

# WINTER 2020/21 GREENVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN PARTY IN  
HALESWORTH AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



**Green Party**  
for the common good

## COMMUNITY BACKS LOCAL FAVOURITE

"What a year in which to launch a pub," exclaimed Brenda Smith, Secretary of Westhall's Racehorse pub Community Benefit Society, reflecting on a tumultuous year: "The village pub had been closed for several years and just 3 months after the local community took it over, we faced having to close the doors again because of lockdown."

Recognising the needs of the villagers, the volunteers running the pub didn't want to just close and so heads were put together, local knowledge and resources pooled, and a plan emerged!

The pub established itself as a community hub for the village and surrounding area; a weekly fruit, veg and grocery delivery was set up and local growers shared their produce on a stall outside the pub.

The small shop inside the pub was the only place for miles that you could buy paracetamol and toilet rolls, said Brenda. Medicines were delivered and a watchful eye kept on those less able. "It's fantastic to see everyone pulling together during the crisis, looking out for neighbours and using the pub as a place to come for information, basic supplies, and to just meet someone. We even ran a service for takeaway meals and, of course, beer. In the twelve months that we've been open, we've seen



the importance of community. The locals have supported the pub and we've seen that support flow back the other way when needed," she said.

"It's a good base from which to launch our community share offer to buy the pub in the spring. Owning the pub outright would cement our role as the hub of the community, offering a wider range of services and we can't wait to rise to the challenge," she added. Check the website:

[www.westhallpub.com](http://www.westhallpub.com) or FB

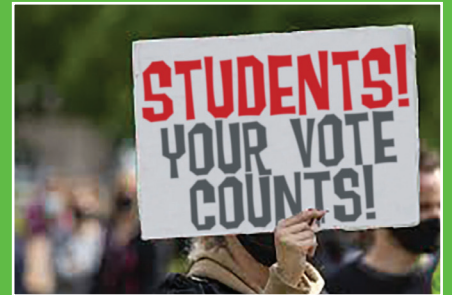
Race for the Racehorse for opening times and food offerings, as well as details of the share offer.

Do you have a story about your community that you'd like to share?

Get in touch - [halesworthgreens@gmail.com](mailto:halesworthgreens@gmail.com)



Annette Dunning catching up with Brenda Smith, who was her children's favourite teacher, at The Racehorse, on a Sunday lunchtime visit.



Home for Christmas? Students can register to vote in next May's local elections, both at home or at college.

If your home and university addresses are in two different local authority areas, you can vote in local elections in both places. To register go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

If you are at college but would also like to vote in your home local elections you need to apply for a postal vote by downloading a form at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, check by visiting [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

And remember, if you want to rent, get a mobile contract, or sign up for a credit card, it really helps if you're on the electoral roll. This also means you can be a part of big decision-making, including voting in local elections for councillors or a new government.

Registering online only takes about three minutes, so there are no excuses!

## GREEN WILDLIFE WIN



Important local plant and animal wildlife will have a safer future in Suffolk thanks to a Greens backed motion supporting biodiversity agreed by Suffolk County Council in December.

The successful motion to develop a biodiversity

strategy and embrace biodiverse land management practices in the region was put forward by Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent group Green Councillor Elfede Brambley-Crawshaw, on behalf of Suffolk County Council.

The agreed motion will ensure:

- Delivery of a biodiversity strategy.
- Assessment of how the council can lead partner organisations in this field.
- Adoption of biodiverse land management options on council land.
- A letter to the Secretary of State calling for a clear and ambitious national biodiversity strategy.

Cllr Elfede Brambley-Crawshaw, Group Leader and Spokesperson for Climate Change, commented: "Suffolk County Council has declared a climate emergency and is aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030, but in all the focus on climate change it is

important that we also remember the biodiversity crisis. Every year dozens more species are lost, and it is vital that we take action now to safeguard Suffolk's wildlife and plant life which in turn safeguards human lives for future generations."

Annette Dunning, Green Campaigner and Halesworth Town Councillor added:

*"Halesworth has beautiful, wildlife rich spaces like the Millennium Green where people can enjoy nature and which make a substantial contribution to the life of the whole community. A lot of effort is put into planting and enriching the environment throughout the town. We are now looking at rewilding projects for our open spaces to further encourage wildlife. This SCC motion puts a marker in the sand and supports us in making good decisions for Halesworth and the whole county. It's a positive decision for the future"*



## PARKING FORUM – A GREAT SUCCESS

An online people's forum on Waveney parking issues organised by the local Green party was a great success, enabling the public to have their voices and opinions heard and highlighting democracy in action, said Halesworth Town councillor Annette Dunning.

"It is important that the District Council listens to the issues and problems being encountered by visitors to our market towns. A one size fits all approach by East Suffolk Council over such a large district is not satisfactory and the difficulties being experienced by each town need to be revisited and understood so that the issues can be resolved," she said.

The zoom meeting held on 12 November invited the general public to have their say on the recent overhaul of parking charges in the area. Beccles Councillor Caroline Topping took their views to East Suffolk Council Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16th November for discussion, leading to recommendations to be put to the Council Cabinet in the New Year.

Regular users of Halesworth car parks had raised concerns about the new parking payment machines which require the vehicle registration to be entered. They are designed mainly for use via a mobile phone app, although cash can be used. Many elder users do not have smart phones and are currently wary of Covid-19 spreading via the machine keyboard.

The free parking allowance for the Thoroughfare car park has been reduced from one hour to one half hour per day. Parents recently encouraged to use the car park when dropping off or collecting their children for school under the Council's Park and Stride initiative complained they now had to pay out to use the car park for one of the trips.

## GREEN TIPS FOR WINTER WILDLIFE GARDENING

**PLANT** - a broad-leaved native tree or hedge between now and March  
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/how-to-plant/>

**BIRDS** - Leave out supplementary food every day, including peanuts, fallen fruit and suet which can be melted into containers such as coconut shells. Leave seedheads on herbaceous plants and shrubs. Keep bird baths clean and topped up.

**PONDS** - Float a small ball in a pond to prevent it freezing over. Create a small pile of stones nearby as shelter for amphibians or create a hibernaculum!  
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hibernaculum-amphibians-and-reptiles>

**INSECTS** - Put bundles of bamboo or sunflower stems in a sunny spot, for insects to hibernate in. If you cut back herbaceous plants, put the material at the back of borders until Spring to avoid disturbing insects in the seedheads and stems

**HEDGEHOGS** - move material to a fresh bonfire site just before lighting. Leave out cat or dog food until it is no longer being taken  
**Compost** - leave heaps undisturbed over Winter as toads and frogs may be hibernating. Leave any long grass now until Spring. Don't disturb log or leaf piles, gather fallen leaves off grass and patios and place under trees and shrubs to provide insect habitat and to be taken into the soil by earthworms.

**BEES** - Honeybees will emerge on sunny days and can get marooned if the sun disappears, pop them on winter flowering honeysuckle or mahonia, or on a sponge soaked in an equal mixture of sugar and water

**MAKE** - Christmas wreaths and decorations from natural material from the garden - have a plastic free Christmas!  
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-have-eco-christmas>

**PLEDGE** - 20% of your garden to wildlife. Share your pictures with us and join the WildEast movement!

[www.Wildeast.co.uk](http://www.Wildeast.co.uk)  
 Instagram #halesworthgreens.  
 #mywildeast



## CAN YOU HELP? GREEN VIEW IS DELIVERED BY RESIDENTS LIKE YOU IN YOUR AREA. IF YOU CAN SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.



Wainford Mill House, Pirnhow Street,  
Bungay, Suffolk NR35 2RU



[halesworthgreens@gmail.com](mailto:halesworthgreens@gmail.com)



[facebook.com/halesworthgreens](https://facebook.com/halesworthgreens)



[www.waveney.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.waveney.greenparty.org.uk)



07717 314171



@WaveneyGreens

