

## Members' meetings

As a mutual building society, we would like to know what you think about our products and services and generally how you feel about your relationship with us. That's why we hold regular monthly members' meetings throughout the region. The next meetings are:

- 11 May: North Walsham, Beechwood Hotel, 20 Cromer Road, 7pm  
8 June: Lowestoft, Hotel Hatfield, Esplanade Lowestoft, 7pm

If you are interested in coming along to one of these meetings please contact the appropriate branch for further information.

## A growing gift for youngsters!

Annie Minton is an early years teacher and science co-ordinator at Holton St Peter Community Primary School. The school has an Eco Group which works to maintain the school's "Eco Flag" status. The group is made up of pupils, parents, staff and governors and it meets regularly after school hours. Back in 2000 the group planted a tree nursery. Now, the saplings are ready to be planted in the field nearby, ready to create its very own wood.

Annie contacted staff at N&P's Halesworth branch to see if they could help with the cost of planting the saplings on a local farmer's land. Roger Woof, manager of the branch, offered to donate 170 stakes to support the saplings.



Roger Woof, manager of N&P's Halesworth branch, helps Eleanor Watkinson (5) and Courteney Cliff (5) to plant an oak tree sapling.

Roger went along to help with the planting. He said: "I think it's wonderful that the children are so actively encouraged to learn about their surroundings. As we have our Carbon Neutral® mortgage<sup>®</sup>, it's brilliant to support other environmental causes too."

For all footnotes and important information, please see back page.

## Eco-Build competition winner



A couple from Lincolnshire have scooped a super £5,000 cash prize in N&P's competition to encourage more environment conscious home-building. The Eco-Build competition is held annually for home-owners who have had a home individually built to their own specification and who have made energy efficient features a priority. Properties had to have been completed between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2003 and entry was not restricted to N&P mortgage customers.

This year's winners, Jerry Harrall & Kay Woods (pictured here)

made environmentally-friendly features a priority in their new home in Long Sutton. Jerry and Kay describe their four bedroom, single storey, earth-sheltered home as a 21st century low-carbon dwelling. Jerry, a Chartered Architect with Sustainable Ecological Architecture Limited, (SEARCH), occupies Europe's first and only earth-sheltered Architect's office on the same site. Jerry would welcome e-mail enquiries from N&P members who are interested in eco-building to [molearch@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:molearch@tinyworld.co.uk)

Graham Wood, MD of N&P's surveying subsidiary Hockleys, and one of the judges of the competition, said: "This is one of the most exciting residential developments I have seen in my 36 years as a surveyor and is a very worthy winner. Making their homes energy efficient saves people money and helps the environment - everyone wins."

N&P launched its first "green" mortgage in 1998 and in 2000, became the first mortgage lender to offer a Carbon Neutral® mortgage<sup>®</sup> - developed in association with environmental group Future Forests.

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## Branch energy saving competition

Staff at N&P's Ipswich branch have proved they're the "greenest" of them all - after winning a competition to save energy!

The Society held a competition across its retail network to encourage branch staff to be more energy efficient. First, staff were given tips and hints on how to prevent wasting energy and then the energy consumption was measured at each branch and compared with the same period in 2002. Ipswich branch showed the greatest decrease in energy consumption for the last six months of last year.

Mark Lay is manager of the branch at 30 Tavern Street, Ipswich. Mark said: "We were thrilled to win the competition. We made sure that we did a check every night, turning off everything that didn't need to be left on, like computer monitors and printers. We also made sure that lights and heaters were switched off in rooms we weren't using and that we didn't boil a full kettle if we only wanted one cup. It's great to see that all these little things add up to make a difference."



From top left clockwise: Sandra Moody (CA), Julie Beaumont (CA), Samantha Norris (ACA) and Mark Lay (BM).