

# Wildlife

Issue 107 • AUTUMN 2016



Avon

## High fliers: birds of prey and bats



### Bath and beyond

Connecting the city to the countryside

### State of Nature

Key stats and local success stories

### Plant a bat feast!

Gardening for bats

Includes  
UK news &  
stories



# Welcome



JON CRAIG

**Ian Barrett**  
Chief Executive

## Dear member

How can we reverse the decline in our wildlife and enable nature to recover on a grand scale? The challenge facing us is clearly set out in the *State of Nature 2016* report, which shows that 56% of the UK's wildlife species are in decline and 15% at risk of extinction (page 4). The same report also shows though, that where we've taken concerted conservation action, we are able to bring back wildlife from the brink, such as cranes, bitterns and the large blue butterfly. Looking forward, the *Vision for Nature* published by young conservationists sets out a compelling vision for a country full of wildlife, where goshawk and pine martens enrich our cities, and children spend 20% of their school time out of doors (page 7).

This issue of your magazine focuses on Avon Wildlife Trust's plans for working with communities to conserve and connect wildlife in and around Bath (page 8), and looks at the wonderful animals, plants and wild spaces to be discovered around this spa city. With your help and support, the Trust is working to protect and enhance nature throughout the West of England, to develop stronger ecological networks that enable our wildlife to thrive and adapt to a changing climate.

“ This is a crucial time for wildlife in the UK ”

This is a crucial time for wildlife in the UK. The decision to leave the European Union puts at risk some of the laws that currently protect our environment, but it also provides an opportunity to shape more ambitious nature conservation legislation, tailored to the challenges and opportunities we face here. We must ensure as a movement that the people making our laws are aware of the depth of passion and strength of feeling that we as a nation have for our wildlife and wild places.



STUART BETCH

Autumn shades

## Your magazine

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Bath - VisitBath.co.uk.

Greater horseshoe bat - Laurent Geslin

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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Trustees of Avon Wildlife Trust.

**Avon Wildlife Trust** is 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 17,000 members and 1,500 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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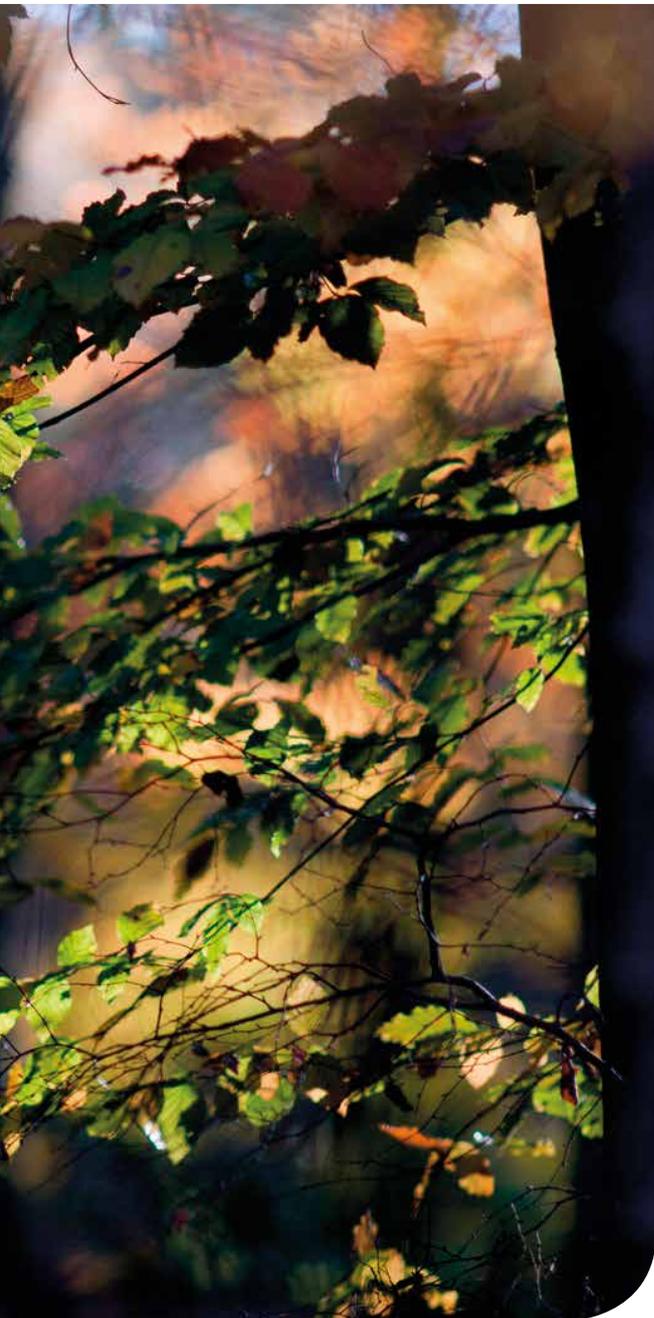
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## Keep in touch!

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest news and events. Please share your wildlife pictures and experiences!



/avonwt



/avonwt



/avonwt

Teachers can follow @wildschools as well as @avonwt on twitter.



When you have finished reading this magazine why not pass it onto a friend or take it to a local doctors' waiting room? When the magazine is finished with, please recycle it.



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*Dark air-life looping  
Yet missing the pure loop ...  
A twitch, a twitter, an elastic  
shudder in flight  
And serrated wings against  
the sky,*

*Like a glove, a black  
glove thrown up at the  
light,  
And falling back.*

D H Lawrence  
1885-1930



ELLA BEESON

# State of Nature Report 2016

It's not too late to save UK nature but we must act now

Large blue butterfly

KEITH WARMINGTON

On the 14 September the *State of Nature* report was launched, which was compiled in collaboration by over 50 wildlife organisations, including The Wildlife Trusts.

These organisations have worked together, pooling their expertise and knowledge to present the clearest picture to date of the status of our native species, across land and sea. They couldn't have done it without the thousands of dedicated and expert volunteers, who have gathered the data that makes up this report.

Using modern Red List criteria, which identify species of the highest conservation concern, the partnership assessed 8,000 species. Of these, **15% are extinct or threatened with extinction** from Great Britain.

The report also reveals that over half (**56 per cent**) of UK species studied have declined since 1970, some of the hardest hit are well-known and popular,

such as **hedgehogs** and **turtle doves**.

One way of assessing how damaged nature is across the world is the *Biodiversity Intactness Index*. Of 218 countries assessed, the UK is ranked 189 on this index.

However, it's not all doom and gloom. There are many inspiring examples of conservation action that are helping to turn the tide. Such as the reintroduction of the **crane** after a 400-year absence, the creation of wildlife-rich wetlands on former peat workings in the Somerset Levels, where **bitterns** are once again thriving and the reintroduction of the **large blue butterfly** in Gloucestershire and Somerset. In fact, the West of England now supports what is thought to be the largest population of the large blue butterfly in the world, less than 40 years after it became extinct in the UK. Organisations involved in this large reintroduction project include the National Trust, The Wildlife Trusts and Butterfly Conservation.

Partnership working across nature organisations is increasing. Avon Wildlife Trust is working with Buglife to create B-Lines across the West of England, linking the Cotswolds with the Mendips, cities to the countryside,



Volunteers monitored over

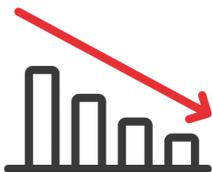
9,670

species from birds to butterflies, plants to pondlife, spiders to snails



and the coast to the hills. We are working with farmers and landowners to create and restore habitats, linking up our wildlife hotspots, and making wildflower-rich routes for pollinating insects.

Our **My Wild City** project in Bristol was a featured success story in the *State of Nature* report. This project is attempting to rethink our city as a vast nature reserve, linking the city's gardens and green spaces to create



56% of UK species in decline.



wildlife corridors. These 'wildlife takeovers' include a typical residential street in Easton, the busy Gloucester Road, and a roof garden at the Bristol Royal Infirmary (see page 6).

**But more is needed to put nature back where it belongs.**



### How you can help

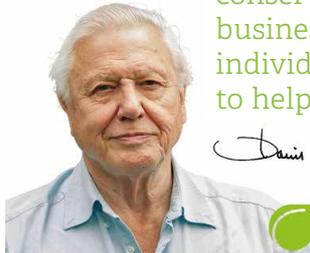
So what can we do? One options is to **manage your patch for wildlife**, be it your window box, local green space, or office rooftop. You can get involved with your local conservation organisations, **volunteer, campaign** or even **count wildlife** to contribute to the growing knowledge of the state of our nature. Your support to Avon Wildlife Trust as a member makes our local conservation projects possible.

Choosing to live more sustainably will also make a huge difference. These individual choices can even affect government policy, when individuals start to work together. Through targeted conservation work together with positive action from individuals, organisations and the government, we can give nature a chance to recover.

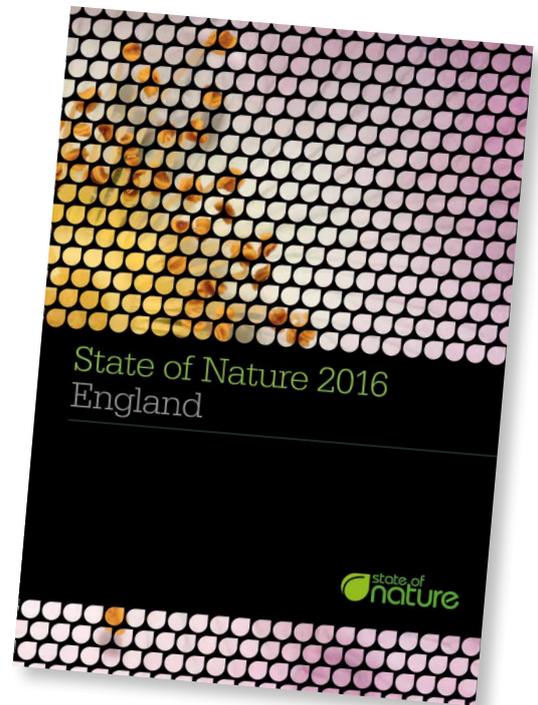
To read the report visit:  
[wildlifetrusts.org/stateofnature16](http://wildlifetrusts.org/stateofnature16)

To check out the full interactive infographic visit:  
[stateofnature.wildlifetrusts.org](http://stateofnature.wildlifetrusts.org)

The future of UK nature is under threat and we must work together; Governments, conservationists, businesses and individuals, to help it.



*David Attenborough*

**State of Nature 2016 report**

## Huge thank you

Our summer wildflower meadow appeal raised an amazing **£4,341.25!** Thank you so much to those who kindly donated. This will help us deliver conservation projects in our local area, to help turn the tide on the state of nature through projects such as creating buzzing wildflower corridors across the region, as part of our B-Lines work.



# Brand new project: Wellbeing through Nature



MATTHEW ROBERTS

Building on the success of our Communities and Nature Project, we are pleased to announce the Trust has secured funding from Big Lottery to deliver an exciting four year project called 'Wellbeing through Nature'.

It will enable people to experience the benefits of nature for their physical health and mental wellbeing through purposeful outdoor activities. We'll be working in key communities and also at our flagship wildlife sites Feed Bristol and Folly Farm, to enhance access to quality natural environments and develop structured programmes that support individuals

with learning disabilities and people from marginalised communities. The main focus of the programme will provide opportunities for people experiencing mental ill health and those with long term health conditions through a six month placement supporting their development to gain new skills, increasing confidence and resilience.

## Rooftop wildlife garden for BRI

The latest #MyWildCity takeover saw a wildlife garden built on the seventh floor of the Bristol Royal Infirmary next to the intensive care unit. Teaming up with volunteers from Skanska, the multinational construction and development company, and wildlife garden design experts Earth Timber Stone, the aim was to create a rooftop nature garden which was both an interactive, calming and healing place for people as well as a haven for wildlife. Featuring pollinator-friendly flowers, a herb garden, a pond and even a mini-stream, this now-tranquil space is to be used by staff and patients as a place where they can relax outdoors.



MISTY HUTTON

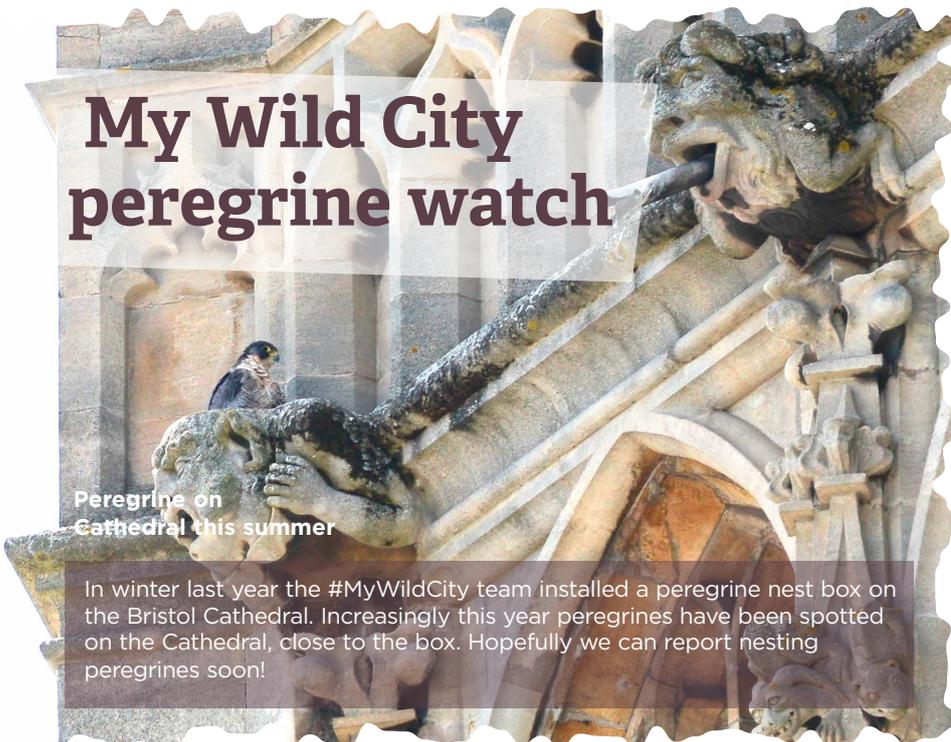
The new rooftop garden at the BRI

## Going batty for Wild About Gardens Week

The Royal Horticultural Society, Bat Conservation Trust and The Wildlife Trusts have joined forces for Wild About Gardens Week 24-30 October, which focuses on the beloved bat. Visit [wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk](http://wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk) for loads of fantastic resources on wildlife friendly gardening from building an insect hotel to planting a bat feast. Turn to page 16 for our top autumnal tips on how to garden for bats.

TOM MARSHALL

## My Wild City peregrine watch



NICK GATES

Peregrine on Cathedral this summer

In winter last year the #MyWildCity team installed a peregrine nest box on the Bristol Cathedral. Increasingly this year peregrines have been spotted on the Cathedral, close to the box. Hopefully we can report nesting peregrines soon!



Common pipistrelle



**As part of our programme of work with local businesses, Bath-based company AMDOCS, have been helping us to create new habitats on one of our Bath nature reserves, Bathampton Meadow.**

Otters are solitary, territorial creatures and will use several holts or shelters along their large territory, which can span up to 12 miles along the river. They are largely nocturnal so are rarely seen, we have, however, gathered evidence of otters using the Bathampton site though several years of sightings of food debris and spraints. One of the AMDOCS volunteers also saw an otter in the area when out running, so that was confirmation of their presence.

“We have been working with Avon Wildlife Trust for three years now. Initially we were intending this to be just one year but after the wonderful

experience on our first Environmental Day: building bird, bee and bat boxes & planting wild flowers we decided to use the Trust again. As it has been so popular and educational with our employees we will continue working with them in the future. Each year the Trust find us great projects to work on, where we are helping the local environment including this year building an otter holt! This gives our employees the opportunity to get hands on with the wide variety of tasks planned by the Trust team and getting educated at the same time.”  
 Kate Newman, Site Facilities Management Expert, AMDOCS



## Wild Service

- Ecology
- Conservation
- Land Management

Wild Service is the specialist Ecological Consultancy and Land Management Company of the Avon and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trusts. Wild Service has an extremely capable team working across a wide range of disciplines, who are ready to help with all ecology or land management aspects of your project.

The company is conservation led and has developed a range of services to meet the needs of the construction, development, wildlife conservation and land based business sectors. Our full range of services can be found on our website: [wildservice.net](http://wildservice.net)



## Giant hedgehog makes itself at home at Feed Bristol

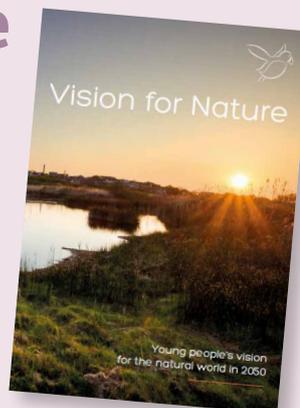
A living willow hedgehog has been created for Feed Bristol to join the stunning stag sculptures and the buzzard with outstretched wings.

This sculpture was created by volunteers as part of the 'Spark Something Good' day with M&S (see page 21).

Do you want to see these critters up close? Feed Bristol is open from 9am-5pm weekdays the first Saturday of the month. Visit the Feed Bristol Facebook page for event dates.

## Vision for Nature

A group of inspiring young people across the UK have collaborated to create the *Vision for Nature* report. It was written by 'A Focus On Nature', a group of young conservationists, including volunteers and members of Avon Wildlife Trust. In this report, young people have laid out their vision for the natural world in 2050 and it urges the government to safeguard nature for future generations. The report recommends policies including increasing renewable energy, all farmland management to be incentivised for nature, rewilding programmes and 20% of school time to be spent outdoors.



**Vision for Nature report**

# The future for nature in Bath

**Bath and the surrounding area is amazing for wildlife. Threatened greater horseshoe bats thrive here, while the river plays host to otters and kingfishers. Migratory water birds flock here and the city is surrounded by remnants of ancient woodland. The potential for improving wildlife and wild spaces in the region is huge and Avon Wildlife Trust has ambitious plans to help restore nature at scale in the area.**

The City of Bath is a World Heritage Site due its beauty and rich history and the city is surrounded by the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Bath sits in the Trust's priority 1 area for conservation and is within a B-Line - a green corridor that has been identified as a key landscape to restore and protect for wildlife. In the city itself there are numerous green spaces which can be joined up and managed for wildlife.

Over the next three years the Trust will connect with communities across the city, with farmers and landowners in the surrounding countryside, and develop our nature reserves to increase the quality and quantity of habitat for wildlife.

## Landscape-scale conservation

Avon Wildlife Trust has a vision for conservation across our region. We know that managing green space for wildlife is most effective if we work at scale - connecting green islands in the city and improving management of the landscape in the countryside, we can create healthy, integrated corridors that enable wildlife to move and thrive.

## Future plans

The Trust already manages two key nature reserves close to Bath which provide vital habitat for threatened species as well as offering stunning views and inspiring walks just minutes outside of the city.

Working closely with BANES Council and local community groups, we are in discussion about a number of sites around Bath, which present significant opportunities for restoration and development for wildlife. We look forward to telling you more as these plans become firm, but the vision for nature in Bath is definitely looking healthy for wildlife.

## We'd love to hear from you

If you would like to find out more about how you can help us develop Bath into a nature-rich city, either through volunteering, your community group, inviting friends to become members or helping us promote our plans, please get in touch with Julie at [julie.doherty@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:julie.doherty@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### Learn more about the future for nature in Bath!

Come to our public meeting and AGM at The Guildhall in Bath on Tuesday 1 November 2016, Public Meeting 5.30-7.30pm. Meet staff and volunteers, learn more about our vision for Bath and stock up on Christmas presents! Key-note speaker Chris Baines will talk about his role in urban wildlife and be signing copies of his new book on gardening for wildlife. AGM Business 7.45-8.30pm.

**Booking essential:** [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/AGM2016](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/AGM2016)



### B-Lines

Bath is a priority area within the B-Lines network of wildlife corridors. Through this project, in partnership with Buglife, we are already working with farmers and landowners in the area. We provide advice and support on land management techniques that create optimum habitats for pollinators. We will scale up this work around Bath to connect the countryside to the green space in the city and improve connectivity for wildlife.



JON HAWKINS

### City communities

Our successful My Wild City project in Bristol has demonstrated how effective it can be to engage communities with their local green space and support them to manage it for wildlife. Over the next three years in Bath, The Trust will connect local people to the nature on their doorstep to improve the city for wildlife. If you are part of a group with an interest in wildlife and the environment, do get in touch - we'd love to help you welcome wildlife into your area.



### Bathampton Meadow

This nature reserve has a dual purpose. Created in 1996, the man-made wet meadows and ox-bow lake provide flood relief from the A46. The habitat itself provides a haven for a rich variety of migrant water birds including dunlin and green sandpiper. Small blue butterflies can be spotted alongside a variety of dragonflies and damselflies. Due to the large body of open water here the reserve isn't open to the public, however members can apply for a (free) permit to visit the site. To obtain a permit please contact [angela.davies@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:angela.davies@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

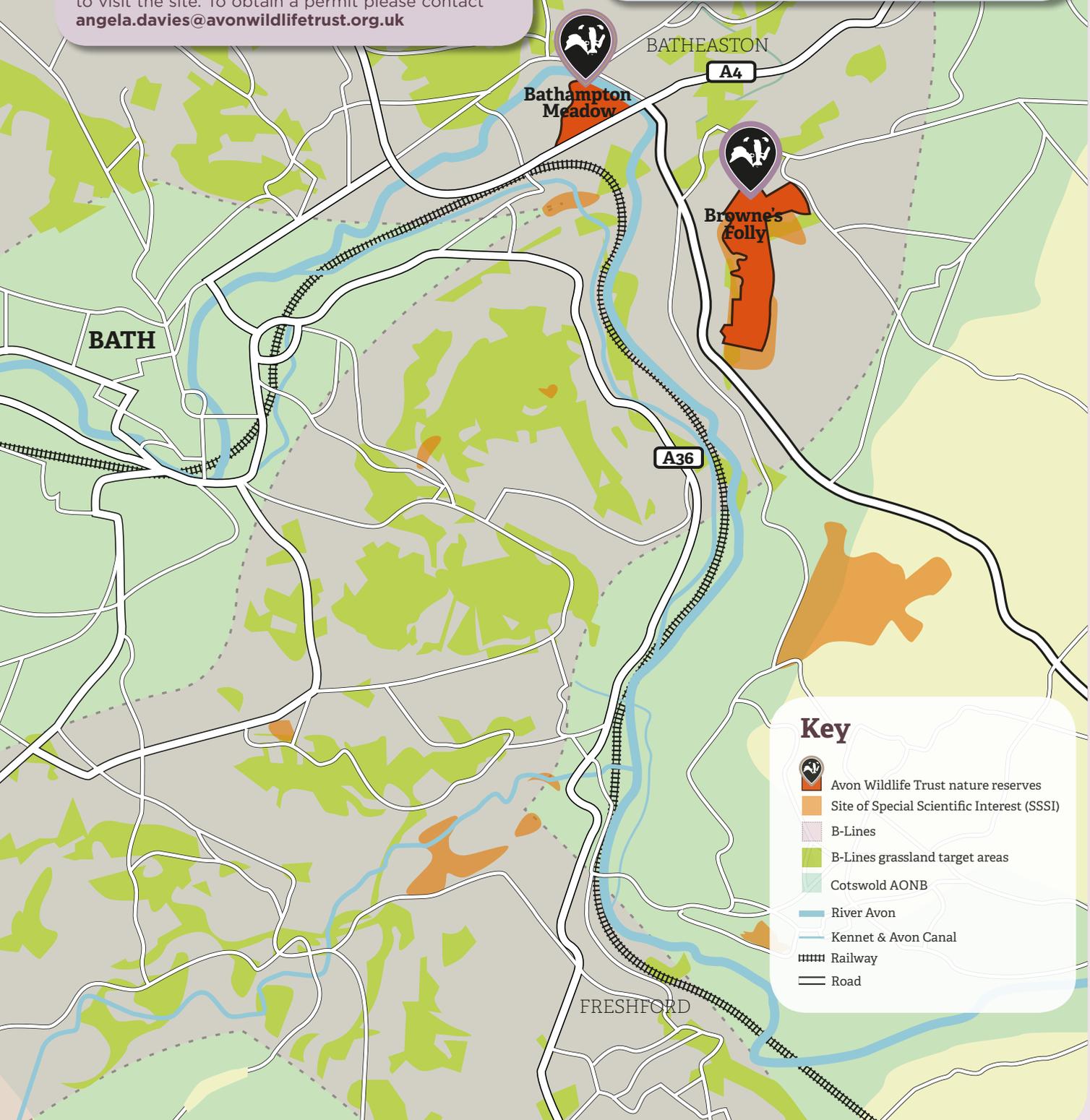


### Browne's Folly

Situated on the site of old Bath stone quarries, Browne's Folly nature reserve is a mix of ancient woodland and wildflower-rich meadows. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and nine species of orchid grow here, including the rare fly orchid. The old mines are a perfect home for the threatened greater horseshoe bat and the views from the slopes below the Folly tower superb, and well worth the walk.



NICOLE DAW



# Seasonal stroll

## Burledge Hill and beyond

Burledge Hill is part of a limestone plateau on the north-eastern fringes of the Mendip Hills. This short route, which starts in the village of Bishop Sutton, is perfect for a breezy winter walk as you are rewarded with panoramic views over the Chew Valley.

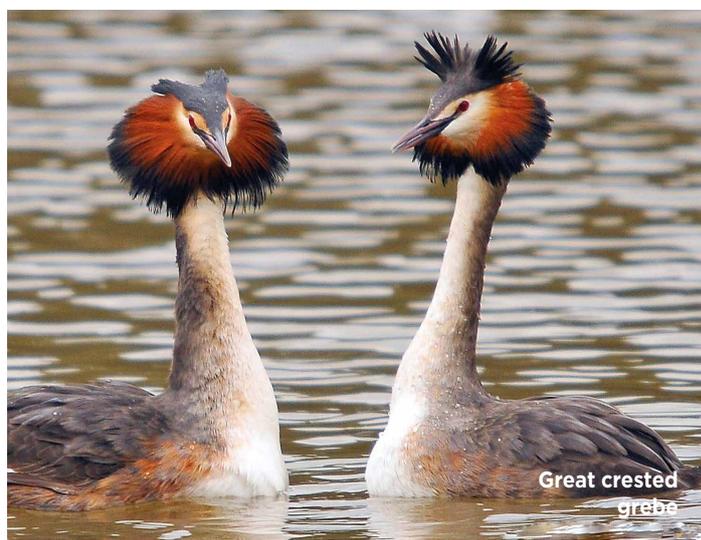
Burledge Hill is a site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and falls within the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). In fact, the neutral grassland on the nature reserve contains a larger variety of species than any other in Avon.

If you take the extended route you can visit the New Manor Farm, which has tearooms and a farm shop. The nearby Chew Valley Lake can be seen from the top of the hill, or visited afterwards for some bird watching.

Thank you to Kate at [babyroutes.co.uk](http://babyroutes.co.uk) for the help with this walk. Kate tests out family friendly walks all across the UK and shares fantastic wildlife activities on her website.

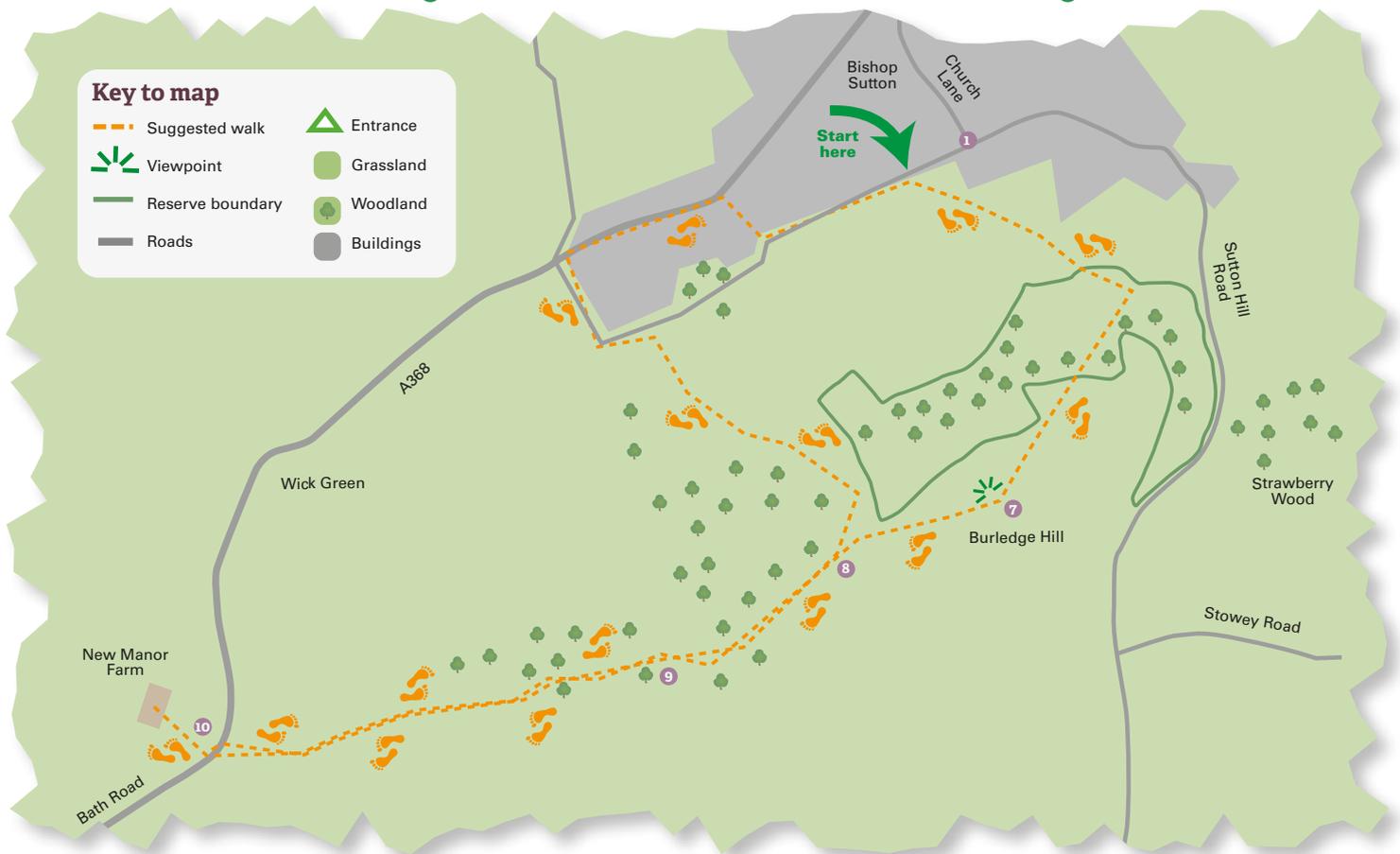


Bird watching at Chew Valley Lake



Great crested grebe

# For breathtaking views and a rewarding climb



**S**tarting the walk at Bishop's Sutton village (1) From Church Lane, follow the footpath leading off to the west along a narrow dirt track. (2) Head through the kissing gate and then turn left uphill to pass through another kissing gate and into a field. Follow the path diagonally back across the field and through two more kissing gates at the far side. (3) Continue diagonally across the field above the buildings. You'll begin to climb a little here. The path continues up to yet another metal kissing gate with a sign for Burledge Hill. (4) Head through the gate, following the path uphill to where it joins another path coming in from the left just beyond the line of trees. (5) Turn right, through two more kissing gates and walk diagonally across the field, enjoying the fantastic views back down Bishop Sutton and Chew Valley Lake as you go. (6) Head up the next set of steps and path, where you reach another gate nearly at the top of the hill. Head left straight up across the field to visit the trig point. (7) From the trig point, follow the waymarker west across the field until after passing through another metal kissing gate you emerge onto a narrow track lined by shrubs and trees. (8) If you're taking the short loop back to Bishop Sutton then look out for the steps and metal kissing gate leading down to the right of the track. Otherwise the track leads onto a byway, which is where an ancient Iron Age fort was once sited. (9) If you continue along the byway and cross the road you will reach New Manor Farm and need to retrace your steps afterwards back to the track. (10) Go through the metal kissing gate into the field, roughly following the left hedgeline. (11) At the bottom of the field, head left through the gate by the houses and onto the lane beyond. You'll come out on the main road of Bishop Sutton village.

**Did you know?**  
OS trig points  
were used  
to map the  
countryside

## How to get there

**Car:** The walk starts and ends in the village of Bishop Sutton in the Chew Valley, which is on the A368 road between Weston-super-Mare and Bath.

**Public transport:** Limited bus service between Bristol and West Harptree (67) or Blagdon (672), which stop at Bishop Sutton.

**Access:** A public footpath allows access through the site. Paths and steps may become muddy in winter, not suitable for wheelchair access. Take care on the steep slopes. Dogs must be kept on a lead as grazing livestock may be on site all year round.

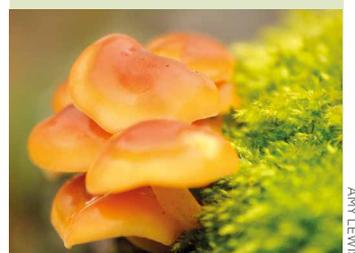
## Look out for:



Hawthorn berries



Fieldfare



Waxcap fungi



# Birds of Prey

*Get the binoculars out for winter visitors*



Matt Collis  
My Wild City Officer

JON HAWKINS

## Buzzard

**F**leeting glimpses, a small dot in the distance and almost always silhouetted against a dull day's sky. There's no doubt telling birds of prey apart is difficult, however, winter offers the perfect opportunity to get to grips with this diverse group of avian apex predators.

With fewer daylight hours and lower prey abundance, our hawks and falcons spend a significant amount more time hunting, and with leafless trees on a barren landscape, spotting a perched raptor becomes significantly easier.

Scanning the sky, tops of trees or fence posts offers you your best chance of spotting the conspicuous hunched figure of a resting bird. If you're in the city, keep an eye on high ledges of buildings, cathedrals or office blocks, which are favourites of our inner city hunters. Where you first see a raptor is a crucial early clue to identifying it.

In this article I've tackled six day-flying birds, which with a little knowledge under your belt, can be ticked off your species list in no time.

Happy birding!

**BONUS BIRD: the red kite** Since their reintroduction in the late 1980s, red kites have dramatically increased in both number and distribution. Now they are an increasingly common site across Avon, a trend likely to continue. Luckily, they are unmistakable with a general rich reddish-brown plumage, ghostly white head and, most noticeably, a deep forked tail.



Red kite

MIKE SNELL



CHRISTOPHER DEAN

**Buzzard** Large with **broad rounded wings** and a short fanned tail. When gliding and soaring it appears **stocky** and often hold its wings in a **shallow 'V'**. Individuals vary in colour from rich brown to much paler variations, but all have dark wingtips and margins to feathers with a finely barred tail. Common and widespread in rural and suburban areas.



STEVE WATERHOUSE

**Kestrel** Small elegant falcon with **pointed wings** and **long tail**, most easily recognised when **hovering** above roadside vegetation. The males have a grey head in contrast to their brick-red plumage while the females are an all over chestnut brown. Adapted readily to man-made environments but more commonly found around farmland and small villages either perched on pylons, wires or a fence post.



PETE BLANCHARD

**Peregrine** Large, powerful falcon with compact body but **long broad pointed wings** and a relatively **short tail**. Steely grey above, with a blackish top of head and an obvious **black 'moustache'** contrasting with a white face. Breast is finely spotted. It is swift and agile in flight with distinct **parallel edges** to leading and trailing edge of wings. Strongholds are in the uplands and around rocky seacoasts but inner-city pairs are now common, including the cities of Bath and Bristol.



ANDREW MASON

**Goshawk** Easily confused with sparrowhawk, this much larger bulkier bird has **wide long wings** with **long tail** and longer head making a **crucifix shape** in flight. Dark grey/brown above, pale below and an obviously thick barred tail. Dark cap and cheek path with strong white supercilium (line over eye) gives an **aggressive look** to the face. **Thick robust** yellow legs and rich orange eye. Restricted to areas of large woodland.



ADAM JONES

**Sparrowhawk** Small hawk adapted for **low-level hunting** in confined spaces such as woodland and gardens. On rare occasions when they soar, look for **short rounded wings** and **long tail** making a **T-shape**. Adult males have slate blue backs and wings and a peachy orange barring on their chest and belly. Female and young birds have brown backs and wings, with strongly brown barred chests. Females are larger, but both have bright yellow/orange eyes and **long skinny** yellow legs. (Turn to the front cover for a close-up look!)



PAUL HOBSON

**Merlin** Our **smallest** bird of prey, a compact falcon with rather short but **broad-based pointed wings**. A relatively long, **square-cut tail** is obvious during **dashing flight** which is purposeful, at low-level with occasional glides. When not hunting it sits on low perches or on the floor. Body colouration and markings **resemble a miniature peregrine**. Mostly a winter migrant arriving from Iceland which hunts coastal areas and lowland farmland.

# How is our grass growing?

Day in the life of monitoring volunteer, Emma Creasey.



Emma

MATTHEW ROBERTS

**I am kneeling in the middle of a grassy field, nose downwards, pushing aside tufts of grass and peering closely at the tiny leaves revealed underneath. I'm sure I have seen them before, but memory is evading me...**

Are they daisy leaves? Not quite the right shape. Violets? Unlikely in this habitat. Then I spot that the largest leaf is developing a tell-tale arrow shape. It's common sorrel, but very young. Pleased at having worked it out, I shift position and feel a sharp pain in my hand.

"Watch out for that thistle there" I warn my companions.

"Is it a marsh thistle or creeping thistle?"

"Erm - I'll get the book..."

Today there are four of us on the Avon Wildlife Trust Botanical Monitoring Team - Jenny, Clare and I are all volunteers, while Anne is the Monitoring Officer for the Trust. She has the mammoth task of identifying and recording the plant life on all 36 Trust reserves. If the diversity of plant life is maintained or - even better - increases, then we'll know the management plans are working; while a decrease could reveal a problem we weren't aware of, allowing early intervention.

I joined Anne at the beginning of this project in 2014, and along with a small but dedicated band of fellow volunteers we have surveyed 12 reserves so far. Of course you can't cover every inch, so we survey a sample of 1 x 1m square 'quadrats',



Marsh thistle

NEL WYATT

**“ My whole world is one square metre of this field, containing grass, diminutive flowers and the odd hidden thistle ”**

spread evenly across the reserve and located by GPS. My whole world is one square metre of this field, containing grass, diminutive flowers and the odd hidden thistle.

When I began this project, I could identify only a handful of wildflowers. Thanks to the patient guidance of

Anne and other more experienced volunteers on weekly surveys, I now know several more handfuls! Of course, even the experts can be stumped, and there is always more to learn.

Jenny is a serious botanist. So far she has been unable to identify the small, frondy plant in her corner of the quadrat, but she is not going to give up. She takes out a formidable book, *The Vegetative Key to the British Flora*. It is two inches thick, lacking in pictures and expects the user to work doggedly through pages of multiple-choice classification keys. Take the wrong decision at any point and you can go a long way before realising your mistake. I daren't go near it, but it holds no fears for Jenny. After a few minutes she thinks she has the answer, only to find out that the plant in question has only ever been found in a couple of places on the other side of the country. Sighing but undaunted, she starts all over again.

I have finished the broadleaved plants in my part of the quadrat, and this means that, with some trepidation, I have to move on to the grass. Here, grass is not just grass. You have to know which *type* of grass. A typical square metre of 'good' grassland could easily hold a dozen species. Even in a



EMMA CREASEY

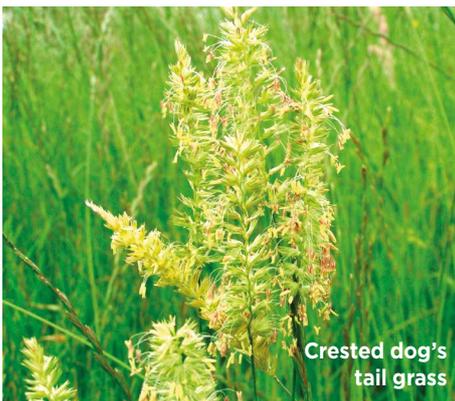
so-called 'improved' field, a botanist's nightmare, stuffed with fertilisers that enable the most dominant grasses to romp over everything else, you can expect to get at least four or five. The world of grass ID has its own language, one I've had to learn. You need to know about *ligules*, the tiny membranes at the base of a grass blade - is it long

Clare takes a no-nonsense approach to her quarry. Reaching into the quadrat, she takes a firm grip on a tuft of grass, and pulls. *Rrrrrr---rip!* Emerging triumphantly with her handful of field - roots and all - she pushes her glasses up her forehead and looks at it sternly. "Right, we've definitely got some bent here."

“ They include crested dog's-tail, a favourite as its seed heads, wagging like happy labradors, are easy to identify ”

and pointy, or short and blunt? The flower-head - yes, grass has flowers, some of them very beautiful - may be a tight *spike* or a feathery *panicle*. The flowers themselves are a whole separate world of jargon including *bracts*, *lemmas* and *glumes* - and gloom is what they cast over the amateur botanist, so the joke goes.

Fortunately, expert help is at hand. An experienced grassland monitor,



Crested dog's tail grass

RICHARD BURKMAR

"How can you tell it's a bent?" Clare frowns. "Well it just looks... *benty*..." Silly question. Employing a hand lens, Clare soon has the grasses sorted. Overall, we find 20 species of grass in this field. They include crested dog's-tail, a favourite as its seed heads, wagging like happy labradors, are easy to identify. While we were recording the grasses, Jenny has keyed out her plant a second time and decided it's wild carrot, albeit one that looks a bit funny. Another tick in the box, and we declare the quadrat conquered. Gathering up books and clipboard, we enter the next co-ordinates in the GPS, and set off to do it all over again.

**Know a marsh thistle from a creeping thistle?** Get in touch if you're able to volunteer regularly with the team: [volunteer@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

## The monitoring year



MATTHEW ROBERTS

### Spring: Woodland flora

The woodland floor is a riot of colour in spring - yellow celandines, white anemones and of course seas of bluebells. The reserves also host rarer plants such as orchids and herb Paris.

### Summer: Grasslands

Following catastrophic losses during the twentieth century, grasslands are a severely threatened habitat. Our monitoring work helps to identify which areas need restoration work.



The botany bunch

EMMA CREASEY

### Late summer/autumn: Ditches and marshes

The wet habitats of ditches and marshes mean that the plants here flower for longer than those in the dry meadows, and can be surveyed after everything else has died down.



EMMA CREASEY

### Winter: Ancient Tree Survey

Ancient trees are home to a unique range of specialist wildlife, including bats, birds, insects and fungi. We want to map all those on our reserves, to ensure they are preserved and monitored.

# Gardening for bats

## Lay on a banquet for bats

Daubenton's bat

Firstly, to dispel some bat myths: bats do not get tangled in your hair, they don't suck human blood and they are not blind. They are however the only mammal that has true flight and have an incredible inbuilt echolocation system, which helps them find food. There are 1,300 bat species worldwide and 17 known to breed in the UK, out of these the bats most likely to visit your garden are the common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat, noctule and Daubenton's bat.

**B**ats are threatened as the woods, ponds and grassy meadows they depend on have been largely replaced by buildings and roads. However, the green spaces that do remain provide corridors to the countryside, so making our gardens as bat-friendly as possible is a great way to help them out. There are an estimated 15 million gardens in the UK, which together covers a greater area than all the National nature reserves.

Despite being pretty tiny (the pipistrelle bat weighs

the same as a 2p coin), bats use so much energy with their aerobatic displays that they have huge appetites. All British bats eat insects, so making your garden or green space good for insects is in turn perfect for bats. Even a window box or small city garden can attract the moths, midges and flies that provide essential nourishment for a hungry bat.

Pale coloured or night-scented flowers such as evening primrose or night-scented stock will attract moths and other night-flying insects.

Growing a diverse range of trees, flowers and shrubs is the best thing you can do to help bats, as well as helping other garden wildlife such as hedgehogs, bumblebees and birds.

If you've got space for a pond even better, as it will support the aquatic larvae of insects such as small flies, which are a favourite of pipistrelle bats, who munch about 500 of these in a single hour! Also ponds offer an ideal lookout spot as bats such as the Daubenton's bat specialise in swooping low over ponds to grab a snack.

**Did you know?** that our nature reserve Browne's Folly has 13 of the 17 UK species of bat? Turn to page 26 to find out more about this bat paradise.



Elephant moth



Common pipistrelle

### How to help bats in autumn:

- Put up bat boxes for next year's roost in a sheltered sunny spot
- Plant new trees and shrubs including buddleia, crab apple and hawthorn
- Build an insect hotel or even a simple log pile

# What's on?

## Walks, talks and workdays

Our local group events have been included in this magazine but even more will be added to our online events page. [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on)

### OCTOBER

**Thursday 27 October**

**WILDLIFE IN NICARAGUA – FOCUS ON BIRDS** an illustrated talk by Sue and David Hedges. At Millennium Hall, Old School Room, Chew Magna, 7.45pm. Entrance £2.50 includes refreshments. (CV)

**Friday 28 October**

**GIANT MAMMALS OF THE ICE AGE**, an illustrated talk by Nick Hood. Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR at 7.30pm. Entrance adults £2, children £1, including tea/coffee. (P)

### NOVEMBER

**Tuesday 1 November**

**THE FUTURE OF NATURE FOR BATH?** The Guildhall, Bath. Public Meeting 5.30–7.30pm. Meet staff and volunteers and learn more about our vision for Bath. Key-note speaker Chris Baines. AGM Business 7.45–8.30pm. Booking essential [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/AGM2016](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/AGM2016)

**Saturday 5 November**

**JUMBLE SALE** at Avon Way Hall Portishead, BS20 6LT, 10 to 11.30am. If you have jumble that needs collecting locally before the day please ring 01275 843160 or 01275 843865. (P)

**Friday 11 November**

**OUR SEAS, OUR FUTURE** talk with Alisdair Naulls at Old Gym Studio, Wellsway School, Chandag Road, Keynsham BS31 1PH. 6.30 for 7.00pm. Entrance cost adults £2.50, under 16s £1. Refreshments available, donation requested. FFI Kathy Farrell 0117 986 9722, [kathyfarrelluk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kathyfarrelluk@yahoo.co.uk) (K)

**Friday 25 November**

**A SORTIE IN SPAIN** – an illustrated talk by Phil Mugridge. Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR at 7.30pm. Entrance adults £2, children £1, including tea/coffee, non-members welcome. (P)

**WILDLIFE OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS** illustrated talk by Derek Trendell. Millennium Hall, Old School Room, South Parade, Chew Magna BS40 8SH at 7.45pm. Entrance £2.50 includes refreshments. (CV)



JAMES RODGERSON



MISTY HUTTON

## FREE toddler wild play sessions in your local green space

- Aimed at families with 2-4 year olds\*
- Includes: wild-art, mini-beast quests, nature stories and much more!
- Located at six urban green spaces across Bristol

\*Younger siblings are welcome. Parents must supervise their children at all times.

### Where are the wild play sessions?

- **Horfield Common, BS7**  
Every other Wednesday morning from 10.00-11.30
- **Dame Emily Park, Bedminster, BS3**  
Every other Thursday morning from 09.30-11.00am.
- **The Bommie, Northern Slopes, BS3**  
Every other Thursday afternoon from 13.00-14.30
- **Fishponds Park, Manor Road, BS16**  
Every other Wednesday morning 9.30-11.00
- **St George Park, Church Rd, BS5**  
Every other Wednesday afternoon 1.00-2.30pm
- **Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock, BS9**  
Every other Thursday morning 10.00-11.30am

Visit [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildchild](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildchild) for dates, times and full information.

## EVENTS

### DECEMBER

**Friday 9 December**

**A CHRISTMAS COMPILATION**, a selection of illustrated short talks by local members. Baptist Church Hall, High Street, Keynsham BS31 1DS at 7.30pm. Adults £2.50; Under 16s £1. Refreshments available during the break (donation requested). Sales of bird food, seasonal items, second hand books and greetings cards. **(K)**

### JANUARY

**Friday 13 January**

**BORN A BIRDER** with 'Birdgirl' Mya-Rose Craig, an avid birder, blogger and story teller. Baptist Church Hall, High Street, Keynsham BS31 1DS 7.30pm. Adults £2.50; Under 16's £1. Refreshments available during the break (donation requested). Sales of bird food, second hand books and greetings cards. **(K)**

**Friday 27 January**

**THE ECOLOGY OF THE CHEW VALLEY**, illustrated talk by ecologist Rupert Higgins. Millennium Hall, Old School Room, South Parade, Chew Magna, BS40 8SH at 7.45pm. Entrance £2.50 includes refreshments. **(CV)**

**MIDWAY - MORE THAN JUST A BATTLE**, illustrated talk by Helen Mugridge about the wildlife of the Pacific. Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR, 7.30pm. Entrance adults £2, children £1, including tea/coffee. **(P)**

### FEBRUARY

**Friday 10 February**

**BOTANICAL TREASURES OF THE MENDIPS**, famous, not only for their scenery, but also for their unique and characteristic flora. Talk by Helena Crouch, illustrated with photos and distribution maps throughout. Baptist Church Hall, High Street, Keynsham BS31 1DS at 7.30pm. Adults £2.50; Under 16's £1. Refreshments available during the break (donation requested). Sales of bird food, second hand books and greetings cards. **(K)**

**Friday 24 February**

**BRITISH MARINE WILDLIFE**, illustrated talk by Alan Mildred. Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR at 7.30pm. Entrance adults £2, children £1, including tea/coffee. **(P)**

**WHAT ARE HUMANS DOING IN NATURE?** Illustrated talk by Ian Roderick. 7.45pm at Millennium Hall, Old School Room, South Parade, Chew Magna BS40 8SH. Entrance £2.50 includes refreshments. **(CV)**

**Sunday 26 February**

**LOVELY LICHENS OF BRISTOL DOWNS**. Let Sheila Quin show you all the varied types of lichen growing on Bristol's trees. Meet at the Water Tower (BS9 1FG) at 11am, or take minibus from Wellsway School (BS31 1PH) at 10am, must be booked in advance. Cost £4 (or £2 if using own transport). Please wear warm clothes and suitable footwear. FFI Liz Wintle 0117 909 9667. **(K)**

### MARCH

**Saturday 4 March**

**JUMBLE SALE** at Avon Way Hall, Avon Way, Portishead BS20 6LT, 10 to 11.30am. If you have any jumble that needs collecting locally before the day please ring 01275 843160 or 01275 843865. **(P)**



Born a birder

HELENA CRAIG

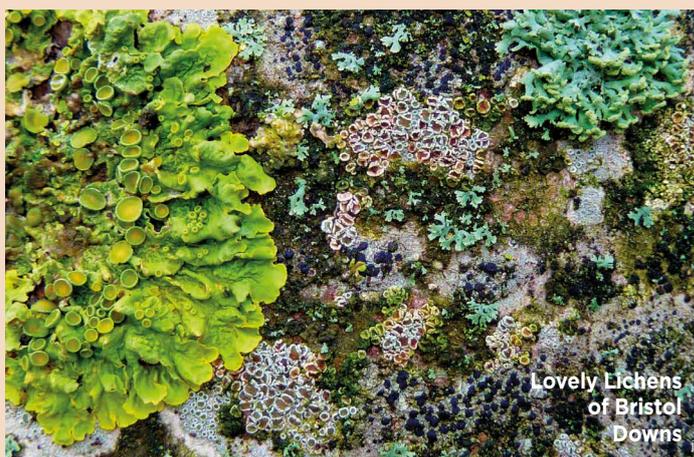


Ecology of the Chew Valley



British Marine Wildlife

PAUL NAYLOR



Lovely Lichens of Bristol Downs

JOY RUSSELL

### Friday 10 March

**THREE SEASONS OF FIELDWORK** with Alex Rhodes, a young naturalist, aspiring filmmaker and licensed bird ringer, currently studying Zoology at Bristol University. Baptist Church Hall, High Street, Keynsham BS31 1DS at 7.30pm. Adults £2.50; Under 16s £1. Refreshments available during the break (donation requested). Sales of bird food, second hand books and greetings cards. **(K)**

### Friday 17 March

**QUIZ NIGHT LIVE!** The Old Grammar School, High Street, Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AH at 7.30pm. This is your chance to have some fun and pick a team of Eggheads for our general knowledge quiz in aid of the Trust. Quiz teams are usually made up of four players at a cost of £2.50 per individual member. Make up a team name and bring your own snacks and beverages. We will be serving tea and coffee in the break. Please contact Malcolm on 01454 310328 to book your team's place. **(S)**

### Saturday 18 March

**TREE GAZING TRAIL** through Bath's Botanical Gardens. Meet at the entrance to the Great Dell (BA1 2XG) at 11am, or take minibus from Wellsway School (BS31 1PH) at 10.15am, must be booked in advance. Cost £2 for minibus. Please wear warm clothes and take a hot drink. FFI tel Liz Wintle on 0117 909 9667. **(K)**

### Friday 24 March

**BIRDS ON THE SOMERSET COAST** an illustrated talk by Nigel Phillips. 7.30pm at the Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR. Entrance adults £2, children £1, including tea/coffee. **(P)**

### MOTHS IN OUR AREA - BUTTERFLIES OF THE NIGHT

illustrated talk by Ray Barnett, Collections Manager at Bristol City Museum. Millennium Hall, Old School Room, South Parade, Chew Magna BS40 8SH at 7.45pm. Entrance £2.50 includes refreshments. **(CV)**

## APRIL

### Friday 7 April

**HORSE STINGERS AND DARNING NEEDLES**, a talk by Ray Barnett about the biology and folklore of the dragonflies which can be found around Bristol and Bath. Baptist Church Hall, High Street, Keynsham BS31 1DS at 7.30pm. Adults £2.50; Under 16s £1. Refreshments available, donation requested. Sales of bird food, second hand books and greetings cards. **(K)**

### Sunday 16 April

**WESTON BIG WOOD** - Join us on a spring walk in this interesting woodland. Paths can be steep and muddy with some steps. Stout footwear advisable. Meet 2pm at Valley Road entrance (off B3124 Portishead to Clevedon road). FFI 0117 940 0706. **(C)**

### Friday 28 April

**WILDLIFE FROM TIERRA DEL FUEGO TO ANTARCTICA**, an illustrated talk by Dr W Venables. Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR at 7.30pm. Entrance adults £2, children £1, including tea/coffee. **(P)**

### Sunday 30 April

**DAWN CHORUS WALK** led by Dave Sage, 4.30 to 8am. Meet at The Shallows car park, Saltford, BS31 3EX, from where Dave will take the early birds among you on a field outing to identify the different song birds which make up the dawn chorus. Please wear warm clothes, and bring a hot drink and binoculars. Free. FFI Dave on 0117 940 7968. **(K)**



Three seasons of wildlife

EDDREWITT



Tree Gazing Trail

MATTHEW ROBERTS



Moths in Our Area

AMY LEWIS



Weston Big Wood

STEVE NICHOLLS

# Volunteer Work 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 the Trust including:

## Grassland Restoration Team (GRT)

Meet at Trust HQ 9.45am Tuesdays (fortnightly) and every Thursday.

**Wildlife Action Group (WAG)** on Trust reserves. Meet at Trust HQ 9.45am Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Feed Bristol community food growing days

Meet at Feed Bristol (Frenchay Park Rd, Stapleton) 9.30am, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Wild City Action Team

Meet at Trust HQ 9.15am last Saturday of the month.

## Reserve-based groups

We have groups that meet regularly on our nature reserves at Browne's Folly (Monday), Hellenge and Purn Hill (Tuesday), Walton Common (Tuesdays), Willsbridge Valley (Tuesday), Folly Farm (Thursday). Our Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock group meets the second Sunday every month, our Brandon Hill group meets four Saturdays per year and our Gordano Valley Group meets one Sunday per month.

Please go to [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer) for dates and work programmes and to sign up as a new volunteer.

## Local group volunteering days

**HELLENGE HILL RESERVE, BLEADON PURN HILL RESERVE, W-s-M.** Work parties and/or wildlife surveying/monitoring. Phone warden Cynthia Sparks 01934 204028 for times, dates and meeting points.

**WAPLEY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE** Saturday 12 November. This will be a morning of general maintenance work and tidying up the reserve prior to the winter season. Please wear walking or wellington boots and bring some gloves. Meet 10am at the Shire Way entrance to the woodland, south Yate, BS37 8US. (S)

**TICKENHAM RIDGE** Sunday 27 November. Reserve management including scrub clearance from the grassland. 10am-12.30pm. Meet at the Reserve. For details phone Keith Giles 01275 852627. (GCG)



MISTY HUTTON

**PRIORS WOOD** Sunday 8 January. General management tasks. Meet 10am in car parking area opposite entrance to Children's Hospice. Turn off B3128 Clevedon road at Downs School entrance and follow drive for about one mile, then turn left at sign for Hospice. DO NOT USE HOSPICE CP. (GCG)

**WESTON BIGWOOD** Sunday 29 January. Working on the ride. Meet 10am in large lay-by on Valley Road, Portishead (ST 451741) just below the quarry. Valley Road is off the B3124, leading to the Police HQ. (GCG)

**WAPLEY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE** Sunday 19 February. We shall be undertaking general management tasks including the pruning of the assorted historic variety fruit trees. Please wear walking or wellington boots, bring gloves and a pair of secateurs if you have them. Meet 10am at the Shire Way entrance to the woodland, south Yate, BS37 8US. (S)

**WESTON MOOR** Sunday 26 February. Meet 10am down the small drive beside the church in Weston-in-Gordano (ST 444743). (GCG)

**WAPLEY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE** Saturday 25 March. We shall be undertaking general management tasks, including a spring clean, to help enhance the biodiversity of this precious nature reserve. Please wear stout footwear. Meet at the Shire Way entrance to the woodland, south Yate, BS37 8US, 10am. (S)

**WESTON MOOR** (original area), Weston-in-Gordano, Sunday 26 March. Meet 10am just inside the reserve (ST 446736). Access via Cadbury Lane, a narrow lane on the eastern side of the B3124, 200m from the White Hart. Drive down Weston Drove then take rough track on RH side through the metal gate. (GCG)

**GOOSE GREEN** Saturday 22 April. As part of our commitment to this local grassland and wetland reserve, we shall be undertaking maintenance such as path clearance and a general tidy up. Please wear walking or wellington boots and bring gloves. Meet 10am at the bridge on the reserve, west of Oak Close, north Yate BS37 5TN. (S)

**PRIOR'S WOOD** Sunday 23 April. Meet 10am in car parking area opposite entrance to Children's Hospice. Turn off B3128 Clevedon road at Downs School entrance and follow drive for about one mile, then turn left at sign for Hospice. DO NOT USE HOSPICE CP. (GCG)

## Local group and volunteering contacts

(C)	Cabot	Jill Kempshall	0117 940 0706
(CV)	Chew Valley	Anne-Marie Morris	01275 332534
(GCG)	Gordano Valley	Keith Giles	01275 852627
(K)	Keynsham	Cynthia Wilson	01225 874259
(LA)	Long Ashton	Harry Williams	01275 392690
(P)	Portishead	Cynthia Dorn	01275 843160
(S)	Southwold	Gloria Stephen	01454 310328

For further information please go to [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer) or email Julie: [volunteer@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

# Employee engagement

Swap your screen for a spade for the day



Julie

Spark Something Good with M&S, Willow for a hedgehog sculpture

Be proud to play your part in the vision to enable nature to recover on a grand scale

The 2016 *State of Nature* report highlights the decline in wildlife across the UK but importantly it also showcases how focused conservation efforts can make a difference to the security of our native wildlife. We have such a range of projects and programmes that increasingly businesses are choosing to work with Avon Wildlife Trust as part of their corporate social responsibility programme. In doing so they are realising that there's nothing like the feeling of doing something positive to raise morale, feel accomplished and be energised to achieve more.

People learn best when they are personally involved with the learning experience and we can provide purposeful projects that have impact for



Skanska at Bristol Heart Institute



Wildflower planting

“ There’s a tremendous sense of camaraderie when people come together to give something back to their local community ”

Mike Barry, Director of Plan A at Marks & Spencer

nature and whole communities. Recently a team from Skanska worked on our My Wild City project to transform an overgrown roof garden at the Bristol Heart Institute into a tranquil place for wildlife, staff and long-term patients. After three days of hard work, when the new garden was officially opened, the blackbirds had already begun to visit and bees were foraging for food in the new nectar-rich planters.

Rolls Royce helped our My Wild City team transform Compass Point and South Street School grounds, creating a wild place for children to explore and nature flourish. A forest school area was developed with a pond, with fun places

to climb, be curious and play. Team spirits were high, the day “exceeded expectations” and everyone enjoyed themselves, but most importantly, hundreds of children will now have an inspiring outdoor play area where they can connect with nature.

Our Feed Bristol project supports a range of outdoor activities to promote health, wellbeing and education for community groups with different needs.

It also provides a beautiful setting to host employee engagement days.

This year we worked with Marks & Spencer on their ‘Spark Something Good’ campaign, an initiative that encouraged their staff and customers to get involved with local community projects. Over 40 volunteers, including renowned environmentalist Jonathon Porritt, came to the project to create a outdoor classroom featuring a new wildlife pond and edible forest garden.

Contact [julie.doherty@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:julie.doherty@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk) to find out how your organisation can get involved.



LOTTERY FUNDED

OUR ENVIRONMENT IS OUR FUTURE



# Natural Estates

**Matt Harcourt and Catherine Ware from 'NEst' have been busy this summer in the St Pauls and Lockleaze areas of Bristol. NEst have been developing partnerships and identifying green spaces that, through training young people, can be improved for the benefit of wildlife and the community.**

Planter at Buzz Lockleaze Café

MISTY HUTTON

**S**t Pauls Learning Centre garden was overrun with brambles and Virginia creeper, which had smothered the fruit trees and growing beds. We worked with youth employment charity Tomorrows People to clear the vegetation, which makes a huge difference to the space. We have developed a great partnership with the centre, which we hope will continue.

At St Agnes Park fun day, which was run by youth providers LPW and Imayla, young people created nature inspired carvings in timber, which we made into a bench that the group has now proudly installed in the park. Whilst working in urban areas we often hear "I never see any wildlife here" - which is where we are able to point out the speckled wood butterflies flitting along the brambles, the goldfinches in the tops of the trees and amazing versatility of 'weeds' growing in the pavements.

## Buzzing summer at Lockleaze

In Gainsborough Square we have been working with a young volunteer, Jack, to build two new herb planters with seating for Buzz Lockleaze Café. The planters have been well received and cherished by the community. We also helped manage one of the wildflower meadows on the square.

**“ We now have a plan to transform the space into a learning garden which will be a valuable additional educational asset to the Centre. ”**

Red Cottam, St Pauls Learning Centre Manager

At Orchard School, we spent a busy term working with extra-curricular groups to explore their extensive grounds, which were new to many of them. Together we discovered hundreds of tiny froglets in the grass and also cinnabar moth chrysalises along the school fence, some of which we were lucky enough to watch emerge. The groups also constructed bug houses and milk bottle planters which they attached to the fence, and filled with bee friendly plants. We are now working on plans to improve the grounds further and get the whole school involved throughout the next year.



Tomorrow's People in St Pauls Learning Centre garden

MISTY HUTTON

## Natural Estates project aims:

- 3,000 11-14 year olds taking a new interest in their local green spaces
- 450 14-18 year olds learning new skills to improve local green spaces for people and wildlife
- 100 18-24 year olds with transferable skills for employment through community projects
- Creating new wild spaces for wildlife across Avon

For more information on the project visit [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturalestates](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturalestates) and follow our progress on [Instagram @NestSouthWest](#)

# Wild Worle Wednesdays

With the beginning of the new school term came the start of a long awaited project in Worle, Weston-super-Mare. We are working with Becket Primary to do something very special along the green lanes of Worle - create a nature trail.



Nature findings

## What is the Big Worle?

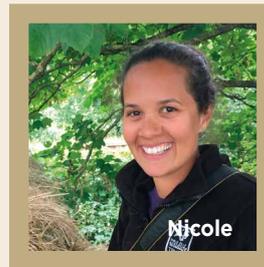
Big Worle is a £1 million ten year project funded by the National Lottery and aims to bring local people into the heart of making their area a better place to live. Local residents have formed a partnership and, after extensive consultation, drew up a plan on how to spend the money. There are many different aspects to this project and Avon Wildlife Trust have been asked to deliver a small (but very exciting) part.

During consultation lots of people in the Big Worle area, and in particular young people said more needed to be done to improve the local environment and do more for wildlife. As a result, between September and November the Trust is joining the year five class from Becket Primary each week for a 'Wild Worle Wednesday,' the end product of which will be the creation of a new nature trail along lanes within the Big Worle area. These lanes are widely used by the community and many of the

school children can access their homes along them.

## Nature explorers

In week one everyone became a nature detective. We headed out into the wilds to see what we could find - and it didn't take us long to find fascinating creatures using the urban space already. From starlings and blue tits amongst the bramble, to hundreds of caterpillars on a patch of nettles, everywhere we turned there was something to see. Spiders had strung their webs along hedgerows and butterflies were fluttering by on the warm autumn day. A real highlight was a pair of dragonflies tearing about the sky above our heads making us dizzy as we watched.



Nicole

## Creating the nature trail

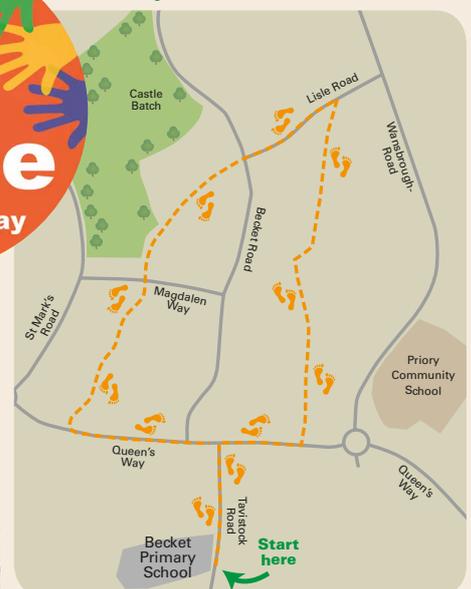
We've already planted a native hedgerow and spring bulbs along the route and there is plenty more planned, including building bug hotels and bird boxes. In spring, when all the wildlife will be springing into life after a winter slumber, we will have an official launch and invite

everyone from the community to come along and celebrate what the class and community have achieved. We will also have booklets to give out to everyone, which describe the route, what can be found along it and how people can make their own improvements for wildlife at home.

*Nicole Daw, People and Wildlife Officer.*



## The Big Worle Nature Trail



Blue tit nest

AMY LEWIS

# Around the reserves

*Wildlife thrives as the summer season brings perfect growing conditions*

Dexters at  
Walton Common

DAVE HORLICK

## Nature reserve updates from the Conservation Team

**S**ummer arrived a little later this year, but with its arrival came plenty of sunshine and moisture, providing perfect growing conditions for lots of plants. Our teams of volunteers have been busy monitoring summer species on our reserves, as well as tackling hay cuts and controlling weeds. We are especially thankful to our monitoring volunteers at this time of year, as the data collected during the summer season helps us evidence the management activity that is carried out during the rest of the year. Sites such as Max Bog SSSI that are permit only, are rare and complex gems, hence being one of only a few of our reserves that is not accessible by the public. Survey data from this site informs us that our management approach and timing for works is correct, as rare species continue to thrive both in abundance and diversity.

As reserve managers one of our main tasks in the grass growing season is to manage hay cuts and graziers. So grassland conservation is our priority rather than maximizing feed value from the grasslands, we take late hay cuts allowing wildflowers and rare grasses to set seed. Hay cuts usually start late in July and finish early September, and where possible we like to use cattle and/or sheep to follow up with some

light grazing. We work closely with local farmers to ensure our reserves get the right numbers of livestock grazing at the right time of year. With all the grass growth this year, the animals have particularly enjoyed their natural feast.

### Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock

Due to the proximity to the Bristol Portway, Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock is one of our nature reserves that can't be managed with the aid of livestock. Without the help of these cost-effective and biodiversity friendly

grass cutters, we have to rely on man and machine power.

Many of you who use the Portway may have seen the abundance of bright yellow flowers on the reserve this year. Ragwort is a fantastic nectar source to our precious pollinators. It is the main food plant of at least 77 insects, including five 'Red Data Book' and eight 'nationally scarce' species. The most well known is the cinnabar moth. Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock was alive with invertebrates this summer, often with up to twenty hungry cinnabar caterpillars on one plant at any one time!



Survey volunteers  
at Clapton Moor

Decision making in conservation work is not always straightforward process, as in addition to ragwort's biodiversity benefits, it can be fatally toxic when ingested by cattle and horses, either when it is growing or if it has been dried in hay. Therefore on our reserves where we carry out a hay cut or use livestock to graze the grassland, we carry out a ragwort pull in late summer with our volunteer teams, to ensure our four-legged lawn mowers stay healthy and safe. On the majority of our reserves where there is no threat to livestock, the ragwort is more sympathetically managed.

**The unmistakable black and yellow stripes of the cinnabar moth act as a warning to predators and make them very easy to identify**



SUSANNA BIRD



AMY LEWIS

## Browne's Folly

With its elevated position above the river Avon and the commanding views over Bath and the surrounding countryside, Browne's Folly has always been a popular spot for visitors. Over the summer months our volunteer groups have been working tirelessly to ensure the site is as accessible as possible. We've been busy undertaking regular path clearance work as well as repairing and replacing steps, ready for the next reserve explorers.

## Walton Common

The cattle are enjoying their new surroundings and panoramic views of the Gordano Valley at Walton



Kingfishers

JON HAWKINS

Common and are getting stuck into the grass and low lying scrub. The weekly volunteer group have also been working alongside the friendly Dexters keeping tracks and paths open for the public throughout the summer and carrying out sensitive vegetation clearance on the archaeological features in the autumn.

## Clapton Moor and Weston Moor

The monitoring volunteers have been busy surveying both the grasslands

and rhynes to inform our grazing regime and reserve management at both Weston Moor and Clapton Moor. On one visit they were treated to the beautiful sight of a kingfisher flying along the rhyne. The tenant farmers on both of these reserves have taken advantage of the dry summer conditions locally and have been able to manage the vegetation in areas that are usually inaccessible without specialist machinery. This rush control should benefit the waders and wildfowl over the winter and we're excited to see what will arrive.



Browne's Folly meadow

# Walk with the warden

## Browne's Folly



Richard

RICHARD POOLEY

**Richard Pooley has been the Volunteer Warden at Browne's Folly since the Trust took on the land in the 1980s and was exploring it long before then. There is no-one better to ask to take us on a wander through this beautiful hilltop nature reserve near Bath.**

**D**ominating the skyline to the east of the city of Bath and overlooking the village of Bathford is a limestone ridge, a large part of which comprises the nature reserve. Roughly one hundred acres in extent, Browne's Folly is mainly made up of woodland of varying age and diversity, but with a small area of rare calcareous grassland that is host to a wide range of plants and insects particular to that habitat. Browne's Folly is popular with walkers and wildlife enthusiasts throughout the year, for them access is easy as there are three public footpaths traversing the area and four different entry points. The view from the top is spectacular. To the west one can see right across the city of Bath to the Mendip Hills deep in Somerset, while to the south is the distant King Alfred's Tower, which is almost on the Dorset border.



Broad Leaved Helleborine

NICOLE DAW

**Did you know?**  
Browne's Folly is home to 9 species of orchid!

### Go orchid spotting

A few early purple orchids appear in April, then a rush of commoner varieties from May into June, with the occasional special such as fly orchid or birds nest orchid in the woodland fringes. Rounding off the orchid season in September are the broad-leaved helleborines with their subtle greenish-

hued flowers, which can be hard to spot on the grassy slopes. There are many other attractive flowers, which provide a source of nectar for insects including the iridescent green hairstreak butterfly, which is on the wing from April into June. A much larger and more brightly coloured butterfly is the dark-green fritillary, which flies in midsummer.

On the grassland, a policy of autumn/winter grazing by sheep has been introduced although this has presented some challenges due to the frequent



Dark-green fritillary

RICHARD POOLEY

use of the site by the public and the occasional incident involving dogs. The vast majority of visitors respect the need for control of their dogs in the presence of grazing animals, but unfortunately a few people have disregarded this and jeopardised the animals.

## Birds of the woods

The woodlands represent a mix of woodland types: ancient woodland of ash, oak and beech canopy and a mainly hazel understorey on the lower slopes, secondary woodland with a high proportion of ash, that has colonised the upper slopes over the last 70 years, since the introduction of myxomatosis virtually wiped out the resident rabbit population in the 1950s. Buzzards are now breeding regularly and although both sparrowhawks and kestrels are seen in the reserve there is no proof of recent breeding. The woodland birds can best be seen in winter when there are no leaves on the trees so look out for the green and great-spotted woodpeckers, nuthatch, treecreeper and many of the tit species. In spring and early summer the woods ring with birdsong as migrant warblers compete with resident species for territory and nesting sites.

### Did you know?



ANDY MORFEW

**Nuthatches get their name from the term 'nut hacker' because the birds are known to lodge nuts into tree crevices and hack away at them with their strong bills.**

## Autumn highlights

During autumn there is a variety of things to look for. As the leaves change colour, the particularly sharp-eyed can find traces on the leaf surface where the minute caterpillars of 'leaf-mining' micro moths have been feeding and growing, until they emerge as fully-grown adults. Roe and muntjac deer can sometimes be flushed from the woodland thickets, while badger trails criss-cross the entire reserve and grey squirrels can often be seen hunting for



cached food even on cold winter days.

Right through to spring there are fungi to be found and these are incredibly varied in size, shape and colours. Some can be found on living or dead wood, while others grow in the earth, ranging from large bracket fungi to small brightly coloured elf caps.

## Cave-dwelling bats

In common with many of the hills surrounding Bath, the area was mined extensively for the oolitic limestone or 'Bath Stone' as it is more popularly called. The result is a honeycomb of tunnels beneath the hill, which are

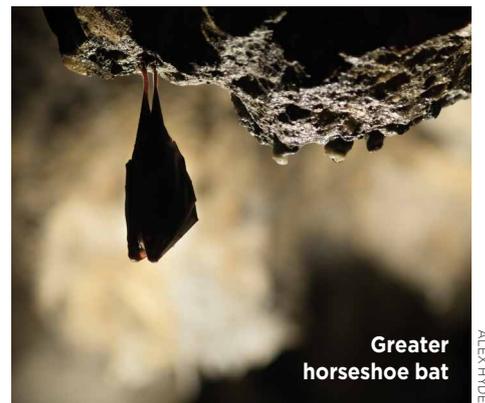
**“ We discovered a lone Geoffroy's bat, only the second record of this species in Britain ”**

home to a wide variety of bat species. In 2015 an intensive bat survey of the reserve in October discovered a lone Geoffroy's bat, only the second record of this species in Britain. The mine tunnels are used as a hibernation roost in winter, offering sanctuary to the

threatened greater horseshoe bat. During the warmer months the bats can be seen hunting the woodland rides at dusk.

## Powered by volunteers

The reserve is managed by a small but dedicated group of local volunteers, with occasional help from the Trust's own volunteer teams and sometimes the use of contractors for the tasks that require specialist equipment and expertise. The local team operate throughout the year, in autumn and winter thinning the secondary woodland and coppicing hazel to recreate the traditional habitat of 'coppice with standards', plus removing fallen or dangerous trees from near footpaths. In spring and summer they remove scrub from the grassland, restoring the drystone wall that forms the reserve boundary, and maintaining the footpaths and rides. Anyone with time and energy to spare would be very welcome to contribute to the management of this beautiful reserve: [volunteer@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)



ALEX HAYDE



# Can the UK find a way?

Following the Leave vote, The Wildlife Trusts are challenging every MP to support nature's recovery even more effectively than the EU did

It may not be an easy path but the decision to leave the EU is a chance to accelerate progress towards nature's recovery

The Wildlife Trusts are using the UK's vote to leave the EU as an opportunity to press the Government to be more ambitious about the future of our natural world. We are asking every MP to pledge support for three key asks:

- Reform society's investment in land management so that it protects our life support systems.
- Sustain the effort to establish a network of Marine Protected Areas and bring about sustainable fishing.
- Recognise the need for wildlife laws and set even higher environmental standards for the future.

"Success in these three areas is vital not just for wildlife, but for our health, wellbeing and economic security, and that of future generations," said Joan Edwards, Head of Living Seas at The Wildlife Trusts.

"Even before the Leave vote we needed more positive planning for

**“ We are asking every MP to pledge support ”**

nature's recovery, rather than just protecting the best of what was left. Our challenge is to build and improve on the benefits that EU membership brought wildlife.

"The seismic change facing the UK must be used ambitiously. It must prevent any further losses; recover and reconnect wildlife and wild places; and recognise the vital role that our natural world plays in our economy, health and wellbeing."

■ Has your MP pledged? Check on <http://tinyurl.com/h642uxw>

## Life support systems

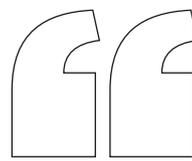
We want a new Integrated Environment and Agriculture Policy which pays farmers and landowners for the things we all need, such as helping to manage flooding, cleaning up our water supplies as well as increasing wildlife and having beautiful landscapes for us all to enjoy.

"This is not a polarised debate between the need for food and the need for a healthy environment," said Steve Trotter, Director of The Wildlife Trusts for England. "The two outcomes are interconnected, and we need both of them to work well. We all have a stake in achieving the best outcomes for all involved."

### The way ahead

**We want to see an integrated environmental and agricultural policy - good for wildlife and people**

**Continues over**



Latest UK-wide news and issues: [wildlifetrusts.org/news](http://wildlifetrusts.org/news)

## We're on the case



I'm a great fan of change. Change can make us more creative and open-minded, break bad habits and encourage us to look afresh at the future. For all these reasons, I initiate frequent desk

reorganisations. Initially this was unpopular but now the team almost looks forward to it!

Well the vote on 23 June was more than a desk move. It changed the UK's position in the world immediately. And it will change the basis of our farming, fisheries, and wildlife protection fundamentally. We have had to take a long deep breath as a result, because we have our work cut out to influence what happens next.

But even change you resisted can be liberating and energising and our President, Tony Juniper, talks about some of the opportunities that could arise from leaving the EU. We're talking every day to other wildlife organisations to align our ideas. We are also working closely with bodies like the Country Land and Business Association. People who own land have a responsibility to future generations; but Government also has a responsibility to ensure that: soils are conserved for future food growing; peatlands restored to reduce carbon emissions; and wildlife is allowed to recover in all its beauty, abundance and diversity. Consequently, the old EU farming subsidies should be replaced by land management payments that bring benefits to the whole community - now and in the future.

With your mandate behind us, we at The Wildlife Trusts are making the case for a "greener" UK. We are meeting civil servants, submitting evidence to Select Committees and talking directly to Ministers, including the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP.

We know from our research that wildlife was far from the minds of people entering the polling booths on 23 June. We hope you will tell your elected politicians how much you want the Government to seize this opportunity to restore the fortunes of wildlife.

**Stephanie Hilborne OBE**

Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts  
@stephphilborne

Together there are 47 Wildlife Trusts covering the UK, all working for an environment rich in wildlife for everyone, on land and at sea. Contact us on [enquiry@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:enquiry@wildlifetrusts.org) or 01636 677711. To join your Wildlife Trust, visit [wildlifetrusts.org/joinus](http://wildlifetrusts.org/joinus). **Natural World, The Kiln, Waterside, Mather Road, Newark, Notts NG24 1WT.**  
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Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom meets with The Wildlife Trusts

FIONA GIL SENAN

## Marine Protected Areas

To turn around decades of decline in the health of our seas and enable their recovery, The Wildlife Trusts want to see a strong, ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas.

We believe that the EU's Common Fisheries Policy provides some strong measures, especially moving towards sustainable levels of fishing; banning the discarding of 'unwanted' fish; and linking fisheries and marine conservation targets. At the very least, these good parts of the Common Fisheries Policy must be maintained in any future agreements and future UK legislation.

### The way ahead

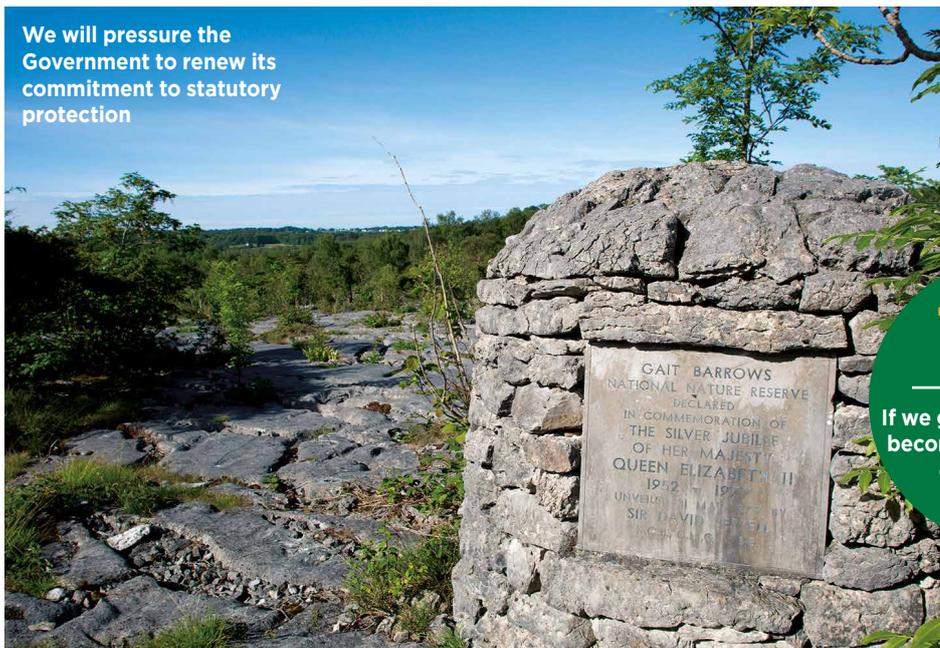
Keep the best of the EU legislation, and complete the UK's network of MPAs



DAN BURTON/NATUREPL.COM

We will persuade all stakeholders that healthy fish stocks live in healthy seas

We will pressure the Government to renew its commitment to statutory protection



DAVID CHAPMAN

## Strong wildlife laws

The EU has some of the most extensive environmental legislation in the world, protecting vital wildlife and wild places on land and at sea, and improving member states' approach to natural resource management.

### The way ahead

If we get this right we will become world leaders in environmental protection

"It is vital that the UK continues to benefit from equally robust laws," said Steve Trotter. "In fact, this is not just a chance to ensure existing laws are better implemented. A visionary approach can enhance our towns, cities, countryside and seas.

This is an opportunity to build an overwhelming case for a sustainable future."

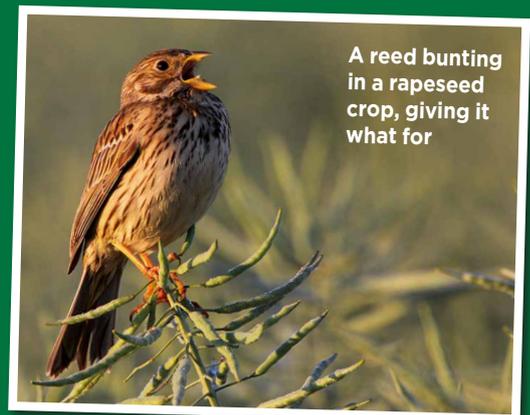
## OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF FARMING

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy has increased food production at the expense of wildlife. Intensive agriculture in the UK is the largest cause of biodiversity loss, and a major cause of soil loss and water pollution.

The way our land is farmed and managed after leaving the EU is a chance to refocus taxpayers' money to deliver more for people

and nature. The Wildlife Trusts are calling for a new Integrated Environment and Agriculture Policy, which would invest in producing the things we all need: clean water, clean air, wildlife everywhere, healthier intact soils, flood reduction and beautiful places to enjoy.

It can only happen if everyone – farmers, landowners, consumers – gets involved.



A reed bunting in a rapeseed crop, giving it what for

# Norfolk Wildlife Trust is 90

In 1926, one visionary purchase began the county Wildlife Trusts movement

In March 1926, a group of local people led by Dr Sydney Long bought 435 acres of marsh at Cley in Norfolk. The marsh was famous for its bird life, and the group agreed to create a trust and give the marshes to it, to be preserved, in Dr Long's words, "as a bird-breeding sanctuary for all time." The Norfolk Naturalists Trust came into being on 5 November 1926. Today, it is Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

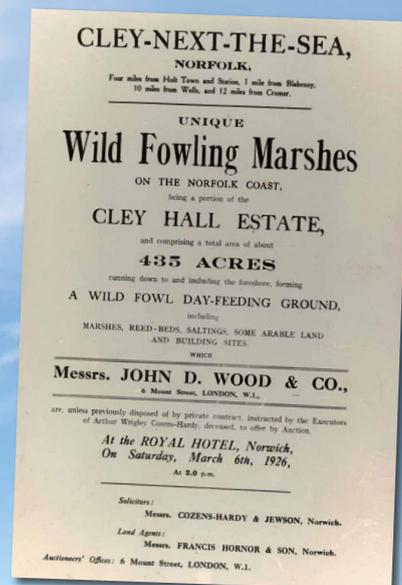
**“A bird-breeding sanctuary for all time”**

Not only were Cley's habitats and wildlife preserved; the foundation of the trust was the start of the county Wildlife Trusts movement.

Dr Long's group continued purchasing important sites for wildlife and people. Today, the Trust owns and cares for more than 50. "This group was not afraid to take big risks to achieve their goals," says the Trust's Chief Executive, Brendan Joyce. "I feel passionately that Norfolk Wildlife Trust should always push on.

"2016 has been a fantastic year for us: celebrating what has been achieved but looking forward to what still must be done in Norfolk and also with our fellow Trusts across the UK."

More on [wildat90.org.uk](http://wildat90.org.uk)



The 1926 bill of sale for Cley Marshes, the Trust's first nature reserve



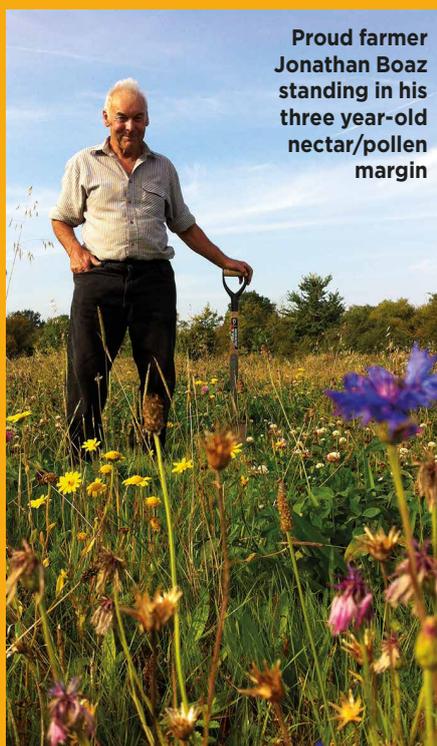
Cley marshes nature reserve today

## Bee friendly farmers

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is running a five-year pollinator project with more than 20 farmers. Each farm undertakes a pollinator health check, and shares best practice on improving land for native wild pollinators.

"This is a great opportunity for farmers to get together through study days, site visits and training events to talk about changes they can make, or have made, that complement the different practices of each individual farm," said the Trust's Caroline Corsie. "They work together to establish what pollinators are on their farms and how they can help increase their numbers."

The project is funded from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development through Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme's Facilitation Fund.



Proud farmer Jonathan Boaz standing in his three year-old nectar/pollen margin

CAROLINE CORSIE

The Secretary of State with farmer, David Banner



HONA GILSENAN

## Minister backs nature-friendly farm

The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP visited Dovecote Farm in Northants in October where the local Wildlife Trust has helped inspire a farmer to revert arable land to wildflower meadows.

Mrs Leadsom said: "We're working with farmers and environmental organisations to learn from their expertise and develop an ambitious plan setting out a new approach to managing our environment to bring about even more successes like this."

# Nature is for everyone

...so why do so few people from ethnic minorities visit nature reserves, or take up a career in conservation? Mya-Rose Craig organised a conference to find out

**B**oth my parents are passionate birders. My sister is too. So by the time I was three I knew that nature was what I was interested in, and birds were what I felt passionately about. My Dad is white British and has been birding forever. My Mum is British Bangladeshi. Her parents took her to parks for picnics and rounders when she was growing up, but she only became interested in nature after she met Dad.



HELENA CRAIG

**Mya-Rose Craig** is 14 and an avid birder. She runs the BirdgirlUK blog and can be found on Twitter @BirdGirlUK

I've grown up within a huge, closely-knit extended British Bangladeshi family in Bristol. As well as the traditional first generation of older relatives my grandmother's age, many are second and third generation. Some have been to university and have professional jobs; many work in Indian restaurants or as taxi drivers, and live in deprived inner city areas. None show any interest in going out into nature - which I thought was simply because they didn't want to. After all, we very rarely saw any ethnic minority people whilst out birding.

Last year I read about what was being done in the USA to try and get non-white people outside, and an article by David Lindo, the Urban Birder, about taking Afro-Caribbean teenagers on

nature walks in London as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award, helping them make a connection with nature so they would be able to carry on or go back to it later in their lives.

I decided to try attracting Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) teenagers from Bristol to a birding camp I had organised, Camp Avalon.

Even though I offered free places and allowed parents to come, it was harder than I thought it would be. But taking advice from those who worked

in these communities, I persuaded five BAME teenagers to attend.

I learned a lot from Camp Avalon. For example, many BAME parents will only let their teenager stay overnight if they know and trust an organiser well, and feel sure that their child's dietary and religious needs will be met.

Afterwards, I interviewed BAME people who were into nature. They had similar stories of feeling like they were the only ones. Having my mum as a birder had helped me because I grew up knowing that it was normal for ethnic minority people. However, my biggest inspiration was from having a cool older sister crazy about birds. That's why I believe that BAME mentors are so important.

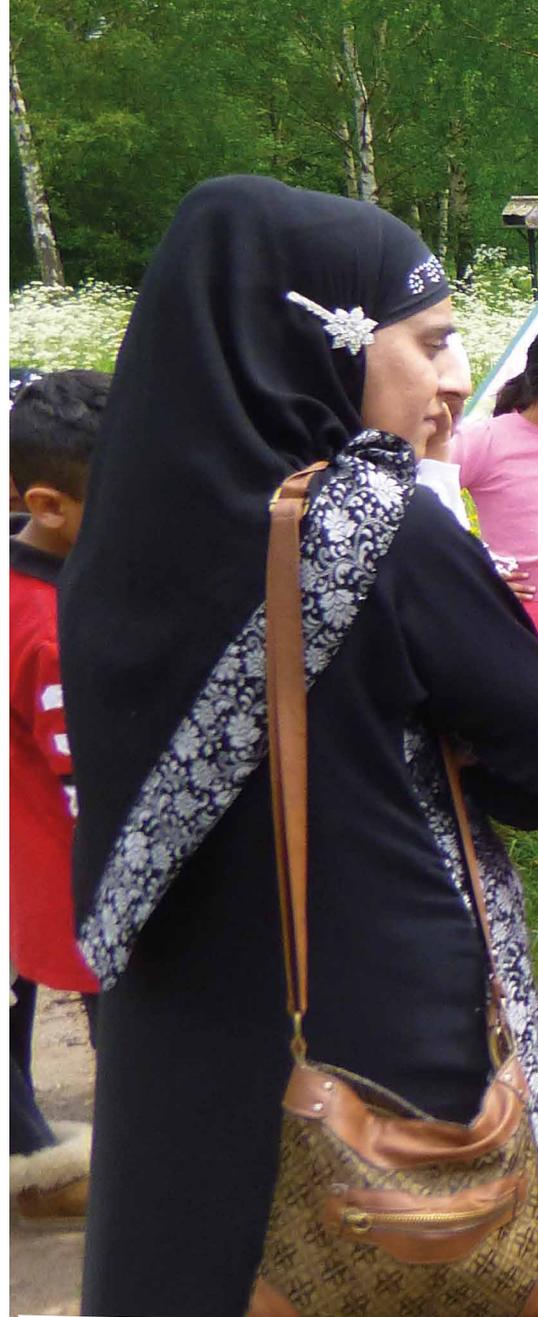
In February 2016, a report confirmed that children from BAME backgrounds or lower socio-economic backgrounds had less access to nature.

**“None of my huge extended family show any interest in going out into nature”**



HELENA CRAIG

**Mya-Rose and friend. “Having an older sister who was crazy about birds really helped.”**



HELENA CRAIG

**Mya-Rose organised a second birding camp in July 2016. She is second from right**

It is such an important issue that I organised a conference, Race Equality in Nature, which took place on 3 June at Bristol Zoo and was supported by The Wildlife Trusts (see box on right). 85 people attended from nature charities, Exmoor, local communities, mental and physical health teams, the media, universities and schools.

There was a really positive vibe. I hope that together we can make changes in the future, as access to nature is a right for all our citizens.



Laura Bacon of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust ran a three-year project to encourage BAME people to enjoy nature. Since then, attendance at Attenborough Reserve has improved. "We hope more diverse groups will now see our reserves as a site for them too," she says

## BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS

The conference last June began by identifying barriers to nature. The main conclusions were:

- Parks, green spaces and reserves poorly known, or seen as unsafe
- Rural areas seen as white-only places, with a linked fear of racist attacks especially towards Muslims
- A fear of dogs which stems from aggressive guard dogs and the risk of rabies 'back home'
- A lack of role models, especially on mainstream nature TV
- Lack of access to urban green spaces
- Lack of access to transport
- Poverty leading to things such as a lack of appropriate clothing
- Fathers working antisocial hours
- Fear of teenagers getting involved with gangs, or being seen as troublemakers by the police

Next, the conference came up with ways these barriers could be overcome:

- Encouraging mums to take children to green spaces in groups
- Taking BAME and inner city people on trips to the countryside, showing them it is safe
- Starting a mentoring scheme
- Setting up a forum online
- Incorporating wild spaces into new housing developments
- Educating young people and parents in school about conservation careers

**“Encouraging mums to take children to green spaces in groups”**



A happy moment during a Nottingham school visit to Attenborough Reserve



**It's the beauty of the whole rich landscape that matters**

*Says Trust Chair, Roz Kidman Cox*

**Woodland floor with amethyst deceiver and fruit of sweet chestnut tree**

“**B**ack in September, on those wonderful warm evenings, I left my study window open. The result was a reminder of nature's night-shift. First, a number of exquisitely patterned moth visitors. Next, on several nights between 9pm and 10pm, and heard above the sounds of human nightlife, a session of kerwick calls from a female tawny owl. Though I never did hear an answer from a male, they gave me a feeling of 'all's well with the world'.

If I'm out on a clear night in late autumn, I'll listen out for the soft seep-seep contact calls of any redwings flying high overhead, migrants from the far north. Also listening out for them will be the peregrines. In both Bristol and Bath, they have learnt to hunt migrating birds at night, picking them off against the dark sky, lit by the glow of city lights.

Our urban peregrines are a success story – Bristol's nesting most famously in the Avon Gorge (and possibly on the cathedral roof next year, using the My Wild City nestbox), and Bath's on St John's Church, in the heart of the city – their young dispersing into the wider countryside. A cleaner River Avon with rebounding freshwater life means otters, too, are being seen with increasing frequency, even in the hearts of Bath and Bristol. One was recently seen in Bristol's floating harbour munching a large eel. And right



in the centre of Bath, an otter was observed eating a fish in broad daylight.

But as the latest 'State of Nature' report reveals, in the wider countryside, not all is well with the world. It's the decline of insects that shocks most – the food for so many farmland birds, which are also in decline, in some cases dramatically. This makes those remaining sympathetically managed areas with a diversity of plants and insects so vital. Keeping those places rich and restoring the degraded habitats are ever more urgent, as is linking them up

– bigger, better and joined together, whether literally or through stepping stones of improved habitat. It's what the Trust believes in.

What helps to win over supporters saving such areas is to have a large, rare or colourful figurehead – an orchid, a lesser-spotted woodpecker or even a dormouse. But of course it's the beauty of the whole rich landscape that matters – the burst of grasshoppers and flutter of butterflies as you walk through a meadow, the hum of a multitude of bees, hoverflies and other pollinators or the smell of diverse fungi in an ancient woodland. Then you will really know all's well with that world.

*R Kidman Cox*





Feed Bristol is Avon Wildlife Trust's six acre community food growing project and plant nursery. Specialising in native wildflowers, medicinal herbs, organic veg starters and forest garden perennials.

We can process large trade orders or advise your project on designing up planting plans for conservation projects.

Open to the public and trade mid-week (9 – 5) and the first Saturday of the month.

Like us on Facebook to stay up-to-date with options for site hire, events and courses.

**For stock lists and orders, please contact [matt.cracknell@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:matt.cracknell@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)**



PHOTOS: MISTY HUTTON



**Professional nature conservation & habitat management services**



Our friendly, conscientious team provides comprehensive services including scrub clearance, rights of way work, invasive species control, pond installation, sensitive tree management, protected species mitigation and more. Providing services to local authorities, businesses, charities and private individuals since 1992, we strive to think and operate as sustainably and ethically as we can.

Call Pat today on 07966 528883 or visit [www.green-mantle.co.uk](http://www.green-mantle.co.uk)

## Who's who at the Trust

President  
Vice President  
Vice President  
Vice President  
Vice President

### Trustees

Chair  
Vice Chair  
Treasurer  
Secretary

### Staff

Chief Executive

### Delivery Programmes

Director of Delivery Programmes  
Head of Land Management and Advice  
Conservation Advisor  
Conservation Advisor  
Conservation Advisor  
Conservation Projects Officer  
Conservation Assistant\*  
Monitoring Officer\*  
Nature & Wellbeing Programme Manager  
Natural Estates Project Officer\*

Simon King  
Mark Carwardine  
Mike Dilger  
Philippa Forrester  
Kevin McCloud

Roz Kidman Cox  
Dr Steve Nicholls  
Katharine Finn  
Cecile Gillard  
Anthony Brown  
Martin Brasher  
Professor Justin Dillon  
Alan Dorn  
Lesley Freed  
Dilys Huggins  
Professor Jane Memmott  
Nigel Morrison  
Lorna Fox

Ian Barrett

### Dr Lucy Rogers

Chris Giles  
Joe McSorley  
Bernie D'Arcy  
Chantal Brown  
Rachael Fickweiler  
Rosie Maple  
Dr Anne Halpin  
Janice Gardiner  
Matt Harcourt

Natural Estates Project Officer  
Feed Bristol Project Manager  
Feed Bristol Project Officer\*  
Wellbeing Through Nature Project Manager  
Learning Development Manager  
Wild Play Officer

### Finance & Resources

Director of Finance & Resources  
Finance and Resources Manager\*  
Finance and Resources Officer\*  
Grant Development Officer\*  
Membership & Administration Officer  
Membership & Administration Officer\*  
Project Coordinator and Administrator  
Membership & Administration Officer  
Executive PA and HR Administrator\*  
Accountant\*  
Site Assistant - Trust office\*

### Fundraising, Membership and Communications

Director of Fundraising, Membership and Communications\*  
Marketing Officer  
Communications Officer  
Communications Assistant\*  
Partnerships and Volunteering Manager  
People and Wildlife Officer\*

### Folly Farm Centre

Director of Folly Farm Centre  
Front of House Manager  
Event Administrator\*  
Event Administrator\*  
General Assistant / Housekeeper  
General Assistant / Housekeeper

\*part-time

Catherine Ware  
Matt Cracknell  
Rich Wright  
Kelly Bray  
Laura Colman  
Sarah Horsell

Jane Davis  
Freiny Miles  
Pat Sandy  
Sam Pullinger  
Jenny Holmes  
Angela Davies  
Shakira Price  
Claire Davey  
Katharine Slocombe  
Sarah Brander  
Roy Catford

Sarah Moore  
Jade Preddy  
Ella Beeson  
Misty Hutton  
Julie Doherty  
Nicole Daw

Andrew Lund-Yates  
Stella Page  
Hannah Read  
Angela Jones  
Arthur Newton  
Elen Mannion

# Will you?



**You can protect the wildlife  
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