

Climate and Nature for Stisted – CANS Annual Report 2023-2024



Climate and Nature for Stisted - CANS is a group of local people and a recognised working party of Stisted Parish Council - SPC, represented by Councillor Mark Hughes. CANS works alongside and reports directly to Stisted Parish Council, that holds a ringfenced financial account.

Our aims are to support biodiversity and carbon reduction in the areas of nature, transport, energy conservation, waste management and planning, and to improve community engagement and wellbeing.

Over the past year CANS has worked on these aims to: -

- Produce a comprehensive CANS REPORT: Objections to gravel extraction, Sites A89, A92 & A93. The report of 53 pages detailed referenced objections in all the areas of our aims.
- Develop wild flower areas in Stisted
 - Planted wildflower meadow turf patch at Sarcel
 - Grew plugs of wildflowers and planted them at village green, allotment and Sarcel patch
 - Updated the grass cutting contract and rewilding spaces
 - Encouraged Stisted parishioners to enjoy the bugs and beasts in gardens during No Mow May 2023
- Provided Stisted Academy with sunflower seeds and materials for every child to grow their own sunflower
- Taken on an allotment to encourage 'grow your own', chemical free.
- Worked with the village hall to apply for a councilor grant to renovate village pond.
- Provided illustrated informative reports of wildlife in CANS section of Parish website, Parish Magazine & CANS Facebook page to raise awareness of wildlife in Stisted.
- Held Stisted Pub pizza and nature evening, with a local rewilding speaker
- Held Christmas wreathmaking workshops promoting awareness of nature, community wellbeing, caring and creativity, raising funds and resulting in wreaths decorating homes throughout Stisted and beyond with requests for more next year.
- Had a stall promoting CANS at Stisted Parish Church Fayre
- Surveyed on pond and river conservation and rewilding areas with Essex Wildlife Trust and the golf club (on the River).
- The Stisted Essex Sparrow Count 2024 completed by CANS Wildlife rep appointed by RSPB.
- The RSPB Garden Birdwatch 2024, ongoing in Stisted.
- The Stisted Great Butterfly Count 2024 - currently conducting a weekly butterfly survey in two specific areas of Stisted and this will continue until the Autumn, with the Essex Butterfly Conservation Trust
- Organized planting of 200 trees and ancient tree inventory working with the Essex Woodland Trust, local people, golf course and farmers
- Worked with the Royal Horticultural Society -RHS Community Outreach Group for support of Stisted community allotment and rewilding areas
- Promoted hedgehog conservation with the Hedgehog Society
- Developed CANS accounting spreadsheet with SPC for transparency of fundraising and costs.

Thank you for the commitment and dedication of CANS members; Jane Bailey, Dina Catchpole, Graham Holloway, Helen Hughes, Kathryn and Mark Hughes, Lynn McCullagh, Alan Ratnage, Helen Remfry.