

Pantaloen Bee  
– see page 9



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# Local Wildlife news

September - December 2018

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



# Snippets

## Blue alien found

**Lydia Woods**



**While walking through Kiln Meadow on a warm morning in July, I was more than a little surprised to be confronted with a bright flash of blue!**

On closer inspection I discovered a rather battered looking blue morpho butterfly resting on the ground - not something you'd expect to see in Suffolk. These butterflies are generally found in Central and South America, although they are a popular choice for butterfly houses – it's likely this one escaped from the butterfly house situated at Jimmy's Farm. After taking some photos of this blue alien, I left the butterfly resting in a patch of bindweed. While this was a lovely sight to see, hopefully it won't be a regular occurrence. These butterflies aren't accustomed to living in Suffolk – no matter how hot it has been!

## White Admiral in town

**Richard Stewart**

**On the afternoon of Friday June 22nd my wife and I were walking down Westerfield Road in Ipswich and just past the gate into Christchurch Park we saw a white admiral on the pavement.**

It appeared to be a newly emerged adult but had probably been caught in a vehicle slipstream. I cupped my hands around it, walked across the road and released the butterfly over the park railings. This was one of the new species I predicted for the park in future years as it has steadily been colonising towards Ipswich. One was seen and photographed in The Dales in 2015. With this in mind more honeysuckle, the larval food plant, has been planted in the park.

## Digger Wasps excavate home

**Colin Hullis**

**In my garden I have a tree trunk log used as a plant stand. Over the years it has begun to rot and during the long, hot summer I have spent hours watching small wasps excavating holes presumably as nest sites and creating large mounds of sawdust in the process.**

Research leads me to believe these were some form of Digger Wasp of which there are several sub-species. I also learn that there are 9000 species of wasp in the UK and that only nine of these are social wasps that form large nests, the rest are solitary and cause no upset to humans. Certainly my wasps have caused this human no upset but have provided much original entertainment.





# Welcome

by James Baker

Welcome to the autumn edition of Local Wildlife News, packed with articles and news from all the local conservation groups along with a vast number of events of all types for you to get involved with!

Throughout this edition there are references to the long, hot summer of 2018 and the potential effects on our local (and not-so local) wildlife species. As always there will be winners and losers amongst our favourite species, but it will be difficult to determine perhaps until next year or beyond. I think one thing is becoming clear and that is the long predicted sharp increase in more extreme weather events due to our changing climate, is now a reality.

Any quaint notion that the effects of climate change are generations away, is now long-gone – and we should all be thinking about our actions and what we might be doing (intentionally or by accident) to increase or decrease the numbers or diversity of wild plants and animals in our local (and global) environment. Luckily for you, there is not enough room here for me to spout on for too long about individual actions being very important, and never under-

estimating the power of ordinary people to bring about positive change. But I think we all know how valuable time spent in nature really is for our health and wellbeing and therefore how much we owe to our environment – and I think we all **know** we need to look after it better!

There are easy things to do to improve the situation – going for a walk locally rather than driving miles to have a walk; buying organic food that helps wildlife on the farm where it's grown, or growing your own food and avoiding flying – or you could choose to join in with some of the positive wildlife conservation work being done by local groups – just take a look at the Events listing for ideas!!

## Mailing lists – Please note

Some who are members of several conservation organisations may well receive more than one copy of the newsletter. If this is the case we would be very grateful if you could pass on the spare copy. If you don't receive LWN regularly please consider joining one of the groups that distributes LWN to its members. LWN is available online at [www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways/](http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways/)



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Local Wildlife News is published by Greenways Countryside Project.

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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.



## Ipswich Group Newsletter

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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 which take place usually on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane. 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 which follows, or on the SWT website, [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org).*

**We are now at the beginning of another autumn season and the committee of the Ipswich Group of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust is now looking forward to welcoming you to the evening meetings and to planning the walks and outing for 2019.**

You may have wondered why we are very privileged to have the Suffolk Wildlife Trust section of the Local Wildlife News at the front of each magazine. Some years ago we came to an arrangement with Ipswich Wildlife Group to amalgamate our newsletters, add more local volunteering groups and make the magazine glossy. You receive the Wildlife News with the Trust Magazine in the same packet. This is a two-way deal as the Wildlife News takes advantage of the fact that there are lovely people who put the magazine package through members' letter boxes not just in Ipswich but in the surrounding villages. Locally there is a network radiating from Ipswich of people getting their exercise and fresh air, walking and cycling and perhaps driving, delivering the packets. Incidentally, the Trust and wildlife are benefiting by around £30,000 per year because of all our fantastic volunteer deliverers throughout the county. Because there is little postage involved in the SWT magazine distribution the Ipswich Group's contribution is by wearing out shoe leather on behalf of the other volunteering groups in the Wildlife News. We are pleased to benefit from a very professionally produced magazine and the other groups have better uses for their money because they pay no postage on a large distribution. There is also a dedicated Trust team that organises the complicated distribution of the packets before it lands on your door mat.

Unlike all the other groups in the Wildlife News the Ipswich Group of SWT does not have pictures or reports about the physical volunteering on the reserves in Ipswich. There are many wildlife sites and reserves and some years ago we were organising the volunteering to look after them. In the past for example, we took part in clearing the Alderman Canal and making the paths, coppicing in Spring Wood and planting trees in the many sites in and around Ipswich. Ipswich Wildlife Group has taken over this role. As you go through the magazine you will find all the other groups are doing the practical work and if you wish to volunteer then you have a large choice of activities in the following pages.

As secretary I get emails and telephone calls from people wishing to join a practical conservation group but they are passed on to SWT at Brooke House, Ashbocking or the other relevant groups in the Wildlife Magazine – and there are plenty to choose from!

In spite of having no current chairman – and we do need one – and difficulties with the venue for our winter talks, the past year has been successful, rounded off with a coach trip to Rainham Marshes and well supported walks. We start the new season in September with talks in the Methodist Church in Black Horse Lane, Ipswich. It is a really good venue and we hope that you will support the committee and the varied and interesting talks. Please note that the meetings, apart from December will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month and we look forward to seeing you then.

*Wendy Brown*

# RSPB Rainham Marshes and Thameside Nature Reserve

## Annual Coach trip May 26th 2018

**Kerry Charlton**

**This year's outing took us in a new direction. After more than 20 years, Pam has passed on the baton of organising the annual coach trip to Susanne Renshaw. She started her role with exploring a location new to the group.**

After some debate and a reconnaissance trip by Susanne, me and Susanne's husband, who is not a birder or nature buff, it was decided that we would go to RSPB Rainham Marshes, and Thameside Nature Reserve.

Susanne worried about organising her first trip, but after 30 years of knowing her, I knew everything would be fine. At 06.30 on the day of the trip I received a text message, "It's raining, can you check the forecast?" After checking two different apps and a few more texts I was able to reassure Susanne that we would have fine weather for the trip. Even though it was raining at the time and rained till we arrived. But by the time we had arrived at Rainham the rain stopped and we were greeted with sunshine and temperatures of up to 28°C

The reserve had previously been a military firing range but is now managed by the RSPB to improve biodiversity. Rainham Marshes is composed of ancient, low-lying grazing marshes in the Thames Estuary, containing wet grassland, ditches, scrub, reedbeds and open water. It supports many breeding and wintering birds, wetland plants, insects, and fauna including water voles and marsh frogs.

Our visit began with an introduction by a volunteer to the reserve and its facilities then we were off around the reserve, some of our members taking advantage of the café and its excellent views before heading out. Even before we got out onto the reserve proper we were treated to the sight of holly blue and orange tip butterflies and an abundance of starlings, both juveniles and adults

Heading out of the visitor centre we turned towards the Purfleet Scrape and found a bench in the sun to observe what was going on around us. Lots of the group members stopped to look out across the marshes and saw many wetland bird species including lapwing, tufted duck, mallard, little egret, and greylag and Canada geese. Cettis warblers called loudly all around us as redshank flew down on to the scrape. A real treat was to see a swift feeding overhead. We were able to spot shovelers, gadwall, heron, shelduck, coot, moorhen and mute swan. Many of the ducks and geese were surrounded by young balls of fluff.

We continued round the reserve walking under the Thames wall, the protection it gives reduced the breeze that we would get later at Thameside. Along the path we spotted the almost tropical looking salsify which has a tasty edible root which has a parsnip like flavour.

Later we saw many reed warblers, including juveniles. In one ditch a pair of little grebes could be seen feeding

their five chicks as damselflies and dragonflies flew above them, moving too quickly for our identification skills. A kestrel hovered above us and plunged into long grass in pursuit of its prey.

As we ate our lunch large and small white butterflies danced around us, and skylarks could be seen and heard overhead

On the way back to the visitor centre we were deafened by the calls of marsh frogs. Who would believe something so small could make such a large amount of noise? The last part of our visit took us through the wooded area where lots of house sparrows were chattering.



**Ipswich Group Newsletter**

We boarded the coach to head to the second visit of our day, Thameside Nature Reserve.

The reserve and visitor centre are on a former landfill site, with views over Mucking Flats SSSI and the Thames Estuary. The site is currently 120 acres and will eventually extend to cover over 800 acres. The visitor centre on the reserve is at the top of a hill and provides good views over the Thames Estuary from the café and from a viewing platform on the roof. After a break for cake and tea we headed out onto the site. The weather remained sunny, but a strong wind added a pleasant relief after the heat at Rainham.

There were not so many species here, but there were excellent views of a kestrel hunting at eye level beside the visitor centre. We also spotted shelduck, a flock of redshank flying in and cormorant flying up river. Other species seen were little egret, blackbirds, skylarks and pheasants.

After a very successful, interesting and long day we headed home to Ipswich.



*Excellent views of a Kestrel hunting*



# Rushmere Jubilee Walk – June 2018

Leigh Williamson

A junction of roads in a housing estate just off Foxhall Road seems an unlikely starting point for a wildlife walk. However, a few steps along the path, the houses all but disappeared and there was a feeling of being in the tranquillity of the countryside. This was the start of the Rushmere Jubilee Walk.



Ipswich Group Newsletter

The footpath verges contained a lovely mixture of plants backed by trees, some were coppiced elms which make a good hedge. We turned through a gap to a large, open grassy area where our guide Peter Scotcher from the Greenways Project explained how the whole area had to be carefully managed to maintain a variety of habitats for wildlife.

We were in an area of acid grassland, an important habitat for invertebrates. In a non-urban location such an area would be maintained by grazing animals. In this case however, it was mowed in stages during the autumn and the cut grass was removed to maintain the required poor soil conditions. If mowing did not happen the area would

quickly revert to scrubby woodland. Certain trees are targeted for removal so that light could penetrate and the brambles, an important food source can thrive.

At the other side of the grassland and through the trees, we entered a completely different world of cool, dappled shade. This area known as the Glade requires different management techniques. The width of the path is maintained as a fire break, so at times trees and shrubs have to be removed. Logs have been put to good use as a habitat for stag and other beetles. Small twigs have been piled up in mounds to suit other invertebrates.

A short way down this path we stopped at a large non-native pine tree. Here Peter told us a tale of Global Warming. This tree is a Monterey Pine, native to a small area of California where it is an endangered species. Even though Monterey Pines thrive in other parts of the world it is dying out in its native region. The mountainous topography of the area means that it cannot spread naturally to adjoining areas as global warming makes its original location unsuitable. On hearing this we chorused in unison "it is caught between a rock and a hard place".

We stopped regularly during the morning to listen to bird-song. Black caps, long



Meadow Brown

tailed tits and young starlings being fed were identified either from sight or sound by our bird experts. We saw fewer butterflies than we had hoped. However on the grassland, meadow brown, ringlet, identified by its darker colour, and a flash of orange of a small skipper, flitted past. The only butterfly I saw that was settled for some time was a poor specimen of a speckled wood in the Glade.

We turned east from the Glade to a lovely wildflower area evocatively named Church Meadow. Close inspection showed a large number of species – the pretty lesser stitchwort, greater birdsfoot trefoil - a surprise find for a rather dry area, extra tall yarrow, knapweed - loved by insects and colourful tufted vetch to name a few. This area had been seeded with wildflowers and is maintained by cutting two-thirds at a time, then removing the cuttings. Peter continued to remind us that the variety of wild areas we passed through happens as a result of a good deal of human intervention – in other words, through knowledge and hard work.

On the other side of the meadow we were reminded that we were on the Sandlings long distance Walk Route

between Ipswich and Southwold, by the supersized nightjar sculpture nestled in the grass. We left this path to another surprising and much wetter area. Our path was between a high, wooded bank (it was hard to believe that Foxhall Stadium was up there somewhere) and the Mill Stream. At one point along the stream, Greenways had cleared trees and undergrowth to produce an open wet area where flag iris, bull rushes and sedges thrived. A real transformation had happened in just two years. Further along we could glimpse a deeper pond covered in duck weed. We took a detour across a boardwalk to an interesting area of wet meadow where again Greenways kept the willow in check by coppicing. This allowed a variety of moisture-loving plant life to thrive.

Local people are very fortunate to have such a delightful area on their doorstep. We are grateful to Peter for being such an informative guide. However, he tells us that unfortunately future funding for the Greenways Project is in doubt. So it remains to be seen if the management of this area can be continued as successfully into the future. Let us hope so.

© Kevin Marzable



Any ideas what caterpillar this is?

# Dates for your Diary

All talks will be held at Museum Street Methodist Church, 17 Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF and begin at 7.30pm. A charge of £2.50 includes tea or coffee. There is disabled access.

**Wed. 26th September 2018 at 7.30pm.**

**Matthew Rooney How Mushrooms Can Save the Planet**

Matthew is a forager, ecologist and biodynamic grower of wild mushrooms for medicinal and their culinary purposes. He will talk about the ubiquitous distribution of mushrooms, and their relationship with all other organisms. He will also explain their important role in nutrient cycles, pollution and disease control. For more information Google Matthew Rooney, Mushrooms.

**Wed. 24th October 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Will Cranstoun Lackford Lakes**

Will is the SWT West Suffolk reserves manager at Lackford Lakes, and will talk to us about the key species which are found there throughout the year. It is a haven for birds, and as I write at the end of January, 78 bird species have already been recorded for 2018. Otters, kingfishers and a good variety of dragon flies are frequently seen. Will will explain the management needed to maintain and increase this biodiversity. For more information Google SWT Lackford Lakes

**Wed. 28th November 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Tim Kenny Wildlife of the Galapagos Islands**

This collection of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean, 1000 miles off the coast of Ecuador, is home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Due to its isolation, many of these are found nowhere else on earth. The Galapagos Islands were visited by Darwin in 1835, and were the inspiration for his Theory of Evolution. Tim, chairman of the local RSPB group, and Mastermind participant will take you on a voyage to this amazing place.



**Wed. 12th December 2018 at 7.30pm**

**David Healey Shorebirds of the British Isles**

Shore Birds or Waders have the most extensive migration pattern of any group of animals world-wide. The UK provides globally important feeding estuaries, inland waters and shores not only for large populations of wintering birds, but also for those who stop over to feed as they pass through in Spring and Autumn. David will describe the behaviour of these birds and help us to identify them by their plumage and also by their calls and songs, so evocative of the arctic tundra.

**Wed. 23rd January 2019 at 7.30pm**

**Anne & Dennis Kell Natural History of the Falkland Islands**

The Falklands is made up of a large number of islands in the South Atlantic. With their rugged terrain, ferocious winds and nutrient rich waters, they are home to a wide variety of plants and animals, and a huge number of sea birds. A good number of the plants are found nowhere else on this earth. Come and hear about this naturalist's paradise from Anne and Dennis who visited it just a few years ago. For more information Google Flora and Fauna of the Falkland Islands



© Colin Halls

*Shorebirds of the British Isles – 12th December*

A full listing of all Groups' events can be found from page 22



# Mammal traps, dead hedges and glow worms

## Sam Cork with contributions from George Pennick

At the time of writing in the current heat wave in July, it seems an age away when we were suffering from the icy snow of the 'Mini-beast from the East' in mid-March and clearing up the damage from storms earlier in the year. Fortunately, our volunteers are a hardy bunch and are happy to venture out in all kinds of weather.

In early April our young Nature Watchers braved the damp and cold to discover what creatures had been caught in our small mammal traps. These traps had been placed around the education area the night before, allowing the creatures to find the tasty treats within and inadvertently get themselves shut inside! Assisted by the older Nature Explorers, the animals were carefully emptied from the traps, weighed and identified

as male or female and then released back to where they were caught. One female and four male wood mice, and one male bank vole were recorded. In addition, the children were mesmerised by two harvest mice that had been brought along by Duncan.

The main volunteer task was to build a dead hedge, using posts made from the branches of the storm damaged tree that had been cut up the month before. It was filled with fallen branches and twigs creating a new habitat for creepy crawlies.

Our AGM was held in April when the existing Committee members were all re-elected. The winner of the Nature Explorers Award was Sam Cork in recognition of his contribution to conservation in the Parish of Martlesham.

Sam was presented with The Powling Cup to hold temporarily, and also received a glass plaque and a book on mammals to keep. The meeting was rounded off with a very interesting talk about bat species in Suffolk, by Duncan Sweeting.

We held a litter pick on the 27th May, 14 people scoured the woods for the smallest



Litter pickers in action

hint of rubbish and the woods never looked so tidy! We would be grateful if users of the woods would take their litter, however small, home with them.

Our annual Glow Worm Survey and Bat Walk was well attended, despite being

cancelled a few days before! 13 female glow worms were recorded in all; one for each human

participant. Happily this continues an upwards trend from the single figure counts of recent years.

The weather and wear and tear from visitors has taken its toll on the woodland paths, with several areas becoming extremely muddy after rainfall. Recent volunteer mornings have therefore been focussed on laying down bark chippings to create a new even and porous surface. It is a long job and we are conscious that by

the end of Autumn the pile of chippings may have rotted away before we've had time to put them down, so if you regularly use the woods - now is a better time than any to come along to one of our volunteer mornings (details below). Thanks to Elite Tree Services for donating the chippings.

The Nature Explorers group learnt about wheelbarrow maintenance on the 19th of May. This was very timely as most of our wheelbarrows were in a poor state and were desperately needed for the path chippings activities.

We continue to look for new volunteers - all ages and abilities are welcome! Please email us at [pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com](mailto:pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com) if you would like more information. For more details of the Group's events, and to check for date changes, please go to: <http://pwcg.onesuffolk.net/> or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.



### Portal Woodlands Conservation Group

Enquiries: Martlesham Parish Council  
01473 612632 [www.pwcg.onesuffolk.net](http://www.pwcg.onesuffolk.net)  
or email [pwcg@martlesham.org.uk](mailto:pwcg@martlesham.org.uk)  
The group was formed to conserve the woodlands west of the Suffolk Police HQ and alongside the A1214. Volunteers meet each month to work on a variety of projects. Anybody is welcome to join this friendly group. Training and tools are provided.

### We continue to look for new volunteers



Sam Cork being presented with the Nature Explorers Powling Cup

**Volunteer Work Mornings** (all ages welcome - no need to book) Meet at the Education Area from 10.00am – Noon.  
Saturday 15th September, Sunday 21st October,  
Saturday 17th November, Sunday 16th December

**Nature Explorers** (11 to 18 year olds)  
Meet at the Education Area from 9.00am - 11.00am.  
Booking essential, please email [pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com](mailto:pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com)  
Saturday 15th September, Saturday 17th November

**Nature Watch Club** (5 to 11 year olds)  
Dates to be announced. Please email [pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com](mailto:pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com) for more information.



# Busy as Bees for the Ranger Team

**Alexander Long**

The last few months have been busy for the ranger team. We have undertaken several educational events including bug hunting with school groups, informal walks and talks and family fun days. Practical tasks undertaken in the past few months include fence and bench repairs, clearing vegetation from footpaths, bracken pulling, habitat creation, reptile translocation and the wildlife audit. In addition, we have had a new casual Ranger join the ranks, so a very warm welcome to Mr Tim Page.

Wildlife auditing in this current climate is very useful for our biological records and the audit is also a fantastic way of getting reacquainted with all of the sites we look after across Ipswich. The audit is a chance to monitor the value for wildlife of each site, survey the area for all kinds of wildlife (including plants, invertebrates, mammals and birds) and ascertain whether the management work we undertake within the sites is increasing the biodiversity using them. This is a lengthy process with over 170 locations to monitor, so the wildlife audit is a four-year

process aiming to cover all of the sites and update the wildlife audits that were last completed in 2013.

Some of the rangers have participated in a pollinator course with Adrian Knowles - the county recorder for bees, wasps and pollinating insects for Suffolk. This has been especially useful for providing precise information on the pollinating insects around our local areas, such as Chantry Park, Holywells Park, Landseer Park, Bixley Heath and Purdis Heath. Insects found include the Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) the Red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*), Pantaloon bee (*Dasypoda spp*) and Bee wolves (*Philanthus spp*) as well as Ringlets (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), Meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*), Brown argus (*Aricia agestis*) White-letter Hairstreak (*Satyrrium w-album*) and Small skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*).

This sort of survey work, similar to the wildlife audit, is invaluable as it is useful to know which pollinator species we have on the sites we manage, therefore knowing if we have gained or lost species



© Sarah Kishaw

White letter hairstreak

in recent years. Additionally, survey work such as this provides knowledge as to whether the management of our sites is working to preserve the wildlife located on them, as well as showing the Rangers areas that may need additional management. This knowledge also illustrates that the wildflower mixes sown by Buglife are working well to provide food and nectar for all the wonderful invertebrates that the rangers protect.

If anybody wishes to volunteer with us in the future, please send us an e-mail to [parcs.services@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:parcs.services@ipswich.gov.uk) or phone 01473 433998.



**IPSWICH**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Wildlife Rangers

Office : 01473 433998

[park.rangers@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto: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.*



© Matt Carriham

Pantaloon Bee

## Species to look out for this season



© Sarah Kishaw



© Sarah Kishaw



© Matt Carriham

Top left: Red Admiral Butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*)  
Above: Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus*)  
Left: Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*)



# GREENWAYS

countryside project

Scout Headquarters (next to St Peter's Church), Stoke Park Drive, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 9TH Office:  
01473 433995 greenways.project@ipswich.gov.uk  
www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways

*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, Suffolk Coastal District Council and the local community.*

# Annual Report - April 2017 to March 2018

## James Baker

This report gives some information about the activities of the Greenways Project in the 12 month period, but is by no means exhaustive. For further information about any aspect of our work or any site, please don't hesitate to contact the Project team.

The map below shows the approximate locations of the main nature reserves and green spaces where we worked during the year. The pale green shading indicates the original Project boundary as set up in 1994 – in reality, we now work over a wider area if required.

### How we are funded.

The Project is a long-standing partnership between four local authorities and the wider community. The four Councils – Ipswich Borough, Suffolk County, Babergh District

and Suffolk Coastal District, between them contributed around £60,000 towards the total cost of £110,000 for the year. The remaining amount is effectively the Project team's income generation target for the year. Achieving this target has become more and more difficult each year, as the contributions have not risen with inflation, whilst our costs have. Also, this was the last year with the participation and contribution of Suffolk County Council, so in 2018-19, the income target will be £15,000 higher still.

Contributions from Parish Councils and other local community organisations are critical to our future, as are grants and other sources of income. If more funds cannot be found, the Project may well have to reduce its activities or increasingly charge for its work.

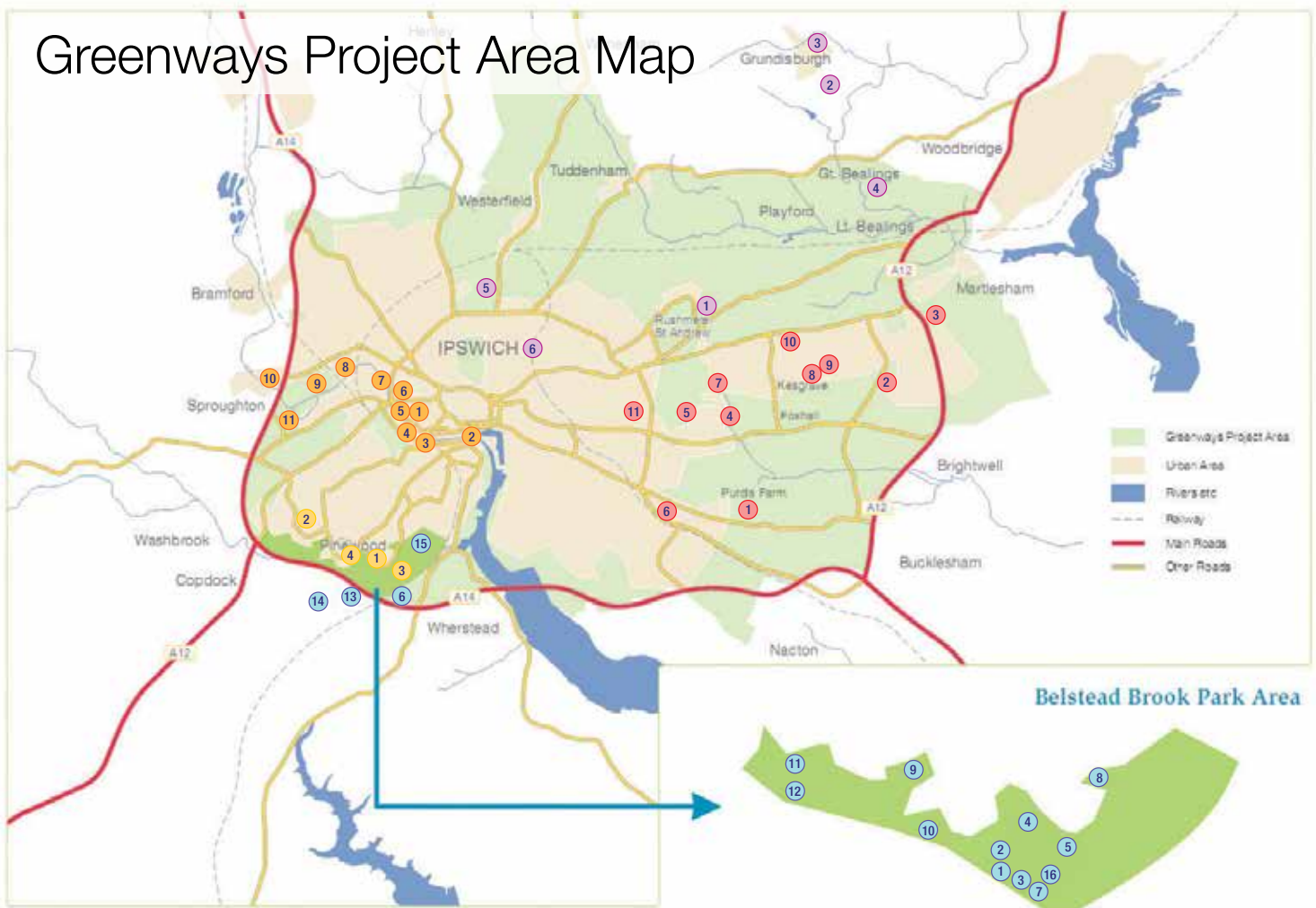
### The importance of volunteers

People helping us to look after our reserves are the life-blood of the Project – without whom we would struggle to deliver a fraction of what we are currently able to. Volunteers from every conceivable background help in a huge variety of ways, with everything from practical site management work to preparing and delivering this wonderful magazine!

During the 12 month period, volunteers have contributed a staggering 1942 days of time – the equivalent to about nine full-time staff or more than £100,000 worth if valued at Lottery grant rates.

As every year, this report is an opportunity to pass on the thanks of the staff team and Joint Advisory Committee to all

## Greenways Project Area Map



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of the great people who have contributed their time to help us in whatever way.

### Events and public activities

We have continued to run a series of events themed around the 'Wild Ipswich' and 'Wildlife Homes' concepts – providing opportunities for local people to make homes for wildlife in their homes and gardens – including hedgehog houses, bird nest boxes and bug homes. As well as providing genuine (albeit modest) new habitat in and around the town, this also encourages children and families to think about how they can help wildlife, and to learn some practical construction skills. These events are very much in partnership with Ipswich Wildlife Group – and in the last few years, thousands of wildlife homes have been built and installed

around Ipswich and further afield.

Spring Wood Day was a huge success again, with good numbers attending despite the very hot weather! The homely mix of folk music, woodland products, guided walks, maypole dancing, woodland crafts and other attractions proved a hit with local people.

The 'Planet Suffolk' River clean up event with BBC Radio Suffolk was also very popular with around 70 local people turning out to help clear up parts of the River Gipping path and banks through the town. Divers from Diveline managed to pull out 36 shopping trolleys and 25 bikes from beneath the water, along with countless road cones and two safes – both cut open! In addition, almost a full skip of general litter and rubbish was collected and removed.



*Ipswich MP Sandy Martin was a visitor to Spring Wood Day showing his support for the work of Greenways and local conservation groups.*

out a very wide range of habitat management work and construction and maintenance of infrastructure (paths, bridges, signs, fences etc).

Most of our volunteers start by helping in this way, and some then branch out to help with making 'wildlife homes', or helping with public events, or acting as voluntary leaders etc. Most of the sites we look after require work throughout the year, guided by the seasons – most habitat management work between October and March and most visitor infrastructure work between April and September. Some sites require only limited work at fixed times of year, whilst some others require regular work throughout.

### Practical management of our nature reserves and green spaces

The majority of the volunteer days mentioned above are spent on managing the wildlife sites that we look after, carrying

Some examples of our work can be seen below and on the following page.

## List of sites

### Belstead Brook Park ●

- 1 Spring Wood (LNR)
- 2 Kiln Meadow (LNR)
- 3 Millennium Wood (LNR)
- 4 Bobbitts Lane Meadows (LNR)
- 5 Ashground Plantation and Whitland Close area
- 6 Bobbitts Lane – upper area
- 7 Butterfly Ride
- 8 Stoke Park Wood (LNR)
- 9 Ellenbrook open space and Playing Field
- 10 Burnet Meadow and Thorington Park area
- 11 Belstead Meadows
- 12 Belstead Lower Meadows (CWS)
- 13 Thorington Hall Farm area
- 14 Belstead Heath
- 15 Bourne Park
- 16 Belstead Allotments

### Southern fringe ●

- 1 Netley Close open space
- 2 Belmont Road Wood
- 3 Braky Wood
- 4 Lynnbrook Wildlife Area

### Eastern Fringe ●

- 1 Purdis Heath (SSSI), Purdis Farm
- 2 Martlesham Heath (SSSI)
- 3 Martlesham Common (CWS)
- 4 Mill Stream (LNR), Rushmere St Andrew
- 5 Sandlings, (LNR), Rushmere St Andrew
- 6 Warren Heath (CWS)
- 7 Farthing Wood, Kesgrave
- 8 Long Strops Pond, Kesgrave
- 9 Cedarwood Green, Kesgrave
- 10 Legion Green, Kesgrave
- 11 Copleston School

### Northern Fringe ●

- 1 Chestnut Pond, Rushmere St Andrew
- 2 Grundisburgh Millennium Meadow
- 3 Lyttleton's Meadow, Grundisburgh
- 4 Kiln Farm Meadow (CWS), Gt Bealings
- 5 Fonnereau Way
- 6 Sidegate Lane School

### Western Fringe and the River ●

- 1 Alderman Canal (LNR)
- 2 River Path – Stoke Bridge
- 3 River Path – Princes St to West End Rd
- 4 River Path – West End Road
- 5 River Path – West End Rd to Handford Rd
- 6 River Path – Handford Rd-Yarmouth Rd
- 7 River Path – Yarmouth Rd to Riverside Road
- 8 River Path – Boss Hall
- 9 River Path – ex-Sugar Factory
- 10 River Path – A14 to Sproughton
- 11 Churchman Way

LNR = Local Nature Reserve  
CWS = County Wildlife Site  
SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest

## Case Studies

### Martlesham Heath – scrub removal, the quick way!

After several years of working in support of the Martlesham Conservation Group on the Western Corridor Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), last winter we were asked by the management company looking after the site to remove several large areas of scrub. On looking at the areas, it quickly became apparent that even our hard working and dedicated volunteers would struggle with the quantity to be done! So a more mechanised solution was required.

We decided on using a large flail head on a 15 tonne excavator, capable of tackling large and small gorse scrub. Although the technique seems rather drastic, the work was done in the winter months when birds are not nesting and most other wildlife is dormant.

Increasingly, nature conservation organisations are turning to large mechanical solutions to larger habitat management tasks as they tend to be the most cost effective and often lower impact that you might imagine. The pressure put on the ground by this machine is relatively low due to the wide tracks spreading the load. Gorse growth seems to be increasing over the last few years, thought to be driven by changes in our climate – warmer, wetter winters extend the growing season whilst increased pollution in the air falls in rain, often having a fertilising effect, encouraging yet more growth.

## Case Studies *continued*

### **Meadow management**

Through the months of September, October and November, our teams spend the majority of their time mowing and raking wildflower meadow areas on most of our reserves. Meadows require management in order to maximise their wildlife value – if left untouched a meadow would quickly tend to become covered in scrub and then larger trees until after a few years it would begin to resemble a woodland! So annual cutting after seeds have set and dispersed is vital – and the cuttings need to be removed to prevent the build-up of ‘thatch’ and increased nutrient levels as cut material breaks down. So that’s where the volunteers come in! On sites where machinery cannot fit or is inappropriate, we use pedestrian reciprocating blade mowers to cut the hay, which can then be raked up into ‘windrows’ and pitch-forked onto habitat piles. It’s a labour-intensive job, but sociable and largely unchanged for hundreds of years!



### **Alderman Canal – partnership with the Police – dealing with antisocial behaviour**

This Local Nature Reserve, right in the heart of town, has often sadly been beset with antisocial behaviour problems over the years. Recently the reserve has been targeted by drug dealers and users, trying to find somewhere central but not well covered by CCTV and regular patrols.

Last winter we worked closely with the Police and other agencies to open up areas of the site that were being abused, to allow passive surveillance. We are always careful and clear that this work must not adversely affect important wildlife habitat or species, so time the work carefully and limit the extent in any one year. Sadly, this work is likely to be part of our ongoing management of the site into the future.



### **River path clearing adjacent to the former sugar factory site**

The river path through the old sugar factory site at Sproughton is a recorded public footpath and as such needs to be kept open for people to use on foot. With the factory site having been in the hands of the Official Receiver for several years, tree growth from the site had started to impede safe use of the path. Once the site was purchased by Ipswich Borough Council, they were keen to improve access along the path, so we were asked to clear back overgrowing vegetation, fallen trees and bramble to make a safer, wider path available. This was done in the winter to minimise disturbance to wildlife, and made it possible for future path improvements to be carried out. The volunteers spent several days on site in the winter – being a linear feature, it took up to 20 minutes just to walk from one end to the other!



### **Mill Stream LNR path improvements**

Thanks to funding from local County Councillor Stuart Lawson, Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council were able to ask Greenways to carry out various access improvements in this reserve and at the nearby Sandlings LNR. Our volunteer teams re-surfaced tracks and paths, installed staggered barriers to slow cyclists, and drained wet paths. After a few problems bedding in (thanks to very wet weather at the time of laying) the surfacing material has blended in and formed a smoother, drier, firmer surface. Most of these works were along the Jubilee walk route around the Parish, linking the nature reserves and other green spaces and corridors – a popular local walk.





# Out and about with IWG

Colin Hullis

As usual, members of the group have been keeping up the good conservation activity over the past few months by getting involved in valuable practical management work and spreading the environmental message to all and sundry.

## IWG at the Suffolk Show

Back in May we had a great opportunity to reach a massive audience at the Suffolk Show. Invited by Suffolk Wildlife Trust into their wildlife area for the second year, we received a terrific response to our Wildlife Homes project, helping over 300 visitors to make and take home boxes for birds, bugs and hedgehogs. All thanks to the Greenways and IWG volunteers who manned the stand.



Over 300 visitors to our stand at the Suffolk Show

## IWG at school

We have also continued our contact with local schools and were pleased to be asked back to Hillside Primary to help with more development of their wildlife area.

This time we helped build a barrier to fence off the wildlife area from the main playing field. As ever, pupils were keen to get involved helping with the hazel poles and making bird boxes that were sited amongst the trees.

## IWG at the Big Garden Party

For the past five years we have been invited to be part of the Big Garden Party at Maidenhall Allotments and



Hazel fence under construction at Hillside School

Community Garden organised by Active Lives.

This is a truly community event celebrating the excellent work of those volunteers who run the Community Garden for the benefit of so many people.

Our involvement is bringing our Wildlife Homes activities to visitors and this year we had considerable competition from other attractions including, a drumming workshop, story telling (with



The Maidenhall Big Garden Party in full swing

IWG's Gerry Donlon), a Magic Show, brass band and a tour of the Garden's beehives. It's a great day out - make a note for next year in mid-July.

## IWG and Water Voles

In July, IWG members Lydia Woods and Colin Hullis joined ecologist Margaret Regnault and Suffolk Wildlife Trust ecologist Alison Looser on a water vole survey of part of Belstead Brook.

The purpose of the SWT survey is to help evaluate whether 15 years of mink trapping across the county has had a positive impact on Suffolk's riparian water vole populations. The survey was to record signs of water vole, otter and mink as well as assess any changes in habitat quality.

The stretch covered was from Bobbitts Lane car park to the junction with Stoke Park Drive, an area that was not easily accessible to say the least. However there was frequent and regular evidence of water vole droppings and several footprints left by otters.

## IWG in the Parks

Summertime and the school holidays is always a busy time for IWG. We get involved with other organisations arranging events in the Ipswich parks.

This year we have taken our pagodas and all the necessary equipment and materials for our Wildlife Homes project to family events in Chantry Park, Holywells Park and Bramford Road Recreation Ground. These events are mostly in conjunction with Ipswich Borough Council Rangers, Greenways Countryside Project and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.



Chair: Ray Sidaway 01473 259104  
[www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/iwg](http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/iwg)  
[facebook.com/ipswichwildlifegroup](https://www.facebook.com/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.*

## IWG in the Autumn

And the diary is filling for the next few months with events for the Whitton Youth Partnership, the WI at Gainsborough Library, the Forest School Cambridge Drive and with Greenways on Martlesham Common. We have also arranged a guided tour around the Jubilee Walk LNR, Rushmere for all members. See Events Diary for details. All this in addition to our regular monthly work parties, in Spring Wood and Alderman Canal and on our allotment - see Regular Events for details.

# Removing nature from our lives

## Reg Snook

**It was tragic that some mindless vandal thought it was amusing to torch the Education Hut in Christchurch Park's orchard last year.**

Yes, on reflection it was inevitable as the hut was out of sight as well as being made of very combustible material. The idea, however, of educating youngsters from nearby schools about nature was indeed praiseworthy. When I was a schoolboy learning about the natural world was part of the curriculum and we were encouraged to bring items to school where they were displayed on a large table in the classroom – identified and labelled. Mind you the majority of teachers at Priory Heath Primary School knew a lot about the surrounding countryside.

new edition featured, attachment, block graph, blog, broadband, bullet-point, celebrity, chat-room, cut and paste, MP3 player and voice-mail. When the Head of Children's Dictionaries at OUP was asked why 'nature' words were deleted she explained "that the

heavily in any essay I was asked to write for my homework. Perhaps also that could be an explanation as to why the education hut was razed to the ground.

Perhaps the arsonist had no idea what nature is and cared even less.

Or could it be that the person with matches in his possession in the Park was just a vandal and typical of many who seem to be set on destruction?



© Joseph Hullis

dictionary needed to reflect the consensus experience of modern-day childhood because nowadays the environment has changed." Oh dear!

Yes, we live in an ever-changing environment where the 'wild' countryside is forever shrinking due to the requirement for new housing. However, with the creation of more wildlife reserves and the ever popular TV programmes on the countryside and wildlife, I would have thought there was no need at all to try and eradicate from a dictionary words which are commonly in use in the world of nature today.

How often do we see kingfishers on TV programmes surely one of the most photographed birds of all due its fabulous colouring? Perhaps many modern children have little idea of what a 'conker' is but do know the form of a kingfisher. Likewise the word 'pasture' might be a difficult word for modern children but surely many of them will be aware of the word 'otter', or am I deluding myself? Perhaps I am reflecting too much on my own childhood when all of these deleted words featured

*The most beautiful Kingfisher can still be observed in Christchurch Park (if you are astute) but not in the Oxford University Press Children's Dictionary*

If this experience is anything to go by then sadly many who write about nature are out of touch with today's world. I realise that us older naturalists have a wealth of experience when nature walks and talks were part and parcel of going to school.

I find the removal of these nature words from the dictionary truly alarming. I also realise, as I have said many times before, that Christchurch Park is a people's park where thousands go to enjoy its amenities, especially its summer activities. Amongst those, nature lovers are in a minority and we accept that but we are always striving to protect wildlife whether it is found in our gardens, our parks or in the countryside.

We do not need those in responsible positions eradicating nature seemingly at a stroke. Luckily, in the opposite direction, some primary school pupils are able to enjoy 'forest days' whereby they can enjoy and appreciate the great outdoors, get messy and even may need to use some of the words eliminated from the OUP Children's dictionary.

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*we live in an ever-changing environment where the 'wild' countryside is forever shrinking...*

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### Friends of Christchurch Park

Secretary: Sylvia Patsalides 07971 467042

Membership Secretary: Robert Fairchild  
01473 254255

www.focp.org.uk Follow us on Facebook@  
Christchurch Park 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.*

I mention this because I have just read a book entitled Landmarks by Robert MacFarlane which was a Sunday Times best-seller. The author is fascinated by the connection between literature and landscape and his book explores the linguistic and literary terrain from all over Great Britain including Suffolk. One particular paragraph was in my opinion astonishing. A sharp-eyed reader of the Oxford Junior Dictionary had noticed that certain words pertaining to the countryside had been 'culled'. When questioned about this Oxford University Press revealed a list of words that it felt were no longer relevant to modern-day childhood. The deletions included: acorn, adder, ash, beech, bluebell, buttercup, catkin, conker, cowslip, cygnet, dandelion, fern, hazel, heather, heron, ivy, kingfisher (sometimes still seen in Christchurch Park), lark, mistletoe, nectar, newt, otter, pasture and willow. The words included in the



# And all for the sake of my little nut tree

**Robin Gape** *Chair of FoHP*

The other day I was reminded that my garden has a four to five metre tall cobnut tree, a cultivated hazelnut. It's clearly quite old, might well be of the variety 'Frizzled Filbert' but still bears fruit, which may be related to nearby planted hazel bushes. So a good question is, Should we plant a cob tree in the orchard at Holywells Park and if so, which variety?

Traditionally, a Suffolk farm orchard would be likely to be associated with a small number of cobnut trees, grown as a cash crop. According to the Kentish Cobnuts Association, just before the First World War in the UK there were over 7,000 acres (nine square miles, 28 square kilometres) of cobnut plats under cultivation. By the middle of the 20th century, that had dropped to 730 acres (about a square mile, three square kilometres) and by 1990 a mere 250 acres (a third of a square mile, about one square kilometre) remained. The



*Hazelnut or possibly cobnut*

nuts are cropped green from mid-August or so, which was the traditional cash crop, or later as they harden. Early cropping minimised crop loss!

Thankfully for a county with a great deal of sandy heathland, cobnuts grow well in free draining conditions, but can adapt to other

circumstances, including stony ground. The cobnut cultivars seem not to be self-fertile, but require, in general, wild hazel to be present to ensure pollination.

Hazel and cobnuts attract squirrels, which can be a serious problem for commercial growing, less so if there is only the odd tree in a garden or orchard. As well as the nut providing food for dormice, hazel leaves are food for the caterpillars of various moths, including the Great Emerald. Wood Pigeons and Jays are amongst the birds which benefit from the nuts. Even a cultivated tree has wildlife value, both as food and as shelter.

So, should the orchard adopt a small number of cobnut trees, and if so, which varieties? There is a lot more information available from the Kentish Cobnuts Association and Suffolk Traditional Orchards Group (now part of Orchards East) and especially their advice note STOGAN 6 "Cobnuts in Suffolk", which lists five varieties currently extant.

Today, most of the world's hazelnut production comes from Turkey, but Southern England, Kent and Suffolk included, once did its bit for food miles. A thought for the next bite of hazelnut chocolate!

Meanwhile, the Friends have been contemplating the environmental, conservation, and heritage issues associated with the proposed Upper Orwell Crossings and the impact of the proposed schemes upon Holywells Park and its surroundings, and especially the full river crossing. Besides the likely visual impact of the bridge structure as seen from Holywells Park, there would be direct impacts from local pollution by noise, vibration, light, noxious gases and particulates. To date, the planning process seems not to have taken these concerns in



*Cobnut tree in domestic garden*



## 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](mailto:fohpipswich@gmail.com)

[www.holywellsark.org.uk](http://www.holywellsark.org.uk)

[facebook.com/holywellsarkipswich](https://facebook.com/holywellsarkipswich)

to consideration, nor has any structured amelioration been proposed. In late news, Suffolk County Council have temporarily paused the project whilst the likely costs are reviewed.



*Green cobnuts on the tree*



*Wild hazel hedge, planted, showing nuts and spider*

# Birdlife in the long, hot summer

**Tim Kenny**

Here in Ipswich we live in one of the driest and sunniest parts of the country, and it is often said that there are parts of the Negev Desert in Israel that see more rain than we do. I must get round to checking the veracity of that particular fact one day, but for now it will do as an indication of just how dry Suffolk, and East Anglia in general, actually is. It's always important to provide fresh water for our avian friends, but particularly so when the mercury hits the mid-thirties degrees Celsius as it has done



*Dartford Warblers were in danger from heath fires*



## Ipswich Local Group

Group Leader Tim Kenny

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www.rspb.org.uk/groups/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, or (throughout the year), get out and experience nature first hand on one of our regular field meetings, visiting some of the best spots for wildlife in the area. Three times a year the 'Orwell Observer', keeps readers abreast of the latest developments at nearby RSPB Reserves as well as news of Group activities, along with members' photographs and accounts of birding exploits from home and abroad. Membership costs £3 per year (£1 for Juniors). For more information see the Events Diary in this magazine, visit our website or write as per details above.*

frequently this past summer.

What effect the heatwave will have on bird populations remains to be seen, but they will have had the maximum time to find food (birds of prey in particular won't hunt in wet weather). On the downside there is a real risk of young birds expiring in the heat if they are unable to find shade. I always believe nature remains in balance and that, in the long term, this summer won't have a particularly detrimental effect on population trends.

Two days before midsummer the group made its annual venture out to Upper Hollesley Common, near Woodbridge. The primary reason for this trip is to get our yearly fix

of nightjars, that enigmatic denizen of the sandling heath. On previous trips there had been no signs of resident Dartford warblers, and we had suspected that the 'Beast from the East', coming so late in the winter, had done for them. So how gratifying it was to hear three singing males holding territory, although remaining irritatingly unseen. These birds are at the very northern edge of their range in England and they are very susceptible to harsh winters; in 1963, after the famously harsh winter of that year, the British population was down to just ten pairs. This year the main danger could well be heath fires as the tinder dry gorse is vulnerable to the smallest ignition source. Fingers crossed that the Dartfords make it through and successfully raise the next generation.

At around 9.30pm the male nightjars started their ethereal churring song, and one bird perched atop a pine tree giving us fine, if silhouetted, views. These birds head back south to Africa after a summer that will certainly have suited the flying insects upon which they feed. As the light got too dim to see, I happened to train my binoculars on Jupiter, clear in the night sky. To my

astonishment I saw something I'd never seen before; four of the Jovian moons, lined up around the planet's equator. Sometimes nature's wonders are not of this earth! A telescope was set up for all to view. In the still summer evening, it was quite magical.

Also around midsummer I attended an informative talk by Edward Jackson of the Save Our Swifts project. This most aerial of species has declined worryingly in the last two decades, but there are things we can do, including erecting nest boxes and asking constructors to install swift bricks giving the birds spaces to breed in. If you missed it, Edward is giving the talk to our group on Thursday 13th September, see Events Diary.

Recently I was volunteering at Minsmere during the rainy, windy interval to the heatwave, and the swift passage, forced low by the inclement weather, numbered in the hundreds. And they were all heading south; swifts stay with us between early May and early August, and they are among the earliest departing species. Combining that with the migratory wading birds already on their way south from the high Arctic is a sure sign that Autumn is on the way.



*Nightjar in evening silhouette*



# Purdis Heath SSSI news

## Julian Dowding

Purdis Heath SSSI went up for sale recently for offers in excess of £100,000. Hopefully Butterfly Conservation volunteers will be invited to continue with their conservation work there with the new owner(s). It has after all been a major success story, and much work has been provided there over the course of many years.

Our main focus has been the increase of the rare Silver-studded Blue (whose numbers across Suffolk are shrinking). This year numbers counted 'on transect' reached 99, the highest for many years and it's clear that certainly many more than 100 SSB's were present at the peak of the season. It is important that the species' future is secured by any new management regime. We have also worked hard for other Lepidoptera including Grayling (another declining species) and the rare Lunar Yellow Underwing moth. Volunteers generally contribute over 1,000 hours of work each year, some of which includes moth surveying at night.

Interesting fact: Silver studded Blues and Black Ants have a mutualistic relationship. Ants protect the SSB at larval and pupal stages right through

to the butterfly's emergence, from predators, especially parasitic wasps, and in return the larvae and pupae of the butterfly provide a sweet sugary secretion upon which the ants feed.

### Woodlarks breeding at Purdis

Habitat has been created for nesting birds both within the centre of the site and around the woodland edge. This year for the fourth year in a row, we've been blessed with breeding Woodlarks. A family of five was seen feeding together on two of our protected scrapes on the southern section of the heath. We've also had another good year for breeding Nightingale, Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Linnet. Nightingale numbers were a little down on last year but the site still holds a very good population with five or six males heard singing in May. Garden Warbler has been a real surprise with five heard singing in May. Swifts, Swallows and House Martins continue to feed above the site and this year a pair of Hobbies were seen catching dragonflies on the eastern side. Recent records of Dartford Warbler are hard to substantiate but given this species propensity to colonise, we would hope that it will turn up as a regular breeding bird in the future.

We've also created habitat for mammals (such as Hedgehog) and reptiles and amphibians (such as Viviparous Lizard and Slow-worm). The site holds an extremely good/excellent population of these reptiles. After David Dowding's work on Glow-worm a few years ago, the site is recognised as an important one for this species. Certainly, over 20 were counted this year by David Basham and Helen Saunders on one particular night.

### Purple Emperor butterfly

This species which was considered extinct in Suffolk not so long ago, can now turn up almost anywhere in the county, especially in woodland containing a good coverage of Sallow (*Salix caprea/Salix cinerea*). This year, it has again been seen in new places by dedicated enthusiasts and casual observers. Stack Wood in Polstead is one such place. Another is Wolves Wood near



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

Membership Secretary  
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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.*

Hadleigh. A female was seen in Brookhill Wood near the Nuffield Hospital in Ipswich last year, and Adrian Richards re-visited this year and found two males. Other good woods for iris around Suffolk include Bonny Wood, Reydon Wood and Millennium Wood. By the time you receive this edition of LWN, the Purple

© Phil Corley



Silver studded blues and ants have a special relationship

© Julian Dowding



Emperor season will be long finished but please keep it in mind for next year. The species is usually on the wing from the end of June (sometimes a little earlier) and its flight season is about five weeks, lasting pretty much until the end of July and sometimes into August.

### Suffolk Branch Butterfly Conservation AGM & Members Event – 17th November 2018

Earl Stonham Village Hall 2.30pm

Guest speaker: Patrick Barkham, author (Butterfly Isles: A Summer In Search Of Our Emperors and Admirals) and journalist (features writer for The Guardian).

We also hold our annual photo competition event at the AGM.

More details at [www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk/events](http://www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk/events)

# A year of extreme weather

**Gi Grieco**

From a wildlife point of view the weather has been a big talking point in 2018 - from the start of the year with cold, snowy conditions and 'the Beast from the East' to the exceptionally hot and low-rainfall summer.

Certain species have been hit from the cold weather with Cetti's Warbler numbers crashing on the Suffolk coast, while Kingfishers have been found moribund or dead and subsequently seen in lower numbers. Early feedback from Barn Owl monitoring suggests 2018 will be a poor breeding season and this is thought to relate to lack of prey, again due to the weather we had earlier in the year. Once records are submitted and data assessed we will get a full picture of how species have fared this year.



**Suffolk  
Ornithologists'  
Group**

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*SOG is the Group for people interested in the birds of Suffolk, and provides a network and a voice for birdwatchers in the county.*

Data from 2017 has been sent to the section writers for the Suffolk Bird Report (SBR) that will appear with a systematic list of species accounts, articles, papers, photographs plus a review of the year. Each year SBR is published around Christmas and gives a comprehensive view of the birds in the county for the previous year. It is important that records and observations are submitted to the county recorders. In Suffolk there are three, covering north-east, south-east

and west, details on how to submit bird records can be found here: [sogonline.org.uk/suffolk-bird-list-recording](http://sogonline.org.uk/suffolk-bird-list-recording)

## Summer field trips

Our two field trips in June were based on seeing Nightjar. We're lucky to have these amazing birds breeding in Suffolk. There is nothing better than standing out on a heathland late evening, on the Suffolk Sandlings or in the Brecks listening to their evocative sound, hoping for a close fly-by when you can hear some of their other calls and wing-clapping display. On both trips, Nightjar numbers were down compared to previous years.

When standing out in the dark, other wildlife sounds fill the still night, such as the hooting of Tawny Owl and the barking of Muntjac but one species we've not encountered for many years and which was a precursor to the main event was Woodcock. Their display, known as roding, occurs as the light starts to fall and they fly in large loops around an area. You know that soon after, it would be time for the Nightjar to show. Sadly Woodcock has declined greatly as a breeding species and we haven't encountered any on our trips in recent years. This year one member did find a roosting congregation of Silver-studded Blues and we all admired this stunning butterfly, a specialist of the heathland we were visiting. On the other June trip, to Minsmere, we visited the wetlands before heading up on to the heath. We saw some very smart Black-tailed Godwits and Spotted Redshanks and in Bittern Hide, perched in a bush out front, was a Marsh Harrier that we were pleased to see so well.

Our July field trip was to Redgrave and Lopham Fen, this is the excellent Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve in the north of the



*Marsh Harrier*



*Silver-studded Blue*



*Fen raft spider*

county. The trip is as much to see other wildlife as it is for birds and we weren't disappointed seeing bountiful butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies as well as a special species for the reserve – Fen Raft Spider. We encountered a few bird species such as Marsh Harrier and Grey Heron but now we look forward to our autumn field trips for migrant birds.



*Spotted Redshank*



# Volunteering promotes well-being

**Ann Havard**

A clear, warm day in April saw the Friends clearing the viewing mound in Belstead Meadows.

The nettles here were totally obscuring the view of the open water having grown tall after heavy rain. Pulling nettles is hard work but very satisfying when you can finally walk up the path and see the water again. We disturbed a snoozing grass snake which gave Dave quite a shock as he pulled up what he thought was a handful of nettles but which then started moving! Great to have such a close encounter.

Spring Wood Day on Monday 7th May was the usual busy day with bright sunshine and full of happy people enjoying nature on their doorstep. The Friends set up their gazebo with the old fashioned children's activity of printing with cut potatoes. Ann had pre-cut the spuds into various shapes and encouraged the children to draw around their hand and wrist to make a tree trunk. They then decorated the fingers or branches with the potatoes dipped in various brightly coloured paints. One budding artist, Maggie, made a really lovely tree and all the children enjoyed painting.

Unfortunately, the nettles on the viewing mound in Belstead Meadows never rest and had grown tall again, so we set to work once more in June to enable people



Maggie and her painting

to view the wildlife on the open water without being seen themselves. No snake this time but several spiders scurrying about with a 'sack' of spiderlings underneath their bodies.

Despite the serious lack of rain for about two months, the vegetation never seems to stop growing and in July we tackled the Grove Hill end of the A14 tree belt path. With a record nine volunteers we cleared a

fair bit of the path of nettles, brambles, field maple and hazel. We were careful to leave over-hanging branches higher up for the arboreal dormouse and it was good to see their favourite food – hazel nuts beginning to ripen on the trees.

If you are wondering whether or not nature conservation work or volunteering is for you, then Research by the New Economics Foundation

*We'd love to see new faces help at our work parties...*

based on the work of 400 scientists worldwide may help to convince you. They have identified five ways, all involving the great outdoors, that promote well-being:

1. **Be active:** go outside for a walk or explore your nearest nature reserve.
2. **Connect:** interact with people around you and share wildlife experiences.
3. **Take notice:** observe the everyday wildlife on your doorstep.
4. **Keep learning:** let nature be your teacher and try something new outside.
5. **Give:** do something to help your local area and the people who live there.

We'd love to see new faces help at our work parties, so why not give it a try and do yourself some good at the same time.



## Friends of Belstead Brook Park

www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/fobbp  
Email: fobbp@greenlivingcentre.org.uk  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/fobbp

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.



Our nine volunteers tackled the woodland path...



...and what an improvement!



# Going truly wild in Ipswich

**Lucy Shepherd** *SWT Ipswich Wild Learning Officer*

I am lucky to be based around the town's fantastic network of beautiful and historic parks and wild spaces. With this in mind, myself and fellow Ipswich-based colleague Ali North, considered how we can go truly wild in Ipswich showcasing the wonderful urban wildlife the town has to boast.

One way was to take part in The Wildlife Trusts national campaign '30 Days Wild', a month long nature challenge asking people to do something wild every day in June. We started with a night safari in Holywells Park with pipistrelle bats and tawny owls. Our adventures have taken us to Pipers Vale, teeming with stag beetles and Purdis Heath to



*More data for the PTES Stag beetle survey*



*A glow worm hunt*

search for glow worms, then to Chantry park to climb a cedar tree and to the river in town to ogle at gooseberry and moon jellyfish.

Many people joined us and recorded what they were seeing contributing to important data bases such as PTES stag beetle survey and the UK glow worm survey.

It is an exciting time for SWT in Ipswich as we continue to host learning activities and community events across the town inspiring children and adults alike. We are looking forward to continuing our wild experiences into the winter months and hope you can join us along the way. More information from [ipswich.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:ipswich.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

## Ipswich Hedgehog Highways

**Ali North** *SWT Ipswich Hedgehog Officer*

### 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)

Our Ipswich hedgehog project is making a network of hedgehog-friendly streets across the town, linking together green spaces like parks, allotments and cemeteries. It aims to enthuse neighbourhoods to take actions in their own gardens and streets.

Helping hedgehogs is easy – by creating linked gardens. A hedgehog-sized hole, log piles, wildflower patches and reduced mowing will all help. These 'Hedgehog Highways' will ensure hedgehogs have the area needed to survive and will help keep them away from hazardous roads.

Will you let us make a hedgehog-sized hole in your garden fence, gate or wall? We have drills available that can make holes in walls and fences, for creating Hedgehog Highways. Hedgehog Champions provide free drilling days in their local neighbourhoods! They invite neighbours to book an appointment using our postcards. Would you like



*Barnes hedgehogs offer drilling days – these are examples of the holes created. The first 50 holes made in Ipswich will receive a free Hedgehog Highway plaque.*

to borrow our kit to offer the same service? Or would you like to have holes created but

don't have the tools needed? Email me at [hedgehogs@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:hedgehogs@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

Our 'Making Ipswich the most hedgehog friendly town in the UK' project is a 2 year project funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

More information about our project and how you can get involved can be found here:

[www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/hedgehogs-action](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/hedgehogs-action).



# Urban Buzz Ipswich - half way there

**David Dowding**

Urban Buzz Ipswich is a community conservation project, to create and enhance 100 sites for pollinators spanning 25 hectares across Ipswich.

Reaching the midway point of the project I have now completed 48 sites. This consists of 17 town parks and nine nature reserves, seven community areas, three roadsides verges, three allotments, four schools, three business grounds and a sea wall. Of these 48, there have been 30 grassland improvements, the remainder a mixture of hedgerows, orchards, woodland and formal plantings, bee banks and ponds.

A before (March) and after (July) photo of Sidegate school,



who have been creating a large wildlife area at the edge of their playing fields. This school is very much

leading the way with nature conservation in Ipswich, regularly working with Greenways, Buglife, Ipswich

Borough Council and Suffolk Wildlife Trust through a range of projects.

## Breeding Swift Success

**Chris Courtney**

For the second year running I have successfully attracted swifts to breed in specially designed boxes on the north-facing front of my Ipswich house. There are nest boxes for six pairs plus a further five holes where I have removed the covers from ventilation holes under the soffits.

As last year, there have been at least three pairs actively breeding. This year another 5-6 pairs, have been seen going into all of the other nest boxes and several of the soffit ventilation holes.

I suspect several of these will be younger pairs who typically put in claims for nest sites for the following year when they will hopefully return as mature birds. Swifts pair-bond for life but don't breed until their fourth year.

I feel truly privileged to have these amazing but now sadly officially endangered birds visiting us for just three brief months, as for the rest of

the year they are essentially African birds.

A couple of my neighbours have also put up some boxes which this year resulted in more successful breeding and has given rise to large 'screaming parties' tearing down the street on the warm summer evenings. For more info or advice on nest boxes please email [chrisc.courtney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisc.courtney@yahoo.co.uk)



One of the Ipswich boxes in use

**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)



Young swift siblings look out at the world

# Events Diary

For events covering a broader range of environmental issues go to [www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/diary/diary.php](http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/diary/diary.php)

## SEPTEMBER

**Saturday 1st September 11am - 3.30pm**  
**Greenways MARTLESHAM COMMON OPEN DAY**

Guided walks on wildlife and history, 'wildlife homes' and other children's activities, and the chance to see heathland species up close – especially butterflies, moths and reptiles. **More information from the Greenways Project [james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk) 01473 433995**



**Saturday 8th September 9am Suffolk Ornithologists Group OUTDOOR EVENT**  
Fingringhoe Wick. Meet at visitor centre car park, South Green Road. Map Ref: TM048193. **Leader: Ashley Gooding. Tel. 07808 044611.**

**Sunday 9th September 10am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING**  
Minsmere for seasonal birds and wildlife. Meet at Visitor Centre. 5 - 6 hours easy walking. **Leader Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**

**Thursday 13th September 7.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group INDOOR MEETING**  
Edward Jackson of 'Save Our Swifts' project. Sponsored by A W Hart Builders. Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, The Street, Rushmere IP5 1DH. **Details from Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**

**Saturday 15th September 8.30am Suffolk Ornithologists Group OUTDOOR EVENT**  
Shingle Street and Hollesley Marsh. Meet at Coastguard Cottages. (Long walk possible). Map Ref: TM369431. **Leader: Steve Fryett. Tel. 01394 383413**

**Saturday 15th September 9am - 11am Portal Woodlands Conservation Group NATURE EXPLORERS** 11 to 18 year olds. Meet at the Education Area. Booking essential, **please email [pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com](mailto:pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com)**

**Saturday 15th September 9am to noon. Greenways Countryside Project RIVER CLEAN-UP**  
River clean-up along the tidal reach in the town, as part of the Marine Conservation Society Beach-clean weekend. Join Greenways and Ipswich Wildlife Group to remove large items from the tidal river between Stoke Bridge and the station. Meet near the skate park at Stoke Bridge. **Contact Greenways 01473 433995 for more details.**

**Saturday 15th September 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group WORK MORNING**  
All ages welcome no need to book. Meet at the Education Area. **For details contact [pwcg.onesuffolk.net](mailto:pwcg.onesuffolk.net)**

**Tuesday 18th September 10am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK**  
Holywells Park. Meet at Stable Block off Cliff Lane TM176432. **Leader Kathy Reynolds 01473 714839.**

**Wednesday 26th September 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK**  
Matthew Rooney - 'How Mushrooms Can Save the Planet'. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF. A charge of £2.50 includes tea or coffee. There is disabled access.

**Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th September Suffolk Ornithologists Group OUTDOOR EVENT**  
Orford Ness (National Trust) Reserve. Some places available to stay overnight on Saturday in self-catering dormitories. Current entrance fees will apply. Map Ref: TM425495. Leaders: Gi Grieco and Eddie Bathgate. **For further details and to reserve your place, contact Gi Grieco. Tel. 07951 482547.**

## OCTOBER

**Thursday 11th October 7.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group INDOOR MEETING**  
'Unwrapping Raptors' David Darrell-Lambert, ornithologist and past Chair of London Bird Club. Sponsored by 'Mind the Crustacean - the Best Band You've Never Heard Of'. Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, The Street, Rushmere IP5 1DH. **Details from Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**

**Saturday 13th October 11am - 2pm Friends of Holywells Park APPLE DAY**  
Come and enjoy freshly pressed apple juice and apples galore. Fun for all the family in the Park Orchard. Free event, all welcome. **For more information email [fohpsipswich@gmail.com](mailto:fohpsipswich@gmail.com)**

**Sunday 14th October 7.30am Suffolk Ornithologists Group OUTDOOR EVENT**  
Thorpeness – Birdtrack in the Field. Meet by Dolphin Inn, Old Homes Road. Map Ref: TM472598. **Leader: Scott Mayson Tel. 01394 385595.**

**Sunday 14th October 10am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING**  
RSPB Hollesley Marsh and River Ore for waders and Autumn birds. Meet at car park TM370448. 2 - 3 hours. **Leader Stephen Marginson 01473 258791.**

**Tuesday 16th October 10am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK**  
Pipers Vale. Meet at car park at Vale entrance TM178419. **Leader Kathy Reynolds 01473 714839.**

**Saturday 20th October 10am Ipswich Wildlife Group JUBILEE WALK**  
A guided walk with James Baker manager of the Greenways Countryside Project around this Local Nature Reserve at Rushmere St Andrew. The two mile route brings together the Sandlings and Mill Stream LNR's. Meet at the Reserve entrance in Bixley Drive off Foxhall Road near the Water Tower. **More details from James Baker 07736 826076 [james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk)**

**Sunday 21st October 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group WORK MORNING**  
All ages welcome no need to book. Meet at the Education Area. **For details contact [pwcg.onesuffolk.net](mailto:pwcg.onesuffolk.net)**

**Wednesday 24th October 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK**  
Will Cranstoun - Lackford Lakes. Will is the SWT West Suffolk reserves manager at Lackford Lakes. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF. A charge of £2.50 includes tea or coffee. There is disabled access.

**Saturday 27th October 8am Suffolk Ornithologists Group OUTDOOR EVENT**  
Autumn Open Morning at Landguard Bird Observatory. Meet at main car park, View Point Road, Felixstowe. Map Ref: TM284319. **Leader: Nigel Odin. For details contact Gi Grieco. Tel. 07951 482547.**

## NOVEMBER

**Thursday 8th November 7.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group INDOOR MEETING**  
'Australia North and South' Bill Coster, wildlife photographer. Sponsored by Alder Carr Farm Needham Market. Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, The Street, Rushmere IP5 1DH. **Details from Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**

**Tuesday 13th November 10am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK**  
Bourne Bridge area and Park. Meet at Bourne Park car park, Bourne Bridge entrance. **Leader Kathy Reynolds 01473 714839.**



**Saturday 17th November 9am Suffolk Ornithologists Group OUTDOOR EVENT**  
The Naze. Meet at visitor centre car park, South Green Road. Map Ref: TM265234. **Leader: Ashley Gooding. Tel. 07808 044611.**

**Saturday 17th November 9am - 11am Portal Woodlands Conservation Group NATURE EXPLORERS** 11 to 18 year olds. Meet at the Education Area. Booking essential, **please email [pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com](mailto:pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com)**

**Saturday 17th November 9.30am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING**  
River Deben at Melton for winter wildfowl and waders. Meet at Melton Riverside car park TM288503. **Leader Stephen Marginson 01473 258791.**

**Saturday 17th November 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group WORK MORNING**  
All ages welcome no need to book. Meet at the Education Area. **For details contact [pwcg.onesuffolk.net](mailto:pwcg.onesuffolk.net)**



**Saturday 17th November 2.30pm Suffolk Branch Butterfly Conservation AGM and MEMBERS EVENT**

Earl Stonham Village Hall. Guest speaker Patrick Barkham, author and journalist. We also hold our annual photo competition at the event. **More details on [www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk/events](http://www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk/events)**

**Sunday 18th November 10am- 3.30pm Greenways Countryside Project MEGABASH**

Belstead Brook Park part 1. Join Greenways and other groups to make a real difference in the Park – coppicing in Spring Wood, Millennium Wood and Kiln Meadow. Includes a bonfire and baked potatoes! Meet at Bobbitts Lane Car Park. **Contact Greenways 01473 433995 for more information.**

**Wednesday 28th November 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK**

Tim Kenny - Wildlife of the Galapagos Islands. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF. A charge of £2.50 includes tea or coffee. There is disabled access.

## DECEMBER

**Saturday 1st December 9.30am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING**

River Orwell Freston for winter wildfowl and waders. Meet at Freston Hill upper lay-by TM175400. 2 - 3 hours. **Leader Stephen Marginson 01473 258791.**

**Sunday 2nd December 10am Suffolk Ornithologists Group OUTDOOR EVENT**  
Lackford and Lakenheath. Meet at Lackford SWT car park. (Long walk possible – finish at Lakenheath Fen for dusk raptor roost). Map Ref: TL800705. Leader: Ivan Lockwood. **For details contact Gi Grieco. Tel. 07951 482547.**

**Saturday 8th December 9.30am Suffolk Ornithologists Group OUTDOOR EVENT**  
Holbrook, River Stour. Meet at Lower Holbrook car park, (Long walk possible). Map Ref: TM177350. **Leader: Steve Fryett. Tel. 01394 383413.**

**Saturday 8th December 10am - 3.30pm Greenways Countryside Project MEGABASH**  
Belstead Brook Park part 2. Join Greenways and other groups to make a real difference in the Park – clearing scrub in Kiln Meadow and Bobbitts Lane Meadows etc. Includes a bonfire and baked potatoes! Meet at Marbled White Drive entrance to Kiln Meadow Contact Greenways 01473 433995.

**Wednesday 12th December 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK**

David Healey - Shorebirds of the British Isles. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF. A charge of £2.50 includes tea or coffee. There is disabled access.

**Thursday 13th December 7.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group INDOOR MEETING**

Christmas Social Evening with 'bring and share buffet' and 'Scotland - Highlands



and Islands' with Tim Kenny. Sponsored by Ipswich Microwave Centre. Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, The Street, Rushmere IP5 1DH. **Details from Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**

**Sunday 16th December 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group WORK MORNING**

All ages welcome no need to book. Meet at the Education Area. **For details contact [pwcg.onesuffolk.net](http://pwcg.onesuffolk.net)**

**Tuesday 18th December 10am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK**

Christchurch Park. Meet at Soane Street entrance TM165448. **Leader Kathy Reynolds 01473 714839.**

## JANUARY

**Wednesday 23rd January 2019 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK**

Anne and Dennis Kell - Natural History of the Falkland Islands. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF. There is disabled access.

# Regular Events

**THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 10.30am - 1pm SPRING WOOD WORK PARTY**

Join Ipswich Wildlife Group and Friends of Belstead Brook Park for a morning of work in the wood. Meet at the field gate at top of bridleway in Kiln Meadow. **Details from Gerry Donlon 07733 968481**

**TUESDAYS 10am 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](mailto:greenways.project@ipswich.gov.uk) or call 01473 433995.**

**WEDNESDAYS 10am Friends of Holywells Park HOLYWELLS PARK WORK PARTY**

Besides doing positive work as part of a small team of volunteers your time will be matched by cash from the Lottery enabling further work in the Park. Meet at the Stable Block located down the driveway from Cliff Lane. **Contact Martin Cant for details 07858 436003**

**SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH Friends of The Dales WORK PARTY**

**Contact Jessica Allen for the details [jallen7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jallen7@hotmail.co.uk).**

**THURSDAYS 10am Greenways CONSERVATION WORK PARTY**

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

**SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 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 10am 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.

**THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 10am 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, Bobbitts Lane, Ipswich. **More information from Martin Cant 07858 436003 [martin.cant@ntlworld.com](mailto: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. Meet at Bibb Way alongside Alderman Road recreation ground. **More information from Ray Sidaway 01473 259104.**

**FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 10am Butterfly Conservation WORK PARTY (October to March)**

Meet at Purdis Heath to help restore the heath for the benefit of butterflies and other wildlife. Use the lay-by in Bucklesham Road. **More information from Helen Saunders [helens919@gmail.com](mailto:helens919@gmail.com)**

**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: [www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/fobbp](http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/fobbp) or email [fobbp@greenlivingcentre.org.uk](mailto:fobbp@greenlivingcentre.org.uk)**

**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**

**LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 10am - 1pm Ipswich Wildlife Group WILDLIFE ALLOTMENT**

Come and lend a hand to help create our wildlife friendly plot. **More information from Ray Sidaway 01473 259104.**

Be a part of this year's

## **BELSTEAD MEGABASH**

**Sunday 18th November 10am- 3.30pm**

Join Greenways and other groups to make a real difference in the wonderfully wild Belstead Brook Park woodlands and meadows. We will be coppicing in Spring Wood, Millennium Wood and Kiln Meadow. Includes a bonfire and baked potatoes! Meet at Bobbits Lane Car Park.

**Saturday 8th December 10am - 3.30pm**

For this second Megabash we will be clearing scrub in Kiln Meadow and Bobbits Lane Meadows. There will be another bonfire and more baked potatoes! Meet at Marbled White Drive entrance to Kiln Meadow.



Contact Greenways 01473 433995 for more information

**Saturday 20th October 10am - 12noon**

## **Jubilee Walk**

Ipswich Wildlife Group invite you to join a guided walk with James Baker manager of the Greenways Countryside Project around this Local Nature Reserve at Rushmere St Andrew.

The two mile route brings together the Sandlings and Mill Stream LNR's.

Meet at the Reserve entrance in Bixley Drive off Foxhall Road near the Water Tower.

More information from [james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk) 07736 826076.