

Save our Suffolk Swifts'
– see page 18



© Chris Courtney

Local Wildlife news

May to August 2026

A news and events
diary from wildlife and
conservation groups in
the Ipswich area



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

Produced by the



GREENWAYS
countryside project



Local Wildlife News is available online at www.wildipswich.org - or scan the QR code to the right.

Copies of LWN are also available at all Ipswich libraries, at the Reg Driver Centre in Christchurch Park, and from leaflet dispensers at the Stable Block in Holywells Park, the Greenways office at the Scout Hall on Stoke Park Drive, Millennium Wood (Bobbits Lane entrance), Kiln Meadow (Marbled White Drive entrance), The Sandlings, Rushmere (Bixley Drive entrance) and Mill Stream, Rushmere (Glemham Drive entrance).



Join Us!



Become a member of Ipswich Wildlife Group and support our work at local wildlife sites and our activities spreading enthusiasm for the nature all around us.

You can get involved in our activities or just lend us your support. Your membership will help provide valuable influence when we are standing up for local environmental issues.

It's free to join us - you'll get an email once a month to keep you informed of what's going on.

Just send your contact details to our secretary Leila at ipswichwildlifegroup@gmail.com

For more information, scan the QR code.

Welcome

by **James Baker** *Editor*

Against the worrying backdrop of continuing declines in diversity and numbers of almost all of our wild plants and animals (see the 2023 State of Nature Report for a sobering reminder!), it is wonderful that even in relatively urban Ipswich, we can still enjoy a wide range of habitats and species. My advice is to get out there and enjoy them while you can (not wishing to be too negative!).

The new Ipswich Borough Council Biodiversity Strategy recognises the downward trend in biodiversity, but puts forward mitigating actions to hopefully slow the loss and begin to turn the tide in the coming years. The aforementioned State of Nature Report recognises the positive impact that conservation interventions can have – so all of the work done by wonderful volunteers across all of the groups working in the area is clearly vital. Do get involved if you can – it really does make a difference.

I am also aware, however, after decades of wildlife conservation work around Ipswich, that it is very difficult to have a dramatic effect carrying out routine habitat management across an acreage that is at best not getting much larger. My personal feeling is that it is time for a change in tactics to bigger scale and slightly more risky attempts to improve habitats – such as has been seen elsewhere in the UK with the reintroduction of beavers for example. In a joint project with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Harwich Haven Authority, we are hoping to carry out some extensive salt-marsh restoration in the Orwell estuary in the coming years on a scale we previously could only dream of! More to follow in subsequent issues.

Please check through the Events listing and get out and enjoy our wonderful nature-rich habitats this summer!



Contents

	Page
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	4
Greenways Countryside Project	8
Friends of Christchurch Park	11
Ipswich Wildlife Group	12
Butterfly Conservation	13
Friends of the Dales	14
Wild Ipswich - Sarsen Rockery	15
Friends of Belstead Brook Park	16
Portal Woodlands Conservation Group	17
Suffolk Bird Group	18
Friends of Holywells Park	19
Ipswich Borough Council Wildlife Rangers	20
RSPB Ipswich Local Group	21
Snippets	22
Events Diary	23

Local Wildlife News is published by Greenways Countryside Project.

Editor: James Baker greenways.project@ipswich.gov.uk Tel 07736 826076

Production Editor: Colin Hullis jane-colin@ntlworld.com Tel 07979 644134

Production Assistant: Lydia Woods

Artwork production: Chris Saunders crsaunders49@gmail.com

Printed by The Five Castles Press Tel 01473 718719

Paper produced from well-managed forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council

The opinions expressed in Local Wildlife News are not necessarily those of the Greenways Project.

Crustaceans in my compost heaps

Sheila Roberts *Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group*

Like any good wildlife friendly garden, mine has compost heaps. Not just one but four, all in various stages of turning weeds and vegetable peelings into something dark, crumbly and vital for the health of my plants.



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

Ipswich Group Newsletter

This is the local group of the county-wide Suffolk Wildlife Trust. A small committee works to provide events celebrating local wildlife which are open to everyone as well as raising money to support the work of the Trust.

To get in touch with the group please email ipswichgroupswt@gmail.com



Leopard slug

I'm endlessly fascinated by what goes on in the compost heaps – regular readers will remember me musing on the worms which live there. There are also special slugs – spotty ones that don't eat my runner beans but live out their lives eating rotting plant material.

However, regardless of time of year, what always catches my eye is the plethora of woodlice which consider my compost heap a desirable residence.

Biology lessons half a century ago taught me woodlice are more closely related to the crabs and shrimps of the seashore than any garden or woodland-dwelling beast. I guess that's why they need damp conditions as most still have gills. Watching them scurrying away as I open the lid on the compost heap made me realise I didn't know much else about them. So, I set out to learn a bit more.

My older relatives never called them woodlice – they were always known as sow bugs which I think is quite common in Suffolk. I was surprised to learn that a survey in 2020 uncovered over 250 regional names for them – ranging from slaters to cheesy bugs.

Did you know that female woodlice carry their fertilised eggs in a special pouch under their body until they are ready to emerge? The baby woodlice, once ready to leave the safety of their mother's 'skirt', can fend for themselves and mature quickly, changing colour from creamy white as they moult out of several exoskeletons as they grow.

I thought there was just one species of woodlouse but turns out there are at least 25 species in Suffolk with around 37 species found across the UK. One species is only found in ant nests and there's even one that lives on the beach.

Like other crustaceans, they have seven pairs of legs and a hard shell. Some can roll into a ball – hence the name pill bug. I love the fact that there's one called a shiny woodlouse which has a sort of frilly skirt.

Some gardeners hate woodlice as they think that they eat into things like strawberries. However they are very beneficial to have in your garden as they play a key role helping break

down plant material which provides nutrients and soil conditioner. Often if you find them in damaged bits of your fruit and vegetables, they are just making use of a damp hole created earlier by something like a slug or a bird.

Woodlice do provide food for many species including amphibians, beetles and even a spider that specialises in catching and eating woodlice by piercing through the shell with its sharp jaws. The legs and the head/thorax region of this woodlouse spider are said to be the colour of baked beans and I'm fairly sure I found one lurking under some pots by my compost heap last year.



Woodlouse

© Rafael Minguez Delgado | Pixels

Wondering about a Wilder Day Out this Summer?

Sheila Roberts *Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group*

While you might be very familiar with the events offered by the Ipswich Group of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust from reading Local Wildlife News, did you know that there are seven similar groups spread across the county? Each one offering events to raise awareness and funds for wildlife.

So, while everyone involved with the Ipswich Group genuinely believes our town has some fantastic wildlife on our doorstep, we also agree that sometimes it's nice to go and see or do something different.

So, whether you fancy a day brushing up your photography skills, searching for glow worms at dusk, finding activities for youngsters during the



Heather and gorse surround Dunwich Coast Guard cottages

summer holidays or even building a bug hotel in an Ipswich pub...

Take a look at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/ events to browse the whole

range of wilder events on offer just up the road from our town.



**Suffolk
Wildlife Trust**

Ipswich Group Newsletter



Orford Ness



Minsmere



Captain's Wood



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

Ipswich Group Newsletter

Why not join us for a stroll this summer?

The Ipswich Group of SWT is proud to offer three lovely events this summer and everyone is welcome to join us. Full details of each event can be found at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events (filter by local group - Ipswich)

Thursday 18th June 10.30am

Butterflies of Landseer Park with Melvyn Eke and David Dowding.

This proved a popular event last year with marbled whites and silver studded blues just two of the butterfly species seen. This event will be a gentle stroll to hopefully see some of the fabulous butterflies found on this site. After we've walked round the wilder areas of Landseer Park, there's the option to jump in cars or cycle over to Pipers Vale to look for different species and enjoy views across the River Orwell. Last year's visit brought the added bonus of a glimpse of peregrine falcons. No booking is necessary. Free but donations towards the work of SWT will be warmly welcomed.



Saturday 22nd August 10.30am

Wildlife of Lackford Lakes.

A special guided walk round SWT's wonderful nature reserve Lackford Lakes near Bury St Edmunds.

The reserve is a site of special scientific interest for dragonflies, which are abundant in summer. Swallows and martins sweep over the water's surface feeding on small flies. The lakesides are busy with nesting great-crested grebe, kingfisher, tufted duck and water rail. Bright stems of purple-loosestrife, common fleabane and gipsywort create colour at the water's edge.

Numbers are strictly limited on this event so booking in advance is required via the SWT website. Suggested donations of £8.

Saturday 25th July 10.30am

A walk round Martlesham Wilds.

Come and see how this former organic farm just outside Ipswich is being transformed into a haven for wildlife. From new scrapes to using animals to prevent flowery meadows being taken over by nettles and scrub, this site gets better and better. The walk will start from the car park beside St Mary's church. Stout footwear recommended as it can be uneven underfoot. Suggested donation of £5 – please bring cash.



For enquiries please email ipswichgroupswt@gmail.com. The autumn events series restarts on 23rd September with a talk on the history of peregrine falcons starting at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church on Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich.

Ipswich is wild, busy and bountiful

Daniel Payne *Wilder Communities Officer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust*

May to August is what one traditionally views as Summer; the warmer months when nature is at its busiest and brightest. My work for Suffolk Wildlife Trust similarly follows that trend; it's my busiest time of year with school visits to parks to discover local nature, visits to community groups inspiring them with wildlife, and events highlighting just how awesome the country's flora and fauna is!

Before we get to that though, it's worth mentioning the early Spring's work. Our partnership with Ipswich Wildlife Group, and Greenways, bore brilliant fruit with several successful coppicing sessions at Spring Wood opening up the canopy. Also with Greenways down by the River Orwell, tree planting along the route of the new King Charles coast path, helping to create a border to protect the feeding birds on the estuary.

Secondly, my other partnership with Suffolk University brought students out to work on their wildlife garden, coppicing trees and creating a dead hedge; letting light into



Coppicing in Spring Wood



Students build a dead hedge

the garden and creating a habitat for invertebrates and small mammals respectively. Further sessions get underway, with a joint planting session in one of the beds on the campus later in April, putting in local and native species of trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

Now, on to Summer... As mentioned it is our busiest time of year, filled with school and community group visits, and that's without mentioning the holidays! The school visits are always great fun, and a fantastic way for kids to see nature locally by visiting their nearest park and discovering the wildlife there. It's brilliant to see a child recognise something from their back garden, it really brings home that nature isn't just something you see on TV.

As for events, we cover a great array of family



Brooke House, Ashbocking, Ipswich
IP6 9JY

01473 890089

info@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

suffolkwildlifetrust.org

and adult themes. From Wild Tots getting toddlers into nature, to bug-home building with the older kids, right up to photography sessions in local parks and at Trimley Marshes near Felixstowe, and Wild Cocktails discovering all the foraged ingredients for tasty tipples on our doorsteps.

More details for all of those and how to get involved are on the Ipswich What's On page of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust website. Like I said, summer is our busiest and most bountiful time of year!

England Coast Path extension into Ipswich

James Baker *Manager, Greenways Countryside Project*

With the establishment of the new coast path along the sides of the Orwell Estuary, up to and crossing the Orwell Bridge – Suffolk County Council's Green Access team wanted to try to encourage users of the path to extend the route into Ipswich and out again rather than crossing the bridge (which really isn't very nice!).



GREENWAYS
countryside project

Scout Headquarters (next to St Peter's Church),
Stoke Park Drive, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 9TH
Office: 01473 826076
greenways.project@ipswich.gov.uk
www.wildipswich.org
Twitter: @greenwaysproj
Instagram & Facebook: @greenwaysproject

The Greenways Countryside Project exists to protect and enhance the countryside, landscape and open space across an area of about 100 square kilometres in and around the town of Ipswich, and home to around one quarter of the population of Suffolk, for the benefit of wildlife and local people. The project relies on volunteers to complete much of its practical conservation work.

The Greenways Project is a very successful and well-established partnership between Ipswich Borough Council, Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council and the local community.

We were delighted to work with them and other partners to help install the signage required to encourage use of the new extension. A local artist created a map of the route and two lovely information boards were created by the Ipserv Design



Councillors at one of the new information boards



A job well done by St Joseph's College students

team and manufactured by Signs For You. We installed the boards with the help of the SCC Green Access team on a staff volunteer day – along with two new wooden finger posts made by students and staff at St Joseph's College from local oak timber supplied by us.



Volunteers installing new signposts

The route starts on the north side of the river, in Pond Hall Farm (Orwell Country Park) – running along Gainsborough Lane then on through Landseer and Holywells parks – along the Waterfront, and back out of town along Wherstead Road to near the Suffolk Food Hall.

On a surprisingly sunny and mild mid-March afternoon, the walk route was launched by a gathering of all the involved people including Suffolk County Council and Ipswich Borough Council Councillors. The launch was hosted by the Suffolk Food Hall and was a celebration of collaborative working and access to our wonderful wildlife-rich and scenic estuary.

From tree to town centre bench

We are continuing to use our mobile sawmill as much as possible to make useful timber from fallen trees in the parks and nature reserves around the town. Recently, we have re-decked a footbridge at Alderman Canal Local Nature Reserve, with oak from a tree which was blown over in Bourne park two or three years ago. The oak timber is ideal in this setting as it does not have to be treated with any chemicals due to its natural durability. Treated timber can potentially leach harmful chemicals into the water and surrounding land. The other big advantage, of course, is that the timber is very local – so not involving considerable delivery miles etc.



New oak deck on bridge at Alderman canal.



The Greenways sawmill in action

News Update



Volunteers working on the island



Town centre benches under construction for Greener Ipswich, with local oak from the town's parks

More local oak is also being utilised to make new benches for the town centre as part of the Greener Ipswich project. Local furniture maker Tim Germain, has turned our 'raw' wood into slats on a series of new seats to be installed this summer around the town centre. The oak slats are fixed to steel frames and can be replaced individually if ever damaged.

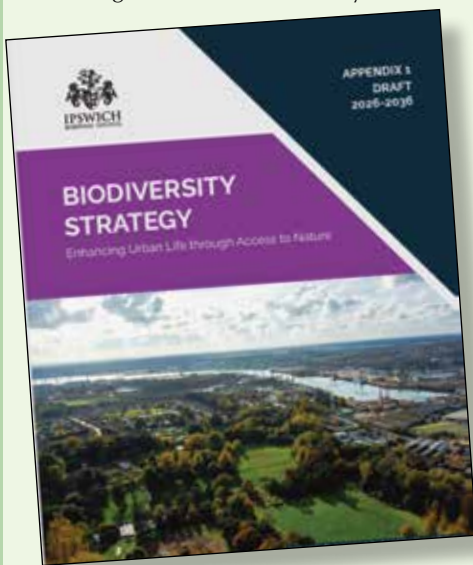
We will also be using some of our own oak as part of a substantial river path repair project between Sproughton and Bramford, alongside the River Gipping, on behalf of Suffolk County Council's Public Rights of Way team. More on this to be reported in future issues.

Both Babergh District Council and Ipswich Borough Council have now formally agreed to the declaration of land we manage at Sproughton as a new Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The site is part of the grounds of the former sugar factory, including an 'island' between the natural course of the Gipping and the canalised 'cut' built when the navigation was created in the 1790s. The 'island' part of the reserve is not open to the public, to preserve space for species to thrive without constant disturbance – but will be open occasionally for organised, guided visits. There is more information about the site in the previous issue of this magazine (Jan to April 2026) – which can be viewed online via: <https://wildipswich.org/wildlife-news>



New Biodiversity Strategy for Ipswich Borough Council

IBC has recently launched a new Biodiversity Strategy as part of duties required by the 2021 Environment Act. The Strategy highlights some of the most important wildlife sites, species and issues in the town as well as demonstrating how the Council and Greenways have already achieved a huge amount to try to protect and conserve the species and habitats. This new Biodiversity Strategy, sets out a 10-year plan to protect, enhance, and celebrate the natural environment across the town's parks and open spaces, in turn creating a healthier community.



The Strategy is built around three core aims:

- Engaging and Promoting Awareness – inspiring residents, schools, volunteers and local groups to take part in wildlife and conservation activities.
- Preserving and Maintaining Biodiversity – protecting habitats, enhancing green corridors, and improving the town's natural spaces.
- Learning and Evaluating – using monitoring, evidence, and new technologies to understand what works in our natural environment.

The new Strategy highlights the essential role that rich, diverse habitats play in improving both physical and mental wellbeing; from reducing stress and encouraging exercise to supporting resilience against long term health issues.

By strengthening habitats and increasing green areas across the town, the Strategy will also help Ipswich adapt to the impacts of climate change, helping to regulate temperature, and reduce flood risks; protecting communities, homes, and infrastructure.



Orwell Country Park

Another major focus of the Strategy would be community involvement. By working closely with local residents, schools, conservation organisations and volunteer groups, the Council aims to empower people to play an active part in shaping a greener Ipswich. Opportunities for hands on conservation, environmental learning, and nature based events will be expanded to ensure that every neighbourhood can benefit from the town's natural assets.

The Strategy forms part of the Council's response to the Environment Act 2021, which introduced mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements for new developments and strengthened duties for councils to not only protect but actively enhance biodiversity.

Improvements planned over the next decade include better-connected green corridors, increased species diversity, and higher-quality habitats that will leave a lasting legacy.

Councillor Lucy Trenchard, Portfolio Holder for Parks and Climate Change said: "Caring for Ipswich's natural environment is not just about the important job of protecting wildlife - it's about supporting the health, wellbeing and quality of life of everyone who lives here.

"We have recently achieved Tree City of the World status for a fifth year in a row, showing our long-standing commitment to nurturing the green spaces that make our town special. Last year (January 2025 – January 2026) we planted 4,757 trees in Ipswich and this biodiversity strategy, will help to continue our work in enhancing the environment we live in.

"By restoring habitats, improving access to nature, and working closely with schools, volunteers and community groups, we'll be helping to create a greener, healthier and more resilient Ipswich for current and future generations."



Holywells Park

Christchurch Park bird report

Philip Murphy *Friends of Christchurch Park*

December 2025

Before this month, all sightings of Little Grebe in the park had been on Wilderness Pond; as such, the presence of a Little Grebe on Round Pond from 10th until at least 25th was noteworthy. At least four Little Grebes remained on Wilderness Pond throughout the month.



Little Grebe

There were sightings of Ring-necked Parakeet on at least three dates during the month.

On 5th, only five Mandarin Ducks could be located on Wilderness Pond, but totals in the second half of the month were consistently above 20. Observations showed that these small ducks arrived each morning on the Wilderness Pond just as it started to get light.

By the month's end, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush and Blackbird had all been heard singing in the park.

January 2026

Despite freezing conditions from 4th to 11th, the northern 25% of Wilderness Pond remained unfrozen which resulted in an influx of Mandarin Ducks; totals increased from 25 on 1st to a maximum of 40 on 11th.

On 11th, other sightings linked to the colder weather involved five Lapwings flying north, a Woodcock in flight over Snow Hill and 30 Redwings feeding on the berries on a Holly tree close to the Mansion.

The first drumming Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard on 26th. A male Sparrowhawk in display flight high over the park was, surprisingly, joined by a second male on 24th. An overwintering



Canada Geese

Blackcap was heard singing on 28th. Two Ravens were over the park on 18th and a Peregrine on 16th.

February 2026

During the first week, 25 Mandarin Ducks were present on Wilderness Pond, with only seven on 27th as these small ducks moved off to nesting sites elsewhere.

At least two pairs of Canada Geese were on Wilderness Pond where this species usually nests. Also, two pairs of Little Grebes were present throughout the month, and a Moorhen was seen with nesting material on 22nd. Combined counts of Black-headed Gulls on Wilderness and Round Ponds peaked at 160. Ominously for duck, goose and grebe chicks, at least five Lesser Black-Backed Gulls were in the vicinity of the ponds.

Birds of prey involved a Peregrine and a Red Kite. There were sightings of two Common Buzzards, and a male and female Sparrowhawk were seen together high over the Wilderness Pond.

A notable observation involved a pre-roost gathering of about 50 Magpies in the Upper Arboretum. Unlike in 2025, there were no pre-emigration gathering of Redwings this year.

One of the month's highlights was a group of 18 Siskins in a birch tree in the Upper Arboretum on 3rd.

The male Blackcap that had been heard singing from within shrubbery at Bolton Lane entrance on January 28th was also heard there on 10th and 19th. Whereas this Blackcap will almost certainly have overwintered in Britain, a very active

Friends of Christchurch Park

Chair: Peter Gray 07709 634161
 Membership Secretary: Robert Fairchild 01473 254255
www.friendsofchristchurchpark.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook@ChristchurchPark
 and Twitter@ChristchurchPk

The sole purpose of the Friends Group is to help look after the Park for the public good, and to promote its welfare. Anyone who shares this aim is welcome to join. For a small annual fee of £10 you can join in Friends activities all year round, including Illustrated talks and discussions, Guided Park walks and Practical conservation work. You will also receive an informal seasonal newsletter.

Chiffchaff seen and heard singing in trees and shrubs at the northern end of Wilderness Pond on 27th gave every appearance of being a newly-arrived bird, the first of the spring.



Blackcap

All pictures © Colin Hullis

Love our planet

Martin Cant Ipswich Wildlife Group

IWG were again invited to attend the half term events being held in Christchurch Mansion entitled 'Love our planet'. These events always attract plenty of visitors, due mainly to the great variety of attractions on offer inside.



Secretary Leila Matata
ipswichwildlifegroup@gmail.com
www.wildipswich.org
Facebook@IpswichWildlifeGroup

Ipswich Wildlife Group is a registered charity, relying entirely on volunteers, that promotes interest in, and conservation of, wildlife and habitats in and around Ipswich.



Wildlife homes on offer

We had a good selection of wildlife homes on offer, but as always the insect boxes proved ever popular. With our help, families are keen to

build their own box to provide a wildlife haven for insects in their gardens or on their balconies!

We were kept busy right from the start at 10am, with a steady flow of families coming through the door. By 12noon

we had nearly sold our 50 kits and needed to send out for more supplies of bug boxes, which just lasted till the close at 3pm. The IWG team including Mel, Martin and Gerry had a great day at this popular event which was attended by over 500 people.



On behalf of everyone at Daws Hall Nature Reserve, Lamarsh, Essex.

Thank you, Ipswich Wildlife Group for providing additional homes for wildlife on the nature reserve.

The dormouse boxes have been a success with 15 juvenile and one adult being recorded in October 2025. We have also been able to replace the barn owl box which overlooks the floodplain and reedbed.

*Site Warden
Sam Chamberlin*

Barn owl box and...

... dormouse box at Daws Hall

Tortoiseshells Small and Large

Julian Dowding *Branch Secretary, Butterfly Conservation Suffolk*

Glorious spring sunshine is what we need isn't it, just like our butterflies and moths. And that's what we have!



Comma

My walk today revealed lots of Peacocks in the local park, Commas, Small White, Brimstones -mainly males- but females have been revealing themselves on occasion and it won't be too long before they are seen egg-laying on their larval food-plant, Buckthorn. Speckled Wood and Orange Tips have all appeared too and the first Green-veined Whites -so beautiful- have also graced us with their presence.



Orange Tip

On 29th March behind All Hallows church, Landseer Rd Ipswich, I watched a male Holly Blue flitting around a 2m high privet hedge, as I was speaking with an 81-year old gent who was enjoying the afternoon sunshine.



Holly Blue

I've watched Small Tortoiseshells egg-laying early April (on common nettle) and an acquaintance captured two that were courting. An incredible sight with the male settling behind the female and dabbing her with his antennae. Both of them with wings wide open. It might seem early but mid to late March is perfectly feasible for breeding. Nettles are now growing rapidly and ripe. The stems are now about 4" - 10" high and the growing masses -nettle domes- are lush and ready to receive their eggs, laid in batches of 50 - 200 on the underside of the leaves. If you happen to see a Small Tortoiseshell on young nettles, perhaps with wings half open (but not always), carefully watch to see if it's laying eggs. The abdomen will be curled round under the leaf and it will seem almost motionless... but it's not. Each egg of the batch is laid individually with an almost imperceptibly gentle motion as it is dabbed with skill onto the underside of the leaf, or stuck to another egg within the mass.

The UK Small Tortoiseshell population has crashed and has been causing anxiety to butterfly lovers for a good number of years. Signs are reasonable this year and may point to a recovery, with up to seven seen on one spring day at hot spots in the local park. However, it was a similar story last year with good spring numbers leading to little in the way of a summer brood - they are double brooded - and much disappointment.

The Large Tortoiseshell is, as its name suggests, a relative of the Small Tortoiseshell. It is much larger though. In the 1960's, this species still bred in Landseer Park, and elsewhere around Ipswich, on the numerous Elms and in other places in the UK. When Dutch Elm Disease ravaged these shores, the species effectively



Small Tortoiseshell

disappeared. There will have been other factors, e.g., parasites and mild winters, but DED was possibly the last straw.

Throughout the intervening 50 or so years, there have been sporadic sightings, which never came to much. Happily, this magnificent creature has started to recolonise the UK, mainly in the south of the country, including the Isle of Wight. They appear to be breeding on both Elm and Sallow though it is known that they will also use Cherry. Keep your eyes open as one or two have been seen in Suffolk over the past few years. Eggs batches are usually laid high in a tree in a ring-mass around a twig. These can be hard to spot but once the caterpillars increase in size and consume more vegetation they can be spotted from the ground.



Large Tortoiseshell

Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Membership Secretary
01379 643665
www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk
email: butterflies@sns.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation is dedicated to saving wild butterflies, moths and their habitats throughout the UK. All Butterfly Conservation members who live in Suffolk are automatically members of the branch and receive our newsletter, the Suffolk Argus, three times a year. The Suffolk branch is run by volunteers and we would be very pleased to hear from you if you would like to get involved.

Please send any butterfly sightings to : <https://www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk/sightings.html>

© Julian Dowding

© Andrew Burns

Splendour at The Dales

Kaye Roberts *Friends of the Dales*



Friends of the Dales

The Dales is a small Local Nature Reserve situated off Dales Road in Ipswich.

For details of the Friends Group find us on Facebook by searching Friends of the Dales.

Once again the IBC Rangers and volunteers have been busy cutting up fallen trees and clearing the footpaths to ensure the Dales is fully accessible. Some steps have been repaired and more will be brought up to standard during the summer work parties. Yet again, the wooden rails round the smaller pond have been reconstructed following vandalism.

Slow worms are now beginning to emerge after their hibernation and this splendid male was photographed at the March work party.

Bird song is much in evidence with numerous Blue Tit, Great Tit, Robin, Wren, Song Thrush, several Chiffchaff and the occasional Blackcap and a Long-tailed Tit nest was discovered close to where they bred last year. Great-spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker and Buzzard have all been seen and heard.

The main pond now appears to have attracted a pair of Mallard and they may remain to breed to complement the Moorhens, which have become more confiding since the building



Hares Foot Inkcap

of the pond-dipping platform. There are many welcome signs of spring including the first clump of frogspawn, Primroses, Bluebells emerging and the

white blossom of the Cherry Plum trees.

A good range of fungi have been recorded including this beautiful Hares Foot Inkcap.

Moth Night Event at The Dales

Saturday 23rd May

Meet in the Main Meadow at 21:00 – until late.

Join Ipswich Borough Council Rangers and learn about the fascinating world of moths. Using special ultraviolet lights moths will be attracted and identified as they arrive.

We might also see some bats and locate them using bat detectors!



Long-tailed tit nest



Male slow worm

© Matt Canham

© Sam Chamberlin

© Sam Chamberlin

The public parks of Ipswich

Colin Hullis *Ipswich Wildlife Group*

We are extremely fortunate in Ipswich to have exceptional public parks around the town, they provide spaces for physical activity, social interaction, and relaxation, contributing to the physical and mental health of the community. Parks also serve as important habitats for wildlife, supporting biodiversity and offering opportunities for environmental education.

Christchurch Park

Christchurch Park is arguably the crown jewel of Ipswich's public parks. Located in the heart of the town, this 70-acre park is steeped in history and offers a diverse range of attractions. The centre piece of the park is Christchurch Mansion, a stunning Tudor house. The park itself features beautifully landscaped gardens, ponds, and ancient trees, some of which are over 400 years old.



Christchurch Park round pond

The park hosts events throughout the year, including music festivals, outdoor theatre performances, and community fairs. The park offers tranquil spots for picnicking, bird-watching, and leisurely strolls. The children's play area and tennis courts ensure that there is something for everyone in this vibrant green space.

Holywells Park

Covering approximately 67 acres, Holywells is known for its picturesque landscapes and rich biodiversity. The park's history dates back to medieval times and it is named after the holy wells that were found on the site.

Holywells Park offers a range of facilities, including a visitor centre, a café, and a children's play area. The park's ponds and streams are home to a variety of wildlife, making it a popular spot for nature lovers. The park also features an orchard, open grasslands, and woodland areas, providing a diverse range of habitats.



Holywells Park

Chantry Park

Chantry Park is the largest park in Ipswich, covering an impressive 124 acres. This expansive green space offers a mix of formal gardens, open meadows, and woodland areas. The park is named after the medieval chantry chapel that once stood on the site.

Chantry Park is a popular destination for sports with a cricket ground, and a bowling green. The park also has a children's play area and a community garden. One of the highlights of Chantry Park is the parkland surrounding the Grade II listed Chantry House, currently a nursing home. The park is also a venue for large-scale events, such as music concerts and Roadshows.

Bourne Park

One of the standout aspects of Bourne Park is its diverse natural landscape. The park boasts expansive grassy areas, mature trees and beautifully landscaped gardens.

Wild Ipswich

All the conservation organisations working together to inspire local people to help wildlife throughout the town and beyond.
www.wildipswich.org

Bourne Park is equipped with a variety of recreational amenities designed to cater to all age groups including a children's play area, sports pitches and a network of walking paths.

Preserving the natural beauty and ecological significance of Bourne Park is a priority for the local community and authorities. Conservation efforts are ongoing to maintain the park's habitats and ensure that it remains a sustainable environment for both wildlife and visitors.

Gippeswyk Park

The park spans 33 acres and features a mix of open lawns, wildflower meadows, and mature trees. The park's facilities include a children's play area, a basketball court, and a multi-use games area. The park's wildflower meadows are a haven for pollinators, and the park's management practices focus on enhancing biodiversity and creating a wildlife-friendly environment.

Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park is a smaller, yet equally charming, green space located in the northeast of Ipswich. Covering around eight acres, this park features a children's play area, a bowling green, and a small pond that attracts ducks and other waterfowl. Alexandra Park is also a venue for summer fairs and multi-cultural events, which help to foster a sense of community.

Woodland work, bamboo and wildlife

Ann Havard *Friends of Belstead Brook Park*

Our last work party of 2025 in December, was the Second Mega bash, this time in Kiln Meadow with the usual help from Greenways and Ipswich Wildlife Group. It's always great to have a bigger group. So much more work gets done and there is a real sense of achievement with such a good team.



Friends of Belstead Brook Park

www.wildipswich.org

Email: fobbp@btinternet.com

Friends of Belstead Brook Park (FoBBP) was set up in 2002 to help look after the 250 acres of informal country park on the south-western fringe of Ipswich. The group runs practical work parties, helps raise funds for improvements and acts as 'eyes and ears', passing information back to the Greenways Project.

The months of January and February were cold and very wet but we were still out there coppicing in Spring Wood, turning hazel trees into woodland products such as bean poles (for runner beans), pea sticks, stakes and logs for firewood. The unusable, left over brash was used to make a dead hedge to protect the inner woodland area from disturbance and at the same time, create a linear feature which is good for small mammals to use as a route through the wood and as habitat for small insects.



Making a difference in Spring Wood

In March, we were again in Spring Wood but this time as it was too late in the season to coppice (because of potential breeding birds), we spent the morning sorting all the felled hazel into the right size bundles for bean poles, pea sticks etc. Great doing work when you can see where you've been – as the site is so much tidier and it's also good to know we are continuing a tradition.

Hopefully our home-grown hazel bean poles will be used in vegetable plots all over Ipswich, which will mean a few less bamboo canes imported from China. Although bamboo is a fast growing and therefore sustainable grass, the fact that it has to be transported to the UK and elsewhere gives it a higher carbon



Wildlife great and small

footprint than if it was grown here. Apparently, bamboo absorbs up to five times more carbon dioxide than pine trees, offering a lower carbon footprint but only if it is grown in the UK of course.

If you are thinking of growing your own bamboo canes for use in the garden it's best to get a clump-forming type like *Fargesia* which are easier to manage. You'll need to wait 4-5 years before the canes are strong enough to harvest. Sunny, sheltered positions with well-draining, moist soil work best.

Of course you could always grow your own hazel poles in your garden. Two or three stools won't take up much room and if you coppice

them on rotation they should keep producing for many years.

In terms of UK wildlife to look out for in May, there will be returning migrants like swifts and swallows and the peak dawn chorus. In woodlands, take a walk to see bluebells and hear cuckoos. Blackcaps, chiffchaffs, and reed warblers are active too. Look out for badgers and bats at dusk and butterflies during the day including Orange-tip, Green Hairstreak, Peacock, and the rare Marsh Fritillary may be spotted.

It's a great time of year and the Suffolk countryside is full of wonderful places to spot wildlife, so enjoy.



Woodland wonderland

Woodland maintenance

Stephen Corley *Chairman Portal Woodlands Conservation Group*

At our Christmas work morning we planted new saplings to build up our woodland boundary hedge, replace wind-blown trees, and continue our 'Avenue of Oaks' ambition along the perimeter track.

On a dead sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), vibrant Firerug Inkcap fungus (*Coprinellus domesticus*) was on display.

The new year saw us back to path maintenance, clearing the perimeter path after the wet and windy winter weather had stripped the leaves from the trees. We spread wood chippings to repair damage caused by an unauthorised heavy vehicle that had churned up the muddy path and destroyed areas of wildflowers. At least the wet weather has been good for our newly planted saplings and for keeping the pond topped up.



Firerug Inkcap Fungus

Greatest threat

We approach an uncertain summer, with the woodlands facing their greatest threat since they were saved from the Park & Ride scheme 27 years ago. The northern part, owned by Grainger plc, has been put up for auction at extremely short notice. Options are being explored to protect that area so that it continues to be the valuable wildlife, historic and community asset that it is.



Path clearing



Muddy path



Portal Woodlands Conservation Group

Enquiries: Martlesham Parish Council 01473 612632 pwcg.onesuffolk.net or email pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com

The PORTAL WOODLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP is dedicated to conserving the woodlands west of the Suffolk Police HQ and alongside the A1214 encouraging the local wildlife to thrive while preserving historical sites of interest and inspiring people to enjoy the nature surrounding them. Volunteers meet each month to work on a variety of projects and everybody is welcome to join this friendly group. All required training and necessary tools are provided.

Volunteer Work Mornings

(all ages welcome - no need to book)
Meet at the Education Area
from 10.00am to noon.

Saturday 16th May
Sunday 14th June
Saturday 18th July
NO WORK MORNING IN AUGUST

For more details of the Group's events, and to check for date changes, please go to:
pwcg.onesuffolk.net or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.



Planting oaks

BOSS and SOSS projects

John Kornjaca *Suffolk Bird Group*

Suffolk Bird Group have been busy through the first quarter of the year holding its AGM in February as well as running various events as part of its programme for the year.



© Sally Nelson

A Barn Owl on the hunt

to strength and has recently received a grant from the Sizewell C Natural Environment fund.

*Sunday 21st June 2026 is **Suffolk Day** and the day of the summer solstice - the longest day of the year.*

Other SBG projects supporting the House Martin and Long-eared Owl populations in the county have also attracted funding from the National Landscapes Association for which we are extremely grateful. The Suffolk and Essex Coasts and Heaths National Landscape teams have also awarded a grant for our project to support the breeding efforts of Spotted Flycatcher, Common

Redstart and Grey Wagtail.

Save our Suffolk Swifts (SOSS) reflect on a successful year with a total of 504 nest boxes used over 138 locations around Suffolk in 2025, up from 379 nest boxes over 85 locations in 2024 – a 33% increase. SBG are grateful for all the work of the many volunteers involved with SOSS – together we have shown that we can create new Swift colonies and expand existing colonies with the use of our many nest boxes.

Finally, a diary date, SBG shall hold a series of events to encourage interest among the public under the name **THE BIG SUFFOLK BIRD WATCH** in the summer. Sunday 21st June 2026 is **Suffolk Day** and the day of the summer solstice - the longest day of the year.

Further details of these 'free to attend' events shall be available on the website in the coming days. www.suffolkbirdgroup.org



Enquiries:
info@suffolkbirdgroup.org
www.suffolkbirdgroup.org
Twitter: [suffolkbirds1](https://twitter.com/suffolkbirds1)

SBG is the Group for people interested in the birds of Suffolk, providing a network and a voice for birdwatchers in the county.

Outdoor field trips to many interesting sites have already taken place and many more are set to follow as group members and friends seek out our many incoming summer migrants and continue to explore the region.

The indoor programme has been packed too with interesting presentations and talks about some of Suffolks iconic species.

The AGM rewarded Sally Nelson for her continuing work in SBG's project assisting the beautiful Barn Owl across the county. Barn Owl Support Suffolk (BOSS) moves from strength



© Chris Courtney

Creating new Swift colonies

Anniversaries!

Andy and Yvonne Friends of Holywells Park

2026 is a year of anniversaries for Holywells Park. It's 90 years since the Park was officially opened to the people of Ipswich (1936) and 25 years since the Friends of Holywells Park group was formed (2001).

Holywells Park is designated as a Conservation Area and is also listed on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest. The Stable Block and Conservatory are grade 2 listed buildings. The park covers 67 acres and has a variety of different habitats, including a series of ponds fed by natural springs, a meadow, a reed bed, a large area of woodland and mature trees that encircles the park, an orchard and a formal walled garden. These areas all support a large number of different animal and plant species.

The Friends group has been instrumental in promoting the park and works alongside Ipswich Borough Council. This partnership secured Heritage Lottery Funding which has transformed the area into the beautiful space we see today. Keep an eye on our noticeboards and social media platforms (Website, Facebook, Instagram) for information on events to celebrate our anniversary year.

Little Egrets, Stag Beetles and Bluebells

Examples of some species found on Holywells, include Little Egrets, Stag Beetles and Bluebells.

The Little Egret is a clear indicator of climate change- this bird has gradually moved into Northern Europe from Southern Europe over the past few decades, as average temperatures have slowly risen. These elegant birds can regularly be seen fishing in the ponds.



© Andy Smuk

The woodland areas provide ideal conditions for Bluebells. These pretty flowers are one of the last Spring flowers to bloom before the woodland canopy closes and the new leaves block the sunlight. If Spring is mild, Bluebells respond by flowering earlier, which we are seeing this year. The woodland floor already has its beautiful blue carpet in this first week of April. The UK is home to more than half of the world's Bluebells.

Holywells Park is a 'hotspot' for Stag Beetles, the UK's largest Beetle. Stag Beetles are found in South East England and prefer Oak woodland habitat. The males, growing up to seven centimetres, their giant antler-like jaws make them unmistakable to recognise. Their huge bulk makes them ungainly in flight and they are easy prey to birds, foxes, badgers and hedgehogs. The Park provides lots of natural rotting wood and Stag Beetle piles, which the larva depend on, to live in, feed on and pupate which can take up to six years.

Why not take a walk around this beautiful



Friends of Holywells Park

The Group aims to work in partnership with Ipswich Borough Council to improve and promote the Park.

Contact: fohpipswich@gmail.com
www.holywellspark.org.uk
facebook.com/holywellsparkipswich



© Andy Smuk



Little Egret

park and enjoy its many, varied areas of flora and fauna, then enjoy a nice cuppa in Bishop's Cafe.

Here's to the next 25 years!!

© Stuart Ansell

Encouraging the next generation of wildlife professionals

David Dowding *Wildlife Ranger, Ipswich Borough Council*

Around eight years ago, the University of Suffolk diversified their Biosciences, setting up a Wildlife Conservation and Ecology degree.



IPSWICH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wildlife Rangers

Office : 01473 433998

park.rangers@ipswich.gov.uk

Stable Block, Holywells Park,

Cliff Lane, Ipswich IP3 0PG

The Wildlife & Education Rangers are responsible for the management of wildlife areas within the town's parks and other green spaces. As well as carrying out practical management, the team runs an events programme and works with many local schools to engage and inspire the public about the wildlife Ipswich has to offer.

As part of their networking, they collaborated with various organisations such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Colchester Zoo and Ipswich Borough Council (Parks).

Our contact came about in 2018 as part of the Urban Buzz project where we had reached out to their Estates team to create a few new wildflower areas within their grounds. This included planting a green roof on the James Hehir Building. Seeding the roof of the James Hehir building in 2018



University students helping to finish off raking Bixley Sedgebed, late October 2022

The students came out to get involved with the planting and seeding of several small green spaces across the campus. This then led to more ecological fieldwork sessions i.e. mammal trapping, reptile surveying, plant quadrats etc in subsequent years.

With some of our best natural green spaces within a 15-minute walk of their campus, they have been able to do various fieldwork sessions at Holywells, Landseer and Orwell country park.

During the sessions we were able to reach out to the students and offer volunteering sessions doing practical conservation management in these nearby green spaces. In 2022/23 we had a really keen group whereby a



University students helping with the Miyawaki planting at St Augustine's recreation ground March 2023

handful of students would come out every week!

It was a great arrangement for both parties, they learned important conservation skills, such

as coppicing, meadow management, plant and invertebrate ID, while in turn their youthful exuberance helped us to get some of our bigger jobs done in really good time.



Seeding the roof of the James Hehir building in 2018



Night time amphibian surveys with the University students in March 2026 as part of their fieldwork module

Trendy bird watching

Tim Kenny *Leader, RSPB Ipswich Group*

The other day I was browsing the infinite world of YouTube. Everything is on there that you could possibly want to watch on every conceivable topic (subject to user agreements and legal restrictions, obviously), and every topic has a gaggle of enthusiastic wannabe TV presenters of wildly variable quality. Some are professionally produced and very slick, and some are, well let's be honest, extremely amateurish. I myself have dabbled in the medium; *A Winter Walk Along The River Orwell*, an hour long film I made during 2023 and 2024, is still available if you search for it, and I will leave it to you where on the above spectrum it should be placed!

There's lots of variety out there for those of us whose interest lies in the ornithological world. Rock n Roll Birder TV is a particular favourite of mine, presented by Matt Spracklen, a musician with a penchant for an overdriven guitar and a dry quip. A much more gentle offering is Get Birding, which is hosted by Sean Bean (yes that Sean Bean), which has a much more minimalist soundtrack but, it has to be said, far fewer birds!

The variety of content on the subject got me thinking. Hang on – is birdwatching trendy now? It is amazing how many famous faces are suddenly turning up in the birdwatching media. Jim Moir (a.k.a. Vic Reeves) has made a series in which he both watches and paints birds, and currently on Channel 5 Sam and Ade Go Birding sees experienced birder Sam West teach ornithological newcomer Ade Edmonson the ropes. For those of us who remember Ade's turn as punk Vyvyan in *The Young Ones*, this is quite the journey! Birding, which was once seen as slightly niche and nerdy, is now fashionable.

Having said that begs the question; where are the young people? If you are under 24 years old, you can get free entry into an RSPB reserve, and also our local group indoor meetings. Our demographic is, how to put this delicately, at the older end of the spectrum, so if you are a younger birder, why not give us a look, either at one of our field events (which are free for everyone, regardless of age) or when our indoor meetings recommence in September?

I am delighted to announce that our group will be at Spring Wood Day, where we will be providing a bird walk or two and hopefully spotting a few raptors sailing overhead. I still find it amazing that Buzzards are now a daily occurrence in the area. As a lad you only saw Buzzards in the West Country (they tended to start west of Swindon), but they have



Northern wheatear

spread dramatically in the last twenty years and are now by far our most common bird of prey. It's a similar story with the Red kite, restricted to Wales in the 1980s but now, thanks to initial reintroductions to the Chilterns and Northamptonshire and spread of the range since, regularly seen in our area. I was thrilled to spot my first one over Chantry last year.

Spring Wood Day is always an enjoyable event so long as the weather holds, and there have been many highlights down the years. I remember a flyover Hobby, characteristically quick and athletic, it didn't hang about for long. Sadly Willow warblers are a distant memory, although Lesser whitethroats do like to make a racket at the top of a tree, which is great for showing them to the public. Their Common whitethroat relatives appear in the more open areas, whilst if we are really lucky, Nightingales might just be heard in the thickets.

As I write this the first reports of summer migrants are coming in. These tend to be Swallows (one Swallow doesn't make a summer, after all), and the Northern wheatear, the old world



Ipswich Local Group

Group Leader Tim Kenny
Tel 01394 809236
ipswichrspblocalgroup@yahoo.com
<https://group.rspb.org.uk/ipswich>

Ipswich RSPB Local Group is for everyone interested in birds and other wildlife in the Ipswich area and beyond. Come along to our indoor talks, held monthly between September to April at Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, get out and experience nature first hand on one of our regular field meetings. Three times a year you will receive the 'Orwell Observer' magazine. Membership costs £5 per year (£1 for Juniors). For more information see the Events Diary in this magazine, visit our website or email as per details above.

flycatcher that breeds in high moors and heaths in the north and west of the country. They only really pass through our patch, between March and May, then between September and November as they make their way back to Africa.

I hope you have a wonderful, nature-filled summer.

© Tim Kenny

Snippets

Nature photographer's gallery

The Frogs with spawn photo was taken by Mel Eke. Mel is a keen photographer who documents the varied wildlife he encourages into his garden in Ipswich throughout the year.

The splendid Tree creeper shot was sent in to LWN by David Wright. On a trip along Bobbits Lane David was fortunate enough to photograph a Kingfisher at the pond in Belstead Meadows and then captured the Tree creeper shot further along in Ashground Plantation.

The magnificent photo of the Migrant Hawker dragonfly was taken by local nature photographer Terry Uter. Terry is interested in all aspects of nature photography as his portfolio illustrates. This shot was taken on one of his forays into the countryside from his Ipswich home.



Events Diary

MAY

Monday 4th May 2pm SPRING WOOD DAY

Join Greenways, Ipswich Wildlife Group, Friends of Belstead Brook Park and others who host this free celebration of Spring Wood, with woodland tours, woodland crafts, music, refreshments and fun at the events area in Kiln Meadow, Pinewood.

Saturday 16th May 10am – noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group VOLUNTEER WORK MORNING

All ages welcome, no need to book. Meet at the Education Area. For more details of the Group's events go to: pwcg.onesuffolk.net or join our Facebook group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.

Sunday 17th May 10am – 1pm Ipswich Wildlife Group SPRING WOOD WORK PARTY

Meet at the field gate at the top of the bridleway on Kiln Meadow. Park in Marbled White Drive. **Details from Gerry Donlan 07733 968481.**

Saturday 23rd May 8am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

The King's Forest. Meet at the King's Forest car park. Map Ref: TL825749. Post Code: IP28 6UR What3Words: hexes.marmalade,disband **Leader David Walsh. Tel. 07947 051223.**

Saturday 23rd May 9pm Friends of the Dales MOTH NIGHT EVENT

Meet in the main meadow. Join Ipswich Borough Council Rangers and learn about the fascinating world of moths. Using special ultra-violet lights, moths will be attracted and identified as they arrive. We might also see some bats and locate them using bat detectors.



Tuesday 26th May 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

Chantry Park for summer birds. Meet at car park off Hadleigh Road IP2 OBS. TM136440

JUNE

Saturday 6th June 7.30am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING

Upper Hollesley Common for summer birds of the Sandling Heaths. Meet at upper car park IP12 3HU. TM335471 **Leader Simon Marginson.**

Saturday 6th June Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Helmingham Hall Estate. Limited to 20 spaces in total. For further details and to reserve your place, contact Steve Fryett. Entry through main gates on B1079, follow main drive to car park on right. Map Ref: TM187578. Post Code: IP14 6EF What3Words: broadens.casual.foil **Leader Steve Fryett. Tel. 07593 382082.**



Thursday 11th June 7pm Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Upper Hollesley Common. Meet at the upper car park for an evening walk on the heath.

Map Ref: TM335470. Post Code: IP12 3HU What3Words: trainers.storeroom.debate **Leader Dave Pearsons. Tel. 07913 620665.**

Sunday 14th June 10am – noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group VOLUNTEER WORK MORNING

All ages welcome, no need to book. Meet at the Education Area. For more details of the Group's events go to: pwcg.onesuffolk.net or join our Facebook group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.

Wednesday 17th June 8.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING

(Date and time to be confirmed). Upper Hollesley Common for Nightjars and other heathland birds. Meet at upper car park IP12 3HU. TM335471 **Leader Tim Kenny. Check website for updates or email: ipswichrsblocalgroup@yahoo.com**

Thursday 18th June 10.30am Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group WALK

Butterflies of Landseer Park with Melvyn Eke and David Dowding. This proved a popular event last year with marbled whites and silver studded blues just two of the butterfly species seen. This event will be a gentle stroll to hopefully see some of the fabulous butterflies found on this site. After we've walked round the wilder areas of Landseer Park, there's the option to jump in cars or cycle over to Pipers Vale to look for different species and enjoy views across the River Orwell. Last year's visit brought the added bonus of a glimpse of peregrine falcons. No booking is necessary. Free but donations towards the work of SWT will be warmly welcomed. **Full details can be found at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events (filter by local group - Ipswich)**

Sunday 21st June Suffolk Bird Group BIRDWATCH

The Big Suffolk Birdwatch. Walks across the county – look out for further details on the SBG website!!

Sunday 21st June 10am – 1pm Ipswich Wildlife Group SPRING WOOD WORK PARTY

Meet at the field gate at the top of the bridleway on Kiln Meadow. Park in Marbled White Drive. **Details from Gerry Donlan 07733 968481.**

Tuesday 23rd June 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

Landseer Park for summer birds and butterflies. Meet at Landseer Road car park IP3 0HH. TM176425

JULY

Tuesday 15th July 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

Felixstowe Ferry for migrant waders and other birds. Meet at Ferry Boat Inn car park IP11 9RZ. TM328377

Saturday 18th July 10am – noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group VOLUNTEER WORK MORNING

All ages welcome, no need to book. Meet at the Education Area. For more details of the Group's events go to: pwcg.onesuffolk.net or join our Facebook group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.



Sunday 19th July 10am – 1pm Ipswich Wildlife Group SPRING WOOD WORK PARTY

Meet at the field gate at the top of the bridleway on Kiln Meadow. Park in Marbled White Drive. **Details from Gerry Donlan 07733 968481.**

Saturday 25th July 8am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Minsmere. Meet at the reserve centre car park. Map Ref: TM469671. Post Code: IP17 3BY What3Words: deep.showering.bombshell **Leader David Walsh. Tel. 07947 051223.**

Saturday 25th July 10.30am Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group WALK

A walk round Martlesham Wilds. Come and see how this former organic farm just outside Ipswich is being transformed into a haven for wildlife. From new scrapes to using animals to prevent flowery meadows being taken over by nettles and scrub, this site gets better and better. The walk will start from the car park beside St Mary's church. Stout footwear recommended as it can be uneven underfoot. Suggested donation of £5 – please bring cash. **Full details can be found at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events (filter by local group - Ipswich)**

Sunday 26th July 9.30am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING

RSPB Hollesley Marshes for passage waders. Meet at reserve car park next to café IP12 3JW. TM370448. 3-4hrs 3-4miles. **Leader Tim Kenny.**

Tuesday 28 July 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

Rushmere Common for summer birds. Meet at Heath Road entrance IP4 5SL. TM197445

AUGUST

Saturday 8th August 7.30am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING

Landguard Nature Reserve for early migrant birds. Meet at Landguard Fort car park IP11 3TW. TM285320. Please note parking charges apply. **Leader Simon Marginson.**



Sunday 16th August 10am – 1pm Ipswich Wildlife Group SPRING WOOD WORK PARTY

Meet at the field gate at the top of the bridleway on Kiln Meadow. Park in Marbled White Drive. **Details from Gerry Donlan 07733 968481.**

Sunday 16th August Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

River Alde Boat Trip. Limited to 12 spaces in total. For further details and to reserve your place, contact Gi Grieco. **Leader Gi Grieco. Tel. 07951 482547.**

Saturday 22nd August 10.30am Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group WALK

Wildlife of Lackford Lakes. A special guided walk round SWTs wonderful nature reserve Lackford Lakes near Bury St Edmunds. The reserve is a site of special scientific interest



for dragonflies, which are abundant in summer. Swallows and martins sweep over the water's surface feeding on small flies. The lakesides are busy with nesting great-crested grebe, kingfisher, tufted duck and water rail. Bright stems of purple-loosestrife, common fleabane and gipsywort create colour at the water's edge. Numbers are strictly limited on this event so booking in advance is required via the SWT website. Suggested donations of £8. **For enquiries please email ipswichgroupswt@gmail.com.**

Tuesday 25th August 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

Bourne Park and Bourne Bridge area for late summer and early autumn birds. Meet at Stoke Park Drive car park IP2 8LT. TM152419

Saturday 29th to Monday 31st August RSPB Woodbridge Group HAVERGATE ADVENTURE

Trips from Orford Quay (IP12 2NU) TM425495, ///crumbles.image.hatter. Adults £15, under 16 £5. **For more information (from June onwards) and booking visit: events.rspb.org.uk/havergateisland**

Regular Events

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 10am - 1pm SPRING WOOD WORK PARTY

Join Ipswich Wildlife Group for a morning of work in the wood. Meet at the field gate at top of bridleway in Kiln Meadow. Parking in Marbled White Drive. **Details from Gerry Donlon 07733 968481**

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (except December & January) Ipswich Wildlife Group BOTANICAL SURVEYING OF SPRING WOOD AND SURROUNDING AREA

Meet at 10am by the stag beetle sculpture near Spring Wood. **Details from Leila ipswichwildlifegroup@gmail.com**

TUESDAYS 9.30am Greenways CONSERVATION WORK PARTY

The Project's largest weekly work party – carrying out a wide range of practical tasks across the 50 or so sites that we manage. For all Greenways work parties, volunteers need to be registered via a short informal induction prior to joining us – please contact us for further details. Work party runs from 10am to about 4pm. **Contact greenways.project@ipswich.gov.uk or call 07736 826076**

WEDNESDAYS 10am Friends of Holywells Park HOLYWELLS PARK WORK PARTY

Join our small team of volunteers doing valuable work around the Park. **Contact Andy Smuk for details 07722 749440**

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 7.30pm - 9pm Ipswich Friends of the Earth MEETING - for venue please phone 07931 585672 or see Facebook page www.facebook.com/IpSWichFOE/

SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 10am Friends of The Dales WORK PARTY

Meet by the notice board at the lower entrance on Dales Road.

THURSDAYS 9.30am Greenways CONSERVATION WORK PARTY

A smaller group than on Tuesday, but operates in the same way – please see details above for Tuesdays Work Party

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 7 – 8pm 'Green Drinks' Dove Inn, Ipswich DRINKS AND CHAT

Join us at the Dove Inn for a drink, a chat and a bit of networking with other environmentally-minded people. Look out for the 'Green Drinks' sign on the table. All welcome

FRIDAYS 9.30am Greenways CONSERVATION WORK PARTY

Another opportunity to work on the 50 or so sites managed by the Project – please see the details above for Tuesdays Work Party

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 9.30am Ipswich Wildlife Group/Greenways BOX KIT MAKING

Come and join in making the kits for bird, hedgehog and insect habitat boxes for our Wildlife Homes project. Only the most rudimentary of woodworking skills needed. *Volunteers need to be registered via an informal induction prior to joining us.* **More information from Martin Cant 07858 436003 martin.cant@ntlworld.com**

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 10am - 1pm Ipswich Wildlife Group RIVER WORK PARTY

A joint work party with the River Action Group along Alderman Canal and the River Gipping, maintaining footpaths and making these splendid waterways areas to be proud of. Usually meeting at Bibb Way alongside Alderman Road recreation ground, but please get in touch to confirm location **More information from James Baker 07736 826076**

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 10am Butterfly Conservation WORK PARTY (October to March). More information from Helen Saunders helens919@gmail.com

SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 10am-12pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust WEEKEND WILDLIFE CLUB

For 6 – 11 years olds. Meet new friends, get outdoors and earn awards. Join us in the beautiful, historic Holywells Park. Each month has a different wild theme. **Book online suffolkwildlifetrust.org**

SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 10am - 1pm Friends of Belstead Brook Park CONSERVATION WORK PARTY

Come and join us for a morning working in the fresh air. **For further details visit our website: wildipswich.org/fobbp or email fobbp@btinternet.com**

SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 10am - 12:30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust NATURE CHAMPIONS: YOUNG WARDENS

For 11-16 year olds in Holywells Park. Looking for practical experience, whilst making friends? If so, Young Wardens is the group for you! **Book online suffolkwildlifetrust.org**

LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 11am-1pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust ECO ACTIONISTS

Location varies. A meet-up and creative session for 18-25 year-old eco actionists. **Book online suffolkwildlifetrust.org**

MOST SATURDAYS 10.30am - 1pm Ipswich Wildlife Group Northgate Allotments WOODCRAFT & WILDLIFE

Get involved in coppicing and woodland skills at the Wildlife area. **Call Geoff Sinclair to confirm dates 07860 595376**

Spring Wood Day 2028

A reminder that Spring Wood Day now takes place every other year - next date will be Monday 1st May 2028.