

AUTUMN 2020 GREENVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN PARTY IN
HALESWORTH AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Green Party
for the common good

BIG THANKS TO HERO HUGGY



Town councillor Annette Dunning has thanked local hero and cycle shop owner Michael Huggins for keeping Halesworth moving, and safe, during this year's Covid-19 lockdown.

When pandemic restrictions came into force in March this year local people flocked to Huggy's bike and car spares shop in the old cattle market, and he soon sold out of cycles, new and old.

"Huggy has done such a wonderful job helping people wanting to get out on their bikes," said Annette. "Without his knowledge, patience, and puncture outfits, a lot of old, and not so old bikes, would have stayed at the back of the garage."

While all non-essential work shut down, bike shops were allowed to remain open, with people working from home and permitted to take one or two walks or cycle rides a day. So the joys of pedalling in the fresh air around the lanes of Halesworth was rediscovered.

"Couples would come in and say we cannot do this or that but we can cycle and walk. And then people started bringing their bikes out from the back of their sheds. Dusty, rusty, but I do what I can. I've still got 4 or 5 to be repaired," he said.

Huggy then realised that face masks seemed hard to come by and expensive in Halesworth, so he got on to his suppliers and stocked them in his shop, charging only the cost price, and helping to stop the Covid-19 virus spreading through the town and beyond.

Huggy has been open in the old cattle market for 24 years, having started with car repairs before adding bikes. Now a planning application has recently been put forward to build a supermarket in the area where his shop and workshop stands. But Huggy isn't worried. He said IF it EVER happens, he'd retire and spend more time on his allotment, and maybe go exploring by bike himself.

TERRACYCLE COLLECTIONS RESUME



Good news for recyclers. Edgar Sewter Primary School will resume monthly TerraCycle collections on Saturday 7th November from 10am to 12pm.

The public will only be able to drop off crisp, nuts and popcorn packets plus empty toothpaste and toothbrush products at the school entrance, where the collectors can work in a Covid safe environment. Empty packets must be clean and ready to box.

Halesworth community TerraCycle monthly collections were suspended in March due to Covid 19 pandemic restrictions on indoor meetings. These collections in conjunction with the school raised over £90 for the forest school project and towards their eco schools work.

TerraCycle offers a large number of recycling options for hard-to-recycle waste from many manufacturers, from crisps and biscuits packets to soap dispensers and contact lenses. Individuals can create an account at www.terracycle.com.

The free collection programmes are funded by conscientious companies and points are earned toward various charities and projects. Collect your packaging, download the free shipping labels and return to be recycled.

facebook.com/terracyclehalesworth

DELIVERED BY LOCAL VOLUNTEERS FOLLOWING COVID-SECURE GUIDELINES

HALESWORTH GREENS WELCOMES ANNETTE DUNNING



Halesworth Greens have welcomed local councillor, campaigner and organiser Annette Dunning to the Green Party.

As an elected independent member of the Halesworth Town Council Annette has held office as Chair, Vice Chair and Chair of Finance. She has previously worked as Parliamentary Caseworker for both present sitting MPs in East Suffolk, gaining a "rich experience of listening to and understanding local needs and helping me signpost constituents to solutions to their issues," she said. "I have found many of my beliefs, especially concerning the environment, align with the Green Party," she said. "I suppose I've been a closet green for years."

Annette currently works for Suffolk Charity, The Rural Coffee Caravan, as a Community Engagement and Rural Energy Officer, helping rural and isolated communities connect to support services to aid their health and wellbeing.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic Annette has helped small businesses in Halesworth by ensuring the community was updated on opening and closing and delivery times.

She supported the Trussell Trust as a volunteer by collecting food from Halesworth and the surrounding villages and distributing to local homes. This was coordinated through St Mary's Church Halesworth where she volunteered with the start-up of the community larder. "Having established a food voucher scheme through Halesworth Town Council I continue to liaise with local businesses to feed those that need fresh produce," she said.

Halesworth Green party members look forward to working with Annette on the many green issues that impact on the lives of residents in the town and nearby villages.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Halesworth residents are looking forward to the results of the re-wilding surveys undertaken by the Town Council and volunteers. First steps were taken this summer with reduced mowing of verges around the town allowing wildflowers to grow. Stopping the use of pesticides is also under consideration.

If you have access to a garden or outdoor space, you can have a direct impact on local wildlife and if we all join in, that will add up to a sizeable benefit to the insects, birds, mammals and soil health to aid fruit and vegetable crops and the wider environment.

Here are some tips:

Make a wildlife pond - Adding water to your garden with a pond, small container pond, or a shallow dish of water containing pebbles and gravel allows insects and birds to drink.

Let hedges grow - Plant a hedge of native trees such as hawthorn, hazel, oak and beech to provide places for birds to nest and roost and natural sources of insect food.

Insect friendly planting - Grow flowers to produce nectar and pollen for bees and all pollinating insects. Aim for a variety of plants in leaf, flower or fruit all year round.

Avoid pesticides - Pesticides kill all insects, not just the pest, so let nature in. Ladybirds eat aphids; parasitic wasps kill caterpillars, sawflies, ants and aphids; ground beetles love slugs and snails, and beer traps or sharp sand around plants deters slugs.

Let the grass grow - Consider mowing just a strip around the margin of lawns, and letting areas grow to provide shelter and food.

Create insect safe spaces - A simple bee hotel from a bundle of hollow bamboo canes tied together and attached to a warm wall, or tied in fruit trees for pest-controlling earwigs.

Go Peat-free - Over 94% of the UK's lowland peat bogs have been destroyed or damaged and a wealth of wildlife has disappeared with them. It takes thousands of years for peat to form. Buy peat-free compost, and plants in peat-free compost too. There are good alternatives now available.

Make your own compost - Open compost bins are wonderful homes for wildlife. A plastic compost bin is fine in a small garden.

Finally – the good news is that gardening is good for your physical health, your mental wellbeing, and can be great for the environment as well. Further ideas:

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/gardeningadvice

www.wildeast.co.uk



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.



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