

AUTUMN 2019 GREENVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN PARTY IN
HALESWORTH AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



RECYCLING THE NON-RECYCLABLE IN HALESWORTH

The Halesworth Green Party group is setting up a collection point to contribute to the Edgar Sewter School's TerraCycle recycling effort.

TerraCycle is a network of recycling points that allow people to recycle almost any form of waste material. It's taken off because so many products are packaged in, or made from, materials that can't be disposed of via household collections.

TerraCycle offers free recycling programmes funded by major brands, manufacturers and retailers to help communities collect hard-to-recycle waste which is then repurposed.

By partnering with individual collectors (such as Edgar Sewter) as well as major consumer product companies, municipalities and small businesses, among others, millions of items of waste are diverted from landfills and incinerators each month. A bonus is that Edgar Sewter earns rewards for the school charity depending on how much they collect.

Halesworth Green Party is organising a public collection point that will be held monthly in St Mary's Church Hall, at the left on Steeple End.



You can bring the following items:

- Crisp packets;
- Cake bar and biscuit wrappers;
- Contact lenses;
- Burts Bees cream and cosmetic packaging;
- Toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes.

As well as Edgar Sewter, we are following the lead of The Beccles Green Party, which set up its own monthly TerraCycle collection point in the town's Blyburgate Hall last year for recycling seven different items.

The Beccles event has proved to be hugely popular, Beccles Green councillor Caroline Topping told Halesworth GreenView: *"But our aim isn't simply to recycle otherwise non-recyclable waste. We are making people aware of how much non-recyclable waste is produced by everyday packaging."*

GET YOUR RECYCLING SORTED!

Confused by recycling symbols on packaging? Unsure what can be recycled in your Council Blue Bin? The sticker inside your Blue Bin lid has only limited ticks and crosses. But help is an hand at www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk with it's A-Z guide to recycling, plus useful tips on how to reduce your waste and where to recycle items not allowed in your Blue Bin.

There are 11 public recycling centres in Suffolk. Last year, the average visitor brought 38kg of waste. Over one and a half million vehicles visited the centres bringing 62,000 tonnes of household waste, of which 77% was reused and recycled.

Our nearest recycling centre is in Leiston. It's free for most materials, from batteries to bicycles.

For a comprehensive guide to packaging recycling symbols go to the Recycling Knowledge menu at www.recyclenow.com. There's also a useful postcode recycling locator tool to check your local recycling options.

Take care - recycling symbols can be confusing. In particular, the Green Dot logo on packaging does not necessarily mean it's recyclable - it just signifies the producer makes a financial contribution towards recovery and recycling of packaging in Europe.



OUR FIRST TERRACYCLE RECYCLING EVENT WILL BE HELD AT ST MARY'S HALL
ON NOVEMBER 9, BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 12:00PM

TOWARDS A PLASTIC FREE FUTURE

So much plastic is produced and thrown away that it is entering the fossil record. That means the current period could become known as the Plastic Age, just as early people lived in the Stone Age or Iron Age.

Contamination of the earth and seas has increased exponentially since 1945 to reach crisis levels today. Recent research found that since the 1940s the amount of microscopic plastics in the sediments has doubled about every 15 years. In 2010, the most recent year analysed, the pollution had reached almost 40 particles per 10cm by 10cm patch of ocean floor.

But people are waking up to the threat posed to the natural environment by plastic.

There are now over 600 towns in Britain working toward, or who have gained, Plastic Free status using criteria to reduce single use plastics. The nearest towns to Halesworth are Lowestoft and Felixstowe.

The initiative was set up by Surfers Against Sewage, a respected environmental action group campaigning to reduce plastics from getting into the sea in the first place.

The five objectives to be achieved are:

LOCAL GOVERNANCE: Local councils are in a unique position to lead on reducing single use plastics. This requires the town council to pass a resolution supporting plastic free initiatives.

LOCAL BUSINESSES: At least three single-use plastic items to be removed from at least 12 independently owned local businesses / retailers and replaced with sustainable alternatives.

PLASTIC FREE ALLIES: Gain widespread community support by spreading the Plastic Free message to groups that look after 50% of spaces (e.g. Millennium Green, community centres, halls, places of worship, libraries), 30% of schools and at least one community organisation (e.g. Scouts, Girl Guides, Women's Institute).

ON THE GROUND ACTION: Arrange at least two local community events in a year, for example a litter clearance, or mass unwrap at a supermarket, which are open for all to attend.

STRATEGIC GROUP: Form a local group of stakeholders (which must include a council member and a flagship business employee) who should meet at least twice per year to plan and discuss the progress of Plastic Free.

The benefits of such a scheme include engagement with the community at all levels - schools, business, council leaders and more. It's an achievable goal and extends beyond politics. Maybe it's time for Halesworth Town Council to consider passing a resolution?



EAST SUFFOLK DECLARES CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Last month East Suffolk Council voted unanimously to step up its work on environmental issues to help fight climate change after declaring a climate emergency.

The motion was submitted by the Green Party's Rachel Smith-Lyte, Ward Councillor for Melton, who spoke eloquently in support of the motion and ensured that everyone was on board.

After the meeting, Cllr James Mallinder, East Suffolk's Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment, said: *"Although East Suffolk is a new Council, we do have a good record in this area, under the auspices of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, of working with our communities to fight pollution, cut waste and reduce our carbon footprints. However, this motion recognises the fact that we are facing an extraordinary problem and need to step up a gear to make sure we play our part in the global fight against climate change".*

The Council pledged to work with Suffolk County Council and central Government to try to make Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030.

"I believe this is somewhere where small changes can make big differences. If all our communities - individuals, businesses and town and parish councils - join with us in making these changes, we can make a massive impact on our fragile environment" Cllr James Mallinder said.

We are going to ask Halesworth Council to declare a Climate Emergency. If you would like to add your voice, write to Halesworth Town Council, Waveney Local Office, London Road, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8LW or email clerk@halesworthtowncouncil.org.uk.

SAINSBURY'S TO SLASH PLASTIC USE

The supermarket chain Sainsbury's has committed to halving plastic packaging in its stores by 2025.

In an announcement in September the retail giant said its target includes all branded food packaging, including Sainsbury's brand food packaging.

Sainsbury's currently uses almost 120,000 tonnes of plastic packaging per year and to meet its ambitious goal, it says it will have to switch to alternative materials and bring in refillable packaging at scale. The main areas of focus will be plastic milk bottles, packaging for fruit and vegetables, fizzy drinks, water and fruit juices.

The supermarket is considering bringing in returnable milk bottles or offering a reusable jug with milk in a lightweight plastic pouch.

The lobby group Greenpeace, which has lobbied Sainsbury's over its lack of action on plastics, applauded the move, saying it could have a big knock-on effect for other supermarkets.

"Plastic is a huge global issue and every business should be doing their bit to reduce their impact. Supermarkets in the UK use a massive 800,000 tonnes of plastic packaging a year and while some are trying to reduce their impact - none are doing enough" Greenpeace said.

Greenpeace made a league table of supermarket plastics last year that placed Sainsbury's at the bottom.

"We have another league table coming this year, other supermarkets will have seen this announcement from Sainsbury's and they'll be nervous" it added.

Why not write to Mike Faulkner, who is in charge of governance at East of England Co-Op, and ask what our supermarket is doing to reduce single use plastic?

You can contact him at Wherstead Park, The Street, Wherstead, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 2BJ or email enquiries@eastofengland.coop

SUFFOLK'S POLLUTED RIVERS

Wild swimming in rivers used to be a healthy and inexpensive way of connecting with nature. But it's becoming an increasingly risky pastime as our rivers grow more and more polluted.

Targets for 75% of rivers to be healthy by 2027 are "very unlikely" to be met in England, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) charity recently warned.

This autumn the Environment Agency is carrying out a consultation on the challenges and choices faced in cleaning up water.

It predicts 75% of rivers in England and along the Scottish and Welsh borders will meet EU expectations by 2027, compared with just 14% now.

The European Union (EU) asked nations to grade rivers between poor, moderate, good and high. The EU said governments should aim for rivers to be "good" - meaning relatively unaffected by human activity.

The Water Framework Directive set a target for all rivers to be "good" by 2027; by 2021 the Environment Agency predicts 19% of rivers will be "good", rising to almost 75% by 2027.

In East Anglia just 8% of rivers currently have "good" status. Only six of the 21 rivers in the Suffolk Coastal region are expected to have good status by 2027. The main reason for not achieving good status is attributed to agriculture and rural land management, according to the Environment Agency.

Earlier this summer Dave Tickner, chief freshwater adviser at WWF, told the BBC: *"As we prepare to leave the EU, the UK Government must fast-track flagship legislation to better protect and restore our waterways and invest in effective monitoring and enforcement to ensure water companies and agricultural industry can no longer use our rivers as open sewers."*



HALESWORTH GREENS ARE READY FOR ACTION



Welcome to the first issue of Halesworth GreenView newsletter!

Green Party members living in and around Halesworth have formed a group to raise awareness of the party's policies and their relevance to people living in the Blyth Valley.

We also want to promote and organise environmental initiatives in our neighbourhood – like the Terracycle recycling scheme featured on the front cover.

If you share these aims, and would like to get involved, do get in touch.

REASONS TO VOTE GREEN AT THE NEXT ELECTION

Halesworth's Green Party group will be campaigning in support of the Suffolk Coastal parliamentary Green Party candidate Rachel Smith-Lyte at the next election.

Suffolk Coastal Green Party has a number of local environmental issues that it follows closely.

- It is not in favour of huge new developments and wants to see more affordable, sustainable housing schemes;
- The local party wants to see action over rising levels of air pollution, after measuring nitrogen dioxide levels above European limits in some parts of the county;
- We oppose the new nuclear power station at Sizewell, which will cause irreparable damage to ecological habitats. We believe that the billions being thrown at nuclear should be put into renewables;

You can find out about the national Green Party's policies on its website greenparty.org.uk.

Taking action on global heating is at the top of the party's 10 policy pillars, as well as greening the land and



SUFFOLK COASTAL PARLIAMENTARY
GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE RACHEL
SMITH-LYTE

protecting animal life. The Green Party believes we are better off in Europe and supports a People's Vote.

We envision a country underpinned by well-funded, locally led public services providing care and support for all. The Green Party stands for a fair, sustainable future for all; we believe in the common good.

This means restoring the NHS and supporting disabled people. It means bringing railways and buses into community hands and investing in community renewal.

GET INVOLVED... DO YOU WANT TO HELP DELIVER GREEN PARTY NEWSLETTERS?



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