

1. Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Forum 2017

The Chief Executive of the National Association for AONBs and Professor Jules Pretty are among the speakers at this years forum which will be held at Shrub's Farm, Lamarsh. With discussion on all things related to the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley this is a must for all those with an interest in the area. Further details, including booking information at:

<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/home/news-and-blogs/dedham-vale-aonb-and-stour-valley-forum-2017/>

2. Suffolk Coast & Heaths Beachwatch Update

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Spring Beachwatch Survey took place on 24 April. 15 volunteers attended. 17Kg of rubbish collected. 100m of beach cleaned and surveyed. Finds included a large lump of paraffin wax (to be sent to CEFAS for analysis) plenty of HDPE plastic to be sent to TerraCycle for recycling. Suffolk wide results available later in the year.

3. Volunteering

i) The 2016 Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Coast & Estuary Warden Scheme report, is now available to view. It was a record-breaking year, with a three-fold increase number of wardens submitting reports, the highest since the scheme began in 2009. What a fantastic effort.

<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Get-Involved/Volunteering/2016-Coast-Estuary-Wardens-Report.pdf>

ii) Alona Ochert joined us in April as our new Volunteer Placement for a period of 6 months. She will be supporting with the practical conservation work parties and developing projects.

iii) Volunteers needed to map tranquillity. The AONB team is looking for some additional volunteers to help field test a tranquillity map of the Deben estuary area. Volunteers will receive training and information and be available to travel to the rural environment around the Deben Estuary. If you are interested contact the AONB team on schaonb@suffolk.gov.uk

4. Chairman's Charity walk with Colchester Mayor raises £920.....and counting

The chairman of the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Advisory Committee undertook a 14-mile charity walk with the Mayor of Colchester and others from Bures to Dedham across the AONB. The walk was a fundraiser for 6 local charities. You can still support the very worthy causes by donating at

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/simonamstutz1>

5. Hold the date: Stour and Orwell Forum on 4 July 2017:

If you are interested in attending please hold the morning of 4 July and contacting us on schaonb@suffolk.gov.uk This lively annual event will include speakers on the England Coast Path, Orwell Crossing, Arthur Ransome celebrations, a developing Heritage Lottery Funded Project.....and much more.

6. National Association for AONBs

- The Association has been co-ordinating a coordinating a Twitter blitz that has seen AONBs trending in the national charts for 4 weeks running.
- This years Outstanding Landscapes Week, to celebrate all things AONB, will take place from Sat 16 Sept to Sun 24 Sept 2017. See <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/enjoying-the-area/outstanding-landscapes-week/>

7. From a Ramble with the Romans to a Bushcraft Walk (plus many more)

Find out about events in the Stour Valley organised by members of the Stour Valley Education Network: <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/assets/SVEN/SVEN-events-2017.pdf> (listing on page 2)

8. News to note:

- **Impact on setting of AONB** trumps land supply shortfall: <https://tinyurl.com/m4gdk37>
- **£10,000** still to be allocated from Suffolk Coast & Heaths Sustainable Development Fund
- **Tour of Britain** comes to AONB <http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-six/>
- **27km of bankside features** created/restored in 2016/17 by River Stour Enhancement Project

9. Suffolk Marine Pioneer

A new post, hosted in the AONB team, starts on 31 May. Details to follow.

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www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org