

1. River Stour Enhancement Project awarded £35,000

The AONB team is delighted to have been awarded significant funds to continue the fantastic project to enhance the environmental condition of the river Stour and its tributaries. The funding, from the Environment Agency, will complement the recent £72,000 Water Environment Grant award. The funds will enable direct action to enhance the Water Framework Directive condition of the river and its tributaries, control non-native invasive plant species and improve wildlife habitat.

2. Beachwatch: Suffolk Results 2018 are in.

Litter surveys were carried out on **32 beaches** covering 6.5km. **1,323 volunteers** took part. **1,204 plastic caps** and lids were collected. **20,843 items of litter** were removed. 77% of litter collected was plastic or polystyrene. The volunteers have done absolutely outstanding work and everyone that enjoys the natural environment should thank them for their fabulous effort.

3. Grants available in the Dedham Vale AONB

A second round of applications is now open for the Sustainable Development Fund, with a deadline of Sunday 30 June 2019. £10,000 is available. Details of criteria and the application forms on the website: www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/grants-and-funding/sustainable-development-fund

4. Landscapes for Life 2019 National Conference, University of Essex, 9-11 July

Early bird discounts end on 10 June for this national conference developed with the local AONB team. National speakers from Government, DEFRA, The Review into Designated Landscapes, Climate Crisis, Nature Conservation, Health and Wellbeing and the Importance of Natural Beauty. Details at <https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/events/l4l-conference-2019/introduction>

Nominations for 'Bowland Award' is open for projects that demonstrate best practice or outstanding contribution to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is awarded annually at conference. Further details <https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/get-involved/bowland-award>

5. Free the Trees

The local AONB team are looking for sites within the nationally designated landscapes and their associated project areas where there are tree tubes that need removing from conservation tree planting. While no guarantee of support we would welcome information on where these plastic tubes are. Get in touch if you think you know of a site where the tubes have served their useful purpose and need removing.

6. Stour Valley Path Ultra-Marathon

With 140 runners for the 100k race and 150 runners for the 50k race already booked the Stour Valley Path will be a busy place on 10 August. An outstanding event professionally organised that brings people from around the world to enjoy the area and support local businesses. See <https://www.svp100.co.uk/>

7. LEADER re opens grant window (For a very limited period...Expressions of Interest by 17 June)

Last chance for farms and rural businesses to bid for £200,000 of EU grant cash. Rural business, farmers and community groups across Suffolk and North Essex that have capital projects in advanced planning stages are encouraged to discuss their plans with the LEADER grants team at Suffolk County Council. So, far, nearly £2.6m has been committed to new projects across the region with the aim of creating new jobs, bringing more tourists to the area, supporting farm and forestry productivity, encouraging culture and heritage activity, providing rural services and growing the rural economy. Info at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business-jobs-and-careers/funding-for-businesses-charities-and-projects/rural-development-funding/information-about-leader/>

8. Green Essex Strategy Consultation

Take part at: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/green-essex-strategy/>

9. Nature's Value Photographic Competition

All winning and highly commended entries will be exhibited In 8-12 June at Longshed, Tide Mill Lane, Woodbridge Entry is free:

10. Dangerous and Invasive Plants Removed...

10,590 giant hogweed plants this year so far from the Stour Catchment.

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www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org

www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org