GREAT COLLABORATION AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2026

Great news from The Great Collaboration
A national resource hub and support network
for collective climate and nature action

AUTUMN 2026

This is classically the time of year to start some new activity.

More in Common research has found that nature and green spaces are one of the largest sources of pride for Britons in their local area, that we care deeply about protecting the countryside.

Involving people in nature recovery is a great way of encouraging practical action for a better present and more resilient future.

And if you would like your own climate action and nature recovery projects on a digital map to help encourage more volunteers, please complete our current **parish & town council environmental survey**.

Biodiversity Audit



Image of a bioblitz courtesy Bristol Natural History Consortium

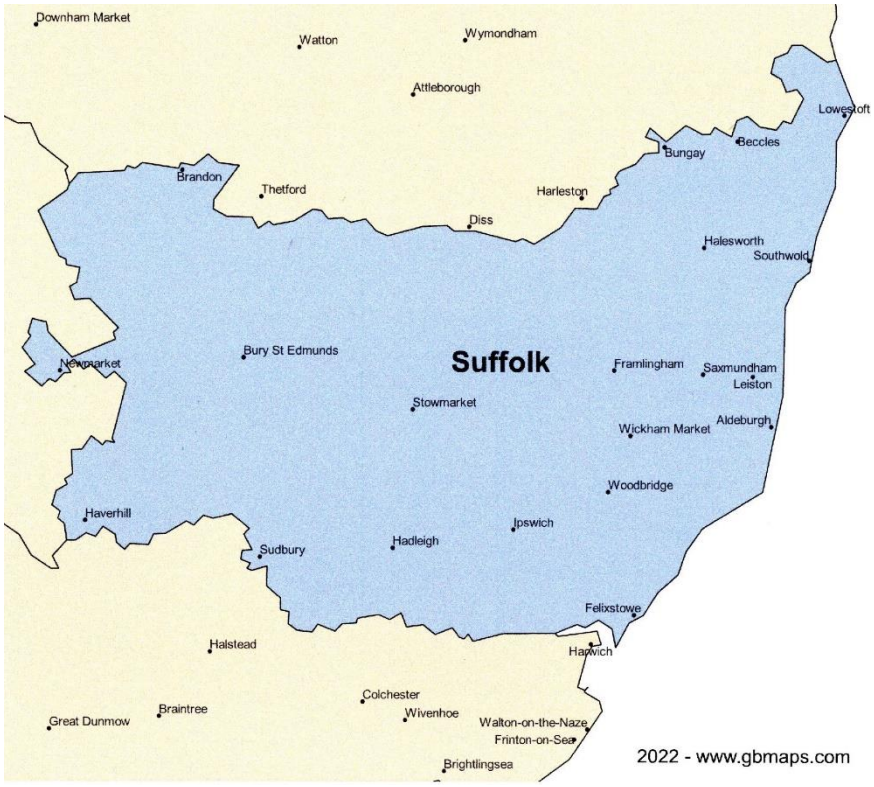
A biodiversity audit is a great first step in caring for local wildlife, particularly when linked to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

People can help with an audit through a series of bioblitzes, and it will be helpful to find one or more local experts to lead the overall process.

The parish of Gamlingay in Cambridgeshire were lucky in finding two such experts in their village willing to provide volunteering support, who worked with the parish clerk to produce the comprehensive Gamlingay Parish Biodiversity Audit.

The audit recommended ten “umbrella actions”, including enhancing the management of water courses to create nature rich corridors through the landscape, enhancing connectivity through arable farmland eg: through restoration of hedgerows, and creating more opportunities for the community to gather and do great things for nature.

Suffolk Environmental Collaboration



A county is a recognisable and usefully-sized area within which parishes, community groups and advisory bodies can share activities, events, and guidance on a wide range of local environmental projects.

Following on from its own launch by the Herefordshire Green Network, the Great Collaboration has been supporting the development of county-based networks in other parts of England, starting with Essex and Norfolk.

On October 6th a gathering of thirty parish clerks, councillors, local authority officers and wildlife organisations agreed to inaugurate a collaborative network for Suffolk, and all interested parties will be welcome at the first full meeting in November. Further details will be published by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, and the Great Collaboration will be very happy to support new networks in other counties as well.

We’re crowdfunding!



We’re looking to further expand the Great Collaboration’s website and knowledgebase, as well as supporting outreach to more local areas. Our crowdfunding video will be on the Crowdfunder website from Friday 16th October - we would welcome your support in spreading the news!

POWER Workshops



POWER Workshops are an engaging and inclusive way for communities in Essex to shape how your community uses, generates, and shares energy.

Developed by **Essex County Council** in partnership with **Community Climate Action**, the POWER programme builds on the successful Community Led Energy Plan (CLEP) model - putting residents at the heart of climate action & building energy resilience.

You can find out how your council or community can access **match funding** to kick start your journey to cleaner, greener, cheaper energy for your community - and learn how surplus (profit) from your projects can provide a Community Wealth Fund to fund other local needs & projects. See more details on the Community Climate Action website.

White Storks in Derbyshire



Three white storks have arrived at Willington Wetlands, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust site which is also home to the region's first beavers. It's hoped that the storks will attract wild birds passing through Trent Valley, encouraging settlement and breeding and restoring the presence of this iconic bird in the Midlands.

Powered by sunshine



Image courtesy City of London Corporation

A sprawling London fresh produce market is producing its own power thanks to record-breaking rooftop solar.

One of the UK's largest fruit, vegetable and flower markets, New Spitalfields stocks London restaurants with green goodness every day. Now it's got a green power source of its own: London's largest rooftop solar installation.

New Spitalfields Market houses 130 traders and is managed by the City of London Corporation. Powering its lighting and refrigerators with electricity generated onsite will reduce the market's reliance on grid power and its carbon footprint. It will also help the City of London achieve its goal of reaching net zero across its own operations by 2027.

People’s Emergency Briefing



We wrote in the summer about the People's Emergency Briefing film which is still being shown across the UK - now approaching 5,000 screenings!

Chris Packham's petition calling on the government to televise this or a similar emergency briefing has now passed 100,000 signatures - the threshold at which it must be considered for debate. It's hoped that by

informing everyone about the projected impact of the Climate Crisis, the government will gain more support for actions and laws to counter it.

It's not too late to sign the petition, attend a screening or organize your own!

You can find more advice about the film on the Great Collaboration Knowledgebase, including how to turn your own local screening into a springboard for community climate action.

Emergency Planning

A film screening can encourage local preparation for those emergencies resulting from climate change - and indeed from other causes. There's a community emergency plan template online you can use that covers many of the issues also raised in the UK Government's Prepare campaign.

Failing to plan is planning to fail...

Banter Sessions



Our online banter sessions provide a friendly, cooperative forum to share helpful tips and suggestions, covering a wide range of topics and with plenty of lively discussion! Here's a taster of some forthcoming sessions:

- **October 14th** - Garry Ford, Environmental Projects Officer at Corsham Town Council in Wiltshire, talking about how to calculate the greenhouse gas emissions for a small town or parish council

- **October 21st** - Alastair Boyd, a farmer from Kent and also a parish councillor, talking about farming in today's climate

And if you'd like to talk about your own local successes at one of our regular Wednesday sessions, please contact Graham our session chairman at gcstones52@gmail.com, he'll be delighted to hear from you.

A Greater Collaboration

The Great Collaboration began life within the Herefordshire Green Network.

Since then we have extended its reach more widely, by:

- adding collective actions to the individual actions on the website
- developing new self-help networks in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk, supported by online forums using the free social software Hylo
- creating the Great Collaboration Knowledgebase with a continually-extending range of action advice as well as recordings of our weekly banter sessions
- beginning the process of digital mapping of local projects, giving easy and visible access to activity around the country

If you would like to work with us to help develop an environmental and nature recovery network in your own county, or to get involved in the development of our central services and communication, please email us via hello@greatcollaboration.uk - we look forward to hearing from you!



Looking For Help?

We are a collective of community leaders, councillors, clerks, club representatives and charity trustees working to deliver this essential service to accelerate council and community climate and nature action.

If you need advice to overcome a barrier to achieving action in your community, get in touch. Between us, we can cover a range of topics including:

- Reaching out to your community
- Fundraising
- Managing new projects
- Working with your local council
- Opportunities for town and parish councils

Tell us about your own collaborations

We're keen to hear about collective action in your community!



Are you developing a community energy project - or creating a local nature action plan? Becoming a bee-friendly parish?

Tell us your story! Join our weekly Zoom sessions, or get in touch by email.

Did someone forward you this email?

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Follow us on social media to stay updated on upcoming events and campaigns that promote a cleaner, greener and fairer future.
Share our journey and be part of the conversation.
Together, we can make a difference.