

Ipswich and
East Pastorate



*Saxmundham. From graveyard to
garden of meditation*

SAXMUNDHAM AND CASTLE HILL GO WILD

Castle Hill and Saxmundham Churches called in the Suffolk Wildlife Trust to advise on the most environmentally friendly way to manage the grassland and shrubbery around the churches. On the grass, the advice was straightforward.—Let it grow!



At Saxmundham Sue Liddell explained: “We are changing this from a graveyard to a garden of meditation and reflection by allowing there to be a wild life meadow in the summer. Once the grass is cut it is put into a corner of the garden to become kind of haystack that will attract grass snakes; and brambles will be hard cut back and grubbed up leaving some for hedgehogs to hibernate. What will be the major community impact will be cutting down the hedge drastically so that people passing along the pavement and seeing the space with a path kept clear across the meadow to a bench. An invitation to come in and be peaceful and quiet for a while will be on display.”

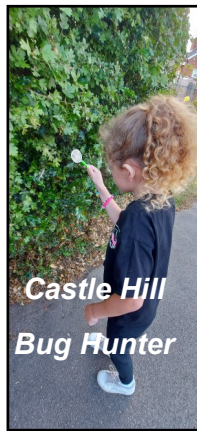
Castle Hill also called in the Trust and within days it produced a report with its findings and recommendations on how to manage the area around the Church to create a rich environment for wildlife.

To the casual observer the grassland around the Church was nothing special but the Trust experts identified early Forget-me-not (*Myosotis ramosissima*), Wood rush (*Luzula campestris*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Speedwell spp (*Veronica* spp.), and Cowslip (*Primula veri*) to name just a few plants. These form the basis of meadow-land that is home to bugs and insects that in turn attract bees, birds and even hedgehogs. Furthermore, meadowland captures 500 times more carbon than plain grass.

Following the report, a grass mowing regime was set up with the perimeter around the front of the Church allowed to grow but with mowing carried out at the edges to show that the area was being managed.

Within weeks a hedgehog was spotted and of course butterflies and other insects which were the subject of examination by the 'Bug hunters' of our Church's Girls' Brigade.

Unfortunately, the very high temperatures experienced during the summer heatwave necessitated the grass being prematurely cut due to the fire risk. But the environmental advantages of managing the grounds have been established and the work will continue in the Spring.



The possibilities for community engagement include links to the local school for study visits and opportunities for young people to engage in making Bee and Bug hotels.

Environmental initiatives outside our Church buildings demonstrate to the wider community that, as Christian fellowships, we are playing a small part in caring for God's creation.

The above measures together with energy-saving work within the Church Buildings means that Castle Hill Church is close to applying for the Bronze Eco-Church Award.



DON'T OVERFILL YOUR KETTLE

We all do it don't we? That's boiling more water than we need for our cuppa. For most of us, when we have topped up our teapot, there is always some boiled water left in the kettle. Well, so what? You may ask. After all, making a cup of tea only uses around 0.03 kWh of electricity and generates around 0.015 kg of CO₂.

However, according to the UK Tea Council, as a nation we guzzle 165m cups of tea and 70m cups of coffee each day. Some figures suggest that we actually boil twice as much water as we need. We could be needlessly producing 3,522 tonnes of CO₂ every day. On electricity wasted the Energy Saving Trust estimates that if this was saved it would be enough to supply half of all the street lighting in the country.

Many modern new kettles have an indicator showing the number of cups represented by various water levels. But to be really accurate you could just decant the number of cups you need into an empty kettle. But for many that's just too much hassle.

Or how's this for a tip? My wife has a large Thermos flask next to the kettle. Any unused hot water is emptied into the flask. Once there is enough for a cuppa the kettle is not needed, the tea or coffee is made from water poured straight from the flask. For the perfectionist tea makers amongst you who insist on pouring the water at the point of boiling just tip the flask contents into the kettle. The water will boil in seconds.

Trivial? - Every little bit counts.

Len Green (Castle Hill)
Information Source—Guardian on line



HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO DECOMPOSE

Paper Towel - 2-4 weeks

Banana Peel - 3-4 weeks

Paper Bag - 1 month

Newspaper - 1.5 months

Apple Core - 2 months

Cardboard - 2 months

Cotton Glove - 3 months

Orange peels - 6 months

Plywood - 1-3 years

Wool Sock - 1-5 years

Milk Cartons - 5 years

Cigarette Butts - 10-12 years

Leather shoes - 25-40 years

Tinned Steel Can - 50 years

Foamed Plastic Cups - 50 years

Rubber-Boot Sole - 50-80 years

Plastic containers - 50-80 years

Aluminum Can - 200-500 yrs

Plastic Bottles - 450 years

Disposable Diapers - 550 years

Monofilament Fishing Line - 600 years

Plastic Bags - 200-1000 yrs

THINK BEFORE YOU DISPOSE
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

“Why should we be concerned about the environment? It isn’t just because of the dangers we face from pollution, climate change, or other environmental problems—although these are serious. For Christians, the issue is much deeper: We know that God created the world, and it belongs to Him, not us. Because of this, we are only stewards or trustees of God’s creation, and we aren’t to abuse or neglect it. The Bible says, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1).

“When we fail to see the world as God’s creation, we will end up abusing it. Selfishness and greed take over, and we end up not caring about the environment or the problems we’re creating for future generations. “

Billy Graham

Please send your news, tips or ideas for inclusion in future newsletters to Len Green :

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