

The wild flower 'pollinator hotspot'
at The Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm
- see page 11

Local Wildlife news

September - December 2019

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



Snippets

Landseer Road Spectacular



IBC Ranger Dave Dowding reports that the show of wild flowers and butterflies at Landseer Park this year has been spectacular. The photograph shows a stunning Marbled White, a seldom seen butterfly in Suffolk, flanked by Skippers. Dave estimates that there were 25 species of butterfly recorded along with many dragonflies, bees and damselflies during the summer.

Toadlets on the march *Colin Hullis*



One morning in mid-July, after a night of rain, I took a walk along the Tomline Wall which borders the inland side of Felixstowe Ferry golf course. For a 20 metre stretch along the grassy footpath I encountered hundreds of tiny toadlets struggling through the blades of grass, all heading in the same direction. Continuing my birding walk, I returned to the toadlet stretch half an hour later - not a sign of even one toadlet! I guess they were all on the same journey all at the same time.

A lucky Swiftlet called Fidget

Chris Courtney tells us of a young 'swiftlet' that was rescued from a doorway in Tokio Road, Ipswich on the 10th July and was being cared for in Aldeburgh by Alan and Christine Collett of 'Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts' a Swift conservation and rescue project, see www.aldeburghsamazingswifts.co.uk

Named 'Fidget' as he wouldn't stay still, Alan was hand feeding him as he wouldn't take it himself. Hopes are that he will thrive and make his way back to Africa and return to us next year.

Chris also tells us that 2019 was a record year for the Swifts in Marlborough Road with lots of occupied boxes and fledged young.



Rare Whopper

This image of *Bombus ruderatus*, the Large Garden Bumble was sent in by Julian Dowding. It was photographed on Landseer Park in mid-July and Julian's research suggests that it is a first for Ipswich and is nationally notable and also, is actually a melanic form, so is quite rare. It is a real whopper of a bee too.



The buzz of a wildlife allotment

The Ipswich Wildlife Group allotment plot was a blaze of colour this summer thanks to the wildflower seed we sowed last year. Loads of cornflowers and ox-eye daisies but it was the poppies that sprung up everywhere that dominated. The nectar-rich plants are in an excellent position as our neighbours have recently installed four bee hives.



Welcome

by James Baker *Editor*

Wildlife on the Move

This edition seems to be full of stories of wildlife moving, for lots of different reasons! Everything from the extraordinary journey of swifts and painted ladies, which fill me with awe every time I think about it, to the Friends of Holywells Park relocating a wild bee colony from underneath a garden shed! Julian Dowding's article on page 19 describes the full wonder of the painted lady's life cycle and interestingly shows us how man-made climate change is allowing this species and many others to move north more than ever before. Whilst exciting to see new and different butterfly species, we have to recognise that other species will be pushed out of their traditional range by such changes. But elsewhere in this edition there are stories of people helping species – relocating potentially doomed newts on page 12 and “headstarting” black-tailed godwit chicks on page 14. In fact this magazine, as always, demonstrates how much people are doing in the area to help wildlife in a variety of ways. The events section bears this out.

As well as the negative impacts of climate change on wildlife, there are other ways in which people don't help - probably without realising - as well! One example on page 18 is the

well-intentioned feeding of ducks that actually supports very high rat populations, which can impact on other species in lots of ways. Reg Snook highlights the risks that rats pose to birds eggs and chicks, but often more of an issue is the consequent use of rat poison which accumulates up the food chain affecting birds of prey, foxes, badgers etc.

In the previous edition of Local Wildlife News we said there would be a final report on the Urban Buzz project in this edition – apologies but it will now appear in the next edition. But for now I hope you enjoy the front cover showing one of the project's new 'pollinator hotspots' in full flower.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has been involved in the Greenways Project throughout its first 25 years of operation – a milestone reached on the 4th of July this year. Whilst the Project's funding situation is very difficult (see last years annual report on page 8) I sincerely hope that with everyone's continued support the Project will continue to care for wildlife habitats and provide opportunities for people to be involved for many more years to come.



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Committee Report

Wendy Brown *Secretary of the SWT Ipswich Group*

I am writing this edition of the committee notes with the roses in full bloom and putting on a wonderful show. Unlike the previous Wildlife News that was written in the winter at the time, when I was only able to imagine the spring. I am happy with the thought that there will not be such a season change this time and the roses will still be blooming in September although not so prolifically.

Over the summer months the Ipswich Group committee members enjoy the fruits of their labours with the members and friends; there was a very enjoyable coach trip, two successful walks and a garden opened for us that was very inspiring for gardeners.

The talks for the winter season are all organised and the Methodist Church in Black Horse Lane is booked for another season.

The urban garden birds have been interesting and different this year. It is good to see that greenfinches are returning to our urban gardens in small numbers. Their numbers declined rapidly from 2006 due to the outbreak of Trichomonosis, a disease caused by a parasitic protozoan. The main symptom is a swelling at the back of the throat, making swallowing impossible. This parasite cannot withstand desiccation and is mostly spread via food and water. It is therefore essential that bird feeders, water baths and feeding stations should be kept clean and disinfected regularly. This parasite is harmless to humans but

can affect other bird species including sparrows, great tits and dunnocks. Much more about this and other wildlife diseases can be found at www.gardenwildlifehealth.org

it is always exciting when an unexpected visitor is seen in the garden...

The fir tree not far from the house had nesting magpies for the first time. Our attention was drawn to two magpies who were going berserk because two squirrels were raiding their nest. The magpies recovered from this incident and have also seen off the carrion crows who came and sat on the tree and appeared to taunt them. The magpies continued noisily in residence, but I never knew if they added to the increasing urban population of this species.

I had thought of the magpies as being the top predators and feared for the smaller songbirds. However, the

songbirds have had a good year and baby goldfinch, greenfinch, dunnock, robin and blackbird have been noted in the garden. The sparrows were more numerous than I ever remember and there was one male that chirped his way through the summer completely unaware of people. He had attendant mates, but I never found nests or saw any chicks.

It is always exciting when an unexpected visitor is seen in the garden; on two occasions there were alarm calls from the blackbirds and then out of the hedge and flying low over the fence was a sparrowhawk. I don't think it found its lunch this time, perhaps that is why it returned to try on the second occasion.

We look forward to welcoming you to the first of our autumn talks that is being given by Michael Strand of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust who is speaking about the Trust's work on Creating Wildness. It will be interesting to hear how the Trust is now managing their reserves in a way which encourages them to revert to their wild state.



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. Trust members and non-members are equally welcome. During the summer months we offer a variety of trips, some local, others by coach. Details of these and our monthly meetings can be found in our "Dates for your Diary" section or on the website, www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org.

Have you seen our Facebook page yet?

The SWT Ipswich group is now sharing the 'Suffolk Wildlife Trust in Ipswich' Facebook page. If you are on Facebook why not come and follow us, you will find our page if you search for:-

[@swtipswich](https://www.facebook.com/swtipswich)

If you're not on Facebook you can always look at the page by typing the following into your preferred browser:-

<https://www.facebook.com/swtipswich/>



The large, domed nest of a magpie

© Colin Hullis

Coach Trip to Sculthorpe Moor and Gooderstone Water Gardens

all photographs © Kevin Murrill



The enchanting Gooderstone Water Gardens

On May 25th, a party of us gathered at Crown Street for the 23rd annual SWT coach trip. The weather was perfect - warm and sunny.



The tree creeper seen at Sculthorpe

Our first stop was to Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve in the beautiful Wensum Valley, North Norfolk, owned by the Hawk and Owl Trust. It is a peaceful place with a huge variety of wildlife in a rich and unusual mosaic of woodland, fen and reedbed.

There are five bird hides and a selection of benches to sit and watch nature. Many



Magnificent male bullfinch

of us were lucky enough to spot both male and female bullfinches, tree creepers, nuthatches, a cuckoo in flight and a red kite. Sculthorpe is famous for having numerous birdfeeders around the reserve, making spotting the birds that bit easier. Due to the lovely weather there were also plenty of butterflies and dragonflies on the wing. Although only 45 acres, the Hawk and Owl Trust have managed the surrounding land for many years and are in the process of buying it, making the reserve close to 200 acres.

Our next stop was Gooderstone Water Gardens, West Norfolk. These enchanting gardens cover six acres, and encompass four ponds, a natural



Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Ipswich Group Newsletter

trout stream and lots of benches to sit and admire the view. There is also an eight-acre nature trail. The highlight for most people were the pair of kingfishers viewed from the bird hide; some of us were even lucky enough to spot one of the two juveniles the parents had reared. Half of the bird hide was roped off due to a nesting wren – the parents were busy feeding their brood. After a long day the large café was also welcomed by many of us.



Kingfishers captured at Gooderstone

Muntons Wildlife Walks

An SWT trip to Stowmarket

One early evening in May, a group of members experienced the wildlife around Muntons malt factory near Stowmarket.

Being in the flood plain of the River Gipping some of their site is unsuitable for building. So, an enthusiastic group of employees called the 'Wildlife Crew' volunteered to develop

and maintain a wildlife site on about 20 acres of Muntons' land.

Our walk started down by a very pretty one kilometer stretch of the Gipping, the ideal length for the bat surveys which are carried out here. The river is bordered at this point by a line of tall, straight trunked willows. Melissa, our guide, encouraged us to nip off any side shoots we could reach as these trees will eventually be felled for making cricket bats.

On leaving this managed area of wetland we entered the 'wild floodplain'. The trees beside the river here

could not have been more different to the straight and perfect willows. We passed three old and characterful ash trees. The first was a nesting site for kestrels and also a swarm of bees. The second had survived a lightning strike and an arson attack, so was severely charred lower down, but above this had a healthy strong trunk. The third ash in the row had a double trunk, very gnarled but again thriving.

Across a wide open space from here we could not miss the sound and sight of hundreds of rooks preparing to roost. There are 172 nests on this site making it the

largest rookery in Suffolk, probably! As we continued to follow the fragrant mown paths through this wild area, we came across some of the handiwork of the Wildlife Crew volunteers. There was a bug hotel, a bird hide, a beehive and various benches. All these items were made from wood found on site or donated. They have no budget for their work. All this is done for the benefit of Muntons' employees and visitors like us.

It makes you wonder how many other industrial sites around the country might have unused land which could be managed for wildlife in a similar way.



Ipswich Group Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

All Meetings will be held at 7.30pm at Museum Street Methodist Church, 17 Black Horse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF. £2.50 includes tea and coffee. There is disabled access.

Wednesday 25th September 2019

Michael Strand Creating Wildness

The Suffolk Wildlife Trust has adopted a new approach to conservation management in its nature reserves, trying to recreate areas which are as near as possible to what they would have been in their wild state, before the intervention of man. Michael, who is fundraising manager for the SWT, will explain how they go about this, and the benefits it provides for wildlife.

Wednesday 23rd October 2019

Sue Alderman (Hare Preservation Trust) Hares

Hares, one of Britain's best loved mammals, have inhabited these islands from ancient times. Easily identified by their black tipped ears and long back legs, they can reach speeds of 45 miles an hour. But today they are under serious threat. The numbers have fallen by more than 80% over the last hundred years. Shooting and hare coursing have contributed to this decline, but now there is a serious and as yet unidentified disease, which is reducing their numbers even further.

Wednesday 27th November 2019

Dr Hugh Hanmer (BTO) Sounds of the Night

Hugh is a BTO research ecologist and the co-ordinator of the BTO's "Project Owl". In his talk he will discuss all the owls of the UK, their distribution and movements, the current monitoring efforts, and the many gaps in our knowledge about this often mysterious family of birds. We will learn how "Project Owl", a set of inter-related owl research schemes, hopes to help fill these gaps, and lead to a better understanding, so that we can help to conserve these elusive and beautiful birds.

Wednesday 11th December 2019

Dr Chris Gibson An East Anglian Story

Chris has worked for most of his life for English Nature, and now, in his "retirement" is sharing his love of the natural world through his passion for photography, lecturing, writing, and being a tour guide. He describes this talk as "A canter through 60 million years of what is now East Anglia, looking at geological, climatic, social and historical facts that have left their mark on the landscape and wildlife that we see today". I am sure you will enjoy this Christmas talk and the mince pies to accompany it.

For more information search: "About Me—Chris Gibson, Wildlife"

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

Learning the wild way!

Lucy Shepherd *Wild Learning Officer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust*

As Wild Learning Officer, my aim is to enthuse people in Ipswich about the wildlife that we share our town with. Whether it be through Forest School sessions, weekend wildlife clubs, teen courses, practical conservation sessions or night walks, I am lucky to work with different people across Ipswich.

Over the summer I worked with several schools for a sensory Forest School programme in Christchurch Park and on their School grounds, exploring the wildlife that lives there.

We went on feather hunts, made giant nests to sit in whilst we listening to bird song, made muddy faces using different cones, seeds and other natural bounties from Christchurch Park's veteran trees. For some of the children it was their first school trip and it was wonderful to share this experience with them.

I also work with community groups such as the Suffolk Refugees Support Group who joined me with a group of young people to explore Holywells and Christchurch Parks. We explored the freshwater invertebrates of Holywells by pond dipping. We then explored nocturnal wildlife, bat detecting in Christchurch. This provided them with their first experience of British wildlife, with some having only



Lucy (right) with members of Suffolk Refugee Support Group

recently arrived in the UK.

These are just a couple of examples of the groups that I work with and the work that I do. To be able to share people's first wild experiences is certainly a highlight of my role and I look forward to working with groups across Ipswich this Autumn.

Check out our Ipswich page on www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org or our blogs www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/blog/tag/swt-ipswich-blog for more information.



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A summer of Stags

Lucy Shepherd *Wild Learning Officer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust*

There are lots of seasonal species to spot in Ipswich that only grace us with their presence at certain times of the year and with this in mind I organised a Great Stag Hunt looking for Stag beetles.

Our hunt took us to Pipers Vale and Christchurch Park to find these magnificent beasts which are one of the UK's largest beetles with some males measuring a whopping 7.5cm. Stag beetles are great to see especially the males in flight with their antlers proudly displayed, and we found them in both locations!

Stag beetles are an iconic British species and we are lucky to have a good population of them in Ipswich which is not the case elsewhere in the country.

Whilst we had fun searching for Stags, there is also a serious side to the fun as The Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, asks people to record their Stag sightings in order to monitor how populations



are faring and to aid future conservation efforts. At the time of writing, a fantastic 7432 records were submitted across the summer. Next summer you could go on your own Stag hunt or to help these wonderful beasts over the Autumn, by creating a deadwood pile food source for Stag beetle larvae.

With lots of other activities coming up, I hope you can join me in exploring Ipswich's wild side this Autumn.

Booking is available on www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org. Follow us on @swtipswich on Facebook and Instagram.



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, East Suffolk Council and the local community.

Annual Report - April 2018 to March 2019

James Baker *Manager, Greenways Countryside Project*

This brief report covers some of what the Greenways Project has been up to in the twelve months to March 2019. For more detailed information about any of the sites or aspects of our work, please contact us.

The map below shows the approximate locations of the main areas where the Project has worked – a mix of nature reserves, parks, green spaces and school grounds etc. The pale green shading shows the extent of the Project boundary, although we now increasingly work outside that boundary on projects that meet our strategic aims of being positive for biodiversity and public enjoyment of green spaces.

How the Project is funded
The Greenways Project is a well-established and very

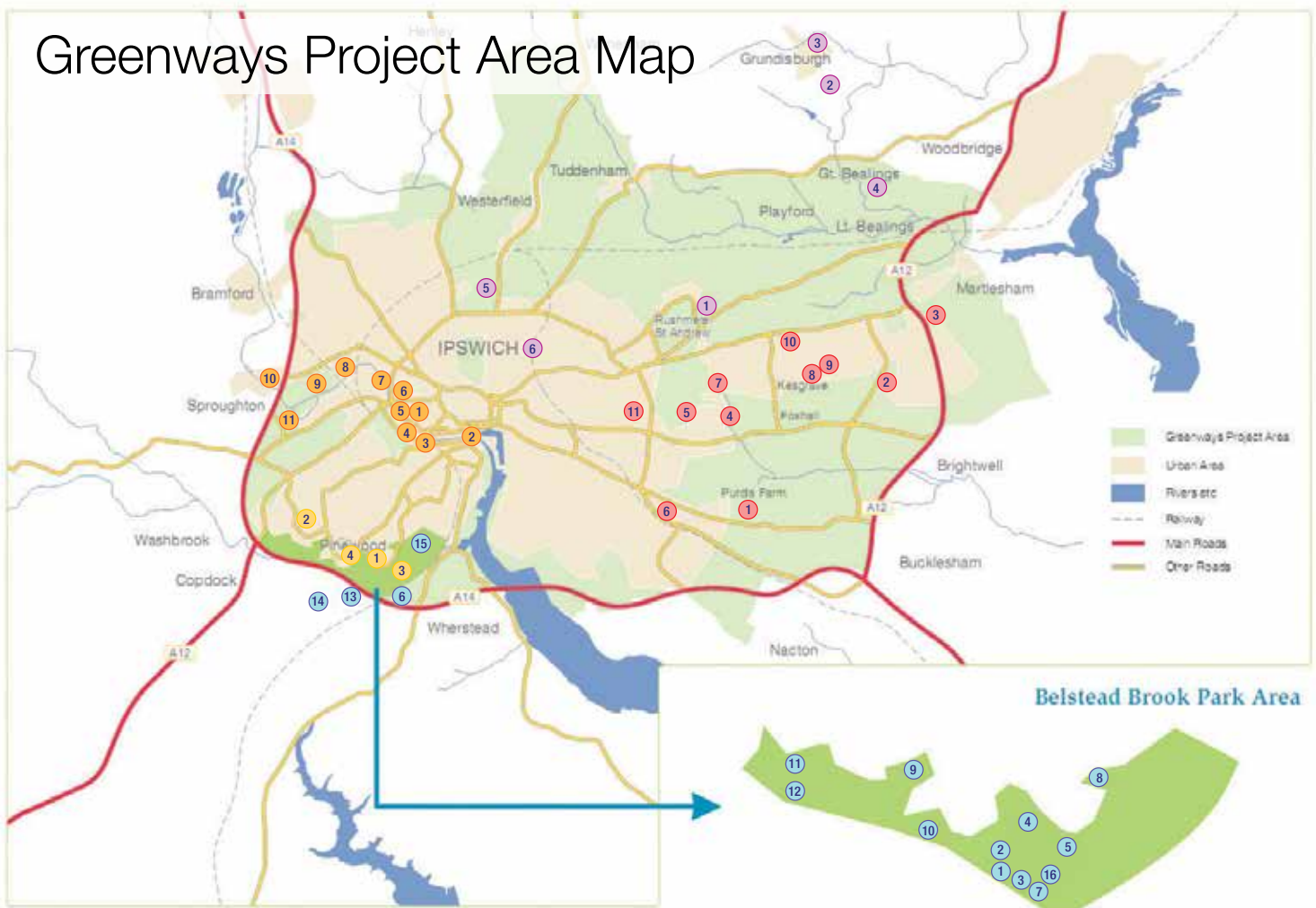
successful partnership led by Ipswich Borough Council with Babergh District Council and East Suffolk Council – now in its 25th year! Sadly, Suffolk County Council withdrew from the partnership at the end of March 2018, leaving the Project team with a considerably larger income generation target than it had before.

The total cost of the Project for the year is around £110,000, of which the three remaining partners contribute around £60,000, with IBC filling the gap left by Suffolk County Council this year. We work very hard to meet the income target by working with Parish and Town Councils in our area; seeking grants and other contributions; selling our services and carrying out additional work for the existing partner local

authorities. The need to generate income inevitably means that some work we have traditionally done can no longer be achieved.

The invaluable contribution of volunteers
For all of the 25 years the Project has existed, volunteers and local community organisations getting involved has been key to the Project's success. Volunteers carry out the widest possible range of tasks and roles from practical nature reserve management to running family events and activities. The Project and its partners benefit considerably from this huge effort – just over 1500 person days this year, equivalent to 8 full-time members of staff or almost £100,000 (based on Lottery match funding values). We hope that the volunteers also benefit from working with us

Greenways Project Area Map



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Invaluable volunteers benefit too

– learning new skills; gaining confidence; discovering new places to visit; enjoying company; experiencing wildlife and much more. The Project Team and Joint Advisory Committee would like to take this opportunity

to greatly thank everyone who helps the Project as a volunteer – your contribution is invaluable.

Events and Public Activities

The Project has run and



Tent-building at Spring Wood Day

been involved with a range of events through the year, including the ever-popular Spring Wood Day, which attracts several hundred visitors to the Wood and Kiln Meadow in Belstead Brook Park. The event is informal and old-fashioned with folk music and dancing, wildlife walks and stalls, woodcraft and other activities for children and families, camp fire baked potatoes and tea and cake!

Many of our other events are more modest in scale, and are based around encouraging children and families to make 'Wildlife Homes' to take home and put in the garden. Working with Ipswich Wildlife Group, we have helped to add thousands of bug homes, bird boxes and hedgehog houses to the gardens of Ipswich and further afield. This year, this included attending the Suffolk

Show as guests of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, where we made over 300 bug boxes with children over the two days.

Looking after our nature reserves and green spaces

By far the largest part of our work is the practical day to day management of the 50 or so nature reserves and other sites that we are involved with.

The vast majority of the staff and volunteer time is used on these activities, carrying out a very wide range of habitat management and visitor infrastructure tasks, including: coppicing woodlands, planting hedges, mowing wildflower meadows, clearing scrub from heathland, de-silting ponds and wetlands, building bridges and boardwalks, fencing, installing signs and boards, mowing and surfacing paths, picking litter and many more!

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



Volunteers building a new boardwalk

Examples of site work

Reptile fencing at Sproughton

As part of the Project's need to generate income, we undertook the construction of a reptile exclusion fence prior to the development of the former sugar beet factory at Sproughton, on behalf of the site owner, Ipswich Borough Council.

The fencing, designed to prevent reptiles straying onto the development area, was about 450m long and involved our volunteers putting in over 200 wooden posts and attaching thick plastic sheeting, dug into the ground. It was a new skill for our volunteers who hadn't had an opportunity to construct this type of fencing before. The Project is hoping to take on the future management of wildlife areas on this major development site, linking very well with our work along the rest of the river corridor.



Burnet Meadow – mowing and new management plan

A popular part of Belstead Brook Park, Burnet Meadow (8½ acres) has great wildlife but also an impressive play area and outdoor exercise equipment. The Project helps look after the site on behalf of Babergh District Council, and has recently prepared a new conservation management plan for the area.

Our work this year, as each year, has included: coppicing the tree belt woodland to keep growth away from overhead power lines, and provide habitat for woodland species (including dormice); mowing and raking the wildflower grass areas to maximise the diversity of flowering plants; and maintaining established old hedgerows.



River rubbish removal with Ipswich's MP

The town's MP, Sandy Martin, along with Ipswich Borough Councillors David Ellesmere, Carole Jones and Collette Allen and numerous local volunteers, helped us to remove large items of rubbish from the River Orwell bed between Princes Street and Bridge Street. Working in the tidal part of the river is difficult and potentially dangerous and has to be planned around the tides.



Martlesham Heath SSSI - new paths

Volunteers helped to surface two stretches of footpath across Martlesham Heath (49 acres) on behalf of the Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd., greatly improving a well-used short cut used as a route to schools and other facilities. The paths are now level and even and available in all weather conditions. The route is much shorter than the alternative of using street pavements, and obviously brings people into contact with their local Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) heathland – so, a great chance to experience wildlife too!



Mill Stream LNR Pond de-silting

As reported in the last edition of LWN, two of the ponds at the reserve were de-silted with a large excavator, at the end of the winter, to maintain some areas of open water, to maximise the value for as wide a range of species as possible. Volunteers helped to prepare for the work by clearing scrub and removing low branches to get the machine into the site. The inevitable initial muddy mess has already now disappeared as vegetation has recolonised the banks. Mill Stream is a small reserve (just over 10 acres) located in Rushmere St Andrew, just west of the Speedway Stadium.

A Summer of Success

Colin Hullis *Committee Member, Ipswich Wildlife Group*

Suffolk Show

Again this year we were invited to be part of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust wildlife area stand. After last year's success winning the Best Environmental Stand award, this year the Trust went one better and won Best Stand in the Show. Many congratulations to all those involved and IWG were proud to be part of it.

Spring Wood Day

Another great success - although the weather wasn't at its best, the event still attracted hundreds of visitors on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday.

Visitors of all ages enjoyed the sights and activities associated with woodlands, wildlife and woodcrafts. This year in addition to the regular music, maypole dancing, guided walks, story-telling and hot potatoes, there was tent-making and donkeys!



The Dales LNR

Our visit to this little-known gem of a Local Nature Reserve was a delight - until the rain came.

The 14½ acre reserve behind the houses in Dales Road is owned by Ipswich Borough Council and managed by volunteers from the Friends group. Our tour of the site was led by IBC Ranger Dave Dowding assisted by some members of the Friends group who were keen to impart their intimate knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the site. There is an amazing diversity of wildlife present from tree species and wild flowers to birds, insects and pond life.

Unfortunately our visit was cut short by a predicted torrential downpour of rain.



IWG volunteers get their hands on the Suffolk Show trophy

Events

Martin Cant continues to lead our Wildlife Homes project with great dedication and we recently enjoyed a nestbox-making session with our youngest group yet, at the Willows Daycare Centre for pre-school children. 'Get 'em while they're young', a policy

that will hopefully bear fruit.

Murrayfield Park was the venue for another wildlife event we attended along with the IBC Wildlife & Education Rangers.

We also had a most interesting session at the Open Day at The Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm in



Still smiling in the Dales 'wet' meadow!



The wonderful wild flower meadow at Oak Tree Farm

Rushmere St Andrew. This is like a giant allotment (4 acres) with large scale plots growing single crops. To date there are 50 members who pay an annual membership fee and commit to a few hours work each week. For that they enjoy a weekly supply of ultra-fresh vegetables from the farm, grown without the use of artificial fertilisers or pesticides. The harvest is shared out equally between members each week, eggs and flowers are also available. There is more information at www.the-oak-tree.co.uk



Secretary Leila Matata
leilamatata@msn.com

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.

One final success of the summer was our harvest of broad beans from the IWG allotment plot. These are known as 'Ray's Beans' as our late Chairman Ray Sidaway planted the seeds in the autumn a few weeks before he died. Thanks again Ray.

Treasures of a disused swimming pool

David Dowding Ipswich Borough Council Wildlife Team

The Wildlife Team were asked to take a look at a population of amphibians residing in a disused swimming pool at a house off Belstead Road. Disused swimming pools can naturalize into quite fantastic freshwater habitat and despite its insalubrious appearance, this was no exception.



IPSWICH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wildlife Rangers

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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.

This swimming pool had been drained and cleared of amphibians back in 2017, but the PVC swimming pool liner had fallen down and then filled with water forming another pool. As a result, returning smooth newts and a few frogs were able to survive in this mixture of water and detritus.

Initially we assumed it was just a few trapped amphibians, but on lifting up the liner we were soon to find large numbers of newts. Underneath the duckweed we found a thriving ecosystem full of tadpoles, daphnia and dragonfly larvae.

On the initial visit we removed as many amphibians as we could from under the liner. We then came back with nets and other equipment to rescue any aquatic stage amphibians from the standing water. This plastic pool held several hundred litres of shallow water and with plenty of sunlight, created good breeding habitat for amphibians. Once we had



The disused swimming pool - a fantastic freshwater habitat



Matt and Sam systematically cutting and removing sections of pond liner before removing newts underneath



A handful of immature newts from under a section of PVC material.



Pool slowly draining as liner has been removed. We sifted through the detritus with nets and trays

sifted through the water for amphibians we had to pierce the liner. Water gushed out into the bottom of the concrete base before draining and we had to be quick to get out of the way!

In total we removed 350 smooth newts, four frogs and a bucket of tadpoles. These were taken to the new wildlife pond area at Christchurch Park, where newts are yet to establish.

Bees on the Move

Yvonne Westley and Andy Smuk *Friends of Holywells Park bee-keepers*

Holywells Park has many hidden gems. The orchard, in which we hold most of our events, is one of them. This is maintained by a hardy band of volunteers who meet every Wednesday to carry out various tasks according to the season.

Hidden in a corner of this beautiful space is our Holywells Apiary, currently accommodating ten hives. The beekeepers have been looking after bees here for six years and for the last three years, we have been able to supply honey from the bees for sale in the park reception. Holywells honey has a flavour of its own as the bees are able to forage over a 3km radius which incorporates orchard blossom, meadow flowers, allotments and local gardens.

However, the main aims of keeping bees in the park are for pollination and education. We've noticed that, since we've had the hives in the orchard, the trees are more fruitful, which is a bonus as the apples, pears and quince are used at the Friends of Holywells Park 'Apple Day' event. The beekeepers also work alongside Suffolk Wildlife Trust to put on courses for young people who want to learn more about bees.

At the end of 2018, we were approached by a local resident whose garden shed had been home to a colony of bees for eight years. The



A colony of bees discovered under the garden shed

bees had made their home underneath the shed but their 'comings and goings' were beginning to restrict the family's use of the garden. We were asked if we would be able to remove the bees and relocate them to a hive in the Holywells apiary. So, with the help of the family, we attempted to do this in June this year. It was a tricky procedure which involved the shed being 'jacked up' to access the colony, including the queen and her entourage (up to 60000 bees at that time of year). We had to carefully cut away the comb, which included brood and eggs, and put them into an empty beehive.

To encourage the vast amount

of bees to stay in the hive after they had been scooped up, it was essential that the queen was present in the new hive. It was impossible to find the queen, so we just had to hope we'd transferred her successfully with the other bees. The new hive was left in position at the front of the shed, and when we returned a couple of days later, we knew we'd been successful because the bees were returning to their new home with pollen, and not back to the original site. The hive was then moved to the Holywells park apiary, where it's thriving.

Holywells honey is for sale in the park reception and also at our events. All proceeds



Friends of Holywells Park

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

Contact: fohpi@ipswich.gov.uk
www.holywellspark.org.uk
[facebook.com/holywellsparkipswich](https://www.facebook.com/holywellsparkipswich)

from the sales go back into supporting the bees and Friends events on the park. We look forward to seeing you at our next event, Apple Day, on Saturday 12 October.



Up to 6000 bees in the colony



We had to carefully cut away the comb

Local (and international) news from Ipswich RSPB

Tim Kenny *Leader, RSPB Ipswich Group*

We are now into the dog days of summer, when the frenetic activity of the spring is over, songs are largely sung, and young birds are exploring their new world and simultaneously presenting birders with identification challenges. I received a photo on my phone from a friend (who is by no means an inexperienced birder) asking the age old question – “what is this?” In this case it turned out to be a fledgling blackbird.

In early June I was delighted to attend a volunteers “thank you” event at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Welney reserve to find out about the project to boost numbers of breeding black-tailed godwits using a technique called headstarting.



Black-tailed godwit in summer plumage. In winter the reddish parts are replaced with grey. Look for the distinctive black and white wingbar and flesh-coloured base to the orange bill.

website to report these birds is <https://projectgodwit.org.uk/get-involved/report-a-sighting/>. Sightings of other colour ringed godwits should be sent to limosalimosa@waderstudygroup.org. The Orwell and Stour estuaries hold internationally important numbers of black-tailed godwits so keep your eyes peeled for colour rings.

It seems a while ago now but we were delighted to attend Spring Wood Day during the early May bank holiday. A distant flyover hobby was perhaps the highlight but great views were had of lesser whitethroat, common whitethroat, garden warbler and blackcap. Common buzzards are increasing in the Ipswich area, as indeed they are everywhere, and a few were seen over Kiln Meadow. A nightingale had been heard by the volunteers who had camped overnight.

Finally I have recently returned

from a wedding in Archangel, northern Russia. I do realise that the below photo of yours truly feeding a remarkably tame red squirrel doesn't qualify as “local” but I think sometimes, amid the welter of gloomy environmental news, we could all do with a bit of the “aaah” factor.



Ipswich Local Group

Group Leader Tim Kenny
Tel 01394 809236

ipswichrspliblocalgroup@yahoo.com
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.

Volunteers remove eggs from breeding birds in the nearby Nene Washes (under license, of course) and place them in incubators to hatch them. The young birds are then cared for in polytunnels as they grow to the point where they can be released. Then comes the day when the doors of the last polytunnel are thrown open and the young godwits can begin their new lives in the wild. There's every chance that some of these birds might make it to our part of the world, and the project would be delighted to receive your reports of headstarted birds. Birds ringed under the scheme wear a lime colour ring stamped with the letter E and the

Our efforts make a big difference

Ann Havard *Friends of Belstead Brook Park*

The weather for our work party in April ran true to form – dull, rain, hail, snow and sun! I suppose it's what makes England a green and pleasant land but I have to tell you that hail and snow when you are working outside in April is very cold.



The steps from Bobbitts Lane to Kiln Meadow before and after our clean-up

But as good committed conservationists we carried on regardless – well, after a warming cup of coffee and the odd biscuit or two. We got on really well actually with only five of us out managed to clear the nettles from behind the bird viewing hide and the path leading up to it in Bobbitts Meadow.

Then four cleared away the vegetation from around the

set of steps leading up to Kiln Meadow from the Lane, whilst Ann chopped down

A really good morning's work despite what the sky threw at us.

dogwood from around the kissing gate into the Meadow. A really good morning's work despite what the sky threw at us.

The Spring Wood May Day celebrations were the usual success, read about them elsewhere but thanks to FoBBP members who helped in the information tent.

Thanks to James for leading our June work party as I was away in the Rocky Mountains of Canada – wildlife on a totally different scale! Friends helped at Whitland Close with the preparatory work of planning and clearing vegetation ready to improve the access down into the reed bed. This will open up the area ready for more major work to re-profile the path down into the reed bed which we are able to do thanks to

the Tesco Bags of Help grant that we received recently.

In July we completed the laying of gravel at the top of the path leading down into the reed beds from Whitland Close.

The Greenways volunteers have also been busy during their regular work parties and now the path through the wood linking up to Bourne Park is looking really inviting. The previously very steep slope down from Whitland Close is now much easier and safer to use. A big thank you to everyone who has helped.



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.



Lois and James on the new path



The view over the reed beds from the hide

The importance of bird survey work

Gi Grieco *Suffolk Bird Group Council Member*

One aspect of Suffolk Bird Group's work is to protect the birds of the county. One action is to lobby to protect habitats, another is to organise and promote bird surveys.

In the previous issue there was a piece on the group's Suffolk Rookery Survey and how to get involved. To date we've had a positive response with great participation. We will shortly assess coverage in this first year to find areas that still need to be covered and will publish details in a later edition of the group's magazine, *The Harrier*.



One of the rookeries found on our Suffolk Rookery Survey

project whose aim, amongst others, is to promote the recording of Swifts nest sites. So this is a reminder for everyone to log their records of Swifts on the Suffolk Swift Survey – www.suffolkbis.org/uk/swift.


There is also a very handy app, called Swift Mapper. The purpose of the app is to record the location of Swifts and Swift nest sites around the UK. This information can be used to monitor distribution and population changes. The data can also be used by local authority planners, architects, ecologists and developers to find out where Swift hotspots are.

The group has had its usual selection of great walks during the Spring; always a treat to be outside hearing and seeing those birds that are the herald of warmer weather. A couple of the trips were on the Suffolk coast and we had a number of warblers singing, fortunately a couple

of Cuckoos too and on a trip to Essex to visit Fingringhoe Wick where we heard some Nightingales.

A more recent trip was to the west of the county, to the RSPB reserve of Lakenheath Fen. Here, although we saw some great birds such as Bittern and Marsh Harrier, a lot of the trip we were mesmerized by the great selection of insects, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. We had a talk by Conor Jameson on 'Looking for Goshawk – the Lost Raptor' in April and it was great to learn about this fantastic raptor. We do occasionally encounter the species but can only dream of the views Conor had in parks in Berlin.

In the coming months we'll be thinking of autumn migration; how breeding birds have fared in the county and what passage birds we'll encounter on our forthcoming field trips. See the Events section.



Suffolk Bird Group

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

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

Three of us from the group did a road trip to do the rookery survey where we covered a large swathe of Suffolk, often in out-of-the-way places, going to some areas for the first time even though we've covered a lot of Suffolk previously. What is great is that not only is it a fun way to do the survey but it is nice to explore these lesser-known areas and great to see some lovely parts of the Suffolk countryside. In addition you may come across other birdlife, such as having great views of Nuthatch as we did in one village.

During the summer we've been promoting another survey, the annual recording of Swifts, part of the joint SBG/SWT Save our Suffolk Swifts



Swift nest sites are recorded



Scarce Chaser dragonfly

Portal Woodlands Conservation Group News

Sam Cork with contributions from George Pennick

The sustained wet weather earlier in the year had certainly taken its toll on the paths, keeping our volunteers busy.

In addition to clearing mud from the perimeter track, laying down wood chippings on the muddy woodland paths, and clearing the French drain which had become completely blocked with run-off sediments, the rain had also contributed to the collapse of one path into the northern revetment's trench, and so this was rebuilt and reinforced with the old sandbags (having turned to stone over the years), that had become detached from the main revetment structure.

Our AGM took place in April, where our Committee was voted in and George Pennick was crowned this year's winner of the

Nature Explorers Award in recognition of his contribution to conservation in the Parish of Martlesham. The meeting was rounded off with a fascinating talk by Duncan Sweeting on badgers in the Suffolk area.

Later in April, our Volunteers cleared brambles, saplings and other young shoots from the southern tumuli (Bronze Age burial mounds) before the new spring growth had become too wild. We were pleased to see that lush green grass was establishing itself in the areas we had previously cleared and that wildflowers, such as bluebell and forget-me-not had already started to take hold. It was good to see some of the large stumps of the trees, which had been previously growing on the mounds, nicely decomposing helped by an impressive covering of fungi.

Our annual glow-worm survey and bat walk took place on a slightly windy Wednesday at the end of June. We were lucky to see and hear (with detectors) common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle bats flying around the trees hunting for insects, and at times only just above our heads. Noctules were heard but not seen. Disappointingly, only six female glow-worms were counted, and no males. The count was consistent with the low numbers of recent years with notably fewer found along the hedges and in grassy areas that have been disturbed or cut back due to clearance and landscaping.

The Nature Explorers made a new wildflower bed in the grassy area by the northern tumulus, with the aim of adding some colour and attracting insects. The seeds were specially selected UK native species, kindly provided by Kew Gardens as part of their 'Grow Wild' Campaign. If all goes well we look forward to a display of flowers, such as corn chamomile, ragged robin and foxglove over the summer - we hope you can visit to enjoy the woods and wildlife.



George Pennick Nature Explorers Award Winner 2019



Portal Woodlands Conservation Group

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

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



Work Morning volunteers clearing the path



An impressive covering of fungi on a tree stump

Volunteer Work Mornings (all ages welcome - no need to book) Meet at the Education Area from 10.00am – Noon.

Saturday 21st September, Sunday 20th October,
Saturday 16th November, Sunday 15th December.

Nature Explorers (11 to 18 year olds)

Meet at the Education Area from 9.00am - 11.00am.
Booking essential, please email pwcv.martlesham@gmail.com
Saturday 21st September, Saturday 16th November.

Nature Watch Club (5 to 11 year olds)

Dates to be announced. Please email pwcv.martlesham@gmail.com for more information or alternatively look at our website: www.pwcv.onesuffolk.net

Rats!

Reg Snook *Friends of Christchurch Park*

An SOS from the FoCP. Please, is there a Pied Piper, formally of Hamelin, out there who can rid our Park of rats?

We have known for a number of years that the colony of rats which live very close to the Wilderness Pond are increasing in numbers and expanding in range. Despite the notices intended to dissuade people from feeding the waterfowl, bread, sometimes in large quantities, is still being thrown into the water and also along the concrete path. Some 'kind' park-goers have even been seen feeding these furry animals.

Rats are well-known to be carriers of disease. I have to admit that the vast majority of 'our' rats appear to be in extremely good condition with shiny coats. However, our Park would probably benefit if *rattus norvegicus* was not present.

disappearance of most mallard and mandarin ducklings was blamed on the lesser black-backed gulls but now it has been suggested that rats may also be responsible. This theory has come about following reports of 'rat clearance' in important bird reserves such as Lundy, Skomer and some of the Isles of Scilly (and even in New Zealand).

... the vast majority of 'our' rats appear to be in extremely good condition with shiny coats...

Success was mainly due to the very large band of volunteers who serviced this operation. The number of nesting sea birds on Lundy now totals more than 21,000 birds. Puffin pairs now stand at 375 and the Manx Shearwater has now risen to 5,504 pairs (75% of the world's population of Manx Shearwater breed on British islands). This happy situation is due to the extermination of rats.

Needless to say, Animal Rights organisations are not happy since the culling of one species to benefit another is not on their agenda. (A cull of about 40,000 rats cost an estimated £50,000.)

Clearing rats from land surrounded by water is far easier than ridding Christchurch Park of them since those in our Park have no boundaries. In fact it is a reverse situation – the rats are on dry land with water in the middle – but they are capable swimmers and are often seen in the Wilderness Pond. It seems that if the large gulls do not get the ducklings, then the rats will.

So should we eliminate rats and if so how? Using poison may be the answer but we have tawny owls that breed close by. Dead rats lying on pathways or in the water is also undesirable.

I fear, however, that the rat population will continue to increase if no action is

The bird population on Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel off the Devon coast has boomed following the extermination of the island's rats. In 2002, a decision was made between RSPB, Natural England, the Landmark Trust and National Trust, to rid Lundy of rats which were unwittingly imported from visiting ships or shipwrecks.

Puffin numbers had plummeted from 3,500 pairs in 1939 to less than 10 pairs in the year 2000 with Manx Shearwater numbers down to 297 pairs in 2007. The rats were subsequently poisoned – which could have been disastrous for the island's short-eared owls and visiting birds of prey – but careful control of the poison and the prompt removal of deceased rats was paramount.

The first clutch of coot's eggs successfully hatched and the young are now fully grown. The second clutch failed as did the nest of little grebes which is a shame.

Of course, the failure of these two species and the

taken and difficult decisions are urgently needed to be taken. Perhaps I should take lessons on how to play the flute as I already have a black and white suit!



Fantastic flight of the Painted Lady

Julian Dowding *Secretary, Suffolk Butterfly Conservation*

Some of you may have seen Kev Ling and Ross Bentley's piece in EADT entitled, "Butterfly fans anticipate a once in a decade 'Painted Lady Summer.'" For those who didn't catch the news, I'll recap:

The enigmatic and beautifully coloured Painted Lady travels to us each year from as far away as North Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Their story begins in early spring as the butterflies hatch from their pupae or chrysalids. Rising temperatures drive them northwards into southern Europe where they find thistles and other plants to lay their eggs upon. This second generation of eggs, caterpillars, pupae and adults then continues northwards in the same fashion as their parents.

Ultimately, several generations later, they find their way to Britain. Occasionally this can be in huge numbers, as happened in 2009, which was the largest on record since 1976. Given the large numbers already reported abroad and a first wave here in June and early July, it may be that 2019 turns into another Painted Lady Year. Those that arrived in early summer, will produce eggs which eventually give rise to a mass hatching of adult butterflies this summer. Even more interesting perhaps is that radar tracking has demonstrated that the late summer brood then head southwards, making the incredible multigenerational journey back to North Africa.

Southern Small White - already here?

Butterfly Conservation Europe have postulated that Southern Small White should be the next butterfly to arrive from abroad. Possibly it's already here, as it's travelling this way at about 100km per year and could easily be mistaken for the ubiquitous Small White. The main difference to watch for is the longer black mark around the tip or apex of the upperside forewing which extends further



Painted Lady showing underwing

down the wing edge to the mid-point, almost level with the spot on the forewing.

This summer has also seen a spread and influx of other species moving here across county borders. Internal migration, or the expansion of species' known ranges here in the UK often come as a result of a good year, or a hot year, as was the case last summer. Some of these species have also turned up in coastal locations too, certainly suggestive of migrants. Might it be that climate change is now having a profound effect upon such ordinarily 'immobile' species? I think so.

What will come next?

The propensity to expand range is not a new phenomenon but given the way things are warming up climatically speaking, one has to wonder what will come next. How about Marbled or Lesser Marbled Fritillary? Only 10 years ago, Marbled Fritillary (which is a bramble feeder) was a southern European species. Distribution maps in field guides show it ranged from northern Spain across to Turkey and only as far north as southern France and southern Germany. It's close relative, Lesser Marbled Fritillary (which feeds on meadowsweet)

Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

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

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

had a much more northerly distribution. Tristan Lafranchis -renowned author and naturalist- drew my attention a few years ago to a lightning fast spread northwards of Marbled Fritillary into Normandy and the pas de Calais several hundred miles further north. How about Black-veined White? This was one that Winston Churchill tried to introduce at Chartwell but failed miserably because WW2 diverted his focus and gardeners entrusted with caring for his butterflies didn't understand his instructions! The butterfly is now just across The Channel.

So, with all this in mind, please keep your eyes open, enjoy the Painted Lady and if it whets your appetite, please send your sightings (with a photo if possible) to the sightings page of Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk/sightings and to our county butterfly recorder Bill Stone: billbutterfly68@yahoo.com



Painted Ladies arrive from North Africa, Asia and the Middle East

© Jim Black

© Matt Berry

Glow-worms Lighting the way

David Dowding and Daniel Cable-Davey Ravenswood Wildlife Group

The Orwell Country Park is a 250 acre nature reserve encompassing a range of habitats, from meadows and heathland through to scrub and ancient woodland. This mix gives rise to varied flora and fauna of which our wildlife group actively surveys during the summer months.

Glow-worms are a particular favourite, their bioluminescence truly captivating and during the summer months our group spends many evenings monitoring this species. Only glowing for an hour or two after dusk there is a finite window of opportunity to survey.

Wild Ipswich

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



displaying adults need more open habitats in which to display effectively. As a result the densest concentrations are found on open heathland. They are very much a warmth-loving species so favour banks, scallops, logpiles and heaps of rotting vegetation. Managed woodland habitats with sheltered glades and rides have also shown to be good habitats such as Gainsborough Lane, Braziers Wood and Bridge Wood.

Due to their ecology the beetle can't survive in very wet areas but where they adjoin dryer habitat the individuals are often quite large, due to the density of snails. This size difference was also noted on females displaying near to allotments or gardens, presumably due to the availability of larger prey in garden snails. Out of 100 female glow-worms measured, the average size on heathland/bracken and dry grassland was 1.5cm.

The average size in woodland was 1.8cm and the average size at the edge of wet habitats was 2.4cm. One female at the edge of Morland Road allotments and gardens had reached a whopping 3.4cm, double the usual size! Larger females have a higher fecundity so although glow-worms struggle to form viable populations in gardens and wet meadows (due to light pollution/flooding etc) they can provide welcome additions to the species across the wider landscape.

The skylark meadow (old airport site) shows good open mosaic habitat for glow-worms but numerous surveys highlighted the insect's absence. The good news from our annual family glow-worm walk is that the species is spreading through Brazier's Wood towards Ravenswood, it's just a very slow process as the female's inability to fly means they only move a few metres each year.



Since we began surveying in 2015 we have noted good populations in the open mosaic habitats at Piper's Vale, Elm Hill and Pond Hall meadow. Glow-worm larvae favour well vegetated habitats where they feed on snails but the



Size difference between female glow-worms of the same metapopulation but living in different habitats



Map showing glow-worm records in the 2019 season and the gradual spread through Brazier's wood towards Ravenswood. Continual woodland management through glade creation and coppicing will likely facilitate this species spread.

These wonderful volunteers

Joan Powell *Secretary, Friends of the Dales*

Where would we all be without our volunteers - I wonder if the visitors to the various sites around The Dales, and the various parks - Christchurch, Holywells, Belstead Brook, Martlesham Heath - (just to mention a few) understand just how much work is undertaken by 'these wonderful Volunteers'.

The cutting of meadows, pruning, digging, repairing, chopping, making paths, moving grit, soil and hoggin, putting in steps - working with the Ipswich Borough Council Wildlife Rangers - these areas are unique and worth a visit. I say we should be proud of these volunteers and workers who deserve a huge thank you from us all.

In early May this year I was delighted to take a group of ladies from the Trefoil Guild around the reserve, we were all dressed well against possible bad weather - which did not happen until the end.

They were astounded to know how large the site was (14½ acres), some of the ladies had travelled along Dales Road but did not know of the site - it was a pleasure for



The weather has brought an abundant crop of sugar plums.

me to listen to them talking about the area as we walked around - seeing the pond and its size was of interest. It was a pleasure for me to show off the area - pointing out the work undertaken by volunteers and the council workers too.


A gall on one of the trees left us all wondering what had caused it - would anyone know?

There has been a lot of work making more steps, especially on some of the steeper slopes

where it was noticed that the path was being trod as visitors went around the site - this is making it easier and safer to travel around. More steps are yet to be put in.

There were two work parties that removed the rubbish that had been thrown into the site, which necessitated a bonfire - this work is ongoing to remove a lot of metal objects.

If you would like to become a member of our Friends group please email jayempowell@btinternet.com or find the group on Facebook at Friends.



Friends of the Dales

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

For details of the Friends Group please contact secretary Joan Powell jayempowell@btinternet.com or find us on Facebook by searching Friends of the Dales



Ladies from the Trefoil Guild prepared for wet weather in their springtime visit to the Dales



The large pond will be receiving some tender care during winter months to reduce the amount of growth.

Events Diary

For events covering a broader range of environmental issues go to www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/diary/diary.php

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7th September 8am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT
Trimley Marsh SWT – Ringing Session.
Meet at Cordy's Lane car park, Trimley St. Mary transport to the reserve available. Map Ref: TM277357. **Leaders Justin and Ellie Zantboer Tel. 07786 656888.**

Thursday 12th September 7.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group INDOOR MEETING
'Costa Rica Explored' Ian Barthorpe RSPB Minsmere Visitor Experience Officer.
Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, The Street, Rushmere, Ipswich. IP5 1DH.
Sponsored by A W Hart Builders. **Details from Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**

Saturday 14th September 8.30am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT
Shingle Street and Hollesley Marsh. Meet at Coastguard Cottages (Long walk possible). Map Ref: TM369431 **Leader Steve Fryett Tel. 01394 383413.**

Tuesday 17th September 10am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK
Holywells Park including Conservation Area. Meet at Stable Block off Cliff Lane. TM176432 All welcome. **Leader Kathy Reynolds 01473 714839.**

Saturday 21st September 9am - 11am Portal Woodlands Conservation Group NATURE EXPLORERS
11 to 18 year-olds. Meet at the Education Area. Booking essential. **Email pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com**



Saturday 21st September 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group WORK MORNING
All ages welcome meet at the Education Area. **More information from email pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com or website pwcg.onesuffolk.net**

Wednesday 25th September 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK
Michael Strand 'Creating Wildness'. Michael, who is fund raising manager for the SWT, will explain how they go about this and the benefits it provides for the wildlife. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, IP1 2EF.

Thursday 26th September 7.30pm Suffolk Bird Group TALK
'Birding In Bhutan & Snow Leopards In Ladakh' Andrew Raine. The Cedars Hotel, Needham Road, Stowmarket, IP14 2AJ **Additional information from Adam Gretton Tel. 01473 829156 Adam.gretton@naturaleland.org.uk**

OCTOBER

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Wild Learning events during October

Wednesday 9th October 10am-2pm WILD IN THE WEEK
Join us for a wild activity day for home educated children aged 6 - 10 years.
Location: see website.

Thursday 10th October 10am-2pm WILD IN THE WEEK
Join us for a wild activity day for home educated children aged 11 - 16 years.
Location: see website

Saturday 12th October 1.30pm-3.30pm YOUNG WARDENS
Practical conservation skills in Holywells Park. Age: 11-16 year olds.

Monday 21st October 10.30am-12.30pm OWL PELLETT DISSECTION
Dissect owl pellets to discover gruesome finds inside. Holywells Park for families.

Tuesday 22nd October 10.30am-12.30pm FAMILY CAMPFIRE COOKOUT
Cook tasty treats over a campfire with the family in Holywells Park.

Wednesday 23rd October 9am-3.30pm WILD HOLIDAY CLUB
Join us for games and wild activities in Holywells Park. Age: 6-11 years old.

Friday 25th October 10am-1pm CAMPFIRE COOKOUT
Light a campfire and cook up a storm in Holywells Park. Age: 11-16 year olds

Friday 25th October 6.30pm-8.00pm THE BIG HOOT HUNT
Join us in Christchurch Park after dark in search of Tawny owls hoots and other urban wildlife.

Contact Lucy Shepherd 01473 890089 suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Thursday 10th October 7.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group INDOOR MEETING
'A Wildlife Photographer's Year' Kevin Sawford, Multi Award Winning Wildlife Photographer. Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, The Street, Rushmere, Ipswich. IP5 1DH. All welcome. Sponsored by Mind The Crustacean, The Best Band You've Never Heard Of. **Details from Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**



Saturday 12th October 9am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING
Hollesley and Boyton Marsh RSPB reserves for geese, waders and wildfowl. Meet at Hollesley Reserve Car park. TM370448. 4-5 hours. Bring refreshments. Can be muddy and exposed. **Leader Stephen Marginson 01473 258791.**

Saturday 12th October 11am - 2pm Friends of Holywells Park APPLE DAY
Enjoy fruit, fresh apple juice, apple fritters, homemade soups and more. Have a go at apple bobbing and pumpkin carving. Also enjoy story telling from the hammock, Apple quiz and making the longest peel. Sales of honey and fruits from the Orchard. Location: The Orchard, Holywells Park

Tuesday 15th October 10am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK
Pipers Vale. Meet at car park at Vale entrance TM178419. **Leader Kathy Reynolds 01473 714839.**

Want to join in?
Take a look at Regular Events on page 24

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT
Orfordness (National Trust) Reserve. Some places available to stay overnight on Saturday in self-catering dormitories. Current entrance fees will apply. Map Ref: TM425495. For further details and to reserve your place, contact Gi Grieco Tel. 07951 482547. **Leaders Gi Grieco and Eddie Bathgate.**

Sunday 20th October 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group WORK MORNING
All ages welcome meet at the Education Area. **More information from email pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com or website pwcg.onesuffolk.net**

Wednesday 23rd October 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK
Sue Alderman (Hare Preservation Trust) 'Hares'. One of Britain's best loved mammals, have inhabited these islands from ancient times, but today they are under serious threat. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, IP1 2EF.

Saturday 26th October 8am Suffolk Bird 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.**

Saturday 26th October 10am to 3.30pm Greenways Project RIVER PATH MEGABASH Sproughton
Come and help look after the island wildlife reserve and Gipping River Path at Sproughton. More details available from Greenways nearer the time, but likely to include path construction, meadow management and scrub clearing. Meeting point and parking **details available from Greenways from mid-October - 01473 433995 or 07736 826076 or james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk**

Thursday 31st October 7.30pm Suffolk Bird Group TALK
'Birds of Kenya' Ellie and Dan Zantboer. University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ. **Additional information from Adam Gretton Tel. 01473 829156 Adam. gretton@naturalengland.org.uk**

NOVEMBER

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Wild Learning events during November

Tuesday 5th November 10am-2pm WILD IN THE WEEK

Join us for a wild activity day for home educated children aged 6-10 years. Location: see website.

Saturday 9th November 1.30pm-3.30pm YOUNG WARDENS

Practical conservation skills for 11 - 16 year olds in Holywells Park.

Wednesday 13th November 10am-2pm WILD IN THE WEEK

Join us for a wild activity day for home educated children. Age: 11-16 years Location: see website.

Contact Lucy Shepherd 01473 890089 suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Saturday 9th November 9am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING

River Deben at Melton for waders, wildfowl and woodland birds. Meet at Melton Riverside car park. TM28853. 2-3 hours 2-3 miles. Walking can be muddy and exposed. **Leader Stephen Marginson 01473 258791.**

Sunday 10th November 8.30am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Dingle Marshes, Dunwich. Meet at Dunwich beach car park Map Ref: TM479707. **Leader Gi Grieco Tel. 07951 482547.**

Thursday 14th November 7.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group INDOOR MEETING

"Birds in the Ancient World" Jeremy Mynott, Lifelong Birder and author. Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, The Street, Rushmere, Ipswich. IP5 1DH. All welcome. Sponsored by Alder Carr Farm Needham Market. **Details from Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**

Saturday 16th November 9am - 11am Portal Woodlands Conservation Group NATURE EXPLORERS

11 to 18 year-olds. Meet at the Education Area. Booking essential. **Email pwcg. martlesham@gmail.com**

Saturday 16th November 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group WORK MORNING

All ages welcome meet at the Education Area. **More information from email pwcg. martlesham@gmail.com or website pwcg. onesuffolk.net**

Sunday 17th November 10am to 3.30pm Greenways Project BELSTEAD BROOK PARK MEGABASH 1

Come and join Greenways, Ipswich Wildlife Group and others for our first annual Megabash in BBP. Coppicing and scrub clearing in Spring Wood, Millennium Wood and Kiln Meadow – including a bonfire with baked potatoes! Meet at Bobbitts Lane car park. **More info from Greenways – 01473 433995/07736 826076 james. baker@ipswich.gov.uk**

Tuesday 19th November 10am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK
Bourne Bridge area and park. Meet at Bourne Park car park (Bourne Bridge entrance) at. TM161419. **Leader Kathy Reynolds 01473 714839.**

Wednesday 27th November 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK

Dr Hugh Hanmer 'Sounds of the Night'. Hugh is a BTO research ecologist and the co-ordinator of the BTO's "Project Owl". In his talk he will discuss all the owls of the UK, their distribution and movements, the current monitoring efforts, and the many gaps in our knowledge about this often mysterious family of birds. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, IP1 2EF.

Thursday 28th November 7.30pm Suffolk Bird Group TALK

'Another Time, Another Place: Birds In The Ancient World' Jeremy Mynott. University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ. **Additional information from Adam Gretton Tel. 01473 829156 Adam.gretton@naturalengland.org.uk**

DECEMBER

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Wild Learning events during December

Sunday 8th December 10.30am-12.30pm CRAFTY CHRISTMAS MAKES

Make natural crafts just in time for Christmas. Location: Holywells Park

Tuesday 10th December 10am-2pm WILD IN THE WEEK

Join us for a wild activity day for home educated children aged 6-10 years Location: see website.

Wednesday 11th December 10am-2pm WILD IN THE WEEK

Join us for a wild activity day for home educated children aged 11-16 years. Location: see website.

Saturday 14th December 1.30pm-3.30pm YOUNG WARDENS

Practical conservation skills for 11 - 16 year olds in Holywells Park.

Sunday 22nd December 4pm-6pm WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS

Join us as we celebrate the winter solstice with a lantern lit walk and hot chocolate in Holywells Park.

Contact Lucy Shepherd 01473 890089 suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Saturday 7th December 9am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Abberton Reservoir. Meet at visitor centre car park Map Ref: TL965179. **Leader Ashley Gooding Tel. 07808 044611.**

Saturday 7th December 11am - 2.30pm Friends of Holywells Park CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Holywells Park Conservatory and Garden, Includes craft stalls, craft activities for children, warming refreshments.

Want to join in?
Take a look at Regular Events on page 24

Wednesday 11th December 7.30pm Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group TALK

Dr Chris Gibson 'An East Anglian Story'. Chris has worked for most of his life for English Nature, and now, in his "retirement" is sharing his love of the natural world through his passion for photography, lecturing, writing, and being a tour guide. I am sure you will enjoy this Christmas talk and the mince pies to accompany it. Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, IP1 2EF.

Thursday 12th December 7.30pm RSPB Ipswich Group INDOOR MEETING

Christmas social evening with "bring and share" finger buffet, plus "Zambia", Paul Mealing, local photographer. Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall, The Street, Rushmere, Ipswich. IP5 1DH. All welcome. **Details from Tim Kenny 01394 809236.**

Saturday 14th December 9.30am Suffolk Bird Group OUTDOOR EVENT

Martlesham Creek. Meet at Martlesham church car park, (Long walk possible). Map Ref: TM261469. **Leader Steve Fryett Tel. 01394 383413.**

Saturday 14th December 9.30am RSPB Ipswich Group FIELD MEETING

North Warren RSPB Reserve for geese and wildfowl. Meet at Thorpeness car park. TM472596. 3-4 hours 3-4 miles. Walking can be muddy and exposed. **Leader Stephen Marginson 01473 258791.**



Saturday 14th December 10am to 3.30pm Greenways Project BELSTEAD BROOK PARK MEGABASH 2

Join Greenways, the Friends of Belstead Brook Park and IWG for a day of winter habitat management in Kiln Meadow area. Meet at the Marbled White Drive entrance to the site. **More info from Greenways 01473 433995/07736 826076 james. baker@ipswich.gov.uk**

Sunday 15th December 10am - noon Portal Woodlands Conservation Group WORK MORNING

All ages welcome meet at the Education Area. **More information from email pwcg. martlesham@gmail.com or website pwcg. onesuffolk.net**

Tuesday 17th December 10am RSPB Ipswich Group MIDWEEK WALK

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

JANUARY 2020

Saturday 25th January 10am to 3.30pm Greenways Project WINTER MEGABASH

Join Greenways and other local conservation groups to really make a difference at one of our nature reserves – location to be determined in early January. **More info from Greenways 01473 433995/07736 826076 james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk**

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 or call 01473 433995**

WEDNESDAYS 10am Friends of Holywells Park HOLYWELLS PARK WORK PARTY

Join our small team of volunteers doing valuable work around 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 Joan Powell for the details jayempowell@btinternet.com

EVERY THURSDAY/FRIDAY 10am – 11.30am SWT Wild Learning WILD TOTS

Outdoor adventure and play for tots age 18 months – 5 years and their carers. Christchurch Park Thursdays, Holywells Park Fridays. Cost £4. **Please book at suffolkwildlifetrust.org or 01473 890089**

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 9 – 10pm '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

FRIDAYS FORTNIGHTLY 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, Bobbits Lane, Ipswich. **More information from Martin Cant 07858 436003 martin.cant@ntlworld.com**

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

A joint work party with the River Action Group along Alderman Canal and the River Gipping, maintaining footpaths and making these splendid waterways areas to be proud of. Meet at Bibb Way alongside Alderman Road recreation ground. **More information from Colin Hullis 07979 644134**

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

More information from Helen Saunders helens919@gmail.com

EVERY SECOND SATURDAY 10am – 12pm SWT Wild Learning WILDLIFE WATCH

Holywells Park. Join our wildlife themed club to explore the park, learn about wildlife, meet new friends and earn awards as you go. Age 6 – 11 years. Cost £3. **Please book at suffolkwildlifetrust.org or 01473 890089**

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 or email 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 Colin Hullis 07979 644134**

Woodland Products and Services from Greenways



Beanpoles, peasticks, firewood logs – bagged or different size loads available and other woodland produce, wildlife homes including hedgehog houses, bird boxes and insect homes. Mobile sawmilling of felled timber to your specification. Woodland, meadow and other habitat management – advice and quotations available.

Products available by appointment from the Greenways Project office on Stoke Park Drive. Contact james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk or 01473 433995 / 07736 826076 to discuss your requirements.

All produce from the sustainable management of nature reserves in Ipswich and proceeds to help fund management of the reserves and other wildlife projects.