

Greener Waldringfield - Parish Meeting April 2024

As green issues become more widely understood and increasingly important for our planet, we are proud of our village being “ahead of the curve” with regard to our awareness and actions to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss, and we all want to live more sustainably don't we?

It is now a statutory requirement for Parish Councils to consider local action for biodiversity.. we are on it!

Seriously, we are ahead on this, I'm quoting Daniel Wareing, East Suffolk Council Sustainability Officer, who says we are exemplary! He frequently asks Betsy, the originator of GW, to speak at workshops, including the recent Suffolk event at Trinity Park. And.. Wild about Campsea and Wild about Wickham for instance have only just started and... did you know Transition Woodbridge was started with a core group from Waldringfield in 2007!

I will talk about three village groups that have these “green” values at heart: the Wildlife Group, the Gardeners Group and Greener Waldringfield:

We have an active Wildlife Group who have a busy schedule of talks and activities throughout the year. For instance we are just waiting for the swifts to arrive in May to populate the 70 Swift boxes around the village. They have been increasing year on year which is very exciting!! A new thing this year: youngsters are being encouraged to be involved with wildlife activity sessions organised with the Suffolk wildlife Trust which we hope will be popular.

The Gardeners Group (officially WALGA - Waldringfield Allotment and Leisure Gardening Association) which started with aspirations for allotments, this year invested the allotment funds into savings instead. They continue their calendar of which the highlights are the village Open Gardens in June and the Produce Show in August. Other activities, to name a few, include: village scarecrows competition, Ad Hoc showing off our gardens (excuse for chats and drinks), composting advice, The Pumpkin Parade, the triangle planting and garden visits, with bonus group membership of the RHS. They donate a big proportion of funds each year to St Elizabeth Hospice.

Greener Waldringfield proudly hosted Suffolk's first Green Infrastructure Workshop, sponsored by Greenprint Forum, in August. It provided a unique opportunity for a wide spectrum of stakeholders such as parish counsellors, farmers, tree wardens, officers from East Suffolk Council and Suffolk county council, members of Suffolk wildlife trust and many more to meet up and share ideas. Small clusters of parishes are now taking their ideas from that day forward. These include reviewing biodiversity action plans and policies, green corridor mapping and sharing ideas for future events. Greener Waldringfield has been working with representatives from Martlesham, Brightwell Foxhall and Purdis Farm, Hemley and Newbourne, together as a Parish Cluster.

We have had two Repair Cafés per year since starting these in 2020, which we now run in conjunction with Martlesham Repair Hub after they came to our first one and started their own! This allows year round access to repairers through their monthly events and onsite workshop for more complex tasks.

This year we are keen to become a more cohesive group furthering our networking, social media and also a new website. Watch this space!

We are very open to new ideas to further support these things for both the village and the wider community interested in what we already do so well.

Interestingly.. All of these groups are run by the same core group of people and they would really encourage more diverse and widely shared participation and responsibility. So please do get in touch if you feel you would enjoy being part of any aspect of this active and enthusiastic community!

The next litter pick is tomorrow, 18th April, and we are currently planning the detail of Open Gardens so do let us know if you could spare some time to help on Sunday 9th June!
Thank you. SQ

Facebook page: Greener Waldringfield

Instagram: greener_waldringfield