

GI News feb 23

Do you have an Apple phone?

Our offer of heat mapping is going well but we currently have 4 adapters to use on ordinary phones, two for Android and two for Apple. We are short of people with Apple phones to work in the team so if you are willing over the next week for an early evening or two to help out, we should be most grateful. Please contact by the website.

Copart development, Stanton

What's it got to do with us? As we are rapidly learning, its impact will be on all our local villages - traffic, noise, lights all the way into Bury.

This is just an update on the special newsletter earlier this month. Some local amateur detectives recently visited the site of a Copart Depot in Dedham to learn how they treated the local residents. 24 traffic with heavy and medium lorries and 4x4s with large trailers arriving at all hours in the day and night to drop off or collect vehicles. If they arrived before the gates open, they park anywhere in the village restricting access and making life difficult for locals. The noise is also a problem as well as fears that liquids are seeping into the soil.

The two major issues which have come to light are the increase in road traffic with all that entails and pollution from noise, chemicals and light. From recent meetings in Hepworth and Stanton involving Parish Councils, the unanimity, a first and for similar reasons, of opposition to a site which is completely out of character to the area.

Traffic levels have been measured at Stanton on the main road by the Suffolk Police Safety Camera Partnership at 95,000 a week. At Great Barton it will be significantly higher, including traffic from A1088 Thetford, Bardwell, Ixworth and some Thurston traffic. The A143 is already overloaded and suffers further with additional vehicles when the A14 is fully or partly closed.

GI are also pursuing the idea of a coalition of interests along the A143 for the establishment of an A143 Strategic plan for which there seems to be growing support.

We should make clear that we welcome more jobs in the area along with appropriate and properly affordable housing close to the job for the workers. We also understand and promote recycling, what we cannot accept is recycling methods which pollute our environment and destroys our rural habitat. It is largely the scale of the development and the apparently un-neighbourly behaviour of the company with which we are concerned. The inadequacy of the A143, the absence of safe crossings and a bypass for Great Barton, is a matter for Suffolk County Council Highways which needs action before more significant development takes place in Stanton or Ixworth.

Greenwash by Shell

Shell's most recent annual report stated 12% of its capital expenditure was funnelled into a division called Renewables and Energy Solutions in 2021. The division's webpage, which is adorned with pictures of wind turbines and solar panels, says it is working to invest in "wind, solar, electric vehicle charging, hydrogen, and more". However, Global Witness, the activist group that has lodged the new complaint with the SEC, argues that just 1.5% of Shell's capital expenditure has been used to develop genuine renewables, such as wind and solar, with much of the rest of the division's resources devoted to gas, which is a fossil fuel and not renewable.

Now BP has joined them with similar promises but little evidence.

A number of large pension funds, who are investors, are taking oil companies to court for not taking action to protect their investments by getting out of fossil fuels and getting in to Green Energy Investment.

Some good news from Octopus.

Octopus have announced that the overall cost of its new heat pumps will start at £2,500 when government grants are included. However, most consumers are expected to end up paying between £3,000 and £3,500, depending on the size of their home.

Still time to plant a tree in your garden

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/grow-a-tree-for-wildlife/>

Air pollution setback

The government cannot achieve the air quality improvements advised by medical experts, so has set its targets lower for the next 10 years, the environment secretary has admitted as she unveiled a new environmental plan.

Thérèse Coffey has announced the new target to achieve 10 micrograms [of fine particulate matter, known as PM2.5, per cubic metre of air] by 2040, instead of 2030. Already in parts of the country, she argued that "with the best will in the world we cannot achieve that everywhere by the end of the decade, particularly in London

The government cannot achieve the air quality improvements advised by medical experts, so has set its targets lower for the next 10 years, the environment secretary has admitted as she unveiled a new environmental plan.

The chief executive of charity Asthma + Lung UK, said that "Air pollution is a public health emergency which causes 36,000 premature deaths in the UK every year".

This delay alone could create up to 360,000 premature deaths by 2040.

Dates for your Diary

All events at the Methodist Church, High Street, Ixworth unless otherwise shown.

20th April – Swifts in our neighbourhood. Learn from the experts why swifts are in decline and how we can help them to recover. Nest boxes, food sources.etc. Suffolk Swift Group will enthuse and inform.

15th June - Your waste and what you can do with it. Siobhan O'Dell the Community Liaison Officer for the Suffolk Waste facility at Great Blakenham will explain where our waste goes and what we can do to maximise our recycling.

24th June – Bury Folk Festival. Nowton Park. Bury St Edmunds. We shall be exhibiting why not join us.

10th September Langham Walled Garden Autumn Fayre. Green Ixworth will be present with an Exhibition. A thoroughly good day out with organic vegetables and plants available plus food, drink and music. Other Green exhibitors.

The Unlightenment - by Nick Aubury

*We can't be arsed with tomes and tracts
By boffin-headed minions:
The world should simply change its facts
To fit with our opinions.*