

# WildAvon

## Saving Avon's badgers

Our vaccination programme to protect these wonderful animals from bovine TB begins

### INSECT DECLINE

How we can reverse the drastic fall in insects

### MY WILD CITY

Bringing people closer to hidden wildlife havens



Avon

# Welcome



Welcome to your autumn *Wild Avon* magazine, bringing you news about the work we've been doing across Avon, helping wildlife to thrive and inspiring people of all ages to connect with nature. You'll notice a new design and format for this edition which we've been working on for a while. We feel it gives more space for photos

and makes our news and features easier and more attractive to read. We hope you agree!

Instead of our 'Seasonal Stroll' and 'Walk with the Warden' features, we have a 'Focus on' feature. In each edition, we'll shine a spotlight on one nature reserve, giving a glimpse of the history, wildlife species and landscape features. This month it's wonderful Weston Big Wood (page 28) – a truly beautiful woodland, rich in bird life and woodland wildflowers.

Like many people in the conservation and environment sector, I feel that the urgency of our work and the need to influence change is greater than ever. Through our Wilder Future campaign, people across the UK have joined us in calling for nature to be restored and for strong environmental protections to safeguard wildlife, landscapes and natural systems for us and future generations. It's been inspiring to hear how many people have raised their voices to show they care. I travelled with 40 staff and supporters to Westminster in June for a mass lobby organised by the Climate Coalition, where we joined hundreds more from the West of England to speak directly to our region's MPs about the change we urgently need. 12,000 people came together – proof that environmental passion is strong.

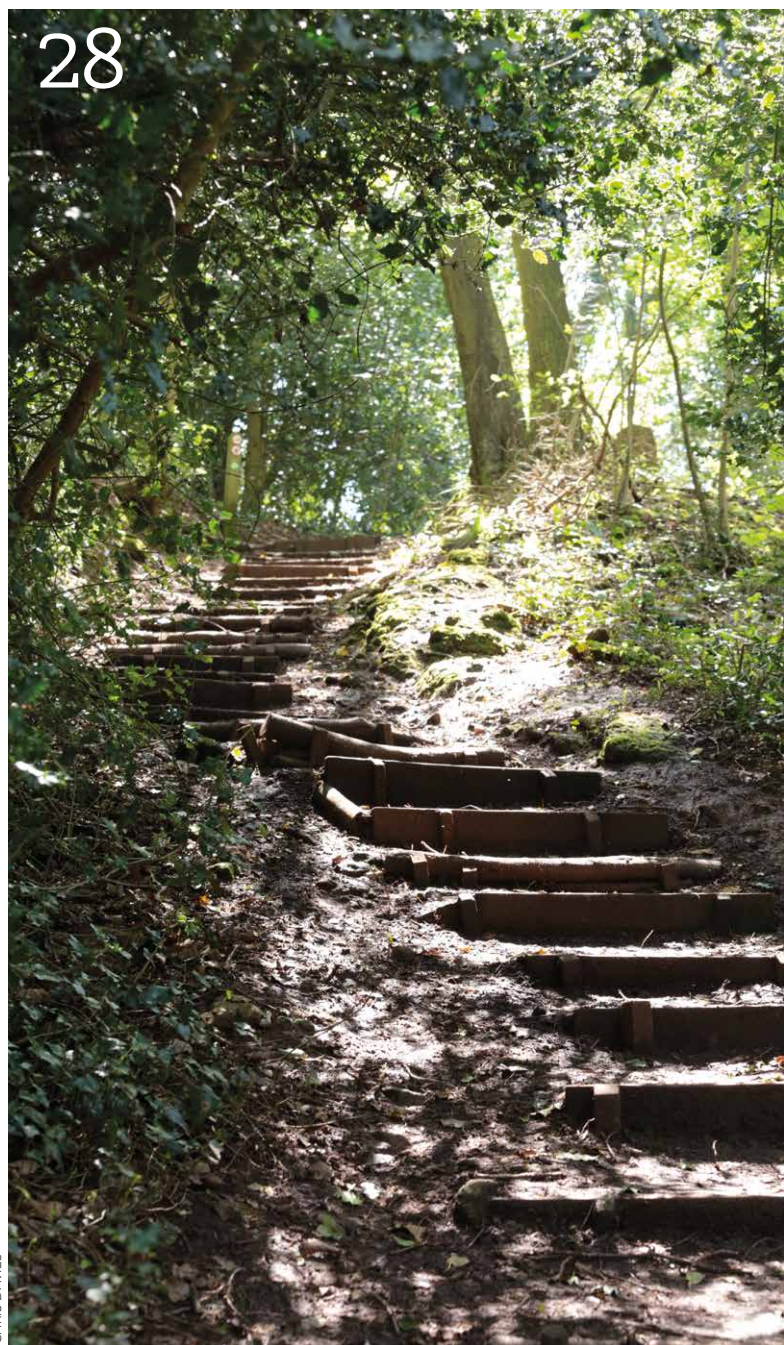
During the summer, we began new work vaccinating badgers against bovine TB on one of our nature reserves. This is an important first step in a longer-term vaccination programme to protect wild badgers across our region and help tackle the disease. Turn to pages eight and nine to find out more about this project and how you can help save Avon's badgers. Enjoy the colours, change of seasons and beauty of our region this autumn and winter. And thank you for your support and passion, which helps our local wildlife all year round.

**Ian Barrett**

*Chief Executive of Avon Wildlife Trust*

*Follow me on twitter @IanBarrettSW*

28



CHRIS DAVIES

## Avon Wildlife Trust *Get in touch*

*Wild Avon* is the membership magazine for **Avon Wildlife Trust**, your local wildlife charity, working to secure a strong future for the natural environment and to inspire people to care for it. With the support of over 16,000 members and 1,150 volunteers, the Trust cares for over 30 nature reserves, runs educational and community programmes, advises landowners, and campaigns on issues that threaten wildlife habitats.

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**Follow us** on social media for the latest news and events. Please share your wildlife pictures and experiences! You can also subscribe to our monthly newsletter online through our website to hear about our latest news and events.

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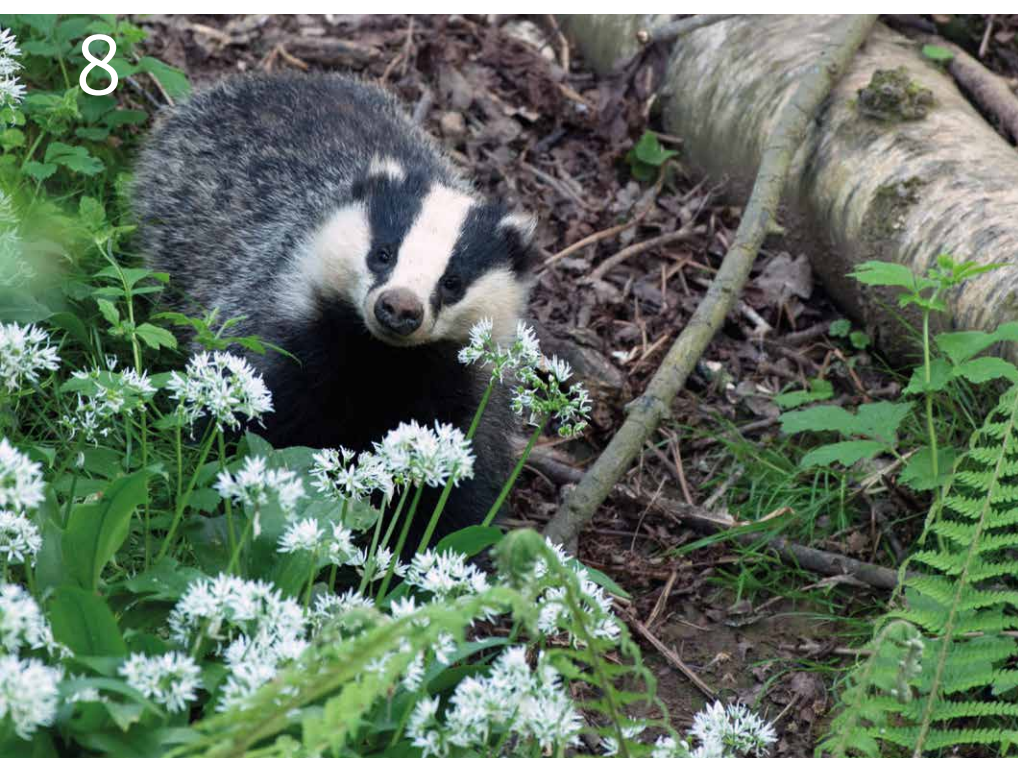
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# Contents

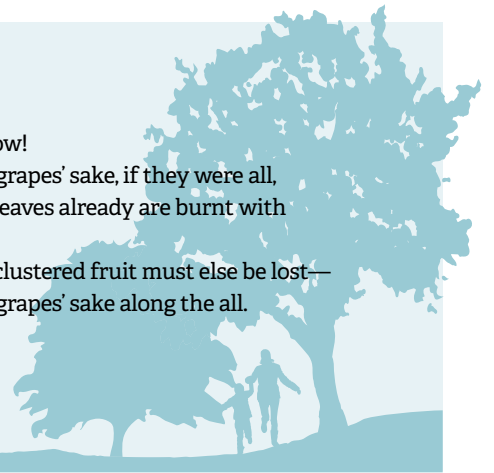
- 4** Avon Wildlife Trust news
- 6** News feature: All ages learning about nature
- 7** National news
- 8** Badger vaccination programme
- 10** Insect decline
- 13** People & wildlife
- 14** My wild community
- 15** What's On insert
- 19** Mhairi Cornish: wellbeing with nature
- 20** My Wild City
- 22** Creating a wildlife pond
- 24** What to watch in wildlife
- 26** Around the reserves
- 28** Explore a nature reserve: Weston Big Wood
- 30** Members & friends

## October by Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,  
 Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
 Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,  
 Should waste them all.  
 The crows above the forest call;  
 Tomorrow they may form and go.  
 O hushed October morning mild,  
 Begin the hours of this day slow.

Make the day seem to us less brief.  
 Hearts not averse to being beguiled,  
 Beguile us in the way you know.  
 Release one leaf at break of day;  
 At noon release another leaf;  
 One from our trees, one far away.  
 Retard the sun with gentle mist;  
 Enchant the land with amethyst.

Slow, slow!  
 For the grapes' sake, if they were all,  
 Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,  
 Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—  
 For the grapes' sake along the all.



# WILD NEWS

All the latest regional and national news from The Wildlife Trusts

12,000

people gathered in Westminster to call for action on climate change – and Avon Wildlife Trust staff and supporters were among them

## REGIONAL

### Our continued concern for bat colonies

The Joint Spatial Plan (JSP), which set out proposals for built development across the West of England, reached an important stage over the summer as hearings took place. The hearings were chaired by inspectors from the Government's Planning Inspectorate, whose role is to determine whether the JSP is sound and legally compliant. In September, the inspectors told the four West of England councils to rethink the JSP saying they had 'significant concerns' and questioning the way development locations have been chosen. Avon Wildlife Trust was among many organisations giving evidence – in our case, on our concerns about the future of colonies of greater and lesser horseshoe bats in North Somerset and more widely across our region. Some of the sites proposed for intense development – specifically the 7,850 new houses and several new roads to be built around Nailsea, Backwell, Churchill and Banwell – may have a significant impact on bats. But the local authorities have failed to identify the ways the JSP could affect the North Somerset and Mendips Bat Special Area of Conservation, a European conservation site designated to protect these rare animals. We remain seriously concerned about the future of these precious bat colonies and will continue to use every opportunity we have to urge the West of England Combined Authority to lead the way in embedding nature-friendly development across the region and protect our internationally important bat colonies.

### Bathscape – bringing a landscape to life

Bathscape – a five-year partnership to manage the rural landscape of Bath, make it more accessible and enable more people to enjoy its beauty – got underway earlier this year. Avon Wildlife Trust is one of the partners delivering the ambitious project and we are focusing on three areas of Bathscape. We'll deliver 'Landscape on



AWT team at the Westminster Mass Lobby

MARK STANTON

Prescription' wellbeing opportunities, together with Bath City Farm, to give people experiencing stress, anxiety and mental health conditions a chance to do practical conservation on the City Farm's 37-acre hillside site to the south of Bath. Together with the National Trust, our community volunteering opportunities will give people in neighbourhoods across Bath the chance to learn grassland restoration skills to enhance the wildflower meadows in and around the city, including running fortnightly volunteer sessions in parks, community green spaces and local wildlife sites. And we'll also help landowners to manage their grasslands for wildlife, offering advice and tailored management plans so that wildflower grassland habitats are improved for all the many species that depend on them. We'll keep you posted on the opportunities you'll have to get involved, and on the impact this ambitious project will have.

### The Time is Now

On 26 June, an estimated 12,000 people gathered in Westminster to lobby their MPs for urgent action on nature's decline and climate change. In the largest-ever

environmental lobby of Parliament, 307 MPs (some taken by rickshaw) met with their constituents. At 2pm people rang alarm clocks to symbolise that the time is now, urging their MPs that action is needed and that they must pass new laws to create a healthier environment for people and wildlife and support measures to take action on climate change.

Avon Wildlife Trust organised a coach from Bristol and joined over 100 people from Bristol and Bath to meet five of our region's MPs.

One of our supporters summed up the day: "A baby in his father's arms grabbed my fingers as I listened to Bristol MP Darren Jones set out some of his dreams to our small group on Lambeth Bridge, to help the climate and create a better and safer world for the future. And I wondered what the little boy would say about us in 20 years' time. My motivation to travel to Parliament is that there is no greater issue in the world today, and I was counted. A small step but a good step; with a great group from Bristol. I wanted to do something for my children and grandchildren."  
– Mark Vaughan OBE



Hawkfield Meadow – one of the eight My Wild City local wildlife sites

**REGIONAL**

# A new phase for My Wild City

## Transforming hidden spaces for nature

Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, we're well underway with a three-year project to transform some of Bristol's hidden spaces for nature and help people to connect with wildlife. Our My Wild City vision to create nature-rich neighbourhoods, towns and cities across Avon stemmed from our initial project during Bristol's 2015 European Green Capital Year. This new phase of My Wild City is a partnership between Avon Wildlife Trust and Bristol City Council

and will focus on eight wildlife sites in different neighbourhoods across Bristol, linking people living in the communities nearby with these spaces. Read on and turn to pages 20 and 21 to get a glimpse of how the project will give people of all ages opportunities to learn about the wild plants and animals in each local wildlife site, as well as build skills and knowledge to play their part in helping them thrive in the future.



**Find out more** about My Wild City: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildcity](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildcity)

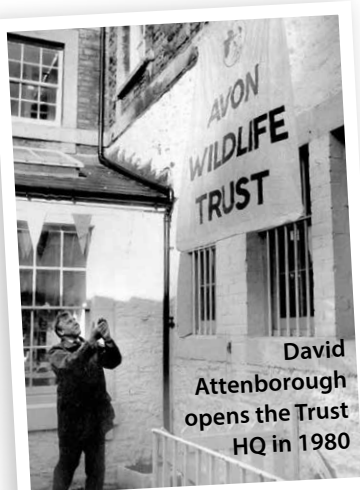


**REGIONAL**

# A big birthday for the Trust

We celebrate our 40th anniversary in May 2020. Avon Wildlife Trust began its wildlife journey in 1980, establishing England's first urban nature reserve in the country's oldest (1665) park, Brandon Hill in Bristol, which is next to our main office.

We brought nature into the heart of the city with wildflower meadows, wildlife ponds and butterfly gardens. Now we manage 30 nature reserves in Avon, working across large areas of landscape to enhance habitats, create nature's recovery and inspire people and communities to connect and care for the wonderful wild spaces we have. We would love to gather your memories of being a part of Avon Wildlife Trust as a member or volunteer, whether recent, past, short or long-term. If you would like to share any photos or memories, please get in touch. Email [Naomi.Fuller@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Naomi.Fuller@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk) and watch out for events and opportunities during 2020 to celebrate our birthday and look forward with us to the next 40 years.



David Attenborough opens the Trust HQ in 1980

# A wonderful 30 Days Wild

More people than ever before took part in the Wildlife Trusts' nationwide month-long nature celebration in June.

Now in its fourth year, an estimated

**400,000**

people took part, noticing, enjoying and celebrating nature every day for **30** days.



Here in Avon, we had

**1,648** people participating – a **10%** increase from last year – from care homes, **45** businesses, **163** schoolteachers and **1,418** individuals.



We loved seeing your

**30** Days Wild

photos on social media, including the street goats on Purdown, DIY hedgehog homes quickly inhabited by prickly residents, overripe bananas left out to feed butterflies, gardens left wild and more. Nature needs us and we need nature



**365** days a year. Stay wild and

we look forward to even more **Avon Random Acts of Wildness** next June!

## OUR LEARNING YEAR SO FAR IN NUMBERS...

**974** adults and children from **435** families had fun in nature at our **My Wild Child** sessions – with more running this autumn and winter. Thanks to players of People’s Postcode Lottery for supporting this project.

**275** schoolchildren across Bristol and Weston-super-Mare had the chance to get up close to European eels in their classrooms through our **Spawn to be Wild** project.



We’ve welcomed **1,143** pupils to our **Folly Farm** and **Feed Bristol** nature reserves on school visits, where they’ve learnt about wildlife outdoors and tried new activities.

**562** young people connected with nature through the **Our Bright Future** project, learning practical conservation skills and building confidence.

**“I have learnt that it’s not so bad to sit still for 30 minutes... we got to see the badgers!”** Year 5 pupil



PHOTOS: NICK TURNER

## REGIONAL

# All ages learning about nature

Every month this year, our learning programmes have helped families, children and young adults connect with nature by sharing the rich and beautiful wildlife found in green spaces in our cities and on our nature reserves. Here’s a glimpse of the impact these learning opportunities are having.

### My Wild Child – nature adventures in all seasons

Families attending My Wild Child this year have journeyed through the seasons, following icicle trails in the winter months, making cosy birds’ nests in the spring, looking at patterned moths in the moth trap and following bumblebees as they visit colourful wildflowers in summer in each of the three sites where we run regular sessions across Bristol. The wonder of the natural world was brought to life as children made their own leaf people, played at being frogs in a pond and splashed in July downpours as they hunted for the biggest slug. Parent Rosie reflected on the sessions at The Bommie in Knowle, which she attends with her son Gabriel:



**“Sometimes it takes quite a lot of confidence for young mums with young babies to think ‘Right, I’m going to get out the house and do an activity’, but it’s so beneficial to get out here – it’s good for the adults’ mental health as well as the children’s.”**

### Spawn to be Wild – getting close to eels

This summer, for the fifth year, we’ve given children the chance to look after eels in their classrooms, thanks to generous funding from Bristol Water for our Spawn to be Wild project. The project gives children a chance to get up close and personal with this mysterious species and discover how they can play a part in protecting our natural environment. 275 pupils in



five schools took part this year and each class cared for a tank of young European eels – known as elvers – over a few weeks, learning about the lifecycle, incredible migration journey and threats facing this critically endangered and fascinating wild animal. The children had wonderful, creative ideas about how to protect and save European eels and some had bonded with ‘their’ eel so closely that they were sad to see it wriggle off into Blagdon Lake on the day of its release!

### Giving young people a Bright Future

Young people from across our region have helped enhance green spaces for wildlife and people through the Trust’s Our Bright Future work experience and youth opportunities – thanks to funding through The National Lottery Community Fund. They’ve helped improve Grove Park in Weston-super-Mare, creating colourful

wildflower planters and looking after an edibles patch. Other groups have helped look after our Feed Bristol site, learning practical conservation skills like wildflower planting. We’ve also supported young people to raise their voices about the future environment they want to see, as part of the West of England Nature Partnership conference and building an understanding of the need for a nature recovery network in Avon and beyond.

## UK UPDATE

### End of an era

Stephanie Hilborne OBE has stepped down as Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts. Steph has led The Wildlife Trust movement, championing its beliefs and vision, for the last 15 years.

Under Steph's leadership, The Wildlife Trusts have been at the forefront of marine conservation, successfully campaigning for the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, led on landscape-scale conservation and published ground-breaking research on the benefits of nature for health and wellbeing.

Speaking about her departure, Steph said, "I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be so central to this amazing movement of dedicated people who care so passionately about wildlife and future generations. I wish all my friends in the movement well as they go from strength to strength."

We wish Steph all the best in her new role as CEO of Women in Sport.

[wildlifetrusts.org/ceo-steps-down](http://wildlifetrusts.org/ceo-steps-down)



### 25 years of support

This November, The National Lottery celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday and we look back on a quarter of a century of support for wildlife and wild places across the UK.

Since the first draw in 1994, The National Lottery has raised over £40 billion for good causes – including more than 800 Wildlife Trust projects.

This vital funding has enabled Wildlife Trusts to save thousands of hectares of land,

protect rare and vulnerable wildlife and bring people of all generations closer to nature, from helping barn owls in Northern Ireland to restoring wild landscapes in Scotland.

Learn more about the work that The National Lottery has supported at [wildlifetrusts.org/25-year-lottery](http://wildlifetrusts.org/25-year-lottery)



### Saving sand dunes

A pioneering project is stepping in to save Europe's most threatened habitat, sand dunes. Home to rare plants and animals, including fen orchids and sand lizards, the last century has seen them decline dramatically. The ambitious Dynamic Dunescapes project aims to reverse these declines, working with local people to bring life back to our dunes. This partnership project was made possible by £4m funding from The National Lottery. [wildlifetrusts.org/saving-sand-dunes](http://wildlifetrusts.org/saving-sand-dunes)



## UK HIGHLIGHTS

Discover how The Wildlife Trusts are working for you across the UK



### 1 Moor wildlife

600 acres of wildlife-rich moorland have been saved from potential development by Northumberland Wildlife Trust, thanks to incredible support for their fundraising appeal. Benshaw Moor is home to round-leaved sundews and sphagnum mosses, as well as nesting curlews, otters and rare butterflies. The site will now be protected as a nature reserve. [nwt.org.uk/news/benshaw](http://nwt.org.uk/news/benshaw)



### 2 Tern tracking

For the first time ever, chicks from Wales' only Sandwich tern colony have been given special "flags" to help birdwatchers track their movements. Each flag, fixed to a ring on the bird's leg, has a unique code that can be read through a spotting scope, helping us learn more about these seabirds. [northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/news/ringing-changes](http://northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/news/ringing-changes)

### 3 Going batty

The largest ever survey of Alderney's bat population has revealed the island's first live brown long-eared bat. For Alderney Wildlife Trust's 'Bat Week', visiting experts trained residents in survey techniques while conducting an island-wide study. They also found five pipistrelle roosts, including a maternity roost, and a natterer's bat. [alderneywildlife.org/bat-week-2019](http://alderneywildlife.org/bat-week-2019)



RICHARD HOPKINS

## Saving our badgers

Over the last few years, 68,000 badgers have been killed as part of the government's strategy to halt the spread of bovine TB – a disease which affects cattle and causes devastation for farmers. Regular culling takes place across large areas of England from Cornwall to Staffordshire and now includes Avon, with between 1,200 and 1,700 badgers due to be culled this season in part of our region and up to 64,400 nationally.

We have begun vaccinating badgers to protect them from bovine TB and to show there's an alternative way to help tackle the TB problem which avoids culling and allows Avon's wild badgers to thrive.

### The start of a four-year programme

Many other Wildlife Trusts have been successfully vaccinating badgers, and over the summer we joined them to take practical action in supporting these wonderful animals. Our conservation staff have been working with trained, licensed volunteers from Somerset Badger Group at a woodland site on an Avon Wildlife Trust nature reserve, and we've so far vaccinated 15 adults

and cubs to protect them from being infected with bovine TB.

We plan to roll out our badger vaccination work over the next four years, working with other landowners and farmers to share the knowledge we've gained from vaccinating on our reserve, and encouraging them to protect badgers from bovine TB as a way to tackle the disease.

We need to raise at least £20,000 to afford the vaccines, equipment and training that are essential if we are to extend across Avon. Our fundraising appeal – Save Our Badgers – has already raised a fantastic £10,500 and this support will allow us to focus on a new area next summer.

**“Our wild badgers are wonderful, charismatic animals and we are focusing on helping them to thrive. Working with farmers and landowners to vaccinate across wider areas is a new way forward in tackling bovine TB in badgers.” Ian Barrett, Chief Executive**



### Find out more

about our vaccination work and the background to the bovine TB challenge at:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/saveourbadgers](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/saveourbadgers)

### We need your help

- **£10** buys 5kg of peanuts to attract badgers to the vaccination area
- **£40** buys a vaccine for one badger
- **£200** buys vaccines for a family of badgers with their cubs

**Please help us** save our badgers and donate what you can to protect them: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/saveourbadgers](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/saveourbadgers)



### Behind the scenes with the vaccination team

Avon Wildlife Trust Director of Conservation, Amy Coulthard, is leading the project and was on site with members of her team and volunteers from Somerset Badger Group at all stages of the pilot vaccination process.

“We ensured the welfare of the badgers at our nature reserve at all times in the weeks leading up to the

vaccination, gradually getting them used to the humane traps we eventually used over two nights,” she explained. “We treated each adult and badger cub very carefully, injecting them with the vaccine and marking a small patch of fur to show which of the family group had been vaccinated. Then we released them, and they headed home to the sett to stay below ground until dusk.”



### Our next steps

Vaccination can only be carried out under special licence between May and November, so over the next six months we'll be planning additional locations for next year, on other nature reserves and working with landowners who are keen to get involved in this project and vaccinate badgers on their land.

To ensure as many badgers as possible are vaccinated, including new cubs, vaccination needs to take place every year for four years, so we'll also be returning to this year's reserve to revaccinate family groups and their new cubs.



**Adopt a badger!**  
You can now show your support through our adopt a species programme and help save these wonderful animals.  
[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/adoptspecies](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/adoptspecies)

### The national picture

Following the government's announcement of new badger cull areas including Avon, The Wildlife Trusts are continuing to urge a halt to the cull and for investment in badger vaccination nationally. Together, we're calling for more resources for farm biosecurity measures to tackle cattle to cattle transmission of bovine TB – the main route for the spread of the disease.



RICHARD HOPKINS

### Working with farmers in Avon

Though we're extremely concerned at the news that culling is now happening in Avon, we're putting our efforts into extending our badger vaccination work and demonstrating vaccination as a viable alternative. A group of farmers are keen to find out more and we're holding a meeting with them this autumn to give them more information about how it could work on their farms next year.

### Contact your MP

If you want to raise your voice in calling for a halt to the cull policy and urge the government to invest in badger vaccination and the other measures needed to tackle bovine TB, do contact your MP to put your views across. We've contacted all MPs in our region to tell them about our vaccination work and ask for their support – but the more voices they hear from the better.

BEVIS WATTS

# Insect decline

By Elisabeth Winkler

White-tailed bumblebee  
nectar feeding

NICK UPTON / 2020VISION

**The bad news is that insects are declining. The good news is that we can reverse the decline.**

Do you remember the sounds of summer – the buzz of bumblebees, click-clicks of beetles and chirping of crickets? And have you noticed that nature has quietened in recent years? Another summer memory is car windscreens plastered with insects on a long summer's drive. Yet this too is a thing of the past. Some may say good riddance – no more pesky mosquitos or wasps to ruin a picnic. But evidence of insect decline is of huge concern.

Insects are essential. They are the world's pollinators, pest controllers, food

for other creatures such as birds, as well as nutrient recyclers. For instance, the dung beetle has been clearing up poo for the last 65 million years, and without it the countryside would be littered with dung. Even annoying midges play their part in the web of life, as food for bats and swallows. Some types of tropical midges are the cocoa tree's main pollinators. It is humbling to realise that without midges, there would be no chocolate.

Recent studies suggest a drastic decline in insects. The good news is that

few species have become extinct and populations can rapidly recover. With this in mind, a group of Wildlife Trusts in the south west have commissioned a report, written by Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology at the University of Sussex, which proposes a series of actions for all levels of society. Whether citizen, business, local authority or government, we can all act now to create wildlife-friendly networks to give insects the nature they need.



Bug hotel at Feed Bristol, which has many examples of insect homes

NICK TURNER

## Nature recovery at every level

Society needs to rethink the way it manages every piece of land. For instance, many forward-thinking farmers are using pollinator-friendly seeds and leaving field margins (between crop and boundary) for wildlife. Some councils are going pesticide-free, letting wildflowers – which provide homes and food for insects – thrive in city parks, school playing fields, road verges and roundabouts. We citizens can do our bit. With half a million hectares of gardens in the UK, we can desist from using chemical pesticides and fertilisers, mow the lawn less leaving more areas wild, build bug hotels, dig ponds to attract dragonflies, grow nectar-rich flowers (avoiding highly-cultivated varieties like begonias, busy lizzies and petunias), and re-imagine so-called weeds as the beautiful bee-friendly flowers that they are. Visit the wildflower nursery at our Feed Bristol site for advice and to purchase bee-friendly plants grown from local seeds.



Common blue butterfly

BOB COYLE



Blue-tailed damselfly silhouetted on a reed

ROSS HODDINOTT / 2020VISION

## Water-loving insects

We are working in partnership to restore the wetlands for wildlife in the North Somerset Levels and Moors, an extensive area covering around 8,000 hectares next to the Severn Estuary. We have also improved water quality at our two nature reserves, Clapton Moor and Weston Moor, in the Gordano Valley, where traditional drainage ditches (rhynes) criss-cross the fields. Look out for the hairy dragonfly and ruddy darter hunting above the rhynes.



Ruddy darter dragonfly at rest

CHRIS GOMERSALL / 2020VISION

## Measuring matters

Measuring wildlife gives vital information which highlights both problems and solutions. After monitoring winter garden birds for Avon Wildlife Trust, Ben Barker of Bedminster in Bristol set up the BS3 Wildlife Group. Its Winter Garden Bird Watch now submits over 2,000 records annually to Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre, and recently started monitoring butterflies. "We identified there is less wildlife in Bedminster than other parts of Bristol. This led to our Good Front Gardens award, encouraging people to grow bee-friendly flowers and create wildlife corridors," says Ben, who is one of our Wildlife Champions.

## Krefeld citizen science

One of the most recent talked-about insect studies was published in 2017 by the Entomological Krefeld Society in Germany, near the Dutch border. Founded in 1905, the voluntary society keeps meticulous records and specimens. Supported by university scientists, the study looked at 63 nature reserves where the Krefeld Society has been trapping insects since the late 1980s. Their paper describes the only long-term, large-scale data in existence that encompasses a broad range of insect species, rather than individual species such as butterflies.



Painted lady butterfly

STEVEN WILLIAMS



Common carder bumblebee

NICK UPTON / 2020VISION

# Wild Businesses corporate partner update

Our partnerships with businesses mean together we can do more to protect and restore natural habitats and wildlife across Avon.



## Amdocs – helping create a wild Bath

One of the businesses we've recently worked with is technology company Amdocs, who have been supporting us with the Wild Walcot project, a community partnership project to co-design and create a wildlife-friendly green corridor along the length of Walcot Street in Bath. The Amdocs team transformed the churchyard of St Swithin's Church, sowing locally-sourced wildflower seeds and planting wildflower plug plants (grown from local seed at our Feed Bristol wildflower nursery) and creating a sun-warmed beetle bank and bug hotel.

Amdocs have supported Wild Walcot from its early days in 2016 and it's been marvellous to see how the street has been transformed into a green, wildlife-friendly area. The team's skill, talent and enthusiasm has been a great asset to the project. There's a huge benefit for the volunteers who get involved with our projects too. Time and again companies tell us that getting outside to do something meaningful in nature makes their teams feel invigorated, better connected and instilled with a real sense of achievement.



PHOTOS: NICOLE DAW



## A nature recovery game!

A huge thank you to Rolls Royce who helped design and create an interactive wildlife-themed game for the Bath Festival of Nature and Bristol Festival of Nature which took place in June. The game, designed for children and families, involved traversing a nature recovery network across Avon, with each player adopting the character of a different wild animal as it moved across our region, facing challenges along the way. The game was a hit and helped us show the barriers facing wildlife in a fun way.



**500**  
corporate volunteers  
have helped make a  
difference for wildlife  
in Avon in the last  
12 months



If your business would like to lend a hand to support wildlife and create more spaces for nature, you can find more information at [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/support-us/corporate-partnerships](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/support-us/corporate-partnerships)

# FOCUS ON...

## People & Wildlife



PHOTOS: NICOLE DAW

### A nature and wellbeing garden for young people

This year we've had a brilliant opportunity to transform a space for nature and young people, thanks to Triodos Bank choosing us as one of their chosen charities, alongside 1625 Independent People, who work to support young people who are at risk of becoming homeless. Over the last few

months, supported by Triodos staff, we've worked together with 1625 Independent People to design and create a nature and wellbeing garden at one of their hostels in Yate.

We had three days with keen Triodos employees to complete the job and were treated to rain on every one of them! But

it didn't deter our band of hard-working volunteers and we turned a patch of unused grass into a beautiful garden, bursting with wildlife features such as micro-ponds, bird feeders, a minibeast hotel, bug, bird and bat boxes and a compost bay. We included five beds full of edible and pollinator-friendly plants, many from our wildflower nursery at Feed Bristol. Wildflowers from the nursery also filled the meadow patches, and will be left to grow tall and wild, providing another habitat for local wildlife. Final touches included some seating under a newly planted apple tree and in the willow arch, to allow the staff and residents at the hostel to take time out and enjoy the space and the creatures which inhabit it.

**“We're so grateful for the expertise of AWT and the volunteer time from Triodos staff to transform this outdoor space into somewhere residents can enjoy”** Luke Boulton, 1625 Independent People

### A year at Says Court Farm

We have been working at Says Court Farm in South Gloucestershire for several years now and each year there's more wildlife to see as a result of our work designing wildlife features as mitigation – offsetting the effects of the solar panels which were installed there. Now the wildflower meadow is full of pinks, yellows and whites all summer and the hedgerows are fruiting in the autumn, creating perfect homes for nesting birds.

Throughout the year we have run a programme of Wild Wednesdays, taking families through the landscape and learning about what we see along the way, from farm birds to badger



footprints. We investigated the life in the undergrowth with sweep nets, showing a hidden habitat to children and adults. Some families met real life owls and made bird feeders, while others learnt to create blow pipes from elder which grows

on site. Local children from Immanuel School also enjoyed a visit to the farm where they immersed themselves in nature, creating works of art, dissecting owl pellets and looking at natural treasures.

# MY WILD COMMUNITY

We have a huge and wonderful community online - with over **10,000 people** who subscribe to our monthly eNewsletter, over **16,000 members, 12,892 followers** on Twitter, **5,892 likes** on Facebook and **2,447 followers** on Instagram. Here are some of the photos and stories they shared with us over the spring and summer months.

You can sign up to our eNewsletter via our website homepage [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

## SOCIAL FEEDS



### botanicalinks:

Harvest time at [@feedbristol](#) – today I've had the pleasure of walking barefoot around the most beautiful growing beds, laying in the sunshine surrounded by a web of willow, grounding into the earth after a weekend full of movement and basslines...and exploring local colour giving plants. There's an abundance of St. Johns Wort in flower, calendula, comfrey, weld and horsetail amongst many man others...I'm excited to work with them and reveal their hidden colours. [#localcolour](#) [#naturalcolour](#) [#naturaldyes](#) [#ecocolour](#) [#botanicalcolour](#) [#botanicaldye](#) [#feedbristol](#)



**Riverside volunteers:** Fresh and brighter feel to the morning walk today along the Avon at Batheaston, looking over Bathampton Meadows towards the [@avonwt](#) reserve. [@WaterSpaceBath](#)

### unibrisgardens:

Big thank you to [@morss\\_alex](#) for delivering an engaging and insightful workshop with wildflowers in our meadows at Wills Hall this month. [#Biodiversity](#) is key to a healthy sustainable landscape. [#MyWildUniversity](#)



### notmontydon:

love the roundhouse nestled within the six acre wildlife gardening hub at [@feedbristol](#) 😊 maybe I'll knock the garage down and build one at home 😊 [@avonwt](#)



### Nick Gates:

I rescued some common spotted orchid spikes which were about to be mown down in Bristol last week. When I got home I noticed a tiny batch of eggs on them, and a few days later a tiny cluster of freshly hatched shield bug nymphs! Can anyone ID? [@Buzz\\_don't\\_tweet](#) [@avonwt](#) [@ukorchids](#)



**The Genesis Trust:** Our [@GenesisBathLS](#) participants loved the nature based mindfulness session with [@avonwt](#) this week. Look at the colours we found 🌿🍁🌸

We'd love to see your pictures from your wildlife adventures over autumn and winter. Get involved with your community and follow us/share your stories on social media



[#StayWild](#)

# WHAT'S ON

For up-to-date event listings,  
visit our website  
[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

Pull  
out

Avon Wildlife Trust's

## annual meeting

2019

Please join us to celebrate our achievements & learn more about our future plans & badger vaccination work. Refreshments and canapes provided.

**From 6pm - 9pm**  
**Wednesday 13th November**  
Burgess Salmon, One Glass Wharf, Bristol BS2 0ZX

**#SaveOurBadgers**

**book your place now**

THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS  
Avon



Protecting **wildlife** for the future

You are warmly invited to join us for Avon Wildlife Trust's Annual Meeting including our AGM on Wednesday 13 November from 6pm. Please book your place at: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/AGM2019](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/AGM2019)

We hope you can help us to celebrate all we have achieved for local wildlife over the past year, thanks to our generous members, volunteers and supporters.

We will share our plans for the future and show what's been achieved through our collective Wilder Future campaign with The Wildlife Trusts national movement.

We've recently launched our first badger vaccination programme to protect Avon's badgers against bovine TB. Please join us to find out more about this work and how you can support it.

## LIFELONG LEARNING COURSES

Take a look at some of our practical and lifelong learning courses that are designed to support you to take your wildlife knowledge to the next level. Our expert tutors will guide you through key skills, including field identification, making biological records and managing land for wildlife. Courses cover a range of themes and activities and are suitable for beginners who want to further their knowledge and skills. We are also developing some creative courses for

people to experience nature through craft, journaling and art.

- 24 January – Winter Bird ID
- 3 December – Christmas Wreath Making

To find out more and book your place visit [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

Do keep an eye out for more courses in our 2020 programme, such as Winter Tree ID, Wildflower ID and others.



STEPH SHARKEY



HELENA DOI BY

## WILDLIFE WATCH CLUB

Bring your 5-10-year-old nature lovers to Avon Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Watch Club at Feed Bristol on the first Saturday of the month until December 2019.

Wonderful members of our learning team will be teaching everyone all about nature, with an exciting new theme every month and lots of fun activities to enjoy. Please see our schedule for the rest of the year:

- November 2 – Dens, setts and nests
- December 7 – Solstice and winter birds

Our Wildlife Watch programme at Feed Bristol will be released at the start of each new year. For more details about individual Wildlife Watch Clubs take a look at the Events section on our website: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

Come dressed ready to get your hands dirty as we'll go on a wild adventures around this amazing wildlife hub in the city!

Thank to players of People's Postcode Lottery for supporting our work with families in Bristol.

**NOVEMBER**

**Jumble Sale**

Saturday November 2,  
10:00am – 11:30am  
Avon Way Hall, Avon Way,  
Portishead BS20 6LT  
Entry 20p PP. **P**  
**Find out more** 01275 843160  
or 01275 843865

**Never work with animals or children!** ●●

Friday November 8,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Baptist Church Hall, High Street,  
Keynsham BS31 1DS  
Free parking in Ashton Way car  
park. Tales from a wildlife TV  
producer, with Nikki Waldron  
from BBC Natural History Unit.  
Adults £2.50, under 16s £1 PP.

Sales of bird food, seasonal  
items, second hand books,  
greetings cards. Refreshments  
available during break (donation  
requested). **K**

**Find out more** 01225 874259

**Autumn colours walk** ●

Sunday November 17,  
10:00am – 12:00pm  
Meet at Valley Road entrance off  
B3124  
Dr Bill Dixon will lead this walk  
in Weston Big Wood, Portishead.  
Sturdy footwear advised. Free but  
donations welcome. **P**

**Find out more** 01275 849200

**North American wildlife** ●●

Friday November 22,  
7:30 – 9:30pm  
Folk Hall, 95 High Street,  
Portishead BS20 6PR  
Illustrated talk by Helen  
Mugridge. Entrance £2, children/  
students £1, includes tea/coffee

**Key**

- Wheelchair friendly
- Family friendly
- Dog friendly

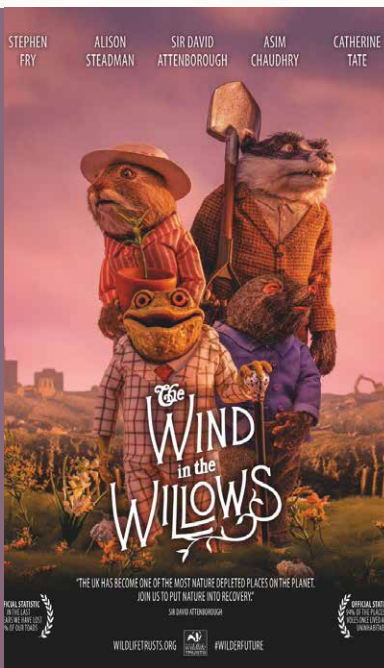
**Abbreviations**

- BE** Booking Essential
- RI** Refreshments Included
- WP** Weather permitting
- PP** Per Person

**TOP PICK**

**A Wilder Future for Avon**

Friday January 10,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Baptist Church Hall, High  
Street, Keynsham BS31 1DS  
A talk by AWT Chief  
Executive Ian Barrett and  
Director of Conservation  
Amy Coulthard. Adults £2.50,  
under 16s £1. Refreshments  
available during break.  
Sales of bird food, second  
hand books and greetings  
cards. **K**  
**Find out more**  
01225 874259



(RI). Non-members welcome. **P**  
**Find out more** 01275 843160

**An evening with Mark Carwardine** ●●

Tuesday November 26,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
The Space, 5 Temple Street,  
Keynsham BS31 1HA  
"Never ever write a field guide"  
(whales, dolphins & porpoises)  
and much more! Mark is a  
zoologist, award-winning  
writer and TV presenter. An  
entertaining evening for  
anyone interested in wildlife.  
Adults £6, under 16s £2.50 PP.  
Advance booking advised at  
markcarwardine.eventbrite.co.uk.  
Or buy tickets at a Keynsham  
Group evening meeting. **K**  
**Find out more** 07850 508702

**Born to Bird 2** ●●

Thursday November 28,  
7:45pm – 9:45pm  
Upstairs in Old School Room,  
Chew Magna BS40 8SH  
Mya-Rose Craig (aka Birdgirl) will  
entertain us with more of her  
birding at home and abroad,  
seeing half the birds of the world,  
with lots of her stunning bird  
images. Everyone welcome. Entry  
£2.50 PP, includes refreshments  
(RI). **CV**  
**Find out more** 01275 332601

**DECEMBER**

**A Christmas Cracker** ●●

Friday December 13,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Baptist Church Hall, High Street,  
Keynsham BS31 1DS  
Short talks from local members –  
"Wildlife Photography in Finland"  
and "Birding in China" – a wildlife  
quiz and Christmas refreshments.  
Adults £2.50, under 16s £1 PP. **K**  
**Find out more** 01225 874259

**JANUARY**

**A Wilder Future for Avon** ●●

Friday January 10,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Baptist Church Hall, High Street,  
Keynsham BS31 1DS  
A talk by AWT Chief Executive  
Ian Barrett and Director of  
Conservation Amy Coulthard.



DAMIAN WATERS

Adults £2.50, under 16s £1 PP.  
Refreshments available during  
break Sales of bird food, second  
hand books and greetings  
cards. **K**

**Find out more** 01225 874259

**A Wilder Future – restoring the abundance of Avon's wildlife**

Thursday January 23,  
7:45pm – 9:45pm  
Upstairs in Old School Room,  
Chew Magna BS40 8SH  
Talk by Ian Barrett, Chief  
Executive of AWT. Entry £2.50,  
includes refreshments (RI). **CV**  
**Find out more** 01275 332601

**Butterflies, moths and harpys – a Panama adventure** ●●

Friday January 24,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Folk Hall, 95 High Street,  
Portishead BS20 6PR  
Illustrated talk by Dr Bill Dixon.  
Entrance £2, children/students  
£1 PP, includes tea/coffee (RI).  
Non-members welcome. **P**  
**Find out more** 01275 843160

**FEBRUARY**

**Troopers Hill talk** ●●

Friday February 14,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Baptist Church Hall, High Street,  
Keynsham BS31 1DS  
Rob Acton-Campbell, founder  
member of Friends of Troopers  
Hill, will tell us about the hill's  
unique heathland and acid  
grassland habitats and the  
invertebrates that live there.  
Adults £2.50; under 16s £1 PP.  
Refreshments available. Sales  
of bird food, books, cards. Free  
parking in Ashton Way car park. **K**  
**Find out more** 01225 874259

**Starling roost** ●

Sunday February 16,  
11:00am – 5:30pm  
Meet at the reserve car park  
BA6 9SX  
Lucy Delve from the Bath  
Naturalists Society will show  
us the winter birds in Ham Wall  
RSPB Reserve, culminating in  
seeing (hopefully) the famous



starling murmuration at dusk!  
Donation £2 PP. From Keynsham,  
meet at Wellsway School BS31  
1PH for the minibus at 10:00am  
(must pre-book, £6). Please bring  
sturdy shoes. **K**

**Find out more** 0117 909 9667

### Secret World Wildlife Rescue Centre



Thursday February 27,  
7:45pm – 9:45pm

Upstairs in Old School Room,  
Chew Magna BS40 8SH

Talk by Jamie Kingcott, Wildlife  
Release Co-ordinator at the  
Centre. Entry £2.50 PP, includes  
refreshments (RI). **CV**

**Find out more** 01275 332601

### A close-up view of British and foreign bugs & insects



Friday February 28,

Folk Hall, 95 High Street,  
Portishead BS20 6PR

Talk about Macros (Bugs &  
Insects) by Paul Ruddock.

Entrance £2, children/students  
£1 PP, includes tea/coffee (RI).

Non-members welcome. **P**

**Find out more** 01275 843160

### MARCH

#### Jumble sale



Saturday March 7,  
10:00am – 11:30am

Avon Way Hall, Avon Way,  
Portishead BS20 6LT

Entry 20p PP. **P**

**Find out more** 01275 843160  
or 01275 843865

### UK Islands – volunteering for wildlife



Friday March 13,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm

Baptist Church Hall, High Street,  
Keynsham BS31 1DS

Free parking in Ashton Way car  
park. Colin Butcher's talk is based  
on many years of conservation  
volunteering at a variety of  
habitats around the coast,  
including wall and boardwalk  
building, repairs, scrub clearing,  
bird counts. Adults £2.50; under  
16s £1 PP. Refreshments available.  
Sales of bird food, books, cards. **K**

**Find out more** 01225 874259



KIERON HUSTON

### Spring trees in Keynsham Park



Saturday March 21,  
10:30am – 12:30pm

Meet at the Baked Café,  
Keynsham Memorial Park  
BS31 2BL

Liz Wintle is leading this gentle  
walk around Keynsham Memorial  
Park, looking at the wonderful  
specimen trees with a little local  
history along the way. Optional  
donation. **K**

**Find out more** 0117 909 9667



JANICE WALSH

### The work of the Woodland Trust and what makes our trees special



Thursday March 26,  
7:45pm – 9:45pm.

Upstairs in Old School Room,  
Chew Magna BS40 8SH

Talk by Rosie Walker. Woodlands  
form an iconic part of the British  
landscape, providing habitat for  
many species of animals and  
birds. However the UK is one  
of the least wooded countries  
in Europe and our ancient

woodland is threatened. Entry  
£2.50 PP, includes refreshments  
(RI). **CV**

**Find out more:** 01275 332601

### A year in the life of a meadow



Friday March 27,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm.

Folk Hall, 95 High Street,  
Portishead BS20 6PR

Illustrated talk by Diana Redfern.  
Entrance £2, children/students  
£1 PP, includes tea/coffee (RI).  
Non-members welcome. **P**

**Find out more** 01275 843160

### APRIL

#### Troopers Hill



Saturday April 4,  
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Meet at the reserve (directions to  
follow) at 2pm

This local nature reserve supports  
rare plants and wildlife as well  
as giving a tantalising glimpse  
into Bristol's industrial history.  
We will be guided around by  
Rob Acton-Campbell, one of the  
reserve's founder members. £2  
PP donation to the Friends of



NICK UPTON 2020/VISION

Troopers Hill. From Keynsham,  
meet at Wellsway School BS31  
1PH for the minibus at 1:30pm  
(must pre-book, £1 PP). **K**

**Find out more** 0117 909 9667

### There's a tapir at the door



Friday April 17,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm

Baptist Church Hall, High Street,  
Keynsham BS31 1DS

An account of life in the  
Peruvian Amazonian region of  
Manu National Park – with Gary  
Prescott "The Biking Birder",  
covering his 6-month cycling  
and packrafting trip. He features  
mammals, birds, reptiles, and  
insects, particularly butterflies.  
Adults £2.50; under 16s £1 PP.  
Refreshments available. Free  
parking in Ashton Way car park. **K**

**Find out more** 01225 874259



ADAM JONES

### Dave's dawn chorus



Sunday April 19,  
4:30am – 8:30am

Meet at The Shallows car park,  
Saltford BS31 3EX

Dave Sage once again leads  
this popular field trip. Voluntary  
donation £1 PP to AWT. Please  
wear warm clothes/sturdy shoes  
and bring binoculars and a hot  
drink! **K**

**Find out more** 0117 940 7968

### What's happening on Walton Common



Friday April 24,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm

Folk Hall, 95 High Street,  
Portishead BS20 6PR

Illustrated talk about our local  
nature reserve by warden Dave  
Horlick. Entrance £2, children/  
students £1 PP, includes tea/  
coffee (RI). Non-members  
welcome. **P**

**Find out more** 01275 843160

# VOLUNTEERING DAYS

Volunteering on conservation projects is a great way to make a real difference to wildlife, to get fit and healthy and to meet some wonderful people. There are plenty of volunteering opportunities at Avon Wildlife Trust including:

## Pollinator Corridors

Meet at Trust HQ (Thursdays).

## Wildlife Action Group (WAG)

on Trust reserves – meet at Trust HQ (Wednesdays and Fridays).

## Wild City Action Team (WCAT)

Every Tuesday and one Saturday a month.

**Reserve-based groups** at Browne's Folly, Folly Farm, Willsbridge Valley, Purn Hill, Hellenge Hill (W-s-M), Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock, Walton Common, Dolebury Warren and the Gordano Valley Group.

**Feed Bristol** in Stapleton.

**Communities and Nature** in Twerton and Whiteway, adhoc sessions in Bath.

Please go to: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer) for dates and work programmes or email [volunteer@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

For conservation, events and office volunteering opportunities please go to [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk) or call **0117 917 7270**.



PETER CARBANS

## JANUARY

### Prior's Wood

Sunday January 5,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

Park on grass verge opposite entrance to Children's Hospice BS48 1PE. Turn off B3128 at Down's School entrance. Follow drive for about 1 mile then turn left at sign to Hospice. Wear waterproof clothes and sturdy footwear. **GCG**

### Weston Moor

Sunday January 26,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

We'll be visiting old Weston Moor to carry out some reed clearance around the ponds and bird hide. Meet on the small drive which runs alongside the church off the B3124. **GCG**

## FEBRUARY

### Primrose Bank

Saturday February 1,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meet on east side of Wickwar Road, Chipping Sodbury, near the zebra crossing by the entrance to Frome Valley Walkway. Clearing brambles to help spring flowers. Please wear outdoor clothing, gloves and stout footwear. Organised by Southwold Group and Sodbury in Bloom. **S**

### Wapley LNR

Sunday February 16,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meet at Shire Way entrance to the woodland, South Yate BS37 8US.

A mixture of tree-planting, using native British trees, plus cutting back excess vegetation. Please wear stout footwear and bring gloves. **S**

## MARCH

### Wapley LNR

Sunday March 14,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meet at Shire Way entrance to the woodland, South Yate BS37 8US. Undertaking more tree-planting to help enhance the biodiversity of this precious nature reserve, and doing a spring clean too. Please wear stout footwear and bring gloves. **S**

## APRIL

### Goose Green

Saturday April 18,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meet at the bridge on the reserve, west of Oak Close, North Yate BS37 5TN. Undertaking maintenance on this local grassland and wetland reserve, such as path clearance and litter picking. Please wear walking or wellington boots and bring gloves. **S**

## NOVEMBER

### Tickenham Hill

Sunday November 24,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

Bashing back scrub to restore the grassland and reduce scrub areas. Park on right hand side of Cadbury Camp Lane West (ST 445724). Come up Hill Lane off north side of B3128. After about 1km, this changes to Cadbury Camp Lane. Wear waterproof clothes and sturdy footwear.

**GCG**

### Wapley LNR

Saturday November 30,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meet at Shire Way entrance to the woodland, South Yate BS37 8US. Woodland planting to enhance biodiversity and general maintenance prior to winter season. Wear walking or wellington boots and bring some gloves. **S**

## Local group and volunteering contacts

(CV)	Chew Valley	Andy Davis	01275 332601
(GCG)	Gordano Valley	Sarah Kennedy	01275 817565/ 07853 248476
(K)	Keynsham	Cynthia Wilson	01225 874259
(P)	Portishead	Cynthia Dorn	01275 843160
(S)	Southwold	Tim Fairhead	01454 323608

If you would like to get involved or start a new group, please contact Melissa Gault 0117 917 7270 (ex 305).

For a full list of our up-to-date events and booking forms, please visit the website: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

You can also follow us on Twitter and Instagram to find out how our events go:



@avonwt



@avonwt



@avonwt

# MY WILD LIFE

## Mhairi Cornish Wellbeing with Nature Project Officer

Mhairi Cornish is part of Avon Wildlife Trust's wellbeing team, supporting people to learn new skills, build confidence and lead healthier lives through experiencing nature and being outdoors. Here she talks about her team's work and the transformations she's seen.



### **What does Avon Wildlife Trust's wellbeing work offer different people?**

We run wellbeing self-care courses for people experiencing mild to moderate mental health illness and long-term health conditions. The sessions include wellbeing activities such as nature-based mindfulness and practical activities like woodland and grassland conservation and wildlife gardening. We also run regular wildlife gardening sessions for over 50s at our Feed Bristol site, including sessions for people living with dementia and their families or carers. In these, we do activities like pond dipping, natural crafts and helping in the wildflower nursery. The focus is on keeping active and using our memories and senses to engage with nature.

### **This wellbeing work is based on a model called the Five Ways to Wellbeing. What is this?**

The Five Ways to Wellbeing was researched and developed by the New Economics Foundation. It's a bit like the 'eat 5 fruit and veg a day' initiative but for your mental health; in other words, if you do the Five Ways to Wellbeing every day your wellbeing should improve. The Five Ways to Wellbeing are: Take Notice, Connect,

Keep Learning, Give and Be Active. We've adapted the model to support the participants on a journey, so they flourish and are resourced to look after their wellbeing and nature after their time on the course has finished.

### **Tell us about some of the people you've worked with – their backgrounds and how they've changed their relationship with nature and wildlife**

People come from many different backgrounds and experiences - mental health illness can affect anyone. People's previous experiences include domestic abuse, homelessness, addiction recovery, social isolation, stroke and head injury. One of the things people always say is that they're noticing nature a lot more. They slow down and spot things they would've walked past before. At least once a week a participant will show me a photo of something they've noticed in nature or something they've done in their garden – it's fantastic.

### **And what have you learnt from the participants?**

That's a good question because I learn so much from the participants. They've shown me how to be more resilient and wholehearted. Feeling part of the

supportive environment in the group takes away the fear of failing or making mistakes and makes it easy to try new things.

### **What single moment could you pick out as the most inspiring or moving so far?**


Only one moment? There're so many I could choose from. Two participants have told me on separate years that they wouldn't have made it through Christmas if they hadn't been attending the course.

### **How do you look after your own wellbeing?**

Being out in nature gives me a great sense of freedom, calmness and belonging, so I do a lot of cycling, walking, camping and wild swimming, often with friends. I also have an allotment which I absolutely love, it's a place where I can give back to nature, it's full of wildflowers and has turned in to a bit of a mini Feed Bristol!



*Our Wellbeing with Nature programme is funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.*

 **To find out more about our wellbeing course go to** [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/wellbeing-with-nature](https://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/wellbeing-with-nature)

# My Wild City

Eight local wildlife sites, eight distinct neighbourhoods across Bristol, eight communities of children, families, professionals and older people, eight hidden havens for wildlife and people. Over the next three years, we're bringing people closer to wonderful urban spaces through an exciting programme of family days, creative experiences, school visits and practical conservation days in our My Wild City project. Here's how we're getting started...

## THE EIGHT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES ARE:

- Dundry Slopes
- Northern Slopes
- Hengrove Mounds and Hawkfield Meadow
- Lawrence Weston Moor
- Saltmarsh Drive Open Space
- Stockwood Open Space
- Coombe Brook Valley
- Dundry Woodland

Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded funding to this project. If you would like to get involved in the My Wild City project, please email [mywildcity@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:mywildcity@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Avon Wildlife Trust team  
explore Hawkfield Meadow, one  
of the eight local-wildlife sites

# Nature on the doorstep

My Wild City is all about enhancing, exploring and enjoying the hidden wildlife havens we have in our city – those forgotten places where nature rules. Places where we can step out of the concrete into a shaded valley with a brook or head up a hill to emerge above the city skyline and see rolling hills heading out to sea.

We want to give more people the opportunity to experience nature on their doorstep. Working closely with local people to create these opportunities – from water testing with the Friends of Coombe Brook Valley group, to working with resident-led community

organisation Ambition Lawrence Weston and community theatre company Brave Bold Drama, we're developing activities and events that offer something different. Each place is special, each community is unique, and this is what makes the My Wild City project so exciting.

At Lawrence Weston Moor we were delighted to meet artist Jules Woolford. Jules has spent the last eight years observing and recording wildlife on these sites and will be helping us to deliver arts and nature-based activities.



**“These sites are very close to my heart. I was thrilled last week to have an encounter with a water vole at Lawrence Weston Moor, scent-marking just a few feet away!”** Jules Woolford, nature and wildlife artist

## Linking schools with local nature havens

This September we started working with eight primary schools across Bristol to empower pupils, teachers and parents to explore and learn about an amazing local wildlife site within walking distance of their school. And linking school communities with their nearest nature site is a core part of the My Wild City project. One school we are working with is Oasis Academy Longcross in Lawrence Weston, which is in walking distance of Saltmarsh Drive Open Space. We're working with the school and the wider community to transform this hidden natural gem, which already teems with butterflies and orchids, into a safe and enjoyable place for local families to visit.



## Our conservation work ahead

As autumn and winter progress, the landscape across the eight local wildlife sites is changing as leaves fall and trees and shrubs prepare for four months of dormancy. Seeds have set and small mammals prepare to bed down and hibernate, waiting for the seasonal abundance of insect prey next spring. But this is the busiest time of year for managing the landscapes of the eight different sites. Our plans this season will focus on reinstating woodland management techniques like coppicing and selective tree thinning, which benefit biodiversity and create a range of wildlife-rich habitats within the woodland system.

We are particularly interested in preserving and protecting ancient trees that still exist as remnants of a more rural landscape at the fringes of the city. Sites like Dundry Slopes and Stockwood Open Space in south Bristol contain a wealth of these beautifully gnarled and wizened oak and ash trees, some hundreds of years old. Their huge size and increased potential for hollowing and dead wood habitat make them an invaluable nesting, sheltering and feeding resource for a wide range of species. In order to ensure these giants last for many more years, we will be selectively felling younger trees nearby that cast shade and compete for resources, a process known as 'haloing'. Another benefit of this kind of work is increased light levels on the woodland floor, which will help woodland flowers like moschatel, Bath asparagus and yellow archangel flourish next spring and summer.

# Plan your wildlife-friendly pond for all

We're rapidly losing our ponds, rivers and streams in the UK, so adding a pond is one of the best things you can do to help wildlife in your garden. **Kate Bradbury** explains how to make your pond a haven for animals, large and small.



**A mix of pond plants**  
Add a range of emergent, floating and submerged plants to provide the best habitat for wildlife, offering egg-laying habitat and shelter from predators. Submerged plants oxygenate the water, too.

**Long grass for cover**  
Allow the grass to grow long around your pond, or grow low-growing herbaceous plants nearby, to provide cover for young frogs, toads and newts and protect them from predators such as birds.

**Shallow water**  
This is where the life is! Here, you'll find tadpoles and other aquatic larvae. Shallow areas warm up more quickly in spring, and frogs lay spawn here.

**Emergent plants**  
Dragonfly nymphs climb out of the water using the stems of emergent plants before transforming into winged adults.

**Landing pad**  
Water lilies will be used by thirsty insects such as bees. Frogs may rest on them to catch insects and aquatic larvae will shelter beneath them.

**Deep water**  
In winter, deep areas provide shelter for frogs, which rest at the bottom, breathing through their skin. Toads prefer deep ponds too.

ILLUSTRATION: HANNAH BAILEY, KATE BRADBURY, SARAH CUTTLE

A pond is one of the richest habitats you can create in a garden, providing food, water and a breeding place for a huge range of species, from amphibians to aquatic invertebrates, and birds to small mammals, such as hedgehogs and bats. A pond is also one of the busiest wildlife habitats. Digging one will have an almost immediate effect. Within just two weeks, you might attract water boatmen and pond skaters, bathing birds, thirsty hedgehogs and egg-laying insects, such as dragonflies and damselflies. Amphibians will seek out the water to spawn in spring, and bats will take advantage of the insects dancing over the water's surface in summer.

In the wild, ponds, rivers and streams are being lost and degraded by development, drainage and intensive farming, resulting in a huge loss of wildlife. So garden ponds are an increasingly vital habitat for species that may have lost their breeding grounds elsewhere. They can also act as stepping stones between larger bodies

of water, providing a lifeline to species that are unable to travel long distances.

While large ponds attract the greatest number of species, don't underestimate the value of a small pond. A container such as an old tin bath, Belfast sink or even a washing up bowl can provide a home for aquatic insects. Frogs may use the habitat too – just help them to reach the water by making a 'frog ladder' out of stones outside the container. Add more stones at the bottom and plants to provide oxygen and shelter for tadpoles and other aquatic larvae.

Our gardens take up more space than all of Britain's nature reserves put together. If we all provided some form of watery home, we could create a network of wildlife-rich water highways across the country. 🍷



**Kate Bradbury** is passionate about wildlife-friendly gardening and the author of *Wildlife Gardening for Everyone and Everything* in association with The Wildlife Trusts.



**For more pond tips** and to add your water feature to our UK pond map, visit [wildaboutgardens.org.uk](http://wildaboutgardens.org.uk)

### Somewhere to hide

Make piles of old terracotta pots or loose heaps of stones near your pond to provide shelter for frogs and toads.

### Gently sloping sides

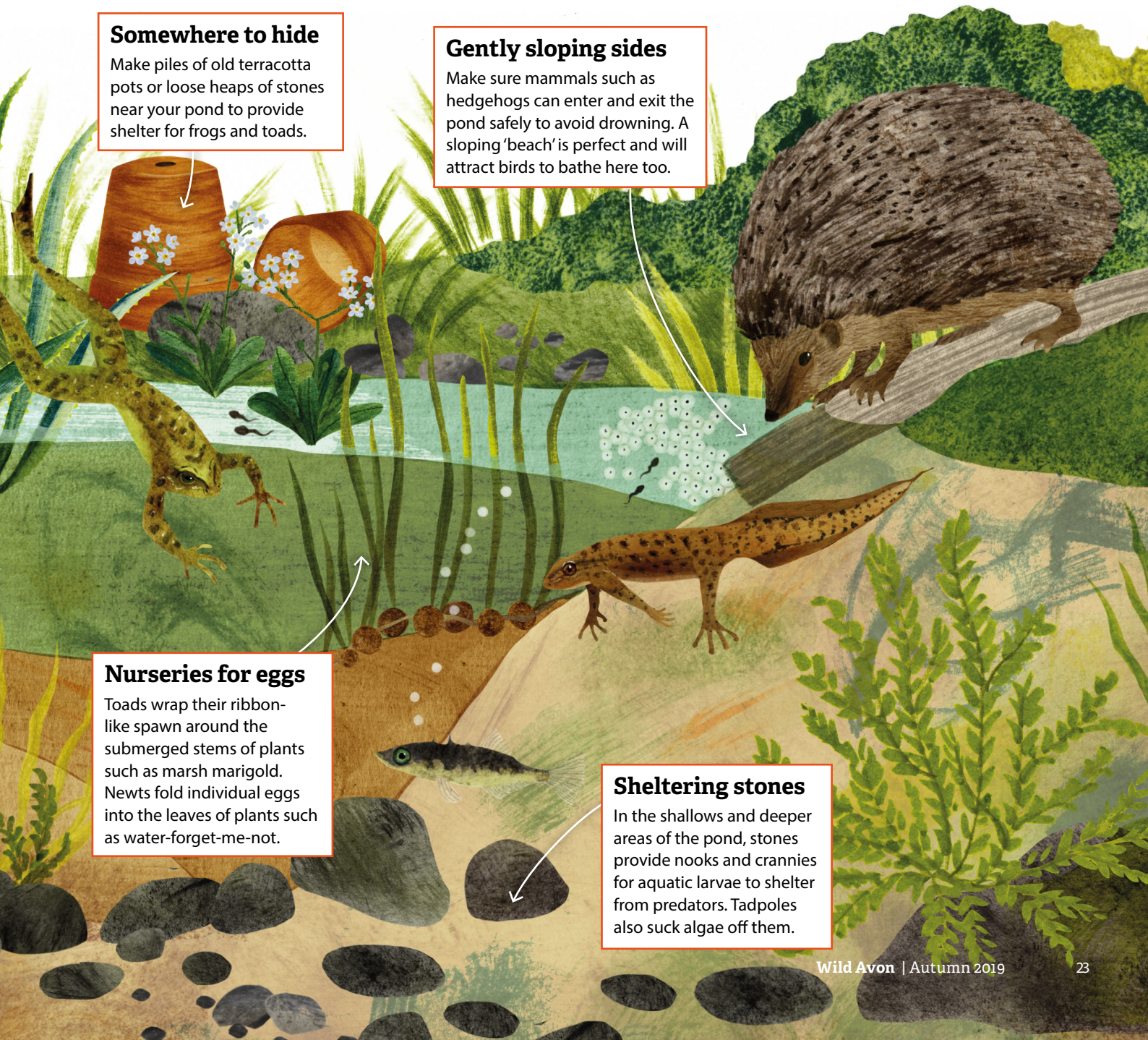
Make sure mammals such as hedgehogs can enter and exit the pond safely to avoid drowning. A sloping 'beach' is perfect and will attract birds to bathe here too.

### Nurseries for eggs

Toads wrap their ribbon-like spawn around the submerged stems of plants such as marsh marigold. Newts fold individual eggs into the leaves of plants such as water-forget-me-not.

### Sheltering stones

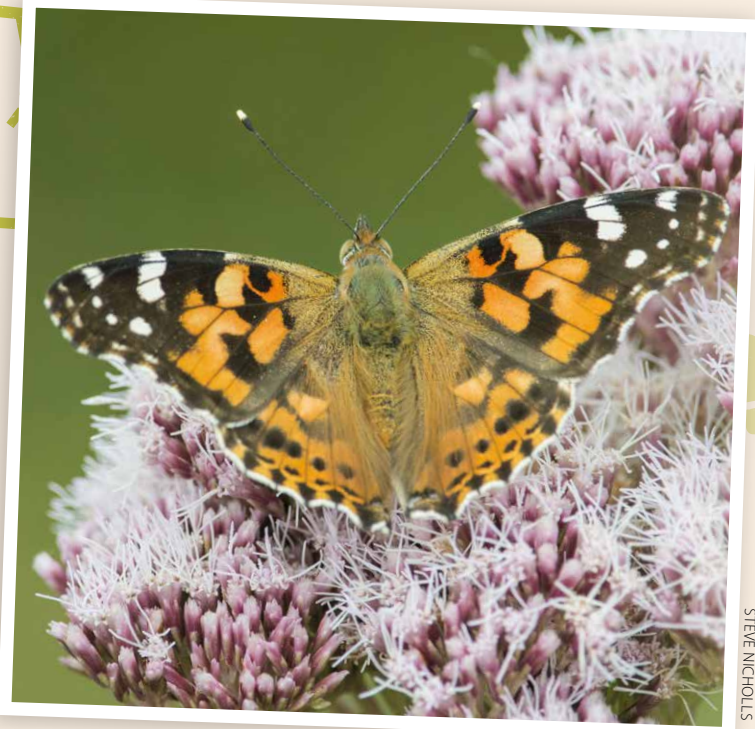
In the shallows and deeper areas of the pond, stones provide nooks and crannies for aquatic larvae to shelter from predators. Tadpoles also suck algae off them.



# WHAT TO WATCH IN *wildlife*

By **Charlotte Targett** and  
**Louise Treneman**

As summer has drawn to a close it's time to tune your senses into the auburn hues of autumn and the icy air of winter. Here are a few wildlife highlights to look out for as the nights draw in.



STEVE NICHOLLS

## October

### **Painted lady butterfly**

A frequent visitor to gardens, parks and farmland, the painted lady butterfly can be seen feeding on the nectar of the last of the summer blooms right into October and November. The species is one of the most widespread butterflies in the world, migrating every year from North Africa, the Middle East and central Asia across mainland Europe, reaching our shores around May/June. Numbers vary greatly year on year, with some years seeing a mass migration of millions of individuals.

## November

### **Hazelnuts**

Whilst taking a woodland stroll, look out for nibbled hazelnuts. The intricate (or not) tooth markings left by hungry visitors can reveal which small mammals are frequenting your local woodland.

Picture, clockwise from top left: bank voles leave tooth marks only across the inner edge of the hole; squirrels crack nuts clean into shards; dormice carve a smooth bowl-like inner edge to the hole, with tooth marks also around the outside; wood mice nibble a hole, leaving tooth marks across the inner edge and also around the outside.

CHARLOTTE TARGETT







## December

### Ivy

As we begin to think about decking the halls for the festive season, take a moment to appreciate the often-overlooked Christmas plant that is ivy. Ivy provides a wealth of nectar, pollen and shelter throughout the year for insects, birds, small mammals and bats. At this time of year its greatest bounty is its ripening berries, which provide an invaluable fat resource during the winter food gap and attract a wealth of winter thrushes, blackbirds and wood pigeons.



CHRIS LAWRENCE



PETE EVANS

## February

### Scarlet elf cup

Look out for these irregularly-shaped cups on branches and sticks on damp woodland floors. The striking red colour makes them easy to spot as they stand out from the decaying leaf litter. They decompose dead wood, particularly hawthorn, beech, hazel, willow and elm.



## January

### Short-eared owl

Winter sees an influx of short-eared owls to our coastal marshes and wetlands, where they often congregate in small flocks for communal roosts at favoured sites. Aust Wharf on the Severn Estuary has become a regular winter haunt for these medium-sized owls. With their mottled brown bodies, pale under-wings and yellow eyes, they are similar in size to a tawny owl. The ear tufts that give them their name are in fact rarely seen, so don't rely on them as an ID feature!



BOB COVILE

## March

### Sand martin

As the days begin to lengthen again, look out for the early spring migrants appearing on our shores. The sand martin is one of the first to arrive, looking for dry sandy banks to excavate tunnels to nest in. They nest in large colonies that can include up to 100 pairs, usually along rivers or coastlines, but also in manmade nesting banks in gravel pits. Look out for them perching on wires and branches or flying over water to catch invertebrates.



**Plan your wildlife watching this autumn and winter**

Visit one of Avon Wildlife Trust's 30 nature reserves to enjoy the sights and sounds of this season.  
[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves)

**Find your local group** please visit our website  
[wildlifetrusts.org/localgroups](http://wildlifetrusts.org/localgroups)

# AROUND THE RESERVES



By Joe McSorley and Bernie D'Arcy

Teal and mallard at Weston Moor using new scrapes on the site

PETE EVANS

Our staff and volunteers have worked hard improving habitats on our nature reserves from wetlands to wildflower meadows and we've seen wildlife returning and thriving in these landscapes.

## Weston Moor

We were thrilled to welcome visitors, including mallards and teal, to the new 'scrapes' at Weston Moor. We dug these scrapes last autumn, creating shallow depressions which filled with water over the winter, giving wading birds the perfect sites to probe for food. It's great to see wildlife attracted back to these features we've created. We're also delighted that pairs of lapwing returned to the Gordano Valley and raised their chicks this spring. Their return is a sign that the partnership work between our land management staff and volunteers and the local farmer's reed-cutting and grazing regimes is having a positive impact.

We've carried out detailed botanical surveying on Seven Acres Field at Weston Moor – a field which was previously cultivated but has reverted to natural habitat to link up with other habitats along the Gordano Valley ridge. Our monitoring team found bee orchid and parasitic broom rape – a really positive sign, showing that wild plants are developing well on this part of the site.

Elsewhere on the reserve we found a lesser butterfly orchid – a rare gem and a beautiful wildflower, whose numbers have fallen as grassland habitats have declined.

## Clapton Moor

Our teams of regular conservation volunteers and the local Gordano Conservation Volunteers group have put huge amounts of effort into this site over the last few months and removed around two kilometres of redundant fencing. This will help improve the management of the upper meadows and increase the grazing area, so that we can improve the habitat for wading birds and other wildlife even more. We've also improved visitor access by installing new gates along the Clapton Circuit and repainting the bird hide. Our next focus is on monitoring the water



Pairs of lapwing returned to the Gordano Valley to raise their chicks

levels in the fields – a tricky process, but the result will help us manage the ditches, grazing and cutting regimes to allow a variety of wildlife species to flourish, including invertebrates like dragonflies and winter wading birds. We've also put up new barn owl boxes, made by sixth-form students from Clevedon College, and are hoping for future residents next spring!



A winter's day at Burlledge Hill

JOE MCSORLEY

## Burlledge Hill

We've gradually been improving the grassland on this Chew Valley reserve by pushing back the scrub boundaries and encroaching woodland edge over winter. The site hosts a wide variety and

PETE EVANS

abundance of wildflowers, so grazing the site with cattle is essential to keep the sward height low in the spring and the autumn. While clearing back to the boundary fences last winter we discovered lots of places where the fences are in a poor state of repair, so we've been working our way around the site, fixing areas where, without maintenance, the livestock might escape when they come back in September.



Wildflowers thrive at Folly Farm

### Folly Farm

The wildflower meadows at Folly Farm are of a type now rare in Britain, with 97% of the UK's wildflower meadows lost since the 1930s. The meadows are unspoilt by pesticides and fertilisers, so they are brimming with flowers such as devil's-bit



The amphitheatre at Dolebury Warren

scabious, betony, ox-eye daisy and heath spotted orchid in summer. We manage this rare habitat carefully to get the right balance between space and light to allow these wonderful wildflowers to flourish, whilst still giving some room for other taller, more dominant plants like thistles to provide food for other wildlife. We've worked hard to remove thistles only where they've been threatening to take over and left them where we can to provide rich nectar for birds and insects.

### Dolebury Warren

We've established a regular group of volunteers over the last year, who have helped us carry out conservation tasks

at Dolebury Warren. Tasks have included re-establishing important heathland areas and removing excessive hawthorn regrowth, which discourages livestock from grazing certain areas. However, our longer-term concern with the site is that the perimeter fencing has fallen into disrepair in places, so we've gradually been replacing fence posts and improving the livestock fencing, to ensure that the cattle and sheep that graze the site for us don't escape into the neighbouring woodlands.



Marbled white butterfly on scabious

GUY EDUARDES 2020VISION

## We've officially taken ownership of our newest nature reserve – Hutton Hill in the West Mendips

### Hutton Hill


We've officially taken ownership of our newest site, tucked away in the West Mendips and within easy reach of Hellenge Hill, Purn Hill and Walborough. The site has some large semi-improved grazing fields, some areas of quality woodland and some secure storage space. We'll be working over the next year to develop our plans to improve the site for nature and public engagement, so watch this space for updates as we build up our knowledge of the site and the opportunities it presents.



Scrapes at Weston Moor

PETER SPEIGHT

### Volunteer for Avon Wildlife Trust

 [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities](https://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities)

# Explore a Nature Reserve

## Weston Big Wood

Weston Big Wood is rich in wildlife and beauty and this historic woodland is strategically important as part of the Gordano Valley woodland and wetland landscape. Its national importance has long been recognised and it's designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

**T**he wood covers 42 hectares and is part of an almost continuous band of woodland cloaking the ridge between Portishead and Clevedon. It sits on the plateau and steeply-sloping flanks of this narrow ridge of carboniferous limestone and has well-drained soils of calcareous to mildly acidic clay loams, beneath which is a layer of limestone fragments. The highest point is the central plateau area, which lies 100m above sea level.

Nearby are several other Avon Wildlife Trust nature reserves, including Walton Common, Weston Moor, Clapton Moor, Middle Hill Common, Tickenham Hill and Prior's Wood. And Natural England's Gordano Valley National Nature Reserve lies two kilometres southwest, adjacent to Weston Moor.

You'll find small-leaved lime trees in large areas of the wood – like in many of the best ancient woodlands on ridges south

of Bristol. And look out, too, for blocks of other tree species, containing English oak, wild cherry and wych elm. Particularly interesting trees include wild service trees, with their lobed leaves, similar to maple leaves and with brown, patterned bark on the trunk, and the rare whitebeams, whose leaves resemble magnolia flowers when they first unfold.

In spring, the woodland is carpeted with bluebells, wood anemone and ramsons. Other beautiful ground flora include the



Whitebeam blossom

RICHARD BURKMAR



CHRIS DAVIES

*Thank you*  
 Thanks to your support we can continue to look after this wonderful woodland and help wildlife to thrive here

part still called West Wood on Ordnance Survey maps. A 1741 map shows the wood divided into many 'plots', suggesting that it was once managed by several different people. However, the wood had not been managed in this way for decades when Avon Wildlife Trust took over management in 1984 and the diversity and structure of the wood was in decline.

### The reserve is nationally important for fungi. Look out for dead man's fingers and King Alfred's cakes

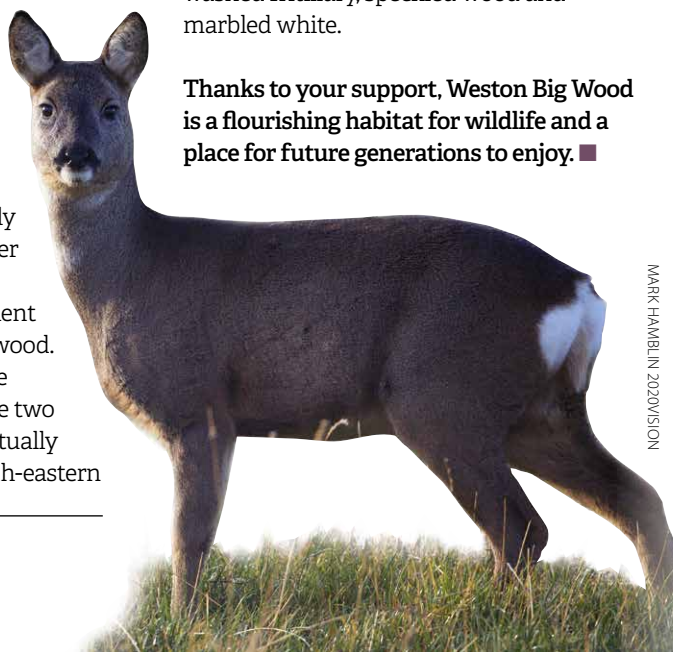
Since then, we've improved the woodland, including by creating a wide ride through the centre of the woodland, along the line of an old trackway. Rides and open spaces within a woodland are an important feature for wildlife and give good year-round access for visitors. They provide additional habitat and help species like bats to navigate. The sunny glades also encourage plants such as common twayblade, wood spurge and wood anemone.

The improved ride now has a graduated edge and a series of 'scallop' or 'bays' to provide warm micro-habitats for sun-loving plants and invertebrates, particularly butterflies like the silver-washed fritillary, speckled wood and marbled white.

**Thanks to your support, Weston Big Wood is a flourishing habitat for wildlife and a place for future generations to enjoy. ■**

nationally-rare purple gromwell, as well as herb paris, toothwort, broad-leaved helleborine and bird's-nest orchid. The reserve is also nationally important for its fungi – a wonderful autumn sight. If you go for a walk in October and November, look out for the dramatic-sounding dead man's fingers and King Alfred's cakes. Look out for the tracks and listen for the calls of badgers, roe deer and foxes, and at dusk you'll often see bats foraging along the woodland edge.

Weston Big Wood has clearly been intensively managed over centuries; the clues are in the many banks, ditches and ancient boundary stones within the wood. The stones probably mark the boundary between what were two separate woods. The wood actually has two names, with the north-eastern



MARK HAMBILIN 2020/VISION

## NOW YOU DO IT

### Visit Weston Big Wood

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The black rock carboniferous limestone on which Weston Big Wood stands was formed over 300 million years ago under a warm, tropical sea. The stone has been an essential part of the local economy since early humans began to quarry here with flint axes. In the 19th century, a busy industry centred on Black Rock quarry within the woodland.

#### TOP WILDLIFE TO SPOT

- **Greater horseshoe bat:** one of our largest bats, the size of a small pear. Horseshoe bats can be distinguished from other species by their horseshoe-shaped noseleaf.
- **Small-leaved lime tree:** the small-leaved lime was regularly coppiced for firewood and pole-making. The fibres beneath its bark were used to make rope.
- **King Alfred's cakes:** an inedible fungus that looks like smooth lumps of charcoal, found growing on dead wood. An excellent aid for starting fires. Once a spark is lit, it can smoulder within the fungus for a long time.

#### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



ELISABETH WINKLER

- Location:** Portishead, Bristol BS20 8PW.
- How to get there:** Weston Big Wood is to the south of Portishead and can be reached from the B3124 Clevedon Road.
- Opening times:** Open at all times.
- Access:** Public footpaths allow access throughout the reserve. Access is through kissing gate, and steps. Main access to paths is uphill. Paths can be steep and muddy, with some steps. Not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.
- Contact:** Avon Wildlife Trust
- Contact number:** 0117 9177270
- Contact email:** hello@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

# MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



**New sculpture unveiled at Bennett's Patch nature reserve**

A new sculpture was unveiled in the summer at Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock nature reserve in the Avon Gorge. Commissioned by Peter White, a Bristol businessman who helped Avon Wildlife Trust buy the land and turn it into a nature reserve, it is a tribute to Bristol's wartime women. Throughout the war, and particularly the Bristol blitz from September 1940 to May 1941, women across the city faced hardship and challenges through cold winters, rationing and bombing. Rubble from the blitz was deposited on the land at Bennett's Patch, and the sculpture of a woman's head, is installed in a peaceful part of the nature reserve with trees nearby. Bristol-based creative design company Codsteaks built the four-metre-high timber relief sculpture. It joins the two wicker whales, also built by Codsteaks, which have become landmarks for the Portway. Avon Wildlife Trust bought Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock in 2015 in Bristol's European Green Capital year, thanks to crowdfunding support from people across Avon. Peter White has continued to support Avon Wildlife Trust and the ongoing transformation of this thriving nature reserve close to the city. The 12-acre neglected former sports facility is now a wildlife haven, with wildflower meadows, three wildlife ponds, and over 4,000 trees planted to create a native woodland.

CHRIS DAVIES

## 20 years of wonderful Weston Moor

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Avon Wildlife Trust officially buying Weston Moor, our nature reserve in the Gordano Valley. It is now home to lapwings and barn owls, as well as a host of important invertebrates, including ruddy darter dragonflies, and wetland plants, like cotton grass, yellow sedge and marsh pennywort. The land had previously been a farm – Court Farm – which came up for sale in 1998. The farm covered almost 60 hectares, including three large fields on the limestone ridge behind the village of Weston-in-Gordano and low-lying fields south of the village. These fields were found to be rich in wildlife, with the wet meadow conditions providing the right

habitat for winter wading birds like snipe and redshank and important nationally-rare plants.

A huge fundraising effort got underway with enormous support from local villagers, who backed the idea of Avon Wildlife Trust taking over the site and raised donations to help with the purchase, which was confirmed in December 1998. Together with support from the then Heritage Lottery Fund (now the National Lottery Heritage Fund) and several grant-making trusts, Weston Moor became a new nature reserve for the Trust, with the deeds officially being received in 1999. Twenty years on, Weston Moor continues to be a haven for wildlife and



PETER SPREIGHT

an important part of the whole Gordano Valley landscape. We're grateful for the part local people played in helping to buy this wonderful reserve, and together with partners and volunteers, we continue to look after Weston Moor to allow wildlife to thrive for the next twenty years and beyond.

## Nature Recovery Appeal – a thank you

Your donation is giving wild places renewed life



Thank you to everyone who donated and helped raise **£11,500** to help reconnect the wild places you love.

Donations to the appeal help make it possible to create a nature recovery network across our region. Your incredible support will help bats, lapwing, hedgehogs, glow worms and butterflies and many other wild animals that depend on a connected landscape.

But what does £11,500 look like? Well, it could:

- Provide vital food to help birds survive the winter months when food is scarce by **planting 330 trees**.
- Create and maintain **2,300 m<sup>2</sup> of wetland ditches**, keeping water open which is great for damselflies, dragonflies, newts and frogs, as well as the birds that feed on them.
- Create nearly **600 metres of protective pathways** between green spaces, giving life to bees, butterflies and pollinators and giving creatures like dormice ways to safely cross the landscape.
- Put **153 barn owl boxes** in your woodlands to give them a place to rest and raise their chicks.

If nature is to recover in the places we call home, it needs more spaces which are bigger, better, and joined up across the land – you're helping to do just that!

You can still donate to our Nature Recovery appeal online by going to [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturerecovery](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturerecovery) or by sending your donation in to our Trust office. With the support and generosity of our members we can create a network of precious green spaces with plentiful food and shelter for local wildlife.

## Fantastic fundraising efforts

Huge thanks to Keynsham local group, whose members have raised an amazing £1,812 for Avon Wildlife Trust over the last year. Keynsham members have given their time and energies to sell homemade goods at meetings and events, including edible treats, wonderful lamps made by Kathy Farrell, Vice-Chair and Treasurer of the group, and wild bird food. Together with other committee members, Kathy plays a key role in the running of the Keynsham group, planning a varied and interesting programme of talks each month, with guest speakers highlighting topical themes around nature conservation and wildlife. Avon Wildlife Trust Chief Executive, Ian Barrett, was delighted to receive a cheque from Kathy and Dave Sage, Chairman of Keynsham local group, and thanked them and all Keynsham members for their passion and support for Avon's wildlife.



## Annual General Meeting

**Avon Wildlife Trust's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 November from 6pm at Burges Salmon, One Glass Wharf, Bristol BS2 0ZX.**

Members are invited to the formal AGM business at 7pm (as well as the whole Annual Meeting).

The formal AGM is for the following purposes:

1. To receive the Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and Audited Annual Accounts, together with the Auditors' report, for the year ended 31 March 2019.
2. To re-elect as an Elected Trustee the person whose first three-year term of office comes to an end at this AGM, namely Chris Curling.
3. To elect as Trustees any persons duly proposed for election.
4. To re-appoint Mr Simon King as President of the Trust (recommended by the Board of Trustees).

### Notes

Under the Companies Act 2006 the serving Auditors, Burnside, are deemed re-appointed and continue in office.

The Trust's Annual Review along with full Audited Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report will be available on the website 28 days before the event and are also available on request from [mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk).

Members are entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote at the meeting on their behalf. A proxy need not be a Member. To be valid a proxy appointment form must be received by the Trust not less than 48 hours before the time of the meeting. For a proxy form please contact [mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk).

New Elected Trustees (ie Trustees elected at the AGM) can either be nominated by the Board of Trustees or by four Members of the Trust by way of a formal written proposal delivered to the Trust office at 32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol BS8 1DR no later than 30 October 2019 together with the written consent of the candidate to act as a Trustee. Candidates are required to provide verification of identity and a declaration of suitability and personal interests. Without in any way restricting the Members' right to propose new Trustees in this way, Members will note that this year the Board has undertaken an open recruitment exercise for Trustees and will be proposing the successful candidates for election at the AGM.

**Come to the AGM** – Members, volunteers and friends of Avon Wildlife Trust are welcome. It would help arrangements if you could please confirm your attendance at the AGM by visiting [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/AGM2019](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/AGM2019)

# Save Our Badgers

Thousands of badgers across England are being killed in an attempt to halt the spread of bovine TB, including in our Avon region.

We've started vaccinating badgers to protect them against bovine TB and show that there's an alternative to culling these wonderful animals. This is an important first step to saving Avon's badgers but we need your help to do more.

**Please donate today to save our badgers**

The vaccine costs £40 for each badger and £200 for a family with cubs. Together we can Save Our Badgers.



RICHARD HOPKINS

**DONATE TODAY:**

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/saveourbadgers](https://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/saveourbadgers)