

Whooo am I?
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Local Wildlife news

September - December 2020

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



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

Welcome

by **James Baker** *Editor*

Welcome to the second 'electronic only' issue of LWN. As with the last edition, printing the magazine didn't make sense – but we hope to revert to 'real' issues in the future if we have the resources to fund printing. We would be really grateful for any comments from readers as to which format you prefer, to help us decide for the future. Inevitably, many of the articles in this issue discuss the

We would be really grateful for any comments from readers as to which format you prefer ...

Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and the effect on us and our local wildlife – as you will read, groups have all had to cancel their events and members learn a new way of appreciating wildlife on their own and often at home. There is no doubt that surrounding ourselves with whatever wildlife there is around us has been a vital part of maintaining people's wellbeing – whilst the encouraged daily exercise has led many to better physical health too.

Like most things, the lockdown has been a double-edged sword – on the one hand, our nature reserves and green spaces have seen more visitors than probably ever before, all enjoying relaxing walks, green surroundings and wildlife watching – whilst on the other hand, many sites have been badly treated and severely damaged due to

careless and thoughtless use. Litter, in particular, has hit the headlines – and it is upsetting for wildlife enthusiasts and volunteers who look after these sites to see how little respect is shown by a damaging minority of users. Spring Wood, in the Belstead Brook Park, a beautiful ancient woodland on the edge of town, has sadly been damaged by the huge influx of visitors – taking up path edging and habitat piles to make dens; having fires; cutting trees; roaming off paths; letting dogs run freely through habitat and leaving litter. It is very clear that we, as wildlife lovers, still have a long way to go, helping our society to place a higher value on such places.

Hopefully though, once we start to be able to run events, volunteer work parties and other activities again, there should be a new, larger and keener audience than before, and our bedraggled wildlife will have more friends and supporters than before the lockdown!

Somewhat ironically, despite green space being vital to survival recently, resources for the management of such places, nationally and locally, are ever reducing (see Greenways Project annual report) – so please continue to support your local conservation organisations by volunteering or by membership.

As in the last edition, I hope you all stay well and carry on loving the wildlife around you.

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

A weed that none of us will welcome as a wild 'flower'? **Sheila Roberts**

Like most people, Covid-19 has given me the opportunity to really get to know my local parks and open spaces and the wealth of wildlife that they host. One of the things I've really valued is seeing how the flora and fauna changes with the seasons – from looking out for the first blackthorn blossoms to the slightly melancholy sight of verges and meadows turning brown as autumn approaches.

I've been lucky enough to hear a cuckoo and Cetti's warblers staking out their territory and spotted pyramidal orchids growing on what I always thought of as a barren bit of land next to a housing development.



The incessant march of greater horsetail



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.

On a more negative note, walking around my home territory more than I've ever done has allowed me to notice things that I haven't spotted before and one of those things I've noticed does trouble me slightly. It's the incessant march of what I think is greater horsetail or *Equisetum telmateia* across so many of the green spaces of Ipswich. I'm no expert so it might be field horsetail – or even a hybrid but the name matters

little to me – what does matter is just how much it seems to be taking over.

I've noticed for a few years now how clumps of this aggressive plant had become established in places like Stonelodge and Holywells parks. But what my daily amblings around SW Ipswich have shown to me is that it's spreading fast. Not just in the parks but alongside roadside verges and even in the shrub beds of housing estates.

You might have seen it yourself

– the main plant starts off as a rather cute little spiky thing that looks for all the world like a baby Christmas tree. But it quickly grows into something that can be nearly as tall as me, shading out pretty much every other species. It grows in a dense, bright green thicket that seems to leave no space for any other species, even shading out nettles. It's a tough, primitive plant that's been around since there were dinosaurs roaming the earth. Many people mistakenly call it marestail – but that's something completely different

and a far more useful native flowering plant.

Well-known gardening guru Bob Flowerdew talks about how one horsetail plant can colonise acres of land and is almost impossible to eradicate. It spreads by underground rhizomes that can grow up to 8 feet below the soil level so you can forget trying to dig it out unless you happen to have a JCB handy! Regular mowing or smothering it in black plastic are believed to be ways of slowing it down and some writers claim certain



The plants start off looking like baby Christmas trees

weedkillers will work with repeated applications over several years but that's not something we want to see in our natural environment.

It's been known to push its way up through pavements and tarmac. It prefers damp conditions but I've seen it growing in very dry soil – which makes me wonder if those rhizomes are down to the

water table far below – or maybe it just hasn't read the books.

In Stonelodge Park I've watched how the patch has spread by perhaps a third since last year – and that's despite me stomping on the new shoots around the edges of the patch to try and halt its march towards the pond and the beautiful wildflower strip sown last year.

Around Belstead Brook open space it has, this year, branched out from a patch near the stream to grow towards the nearby back gardens and is now busily colonising Grove Walk on the Belstead House side.

The greater horsetail originates from North America although the smaller field horsetail is a native species. I tried to be charitable and find out if it does have any value to our wildlife and so far I've drawn a blank (but I would love to know more from those wiser than I about such matters). Nothing seems to eat the stems and 'leaves' (they are poisonous to farm animals) and it doesn't have



Ipswich Group Newsletter

flowers to support pollinators but sneakily reproduces from spores released by a rather strange looking cone which many mistake for a fungus in early spring.

It has weirdly high levels of silica which explains why it's been used as a scouring pad for pots and pewter since Roman times. Traditional medicines claimed it can stem bleeding – not realising it's reputed to contain a chemical that can affect the heart and nerves.

I'm usually a firm subscriber to the idea that there's no such thing as a weed – just a plant growing in the wrong place but I do wonder if horsetails is one of those species that proves me wrong.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Ipswich Group Planned Meeting

Wednesday 27th January 2021 7.30pm Museum Street Methodist Church
Peter Maddison (Butterfly Conservation) – Wildlife of Costa Rica

Costa Rica, a small country in Central America, has a great diversity of both habitats and species, from the Caribbean coast, with its turtles, to the cloud forest with its illusive quetzal. There are iguanas, sloths, hornbills and caymans to name just a few.

Come and enjoy this feast of wildlife on what is likely to be a cold winter evening.

Please contact the Secretary nearer the date to check if this meeting can go ahead.

S.O.F.T. – Save Our Frogs Team

Melvyn Eke *SWT Ipswich Group*

When I first moved into Belstead Road in 1982 a small pond was discovered and it was home to eight to ten toads.

The following year the original pond was extended to ten times the size and made with a pond liner. The toads had been caught and then returned to their enlarged home, along with lilies and other natural plants. At the same time there was a rescue mission to save

undergrowth, and over 1000 tadpoles. A real triumph!

The neighbours' six-year-old son Joseph, used the experience to name the event Save Our Frogs Team and

write a story for his school homework (see below). The event for all of us was both fascinating and rewarding in that it preserved a frog population in a new home. Most of the amphibians went

into my pond and this year, in mid-July, hundreds of baby frogs were emerging. There are also two other very local ponds that were stocked with the excess and they now have strong populations in both.

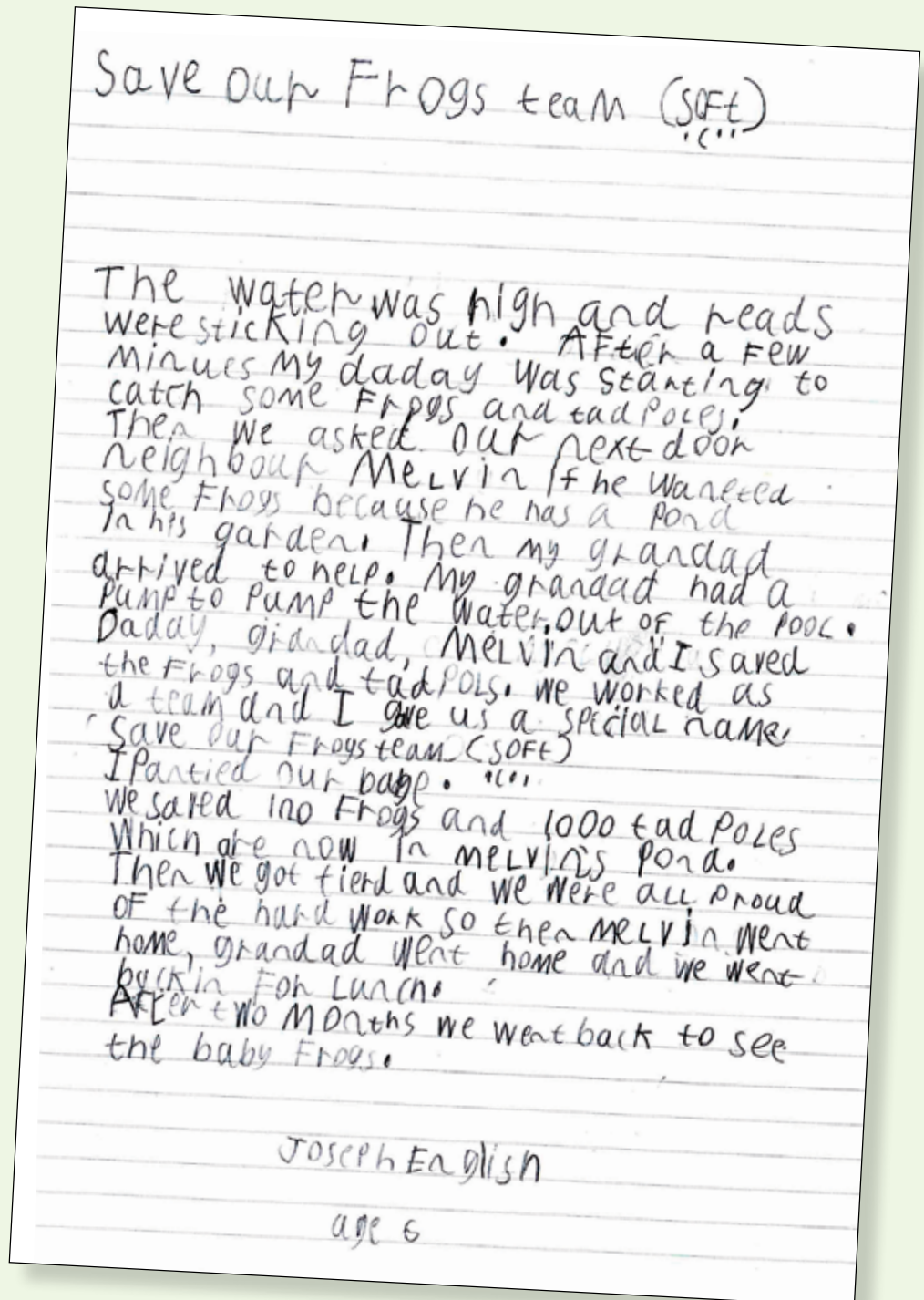


Ipswich Group Newsletter

frogs from marsh land that became buried under the first Felixstowe dock expansion. This all proved very successful and my pond was full of life.

Sadly the frogs out-performed the toads and the toads gradually disappeared over the years.

In the mid 1980's our next door neighbours decided to build a swimming pool and they enjoyed this until they passed away eight years ago. The new neighbours decided to develop the pool area which had now become a huge pond! When I was asked to help move some frogs and tadpoles into my pond to save them, we had no idea of the vast numbers we would find. Following a steady pumping out by grandad and agile net and hand catching of frogs, kitchen sieves were used to catch all the tadpoles. Over two days we saved 150 frogs, one toad, many newts that were returned to the



Message from Michael Strand

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Community Fundraising Manager

Sadly, face to face groups are unlikely to resume during 2020. Instead the Trust plans to run a series of online wildlife talks during the autumn and winter months. The precise details of these webinars are currently being organised and we will be sending out information on how to access them once the program is complete.

A huge thanks to you and to all our Wildlife Groups for their contribution in making this happen.

Wild Lockdown

Lucy Shepherd *Wild Learning Officer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust*

Working out of Ipswich's green spaces and parks is a normal working day for me, involving searching for urban wildlife and providing people with opportunities through sessions and activities, to become connected to nature. Over the past few months our in-person engagement was put on hold and instead focused on engaging with audiences online.

Over the past few months I have, like many people across the country, turned to my garden to get my daily dose of 'vitamin N' and I have never been more thankful for my own wild space than over these past few months.

Thinking about how to engage with new and existing audiences online, it led me to turn my hand to my own wild projects waiting to be completed. The first was making my own wildflower patch, digging up the lawn in order to make room for the new nectar bar. Having created many different wildflower habitats in Ipswich with The Urban Buzz project over the years, creating one closer to home is something I have wanted to do for some time, and lockdown provided the perfect opportunity. Watching the native seed turn to flower over the past months and watching pollinators flood to feast on the flowers has provided me with much joy



Wild flowers



and the best thing was, having documented the creation and progress of the patch, people all across Ipswich were getting in touch telling me that they too had created their own patch.

Seeing how people got involved with creating wildflower patches, I then turned my attention to another project in the hope that people might also be inspired to do the same and made a stag beetle stack. Arranging different sized birch logs and half burying them in the ground, provides stag beetles with a suitable place to lay eggs and rotten wood over time for the larvae to eat once hatched. This will provide stag beetles, a nationally endangered species with vital resources but will also provide other species with

refugia over the hot summer months.

We often tell people if they had to choose one wildlife project to take on, then creating a pond and providing water is one of the best wildlife habitats you can create. I therefore put my money where my mouth is and got to doing just this. My garden is by no means big so I created a bucket pond out of a recycled tub that I simply sunk into the ground making sure to sink bricks and stones inside to give different aquatic invertebrates opportunities to hide, provide shade and lay eggs and also to give mammals a place to enter and exit safely and a place for birds to perch and drink.

These new habitats join a variety of other habitats and homes in my garden for wildlife, such as hedgehog highways, different nest boxes for both birds and bees and long grass patches - even a small and very urban garden can be modified to promote wildlife.

What has been really heartening over the past months is how many people



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joined in to create different habitats and take part in their own wild projects or simply left their lawns to grow long. Thank you all for getting in touch and doing your bit for wildlife in the town.

I hope to see some of you back in parks at some of my sessions in the next few weeks as I hope to return to the parks exploring the wildlife within them. Keep an eye on our website for upcoming sessions and see our wildlife advice pages on how to create different habitats in your garden.

For our social media pages, search @Suffolk Wildlife Trust in Ipswich for Facebook and @swtipswich for Instagram.



Stag beetle stack



GREENWAYS countryside project

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

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

Annual Report - April 2019 to March 2020

James Baker *Manager, Greenways Countryside Project*

This report covers some of what the Greenways Project has delivered over the twelve month period up to March 2020. Further details of any site or activity can be requested from the Project Team using the contact details on this page.

The map shows the approximate locations of the nature reserves and green spaces that we look after (or help to manage). Most are located within the pale green shading of the defined Project boundary, although increasingly we are less limited by the boundary, carrying out appropriate works on sites beyond as well.

Partnership and Funding

The Project has been a successful and genuine partnership since 1994. Since 2018 when Suffolk County

Council left, the partnership is between Ipswich Borough Council (the lead authority), Babergh District Council and East Suffolk Council. The three partners contributed about £35,000 between them in the year, of the total annual cost of around £106,000, with additional contributions from IBC and BDC for specific site management works. The Project team have had to find the remaining required income from a wide variety of sources including working for Parish and Town Councils, householder associations, developers and private landowners, along with grants, other contributions and minor sales.

As the partners' contributions have not increased with inflation for many years, the real income target increases every year, and the need to

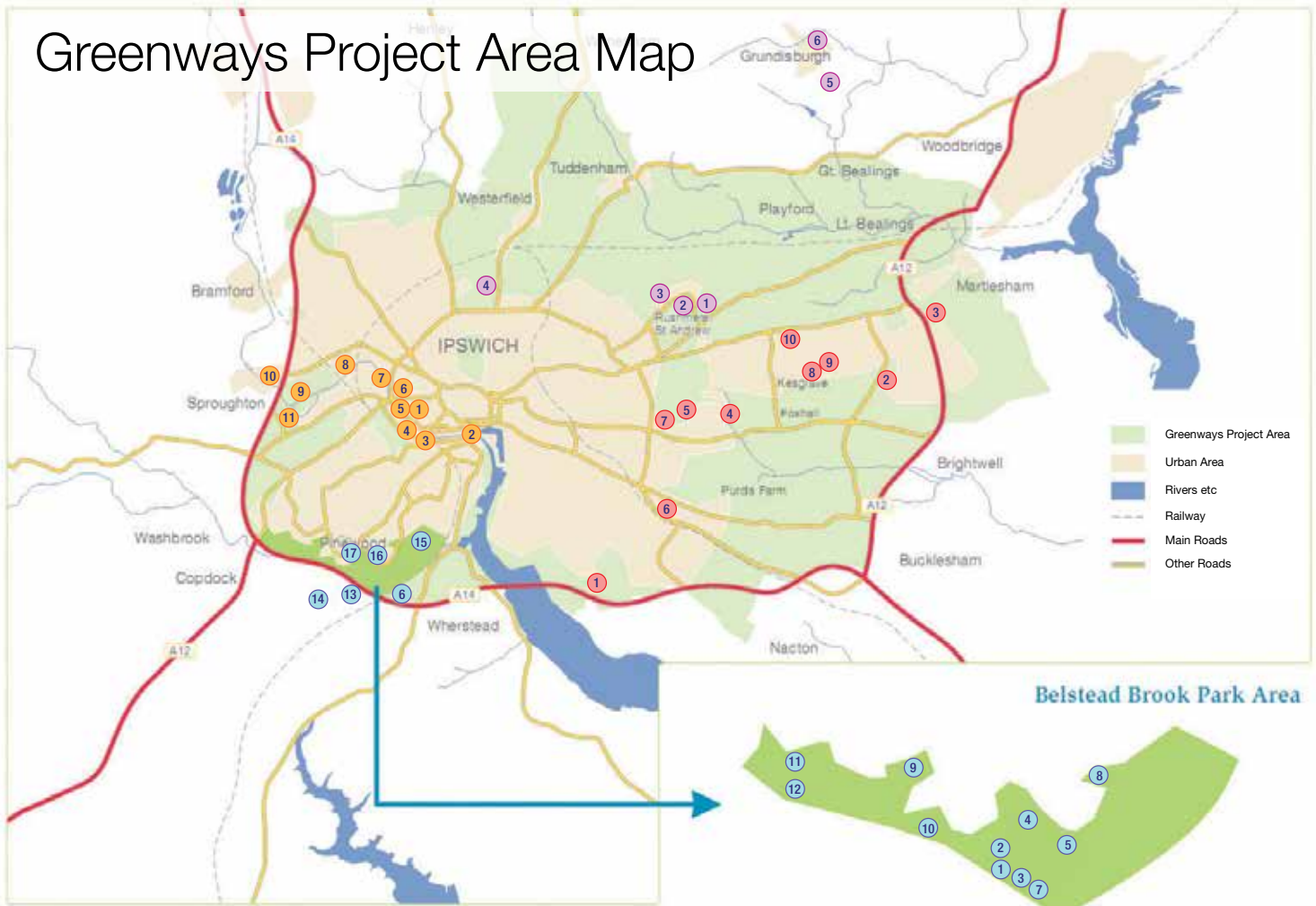
generate income inevitably means that some work we have traditionally done is no longer possible.

Volunteers and their invaluable role

Throughout the 26 years of operation, the Greenways Project has been centred around working with local communities and volunteers. The very small Project team of two staff, would not be able to tackle anything like as much work without the invaluable assistance of a large number of groups and individuals who willingly give up their time to help with everything from practical site management to designing and distributing Local Wildlife News magazine.

The number of volunteer days worked has decreased slightly in the last year, but is still a very impressive 1262 days

Greenways Project Area Map



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Volunteers preparing for another work party.

contributed, with an increasing number falling into the 'skilled' category in terms of the value of the contribution. The volunteer contribution, using Lottery values, this year was just under £80,000, and can be shown as the equivalent of

six full time staff. The reason for the drop in numbers is not known, other than 2-3 weeks in March with no volunteers at the start of the Covid-19 outbreak. Generally, we have been seeing fewer new volunteers come forward, but this trend may

change with renewed interest in our work and volunteering generally due to the pandemic.

As each year, the Greenways staff team and Joint Advisory Committee would like to record their sincere thanks to all the volunteers who have taken part in the last year, helping to maintain and enhance part of the area's exceptional wildlife infrastructure.

Looking after our reserves and green spaces

The vast majority of our staff and volunteer time is spent physically managing the nature reserves and green spaces – a very wide range of tasks from woodland management and hedge planting to building boardwalks, steps and paths. The case studies on the following pages offer a few examples of the range of activities we carry out. The autumn and winter months tend to be focussed on wildlife habitat management work (when many species are dormant or less active), whilst the spring and summer months are spent improving the infrastructure of the reserves to ensure visitors have the best experience possible.

Events and other public activities

Engaging with a wider audience is important to Greenways – and we do this mostly through on-site public events, the largest of which we run each year is 'Spring Wood Day' – where we ask local people near Belstead

Brook Park to join us for a day celebrating 'spring', 'wood' and 'Spring Wood' – a day of wildlife walks and activities, folk music, woodcraft, camp fire cooking and exploration! Hundreds of mostly local people attended again this year, enjoying the relaxed and old-fashioned atmosphere.

Many of our other events are centred around our 'Wildlife Homes' work with Ipswich Wildlife Group – encouraging and enabling local people to make nest boxes etc for their gardens – all contributing to the overall ecological network of the town. We also attended the Suffolk Show in 2019 as guests of Suffolk Wildlife Trust in their fabulous wildlife area of the showground. As well as making more than 350 bug homes with Ipswich Wildlife Group volunteers, we were present to congratulate the Trust for winning the 'Best stand in Show' award!

Other functions

The sites we manage and the volunteering opportunities we offer make a huge and important contribution to the health and wellbeing of our site visitors and volunteers. Increasingly there is better evidence and understanding of how the natural world can heal us and reduce harmful stress. It is very difficult to put a figure to the value of this aspect of our work, but it likely saves considerable sums for the NHS!

Continued on next page



Spring Wood Day 2019

List of sites

Belstead Brook Park and Southern Fringe

- 1 Spring Wood (LNR)
- 2 Kiln Meadow (LNR)
- 3 Millennium Wood (LNR)
- 4 Bobbits Lane Meadows (LNR)
- 5 Ashground Plantation and Whitland Close area
- 6 Bobbits Lane – upper area
- 7 Butterfly Ride
- 8 Stoke Park Wood (LNR)
- 9 Ellenbrook Meadow and open space
- 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 Netley Close open space
- 17 Lynnbrook Wildlife Area

Eastern Fringe

- 1 Ravenswood Tump
- 2 Martlesham Heath (SSSI)
- 3 Martlesham Common (CWS, LNR)
- 4 Mill Stream (LNR), Rushmere St Andrew
- 5 Sandlings, (LNR), Rushmere St Andrew
- 6 Warren Heath (CWS)
- 7 Broke Hall School
- 8 Long Strops Pond, Kesgrave
- 9 Cedarwood Green, Kesgrave
- 10 Legion Green, Kesgrave

Northern Fringe

- 1 Chestnut Pond, Rushmere St Andrew
- 2 Rushmere Street Wildlife Corridor
- 3 Limes Pond
- 4 Fonnereau Way
- 5 Grundisburgh Millennium Meadow
- 6 Lyttleton's Meadow, Grundisburgh

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 Sproughton Nature Reserve
- 10 River Path – A14 to Sproughton
- 11 Churchman Way

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

Continued from page nine

We also contribute to the partner local authorities' strategies, plans and policies where appropriate and comment on planning applications that threaten important wildlife or public

enjoyment of nature.

Publicity, campaigning and social media

Throughout the year, the Project has continued to promote the importance of

wildlife habitats and their care along with other related environmental messages. We have started to regularly use social media to let local people know what we are doing and more about some of

the amazing wildlife that can be found on our reserves and other sites. Please follow us on Twitter (@GreenwaysProj); Instagram (@greenwaysproject) and Facebook (search: 'greenwaysproject')



Examples of site work

Millennium Wood at 20!

At twenty years old, Millennium Wood, next to Spring Wood in Belstead Brook Park, is now surprisingly well established and looks much older than 20! In addition to the regular annual coppicing under the pylon lines, last winter we coppiced two larger plots to try to increase the structural diversity of the woodland. This work should benefit many species, but in particular we hope will increase tree species diversity and benefit the resident hazel dormice.



Martlesham Common – new paths and entrances

Martlesham Common has now been declared as a Local Nature Reserve, so is protected in perpetuity for wildlife and enjoyment by local people. As part of recognising the value of the reserve, and trying to emphasise this to local people, we installed new entrance 'gateways' at all the entrances, so it's clear you're entering a special place. Two stretches of path were also resurfaced, as part of the creation of a Parish-wide 'trim trail'. In January, we had our first ever 'Megabash' volunteering event for this site which attracted over 30 volunteers for a very productive day.



The ‘Tump,’ Ravenswood – new steps and paths

The Project was engaged to create a new set of steps up onto the ‘Tump’ (the large landscaped mound beside the Ravenswood housing development) to enable people to access the feature from both ends. As part of the project, we also surfaced the main path between the housing and Orwell Country Park. A huge number of volunteer days went into the construction of the paths and steps (50 of them!), and all the timber was local oak processed by our own sawmill, for a very sustainable solution.



Sproughton Nature Reserve

Following the re-development of the former sugar factory site at Sproughton, an area was set aside for wildlife as part of the mitigation for the development. Greenways has prepared the management plan for the site and taken on the day to day management of the new reserve. Early work we have carried out has included creating two new ponds, coppicing willows (to reduce shading of existing lakes), planting a new hedge and starting regular annual mowing of grassland habitat.

Chestnut Pond – new information board

One of our smallest sites, but valuable for wildlife nonetheless! A few years on from a major desilting project, the pond is looking great and full of wildlife – largely due to there being substantially fewer ducks and geese thanks to less feeding. As well as various minor improvements to the pond edges, we designed and installed a new information board for Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council – funded by a locality fund grant from the local County Councillor.



Swift Enigma

Colin Hullis *Committee Member, Ipswich Wildlife Group*

In the absence of our usual events and work parties to report on, the following is how I have spent most of the lockdown months.

I have decided that Swifts are absolutely fascinating and utterly frustrating. After three summers avidly watching a pair using one of the three nest boxes fixed under the eaves of my house I am as mystified by their behaviour as ever.

Each year they arrive within a few days of 6th May and within a few hours are visiting the same box they used the previous year. During the three months they are here, I watch them flying in and out of the box, but my goodness they are quick, glance away for a second and you've missed them. So I am never quite sure if there is one in the box or not.

Photographing them in flight is virtually impossible as they are not called Swifts for nothing! So the only option is to try and get a shot of them entering and leaving the nest box. This requires hours of patient sentry duty from a vantage point big enough for a chair because you need one! I have spent those hours holding the camera to my face only to blink and miss the action - again. Proof are the dozens of shots I have of the boxes with not a Swift in sight.

And as for producing offspring - I've no idea. At some point you

would expect to see the parents in and out of the box feeding young but apparently they may only feed the young a couple of times a day, and if the weather is cold or wet and flying insects are hard to find, the young may not get fed for a couple of days. Then when the young fledge and leave the nest, they do this early in the morning soon after daybreak and don't return to the box - so I have no chance of watching that!

From the end of July/beginning of August you'll notice groups of swifts making their way south on migration back to Africa. Annoyingly, after going missing for a day or two convincing me that they too have left, my swifts suddenly reappear and go back into and out of their box! This disappearing act followed by sudden fly-pasts out of the blue has happened several times this year, driving me to distraction - just ask my wife!

There is so much we know about Swifts - feeding, sleeping, mating on the wing etc but there are still loads more to learn, so I'll keep watching and being frustrated and fascinated by them. By the way, I am not referring to a pair of birds, as each year there are always three of them together !??? Another enigma!



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



Busy bees and a wildlife rescue

Martin Cant *Friends of Holywells Park*

As there have been no events, activities or work parties on the Park for the past few months to report, here are a couple of items to share with you.

Busy Bees

Bees have been busy around the bug box in my garden during the lockdown, laying eggs and filling the bamboo with mud/leaves as required, setting up the next generations. This upper section was completely empty in April when installed. It's interesting how much of the bamboo has been occupied but none of the drilled holes. As often the case with nature, more questions are raised than answered!

Starling rescue

Early one morning my wife Audrie and I were disturbed to notice a starling apparently trapped on top of the BT pole outside our house. It appeared to be unable to free itself from a wire caught on its leg. Although keen to try and help, my ladder was not long enough to reach (and not sure I wanted to get up there anyway).

During the morning I tried several options and calls online to get help, but all resulted in negative replies.

The last thing we wanted was to see the starling get weaker and eventually die or get predated. Many calls later and during a call to local birding guru Chris Courtney, he mentioned a chimney sweep who has access to a cherry picker hoist. Several minutes later TL Chimneys had agreed to visit as soon

... it does highlight the problem when trying to get assistance...

as they finished their current job which happened to be locally in Ipswich, which was about an hour away. Sure enough they turned up as promised and quickly set up the cherry picker to access the bird.

The bird was successfully rescued and happily flew away although obviously with a sore leg. It appeared that when the bird landed on the pole, a small piece of wire slid up between the



Bug box

ring on its leg and hooked around the leg ring trapping the bird. A freak accident with a happy ending.

Marcus at TL Chimneys must be given great credit for



Poles and wires can be hazards to flying and perching birds



Friends of Holywells Park

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

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

his prompt service helping nature. They have also been heavily involved with Chris installing at least 20 swift boxes locally in Ipswich. Ironically, they had also swept our chimney several weeks previously, Great work chaps. Thoroughly recommended.

It does also highlight the problems encountered when trying to get assistance when nature needs urgent help!

Restriction surprises

Tim Kenny *Leader, RSPB Ipswich Group*

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced our group to suspend all indoor and outdoor activities until January 2021. We received word back in March to close down all our activities until September, and once the time for review came from headquarters in Sandy, it was decided that there would be no further activities for the rest of 2020.

We're not the only organisation to have to write the year off, far from it, but with nature playing a large part in getting people through the lockdown we would have been in a good position to increase our membership. For many people stuck at home, watching the birds at the bird table or taking daily exercise in the fresh air was some solace amidst all the uncertainty of life. I have discovered the birdlife in my



Ipswich Local Group

Group Leader Tim Kenny

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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.

local area, surrounded by the industry of Felixstowe docks, and to my surprise it holds bullfinches, common buzzards and butterflies galore when the sun shines.

I made a few early morning starts and found a flock of thirteen whimbrel on the golf course at Felixstowe Ferry. This member of the curlew family occurs in our part of the world on passage between its arctic breeding grounds and more temperate winter quarters. It is noticeably smaller than the Eurasian curlew, with a less curved bill and a distinctive striped crown pattern

I don't particularly like early starts (maybe



Skyllark, 15th May 2020, Felixstowe Ferry golf course

I'm in the wrong hobby) but I was very fortunate on one early morning to be on hand when a short-toed lark was discovered at Landguard Common. I was one of only two people to see the bird (the first being the finder) but fortunately I had some familiarity with the species from previous trips to Spain. Like so much of birdwatching, it was a case of being in the right place at the right time, and seven in the morning is rarely the right time for me!

One thing that has been done is the installation of swift boxes, three now adorning my eaves with another three at a relative's house in Ipswich. I'm hoping that a few more friends and family take the plunge and help out this struggling species. The man who makes the boxes told me that he'd constructed over 220,000 in his career, equivalent to

around 30% of the breeding stock in the country. As I write this in early August, the swifts are heading back south, giving me time to find and install a suitable sound system for next spring, in the hope of attracting new tenants.

If you want to find out more, search SOS Suffolk Swifts on the search engine of your choice.

To end, back to those early spring mornings down at the golf course. It was gratifying to see and hear good numbers of skylarks there, clearly benefitting from the closure of the fairways and greens. This one posed beautifully for me.

It's been a difficult time in all of our lives.

Stay safe. Tim



Whimbrel, one of thirteen, Felixstowe Ferry golf course 5th May 2020

All pictures © Tim Kenny

My garden in lockdown

Ann Havard *Friends of Belstead Brook Park*



My hedgehog highway

One of the positives to come out of the Corona virus pandemic, I think has been that many people have reconnected with wildlife and the natural world. The recent surge of interest in cycling in the countryside, walking around local parks, open spaces and the coast, along with a new interest in growing your own veg has been great to see. Long may it continue.

For myself, I have had much more time in my garden and have planted an ever increasing number of plants – some have survived the dry weather and others have had to be watered with rain water collected in our three water butts. I do admit to having used a hand held hose a few times, but only when our water butts have been drained dry. When you have sandy soil and you've spent time, money and energy on plants and sowing seeds, it's really hard to see them just die before



A bug house is always a valuable addition to the garden

your eyes from lack of water. We've also had to water our vegetables – I think that's allowed!

I try to have only fairly drought tolerant plants, having learnt the lesson the hard way that 'right plant – right place' is so true. Most of my plants, shrubs and trees are also wildlife friendly. The starlings love our black cherries, the bees my honeysuckle and we have leaf cutter bees nesting in one of our hanging baskets! Fascinating to watch while eating lunch on the patio as it is quite a struggle for them to climb in the small drainage holes at the bottom of the basket with a circle of leaf! Thank goodness they have six legs!

One aspect of the garden that has not been so successful this year is the pond. It is tiny and overshadowed by the big black cherry tree. I realise that it probably needs a really good clear out which I will do in the autumn, I might even invest in

some small aquatic plants to try to keep the water sweet.

Next to the pond I put in a log pile several years ago and this year whilst re-modelling a border, I used the spare turf to cover it. Hopefully the snake skin I found in the vegetable plot means that it may become a warm home for someone.

We had a new fence a few years ago and the very kind men who put it up for us managed to cut a couple of hedgehog doors in the concrete gravel boards. 'Our' hedgehog lives under our shed I think, we rarely see him but see evidence ie poo!

We feed the birds all year round and love seeing the chattering flocks of goldfinches, I always think of them as the English equivalent of parrots! During the spring and summer we are also lucky enough to have flocks of starlings and they absolutely love this recipe below. Why not give it a go?



Friends of Belstead Brook Park

www.wildipswich.org

Email: fobbp@wildipswich.org

www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/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.

Peanut butter bird food recipe

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups melted vegetable suet (approx. 2 Attora boxes)
- 1 ½ cups brown breadcrumbs (about 1 medium slice)
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons crunchy peanut butter
- 1 cup porridge oats
- ½ cup plain flour
- ½ cup wild bird seed

Method

After melting the suet, simply mix all of the ingredients together in a large saucepan, over a fairly low heat. Keep stirring until all the ingredients are thoroughly mixed together.

You can either make holes in the base of sturdy paper cups or yogurt pots, thread a piece of strong string through with a knot in the end of it and spoon the mixture in. Once cooled and hard, take the cup away, leaving the string in place to hang up.

Alternatively, place slabs of the mixture into your feeders, or in shallow plant pot saucers on the bird table.

An Unusual Spring

Gi Grieco *Suffolk Bird Group Council Member*

It's been an unusual Spring with the current situation halting all activities for the group. We were lucky to enjoy one last trip to the Brecks back in March before lockdown came into force. The trip to the west of the county is always eagerly anticipated and there is always a good turnout. We did well to see a number of specialities in the area such as Stone-curlew, Goshawk and a surprise Raven although we missed Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, with four being seen the day before at the site we visited – that's birding for you!



House sparrow with grass leaves

for bird species; I remember well during the British Trust for Ornithology Breeding and Winter Bird Atlas project a few years ago. Some of my tetrads were out in the countryside where species were sparse out on farmland and there was always a noticeable increase once close to and in villages. It was nice to spend more time in the garden, due to working from home, and watch the birds, particularly the antics of the colony of House Sparrows that kept me entertained. SBG member Justin Zantboer suggested a bit of friendly rivalry, so a number of us joined in garden lockdown listing – count all species seen and heard from the garden. Birders joined in, not just from Suffolk, but further afield. What was evident was that those on the coast had more chance to pick up species



Swift Mapper

but those inland had some nice surprises; mine was a Cuckoo calling over east Ipswich that was also picked up by other birders further out.

While all trips have been cancelled, with an easing of restrictions in July, there was an opportunity for Save our Suffolk Swifts supporters to link with other groups by undertaking a few Swift walks, although limited in people numbers due to social distancing. These were arranged in Woodbridge – three walks with six people each, one in Melton and another in Waldringfield. The aim was to engage with others and talk about why Swifts need help, explain the decrease in numbers due to the loss of nest sites because of building refurbishments and encourage new nest boxes to be fitted to homes. There is a new Swift Mapper app and people were shown how to log nest sites on their mobile phone.

Swifts were seen during the walks and people were encouraged to search for other nest sites in their neighbourhood.

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.

Once lockdown started, the few remaining indoor meetings of Winter and Spring were cancelled and all outdoor trips, up until the time of writing, similarly so. Part of joining a group is the social side, meeting up with friends and sharing birding and wildlife experiences at events and on the trips. I know from speaking to members that this aspect has been missed. Hopefully soon these activities will recommence and we can all meet up again and enjoy the great outdoors.

What has kept many of us occupied is participating in some lockdown garden birding. Gardens play an important role



Swift in flight against the summer sky

© Gi Grieco

© Gi Grieco

A strategy for lockdown

Stephen Corley (Chairman)

with contributions from Sam Cork and George Pennick (Nature Explorers and Young Volunteers)

Sadly, like many other groups, our regular practical activities came to an abrupt halt at the end of March for the coronavirus lockdown. Not surprisingly, our woods became a focus for people looking to get their daily exercise and entertain their children while stuck at home. For this, our volunteers kept an eye on the woods for safety hazards and had to deal with a few fallen trees and broken branches. We also encouraged children to do some home projects to help wildlife such as bug and bee hotels.

We do welcome people to visit the woods, but inevitably the increased footfall and cyclist activities are taking their toll. For those who do visit, a reminder to please keep to the marked paths, that bicycles should be ridden only on the Sandlings Walk concrete perimeter track and that the path running parallel to the A1214 main road is for use by authorised horse riders only. Once things are back to normal our volunteers will be very busy renovating official footpaths, closing off new randomly created paths and rebuilding habitat dead hedges that had been dismantled to build dens.

Our annual public glow worm survey and bat walk, normally last Friday of June, did not go ahead but two of the Group's members walked the normal survey route and were able to carry out a count to avoid a break in the records. Recent downward trends in the number of females spotted have continued, as habitat destruction continues to remove places for the bugs to live. Only one female was spotted in the woods (identifiable by their distinctive green glow and lack of wings) – the winged



Woodlands walk

© S. Corley

males do not shine but two were spotted with the female.

Those who visited in the spring enjoyed a good show of flowers including violets, snowdrops, daffodils and an exceptional explosion of bluebells carpeting the ground in places. Visitors would have seen plenty of birds busy nest building, stag beetles looking to pair up, and in the evenings a selection of bat species that use the woods for foraging and roosting. To their delight, a walker spotted some impressive parasol fungi in early July. If you are visiting our woods and spot any interesting wildlife then please do let us know.

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



Portal Woodlands Conservation Group

Enquiries: Martlesham Parish Council
01473 612632 pwcg.onesuffolk.net
or email pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com
The PORTAL WOODLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP is dedicated to conserving the woodlands west of the Suffolk Police HQ and alongside the A1214 encouraging the local wildlife to thrive while preserving historical sites of interest and inspiring people to enjoy the nature surrounding them. Volunteers meet each month to work on a variety of projects and everybody is welcome to join this friendly group. All required training and necessary tools are provided.

© D. Sweeting



Common Pipistrelle



Parasol Fungi

© K. Corley

The local butterflies of 2020

Julian Dowding *Secretary, Suffolk Butterfly Conservation*

Many spring butterflies have done well in the incredibly warm conditions they experienced in April and May, particularly Brimstone, Small Heath, Orange Tip, Green-veined White, Speckled Wood and Peacock. Small Tortoiseshells seemed to experience a bit of a dip, which is concerning, especially as their foodplant is common stinging nettle.

Silver-studded Blue transects around Ipswich in June at Purdis Heath and Pipers Vale gave numbers of 109 and 23 respectively. The Purdis count is really pleasing after all the hard volunteer work there. This is the highest count for many years. Sadly, scrub encroachment will hamper the ability of the butterfly colony to grow, unless something can be done very soon to reinstate a work programme which has been on hold since the site was put up for sale around two years ago. Worse still, without work the colony is at risk of dying out. Work at Pipers Vale is fortunately not hampered and this colony is growing.

In May and June, Landseer Park experienced a massive influx of photographers, all eager to photograph the Small Blues and other butterflies on the wonderful wildflower meadows and chalk bank. This is their second year there and we hope they continue to flourish. Around 20 were counted 'at peak' in June. A partial second brood was on the wing about six weeks later.



Brown hairstreak female

Marbled White had its best year ever at Landseer with easily over 100 counted on one day. It is also found at four other locations around the Orwell and interestingly, Marbled Whites are continuing to appear in small numbers up and down the coast. I say 'interestingly', because this species was never really considered a continental migrant until two years ago when they started turning up coastally in flights (or flutters) with Large and Small Whites. Furthermore, in mid July, a colony of six to eight Marbled Whites was found on private land a few miles inland from Dunwich. This is well after the species' peak flight period when numbers would be much higher and therefore suggests the colony is well established and was of continental origin.

Purple Hairstreaks are still on the wing in late July and can be found high up in oaks and ash. Occasionally they will come down low to feed on nectar but their main food is honeydew high in the trees. Brown Hairstreak is the last native butterfly to emerge and is on the wing well into August and September and can be found at a number of locations in Ipswich. The excellent Belstead Meadows continues to deliver good

sightings of the species but if looking for them, one must be patient because they are another treetop dweller that rarely comes down and they are a butterfly that exists in small numbers spread across the landscape. Males use ash and lime 'Master Trees' to assemble and wait for passing females. It's worth scanning these trees very early in the morning (7-9.30am) when activity is greatest. Occasionally they come down to feed on thistles and other flowers. Patience is key when trying to find them since they are a species which occurs in low density across vast areas.

Finally, I have to announce that Suffolk Butterfly Recorder Bill Stone is stepping down after eight years in the post. Bill has done an exceptional job and his work has been of vital importance in helping us to learn more about species numbers and distribution, and to inform conservation efforts. I am sure you will join me in sending heartfelt thanks to Bill and wishing him all the best for the future. If the role of recorder is one you feel you would like to help with, please get in touch with Suffolk Naturalists Society or Butterfly Conservation through their respective websites.



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.



Female marbled white

I have done 'lock-down' before...

Reg Snook *Friends of Christchurch Park*

My first recollection of sky-watching was in the 1940's when I used to gaze out from an Anderson air-raid shelter buried deep in our garden on the east side of Ipswich.

Dad, a veteran of the first world war, always stood guard complete with tin hat and whistle. The sirens sounded warning of an imminent raid by the Luftwaffe. On the walls of our shelter were black silhouettes of enemy aircraft so that we knew when to duck, close our eyes and pray. The drone of approaching aircraft became louder and Dad, squinting into the morning sunlight, yelled 'Heinkels' at which point everyone crouched at the far end of our shelter under a pile of overcoats and blankets. The noise became louder and then Dad announced, rather piously, that the Heinkel was in fact a B17 American four engine bomber returning, rather belatedly, from a bombing raid trailing black smoke with only two engines working.

This was a typical happening of my early school-days, searching the skies for aircraft, trying to recognise the 'baddies' and always thinking that if a German pilot spotted a young boy in short trousers and wearing a knitted balaclava on his head, would unleash sticks of incendiary bombs. The Second World War was a scary time especially when Heinkels, Dorniers and Junkers were replaced by doodle bugs (flying bombs). These used to fill me with absolute terror. Again, the sirens would sound, we were crouched in the corner of our Anderson shelter Dad standing guard with hat firmly on his head. A throbbing noise would be



All pictures © Paul Sherman

Grey Wagtail in Christchurch Park Spring 2020

heard, very distinctive and a distant light would get brighter. When the flame on its tail disappeared, Dad would bury himself under the overcoats with us and we would count as there was a given time before the doodlebug would hit the ground. The following explosion meant the end of our prayers and we would clamber up to see what houses were alight or indeed still standing.

With lock-down I, like many other nature lovers, have been scanning the skies overhead – not for aircraft as our skies have been delightfully empty – but to see what was flying over my patch. So far, it has been a lovely summer, with clear blue skies (little air pollution) and hot sunshine. The local swifts have been scything through the air and the large



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

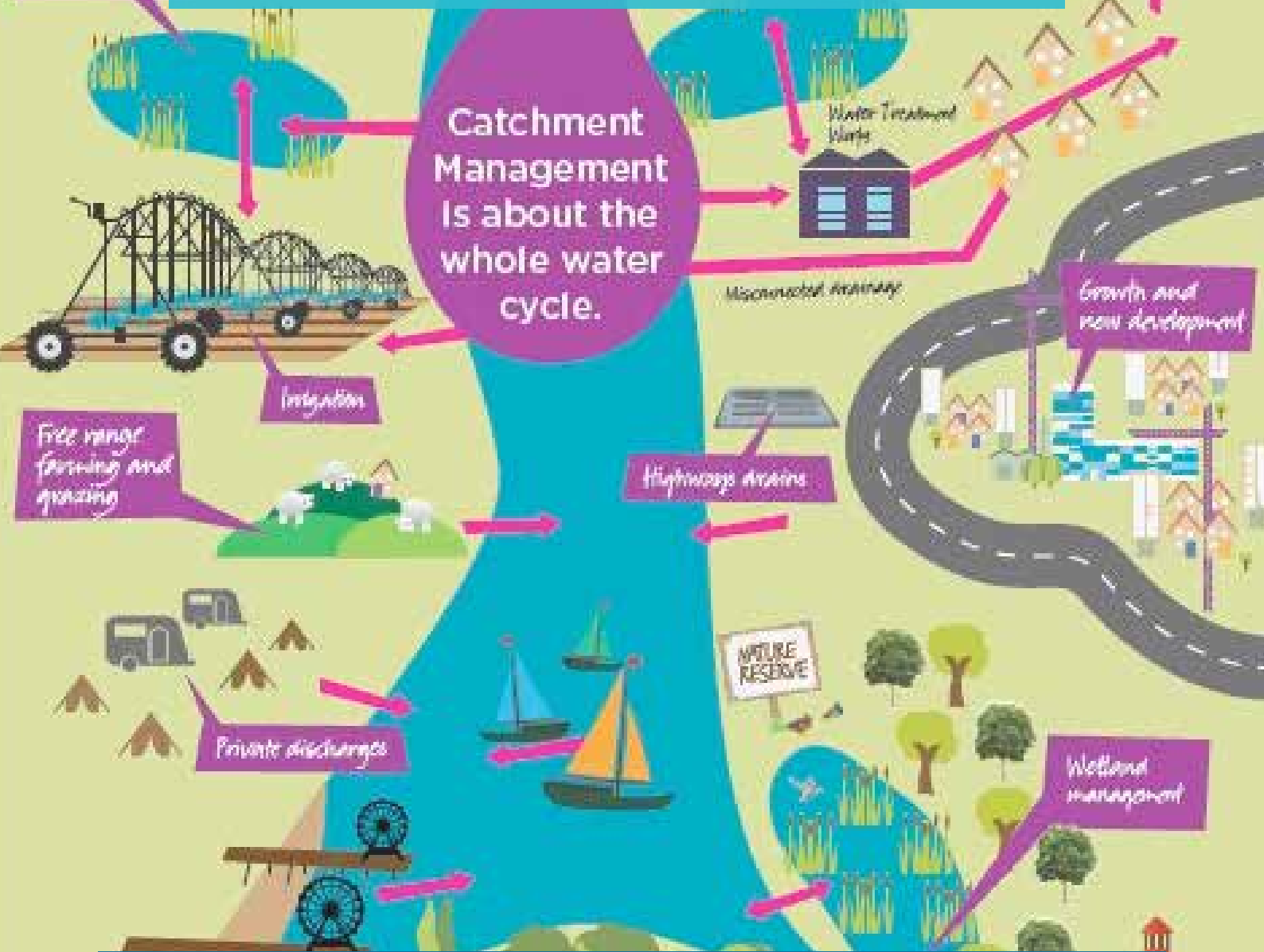
The sole purpose of the Friends Group is to help look after the Park for the public good, and to promote its welfare. Anyone who shares this aim is welcome to join. For a small annual fee of £10 you can join in Friends activities all year round, including Illustrated talks and discussions, Guided Park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



One of 'Mabel's' owlets in Christchurch Park – Spring 2020

gulls have been shouting abuse at me because the town's fast food centres are closed. The birdsong has been far more audible as the traffic on the main roads has been considerably less. Idyllic really. The buzzards in Christchurch Park have been rising up every morning, a peregrine from St Mary le Tower has been busy reducing the number of pigeons in our neighbourhood and 'Mabel', who returned to her former roost last September in our Park, has fledged two owlets which made the hundreds of weary 'lock-down' onlookers very happy indeed. A pair of little grebes even raised four young on the Wilderness Pond and grey wagtails were also successful. So, the last four months or so have been rather dreamlike, almost surreal. Will life ever return to how we knew it, I wonder? Mind you, we asked that question when we heard those enemy planes heading our way.

Water Saving in Ipswich



#IPSWICHLOVESEVERYDROP

is a partnership between Anglian Water and environmental charity Groundwork Suffolk.

Did you know that Ipswich is one of the driest areas of the country? So what can we do to help?

7 STEPS TO SAVE WATER

- 01** Turn off taps while brushing teeth and washing fruit/veg.
- 02** Make sure there is a full load before starting your washing machine and dishwasher.
- 03** Take a shower instead of a bath. Aim to reduce time spent in the shower 4 minutes or less. Top tip: reduce shower length by 60 seconds per day till you reach the target.
- 04** When watering plants, use a watering can instead of a hose & install a water butt where possible.
- 05** Have a water meter installed.
- 06** Repair leaking appliance, taps, etc.
- 07** Use a water displacement device in your toilet cistern to save water with every flush.



For more water saving tips:

- Follow Anglian Water on Twitter: [@AnglianWater](https://twitter.com/AnglianWater)
- Visit Anglian Water's website: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water>
- If you spot a leak report it here: www.anglianwater.co.uk/services/water-supply/leakage/report-a-leak/

PLEASE NOTE:
Due to restrictions concerning coronavirus (COVID-19) and the uncertainty surrounding this at the time of production, please check with the organisers of the events listed to see if they are still going ahead.

Sat 31st October 2020 10.00am to 3.30pm Greenways MEGABASH at Sproughton Nature Reserve. Help Greenways to look after the new nature reserve at the former sugar factory site, including mowing and raking grassland on the island, habitat creation and scrub management. Meet by the Bailey Bridge at TM133445, parking near Sproughton Church or Boss Hall Road and walk along river path. **Contact Greenways on james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk or 07736 826076 for more details.**

Sunday 15th November 2020. 10.00am to 3.30pm Greenways MEGABASH at Belstead Brook Park. Help Greenways and Ipswich Wildlife Group to carry out essential winter management work in Spring Wood, Millennium Wood and surrounding reserves – including coppicing, dead hedging and a warming bonfire! Meet at the Bobbits Lane car park. **Contact Greenways on james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk or 07736 826076 for more details.**

Saturday 12th December 2020. 10.00am to 3.30pm Greenways MEGABASH at Belstead Brook Park. Help Greenways and the Friends of Belstead Brook Park to look after Kiln Meadow nature reserve – including scrub clearing, dead hedging, coppicing and a bonfire. Meet at the entrance to Kiln Meadow from Marbled White Drive. **Contact Greenways on james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk or 07736 826076 for more details.**

Saturday 16th January 2021. 10.00am to 3.30pm Greenways MEGABASH at Martlesham Common LNR. Help Greenways and Martlesham Parish Council to look after this lovely lowland heathland reserve – including scrub cutting, bonfire, coppicing and other tasks. Meet at the Martlesham Community Centre car park off Felixstowe Rd, Martlesham. **Contact Greenways on james.baker@ipswich.gov.uk or 07736 826076 for more details.**

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**

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 10am – 2pm SWT Wild Learning WILD IN THE WEEK

Location – across Ipswich. Join us for our Wild in the Week activity day for children aged 6 - 10 years. Each month has a different theme all taking part in the great outdoors. See website for details. Price £7. Booking essential. **To book: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org / 01473 890089**

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 10am – 2pm SWT Wild Learning WILD IN THE WEEK

Location – across Ipswich. Join us for our Wild in the Week activity day for children aged 11 – 16 years. Each month has a different theme all taking part in the great outdoors. See website for details. Price £7. Booking essential. **To book: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org / 01473 890089**

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 Andy Smuk for details 01473 728907**

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

THIRD 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 WEEKEND WILDLIFE CLUB

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**

SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 1.30pm – 3pm SWT Wild Learning YOUNG WARDENS

Holywells Park. Price £3. Booking Essential. **To book: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org or 01473 890089**

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**