Report from the Green and Environment Group, September 202

Dark Skies events

The Green Group are provisionally planning a Dark Skies Bat Walk from Ashby Village sign to Ashby Church on Friday the 11th October, where hot drinks and juice will be served before the walk continues back to the Village sign.
This event is suitable for families with children over the age of 5 years and we have engaged with Somerleyton School regarding possible participation by the school families.
The walk will focus on bats using bat detectors and other nocturnal wildlife.
The event will be weather dependent and up-to-date information will be announced on Somerleyton Together and social media.
We will inform potential participants that there are no toilet facilities and that car sharing is advisable as parking is limited.
The Green and Environment Group are asking The Parish Council for funding for the printing of posters and leaflets plus other possible expenses up to £100 from the Social Fund.

Relating to Dark Skies, we are also planning to run a Star Count Event in the February half term 2025, at Somerleyton Church. The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) help co-ordinate these events across the country. This will be particularly targeted at families with children. Likewise, this event will be weather dependent.

Recycling

Recycling of the Tetra Paks continues with the help of a great team of volunteers.
We have learnt from Steve Tull that the new rules regarding kerbside collection and recyclability that laminated packaging formats (such as Tetra Paks) render them mostly as non-recyclable and that manufacturers of these types will be typically taxed the highest across all sectors of all packaging formats. This will form a good incentive for this format to be reviewed by manufacturers and retailers and ultimately, we may see a reduction in their use.

Narcissi Bulbs

We have not heard from ESC ‘s first ‘East Suffolk Blooms’ scheme and therefore assume that we have not been successful this year.

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