in the food supply for native insects.

Cutting energy costs.

Green Ixworth will be providing help and guidance over winter on insulation, low energy heating and home electricity generation, more on this later in the year. We shall also be able to give some advice on your need for insulation by using a heat camera (Courtesy of West Suffolk Council) to look at the outside of your home and trace heat leakages. West Suffolk Council and Groundwork will also be participating. More information on this in the next Newsletter.

Ixworth Primary School - congratulations to the whole school community in achieving a fabulous Ofsted report. We are looking forward to working with them planting their fish pond and bog garden in the Autumn term.

From our Tree Officer – Jenny Chantler

As a recent resident I was hoping to step gradually into the role via an unofficial apprenticeship to someone who knew more about the village and its trees in particular. But that didn't prove possible so I turned instead to the Suffolk Tree Warden scheme for advice, which proved really helpful and so far have been able to study two (out of a planned seven) modules both alone and via zoom. The training programme has been disrupted for a few months. Things will settle back by the end of the year, but it has left me feeling rather adrift. A National Hedgerow Survey is now underway and I've signed up and begun logging species along our bridleway and public access areas. If I can get landowner permission, I will extend my trundling with tape measure, notebook and pen. It's a lovely project and I enjoyed doing a similar exercise in a previous village, back in 2010. Meantime, if anyone with a large space which does not dry out even in hot weather, would like to offer a home to a pair (male and female) of young Black Poplar trees, (critically endangered native species), please contact me via The Green Ixworth website. And if you don't know what Black Poplars look like, you will find a rare mature specimen on the left hand side of Hempyard Bridge. If you would like to help with the Hedgerow survey use the same contact point.

Our future Community.

Green Ixworth has recently submitted comments on the the West Suffolk Council Plan consultation. For your information there is a copy on the **GI Website**. Most of it will make sense even if you have not read the several hundred pages of the WSC papers which are available on: [https://westsuffolk.inconsult.uk/WSLP Preferred Options/consultationHome](https://westsuffolk.inconsult.uk/WSLP_PREFERRED_Options/consultationHome)

Biodiversity is perhaps the most important single area for protection and improvement as its impact on climate, local conditions, health and well being is essential. Much of our comment relates to the general inadequacy of climate change related solutions in part because currently government prevents WSC from doing more.

More relates to the inadequacy of the infrastructure in our North East corner of West Suffolk to address the needs of the additional 3,000 new homes and some large businesses to be built between the Orwell Road roundabout on the edge of BSE and Stanton. It was suggested to the Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Parish council that it would be good to get all the parish councils to work together on this and Green Ixworth offered to assist which we thought had been accepted. However after we contacted all the PCs likely to be interested and receiving a good response Ixworth decided not to participate and only deal with Stanton PC, over their developments. However we have decided that as other PCs are willing to participate we should go ahead. Whether we continued to coordinate this will be up to the PCs concerned.

Water

The 2021 Water Cycle Study for West Suffolk makes worrying reading:

The findings of the recently published Water Resources East (WRE) report are that the whole of Eastern England is now classified as 'seriously water stressed'. There is not enough water to go round now reliably nor to meet new demand for homes, for food or for energy or be resilient to the impact of climate change as it bites further and society adapts to it. WRE are producing a long-term water resource plan for the region covering public water supply, environmental protection and restoration, for agriculture and energy and for other sectors reliant on water. It is predicted that by 2050, the region could require around double the amount of water currently used. This arises from the need to restore, protect and enhance the environment at the same time as increasing demands for public water supply and for the agri-food and the energy sectors, alongside an increasing allocation to the natural environment, and mitigating or adapting to the effects of climate change.

Information from the Environment Agency (2015) database on reasons for not achieving good

status (RNAG) for Cycle 2 says:

indicates that the dominant cause of quantitative failures is over-abstraction of groundwater, while for chemical status it is most commonly diffuse pollution from agriculture, though industrial sources and sewage discharges also feature.

The Environment Agency Water Framework Directive Cycle 2 assessment shows overall 'poor' groundwater status for virtually the whole of the two counties. The main reasons for poor status are diffuse pollution from rural areas and also from towns, cities and transport; point source pollution (e.g. sewerage leachate, industrial discharge) and groundwater abstraction.

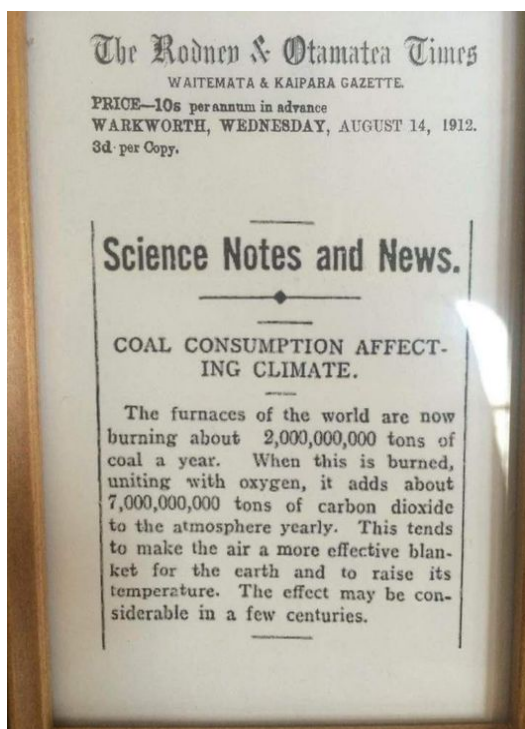
Since 2015 things have only got worse.

East Anglia is the driest region of UK and apart from London has the highest forecast growth.

Groundwater status in the whole of Suffolk is poor both for chemicals and overall, this is the water we drink. Comparing supply to demand our area is in the most negative category of any area in Suffolk which as a whole is very poor.

Green Ixworth has successfully raised these issues concerning the globally rare Chalk Streams and the Black Bourn in particular, in the press and on regional Television and Radio Suffolk and even Danish TV. Denmark is, along with France, the only other country in the world with Chalk Streams. For those who missed it, the Look East piece is on our website. Most of the little liquid in the river has been the product of the 20 sewage works upstream of Ixworth and two downstream.

Briefly



Drought and floods

So it all came as a total surprise did it? And there are still deniers. We were warned 110 years ago. Trains can't run, roads melt, canals, reservoirs and rivers are dry, wild fires rage, houses burn, food crops are lost, farmers despair, food costs more, heat stroke kills and we have flooding and free flowing sewage. But do not worry, your taxes will be reduced, it's a promise.

The last sentence in the article says the effect may take a few centuries. **It took less than one.**

Europe's drought the worst in 500 years – report by the Global Drought Observatory 24-08-2022

Anglian Water has just been awarded two stars out of five by the regulator, along with most of the other water companies.

https://therivertrust.org/about-us/news/water-companies-environmental-performance-sinks-to-new-lows?mc_cid=56d7959e37&mc

Petition to stop insecticides which harm bees. <https://www.standbybees.co.uk/eid=f2fa5a3d81>