

Greener Waldringfield (GW)

Chairman's Report 2026

Annual Summary of Activities and Progress

Key Developments

- Saltmarsh Monitoring has been active in the estuary since June 2025
- The highly successful “Memories of the Tideline” event, held in August 2025, attracted strong community engagement and raised awareness of the value and stewardship of the local coastline.
- Continued progress on the design and development of the West Deben Biodiversity Action Plan, with increasing recognition of its long-term potential for coordinated environmental action across parishes. The agreed leaflet is now ready for printing and distribution to at least 4000 homes in the local area
- Ongoing collaboration with key partners, including the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the National Landscapes Team, and the Five Parishes Nature Recovery Project of which GW is part.

Introduction

The past year has been one of significant progress for Greener Waldringfield (GW), marked by strengthened networking, enhanced visibility, and meaningful advancement towards our climate and biodiversity objectives.

Strategic Progress and Collaboration

Memories of the Tideline Exhibition

The Memories of the Tideline exhibition took place over two days, from 30–31 August 2025, this very successful event was a 3C's initiative, an Environment Agency initiative for Championing Coastal Communities. This included an exhibition by local artists, the Sailing Club, the History Group, the Wildlife Group, and others who had been invited by the artist Simon Read. It attracted hundreds to the village. Twelve pages are dedicated to the event is recorded in the Environment Agency's most recent publication 'A Place at the Table.'

Biodiversity Action Plan Group

The Green Infrastructure Workshop, hosted in Ufford in September 2025, formalised the West Deben Parish Cluster and established a collaborative framework for five parishes, Brightwell, Hemley, Martlesham, Newbourne, and Waldringfield to work together.

We have produced a leaflet encouraging volunteers to survey their local areas and create environmentally rich habitats. Suggested actions include welcoming wildlife into the garden, and supporting local wildlife projects. The leaflet is planned for distribution to at least 4,000 homes across the area.

Governance and Roles

Thanks are extended to Alexis for her work as Treasurer, overseeing group funds. Appreciation is also given to Nell for her continued encouragement and to Chris Baldry for his work on the website.

Parish Council Engagement

Monthly updates are now provided to the Parish Council by their biodiversity co-ordinator Councillor Sue Quick who reports on all environmental group activity in the village

Wildlife Group

A National Landscape grant was secured to support Suffolk Wildlife Trust activities for children, with several events already completed; further activities are planned.

Gardeners Group

- The Gardeners Group held a highly successful plant sale this year, raising funds for St Elizabeth Hospice in place of the Open Gardens event.
- The Annual Produce Event is planned for later this year.

Conclusion

The year reflects strong progress in engagement, planning, and collaboration, positioning GW to deliver lasting environmental benefits across the community.