

GREEN GRID FEBRUARY 2026



Dear Green Grid Member,

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 Plant of the Month

I hope this newsletter finds you well!

It looks like it will be a busy spring, so there is plenty to find out about in this month's newsletter, from cycling groups, volunteering at country parks, and community garden open days.

I'd like to draw your attention to page 3, where you'll find information about an opportunity by Hormozi coffee, who is offering coffee chaff to community gardens and growing projects across the borough.

As ever, if you have anything you would like to see in the March newsletter do drop me an email at Climate@Swale.Gov.Uk and do feel free to share our [sign up form](#).

Kind regards,

Samuel Brookfield

MONTHLY GOOD NEWS

Swale Borough Council is now the freehold owner of a new green space in Bapchild.

The greenspace, known as Stones Farm Country Park, was secured as part of the Spring Acres housing development to mitigate the recreational impacts, from residents of that development, on nearby protected habitat sites. It will provide high quality, accessible open space for walking and information recreation away from Swale's sensitive coastal environments, including the ecologically important Thames, Medway, and Swale Estuaries Ramsar Site.

Stones Farm Country Park already includes a recently established orchard, planted trees, a wet woodland, a chalk stream, and a network of pathways for residents to enjoy.

Swale Borough Council will use the funding secured from the developer to make the area more welcoming for visitors, and for its ongoing maintenance.

Improvements will include:

-  New signage and information boards
-  Planting of new hedges to improve biodiversity
-  Installing new gates to prevent vehicles entering the site
-  Adding litter bins

The park is to be managed by the Council's park ranger who will be establishing a 'Friends of' group to organise volunteer days to get the community involved in managing their new greenspace.

The first event took place on February 18, 2026, with volunteers planting hundreds of trees.



EVENTS AT LYNSTED COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN

Over the next couple months Lynsted Community Kitchen Garden will be hosting a series of events.

SPRING AT THE GARDEN – SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2026. 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Joining volunteers for this free event, learning about environmentally positive ways to garden, grow food, and live well. It's a chance to look around the garden's veg, fruit, flowers, find out about bees and see the newly installed biodiversity pond.

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN DAY – SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026. 11:00 AM – 16:00 PM

The gardens will be open as part of the National Garden Scheme Charity Open Days. You'll be able to tour the garden and take part in activities around healthy eating, wellbeing, and crafting.

Tickets cost £7, while children go free. These can be bought at the door on the day, or online through the [NGS website](#).

COFFEE CHAFF FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

Hormozi Coffee, based in Sittingbourne, is offering surplus jute coffee sacks and coffee chaff to local allotments and growing projects where they can be put to good use.



The jute sacks are untreated hessian and can support weed suppression, raised bed lining, compost layering, and general outdoor growing applications.

The coffee chaff is a natural by-product of the roasting process and can be incorporated into compost as a carbon source or used as an organic soil amendment when appropriately mixed.

To discuss quantities, and arrange collections or delivered, do get in contact with rubin@hormozi.co.uk

GRANTS

CALISEN IMPACT GRANTS

The Calisen Impact Charitable Trust Grants for Environmental and Social Wellbeing Projects is available for UK registered charities to apply to, for support of projects that improve the environment, strengthen communities, or promote wellbeing. The current round of applications close on the 31 March 2026.

Find out more at: [Our Vision - Calisen Impact](#)

GRASSROOTS GRANTS

Groundwork, working with the People's Postcode Lottery, is providing grants of between £500 and £2,000 for groups that provide vital services in their local communities, including improvements to local greenspaces, cultural initiatives, volunteering opportunities to improve the local environment.



Find out more at: [Grassroots Grants - Groundwork](#)

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGEPOINT GRANTS

Grants for EV chargepoints are available for renters, flatowners, and landlords. You can get either £350 or 75% off the cost to buy and install a socket, whichever amount is lower.

EV chargepoint grant for renters or flatowners: [Electric vehicle chargepoint grant for renters or flat owners: What you can get - GOV.UK](#)

EV chargepoint grant for landlords: [Electric vehicle chargepoint and infrastructure grants for landlords: What you can get - GOV.UK](#)

ONE SWALE ROADSHOWS



Swale Borough Council will be running four more of the One Swale Roadshows between January and March 2026. The events have brought charities and other organisations together to offer tailored help and support to thousands of people in need within Swale.

People will be able to get help with their bills, received food and fuel vouchers, get free health checks, and learn about opportunities for work.

The upcoming dates for the events are:

- Tuesday 10 March – Faversham (Salvation Army, 4 Court St, Faversham ME13 7AW)
- Tuesday 24 March – Leysdown (Eastern Sheppey Community Hub, Nutts Ave, Leysdown-on-Sea, Sheerness, ME12 4QQ)

All events will run from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

SHEERNESS CYCLING CLUB

SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2026, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

If you are up for a bit of a healthy challenge then you might want to join the Ride Sheppey Community Cycling Club for a friendly and free bike ride led by trained Group Leaders, training by Cycling UK.

The ride will start at 10:00 am and is open to cyclists of all skill levels and will take a pre-designed route across the Isle sticking to mainly off-road, scenic routes. Expect some longer stretches and gentle inclines, perfect for building confidence while keeping it social and inclusive.

Pre booking is required, which you can do by emailing the club at sheppeyccc@gmail.com, or booking through the [Eventbrite](#).

Free bikes and helmets are available to borrow, if you would need to do so, please email sheppeyccc@gmail.com to reserve as supplies are limited.



If you'd like to attend, make sure to bring water, phone, a coat, and comfortable clothing.

EVENTS AT MILTON CREEK COUNTRY PARK

WILDER WELLBEING – FOR THE OVER 55s 19TH MARCH, AND 16TH APRIL.

A free two-hour workshop run by Out to the Woods, exploring what MCCP has to offer and using it to create various arts and crafts activities. The workshops will be held in the new community and education hub, SPACE. [You can book here.](#)

AMPHIBIAN SURVEY - 17TH MARCH (6:30PM)

Come along to join the search for Great Crested Newts, who at the time will be putting on a show to attract a mate. Bring wellies and a torch along and learn more about these fascinating creatures. Spaces are limited to please do book via [Eventbrite](#).

NESTING BIRD SURVEYS

Join volunteers for this year's Spring bird recording walks. You do not need to be a serious bird watcher to enjoy the events, with everyone being welcome to come along and find out more about what birds live in the park. Please do [email](#) if you would like to join.

-  Sunday 29th March – start 6:15 am
-  Thursday 9th April – start 5:45 am
-  Sunday 26th April – starts 5:15 am

NATURE RECORDING WALK

Join volunteers for this year's series of Nature Recording Walks. No specialist expertise is needed to enjoy them, with the walks offering people of all knowledge levels the opportunity to socialise and learn more about the wildlife found at Milton Creek Country Park.

-  Sunday 15 March 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
-  Sunday 19 April 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
-  Sunday 17 April 9:30 am – 12:30 pm



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Stachys officinalis - betony

This month's plant is Betony, also known as Lousewort, Bishopwort, and Wood Betony. Its common name is sometimes said to be derived from a Celtic word *bewton*, meaning 'good for the head'.

It is native across much of Europe and has become naturalised in many parts of North America. Often found in grassy clearings, meadows, and open woodland, it is noticeable for its dense spikes of purple- red flowers in that distinct tubular shape shared by many plants in the Mint family.

Traditionally it was recognised as a 'cure all, both in the physical and religious sense.



One Roman naturalist, Pliny the Elder claimed it could be used to help cure at least forty-seven different illnesses, while in medieval times Betony was combined with other plants to cure anything from headaches, anxieties, diarrhoea, and to prevent blood loss. Today you can still buy Betony tea, which is often sold for the purpose of relieving anxiety.

Nicholas Culpeper, a famous 17th century herbalist from England, recommended having Betony planted in the gardens of each house, both so it could be used by inhabitants for treating illnesses, and to protect the property spiritually. The second reason is why Betony would often be found growing owing to the belief that it could protect such places from evil spirits and enchantments cast by 'witches. Garlands would be woven around the neck to guard the wearer from harm, and sometimes pillows would be stuffed with Betony to prevent dreams sent to terrorise people by malevolent forces.

More recently Betonies use as a medicine has fallen out of practice, and its recognition as a planted well suited for naturalistic gardens.