



# Green Ixworth

## Newsletter

October 2023

[www.greenixworth.org](http://www.greenixworth.org)



### **Black Bourn looking better.**

Over the summer Green Ixworth has accumulated a veritable shoal of weeders, to whom we are very grateful, to clear accessible parts of the river. So far, we have cleared the shallow upstream section from Ixworth Bridge and about 100m of the large bend by the Filter House and Pump House. There is still work to be done creating relatively narrow path ways 1 to 2m through the reeds to speed up the flow which should remove silt up to 400mm in places which covers the gravel bed on which insects and fish lay their eggs and mussels anchor.

Looking forward to next year please let us know if you would like to join our 10 strong team. It does not require everyone to enter the water but it is fun, especially getting waders on and off. There is work to do ashore as well. If owners of river bank would like us to clear in their water, then please let us know? We are limited at present to a water depth of no more than 1m or so.

There are more pics on our website of both sites before and after with or without our stars.

*Downstream from the Filter House.*

### **Water quality in England**

The annual nationwide annual health check of England's water bodies will now take six years to complete, as public alarm grows over the state of the nation's rivers and coasts.

The assessments, undertaken by the Environment Agency, look at the ecological and chemical condition of rivers, lakes, groundwater, and transitional and coastal waters, and are required under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

In 2019, the last time the full assessments took place, just 14% of rivers were in good ecological health and none met standards for good chemical health. Before 2016 the tests were done annually, but the government has now opted not to deliver a complete update until 2025, the latest permissible under the WFD.

### **More news on PFAS**

Drinking water of millions of Americans contaminated with 'forever chemicals'

Water of about 26 million Americans is contaminated as new data offers the most robust look into exactly which communities are polluted, according to testing data by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There is no reason to believe that the UK drinking water is significantly any different.

Studies have linked the chemicals to cancers, immunodeficiencies, reproductive harms and developmental effects in children.

Warnings about the harms of chemicals like perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in recent decades, lead to an agreement between the EPA and chemical manufacturers such as DuPont and 3M to phase out PFOA by 2015. However, lasting pollution of the environment and human bodies with forever chemicals continues. Studies show nearly all Americans have some level of PFAS, circulating in their bodies.

### **Nutrient neutrality**

A victory of sense over vandalism when the House of Lords overturned an attempt by government to allow new housing developments even where the result was more polluting nutrients entering our rivers. The Lords also accepted an amendment that stops the government overriding local voices by enshrining public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny in the process of creating any new National Development Management Policies (NDMPs), ensuring we – those who are most affected by planning decisions in our communities get our chance to have a say.

Other successful amendments include ensuring that:

- All new homes support the health of their residents.
- Local Plans to make provisions 'for sufficient social rent housing' in every area.
- Planning decision-takers (from the Secretary of State to a local planning committee) have special regard to the UK's legally binding net-zero emissions target.
- These changes were the result of many organisations working together.

### **'Staggering' green growth gives hope for 1.5C.**

This is not a reference to the above pieces, but good news by the head of the International Energy Agency, that if the current rate of installation of wind turbines, Solar panels and EV sales continue, significant growth in Carbon emissions can be stopped.

<https://www.iea.org/analysis?type=report>

### **West Suffolk to continue its work to decarbonise.**

In response to the government throwing all their Climate Change plans to the winds and many of our hopes, Cllr Cliff Waterman, Leader of West Suffolk Council, issued the following statement on behalf of the council: "We are disappointed that the Government has taken its focus away from the urgent need to tackle climate change. West Suffolk Council believes this is a priority for the future prosperity of our residents and businesses as well as the environment itself. We have just announced proposals for additional measures to help the council and our residents pick up the pace in reaching carbon neutral, including a £1 million decarbonisation fund. We want to reassure residents that we will continue to do our bit and help communities take action on this global challenge that affects us all."

### **Making an exhibition of ourselves.**

**Langham Walled Garden.** This was the third year of our presence and an opportunity of illustrating what we have been doing. It was good to see again visitors, who, after talking with us in previous years have set up similar groups.

**Elmswild – Apple day.** Our first year exhibiting here and we made many new friends. Lukeswood, Elmswell, where the event was held is an inspiration. It is planted woodland with a large central clearing in which activities regularly take place and a more recently added piece of land which is planted with heritage fruit trees. Elmswild are to be congratulated on their very worthwhile efforts and a fabulous space to be shared.

### **More work needed.**

The UK has failed to ban 36 pesticides that are not allowed for use in the EU, This in spite of ministers promising the UK would not water down EU-derived environmental standards after Brexit, there have been multiple instances of divergence since the country left the bloc.

Now, the country is failing to phase out pesticides that have been found to be harmful to human health and the environment at the same rate as the EU, according to research from Pesticide Action Network (PAN).

Thirteen of the 36 chemicals are considered highly hazardous pesticides under UN definitions used to identify the most harmful substances. Four of these are highly toxic to bees, one contaminates water and one is highly toxic to aquatic organisms.

Thirty of the 36 were allowed for use in the EU when the UK left on 31 January 2020 but have since been banned by the bloc, and the remaining six have been approved by the UK government but not the EU since then.

The UK government has given emergency authorisation every year since Brexit for the use of a neonicotinoid that is highly toxic to bees. In that time, the EU has banned emergency use of these chemicals.

Britain is becoming the “toxic poster child of Europe” because the Governments belief that no regulation is better than utilising European research driven controls.

### **Energy.**

#### **Heat Pumps work in all UK temperatures.**

Heat pumps work even at temperatures below zero, they were between two and three times more efficient than oil and gas heating systems This emerges from seven field studies in North America, Asia and Europe.

#### **Solar Panels and batteries.**

A new opportunity has become available for those who may be interested in installing Solar Panels and batteries. Because the Suffolk Together scheme effectively bulk purchases these installations, they are good value.

[https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/landing?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=social&utm\\_content=retargeting&fbclid=IwAR09jtTVU30DCzf1ORzm\\_em45qVVUGqngRTcELwYsW-4UTyVS0Dn33pBRfo](https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/landing?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=social&utm_content=retargeting&fbclid=IwAR09jtTVU30DCzf1ORzm_em45qVVUGqngRTcELwYsW-4UTyVS0Dn33pBRfo)

#### **The Which Guide to Insulation.**

[https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/insulation/article/how-to-insulate-your-home-aGWRW8t8YX1j?cm\\_ven=ExactTarget&cm\\_cat=SUS\\_EM\\_170923&cm\\_pla=SustainabilityNewsletter&cm\\_ite=%%3dREDIRECTTO\(%40link\)%3d%%&cm\\_lm=216495940&cm\\_ainfo=&\\_AdditionalEmailAttribute1&\\_AdditionalEmailAttribute2&\\_AdditionalEmailAttribute3&\\_AdditionalEmailAttribute4&\\_AdditionalEmailAttribute5#insulate-the-walls](https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/insulation/article/how-to-insulate-your-home-aGWRW8t8YX1j?cm_ven=ExactTarget&cm_cat=SUS_EM_170923&cm_pla=SustainabilityNewsletter&cm_ite=%%3dREDIRECTTO(%40link)%3d%%&cm_lm=216495940&cm_ainfo=&_AdditionalEmailAttribute1&_AdditionalEmailAttribute2&_AdditionalEmailAttribute3&_AdditionalEmailAttribute4&_AdditionalEmailAttribute5#insulate-the-walls)

#### **Interest Free Loans for improving energy efficiency.**

[https://www.greensuffolk.org/app/uploads/2021/05/GREENER-HOMES-LOAN-FLYER-V2-11-Jul-14.pdf?fbclid=IwAR34Ztw73BI\\_1iO8XF45iZdNDBWkrHbvFBxE4\\_nsDr3QknZa2A0C59nXjWk](https://www.greensuffolk.org/app/uploads/2021/05/GREENER-HOMES-LOAN-FLYER-V2-11-Jul-14.pdf?fbclid=IwAR34Ztw73BI_1iO8XF45iZdNDBWkrHbvFBxE4_nsDr3QknZa2A0C59nXjWk)

## 50% off Insulation

Do not forget our offer to help pay for your insulation needs. find out more contact Green Ixworth on ginocarbon@hotmail.com.

## Earth threatened

Earth is exceeding its “safe operating space for humanity” in six of nine key measurements of its health, and two of the remaining three are headed in the wrong direction, a new study reported in the journal Science Advances

Earth’s climate, biodiversity, land, freshwater, nutrient pollution and “novel” chemicals (human-made compounds like microplastics and nuclear waste) are all above acceptable levels, a group of international scientists said in Wednesday’s journal Science Advances.

Only the acidity of the oceans, the health of the air and the ozone layer are within the boundaries considered safe, and both ocean and air pollution are heading in the wrong direction, the study said. Since their 2015 review water went from barely safe to the out-of-bounds category because of worsening river run-off and improved measurements and understanding.

These boundaries “determine the fate of the planet,” said Rockstrom, a climate scientist involved. The nine factors having been “scientifically well established” by numerous outside studies.

The fact that ozone layer is the sole improving factor shows that when the world and its leaders decide to recognize and act on a problem, it can be fixed and “for the most part there are things that we know how to do” to improve the remaining problems,

## Toxic Air

Almost everyone in Europe, which geographically still includes the UK, is breathing toxic air. Published after the above report.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/20/revealed-almost-everyone-in-europe-breathing-toxic-air>

DO NOT DESTROY MY HOME AND  
THEN ASK WHY I WANDER INTO  
YOURS.

