

Members' news from businesses in Essex

WILD

BUSINESS

WINTER 2021

Working TOGETHER

to address the climate crisis

PAGE 3



Investor in
Wildlife
Working together to
make **business wilder**



Essex
Wildlife Trust

COMMENT

During the last 18 months the corporate team have been putting together the new Investors in Wildlife Scheme along with a face lift to the Businesswise magazine, now to be WILD Business.

The Scheme has a new look and feel all focused around green initiatives and sustainability, and is right on time, as we know environmental issues are the biggest material consideration for organisations in relation to responsible business practice.

In this issue you will see some amazing companies that have joined us on this journey to becoming greener and more sustainable, along with ourselves in attaining Green Dragon accreditation. So, if your business is interested in moving to a greener environment please get in touch.

We would like to thank all our members for the continued support of the Trust and the contribution you make to protecting wildlife in Essex.

Karen Dixon

Corporate Coordinator



MWM Spartan 4x4 Electric Vehicle

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Foreword

I started working for the **Essex Wildlife Trust** in March 2021. It has been a strange time to start a new job with most of my time spent working from home.

However, it has highlighted that with innovation and collaboration, we can still learn, grow and achieve. I think that's what I find so exciting about working for the Trust, the resilience of staff and drive for positive change is the perfect foundation for environmental improvement.

I believe that the recent pandemic has given people the opportunity to slow down and take time to enjoy nature. Additionally, the conversation around sustainability is growing.

At Essex Wildlife Trust we are currently focusing on embedding a culture of innovation and sustainability by:

- Understanding our impact on the environment
- Calculating our carbon footprint and actively reducing it
- Making positive and impactful changes
- Sharing our knowledge whilst being inspired by others
- Embracing change in a positive and forward thinking way

This year the Trust has achieved Green Dragon sustainability accreditation.

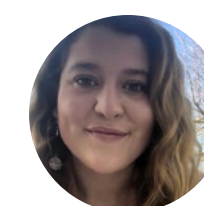
The Trust has been awarded Level one, which evidences a commitment to sustainability and environmental improvement. This facilitated an ambitious improvement plan which will drive a reduction in environmental impacts of waste, electricity and travel, thereby reducing our carbon footprint.

Our CEO, Dr Andrew Impey, said: "Green Dragon accreditation embeds sustainability and enables innovation across the Trust. By role-modelling our own commitment to change, we hope to be able to demonstrate to our members, stakeholders, corporate partners and the public that day-to-day effectiveness does not have to suffer at the hands of change"

The next steps see us beginning to map out Green Dragon Level 2. This includes the initial build of an extensive Environment Management System and we look forward to sharing this journey as we work towards the 5 different levels of the accreditation.

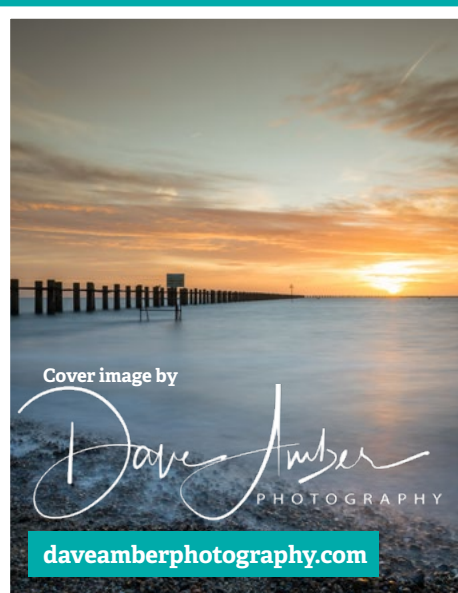
And Finally...

It has been so inspiring to talk to many of you over the last few months and get the opportunity to engage in conversations around sustainability. We must remember that sustainability is not a competition and that we have to work together to address the climate crisis. Let's support each other by sharing, engaging and challenging ideas for improvement.



Keziah Rookes

Sustainability Officer



Cover image by

Dave Amber
PHOTOGRAPHY

daveamberphotography.com

Watching (not disturbing)

Wildlife

is the key

Gardenature is delighted to be a 'Partnership Member' of Essex Wildlife Trust. We have been manufacturing and distributing wildlife products in Essex since 2004 and are very proud to associate ourselves with an organisation that not only shares our values but promotes them so expertly within our community.

Gardenature's signature product is their bird box camera system, enabling families to be able to see inside the nest boxes they place in their garden. Being able to watch the birds checking out the box ahead of the nesting season, build their nest, lay their eggs and then watch the chicks hatching and being fed before finally leaving the nest to begin their life in the outside world has proved tremendously popular for families and a great way to get children involved with the nature/wildlife in their garden.

Their specially designed boxes, with opaque windows to allow light into the boxes during daylight hours and a special compartment for the wiring to be secured away from the nest box, ensures that the birds are not disturbed in any way. After all, watching nature shouldn't mean disrupting it.



As a pioneer in developing a bird box camera system nearly two decades ago, they have continually updated their product as technology has changed the way people want to watch their nesting birds. For years their camera systems would connect directly into television sets, and while they do still offer this product, their most popular system, by far, is their new Wi-Fi camera system which streams the images directly to the cloud. This enables not only the family to watch and record the nesting birds, but also for wider family and friends to download their free app and be able to enjoy the camera feed.

Carly Mitchell, Customer Service Manager at Gardenature commented "See the range at gardenature.co.uk and use the EWT exclusive promotional code EWT2021 for a free bird feeder – worth up to £24.99 – with every bird box with camera system purchased."

gardenature.co.uk

gardenature
GET CLOSER TO WILDLIFE

ACTION FOR INSECTS



When **Essex Wildlife Trust** issued a Press Release in November 2019: 'Urgent action for insects needed - New report reveals true impacts of invertebrate apocalypse' around The Wildlife Trusts issuing a report, Insect Declines and Why They Matter, this set off a whole raft of initiatives to monitor and try and reverse that decline. Our Investors in Wildlife responded to two of these projects with financial and active participation to support their roll-out.

The Big Wild Seed Sow

Back in August 2021 we designed and distributed 5,000 seed packets free of charge that had the perfect native wildflower seed. The seed mix had been tested at five of our Nature Discovery Centres and resulted in successful blooms throughout the summer.

The idea was to invite people to plant native wildflowers in their gardens. This will be connecting areas of vital habitat for insects allowing them to fly, jump and flutter from wildflower to wildflower across the entire county. This project was also kindly funded by Investor in Wildlife Corporate Member **New Holland Agriculture**.

CNH Industrial, one of Essex Wildlife Trust's corporate Investors in Wildlife have sponsored the project launch, allowing 5,000 seed packets to be handed out of the Trust's Nature Discovery Centres free of charge.

A spokesperson from CNH Industrial, says: "CNH industrial NV is committed to sustainability and as such, welcomed the opportunity to help Essex Wildlife Trust with their Actions for Insects project, designed to encourage an increase in the insect population within the county. We are supporting the Big Wild Seed Sow campaign and look forward to working closely with the Trust on future projects."

New Holland



Bugs Matter

Back in May 2021 a new bug splatter app was launched to reveal more about insect populations. Drivers and passengers were asked to count bugs squashed on registration plates after a journey.

Essex, Kent, Gwent and Somerset Wildlife Trusts, with insect charity Buglife were involved. The user-friendly Bugs Matter app brings meaningful citizen science to the pockets of thousands and helps wildlife organisations better understand how our insect populations are faring. In Essex this project was kindly funded by Investor in Wildlife Corporate Member **Ground Control**.

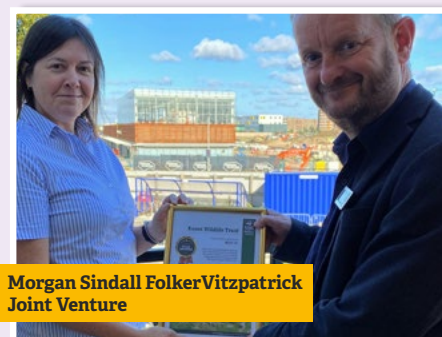
Dan Firth, Sustainability Program Manager said "Ground Control is committed to caring for the environment and it's great to be able to support Essex Wildlife Trust's Actions for Insects project and sponsor the bug counting app. The project is designed to encourage an increase in the insect population within the county and using the app to get good data about changes in population will make an important contribution to this."



Essex Wildlife Trust would like to thank both businesses for their support and helping us achieve a wilder Essex. Inspiring people to have a lifelong love of nature.



The Big Green Internet Project



Upgraded MEMBERS



Join us as an Investor in Wildlife



Karen Dixon
Corporate Coordinator

karend@essexwt.org.uk

Grant Maton
Corporate Communications Officer

grantm@essexwt.org.uk

Golf day ²⁰²¹

COVID-19 and the last-minute changes!

We would especially like to thank all the teams that supported us this year. After having to cancel the June 2020 Golf Day we were very grateful that most of our regular and some new ones signed-up for 2021.



VITA & Guardian Display
Stableford with 87 points



Utilize PLC
Four Corners

But at the last minute the government extended the COVID-19 restrictions, which meant we could only put on an event outside adhering to socially distancing rules. The evening meal was cancelled, and the usual shot gun start had to be staggered. Despite this the day was a great success and the weather was kind to us. Many of the teams waived their refund on the evening meal. The raffle and auction were moved to the daytime and again was well supported. This meant that the event raised around £6,000 for nature conservation and a wilder Essex. A BIG thank you from Essex Wildlife Trust for this much needed support

Congratulations to the 5 golfers who Beat the Pro on 5th hole, receiving complimentary vouchers for a two ball at a later date.

Special thanks to: Mike Cable, Scorer, who gives his time freely every year to support this event.

Additionally thanks to our nine hole sponsors: Affinity Group, Brown & Carroll (London) Ltd, Cedar Hall Clinic, GN Surveys, Javalin Network Services, Optimal Minds Ltd, Waldegraves Holiday Park, VITA Golf & Business Networking Group and Hygiene Contracts Ltd.

Golf Day 2022: make a date for your diary now
Tuesday 21st June 2022 at The Warren Golf Club

Auction prizes

Refurbished Dell Latitude E5480 laptop
EOL IT Services

TaylorMade Milled Grind 2
60-degree Wedge
VITA Golf Networking Group

Hamper
Wilkin & Sons Ltd

4 Ball
The Warren Golf Club

Rochford Hundred Golf Club

Stoke by Nayland Golf Club

Five Lakes Golf Club

Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club

Large black framed photo of Southend-on-Sea's iconic Pier
Dave Amber Photography

Limited Edition Print Red Kite by
Kenneth Smith
Strix Editions

Lathe-carved Wooden Bowl
Dennis Carter

Mini-pin, 10 litres of beer, which is 17 pints
Leigh-on-Sea Brewery



MDM Timber
Texas Scramble Holes
1 to 9 with 25 points

Thanks to the following teams for joining us on the day

Accuro Environmental Ltd
Affinity Group Ltd
Brown & Carroll (London) Ltd
EOL IT Services & EWT
CEO Andrew Impey
Ellisons Solicitors
European Refrigeration Ltd
GN Surveys Ltd
Guardian Display & VITA Golf Networking
Hygiene Contracts
Javalin Network Services
MDM Timber Ltd
Optimal Minds Ltd
Swallow Aquatics
The Cedar Hall Clinic
Utilize PLC
Waldegraves Holiday Park
WES Welding Supplies
Wilkin & Sons

Galloper Wind Farm

Essex Wildlife Trust would like to say a special thank you for the kind donation of £3,000 towards the Barn Owl Box Project in the Tendring area, plus additional re-wilding to enhance nature across the coastal landscape. We also look forward to hosting some of your staff on a volunteering day, to help plant some of these habitats and see where the Barn Owl boxes have been located.

Henderson & Taylor (Public Works) Ltd

Henderson & Taylor have kindly been a Gold Investor in Wildlife since 2009. Recently they decided to hold an annual garden party for the staff and their families, which also included a raffle.

They chose Essex Wildlife Trust as one of the two charities to benefit equally from the money raised at the event. We would like to say a BIG thank you to everybody that helped raise a fantastic £1,000, which will go towards nature conservation and a Wilder Essex. Matthew Lynch commented "It was a pleasure to meet up with Grant Maton yesterday to present a cheque for £1000 to Essex Wildlife Trust which was raised at our summer garden party. The Thameside Nature Park was the perfect place for the presentation, and we couldn't have asked for better weather either!"



High Chelmer Shopping Centre

Essex Wildlife Trust would like to say thank you to High Chelmer Shopping Centre for sponsoring our 2021 Photography Competition.



Mick McDonagh, Centre Manager at High Chelmer said: "We are delighted to be the main sponsors of this year's photography competition and to continue our support for the county's leading conservation charity."

As a centre, we pride ourselves on working with both local and national charities on a

wide range of activities. We hope that by partnering with Essex Wildlife Trust, we will not only raise awareness of their valuable work but also encourage people of all ages to explore what nature has to offer, including the many health and wellbeing benefits. It is a competition for everyone to enjoy and the 'Young Blood' category supports photographers as young as 6! We very much look forward to supporting the local talent and reviewing the photography submissions which we plan to proudly display in the centre next year."

Fig11 Fintech Solutions donation

During lockdown, when the Corporate Team were working from home and largely not able to get out and meet businesses, it was a pleasant experience to receive this message "My name is Lewis Hammond and I work for a company called Fig11, based in Rayleigh, Essex. Each month we select a charity to make a donation of £500 and I am delighted to advise Essex Wildlife Trust has been selected to receive June's donations." We would very much like to thank all the staff at Fig11 that were involved in choosing Essex Wildlife Trust for this donation, to help protect wildlife and inspire a lifelong love of nature.





The Big Bear

In 2010 **Mark Hughes** and his wife **Kathryn Hughes** were given ten cider apple tree saplings. These were planted in a three acre field opposite their property. This small start led to them creating a full orchard with four hundred and fifty apple trees of twenty two varieties, and thirteen hundred native hedging plants to surround the site.

Mark loves craft cider, and what started as a hobby swiftly became an obsession! An old gravel pit was bought and turned into a second orchard with a further three thousand trees planted. The soil was improved by the addition of tonnes of organic matter and went from having no worms, to having a thriving worm population.

The trees began to fruit and Essex Cider was lovingly made in the barn in the orchard. Juice from the apples is fermented, blended and packaged on site.



A brand was created, named after Mark who is fondly known as **'The Big Bear'**. The name of their ciders come from the nickname for gravel, which is known colloquially as "Essex Gold".

Sustainability has always been important to the company and cider is the most sustainable of all alcoholic drinks. The Big Bear Cider is now available in environmentally responsible cans and is canned and packaged on site. Apple to Can!

The Big Bear Cider recognises the importance of biodiversity and feels that working alongside Essex Wildlife is a brilliant fit. Sustainability, particularly nature conservation, protecting wildlife and encouraging biodiversity, is one of the biggest issues our generation faces and one that The Big Bear is tackling head on. The Big Bear Cider Mill believe that working with Essex Wildlife Trust to protect and improve the habitats of animals and birds is the right thing to do, both morally and for the future of their business.

The Big Bear apple trees are grown without using pesticides: they deal with any unwanted insects using natural, traditional methods. Birds and ladybirds love aphids!

The result – Delicious Essex Cider – Naturally sustainable



01376 526066

thebigbearcider.co.uk



Investor in
Wildlife
Working together to
make **business wilder**



Essex
Wildlife Trust

Love **Essex** • Love **Wildlife**

GLOBAL warming and its downstream impacts are no longer eventualities lingering vaguely off in the future. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), we need to hit net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in order to escape the most deleterious effects, but I don't need to enumerate a series of statistics or point to extreme weather events to underscore the fact the climate crisis is here and now.

The challenge of reversing global warming is once again an opportunity for the human race to summon its ingenuity and collective will. If the past 18 months proves anything, it is that humanity can change its behaviour and that systematic inertia is not fixed. But we need a transcendent call-to-action that transforms awareness into agency.

Time for change

by Karen Dixon, Corporate Coordinator at Essex Wildlife Trust

The newly rebranded Investor in Wildlife scheme provides a new vision to becoming greener and more sustainable – and it's right on time. We know investing in wildlife is good for business. The natural environment is the foundation of our economy. Supporting local wildlife is a great way to showcase commitment and demonstrate ethical credentials. If there was ever a time to put nature first, now is the time. Our climate is in crisis and nature needs our help. Being green is an increasingly determining factor in the performance and success of business.

We recently undertook a review of the scheme, and as a result it has a new and updated look and feel, to demonstrate a greener and more sustainable approach to protecting wildlife and inspiring a lifelong love of nature.

To further our strategic aims and meet our goals on sustainability, the new scheme will comprise three levels of membership plus a bespoke partnership offering.

Benefits at each level have been reviewed too, to reduce the pressure on the environment and make the financial contribution work harder for wildlife. The new partnership level is for organisations that want to be part of real change for wildlife in Essex and will offer a unique partnership opportunity. The offering to the partner is entirely bespoke, depending on the needs of the business. The new entry level will be Silver, followed by Gold then Platinum. With more than 400 partners on board, we are hoping to inspire them on a journey of collective action with a process to becoming greener and more connected to the natural world with the natural capital that this provides.

Ground Control, a Silver corporate member, is leading the way. In May 2020, it launched the Evergreen Fund, dedicating 5% of its annual net profits to a £5million Impact Venture Fund dedicated to environmental initiatives and carbon sequestration. The fund is to seed growth capital to

selected start-ups and social enterprises. They believe businesses can be a force for good and a collective ability to affect positive change together. So, when people make change around us, they influence others to change and act. When taking action, it changes our beliefs.

When honeybee scouts find a bounty of blooms and nectar, they return to the hive, where they do a symbolic waggle dance at the entrance of the hive. The dance signals the precise direction and distance to the flowering plants and trees. The more vigorous the waggle, the richer the source of nectar. Once worker bees have seen the dance, they have the necessary information and fly straight to the source.

It is time for business and humanity to create waggle dances unique to their knowledge, place, and determination. Working together real change can happen. If you are interested in becoming an Investor in Wildlife, please get in touch. Karend@essexwt.org.uk or grantm@essexwt.org.uk.

Why become an Investor in Wildlife?

Investing in wildlife is **good for business**. The natural environment is the foundation of our economy. Supporting local wildlife is a great way to showcase your commitment and demonstrate your ethical credentials.

As the county's leading conservation charity, we are a great business partner. We can promote your organisation, support you to become even greener, and offer you a range of inspiring membership benefits.

If there was ever a time to **put nature first**, now is the time. Our climate is in crisis and nature needs our help. Being green is an increasingly determining factor in the performance and success of businesses. Your commitment will pay dividends.

Wild work days

Promoting team communication and providing advice on how to become a healthier, happier and more wildlife-friendly workplace.

Wellness in nature

Helping to increase productivity amongst staff.

Brand enhancement

Enhancing reputation in the community.

Building business partnerships

Connecting brands together and protecting profits through a shared wildlife conservation vision.

Environmental awareness

Implementing environmental actions in the workplace.



S-Tec is a new Silver corporate member, and is one of the UK's leading electrical contractors, delivering cutting edge electrical and renewable energy solutions to commercial and private sector clients.

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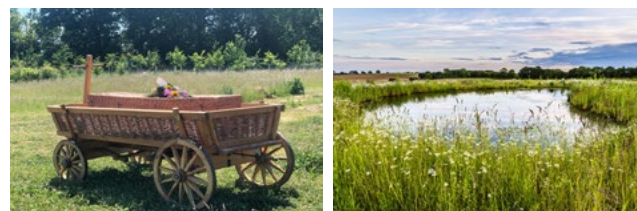
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BECOME A CORPORATE MEMBER TODAY

"We are extremely proud to align our business with the Essex Wildlife Trust, a vital charity which does so much to maintain, protect and rebuild the beautiful county in which we live. Alongside our employees, we hope our commitment to conservation will motivate our stakeholders, partners, suppliers and even our customers to think about their efforts to maintain our beautiful local environment and ask, can I do more?"

- Monthind Director,
Simon Biggs

"We are proud to further our support of local environmental initiatives by partnering with the Essex Wildlife Trust, which is known throughout the region for its work to raise awareness of wildlife and wild places and to actively protect them through a huge range of events and campaigns."

**- Galloper
Wind Farm's
O&M Manager,**
Sean Chenery

"As a local company we wanted to support the work of EWT in preserving the fantastic habitats and variety of wildlife species we have on our doorstep. Just like a business, these areas need careful management which requires sustained investment, so by becoming a Gold Corporate member, we are contributing towards safeguarding these reserves for the community to enjoy."

**TWO Cleaning &
Maintenance MD**
Barry Osborn



**Essex
Wildlife Trust**

Essex Wildlife Trust
Abbotts Hall
Nature Discovery Park
Great Wigborough
Colchester
Essex CO5 7RZ

E corporate@essexwt.org.uk
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Business Time
in Essex

Investor in Wildlife 4-page
insert kindly produced by
Peter Richardson at
Business Time

Green ROBINS

Professional Garden Services

Green Robins is a professional garden services company based in South-East Essex. Directors, Marcus and George are childhood friends who met at 11 years old and have since shared a passion for both sports and nature.

Since leaving school they have travelled widely to South-East Asia, Australia and North and South America to explore different cultures and terrains. These experiences made them realise the importance of wildlife and nature conservation and would be the beginning of creating a business where they could offer professional garden and tree services whilst actively educating and encouraging homeowners to make wildlife friendly choices.

To achieve this, Green Robins ensured the core elements of their garden designs for clients include native trees, shrubs, perennial plants, ponds and grass with hard landscaping elements incorporated where necessary.



They choose their plant additions for herbaceous borders specifically for their proven benefits to pollinators and not just for their aesthetics. They use native trees and shrubs grown in Britain for their benefits to local wildlife and non native species and to also help prevent foreign diseases from spreading.

Green Robins believes what sets them apart to other horticultural and arboricultural companies is not only their professionalism but also their passion to increase homeowners sense of responsibility when making changes to their garden and to think of the benefits and consequences to nature as well as themselves. They believe many companies in the industry lack such conscience when making money from the removal of trees, even on occasion losing out to less scrupulous competitors due to their own environmental consciousness.

Green Robins' mission is to increase natural habitats, food sources and shelter to increase successful breeding of British wildlife whilst carrying out professional garden and tree services within the domestic and commercial sectors.

info@greenrobins.co.uk

07340472041

@GreenRobinsUK





TECH-ENABLED SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

GRIDSERVE® is a tech-enabled international sustainable energy business which develops, builds, owns and operates 'sun-to-wheel' hybrid solar, electric vehicle charging, and battery storage power infrastructure.

They are transforming the charging experience and accelerating the transition to electric vehicles with the GRIDSERVE Electric Highway, their UK-wide EV Charging network for everyone. This includes GRIDSERVE's pioneering Electric Forecourts® and Electric Hubs, catalysed by their Electric Vehicle Solutions. The GRIDSERVE Electric Highway network delivers the fastest and most reliable charging of all types of electric vehicles, with net zero carbon sustainable energy and is designed to deliver a fantastic customer experience.

GRIDSERVE's team have been responsible for the development, construction and operation of more than a gigawatt of solar energy and energy storage solutions, including connecting over 100 utility-scale sustainable energy projects to the UK grid. Central to the ethos of the company is the recognition that they are the first generation to be aware of the impact we are having on our planet, and the last with a chance to do anything about it. With this in mind, they seek to maximise the biodiversity value of all the sites they operate, whether they be solar farms or



Electric Forecourts®. Their sites form what they call the Nature Sanctuary Network, each one landscaped to give the most ecologically appropriate gains for wildlife. After all, there is no point in saving the planet if, along the way, we lose the species we share it with.

GRIDSERVE commented "We are delighted, therefore, to be supporting the work of the Essex Wildlife Trust, particularly as our flagship Electric Forecourt® is located at Great Notley, on the edge of Braintree. As well as offering the latest in high-speed vehicle charging solutions, our Electric Forecourt® provides an ideal event venue, with meeting pods that can be booked by the hour, state of the art AV facilities and fast free Wi-Fi. We look forward to welcoming Essex Wildlife Trust and our other partner organisations to Braintree very soon."

"And for the future? We are working with the Essex Wildlife Trust to provide electric vehicle charging facilities at some of their key visitor centres and nature reserves, and we hope to be able to transition their vehicle fleet to EVs through our Electric Vehicle leasing team. We look forward to a long and productive relationship with the Trust, doing everything we can together to move the needle on climate change."

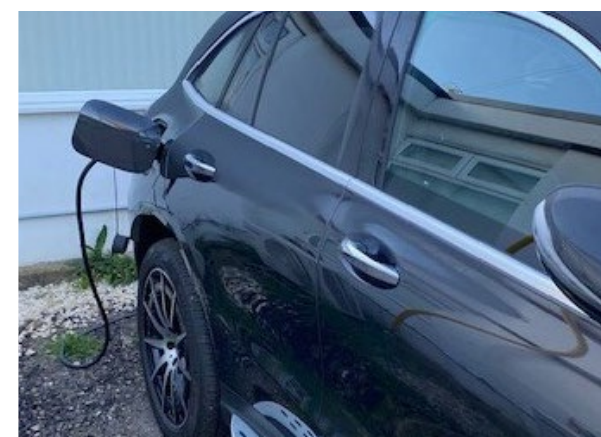
gridserve.com

VANITORIALS We are making the change. ARE YOU?

Recent investment into 3 new electric company vehicles, with more to follow, and two EV charging points are helping towards an ongoing commitment to reducing CO₂e.

Dave Clark, Managing Director told us: "Ongoing improvements in charging infrastructure and extended battery performance make range anxiety less of an issue for the team."

"As a proud supporter of the Planet Mark Certification we are always on the look out to see how and where we can improve our eco credentials to help make a brighter and more sustainable future. Planet Mark certification demonstrates our commitment to reducing our CO₂e and all environmental impacts."



Chris Smart, Field Sales Executive said: "I was excited but also concerned when I first got an Electric Vehicle, as someone who visits customer sites every day I need to have a vehicle that can just get me where I need to be and I'm pleased that my experience has been really positive."

The Vanitorials team work closely with customers to help them make positive changes within their own buying choices to reduce their impact on the environment. With so many new innovations available there is a wide choice to suit all budgets and industries.

Paul Upton, Senior Sales Executive confirmed: "The world is definitely changing, and we see environmentally positive vegetable-based products and probiotic cleaners replacing 90% of traditional commercial cleaning products within 5 years, as more and more companies embrace the concept of the Circular Economy."

"As an example of positive change the latest release of plant based biological cleaning agents, the Jangro ntrl range, is supplied in bottles made from post consumer recycled plastics (which are recyclable) and work as effectively as any petro-chemical cleaners with an 85% reduction in CO₂e."

With so many options available the Vanitorials team can help advise you on more sustainable choices.

vanitorials.co.uk



Wild

WORKDAYS

A Natural Health Service

Seeing birds near our homes, walking through green spaces filled with wildflowers, and along rivers that are clean and clear reduces stress, fatigue, anxiety, and depression.

In 2019, Leeds Beckett university undertook a social return on investments analysis of Wildlife Trust programmes. They found that targeted programmes designed for people with a health or social need, showed a return of £6.88 for every £1 invested. This value was generated from health gains such as improved mental wellbeing. For those attending general wild workdays, the value is even higher with a return of £8.50 for every £1 invested. This research showed a range of benefits, such as increased feelings of positivity and levels of physical activity.

As we came out of lockdown more businesses showed an interest in getting their staff outdoors and away from a screen, as well as catching up in person having been based working from home. With projects like Tree



Guard Recycling Scheme at Abberton Nature Reserve run by Katie Goldsbrough, this proved to be popular and taken up by London based companies as well as Essex County Council, the element of doing good for the environment was the key driver, while being out in nature improving mental well-being. Utilize PLC, Platinum corporate members, put two working groups together at our Langdon Nature Reserve, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. As well as the task in hand, the volunteers learn about our work, and we take them on a journey of becoming wilder and most importantly inspired to appreciate the benefits nature has to offer. What could be a better win – win outcome, enabling those to engage with nature and feel a sense of well-being and empowerment all while being in the outdoors.

If you're interested in being wild at work or developing a wild work place, get in touch. We would love to hear from you.



THINKING Outside

With over 40 years combined experience of coaching, staff and organisational development, Sara Corcoran and Sophie Lovejoy have increasingly drawn on the growing research which shows the business benefits of working outside. With nature for inspiration, **Thinking Outside** can help support team performance in an innovative (and covid-safe) way.


You might be continuing to work remotely, in your usual pre-covid workspace or transitioning between the two. Even the strongest, most resilient teams need to reconnect from time to time. Thinking Outside can help your team sustain strong working relationships and support both wellbeing and performance. We all know that a good walk is an excellent way to think problems through. A growing body of research shows that the act of movement, however gentle, enhances the blood flow through the brain - critical for learning and memory. Taking our thinking outside offers us an environment of awe, invites playfulness, develops our ability to deal with ambiguity and connects us to our own wildness. It encourages a mindset of adventure, creativity,

curiosity and exploration. The impact of working this way for both teams and individuals is profound compared to traditional development. Perhaps the next time you're outside you might reflect on what has helped you and your team be courageous in the face of the challenges of the past 20 months?

"Partnering with Essex Wildlife Trust was obvious for us, given the natural environment is where we work. We take clients to a number of the Trust's sites; the mix of green and blue (water) environments provides a rich resource to draw on. More than that, our work prompts us to think, not just about what we can take from nature, but also how we engage with it and can support it. The Trust's values are very much aligned with our own and we look forward to our relationship developing."

Inspired to read more? They recommend "In Praise of Walking" by Shane O'Mara, (2019), "Nature's Way" by Karyn Prentice (2019) and "Grounded" by Ruth Allen (2021).

Thinking Outside specialise in nature-based coaching and development. They would be delighted to talk with you about an individual or team programme to support your thinking and help you realise your potential.

 Thinking Outside

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thinking-outside.co.uk

THE BIG Green INTERNET PROJECT

Ten years ago, Michael Wadham, the owner of **The Big Green Internet Ltd** was busily planting small woodlands, but as he was doing so an observation was gnawing away in his mind.

thebiggreeninternet.co.uk

As he looked around the landscape in the far east of Essex, he noticed that there were many woodlands sitting as islands in a sea of agriculture and not able to communicate with each other in an ecological sense.

What if a dormouse population became extinct in one woodland, how would it repopulate if there was no connection with other woods? If this extinction process occurred across the whole countryside, it would be like an aeroplane falling apart one rivet at a time.

He thought, let's continue to plant woodlands, but let's connect them too. He set about planting a 500-metre wildlife corridor between two woodlands to experiment with the idea of connecting these woodlands together. Ten years on the wildlife corridor, a mix of trees and grassland, is full of life.

With Living Landscapes in mind and a set of OS maps he set about mapping the distribution of woodland across Essex and a great surprise awaited. To the south of the A12 was a series of woodlands occurring in clusters in two parallel lines. One line running from the North Sea near Frinton and the second from near Southend on Sea with both meeting and terminating at Epping Forest.

Why was this? We must go back 450,000 years to the Anglian ice age when most of Essex (but not all) was covered by a great sheet of ice. Curiously, the A12 tracks the edge of the ice sheet. To the north the county to be was covered in ice and a chalky boulder clay created underneath. Eventually this was to become very fertile farmland and consequently, relatively unwooded.

To the south was a different matter, with the pre-glacial landscape of London clay derived soils and hills of sandy clays still intact. Superimposed with glacial outwash, windblown loess and remnants of the ancient rivers Thames and Medway.

It was this geological landscape that led to the clusters of woodlands sitting atop of the hills. Epping Forest is the classic example.

This linearity in woodland distribution means that as little as 150 miles of new wildlife corridors will connect most of these woodlands together. If we do so, this will create a big green internet of interconnected woodlands - all talking with each other. It is from this that The Big Green Internet project was born.

Along with the wildlife corridors the project aims to plant half a million hedgerow whips too (and secretly a million if we can). At the end of this coming winter we will have planted 100,000 hedgerow whips and have connected the first ten woodlands. It's Epping Forest here we come.

If you would like to volunteer or support TBGI project please contact michael.wadham@gmail.com



Image:

Chris Gomersall/2020VISION

Aveley

LODGE CARE HOME

At **Aveley Lodge Care Home**, they try to be as environmentally friendly as possible and strongly believe change first and foremost, starts at home. They reuse and recycle where they can within the strict constraints of the hygiene and health and safety laws placed upon the care industry.

Staff are encouraged to walk, cycle and lift share to work and any leased company cars are electric or dual fuel to reduce their carbon emissions. They limit the use of plastic where possible; for example, the elderly residents use paper straws with their drinks and their food delivery companies have a commitment to using zero plastic bags. Around the home, they use energy efficient light bulbs and encourage lights and any electrical items to be turned off fully when not in use. Staff are encouraged to use paper efficiently, only print what is needed and record as much as possible digitally and to use reusable cups rather than single use, plastic bottles. In light of the coronavirus outbreak, and the increased use in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), they have invested in washable and reusable material facemasks for all their staff.

They have consciously tried to exclude from their food stock, any products that use palm oil ingredients and where this is simply not possible, actively source items that are from a sustainably resourced palm oil plantation. They use only 100% locally grown and sourced organic fruit and vegetables in their meals and harvest the vegetables grown in the residents gardening club.

At Aveley Lodge they take immense pride in their responsibility to a healthier environment for everyone. Their sensory gardens there have not only been specifically designed for their residents use and enjoyment but also with a strong emphasis on encouraging wildlife and nature to flourish side by side with numerous pollinating plants attracting a variety of native birds, insects and animal life. They have planted



many trees around their property to help clean the air and combat climate change. Their resident birdwatching group have made bird boxes and feeders and delight in watching the varied feathered visitors making the most of their creations. They have a large living roof to the rear of their property that uses recycled rainwater. The new extension, due for completion in 2022, will include indoor planting to enhance the air quality and mood for all living and working within the home. By 2030, Aveley Lodge, aim to reduce their overall carbon emissions to zero, hopefully becoming a carbon neutral company.

Aveley Lodge commented "We are thrilled to be accepted as a Platinum Investor of The Essex Wildlife Trust in September 2021. The residents will be planting a wildflower meadow border to support the Essex Wildlife Trust's "Action for Insects" campaign and will look forward to engaging in further projects with the charity going forward."

aveleylodge.com



ZEELANDIA UK

We all have a part to play to **protect and enhance local wildlife**

Zeelandia UK, a supplier of bakery ingredients and services to industrial, wholesale and craft bakers has partnered with the Essex Wildlife Trust to further protect and enhance local wildlife at their Colchester technical centre.

Working together with the leading local wildlife charity, Zeelandia has already identified several ways to further enhance wildlife at the centre, including the creation and maintenance of natural habitats within the site's grassland areas.

Since opening near Axial Way in 2020, the Zeelandia UK Technical Centre has been a hub of innovation for the discerning baker, featuring a covid-safe bakery, warehouse and marketing suite to develop and test new bakery ideas and explore trends from across the globe.

Andrew Taylor, CSR ambassador for Zeelandia, said; "As a global business operating at a local level, we understand that we have a key part to play to protect and enhance local wildlife around the Colchester area.



"We are excited to see the relationship develop with Essex Wildlife Trust and by making small changes to operations as the site, we can help wildlife flourish at the wider benefit to the local community and wellbeing of our staff."

As part of the partnership, Zeelandia staff will benefit from free access to over 50 of Essex's finest nature reserves, incentivising team members to move more and experience the many healthy and wellbeing benefits of getting outside.

John Moore, Living Landscape Co-ordinator at Essex Wildlife Trust explained why it is so important to partner with local organisations to raise awareness of local conservation.

He said; "Our climate is in crisis and nature really needs our help. As a Trust we are proud to be working with more urban businesses like Zeelandia both in Essex and across the country to really create impact, change and build awareness.

"From maintaining hedgerows to looking after the wild grassland areas, just these small changes can help create the stepping-stones for nature to recover."

Andrew added; "We really hope that this partnership will encourage more businesses no matter how big or small to engage with Essex Wildlife Trust and further support our local ecosystem."



zeelandia.co.uk



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