Report from the Green and Environment Group, March 2024

Star count event

We reluctantly cancelled the Star Count event planned for the half term week in February as we needed clear skies and dry ground and had neither.
We hope to reschedule for the autumn in combination with a dark night walk.

Dark Skies.

Doug Owen has enquired about procuring Dark Skies signs from a company called 'Sign of the Times'.
Our proposal is as follows:

Signs – Wording & Size

Wording, size etc as per Darsham sign (see pic): 90mm high Kindersley letters; with channelling to rear and clips to fix to existing 76mm diameter posts
To fit to existing posts of current village entrance signs.
The plate size is approximately 1600 x 150mm.



Number and Location

A total of 2 signs: 1 for attaching to the Somerleyton sign westbound from Oulton Broad towards Somerleyton) and 1 for the Herringfleet sign (heading eastbound from St Olaves towards Herringfleet). This combination captures traffic travelling along B1074 in both directions.

Somerleyton - As there is only 1 existing Somerleyton entrance sign, on the B1074 (Blundeston Road), seen when heading West from Oulton Broad to Somerleyton. That sign already has 'Birthplace of the Hovercraft' under 'Somerleyton', and 'A Dark Skies Village' would go beneath that.

Herringfleet – using the Eastbound sign on B1074 (Herringfleet Road) near St Olaves captures traffic coming from St Olaves.
We see little additional value to be gained from adding a further westbound sign to the other Herringfleet sign (opposite Somerleyton Farms entrance).

Ashby does not have any village entrance signs, and a standalone sign or attaching it to the heritage Ashby village sign would be inappropriate.

Cost

1 No. die press sign (as per Darsham)
A DARK SKIES VILLAGE, each at …£115.10
Plus carriage (estimate at £25.00) and VAT.
Lead time is about 4 weeks.

So, the total cost for 2 signs would be £280 + VAT

Permissions

Highways did not offer a view on this, so no one would appear to own it. We could always remove them if there were valid objections raised in the future.

Fitting

Would be straightforward for a couple of us to fit the signs with a few tools and taking safety precautions e.g. wearing high vis jackets, parking safely off road nearby, etc.

We are applying to the Parish Council for funding for this project.

Future plans:

- Healthy nature walks for adults and children, jointly with Somerleyton Together.
- Plant sale and building of bug hotels.
- 'A Load of Rubbish' - a talk by Steve Tull on plans to reform kerbside collection and responsibility, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regs.
  This talk is planned for the Annual Parish meeting on the 16th of May.

Jenni Livingstone, Doug Owen, Lindsay Martin, Steve Tull and Gerda Gibbs