

1. An 'Outstanding' Week:

Once a year the AONB Family gathers together in celebration of our outstanding landscapes. We call it 'Outstanding Week' and it is just that. This year it took place from Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th September. The Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB ran events locally to celebrate the nationally designated landscapes. See <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/outstanding-week/>

2. Great British Beach Clean, 15 to 18 Sept. 2017:

A national event organised by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) with events in Suffolk being co-ordinated Suffolk by the AONB team led to some outstanding results:

- At least 21 teams took part along the Suffolk coast and estuaries, involving in the region of 600 volunteers and comprising at least 8 new teams including 1 school group!
- Plastic remains a massive problem, comprising between 70-90% of all the litter found.
- Suffolk events featured in Saturday's EADT Environment supplement, <http://www.eadt.co.uk/ea-life/suffolk-given-a-cleaner-coastline-thanks-to-a-bumper-beach-clean-up-1-5201292>
- The largest event was hosted by Suffolk Wildlife Trust on their Trimley Marshes Reserve, and joined by Orwell District Scouts and BT. 105 volunteers took part, collecting over 700kg of litter from 750m of foreshore, including over 20kg of hard plastics which filled our first TerraCycle crate for recycling. x

3. Grant award:

The Stour Valley Environment Fund panel have recommended approval for a grant of £2,500 for a project run by Eden Rose Coppice Trust to support those living with mobility, health and disability problems, especially young people and those with learning difficulties, long term unemployed and/or NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) on environmental projects.

4. Going Underground: Stage 1 pass for landscape enhancements projects

Three stage 1 approvals for projects to underground low voltage power cables in (Shotley North, Shotley South, and Blythburgh) worth around £1.5m have been agreed following submissions by the AONB team.

5. GRANTS AVAILABLE.....Suffolk Secrets Fund.....

We are looking for outstanding community and conservation projects along the Suffolk Coast that could benefit from financial support from our **Suffolk Secrets** grant fund. The deadline is 15 November. Info at: <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding/suffolk-secrets-aonb-fund/>

6. Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review

The Natural England board have approved the technical assessment undertaken by Natural England staff and have approved progress to public consultation on proposals to review the AONB boundary at the southern end of the AONB. We wait for information of when the consultation will take place.

7. Volunteer placements

We have offered a 6-month volunteer placement to Holly Wickens and Charlotte Norrbom and delighted that both have accepted. They join us with lots of enthusiasm to work in the conservation sector and will be starting on 3rd October. Both are planning on doing 3 days a week. A real win win in terms of support for purposes of the AONBs and career development for individuals.

8. Planning

- The AONB team was interested in an appeal decision at Steeple Bumpstead that appeared to place great weight on the AONB and Stour Valley management plan when dismissing an appeal for a site outside the nationally designated landscape.
- The AONB team felt the need to object to the Konings application at Stoke by Nayland. Contact us if you wish to see our response that focused on impacts to the outstanding landscape,
- The AONB is making comments on the on the Babergh/Mid Suffolk and Waveney Local Plan consultations to seek to ensure the purposes of AONB are recognised

9. Volunteers

Terrific work in Kedington, Nayland, Bulmer and Spouses Vale complex.

10. Professor Tom Williamson lecture on trees in the landscape 6 October at 6.30pm

Chance to see terrific speaker details from sps@suffolksociety.org

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www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org