

## Greenprint Forum Newsletter—Autumn 2020

With the departure of summer the swifts have gone back to Africa, but we now have a new season of autumn to experience and enjoy. Look out for murmurations of starlings as they seek out their roosting places.

The RSPB advises us to offer birds high-energy (high-fat) foods at this time of year, maintaining a routine of feeding once established as birds will come to get used to when and where food is presented for them. And don't forget to offer them water too.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/feeding-birds/when-to-feed-garden-birds/>



Pic: Daniel Wareing

### Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan update

In 2019 the Suffolk Local Authorities each declared a climate emergency and as well as tackling emissions from their own estates and operations, have pledged to work together towards the aspiration of a carbon neutral Suffolk by 2030. As part of this they are aiming to engage with key strategic stakeholders to help shape a **Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan** for the county. A series of six workshops will be held in November and December on key topics, one of which will have the theme: **Community Action and Schemes**.

If your organisation would like to provide constructive input to the workshop process and be considered for inclusion please contact me via [greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk). The date for the workshop has yet to be fixed, but as we are limiting attendance to 20 delegates we will record the session for subsequent viewing and provide a means of submitting your views and ideas for a period following the session.



Turn the page for exciting news on a significant milestone for Suffolk's Quiet Lanes project supported by the Greenprint Forum.



# Quiet Lanes—People power, patience and persistence finally pays off...

I was prepared to redirect my efforts on another activity had it not been for the Greenprint Forum majority vote in favour of the Quiet Lanes Suffolk scheme at the Active & Sustainable Travel Forum held on World Environment Day 5 June 2019. This was one of several ideas discussed at that event:



[Active & Sustainable Travel Forum 5.6.2019 event report](#)

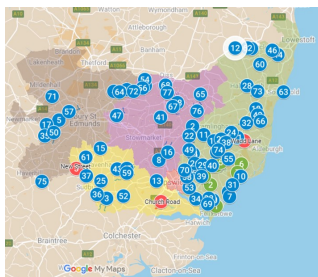
Along with several other ESC parishes, I liked the 2013-14 Quiet Lane pilot scheme implemented in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AoNB and saw the benefits on so many levels: for the community, they should help to protect the rural nature of our countryside; for the citizens, they could take advantage of safer and healthier roads on which to engage in active travel, and; for the climate, provide more viable and safer sustainable routes, frequently connecting and extending existing public rights of way.

However, there was a clear need to streamline the process and bring costs to a level that Parishes could reasonably afford if further designations following the pilot were to be deliverable as a priority with the necessary support of SCC Highways.

This was all happening around the time that SCC Highways were trialling a self-help, community led way of working which seemed a perfect fit for a cost-effective, collaborative approach. The plan was now to trial the new process with a few proactive parishes already progressing with a Quiet Lane designation - Snape, Bentley & Glemsford. The trial would test the process and generate the generic template documents which other parishes can re-use, followed by several waves of implementation.

So it is with great delight for me to report back that your support, encouragement and financial backing has truly paid dividends. Buoyed on by the debate, which was subsequently given financial backing and officers' time by the East Suffolk Partnership, the newly formed QLS Board has finally leveraged the vision from an initial Suffolk Coastal / AoNB aspiration to a full blown County wide scheme - and another nod towards the 'greenest county aspiration' complementing efforts towards the countywide carbon neutrality ambition.

*Continued over.....*



Left: geographical spread of expressions of interest from Parish Councils in new Quiet Lanes thus far



Left & Right: Art by Claudia Myatt







# Quiet Lanes—People power, patience and persistence finally pays off...continued



Thanks to the continued support from SCC Cllr Andrew Reid, now also cabinet member with responsibility for the highways, and who helped fund several of the original pilot Quiet Lanes, our original SCC Community 2020 Fund grant proposal, which was initially scoped to roll-out up to 70 Quiet Lanes within East Suffolk and Babergh districts, was actually increased three-fold enabling the project to adopt a whole county outlook. With a total combined funding in excess of £270,000. This should be sufficient for designating around 200+ new Quiet Lanes, stretching over 200km of road, right across Suffolk, as well as a driver awareness and behaviour change ‘Expect and Respect’ marketing campaign.

We now have 12 months in which to achieve our ambition. So, the QLS team (pictured right) are ready, shovels are poised and parishes lining up to register their nominated lanes for consideration. I look forward to reporting back on our achievements next year. You can follow our progress online through our website [www.QuietLanesSuffolk.co.uk](http://www.QuietLanesSuffolk.co.uk), where your Parish or Town Council can also put forward suggestions for new Quiet Lane designations in their community, and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/QLSP2>



By Andrew Cassy, Secretary of Quiet Lanes Suffolk



Pic: Luke Bennett; Active & Sustainable Travel Forum 5.6.2019



## Correspondence with Westminster

Back in July, our Steering Group wrote a [joint letter](#), with the Council's Environment Task Group, to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to set out our shared asks from Government. We have recently received the response below.

Rest assured our Steering Group and the ETG are considering this response and will be following this up again with BEIS to reiterate our message and monitor delivery of the promises made by Government, and we will update you as and when further developments arise.

  
Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Cllr James Mallinder  
Chair,  
Environment Task Group  
East Suffolk Council

Jane Healey  
Chair,  
East Suffolk Greenprint Forum

Dear Cllr Mallinder and Ms Healey,

Thank you for your letter of 3 August, to the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, regarding support for a green recovery. I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

I am grateful to you for raising this important matter. As the Prime Minister made clear, in recovering from COVID-19 we must build back better and greener, and do that at the pace that this moment requires. The Government is putting a green recovery at the heart of its response to COVID-19, both domestically through further investment in low carbon infrastructure and by embedding action on climate change in support for recovery internationally as host of COP26.

The decisions we make today can lay the foundation for sound, sustainable and inclusive growth. The UK has shown that growing our economy and cutting emissions can be achieved at the same time. We have grown our economy by 75% while cutting emissions by 43% over the past three decades. The UK has over 460,000 jobs in low carbon businesses and their supply chains and many of the actions we need to take to reach our target of net zero emissions by 2050 will support jobs and growth in every region of the UK.

The UK is at the forefront of adopting new low-carbon initiatives such as energy storage technologies, smart electricity systems, and zero-emission vehicles. These innovations are creating new green jobs and economic opportunities while also providing cleaner air and warmer homes.

Meeting net zero and delivering the global transition to a low carbon economy will require unprecedented levels of investment in green and low carbon technologies, services, and infrastructure. The UK power sector is a success story that we want to replicate in other sectors having attracted more than £94 billion of investment since 2010. Our sustained support for clean energy has led to dramatic falls in the price of some renewable technologies. The auction prices of offshore wind reduced by around two-thirds between the 2015 and 2019. Consequently, renewable electricity generation has more than quadrupled since 2010 and low carbon electricity now gives us over 50 percent of our total.

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1 September 2020

This year alone, the Government has committed billions in spending as we increase support for our low-carbon economy and green jobs. We are taking action in every sector including: £2 billion to kickstart a cycling and walking revolution; £1 billion of support for ultra-low emission vehicles; £800 million to capture carbon from power stations and industry; a £640 million Nature Climate Fund; and £100 million for research and development into Direct Air Capture technologies. At the Chancellor's economic update on July 8, the Government set out the next stage in our support for the UK's recovery from the pandemic with over £3 billion of investment to create and support up to 140,000 green jobs and upgrade homes and public buildings across the country.


In November 2021, the UK will provide global leadership on climate change as President Designate and host of COP26 in Glasgow. We are determined to use this platform to raise global climate ambitions to achieve the transformational change required by the Paris Agreement. In the run-up to this vitally important climate summit, we will be publishing decarbonisation plans for the major sectors of our economy. In March, we published the first phase of our transport decarbonisation plan and will be setting our further plans on energy, heat and buildings and the natural environment over the coming months.

This Government is determined to ensure that the benefits of our growing low-carbon economy are shared fairly in every region. The Prime Minister confirmed in his Economy Speech that the Government will bring forward the Local Recovery and Devolution white paper detailing how the UK Government will partner with places across the UK to build a sustainable economic recovery. This white paper will set out the Government's place-based strategy to support economic recovery, level up the UK's regions, and expand expanding devolution across the country.

Finally, our ambitious 25-year Environment Plan committed to leave the environment in a better state than we found it. Mitigating and adapting to climate change in a way which respects and enhances our natural environment is essential if we are to meet this goal. In the recent budget, the Government announced an investment of up to £25 million in a Nature Recovery Fund and £640 million for the Nature for Climate Fund, which will kick-start a step-change in tree planting and peatland restoration in England. The Environment Bill will help deliver the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth. It will drive the long-term action nature needs to recover, through legally binding targets, a new environmental enforcement body, the Office for Environmental Protection, and placing environmental principles in domestic law in a consistent and transparent way.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope that this letter demonstrates the desire to ensure a green and fair recovery from COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,



RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP  
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth





## Deben Soundings—Imagining the Measure of Change

[Imagining the Measure of Change](#) is a project set up by artist Simon Read and coastal scientist Dr Helene Burningham in collaboration with the [Deben Estuary Partnership](#) to work with the broader community to raise the level of understanding of the estuary dynamics of the River Deben in Suffolk.

Our original agenda for the project detailed a number of public, participatory workshops with stakeholders to combine direct engagement and discussion underpinned by scientific knowledge and understanding, through the lens of an interactive arts methodology. These workshops were scheduled to run through 2020 and 2021, with each delivering on a specific theme. Due to the current and ongoing Covid-19 situation, it has not been possible to progress these, and the initiation of the process of consultation to review and revise the [Deben Estuary Plan](#) by Deben Estuary Partnership has also been delayed.

Pic: [Deben Soundings](#)



Born out of the Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings and interactions, we refocused our efforts into the [Deben Soundings Exhibition](#) at Artspace in Woodbridge as a means to launch our programme of public engagement. We were unaware of how fortuitous this shift in mode of delivery would be. The week-long exhibition was probably far more accessible and approachable than any workshop could be, meaning we received visitors who would not ordinarily have engaged with this type of activity. More people visited than would attend a workshop, and we reached a far wider range of interests in the estuary than have been engaged with before. But perhaps most importantly, the extended time available meant that those who came could experience a personal engagement with the material, direct conversation with us, and a more enhanced participation in the process.

The challenges of social distancing and restrictions are likely here to stay for some time and we face some rethinking of how to achieve the ongoing aims of our project within Covid-19 guidelines. But we can see that there is public out there who are not only interested in estuary matters, but given the chance to have a conversation, are willing to engage in discussing the issues relevant to the ongoing governance of the estuary. Once given a framework, that conversation can happen.

Pics: D Wareing

By **Simon Read and Helene Burningham**  
(pictured right)

Email: [debensoundings@gmail.com](mailto:debensoundings@gmail.com)

Website: <https://debensoundings.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/debensoundings](http://www.facebook.com/debensoundings)



## Reduce, Reuse, Refill, Repeat!

There are plenty of local shops and mobile businesses where you can purchase refills of products including toiletries, bodycare products, dried foods, tea, cooking oils, and cleaning products, helping savvy consumers to reuse their own containers repeatedly and avoid generating yet more single-use plastic waste. You can find out what's near you by visiting the [Suffolk Refill Directory](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk) on the website [www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk)

If you run a business in Suffolk that offers product refills and aren't listed on the Suffolk Refill Directory, or you know of one, please let me know [greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) and I'll see if we can get it added to the Suffolk Refill Directory.



Please do contact the shops for more information before travelling to check current opening hours and to check that they have the items you want. It might sound obvious but don't forget to take all the containers you need with you! It's also a good idea to make sure that the capacity of the container is clearly marked to enable the shop to charge you correctly for the amount dispensed.

Above—locations of Suffolk shops offering product refills

And now, as well as enabling residents and visitors alike to find out with confidence which shops and businesses they can ask to refill their water bottle from the tap, for free, the [Refill App](#) from [City to Sea](#) now also allows users to locate shops that offer refills for other products too, such as food and cleaning products – this can be useful when travelling elsewhere in the UK.

If you're interested in joining our network of fabulous Plastic Action Champion volunteers helping others in your community to use less single-use plastic, contact me via [greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) or register via: [https://my.eastsoffolk.gov.uk/service/Plastic action champions and volunteering](https://my.eastsoffolk.gov.uk/service/Plastic%20action%20champions%20and%20volunteering)



## Community Partnership – new Environmental Grant Scheme

A new Environmental Grant Scheme is due to be launched shortly by one of East Suffolk's eight [Community Partnerships](#).

Perhaps you have an idea to get the community engaged but need to purchase the right equipment? Maybe you would like to expand the reach of your current scheme to have a greater impact? Whatever the plan, we would like to hear how you can create a positive, sustainable improvement in the local environment.

The Partnership area consisting of Kesgrave, Martlesham and surrounding parishes has identified Environmental Care as a priority to tackle over the next two and a half years. We will be inviting local organisations, groups, schools and parish councils to apply for small grants to improve the local environment.

Grants will need to be spent within the Partnership area (Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew, Otley, Grundisburgh, Culpho, Clopton, Debach, Charsfield, Tuddenham St Martin, Westerfield, Bredfield, Boulge, Hasketon, Burgh, Dallinghoo, Swilland, Foxhall, Playford, Brightwell, Witnesham, Purdis Farm, Little Bealings and Great Bealings) and within twelve months of funding being awarded.



The launch date of the grant scheme is due for later this year, and will be shared amongst Greenprint members as well the wider community. We're looking forward to hearing the creative ideas that local people will have and the positive impact it can make.

If you have any questions, please send me an email via [greenissues@east Suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@east Suffolk.gov.uk) and I will connect you with Andy Jolliffe, the ESC Communities Officer supporting this particular Community Partnership.





## Planting hedges in Waldringfield

Here in Waldringfield back in January of 2020 we began a project to restore field hedges where they were either non-existent or full of gaps. At rather short notice we were able to secure a grant from Suffolk Coast and Heaths, which we used to buy hedging plants, canes and guards from Sandy Lane Nursery near Diss.



Pic: Waldringfield Scattered Orchard Group

A village resident was kind enough to de-turf the soil with his digger and this made it possible for twelve volunteers to plant all 110 metres of hedging in just over an hour.

We then mulched the plants with plenty of straw from another villager who is a thatcher. The plants have survived this years' droughts reasonably well with only a loss of about 20%, which we will re-plant in November this year.

During the summer we have now gained permission to restore another three hedges elsewhere in the village. This time we have ordered free trees from the woodland trust. I have also just bought myself a rotavator so that I can prepare the land myself from now on.

If you would like to help plant on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November please get in contact with me at [mariahskellorn@hotmail.com](mailto:mariahskellorn@hotmail.com), and equally if you would like advice on how to do the same in your village I'm more than happy to help. Plant like your life depends upon it, because it does.

By **Mariah Ballam**





## Community Partnerships Virtual Forum

The East Suffolk Community Partnerships are holding their first Annual Forum 2020 in virtual format. The five-day virtual programme takes place over 2-6 November 2020.

Community Partnerships are something fresh that reflects the ambitions of the new East Suffolk Council and utilises the incredible knowledge, experience and enthusiasm contained right across the wide range of organisations and communities in East Suffolk. Through a process of data analysis, stakeholder engagement and collaborative working the Community Partnerships have collectively identified a number of priorities for action.

This 5 day virtual forum is an exciting opportunity for participants to be brought up to speed on these priorities, share their knowledge and expertise, and work together to help find solutions. The issues we will explore include:

- Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness
- Promoting active and sustainable travel
- Sustaining our Community Hubs
- Rural Transport and access to services
- Supporting our most vulnerable communities and people
- Data and how we can all make much better use of it.
- How technology is disrupting traditional ways of doing business
- The impact of Covid on the future in East Suffolk



<https://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/east-suffolk-community-partnership-annual-forum-2020-5-day-virtual-programme-overview/>

## Fringe event - Zero Carbon Communities and their role Post Covid-19

As a fringe event alongside the CPs Virtual Forum, Greenprint and the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (SCCP) have also arranged for a session to explore the theme of zero carbon communities and their role in the green recovery from Covid-19.

This session will take place on 5th November 16:30-17:30 and places can be registered via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/zero-carbon-communities-and-their-role-post-cv-19-tickets-124570217875>

Since its inception in 2007, the SCCP has worked with a number of communities, helping them to reduce their environmental impact, toward Suffolk's goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The first half of this session will look at how the SCCP is helping communities to reduce their carbon footprint, including a brand-new pilot to help one Suffolk community create its very own Zero Carbon Plan.

The second half of the session will feature a Q&A session with expert panellists, looking at how communities can support the green recovery.



## Autumn leaves

Leaves look so pretty when they first start to fall, but it is only so long until they become a nuisance or a slippery danger. Left on the ground they eventually break up and go back to the soil with the help of earthworms, but it is not always convenient to wait for nature to take its course. Once you have raked up your leaves, small amounts can contribute to your compost bin but what can you do with the rest?

The answer is to make a batch of lovely Leaf Mould! It won't happen overnight but its very easy to do!

To make your own leaf mould pile damp leaves into something that stops them from blowing away (but has air holes) and leave it for two years. The only burden is to make sure the pile doesn't dry out in the summer months; the slow working fungus needs moisture to carry on breaking down the leaves. This small amount of work is a tiny price to pay for oodles of lovely dark crumbly gardener's gold that is both enormously water-retentive yet free-draining and low enough in nutrients to be a gentle growing medium for the most delicate of seedlings.

*USES:*

- **Winter or summer mulch**
- **Soil conditioner to vastly improve its water retention ability, but also change the soil structure to benefit plant roots and soil life.**
- **Homemade seed compost**
- **Homemade 'potting on' mix when mixed in equal amounts with compost and sharp sand.**

Whilst all of this is very exciting, it is easy to get carried away and forget about the wildlife that benefits from these fallen leaves. A pile of windblown leaves in autumn will be a hive of insect activity and a common site for birds to forage. It is common for piles to be used as shelter (or hibernation) for hedgehogs, frogs, newts, pollinators including bumblebees and many other animals and insects too.

A carefully planned cage fitted with a couple of wildlife gaps at the bottom can both tame your pile and offer a safe but luxurious shelter or hibernation site for wildlife, which will be a joy to watch as the winter months progress. By the end of your first season, you will begin to wonder how you lived without one until now!

Written by **Suffolk Master Composters.**

(Article reproduced with permission of My Best Life Magazine.)

Photos: Suffolk County Council



Suffolk Master Composters are volunteers who spend time promoting home composting in their local community to encourage this most environmentally sustainable waste management practice. To ask them a composting question, please email [mastercomposters@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:mastercomposters@suffolk.gov.uk)

## Wrap up your home this winter

Through the new Green Homes Grant scheme, homeowners in England (both freehold and leasehold owner occupiers), and landlords can apply for vouchers of up to £5,000 towards the cost of installing energy efficient and low-carbon heating improvements in their homes, such as added loft insulation, air- and ground-source heat pumps, and solar electric and solar thermal systems.



Some homeowners on income-based or disability benefits may be eligible for vouchers covering the full cost of improvement.

The Green Home Grant scheme is now open and vouchers must be redeemed, and improvements completed, by 31 March 2021.

Tradespeople need to be TrustMark registered to carry out these home improvements as part of the scheme. Homeowners can be sure that they have been thoroughly vetted and meet the required standards of good customer service, technical competence and good trading practices.

To check your eligibility for a voucher and to find out how you could make your home warmer and more energy efficient visit <https://greenhomesgrant.campaign.gov.uk>

## First time central heating systems for Suffolk residents



Suffolk's local authorities have secured funding from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund to install first time gas central heating systems in eligible, fuel poor households across Suffolk. At a time when household finances may be under pressure, perhaps as a result of COVID-19, your Council would like to help you keep warm this winter and reduce the burden of high energy bills.

Around four million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

The project has already installed over 275 systems. A resident who received a central heating system said:

*"Many thanks for all your help and enabling me to be warm this winter and in the future - without which I don't know what I would have done".*



To find out more about the project either:

- visit [www.greensuffolk.org/whf](http://www.greensuffolk.org/whf)
- call the Council run *Warm Homes Healthy People Team* on **03456 037 686** (local rate)
- complete the online enquiry form at [www.greensuffolk.org/seaenquiry](http://www.greensuffolk.org/seaenquiry)
- or email [whhp@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:whhp@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) quoting the 'Warm Homes Fund'.





# Have your say on current and forthcoming consultations

**OPEN NOW:**

## BEIS consultation on improving the energy performance of privately rented homes:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-energy-performance-of-privately-rented-homes>

The government has committed to upgrade as many private rented sector homes as possible to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2030, where practical, cost-effective and affordable and the consultation sets out policy proposals towards achieving this benefits of which include:



- reducing energy bills and increased comfort for tenants and supporting delivery of the statutory fuel poverty target of EPC rating “C” by 2030
- potential property value improvements for landlords
- delivering carbon emission savings



**Deadline for responses: 30 December 2020**

## BEIS consultation on Draft Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations 2021:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-ecodesign-and-energy-labelling-regulations-2021>

This consultation sets out the government’s proposals to:



- update ecodesign requirements for electric motors, household washing machines/washer-dryers, household dishwashers, household refrigeration and electronic displays
- introduce ecodesign requirements for welding equipment and commercial refrigeration



- introduce energy labelling requirements for commercial refrigeration

**Deadline for responses: 11 November 2020**

**Coming soon:**

## East Suffolk Walking and Cycling Strategy

East Suffolk Council is in the process of drafting a new Cycling and Walking Strategy for the whole of East Suffolk, to supersede the old Waveney Cycle Strategy which covered the former Waveney area in the northern part of the new district. The Council will launch a consultation to obtain the views of the public and other interested bodies regarding any issues with the current cycling and walking network, planned **to commence on 19 October and close on 30 November 2020**. This consultation will help inform the final strategy aimed for completion in 2021. I will keep you informed as soon as this opportunity to influence the Council’s strategy to promote these forms of active travel becomes goes live.



## Have you seen a Suffolk Priority Species?

During an evening walk in Felixstowe at the end of September your secretary was thrilled to see a slow-worm. Having not seen one for several years, I alerted the county recorder for reptiles, John Baker, who responded with the following:

“From observations in and around my home town it seems that wherever the habitat is favourable there are slow-worms. But in most cases you don't know that they are there. Finding them on pavements and sometimes squashed on roads etc is one of the giveaways of their presence. But that raises a question for me of why they would venture onto roads etc in the first place (*Ed: the animal isn't just crossing the road—the road is crossing the habitat!*). I have been tracking 'road-killed' slow-worms and they are most often found on roads at this time of year (summer to early autumn). But even so, it's something they don't do often. For any slow-worm you see above ground there must be many, many more around that we are otherwise unaware of. People don't often submit records of their sightings of slowworms - so all records are very welcome. Secondly, slow-worms spend most of their lives underground or in vegetation litter, which means that they are greatly overlooked.”



Pic—Daniel Wareing



Pic—Hannah Bridges

Reports of wildlife sightings help the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service maintain a picture of how well, or otherwise, species are faring, and as such, reports are welcome – particularly of [Suffolk Priority Species](#) (including slow-worms). Sightings of animals, fungi, lichens and plants can all be submitted to the respective county recorder for various taxonomic groups – for more information visit <http://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/>

## Autumn Greetings from James Mallinder

Autumn is upon us and 5th November will be in people's minds. How will we celebrate this year with Covid restrictions? Large official gatherings will not go ahead.

As Cabinet member for the Environment, I do ask if we consider the environment before any private celebrations. Stacks of material for bonfires can be an attractive home to wildlife, in particular hedgehogs, so remember to check in case anything has taken up residence before setting light to your bonfire, and if you know that your neighbours or others are having one, remind them to check too. Stacking material for the bonfire in one place, and then moving the whole lot to the place where it is to be burnt only when ready to be lit, is a good way to be sure.

A lot of people will have rubbish gathered from lockdown clearouts so if you do become aware of others preparing bonfires you might wish to give them a gentle reminder that painted woodwork should not be burned, nor should any plastics. And of course, if clothes are still reusable, it might be better taken to the charity shop rather than dressing the guy.

Fireworks also cause incredible disturbance and upset to both domestic and wild animals, and to people, so please think twice before purchasing.

By **James Mallinder, ESC Cabinet Member for the Environment and Greenprint Steering Group Member**



### Closing note from Editor

Thank you to all who have contributed and remember the Greenprint e-newsletter is most relevant when you are helping inform its content. Please email me at [greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) with action you are taking towards our vision and would like to share to inspire others—I will try and include wherever space allows and if I cannot fit it in the newsletter, or if it relates to an event or online session due to take place before the next newsletter is ready (this newsletter is quarterly and the next one will be out around January) then I will wherever possible share via the Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum>. If you're not already following the Facebook page please feel free to do so and feel free to share any posts to your own networks.

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