

Barn swallow on the wing  
– see page 18



© David Borderick

# Local Wildlife news

May to August 2025

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



**Suffolk**  
Wildlife Trust

Produced by the



**GREENWAYS**  
countryside project



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

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Copies of LWN are available at all Ipswich libraries, at the Reg Driver Centre in Christchurch Park and from leaflet dispensers at the Stable Block in Holywells Park, from the Greenways office at the Scout Hall, 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).

**Ipswich Wildlife Group have a new email address**  
**[ipswichwildlifegroup@gmail.com](mailto:ipswichwildlifegroup@gmail.com)**



## Come and 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 just lend us your support or get involved in our activities**

**Your membership will help provide valuable influence when we are standing up for local environmental issues**

We don't do meetings or annual subscriptions but we will keep you informed of what's going on by email each month. Just send your contact details to our secretary Leila at [ipswichwildlifegroup@gmail.com](mailto:ipswichwildlifegroup@gmail.com)

# Welcome

by **James Baker** *Editor*

Hi again,

Welcome to the latest edition of Local Wildlife News magazine – the place to find out what is happening in wildlife conservation circles in the wider Ipswich area!

As usual there is a very wide range of news and reports from the different organisations that help our wildlife to thrive – and plenty of events and activities for you to get involved with in the coming months.

With each issue of this magazine, it is always astonishing to learn just how much amazing work is being done by volunteers to try to reverse the decline in wildlife that we are all witnessing year on year. Although some of us (like me) are lucky enough to be employed to look after nature reserves and parks etc, the vast bulk of the hard graft to maintain existing habitats and to create new ones, is done by a small (and sadly it seems, getting

smaller!) army of volunteers. Whether it be working in an organised group or individually in your own garden – even small actions really can make a positive difference. Amongst all the doom and gloom – it is important to remember that!

Whether it be litter picking (page 4); bird and bee nest boxes (pages 5, 12, 14, 17, 18 and 22); or other wildlife friendly gardening (pages 6 and 11) – our small efforts are definitely helping. If not helping to recover nature, at least helping to slow the decline!

As mentioned in the last issue, the new Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy is now out for public consultation (see page 15) – and it's another chance to get involved and help support work across the county and beyond – nature will only be recovered if we all get behind the efforts of others and show how much we care.



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

# Two Tales/Tails from the river bank

**Sarah Watts** Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group

I have lived just off Bramford Road for over 26 years and I routinely walk down Riverside Road to the river/ tow path and head towards Sainsbury's to do my shopping.

Over those years there have been constant wildlife sightings. On the water, there are the mute swans, mallard ducks, the moorhens and various gulls. In the undergrowth the robins, wrens, blue tits, great tits, blackbirds, magpies, pigeons, dunnocks and chaffinches.

Then there are the 'comers and goers', the cormorants, coots, tufted ducks, canada geese, the hooded Merganser 'Elvis', the long-tailed tits, dabchicks and jays. In summer there are the swallows, swifts, sedge and reed warblers. In spring a song thrush sings from the far side at the back of the Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate. Sadly the house martins are a thing of the past.



with bags, litter pickers and heavy-duty gloves. We leave the Boss Hall Industrial site and litter pick on route to the river bank. From there we usually walk all the way through to the path's junction with London Road before we head back.

By the time we get to the Anglia Retail Park we have to deposit the glass we've already collected in the bottle banks. The bags we've filled and any other items are packed into a trolley we've usually found along the way.

What do we pick up? Well nothing ceases to amaze us anymore. There are the usual items - bottles, cans, jars, take away containers, plastic bags, clothing, bits of wood, children's toys, footballs, tennis balls, skateboards, scooters, bits of bikes and cars, polystyrene,

discarded fishing equipment, vapes; you get the idea.

The more exotic things have included a blow-up doll stuffed into a large holdall. We have also found, sadly, the body of either a cat or small dog inside a holdall - not pleasant.

We've found drug related items including needles. And yes we have even picked up the KITCHEN SINK.

Thus far we've not encountered any wildlife fatalities as a direct result of the litter but who knows what lurks below the surface and I don't just mean the fish. If everyone picked up a piece of litter every day it would make a difference.

Be more Womble!



**Suffolk  
Wildlife Trust**

## Ipswich Group Newsletter

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Treasurer: Tony Clarke 01473 741083  
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*We are the Ipswich Group of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We offer an interesting range of monthly meetings with guest speakers. Trust members and non-members are equally welcome. During the summer months we offer a variety of trips, some local, others by coach. Details of these and our monthly meetings can be found in our "Dates for your Diary" section or on the website, [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org).*

On the other side of the flood barrier are the little egrets and, very occasionally, a kingfisher - that flash of electric blue makes my heart beat just a bit fast.

Then there are the mammals, muntjac deer, foxes, the domestic cats and the ubiquitous brown rats.

I should also mention the insects, the many butterflies, brimstone, peacock, red admirals and commas that appear over the seasons, the bees and the large grasshoppers.

And then there's the LITTER.

I'm a litter picker, but I'm not alone. Once a month a group known as the 'Fresh Air & Friends' to which I belong venture forth



# Spotting speedy birds in Ipswich

**Sheila Roberts** *Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group*



Many years ago, I was on a guided walk to learn more about the wartime history of the area around Ipswich waterfront. Suddenly, something caught my eye. In a split second, a fountain of pigeons erupted in panic and a grey bullet pulled out of a dive and veered off across St Peter's dock. Peregrine! My first sighting of one in Ipswich.

At the time, I had no idea they were nesting high above my head in a bespoke box on The Mill building (sadly since then taken out of action while the building is fixed).

Since then I've seen one take off from a pylon beside the River Orwell and I know people who have caught a glimpse of them hunting near a nest site under the Orwell bridge. Pretty good sightings for a rare bird that only returned to breed in Ipswich in 2008 after many centuries of absence.

To watch them appear out of nowhere and streak through a flock of pigeons or waders is an unforgettable sight. But last year, I discovered an even better way to watch them – the webcam on the tower at BT's Adastral Park at Martlesham.

It was easily the best viewing on any screen I watched last summer. In intricate detail, you could see the difference in size between the male and female birds. I shared their excitement when eggs appeared (who knew they are a dark reddish colour?) and watched avidly as white balls of fluff turned into

belligerent stripey teenagers. Not always suitable for viewing over breakfast but it was possible to see what prey the parents were catching - young rabbits, some starlings and the occasional wader. And I quickly learnt that peregrine housekeeping leaves something to be desired – I swear you could smell the poo and carcass remains over the screen at times!

This year, the camera is back in action and the nest box looks new and clean. At the time of writing, I've only seen one adult bird on the box and sadly no eggs but fingers crossed! The camera is run by volunteers and does have occasional technical issues but well worth persevering. Just search for Adastral Park



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**Ipswich Group Newsletter**

peregrine web camera on YouTube.

And if you want to learn more about our local peregrine population, may I strongly recommend the talk the Ipswich Group of SWT has arranged for 25th February next year when Peter Merchant will speak about the history of peregrines in our county.



*Peregrine on balcony at The Mill, Ipswich dock*



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Ipswich Group Newsletter

## Garden Butterflies and Moths

**Melvyn Eke** *Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group*

After moving into Belstead Road just over forty years ago my main project was to create a wildlife friendly garden. It was a major project but started with a blank canvas as the previous owners just had a basic lawned rear garden of seventy yards in length and twenty yards in width for me to work with.

First I tackled filling the boundaries with a few choice plants providing butterflies and moths with a garden refuge where they can stock up on nectar. This will give them the energy they need in order to find a mate or enter hibernation. But they also lay eggs on plants which hatch into caterpillars that eat the plant or part of it before pupating and then finally emerging as an adult. The plants provide the needs for a full cycle of life.

So here is my garden list with a combination of annual, biennial and perennial plants starting with the holly, blackthorn, hawthorn, cherry and apple; then the buddleia followed by sunflower, cosmos, zinnia, foxglove, marigold, daisy, aster, honeysuckle, primrose and bluebells. Then moving on to the herbs, with heather, rosemary, thyme, lavender, mint, fennel, sage and not forgetting the important role of the basic stinging nettles and grasses. That's lots to plant and I am sure I have not named them all.

But the reward is in my annual butterfly count which is as follows, brimstone, peacock, holly blue, common blue, orange tip, red admiral, comma, speckled wood, painted lady, small tortoiseshell, gatekeeper, small copper, large white, small white. Not forgetting the moths including mint, jersey tiger, six spot burnet and many light brown ones I cannot identify.

With such a range of rewarding results it is such pleasure to help so many threatened species to succeed in my little garden nature reserve.



## Events Diary

### **Why not join us for a summer stroll?**

The Ipswich Group of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust is proud of the range of events we offer for local people – regardless of whether or not they are active members of the Trust. It's a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, learn something new about wildlife and nature and chat to new people.

### **24th May Trimley Marshes nature reserve guided walk**

In the last issue of Local Wildlife News, Roger wrote about his trip to plan this lovely event. The early start will reward those who join with a guided walk around the nature reserve and perhaps the chance to see some birds being rung. Places must be pre-booked and cost £7.50

### **26th June – Butterflies of Landseer Park guided walk**

For somewhere that is in quite a built-up area, this site is a haven for wonderful displays of butterflies – some quite uncommon. No need to book.

### **30th July Shimpling Park Farm guided walk**

Situated between Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds, this farm demonstrates how organic farming is beneficial to wildlife. Places cost £5 and must be pre-booked.

**Full details of all three events can be found at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events) - just choose 'Ipswich' from the last filter box.**

# Ipswich is Wild – Change and Growth

**Daniel Payne** *Wilder Communities Officer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust*

When this article reaches you, Spring will have well and truly sprung! At the time of writing the sun is beaming down, blossom is forming on the trees (especially the Hawthorn and Blackthorn) and the air is filled with birdsong and the hum of bees and insects. Spring is the most transformative season, with nature going from dormant and still to lively and vibrant; change and growth.

My role within the Suffolk Wildlife Trust has changed to reflect that. My colleague on the South-East team, Sophie, has gone on maternity leave (and at time of writing has just had a healthy baby boy), and I am covering her role at Foxburrow. That means that I will be spending more time at Foxburrow and less in Ipswich; there's the change. This means I need to spend my time wisely and fill my days as much as possible, and looking at my calendar I am doing just that!

The Wild Tots sessions in Holywells park, working with children from 18 months to 5 years, have moved from a Friday to a Monday, but



*GrowwithUs Hedgehogs day*

consequently have improved in terms of attendees (change AND growth) which is great to see. Even more brilliantly, the Young Wardens sessions which started slowly have

since gone from strength to strength, with more teens getting stuck into practical conservation work than ever before (you guessed it; growth!). Community groups

have been merrily booking in where possible, alongside schools and my continuing Wilder Schools, so between them the Tots and the Young Wardens I am still reaching a very pleasing number of people to help make nature a part of their every day.



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Elsewhere, and looking ahead, there is change and growth in my future plans. The Wilder Garden program has hit a bit of a calendar and time shaped speedbump, but I am hopeful of still getting that kicked off, which would be huge for wildlife and nature in Ipswich. However, my work with GrowwithUs, based in North West Ipswich at the Castle Hill allotments, continues to grow (pardon the pun) with regular sessions throughout the year and hopefully beyond.



*© John Ferguson*

*SWT Young Wardens*

# Grant Funded Projects

**James Baker** *Manager, Greenways Countryside Project*

Over the winter months, our amazing volunteers have been striving to complete the extensive grant funded projects alongside our very busy annual winter work programme. The grant funding has come from Suffolk County Council's Ipswich Policy Development Panel, and has paid for work across three sites.



**GREENWAYS**  
countryside project

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*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.*



*Brookside path*



*The new oak boardwalk*

In Belstead Brook Park, we have completed stretches of new oak boardwalk (using our own local material), alongside new bridge decks and over half a mile of newly surfaced brookside path. We have also built a new set of steps, providing a formal path connecting to Stoke Park Drive, improving access to BBP from local housing areas.

The Bobbitts Lane car park has been resurfaced and improved to allow slightly more space for parking due to high demand at peak times. The extra space has been made by removing 'islands'. New post and rail fencing around the car park has been installed to try to prevent fly tipping direct into the Brook, and replacement kissing gates etc will hopefully reduce the current problems with illegal off-road motorbikes.

We have also resurfaced parts of the Bobbitts Lane and Thorington Hall bridleways to improve conditions for walkers and cyclists, but unfortunately this work has been damaged by the aforementioned motorbikes.

At the Old Cattle Yard Pocket Park on the River Gipping in the middle of town, following the installation of new fencing and repair of existing fences, we have now completed a range of other improvements around the site including coppicing and pollarding of willow trees to allow more light to the grassland areas and a general opening up of the views. Further coppicing and trimming back of ivy has increased the width of the cycleway back to the original width and should contribute to a generally safer feel to the site.

A new CCTV camera has been installed and is monitored by the Ipswich Borough Council Emergency Control Centre – in an attempt to improve perception of safety and hopefully reduce some of the anti-social behaviour that has previously blighted the park and river path. New seat tops and step improvements have helped to make the area look more ‘cared for’, and we will be replacing the information boards in April or May. During the spring and summer months we will regularly visit the site with the volunteers to remove litter and maintain the site in the hope that many more local people will use it and enjoy it.

Work at The Dales Local Nature Reserve in north-west Ipswich is detailed on page 14.

### Stag Beetle shaped woodland

During the winter a huge number of local volunteers have come together to help us plant 2500 new trees and shrubs to create a new woodland within Bourne Park in south-west Ipswich. The previous edition of this magazine showed an artist’s impression of how the woodland might look from an aerial photograph in about 10 years’ time – now the trees are planted, we can only wait to see what it will look like from above once the trees are established!

The planting and protective fencing was funded by a grant to Ipswich Borough Council from Trees For Cities, who in turn were donated the funds from CMO (Construction Materials Online), who have an office in Ipswich as well as other places nationally. CMO are very aware of the potential negative environmental impacts of the construction industry and so wanted to do something positive to make a difference in Ipswich.

Ipswich’s status as a Tree City of the World has been confirmed again for this year, and has been a very useful accreditation when it comes to seeking grant aid for tree planting and tree related projects.



*Bobbits Lane Car park*

The new planting includes 20 different species of trees and shrubs, from oak, birch and cherry to hazel, hawthorn and buckthorn. This diversity from the

outset will ensure the new woodland will be valuable to as wide a range of invertebrate and other animal species as possible. The trees were supplied by



*Creating a new stag beetle home*



*New rustic seats*

Sandy Lane nursery in Diss – with all the stock being grown locally and from as local a seed source as possible. The oaks that were planted were transplanted from elsewhere in Bourne Park (where they were not wanted in areas of grassland), to minimise the environmental impact. The trees have all been mulched with a thick layer of woodchip (from the Council’s tree team) to retain moisture in the soil and reduce competition from other plants in the first critical weeks and months.

As at the end of March, many of the trees planted earlier in the winter seemed to be coming onto leaf successfully – so hopefully the very dry spring conditions won’t take too heavy a toll on the trees.

As part of the project, we have also been installing stag beetle log habitat piles within the structure (at the end of the ‘legs’ and in the ‘antlers’), so that the woodland doesn’t just promote the importance of stag beetles in the Ipswich area but also provides habitat for this exceptional insect right from the start. In order to increase the enjoyment of the area by people, we have included lots of gaps in the ‘legs’ and ‘antlers’ to allow access through and around the ‘beetle’ and have incorporated rustic seats – with more planned during the summer. Staff volunteer groups from CMO, Suffolk County Council and Smartest Energy have all helped with the project, along with the Friends of Belstead Brook Park and our regular volunteers.



*New steps*

# Hope Springs Eternal

**Julian Dowding** *Secretary, Butterfly Conservation Suffolk*

Writing as the long dry spring spell has just been punctuated by a shower, I'm reminded how delicate the balance of nature truly is AND also extremely grateful.

If not for that rain, foodplants for many spring species would not have produced sufficient fresh growth for young caterpillars to munch. Result: disaster. After last year's generally dismal showing (butterfly-wise) we were - and still are - really looking to miracles this year. And so that rain came, and those spring beauties like Orange Tip, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Green-veined and Small Whites and Speckled Wood, now have something for their young. Dinky Skippers (rare in Suffolk, appearing mid-April sometimes) and Common Blue (aka Not-so-Common Blue, appearing early May) could do with something to quench the thirst of their larval foodplant, Birdsfoot Trefoil, too. We don't want a drenching for the rest of the spring, just a few good showers, interspersed with days of sunshine! I hope you agree.

I've just witnessed an Orange Tip hatching in my neighbour's garden, sat hanging there from its pupal case awaiting some sunshine while it unfurls its wings

ready for its maiden flight. I can just discern 'orange thumbprints' like a rising sun, hidden inside the wing tips. It's worth looking out for this species along sunlit lanes in the countryside but they also visit gardens where they often lay eggs on Honesty or Garlic Mustard. Likewise, see if you can find the more obvious Brimstones laying eggs on Buckthorn leaves and buds.

Some three dozen Brown Hairstreak eggs I've been monitoring at sites across Ipswich are now just hatching. The white eggs sit within the twig axils (crooks) low down on fresh suckering blackthorn. Eggs are best searched for in Winter when the leaves have fallen. They were laid by their mums in late summer 2024 and are perhaps a week early hatching this year (which isn't a lot) according to phenology charts in the excellent website 'UK Butterflies'. The tiny larvae will crawl up to a close-by unfurling leaf and sit tight against the midrib on the underside, where they eat holes in the leaf and grow. By mid-summer they are ready to pupate at the base of blackthorn, in leaf litter where they remain for a month before emerging as an adult. Thankfully, Brown Hairstreaks are firmly re-

established in Suffolk, resurrected after a hiatus of some 75 years. Likewise, Silver-washed Fritillary and Purple Emperor are now firmly Suffolk residents again and aren't they all a joy to behold!

Brown Hairstreaks are one of the last species



*Brimstone Rosebay*

to emerge each year (late July). I look forward to trying to see them at one of their locations, like Bobbits Lane Meadows. If you know the area well, walk along the bank of thistles adjacent to Bobbits Lane, right by the water-meadow fence in late summer, scanning the purple flowers. They are quite elusive and demand patience but you can find them crawling over the thistle head before they fly back up into the trees. As the season draws on, you'll find them feasting on ripe blackberries too. Females dive into blackthorn but occasionally you'll see one egg-laying, dragging its abdomen up and down a twig until it's happy it has found a good spot to deposit an egg.

Have fun this spring and summer on your nature forays and please send records of butterflies and moths to the County Recorders, James (butterflies) and Neil (moths).



**Butterfly Conservation**  
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

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*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.*



*Brown hairstreak female*



*Orange Tip*

© Julian Dowding

© Julian Dowding

© M. Berry

# Inside bee hotels

**Martin Cant** Ipswich Wildlife Group

I have made and displayed bee homes in my garden for many years and had great success seeing many different types of bee spending their time choosing and making homes for their offspring in the bug boxes.

Around four years ago, I built a couple of trial homes, with Perspex sides, hoping that we could eventually see what they were up to inside the homes that were chosen so diligently! Well, for the first three years nothing used them, apart from the odd spider and earwig. All the



© Martin Cant

Perspex allows us to see what's going on inside

surrounding conventional bug boxes were absolutely crammed full with not a spare hole to be filled. At this stage I was convinced that the bees obviously had a dislike to my boxes, suspecting that they were unsure about the square holes I had made.

Earlier this year I happened to check out the boxes and to my delight most of the holes had been populated during last summer. Once the wood covers were removed, all the compartments under the Perspex were on view.



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*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.*

## Bee hotel mysteries

**David Dowding** IBC Countryside and Wildlife Team

Bee hotels are classic wildlife homes for gardens and a fantastic tool for engaging people with nature.

Under Martin's guidance, Ipswich Wildlife Group have made thousands over the last decade using wood and



*Cross section of mason bee chambers within a bee hotel. Typically, only 1 egg is laid in each individual cell, so multiple grubs may be an indicator of parasitism, i.e. ruby tailed wasp (*Chrysis ignita*) which are known to prey on this species.*

bamboo harvested locally in parks, but understanding the finer details of what goes on inside is relatively new.

Recent modifications using clear Perspex, such as Martin's, have allowed us to view the workings inside and has opened up a whole new world into the ecology of these invertebrates.

Many invertebrates will overwinter inside; Lacewings, ladybirds etc but the main aim is to provide accommodation in the holes for solitary bees and wasps.

These bees are called 'solitary' as each insect lays its eggs in individual chambers as opposed to honeybees which live in colonies of thousands and answer to a single queen.

Honeybees are efficient pollinators in agricultural scenarios and provide



© Matt Carham

Leafcutter bee, one of the usual occupants of a bee hotel

good food (honey) for human consumption but are effectively livestock, and in natural ecosystems compete with our native insects for pollen and nectar. Solitary bees are the most important pollinators, responsible for the most pollination worldwide of any group of invertebrates.

# Wild Honey Bees in the Park

**Andy and Yvonne** *Friends of Holywells Park*

The Cobbold family has had a major influence on Ipswich for over 300 years, from brewing beer to the football club, they have left their mark on the town.

On the canal path in Holywells Park, the family planted an avenue of Black Poplar trees around 150 years ago. The story goes that these were planted to enhance the view from their mansion. The huge, magnificent trees are now reaching the end of their lives and some have already fallen, others have had to be dismantled by Ipswich Borough Council's Arboriculturists.

Recently, it was discovered that one of the trees by the large conservation pond was unsafe as the trunk was being weakened by a Ganoderma fungus and was in danger of falling. This type of fungus forms a bracket at the base of the tree where it causes serious and damaging 'heart rot'.

IBC's 'arbs' team were called in to dismantle the tree which stood at approximately 40 metres. When the team had made a start on the work, high up in the branches on the cherry picker platform, they discovered that a colony of wild honey bees had taken



All photos © Andy Smuk

*The branch with the bees in*

up residence in a crevice in one of the branches.

It is unusual nowadays to find wild honey bees as the majority of these bees are managed and housed in man-made beehives.

The Holywells beekeepers and the arbs discussed how best to relocate the colony safely, with minimal disturbance. That was quite a feat for the team considering the height and weight of the branch, and the fact that it was full of angry bees!

The colony is now in a safe area in the park, inside its branch and appears to be doing well. Many thanks to the arbs for their sensitivity, and indeed bravery, in dealing with this situation.

### **The Oxlip - Suffolk's County Flower**

The Oxlip, with its distinctive pale yellow blooms with five petals, is an ancient flower classed as near threatened in Britain and only grows in small parts of woodland in Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex.

A couple of years ago, one of the Park Rangers gave the Orchard volunteers some Oxlip seedlings... we planted these under some trees around the orchard woodland area. The seedlings struggled in their first year, but this year, they have bloomed prolifically



**Friends of Holywells Park**

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

Contact: [fohipswich@gmail.com](mailto:fohipswich@gmail.com)  
[www.holywellspark.org.uk](http://www.holywellspark.org.uk)  
[facebook.com/holywellsparkipswich](https://facebook.com/holywellsparkipswich)

as the photo shows. We're so pleased to have this pretty little Suffolk County emblem flourishing in Holywells Park.



*Oxlips*



*Poplar tree*

# Grant funding aids the Dales

## *Friends of the Dales*

The Dales Local Nature Reserve in north west Ipswich is a wonderful hidden gem of a reserve, with woodland, meadows, ponds and for Suffolk, impressive slopes!

With grant funding from Suffolk County Council's Ipswich Policy Development Panel, the Ipswich Borough Council Wildlife Team (with a bit of help from Greenways volunteers, our fencing contractor and of course, the Friends of The Dales) has been able to surface a section of well-used footpath that tends to be very muddy



## 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.



© Jan Cawston

*The newly surfaced main path leading towards the pond*

and dangerous during the wetter months; install new timber post and rail fencing around the main pond; and construct a dipping platform to allow educational use of the pond.

The path surfacing was largely completed in a single day with a large team of staff and volunteers, between them moving 20 tonnes of crushed stone and spreading it evenly along the path before a mechanical roller compacted the material to make a hopefully all-weather path.

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*... we also installed a kestrel box in one of the wooded areas overlooking the main meadow ...*

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The new fencing not only performs a safety function, but importantly also should reduce disturbance of pond wildlife by dogs. Fun though it may seem, when dogs play in ponds there tends to be considerable disturbance to aquatic life and birds nesting near the banks – but also the stirring up of silt and mud makes the water cloudy which can disadvantage many species.

The new dipping platform will allow children (from local schools, youth groups and individuals) to be able to safely access the edge of the pond to sweep with a net to see what aquatic life is in the pond. The structure of the platform has been made from local oak and sweet chestnut timber, produced from local trees by the Greenways sawmill. The deck surface is made from softwood with resin bonded anti-slip strips to reduce the risk of anyone slipping if the deck gets wet.

The funding has also allowed us to make and put up a selection of wildlife homes including stag beetle habitat piles, bird boxes, bug hotels and bat boxes. A public event was held in the February half term, giving the opportunity for visitors to the reserve to build a variety of nest boxes to be put up around the reserve. As well as a good number of bug boxes and blue and great tit boxes, we also installed a kestrel box in one of the wooded areas overlooking the main meadow.

© Jan Cawston



*The new fencing around the pond and dipping platform*

# The Suffolk and Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy

**James Baker** *IBC Countryside and Wildlife Manager*

All pictures © Colin Hullis

## The Suffolk and Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is out for public consultation until the 11th June 2025.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are part of a nationwide move to create the space and connectivity needed on land and sea for nature to thrive, recover and be resilient. A key objective for the LNRS is to support the establishment of a national Nature Recovery Network (NRN). They are a result of the Environment Act 2021. They aim to identify opportunities and priorities for nature restoration at the local level, and will consist of:

- A local habitat map showing where valuable areas for nature are currently located
- A statement of biodiversity priorities - a locally agreed list of priority areas where new and improved habitats would bring the most benefit
- A map of locations and actions showing where and how habitats can be created and connected, and how the wider environment and economy can benefit.

Each strategy must:

- Agree priorities for nature recovery
- Map the most valuable nature areas that currently exist
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

48 Local Nature Recovery Strategies are being created across the country over the next two years. Together, these will combine to form a national plan for ensuring nature is bigger, better and more joined-up, while providing a blueprint for the delivery of new duties and funding streams like Biodiversity Net Gain and agri-environment schemes.

Much of the 'meat' of the strategy is based on detailed interactive mapping of the whole county. Creation of the mapping has been a massive task for Suffolk County Council (the 'responsible authority'), working alongside Norfolk CC to prepare the joint strategy.

The strategy has been approved by all the Suffolk local authorities and should be available for public consultation this spring and summer. If you'd like to see the strategy and comment on it via the consultation, please visit <https://www.nsnrp.org/consultation>.

## Wild Ipswich

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

[www.wildipswich.org](http://www.wildipswich.org)

# A busy winter's work

**Ann Havard** *Friends of Belstead Brook Park*

Kiln Meadow was our destination in December for our last megabash of the year and we kept warm by bashing scrub and taking out small trees and the ubiquitous and very spiky blackthorn. At the end of the day we were treated to potatoes with cheese cooked in the fire – very welcome and delicious!



## Friends of Belstead Brook Park

[www.wildipswich.org](http://www.wildipswich.org)

Email: [fobbp@wildipswich.org](mailto:fobbp@wildipswich.org)

*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.*

It was a very frosty and misty morning in January for our coppicing work in Spring Wood. After a really wet year, all the trees were covered in moss up to about knee high. With the frost and the mist it really did give the appearance of a temperate rain forest. We spent the morning cutting hazel and sorting it into bean poles, stakes for the dead hedge and pea sticks.

We had a change from cutting trees down in February and

March as we were planting 18 different tree species saplings in Bourne Park. The idea is to plant a small woodland in the shape of a stag beetle. Hopefully, in a few years time this will show up on Google Earth/Maps. Stag beetle log piles will be incorporated into the legs of the beastie. It was lovely to see several families joining in along with their children who were very good at barrowing the wood chip to put around the new saplings. Several of the young girls were using the event to work towards their Nature badge for Brownies. James from the Greenways Project organised the planting of this new woodland and with a corporate sponsor called Trees for Cities, will help plant another 2,500 small trees and shrubs in Ipswich. We had a record number of 20 people out helping and signed up two new recruits!

*... Hopefully, in a few years time this will show up on Google Earth/Maps...*

Ipswich is a bit of a hot spot for stag beetles which are the UK's largest beetle. It prefers oak woodlands but can be found in gardens, hedgerows and parks. The larvae depend on old trees and rotting wood to live in and feed on. It can



*Clive in the blackthorn*

take up to six years to develop before they pupate and turn into adults. The adults have a much shorter lifespan: they emerge in May with the sole purpose of mating and die in August once the eggs have been laid in a suitable piece of decaying wood. Look for adults on balmy summer evenings, when the males fly in search of mates. Once the male has found a mate, he displays his famously massive, antler-like jaws to her and

uses them to fight off rival males, in a similar fashion to deer. (*The Wildlife Trusts*)

If you need somewhere to go with children to burn off some of their energy, Bourne Park is a great place as it has a fabulous children's play area and an outdoor paddling pool which is open from late May to early September. And while you are there take a nature walk around the park and see what you can spot.



*Mossy tree trunks*



*Planting trees*

# Successful bird boxes

**Stephen Corley** *Chairman Portal Woodlands Conservation Group*

We have been busy. We cleared the saplings, brambles and bracken from the southern Bronze Age burial mound (tumulus), cleared the path around the fuel tanks of the leaves and mud that had accumulated over the winter, and cleared the brambles and other growth that was covering the tanks' access covers.

We tidied around the maturing hazel trees (*Corylus avellana*), removing no longer needed tree guards. No dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) yet, but we found a pile of hazelnuts eaten by wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*), and the unusual colourful carnival (or cotton) candy slime mould (*Arcyria denudata*). We surveyed and maintained the bird boxes, finding over 90% had been used.

One pair of Peter's Gates got a coat of paint for protection. Spring brought out lovely displays of snowdrops (*Galanthus*), daffodils (*Narcissus*), sweet violet (*Viola odorata*) and lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*).



Bird box



Carnival Candy fungus



Lesser celandine



## 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 17th May

Sunday 22nd June

Saturday 19th 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](http://pwcg.onesuffolk.net) or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.



Clearing around the hazel

# Migration marvels

**John Kornjaca** *Suffolk Bird Group*

As we move into mid-April, the Spring migration of birds into the UK is well underway.

Our coastal margins are the first landing place for birds that have hopped over the English Channel or North Sea from the European mainland, not surprisingly the Suffolk coast is hugely important for these birds.

Chiffchaffs are among the first birds to arrive in the Spring, their distinctive 'tiff-taff-tiff-taff-tiff-taff...' song, delivered from a treetop, is unmistakable.

Barn Swallows started to arrive toward the end of March, and despite the cold North Easterly wind that prevailed through early April, numbers continued to increase. While out on the marshes that I frequently visit, I watched over twenty Swallows excitedly feeding on flying insects in the first week of April.

The Suffolk Bird Group (SBG) has undertaken a project to help our declining House Martin population which, in common with many of our more familiar species, has struggled in recent years. House Martin Support Suffolk (HMSS) is designed to help us all understand these small hirundines and show how we can support their breeding efforts across Suffolk. Did you know that a House Martin may use over a thousand wet, mud pellets to construct a dome-like nest structure which you may see under the eaves of a house? The importance of the presence of wet, muddy puddles is therefore hugely significant for our House Martin population.

HMSS is just one of several



*Barn Swallow on the wing*

© David Berdenck

**Suffolk Bird Group**

Enquiries:  
[info@suffolkbirdgroup.org](mailto:info@suffolkbirdgroup.org)  
[www.suffolkbirdgroup.org](http://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.*

It is on the salt marshes, common land, patches of scrubland and woodland, ponds and gardens, that many birds hunker down to shelter, rest and recover or, make a quick 'fuel-stop' before moving on to preferred breeding grounds.

The arrival of early migrants may overlap with lingering winter visitors that are feeding up prior to departing to their breeding grounds. It is not unusual to find some of our winter birds alongside some of our summer visitors - Redwing, Fieldfare and Ring Ouzel seen together is a possibility.

projects that are currently active and progressing thanks to our volunteers. Another is our Barn Owl project (BOSS) while our long standing and joint effort with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust is designed to assist our Swifts (SOSS) and has now continued

can be heard singing from hedges - I am generally impressed at the volume of the song belted out by the Wren - one of our smallest birds.

If you are interested in knowing more about the rare and scarce birds



*Barn Owls in nest box*

© Charlie Swan

for a decade. If you are interested in learning more about our projects or, if you are willing to get involved, please see the additional detail on our website.

that are seen around Suffolk, SBG are recording recent sightings, with the assistance of the Bird Information Network Service (BINS) on our website.

Not forgetting our resident birds, Great Tit and Blackbird are also to be heard regularly while the Robin will sing for much of the year. Blue Tit are more active, exploring potential nest sites while Woodpigeon too, are nest building in and around gardens in our larger trees. Wren and Dunnock

Finally, at the Annual General Meeting held in February, outgoing President John Grant handed over to Ed Keeble. Ed assumes the role at a very interesting time for the charity with membership on the up but, with many species of birds experiencing severe declines in numbers.



*House Martin collecting mud pellet in a muddy puddle*

© John Richardson

# Christchurch Park Bird Sightings, November to March

**Philip Murphy** *Friends of Christchurch Park*

## November 2024

The total of 43 Mandarin Ducks on Wilderness Pond is the highest ever recorded at this site and is also possibly the highest ever recorded in Suffolk. At least 35 were still present on 12th after which date totals did not exceed 28.

Up to four Cormorants had been roosting in the top of an oak tree at Wilderness in late October but following the fireworks display on November 2nd, this roost was abandoned. Also on Wilderness Pond, six Little Grebes were present late in the month.

A particularly interesting sight involved a Sparrowhawk pursuing, albeit unsuccessfully, a Woodcock over the Lower Arboretum.



Cormorant

## December 2024

Totals of Mandarin Ducks on Wilderness Pond did not exceed 18 until late in the month when there were 28 on 29th increasing to 35 on 31st.

Additional reports from Wilderness Pond included one, and sometimes two, Grey Herons and up to six Little Grebes.



Mandarin duck

A Woodcock was flushed from the Bridleway and a Common Buzzard flew low westwards being mobbed by up to 15 Magpies. A Tawny Owl was heard calling in the wood adjacent to Wilderness Pond with a second owl responding from the direction of the Upper Arboretum.

## January

As in January 2024, freezing conditions this month resulted in a notable influx of Mandarin Ducks to the unfrozen northern end of Wilderness Pond with as many as 40 being present. Three days later, with only about 20% of the pond being frozen as a thaw set in, only 23 of these distinctive ducks could be located.

Four noisy pairs of Canada Geese were present on Wilderness Pond. Three pairs of Little Grebes were noted on Wilderness Pond throughout the month.

A Great Spotted Woodpecker was drumming at the north end of the park. A Firecrest was seen in the Holm Oaks adjacent to the tennis courts. There were three sightings of Treecreepers and two singing Song Thrushes in the vicinity of Wilderness Pond.

## February

In most years, February witnesses a pre-migration gathering of Redwings. This year's gathering peaked at about 100 feeding in the area of Snow Hill in the first week of the month.

On Wilderness Pond, Mandarin Duck totals peaked at 26. Three pairs of Little Grebes were present on the pond throughout the month and by 25th a pair had constructed a nesting platform. By the month's end, five pairs of Canada Geese were noisily advertising their presence on the pond.

The first returning Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted, one of the gulls attempted, unsuccessfully, to catch one of the Little Grebes.

It was pleasing to see a Red-necked Tattler on the fallen tree trunk on Wilderness Pond as early as 25th.

## March

The first arriving Chiffchaff and Blackcap were singing in the park on 10th and



Canada geese

All pictures © Colin Hullis



**Friends of Christchurch Park**

Chair: Peter Gray 07709 634161  
Membership Secretary: Robert Fairchild 01473 254255  
[www.friendsofchristchurchpark.co.uk](http://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.*

21st respectively. Conversely, the Redwings were preparing to depart most seen was 25.

On Wilderness Pond, Mandarin Duck totals declined as they departed to unknown breeding sites - only five remained at the month's end. A pair of Little Grebes had completed an impressive nesting platform by mid-month.

An early brood of 13 Mallard ducklings was noted on 13th but none was present by 23rd - victims of the gulls?

Birds of prey featured well with a Red Kite, single Peregrine Falcons on 12th and 27th and several reports of a displaying Sparrowhawk high over the park.

*Many thanks to Brian Macdonald and Mark Dowling for their significant contribution to the above article.*

# Heathland fire risk

**David Dowding** *Wildlife Ranger, Ipswich Borough Council*

Due to a block in the Jet stream, there was extremely low rainfall in March/April in the UK. With dead vegetation and detritus drying out, there have been some large landscape level heathland fires in Dorset and the Scottish Highlands with hundreds of acres set ablaze



**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.*



*Soil bund and scrape at Piper's Vale, left largely untouched by the fire, acted as both a firebreak and a refuge for wildlife*

Unfortunately, this has been seen locally in the Ipswich area, with fires on some of the urban heathlands. Purdis Heath and Pipers Vale both lost sizeable areas.

On speaking to local people and the fire brigade, both fires were started by teenagers lighting campfires/barbecues so could have been avoided.

Luckily the soil banks created from scraping off detritus to encourage acid grassland and heathland plants, provided a safe retreat for some of the more mobile animals to escape, but many of the smaller reptiles and invertebrates were unable to get out of the way in time.



*Male common lizard that had retreated down a small mammal burrow, safely relocated to a nearby habitat*



*Adult male slowworm, sadly caught in the blaze*

# New leader needed

**Tim Kenny** *Leader, RSPB Ipswich Group*



© Tim Kenny

*Fallow deer herd and white hart, Levington 6th April 2025*

**By the time you read this, the group will have had its annual AGM, at which I will have stood down as leader. Except, nobody has come forward to replace me, despite a year's worth of appeals.**

The group cannot function without a leader, so to avoid the closure of the group I have agreed to serve one more year, to give the group a fighting chance of finding a new leader in 2026. However, this year will definitely be my last at the helm, so if no replacement is found then, regrettably, the group will have to close at the end of 2026. The deadline to find a new leader is the next AGM, in April 2026.

Is this something you could do? It's not a massively onerous task; running indoor meetings, chairing committee meetings, dealing with enquiries from members of the press and public (we don't get many of these). It would suit a retired person, although I've managed to juggle it with a full-time job since 2017. Interested? Then please feel free to email us at [ipswichrspblocalgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:ipswichrspblocalgroup@yahoo.com).

After what seems to have been a winter lasting four or five years, spring is here, and it's been sunny and bright so far, if a little chilly. The local group had a walk down at Levington on April 6th and all were delighted to see good numbers of swallows, house martins and sand martins hawking over Loompit Lake. These hirundine harbingers of spring were most

welcome, particularly the house martin, a species whose decline has led them to be added to the red list of conservation concern. Reports of sedge warblers and wheatears are coming in, and migration is in full flow. I love it. The singing of the blackcaps, chiffchaffs and more common residents such as great and blue tits, blackbirds and chaffinches, gladdens the heart.

There was still plenty of wildfowl about, with a few wigeon and teal not yet headed north to breed, whilst the numbers of brent geese did not suggest they were in much of a hurry to head to Siberia just yet. The resident tufted ducks, pochards, Canada and greylag geese showed beautifully on Loompit Lake, as did the cormorants, who looked like they were already nesting from a distance.

On the way back to the cars, one of our number requested a tree creeper, as he had not seen one for years. A few minutes later, the walk leader heard the tell-tale high-pitched song of this common but well-camouflaged bird, before pinpointing it hopping up the trunk of a tree in characteristic mouse-like style. We do like to send our customers home happy.

Non-avian highlights from our walk included a grey seal in the River Orwell off the marina, and good views of the herd of fallow deer that range between Ipswich and Felixstowe. Amongst this



## Ipswich Local Group

Group Leader Tim Kenny  
Tel 01394 809236  
[ipswichrspblocalgroup@yahoo.com](mailto: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.*

herd was a white hart. Yes, they aren't just a pub name, they really exist! Back when deer were hunted for sport by the rich, white animals were spared, so that keepers of the woods knew where particular herds went, and if they strayed onto neighbouring land.

The spring and summer programme of events take place outdoors, go to [group.rspb.org.uk/ipswich/](http://group.rspb.org.uk/ipswich/) to see what's on when, we'd be delighted to have you along. We can't promise to produce birds on demand like we did with the tree creeper, but we'll do our best for you.

# Snippets

## Full House *Martin Cant*

This is a one-off experimental bug hotel that I put it up in my garden last Spring not knowing if any bugs and bees would approve and make it their home. As usual, positioning is crucial which was on an east facing fence. As it turned out, by the end of the summer, it was extremely successful with virtually no room at the Inn. Hopefully the process will repeat itself shortly!



## Swift watch *Colin Hullis*

Last year I installed a camera in one of the Swift nest boxes on my house. This particular box has been occupied for the past five seasons so I had high hopes of some interesting viewing. I was not disappointed with excellent results, including good, intimate views of the couples' obvious joy at meeting up again on their arrival in early May through to watching the three young Swiftlets prepare for departure in early August. Here's hoping for more compulsive viewing again this year.



## Coppicing Spring Wood

With the help of Ipswich Wildlife Group and Greenways volunteers, Spring Wood Warden Gerry Donlon has had another very successful winter of coppicing the Hazel areas in this superb ancient woodland.

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management that involves periodically cutting trees down to their stumps to promote new growth. This practice, dating back centuries, primarily aims to harvest timber sustainably and encourage biodiversity. Coppiced trees regenerate over time, producing multiple stems from the original stump, which can be harvested again in cycles ranging from 7 to 20 years. IWG make the harvested material available for use as beanpoles and peasticks.

The benefits of coppicing extend beyond timber production. It creates a diverse habitat structure that supports a wide range of wildlife, including birds, insects, and plants. The open canopy and varied vegetation successional stages provide ideal conditions for species that thrive in light-dappled environments.



## Raven sighting *Matt Garnham*

Whilst working in Orwell Country Park, the IBC Wildlife team have had regular sightings of a Raven. It seems to be interested in the Orwell Bridge but is usually fiercely repelled by the resident Peregrines.

The common raven (*Corvus corax*) is one of the most iconic and recognizable birds in the UK, known for its glossy black plumage and distinctive croaking call. Ravens are incredibly intelligent creatures, often associated with myth and folklore. They are much larger than the Carrion Crow with a much coarser call. Historically, these birds were primarily found in mountainous regions, but in recent years, they have been venturing further east and are now more frequently seen in our county. Ravens typically nest on cliffs and tall structures, taking advantage of their high vantage points for hunting and observation.



# Events Diary

## MAY

### Saturday 10th May 7.30am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING

Upper Hollesley Common for birds of the Sandling Heaths. Meet at 07.30am at upper car park IP12 3HU. TM335471. 2-3hrs. **Leader Stephen Marginson.**

### Sunday 11th May 9am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Carlton Marshes. Meet at reserve car park, Burnt Hill Lane, Carlton Colville. Map Ref: TM508919. Post Code: NR33 8HU What3Words: sake.focal.obviously. **Leader: Richard Smith Tel. 01502 586801.**

### Sunday 11th May 11am - 2pm Friends of Holywells Park APPLE BLOSSOM IN THE ORCHARD

Come along and admire the apple trees in blossom in the orchard in Holywells Park. Light refreshments and children's games. Follow the signs from the Stable Block.

### Saturday 17th 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, and to check for date changes, please go to: [pwcg.onesuffolk.net](http://pwcg.onesuffolk.net) or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.**

### Sunday 18th 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 24th May Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group WALK

Trimley Marshes nature reserve guided walk. In the last issue of Local Wildlife News, Roger wrote about his trip to plan this lovely event. The early start will reward those who join with a guided walk around the nature reserve and perhaps the chance to see some birds being rung. Places must be pre-booked and cost £7.50. **Full details at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events) - just choose 'Ipswich' from the last filter box.**

### Tuesday 27th May 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

Newbourne Springs Suffolk Wildlife Trust Reserve for summer birds and flowers. Meet at car park IP12 4NY. TM274433

### Saturday 31st May 8am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Pound Farm Woodland. Meet at Pound Farm car park, Great Glemham. (If possible, please consider car sharing for this event). Map Ref: TM326636. Post Code: IP17 2DQ What3Words: dragon.mouths.patrol. **Leader: Steve Fryett Tel. 07593 382082.**

## JUNE

### Thursday 5th June 7pm Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Upper Hollesley Common. Meet at the upper car park at 7.00 pm for an evening walk on the heath. Map Ref: TM335470. Post Code: IP12 3HU What3Words: trainers.storerroom.debate. **Leader: Dave Pearsons Tel. 07913 620665.**

### Thursday 12th June 6.30pm Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Kingston Meadows, Woodbridge. Meet at Kingston Field car park. Map Ref: TM271485. Post Code: IP12 4BA What3Words: potential.donor.bats. **Leader: Steve Fryett Tel. 07593 382082.**

### Sunday 15th 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.**



### Wednesday 18th June 8.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING

Upper Hollesley Common for Nightjars and other heathland birds. Meet at upper car park IP12 3HU. TM335471. (Date and time to be confirmed. **Leader Tim Kenny.**

### Sunday 22nd 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, and to check for date changes, please go to: [pwcg.onesuffolk.net](http://pwcg.onesuffolk.net) or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.**

### Tuesday 24th June 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

Gippeswyk Park for summer birds and flowers. Meet at Hawthorn Drive entrance. IP2 0PD. TM150433

### Thursday 26th June Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group WALK

Butterflies of Landseer Park guided walk. For somewhere that is in quite a built-up area, this site is a haven for wonderful displays of butterflies - some quite uncommon. No need to book. **Full details at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events) - just choose 'Ipswich' from the last filter box.**

## JULY

### Tuesday 15th July 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

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

### Saturday 19th July 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group VOLUNTEER WORK MORNING

All ages welcome - no need to book. Meet at the Education Area. (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](http://pwcg.onesuffolk.net) or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.**

### Sunday 20th 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.**

### Tuesday 29th July 10.30am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

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



### Wednesday 30th July Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group WALK

Shimpling Park Farm guided walk. Situated between Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds, this farm demonstrates how organic farming is beneficial to wildlife. Places cost £5 and must be pre-booked. **Full details at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events) - just choose 'Ipswich' from the last filter box.**



## AUGUST

### Sunday 17th 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.**

# 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**

## **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 01473 728907**

**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

## **EVERY FRIDAY 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. Thorington Hall Barn, Bobbits Lane, Ipswich. **More information from Martin Cant 07858 436003 martin.cant@ntlworld.com**

## **FRIDAYS 10am-11.30am Suffolk Wildlife Trust WILD TOTS**

Wild play activities for ages 18 months – 5 years old in Holywells Park. **Book online suffolkwildlifetrust.org**

## **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@wildipswich.org**

## **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**

## **FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 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**

## **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 2026**

A reminder that Spring Wood Day now takes place every other year - next date will be Monday 4th May 2026.

