

# West Suffolk Hive CIC

## The Hive October 2021- September 2022



The Hive,  
Rougham Road,  
Bradfield St. George,  
Bury St Edmunds,  
Suffolk,  
IP30 0AZ

West Suffolk Family Eco Centre



A family-centred **community** space in a natural **environment** to foster a **connection** with nature, improve wellbeing and share skills and knowledge.

Connection, Community & The Environment 

[www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk](http://www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk)

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Follow us on social media @westsuffolkhive

Community Interest Company Number 12189973

# West Suffolk HIVE CIC

October 2021–September 2022



## October – December 2021

Throughout the Autumn of 2021 we held several sessions at the Hive site for a variety of groups including: Nature Explorers stay and play weekly family sessions; Eco Kids weekly outdoor sessions for home educated children aged 6–12; Skills and development sessions for sixth-formers with SEND from Angel Hill College (SENDAT Academy); a family Halloween event and Christmas craft day; first aid training; pottery painting and willow weaving workshops.

Our volunteer gardening group also launched in October 2021, meeting weekly to grow fruit and vegetables in one of our polytunnels to share amongst themselves and other site users and the local community. We also hosted several birthday parties and a Quaker meeting at the site and welcomed guest visits from Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue, The Coddwomplers, Painted Peppermint and East of England Training.

Away from the site, we delivered weekly wellbeing support sessions to five different schools and two community groups thanks to the Fairer Health funding we received in the previous year, working with about 200 young people in years 5–8 in groups of about 10, supporting them in all aspects of puberty.

We also received £9,200 from the National Lottery Together For Our Planet fund towards environmental education and £1,940 from the Postcode Lottery for our community gardening project.

# Hive Eco Kids



Visit from Paula from Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue





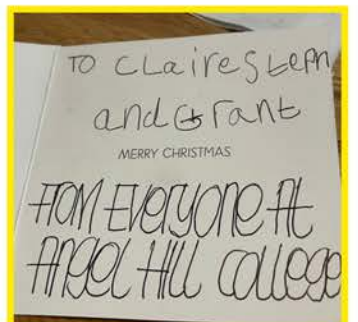
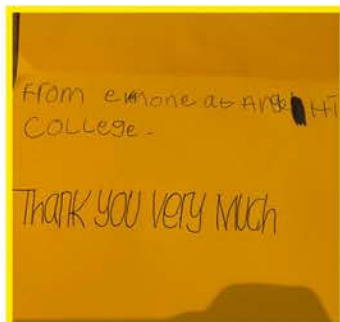
### Willow weaving Workshop with the Coddiwomplers



# Nature Explorers Stay and Play Sessions



## Skills and Development Sessions with Angel Hill College



## Sustainability Event at St Edmundsbury Cathedral



## Wellbeing Circle Sessions



## BSE Quakers Group visit to The Hive



## Some of The Hive's resident birds of prey and some grown up fire circle time



## Halloween at The Hive



## Christmas Family Craft Day at The Hive





## January and February 2022

At the start of 2022 we collaborated with some other organisations - we ran a pilot with Bury Rickshaws to test a bicycle bus scheme to encourage active transport to local schools, and we worked with Explore Outdoor to deliver our Eco Kids sessions to 6-10 year olds and for 10-16 year olds. We worked with students from Priory School (SENDAT Academy) at the site. With all three groups we invited in guest visits from Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue and Bury Bat Group. The children helped us make owl boxes, bird and bat boxes and hedgehog houses.

We delivered environmental education sessions to a Rainbows and Brownies group in Tostock, teaching them about bees and biodiversity and facilitating some eco craft activities. We hosted a Home Education fair at The Apex and created a directory for local home educating families in and around Bury St Edmunds.

### Bicycle Bus at Guildhall Feoffment School



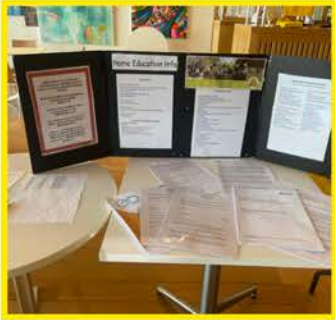
### Environmental Education Session for the Tostock Rainbows and Brownies



Hive Eco Kids in partnership with Explore Outdoor



# Home Education Fair at The Apex



## Sessions at The Hive for Priory School



## Visit from Suffolk Owl Sanctuary and Bury Bat Group



## Visit from Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue





### Nature Explorers Stay and Play Family Sessions



### March to May 2022

It was a very frosty start to Spring in 2022. Our sessions with Priory School continued with visits from Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue and Birds and Beyond. We received grants of £2880 from Leading Lives towards our SEND sessions, £1750 from West Suffolk Council's Locality Budget Funding for site improvements and £1880 from the West Suffolk Council Community Chest to fund our parenting support work with St Edmundsbaby, including hosting the pregnancy and parenting fair at The Apex.

We launched the Eco Markets in Bury town centre in partnership with the council as a trial in May 2022. We also worked in partnership with Bury Water Meadows Group to host the first Bury BioBlitz at the Abbey Gardens.

# Nature Explorers Stay and Play Family Sessions



# Hive Eco Kids



Sessions with Priory School students  
and a visit from Birds and Beyond





Sessions with Priory School students and visits from Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue and Birds and Beyond



# BioBlitz With Bury Water Meadows Group at The Abbey Gardens



June to September 2022

We were busy throughout the Summer term running sessions at the site for our families, SEND group, Eco Kids, teen Eco Kids and two different groups from Priory School (SENDAT Academy). We helped St Mary's Church in Tuddenham with their biodiversity survey as part of the Church's Count on Nature. We hosted two more Eco Markets in Bury St Edmunds town Centre, and welcomed some of the sixth form work experience students from Priory to help us man our stall.

In September, we hosted the St Edmundsbury Fair at the Apex, a pregnancy and parenting fair for local families, thanks to the funding from the West Suffolk Council Community Chest. We were also nominated for three of the Business Awards at the Bury Free Press Business Awards 2022 - Contribution to the Community, Green/Environment and Best Start Up.

### Summary

We welcomed several new families to the Hive during 2021-2022, and we had 41 families signed up as members by September 2022. We worked in partnership with a variety of organisations both at the site and off-site, including Explore Outdoor, Bury Water Meadows Group, Birds and Beyond, Suffolk Owl Sanctuary and Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue. We took part in several biodiversity surveys and environmental education workshops and events to promote sustainability and biodiversity. Our new gardening group got well established through the year and produced a wide variety of vegetables within the first few months. We worked with families and individuals from across East Anglia from a diverse range of backgrounds, of all ages and with different needs and abilities.

Steph Holland and Claire Unwin (Directors)

Nature Explorers family sessions and SEND sessions



Community Outreach - at Priory School and Tuddenham Church's Count on Nature



Summer at The Hive



# Hive Eco Kids



## Archery with Explore Outdoor for Priory School Students



## Priory School sixth form students at the Hive



# Bury Eco Markets in partnership with West Suffolk Council



# St Edmundsbury Fair at The Apex



## Nominated for three Business Awards

