

- 1. Government Minister, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Chief Exec address Dedham Vale Forum**

Around 100 delegates packed into the barn at Shrubs Farm for the annual Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Forum. The theme was *Outstanding Landscapes: Good for the environment, health and economy* and Lord Gardiner, Professor Jules Pretty OBE, Howard Davies and Tracey Brinkley gave the delegates much to think about during informative presentations and lively question and answer sessions. A write up of the forum can be seen at:
<http://www.eadt.co.uk/ea-life/landscape-beauty-brings-benefits-to-dedham-vale-and-stour-valley-1-5068141>
- 2. New Sponsored AONB walking guides**
 - Two brand new walk leaflets to Constable Country and Dedham village have been launched. The guides were made possible by generous sponsorship. A event was held at the Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum, where the exhibition "Munnings and the River" is currently showcasing the renowned artist's appreciation of the River Stour. Walking in Constable Country and Walking in Dedham guides are available from AONB office, around the Dedham Vale or as a download:
<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/publications/walking-guides/>
 - A new version of the Sailor's path has been produced as we have exhausted the supplies of the original print run. We are delighted that Suffolk Secrets have continued to sponsor this popular guide that outlines a route between Aldeburgh and Snape. A download can be found at:
<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Publications/Explorers/Sailors-Path-May-2017-edition.pdf>
 - An updated Constable Country Visitor guide sponsored by various organisations including Milsoms, The Angel Inn, Stoke by Nayland Club, Suffolk Secrets, Gainsborough's House, The Swan Inn, and The National Trust. This superb guide is packed with ideas to enjoy one of England's Outstanding Landscapes and can be downloaded from <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/publications/guide-to-the-aonb/> or picked up from various locations in the AONB
- 3. 60 Mile walk along the Stour Valley Path in 26 hours (non-stop)**

16 intrepid walkers raised money for the Stour Valley Environment Fund and other charities in a Mega walk down the Stour Valley Path from Newmarket to Flatford. The Cock at Thurlow, The George at Cavendish, The Snack Shack at Long Melford and the National Trust all provided much needed refreshments. The event was part of the Suffolk Walking Festival, although participants on this were sneaked into Essex on occasions for this walk.
- 4. AONB Grants**
 - Sustainable Development Fund awards have been made to Shotley Bikes (to promote sustainable tourism travel), A children's book on the history of Radar at Bawdsey and work to understand the beneficial use of dredgings in the Deben Estuary.
 - Galloper Wind Farm has made awards to Suffolk Wildlife Trust, for Environmental Education, Beachbonkers for beachcombing and understanding of the importance of habitats and Leiston Town Pastors for work with local communities
- 5. Volunteering**

Our Volunteer Placement and Graduate trainee both continue to provide invaluable support for the staff team. The area based volunteers continue to undertake important tasks such as clearing paths, removing non-native invasive plant species beach surveys and cleans. Other individuals have supported events and practical projects. We couldn't do half as much as we do without them.
- 6. National Association for AONBs (NAAONB)**

The NAAONB commissioned a piece of work on our statutory management plans collating critical information common to all AONBs. It will reduce duplication of effort across the AONB family. A useful and important piece of work.
- 7. Quick Bits:**
 - A child found a Neolithic Arrowhead within 2 minutes of starting a Beachwatch survey
 - Landowners, environmental groups and statutory agencies meet to discuss action on Non-Native Invasive Plant Species that are causing problems in the Stour Catchment
 - It appears Red Kites are now a common sight over the AONBs

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