



Green Ixworth

Newsletter

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www.greenixworth.org.uk
ginocarbon@hotmail.com

There is so much happening around the Climate Crisis that we shall keep you up to date by lengthening this and probably the next issue. The next most important news is likely to be what is happening about Rosebank oil field and will say a lot about government policy. Temperature records have been breached all over the world with Europe and the Polar Regions suffering most. All to be made worse over the next several months by El Niño.

Elmswild

The annual Appleday is on 26th September at Lukeswood, Off Church Road, Elmswell. **IP30 9DY** Green Ixworth will be there giving our support and explaining our activities. Good cakes and tea as well as craft, music and information stalls.



Local news.

A143

5 years ago, Green Ixworth started on its campaign to recognise the A143 should be considered a strategic road deserving of a long term plan. Extensive development of housing and industrial/commercial sites along the A143 corridor will be approximately doubling the traffic at the Orttwell Road Roundabout over present levels.

Part of the problem is that each development is considered on the increase in traffic it is providing on the existing total at that time. Therefore, no account is taken of the total collective increase in

the Local Plan.

In addition, everyone will be aware of the condition of the road demonstrated by this summer's melting of the surface and Suffolk Highways slow response and inadequate signage of alternative routes. With almost continuous work or accidents closing the A14, the A143 is the preferred alternative route. Result chaos.

Over the years Green Ixworth has been pressing relevant Parish Councils to work together to pressure Suffolk Highways to consider a strategic review of the road with a view to making improvements. We welcome the establishment of the newly formed A143 Resilience Forum working with local County Councillors and already met with Highways.

West Suffolk Council has previously spoken of the need to reduce traffic through Great Barton on grounds of high pollution levels, but with increased traffic demanded by new developments, it will get worse until most traffic is electric, and bottlenecks removed.

Green Ixworth has spoken with Peter Prinsley the Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket MP about the A143 issues with the result that he will be seeking the Department of Transport to reclassify the road as a part of the strategic network requiring a strategic approach to planning and thus come under National Highways. This would address the problems of dealing with immediate issues when there are closures as well as looking at the road as a whole to address the problems of a doubling of traffic load due to current developments which Suffolk Highways seems unable to do.

Ixworth Bridge

After previous rejection by SCC Highways, action by Ixworth's new County Councillor, Harry Richardson, Ixworth Parish Council and Green Ixworth, has produced the prospect of progress on the Foot/cycle bridge rejoining the two halves of Crown Lane in. Funding is being made available for a significant review of the project including design.

River Blackbourn

A request has been made by residents of Mill Road in Pakenham for work to be carried out on the Blackbourn at or near the A143 bridge where silt levels have built up and raised the level of groundwater along the back of the lane potentially damaging the houses. This was brought by some of those impacted up at the Parish Council meeting which asked GI to investigate the problem. We have approached Suffolk Wildlife Trust for information on what they have already done in Pakenham and perceive to be the continuing problem and are trying to contact the Environment Agency to seek their advice.

Ixworth Parish Council has been asked by residents of Mill Lane in Pakenham to help reduce the water table which has been threatening their homes. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust has ensured that the Micklemere nature reserve has had its drainage ditches cleaned out but the River seems to be held back by silt and other material by the A143 bridge. The PC asked if we would take on the clearing of the river and we agreed. The water is a little deeper than at Ixworth Bridge, so waders and buoyancy aids are required. We are looking for a sponsor to cover the cost of approx £400.

After pressure from GI and our County Councillor Suffolk Highways have at last accepted their responsibility for clearing the toxic deposits from road run off so we may(?) Expect action on that soon... Ixworth has 4 road bridges which are affected.

Climate Change Weather

This year's weather has been outstandingly difficult for all of us but especially those who work outside or in uncooled buildings, typically NHS premises or on the land or in buses. Some are still denying human caused climate change.

The Union UNITE, has supported successful action by its bus driver members in London and

elsewhere, to quite rightly, seek air conditioning in their cabs to keep them healthy and passengers safe. Now have an agreement that all buses in London will have A/C by next summer at the same time UNITE is lobbying government to increase oil and gas drilling and production, thereby increasing global warming.

Kemmi Badenoch has made it clear that there are policies which, if held by Conservative members, can lead to their removal and inability to stand for the party at any election. The policies include support for Net Zero.

Even with soaring temperatures there are still those who deny we humans are making global warming worse. Farage and Tice from Reform say we should just get on and enjoy the better weather and English wine, whilst wildfires rage and crops wither in the fields promising reduced yields leading to higher prices and for the poor, hunger.

Barley - The extreme heat has led to a reduction in quality, thus making it not possible for use in brewing. The quantity grown is also significantly reduced. The net result is that in spite of an excess of barley in Scotland, it will be more expensive and can lead to higher beer and whisky prices. Not a problem if you have friends who supply you with the odd million or £72.

How to reduce atmospheric Carbon and Methane.

Globally countries, with notable exceptions, are working seriously to reduce Carbon and Methane outputs and contrary to some of the untruths being flung about, last year China installed more PVs, than the rest of the world combined and is believed to have reached and passed peak Carbon. We can see from the British experience that change over a relatively short period can occur. India is approaching a similar position.

Climate Change deniers seem happy using products such as jet aeroplanes or whiskey, whose development, is based on the same scientific principles as used in the establishment of manmade Climate Change and the need for action. Many of the same principles and scientific understanding that enabled scientists to conclude CFCs were creating the ozone problem, are now guiding us how we can reduce our production of Carbon Dioxide and also Methane - primarily as gas leaks.

The ozone hole in the atmosphere was predicted at the end of the 19th Century and discovered some 4 decades or more ago caused by the leaking of chemicals, including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), used as refrigerants. The reason the hole in the atmosphere is so important was that it permitted ultraviolet – B light through, which as you will know is extremely dangerous to human skin and other animals and plants. However an international treaty was drawn up to stop using these chemicals, its success has resulted in a massive drop in use of these refrigerants and the gradual closing of the atmospheric hole.

How is it that this successful action has not taught us all that we can make a difference, especially on a global basis, if we set our mind to it. Perhaps it is that the oil, gas and coal companies make very large profits from their products whilst bearing no costs for the damage they cause to the environment or tax credits they get when they remove their offshore platforms. Some politicians see it as a message to their supporters not to make changes. These last few weeks have shown just how bad things are getting and with the promise of a super El Niño, making the rest of the year and most of next year even more difficult, things will only get worse without more action leading to untold deaths due to land slips, flooding, lack of fresh water and crops. More situations like Nepal and the European Alps.

Much of what follows shows what Global Heating is leading to, and how we cannot permit unregulated expansion of energy and water consumption. It also shows signs of hope that we can tackle Global Heating providing we have the will and determination.

As can be imagined there is a huge global research effort going on to seek reductions in Carbon exposure to the atmosphere and better understand methods of mitigation. Green Ixworth publishes many of the best ideas we come across.

Article with excellent maps of temperature change in the British Isles.

[‘Unprecedented’ changes in UK climate are normalising extremes, report says | Climate crisis | The Guardian](#)

Global Heating

[The 13 biggest myths about heatwaves – and how to bust them | Extreme heat | The Guardian](#)

Meanwhile we have already seen the deaths due to heat among the over 60's in particular rising dramatically by 2,877 UK during the May and June heat waves approx half of them due to climate change. [Interim heat mortality monitoring report, England: May and June 2026 - GOV.UK](#) . The charts in the document show clearly the impact of exceptional temperatures. They also explain why heat and cold related deaths have a different methodology.

The image of Farage on television claiming that this weather is just what we go on holiday for, showed how adrift he was from the real world of most people, those who: work outside or inside without cooling, are ill and without cooling, all suffer in excessive heat. Richard Tice followed up with “lovely bit of weather we should make the most of it. Certainly good for English wines”. Children and their teachers are having to cope with examinations during the most likely periods of excess heat, demonstrating that either cooling must be provided or exams should be held at a cooler time of year. [‘My shirt was wringing’: National Express bus drivers speak out on 40C conditions | Extreme heat | The Guardian](#)

Bus drivers in London and elsewhere have been on strike for a better working environment supported by their union UNITE. The very same union which is campaigning for more drilling and production of oil and gas in the North Sea. Declaration of interest: Your editor worked for a predecessor union now part of Unite as the National Officer for Offshore Oil and Gas Workers until about 2000 but was simultaneously campaigning for reducing the use of polluting fuels along with international colleagues.

We have to combat the problem by reducing global warming. Whether by stopping using fossil fuels other than in very restricted circumstances and/or designing our life and living circumstances better. In reality we have to do both.

Agriculture failing from changes in climate

The impact on our food supply is serious. Firstly, because we grow only 40% of the food we eat and secondly the suppliers of that imported 60% are suffering even more from heat stress, lack of water and low yields. Not only does this result in shortages but increases prices.

We now know that with some rare exceptions, agricultural efficiency is and will continue to decline as temperatures increase. The evidence in the document available below, shows output has already dropped by some 5% over previous levels. The result is insufficient supply to match demand and thus rising prices. This is one reason why the cost of doing nothing to reduce Climate Heating is much greater than acting to reduce our despoliation of our planet. CADI provides good scientific evidence of the problems we shall be facing with our food supply and in some ways already are. It also offers solutions which some of our local farmers are already putting into practice. Often agricultural shortages are regional but this year they are universal meaning food shortages will lead to higher prices. [CADI – Climate-Driven Agricultural Decline Index](#)

Solar farms growing vegetables beneath the panels are more productive than in open fields with better protection from the sun and heavy rain and less hardened soil. The panels can also collect and remove surplus water into storage or the soil. [How solar panels are changing agriculture - agrivoltaics revisited | Watch](#) . PVs floating on reservoirs reduce evaporation.

There should shortly be a longer more comprehensive piece on our website dealing with the causes and consequences of climate heating. www.greenixworth.org.uk as soon as it is completed.

Natural Mitigation

Trees do far more than store carbon.

Compatible with our future climate is a requirement. This often means tree species which already grow in Mediterranean like climates and varieties which enable them to grow in our new climatic conditions. Our oak trees are particularly susceptible to the present heat levels but Mediterranean varieties as well as evergreen oaks. So what do trees offer us?

Help regulate: rainfall, Provide shade, reduce extreme heat, create local climates several degrees cooler than surrounding areas, absorb flood water, Cool the air through transpiration.

When forests disappear, their natural cooling systems disappear with them: Land absorbs more heat, Temperatures rise, Air becomes drier, Communities become more vulnerable to heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, other climate extremes and more flooding with less water infiltrating the soil.

Healthy forests and independent trees support wildlife, improve air and water quality, reduce soil erosion, and help stabilise the climate at both local and global scales. Restoring degraded forests can also help communities adapt to a warming world by lowering temperatures, protecting water supplies, and capturing carbon dioxide that would otherwise remain in the atmosphere.

As the planet continues to warm, forests are becoming increasingly valuable not just as natural landscapes, but as one of Earth's most important climate defence systems. Every forest protected today helps create a cooler, healthier, and more resilient world for future generations. That is why protecting forests and individual trees is about much more than “just” saving trees. Once again resolving one problem can also help resolve others.

[Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit | WMO - El Niño intensifying:...](#)

[Increased rain and storms to hit UK due to biggest El Niño for a century, says Met Office | El Niño southern oscillation | The Guardian](#)

[Rewilded land remains green amid drought-stricken English countryside, images show | Rewilding | The Guardian](#)

It seems that Climate Change deniers are now attacking rewilding for making wildfires more likely. Any argument is used rather than accept that it is all down to human action, presumably because the areas are “not kept tidy”. The evidence suggests otherwise. The drier the ground and the hotter the air the less moisture to stop plants catching fire. Plants also reduce the drying and hardening of soil. Allowing rain when it does fall to penetrate. The article above is a clear response to the, I was going to say Neanderthals, but they understood nature, and did not abuse it, perhaps we should identify the deniers as those who make a large profit on oil and gas, mismanaging water companies, and refuse to bother to understand science.

[Rewilding and wildfire prevention | Rewilding Britain](#)

If we look around at the parched grass and vegetables, unless irrigated, the only plants we see still green are generally known as “weeds”. There is a message here, “weeds” have taken millennia to develop resistance to drought usually by the use of deep roots. Such plants used as green manure have a real benefit to horticulture and agriculture, bringing necessary nutrients to the surface for food crops and shielding soil from water evaporation. Regenerative agriculture is based around such science and works.

Golf Clubs have been a major misuser of water during drought, over 140 clubs exceeded their water abstraction licences. We have no knowledge of any regulatory action.

For help and guidance Climate Change Gardening provides useful advice their latest newsletter can be found at: [Climate Change Gardening Newsletter #6, September 2026](#) . Where you can also sign up to receive it directly.