

1. Tony Clover

It is with great sadness to report that Tony Clover has died. For many years Tony chaired the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Joint Advisory Committee and Partnership while serving as a councillor for Essex. The area has lost a great champion for the AONB and a man that will always be remembered for mischievous twinkle in his eye that should not betray the seriousness with which he took his role.

2. River Stour Project nominated for National Award

The River Stour Habitat Enhancement Project, a partnership between the AONB and the Environment Agency, has been nominated for a prestigious national Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management award. See <http://www.cieem.net/award-finalists-2016>

3. Suffolk Walking Festival

Both the AONBs were proud to support walks through some of our finest landscapes during the festival. The walks have drawn people from across the region to see some of the best that the AONBs have to offer. The Mega Challenge Walk, 60 miles in 24 hours along the Suffolk Coast, was supported by the AONB team and raised around £3,000 for the East Anglia Air Ambulance and a further £3,000 for other charities. <https://twitter.com/hashtag/megawalk?src=hash>

4. Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review

Natural England has had to postpone the informal consultation relating to the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB boundary review as we have entered the election period for the referendum. New dates will be advised as soon as we have them.

5. Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Forum

75 delegates packed into the Venture Centre in Lawford for this popular annual event. Volunteers provided excellent back up and delegates heard excellent talks from Essex Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, the AONB team and Suffolk County Council's archaeology department. Following a lively discussion delegates went to look at some of the wildlife wonders of the area or took part in a workshop designed to steer the work of the project team. Partnership chairman, Robert Erith TD DL, pronounced the event a great success.

6. Saxon Shore

The University Campus Suffolk has secured over £50,000 funding to run a project helping visitors to explore the fantastic heritage of the coast. Details at: http://www.ucs.ac.uk/About/News/2016/20160525_Travel-Back-in-Time-With-King-Raedwald--Discovering-Suffolks-Saxon-Shore.aspx

7. Dates for your diary:

21 June Deadline for Sustainable Development Fund grant applications
28-30 June Landscapes for Life conference: Health and Wellbeing
<http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/l4l-conference.html>
6 July Stour and Orwell Forum
http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Projects--Partnerships/Stour--Orwell/SO-Forum-2016-invitation_2.pdf
24 Sept Anglo Saxon Rendlesham Conference
<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham-conference-2016>

8. Essex Wildlife Trust x

EWT opens new centre at the Naze: <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/reserves/naze>

9. Flatford Footpaths

One of several longstanding footpath issues near Flatford has been resolved following the AONB team convening a group of interested organisations. Although some issues are still outstanding work the group is working collaboratively to resolve them.

10. Touching the Tide

The super Landscape Partnership Scheme is drawing to a close. Get to one of their events while you can: <http://www.touchingthetide.org.uk/events/?url=/events>

11. Coast and Estuary Wardens

14 wardens reported a total of 59 issues over the past 12 months which have helped the process of conserving and enhancing one of England's finest landscapes for everyone to enjoy.

Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager, 31 May 2016

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org